

FOTO FANFARE NEWSLETTER

 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUBS
PROMOTING PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPRESSION AND EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2020



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THIS & THAT

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Congratulations!

We'd like to help you celebrate! Send us your good news about publications, awards, contest winners, etc. We'll announce it in the Foto Fanfare Newsletter. Send news to Vicki at vjs.1194@gmail.com.

Like to Write?

We're looking for technical articles, photo trip experiences, bios, or any other photo related article from those of you who love writing or just want to give it a try. Send to vjs.1194@gmail.com

Cover Image

Sunflowers-Masked
 By Rita Gardner
 Marin Photo Club

PHOTO RELATED ARTICLES & INFO

How to Create a Photo Essay

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-create-a-photo-essay#4-photo-essay-examples>

Photographers and Photo Editors on the Passion That Drives Their Work

<https://time.com/4839246/photographers-passion/>

Two Ways to Use Masks in Photoshop

https://www.outdoorphotographyguide.com/video/two-ways-to-use-masks-in-photoshop-018423/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=A6197

Nat Geo - The Extraordinary Before Us

<https://email.nationalgeographic.com/H/2/v6000001760b4af7779b7fa56e965fd798/588d1ea9-e52e-493c-96e4-36d8ce2b52f8/HTML>

N4C Calendar

BOARD MEETINGS

DECEMBER 14 AT 7:30PM (ZOOM MTG.)

JANUARY 11 AT 7:30PM (ZOOM MTG.)

COMPETITION JUDGING SCHEDULE
ON/AROUND THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

PI JUDGING LOCATION - CONTACT GENE ALBRIGHT
(GENEA.GENEA@SBCGLOBAL.NET)



President's Corner

By Doug Stinson

Annual Awards Event

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Awards (non)Banquet will take place on Sunday, February 21, 2021. Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be having our usual in-person banquet. Instead, our organizing committee of VP Stephen Bush and Joy Wang are putting together an exciting virtual program. We will live stream on Zoom a fantastic speaker as well as present awards for the best projected images of the year.

Stay tuned for additional information!

Approved 2021 Budget Supports Member Clubs

The N4C Board made a number of decisions at its November meeting specifically to help our clubs which have smaller memberships. N4C has “tiered” dues. There is a basic fee for a club to be a member of N4C and separate fees for participating in the print competitions and for participation in the projected image competitions. The Board decided that for 2021 we would give small clubs a 50% discount on the basic membership fee. Since we don't know when we will restart print competitions, we will start the year not applying the print competition fee. When we restart print competitions, we will relook at those fees.

A second decision was to provide a rebate to smaller clubs if they use Meet-Up as a tool to publicize their events. Based on the experience of member clubs, Meet-Up seems to be one of the more effective tools for bringing in new members. N4C will reimburse smaller clubs up to \$50 of the cost of a Meet-up subscription. Clubs can avail themselves of this program twice per year starting December 1, 2020 and running through the end of 2021. This allows clubs to sign up for a six-month subscription and then decide if they want to continue for a full year. These decisions were part of our process for approving a budget for 2021. For budgeting purposes, we assumed that we would start print competitions and in-person board meetings mid-year. Here is a summary of the approved budget:

Operating Income (almost all from dues)	\$2,035
Operating Expenses (e.g. room rent, PO Box, Insurance, websites)	\$1,970
Competition Expenses (mostly judge's honorariums)	\$1,510
Events Expenses less Income (e.g. FotoClave 2022, Special Programs)	\$7,100
Total (Deficit)/Surplus	(\$8,545)
Assets as of year-end 2020	\$38,835
Assets as of year-end 2021	\$30,390

This budget reflects a number of decisions. The first is the N4C intends to invest in the success of its member clubs. You can already see this in the temporary dues reduction and Meet-Up rebates for smaller clubs. We also plan on creating one or more virtual programs in 2021 as a benefit to the clubs and to attract more people to our clubs. I want to thank Joan Field and Vicki Stephens for agreeing to spearhead this program. If they ask for your help, please give it.

Second, notice that club dues pay for only a small fraction of running N4C. This amounts to a subsidy of all our clubs that has been in place for many years. Most of our income comes from special events, primarily FotoClave. We are very fortunate that, thanks to the hard work of FotoClave volunteers, FotoClave has been very successful, creating a “nest egg” which allows us to continue our basic activities, such as monthly Interclub Competitions, and to invest in programs. Covid-19 restrictions have caused us to postpone this year’s FotoClave, but we are hopeful that, with your help, we will have a great event in 2022. I was a member of the organizing committee of the last FotoClave, and it was a great experience.

N4C Officers to be Elected

At our December board meeting the officers for 2021 will be elected. Our nominating committee of Joan Field and Eric Gold have put together the following slate:

President – Doug Stinson
Vice President – Gary Oehrle
Secretary – Mark Bruekman
Jon D’Alesso – Treasurer

In addition, I plan to appoint the following Committee Chairs:

Webmaster -- Stephen Hinchey
Print Chair – Joan Field
Electronic Imaging Chairs – Gene Albright & Stephen Hinchey
Program Chairs – Joan Field & Vicki Stephens
Foto FanFare Editor – Vicki Stephens
Judges Chair – Joe Hearst
PSA Representative – Joe Hearst

Other positions, including Rules Editor, Nominating Committee, FotoClave Directors and Audit Committee will be appointed as needed.

If you have interest in running for any of these positions, please contact Joan Field (jfzgf@att.net) or Eric Gold (epgepg999@gmail.com)

also knows when to break them. Where others see the anatomy of a back, he sees a human being walking with his head down, either oblivious to the commercialization of life or perhaps even overwhelmed by it. (Count the number of signs in the window.)

Friedlander was born in 1934 and shoots exclusively in black and white. He was one of the photographers championed by curator John Szarkowski in the Museum of Modern Art's 1967 "New Documents" exhibit - the others were Diane Arbus and Garry Winogrand.

(I wrote about Arbus in No. 4 - November 2020. I will approach Winogrand in a coming article - one of Winogrand's famous quotes was "Everything is photographable" which he truly practiced as he shot an estimated one million film images - 300,000 of which were undeveloped at the time of his death.)

The "New Documents" exhibit began a "snapshot" photography-as-art movement that could be likened to the claim staking in the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889. Photographers could now compete with painters as makers and the collectors were ready to oblige with their checkbooks.



Today is a "two-for-one" day so here is a second Friedlander image, this one from his Nashville 1963 work.

I chose this second picture because it made me laugh - the absurdity of television and our relationship to it. Any image that makes you think and laugh must be acknowledged as powerful. Coincidentally, I take photos of images on the TV, I started doing this before I saw Friedlander's image. Often, the foreground shows my feet on the ottoman - this allows me to claim the artwork as my own as my feet add something unique to the image.

In 2018, I took a picture of a TV image of Alex Trebek hosting Jeopardy. I am a huge Jeopardy fan - it is probably the best show on commercial TV. I wrote this column referencing that image before his death this month and had to do a rewrite after he died. During the rewrite, it truly hit me that he was gone - my eyes watered up and I cried. RIP Mr. Trebek. Goodbye old friend, we will miss you and our nightly get-togethers.

Here is a link with more images from the Fraenkel Gallery's Friedlander page - <https://fraenkelgallery.com/artists/lee-friedlander>

Goodbye 2020, come on in 2021.

November Competition Results

Pictorial - Projected Images (Judge - Terry Toomey)

Basic Level (31 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1B	Sunflowers-Masked	Rita Gardner	Marin
2	The goose brigade marches back to their shelter	Herb Deitz	Peninsula
3	Too wet for tennis	Richard Stanley	Rossmoor
4	Mill Valley Theater	Jeffrey Blum	Marin
5	Which will last longer, the cars or houses 3332837	Ally Whiteneck	Contra Costa
HM	2020	Yaniv Sherman	Alameda
HM	Autumn Begins	Carolyn Haile	Diablo Valley
HM	Lilly-20	Ada Endress	Berkeley

Best in Show - Pictorial Projected



Pictorial Projected - 1st Basic

Sunflowers-Masked
 Rita Gardner
 Marin Photo Club

Pictorial Projected (cont'd)

Intermediate Level (35 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Western Meadowlark 3320073	Douglas Smith	Contra Costa
2	Deconstructed	Richard White	Santa Rosa
3	Hobbes and his inner eyelid	Mark Brueckman	Alameda
4	Pastel Callas	Allen Schuster	Marin
5	Head Lighthouse Sunset, Portland, Maine 3143937	Linda Horng	Contra Costa
HM	Fall grape harvest in Napa, CA	Carolyn Rodriguez	Santa Clara
HM	Horseback riders in the surf at Halfmoon Bay	Bob Kahn	Peninsula
HM	In Between Two Dimensions	Tito Guerrero	Peni



Pictorial Projected - 1st Intermediate

Western Meadowlark
 Douglas Smith
 Contra Costa Camera Club

Pictorial Projected (cont'd)

Advanced Level (40 entries)

Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Echinacea Unleashed	Richard James	Villages
2	Shark Fin Cove after Sunset - Davenport, CA	Chris Cassell	Light & Shadow
3	Poppy Escape	David Edgar	Berkeley
4	Night Time at Goblin Valley SP Utah 3016897	Bill Chambard	Contra Costa
5	Swoosh	Steve Kessler	Peninsula
HM	Lines	Holly Wallace	Berkeley
HM	Mallard Couple	Brandon Ho	Alameda
HM	PONT DU GARD ANCIENT ROMAN AQUEDUCT-SOUTHERN FRANCE	Jean DeVinney	Rossmoor



Pictorial Projected - 1st Advanced

Echinacea Unleashed

Richard James

The Villages Camera Club

Pictorial Projected (cont'd)

Masters Level (37 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Little Old Shoes	Claudia Peterson	Light & Shadow
2	Little Memories	Claudia Peterson	Santa Clara
3	Nature's Palette	Lynn Letteris	Rossmoor
4	Laundryscape	John Erve	Millbrae
5	Sturgeon Bay Canal Pierhead Lighthouse - Two	Michael Fredrich	Livermore
HM	Lofoten Islands, Winter dreary Day, ; Photo tour with Adrian Szatewicz.; Places visited today: Homnoy Bridge, Reine, Sakrisoy, A town, Reine Sakrisøy Å Hamnøy	San Yuan	Contra Costa
HM	Wen Li	Louis Cheng	Alameda
HM	Wrapped in Love	Claudia Peterson	Santa Clara



Pictorial Projected - 1st Masters

Little Old Shoes
Claudia Peterson
Light & Shadow Camera Club

Monochrome - Projected (Judge - Terry Toomey)

Basic Level (33 entries)

Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Pied Crow (Corvus albus) sharing lunch	Pat Carlson	Santa Rosa
2	Lotus Emerging into the Light.	Renate Johnson	Livermore
3	Standing the test of time	Avinash Chellaswamy Indirabae	Santa Clara
4	Little Bird, Big Stump	Michael Isola	Millbrae
5	Singapore shopkeeper	Jeffrey Blum	Marin
HM	Love	Qin Pan	Santa Clara
HM	Low-Tide Log	Michael Isola	Millbrae
HM	Steel & Glass	Sandy Eger	Contra Costa



Monochrome Projected - 1st Basic

Pied Crow (Corvus albus) sharing lunch

Pat Carlson

Santa Rosa Photographic Society

Monochrome - Projected (Cont'd)

Intermediate Level (35 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Stare Down With a Raccoon 3320073	Douglas Smith	Contra Costa
2	Follow the winding road	Bill Lapworth	Peninsula
3	Time with Grandpa	Debbie Lindemann	Livermore
4	Traveling in Tanzania	Richard Finn	Livermore
5	Slanting Light	Holly Wallace	Berkeley
HM	Abandoned railroad trestle near Mendocino, CA	Carolyn Rodriguez	Santa Clara
HM	Another Time on 395	Steve Gibbs	Santa Rosa
HM	Old but Shiny	Valery Garrett	Rossmoor



Monochrome Projected - 1st Intermediate

Stare Down With a Raccoon

Douglas Smith

Contra Costa Camera Club

Monochrome - Projected (Cont'd)

Advanced Level (39 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1B	Blurring Lines	Richard Jennings	Villages
2	Tropical King Bird On Approach 3320049	Sharon Anderson	Contra Costa
3	The Old Train Trestle, Ft. Bragg	Eric Gold	Light & Shadow
4	Portrait of a Masai warrior in Kenya	Sree Alavattam	Fremont
5	Kannon-do Hall, Hasedera Temple, Kamakura, Japan. Temple houses 30-foot gilded, wood sculpture of Goddess of Mercy.	Linda Rutherford	Peninsula
HM	High Sierra Stepping Stones	Karen Najarian	Diablo Valley
HM	Two Worlds - One Soul	Ron Shattil	Berkeley
HM	What a Tease	Alex Valcohen	Diablo Valley

Best in Show - Monochrome Projected



Monochrome Projected - 1st Advanced

Blurring Lines
 Richard Jennings
 The Villages Camera Club

Monochrome - Projected (Cont'd)

Masters Level (37 entries)

Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Coyote Hunting Along The Dried Grass Shore Of The Yellowstone River	Bruce Finocchio	Peninsula
2	Greater Sandhill Cranes	Peter Nicholls	Villages
3	Patio Chair	Mara Phraner	Alameda
4	Thinking Sweetly of the Past	Claudia Peterson	Light & Shadow
45	Angles & Curves	Ed Mestre	Livermore
HM	Election Anxiety In The Time Of Covid-19	Eric Brown	Berkeley
HM	Elephant	Diana Rebman	Millbrae
HM	Three Orchids on a Branch	Ron Winter	Millbrae



Monochrome Projected - 1st Masters

Coyote Hunting Along The Dried Grass Shore Of The Yellowstone River)

**Bruce Finocchio
Peninsula Camera Club**

Nature - Projected (Judge - Terry Toomey)

Basic Level (26 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1	African bush elephants (Loxodonta) crossing the Chobe River, Chobe National Park, Botswana. Elephants are very good swimmers often cross rivers and are playful in the cool water.	Leslie Baker	Marin
2	Dragonfly (Odocoileus virginianus) Nearly all of the dragonfly's head is eye, so they have incredible vision that encompasses almost every angle except right behind	Suresh Yeola	Millbrae
3	This snowy egret (Egretta Thula) tosses its meal in the air before swallowing it.	Bruce Leshcher	Livermore
4	Baby Scrub Jay hops out of nest area in shrubs to call for more food	Carolyn Haile	Diablo Valley
5	A recently fledged peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) chases an adult carrying prey. Young peregrine falcons remain with the adults for approximately 6 weeks after fledging to hone hunting skills	Bridget Ahern	Berkeley
HM	A Lion drinking from the muddy watering hole at sunset (Panthera Leo)	Hannah Catri	Peninsula
HM	A rare sighting of a birth in the Maasai Mara Kenya.	Sandy Eger	Contra Costa
HM	California Coyote and Gopher Head off for Lunch Break	Tony Curto	Contra Costa



Nature Projected - 1st Basic

African bush elephants (Loxodonta) crossing the Chobe River, Chobe National Park, Botswana. Elephants are very good swimmers often cross rivers, and are playful in the cool water.

**Leslie Baker
Marin Photo Club**

Nature - Projected (Cont'd)

Intermediate Level (33 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Mother and pup North American river otters (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>) engage in play.	Sue Griffin	Livermore
2	Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>) feeding chicks.	Marilyn Murata	Villages
3	Bison Cow Nursing Calf - Yellowstone National Park October 2020	Emmy Denton	Peninsula
4	Two sibling juvenile great horned owls shelter together, against the early morning wind in their coastal eucalyptus home.	Tessa Burt	Peninsula
5	[Seq] Juvenile white-tailed kite (<i>Elanus leucurus</i>),	Betty Hovendon	Livermore
HM	A Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates villosus</i>) checks out the deep holes pecked by the biggest, stronger Pileated Woodpeckers to find insects left behind.	Mark Gideon	Marin
HM	A Red-billed Oxpecker (<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>) on a Cape Buffalo eats ticks, blood-sucking flies and fleas. Both organisms benefit. Aberdare National Park, Kenya	Frederick Berg	Villages
HM	[Seq] Elephants (<i>Loxodonta Africana</i>)	Sandy Morris	Berkeley



Nature Projected - 1st Intermediate

Mother and pup North American river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) engage in play. Otter play helps build a social bond.

Sue Griffin

Livermore Valley Camera Club

Nature - Projected (Cont'd)

Advanced Level (38 entries)

Award	Title	Member	Club
1B	Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) chicks wait at the edge of their nest, opening their mouths as soon as they see their parent approach with a meal of insects.	Denise Crawford	Millbrae
2	[Seq] FallRut	Polly Krauter	Livermore
3	[Seq] Starling Feeding	Herb Hwang	Peninsula
4W	[Seq] Killdeers (<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>) Defending Their Nest	David Hathaway	Villages
5	Jungle Babblers (<i>Argya striata</i>) squabble over a grub, Bharatpur, India	Sharon Thorp	Santa Clara
HM	A black stilt chick watches as the parent protects another chick under its wing	Sree Alavattam	Fremont
HM	A sand wasp pauses at a cosmos flower while transporting a housefly carcass to the nest for the larvae (genus <i>Bembicini</i>)	Bill Stacy	Santa Rosa
HM	Western gray squirrels (<i>Sciurus griseus</i>) pairing in my Cypress tree. They generally have two litters a year, with five to seven offspring, Montara.	Peggy Bechtell	Peninsula

Best in Show - Nature Projected



Nature Projected - 1st Advanced

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) chicks wait at the edge of their nest, opening their mouths as soon as they see their parent approach with a meal of insects.

**Denise Crawford
Millbrae Camera Club**

Nature - Projected (Cont'd)

Masters Level (36 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Elephant <i>Loxodonta africana</i> Matriarch leading the heard Masai Mara National Reserve Africa	Roger Johnson	Contra Costa
2	Western Kingbird struggling to collect cottonwood fluff for its nest	Karl Hoenke	Rossmoor
3	These lions (<i>Panthera Leo</i>) named as Orkitok and Osapuk (Sala's sons) are getting chased away by a bunch of buffalos (Bison), Masai Mara, Kenya	Rajani Ramanathan	Livermore
4	Ospreys search for fish high in the sky over relatively shallow water. Often time Osprey will eat part of its catch before carries it back to a nest to share with family during mating period.	Brandon Ho	Alameda
5	Predators and Prey: A Cooi Heron eats its catch while the biting flies feed on the Heron	Jennifer O'Donnell	Peninsula
HM	Canada Goose Bathing Shows Water Action (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	Claudia Peterson	Light & Shadow
HMW	Male polar bears sparring: While waiting for the Hudson Bay to freeze up before heading out to hunt for seals, the bears spar each other — a play fighting. Near Churchill, Canada	Shinnan Kiang	Livermore
HM	Tender Love Of Adelie Penguins In Antarctica. Both Males And Females Take Turns Caring Their Chicks	Lucy Kiang	Livermore



Nature Projected - 1st Masters

**Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) Matriarch leading the heard
Masai Mara National Reserve Africa**

**Roger Johnson
Contra Costa Camera Club**

Authentic Wildlife Winners



Nature Projected - HM Masters

Male polar bears sparring: While waiting for the Hudson Bay to freeze up before heading out to hunt for seals, the bears spar each other -- a play fighting.

Near Churchill, Canada

Shinnan Kiang

Livermore Valley Camera Club



Nature Projected - 4th Advanced

Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*) Defending Their Nest

David Hathaway

The Villages Camera Club

Creative - Projected (Judge - Terry Toomey)

Basic Level (26 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1B	The Essence of Childhood Past	Susan Andrews	Contra Costa
2	Fly me to the moon	Sue Griffin	Livermore
3	Daffodil	Sandy Patane	Peninsula
4	Take Three Doughnuts and Call Me in the Morning	Ron Shattil	Berkeley
5	Playing With Scale	Susan Andrews	Contra Costa
HM	New York City Sky Line	Limei Zou	Santa Clara
HM	Rainbows	Fan Xie	Peninsula
HM	Wood line at Prosidio Trails	Limei Zou	Santa Clara

Best in Show - Creative Projected



Creative Projected - 1st Basic

The Essence of Childhood Past
 Susan Andrews
 Contra Costa Camera Club

Creative - Projected (cont'd)

Intermediate Level (28 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Flowers in vase	Vicki Anderson	Contra Costa
2	Alfred Hitchcock Goes to Church	Steve Gibbs	Santa Rosa
3	Presence	Mary Pieper-Warren	Marin
4	Orange Blaze	Teres Ryan	Villages
5	Whoooo is ready to haunt you for Halloween? The hooty-owl on Dollar Golf Course will do that.	Zina Mirsky	Rossmoor
HM	Beauty Out Of The Mist	Ronald Kyutoku	Livermore
HM	Face in the Peacock	Eddy Lehrer	Alameda
HM	Revealing Age with Light	Adelaide Jenkins	Berkeley



Creative Projected - 1st Intermediate

Flowers in Vase
Vicki Anderson
Contra Costa Camera Club

Creative - Projected (cont'd)

Advanced Level (34 entries)

Award	Title	Member	Club
1	Flavor Burst	Maurice Krumrey	Fremont
2	A moonlit night in the vineyard	Michael Funk	Santa Rosa
3	A Little Weaver	Shinnan Kiang	Livermore
4	AA Meeting	Susan Gerber	Livermore
5	Fall Colors	Sharon Anerson	Contra Costa
HM	Hang in There	Janis Phillips	Marin
HM	Running on Empty!	Barbara Masek	Peninsula
HM	Uncorked	Carol Thomas	Berkeley

Creative Projected - 1st Advanced

Flavor Burst
Maurice Krumrey
Fremont Photographic Society



Masters Level (31 entries)			
Award	Title	Member	Club
1	The Shutdown of Beauty and Barber Shops has had Dire Consequences.	Steve Napoli	Berkeley
2	Strange Birds	Steve Napoli	Berkeley
3	Ride em	Irene Bergamini	Diablo Valley
4	Coming Up Roses	Claudia Peterson	Santa Clara
5	At Full Moon, Long Dead Monks Return to the Ruined Abbey by the Sea	Peter Nicholls	Villages
HM	Simple Beauty	Emily DeMartini	Peninsula
HM	Split Personality	Sharon Stochak	Peninsula
HM	The Enigma	Louise Williams	Marin



Creative Projected - 1st Masters

The Shutdown of Beauty and Barber Shops has had Dire Consequences.

Steve Napoli

Berkeley Camera Club

The “SILK ROAD”

**Musings of Aphra Pia*

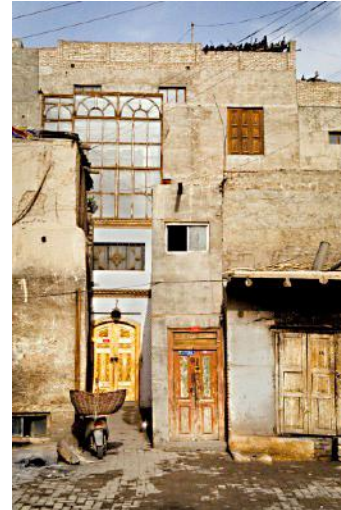
In my imagination these words conjured up a magical place, both mysterious and romantic. I had visited China previously in 2004 and the same guide waved the flag of opportunity for this dream in 2009. Little did I know that this adventure would turn out so interesting, so full of surprises and despair.

Originally the trip went according to plan. We landed in Beijing, spent the night and the next day flew to Urumqi. I was ignorant about the history and people of the Silk Road but was catapulted into their story that evening. As we landed we were unable to access our designated hotel because: “At least 1,000 rioters clashed with the police on Sunday in the regional capital in western China”...

(“The rioting broke out Sunday afternoon in a large market area of Urumqi, the capital of the vast, restive desert region of Xinjiang, and lasted for several hours before riot police officers and paramilitary or military troops locked down the Uighur quarter of the city. The rioters threw stones at the police and set vehicles on fire, sending plumes of smoke into the sky, while police officers used fire hoses and batons to beat back rioters and detain Uyghurs who appeared to be leading the protest witnesses said”.)

We were put up in a new hotel (not previously occupied) on the outskirts of town. In the morning, there was no sightseeing allowed in Urumqi, and so we began our memorable trip on the Silk Road.

I know the vision of un-ending numbers of trucks filled with 6 to 8 Chinese military, each with face shields, body armor and big guns made a big impression on me. It influenced my experience and appreciation of the, new to me, Uyghur people. I had landed in the beginning of the Chinese goal to take over their land, eliminate their race and their Muslim religion.



Some of "Old" Kashkar still standing



Street with beautiful Mosk in the distance.

... On to the business of the Silk Road. In the East, there are many divergent silk roads winding through and around the Taklimakan desert. Our first destination was directed to the area around Kashgar in Xing Jiang (Ea. Turkestan). Here was my introduction to the Uyghur people. The new city displayed typical Islamic architecture like domes, minarets and arches. As a stark contrast, walking on the ‘Old Street’ of Kashgar we explored a maze of narrow alleys that had traditional houses built with earth or bricks. On these walks, we were invited in, to visit the homes and shops of proud, smiling Uyghur families. There was the illusion of walking into Kashgar’s ancient past. . . (Sadly, the ‘Old Town’ had already been demolished and there were many signs of homes being disappeared.) On Sunday we visited the Great Bazaar. Uyghur people cross the desert on mules and donkey driven carts, camels, horse and foot to shop or bring goods for sale. It consists of alley after alley of stalls selling everything the buyer could desire. It was an amazing, and poignant introduction to the Uyghur culture.

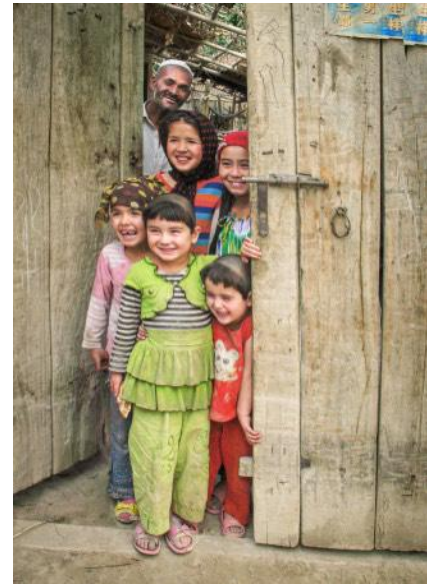
On the outskirts of the city there are caves along canyon walls that were used as churches, caves channeling water under the desert sands for drinking and irrigation in a landscape where settlements appear in an oasis like setting.

Looking back I cannot find order in my memories. Giving a place a name doesn't work for me. We mostly drove, so it allowed a great deal of time to visit towns, farms, ancient ruins and cultural sites. But the joy in the adventure for me was multiplied by our proximity to



Still living in carved out homes in the mountain

and welcome by the Uyghur people. The best way to appreciate their culture is to experience the various terrane, wonder at their tenacity, adapting and fitting in with the land. I hope you will find my photos arresting enough to pique your interest and stimulate your interest in this fast, disappearing culture. It has been eleven years since this trip. It is no longer the same.....



Rural family saying goodbye to us.

- An old man carrying a back-breaking load down a dirt road.
- Young girls with the most bizarre haircut (shaved everywhere except the bangs).
- A mode of public transportation I affectionately referred to as the "trog" (part truck, part hog) and all 20 people who pile onto it!
- A teenager who works the family business, oblivious to all of the dead lamb carcasses hanging around her.

My photographs chronicle two ends of a tangled route that spreads from central Asia to the Middle East. I have chosen to focus mostly on the people. They were industrious, happy and very friendly. I want my images to evoke emotion and the feeling of another time and place. They are snapshots of daily life from which arise a sense of scale and meaning to these exotic destinations - which are disappearing forever.



Uyghur man carrying corn stalks - rural, dirt road



Boy stands in front of locked door in the city. Home behind has been demolished. Writing on door denotes its destiny.

**** The Chinese government has imprisoned more than one million people since 2017 and subjected those not detained to intense surveillance, religious restrictions, and forced sterilizations.**

**** U.S. Senators Introduce Resolution Declaring China Is Committing Genocide Against Uyghurs --- <https://www.rferl.org/a/u-s-senators-introduce-resolution-declaring-china-is-committing-genocide-against-uyghurs/30916806.html>**

**** World Affairs Council : <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-repression-uyghurs-xinjiang>**

<http://aphrapia.com> **Silken Threads from the Past**

“A Wildlife Photographer’s Lament”

Patrick Page



I never intended to be a wildlife photographer. I got a nice little DSLR in 2014. It ignited a passion in me unlike anything I had before. I kind of lost my mind as I immersed myself into “real” photography. I watched instructional videos, I bought books, and I watched YouTube videos all the time. Before long I could recite the exposure triangle and how the three components of it interacted. I understood sensor sizes and crop factors, angles of view, and depth of field. I learned the ramifications of shutter speeds, aperture choices and levels of ISO. My family was worried about me. I would not leave the house without a camera.

This included walking my shepherd dogs twice a day in two large open spaces near my house. One is hilly, rocky grassland with a riparian zone and the other is a wetlands preserve with two large ponds and acres of marshlands mixed with trees and grasslands. Both these areas are full of wildlife. I have been at this for six years now, roughly 4,000 outings. Are large dogs compatible with wildlife photography? No they are not. But they are thoroughly trained and would be inconsolable if I left them home so we muddle through. I do alright.

That’s how I became a wildlife and nature photographer. I have loved animals all my life. I was the kid watching the nature documentaries. I’m the guy reading all the information on the signs at the aquariums and zoos. The guy whose wife sends the kids back to get me because I’m still reading after they’ve move on. I’m the guy that pulls over in unsafe places because I saw a bird up in a tree or some critter on the side of the road.

Not everyone will enjoy wildlife photography. It appeals to a very few very special idiots and I think my peers would agree. You too can be a wildlife photographer if you:

- enjoy getting up before dawn and staying out until after dark, in every kind of weather
- are willing to crawl through bushes with stickers snagging your clothes and the indescribably unique sensation of ticks crawling on your neck, staying still against all instinct so as not to scare your target away.
- Are willing to wait indefinitely for an animal to appear or pray that it turns ever so slightly so you can get a better shot.
- Are willing to wait for hours for the particular quality of light that will make your shot a National Geographic contender

Imagine this if you will. A beautiful model is in her chair in a nice studio. She is exquisite. Her hair, makeup, clothes, is all perfect. The photographer is finalizing a composition. Her eyes begin to flick back and forth frantically. She is shifting in her seat. To the photographers stunned surprise she leaps from her chair screaming and flies out the nearest window, and is blocks away before the first shot is taken. Welcome to my world.

Wildlife photography can be the most difficult, demanding, confounding, frustrating and expensive of all the genres. You can blow a decent few months’ wages on a camera body and then blow a good part of a year’s wages on a proper lens. Imagine coming home after a shoot. Your clothes are torn, your shoes caked in mud, your face has second degree sunburn. It was an effort to get out of the car and walk into the house. You rush to the computer to dump your card, giddy with anticipation. The shots don’t look anything like they did on the back of the camera. You sag and your heart slowly sinks as you delete-every-last-one-of-the-images.

Wildlife photography has some rules. They are not hard and fast or written down but we live by them anyway and they contribute to the challenge of wildlife photography.

Animals Want Nothing to do with You

In some settings, like neighborhood parks and suburban settings, the animals are sort of used to people being around and are more tolerant. The closer you get to wild, the more the animals keep you at arm's length, which means hundreds of yards sometimes.

Raptors have made you right after you got out of your car in the parking lot. They can read the manufacturer's label on your hat from half a mile away and they are tracking your every move long before you even see them. You are not going to sneak up on a raptor. If you get reasonably close, it's because they are being magnanimous and allowing it.

Birds can be incredibly shy. I have seen birds out of the corner of my eye maybe a quarter mile away. It's a beautiful specimen. I turn my head slightly in its direction and it leaps off the branch like an ejection seat from a fighter jet. I curse out loud which I tend to a lot out there. Another favorite bird trick is to make you think they are going to stay on the perch. What is really going on is that they feel trapped when you stare at them, like a deer in the headlights sort of thing. I want to change my shutter speed so I look at the camera to make an adjustment. I look back in the viewfinder to an empty branch. The birds will simply wait for you to look away to make a hasty escape. There is more cursing. All the animals will fly, run, swim, scurry, crawl and slither away from you with all due haste. Perhaps it's the thousands of years we have spent chasing, killing and using them for food, skins, feathers, teeth and claws. We as wildlife photographers have to contend with this basic rule and it shapes all our actions, methods and techniques as well as it contributes to our suffering.



White Tailed Kite Sees Me From Miles Away.



Curious Crow Watches Me From the Safety of its Perch

No Butt Shots

Humans tend to be interested in each other's butts to a degree but they are generally to be avoided in wildlife photography. I would like to draw your attention to first rule. How can you not get butt shots when every animal you encounter rewards you with a view of its rear end when it is rapidly evacuating the scene? With the exception of, let's say Peacocks and Turkeys which sort of depend on elaborate butt displays to attract mates; we are generally not all that interested. Since we can't rotate the earth and get the animal facing us, we have to go to extraordinary lengths to get the animal facing us. Thus is where the patience and timing comes in. Animals are not nearly as afraid of you if you are already there, already a part of the landscape. If you arrive at your position before sunrise while it is still dark, you are already there when the light fills in. You stay as still as possible. Eventually animals will walk right in front of you. My dog and I sat dumbfounded when a cottontail took his time gently hopping from flower to flower right in front of us as I snapped away. When I am in hiding my dog is trained to lay beside me and be still. She is a predator. She wants to chase and eat the bunny and stays still. I told you she was trained. You can really do this any time of day but the lighting is so great in the morning. Let's say it is noon. When you walk into a wild area, all the animals remotely close by have noted your arrival. You've been made by a hundred pairs of



You don't want this butt



A butt shot that works



Turkeys are

eyes. Lucky for us, the animals can't help but going about their business and have short attention spans. They will keep crawling, hopping, feeding, flying, swimming and running. As long as you stay quiet and still, they pretty much forget about you and get on with life. You are just a non moving feature of the landscape. As they move around, you can get side shots, approaching shots and more all-around pleasing compositions. There will be a lot less shots of derrieres. Of the thousands of otherwise decent shots that got the delete key, they've all be butt shots.

The Eyes Have It

In wildlife photography the eyes are the Holy Grail. Catching an animal looking at you is to capture its spirit, its wildness. Sharp, clear eyes are always the goal. I have wasted far too many hours in my life waiting for animals to turn their heads and look at me. If you don't have enormous patience, this game is not for you. I transform myself into a Zen like state. "I am happy to be outside", "I am happy to be in nature", "how lucky am I"... Ohmmmmm....

Two eyes are the goal but luckily, animal eyes are so exquisite that one will do. Get them from the front, from the side; three quarter facing you, just get the eyes



A Juvenile Red Tailed Hawk Staring me Down



A Burrowing Owl Keeps a Close Eye on Me

Get the Behavior

It is not enough to sweat and suffer, crawl and climb, hike and trudge to get these fantastic portraits of these terrific animals.

No, no, it is not. Go back and get them doing something. Feeding, mating, and building nests. Get some action. It is true; getting animals in action is more compelling. Now we are in the Super bowl of patience and timing. To get behavior you have to know behavior. To know behavior you have to watch animals for hours on end. I know how egrets hunt from watching them do it. I can tell when a green heron is just about to strike. I have seen otters clear a pond of all waterfowl and then strip mine it of everything edible in a matter of minutes. To get action you have to anticipate it and be ready and focused with your camera on burst to catch the critical moment. This is by far the hardest part of wildlife photography and the one that requires the most attempts and patience.



Otter Gnaws on a Catfish Head



Great Egret Snatches a Crayfish



White Tailed Kite Devours a Rodent

When Will I See You Again?

Even though there is ample pain and aggravation that I have covered, there are also moments of divine intervention. This genre owes a lot to chance, of being in the right place at the right time. There has been magic times that an animal has settled down right in front of me or I will just happen to look to my left and a big hawk is sitting on a fence just a few yards away. When the universe bestows these unexpected I blast away and scoop up all the images I can. Sometimes you will get lucky and see a species that you've never captured. It may be the very last time you see it so take lots of images to maximize the opportunity. I've had that experience with the incredibly shy Cedar Waxwings and the Western Tanager. After looking in



Western Tanager

vain for Waxwings, a small group flew to some branches on a dead tree not far from me. I was delighted and snapped away. The same goes for a rare sighting of the Western Tanager. In both these cases I've never seen the birds again. You never know when this will happen so shoot when you can because it may be your last chance.



Cedar Waxwing Other

Options

You don't have to risk life and Limb to be a wildlife photographer. There are zoos and safari parks available. After blowing thousands on a camera and lens, I'm sorry, I just don't have the scratch to fly off to Africa, The Galapagos Islands or Costa Rica. The goal here is to studiously avoid man-made objects to make the setting as natural looking as possible. The animals are brought to you. It is safer, way less frustrating and the animals are not likely to go very far away from you. You have to be as patient or even more patient waiting to compose the animal in a natural looking setting. This is where a long lens is vital. Don't ever shoot through glass, fencing or a cage. You have to be creative and take your time.



Tule Elk-Tule Elk Preserve-Point Reyes



Great Horned Owl-U.C. Davis Raptor Center



Female Lion-Sacramento Zoo

Fade to Black

I shoot wildlife because I am obsessed with animals. The only animals I don't get are people. I am perfectly happy being alone out in the field for hours with just a dog or two for company. It is thrilling to see an animal I have not recorded yet. The images are memories that bring back the day, the weather, the experience and the story of the shot. I keep doing it because I can't stop doing it. I believe this is something I have in common with all nature and wildlife photographers. I never hunted but I used to do a lot of fishing. Wildlife photography owes a huge debt to hunters and fishers for establishing and perfecting the skills used to find and get close to animals. The thrill of capturing an animal with your camera without traumatizing or hurting it is awesome and so is the ability to bring home proof that it happened and store those memories for life. I encourage you to dabble or jump right in.

Northern California Council of Camera Clubs



N4C

<http://www.n4c.org>

<http://n4c.photoclubservices.com>

PSA

<http://www.psa-photo.org>

Yerba Buena Chapter of PSA

http://www.psa-yerbabuenachapter.org/Home_Page.html

N4C Camera Clubs		
AL	Alameda Photographic Society	https://alameda.photoclubservices.com/default.aspx
BK	Berkeley Camera Club	http://www.berkeleycameraclub.org/
CC	Contra Costa Camera Club	http://contracostacameraclub.org
CT	Chinatown Photographic Society	http://chinatownphoto.org/wordpress/en/
DV	Diablo Valley Camera Club	https://diablovalley.photoclubservices.com
FR	Fremont Photographic Society	http://fremont.photoclubservices.com/
LS	Light & Shadow Camera Club	http://light-and-shadow.org/
LV	Livermore Valley Camera Club	http://livermorevalleycameraclub.com
MR	Marin Photography Club	http://www.marinphotoclub.com/
ML	Millbrae Camera Club	http://www.millbraecameraclub.org/
PE	Peninsula Camera Club	http://www.peninsulacameraclub.com/
PH	Photochrome Camera Club of San Francisco	http://photochrome.org/photochrome_club
RO	Rossmoor Photography Club	http://rossmoorcameraclub.photoclubservices.com/
SC	Santa Clara Camera Club	http://www.sccc-photo.org
SR	Santa Rosa Photographic Society	http://www.santarosaphotographicsociety.org/
VC	Villages Camera Club	https://villages.photoclubservices.com

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N4C Mission Statement



To promote a spirit of voluntary cooperation among the camera clubs of Northern California. To sustain and increase an interest in the science and art of photography among photographers of said area. To promote social and educational programs for the benefit of member clubs. To create and maintain a representative body which will serve the best interests of all member clubs and groups and attempt to provide workable solutions to their individual and collective problems. To provide services and facilities for the use and benefit of the member clubs.

N4C IS A PROUD MEMBER OF



N4C Inter-club Competition

2021 Competition Year

Month	Club	Print	Print	Print	Print	PI	PI	PI	PI
Jan	Millbrae	P	M	N	C	P	N	C	M
Feb	Contra Costa	P	M	T	J	P	T	J	M
Mar	Livermore Valley	P	M	S	J	P	N	C	M
Apr	Diablo Valley	P	M	N	C	P	T	J	M
May	Fremont	P	M	T	J	P	N	C	J
Jun	Millbrae	P	M	N	C	P	T	J	M
Jul	Santa Clara	P	M	T	J	P	N	C	M
Aug	Rossmoor	P	M	S	T	P	T	J	M
Sep	Marin	P	M	N	C	P	N	C	T
Oct	Light & Shadow	P	M	T	J	P	T	J	M
Nov	Peninsula	P	M	N	C	P	N	C	M

- Monochrome Projected competitions will be held every month while we hold Zoom meetings.

P = Pictorial

M = Monochrome

N = Nature

T = Travel

C = Creative

J = Journalism

S = Sequence

Go to n4c.org/competitions for more information regarding N4C inter-club competitions.

* No competitions scheduled in December.