

## Marin Photography Club - Presidents' Letter

To all Members

One of the purposes of our club is to facilitate the exchange of information between members. At the same time we prize the privacy of our members. We have some members who want to minimize the number of emails they receive from the club. Others want to receive as much information as they can. We are constantly trying to find the right balance between these competing interests. One important tool in striking this balance are our Discussion Forums that are found on our competition website (Organization > Discussion Forums)

To cut down on the number of emails members receive without restricting members from hearing about others works and learning opportunities, we are asking members who want to promote their shows, works, or photography business to use the "Showing, Promoting and Sharing Your Work" Forum in our Discussion Forums:

A screenshot of a forum post. The title is "Showing, Promoting and Sharing Your Work". Below the title is a button that says "Forum for Members Only". The main text of the post reads: "This is the place to ask questions and share information about what comes after post-processing...everything related to 'output,' on or offline. Here we'll talk about posting on social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, 500px, Google+, Flickr and other websites. We'll also talk about printing, matting, framing and hanging work for home, club and galleries. And for those who are interested, it's the place to talk about the business aspects of photography". To the right of the text is an "Open" button. Below the text is a "View Topics" button. On the right side of the forum post, there is a "Subscribe" button, followed by statistics: "3 Topics", "3 Open Topics", and "9 Subscribers". Below these statistics is the text "Last Post: 5/23/2017 8:51 PM PDT" and a "Display Subscribers" button. At the bottom right, there is a small thumbnail image showing two people looking at a photograph on a wall.

Any member who wants to be informed of others shows, workshops and activities, please **SUBSCRIBE** to this Forum. Click on the upper right had tab - **Subscribe**. To unsubscribe you click on the same tab which will read - **Edit Subscriptions**.

**PLEASE DO NOT USE THE CLUB EMAIL TO PUBLICIZE YOUR SHOWS AND/OR WORKSHOPS IN THE FUTURE.**

Thank you for your cooperation in helping making the club a better place for all.

November promises to be an especially exciting month with our Potluck on Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> and NC4's Photoclave November 3-5. Look for more information in the coming months.

A special thank you to Virginia Meyer who has been our judging chairperson. She has done an awesome job getting our two monthly judges and sending out the Judges survey. At the end of the year the board takes a look at the surveys and discusses with Virginia Meyer what will happen for next year.

Special thanks to Diane Arrigoni and Bill Sumits, our co-N4C representatives. They travel to the east bay to take print images to the N4C meeting and attend the meeting to speak on behalf of MPC. In June Diane had to step down because of other commitments and time issues. We want to say thank you Diane.

We are in search for another N4C representative to work with Bill Sumits. Please contact Jon, TJ or Bill if you are interested.

Good light

TJ Campbell  
[tjccampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:tjccampbell@yahoo.com)

Jon d'Alessio  
[dalessio@microweb.com](mailto:dalessio@microweb.com)

### **Editor's Note**

This month's edition of Focal Plane is longer than usual with a bio and travel experience from two of our members. I would welcome your comments and suggestions on additional news or information you would like to see in/removed from future editions.

See also my comments on the recently closed Meetup Challenge on Page 6.

Noel Isaac

### **Moonrise, Four Corners, Napa**

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**Dana Christensen**

**Print - Monochrome Pictorial - Basic**

**Judge: Jeff Dunn**

#### **Behind the Image:**

The image was taken near the intersection of H116 and 121 on the way to Napa. I was wandering through some dusty parking lots and sheds and came upon this gate, swinging in the breeze. The gate appeared to be leading nowhere in particular, and the textures of wood and corrugated metal caught my eye. The moon hanging in the sky was a lucky juxtaposition that gave the image an extra dimension.....Dana Christensen



### **Family Outing**

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**TJ Campbell**

**Projected Images - Alternate - Advanced**

**Judges: Kent Porter & Steve Disenhof**

#### **Behind the Image:**

This image was shot at the 2017 SF Carnival Parade. 100+ hot rods were being displayed and this family were waiting for the start. Many expressions can be seen but dad's was the best.

Canon 7d, 70-200mm lense, F11, ISO 400, 1/100sec.....TJ Campbell

## July MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, July 10th: Print Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, July 10th: Education Night**  
NO meeting this month (Replaced by Print Competition, see above).
- **Monday, July 17th: Projected Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, July 13th: MPC Board Meeting\*\***  
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †  
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday, July 27th: Street Photography SIG**  
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.

## 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](mailto:focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com)

## New Members to the MPC

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

**Jie Li**

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

## The Outside Photography World

### EXHIBITS in San Francisco:

- [The Grain of the Present](#) @ Pier 24
- [Larry Sultan...Here and Home](#) @ SF MOMA (Through July 23rd)
- ["Hair" Exhibit. Homage to the Summer of Love.](#) @ the Harvey Milk Photo Center. (June 21 - Sept8)
- [Current Exhibitions](#) @ Rayko Photo Center

### EXHIBITS in Marin:

- Tom Benoit's "Beautiful Light" @ Tiburon Town Hall (Through Aug 2nd)

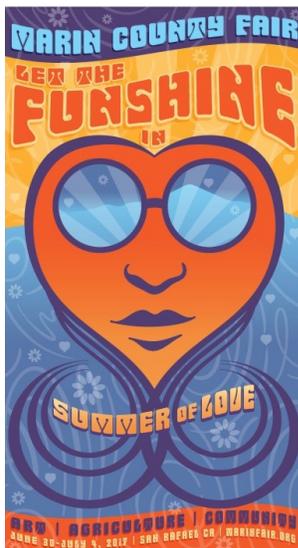
### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS:

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

### NOTE:

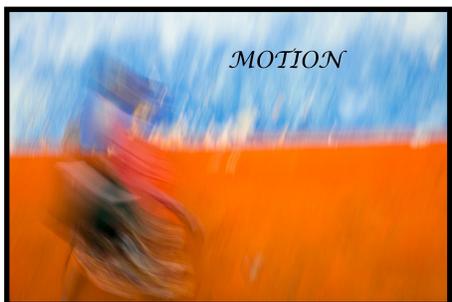
Do you know another location with great classes and/or workshops?  
Please send the information to: [focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com)

## The MARIN COUNTY FAIR



We wish our members the best of luck and look forward to seeing their work at the Fair which runs from June 30 - July 4.

For full details visit the Fair's website at:  
<https://www.marinfair.org/2017/competitive-exhibits/whats-new#photo>



## Meetup Challenge

### We Need Your Vote!

The May/June 2017 Challenge: "MOTION" is now closed to additional entries. **But it is time to vote on the images that have been submitted and this needs to be done by July 6th.**

Go to the [Meetup](#) page and cast your vote for one of the excellent images.

Prizes are available for the winner! Check the [Meetup](#) page for details.

[Dorothy Weaver](#)

## Patagonia Plus

by John Nygren

I was persuaded to put Patagonia at the top of my travel list by my sister, who wanted badly to go and needed company. We looked for companies that would include Buenos Aires and Santiago at either end, and ended up comparing two that were recommended: Overseas Adventure Travel and Odysseys Unlimited. We chose Odysseys in the end because it offered more nights on shipboard and more days in beautiful Torres del Paine National Park.



It was a good decision. Though not a photography tour, it offered plenty of photo ops. The guides were wonderful, offering good commentary on the bus, and leaving us to explore locations informally without being herded around. The group of about 24 people was compatible, shipboard lectures interesting, practical arrangements and accommodations all great. We had local guides in different places, and liked our guide in Chile, Marcela, so much that I offered to give her husband a tour of San Francisco when he came recently for a conference.

We began with a couple of nights in Buenos Aires, where I enjoyed a delicious steak so tender I could cut it with a butter knife. We then flew down to Ushuaia to board the M/V Via Australis for four scenic days sailing to Cape Horn and through the fjords of the Beagle Channel, Glacier Alley, and the Strait of Magellan. We then had a rare four days of good weather and my favorite photographic scenery in Torres del Paine and a stop in Puerto Varas with its lake and mountain views. Our last stop was a couple of days in Santiago.



My cameras were a Sony A6000 (mirrorless APS-C), Sony RX100m3 (pocket camera with 24-70mm lens), and my iPhone 6s. Most of my photos were taken with the Sony A6000 but I used my pocket camera for dark interior shots and my iPhone 6s for location marking. On my Sony A6000 I took 83% of the photos with a Sony 18-200 long zoom lens (7% at 200mm) and about 17% with a Sony 10-18mm wide angle lens.....[read more.](#)



## A Conversation with Gary Topper

World traveler, artistic photographer, MPC Education Night volunteer, hiker, explorer of life and all things human.

By Marnie Walters

This past Wednesday, I had the great pleasure of meeting with Gary Topper at the Aroma Cafe in San Rafael. We enjoyed a wide-ranging, free-flowing conversation about his life, his growth as a photographer and a person, and his involvement in the MPC community. Here are some of the highlights of that conversation.

Gary was born in Los Angeles, and attended UCLA for his BA and MA in business administration. At age 21, he did a solo trip around the world for 7 months, taking a wide range of photos of people, cultures, villages and as he beautifully phrased it, "things that project life." In 1965, he moved to San Francisco and then in 1967 to Bordeaux, France to work for a famous wine merchant, and while living on Chateau Lascombes, to learn all aspects of the French wine business. He returned to New York, where he sold the company's wines for two years, and then in 1970, due to his love of California and Marin, he moved back to the Bay Area, where he created the first California wine marketing company to sell the small estate/family wineries of Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino and aided in the development of California wine drinking throughout the United States.



Over the years, Gary has continued to travel throughout the world, including Asia, Europe, South America, and Mexico as well as photo journeys to Cuba with Doug Kaye and Mexico with Richard Martin. The first of his trekking trips in 1991 was to Ladakh, India, where he was engaged in a 16-day Buddhist monastery trek. This trip to India was life-changing for him, during which he began to start focusing his life in new directions. One of the outcomes of that

experience was to begin his work with an earth-based spiritual community known as Wakan. The group focuses on issues of life-sharing, living with authenticity, and emphasizes the importance of community. He also spent many years volunteering for The Pachamama Alliance, a community involved in helping the Achuar people of Ecuador protect their ancestral land from the oil companies as well as to make the people of the north learn about and understand the need to protect our planet...

[read more](#)