



South Bay Camera Club

NEWS & VIEWS



September 2007

www.sbccphoto.org Support Our Site!

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: Phil Cohen (310-212-7200, phil@absolute.net); 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

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER (all meetings are on a Monday at 7:30 PM at the Airport Mtg. Rm.)

Date	Program	Description/Background
Sept 10	Catherine Balcom will give a Power Point presentation on "The Art of Seeing" in photography	Catherine Balcom has studied fine art, photography, cinema, and graphic design at UCLA. She is a fine-art and commercial photographer. Her work has been published in newspapers, magazines, websites, and television, and has been shown in solo and group exhibitions. Catherine is the founder and president of the "Photographic and Digital Artists" of the Palos Verdes Art Center, and is co-producer of the Port of LA annual "Art on the Waterfront" festival. She teaches workshops, is a gallery docent, and has juried several art competitions.
Sept 24	Projected Digital Image Evaluation	This is the first digital image evaluation of the new year. Submit up to 3 color or black/white digital images over the SBCC website. Members can view the images and vote on their favorites. The evaluator will be Paul Moses, who teaches photography and art at El Camino College also does commercial photography.

August meetings were a lot of fun!

On August 13 about 50 SBCC members and guests met to watch Scott Deardorf demonstrate his Photoshop magic using special brushes and the smudge tool. Thank you Scott for an entertaining and instructive evening.

Two weeks later about 30 of us gathered for our kick-off print evaluation for the new year. James Russell went through piles of prints dispensing advice and talking with makers about what they had intended and how the results might be improved. There were lots of interesting comments. James, thank you for a valuable evening.

Field Trips --- City Lights at The PIKE, Long Beach

The first Field Trip of the new year will be held on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 20. We will do some twilight and night photography in the Belmont Shores/Aquarium/Pike area of Long Beach. **Meet at the Ferris wheel at 7 PM.** Parking is available at the aquarium parking structure across the street --- plenty of room, but the cost is \$10 per car. For those who want to carpool, we'll make arrangements at the next meeting, or contact Betsy Treynor, bgtreynor5@gmail.net, or 310-375-6348.

For night shoots such as this one, it is important to stabilize the camera, so bring along your tripod, or monopod, or bean bag, which ever you prefer. Or, you might want to just turn up the ISO to 1600 or 3200 and live with the grain (digital noise). It's up to you. I've done this shoot before --- I am bringing a tripod. And don't forget to bring a small flashlight to read the buttons and displays on your camera.

Betsy is also planning future field trips. If you would like a particular outing, please contact Betsy about it.

CURMUDGEON'S REPORT

Our official club curmudgeon (John Bohner) has issued his 3rd curmudgeon's commentary to News & Views. The trouble with this commentary is that it is not very curmudgeonly. In fact, it offers downright sage advice to all photographers, especially us. I commend these words to the entire club. See what you think.

The Curmudgeon's Corner

Fear.
There, I've said it.
Fear.

Your curmudgeon is reminded from time to time how much he and others allow their photography to be shaped, limited and maybe even improved by fear. Fear of what you ask? You tell me. What scares you about making photographs?

This month's poll on the SBCC web site asks us if we fear being hassled by authorities when photographing places that may be terrorist targets. For example, the zeal to protect New York City's subways led authorities to try and ban photography down in those dank tunnels. They failed but every photographer who read about it felt a chill. Fear of being arrested for photographing with the intent to portray NYC as dirty and gritty, that's a new one.

How about fear of failure, ridicule or embarrassment for your latest attempt to get out of your comfort zone? Are we really worried what people will say about our pictures? This curmudgeon is far more brutal on himself than ANY OF YOU. I can fill books with stuff about self doubts and the regret over wanting attention. So why should I worry about what you think? WHY should YOU worry about the rest of us think. We are all struggling with the same demons. Cut yourself some slack and go have some fun.

I fear people, or more accurately, I fear trying to interact with them in a nice way so as to be able to craft a good photograph of them. Its tough to change from being an old curmudgeon. My first attempt was at the Irish Fair a few years back. A cute woman was walking about with fairy wings. I pushed myself and asked if I could take her picture. I think I expected her to run away screaming about the pervert with a camera. Instead, she was flattered and posed for me, letting me get several nice shots. One of those photos is now one of my trophies. What do you fear?

There are times when I see people in a camera store screwing up their courage to ask for help on how to use their camera. No decent salesperson is going to laugh at them but you can see in their body language and tone of voice, the fear that haunts them. Have you tried all the features on your camera? What are you afraid of?

Some fear is reasonable. If you are out trying to photograph a thunder storm and you notice your hair standing on end. Get fear. Get someplace safe. This curmudgeon will not present your stunning lightning storm images at a club meeting for you if you got yourself killed. Sorry. Standing really close to a high speed train is another of my "fear is trying to tell me something" situations. My hat is off to mountain climbers, sky divers and other excitement junkies who happen to get good shots. Me, I'll let physical fears influence my choices.

Fear can make your images better. I work hard to practice and know my craft for FEAR that when presented with a subject of incredible beauty or other worthy factor, I will blow the damn shot and hate myself for it. Let your fear work for you, not against you.

Now boldly go and make some pictures.
Your SBCC Curmudgeon
John Bohner

Thank you John. We see now that "All we have to fear is"

Photo Ops and Events of Interest

The following items may be of interest to SBCC members. None of them is an official event of the club. If you want to attend, you are on your own.

At the South Coast Botanic Garden

Sept 9: Jaguar Car Show, 50th Annual Concours d'Elegance 2007, approximately 80 Jaguars ranging from a 1932 SS1 Coupe to a 2007 British Racing Green XKR will be on display. These Jaguars are the cream of the crop because they are "show Jaguars," well maintained inside and out. 9am to 4pm.

Sept 29 and 30: Orchid Show & Sale. Outstanding flowering plants will be on display. Saturday 11am to 5 pm. Sunday 9am to 4pm.

Oct 20 and 21: Chrysanthemum Sale. Over 1,000 chrysanthemums will be on display and available for sale. The mums should be in bloom. Flower arranging demos at 11am. 9am to 4pm both days.

Oct 27: The Fabulous Fifties Car Show, Fall Festival and Concours d'Provenance, cars that were built and raced before 1970. 9am to 4pm.

Sept 22,29, Oct 6,13,20,27, The Art of Garden & Nature Photography, Saturdays from 9:30am to noon. \$85, but \$80 for SCBG Members. A six session course taught by Catherine Balcom, who just happens to be the speaker for our Sept 13 meeting. Come to the meeting and meet her.

"OBSESSION!"

Sept 1-30, Cannery Row Studios, 604 North Francisca Ave., Redondo Beach (where the old lumber yard stood). An exhibition of the Photographic and Digital Artists (PADA) of the Palos Verdes Art Center. Artists reception on Friday, September 7, 7-9pm. The 23 artists showing their work include at least 3 current or former SBCC members, and also Mark Comon of Paul's Photo and Catherine Balcom, our speaker for our Sept 10 meeting. More info at canneryrowstudios.com.

At Getty Center

"Edward Weston, Enduring Values." 150 photographs attempt to summarize the scope of Weston's wide ranging photography. Now through Nov 25. Daily at 10am to closing, except closed on Mondays.

“THREE GENERATIONS OF WESTON”

Photographs by Edward Weston, Brett Weston, and Kim Weston will be on display Sept 27 thru December 3, at The Gallery at the Creative Center for Photography, Freestyle Photographic Supplies, 5124 W. Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, CA, 90027. 323-6603460 x121. There will be an artist's reception with Kim Weston on Thursday, Sept 27, 6pm to 8pm. Go to www.freestylephoto.biz/three_westons.php for more information.

Winter National Photography Exhibition, Marin Museum of Contemporary Art

We thought your members might be interested in our Winter National Photography Exhibition, and would appreciate it if you could pass on the information below.

Thank you, Colleen Johnson, Co-Producer.

Deadline: 11/30/07. It's Photography III, a National Juried Exhibition, presented by Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, Novato (Marin County), CA. Open to all United States artists 18 and older. You are invited to submit up to six digital images of your original photographic works done in the past four years, using traditional, digital or mixed media, and not previously entered into a Marin MOCA or Art League of Northern California show. Juror: Will Mosgrove. Please download Prospectus and Entry Form at: www.marinmoca.org or email info@artleagueofcalifornia.org Phone: 415-506-0137.

Quotes to Ponder

There are many teachers who could ruin you. Before you know it you could be a pale copy of this teacher or that teacher. You have to evolve on your own. -*Berenice Abbott*

To compose a subject well means no more than to see and present it in the strongest manner possible. -*Edward Weston*

Nothing is ever the same as they said it was. -*Diane Arbus*

I don't know what good composition is.... Sometimes for me composition has to do with a certain brightness or a certain coming to restness and other times it has to do with funny mistakes. There's a kind of rightness and wrongness and sometimes I like rightness and sometimes I like wrongness. -*Diane Arbus*

After following the crowd for a while, I'd then go 180 degrees in the exact opposite direction. It always worked for me, but then again, I'm very lucky. -*Elliott Erwitt*

Nothing happens when you sit at home. I always make it a point to carry a camera with me at all times...I just shoot at what interests me at that moment. -*Elliott Erwitt*

Bill Berry
SBCC News & Views Editor