

## Marin Photography Club - Presidents' October Letter

Dear Members

Fall has arrived, we have had our first rain and have 'fallen' back to standard time. Even with the shorter days there are still a lot of photographic opportunities, including fall colors and interesting cloud formations. So go out and shoot, and don't forget to get a bridge or two for our Presidents' Theme meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

The folks at Drakes Landing have asked us to limit our use of their community room to twice a month. So in 2018 our projected and print competitions will continue to be held in the Drakes Landing Community Room on the first and third Monday's. Education nights will be held at the Hospice by the Bay building in Larkspur Landing. It is a great room but the downside is that it is east of 101 off of Sir Francis Drake, and we will have to deal with the heavy traffic heading to the Richmond San Rafael Bridge. In an attempt to avoid the worst of the traffic we will start the education night meetings a half hour later, at 7:00PM.

In Mid-November we will be sending out our detailed 2018 schedule for both competitions and education speakers.

In 2018 N4C is increasing the maximum size of a projected image to 1900 x 1200 (they got a new projector). So starting with our January competition, we will also increase our maximum size to match N4C's. This will not impact you if you shoot in the standard 3:2 crop that most cameras use (an image 1200 pixels high will be 1800 pixels wide at a 3:2 crop). However if you use the video crop of 16:9, do panoramas or make a pano crop, you can take advantage of the extra width.

Speaking of N4C, don't forget that if you wish to enter prints into N4C's annual competition you must get them to Bill Sumits before December 11<sup>th</sup>. N4C limits annual entries to those who have placed at one of their monthly competitions. On October 13<sup>th</sup> Bill sent an email to all members with their eligible prints. Note that projected images are automatically entered.

In September we asked you to complete a survey on how you wish to receive communications about club and other photographic events. We had 70 responses, THANK YOU. It gave us some great data to use in fine-tuning our communications strategy. Remember that the Club emails and forums are just two of the vehicles the Club uses to communicate to members. Other vehicles include the Focal Plane, our web sites (both public and competition) and our pre-meeting announcements

While 93% of the respondents said they wanted to receive notices about Club events via email, there was a pretty even split on receiving notices of non-club events via the Club email or via the forums. Given this the board is working to see if it can develop ways that will enable members to have a greater ability to tailor how (or even if) they receive notices.

At our projected competition in November we will have a longer announcement time than normal as we have some Club business to present, namely election of the 2018 Board members and approval of our 2018 budget.

And don't forget our Civic Center show featuring over 130 of the best prints of our Club members. The opening reception is November 7<sup>th</sup> and we hope to see you there.

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 FPN has full details of the upcoming **"Pot Luck Dinner and Slide Show"** on Pages 8 - 10. Time is running out to submit your Slide Shows (**Deadline is Nov. 5**). So put on your Steven Spielberg caps and start producing.

A Member Profile of Keith Marsh (Page 6) and Member Travel by Janice Hughes (Page 7).

Page 11 has information on the **Senior Fair at the Civic Center, N4C Fotoclave 2017** and the **President's Theme "BRIDGES"**.

Noel Isaac

## Images of the Month



**Old Chinese Farmer Takes a Break**

**Dorothy Weaver**

**Print - Monochrome Pictorial - Masters**

**Website Judge: John Goyer**

**Behind the Image:** This image was created on my recent trip to photograph the Yi minority in Sichuan, China. We were in a small village on market day and most locals were surfing around to complete their shopping. This old farmer was sitting with two women (Wife? Daughter? It was hard to tell.) I was immediately attracted to the character of his face. He did not invite me to take his photo, but neither did he indicate no. I waited him out a bit until he got bored with me being there, then took a few images. The background is a tile rooftop in the distance. Canon 5D Mark III, f8, 300 mm, 200 ISO

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



**California gull (*Larus californicus*) grabs a bite on the fly at sunrise.**

**Doug Kaye**

**Projected Images - Nature - Intermediate**

**Judge: Jeff Dunn**

### **Behind the Image:**

I rented the new Sony 100-400mm GM lens to shoot the Blue Angels, but since I had it for a whole week I asked Steve Disenhof to introduce me to Las Galinas, where so many of our members go to photograph birds. (I don't have much experience with nature!) I was shooting at 8fps and got this in a burst of five images. In Photoshop, I made a number of tweaks to the luminance, particularly trying to bring out detail in the wing feathers and shadows. Cropped to 11MP from a 24MP original.

Sony a6300, ISO 1000, 1/3200 second, f/6.3

Sony 100-400mm GM at 400mm (600mm full-frame equivalent)

[.....Doug Kaye](#)

## MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, November 6th: Print Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, November 13th: Education Night**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room  
Saxon Holt - Garden Photography
- **Monday, November 20th: Projected Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, November 16th: 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.

## Senior Fair at the Civic Center

On Wednesday October 26th the Club hosted a booth at the Senior Fair at the Civic Center. A dozen volunteers manned the booth which featured help about cameras, free prints (over 400 given away!) and free portraits (63 taken, about one every 5 minutes all day). Many thanks to everyone who donated prints, to **Ginny Meyer**, who organized the effort, and to **Bob Hemstock** and **Rosemary Greenberg** for setting up the portrait 'studio', and to all the other Club volunteers.

## 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:

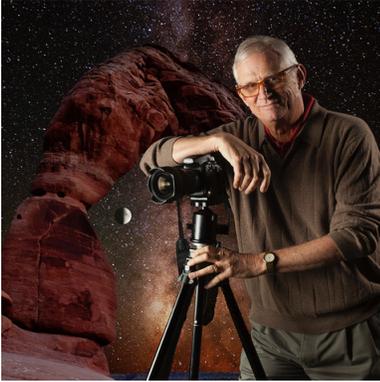
### MPC Member Websites

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)

## Keith Marsh, Astrophotographer

By Marnie Walters



Keith Marsh, a long time Honorary Member of the Marin Photo Club, moved to California 45 years ago, and to Marin 4 years later. He was raised in the town of Lewiston in Northern Idaho, where during his childhood, he had the experience of driving a green pea combine through hills of the Palouse. Many years later, he returned to the area, leading a group of photographers from the MPC.

Keith had an early interest in photography, motivated and facilitated in part by a box camera he received from his Dad. He shot and recorded everything: nature, trips, family, etc. Much later, he joined the Marin Photo Club and broadened his experience. He competed heavily, entering photos in every category available, eventually working his way up to the Masters Level. Over the



years, he has participated in over 200 competitions, regionally and locally. For a number of years, the MPC competitions consisted of printed images and projected slides. When digital photography became available, Keith (along with a few others) founded the Marin Digital (now known as Projected) Group for the Club. He served as President of the MPC in 1998, and has since participated in judging competitions in a number of the local clubs and for other N4C groups, such as the annual competition.

About 6

years ago, Keith began studying and practicing the art of Astrophotographic Nightscapes. He specializes in researching and capturing iconic images of the Milky Way, star trails, and both lunar and solar eclipses. This area of expertise requires extensive planning, travel and many long nights under the stars. He uses various apps to assist in his preparation and mentioned:

StarWalk, an astronomy app; Maps.Me, a mapping/hiking app which is GPS driven; Google Earth, to help him find locations; and PhotoEphemeris, an app to help plan for outdoor photography in natural light. (For iPads, the Photographer's Ephemeris app costs \$8.99, & \$4.99 for StarWalkHD.).....[read more](#)



## Member Travel - Prague 2016

By Janice Hughes

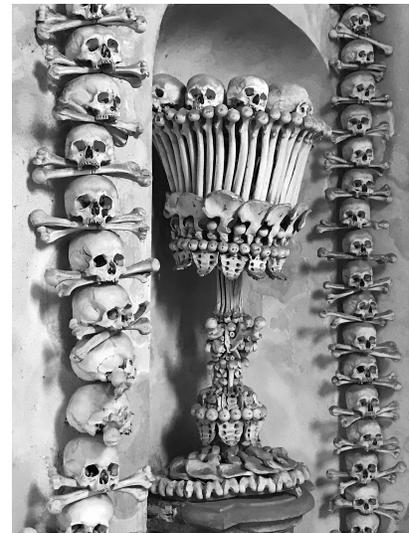


A few of us from MPC went with Richard Martin to Prague, Czech Republic, in the fall of 2016 (John Nygren, Gene Morita, Dorothy Weaver and myself). Richard is based out of Canada and has led many members of the club on both local tours here and into Mexico and Europe. In Prague we were also accompanied by local photographer Jan Miracky of Johnny's Prague Photo Tours. Jan brought us to many ideal shooting locations in and around Prague.

There are plenty of churches, bridges, squares and castles to enjoy. One evening we enjoyed the Royal Czech String Orchestra inside the Tyn Church in Old Town Square which proved to be one of the highlights of our visit. The Jewish Quarter was something to be experienced. The beauty of the Spanish synagogue was a good way to end the visit and lift our spirits again.

One warning I wished I had paid more attention to was that it could get a little chilly (we were there in October). I wore many layers and would have enjoyed having my down coat on this trip.

[.....See more.](#)





**MARIN PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER  
NOVEMBER 12, 2017  
5:00 PM - 9:30 PM**

**HELLO MPC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

November is fast approaching and that means that our annual Potluck dinner and slide show is just around the corner. This is the wildly popular event where MPC members join with friends and family to enjoy the taste of home-made dinner specialties and view wonderful and artistic member created slide and video shows.

**LOCATION**

The Strawberry Recreation Center  
118 East Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley

**SO WHAT'S FOR DINNER?**

Well that's up to you....This is a Potluck affair. We will need your best recipes for:

- Appetizers
- Main Meat Course
- Hot Vegetable
- Salad...vegetable or fruit
- Pasta, Rice, Potato
- Desert



Please send, via email, a brief description of your dish to Marti.  
(ie: Baked Chicken, Chickpea salad, Apple pie, etc).

I will attempt to keep our dinner somewhat balanced,  
though I know some of you would prefer a meal consisting of only desert.

\*\* In the interest of balancing the meal,the last people to indicate their dish may be asked to bring an alternate category..

**CONTACT MARTI with menu contributions or questions:**

[marticagwin@yahoo.com](mailto:marticagwin@yahoo.com)  
415-272-5144

We will be supplying paper plates, eating utensils, cups, glasses, lemonade, club soda and coffee.

### WHO'S ON THE GUEST LIST?

Members of the Marin Photography Club and any family member or friend you'd like to invite are welcome. The more the merrier!!

### WHAT ABOUT ENTERTAINMENT?

Glad you asked. The wonderful slide shows and videos our members are creating at this very moment. Show entrants may have questions on the time-line, production, or submittal process. Steve Weissberg is our slide show coordinator.

CONTACT STEVE with slide show questions:

[s\\_weissberg@mac.com](mailto:s_weissberg@mac.com)

(that is s underscore [weissberg@mac.com](mailto:weissberg@mac.com))

### POTLUCK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

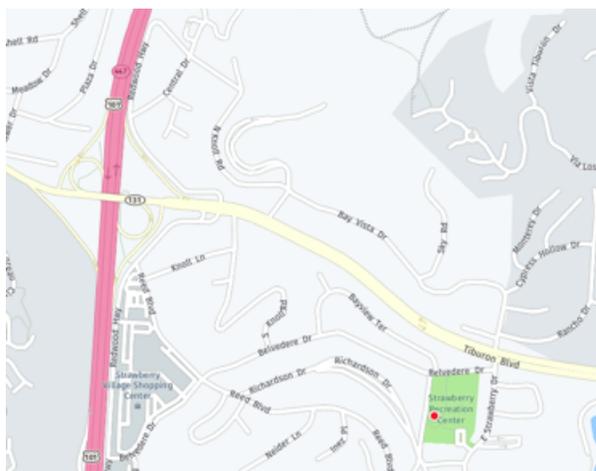
On the event day a team of set-up people will be needed. In one hour we will transform a lowly gymnasium into a banquet hall. All guests have traditionally helped with teardown. Then we will need a few people to help launder the tablecloths.

Please let Marti know if you would like to help out.

We have employed Francisco and Mary again this year to do the clean-up in the kitchen.

### MAP TO EVENT LOCATION

This map indicates that driving South, you will take the Mill Valley, Blithedale exit and then turn left to go back over the freeway toward Tiburon.



## Potluck Slideshow

Members,

Our potluck dinner is only weeks away (Nov. 12)...plenty of time for you to put your slideshow (with music) together to impress and please others members.

The "Nitty Gritty" :

- The deadline for submitting slideshows is Nov. 5
- Slideshows should have a runtime of between 3 to 5 minutes
- Be sure to include a program opening with the slideshow title and your name
- Acceptable video file formats are: MPEG2, MOV, AVI, MPEG4
- Submit your file to the following upload link:  
<https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/DigitalVideoDimensions>

Please direct any technical questions to Alan Kolsky, the video editor who has offered to put all our slideshows together. His contact information is:

E-mail: [Alan@DigitalVideoDimensions.com](mailto:Alan@DigitalVideoDimensions.com)

Phone: 415-893-9070

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Steve Weissberg

Member 2015

s\_weissberg@mac.com

Finally we would like all Club members to know that there are a number of excellent events coming up that you are all invited to attend:

- **N4C Fotoclave 2017** weekend of Photographic Inspiration, November 3 – 5 at the Marriott Pleasanton, CA, Go to [fotoclave.slickpic.com](http://fotoclave.slickpic.com) for more information.
- **President's Theme "BRIDGES"**, Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, held at Drakes Landing Community Room. Fun, non-competitive, social event to end the year – images will be submitted digitally

