



March 2018 Presidents' Letter

Springtime greetings to you all!

This past month has been a busy one for our Board members and the many, many volunteers who worked on the preparations leading up to the Annual Competition and Banquet, which took place on Sunday, March 25th at The Club Restaurant at McInnis Park in San Rafael. The Banquet was very well attended, with 79 club members and their guests. Winning prints and projected images were displayed on easels and on screen throughout the evening (thank you, Russ!), and were amazing to view and share with our guests.

A full description of the evening's events is given below on Page 7, including the medallions presented to 10 of our members for their volunteer contributions and achievements in competitions throughout the year.

We are so grateful for all of the efforts that went into finding and bringing in the judges, the transportation and organization of images for judging, the efforts to put the information out there, collection of the registration materials, coordination with the restaurant, and the participation of members in the setup at McInnis.

It does indeed "take a village", and that challenge was surely met by the members of the Club in putting this all together. There are far too many names to mention here, but you, and we know who you are! Thank you.

As mentioned in our last letter, several working groups have been organized to explore solutions and make recommendations to improve communications tools, to review Masters/Life Masters Levels, and to reorganize the documents on our websites. These groups have met and are moving ahead - and we'll keep you informed going forward.

Marnie and Steve

Editor's Note

This issue of Focal Plane News covers March's activities, as well as highlighting upcoming events in the month ahead.

As mentioned in the Presidents' Letter, MPC Annual Awards Banquet was a great success and an opportunity for attendees to again see some of the wonderful images (both in print and projected) that our members entered in competitions this past year. My congratulations to all those who received awards.

Information on the current Meetup Challenge and the Street Photography SIG, together with web links, is provided.

A travel article by Janis Phillips is on Page 8, followed by a profile of one of our members: Ron Elkind.

Noel Isaac

"Images of the Month"



Fence at Nauset Beach

John Klingel

Projected Images - Pictorial - Advanced

Judge: Burr Preston

Behind the Image:

No information available.

[.....John Klingel](#)



Dawn in Spring, Oregon

John Benet

Print Color - Pictorial - Intermediate

Judge: John Goyer

Behind the Image: It was shot in April along the Columbia River Gorge about 1-½ hours east of Portland, OR when wildflowers bloom in the area, and at sunrise when light is low-angled and warm-hued. The scattered clouds diffused the early morning light. I was drawn to the sweep from yellow flowers to sky and back to the green on the cliff, and I composed to capture this.

I shot with a tripod mounted full-frame Canon 5D Mark III with a Canon 16-35mm f/4 lens at 16mm, f/16, and two exposures at ISO 100, one at 1/6 sec for foreground, and the other at 1/15 sec for sky. The two captures were later blended in post-processing for a more even overall exposure. I printed on Red River Palo Duro SoftGloss Rag paper using a Canon Pro-1000 printer.

[John Benet](#)

MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, April 2nd: Projected Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, April 9th Education Night**
7:00pm @ Town Center, Corte Madera.
- **Monday, April 16th: Print Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, April 12th: MPC Board Meeting****
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday, April 26th: Street SIG Meeting (See the next page)**
6:30pm @ 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.

Monthly minutes of the MPC Board are posted shortly after being approved at the following month's Board meeting. Copies can be found in the Club and Committee Information section of the website <http://tinyurl.com/ya9kkbb6> here: "Board Info>Board Minutes>2018 Board Minutes"

New Members to the MPC

Please join us in welcoming the following new Members to the Club:

Competing Members:

Fred Goldfarb

Mick Laska

Mike Alvarado

Rob Elders

Associate Members:

Jerry Kay

Do introduce yourselves to new members at upcoming MPC events and competition nights.



Go GREEN The March/April Meetup Challenge

Spring is sprung,
The grass is ris,
Oh, what a wonderful
Day it is!

OK, we may have a bit more rain to deal with, but the GREEN of spring is all around us. So, the March/April Meetup Challenge is the color GREEN!
Take an image that reflects lots of green color, tell us the story behind it, and you may be the next Challenge winner!

The Challenge ends April 30th at 10pm.....[More Info](#)

[Dorothy Weaver](#)

The MPC Street SIG

The next Street SIG will meet at **6:30 on Thursday, April 26th** at the GGCS Classroom in San Rafael.

This month's theme is **One Location, One Hour**. Photographers are encouraged to try to capture the essence of the location within their three images. Additional details and upload directions are in the Street Photography SIG. (<https://goo.gl/VgHu1Y>)

An introduction to MPC's Street SIG can be found though the following link: (<https://goo.gl/kpofqr>)

[Doug Kaye & Steve Disenhof](#)

The Outside Photography World

EXHIBITS in the Bay Area:

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

<https://focalplanenewsletter.wordpress.com/member-websites/>

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

MPC's Annual Awards Banquet. Awards Presented & Annual Competition Results.

The Board offered their congratulations to all of the entrants and winners of this year's Annual Competition. Results by category are available on the MPC competition website. For those who could not attend the banquet, here are the major annual awards that were given out. (Recipients who weren't there will get their plaques at the next Club meeting.)

Awards	Winner
2017 Projected total Points	Ginny Meyer
2017 Print Total Points	Steve Disenhof
2017 Total Points (tie)	Marvin Siegel & Steve Disenhof
2017 1st year member Projected total Points	Matt Griggy
2017 1st year member Print Total Points	Diane Kay
2017 1st year member Total Points	Diane Kay
Annual Competition Projected Image of the Year	Henriette Brasseur
Annual Competition Print Image of the Year	John Benet

The Club also awarded an Honorary Membership to Charlie Barboni. Charlie is the manager of the Marin County Fair, has been involved with the Fair industry for over 40 years, and is a member of the Western Fairs Association Hall of Fame. A good friend and supporter of MPC and, working with Merrill Mack in particular, Charlie has been an advocate for our shows at the Civic Center and the Bartolini Gallery.

The Board also wanted to thank all of the Club members who volunteer their time to make our Club run so well. It takes a village and we have a wonderfully active membership. On that note, the Board recognized three people with special Service Awards:

- **Keith Cockerham** is a former Club President who has stayed involved as an active volunteer and continually troubleshoots and bails us out of technical jams with our computer technology. Always available and knowledgeable, Keith is our invaluable technological wizard.
- **Merrill Mack** is another former Club President who is seemingly everywhere. Volunteering for her second go-round as Membership Chair, Merrill facilitates photography shows for the Club (on her own initiative!), launched a salon for new members, works with members who are learning Lightroom, and lends her experience to the Board and Club.
- **Karen Gideon** has been centrally involved in the success of MPC [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com/marin-county-photographers/). While we have around 140 official Club members, there are another 500+ who "think" they're members because they belong to our MPC [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com/marin-county-photographers/) page. And many of them do become MPC members due to their exposure to our Meetup events. In particular over the past couple of years, Karen facilitated the success of our bi-monthly Meetup competition - running it and forging relationships with Think Tank and Image Flow to donate wonderful gifts for the winners.

Finally, **Steve & Marnie** thanked fellow Board members - and in particular **TJ Campbell** and **Jon D'Alessio** - for being so sharing of their knowledge and experience and getting them off on the right foot this year!

Nicaragua - a Great Photo Op by Janis Phillips

The rain shower abated right at sunset and we slid into our kayaks heading from Jicaro Island Lodge toward the Mombacho Volcano, my trusty Canon Power Shot G16 dangling from my neck. One doesn't need much more for an active adventure like this. Picture the cowboys quickly drawing their guns and you can visualize how I captured my images of Nicaragua and particularly the glorious sunset shot of my husband paddling in his own kayak in front of me on Lake Nicaragua.



With the Pacific on one side, the Caribbean on the other and Lake Nicaragua in



between with its 400 islands and islets, not to mention all the active and inactive

volcanoes, there are plentiful photo opportunities. In addition, cities such as Leon and Granada add a lot of cultural and historical interest, especially if you go close to Christmas as we did two years ago.

In Leon we stayed at El Convento which is full of fabulous religious art and is close to the central plaza where the scene at night becomes alive with Jigantones dancing in mockery of the Spaniards who lorded over them. In Granada we stayed at the Plaza Colon in a room overlooking the central plaza where we had a great view of the nightly pageantry involving the carting of the statue of the Virgen Mary to the church and the subsequent partying. I took many videos and photos with my iPhone and shot many scenes of families, the church and local vendors with my Canon EOS, but traveling with my heavy digital camera was a pain and I would recommend a lighter mirrorless camera.

In contrast, wherever an ocean lies, well, so do I! Staying at Morgan's Rock on the Pacific side afforded perfect sunset views.....[read more](#)

Meet RON ELKIND - Sailor, World Traveler, Wildlife Photographer, Teacher, Judge.

By Marnie Walters



Ron was born in New York. Drafted at the age of 18, he was stationed in Germany for 2 years, by the U.S. Army. Traveling for the first time outside the U.S. he bought a German made 35 mm camera to record his adventures. This began a life long adventure to photographically capture the beauty of our world.

Discharged from the Army he returned to school and, in his last year of college, he took his first photography class. He was assigned to go out and shoot a project. He titled his project, "Life Through the Eyes of a Hospital", and was given permission to view and photograph throughout a local hospital. Seeing for the first time what actually happens in a hospital and given the opportunity to photograph operations, births, emergencies, pediatrics and elder care, to name a few, ignited his passion about becoming a professional photographer. But, after some researching and soul searching he decided he needed to to pursue a profession that would pay better, and he began working in sales and marketing. This was what brought him to San Francisco.

Ron loved the culture of San Francisco and for the first time, was exposed to sailing, skiing, concerts, ballet, opera and all the adventure and excitement that San Francisco has to offer.

One day he noticed a Pan Am ad, offering discounted "Round the World" tickets. So he decided it was time to make a change and at 29, looking for new adventures, gave notice and traveled around the world for a year and a half photographing everything, as he saw it.

Returning to San Francisco he decided to learn to sail, first by crewing and then buying bigger and bigger boats as he became proficient and more passionate. After chartering boats in the Virgin Islands he decided on a new adventure, to sail the South Pacific.....[read more.](#)

