

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## JULY

### Board Meeting

**8 8:00 pm.** First Methodist Church,  
1600 Bancroft, San Leandro

### Interclub Judging

**20 Slides (P/T/J)**  
**9:00 am,** Beresford Recreation Center  
San Mateo

### Call Prints (P/N/S)

At the home of Natalie Barton

## AUGUST

### Board Meeting

**12 8:00 pm.** First Methodist Church,  
1600 Bancroft, San Leandro

### Interclub Judging

**17 Slides (P/N/C)**  
**1:00 pm,** Gateway Clubhouse  
Rossmoor

### Call Prints (P/T/C)

At the home of Natalie Barton

## SEPTEMBER

### PSA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**2 - 7 Pittsburgh, PA**

### Board Meeting

**9 8:00 pm.** First Methodist Church,  
1600 Bancroft, San Leandro

### Interclub Judging

**21 Slides (P/T/J)**  
**9:00 am,** Beresford Recreation Center  
San Mateo

### Call Prints (P/J)

At the home of Natalie Barton

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

"Olympic Stream" .....Page 1  
SpotLight .....Page 2  
Monthly Competition Winners  
Prints .....Pages 3-4  
Pictorial Slides .....Pages 4-6  
"Self-Portrait" .....Page 5  
"Death Spiral" .....Page 6  
Nature Slides .....Page 7  
Creative Slides .....Page 8  
Board Notes .....Pages 8-9  
Editorial .....Page 9  
PSA Convention .....Page 10  
Epson's New Printer Stylus 2200 ..Page 10  
Digital Projectors .....Page 11  
N4C Annual Schedule .....Page 12  
N4C 2002 Board Members ....Page 12

**Foto Fan Fare** is the official publication of N4C, the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs, a federation of 14 Camera Clubs located in the greater Bay Area. Its goals are to hold monthly competitions among member clubs and present special informative programs whenever possible.

Any articles, letters to the editor or editorial comments are the opinions of the authors, and not official N4C policy.

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## Has the Time Come? Digital Projectors

George Lepp's recent article in *Outdoor Photographer* gives one hope that our slide shows can soon become a lot less bulky and easier to manage. Instead of lugging two projectors and a heavy, cumbersome, or multiple-piece dissolve system, you need only bring the single digital projector, a CD and a laptop to connect to the projector.

Other advantages to using digital production methods are no dust problems and only well-focused images. Remember, the difference in focusing between glass and regular mounts on your regular projector? Also the program can be manipulated well-beyond the capabilities of a normal slide show with a multitude of possible dissolves into the next shot, the incorporation of music just as you want it, and the possibility of narration over the music. And, above and beyond, here is the opportunity for the print makers (flatbed scanners or digital cameras) to present their prints through digital projectors.

Disadvantages include a little less sharpness and a possibility of less color fidelity.

Now that I've convinced you that this is the wave of future presentations, how can you access one?

Not only are the prices for the projector dropping dramatically, but we have a very local source for renting one at an outstanding price — our very own Yerba Buena Chapter of PSA. They have recently purchased a high-end \$6000 projector which they plan to rent to interested and responsible members.

According to Lepp, one can now obtain a higher quality level projector for as little as \$2500. (Some may not think this is so little,

however, and that is why the possibility of inexpensive rentals is so appealing.) If purchasing, Lepp recommends an XGA-level projector (1024 x 768 dpi). New machines (SXGA) will soon be available at 1280 x 1025 dpi, but the price may be daunting.

How do you set up a program?

Most people are using PowerPoint as their assembler. To learn it well requires some time, but for simple shows to music, it is relatively easy to use. First, one must be sure that both your computer (laptop) and the projector support the desired resolution. This is probably not too difficult to achieve, but make sure that if you have an 800 x 600 dpi projector that you do not give it a program formulated at 1024 x 768.

Lepp scans his slides at 1000 ppi which, according to him, should give leeway for higher resolution projectors. When you resize your image, set the pixels to your projector's maximum resolution, e.g. 1024 x 768. It is recommended to set the output resolution to 72 dpi, approximately monitor resolution. Lepp saves the files as medium/high resolution JPEGs before importing them into PowerPoint.

Shortly, Contra Costa CC is going to try a rented digital projector for our up-coming Slides to Music program. Well...at least of couple of us are. The slides were placed into PowerPoint directly without converting them to JPEG format. We will see how this works. It seems to be OK at first glance and perhaps could help the sharpness problem if JPEGs are not used.

We will let you know how it works.

