



Eye On The World

PHOTOGRAM

Monthly Newsletter of the Redlands Camera Club

June 2023

Photogram Editor – Debra Dorothy
Deadline for entries is the 25th of every month

Redlands Camera Club meets: 1st (Held in person) & 3rd (Held via Zoom)
Mondays 7:00 pm

Check <http://www.redlandscameraclub.com> for Zoom meetings

Guests are always welcome



Photo by Deborah Seibly (Birds)

ColorMunki – Have your photos submitted for QuickPix, Members' Night, or competitions not looked the way you expected? The problem is probably a difference in how your computer and the club projector display colors and brightness. You can fix this by calibrating your computer the same way our club calibrates our projector – with the ColorMunki. Set up is simple and the calibration process only takes a few minutes. Contact **Carl Detrow** at csdetrow@verizon.net to reserve the ColorMunki.

Want to learn more about your hobby?
Click the link below to go to B&H Learning Video Site:

Click [HERE](#)

President's Message – Bruce Herwig



I hope this message finds you all in good spirits and eagerly pursuing your photographic endeavors. Today, I want to address a topic that demands our attention and careful consideration: AI-generated images. While these creations hold immense potential for artistic exploration, it is essential that we approach them with caution and critical thinking.

AI-generated images (like those created in the new Adobe Photoshop Beta) are products of algorithms that analyze vast amounts of data to generate realistic visuals. They can be awe-inspiring and push the boundaries of creativity. However, we must be mindful of the ethical implications and potential pitfalls associated with this technology.

As photographers, we value authenticity and the uniqueness of our craft. It is essential to preserve the integrity of our art by understanding the distinction between AI-generated images and traditionally captured photographs. Additionally, we should be cautious of the risks of misrepresentation and misinformation that can arise from using AI-generated visuals.

Let's maintain our commitment to truthfulness and integrity in our photographic pursuits. To that end, **The Redlands Camera Club is adding an affirmation statement starting with our next photo competition** (*Entries can start to be uploaded on June 19*)

[] I affirm all photographic elements in the image(s) submitted are my original work.
Composites are OK. Stock images and AI-generated images are not allowed.

Thank you to board members Carl Detrow, Dave Ficke, and Russ Trozera for working on this statement. I would imagine this will need to be modified over time, but it's a great start and will get the conversation going.

Let us approach AI-generated images with a critical eye and engage in thoughtful discussions on their impact. Together, we can navigate this evolving landscape, and ensure the preservation of our artistic values and the integrity of our photographic community.

I can't wait to see what you are shooting!



Photo By Lori
Krum (Birds)



Monday, June 5 @ 7pm

****Bring your camera** In Person & Zoom Meeting –
Jerry Reece**

Abstracts are images where the subject itself is not important. Colors, lines, shapes, and/or patterns are what captures one's attention and in fact become the "subject" of the image, thus, an abstract.

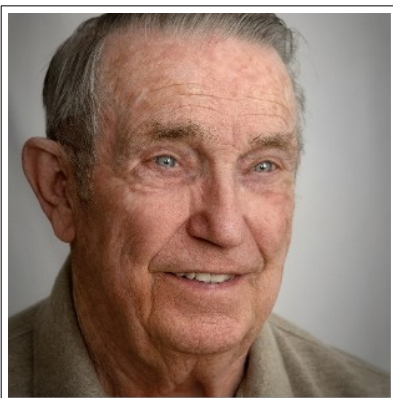
We will discuss where to find a potential abstract. They are all around us, waiting to be discovered, in nature, around town and even around the house. Sometimes we can go looking and sometimes they seem to find us. Sometimes we see them after the fact as we review our images.

Another focus of this program will be on taking the photograph. There are a variety of ways to approach the "how," including isolation, framing, focus options, camera orientation, and intentional motion of the camera. There will be a segment on camera-in-motion focuses on Jerry's more recent foray into abstracts. And there will be time to practice camera-in-motion photography and perhaps look around the church for a few other samples of abstracts. And there will be mention of creating images with filters and programs on our computers, rounding out the program.

****Bring your camera**** to experiment with abstract photography. Jerry suggests you bring a "normal" focal length or mid-range zoom lens including, of course, a memory card. **In addition**, if you can, **bring your neutral density filters. Better yet, if you have a variable neutral density filter**, bring that. **A polarizer filter can sometimes work in a pinch.** The purpose of the neutral density filter is to bring your shutter speed down to the 2-second to ½ second range for camera-in-motion abstracts.

In-Person Meeting & Zoom Meeting

Presented by Jerry Reece



is a retired educator with a 28-year stint as a school principal in the San Bernardino City Schools, retiring in 1994. He is a San Bernardino native having lived mostly in Southern California with brief stints in Nevada and Texas. Photography has been his primary hobby for the past 72 years. Jerry was married to his high school sweetheart from his early college days to her passing in 2015. He and his late wife, Bessie, joined the Redlands Camera Club 20 years ago and both served various club

duties. Jerry is a life member and past president of the Club. He was honored with a "lifetime membership" in the Redlands Camera Club several years ago.

A Nikon shooter for many years, he currently uses Fuji mirrorless X-T5 cameras, enjoying the quality of the Fuji lens and, most of all, the light-weight aspect of the Fuji system.

Jerry is primarily a landscape photographer with additional interests in street, flowers, travel and Americana. Photography started out for him as a documentation of life experiences and as a classroom tool to supplement history and science lessons. Interest was later fired up by a desire to find an artistic expression to balance his basic mindset which is more science and social science oriented. Over the years he became interested in the patterns he was seeing which led to a focus on abstracts.

He has presented a variety of programs to several camera clubs in Southern California and in Texas. Now back in California and living in nearby Menifee, he is excited to again become active with the Redlands Club.

June 22, 2023 RCC Zoom Presents

“2023 Photoshop and Lightroom Update Info”

How would I edit this photo?

Editing your photos using 2023 Photoshop and Lightroom updates

We have a nice panel of members that are experienced in Lightroom and Photoshop that will show how they might edit a photo.

We are in need of some photos that our members have taken. Please send us your photos They can be edited or unedited, finished or unfinished

Send them to photosbuyruss@yahoo.com if you have any questions call Russ at 760 486-5269 or send an email to the one listed above.

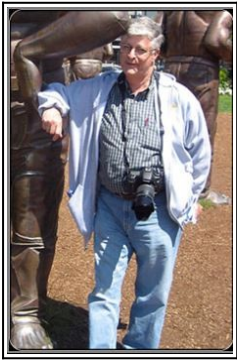
This will be a nice evening to review the new features in Photoshop and get some hands on experiences, too.



Photo
By
John White
(Birds)



Competition Chair – Carl Detrow



Competition for June Photogram

It's time to start thinking about the RCC summer competition. Entries will be accepted starting around the middle of this month, specifically from 11 PM June 19 through 11 PM July 5. The competition is open to currently paid-up members only, so if you've been putting it off, renew your membership now. That blue ribbon could be yours.

Speaking of ribbons, it's time to say a little about them. We award ribbons for first, second, third, and fourth (honorable mention) place in each of the classes and categories. When you enter the competition on the website you will designate your skill level or "class" as Apprentice, Intermediate, or Advanced. All your entries for this competition will be from the same class. It's up to you to decide your own skill level, and you will compete for ribbons against others of that skill level only.

During the entry process you will select a category for each of your images. The best of the entries for that category and class will be awarded first place, a blue ribbon. Red, white, and green ribbons are awarded for the others.

During the competition the images from all classes and categories are randomly shown. The categories are announced, but the class of each entrant is not. Judges assign a score for each image based on the merit of the individual work. That score is used to determine the ribbon winners for each class and category. So, for example, there could be a blue ribbon for the "People" category in both the apprentice and advanced classes. The one image that receives the highest score from all entries for all classes and categories will be awarded "Best of Show." Check out the website www.redlandscameraclub.org for more information on classes and categories.

Category X for this competition will be "Poster." We're looking for what some clubs call "Commercial Art," but are allowing any images that could be used to advertise a particular event, place, business, person, or product, real or imagined. It could be a full-page magazine ad or even a postcard. It's up to you. Be creative. The only requirement is that all photographic elements in the image must be the original work of the entrant. Composites are OK, but stock images and AI generated images are not allowed.

Good Luck to all entrants!





Mike Livingston, Publicity Chair

Need a creative kick-start?

Here comes summer! Great SoCal weather and many festivals and events being announced. What's happening? Check out the RCC website. Under **Member Resources**, click [Photo Ops Calendar](#). This is not just a place to see what's going on around us, but opportunities to take your camera and capture the fun. When you return, share your pics to the RCC photo blog. The RCC Photo Ops Calendar is updated frequently, so check back often.

Here's just a couple of ideas of what you will find on the Photo Ops Calendar:



Special Olympics, SoCal 2023 Summer Games Championship

6/10
Cal State Long Beach

Special Olympics Southern California offers 13 sports across 4 seasons. Athletes are guided to improve their overall health and wellness, gain leadership skills and much more.

Wild West Festival and Western Art Show

5/27-28

Experience the history of the wild west by touring the Gilman Historic Ranch and Wagon Museum in Banning. The property preserves, celebrates, and interprets the history of California, from the Cahuilla Indians to the exploration and settlement of southern California and the San Geronio Pass, include the homestead ranch of James Marshall Gilman.



Great Grey Owl Photo Grabs Attention and Engagement



Great Grey Owl with Dinner © Ann Kramer

Great grey owls are elusive, majestic birds that are on many photographers' bucket lists. Even with a great subject, however, it takes more than an average photo to grab viewers' attention and evoke a response. Ann Kramer's image of a great grey owl in Yellowstone sparked nearly a thousand reactions, 85 comments, and 48 shares from members of the [NANPA Facebook Group](#). So, what is it about this photo that connected with so many people, so strongly? What drove social media engagement? Not long ago, Kramer shared some of her thoughts with us.

My photography journey

I think it all began when I became a backyard birder about 10 years ago. Feeding and birdwatching became my own therapy after providing individual and couples therapy all week in my private practice as a marriage and family therapist. I went on field trips with my local Audubon chapter to learn about birds and began to read books about birds. Most of my life I have worked long hours in office environments, although I had a great love for animals. My husband encouraged me to take up photography once I retired but I was hesitant. I knew the technical side of a camera might be foreign to me and difficult to master. I had taken painting classes in my 20's but the logistics of a camera intimidated me. Still, I began to photograph birds in the backyard with a point and shoot camera. For several years I watched a webcam of an osprey nest at Hogg Island, Maine, through [Explore.org](#) and Audubon. Hogg Island is also the home of an Audubon center offering summer workshops. It just so happens that, in 2015, conservation photographer [Melissa Groo](#) won the top Audubon photography contest honor and was the instructor of a photography workshop at [Hogg Island Audubon Camp](#). I signed up for the workshop and headed out to Maine with my new Canon 7Dmkii camera and the Canon 100-400mm lens. The decision to fly to Maine and take that workshop changed my life.

As my first wildlife photography instructor, Groo left an indelible imprint on my photographic philosophy and awareness. Many of the principles I learned from her influence me today and the photographs I was able to obtain of the great grey owl. What I remember most was what she taught our group about ethical photography, about how to respect the birds and wildlife we were photographing, and to notice our effect on them. She taught us about a "sit spot," and how to sit patiently and let birds relax as you become part of the environment. (Click [here](#) to learn more about ethical nature photography.)

The workshop built a valuable foundation that I take with me whenever I photograph. I learned patience and reverence for the life of the birds I was photographing. I continually notice how they are observing me as much as I am observing them. Birds have remained my favorite subjects to photograph. My love for wildlife, for their beauty, their spirit, their struggle to survive and regenerate is something I hope comes through my images.



Amazing Eyes © Ann Kramer

Photographing the great gray owl

For years I have been going to Grand Teton and Yellowstone and, although I love the bears and other animals in these national parks, I have often just missed seeing the great grey owl. I once had a couple of hours photographing one from a great distance away on the day I had to leave Grand Teton. The eyes of these owls are just so amazing!

I had hoped to again find a great grey owl on this trip. I had learned from several friends and contacts that one had been seen in an area. I finally found it and learned there were several owls in this area after a productive nesting season. I had high hopes and felt it would be fruitful to scout the area daily. I spent five days finding and photographing the great grey.

This was the first time I had been able to find and photograph an owl for so many consecutive days and the experience reaffirmed my early photography education from Melissa Groo and other ethical, respectful photographers. On three occasions, I was able to spend about an hour observing the owl hunting with another respectful, patient photographer or group of photographers. Those were the days I captured the best images. On other occasions, I saw photographers chasing the owl and flushing it back into the forest. Those photographers got a lot of “flying away” shots, or flying sideways shots. Worse, they were preventing the owl from hunting and feeding itself.

On two of the occasions when I was with another patient photographer, the owl was able to hunt and eat and I captured the most interesting and beautiful photos. One of the photos I posted on the NANPA Facebook Group was of the Great Grey emerging from a field after an unsuccessful hunt (or a successful hunt that had already been eaten). During that afternoon, I captured over a dozen shots of the owl flying right toward me. Although the great grey continually watched the other photographer and myself that afternoon, it was able to relax. That day I came home with the most wonderful images!

The capture that drew the most buzz was taken at dusk on another day, with another photographer. The owl had been sitting on a pole in a campground and I positioned myself behind it, as the sun was setting on the other side. As the owl left the perch, he flew out of my sight onto the ground. I kept my camera on him hoping he would land in a spot where he was visible again. He did. Earlier that day I’d photographed chipmunks snuggling and when the owl landed on the branch of a tree perched to my left, he had one of the chipmunks in his talons. It was a little sad. As the light was fading, I didn’t realize I had captured the prey in his talons until I looked at my camera later. The golden sunlight landed on the owl’s face as he looked toward me. He stayed on the branch for a moment and then flew further back into the forest to enjoy his breakfast.



On the Hunt © Ann Kramer

What makes this photo special?

The warm, sunset light touches the owl's face and eyes just right. A lucky landing! I think having clarity and sharpness on the face and eyes of a bird or animal is important for a good image. The prey in his mouth adds another element of interest. The chipmunk is visible and clear. Often, when a predator captures prey the image is bloody and gory. That gruesomeness isn't as evident in this photo, allowing people to like it without the negative emotional reaction that sometimes comes with photos of predators and their kills. Although the prey is evident, there is beauty and softness in the image still.

I guess I don't really ever know what exactly drew someone to any photo I took. Art is subjective. I've been surprised that some of my favorite photos don't get a great response while other images, surprisingly, do.

It was a wonderful experience to have so many positive comments and likes on not just this one but also on many of the other photos I posted of this beautiful owl.

Posting photos on NANPA's Facebook page has given me the opportunity to learn more about what people like in a photograph. I posted a black bear reaching up to grab berries from a huckleberry bush and an image of two Sandhill cranes squabbling. Both were received very well. I think I often underrate myself and when someone writes something like "I love your work," it shocks me. It also encourages me. Realizing that some "know" my work is so affirming. It's a very nice thing to read.

Although I like a sharp photo, I think I'm drawn to the artistic element in a photo or something unusual in an image. I've learned how to clean up my images to help the viewer see the point of the image without distraction. My camera club has helped me to see those things more clearly. NANPA members Tin Man Lee and Lisa Langell have taught me a lot about creating a great image as well as many invaluable skills.



Sharp eyes are critical in bird photography. © Ann Kramer

Lessons learned

What have I learned on this journey? Be patient with nature. Be prepared and wait for the right moments. Know that you may not find something worth shooting every time you go out, but nature will often surprise you with something unexpected. So it pays to be prepared! Get instruction from good teachers who care about their students and wildlife. Think about how to get more impact from your images by eliminating distractions. Get out there and shoot as often as you can. Learn what your area of weakness is and work the hardest on that. Talented photographer and writer Paul Bannick once asked a workshop class, “What drew you to photography—the subject, the art ,or the technology?” About a third of the class raised their hands for each area. He said, “You must work on the one that’s most difficult for you.” Great advice!. Thanks NANPA, for all the opportunities to learn and grow as a photographer.

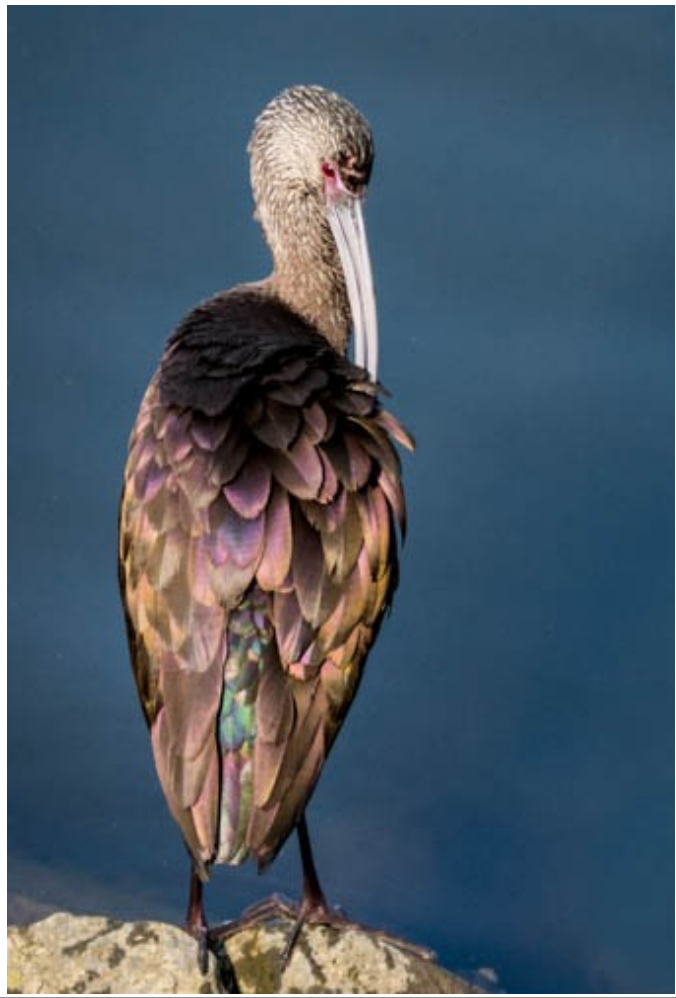


Photo
By
Nick Koller (Birds)



Announcements



New feature on the website!

<https://redlandscameraclub.org/photo-ops-calendar/>

Photo Ops Calendar

Grab your camera and a friend and head out to one of these great opportunities to practice your photography. If you know of an event that should be added to this list, please email the RCC website coordinator at

mliv1@verizon.net

RCC Members: Unique opportunity to make a difference

Frank Peele, Education/Workshops Chair

Museum of Redlands

This newly-established museum needs quality photography of items in its collection, and has asked RCC for support. This sounds like a win-win situation, both for the museum and for our members who want to develop skills in “product” photography. I envision a workshop to teach the fundamentals, and one or more shooting sessions to get into creating great images for the museum’s use. If you’re interested in being part of this service to the community, or just want to find out more about the opportunity, shoot me an email: educationworkshopsrcc@gmail.com
Thanks, Frank

Film cameras and Lenses Needed

A group of photo-enthusiasts at Riverside Community College needs FILM cameras and lenses to use in their studies. If you have such equipment you’re willing to donate to a worthy cause, please contact RCC member Constance St Jean and let her know what you have. **Contact her by email at constancestjean@gmail.com**

A 35 mm slide and negative digitizer, a Wolverine F2D, has been generously donated to -the club by member Dave Knapp. It will produce a 7 mb JPEG digital image from your black and white and color slides and negatives. If you are interested in borrowing it from the club, email Wayne Purcell at waynepurcell72@gmail.com or text him at (909) 664-4365.

Photo By Wayne Purcell
(Birds)



Photogram Editor – Debra Dorothy



A Note from The Photogram Editor

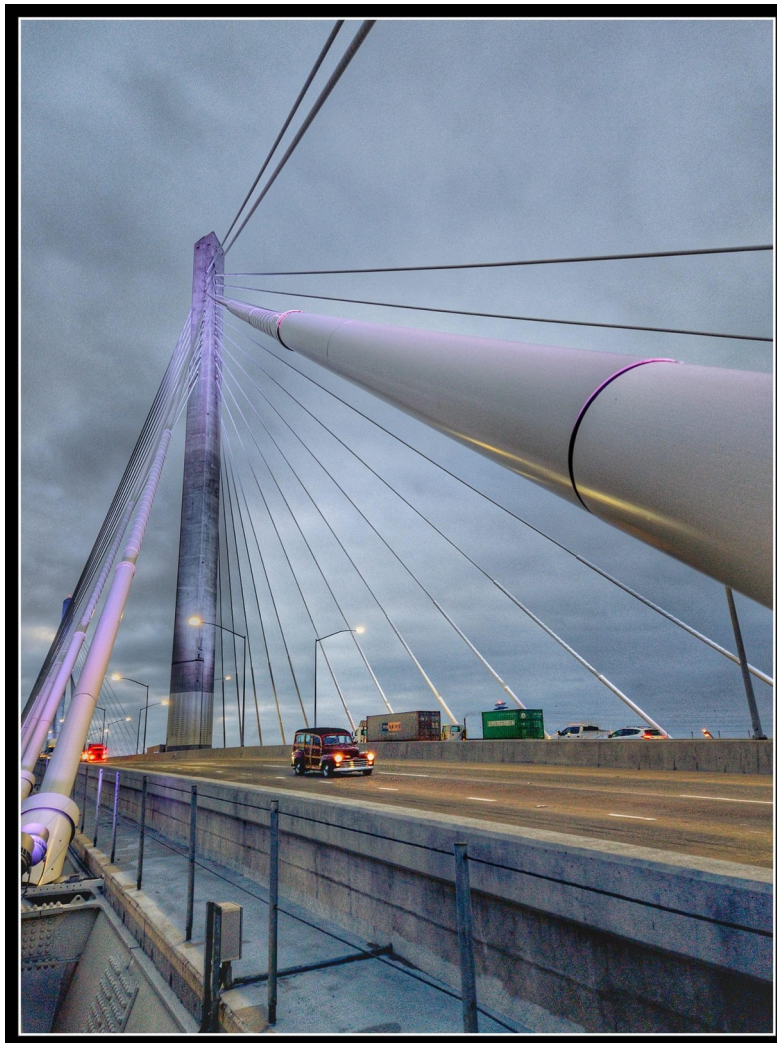
The theme for the July Photogram is
“Cell Phone Images”

Please send your images to me by June 25th to have them included in the July Photogram.

Cellphone Camera's have come a long way and offer more control than ever before. So, let's see your creative cellphone images.

<mailto:debbiedsd.dorothy@gmail.com>

Photo
By
Debra Dorothy



Redlands Camera Club P.O. Box 7261 Redlands Ca 92375
<http://www.redlandscameraclub.org/>

Officers (2023-2024)

President: Bruce Herwig – Vice President/Program's: Russell Trozera – Secretary: Deborah Seibly –
Treasurer: Rick Strobaugh – Past President: Russell Trozera

Chairs (2020-2021)

Competitions: Carl Detrow – Education/Workshops: Frank Peele – Facebook/Blog: Mike Livingston –
Field Trips: TBA – Historian: Carol Abidin – Membership: Stephanie Billings – Mentor: Rick Strobaugh
– Photogram: Debra Dorothy – Publicity: Mike Livingston – S4C: Deborah Seibly – Color Munki: Carl
Detrow – Webmaster: Bruce Herwig – Welcome: Stephanie Billings - Publicity: Mike Livingston – Board
Member: Frank Peele