

Eye On The World

# PHOTOGRAM

**Monthly Newsletter of the Redlands Camera Club** 

# **November 2021**

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

Redlands Camera Club meets: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm Check <u>http://www.redlandscameraclub.com</u> for Zoom meetings

Guests are always welcome



## Photo by Judith Sparhank

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:* 

# President's Message - Russell Trozera



A couple of thoughts on Thanksgiving

Over and over 1 marvel at the blessing of my life:

Each year has grown better than the last

Lawrence Welk

An Optimist is a person who starts a new diet on Thanksgiving Day 1rv Kupcinet

I am grateful to God for all the blessing I have
That I can get up each day and put my feet on the ground
I am glad to be taking pictures and capturing live
Happy Thanksgiving to all

Russell Trozera

Photo by Mick Koller



## Competition Chair - Carl Detrow



# Competition 2021 Winter Competition

All entries are in and are being prepared for judging. That will be on a private zoom session on December6, 2021 and will be posted on the website a couple of days later.

We are trying to figure out a way to have the judging open to all, but current club resources don't allow it. Awards will be announced on December 20.

The images are as usual wonderful. Congratulations to everyone who entered. We had 40 images this time from 21 photographers (a couple of members submitted only one image).

We extended the closing deadline for entry by 2 days and received several entries during the time period, so we'll try to do that for the next competition in March.

Keep up the good work and keep shooting. Carl Detrow



Photo by Judith Sparhank

## Program Chair - Donald Purdey



# Redlands Camera Club Program

Dec. 6, 2021

Winter Competition Judging

Redlands Camera Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Redlands Camera Club Zoom Meeting 12-6-21 winter competition

Time: Dec 6, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

 $\underline{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89562724751?pwd=OWk5NTNHN1ovd2J0aHJsbllwRkZ1Zz09}$ 

Dec. 20, 2021

Winter Competition Awards

Redlands Camera Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Redlands Camera Club Zoom Meeting 12-20-21 Winter Competition Awards

Time: Dec 20, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88304338371?pwd=bEFJTGt1aDFCUjVHMm5RREVIUWgwQT09

Photo

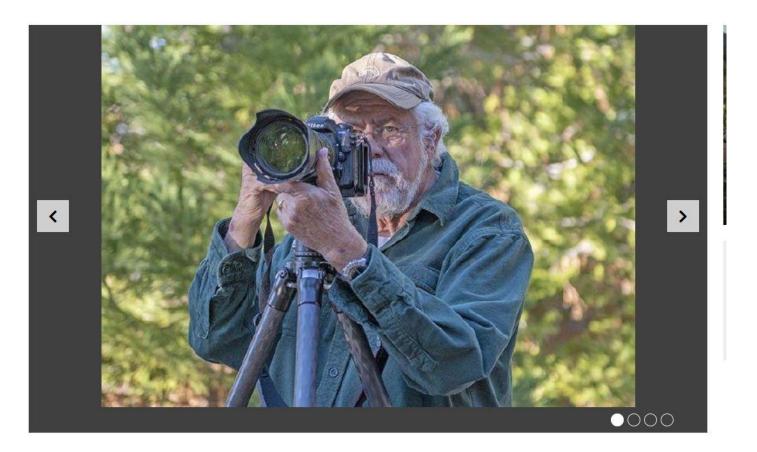
bu

Judith Sparhawk





NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT OBITUARIES CLASSIFIEDS PUBLICATIONS MULTIMEDIA CONTACT PAY YOUR BILL



# Local Nature Photographer Set Sights on National Award

Dave Ficke keeps his cameras close by and ready for action - especially when he travels to far-flung and exotic wilderness locations.

As an award-winning photographer, who has been selected as a finalist in the North American Nature Photographers Association (NANPA) contest this year, his fame is traveling faster and further than even he can. His spectacular photographic art prints are displayed and on sale in local galleries.

For nearly 35 years he was a college prep biology, physics and field biology teacher at a high school in Upland. For twenty-seven years he led field trips to Yosemite National Park and other special natural locations for his classes. His teaching moxie and in-the-field experience made him the natural choice to be selected as the statewide developer for the California Blueprint for Environmental Education. For more than six years he has also been a sports writer and photographer for the Mountain News here in Lake Arrowhead.

And no, it is not true that he dresses in a phone booth. While Ficke is now in the midst of a second career in photography, his love of nature and the outdoors began with a degree in biology and then a decade's long, celebrated tenure teaching students and changing lives. Those who know his story wish he had been their teacher.

"Ever since I started teaching high school biology back in the late 1970's I wanted to share with my students my love and passion for the out of doors," he said. "My fall semester's curriculum included the identification of birds. It

was really gratifying when a, student would come to class, excited about seeing an egret, for example, after a visit to San Diego over the weekend with their parents."

These days, Ficke can be found out in the wilds, sleeping in his trailer for weeks at a time. However, this is not really new. He has always believed in getting out of the classroom and getting sweaty or dirty in order to really learn about and experience nature. Textbooks and PowerPoint presentations were never enough. "During spring semester my students did plant projects where they collected, pressed and dried the local chaparral of our area," continued Ficke. "It was because of these projects that the school asked if I would teach an ecology class." True to form, Ficke suggested field biology, which meant more outdoor work for his students. After he created and wrote the curriculum, "it opened the door for me to create field trips to enhance the students' experiential learning," he added.

To his credit, he organized three-day canoeing trips down the Colorado River in search of migratory birds. He led trips to places like Joshua Tree National Park, Catalina Island, and Southern California beaches to explore tide pools and watch whales.

Other trips seem almost too good to be true. "I took students to Yosemite National Park the end of March when the students had the opportunity to snowshoe down into the Giant Sequoia Grove and learn about sequoia ecology. On another trip they would cross-country ski into Crane Flat Meadows and learn about the ecology of plants and animals and how they survive in the winter months," he explained.

For a few years Ficke's students had an opportunity to do multi-day cross-country ski trips from Badger Pass to Glacier Point. "My experience of getting up early and watching the sun rise over half Dome while the kids were still snuggled in their sleeping bags is a memory that I will always cherish," he said. "There are few other biology teachers who get the opportunity to experience that."

"Not that I can explain in words, but to see high school students have their own building of self-confidence while learning in an outdoor environment is more powerful than any class curriculum delivered inside four walls," he boasted. Who could argue with that?

Ficke's dedication to his students and the natural world seems almost unprecedented. His field biology classes took part in long-term projects like stream macro invertebrates to indicate water quality in the Mount Baldy water shed. Later, in Yosemite, his students compared the water quality of upper and lower Illiouett stream. "There were some 20 National Park Service personal observing my students as they did the comparison study," said Ficke. "When they finished, my students were complimented for the thoroughness of their work and the accuracy of the study." As a result, the horse bridge crossing the stream was determined to be the cause of the pollution and the Yosemite Park Biologist had the horse bridge removed.

During this time, Ficke was not just teaching students, but other teachers too. As coordinator for the California Regional Environmental Education Network and the teacher ambassador for Cal Recycle, he presented professional development curriculum for educators throughout California. His teaching resume is impressive and vast.

In retirement, Ficke is no longer reporting to duty everyday at a high school or district office, but is still reporting to the natural world on a schedule that suits him.

Ficke and his wife travel throughout the West visiting state and national parks and wilderness areas. "I have been lucky to have backpacked in our local mountains and stayed the night on top of the peaks of Ontario, Cucamonga and Mt. San Gorgonio. I have backpacked into Mt. Lyle, the Clark Range areas of the Sierras and the Wind River Range in Wyoming and hiked in several of the National Parks in Utah," said Ficke. His goal for traveling with his wife is two-fold. "These trips are for pleasure as well as to photograph competitively. My upcoming Northern California trip it is to photograph migratory birds in their environment displaying their unique behavior in the wild." While he admits that taking photos is a passion, "The other part is for my wife and I to go out and see new places. We have been to the Greater Yellowstone-Tetons ecosystem several times where we've had amazing experiences on a month-long trip."

Dave Ficke says his first camera was a 35mm film format Nikon with a 50mm lens. He remembers it was about \$350 back then. Today, he packs around a few camera bodies and lenses, which, in total, could be, valued the same as an average automobile. "For my landscape and wildlife photography I use a Nikon D850 at 46 megapixel. I use several different lenses for landscape and nature photography that range from super wide angle (14mm) to a 400mm telephoto for wildlife. For sports photography I use a Nikon Z6II at 24 megapixels that shoots at 14 frames per second."

As most photographers of nature know, part of the ability to get good image is waiting for the right moment. It could be hours before the light, the angle, or the positioning allows for a great shot. It also means hiking to remote places or sitting in the cold waiting for the sunrise. "I can't tell you how many times I have gotten up before the sun, driven to a location and hiked in with a headlamp while sitting in the cold with my camera on a tripod, waiting for the first rays of light to peak up over the horizon," said Ficke. "Most of the time the photographic experience is a bust. But, it doesn't matter, the attempt at the great sunrise or sunset photo comes with a lot of great times just sitting out and watching a new day begin, or a great day turn into night."

Still, great landscape or wildlife photographs are far more than a great camera, or knowing where to go. Great photographs are a result of skill and suffering and perseverance. "The photograph of a burrowing owl flying (see photo) took me three days, at four hours a day, to finally get this shot," Ficke lamented. "I was still very lucky."

Recently, some of Ficke's photos have been selected as finalists in the annual NANPA contest. "As intimidating as it is to be competing with some of the top photographers from around the world, I feel humbled that one of my images made the top 250 and four others that made the semifinals, he added. "Yet the quest goes on as I study other photographers and strive to improve my skills."

Besides the work and stamina it takes to get a good photograph, by using the equipment he uses, Ficke is able to provide incredible works of art suitable in any size, to be displayed in homes and businesses. "I strive for quality and detail and the larger megapixels gives me that ability for large prints with tiny details," Ficke explained. "When we look at a landscape we do not see with blinders on either side of our head— we see the breadth of the whole landscape. So I tend to shoot landscape panoramas."

Ficke explains that anytime one spends as much time teaching, studying, and living in nature as he has it is impossible to not worry about its future. "Unfortunately it is discouraging to see our home, planet earth, being abused, trashed and assaulted from so many directions," he said. "I have been around long enough to have seen the changes in the western United States, where 30 years ago you could look out and see some of the most iconic vistas which, have disappeared due to air pollution. My other major worries are habitat loss, water pollution, and species extinction; just to name a few in the litany of concerns." Ficke conceded that he "understands that I, as well as everyone else, benefits from cars, electricity and all the other comforts of living in today's world, but there must come a time where the true cost for the degradation to our environment will come due."

For now, Ficke wants to spend as much time with his wife and two dogs going out and about, experiencing the western United States. "However," he says, "I am quickly approaching a mature 72 years young, so I want to spend it honing my photographic skills to share the wild places with as many people as I can."

Most photographers have location goals and Ficke is no exception. His bucket list is long and perhaps wishful thinking, but it includes photographing penguins in Antarctica, looking through his lenses at the great landscapes of Patagonia, shooting on the ice fields of Iceland, and perhaps photographing polar bears in Alaska. There is always a back up plan too. "I would love to do a conservation photography project on the San Bernardino Mountains," he said.

While Dave Ficke may not be superman, he has by most standards lived a super life, which has not only enriched his own world, but the world of so many others.

Ficke's photography can be seen and purchased at the Mountain Arts Gallery in the Lake Arrowhead Village and on his website: <a href="https://davidfickephotography.com/">https://davidfickephotography.com/</a>







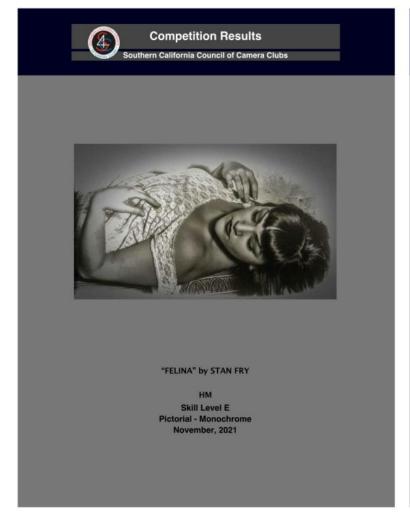
## S4C Chair - Deborah Seibly

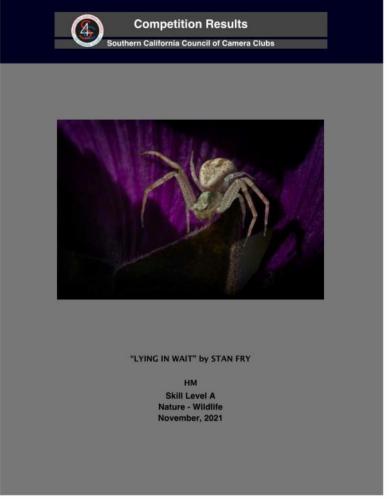
#### 1st S4C Competition of 2021-2022 Year

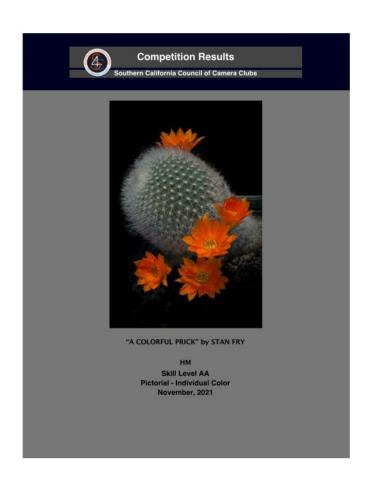
Two hundred and twenty-seven images received Awards and Honorable Mentions in the first S4C competition of the 2021-2022 Competition year. This month all the RCC awards go to Stan Frye.

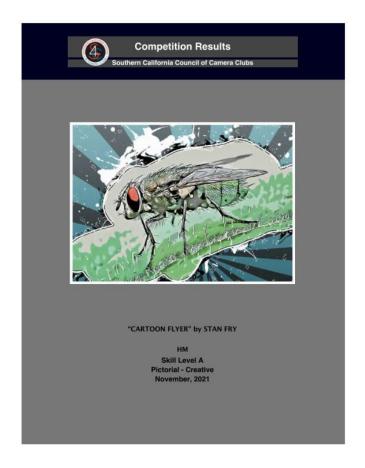
Stan won Honorable Mentions in the categories of Individual Color, Pictorial Creative, Pictorial Arranged, Pictorial Monochrome and Nature Wildlife in his skill levels. Stan also won an Award in Nature Wildlife. Congratulations, Stan. The winning images are shown below.

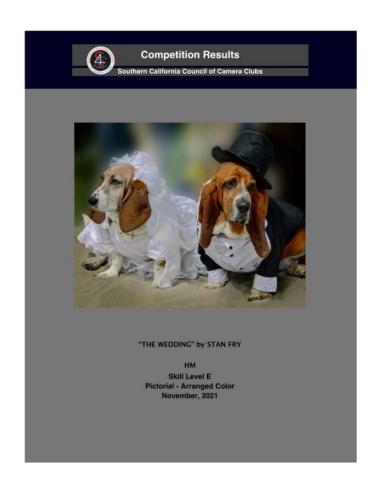
The December competition is now open and will close by midnight, December 4. RCC members do well in the S4C competitions so I encourage others to compete. The cost is free and the only requirement is to obtain a UEN number. One can request that on the website and I can help if you need assistance.















# **Announcements**

The Asistencia is commencing a new tradition with a Dia de los Muertos event on Saturday, November 6th from 2-9 pm

We were able to remain solvent during COVID because we became a place for families to grieve when churches were unable to hold funeral services. The Asistencia became a setting to reflect on the importance and significance of death while providing a gateway for those wanting to remember loved ones.

We are fortunate that several of our volunteers are spearheading this event. They are developing educational and cultural programs, sourcing wonderful entertainment and creating relevant children's activities. The Redlands Bowl Association is already a Community Partner.

If you would like to join in on the fun, please let me know. We are still looking for face painters as well as a food vendor to sell traditional cakes.

I have attached our underwriter letter (if you know of anyone who might be a great option to approach for sponsorship). In addition, you can learn more at <a href="https://asistenciadiadelosmuertos.eventbrite.com">https://asistenciadiadelosmuertos.eventbrite.com</a>

#### New - Personal Lightroom Coaching with John Williams

Contact John Williams for some over-the-shoulder coaching in photo editing, a great way to learn. Using your selected images, John will work with you at your level to improve your understanding of key tools and techniques to make the most of your photos. John is a regular contributor of articles on Lightroom and Photoshop to the RCC Photogram. Reach John at <a href="mailto:ihwr@earthlink.net">ihwr@earthlink.net</a> or talk to him at our meetings.

RCC Members: Unique opportunity to make a difference

#### 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@qmail.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 <a href="https://www.waynepurcell72@gmail.com">waynepurcell72@gmail.com</a> or text him at (909) 664-4365.



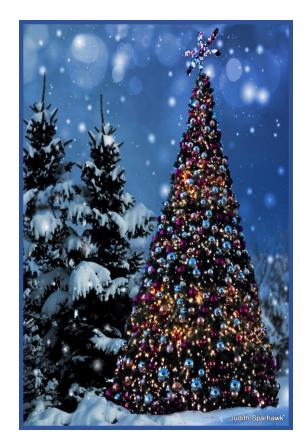


Photo by Judith Sparhawk

#### Here's What I Think!

This article covers different Adobe Lightroom tips and techniques. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Redlands Camera Club.

By John Williams

**Need help?** If you have any questions about processing an image using Adobe Lightroom or Photoshop, email me at <a href="mailto:jhwr@earthlink.net">jhwr@earthlink.net</a> (for RCC members only) and I will try to assist you.



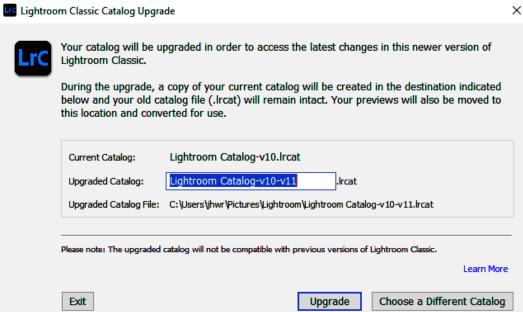
### LIGHTROOM TIPS

#### **New Catalog Data File:**

• Starting with Lightroom Classic 11, Lightroom Classic *stores some additional information* in a new file, with an extension of .lrcat-data, along with the catalog file. This file is located in the same folder as your catalog file. The data file contains important information about your photos and edits and should be included in any backup regimes you may have.

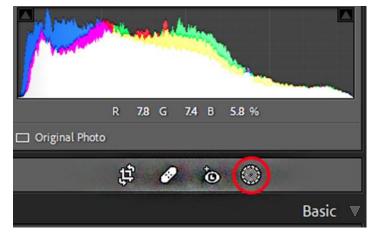


- Since this is a dot zero upgrade (v11.0), when you first launch Lightroom, a Catalog Upgrade window will popup requesting you to add a new Catalog which will add the *new data file*.
- The new data file contains LUT data from imported profiles (reducing the size of the catalog itself) plus any Select Subject and Select Sky masks. It's an essential file that contains some of your edits. It's automatically included in Lightroom's zipped backups, but if you only run your own backups, make sure that you include this data file.

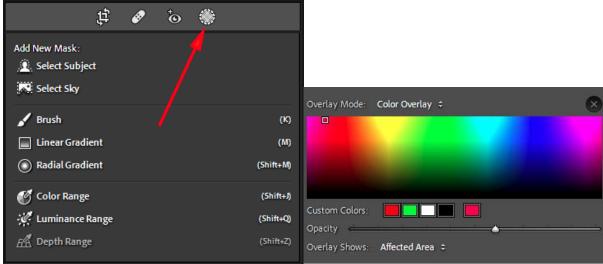


#### **Major New Feature** — New MASKING Tools (a game changer!):

• The Local Adjustment tools have now been merged into a single **Masking icon** in the toolstrip (beneath the Histogram – see figure below). I have recommended that you primarily adjust your photo locally and not globally. The new Masking feature allows you to select areas to edit much quicker speeding up your workflow.

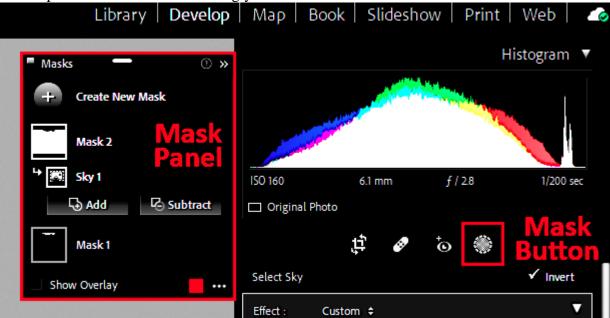


• Masking now lets you use multiple selection tools together to create more complex and precise selections for making local editing adjustments. Previously, Selective Editing had just three selection tools – Brush, Linear Gradient and Radial Gradient. These tools are still available, but there's a set of new tools too. Select Sky and Select Subject which use artificial intelligence to automatically select the sky, a person, an animal, or any other kind of object that's clearly the subject of the photo. The new selection method is not always perfect, but it's amazing how well it works! Some expert Lightroom instructors call this the biggest change in Lightroom in over 15-years. By default, a red overlay is used to show what areas of the photo are masked. You can change the mask color by clicking on the red swatch (a Color Overlay window will pop up — see right figure below). Recommend Magenta since this color doesn't exist in most photos. Note that the overlay will disappear when you make a Local Adjustment (such as moving the Exposure slider). To see the overlay area, recheck the Show Overlay check box in the left figure below or depress the O key.

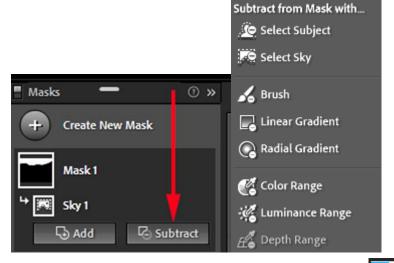


- If you've use Lightroom Classic, you'll also be pleased to see that *Color Range Mask*, *Luminance Range Mask* and *Depth Range Mask* are all available too. These automatically select areas of your photo depending on the color, brightness, or based on depth information captured by some cameras.
- The adjustment tool names have changed slightly to match the names in Lightroom and Lightroom mobile. However, while the names have changed, the basic functionality is the same. Here's a chart with the old name first:
  - Adjustment Brush \*Brush
  - Graduated Filter **\*** Linear Gradient
  - Radial Filter \*\* Radial Gradient
- If you've use Lightroom Classic, you'll also be pleased to see that *Color Range Mask*, *Luminance Range Mask* and *Depth Range Mask* are all available too. These automatically select areas of your photo depending on the color, brightness, or based on depth information captured by some cameras.
- Using all of these masking tools together brings a huge amount of power to your local adjustment selection, as well as speeding up your workflow.

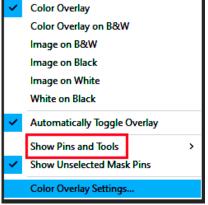
Masking Panel (see figure below — large red rectangle below): After you click on the Masking Button (see figure below under the Histogram panel) and you select a Masking option (such as the Brush Tool), a floating panel will appear. Since it may obscure part of your photo (workspace), you can dock it with the right panels. Click on the Masking panel and move it to the right panels. A blue line will appear showing you where the panel will dock after releasing your mouse



- **Renaming Mask:** Double click on a Mask (labeled 1, 2, etc.) and a window will open allowing you to give the Mask a descriptive name.
- You can go a step further too, as the different types of selection tools can add or subtract to create the perfect mask. The new feature allows you to automatically select the primary subject or the sky in a photo and apply local edits to only those regions.
- Add or Subtract from Mask: In the flyout Mask panel (see left figure below), you can add or subtract from you Mask. To subtract click on the Subtract button (see left figure below) and a flyout window will appear listing different methods to subtract from the mask such as the Brush Tool (see right figure below). Note you can make a mask of a tree using the Brush tool by painting over the entire tree and to remove the sky areas behind branches/leaves click on the Subtract button (left figure below) and then click on Select Sky(see right figure below).

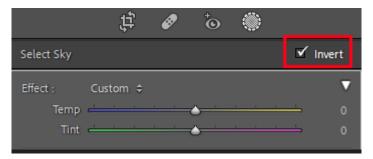


Note: There's also a new Masks panel, so you can easily manage your masks, renaming them and turn them on and off individually. There's a range of new overlay styles, so you can easily see which areas of the photo are being affected (click on the three dots to the right of the mask color icon — see right figure). Also, your individual masks can be copied to other photos or saved as part of a preset.

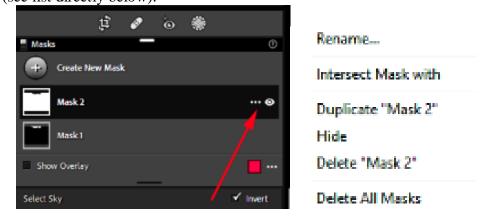


• Invert Mask: Generally it is easier to select the sky and then Invert it to select the landscape area of your

photo.



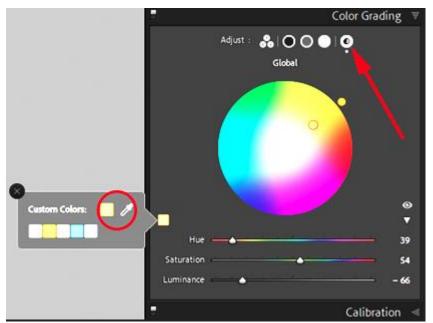
• When you hover your cursor over a Mask icon (Mask 2 in the figure below), a three dot and eye icon will appear (red arrow figure below). Click on the three-dot icon and a popup window will display giving your several options (see list directly below).



- The pins now have different icons for the different tools, and **Show Edit Pins** is now set to Auto by default.
- Masking Shortcuts:
  - The apostrophe key (') inverts your current mask.
  - Right-clicking directly on a mask pin will bring up a pop-up menu of things you can do to that currently selected mask.
  - **Press the letter O** on your keyboard to hide the red overlay tint on your masked area.
  - You can change masks (scrolling up/down in the Masks panel) by holding the Option key (Alt-key on PC), and using the Up/Down arrows on your keyboard.
  - If you want more masking shortcuts, click on the little? button in the top right corner of the Masks panel and it brings up a floating window with a list of shortcuts.
- There are some reports of crashes *Select Sky* or *Select Subject*. In most cases, updating the graphics card driver from the manufacturer's website solves this issue.
- You can find an in-depth instruction video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzPWzJQsYTI

### **Color Grading Feature Only in Lightroom Classic**

- Only Lightroom Classic has the ability to sample a hue and saturation for your color grade.
- To use this feature you need to zoom into the area you want to use for the color. Open the Color Grading panel and click on the Global icon (top right of the panel red arrow below).
- Click on the color swatch next to the Hue and Saturation sliders. Click and hold your mouse on the eyedropper icon (red circle below) and drag the eyedropper icon over the area you want to sample. Once you've selected a hue, release your mouse to enter the values into your Color Grading panel. Now you can use the Hue, Saturation, and Luminance sliders to dial in your final look.



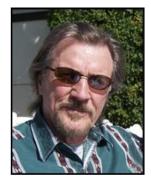
#### **PHOTOSHOP TIPS**

Adobe has improved the Selection Tool and I will cover the new features in the next Photogram. Today's release by Adobe is all about selections to make it quicker for you to select items of your photo.



Photo by Debra Dorothy "Home"

## Items For Sale



In January the Redlands Camera Club lost one of its most memorable and valued members and a friend to all of us, Wayne (Woody) Wood. Woody loved all aspects of photography, whether on the ground or in the air, and was always getting new and exciting equipment (ooh, okay, toys).

As a consequence, this has left Woody's widow, Meredith, with equipment she can't use. She has asked me to sell Woody's equipment for her and hopes our members will help find good homes for Woody's toys.

The following is the first group of items. The prices listed are negotiable but I feel they are reasonable as they represent a discount below the same or similar items, I saw on Ebay. I believe all are in good working order.

If you would like to provide a home for any of Woody's toys, please contact me at 909-793-9300 Bruce Bonnett



Skydio R1 Autonomous Drone 4K Flying Camera with 3 batteries and case

\$400



Lilliput 665gl-70np/ho/y 7"
On-Camera HD Color LCD
Field Monitor w/HDMI In
HDMI Out Component in
Video in Video Out by Lilliput
and 2 batteries





LINKSYS WIRELESS-G 2.4Ghz. ROUTER with SRX200

\$25



Promaster 1725N Camera Bag \$10



# LoweproCompuDaypack Camera Bag

\$30



Lowepro Inverse 200 AW Camera Beltpack





Top and left are for Mavic **Drones Bottom right is for Skydio R2** \$10



## **Ultimaxx DRONE BACKPACK STRAP VEST**





MSI R9 390 8GB Video Card

\$175



iMax X100 AC/DC Touch Screen Balance Charger



Garmin rv 770 GPS with 6.945" edge-to-edge screen and RV specific features.



GoPro/Action CamsMisc Bag 1 \$15



## GoPro/Action CamsMisc Bag 2

\$15



# GoPro/Action Cams Misc Bag 3 Includes a Removu RM-R1 Live View Remote

Includes a Removu RM-R1 Live View Remote for GoPro HERO3/HERO3+/HERO4 and GoPro Hero4 Session (Black) And a Hero 5 Macro lens The thing on the top is anbelt type of device to help support a heavy camera

The gray item on the bottom is a mechanical pan head.



Pano 5+1 Mark
II—Panoramic Photo
Head Compatible with
GoPro Hero 7/6/5/4/3
\$20



Sevenoak SK-EBH01 Pro Electronic Time Lapse/Panoramic Ball Head



# Photogram Editor - Debra Dorothy



## A Note from The Photogram Editor

The theme for the January Photogram is:

"Macro photography"

Please send your images to me by January 25<sup>th</sup> to have them included in the January Photogram for all to enjoy.



mailto:debbiedsd.dorothy@gmail.com

Redlands Camera Club P.O. Box 7261 Redlands Ca 92375

http://www.redlandscameraclub.org/

Officers (2020-2021)

President: Russell Trozera – Vice President/Program's: Donald Purdey – Secretary: Deborah Seibly – Treasurer: Rick Strobaugh – Past President: Dave Ficke

Chairs (2020-2021)

Competitions: Carl Detrow – Education/Workshops: Frank Peele – Facebook/Blog: Stan Fry – Field Trips: Pending – Historian: Bruce Bonnett – Hospitality/Events: Pending – Librarian: Michael Graves – Membership: Stephanie Billings – Mentor: Rick Strobaugh – Photogram: Debra Dorothy – Publicity: Stan Fry – S4C: Deborah Seibly – Color Munki: Carl Detrow – Webmaster: Wayne "Woody" Wood/Debra Dorothy – Welcome: Stephanie Billings