

# Through the Viewfinder

Ventura County Camera Club

The Ventura County Camera Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at:

The Ventura Women's Center  
3451 Foothill Rd.  
Ventura, CA 93003  
805/648-1143

**Next Meeting: Wed. July 11th 2007, 7:00 pm**

**Chair: Roy Allen**

**Judge: Gary Moss**

**Refreshments: Roy and Anne Allen**

**Category: "Shadows"**

**Raffle: Last month's raffle brought in \$32**

## VCCC Officers

President	Roy Allen
1st V.P.	John Ferritto
Treasurer	Joyce LaMers
Workshop Coordinator	Allyson Barnes
Judge Locator	Pat Osborne
Digital Coordinator	Susannah Kramer
Entries/Announcing	Frank Naumann
~ and ~	Bob Murtha
Website	Bob Murtha
Newsletter	Matt Haines

## Future Categories 2007

August	Small World
September	Ghostly Images
October	Food
November	Main Street Ventura
December	People at Work

For a full listing of the VCCC rules, check the website at:  
[www.venturacountycameraclub.com](http://www.venturacountycameraclub.com)

I would first like to welcome new members Harry Korn and Jim Belsley. Thank you for joining and remember it's your club now so don't be afraid to get involved. I would also like to thank Louise for judging at the June meeting. Those of you who missed Louise really missed some excellent input as to how we can improve our photography. At the last meeting I promised some members to research and list in the newsletter some web sites that offered photo instruction. Listed below are 13 sites that I think are worthwhile putting on your "Favorites" list. They offer some excellent instruction on various aspects of photography. However there is one site I think is a must. They have different photo quizzes. I encourage all to log on and take one of their quizzes, It's really fun. The site is <http://www.funtrivia.com/quizzes/hobbies/photography.html>.

Don't forget to vote on your choice of photo topics for next year. In case you missed the meeting, here is how it will work: attached to this newsletter is a list of over 100 topics. Vote for 20. These votes must be in by the July meeting. Either bring your choices to the July meeting, e-mail them to me, or mail them to me. We will then make a list of the 24 most popular and we will have a second vote to narrow the list from 24 to 12.

Are you the type that sees an answer to every problem, or do you see a problem with every answer? With photography and related technology advancing at the speed of light, it's easy for us to say the problems are too big and complicated for us to solve. But are they really? Don't the really good photographers say there is no problem too great that will prevent him from achieving his desired goal or objective? The information is right in front of us. It's on the web, it's written in books, it's on TV

(Tune in to Art Wolfe's Travels to the Edge), it all around us. All we have to do is look, learn and then put into practice that which we have learned. If we have the will to learn and succeed then we will find the answers to our problems.

Instructional web sites:

<http://arraich.com>

<http://www.adobe.com/products/tips/photoshop.html>

<http://www.apogeephoto.com>

<http://www.dofmaster.com>

<http://www.imagecrafterphoto.com>

<http://www.luminous-landscape.com> [click on the Understanding Series]

<http://www.Naturescapes.net>

<http://www.naturephotographers.net>

<http://www.photoworkshops.com>

<http://www.photo.net>

<http://www.pcphotomag.com>

<http://www.shutterfreaks.com>

## News and Tips

### **Raffle Plea**

Joyce LaMers has recently pointed out that the monthly raffle has been on the decline as of late. This could be a result of the decline in the quality of prizes on the raffle table! "So that's where all that stuff comes from!!" you're now thinking. Yup, that's right, the closets and attics of people just like you and me. So if you've got some old photographic equipment you think someone else might find useful (John F., are you reading this?), bring it in and donate it to a good cause!

### **Local Exhibits**

Announcing the opening of "24 Dolls", a photography exhibition by Leo Braun, running from June 6 to July 31 at the Hummingbird Nest Gallery in Ojai.

Leo has amassed a fabulous collection of doll images that are both beautiful and thought provoking. This is an exhibit that you will not soon forget.

*(courtesy Fred Magness and Myrna Cambianica)*

### **Digital Diversity (call to artists)**

Being in the vanguard of contemporary art, the San Buenaventura Artists' Union hopes to help rectify discrimination against all forms of digital art. To this end, the Artists' Union Gallery (AUG) will offer the first major all-digital exhibit on the Central California Coast in October 2007.

We will welcome work from digital artists & photographers who are pushing the envelope of 21st Century art forms – and plan to use today's technology to assist in displaying their art. We also invite entries from 3D artists & sculptors who produce work with a digital or computer graphics theme.

Deadline September 1st.

<http://www.angelfire.com/wy/cool/digital/docs/prospectus.pdf>

*(courtesy Pat Osborne)*

## **Contest - NYIP Focus: Photograph Your Hometown**

Have an eye for photography? Showcase your talent on an international stage! Enter the NYIP International Photo Contest and catch the attention of the photography community. You could win the Grand Prize or one of four 1st place Prizes.

It's simple to enter. On July 9, 2007, upload photographs of Your Hometown to the online gallery, within the categories of: 1) Main Street 2) Faces in the Crowd 3) Pets and Wildlife or 4) Local Music. Don't miss this chance to get your work noticed!

[www.nyipphotocontest.com](http://www.nyipphotocontest.com)

*(courtesy Roy Allen)*

## **Call For Entries: World in Focus**

National Geographic Explorer and Photo District News magazine have teamed up for "the ultimate in travel photography contests". Deadline is August 21st, 2007. Big prizes! Lots of competition! Categories are: Wilderness Photography • The Human Condition • Extreme Exploration • Urban Landscapes • Snapshots • Open Series

<http://www.worldinfoocuscontest.com/>

## **Call For Entries: TARFEST 2007**

TarFest Art Show 2007. Presented in association with The Los Angeles Art Association (LAAA) and The Korean Cultural Center (KCC)

JUROR: Michele Urton, Curatorial Assistant, Contemporary Art, LACMA

SHOW DATES: Thursday, October 4, 2007 through Saturday, October 13th.

SHOW LOCATION: Korean Cultural Center, 5505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. And other possible gallery locations on Miracle Mile.

RECEPTION: Friday, October 5, 2007, 6-10 pm

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 15, 2007

Details in a pdf here:

<http://www.tarfest.com/art2007entry.pdf>

*(courtesy Allyson Barnes)*

## **Tom Chambers: Two Exhibitions**

Dear Friends/Photographers,

I'm having two exhibitions starting this July - please stop by if you are in the area.

• Photo Eye gallery (Santa Fe) July 13 - September 8, reception 5-7, July 13th.

A two person show with Hiroshi Watanabe during the PhotoArts Santa Fe festival.

505.988.5159 x202 - <http://www.photoeye.com>.

• Wall Space gallery (Seattle) July 30 - August 31, reception 6-8, August 2nd, A solo show. 206-330-9137 -

<http://www.wallspaceseattle.com>.

The PhotoArts Santa Fe festival picked my image for this year's poster.

more info: <http://www.tomchambersphoto.com>

*(courtesy Tom Chambers)*

## **Look and Learn: Photographers You Should Know**

One of the best ways to expand your photographic skills is to look at other photographers' work. We've got a great resource here in Ventura County, called "the library". Head down there, check out a book or two on the history of photography, and make note of the photographers that interest you. Then go back and check out in-depth books dedicated to that photographer's work. Ask yourself what makes a given picture work for you, or not work. Examine each picture, decipher the composition and the lighting, puzzle over the technical aspects and the creative issues.

It will get you thinking about pictures, and about the most important thing we as photographers can do: visualize the transformation of a three-dimensional world into a two-dimensional image. Unlike painting or drawing, we are editors. We are framers. We see the world and its random chaos, and make sense of it by putting a frame around it. By cutting noisy pieces out until we are left with meaning.

What, you're too lazy to go to the library?? If so, here are some photographer websites that you really must see. It's a varied list, ranging from commercial/advertising photographers to fine art, portraiture and everything else. And it's by no means definitive. The only common thread is that they are all alive and creating new work, and they're all successful at what they do.

Got a favorite photographer? Send a link to Matt Haines, and he'll include it in a future edition of the newsletter. He enjoys talking about himself in the third person, and also loves it when members contribute. That way he doesn't have to stay up quite so late, scouring the internet for interesting websites.

First up, the very trendy and "is it real or is it CGI" crowd, Jill Greenberg and Dave Hill. Many of Dave Hill's shots seem like they're somehow drawn or computer-generated. Yet, at a very basic level, they are photographs. Yes there's some serious Photoshop action going on, as well as some alterations that would give the Toledo Blade conniptions, and make the New York Times start speed-dialing their law firm. Jill Greenberg is a more mild-mannered version of this. The same sort of enhanced highlight and wrap-around flash technique, but more realistic. By the way, if you want a quick and dirty way to play with the unofficial 'Dave Hill' technique, here's a tutorial:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/strobist/discuss/72157594577686705/>

Dave Hill's site: <http://www.davehillphoto.com/>

And Jill Greenberg's site: <http://www.manipulator.com/>

And now for something completely different: Rolfe Horn. He's got some great black and white landscapes, and you'll be surprised to find that he doesn't just click the 'desaturate' button in Photoshop to get them. He uses - ok, are you sitting down? - actual black and white film. And then (holding your breath?) prints them on actual black and white paper. Not that fake stuff that comes off an inkjet printer, but the real stuff, that quickly goes bad in the wrong sort of light. His URL is a bit difficult, but his images are amazing:

<http://www.f45.com/html/comm/comindex.html>

Along the same lines is Michael Kenna, who has some amazing photographs of the far east, as well as other exotic locations around the world. But this isn't travel photography; the images transcend time and place, and it almost doesn't matter where they are.

<http://www.michaelkenna.net/>

## List of Proposed 'Assigned' Topics:

A Different POV  
A View From Above  
All Jumbled Up  
Along a Lonely Road  
America the Beautiful  
American Indian Heritage  
Artistic Renditions  
Artists at Work  
At Night  
Athletes in Action  
Beach Scene  
Beautiful Blooms  
Bending the Photo Rule  
Black & White  
Body Parts  
Bridges  
California Life Style  
California's Old Charm  
Cemeteries  
Computer Manipulated  
Contrast  
Crazy/Unusual Finds  
Creative  
Creatures Of The Night  
Curves  
Desert Beauty  
Designs  
Digital Design  
Doors & Archways  
Dramatic Light  
Eyes  
Fair Fun  
Fences  
Filter Crazy  
Focus on Emotion  
Food  
Fooling the Eye  
Fountains and Parks  
Frame It  
Front Store Windows  
Ghostly Images  
Graffiti Art  
Guess What It Is  
Hard Labor  
Hearst Castle  
High Key  
Holiday Cards  
Holiday Scenes  
Horse Power  
In My Kitchen  
In My Secret Garden  
Infrared  
Inside Out  
It's not easy being Green  
Laundry  
Light and Form  
Local Agriculture  
Macro  
Main Street Ventura  
Monochromatic  
Moon Lit Scene  
Motherly Love  
Multiple Exposures/ or Collage  
Music  
Music to My Eyes—(Eye Candy)  
Musical Instrument  
Musicians at Work  
National Parks  
Night Photography  
Ocean & Seashore  
Old Architecture  
Old California  
Open Topic: 5 X 7 Prints from a Disposable Camera  
Out in the Rain  
Painterly  
Painting with Light  
Peer to Pier  
People at Work  
Photojournalism  
Planes Trains and Automobiles  
Portrait Photo Indoor w/one light  
Purple  
Reagan Library  
Ridiculous  
Rock Art  
Romance  
R O Y G B I V  
Saturated Colors  
Second Curtain Sync  
Shadows  
Silhouettes  
Slow Shutter Speed  
Small World  
Solitude  
Something Really Old  
Still Life  
Street Scenes  
Structural Design  
Surf's Up  
Tastefully Sensuous (No Nudes)  
Textures  
The Eyes Have It  
The Old West  
These Boots Are Made For Walkin'  
Treasures  
Unusual Mailboxes  
Up Close and Personal  
Victorian Age  
Vintage Photography  
Wall Art  
Western Heritage  
White on White  
Wide Angle  
Winter Scene  
Worm's Eye View  
You shot this in L.A./Ventura County?  
Your Paparazzi Shot  
Zoo This question recently came to me from a Camera

# Digital Diva

*Susannah has been recovering from foot surgery, but she's returned with a short 'Digital Diva' contribution this month:*

This question recently came to me from a Camera Club member.

Hi Susannah - a question on lenses for dslr cameras.

It seems like a lot of the dslr packages offered come with a "kit" lens which is usually something like 18-50 or 18-55 mm. What lenses would you think appropriate for a wish list for general photography, e.g. camera club stuff?

I bought my Canon 30D with a Sigma 18-50 mm f2.8 macro lens, and at some future date I might consider adding another lens.

Back in my film slr days I used an Olympus OM-1 (35 mm) mostly with a 28-70 mm zoom lens. I had a 50mm normal lens and a 75-150 mm zoom lens which I almost never used.

DD

Because of the magnification factor with a DSLR your 18-50mm lens is the equivalent of a 29-80 on 35mm, so it is a good all purpose lens. What lenses you need to add really depends on what you like to shoot. If you like to shoot wildlife or sports you definitely need a long zoom. I like the IS (Canon) or VR(Nikon) lenses, especially for my long zoom, which I use more than any other lens. With the Canon 70-300IS lens (image stabilization) I have at least two more stops of steady handholding more than I would without it, which is important as I need to handhold when shooting horses etc. If you like to shoot people portraits you need something around 110-120mm, your current lens is a bit too short for shooting portraits without distortion. Another option is a super wide angle for shooting in tight spaces or for interesting perspectives. There are several made for digital cameras by Tokina, Canon, Sigma and Tamron. I have the 12-24 Tokina which is the equivalent of a 19-38 on my Canon. You say your Sigma is a macro lens, but for those who don't want to invest in a dedicated macro lens, extension tubes or close up filters work very well. So as you see, you have to decide what you're shooting to know what you need. The magnification factor for Canon is 1.6, for Nikon it's 1.5. My lenses are the Tokina 12-24(19-38), Canon 24-85 (38-136), a very sharp lens I use for portraits, and my trusty Canon 70-300 IS (112-480)

I hope this helps.

Susannah "The Digital Diva" Sofaer Kramer

# June Competition Winners

**May's Judge:  
Louise Noethe**

**Assigned Category:  
"Winter Scene"**

## **Digital Winners: Assigned**

Anne Allen	Ferocious Snow Feline
John Ferritto	Alaska
Patricia Marroquin	Winter Scene

## **Digital Winners: Open**

Anne Allen	Barbed Wire Post
Roy Allen	In the Morning Sky
Les Ammann	Fisherman
John Ferritto	Divers
Joyce LaMers	Red Amaryllis
Henrik Lehnerer	Fishy Wishy
Patricia Marroquin	High-Rise Model
Patricia Marroquin	Wild Whirl Girl
Pat Osborne	Natural Beauty
Gina Ramsay	Chinaman's Hat
Gina Ramsay	Soaking up the Sun

## **Print Winners: Black and White**

Matt Haines	Fish In Hand
Matt Haines	Abandoned Service Station #2

## **Print Winners: Color**

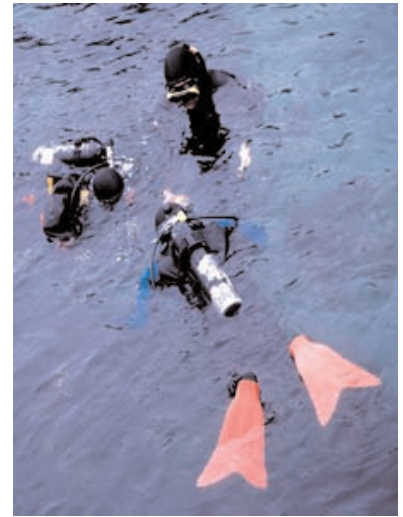
Roy Allen	An Olds World
Les Ammann	End of the Line
Les Ammann	Guadalupe Dunes
Bryan McCall	Shell Beach
Faite Millines	Fowl Water



Pat Osborne • Natural Beauty



Henrik Lehnerer • Fishy Wishy



John Ferritto • Divers



Anne Allen • Ferocious Snow Feline



Anne Allen • Barbed Wire Post



Patricia Marroquin • Wild Whirl Girl



Matt Haines • Fish In Hand



Roy Allen • In the Morning Sky



John Ferritto • Alaska



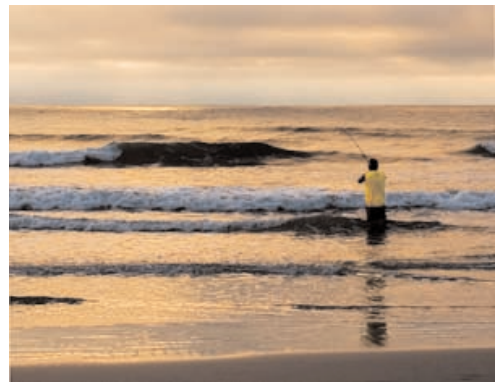
Gina Ramsay • Chinaman's Hat



Gina Ramsay • Soaking up the Sun



Joyce LaMers • Red Amaryllis



Les Ammann • Fisherman



Patricia Marroquin • High-Rise Model



Patricia Marroquin • Wild Whirl Girl