



## **April 2018 Presidents' Letter**

As we continue into Spring, we want to thank the several groups of members who have been working on some major projects for the Club. Two of these groups recently presented their recommendations to the Board, where they were discussed in-depth and approved, with appreciation.

### **Updates to the Documents and Information section of the website**

This area had grown untended over many years and was terribly confusing. The group focused on streamlining and reorganizing the entire area.

Now if you log onto our competition website, you'll notice the area has been renamed "Club and Committee Information." That area, which holds all of our Club documents – rules, calendars, bylaws, newsletters, Board minutes, etc – should now be far more-easily navigable. We encourage you to download a copy of the Read Me First Site Map, which serves as a Table of Contents which can help even further for finding the document you're looking for.

There are still a few individual documents that need updating and the Board will be turning its attention to that now that the larger work has been done.

### **Updating our Communication Channels**

Another group of members has taken the past few months to assess our Club's communication systems, including meeting night announcements, Focal Plane, "send to all members email," Discussion Forums, our Meetup.com group and our relatively new Tuesday emails that summarize the meeting night announcements.

The information that flows through these channels includes Club-specific announcements (events, volunteer needs, etc), non-Club announcements (Gallery openings, workshops, equipment for sale, etc), and a variety of interpersonal and/or group discussions.

The challenge that this group accepted was to determine how best to use these channels, keeping in mind the feedback received from members as to how we'd all like to receive Club and non-Club messages.

## Recommendations

There has been very positive feedback on presenting brief announcements at meeting nights and then following with an extended summary the next day. We'll continue that.

By mid-May, you'll see the "Discussion Forums" will have been renamed, "Message Boards."

As has been our policy, the website system to "Send Email to all (140'ish) Members" will be reserved for Club-specific information. All non-Club messages can be posted on the Message Boards. To this end, use of the website email application will be limited to Board and Committee members. (You will still be able to find Members' email addresses in the member directory on the website.)

The number of Message Boards will be simplified and consolidated. The new lineup will look like this:

- **\*MPC Announcements and Information**  
copies of meeting announcements and other club announcements. ALSO: the top document contains links to the 'most requested documents' in the Club and Committee Information area – like calendars, comp **Activities** shooting opportunities, workshops, gallery openings, club and non-club events and other messages relevant to photographic activities
- **Cameras, Gear and Post-processing**  
messages about any topics relevant to the process of photography from choice of cameras and gear, to software, post-processing, printing and displaying/sharing.
- **General MPC Message Board**  
any Club or photography-related topics
- **Critique My Images!**  
our continuing online salon where you can get comments and suggestions from other club members about your images
- **Buy and Sell**  
Our online marketplace
- **Street SIG**  
The home of our Street Photography Special Interest Group
- **GGCS Camera SIG**  
The home of the MPC-member-heavy Golden Gate Computer Society Digital SIG

Since a large majority of members told us last year that they'd like to subscribe to the Forums (and either were subscribed or didn't know how or "hadn't gotten around to it") we will be implementing a general industrial "Best Practice" and in late May will auto-subscribe all members to all message boards.

While we hope all members take time to try the boards and decide which ones they'd like to stay subscribed to, at the same time as we roll this out, we'll also provide detailed instructions for the simple task of "unsubscribing."

We'll be talking more about this at our May meetings and welcome comments and questions. Our goal is to have these changes in place by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Marnie & Steve

## Editor's Note

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

Do go and visit the "Wildlife Through the Lens" exhibition that is showing in Tiburon, with images from over twenty Club Members. (Page 7).

May's Education Night, (**NOTE** the revised date of May 21<sup>st</sup>) sees the return of our old friend, Jeffery Martz, whose lectures on the history of photography have been wonderfully interesting and inspiring for our own image making.

Leslie Baker has written an interesting article on her travels in Ireland (Page 9), with a web link to the full article with images.

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

Noel Isaac

## "Images of the Month"



**Bhutan Buddhist fortune teller sits by one of the many pagodas**

**Gary Topper**

**Projected Images - Travel - Intermediate**

**Judge: Joseph Hearst**

**Behind the Image:** The picture was taken in the mountain village of Phuentsholing in Bhutan in 2007. We were touring this small community and came across the monk sitting by one of the Buddhist sacred bells of the Phunakha region, offering his sacred prayer or fortune telling cards. In 2007 the Bhutan government was only letting into the country 14,000 people per year, which was a very small number compared to today's travelers. It was during the fall harvest festival season festivals and although there were few westerners at the temple dances or in the streets, we were well received and appreciated as we wore the traditional dress to all the activities. Panasonic Lumex camera, model DMC-FZ2, an early bridge camera. The exposure was 1/50th of a second at F4.0. It was shot at ISO 80.

.....[Gary Topper](#)



**Sichuan Grandmother**

**Dorothy Weaver**

**Print - Monochrome Pictorial - Masters**

**Judge: Gene Morita**

**Behind the Image:** The image was taken at the end of a long day, out in a very rural part of Sichuan. We were heading back to the hotel and stopped to photograph two young sisters who were getting a pail of water from a stream. I wandered further toward their home and saw the young boy eating his rice on the stool.

After I took a few shots of him, his grandmother appeared in the doorway. He moved over to be with her, the other boy peeked out, and I got a few shots of this nice composition before they moved on.

Canon 5D Mark III, Tamron 28-300 lens.

.....[Dorothy Weaver](#)

## MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, May 7th: Projected Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, May 21st Education Night**  
6:30pm @ Town Center, Corte Madera.
- **Monday, May 14th: Print Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, May 10th: MPC Board Meeting\*\***  
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †  
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday, May 24th: 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"

## "Starts with a P" The May/June Meetup Challenge

Think purple, person/people, "P" letters on signs, pigs, phones, penguins, pandas, pets, "P" food items. Anything which starts with a "P" goes.

**Note:** More information will be available at the Meetup website (see link below) following the closure and voting on the Mar/Apr Meetup Challenge.

The Challenge will end June 30th at 10pm....[More Info](#)

[Harvey Abernathy](#)



## The MPC Street SIG

The next Street SIG will meet at **6:30 on Thursday, May 24th** at the GGCS Classroom in San Rafael.

Our May Street Photography Challenge will be taking us back to basics.

The title is : **"Light, Composition, Subject - In That Order!"**

The goal, as always, is to create impactful images. But in this case, you should plan your shoot using a strict sequence of priorities.

- Before anything else, find good (dramatic) light.
- Once you've found that light, plan your composition. Again, think "impact".
- As weird as this may sound, make your subject (or gesture) the last thing you consider. In fact, your "subject" might just be the light and composition in the case of a strong, graphic image. If your subject is a person or people, use them as compositional elements.

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>)

## Marin Photography Club Wildlife Exhibition.

Please join us and visit this Exhibition. Twenty two of our Club Members are showing over 40 fabulous images.

The exhibition is open from May 1 to June 30, 2018, (closed weekends), with a Reception on May 9, from 6-8pm.



## Marin Photography Club Wildlife Through The Lens

Tiburon Town Hall  
1505 Tiburon Blvd, Tiburon, CA

May 1 - June 30, 2018

*Reception*

*May 9, 2018 6-8 p.m.*

May 9, 2018 6-8 p.m.  
Reception  
May 1 - June 30, 2018

## 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](#) @ SF Camerawork
- [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](mailto: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](mailto:focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com)

## OUR IRISH ADVENTURE by Leslie Baker

In September of 2017, my husband, my best friend and I met in Dublin to begin our Vagabond Tours 12-Day Giant Irish Adventure Tour.



Vagabond has a number of tours of varying lengths, and we had decided upon the longest and most comprehensive; twelve days around the entire coast of Ireland. It was not a photography tour, so I only brought my Nikon 7100 with a Tamron 18-270 mm lens and my iPhone.

There were 14 of us in a small Mercedes van that towed a trailer for our luggage. We had an excellent guide/driver and were almost entirely on small country roads. There were many daily stops to explore historic – many Neolithic – sites, small villages, tea houses and beautiful beaches. We stayed in a number of small inns along the coast, a couple of elegant manor houses and one castle, all comfortable and lovely.

The trip was to include a boat trip to the Aran Islands. However, because of high winds we were unable to go. We were, however, able to go out to the Skelligs Islands of Star Wars fame. Unfortunately, due to high seas, we could not land.

This was a very active trip. We hiked almost every day, biked and rode horses on the beach. Kayaking was also an option. Vagabond has less active tours available under their Driftwood name. We crossed paths with these folks along the way.



We have been often asked, “How was the weather?” The weather was, well... “Irish”. We did have rain, but it never lasted very long. There was some overcast, but it always cleared. We all had the proper gear including rain jackets and pants, gloves, good hiking boots, walking sticks, and all of the men bought Irish hats that proved to be wonderfully warm and water proof. We were definitely not worried about being ‘fashionable’!

The other travelers happened to all be Americans, though this is certainly not always the case. It was a very compatible group and our guide, Nick, was terrific and knowledgeable. Nick announced on the first day that we would be changing seats – clockwise – in the van daily, so everyone had a different view every day. [.....read more](#)