



November 2019 President's Letter

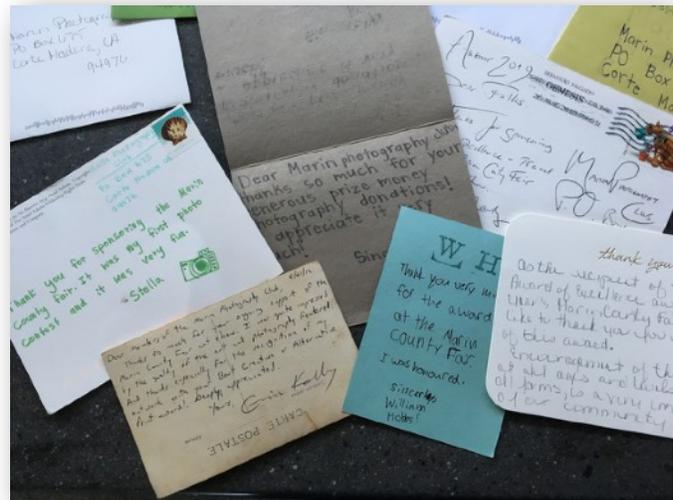
As I sit here writing this on Thanksgiving morning, I want to share the many 'thank you's' our club has received over the course of the year. Speaking for most of you, I know we've all gained from our membership in the club. Whether advancing our photography skills, exploring new places and subjects, volunteering in the club or community, or making new friends, we all get something from our experience in MPC.

But the club also has an impact on the community around us. Members' shows decorate the halls of civic buildings, retirement communities, galleries and schools. Many club members donate their skills to a variety of community non-profits and social and political organizations which can't afford to hire professional photographers.

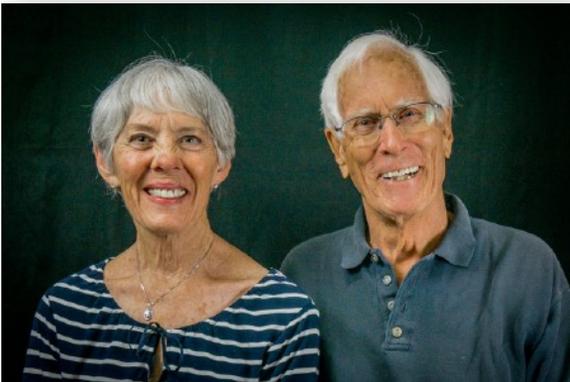
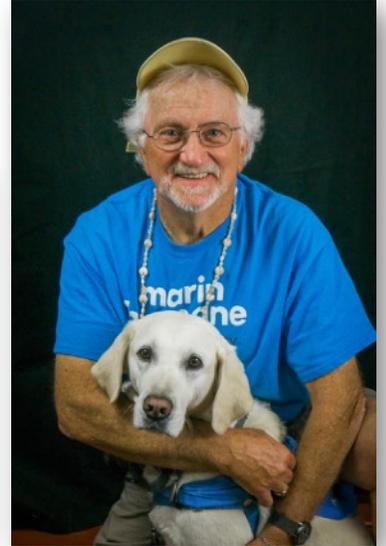
And in at least two special ways, the club has direct and meaningful connections to our neighbors.

In appreciation of our continuing sponsorship of photographic awards at the Marin County Fair, not only have the County and Fair organizers expressed their appreciation, but we received this stack of 'thank you's' from winners of the County Fair awards we sponsor:

And the many club members who volunteered at last month's Marin Senior Fair experienced first-hand the deep and sincere thanks of the 100+ seniors who had their portraits made and the scores of others who took home club members' prints to decorate their homes.



November 2019



To (awkwardly) paraphrase Yoda: **The spirit of service runs strong in this club!**

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season!

Steve Disenhof

Editor's Note

Welcome to this double issue of Focal Plane News.

It has been a very full year for activities in the Club, but as we enter the final month we wind down many of them and turn our attention to this holiday season.

December's Projected night is the President's Theme and is a different format from the usual competition evenings. It should be fun so do please try to attend.

The Nov - Dec MPC Photo Challenge "FOOD" is discussed on **Page 11**.

Information on shows and exhibitions of potential interest to Members is listed **Page 12**.

My best wishes to all members for the holidays



Noel Isaac
Editor

P.S. Following the Potluck evening I sent an email to Mary Macy Butler re her slide show on Morocco. Inadvertently, it was sent to all members of the Club....my apologies for taking up some of your time.

"Images of the Month - October"



Would You Like to Swing on a Star?

Doug Kaye

Projected Images Monochrome - Masters

Judge: Glen I Graves

Behind the Image:

In September I attended a workshop with Valérie Jardin in Normandy, her hometown. We stayed at the marvelous Grand Hotel in Cabourg which overlooks this huge beach. There were about 40 kite surfers on this particular day. A man and his son were assembling his kite and getting a feel for it before launching into the water. I realized that if I moved around a bit, I could position the kite in front of the sun to get this shot. It took a while to get it just right, but the payoff was worth the effort. Leica Q2 (fixed 28mm f/1.7). ISO 160, 1/500 second at f/16 in order to get the sunburst effect. Conversion to monochrome and some contrast, dodging and burning in Photoshop.

[.....Doug Kaye](#)



Top of the World. View of Marin Headlands from the top of the Golden Gate Bridge North Tower.

Bob Gingg

Print Color Pictorial - Advanced

Judge: Jeff Dunn

Behind the Image:

September 18th I had the most amazing experience. I was able to go to the top of the North tower of the Golden Gate Bridge. I have a friend who works for Golden Gate Transit and gets a trip to the top with a few guests as a perk of the job. Camera in hand I jammed into the 3 person elevator for a 5 minute ride to the top. The last 20 feet was by ladder.

I took lots of photos that day, this one was one of my favorites. I framed it with the sun over the top of the tower and was lucky to have beautiful patches of fog around the Marin Headlands. I had the iris down to f/20 to get the sun star burst effect. I also enhanced it a bit with Luminar sun ray effect.

I shot it hand held with my Sony a7RII and 16-35mm lens at 16mm. 1/320 sec and ISO 400.

At first I was a bit hesitant for such an adventure but it was amazing up there and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

[....Bob Gingg](#)

"Images of the Month - November"



Grasses, sea lilies & reflections showcase the Autumn colors in the tarn in Acadia National Forest, Maine.

Suzanne Grady

Projected Images Alternate - Basic

Judge: Brenda Tharpe

Behind the Image:

This area in Maine's Acadia National Park is known as the Tarn; a grassy, shallow pond with water lilies, grasses and reflections. When we pulled over that morning we saw nothing of interest but when we looked over the road barrier we were astonished to see the amazing color and patterns. This is a single image with all the layers supplied by nature and the morning light. The photo was taken with my Sony a6500 at 1/8th of a second, f/16, ISO 500, 87mm.

.....[Suzanne Grady](#)



Me and my shadow..... - Cattle Egret in flight.

Monsoor Assadi

PRINT Monochrome Pictorial - Advanced

Judge: Robin Braunfeld

Behind the Image:

This image was shot this past October, in mid-month, in Central Florida.

I was out in an early sunny morning in a Bird Preserve near an Inlet looking for the Ospreys doing their morning fishing that I noticed a flock of Egrets doing their own fishing from the incoming tides.

Needless to say that this image with the bird's shadow on its wing was quite accidental.

Here are the settings.

Camera: Sony A7rIV. Lens: Sony 600mm with the 1.4 Teleconverter. Shot at 840mm, at f5.6, 1/4000 sec shutter speed, and ISO 640.

.....[Monsoor Assadi](#)

MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, December 2nd: Projected Night - The President's Theme**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, December - No Education Night This Month**
6:30pm @ Town Center, Corte Madera.
- **Monday, December - No Print Competition Night This Month.**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, December 12th: MPC Board Meeting****
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church †
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday November - No Street SIG This Month**
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>2019 Board Minutes"

New Members to the MPC

Please join us in welcoming the following new Members to the Club:

Competing Members:

Susan Elliott
Bruce Good

Associate Members:

Bill Miranda
Larry Porter



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

The MPC "Street SIG"

PLEASE NOTE: There will **NOT** be any Street SIG in December.

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](#)

AMAZON HEADWATERS ADVENTURE

By Angela Neal Grove

Earlier this year I joined 22 other intrepids on a small boat to explore the headwaters of the Amazon River. The source of the Amazon has been disputed by explorers and geographers for centuries. Five different tributaries in Peru are contenders, including the Ucayali and Marañon Rivers. These two rivers wind through the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, an area of flooded jungle and forest. This is a protected pristine area of almost 8,000 square miles full of unique plants and animals.

When I learned about an exploration by boat through these headwaters and reserve, lead by two National Geographic photographers, I signed up.



The Boat. Navigating the shallow waters of this Amazon reserve requires a special craft. Our home for ten days was the Delfin II which is a flat bottomed converted barge. This was very comfortable with a bar on the top deck and an elegant dining room on the lower.

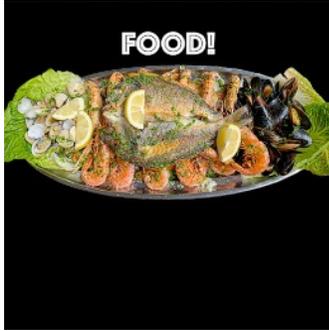
Expedition Routine. Life on the river began early with a wake-up knock on the door at 5:30. Narrow exploration skiffs left at 6:00 am. At that hour we had the best chance of photographing birds and other wildlife. We returned around 8:00 for breakfast, then went out again to trek or explore. After lunch there was time for a nap - then more exploring and photographing until sunset.



Sloths, Monkeys and Birds.

Our guides were local Amazonians who were trained naturalists. Their instinct and ability to spot wildlife was incredible. They would point out brown-throated three-toed sloths hanging out in the high canopy where iguanas also sunbathed. Furry Aguouti's hid in tree trunks, sky owl monkeys peered at us from branches and all kinds of monkeys from Squirrel monkeys to woolly monkeys swung and clattered through branches.

The reserve is a birder's paradise. Brilliantly colored macaws and parrots screech and soar, elegant herons glide among reeds while blue and yellow birds busily build nests. Darting hummingbirds are omnipresent. On the ground beneath us was another world. Leafcutter ants marched in columns with a cargo of freshly cut leaves. Huge blue millipedes scurried under dead trees and furry tarantulas, the size of a fist, clung to tree trunks and watched. Slithering anacondas and caimans were photogenic but less appealing [.....read more.](#)



Nov - Dec MPC Photo Challenge - "FOOD"

Time for a new Challenge!

What does that word bring to mind for you? Thanksgiving turkey? A loaded hamburger, with fries? Chocolate cake? Tapas in Spain? Pizza??? For this next challenge, you get to show us a photo of a dish that made your mouth water!

The photo can be your culinary creation, or taken in a restaurant, or even a bakery window. You are in total charge. Just try to make the viewer's tummy growl when they see it!

Here are the details:

Photographs for this challenge must be taken between November 15 and December 31, 2019. As you upload and caption your image, let us know WHEN and WHERE you took the picture and why it made your mouth water! DO NOT upload an old, archived image please.

Here are the RULES of this competition:

The image needs to be made between Friday, November 15, 2019 and Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 10 p.m. Voting period will open right after the end of the entry period. Only one image submission per person, please. This challenge is about expanding your talents, so don't upload an old archived image!

Directions for entering a photo in the Challenge:

After capturing your image, resize to approximately 640-800 pixels at 72dpi. OK to watermark.

Upload your image to this Album: <https://www.meetup.com/marinphotoclub/photos/30531420/>

Please be careful to submit images to this album only. Do not start another album!

Below your photo (on the left) click on "add caption" and a box will appear so you can DATE and title your image and tell us the story behind your image (207 characters).

Information about voting will be sent in early January after the competition closes.

So, comb through your favorite recipes, or head on out to your best restaurant, and put that camera to work! Channel your hidden food photographer and wow us with the result!

Any questions, email one of us and we will help

Have fun!

Dorothy Weaver - djweaver2@comcast.net

Harvey Abernathy - harveya@ndphotos.com

The Outside Photography World

EXHIBITS in the Bay Area:

- [JR's "The Chronicles of San Francisco"](#) @ SF MOMA
- [LOOKING BACK: TEN YEARS OF PIER 24 PHOTOGRAPHY](#) @ 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

Henriette Brasseur Bio

By Marnie Walters



Bio Notes of my Interview with Henriette Brasseur - November 15, 2019.

Today I had the pleasure of sitting down with Henriette Brasseur to talk and learn about her history with our Marin Photography Club, and her history with photography in general. These are just a few of the many takeaways I had from our chat.

Henriette has been a member of the Club since the 1980's, when it consisted of about 40-50 members in total. The Club met in the basement of a local Methodist Church, which was down the street from where she lived on Greenfield Ave. At that time, the Club was known as the Ross Valley Camera Club.



Henriette's motivation for joining was to further her knowledge and become a better photographer. She held back on making image submissions for several months, but then gained her confidence and jumped into the competitions. She also contributed by taking on the role of newsletter editor for about 3 years. She said that the culture of the Club at that time was intimate and friendly by the very nature of its size where you knew everyone well.

Henriette's inspiration came originally from her father, who was born into a French family. (Her mother was also French, being born and raised there, before coming to San Francisco.). Her father was a good photographer, with darkroom skills, which amazed his daughter, when she was a young child. She would watch him take images and then followed him to the darkroom where he processed the negatives and printed the images and thus begun her love with photography. Henriette has strong memories of her father's fascination with taking the kids camping and exploring the outdoors; an experience which played a role in planting the seeds for exploring photography for his young daughter. In her 20s, Henriette traveled to Europe and stayed with her extended family in the Pyrenees.....[read more](#)

