



South Bay Camera Club

NEWS & VIEWS



August 2009

www.sbccphoto.org Try it, you'll like 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: Phil Cohen (310-212-7200, phil@absolute.net); VP and Membership Chair: Lou Schutzenberger (310-377-1342, sschutzenb@verizon.net); Treasurer: Jim Bardos (310-378-7655, jbardos@verizon.net); Secretary: Lou Schutzenberger (310-377-1342, sschutzenb@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

Start of a new SBCC Year:

The new 2009/2010 SBCC year has begun. The new officers and board members were sworn in at the Awards Banquet in June. All old memberships have lapsed and need to be renewed. However, there will be a grace period for renewal --- all e-mail and this newsletter will continue to be sent to "old" members even though they have not yet renewed, until the end of September.

EVENT SCHEDULE: Here is the schedule of events for the start of the SBCC year as far as planned at this time. All meetings are on a Monday at 7:30 PM at the Torrance Airport Meeting Room (Zamperini Field), unless otherwise noted. Time and place for other events is as noted below:

Date	Program	Description/Background
Aug 3	Board Meeting	First meeting of the new year. Bill's place, 7:30 PM.
Aug 10	Print Evaluation Meeting	Our evaluator will be Annie Appel. Limit 2 prints per entrant.
Aug 15	Picnic	Pot Luck picnic in Wilson Park live steamer area. From 11 AM.
Aug 24	Image Review Meeting	Diane Racey of S4C will present a lively and interesting slide show.
Sep 14	Photo Technique Demo Meeting	Eric Curry has been an industrial photographer for over 28 years. He is working on a series of images called "American Pride And Passion." He will talk about and demonstrate his light painting techniques. Visit the web site at www.americanprideandpassion.com for some great demos.

More About Upcoming Meetings:

August 10 Print Evaluation Night

Our evaluator will be Annie Appel, a local professional photographer. Annie has been a guest evaluator at SBCC meetings several times. She brings a lot of insight and good advice to our photographic accomplishments. And, she is entertaining. Limit of 2 prints per entrant.

August 24 Prize Winning PSA Images on Display

Diane Racey from S4C is bringing a fine collection of prize winning photos from all over the country to show for our enjoyment and instruction. Come and see what photographers from around the country are doing.

Mark Your Calendar! Club Picnic --- Saturday, August 15

The SBCC will hold it's first annual mid-summer pot-luck picnic for all members, relatives and friends. The event will be held in Wilson Park, Torrance. More specifically, the picnic will be held in the Live-steamer area at the east end of the park, over east of the pool. This area has shade trees, picnic areas with benches and BBQ grills. No alcoholic beverages allowed! We will have the picnic area all to ourselves but will share our pot-luck with a few of the live-steamer crews who will be operating trains for us and for the public. Approximately 10 trains will be operating. Live-steamer train rides will be free for all (children and grown-ups too). We will start at 11 AM and go for as long as we like. It will be "Run Day" for the public from 12 noon to 3 pm. Right now the plan is to purchase the main entrees, then pot-luck the desserts and side dishes. There will be more information on the pot-luck part as plans are drawn up. This information will be announced at the August 10 meeting. Bring your children, bring your grandchildren --- bring your cameras!

Outings and Field Trips:

For Reference: our outings and field-trip coordinator is Betsy Treyner. For questions, or to reserve a place on a tour, call her at 310-375-6348, or send an e-mail to bgtreyner5@gmail.com. Plans are in progress for another terrific year in 2009-2010. Plans will be discussed at the next Board Meeting --- see below.

Board Meeting, August 3

The next SBCC board meeting will be held Monday, August 3, 7:30 PM, at my place. This will be an important meeting --- plans for the upcoming year will be formulated, including programs and a discussion of possible field trips and outings.. Several key chairmanships are open --- volunteers are welcome.

Upcoming and Current Photo Exhibits:

Below are listed some current and upcoming exhibits at local museums. You can also visit the web sites for more information. The descriptions below are from the relevant web sites.

Getty Center

In Focus: Making a Scene (June 30–October 18, 2009)

Spanning photography's history and expressing a range of sentiments, the images in this exhibition are inspired by art history, literature, religion, and mainstream media.

Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, June 14 through October 19, 2009

In 1955, the Swiss-born photographer Robert Frank won a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation grant to photograph American people and places. For two years, Frank traveled by car throughout the United States, amassing over 20,000 negatives. The edited portfolio of 83 photographs was published in book form as *Les Américains* by Robert Delpire in France in 1958, and as *The Americans* in 1959 by Grove Press in New York. The American edition included an introduction by Jack Kerouac, the Beat writer most famous for his novel *On the Road*. Describing the emotional scope of Frank's portfolio, Kerouac wrote: "After seeing these pictures you end up finally not knowing whether a jukebox is sadder than a coffin." Frank's photographs, which have become landmarks in the history of photography, were created with a hand-held Leica camera, often with a wide-angle lens, resulting in compositions that appear unplanned, spontaneous, and are ultimately revealing. In this 50th anniversary year of its publication, MOCA presents a rare showing of the complete set of photographs comprising *The Americans*, in the order carefully devised by Frank for the book. MOCA's portfolio, which is the only complete set on the West coast, was purchased in 1995 with funds provided by Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.

Annenberg "Space for Photography"

The Space for Photography is a new venue devoted to photography. It is located in Century City at 2000 Avenue of the Stars, where the old Shubert Theater once stood..

Pictures of the Year International(The World. In High Resolution, July 11 to Nov 1, 2009

The second exhibition at the Annenberg Space for Photography honors the work of winning photojournalists and visual editors from Pictures of the Year International (POYi), the oldest and most prestigious photojournalism competition in the world. After 65 years at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, POYi has moved to Los Angeles, where for the first time, the images will be on display for more than just a few days. The exhibit perfectly showcases the alignment of POYi goals and the mission of Annenberg Space for Photography to inform and inspire the public by connecting photographers, social consciousness, and the human experience through powerful imagery and stories.

The Curmedgeon's Corner:

"No More Spicy Food Before Bed"

By John Bohner

Its 2:35 AM and your curmudgeon has been awakened by a strange and disturbing dream. Some people claim that they don't dream and others, like me, understand Hamlet all too well when he says, "To sleep, perchance to dream - ay, there's the rub." ⁽¹⁾

- It Is Some Time In The Future -

Our tour bus was full of excited retirees on a group photo-tour. The air buzzed with camera advice as hearing aids struggled to pick one conversation out from the dozens available.

"You have to leave the white balance set to auto unless it's a really cloudy day..."

" I use the biggest F thingy I can when I am outside."

I turned around and saw an old man two rows back. It was Ansel Adams playing with a point and shoot! He smiled at me.

A sign outside the bus window flew past proclaiming that we were only 15 miles from Zabriskie Point in Death Valley. On this, our third day of a seven day photo tour, things had settled into an easy rhythm. Today would start at Zabriskie Point around 10 AM and end with dinner in Stove Pipe Wells after watching the sun set on the dunes. It was nice, the bus did the driving, an instructor pointed us at the scenery and the tour company kept us fed and rested. With only 15 miles left I was starting to get excited. I'd finally get to see Zabriskie Point. First seen by a white man in 1859, it became part of Death Valley National Park in 1994. Zabriskie Point had been proclaimed a Nikon World Photographic Heritage Site, Number 11,235,813 back in 2017.

Now, with global warming in full effect the park is hotter than ever. It's only safe to visit the park between late November and late January. So many people still want to go, they hold an entry lottery to protect the environment. I think they also like that the lottery limits the number of deaths from heat stroke as well! Death Valley had always been a tough place to take pictures, what with the hard contrasty light, vast monotone panoramas, endless dust and heat. Many a point shoot camera has melted under the back window of a tourist's car.

Having won the lottery to visit the place, I was briefly afraid that I would screw up my pictures and would never get another chance to do better. That was old think. Times have changed. Now days, out there under a sun shelter at Zabriskie point was the newest Nikon-O-Pod, courtesy of the Nikon World Photographic Heritage Program. I walked up to the Pod, put in a dollar and my old memory chip. The pod unloaded my old pictures and sent them over the web to my email account.. The Pod also connected to Nikon-World where I had stored copies of all my favorite images that I had taken. Software analyzed those shots and built a custom shooting profile just for me. The Pod gave me back a new chip that included new firmware for MY camera model and location. It adjusted the proper settings for my camera including the current white balance, contrast, brightness, saturation and sharpening - all to get the best picture possible. My camera also wirelessly linked anywhere within 2 miles back to the Pod so if conditions changed the camera would keep up.

As I stood at the railing looking out at Manley Beacon and the valley floor beyond I knew my Nikon would know exactly what exposure and camera settings to use. I turned on the camera and scanned the view in front of me looking through the viewfinder. Zabriskie Point is very photogenic. The camera's automatic "Best Picture You Can Take" detector went off 6 times as I panned around the view in front of me. I went back and locked on to each one and shot the recommended series of 150 mega pixel captures. I wonder, what did people do before we had 'BestPYCT' software? I lowered the camera from my eye and looked out for just a second before I had to move along in the line of retirees back to the bus. It was already over 100 degrees and it was only January 13th. As we walked back to the bus we passed the Nikon-O-Pod where 5X7 prints of my wirelessly transmitted pics were already waiting for me.

Ten minutes later we were motoring through the heat in air conditioned comfort. I wiped the sweat from my brow and looked down the aisle of the bus. Everyone was looking at their 5X7s... and they all looked great. They all looked perfect. They all looked the same.

I looked backwards to see Ansel. He looked angry and he was wagging his finger at me. He spoke without moving his lips but I could read his thoughts..."Welcome to the Matrix Neo." ⁽²⁾



unh ah blef hmm what the heck was that?

(1) "too sleep, perchance to dream" William Shakespeare [*Hamlet \(III, i, 65-68\)*](#)

(2) Neo – the main character in the "Matrix" films. Concept due in part to ideas contained in Jean Baudrillard's book – *Simulation and Simulacra*. Baudrillard claims that modern society has replaced all reality and meaning with symbols and signs and that the human experience is of a simulation of reality rather than reality itself.

Thanks John!

Bill Berry
SBCC News & Views Editor