



## November 2018 Presidents' Letter

Dear Members,

When I was a Director of IT, I became convinced the world is made of two kinds of people: those who read the manual and those that don't.

Despite what you may be thinking, I confess to being one of the folks who believes everything should be intuitive and will read manuals only after my frustration level maxes out. After all, I'd much rather spend my time shooting than reading my camera's chapters on Gamma Curves or AF Micro Adjustment.

That's probably a bit of an exaggeration, but brings me to our Competition Rules. They can be complex, differ based on category, and can be hard and fast (no cloning in Nature, Journalism or Travel) or occasionally squishy (how much hand of man in Nature is too much?).

What is clear is that members at all levels tend to trip over the Rules at our competitions nights.

What's a good title? Will this hand of man disqualify my image? How about this one? Can I clone a distracting item in Pictorial? How about in Nature?

Over the next few months, we're going to use the Focal Plane to talk about Rules and see if we can clarify some of the finer points.

(Newer members: our Membership Committee holds New Member Orientations a couple of times a year. If you've missed one, please sign up for the next. This is the single best place to learn about the Rules and the realities of the nuances of the Rules.)

And everyone, yes, you'll want to refer back to the "manual" – our Competition Rules are on our website and there's a link to them on the Message Board in the very first topic under MPC Announcements and Information. They really do spell out everything we need to know to successfully enter our fabulous images into competition.

Let's get started.

Over the past six months, our board has been trying to get a clear and definitive ruling from N4C and PSA on what Borders are allowed in images. We ultimately prompted N4C to have a discussion about what they call "Fancy Borders" such as those created by Nik or other applications. The outcome was a simple policy statement:

**"Fancy borders made by others [are] not allowed but those made by the maker [are] OK."**

But what exactly does this mean? For instance, even N4C judges suggest using a 1 or 2 pixel narrow border to mark the edge of negative space on projected images. Is this allowed? And how does one tell if a maker created a decorative border in Photoshop or simply imported one from Nik?

After extensive discussion - as with many other things - we decided to place our trust in our members and not be detectives.

We voted to adopt the following policy for our club:

1. The Club recognizes that N4C has a policy stating that image borders not made by the maker are not allowed (e.g. 'fancy' borders created by Nik). The Club will not disqualify such images, but members should be advised that - at the judge's discretion - images may be disqualified or marked down by judges at Club or N4C competitions.
2. Note that borders such as these are specifically allowed in the Club's Digital Art alternate category.
3. Also note that thin white or black borders created in post-processing to demarcate the edges of an image are generally acceptable.

Note that we've seen images marked down by some judges if the "fancy borders" are too prominent in an image and/or obviously not created by the maker. On the flip side, we've never heard a judge criticize an image with a thin border demarcating the edge between the image and the projection screen. In fact, judges often suggest adding one where the border is not easily seen.

-Steve

## **Editor's Note**

Welcome readers to the November issue of Focal Plane News. A busy time of year with numerous activities in the upcoming Holiday Season.

We kick off with the Annual Holiday Gathering and Projected Presidents' Theme on Dec 3rd. (See page 5).

Although there will not be a Street SIG meeting in December, Doug and Steve are leading an Evening Walk in San Francisco on December 6. (See page 6),

Details on the current MPC Photo Challenge is in page 7.

The opening Reception, on November 1, of MPC's Civic Center Show in the Bartolini Gallery was a Great Success. (see pages 10/11). Many thanks to Merrill Mack for her efforts in organizing and coordinating the Show.

As you know, a long term member of the Club, Gail Pierce, passed away this month. Rather than attempt to squeeze into this issue of FPN the memories of her that a number of Club members have expressed a wish to do, I am publishing a Special Edition of the Focal Plane News for that very purpose.

Noel Isaac  
Editor

**"Images of the Month - November"**



**Night Out - Tenaya Lake- Yosemite National Park. The Planet Mars Looms large over Half Dome in the Southern Skies. Sept.2018**

**Mansoor Assadi  
Projected Images - Pictorial - Intermediate**

**Judge: John Goyer**

**Behind the Image:**

No additional information available.



**Penguin Bliss**

**Catherine d'Alessio  
Print - Color Pictorial - Advanced**

**Judge: Robin Braunfeld**

**Behind the Image:**

No additional information available.

## MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, December 3rd: Annual holiday gathering & projected President's Theme.** 6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, December - There is NO Education Night this month**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, December - There is NO Print Competition this month**  
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, December 6th: MPC Board Meeting\*\***  
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church +  
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Street SIG Meeting: There will be NO Street SIG Meeting in December**  
(See Page 6 for details of Street SIG's Annual Holiday Photo Walk on Dec 6).

### 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 Members:

Terry Scussel  
Angela Grove

### Associate Members:

Ellen Sanford  
Arthur Heyman



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

## The MPC "Street SIG Annual Holiday Photowalk"

Yes, it's that time of year again! Next Thursday, December 6, an intrepid group of Marin street photographers will hop aboard the 2:50pm Larkspur Ferry, bound for San Francisco. We'll walk (or bus) up to Union Square to photograph the people and holiday decorations. Sunset is at 4:50pm. It should start to get dark about 4:25 or so. We'll probably have dinner in the food court at the Westfield shopping center. Return ferries leave S.F. at 6:00, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10 and 9:35pm.

This is open to all MPC members, not just those of you in the Street SIG. It's a great way to get your feet wet in street photography. Or just shoot the pretty lights. Plan for night photography.

No RSVP necessary. Just show up at the Larkspur Ferry terminal for the 2:50pm ferry on 12/6. Hope to see you there!

(If you're planning to meet us in San Francisco, please let me know so we can coordinate to find you.)

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](#)

## 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. Members have now submitted their images and approximately 40 of those selected prints can be seen at the exhibition, which will run from roughly mid-February to mid-August, 2019.

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

## 2018 November/December MPC Photo Challenge - "Light Painting"



Photography: n. "the art of light" i.e., photographers way of capturing light in a scene.

As the days are shorter and we head into the holidays, with all the lights, there are easy opportunities to photograph in low light and dark.

Our photo challenge for November/December is "Light Painting". Light painting can encompass the addition of light elements during an exposure, or using existing light to paint with, like camera movement. Start thinking about what you might be interested in doing.

[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)



# *Inspired Images* Through the Eyes of the Photographer

## **Bartolini Gallery**

Marin Center Exhibit Hall

October 29 ~ December 20

10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, California

Gallery Hours: Daily Monday ~ Friday 9 ~ 5 pm  
& Selected Weekends

*Reception: November 1, 6 ~ 8 pm*



**The Opening Reception at the Bartolini Gallery on November 1st.**



Merrill Mack



Charlie Bartolini



Steve Disenhof