



January 2018 Presidents' Letter

Dear Members

As your new Co-Presidents, the first thing we want to do is thank Jon and TJ for their excellent leadership of the Club over the past two years. We already see that this is something of a "full time job" and can very much appreciate the time and energy they contributed on behalf of all of us.

We also want to thank the Board and Club volunteers. We've always been impressed with the level and quality of volunteer involvement in MPC. As you all know, we are a volunteer-led organization and that largely "behind-the-scenes" enthusiastic help, in all facets of the Club, is what makes it all work so well. Thanks to all of you who contribute your time and effort. We are all the beneficiaries of your generosity.

We still have a couple of volunteer jobs to fill and invite you to talk to one of us if you have some time to spare. Neither are particularly time-intensive, but both are interesting and needed. Please help - we need you!

- Field Trips Committee (usually a group of 2-3 people - one new member has already volunteered)
- Social Media Coordinator (a shared role with Tamara)

We would, of course, be happy to get together with you to discuss the details involved with taking on these roles.

Also, please note that members interested in what issues the Board is working on can find our monthly minutes in the Board Info area of the competition website. Just log on to the site, go to Organization/Club and Committee Information/Board Info.

For 2018, our Education Committee has put together another outstanding panel of speakers. As is evident from the turnout on our Education Nights, these nights are eagerly sought out by both members and non-members – and the latter is part of the reason our membership has grown to around 140 in the past year.

Additionally, we're looking to sponsor a few special workshops in 2018, either within MPC or in conjunction with our colleagues in the GGCS Camera SIG. Because the leadership and membership of the GGCS Camera SIG are mostly MPC members, it now has a home within our Discussion Forums.

Finally, just a reminder that there have been a few changes for the new year, ranging from meeting locations and nights to a few tweaks to our competition rules. The competition changes sent out by email in December are also posted in the Club and Committee Information section of the competition website and on the "MPC Announcements and Information" forum.

We're excited about stepping into this new role and looking forward to learning and sharing with all of you in the New Year. Wishing you a happy, healthy and photogenic 2018.

Steve & Marnie

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Editor's Note

This is the last Focal Plane News of the year, and it is a brief one. Please note that there will **not** be an issue at the end of January as I shall be away at that time. I will produce a double issue at the end of February.

A Member's Travel article by Dorothy Weaver on her travels to Sichuan, China includes some great images. (Page 5)

Page 6 has a bio on our own Ginny Meyer, including a selection of her images

Let me take this opportunity to wish all members of the Club good health and great image opportunities in 2018.

Noel Isaac

Images of the Month

No Print or Projected Competitions were held during December.

Regular Competitions begin in January.....see Calendar below. Please note the changes to dates and venue where applicable.

Best of Luck to all those competing in the year ahead.

MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, January 8th: Projected Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Education Night - NO Meeting in January**
- **Monday, January 15th: Print Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, January 11th: MPC Board Meeting****
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.

Editor's Note:

**Any member of MPC can attend the monthly Board Meetings. If you have any questions or subjects that you would like it to discuss, please put them into writing and send an e-mail to one of the two Presidents.

The Outside Photography World

EXHIBITS in San Francisco:

- [The Grain of the Present](#)@ Pier 24
- [Current Exhibitions.](#) @ the Harvey Milk Photo Center.
- [Current Exhibitions](#) @ Rayko Photo Center

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS:

- [Rayko Photo Center](#)
- [Harvey Milk Photo Center](#)
- [Point Reyes National Seashore Association](#)
- [The Image Flow](#)
- [Photo Arts Marin](#)

NOTE:

Do you know another location with great classes and/or workshops?

Please send the information to:focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com

MPC Member Websites

Want to see more photos of our members, please visit their websites, the list is [here](#).

If you want to add your website to the list, please send a request to focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com

Member Travel:

China – Yi Minority, Torch Festival, and Teahouses

By Dorothy Weaver

In July, 2017, I traveled to Sichuan, China for two weeks with Oliver Klink to photograph the area inhabited by the Yi minority of Southwestern China. Other than passing through Beijing airport, we saw none of the “tourist sites” of China. It was a fascinating adventure, especially since the other 4 participants cancelled for a variety of reasons. Nothing like a private tour! Just me, Oliver, our Mandarin-English guide, and our Yi- Mandarin interpreter.

Chengdu and the Old Teahouse

We started in Chengdu, a city of 10 million. I flew in a day early to see the pandas at the preserve and to recover from jet lag. We spent the next two days photographing in the Old Teahouse. The structure was built in the 16th century as a temple, but then became the starting point of the tea route from Sichuan to Tibet. It is a dilapidated building with dirt floors and wooden walls that covers about 1 city block. But, oh, the photo opportunities! It is now a community center for the older generation where they come to drink tea, play cards, read the paper, smoke, watch TV, and chat. When you enter, you get your cup of jasmine tea and pick your seat, which is yours all day until you decide to leave. There are baristas there who perform amazing acrobatic feats with the boiling water and cast iron kettles, a barber who seems busy all day, and a multi-talented man who serves tea, plays a percussive musical instrument, and cleans your ears for you! Families come in for a cup, a bride and groom came in for their wedding photos, and we met photographers from all over China (but we were the only Westerners!) It is reality TV on steroids. I could have stayed a week, but even in two days got to know a number of the regulars, even though we had no common language. They were all gracious and fun-loving.



[.....read more](#)

Meet Virginia (Ginny) Meyer
Biologist, Attorney, Nature Photographer

By Marnie Walters



A few days ago, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Ginny Meyer in her beautiful home overlooking the hills of Southern Marin. Ginny shared with me some details of her personal history prior to coming to the Bay Area, and her love of photography and experience with the Club.

Ginny was raised in upstate New York, near the city of Oswego. Her first exposure to photography came from her Dad, who was an amateur photographer with good darkroom skills. Ginny later went to college in southern Virginia where she majored in Biology, and minored in Chemistry. She subsequently earned a MS in Biology and worked as a research biologist in a basic research institute for 13 years. Wanting greater opportunity, Ginny left science to go to law school where she earned her JD degree.

In 1980, Ginny moved from the East Coast to Mill Valley to accept a position with a SF Intellectual Property Law firm that was serving start-up clients in the nascent Bay Area biotechnology industry. After passing both the California and US Patent Bars, Ginny practiced for 25 years as an Intellectual Property attorney, specializing in US and international biotechnology patent laws.



While in college, Ginny performed darkroom work for a development publications office (in addition to working in the medical photography laboratory of a VA hospital). During that time Ginny photographed with Leica and Rolleiflex film cameras. After college, she focused on busy careers, first in science and then in law and her photography was set aside, . . . until 2004. It was then that she began to travel and acquired a small Nikon point and shoot, with a tiny table top sized tripod. In 2005, her grandson was born, and between that inspiration and her travel, her photography interests were reianited. [.....read more](#)