

Newsletter of the

Poly Speaks

Edited by Jim Mildice

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



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©Paul Shilling

“Love” by Paul Shilling

This Year is “Mad About the Fair” (page 3)

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February, 2016 **Volume 7, No.1**

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Poly Speaks is published by the Poly Photo Camera Club, in San Diego, California.

President – Dee Elwin | Vice President – Sue Cerise | Secretary – Jan Handman | Treasurer – Aseem Gupta

Editor – Jim Mildice

From the Editor

This month, our “*Featured Photographer*” operates on a different level from most of us. Paul Shilling is an accomplished Fine Art Photographer who actively and successfully markets his work at exhibitions and art shows. Since most of us don’t think very much about actually selling our images, maybe we can get him to do a workshop soon.

Paul’s pictures in this issue will give us a view into the focus of his fine work.

Reading the reports from CES in Las Vegas last month has prompted me to think about the new technologies that are becoming available. Advances that will help us in our quest for great photographic images. Of course, making us want these new gadgets is one of the main purposes of CES and the reporters who write about it.

On the photography front, Nikon seems to have made the biggest splash with their two new, high-end cameras; the D5 “professional” (that means FX sensor and \$6500) and the D500 “condensed power” (DX sensor).

You know, a little more than a year ago, I asked a well-informed Nikon representative if there would ever be a D400 (the long-expected successor to the much-loved D300). If not, that would leave only the D7000 series to be the top of the DX sensor product line. Not wanting to compromise the sales of the D7200, he looked me in the eye and flatly stated that “Nikon will never produce a D400.” So literally, he told me the truth. They called it the D500 instead. I guess you really can’t get straight answers from those marketing guys.

Of course, Nikon wasn’t the only photography-related company there. According to the published reporting, Canon (with their 8K camcorder) and Sony seemed to be more focussed on exhibiting their camcorder lines.

The excitement over Virtual Reality seems to be driving some camera designs, with several companies showing 360° cameras for direct recording of images that can be used for VR viewing. Of course, they can be used for panoramas just as well.

The conventional camera companies seem to all be chasing “GoPro” with their own take on

small action cameras. In an allied area, drones with action cameras seemed to be everywhere. Technologies like First Person Viewing (where we can see what our drone sees – in real time – on a phone or tablet), higher quality cameras, and drones that will automatically follow us or a pre-plotted course can give us perspectives that were never before economically feasible. And how about adding those capabilities to new underwater drones.

Want more interesting images from your smart phone? Night vision and heat sensor plug-ins are now available.

Of course, there were some loosely-related and non-photographic items that also attracted my inner nerd.

3D printers – I wonder if I could turn a series of related photographs into a sculpture?

How would you like your own “Sphero” droid from “Star Trek – The Force Awakens?”

Maybe an “Airbag Inflating Vest” would be useful the next time you ride your motorcycle.

There are many, many more. I bet you could find more than one or two “strange and wonderful” gadgets to like for yourself.

Finally, in the beginning of each new year, we tend to think about the promise of the future. I think Poly is moving in the right direction and is full of promise. We have plenty of “new” members to add vibrance and new directions; and their enthusiasm will be tempered by our experienced, forward-thinking “old” hands. To me, it sounds like a good mix.

I think Poly Speaks is in good shape too. Our staff of regular contributors will add a wide range of skills, knowledge, viewpoints, and opinions.

Dee Elwin will give us her President’s view of what the club is doing. Sue Cerise has taken over the task of planning our programs and letting us know about the activities that are coming up. Mary keeps us up-to-date about SCACC. Clark is well-qualified to talk about club activities from a long-term member perspective. Our newest columnist, Jeff, is our Photoshop and technology expert.

We have all the makings of a good year.

Musings from the President

As we venture forth into 2016, I've been thinking about Poly and what it offers or means to its members. It's a place to meet other camera enthusiasts and discuss the latest and greatest gadgets to improve images or editing skills. Monthly competitions become learning tools to recognize good (and bad) photography. Project themes challenge our creative side. Workshops teach us new skills. Photo shoots offer the opportunity to learn from one another in an informal setting along with warm fellowship and a way to get to know other members better.

A successful club offers its members many opportunities to grow; otherwise it becomes stagnant. With that in mind, a short questionnaire will be passed out in the near future asking how you see this growth. As Abraham Lincoln said (more or less), "This club is of the members, by the members and for the

members." Please be thinking of directions you would like to see your club take and don't be afraid to think outside the box.

Have you ever wondered how many people it takes to keep things running smoothly at Poly? Out of curiosity, I made a list of all the official and unofficial positions and discovered there are SEVENTEEN members who regularly volunteer up front or behind-the-scenes. I'd like to give a heartfelt "Thank You" on behalf of all members for your dedication and hard work!

Until next month,
Happy Shooting!
Darlene

Go mad for the 2016 San Diego County Fair!

This year's theme for the San Diego Fair has been announced; so it's not too early to start thinking about your entries in the "*Fair Theme*" Division. You should consider entering this Division, since it usually has fewer entries, and a good image has a better chance for a cash award. Here's the official announcement:



Mad About the Fair is the theme of the San Diego County Fair opening at 4:00PM on Friday, **June 3** and continuing until Monday, **July 4**. (The Fair is closed on Mondays, except July 4, and the first two Tuesdays.)

We will make the Fair into a grand-scale tea party featuring the renowned Lewis Carroll classic *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, fused with influences from steampunk, cosplay, great literature, whacky machinery, and all the fun and magic you have come to expect.

Get ready for outlandish landscapes, crazy rides, unique foods, fabulous festivals, and enthralling entertainment. Appearances by your favorite Wonderland characters and more will start your summer of "adventure and imagination."

Photographer of the Month – Paul Shilling

“Love” – (on the cover)

I shot this image in the Balboa Park Rose Garden. Loved the light on the rose but the background was a mess. I replaced the background in PS.

Shortly after taking this photo in 2002, I went with PolyPhoto to visit the International Institute of Photographic Authors (IIPA) in Chula Vista. Subsequently, IIPA accepted this image for display in their gallery and gave me a 33 X 33 print on canvas. This connection was very fortuitous. Love became my favorite and best selling image. I have sold many prints including several large prints on canvas, two of which sold to Bob Baker the car dealer.

Our copy of *“Love”* hangs prominently above our staircase.



“Mt. St. Michele”

This is an HDR image processed with Nik HDR Image Pro II software. It was shot from the backyard of our bed and breakfast Inn where we stayed while visiting this beautiful site. Mt. Saint Michele is one of the most incredible structures I have seen. I did not have a tripod with me on this trip and was not possible to get this shot without one. In place of a tripod, I used a table from our hotel room and the Rick Steve’s France guide. I placed my Canon 7D on the book and made incremental adjustments by turning the pages of the guide. Wonder if anyone had ever used his book as tripod head before?



“View of Assisi”

I shot this photo with the help of my wife, Lesley during a great trip to Italy. We walked up a very steep hill to reach this fortress high above beautiful Assisi, Italy. At the top level of the fortress we came upon some round openings in the walls for shooting the approaching enemies with either bow and arrow or guns. I composed this image through one of these openings. However, I could not get up high enough to look through the view finder to shoot the image so I sat on my wife’s shoulder to get this shot. Luckily she did not get hurt. This photo has drawn a lot of attention at our art shows.



“Tuscany”

While driving through Tuscany on our way to Pienza and Montepulciano, I saw this view and immediately pulled off the road. Took many shots hoping to get at least one keeper. This one is my favorite. Brings back great memories of a wonderful trip and it now hangs above the mantle on our fireplace.



“View of Les Beaux”
While visiting the incredible fortress town of Les Baux in Provence, France, I came upon this heart shaped opening in one of the fortresses. I had no choice but to shoot the view through this “window.” Sometimes you need a little luck. I was very happy with the result. This image also draws a lot of interest and questions at our art shows. I continue to enjoy the memories associated with it.

“Venetian Masks”

During a walk with my wife in Venice, we passed a street vendor with an incredible array of Venetian masks on a white pegboard. I took several shots of his masks. I cropped the image to optimize impact and composition. I have sold several copies of this image. A very large matted and framed print now hangs in our home.



This and That

By Clark Winsor

Well here we are again. The clock on the wall has moved around twenty four hours a day over the last 365 days and now we find ourselves in the year 2016. In November last year, I put forward an idea about using a survey to help Poly evaluate our judges, based on their performance at our competition meetings. This month I want to expand on this idea.

This survey would happen after the competition meeting. The survey would only be available on the Yahoo site. The member filling out the survey would remain anonymous.

It would consist of five or more questions, each having a value between one and five, where one is poor, and five is excellent.

Using my two images from the January meeting, I would like to demonstrate how the survey would work. In this example, I have added comments after each question. Anyone filling out the survey would not necessarily add comments after each question. At the end of the survey there is a place for additional comments.

Let's get started.

1. **Did the judge follow Poly's judging guidelines as directed to in our by-laws.**

1 2 **3** 4 5

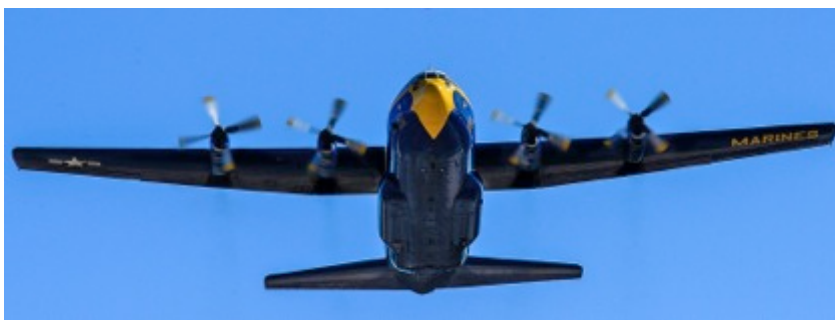
My thoughts on question 1

The judge never scored any image less than a 7. By not using Poly's system correctly he cheapened the value of accepted images. There were several images that fell below Poly's benchmark for accepted images.

2. **Did the judge comment on your images? If so, were the comments constructive?**

1 2 3 4 5

My thoughts on Question 2 (above/right)



The judge's comment on my first image was, "No Big Deal."



The judge's comment on my second image was, "the pilots deserve a nine, and the image gets an 8."

3. **Were you able to improve your images based on the judge's comments?**

1 2 3 4 5

My thoughts on Question 3

No.

4. **Did the judge complete the judging process in a timely manner?**

1 2 3 4 **5**

My thoughts on Question 4

The judge handled the time for the judging of 66 images very well.

5. **If you did not have images in the competition, were the judges comments helpful for your photography?**

1 2 3 4 5

Add any explanatory comments.

In reply to these suggestions, please let me know about any additional comments you may have, or any other questions you think should be added to the final version.

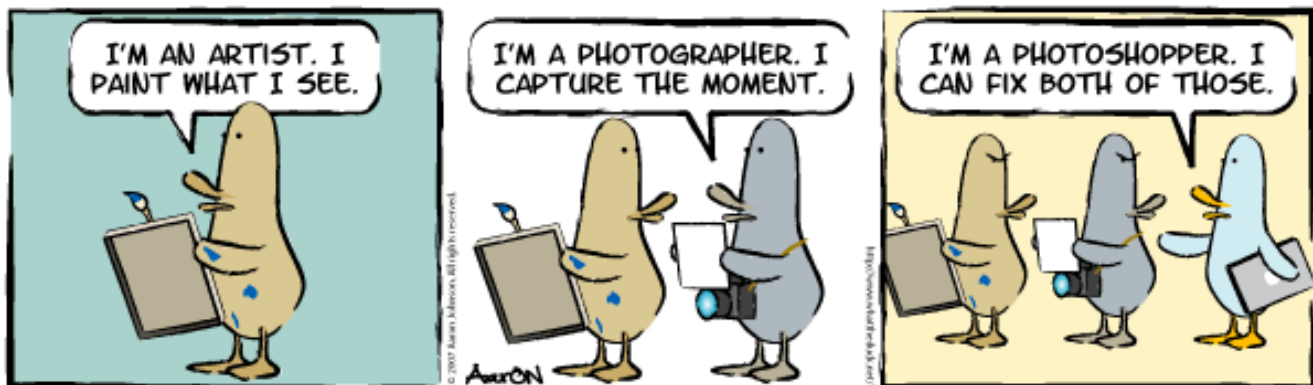
The Judge at January's competition meeting is a well-respected judge and well thought of by most of Poly's members. To be fair, while he did not comment on all 66 images, there were times when he did offer some useful comments. So while my sample evaluations are based on my images, a better overall average for the entire competition might be 2 or 3.

Final thoughts:

The job of selecting judges for Poly is the most thankless job in the club. The goal of the survey is to make the judging selection easier and improve the competition experience.

In my opinion, the information gathered by such a survey would be a very valuable tool for the selection of our judges. It also, could be a valuable tool for the judges. They may want to review the survey and look for ways to improve their judging styles.

Talk to you next month.



Quote of the Month –

“The one thing that seems to be consistent through all my work that I like (and I experimented a lot) is the viewer is allowed to meditate on something that normally we don't stop and stare at, whether it's people or a cactus.”

– Richard Misrach

The Photoshop Insider

By Jeff Booher

The January competition was plagued with technical issues that left many of us scratching our heads and stomping our feet so maybe it's a good idea that we get our JPEG houses in order before the February competition by rehashing the procedures for getting an acceptable image entered into the competition.

First of all you must calibrate your monitor. This is a fairly simple process where you attach a colorimeter to your computer and software uses the feedback from the colorimeter to adjust the settings on your video card so that the monitor displays colors accurately. There are several solutions that make the process easy and painless and run anywhere from \$150-\$500 depending on what you get. I won't make a recommendation but I've used ColorMunki and was perfectly happy with the performance. Today I use a DataColor Spyder Pro 4 and I honestly can't tell which is better. I do believe that using the highly criticized, low-end ColorMunki is still better than not calibrating at all.

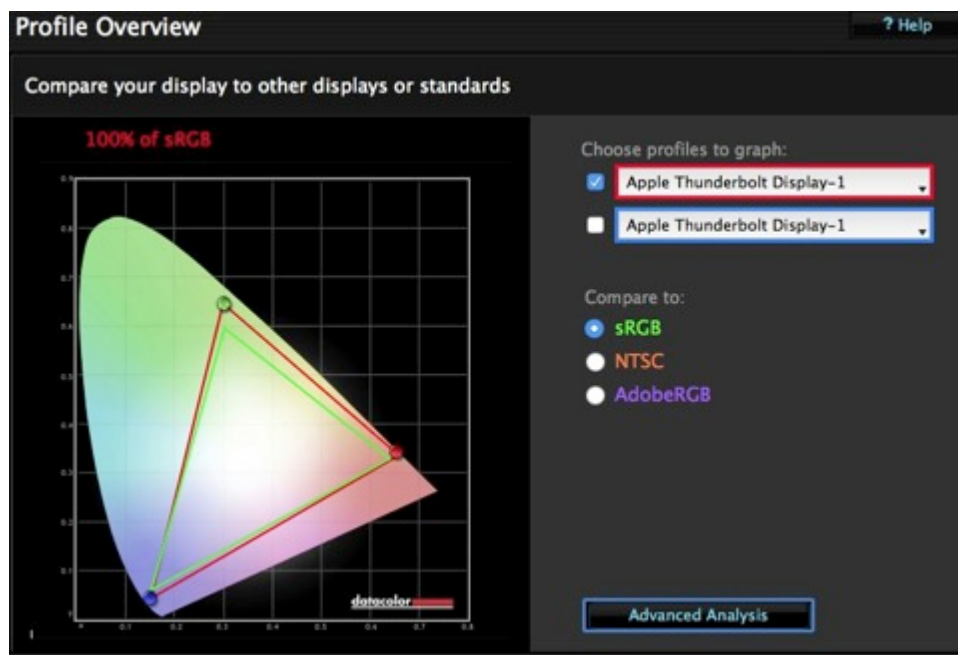
Once you have a calibrated monitor you are playing on a level playing field. All things being equal—you will now have confidence that what you're seeing on your screen is color accurate. That means that yellows won't have a slight green cast or whites have a slight blue cast. You effectively have a "color neutral" display that has color accuracy.

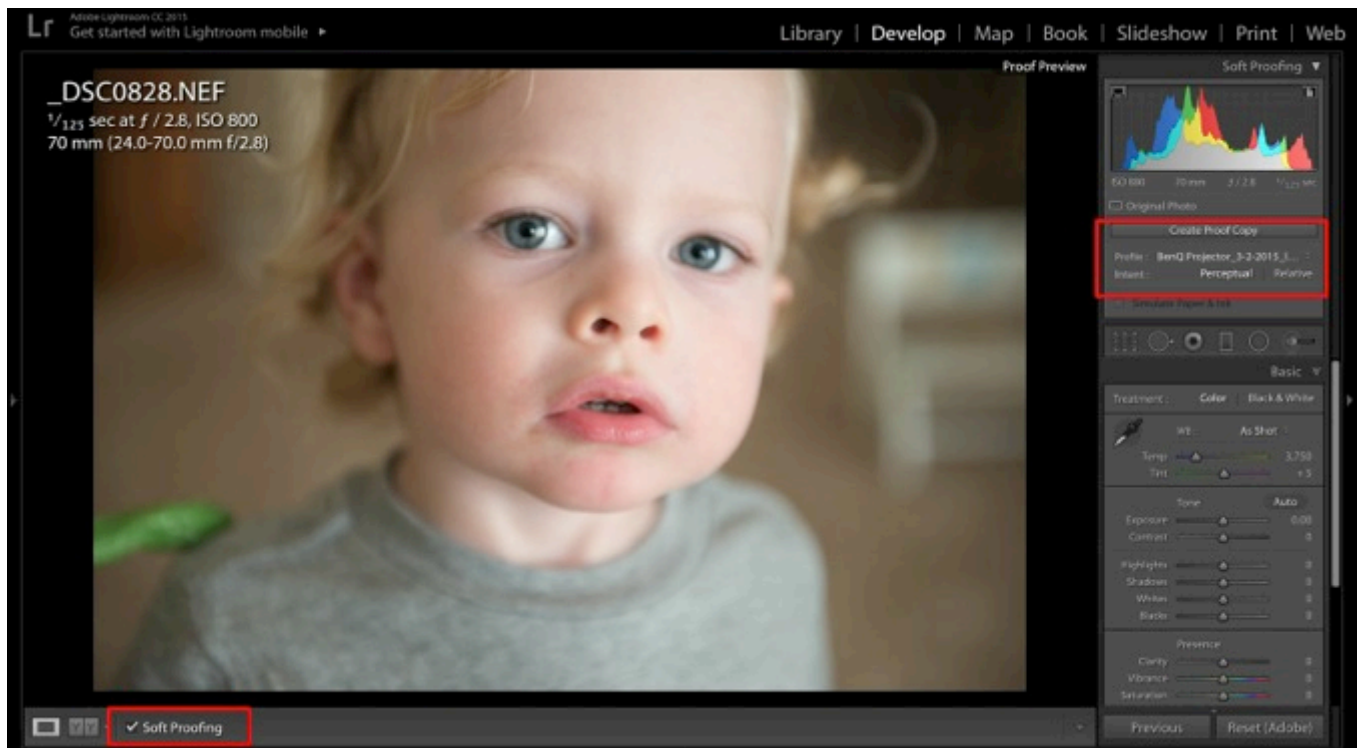
Having a "color neutral" display doesn't necessarily mean that what you submit for competition will be projected as you see it on your display. That's because Photoshop and Lightroom are using all of your display's color capabilities--and then some. Every monitor has different

capabilities so, while **your** monitor may be able to show you 120 shades of yellow, not every monitor can. That means, when your image is rendered on the target display, the target display will have to interpolate those colors that it can't accurately reproduce and interpolation doesn't always fall in your favor.

The best way to ensure that your image will look the same across devices is to proof the image with a reference color space profile or hardware color matching profile. A color profile is a driver that tells the proofing software (in Photoshop or Lightroom) what colors are out of gamut and what the rendering engine will do with out of gamut colors.

Proofing your image using a reference color space is simple—just choose the reference color space profile when proofing your image. Most devices can accurately reproduce 100% of the colors in the sRGB color space. Some may only be able to reproduce 98% of the colors in the sRGB color space. Your color management software should tell you how close your monitor will accurately reproduce the full sRGB color space. Our projector can reproduce 100% of the sRGB color space so we generally tell folks to use the sRGB color space.

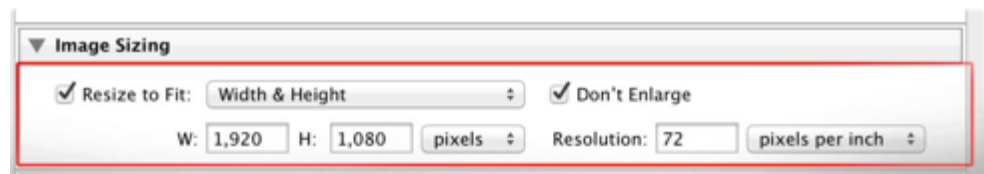




Proofing your images using a hardware matching profile will get 100% accuracy because the profile was custom built specifically to match the performance of the target display. As it happens, we build a hardware profile for our projector and make it available for download on the SCACC interclub submissions page - (<http://scacc.us/interclub-submissions/>).

100% of the sRGB color space can be rendered by the project but there are colors that are outside of the sRGB colorspace that the projector can reproduce quite well so proofing with the projector's profile will give you a much better indication of what can and cannot be reproduced by the projector.

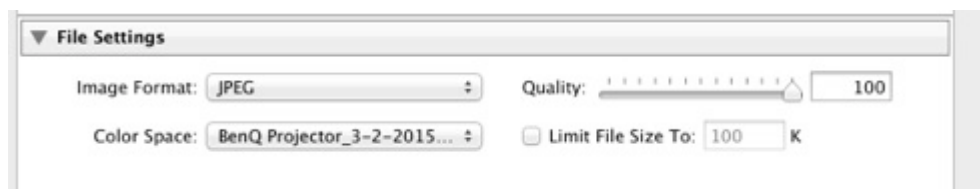
The interclub submissions page also has a few other tricks that I use to export my images. The most important configuration setting is to constrain the size of the image to 1920x1080.



If you use Lightroom then you'll want to configure your Poly export preset with these settings:

Checking the "Resize to fit: Width and Height, don't enlarge" will constrain your image to the size you specify and you need to specify 1920 and 1080. If your image will not fit inside those dimensions the Lightroom will scale it down to fit inside those dimensions. The other thing is to specify the color space. You can choose sRGB or the BenQ profile.

You don't want to specify ProPhoto or Adobe 1998. Those will cause your image to shift colors and the color shift isn't pretty.



Programs and Coming Events

Sue Cerise

February 2 - Competition

February's project theme is "Abstract."

The great workshop put on by Rick Wiley, Bill Gracey and Josie Ross gave us opportunities for some fabulous images; and ideas for later experiments! So we should be able to participate in the current Project.

Our judge for the month is Steve Cirone.

Steve has judged for us many times. His work has been published in numerous magazines; and is also a great teacher who offers workshops and tours throughout the greater San Diego area.

Steve is a world-class avian photographer and an award winning nature photographer. He has a long history of associations with the photographic activities and many photo groups in San Diego. He has been a driving force for Poly and the Photo Naturalists in the early days of the transitions to serious digital photography. He also led the reorganization and recovery of the Photo section (which was on life-support) of our local chapter of the Sierra Club. He is currently the President of their Photography Section.

Steve has also dabbled in commercial photography along the way, shooting surf contests, weddings, rock concerts, graduation ceremonies and the like. Unlike most of us, he's currently spending 100% of his income-producing time on photo-related activities. Steve & Elena's "*San Diego Photo Tours*" is his primary way to pay the bills.

All that, and he hasn't lost his sense of humor. He's a good guy and really fun to listen to when he's judging pictures.

Finally, here's a quote from Steve, "Poly's Alan Haynes is my webmaster and has played a

huge part in the success of our tour business along with all you others. Poly Photo has been a big part of my life, and I am humbled and honored to continue to serve the club." More about Steve and his work can be seen at www.stevécirone.com

February 20: Matting Workshop

combined with Darkroomers Club, PAB 9:30am.

This is perfect timing so you can learn how to mount and matt prints (and save some money) in the preparation of your accepted images for submission to the San Diego County Fair.

We're taking a hands-on approach, different from what we have done before for this workshop. There will be an introductory session to explain the equipment, the supplies you need, and how the process works. Then there will matt cutters and measuring tools available, so you can see how it works up-close, or actually try what we have talked about. That way, you can get the feel of actually making a matt and mounting a picture for display.

February 27: PolyPhoto Awards

Banquet/Luncheon, La Jolla Country Club, 11 am. This is very popular social function for the club; and you'll get to see all the best images our members have produced in 2015. It's a beautiful venue, with views over LaJolla to the ocean.

We'll have more details (including menu options and prices) and you'll be able to sign up at the February 2 meeting.