



## May 2018 Presidents' Letter

### TITLES ARE IMPORTANT!

In three of our competition categories titles are, by Rule, considered in judging the image. These are Nature, Journalism and Travel. The salient lines from the Competition Rules are:

**Nature:** The title should be factual and descriptive... Scientific names are encouraged but are not required.

**Journalism:** Good titles are important and should add to the photo-story.

**Travel:** The title should give the location and complement the travel story...

So what does this mean in actual practice?

Judges following the Competition Rules criteria will consider both the image and the title in judging the entry. While some judges may weigh the image as more important, it's common to hear a judge say that an image would have scored higher with a better title. Titles ARE important and it's a shame when a good image –that the maker spent lots of time preparing – is marked down because the maker didn't give as much thought to a worthy title.

Here are a few random pointers:

- Nature
  - Name the subjects of the image (Latin, while not "required" is helpful and shows some effort)
  - Do not anthropomorphize the animal (don't ascribe human behaviors/ thoughts to an animal)

- Tell a bit about the behavior you're showing
- Name the location, if appropriate
- Examples:
  - Bad title: Pretty Turtle
  - Good title: Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), with deadly tumors caused by excess nitrogen in the runoff that accumulates in algae that turtles eat and cause the disease Fibropapillomatosis
- Journalism
  - The title should complement the image. If the image doesn't completely tell the story, to fill in the missing parts, think "who, what, when, where, why" in creating your title.
  - Examples:
    - Bad title: Smoky Night
    - Good title: Day and night, cremation smoke fills the air on a sacred burning ghat on the Ganges in Varanasi, India.
- Travel
  - As with Journalism, the title should complement the image by adding more information about the location, subject and or story.
  - Examples:
    - Bad title: Weaver
    - Good title: A Tarahumara indigenous basket weaver, in Copper Canyon, Mexico, proudly shows a basket woven by her that day.

While by Rule, titles are not considered in judging Creative, Pictorial (color and monochrome) or Alternate categories, members should recognize that judging is always subjective and judges of course do read the titles when they view the images.

Finally, remember there is 200 character limit to titles. This includes spaces and punctuation. For those having Microsoft Word, "Word Count" can be found under the "Review" tab and will show both word and character counts. (Note that only 100 characters will fit on a Print label, but the full title will be read at the competition.)

## Editor's Note

**Please note that there will not be an issue of the Focal Plane News at the end of June as I will be away on vacation. I will produce a double issue at the end of July.**

This issue of Focal Plane News covers May'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).

Marshall Gross has written a piece on a Photography Workshop in Costa Rica that he took with friends, where their experience didn't live up to the marketing hype! (Page 10).

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

Noel Isaac

## "Images of the Month"



Siberian tiger is very territorial and male and female only come together to mate; thereafter only the female cares for the offspring. China.

Wendy Hannum

Projected Images - Nature - Masters

Judge: Greg Edwards

**Behind the Image:** This image was shot at a tiger preserve in China. Siberian tigers are extremely rare in the wild. The largest of the breed, they are truly majestic with thick coats of fur to survive in the cold and snowy climate. It was indeed very cold. Given the danger, I was in a heavily caged vehicle. It is not like Africa where you are safe for the most part in an open safari jeep.

Nikon D800; 300mm f/2.8 vr lens; 1/1250 sec. at f/4.5; ISO 400.

.....[Wendy Hannum](#)



Artist's Palette, Death Valley at Sunset

Dana Christensen

Print Color Pictoral - Basic

Judge: Stephen Busch

**Behind the Image:** The image was taken at Artist's Palette in Death Valley. This is a natural feature where oxidized metals and elements in the ground wash out of the mountains and form a unique color palette that comes to life at sunset.

Metadata: Capture time/date: March 26 2018, 6:30pm. Focal length: 28mm, ISO 200, Exposure: 1/250 sec at f8.0

.....[Dana Christensen](#)

## MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, June 4th: Projected Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, June 11th Education Night**  
6:30pm @ Town Center, Corte Madera.
- **Monday, June 18th: Print Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, June 14th: MPC Board Meeting\*\***  
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †  
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday, June 28th: 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:

### Associate Members:

Robert Hitchman  
Ed Kozlowski



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

## "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 is available at the Meetup website (see link below).

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

[Harvey Abernathy](#)



## The MPC Street SIG

The next Street SIG will meet at **6:30pm on Thursday, June 28th** at the GGCS Classroom in San Rafael.

The organizers' are tentatively planning that members will present their individual street projects.

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>)

[Doug Kaye & Steve Disenhof](#)

## 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 Reception that took place on May 9 was a great success as a result of the efforts of a number of Members, including Jennifer Isaac, Wendy Hannum and Mary Pieper-Warren.

The exhibition runs through June 30, 2018, (closed weekends)



### 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.*

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Reception  
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## 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)

## Printing & Matting Workshop



On Saturday May 12, T. J. Campbell and Steve Ziman organized and presented this workshop in the GGCS Meeting room in San Rafael. A fun morning and very well attended with lots of discussion on printing papers, profiles, printers, inks, mat boards, etc.

TJ subsequently emailed participants all the Workshop information presented.....a really useful source of information to all aspiring printers and framers.

A big thank you to TJ and Steve for the time and effort they put in to making this workshop a success.

## COSTA RICA by Marshall Gross



Several months ago I was searching eagle tours in Alaska and realized I was a fair weather photographer and the climate would be too harsh. I quickly reached for something more favorable and found Backcountry Journeys by Russ Nordstrom to Costa Rica. Fast forward a couple of weeks and I was at Russ Flaum's home making air reservations on two computers to make sure we were on the same flights. I talked Russ into first class air and I don't think he will go back to flying economy.

This particular tour included accommodations and meals. The accommodations in San Jose were wonderful at the airport Marriott. In the two days we were there Russ and I found a driver to take us one day to San Jose and the second day to the La Paz Rain Forest. This was well worth the trip.

We then flew on a charter 12 passenger plane to the Oso Peninsula where we were taken to the Lookout Eco Lodge. The Lodge is on solar power where we had power to charge batteries, etc. for eight hours a day and that was it. Fresh water was from a well that worked most of the time but hot water for showers was non-existent. The weather was humid and in the 80 to 90 degrees. Although the Backcountry Journeys website said we would have daily transportation by van to photo locations, that didn't happen. I was the oldest in the party of ten and Russ Flaum was not far behind me. I walked a few miles a day with all my equipment.....[read more](#)

