

Newsletter of the



# Poly Speaks

Edited by Jim Mildice

Volume 5, No.8

**Poly Photo  
Camera Club**  
San Diego, California

September, 2014



*"Total Solar Eclipse" by Les Anderson*

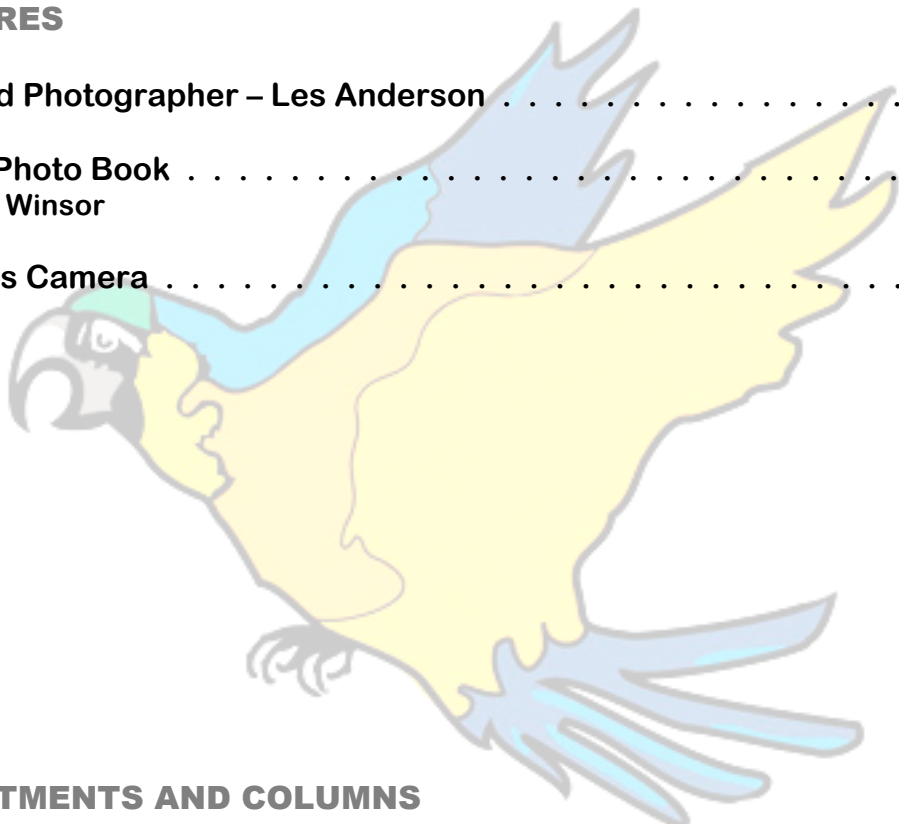
**George's Camera has a new store (see Page 8)**

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President – Alan Haynes | Vice President – Darlene Elwin | Secretary – Josi Ross | Treasurer – Beverly Brock

## From the Editor

Our featured Photographer this month, Les Anderson, often shows us artistic views of things we usually don't get to see. His interest and skill with astronomical phenomena (like the image on the front cover) is amazing. That's not to say that his other images are not, and the terrific images he has shown us really seem to meet the requirement that they depict some of his favorite things.

Clark has an interesting proposal in his column this month. He wants to reduce the maximum number of images each member is allowed to submit for our monthly competitions. So read his article, think about the issue and reasons for it, and be ready to express your opinion and/or ask questions at the next meeting. This has come up before, and is always a contentious issue, so get involved as much as you can. Then you can cast an informed vote when the balloting comes up. You can also use Poly Speaks to express your opinion, if you would like more of the membership to hear it. Email it to me, and I will publish everyone's comments in the next issue.

Clark also tells us about his experiences making a Family Photo Book this month. I hope this encourages you to try this outlet method for some of your pictures. They are high quality and very professional looking. There are many standard layouts available, and custom designs are easy to create. I also have recently done one in a portfolio format, and have already sold two copies.

Anyone who reads Poly Speaks regularly already knows that I am a strong advocate of "buy local" for Photo equipment. I know the mail-order suppliers in New York run extensive ads in the Photo magazines that promise great deals. But for major equipment

purchases (cameras, lenses, etc.), prices seem to be pretty much the same everywhere. So they try to entice us with bundled deals that include substitute lenses or "free" additional accessories (that we probably don't need anyway).

This brings me to telling you about a "new" camera store in San Diego. **George's Camera** has a new store on Kearny Mesa (KM). Their opening announcement is reprinted on Page 8.

While the store location is new, George's is not. They have been in business at their North Park (NP) location since 1965, so I guess they have been doing something right. As far as their contemporary operations are concerned, they have been voted "Best Photo Store" in San Diego by the Union-Tribune Readers' Poll for the last four years.

While George's almost always has whatever I want in stock, and their prices are competitive, the *George's NP* store is kind of small and crowded, and parking is sometimes a hassle. The new *George's KM* is large and open and has a lot of convenient parking. And they utilize their facility space well, with a dedicated, adjacent classroom, and a separate area (with chairs and tables) for in-depth discussions of equipment.

Those features enhance some of the reasons I like to patronize local businesses; and George's in particular, because of their approach to customer service. When I want a piece of new equipment, I can see it, handle it, discuss its advantages and limitations, evaluate alternatives, try it, and when satisfied, buy it on the spot and take it home, all at a reasonable price. Sure, I could evade California sales tax (for now) if I buy from a New York supplier on the internet, but the added service is more than worth that small added cost.

Try it, you'll like it!



## Featured Photographer of the Month – Les Anderson

One day Mary and I were in our garden taking photographs of flowers, our back fence neighbor heard us, and asked us if we liked photography. We answered yes. His smile went wide and he said, “You need to come with us to Poly.” Next thing we knew we were at the 2010 January Poly competition, our first exposure to this incredible club, and we joined. These neighbors are Clark and Jo Winsor, and today they are like family to us. After joining Poly, we learned just how far from producing good images (notice I didn’t say great images) we were.

***Total Solar Eclipse – (on the cover)*** For anyone that knows Mary and me, it doesn’t take long to find out we chase total solar eclipses all over the world. This eclipse image is special, it was taken off the coast of Australia, by Cairns at a place called Green Island. It is a zoomed-in shot through some clouds which gave it a little more depth, and a special bonus. When I first saw the image I thought, boy there are streaks on my lens because of these diagonal lines through the image. Turns out they are shadow bands, an interference pattern that can happen during solar eclipses. We had never seen them, but the clouds made a screen that allowed me to capture them. I was elated with the image, so I entered it into competition and the judge said, “I’m not sure what I am looking at”. It didn’t score well. It didn’t bother me because it made it into Astronomy Magazine. Lesson learned on putting out-of-the-ordinary images into competition.



***Flamingo*** – The image that I considered to be a new level for me was this flamingo shot I took at the SD Zoo. When I saw the bird lit from many angles I knew it was a potential great capture. I did have to do a lot of work to balance out the lighting in Photoshop, to the point at which Mary came by my den, saw me still working on it and commented, “Are you still working on that d\*#n image?.” It took first place at Poly, and a first place ribbon at the SD County Fair, and the award came with money, wow!



***Star Stallions*** – The first image I was really proud to show the club was titled Star Stallions. It is a late evening image of two metal sculptures in Borrego by the artist Ricardo Breceda. It did very well at Poly in competition and as a project entry. Capturing this image was a challenge, besides dodging cactus in the dark; I had to use a box of Kleenex as a “tripod” to get the fisheye lens low enough for the shot. There are at least two reasons to go to Borrego, first it has achieved an International Dark Sky Community designation by managing light pollution, so you can really see the Milky Way and many stars. Second, there are well over 100 of Ricardo’s statues scattered across the desert. They are wonderful to shoot from dusk until dawn. He is the subject of a book titled “The Accidental Artist” that is a great read, and this image is on the title page.

***Lobsters in Love*** – So to all those mothers who said, “Don’t play with your food” I provide this image. I was born in Maine and yes, lobsters are my favorite food, and wine is my favorite beverage so here you go, Lobsters in Love. I will admit that Mary looked at me funny when she came home from work, opened the garage door to find my lobster studio set up where her car goes. I told her dinner would be a little late. I have friends in the seafood business and they were getting married, so this image was made into a large print as a wedding present.







***Les and Mary at Delicate Arch with Full Moon*** – Red rock desert landscapes are some of my favorite subjects. The Four Corners region, and especially Arches in Moab, which is top of the list. As anyone who has been to Delicate Arch at sunset will tell you, it is filled with photographers. But the minute the sun goes down everyone leaves. This image was taken after sundown, red rock around us, with a full moon and the beautiful Delicate Arch. It doesn't get much better for me. Just a reminder, stop and enjoy all the beautiful pleasures in life.

A side note to everyone in Poly. I feel very fortunate to be in this club and know it has greatly improved my skills. Thank you for the encouragement and comradery.

## **This and That**

**By Clark Winsor**

Boy, has the year gone by fast. It's already September and only three months to go until our Christmas break. By now, all of you who have been entering competitions all year have more than the required eleven entries for year-end. When I joined Poly, the monthly competitions were considered a first round competition. All entries that scored six or below were not accepted for the year-end competition. All entries that scored seven or more were accepted. The maximum entries for the monthly competitions were three. Our year-end show allowed all accepted entries. The accepted year-end entries were collected, sorted, boxed and sent to a camera club in another state. For a while the entries were sent to a camera club in Seattle. Once we sent them to St. Louis. We also did exchanges with a camera club in Orange County.

Now we limit our year-end entries to eleven per member and select a panel of three local judges to judge our entries. This is both good and bad. The good is, we don't have to send our entries off site. The bad is we have to select our year-end judges from the same pool we use to select our monthly judges.

We have completely changed our year-end participation criteria and judging, and yet we still allow a maximum of three entries for the monthly competitions. It is long past time to bring our number of entries for the

monthly competitions more in line with the year-end number of entries. My suggestion is we reduce our monthly entries to two. This will reduce the length of time our monthly competitions take, and may encourage more members to compete in the high points competition. By making this change, we will not have to eliminate so many of our accepted images from the year-end judging.

There are many positives to this suggestion. The only negative is that monthly participants will get a judge's (objective??) feedback on only two of their images instead of three each month.

At the first September meeting, I will put a motion on the floor to change the number of monthly entries from three to two. When the motion is seconded, there will be a call for discussion. I am asking for the discussion to begin in September and continue via Poly's Yahoo discussion site and at the first October business meeting. In November we will call for a vote of the members to make this change official, to amend our by-laws. If accepted by the membership, two entries per month will begin in 2015. I am asking for the support of all members in this matter.

We'll look at this more next month.

Clark

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## **Quote of the Month –**

“Ultimately, my hope is to amaze myself. The anticipation of discovering new possibilities becomes my greatest joy.”

– *Jerry Uelsmann*

# Make a Photo Book

By Clark Winsor

Have you ever made a photo book? My daughter-in-law, who lives in Albuquerque, has made several of Avery, our youngest granddaughter. She gives them out to family members at Christmas.

As I am sure all of you know, we have three granddaughters. Two live in Oakland, and the youngest lives in New Mexico. Christmas is the one time of year our family gathers. Audrey, who is our oldest granddaughter, would go to the sofa table and leaf through Avery's photo book. I said to myself, "Audrey needs to have her own photo book." I talked to Holly, our daughter-in-law about the steps she took to make her books.

My first decision was, "What vendor will I choose to print and assemble the book?" After giving it some thought, I went with Costco. From my talks with Holly, I had a rough idea of the steps. I did check it out with the photo department at my local Costco. Next, I went on Costco's Web Site and got a feel for how to proceed. I was ready to begin.

The first step I needed to do was gather up all of Audrey's photos from my "Family Folder." To do this I went through all the Family sub-folders looking for images of Audrey and making sure they all had the keyword "Audrey." When that was completed, I did a search for all of Audrey's photos. Did I tell you that today, August 26 is her eighth birthday? When the search for Audrey's images was completed, I had over two thousand images to sort through and get the number down to something reasonable.

The book had to be in the order of her life from birth to now. My next step was to sort these two thousand images into chronological order. After that was done, I selected a few from each of the years. I picked about one hundred and twenty or so and copied them into another folder called "*Audrey's Photo Book*." I worked on and off on this project and to get this far took me over a week. So it took a while, but now I was ready to create the photo book.

It was time to get back to the Costco site. I now needed to select the type of book. The less expensive ones or the one with a leather cover and custom pages. We went with the leather cover and custom pages. The next step is to title the book and select a photo for the cover. We called the book "*Audrey's Photo Book*." Once that was done, I selected seventy two images out of the one hundred and twenty originally picked for upload to the photo book.

Costco does a really good job uploading to the book, but there is still some work arranging the pages and resizing images the way you want them. I could add, delete, resize and move images from one page to another. The site even had two virtual work tables on either side of the book, so I could move images to the work table and move them back to the book when I was ready. I worked on it for a number of days, arranging and rearranging until I got the book the way I wanted it.

Then Jo and I worked together to finalize the book. When it was done, we had created a very cool photo book. I was ready for the last step – complete the Costco process and have the book printed. About a week later, I got an e-mail from Costco saying to pick up the book at the Warehouse. I paid for it, brought it home, and holding my breath we unwrapped "*Audrey's Photo Book*." Jo and I were blown away. The book was beautiful, so many memories. The images looked great, just the way they looked on my computer.

Last week, Audrey and Charlotte came for a five day visit. On Wednesday, we gave Audrey her birthday gifts, and when she opened her photo book a look of such joy came over her. When she would stand by herself and look at her cousin's photo book, I just knew she had to have one of her own. Jo and I could not have picked a better birthday gift. Our hats are off to Costco. They do an outstanding job.





## George's Camera Kearny Mesa

**7475 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. San Diego, CA 92111; 858-633-1510**

Now open for business. George's Camera has been serving San Diego since 1965 and we have expanded with our new Kearny Mesa location. Our new flagship store is easily accessible from anywhere in San Diego. We now have plenty of free parking with our two parking lots. Take a short ride up and visit San Diego's #1 Camera Store.

George's Camera KM will have the same 9:00am to 5:30pm Monday thru Saturday schedule as does George's Camera NP. We will be expanding our KM hours from 9:00am to 7:00pm Monday thru Saturday and 11:00am to 4:00pm Sunday sometime this fall. Please stay tuned for details.



**Rentals** — Our rental department will be moving up to the Kearny Mesa location and therefore will be closed on Saturday August 30th. Please contact [rentals@georgescamera.com](mailto:rentals@georgescamera.com) for complete details. We do plan to have a rental department back at our North Park location in the near future. Thank you for your patience during our expansion. If you have any questions please give us a call at 619-297-3544 NP or 858-633-1510 KM.

**Classes** — George's Camera KM is now offering a variety of classes in our new beautiful classroom. We will be holding photo workshops as well from many of the top US photographers. Look for your course schedule to be available soon at [www.georgescamera.com](http://www.georgescamera.com).

If you are a photo instructor and wish to offer classes through George's Photo University please contact Larry McDaniel at 858-633-1510 or [larry@georgescamera.com](mailto:larry@georgescamera.com).

**Repairs** — George's Camera offers repair services from both locations. Now get your camera repaired much quicker with our in-house repair department. We still offer warranty service as well from all the major camera manufacturers.

## Coming Events

Darlene Elwin

**August 2 – Competition. The “Project” subject is “*Small World*.”**

**Michael Seewald** is our judge for this month. Michael is a local, well-known fine-art photographer, teacher, and gallery owner. Poly members have taken his courses, with impressive results.

Since 1986, San Diego-based Seewald, 41, has traveled the world creating his fine arts images. He sells these from his gallery in Del Mar. And while many photographers, including professionals, see fine arts photography as something one does for the love of it – with little thought given to selling the images – Seewald actually makes a living from his fine arts work.



**His secret?** Before he leaves on a photographic expedition, Seewald pre-sells the photographs he will create to a group of expedition “sponsors.” Of course, this means he’s built a reputation for producing photographs that his sponsors will like. The success of this approach speaks for itself. Each year Seewald’s audience keeps expanding. From a handful of sponsors just a few years ago, his patrons today number more than 125.

Seewald’s photographs frequently convey a painterly feeling. That’s no surprise. At around five years old he already dabbled with paint-by-number kits. Then, he started creating original paintings (even today, Seewald periodically picks up a brush).

You can learn more about him from his gallery web site at [www.seewald.com](http://www.seewald.com).

**September 20 – To Be Announced,** meeting in the Photo Arts Building.

**September 27 –Travel Photography and Travel Photography Books by Nick Agelidis,** at the Photo Arts Building.

Nick Agelidis is a La Jolla resident and a recent member of the Poly Photo Club. He has been an avid traveler from an early age and has lived in Australia, England, US, Holland and France. His extensive travels have given him many opportunities to indulge his photographic interests, but his retirement a few years ago has really allowed him to focus more seriously on his photography.

Nick’s book, *La Jolla: A Photographic Journey*, has been published recently by Sunbelt Publications.

Nick will discuss his photography, and how he goes about planning his photo trips and creating his books, using examples from his La Jolla book and other self-published books of Italy, China and India. He will cover some of the technical and aesthetic choices involved in turning a collection of images into an interesting and coherent book.

Nick shot most of the photos in these books with a Nikon D600, although he has recently moved to a D800. His favorite travel lens is a Nikkor 24-120mm F4.

**October 10, 11, 12, 13**  
**POLY Field Trip/Photoshoot**

This will be a great photoshoot in beautiful wine country – Paso Robles. We always have a fabulous time of shooting, fellowship (and in this case wine tasting), and sharing of tips. Contact Sue Cerise at [scerise@hotmail.com](mailto:scerise@hotmail.com) for reservations and more information. But you will need to make individual reservations for your own lodging. Here is some additional information about available hotels.

Paso Robles is having Pioneer Day the weekend of our field trip. There will be lots of activities including a parade, a little cowboy and cowgirl contest, antique classic cars, and old gas engines. However, it also means that hotels are already quite full, so we need to book quickly. The two best budget motels, the Adelaide and the Melody Resort are booked. I am listing the rest that have availability with notes, and I think we need to book IMMEDIATELY! Hopefully most or all of us can stay at or near the same place.

#### **PASO ROBLES:**

**Motel 6:** 805-239-9090 Listed at \$92 on Kayak. Didn't stop in to check because reviews were varied

**Travelodge:** 805-238-0078 \$99. Stopped in; OK but wants a nonrefundable deposit said he would work with you if you call.

**Budget Inn:** 805-239-3030 \$139-\$149. Clean, newly decorated, kings and queens available, best of the three

#### **ATASCADERO:**

**Best Western Colony Inn:** average \$139 (Fri & Sat \$159, Sun \$99). This hotel is about 10 miles outside Paso and includes breakfast. This is by far the best of all the hotels and would be my pick. We'll be outside Paso most of the time anyway and this hotel has easy access to freeway.

I need your feedback and we need to make reservations ASAP! I think all but the Travelodge have a 72 hour cancellation policy.