



South Bay Camera Club

NEWS & VIEWS

June 2007



www.sbccphoto.org Home Away From Home

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: Bob Houston (310-325-1056, rhouston@socal.rr.com); 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.sbccphoto.org.

SERVING THE SOUTH BAY SINCE 1944

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Our current year is winding down, and what a great year it was! (see below) June is the last month on the SBCC calendar. We will start a new fiscal year in July with new officers and a new board. Meetings are planned for July and August. Programs for these summer meetings are not yet finalized. Announcements will be sent out when more information is available. Stay tuned!

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEAR FUTURE (all meetings at 7:30 PM at the Airport Mtg. room except for the banquet)

Date	Program/Presenter	Title/Description
June 11	Election of officers for 2007/2008 plus Scavenger Hunt judging	At last we will get to see the scavenger hunt photographs. Phil Cohen will serve as judge. Come on down and enjoy the photographs.
June 25	Year-end Awards and Installation of Officers Banquet	6 PM at the Sizzler at 2880 Sepulveda, Torrance. Price is \$13 with a choice of beef or chicken. There will be awards for the winning member prints and projected photographs and photo essay presentations. Come on down and socialize with the group.
July 9	TBD	Several options are being explored for July/August programs.
July 23	TBD	Announcements will be sent out as soon as possible.
Aug 13	TBD	
Aug 27	TBD	

BANQUET:

There is still time to sign up for the year-end banquet. Price is \$13. Just sign up with Rebeca at the June 11 meeting. Don't forget to vote for your favorite photographs, both prints and projected. Voting is done through the club website by clicking on either Vote For Prints or Vote For Projections on the left side of the page. Then, follow directions. Voting closes at midnight, June 10.

Club Officer Nominations Announced:

The nominating committee (Bill Berry, Noel Hammond, Howard Sachar) announced a slate of members willing to serve as officers during the coming fiscal year. The members are: President --- Rebeca Garcia-Baylis; Vice President --- Phil Cohen; Treasurer --- Karen Beatty; Secretary --- Marge Robinson. The meeting was opened to other nominations from the floor. There were none. The nominating process was then closed. The election to choose these officers for the coming year will be held at the June 11 meeting. Although the results are not in doubt, we need to go through the process to make it official.

WHAT A MONTH!

May was a banner month. At a special meeting, May 7, Richard Houston, professor of composition for both painters and photographers at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, discussed and critiqued photographs brought in by club members, then gave a fascinating presentation about composition and lighting for photographers. Thank you Richard.

On May 14 photographer Annie Appel returned by popular demand to assess and critique the photographs of club members. The photographs had been entered through the internet and were projected at the meeting. Annie's remarks were thoughtful and instructive, even inspirational, especially her emphasis on the ways printing should be used to improve the quality of photographs. I have since tried out many of her ideas --- they work! Thank you Annie.

On MAY 28 we held our 3rd and final print evaluation for the current club year. About 30 club members heard Diane Racey of S4C evaluate some 60 or so prints submitted by club members. And Diane had helpful and interesting remarks to go with every one of them. I noticed that the audience was in a state of rapt attention. Thank you Diane.

On May 12 a group of 14 club members made the last field trip of the fiscal year to Lotusland in Montecito by Santa Barbara. Following a guided tour through this fabulous botanic wonderland, most of us met for lunch at a nearby Italian restaurant before starting for home. This was a day to remember. Let's do it again!

WHAT A YEAR!!

The transformation of the South Bay Camera Club in the past year has been amazing. One year ago we were being chased from our long time meeting room in Redondo Beach and we had to go to one meeting per month because of the high rental fee imposed by new administrators who thought we were a for-profit organization. One year later, we are a certified federal non-profit organization (and soon to be fully recognized as non-profit by the state), we have found a much better facility for our meetings at an affordable price, we have resumed our two meetings per month schedule, and we have revised our out-dated constitution for the first time in over ten years. We have eliminated the annual competitive points-system in favor of a no-points system of critiquing and evaluating of the photographs submitted by members. Participation is up. We have brought in a series of professional photographers to discuss our work and how to improve it. We have enjoyed an active and successful series of field trips and outings. Congratulations to President Rebeca and all the officers and the entire board. Keep up the good work!

BOARD MEETING:

There was a board meeting on May 9 at my place. Plans for end-of-year events were discussed. The final paper work required by the state for non-profit status is nearly finished. No problems anticipated. The federal part is complete. No further board meetings have been planned.

THE CURMUDGEON'S CORNER: BY JOHN BOHNER

It goes without saying, so I shall, that photography as a hobby appeals to a wide variety of people for an even wider range of reasons. This month we will explore some of the reasons why we do this. Let's skip past the easy ones, "to remember what little Sally looked like" or "this is the dent your car made in mine" or the infamous "I have no idea why I took that one!"

Reflecting on this question, I found interesting reasons why people have made photographs. Let's begin with "trying to capture lightning in a bottle". I don't try to capture fast stuff much any more. Although, once upon a time I worked at photographing a bursting balloon with a 1/100,000 second exposure. This is the realm of the sports photographer, stop action, exquisite timing, high impact stuff. Speaking with people who do this you hear how they delight in catching some silly sports action at its peak. The slam dunk, bat against ball, tight end in flight with a high pass, you get the picture... Boring.

Then there is the photojournalist who is trying to be the next Abraham Zapruder or WeeGee. Dead bodies in Technicolor or Tom Cruise getting out of a limo at Ralph's Market. A slightly different version is the "see how you are hurting the environment" activists who document the crap washing ashore at the beach. They use photographs to

make a point. They are the photographic equivalents of reformed alcoholics who aren't happy unless we are miserable.

Next we come to a big group, people who are decorating walls all over the place. You know who you are.... You bought that house just bubbling at the thought of covering the walls with your stuff. At work, you have a shrine to your best work and you rotate your gallery more often than most people change the oil in their cars. God bless you for trying to beautifying our world. There must be more of you than I think because there sure are a lot of art framing stores in town!

As reasons for doing photography go, this one is interesting...trying to exercise our creative talents. It's different from sports. You are the people who crouch down to get an image of the old car's tail light or use 27 different Photoshop filters on one picture. I admit to photographing rust and having an unhealthy skin tone from sitting in front of the computer, removing people from my images. We delight in hearing people ask, "what the hell was that?"

Once upon a time, a creative person married a sports person and they had a kid. That kid loves to photograph ephemera. Ephemera is a word that doesn't get used much. As an adjective we get the word ephemeral. I like it. Ephemeral. The creative/sports photog flies 7,000 miles to take a bus into the wilderness and then hikes 2 weeks to be in just the right spot to be there for 7 minutes when the light is just perfect on the snowy tips of the Patagonian mountain tops. Ephemera – things that don't last long. The lake in Death Valley, snow on cactus in Mojave, animals mating, shorter than Britney Spears' marriage. Ephemeral.

The last reason why we do photography is something I cannot mock. Awakening our souls. Photography raises our awareness to the world around us, and the ways in which it changes. We can choose to open or close our hearts but we must decide. We cannot be passive bystanders. Every new sunset fills us with emotion and the sparkle of rain hitting the lake tickles our fancy. We are alive and in the moment. In those moments, the camera IS irrelevant.

Next issue...What's worse Photoshopping your scenics or lies from the fashion industry. Then again, maybe not.

'Till then – harrummpf.

John Bohner

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:

The following events are NOT organized field trips or outings of the club. You are on your own. The next official SBCC field trips and outings will be later in the summer and will be announced. The following PhotoOps are included for your information.

QUEEN MARY INK AND IRON TATTOO FESTIVAL

This 3-day event will feature a variety of the world's premiere tattoo artists, daily tattoo contests, cirque and sideshow performers, live music all weekend long, full bars and BBQs, and vendors of tattoos. This festival will be held June 8,9, and 10 on board the QM. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased there, or on-line. Best to park at the Long Beach Aquarium and catch the shuttle out to the QM. You may take photos! Previous visitors have raved about this one --- a must. For more information, www.queenmary.com/index.php?page=inkandiron or www.electricinked.com.

OLD FORT MacARTHUR DAYS

July 7-8, 10 to 4 each day. Donation \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. Military re-enactments and demonstrations. For further information go to: www.geocities.com/fortmacarthur/

LOTUS FESTIVAL

Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the 30th annual festival will be held on Friday, July 13, from 5 to 9 PM (fireworks at 9 PM), Saturday, July 14, from 12 to 9 PM (fireworks at 9 PM), and Sunday, July 15, from 12 to 8 PM. It will be held at Echo Park Lake (Park Avenue between Glendale Avenue and Echo Park Boulevard, just north of the Hollywood (101) and Pasadena (110) freeway junction, near Dodger Stadium. More information can be found at www.laparks.org/grifmet/lotus.htm.

Bill Berry, Editor
SBCC News & Views