



March 2019 President's Letter

Dear Members.

Streamlining our Projected Nights

In January, I wrote that we needed to find a way to streamline our Projected Nights. Because of the crush of entered images, judges were telling us they no longer wanted to judge those nights and, because we were pushing the 10:00 pm building closing hour, we were in danger of losing our Drakes Landing space.

The board took on the task of finding solutions and, after feedback from members and much discussion, we plan to trial several significant changes.

Our goals in taking this on were:

- Be always out of the Drakes Landing room by 10pm.
- Retain judges willing to judge Projected Nights.
- Maximize the number of entries per member, hoping to keep it at three.
- Recognize the balance between competition and learning.
- Recognize the balance between competition and socializing.

There were many solutions suggested (thank you!), ranging from various means of limiting entries to a variety of activities we could eliminate. After thoroughly looking at each one, we arrived at a set of changes which we feel will, collectively, accomplish our goals.

Beginning May 1st, we plan to implement the following for Projected Nights:

- Entries per members will stay at three.
- Alternate categories will be judged online and the judge will write a written critique for each image. Winners will be shown on Projected Night. The Alternate Category judge may often be a club member, with expertise in the Alternate subject area, and will be paid pro-rata. Entries will count towards the Projected competition's three entry maximum.

- Entry deadlines for both Projected and Print competitions will be the Monday night before the competition night instead of the Friday, so that the judge has a reasonable time to preview and prejudge the entries. Judges who then agree to prejudge the entries will be paid an extra \$25 and we will strongly encourage judges who will do this.
- The “break” will be limited to a firm 15 minutes. Snacks will be set out both during the 6 – 6:30 hour and the break and members will be invited to socialize both during that period and during the break.

Other current procedures will remain:

- We will still use the 45-second clock and work with judges to ‘average’ their critiques within that time frame
- The judge will choose an Image of the Night at the competition.
- Members, including in the Alternate category, must still be present to win.
- Our judge chair will continue to identify and work with those judges who are both good and efficient and can work with a large number of entries.
- We will continue to ask members to let the judge focus on ‘judging’ and hold off on their conversations with the judge to some other time.
- The qualification committee will continue to review entries before the competition is opened to the judge. If an image is considered qualified for the competition, Rules interpretations and/or subjective opinions by the judge are final.
- The feedback we’ve received from judges is they like to come to Marin because we treat them with respect and we certainly want to keep that reputation. We will continue to ask members not to talk during critiques and to refrain from criticizing the judge. We will continue to send out judge surveys following competitions and continue to take seriously the feedback we receive.

It is our belief that these changes will achieve the goals we set to streamline the Projected evenings and yet retain the opportunities for competition, learning and socializing.

We’re happy to get member feedback on this. Please feel free to contact me or any of our other board members should you have additional suggestions or comments.

Steve

Editor's Note

Welcome readers to the March issue of Focal Plane News.

Hopefully you have already read Steve's letter above, but if not I strongly recommend you to do so, as it impacts all members who participate in the Projected Competition nights.

Coming up there is a MPC Field Trip to Point Reyes and the Mar/Apr Photo Challenge (Page 7). Also, check out the Street SIG Challenge and the Street Photography exhibition in San Rafael (Page 6). Get involved!

Two of our Club members, Ginna Fleming and Marnie Walters, work diligently to collect articles of potential interest for our readers. This month, we have two:

A really good travel article on Gary Topper's travels to Vietnam & Cambodia (Page 9) and Marnie has written a bio on the Club's Treasurer, Cindee Beechwood (Page 10).

PLEASE NOTE that there will **NOT** be an issue of the Focal Plane News for the month of April, as I will be traveling overseas. I will produce a double issue "April/May" at the end of May.

Noel Isaac
Editor

"Images of the Month - March"



Shadow Wizard

Beth Schriock

Projected Images Alternate - Basic

Judge: Ron Elkind

Behind the Image: This image was one of a series of my then 8 month old granddaughter studying the shadows cast by her red ball as she moved it in the strong, late afternoon sunlight. I captured the image using an iPhone 6S set on HDR. With the iPhone app Photo Wizard, I cropped the original image, selectively darkened some of the background and applied a little sharpening

....Beth Schriock



Art Works Foundry, Berkeley

Doug Kaye

Print - Monochrome Pictorial - Advanced

Judge: Robin Braunfeld

Behind the Image: Because we were planning to visit a foundry and a glassblowing shop on the same trip, I decided to take my infrared camera, a converted Sony A7S. I figured everyone else would have terrific color photos, so I wanted to do something different. I thought the heat at both locations would at least yield "interesting" infrared images. 1/500 second, f/13, ISO 25,600, 55mm f/1.8 Zeiss lens. Processed in Lightroom and Photoshop. Infrared conversion (720nm) by lifepixel.com.

.....Doug Kaye

MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, April 1st: Projected Competition.**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, April 8th - Education Night**
6:30pm @ Town Center, Corte Madera.
- **Monday, April 15th - Print Competition.**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, April 11th: MPC Board Meeting****
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church +
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday April 25th: Street SIG Meeting:**
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 Member to the Club:

Competing Member:

Rodrigo Moreira.



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

The MPC "Street SIG"

The next meeting of the MPC Street SIG is at 6:30pm on Thursday, April 25. The theme is "Expose for the Highlights". The details, including upload info, are here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A7U84jUw0oEvZ6UBpY8tHo8JYZHCHXPYyYGVHxHImDQw/edit?usp=sharing>

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

(<https://goo.gl/kpofqr>)

[Doug Kaye & Steve Disenhof](#)

2019 Dominican Street Photo Show

The MPC Street Photography SIG is presenting an exhibition of Street Photography in the ground-floor lobby of the Joseph R. Fink Science Center on the Dominican College campus in San Rafael. Although the show started February 14 and runs through September, the official opening will be March 6 at a reception there at 6:30pm.

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



2019 March - April MPC Photo Challenge - "Window Shopping"

Our current challenge is "Window Shopping". What is it you see when you walk down the street and look into a window. Use your imagination and show us what you see.

This challenge for March/April is to create a dynamic Window Shopping image. Get there any way you like, but the image has to be taken between March 6th and April 30th.

Presented by [Nancy Barasch](#), MPC Meetup Challenge Committee Member.

MPC Field Outing: Saturday, April 20th - Point Reyes Wildflowers



This outing will encompass a day of wildflower hunting and photography at Point Reyes. This is an opportunity to concentrate on some Macro and Impressionistic work. There are, of course, other things that may be available to photograph, such as elk, wildlife and world class landscape, but the wildflowers in Point Reyes are at their peak in April.

We will plan on initially meeting at 9:00am in the Bear Valley Visitor Center located off Bear Valley Road, about 1 mile from Olema.

If you would like to participate in this colorful experience, please sign-up on the [MPC Meetup site](#) for further details and information about the outing. If you are not a Meetup member yet, sign-up is free and it will provide an opportunity to stay informed about this and other events, along with an opportunity to share photographs after the outing.

Happy Shooting,
Harvey Abernathey, MPC Field Co-Chair

The Outside Photography World

EXHIBITS in the Bay Area:

- [Louis Stettner Exhibition @ SF MOMA](#)
- [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

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

A Birthday Journey to Vietnam and Cambodia - Gary Topper



So what does one do to celebrate an 80th birthday? You can throw yourself a big party, or spend your money on a plane ticket and an adventure to a far off land. My choice was to see Vietnam and revisit Angkor Wat and Angkor Tom, which I first did in 1961. I thought about traveling with a photography group, or finding another means of seeing the culture of the countries for a longer period of time and a more reasonable price. I chose the latter and spent 27 days with a wonderful

group of travelers, through the Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) organization. That is a choice that we all make when leaving the country, based on finances, interests and the ever important decision, your traveling partner.

Beyond the taking of some good photographs, my greatest concern about travel abroad is the huge number of tourists that are in the world today, more specifically, the increase of the Asian tourists. Our Cambodian tour guide told us that in 2018 approximately 150 million Chinese had travelled outside their country, and there is an estimate for 2019 of 200 million, not to mention Japanese and South Koreans. What I found when taking a picture, however, was that if I waited long enough, moved to a different location or changed the angle of my shot, I could achieve some very good photographs without a selfie stick or tourist in the way. What I could never do, however, was feel the independent spiritual value or the natural beauty of where I was. What I realized was that since we do travel a great deal, I needed to change my attitude about the other travelers, accept the reality of "crowded tourism" and focus on where I am and what I'm seeing - or else seek out more remote places![.....read more.](#)





Cindee Beechwood Bio

By Marnie Walters

Please meet your co-member and new Club Treasurer, Cindee Beechwood! Cindee joined us about 18 months ago, and has been acquainting herself with the Club, its members, Rules of Competition, and most recently, its administration, as a new key member of the Board. She also contributes by posting competition results each month to Facebook on

behalf of the Club.

I had the pleasure of spending some time with Cindee at her home yesterday, discussing her background, and of course, what we all like to talk about - photography. I thank her for agreeing to share information about herself and her photography, to in turn be shared with you all.

Cindee has lived in the Bay Area for the last 29 years. Originally from Colorado Springs, she went to college at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado where she received her BA in Zoology, and later an MBA degree in Finance. She based her career on the latter and worked with companies in an executive financial role. In January, she left the corporate world to start her own consulting business. However, her interest in the natural world survived the business profession and has influenced her decisions about where to travel and how to pursue those interests through her photography.



Cindee first became interested in photography in 2003, when she met a friend, who was a committed photographer. Thus inspired, she took her first trip to Africa loaded with a point and shoot camera and a small set of binoculars. Shortly after that trip, she decided it was the better course to move up to an SLR and telephoto lens so she could actually see the wildlife in her photographs. She also took some classes and workshops with local professionals including Oliver Klink, Brenda Tharp and Jed Manwaring. Inspired by her first trip to East Africa, she has returned eight times combining her love of travel with that of photography. She has also traveled to Mongolia, India, China, Iceland

and parts of Europe. You can find her most weekends at Las Gallinas Wildlife Ponds in San Rafael trying to photograph the wildlife there.....[read more](#)