



## September 2018 Presidents' Letter

We've all heard the story; she dropped her DSLR in Venice and happily discovered she could capture images on her iPhone, the camera she always had with her. Deciding not to replace her DSLR, she greatly expanded her mobile photography skills and ultimately became the Master of what she terms "App Dancing." Gail Pierce's work often leaves us speechless in both its' beauty and diversity.

Her images have earned countless awards and critical acclaim both with her DSLR and iPhone, and Gail has become a renowned ambassador of iPhoneography. There's no greater proof of that than how many of our members now confidently use their mobile phones to capture their competitive images.

Gail's involvement in our Club spans many years and roles, long before most of us were members. Over her 20 plus years in MPC, she has served as:

Slide chairperson (predating Projected/Digital)

N4C representative

7+ years, Board member

President (2003)

First digital competition committee

Help with Photos for Kids

Marin County Fair representative for MPC

I-phone Photography – teaching classes and leading workshops, Golden Gate Computer Society presenter, N4C and PSA presenter

Her images are currently being shown at Hospice, Café Arrivederci, Marin Hospital

Numerous other shows, including being the second person to be asked to show in the new Bartolini gallery room at the Civic Center

MPC Award Winner – 2010 & 2012 Print of the Year

2009 Projected Image of the Year

2006 Volunteer of the Year

Marin County Fair Awards – Best of Show, Best Color Image and many others too numerous to mention.

We've missed Gail Pierce's energy and great spirit over the past months as she takes on the challenge of an illness. And we know Gail has expressed to many friends what a central place our Club has played in her life.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Gail's service and influence to the Club and our local photographic community.

The Board is proud to be able to recognize Gail as an Honorary Life Member of the Marin Photography Club.

And in recognition of Gail's inspirational leadership in the field of iPhoneography, in 2019 we will be adding a Mobile Image Alternate category to our Projected competition calendar, and yes, "App Dancing" is permitted.

Please join us in thanking Gail for her service, leadership and, above all, friendship. We join with all of you in wishing Gail and her family well.

Steve & Marnie

P.S. Gail enjoys hearing from members via email or snail mail. Please no calls or visits for now.

## **Editor's Note**

Welcome readers to the September issue of Focal Plane News.

Below you will find Jon d'Alessio's article on his travel experiences to Svalbard "Hunter or Hunted" (Page 7) and a synopsis of a presentation given by Kevin Westerlund to the GGCS in June on "Drones" (page 8).

In addition to the usual notices on Club activities, there are details of another opportunity for Club members to participate in a show at the Dominican College campus next year. Information on this Street SIG opportunity is on page 4.

Again, I would like to remind the aspiring Oscar Award seekers amongst us to continue working on your slide shows for the upcoming Pot Luck Supper in November (Page 9).

Happy Fall Shooting.

Noel Isaac



© Bob Gingg

**Rose Lily on White**

**Bob Gingg**

**Projected Images - Creative - Intermediate**

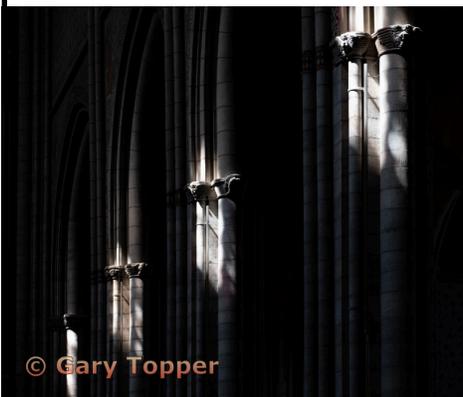
**Judge: Gene Morita**

**Behind the Image:** I arranged the rose lily on a light table with each stem placed so each flower and bud was highlighted. I placed my Vanguard Alta Pro Tripod next to the table and put the center shaft at 90 degrees out over the light table with the camera setup for remote trigger from my iPhone so as not to touch the camera during the exposures. I take about ten RAW photos from normal exposure to over

exposed almost all white. I bring them into Lightroom and tweak the normal exposed one and make sure all the white background is the same level. I apply that setting to the other exposures. I also take a copy of the normal exposure and use Topaz Adjust 5 to give an HDR look. Then back in Lightroom I take the all the photos and layer them into Photoshop with the whitest one on the bottom layer. Using masks I paint on sections and different opacities to give it the translucent look. I use the last layer with the HDR look to just add a little texture to the leaves and edges of the flowers.

My camera is a Sony a7RII. I used my 16-35mm f/4 Sony Lens set at 24mm f/11. I changed the exposures with the shutter so I retain the DOF through all the photos. ISO was 400.

[.....Bob Gingg](#)



© Gary Topper

**Morning light in the cathedral**

**Gary Topper**

**Print Monochrome Pictorial - Masters**

**Judge: Oliver Klink**

**Behind the Image:** The picture was taken in a church in Stockholm, Sweden, during the morning as the light was coming through the windows. We were departing the church, at the side door and saw the light hit the pillars for a short time. Taken in color but converted to B & W with some additional Nik processing. The picture was taken with my Sony A6500 camera, at F 8, 1/100sec, at 55 mm.

[.....Gary Topper](#)

## MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, October 1st: Projected Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, October 8th: Education Night**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, October 15th: Print Competition**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, October 11th: MPC Board Meeting\*\***  
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †  
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday, October 25th: 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"

## 2019 Dominican Street Photo Show

The MPC Street Photography SIG has been invited to hang an exhibition of street photography in the Joseph R. Fink Science Center lobby on the Dominican College campus in San Rafael. The exhibition will consist of approximately 40 prints and will run from roughly mid-February to mid-August, 2019.

Members of the MPC Street Photography SIG are encouraged to submit digital images for consideration. Non-SIG members are welcome to participate as well -- you just need to join the SIG by showing up at a meeting. :-)

See <https://goo.gl/rA9nz2> for info about our meetings.

## The MPC Street SIG

The next Street SIG will meet at **6:30pm on Thursday, October 25th** at the GGCS Classroom in San Rafael.

The subject for October centers on "Choose Your Own Challenge."

Full details and an introduction to MPC's Street SIG can be found through the following link:

<https://goo.gl/kpofqr>

[Doug Kaye & Steve Disenhof](#)

## AUTUMN - The September/October Meetup Challenge

There is a harmony in autumn, and a luster in its sky, which through the summer is not heard or seen, as if it could not be, as if it had not been!.... Percy Bysshe Shelley

Our next Challenge will take us through September and October - the early days of Autumn. So give your camera a cup of hot cider and go photograph an image that tells what autumn means to you ---football, brilliant leaves, pumpkins, Halloween??? Post your image, tell us the story behind it and why it evokes Autumn for you, and you may be the next Challenge winner!

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

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

[Harvey Abernathy](#)

## The Outside Photography World

### EXHIBITS in the Bay Area:

- [This Land](#)@ Pier 24
- [Current Exhibitions.](#) @ the Harvey Milk Photo Center.
- [Current Exhibitions](#) @ SF Camerawork
- [Current Exhibitions](#) @ Cantor Arts Center

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS:

- [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)

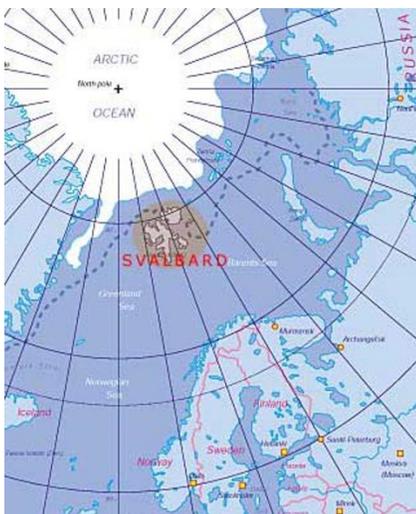
## Hunter or Hunted? - Jon d'Alessio



After our previous trip to the tropical heat of Belize, we decided to balance things by heading to the cool Arctic and look for Polar Bears. Actually we were hunting for them, defining hunting as the skillful tracking and acquisition of an elusive target. From our previous four trips to the Arctic looking for bears we knew how elusive they could be, but our leaders were skillful trackers. And, as we soon learned,

polar bears have a different and more traditional definition of hunting.

We went to the Svalbard archipelago, located in the Arctic Ocean north of continental Norway, and about halfway between Norway and the North Pole. It has the northernmost year-round settlement on Earth and is home of one of the largest polar bear populations in the world.



At about 650 miles from the North Pole, our wool neck scarfs were more important than our neck coolers, which greatly appealed to Catherine. The weather turned out to be as advertised, mostly overcast in the 30's, a couple of very light snow flurries, and the sun did shine through once or twice.

In our previous two trips to Svalbard, we went on a large (for us) ship with 50 passengers. So, this time we decided to go small. When our favorite tour company for the high latitudes (3 trips to Antarctica and 3 to the Arctic) Joe Van Os Photo Safaris announced a cruise with only 20 photographers we jumped on it.

Our ship, the M/S Freya, was 141 feet long and with only 7 feet of freeboard, great for polar bear visits. (And yes, we did see some reindeer (caribou in Western Hemisphere).)

With its small size the Freya could get into small fjords that the larger ships couldn't (she has an ice strengthened hull, so we didn't need to worry about the ice). We could then 'dock' in the ice and wait (were we the bait?).....[read more.](#)



## Drones

By Mike Hancock

**Please Note: This article is based upon a presentation given by Kevin Westerlund at the June General Meeting of the Golden Gate Computer Society.**

Kevin Westerlund began his presentation by handing out a 2-page comprehensive summary "Drones and Drone Photography/Videography", with topics covering:

- Rules and Regulations,
- Components of a Drone,
- Default Settings,
- Adjustments to the Aircraft,
- Adjustments to the Gimbal,
- Adjustments to the camera,
- Features to look for when buying a Drone, and
- Techniques to get cinematic Video footage.
- This document is attached hereto as a pdf.



Kevin has been flying drones for 2 years and says that, whereas a drone is easy to fly, it is difficult to fly well! Figure 1 gives the main topics covered in his presentation. While Kevin explained that the main reason he bought a drone was because he really

wanted one, he now has a list of reasons not to buy one! (Figure 2). In order to evade questioning crowds, Kevin flies his drone in fairly remote areas. Drones cost hundreds of dollars, and there is always the fear of mechanical failure, battery depletion, incorrect guidance, etc. that could crash and destroy the drone.

Kevin's first drone was a DJI Phantom 3 Professional, purchased in early 2016 for \$850. It has a range of about one mile and shoots 4K video and 12 MP JPGs or camera Raw files....[read more](#)

**MARIN PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER  
NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

**Potluck Slideshow**

Members,

Our potluck dinner is two and a half months away (Nov. 11)...plenty of time for you to put your slideshow (with music) together to impress and please other 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

Alan will be giving a brief presentation on "Creating your slideshow" sometime in the near future. Please check with Steve for time and date.

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

Thank you,

Steve Weissberg  
Member 2015  
[s\\_weissberg@mac.com](mailto:s_weissberg@mac.com)