



What's happening at Photochrome in March

March 5—7:30pm Judge's Favorites
Every three months or so, Photochrome invites an outside judge to visit and critique our images. The judge will offer viewpoints and invite discussion from members on their images. As usual, two images per person may be entered. Also as usual, there will be a "PicSix" from the latest Field Trip. So if you've been to the Farmers' Market at the Ferry Building with the gang, prepare your prettiest and/or grittiest for this evening.

March 12—Board Meeting 7:30pm
All are welcome to attend. This is where we plan and discuss meetings, activities and general maintenance of our Club. It is held in the Gallery Annex / Fireside room upstairs on the main level of the Church and lasts about an hour or an hour and a half. Some terrific ideas come out of the suggestions of members who just happen to drop in.

March 21—Field Trip 10:00am, Sat.
Gary Larsen—Chair, 731-2140
We will head for a most unusual San Francisco museum to photograph items that include predecessors of today's video games. The museum is filled with coin operated orchestrations, pianos, antique slot machines, animations and more. There are over 300 machines in this collection dating back to the early 1900's. Don't forget to check out "Laffing Sal", the 1910 piano made by Auto Electric Piano Co. and of course the "Carnaval". An image amongst these fascinating "toys" is waiting to be captured. Mr. Dan Zelinsky may be there moving about on his roller skates.

He told me he will be free to answer any questions you may have regarding his *Musee Mecanique*.
Weather permitting; feel free to roam the wharf in search of other photographic possibilities. Maybe there is something you saw on a previous visit to the wharf you could now photograph. What about the "bushman" as he startles tourists or mimes who attract curious people. Then of course there are the Dungeness crab sidewalk vendors near No. 9 Fisherman's Grotto or the USS Pampanito submarine. The list goes on and on.
Admission to the museum is free. No tripods in the museum, but feel freely to use them everywhere else. Best way to reach the wharf is of course by public transportation. See you there.

March 19—Print Night 7:30pm
Alan Heald—Chair
These lively and informal events are held only three times a year, so it does not pay to miss even one! There are no themes or categories on these evenings, so the variety of photographic subjects is wide open and the discussion is wide ranging. Many of our print makers produce their own prints at home in their Digital Darkrooms. Those who do this find print making a most satisfying and creative venture. Alan Heald, Print Chair, indicates that it is "perfectly acceptable to display prints that have been produced at a commercial lab". If you think you might enjoy getting into the print making, come and check out Print Night. Come and talk to our

Volume 64 Issue 3

**MARCH
2009**

**March 5
Judge's Favorites
& Pic Six**

**March 12
Board Meeting**

**March 19
Print Night**

**March 21
Field Trip
Musée Mécanique at
Fisherman's Wharf,**

**Have YOU
Renewed?**

**Sadly, if not,
this is your
last issue
of the
Color News**

print makers about the process. If you just want to see what our print makers are up to, that's fine as well.

Photochrome Calendar Mar-Dec. 2009

MARCH

3/5 Judged Night / PicSix
3/12 Board Meeting
3/19 Print Night
3/21 Field Trip: Musee Mecanique /
Fisherman's Wharf

APRIL

4/2 Open Pictorial / PicSix
4/9 Board Meeting
4/18 Field Trip: Grey Whale Cove Trail /
Beach (Pacifica)
4/23 EP: "Bears of North America"
by R. Jackrel

MAY

5/7 Theme Night: Through the Window / Ab-
stract Image, PicSix
5/9 Field Trip: Muir Woods N.M.
5/14 Board Meeting
5/21 EP: Cleaning your Digital Camera's
Sensor

JUNE

6/4 Judged Night / PicSix
6/11 Board Meeting
6/18 Print Night
6/20 Field Trip: Ardenwood Historic Farm
(Fremont)

JULY

7/2 Open Pictorial / PicSix
7/9 Board Meeting
7/11 Field Trip: S.F. Maritime National His-
toric Park
7/16 EP: TBD

AUGUST

8/6 Theme Night: Arches / The Rule of
Thirds / PicSix
8/13 Board Meeting
8/20 EP: TBD
8/22 Field Trip: TBD

SEPTEMBER

9/3 Judged Night / PicSix
9/10 Board Meeting
9/17 Print Night
9/26 Field Trip: TBD

OCTOBER

10/1 Open Pictorial / PicSix
10/8 Board Meeting
10/15 EP: TBD
10/24 Field Trip: TBD

NOVEMBER

11/5 Theme Night: Transportation / Long
Shutter Time
PicSix PicSix
11/7 Field Trip: TBD (PicSix in Jan. 2010)
11/12 Board Meeting
11/14 Image Fest 2009

DECEMBER

12/10 Board Meeting
12/11 EOY Banquet and Farewell Until Next
Year!!!

EP: Exploring Photography TBD: To be determined
All meetings are held on Thursdays at 7:30 PM.
Field trips are usually on Saturdays.

Calendar compiled by Gary Larsen

A CANDID LOOK AT PHOTOGRAPHING ON PUBLIC TRANSIT

By: Bob Nelson

I think one of the pleasures of making photographs is judging what may be a good subject. Also the challenge of creating a good photograph from a discovered photo opportunity is fun.

I have found that the venue of public transit offers unlimited photo ops but also creates some interesting photographic problems. Often during the last seven years, with my digital camera(s) at the ready, I have ridden the public transit systems of MUNI (both buses and Metro light rail) and BART making candid photos of persons on those systems.

As with any candid photography there are criteria:

1. There should be a clear line of sight to the subject.

2. There must be a stable camera platform.
3. Accurate camera settings must be made.
4. The photographer must remain unnoticed by the subject.

These conditions are given in candid photography on the street or inside a building. They present challenges on a bus or train jammed with people. Here are some logistics that I use to overcome those challenges.

In March of 2008 I was riding a MUNI 49 bus heading South on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. A small woman of Chinese descent got on the bus and sat down in a seat about 10 feet from me. I noticed how intense the expression was on her face. During the ride she

never relaxed that expression. I decided this was a candid portrait I wanted to make.

My Canon 5D dSLR with the 24-70mm L f/2.8 lens, weighs in at about four pounds. It is a large unit. I could not bring the camera to my eye to compose as that might attract the attention of the woman. To get the correct composition I placed my camera on my back pack-camera bag, which I held on my lap. I then made several exposures, checking each image in the LCD monitor to see which angle best framed the subject. I also checked the initial

quality of the exposure both with main LCD image and the histogram. Note: The 'Live View' feature available on many dSLR cameras today would be a very helpful feature for this type of candid photography.

For me exposure is the tricky part. As a bus proceeds along a street the light coming in the windows is always changing. The light may be blocked or reduced as the bus travels past a building or into a tunnel. Constant adjustment of exposure settings have to be considered as each exposure is made. I shoot with Auto Focus on. Shutter priority mode. White balance: Daylight during the day and Fluorescent 9 for the interior bus lights) at night. Exposure: Evaluative. I shoot for shallow depth of field at the widest aperture, usually f/2.8. Because of the movement of the bus high shutter speeds must be used. Thus high ISO settings of 800 to as much as H:3200 may have to be used. Fortunately most of the time my Canon 5D sensor registers little or no 'noise' even at those high ISOs.

Often I use the camera's sensor adjustment feature. I try to make exposures when the bus is either going slow, going over a smooth part of the street or best of all when it is stopped. The pot-holed streets do not make for a stable camera platform. A remaining major challenge is having a clear line of view. Many times when I am set for a shot a fresh load of passengers will enter, which is frustrating. Don't these people know I am trying to make photographs!? Whoops, the bus is a public transit vehicle not a photo studio.



A Chinese woman on a MUNI 49 line bus on Van Ness Avenue. San Francisco, Thursday 6 March 2008



Refreshments—they make our meetings a bit more fun & lots more sociable. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to bring yummys to meetings. If YOU would like to bring refreshments to a meeting soon, there is a signup sheet. Everyone will say Thank YOU. Cookies, crackers, fruit, flavored waters, juices—whatever you like will be welcome.

April 19, Yerba Buena Chapter—PSA Presents—Spring Chapter Day

They will host a very special program from Jeremy Sutton, who presents the Corel Painter program to enhance images.

Joan Field tells us he will demonstrate “how to metamorphose our photographs into works of art. Jeremy Sutton is world-known for his work, his instruction, and his presentation ability.”

She says, “we will also have an afternoon of great value with Claudia Peterson talking about how to take wonderful nature images and showing some of her incredible work, as well as Larry Salvesson, who will discuss the new features of Photoshop CS4 and Camera Raw 5.”

Yerba Buena Chapter—PSA provides a forum for Northern California PSA members who have an interest in photography. The Chapter includes some seventeen coastal area counties.

Non-members are welcome at this event. Consult their website at Psa-yerbabuena.org for more details and the registration form. There is a modest fee.

A Candid Look...by Bob Nelson, cont from Page 3

Passengers blocked my camera view numerous times as I photographed the elderly woman. But I watched and waited. When a "window" opened I took shots. Soon two passengers moved and gave me a perfect view. I shot through a small "window" between a woman's arm and a man's

shoulders and made the photo you see here.

Photographing on public transit is challenging but I find the results fun and sometimes surprising.

I am ready with my camera.

Selective Focus

by Alice Steele

We welcome Bob Nelson, a new member, to these pages with his article on Candid Photography. We hope it's the first of many stories from you, Bob. Thanks to Gary Larsen for his compilation of our 2009 calendar and just look at the photography by Enrique Aguirre. He's also responsible for that new masthead of ours. **As a matter of fact**, there is so much good writing (and photography) in this issue, I'm going to truncate my little column and just say Photochrome is going great guns these days.

Nice to be part of such an energetic, exciting and talented bunch of people.

But don't worry, I'll be back next month with more about the burgeoning springtime photography available to us in our own habitat.

APRIL 2009

Preliminary Schedule

April 2—Open Pictorial & Pic Six

April 9—Board Meeting

April 18—Field Trip—Wildflowers
At Gray Whale Cove Trail

April 23—Rebecca Jackrel's
Bears of North America

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 6 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.

Welcome to The Ice

By Enrique Aguirre

When I talk about Antarctica I like to refer to it as The Ice, with a capital "I", in the same way that the sailors for the golden age of exploration did. There is a reason for this—the landscape that Scott, Shackleton or Amundsen saw is exactly that—ice, lots of ice, sometimes only ice.

On a few occasions you do get to see things other than ice, like liquid water, or maybe an island or a rock. When you are truly lucky you get to see the sun and maybe some animals.

Onboard a Russian ice-breaker, as we sailed through the pack ice across the Antarctic Sound, I experienced one of those great Antarctic moments.

The thick blanket of clouds began to break up on the horizon as sunset approached. The orange and yellow hues reflected on the small patches of calm water of the open leads.

As we approached Paulet island I was out on deck inebriated by the beauty of the ice and light. I was determined to capture at least a part of it. I armed myself with a wide angle zoom, a fast (f2.8) 24-

70mm lens. The movement of the ship and the vibrations from the twin diesel/electric engines rendered my tripod useless so I dialed in an aperture and shutter speed that would guarantee adequate sharpness and

As we approached Paulet island I was out on deck inebriated by the beauty of the ice and light. I was determined to capture at least a part of it.

depth of field. Taking advantage of my DSLR's features I increased the ISO until the selected shutter speed and aperture were balanced to the ambient light.

The resulting 1/40th of a second at f8, ISO640 was borderline for shooting landscapes from a moving ship but it would have to do. I didn't have the luxury of a tripod on dry land and 45 minutes to get the perfect shot.

I had to work fast as I moved from one corner of the deck to another looking for interesting patterns in the ice and pleasing compositions.

I used all the techniques I have learned over the years to keep my camera as steady as possible while shooting handheld. I avoided contact with the vibrating ship, I held the camera close to my body, I pressed it up against my face to hold it as still as possible, I held my breath, I fired two or three shots in continuous motor drive (the second shot tends to be sharper as it is generally not affected by the movement caused as your finger depresses the shutter).

I hoped for the best and wished my lens was equipped with an image stabilizer.

Dawn and dusk at these extreme latitudes will last for ever, and ever and ever, and I burned through CF cards as the spectacle of ice and light got better and better. Orange and blue on the sun side, pink and pastel on the opposite side. A one point, with the tip of the Antarctic peninsula and Paulet island



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
SFAlice@aol.com

Webmaster
Photochrome.org
Jim Kelly

All Color News material is copy-right by author. Reprint by permission only.

Welcome to The Ice, By Enrique Aguirre—continued from Page 5

in sight on the horizon, I saw a ripple in one of the open leads.

My first thought was that a chunk of ice had broken loose as the ship cut through the pack ice. Then I saw another set of concentric ripples, a dark lump moving across the surface and a spray of water spouting in to the gelid air. I immediately tried to shout out "Whale to starboard!!!", "There she blows!!!" or something along those lines as a lone Antarctic Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*) swam by us amongst the icebergs.

I produced no sound. I had been on deck for hours and, amongst other things (like my fingers), my face was

numb. my voice gone. I moved along the deck and found a shooting angle that I liked, I hurriedly composed a frame.

The whale breaks the surface in the lower left angle trailed by concentric sets of ripples on the calm surface. The open water leads you to the opposite angle and in the top right corner you find the setting sun, shining bright orange against the silhouette of the tip of the continent, all around us, the contrasting blue and orange hues of fire and ice.

Another magic moment courtesy of The Ice.

6

Photochrome Club of San Francisco
P. O. Box 27265
San Francisco CA 94127-0265
WWW.photochrome.org

Photographic Society of America
75th Anniversary Conference



West Yellowstone, Montana
September 20 - 26, 2009

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

and



Northern California
Council of Camera Clubs
(N4C)