



COLOR NEWS

What's happening at Photochrome in January

Because our regular meeting night would fall on New Year's Day, we have changed our January meeting nights around quite a bit. We will resume our regular schedule in February.

January 8—7:30pm Open Pictorial.

Send in—or bring in - two images for the group to enjoy. We'll look and comment on them, and perhaps ask "how did you do that?" It's a relaxed and fun evening.

January 15—7:30pm

Special Presentation Bird Photography.

The experts at Incredible Travel Photos will discuss this fascinating subject. Why photograph birds? Birds are beautiful creatures. They are also interesting. They lead fascinating lives. They exhibit exciting behaviors such as predatory, courtship, reproductive, nesting, and more. However, they don't stay still for long and can be challenging to photograph. Yamil, Munir and Oliver have tackled various aspects of bird photography over the last few years. Their work has progressed from photographing birds for identification purposes, to capturing their challenging behaviors, and finally, to finally turning photographs into stunning wildlife art prints. You will be dazzled by the story of the Black Crowned heron picking up ducklings, the hummingbirds hugging a backyard fountain, birds in flight at sunset, and many others.

January 17—10:00 am

Saturday

Cable Car Museum Field Trip

Location: 1201 Mason Street / Washington Street.

This will be an interesting and challenging trip putting creativity out front.

Subjects are a few historic cable cars, mechanical displays, a gift shop and some winding wheels in motion that pull the cable cars. Outside on the corner you will have the opportunity to photograph cable cars as they come and go, up and down Mason and Washington Streets. Tripods and flash attachments are OK, just don't block the isles. Admission is free.

For more information go to

www.cablecarmuseum.org

You can actually get there by taking a cable car (\$5.00) each way, or the #1 California bus. Grace Cathedral Garage is three or four steep blocks away. The parking fee is \$2.50 / 20 minutes. Hope to see you there.

Gary Larsen

January 22—7:30pm

Board Meeting

Held late this month only, it's a chance for all members to get in on the planning action in Photochrome. Every one is welcome to attend these short but interesting meetings.

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JANUARY, 2009

JANUARY Scheduled Activities

January dates reflect the adjustment made for the New Year's Holiday

Jan 8
Open Pictorial

Jan 15
Special Presentation
Bird Photography

Jan 17
Field Trip

Jan 22
Board Meeting

*Have you renewed yet?
If not, find a renewal form on line at Photochrome. Org*

Be sure to check out the very fine tutorial Martin Taylor has written for resizing and submitting images for our critiquing evenings. It's enclosed as a supplement to this issue of the Color News. Keep it handy. It is a great reference. It should be on line soon, as well.

Selective Focus

by Alice Steele

Our club members are a peripatetic bunch. We've seen examples of their wanderings around this globe of ours all year and I recently met up with a couple of members who have just finished off the year by heading to Midway. Rebecca Jackrel and Enrique Aguirres photographed the splendid albatross for a week. I, for one, can hardly wait to see their images.

Did you get to the Annual Awards Banquet? So many beautiful images, so many awards. It was a warm and festive evening. Congratulations to the winners, all of whom are listed in this newsletter. You'll see the first place images here; all the images that placed are on our website: **Photochrome.org**. Stacy Boorn, who is a fine MC, conducted the activities with panache—even when she took the grand prize — Image of the Year. Congratulations Stacy, on a fine image and for presiding over such a fine occasion.



Garrett Griffin

Our first two Themes of the new year—Serenity & Rush Hour—are going to be a real challenge to photograph. Try your best to capture two images each of these opposite themes with your camera. These will be featured at our February 5th meeting.

I'll end this message with my very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2009.

Happy New Year

Joyce Vanman

Joyce Vanman was a longtime and enthusiastic member of Photochrome. She died November 23rd.

Joyce was a Past President and edited the Color News for years. She served our club in too many ways to enumerate. We missed Joyce when she moved back to the Oroville area where she gallantly fought MS. She still performed little services for the club, long distance, and delighted in reading of the club's activities in the Color News.

Joyce was an inveterate traveler who enjoyed showing her excellent pictures of faraway places. A trip to Peru and Machu Picchu were among the highlights of her adventures.

FEBRUARY 2009

Preliminary Schedule

February 5
Theme Night
Subjects:

"Serenity"—"Rush Hour"

February 12
Board Meeting

February 14
Field Trip

The Ferry Bldg & Farmers Mkt.

February 19
Exploring Photography

N4C Annual Awards Luncheon Sunday, January 11

11:30 Social Hour

12:30 Luncheon

1:30 Program I

- raffle,
- viewing of winning images
- installation of officers,
- awards presentations.

\$27

*Yankee Pot Roast
Breast of Chicken
Vegetarian Pasta*

Reservations by January 5

*To: Teri Schoech
34 Sea Crest terrace
Fremont, CA 94536
OR use
Paypal
at www.N4C.org.*

Photoshop Tips

Gradient Tool

By Jim Silva

Have you ever taken a really good landscape only to have blah, bright, white background sky overpowering the whole image??

If so, try the Gradient tool for a quick improvement. It can really work well when needed.

Steps:

- A) Get your original image on the screen.
- B) Get a new blank layer.
- C) Go to the Gradient tool.
- D) Choose the color you want (grey, light blue, whatever).
- E) Make sure the upper gradient menu you have shows your chosen color merging into transparent (crosshatch).
- F) Drag your cursor straight down from near the top of the sky to the limit of your required darkening area. Experiment with color and opacity till satisfied.

You are done—perhaps.

However should some feature of your landscape image protrude into this sky, say a tree or hill or building, this will spoil the image as the new gradient color of the sky will intrude into these protrusions and spoil things.

Solution:

- A. Before dragging your gradient cursor down—go to Layer Styles on the Layers menu.
- B Then to Blending Options.
- C A dialogue box will appear so select Darken in Blend Mode.
- D Now drag your gradient cursor down and intruding features will not be affected by another lighter color.

Dear Friends,

it was only two years ago that I joined the Club, I had just arrived in SF and was looking to make friends and share my photography. I found Photochrome and you all welcomed me with open arms and made me feel at home. Over these two years I have made some good friends and met even more interesting photographers.

When late last year the Board asked me to be president I felt extremely complimented and excited to give back to the club.

During 2008 the Board has done great work and achieved many things... We now have a new and improved website, award winning newsletter, a new format for the club meetings, great field trips, an entertaining End-of-Year Banquet and the always spectacular ImageFest competition. I believe that the Board achieved this by working as a group, pooling ideas and sharing responsibilities, for this they all deserve a big THANK YOU!

Big shoes to fill, but I am lucky that most of the Board members will continue during 2009 and this will surely make my job easier. I hope that during 2009 we can all together continue to improve the way the club operates, develop our photographic skills, share our passion and just have some good fun!

So, keep an eye on our website and check the club calendar for a list of exciting 2009 events not to be missed.



Enrique Aguirre,
President—Photochrome

Image Fest—2008—The Winners



Pictorial

Chris Kibre Beach Pebbles

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Chris Kibre | Aspen Leaf in Stream |
| Stacy Boorn | Sea Choir |
| Alice Steele | Perfect Peach |
| Connie Louie | Untitled |



Photo Journalism

Martini Taylor Memorial Day at Golden Gate Cemetary

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Jim Silva | Sharp Turns |
| Connie Louie | Untitled |
| Chris Kibre | House Fire |
| Gary Larsen | Friendship Regatta 2008, SF Bay |



Nature

Chris Kibre Anemone Devouring Red Crab

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Stacy Boorn | Chum Salmon Swim to Spawn |
| Connie Louie | Leopard Sequence |
| Stacy Boorn | Brown Bear Mother & Cub Play |
| Deborah Hall | Dall |



Photo Travel & Image of the Year

Stacy Boorn Taj Mahal Reflection

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Deborah Hall | Camel |
| Chris Kibre | Romantic Venice, Italy |
| Chris Kibre | Gondolier's Hat, Venice, Italy |
| Deborah Hall | Dung Seller |



Creative

Martin Taylor Homage to Westworld

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Martin Taylor | Convent Garden |
| Paul Gonyea | Falling Blossoms |
| Alice Steele | Oil Derrick |
| Patti Taylor | New Microsoft Windows.Icon |

See all the images that placed in the Image Fest—2008 on our website.

WWW.Photochrome.Org

Jack Cannon
Perpetual Trophy –
Best image of a recognizable
San Francisco Subject
Stacy Boorn



The Dr. J. Humberto
Arrieta Memorial Award
Best Portrait
Stacy Boorn



The Walter F. Sullivan
Memorial Award –
Best Landscape or Seascape
Deborah Hall



The Roy Humphries
Memorial Award –
Best image containing a Rose
Martin Taylor



The Jules H. Strauss
Memorial Award –
Best image of a Floral Subject
Alice Steele



The Jaques & Margot Segal
Award –
Best image of a National
Park or Monument
Deborah Hall



Wildlife Winter Wonderland in February with Tour Leader, Rebecca Jackrel... three unforgettable days of unlimited photography for only \$1,395.00/person!

Shake off the winter blues as we photograph the amazing wildlife models of Animals of Montana. Join me on this wonderful tour in the beautiful snow covered mountains outside of Bozeman, Montana. This tour offers three consecutive days of photographing an unlimited number of wildlife models - February 25-27, 2009 (weather day February 28). The cost of this tour is just \$1,395.00** per person. To maximize our interaction with the animals, this tour is limited to 8 participants. Our itinerary has been custom tailored to ensure that you have ample opportunity to craft unique images of a number of elusive and rare species. While we will be shooting close to our vehicles, participants should come prepared for cold weather and long days. A listing of species which are likely to be photographed is as follows: Snow Leopard, Black Leopard, Porcupine, Skunk, Red Fox, Tiger, Pine Marten, Black Bears, Grizzly Bears, Siberian Lynx, Canadian Lynx, Bobcat, Raccoon, Fisher, Wolves, Badger, Mountain Lions, and African Lion.

***This tour price only includes the animal model fee, you are responsible for all other expenses associated with the trip, i.e. transportation, lodging, meals, etc. Bozeman is the nearest airport. Most tour participants will be staying at the Bozeman Residence Inn, www.bozemanresidenceinn.com to allow all participants the opportunity to carpool. Other lodging suggestions can be given if requested.*

For more details visit my website at www.RebeccaJackrel.com or email me at RJ@jackrel.org



Meetings are held the First and Third Thursdays of the month, except for November and December. They begin at 7:30pm and are held at the Fellowship Hall, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127. For meeting details check: www.photochrome.org

President: Enrique Aguirre
Vice President—Stacy Boorn
Secretary—Weronika Patena
Treasurer—Chris Kibre
Board Members:
Alan Heald—Connie Louie
Gary Larsen—Burr Preston
Alice Steele—Martin Taylor
Richard Zimmerman

Color News Editor
Alice Steele
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Webmaster
Photochrome.org
Jim Kelly

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Save meeting time.
Send your digital images by midnight Wednesday(s)
to:

photochromeprojectionist@gmail.com

Mark your images:

Category*-First Name-Last Name-Title. Jpg

**categories are:*

PicSix (up to six images taken on Field Trips)

OP (Open Pictorial) two images

TN (Theme Night) two images per theme.

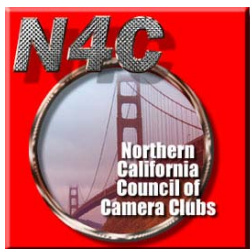
Please note: digital images should be resized so that the longest side is no more than 1024 pixels. That is how they fit properly on our projection equipment.

Photochrome Club of San Francisco
P. O. Box 27265
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WWW.photochrome.org



Member of:
The Photographic Society of America (PSA)
since 1943

and the
Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C)



Submitting Images to Photochrome for Digital Projection

By: Martin Taylor (Photochrome Digital Projectionist)

I have noticed a few members are having issues when they resize their images for submission electronically for projection at a meeting or for competition so I thought I'd write a few words about the process. To begin with lets consider the semantics of what we mean by *file size* because this is where the confusion lies as "size" in relation to image files can refer to two totally different things:

1. the physical, pixel dimensions of the image, and
2. the number of bytes a file takes up on a disk

Let us consider the physical dimensions of the image to begin with. We ask that when you submit your images for projection that you resize your image so that the longest side is 1024 pixels. Why 1024 pixels? Because that is the native resolution of the projector. If your image is not resized to take advantage of this characteristic of the projector your images will not look their best. If your image is too small the projectionist has to decide if they should show your image small with a border around it or if they should stretch the image to fill the frame. If your image is too big the projectionist can opt to shrink the image to the projector frame but it will not look as good as had you submitted the image at the correct resolution to begin with.

Why is this? If your image is too small and we are stretching it to fill the frame, the computer has to 'guess' at what to add to the image to make the picture look bigger. If your image is too large, the computer has to decide which lines to discard to shrink the image. Neither of these processes is optimal for your image's fidelity.

So, how do you resize your image to send it to us? All the programs I have used (PhotoShop, PhotoShop Elements, Gimp, Paintshop) have similar interfaces for achieving this. The menu option you use will be something like *Image > Resize > Image Size*. The only thing you have to make sure of is that you are resizing the image itself and not the canvas upon which the image resides. Usually you will now see a dialog window that shows the image's current dimensions and allows you to change these dimensions. The most important thing to remember is that the only thing that matters is pixels; forget about combinations of dimensions in inches and resolution in pixels per inch - this is only important when you are printing your image. We just want to change the dimensions of our image for the projector (or screen) and these display devices don't know anything about inches - they only understand pixels.

To resize your image you may have to check a box labeled "resample image" and chose a method to achieve this. I choose *Bicubic* which is generally accepted as the most accurate and convenient method in this situation. You must also check the "constrain proportions" option; this ensures that your ratio of image height to width is maintained as the image size changes.

Look at the current image size; unless your image is perfectly square one dimension will be larger than the other. Change this larger value to "1024 pixels" - the smaller value should also change at this point (to something around 680 pixels for a DSLR) and you image should now look the same but smaller. If your image happens to be square, it should matter if you change the height or the width as either will have the same result. The next step is optional but I now look at my image at the "actual pixels" zoom level and apply the unsharp mask to an amount appropriate to the subject and the new image size. Sharpening is a subject for a larger article but, to keep a long story short, I sharpen to some extent as the final step before saving every time I resize an image either up or down.

You now want to save your image as a new file name ("save as"); if you just do a blind save there is a danger that you might over write the original file which would be bad. You want to save the image in the jpeg format which means that your new image will have the ".jpg" file extension. The file name itself is assembled thusly

- Category: **PicSix** (images taken on Field Trips), **OP** (Open Pictorial) or **TN** (Theme Night).
- **First Name Last Name** of the photographer
- **Image Title**

An example resulting file name would be something like **OP-Joe Blow-SF Bay Bridge at night.jpg**. The file name may seem long winded but it allows the projectionist to identify everything they need to know about what to do with the submitted image they receive from the file name itself.

When you hit the save button, as you chose the jpeg file format, you will now be asked how much compression you wish to apply to the image - in Adobe products this is a scale from 1 to 12. Up to now we have been dealing with size as it relates to the physical dimensions of the image but compression relates to the byte size of the file. The more compression you apply to an image the smaller the file size you end up with however there is a cost; image fidelity. When compression is applied, image data that probably isn't important is discarded; the operative word here is 'probably'. Compression is a mathematical process; the more severe the compression you apply, the more data is discarded and the smaller the resulting file size. When you are sending images to friends and family and you don't want massive attachments in your emails it is alright to apply strong compression as much as 5 on the jpeg compression scale but when you are sending images to be seen by other photographers you want to be more conservative - somewhere between 8 and 10 on the compression scale seems appropriate. The problem with severe compression is that the data that is discarded results in what can be seen as compression artifacts. Compression artifacts can sometimes be seen as posterizing in what should be smooth gradients, 'jaggies' along sharp edges, mosquito noise or blockiness in busy regions. Once your eye tunes into artifacts they are hard to ignore and can distract a viewer of your images.

Save your prepared image files somewhere you will be easily able to find them like the desktop or your top level images file. Now start your email program or go to the your webmail and attach your files to an email to photochromeprojectionist@gmail.com individually. Some email programs and services at this point will recognize that your attachments are pictures will offer to 'optimize' your images for email delivery; do not allow them to do so as they can ruin all the hard work you just went through to prepare your images for submission. Similarly, some editing programs offer the user the facility to send images via email directly from the tool. Unless they are transparent about what they are doing to the image, especially concerning the physical file size and the amount of compression they will apply to a file, then it is better that you go through the inconvenience of manually resizing your images as described above rather than be disappointed when you see you images projected on the large screen at the club.

I realize that these instructions may seem a little long winded but I hope that by understanding exactly why you should resize your images in a certain way you will save time and effort when you next submit digital images for projection.