



What's happening at Photochrome in MAY 2010

Saturday, May 1—6:00am

**Fitzgerald Marine Reserve,
Moss Beach
Tide Pool Field Trip**
(sunrise will be at 6:14 AM).

Directions: You should probably leave San Francisco no later than 5:30 AM. The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is located on the San Mateo County coast in Moss Beach. The entrance to the Reserve is at the western end of California Avenue off Cabrillo Highway (State Highway 1). Look for the large highway sign "California Avenue," and the smaller sign "Marine Life Refuge," just below it.

This will be a great time to catch the tide at -1.03 feet to photograph blue-green anemones, coralline algae, sea stars, crabs and many other animals including Harbor Seals lying on the beach. We will have a window of about three hours to photograph this seldom seen world. The area we will focus on is between Kelp Cove and Seal Cove. Pick up a map if available, outside the visitor center. Our meeting place will be right at the tide pools. There is ample parking at the reserve. Ranger Sarah will arrive at 7:30 AM to open the visitor center and restrooms. Be prepared for jagged slippery rocks and getting your feet wet. Sneakers may not be the best thing to wear. Ideally you should wear boots or something with tread, and don't be afraid to get them wet.

You might want to bring your macro lens, polarizer filter, tripod, microfiber cloth, diffuser of some sort, or an umbrella and a second set of clothes in-

cluding shoes to change into if by chance you fall in a tide pool. Ranger Sarah asked me to remind everyone of tide pool etiquette:

- *Don't step on any tide pool creatures**
- *Don't pick up or remove any animals from the tide pools or rocks.**
- *Stay at least 300 feet from Harbor Seals. If they lift their heads and look at you, then you are too close.**
- *Keep your voices down if you need to talk.**

For more information log onto www.fitzgeraldreserve.org Also check out "Tide pool photography" by Stacy Boorn in the April 2008 Color News volume 63 issue 4 and "Tide pool photography tips" by Burr Preston in the June 2008 Color News volume 63 issue 6.

Watch out for incoming tides. If you do, then let's meet at Café Lucca around 10:00 AM. It's located at 8455 Cabrillo Hwy in Montara about 1.5 miles north of the reserve. We should come home with some wonderful images. Members enter up to two images on any subject for Club discussion and critique.

Thursday May 6—7:30pm Theme Night, "Street Life" Fellowship Hall

Members submit two images via e-mail for discussion at the meeting. (See box on Page 3 for submission instructions)

Thursday May 13—7:30pm Board Meeting Fellowship Hall

As always, members are invited to attend this meeting where club events are planned.

Thursday May 20—7:30pm Video Capabilities of Photo Cameras & Jim Silva talks macros

Enrique Aguirre and Martin Taylor will talk about video capabilities of photo cameras; Jim Silva will demonstrate table-top photography. He has a simple setup that works well. He will also show a comfortable method of shooting wildflowers at home away from wind, rain and wet grass and some examples of this technique.

JUNE Events (preliminary schedule)

*For updates, check our website:
Photochrome.org*

June 3 Guest Judge Night

June 10—Board Meeting

*June 12—Field Trip
Golden Gate Park Rose Garden.*

June 17—Print Night

Springtime in Anza-Borrego

Article and photos by Garrett Griffin

Rainfall exceeded normal this winter in southern California deserts, resulting in brilliant displays of wildflowers. Borrego in particular is a veritable color extravaganza this year. In early March, this Photochromer and spouse spent a coolish week in the park, and though technically still winter, the park showed a near peak bloom with a promise of even better floral displays to come later in March and into April. But for our limited time there this year, more than adequate examples of color painted the park.



The canyon along Coyote Creek as well as Henderson Canyon Road dazzled with

Verbena, Dune Primrose, Brittlebush, Ocotillo, Beavertail, Dune Sunflower, Monkey Flower, Phacelia, Chicory and my favorite, the Desert Lily. Cactus was also beginning to bloom. Even with cool weather delaying the onset of Spring, the heavy winter rainfall had done its job. Buds didn't wait for the equinox and warmer days to start opening. They burst forth everywhere. In some areas color spread for acres, very pretty to see and a gold mine for photographers, out in droves



even during the week. It proved an amusing sight to see grown adults crawling on all fours then dropping prone to capture masterful images. Once, someone yelled "Snake!" and the geriatric set made moves they didn't know they had left in them.

In addition to flowers, Winter and early Spring are great times for birding in Borrego. At Yaqui Well, we encountered Phainopeplas, Costa's Hummingbirds, Ravens, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, White Crowned Sparrows, Audubon's Warblers, House Finches and Goldfinches among others. In the distance we heard the harsh cry of a Cactus Wren echoing through dry upland canyons. A 500 or 600 millimeter lens is indispensable for good bird photography. My 200 was less than adequate, but the 12x optical zoom of my companion's point and shoot made up for my shortfall. She is a wild life

and botanical illustrator, so these pictures are invaluable for later studio work.

Above those same canyons, if one had a keen eye or a good pair of binocu-

lars, Big Horned Sheep, or "Borrego", sometimes showed themselves to a patient observer.



The park is named for these animals. Majestic and elusive, the Borrego navigates the highest and steepest of the park's mountains. If you see a Big Horn, consider yourself among the lucky few individuals fortunate enough to have observed one in a lifetime of looking.

On the drive home, we bisected Joshua Tree National Park, taking more bird and cactus pictures before the cold drove us to warmer climes. Further on, crossing the Carrizo Plain proved an extremely productive ride revealing more wildflowers. This area has a softer ecosystem with richer soil and more rain than the deserts. Wildflowers carpet a good deal of the plain, often extending for miles. Orange-gold Fiddle Necks dominated, complemented by purple Lupine, Tidy Tips, yellow-gold California Poppies, Shooting Stars and the gorgeous Baby Blue Eyes. Color so saturated these hills as to look surreal at times. We spent only a few hours among these finest of California wildflower displays that really needed three or four days to wander through and fully photograph.

At Morro Bay, we took pictures of shore birds common to the area. Again, a long lens is preferred for the many different species that work the tidal basin and shoreline. If lucky, you may spot a Harbor Seal, Brown Pelican or Otter frolicking in the bay waters.

These are creative areas for travel-willing photographers, and great images can be found with little physical exertion, something us older Photochromers can appreciate.

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Selective Focus

By Alice Steele

Our condolences go out to Margie MacDonald who lost her sister. Kaye MacDonald was a long-time member of Photochrome. She died early in April.

We are well into wildflower season as noted in Garrett Griffin's fine article on page two. In late March, I was also down at the Carrizo Plain and saw a splendid display of yellows, golds and dazzling orange blossoms. Set off nicely, of course, by the vivid lupine blues. Hunter-Liggett also had beautiful carpets of lupines in the hills. Lovely.

Hint for right now? Hakone Gardens in Saratoga is resplendent in colorful azaleas and wisteria.

Good news for the newsletter. After the June issue when I step down, Enrique will take over until a new volunteer can be found to undertake this fun job.

And I understand plans are underway for the *ImageFest* which is now, perhaps officially, an Annual Event. It will be held in November, date to be determined.

Many thanks to Gary Larsen who has recently been keeping us up to date via e-mail on club and upcoming N4C events.

The only way to submit photos for judging or discussion

Email them to

photochromeprojectionist@gmail.com

by midnight the Wednesday before the meeting.

Name your image files:

Category-First Name-Last Name-Title.jpg

For Category use the bold face coding below:

PicTwo (up to two images taken on Field Trips)

TN (Theme Night) two images for each Theme

OP (Open Pictorial) two images

OP (Judging Night) two images

The pictures must be in jpeg format with a maximum long dimension of 1024 pixels.

It's best to convert them to sRGB profiles.

In Photoshop, you can convert to sRGB by selecting Edit>Convert to Profile...

In Lightroom, Export and select sRGB in the dialog. Other image processing programs will have similar options for converting profiles.

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*Color News Deadline
3rd Friday of the Month*



Saturday 5/29
San Francisco Carnaval
Festival,
from 10:00—6:00pm

Sunday 5/30
Grand Parade & Festival
Parade starts at 9:30am
Festival lasts all day

In the Mission.
Details at: sfcarnaval.com

May Photo-Ops

Bay to Breakers
May 16th
ingbaytobreakers.com



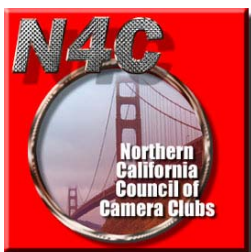
Meetings are held the First and Third Thursdays of the month, except for November and December. They begin at 7:30pm and are held at the Fellowship Hall, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127. For meeting details check: www.photochrome.org

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