



South Bay Camera Club

NEWS & VIEWS



February 2008

www.sbcccphoto.org Use it or lose it!

The South Bay Camera Club is a non-profit social club providing for its members activities involving photography and continuing education in all types of photographic technique. Regular meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at the Zamperini Field (Torrance Airport) Administration Building Meeting Room, 3301 Airport Drive. at 7:30 p.m. President: Rebeca Garcia-Baylis (310-370-6321, ppikiosk-rgb@hotmail.com); VP and Membership Chair: Phil Cohen (310-212-7200, phil@absolute.net); Secretary: Marge Robinson (310-378-7245, margesafari@earthlink.net); Treasurer: Karen Beatty (310-318-5684, beattyknb@verizon.net); News & Views Editor: Bill Berry (310-378-9511, wh.berry@verizon.net). Mailing address: South Bay Camera Club, P.O. Box 1213, Torrance, CA, 90505: Web site: www.sbcccphoto.org.

SERVING THE SOUTH BAY SINCE 1944

MEETING SCHEDULE: February thru May (all meetings are on a Monday at 7:30 PM at the Airport Meeting Room, unless otherwise noted.)

Date	Program	Description/Background
Feb 11	Digital Image Evaluation Night	Evaluator To Be Announced. Maximum of 3 digital images (size not to exceed 764 x 1020 pixels) submitted by 10 PM through the club on-line site.
Feb 25	Wireless transfer technology	Canon representative Lance will explain and demonstrate what this new technology is about, and what it can offer. Several camera makers now offer this capability.
Mar 10	Print Evaluation Night	Evaluator To Be Announced. Maximum of 3 prints, mounted, not to exceed 16x20", including mounting board. Bring entries to the meeting. The nominating committee for 2008 will be named.
Mar 24	Presentation: Winter Photography in Yellowstone	The presentation will be given by Mark Comon of Paul's Photo. He will show how to obtain beautiful white snow in your winter scenes.
Apr 14	Digital Image Evaluation Night	Evaluator To Be Announced. Maximum of 3 digital images (size not to exceed 764 x 1020 pixels) submitted by 10 PM through the club on-line site.
Apr 28	Program To Be Announced Later	Scavenger Hunt entries are due. Bring you files on a CD disk. 12 images plus the self-portrait for identification. All files limited to 764x1020 pixels or less.
May 12	Program To Be Announced Later	
May 26	NO MEETING	Memorial Day

Outings and Field Trips:

Madrona Marsh Field Trip --- report from Betsy

There was an SBCC Field Trip on Saturday, February 2, to the wildlife area in Torrance known as the Madrona Marsh. The following is a report on that trip by our outings and field trip chairman, Betsy Treynor.

Dear All Who Couldn't Come,

We had 12 people show up and Jim Bardos was an enthusiastic and informative guide. We all had a great time and to our surprise the sun came out (and in and out), warmed us and the water level was the highest in years! The level is controlled locally but all is rain water. Jim explained that PV lies in the way of natural water flows to the sea and construction has dammed the water runoff into sumps around Torrance, one big one of which is the



corner of Maple and Sepulveda. Silly me, I thought that hole was a geologic aberration of a spectacular kind, used by the Native Americans and preserved for posterity. No, it is just a deep bulldozed hole with pipes and pumps to move the water around where Torrance and the Madrona people want. Additional water was pumped into the Marsh area between a week ago and last Wednesday and the water is very high. Lots of ducks, but just the one handsome mallard pair you see to the left. We were there 3 hours and it seemed like minutes. Very enjoyable conversations and observations all around.

The park is open 10 to 5 so is very accessible. (Website has the details). We missed you!

Betsy

Wild Animal Park Field Trip --- Planning in Progress

Plans for additional trips and outings are being formulated, in particular, an outing to the San Diego Zoo Wild Animal Park. Admission to the park is about \$24, but numerous discounts are available. The options being considered are:

- 1) a walking tour with guide, price --- free + admission, length of time --- flexible;
- 2) Photo Caravan Safari (tram ride), \$81 +admission, 1.75 hours --- choice of Africa or Asia;
- 3) Adventure Caravan DeLuxe (tram ride), \$135 +admission, 3.5 hours --- both Africa and Asia.

A VIP Tour is being considered, but it may not be suitable as a tour for photographers.

A tentative date of April 12 has been set aside for this field trip. More information will be presented at the Feb. 11 meeting. Make your druthers known!!

NIKON D300 Working Group

Richard Gallella has suggested formation of an informal working group of D300 owner's who want to explore the potential of their new cameras (i.e. find out how to use them). Interested parties can talk it over either before or immediately after the upcoming February 11 meeting.

SBCC Board Meeting

A SBCC Board Meeting was held on January 9. Treasurer Karen Beatty reported a total bank account of \$4835, of which \$992 is in the “digital fund.” The need for such an ample reserve was discussed. It was pointed out, however, that the digital projector receives heavy use and will need to be replaced before long. The price of suitable replacements seems to be around \$4000. Ideas for new outings were solicited and discussed (see above). The fate of old club equipment (roll-up screens, the “mail box” flood light, the old easel, etc) was discussed. The item was continued. It was mentioned that the club at one time held auctions of old photographic equipment. These were very popular. A volunteer to organize such an auction would be needed. Also, volunteers for the nominating committee are also needed.

The Curmudgeon’s Corner

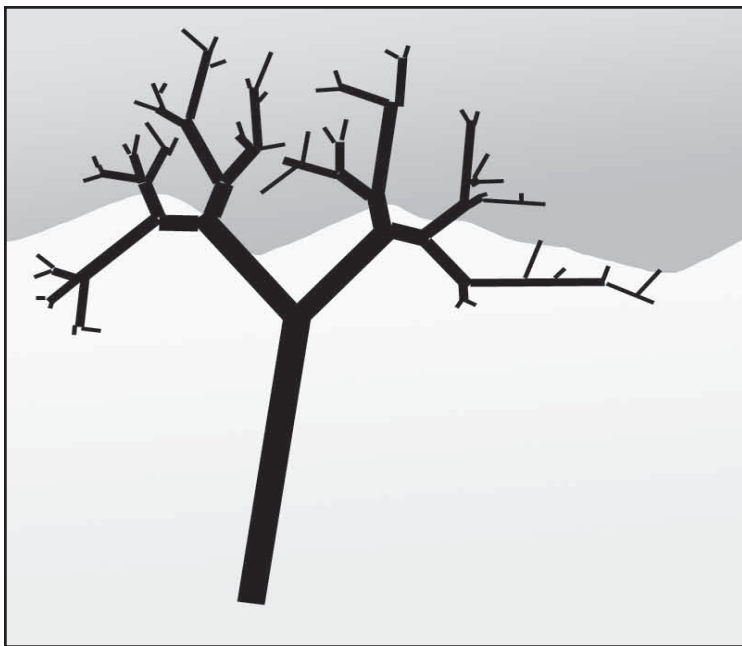
Even Curmudgeons Can Be Grateful

Your club’s curmudgeon just returned from a business trip to the Northeast. Northeast? They should call an ice cube an ice cube and change the name of the place to Coldarkwindyslippy-east.

Some history – your curmudgeon left the Coldarkwindyslippy-east 30 years ago after going out to take photographs, slipping, falling, dislocating a knee and nearly getting run over and killed on an ice covered road. And the pictures were crappy too.

So, its thirty years later, the thermometer still reads 17, snow is still falling and your curmudgeon is not happy to be there. After the 3 day fall color season there is this thing called winter that goes on for half a year and then when it warms up, the snow and ice turn to slush for another month. The Coldarkwindyslippy-east photographer needs to bundle up, keep batteries warm, and then try and find something to photograph in a gray, featureless landscape covered with frozen water and punctuated with barren, naked trees.

The result is a B&W image no matter how much you pump up the saturation.



COLOR image of tree in Coldarkwindyslippy-east (Curmudgeon’s impression)

So given all this cold, snow and dangerous footing, why might a curmudgeon be grateful?

The curmudgeon is grateful that he saw the one decent potential picture within a hundred miles. Its even better because a cheerful, happy optimist was standing right next to me at the time and all he could muster was, "it may look good to you, but I am bit tired of winter". Later, we both heard a restaurant waitress assure us that "Spring is right around the corner". Ah sure lady, if by 'the corner' you mean the one 3 months away and 600 miles farther

South! Forgive me....or don't, but I digress. The image was about a mile away which was okay because my camera was about 2,428.356 miles farther away sitting on my desk near the beach where it was warm and not snowing. For this trip your curmudgeon thought it was a better idea to take a warm coat, hat and wool mittens rather than to try and get one decent image using frostbitten fingers. Still, there it was, a classic winter image worthy of Saint Ansel himself, and I saw it. My heart swelled with pride that all the bluster of the Coldarkwindyslippy-east had not blinded me to tiny bit of beauty that was around me. I could SEE it.

Dorthea Lang was right! **"The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera."**

That single vision warmed my heart for the rest of the trip. And for THAT, your curmudgeon is deeply grateful!

What was that vision? That's my secret and I ain't telling no one - but here is a sketch.



Go make some pictures.

John Bohner – SBCC resident curmudgeon
(now thawed out thank you very much)

And that's the way it is in the SBCC, February 2008
Bill Berry
SBCC News & Views Editor