



July 2018 Presidents' Letter

Dear Members,

Greetings to you all! We hope you are enjoying the summer and look forward to hearing about your adventures and seeing your images in the coming months.

This month, we would like to take a few moments to reflect on the amazing number of volunteers who have so generously contributed to the Club over the past year and previous years. As we all know, this club and its existence is completely dependent on the time and effort invested by its members. In fact, without that time and effort, the Club would not exist at all!

The selfless contributions of our members define the quality of our experience and inspire us all to be better photographers, and perhaps even better people than we might be without this community of people with similar aspirations and interests.

The beauty of what has been created here can be tracked back to the variety of skills offered by its members to keep the Club in place and moving ahead, in a manner that may appear to be seamless, but which, in reality, draws on an enormous amount of talent. We have folks with accounting backgrounds, who track our expenses and costs; others with technical skills to run our competitions, our website, and to make it easy to communicate with each other; we have amazing teachers, who selflessly share their knowledge of photography as an art form in all its permutations,

and as a science, involving use of hardware and software. We have members who donate their time and effort in organizing workshops, special interest sub-groups, exhibits, and educational opportunities near and far for others to expand their skills and experiences. Others contribute to the enjoyment of all by creating events and opportunities for the group to share food, conversation and information. And still others liaise with our parent organizations and track and debate the rules and guidelines which guide our participation in those organizations. And all of this, to what end? Quite simply, to the mutual benefit of those who give, and those who receive. Lucky us!

We can tell you from our own experience that volunteering not only brings a feeling of personal gratification and a sense of 'giving back for what others have shared with us,' but has also offered the opportunity to get to know some of our club members even more.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers, past and present, and to all of those who will step forward in the future. We will look to each other (and to others who may want to join us) to help us learn, develop, and promote an environment in which our love of photography can continue to thrive.

Steve and Marnie

Editor's Note

Now back from vacation, this issue of Focal Plane News covers June & July activities, as well as highlighting upcoming events in the month ahead.

John Benet has written a piece on Outdoor Photography in Oregon (Page 8)

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

Noel Isaac

"Images of the Month - June"



"Split Image"

Steve Disenhof

Projected Images - Monochrome - Masters

Judge: Tim Porter

Behind the Image: While scouting locations in preparation for leading a photowalk for this year's International Street Photography Festival, I turned to see what was behind me on the steps of the Embarcadero Center and saw the shadow of the pole against the pattern of the brickwork. I stayed for about 30 minutes capturing various images, specifically looking for interesting silhouettes and alternately slowing the shutter. Split Image was taken with my preferred Street camera, a Sony RX 100v5 point and shoot. RAW at 1/6s, f11, ISO 125 and the built-in ND filter turned on.[Steve Diswnhof](#)



The many faces of San Francisco - 2017-2018 Ferry Building Candid Portrait Project

Steve Disenhof

Print Color Pictoral - Advanced

Judge: Eric Ahrendt

Behind the Image: Many Faces is a product of a year-long project that began as a Street Photography SIG challenge. Always on the hunt for good light (thank you Doug Kaye), I'd noticed that people walking out of the core of the Ferry Building light up when they emerge under the long atrium roof of the South wing. So every time I returned from an SF photowalk, I would take a few minutes to plant myself in the center of traffic about 15' into the wing, meter for that light on their faces, and wait for people to come to me. The dark core of the building behind them provided a natural vignette. I never looked at my subjects, instead kept my eyes focused on my flip out viewfinder at waist level. While many of these portraits stand on their own, I thought they'd work even better as a series. This montage of faces is the result of that idea, a small number of the hundreds I'd taken. These were taken with my Sony a7R3 and Sony RX100v5. Generally, they were RAW, 1/320'ish, ISO floating from 100-800, shallow DOF and -3EV.

...[Steve Disenhof](#)

"Images of the Month - July"



Solo Balloonist Flying over Palm Desert, California

Larry McCloskey

Projected Images - Creative - Basic

Judge: Ron Elkind

Behind the Image: Canon Mark II with a Canon EF24-f/1.4 lens. That image was shot at 1/1000 sec @ f/8 ISO 800 on 2/2/2016 at 6:30 am on the property of the Mission Hills CC in Rancho Mirage, CA. The balloonists filled their balloons on one area of the golf course and flew over to Palm Desert landing in a large vacant lot.

There were about 50 or so entries. I walked around while they were being inflated, noticing that they all looked pretty much the same, large basket to hold several people, the large fire igniter and the balloon. As they raised up and flew away, my attention was drawn to this one balloon with just a single person in a chair coming towards me. That's the one in this photograph. Instead of just printing it straight forward, single image, I decided to do a triptych using the same image in three different positions to give the sense of motion. I also wanted the image to have a dated look to it. I used the Analog Efex Pro 2 application in Nik's Software to execute that look. There were some areas that were cleaned up in each of the photos.

[...Larry McCloskey](#)



Still Life in a Ghost Town

Dorothy Weaver

Print Color Pictorial - Masters

Judge: Merrill Mack

Behind the Image: "Still Life in a Ghost Town" was taken at Elizabeth Bay, Namibia. This is an old diamond mining facility that was abandoned in the 1950's. We wandered around the old mining facility and abandoned homes. This still life may have been set up by a prior viewer, but it was shot exactly as I found it. The light was so perfect, as well as the placement of the shadows. Sony A7RIII, Sony 24-105 G OSS lens at 100mm, f9.

[...Dorothy Weaver](#)

MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, August 6th: Projected Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, August 13th Education Night**
6:30pm @ Town Center, Corte Madera.
- **Monday, August 20th: Print Competition**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, August 9th: MPC Board Meeting****
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday, August 23th: 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 Member:

Joyce Bell

Associate Member:

Philip Ziegler



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



"Signs" The July/August Meetup Challenge

This month's Meetup Challenge is about recording the "Signs" that guide you along the way. These signs may be literal or metaphorical, but they need to represent "Guidance" or "Signs".

The Challenge is to capture the emotions of the instances where you needed to get guidance for your current travels and experiences

Note: More information is available at the Meetup website (see link below).

The Challenge will end August 31st at 10pm.....[More Info](#)

[Harvey Abernathy](#)

The MPC Street SIG

The next Street SIG will meet at **6:30pm on Thursday, August 23th** at the GGCS Classroom in San Rafael.

The challenge for August centers on The Decisive Moment.

For details go to: <https://goo.gl/vuve6N>.

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 through 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](#) @ 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

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

Outdoor Photography in Oregon— John Benet

I've been photographing in Oregon for several years. I have organized some of my favorite places there by location, and by subjects, in the outline below. From the Bay Area area it's about a 1-½ hour flight to Portland or an 11-hour drive. There are also flights to Medford, Eugene, and Bend.

Weather west of the Cascades mountains is cloudy and rainy much of the year; July-Sep is usually warm and dry there. East of the Cascades is high desert, hot and dry in summer. The coast gets summer fog much like the northern California coast.

I've found the book "Photographing Oregon" by Greg Vaughn (2009) to be a valuable guide in planning photography trips there. Locations below are all described in this book.

Southern coast:

-Bandon has many dramatic seastacks

Northern coast:

-Cannon Beach and nearby Ecola State Park also have large seastacks

-Plenty of hotels & motels to choose from in these towns



Portland:

-The Japanese Garden is beautiful all year, and has many Japanese maples with good fall color in late October.

-International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park flowers peak in June and July

-Lan Su Chinese Garden is also a scenic spot to visit year-round



Columbia River Gorge

Along Historic Columbia River Highway, east of Portland on I-84:

(access to some of the waterfalls may be closed due to either recent forest fires or trail washouts, check before visiting)

-Portland Women's Forum State Park has a great late afternoon vista of the gorge
-Latourell Falls (short walk from parking area)

-Elowah Falls (2.4 mile hike roundtrip from parking area).....[read more](#).