



February 2018 Presidents' Letter

Greetings to all of our fellow Club Members:

This letter is our first of the new year, and what a busy one it has been for all, so far! The more we become involved in understanding the hopes and desires of our members, one realization has come through loud and clear. We live in an exceptional world these days, where information and opportunities abound for all, and especially for people like those in our club - i.e., world travelers, artists, thinkers, creators, achievers, etc.

While instantaneous availability of information is amazing (e-mails, websites, podcasts, social media, 24-hour news cycle) sometimes we become inundated.

Which brings us to the heart of our message. This year, we hope to focus on the "Art of Communication". We will seek to make progress in pinpointing the problems/questions that need answers, finding mutually agreeable solutions, and making those solutions easily available, on demand. This will be a group effort and we look forward to working with you all to achieve these goals.

Here are two of the topics we are working on now:

- **Communications Issues:** A board/member group is now in place to make improvements in how Club and non-Club information is shared and accessed. The focus will be on the use of the Discussion Forums, Club e-mail, Announcements, the Focal Plane, etc.

- **Masters/Advanced Levels:** A board/member discussion group is being created to address problems with competitions due to the size of these categories of competing members. The group will meet over the course of the next couple of months and proposed resolutions will be shared with the membership.

The N4C Annual Banquet was held on February 25th and MPC members did very well, especially in the Print categories. Congratulations to all those who entered the competition and to those who took home awards. For those not attending the Banquet, we will present your medallions and/or plaques at our upcoming MPC meetings.

On Sunday, March 25th, we will hold our own Annual Banquet at the McInnis Park Club Restaurant. This is a fun event and an opportunity to get together with other Club members, meet significant others, and view our own winning images from 2017. An invitation is at the end of the Focal Plane. Please mail it so we receive it no later than March 19th and/or give it to Steve at one of our upcoming meetings.

Finally, a big thank-you to the volunteers who have helped (and continue to help) make it all happen, year after year. You have created one of the most interesting, creative environments in the Bay Area, and we applaud you.

Marnie and Steve

Editor's Note

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

A travel article by Phil Fisher is on Page 7, followed by information on Riverfront Gallery in Petaluma with an upcoming juried show that includes images by two of our members.

Details on the MPC Annual Awards Banquet mentioned in the Presidents' letter is on Page 10.

Noel Isaac

"Images of the Month" for January & February



Rainbow over the Badlands at Sunset

Kevin Westerlund

Projected Images - Pictorial - Masters

Judge: Jack Hecker

Behind the Image: The image was taken last summer in Badlands National Park in South Dakota. In the afternoon, it became completely overcast and I was planning to leave the park. But then it got really windy and a heavy rainstorm passed through, so I decided to pull my car off the road and wait out the storm. When the rain and windy subsided, I started driving out of the park, but I noticed that there were a few breaks in the clouds to the west, so I decided to stay a little longer and see if some better photo conditions would occur. Just before sunset, the rain storm had moved to my east, and the cloud breaks to my west set up the perfect conditions for a rainbow. For about half an hour, I was treated to probably the best cloud and light conditions that I have ever seen.

Technical specs: Nikon D800E, Nikon 24-70 mm f/2.8 lens at 24 mm, 1/20 second exposure at f/14.

[.....Kevin Westerlund](#)



Respected Village Elder

Dorothy Weaver

Print Color - Pictorial - Masters

Judge: Ron Elkind

Behind the Image:

Image was taken in Dimo village in western Sichuan, China. This is a tiny village where Westerners are seldom seen, so it took us a good hour just to establish some rapport with the elderly gentleman. This was shot inside a very old home with natural light only. The light was coming from a hole in the roof. The man was very stoic and positioned himself naturally.

Technical specs : Canon 5D Mark III, 85 mm lens, 1/30 second at 1250 ISO

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



Polar Bear in the Arctic

Wendy Hannum

Projected Images - Pictorial - Masters

Judge: Robin Braunfeld

Behind the image: No information available.



Fogged In - Yosemite National Park Tunnel View

Mansoor Assadi

Print Monochrome - Pictorial - Intermediate

Judge: Gene Morita

Behind the image: Early in January, the weather forecast had predicted snow for Yosemite, and I decided to go there and see if I see something interesting to shoot in the snow.

But instead it was pouring rain. Too hot for snow. I went to the Tunnel View and waited several hours until close to the Sunset as I had heard the showers would end in mid afternoon. In fact the showers ended and I got to see a beautiful rainbow, but the fog also rolled in and I was able to take this shot.

Technical Details: Camera-Canon 5DSR, Lens- 24-105 f4, Focal point-46mm at f16, Shutter speed- 1/15 sec., ISO-400.

I was also using a Neutral Density Filter.

[.....Mansoor Assadi](#)

MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, March 5th: Projected Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, March 12th Education Night**
@ Town Center, Corte Madera. David Coleman on "Tell a Better Story "
- **Monday, March 19th: Print Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, March 8th: 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.

New Members to the MPC

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

Competing Members:

Arthur Heyman

Diane Yates

Nancy Barasch

Pamela Plumer

Larry McClosky

Associate Members:

Cecily Drucker

Jim Davis

Mike Alvarado

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



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](#).

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

Traveling in Kenya by Phil Fisher

In 2016, my wife Joan and I fulfilled a lifelong dream to see and photograph African wild animals in their natural habitat. We started planning almost a year ahead with a highly recommended travel agent, African Safari Company. We decided on Kenya in the fall visiting 4 different parks and reserves, all within about 150 miles of Nairobi, each with its own guides and unique lodge for a total of 13 nights.



Our guided game drives matched the wild life schedule: active morning and evening, avoiding the heat of the mid-day sun. On the travel days between lodges, the flights left about mid-day and lasted about an hour so we did not miss any game drives.

Seeing lions, cheetahs, elephants, zebras, water buffalos, giraffes, rhinos, hippos, hyenas, warthogs, crocs, monkeys, baboons, myriads of birds, one leopard, all kinds of antelope and ending with the Great Migration of wildebeests across the Mara River are indelibly embedded in our minds. One cannot see these magnificent animals and how they behave without a sense of nature's wonder and considering the place for humans in their world.

Landscape: At about 5,000 ft. elevation at the equator, this part of Kenya is mostly tall golden yellow Savanah grass, bushes and trees, providing cover for the predator cats and the very skittish antelope prey. Fortunately, the guides were very skilled at finding game, especially the cheetahs and lions in the tall grass. Although there are mountains surrounding every area we visited, they were mostly hidden in the clouds. We stayed at one lodge.....[read more](#)



RIVERFRONT GALLERY ANNUAL JURIED FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

**March 7th - May 6th, 2018,
Opening reception March 10th, 5-8 pm**

132 Petaluma Blvd, North, Petaluma, CA

Merrill Mack and Gary Topper, of the 120 images entered, have both had three images each, selected by the jury (out of the total of 47 pictures) to be presented at this important North Bay photography show. Below is a part of the upcoming gallery newsletter about the show.

Riverfront Art Gallery is delighted to present our annual juried fine art photography show. The 2018 juried show highlights 47 images by 25 local photographic artists. The scope of the show is broad, representing a number of techniques: regular photography, of course, black & white, infrared, close-up, motion, photomontage, digitally-altered, and works made strikingly abstract by the choices the photographer has made in composition or camera settings.

An example of creative composition is **Merrill Mack's** arresting image, *Surprise On The Fifth Floor* (below). You might appreciate it as a study in shades of red with the light from a window or door angling in to change the tone and, in fact, the light also alters our perception of the geometry of the space. This is an excellent example of how the photographer's eye is an essential component in creativity. Merrill often sees things a bit differently than most people, sharing with us her unusual take on a perfectly ordinary site and turning it into an artistic expression. A second example of her skill in seeing a potential image in an ordinary site is her *Ladder* (below)



Rainy December weather created the mood in **Gary Topper's** Nick's Cove Pier. He tells us, "The leading lines of the wet deck, with its repeating reflections, accentuate the walk to the Bay. Sky and water conspire to create a background mood, which, although subdued, suggests ongoing action. The fortuitous red boat adds its brightness and provides a close focal point to balance the endpoint in the distance."

Cuban Cigar Maker. At a stop at a tobacco farm the owner's daughter demonstrated cigar making, then smoked a cigar she had just rolled. Gary has removed the distraction of color, so we concentrate on her and her relaxed pleasure in a perhaps rather hazy atmosphere.



MPC Annual Awards Banquet
Sunday, March 25, 2018

McInnis Park Club Restaurant

350 SMITH RANCH RD, SAN RAFAEL CA 94903
Exit 101 at Smith Ranch Road and proceed east to the end.

Time: No host Cocktails 6:00 PM; Dinner 7:00 PM

Come see the 2017 winning Print and Projected Images
Have a fun evening and a wonderful dinner!

Cost is \$40.00 per dinner.

This includes entrée, salad, dessert, tax and tip.

Please fill out the reservation form below and mail it with
check to:

Marin Photography Club, Attn: John Nygren
P.O. Box 675
Corte Madera, CA 94976

Reservation & payment must be received at P.O. Box by Monday, March 19th.
No refunds or cancellations after 1:00 pm Tuesday, March 20th.

MPC Annual Awards Banquet
Sunday, March 25, 2018

Please reserve ___ place(s). Name (s) _____

Phone _____

Please indicate number(s) for each entrée choice:

_____ **Salmon**

_____ **Chicken Toscana**

_____ **NY Steak**

_____ **Vegetarian Penne Pomodoro**

Enclose a check payable to **Marin Photography Club** for \$ _____
(Cost is \$40.00 per dinner)