POLY SPEAKS

Magazine of the Polyphoto Camera Club

Volume 9, No.1 January/February, 2018

"Bubble Man" – by Pat Michalowski

CONTENTS

News and Views of Poly Photo Camera Club Members
January/February, 2018 Volume 9, No.1

FEATURES

Featured Photographer of the Month 4
Pat Michalowski

Amended Competition Bylaws Articles 5
Dan Palermo

DEPARTMENTS AND COLUMNS

From the Editor 2
Jim Mildice

From the President 3
Diane Patterson

This and That 10
Clark Winsor

SCACC Report 11
Mary Anderson

Coming Events 12
Josi Ross

Poly Speaks is published by the Poly Photo Camera Club, in San Diego, California. Editor – Jim Mildice
President – Diane Patterson | Vice President – Josi Ross | Secretary – Robin Stern | Treasurer – Pat Michalowski

From the Editor

TGIO (Thank God it's over). This year's monthly competition changes seem to be finally settled. I can now report that, while keeping our two competition categories, our members also voted (near-unanimously) to go back to Poly's stated goals of *"promoting all subjects and forms of image creation."* They approved Dan's proposal, and removed all the artificial limits that existed in 2017 about the tools and methods used to create our images.

Our two redefined categories focus only on the final image. Simple summaries of their requirements are listed below.

Realistic (R) – if it looks real, it belongs in this category.

Altered Reality (AR) – If anything has been used so that the image or any of its elements don't look real, it belongs in this category. Also, this category is named to emphasize that it further applies Poly's basic requirement that all of our competition images originate as our own (real) photographs.

I would also like to repeat something I said in last month's editorial. The "one verses two categories" controversy seemed to be pretty contentious and devisive for a while. But now we've had our vote and come to a consensus. We've also simplified our definitions for the categories. **We need to remind ourselves that "the vote wasn't personal,"** and unite again to make Poly a better club.

Our **featured photographer** this month is **Pat Michalowski.** Pat shows us that his favorite images are a type that many of us are not bold enough to do. He likes to do *"street photography."* His interesting pictures tell really effective stories about people. Seeing them could encourage some of us to try this ourselves. Thanks, Pat.

Finally, I've been pondering (always a dangerous thing to do) about how computers are getting smarter and more capable and can help our artistic efforts. With my background in technology, I've always liked electronics and computers and AI and digital photography and robots and . . . Also, as I have matured, all that has been tempered and modified by experience with Art (mostly photographic art).

With my combined experience and outlook, I never imagined that I could possibly say this, but now – **Technology has gone too far!!!**

I recently read an article about a new camera that was controlled by an AI-based computer. Google is developing a camera called "Clips." As part of this effort, they have hired some professional photographers to train the "Google Clips" AI when (and when not) to take a picture.

Their team includes a documentary filmaker, a photojournalist, and a fine art photographer. They inputed content consisting of a large number of images, and said, "What makes a memorable moment?"

They then trained the software using consistent examples to teach it specific concepts about good photography – composition, color, light, focus, etc. They also used these types of examples to teach the computer what pictures not to take.

To be fair, the Google design is aimed at a wearable device that could be used to document our lives (automatically). But it's easy to imagine future growth and developments leading to totally-automated street photography robots (and more).

We've already seen smart phone apps that offer compositional assistance when we are using them to take a picture. But we're talking about a camera here that takes the picture itself!

I have never believed the doomsayers who have worried that robots and artifical intelligence computers will "take over the world." But trying to take over photography is just too much to ignore.

But on the other hand, maybe having some AI-Computer judges could be an improvement.

From the President

Just a few thoughts to ponder before our next competition meeting.

First I want to thank all the members who graciously volunteer each month by hosting, bringing snacks, sharing their knowledge of photography through workshops and presentations. Our volunteers are what makes our club the Finest Camera Club in San Diego.

Competition Images - Labels

Please enter your images as per the directions in Article XII, Section 1 of the bylaws. (See Page 7 of this Poly Speaks issue.) They will also be posted on the Yahoo Site and Poly's Website. Bill has expressed concern on the new way to label the images. There will be a learning process. Please enter your images as directed. By following the directions, this will make Bill's job easier!!

Building Hosting - Chairperson

I do not mean to sound like a broken record, but our club still needs a building host chairperson to monitor the sign up list and handle the exchange of the keys. If we do not have someone to do this job, this is what can happen. After missing several hosting dates SCACC can tell us that we can no longer have use of the building. That means no meeting place for our competition meetings, workshops and presentations, Please someone step forward to be this chairperson so that this does not happen.

On a Poly designated day, two members need to be signed up to host the building. If we don't have people there, SCACC will fine our club for not doing our hosting duty of sharing the PAB with the general public. Our contract with the City of San Diego requires that it is open to the public on weekends for us to share it at other times for our club activities.

With that being said, the broken record continues, we need members to sign up for hosting. If you did not host the building last year you should the first members to sign up this year. Everyone needs to do their part and host at least one time per year.

Cleaning of the PAB

Our other dirty task that must be handled by all club members is cleaning the building. It is Poly's turn in February. I have picked February 18th as our designated cleaning day. We will start at 9:30 AM, this should only take a few hours. If you can attend please come help us out and make our building shine.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next competition meeting on February 3, 2018.

Thank you,
Diane Patterson

Quote of the Month

Our job is to record, each in his/her own way, this world of light and shadow and time that will never come again exactly as it is today.

- *Edward Abbey*

Featured Photographer of the Month . . . . Pat Michalowski

I have gathered together six images that represent what I enjoy most about photography. Most photographers are looking for that unique image, the image they can own, no matter what their special area of interest. Although I too look for unique images in whatever I am shooting, (landscape, portrait, nature, architecture, etc.), I find that Street Photography/Portraiture provides me with the greatest opportunity to reach my goal.

The serendipitous nature of Street Photography implies that you are not looking for a specific image, only images that tell a story. Others may not see or find what you do, increasing the odds that your image is indeed unique. I have chosen to include only images that I would classify as Street Photography, it is what I enjoy the most about my hobby.

"Bubble Man" (On the cover)- The bubble man was entertaining a crowd in plaza in Aix de Provence France. I have tried to show him as the man behind the bubbles. I hope that others will view this image and wonder what has driven him to spend countless hours perfecting this art of bubble making. His masterpieces always disappear within seconds and he begins anew, not knowing what he will create and unable to preserve it for others to see, only to start again and again and again.

"Boy in a Bubble" - I saw this young man bouncing about aimlessly inside a large ball at a street fair in Santee. He seems to be entering another dimension. I can only assume that is how he felt as he moved around uncontrollably.

"New Mexico Native Dancer" - On the streets of Old Town, Albuquerque, NM, this dancer performed for the crowd. You can see in his face, his commitment to his heritage.

"Lonely Street Performers" - I was drawn to this backstreet in the Old Town section of Valencia, Spain by the melodic strumming of guitars that pushed the notes around the corner of this walkway. The two artists, perhaps preparing to perform for the main street crowds, seem to fit cozily and symbolically in the curve of the sheet music notation created by the afternoon shadows.

"Oaxacn Street Vendor" - The lines in her face, the crook in her neck depict a tough life. A life of long hours selling her wares for a few pesos each at the plaza in Oaxaca, Mexico.

"Dinner in a Bag" - This woman was shot on the streets of Teotitlan, Mexico. She is waiting for a taxi to take her and her bags of live chickens home to prepare the evening meal. Some of these birds will likely be kept in a coop to produce eggs for the family. As she waits, she seems to be contemplating visiting the museum at some point as suggested by the signage.

Full Poly Bylaw Changes to Competition Sections
Articles VII and VIII, Approved at the Poly meeting on January 6, 2018
By Dan Palermo

POLY PHOTO CAMERA CLUB BYLAWS

(Revised January 2018)

ARTICLE XII – MONTHLY COMPETITION
By virtue of submitting an entry, the photographer certifies the work to be his/her own and that the image began from the member's camera. Images in each category shall be judged without consideration of subject matter, as long as the subject matter is appropriate to its Categorical definition.

Section 1:
A competition shall be held at the first meeting of each month. Each member may enter up to two digital images. Members may enter one image in each of the two categories described below, or two images in a single category. Images entered in either category are allowed to be modified without restriction in a category-appropriate manner, as long as the primary subject matter was photographed by the maker.

REALISTIC Category:
Images entered in this category must only contain subjects and scenes that do, or look like they could, exist in the real-world. In addition, images that could have been taken with a film camera with a minimal amount of darkroom-type corrections (i.e., exposure correction, minimal dodging and burning, etc.) are allowed. The Realistic category includes images that use the following techniques; black & white, multi-toned, infrared, black-light, stitched-panoramas, HDR, multiple-exposures, composites, cloning, adding realistic textures, along with others, as long as the goal is to make the image appear realistic.
Important: Image titles must begin with the letter "**R**" followed by a space in order to be entered into the Realistic category (example: *R Winter Storm by Ansel Adams*).

ALTERED-REALITY Category:
Images entered in this category may contain some or all subjects, elements, and/or scenes that could not or do not exist in the real-world, as shown. The Altered-Reality category includes photographically-based styles such as; photo-illustration, fantasy, enhanced or altered reality, imaginative photo-art, along with other types of non-realistic techniques, as long as the original image began from the maker's camera.
Important: Image titles must begin with the letter "**AR**" followed by a space in order to be entered in the Altered-Reality category (example: *AR Martian Invasion by Orson Welles*). If an image title does not begin with the letters "**R**" or "**AR**" it will be entered into the Altered-Reality Category by default.

Section 2:
The judge shall not be a club member. In an emergency, a qualified member may act as judge, provided that such a member does not enter that month's competition. Any member acting as emergency judge shall be allowed one makeup entry consisting of two images at a future competition during the year. The competition date may be changed at the discretion of the Executive Board as long as the membership is notified of the change at least 30 days prior to the

originally scheduled competition date. The judge shall be instructed to critique each image and offer constructive comments as deemed appropriate.

The judge shall then rate each image on a scale of 5 to 9 points according to the following guidelines:

A. 5 points = some technical deficiencies; not showing any particular skill of the photographer
B. 6 points = average, some showing of the photographer's use of good technique and recognition of an interesting subject
C. 7 points = fairly strong in technique and interesting; worthy of being accepted for exhibition.
D. 8 points = well balanced; strong in interest, composition and technique and impact.
E. 9 points = exceptionally good; high in interest, composition, technique and impact.

It must be recognized that an image may be so strong in some areas that it overrides weakness in some other area. Images scoring a 7 or greater shall be considered acceptances. Images scoring less than 7 may be re-entered at a later date.

Section 3:
Judges shall be instructed to select First, Second, and Third place winners at each monthly competition in each category as follows:

A. First place shall be selected from those images scoring a 9.
B. If no images scored 9, the selection shall be made from those scoring 8.
C. If no images scored 9 or 8, the selection shall be made from those scoring 7.
D. Second and Third place shall be selected from those images remaining from the 9's first, then the 8's, then the 7's as applicable.

Section 4:
Points received by a maker shall be recorded and counted toward the year-end high-points award for each category. A member may participate in any or all of the monthly competitions and yet elect not to participate and not have his/her scores totaled and posted in the competition score sheet for yearly "High Points Awards." Those members may still enter images into the year-end competition as detailed in Article XIII – Year End Competition.

Section 5:
Once an exhibited image has been accepted in Club competition (by receiving a score of seven points or greater), it, or a near duplicate taken at the same time, cannot be entered in any future monthly competition in any category. A similar image that is created from the same original digital file, but is clearly different and not a near duplicate may be entered in a future competition.

Section 6:
No make-ups shall be allowed for any missed monthly competitions. Yearly High-Points competition scores shall be determined by totaling the highest nine of the eleven possible monthly scores. If a member participates in less than nine monthly competitions per year, his/her high-points competition score will be calculated by using the total of the competitions in which he/she actually participated.

Section 7:
A monthly "Project" competition shall also be held at the discretion of the members.

ARTICLE XIII – YEAR-END COMPETITION

Section 1:
Entries in the year-end competition shall be chosen from accepted images in monthly competitions from that competition year. Each member shall choose eight of his or her images from those that have received a score of seven or higher, regardless of category. Submitted images may be improved versions of the original accepted images from the monthly competitions, as long as they are clearly the same image. Improvements may be based on the photographer's judgment or the judge's comments. The President or the Competition Chairperson shall make arrangements deemed appropriate to judge these images. The judges shall select First, Second and Third place image winners in each of the two Categories, plus approximately ten percent of the entries in each Category as Honorable Mentions. First, Second and Third place winners shall receive inscribed medals. Honorable Mentions shall receive ribbons.

Section 2:
High-points awards will be determined by totaling the points accumulated from the monthly competitions as defined in Article XII, Section 4. First, Second, and Third place High-Points Awards will be given separately, at Year-End, to winners of the Realistic category and the Altered-Reality category. In addition, First, Second, and Third place High-Points Awards will be given to winners of the Combined-Category, created at Year-End for those who have entered at least 6 of a possible 22 images in both the Realistic and Altered-Reality categories during the competition year. If a winner qualifies for High-Points Awards in more than one category (i.e., such as Awards in both Altered-Reality and Combined-Category), only the highest Award will be given regardless of which category it is in. In the event that a winner earns the same High-Points Award in multiple Categories (e.g., two Third Places), only one Award will be given using the following category hierarchy: (1) Realistic, (2) Altered-Reality, and lastly (3) the Combined-Category.

Section 3:
The names of First Place High-Points winners of the Realistic, Altered-Reality, Combined categories shall be inscribed on the High-Points Perpetual Trophy. An inscribed medal shall be awarded to all First Place winners, along with Second and Third place runners-up in each Category. In the event of ties for First Place in any Category, all First-Place names shall be engraved on the High Points Trophy and receive inscribed medals.

This and That
By Clark Winsor

Hi Poly,

Let's look at the competition scores from January's meeting. We had 51 entries in CAT1 and 9 entries in CAT2. After the vote to make changes in the definitions for both categories and change the names of the categories to Realistic and Altered Reality, we proceeded with the competition. I haven't heard how we're going to title our entries. (*ed note – it's in this issue*.)

In the Realistic Category we had 17 sevens, 23 eights, and 11 nines. In the Altered Reality category we had 9 entries. There were no 7's, but we did have 3 eights and 6 nines. Looking at both categories we had a total of 60 images enter in the competition.

Did you ever want to know how many different DSLR camera models Nikon makes? Neither did I, but I checked it anyway. (You Canon people can let me know what their numbers are for next month.)

Nikon has 20 different DSLR's on the market right now. Entry levels begin with the D3300 selling at $399.95 and for the rich and famous, the price for the D5 Anniversary Edition is $7999.95. The other 18 models fall somewhere in between.

At January's competition, we had a lot of miss-sized images. They all came from Apple computers. It appears that there is an incompatibility between "*Apple Mail"* and the *"Yahoo"* software that collects the competition entries.

Lastly, We have good news from SCACC. The hours we will be required to have the building open during the summer months has been changed. Beginning this summer, the hours will be from 12 to 4 P.M.

Clark

SCACC News

Mary Anderson

SCACC needs "new blood". The SCACC officer terms end in March and we need a 2nd VP of Building and a Secretary. SCACC officers come from all the clubs, so I am appealing to Poly members to volunteer.

VP of Building may sound like we need someone with electrical, plumbing, painting, etc. experience. While we have been fortunate to have such VPs in the past, it is not a necessity. Professionals (or the city) would take care of such items. This is more about being aware of issues and reporting to the President, keeping items stocked in the bath (trash can liners, paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc.). Les has been acting as both President and Building VP…he would really like some help in this area. Please. No one would be flying blind. It's a team effort.

Secretary is as it sounds… keeping minutes of SCACC meetings, plus preparing annual schedules of PAB hosting and cleaning assignments and schedules for wall displays. Josi has been doing this for years and is stepping down to assist with Poly needs. However, she will still be around to help with the transition. Again, no one would be flying blind.

SCACC meetings are six times a year, on the first Tuesday night of odd months, at the PAB. They last about 2 hours. SCACC is the reason we are allowed use of the wonderful Photo Arts Building in Balboa Park. No SCACC, no building. Please consider volunteering!

Important upcoming dates:

The next SCACC meeting is **Tuesday March 6** at the PAB starting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Next Interclub competition is Tuesday March 20 at 7:30 pm at PAB

Interclub Year-end judging is Saturday March 24, 9-noon at PAB
Interclub Year-end event is Saturday April 28 9-noon at PAB

Programs and Coming Events
Josi Ross

February 3 – Competition
PROJECT – *"Toy Story"*

Our first judge for 2018 will be **Ron Garrison.** Here's a little about him.

Ron Garrison's wildlife and scenic photographs are recognized throughout the world. As a photographer, his career spans more than 60 years. For 38 of those years, he served as the San Diego Zoo's lead photographer, manager of photographic services, and Curator of Photography.

His first work as a photographer was in the US Army. Following his military service, he worked at KOLD-TV in Tucson, AZ and documented Mercury, Apollo, and other aerospace projects for Ryan Aeronautical Company in San Diego, CA.

From koalas and giant pandas to bottlenose dolphins and seahorses, his images have appeared in national and international newspapers and magazines, in coffee table and children's books, and on posters, note cards, calendars and CD's.

You can see some of his work at http://www.rongarrison.com

February 17 – Field Trip – Hawk Watch

This month Poly will be off-site at Hawk Watch in Ramona. Hosted by the Wildlife Research Institute, Hawk Watch is an opportunity to observe and learn about wintering and resident raptors. Among the birds of prey, visitors will see are the golden eagle, bald eagle, wintering ferruginous hawk, red-tailed hawk, prairie falcon, red-shouldered hawk, and burrowing owl.

This gives us plenty of opportunity to photograph those big birds with large beaks and really big talons. Medium to long lenses are recommended :)

Meet up at 9:30 at
Begent Ranch,
18528 Highland Valley Road, Ramona.
Barbara Fletcher will be hosting this event.
Additional excursion:

After Hawkwatch, at around 11:30 we may follow Wildlife Research Institute's leaders with our cars to a site where both Golden and Bald Eagles have been sighted.

February 24 – Annual Awards Luncheon

The details about our Annual Awards Luncheon are shown on the invitation printed on Pages 13 and 14.

Coming Events –

Our next road trip will be:
Tucson Photo Adventure
April 20 - April 22/23

Lin Graft and Al Larranaga have come up with a wonderful trip to Tucson. We will be visiting Mission San Xavier, the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Saguaro National Park and more. Please check the Poly website for hotel information and reserve your spot today.

De Grazia Chapel, Courtesy of Sharon Pairman Tucson Photo Club.

You Are Cordially Invited

TO THE PREMIER EVENT OF THE YEAR

Poly Photo Club

2017 AWARDS BANQUET

February 24, 2018

Check-In Begins @ 11:30 • Lunch Served @ 12:30 • Program Ends @ 3:00

La Jolla Country Club, 7301 High Ave, La Jolla

(see next page for directions)

Country Club dress code: no denim jeans of any kind

Join your fellow Poly members for a fun day that includes

Prestigious Annual Awards for High Points, Best Image of the Year, Best of Nature, and Most Creative
[Enjoy friends while watching YOUR favorite images!]

Delicious Catered Luncheon of New York Steak, or Caribbean Salad with or without Chicken [see following pages for entree descriptions, cost, and where to send checks]

Raffle Drawings for Tons of Cool Prizes

People's Choice Photographic Print Competition
[Bring one print to enter – can be any size]

Beautiful Slide Show of All End-of-Year Images

Luncheon Info

No host wine and beer available at additional cost

6 oz Baseball Cut New York Steak ($38)

Haricot Vert Bean Bundle, Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Charred Red Bell Pepper, Crispy Onions, Shaft Bleu Cheese Demi-Glace

Caribbean Salad with Chicken ($27)

Grilled Chicken Breast, Mango, Papaya, Strawberries, Mandarin Oranges, Avocado, Mixed Baby Greens, Macadamia Nut Dressing

Vegetarian Caribbean Salad with Extra Fruit ($27)

Mango, Papaya, Strawberries, Mandarin Oranges, Avocado, Mixed Baby Greens, Macadamia Nut Dressing

Please write your entree selection(s) on your check, with each person's name & choice if more than one entree is selected

Please send your check & entree choice(s) **no later than February 16th** to: Karen Gless, Ph.D. • 3660 Clairemont Drive, Suite 9 • San Diego, CA. 92117 or bring them to the competition meeting on February 3rd.

Directions to La Jolla Country Club

7301 High Ave, La Jolla

From the South: I-5 to La Jolla Parkway West (turns into Torrey Pines Road). Left on Girard Avenue, left at the next traffic light on Pearl Street, go two blocks and turn right on High Avenue. On High Avenue, follow the winding road up the hill. The Clubhouse can be seen from the bottom of the hill.

From the North: I-5 to La Jolla Village Drive exit. West on La Jolla Village to Torrey Pines Road, left on Torrey Pines, left on Girard Avenue, left at traffic light on Pearl Street, go two blocks and turn right on High Avenue. Follow the winding road up the hill. The Clubhouse can be seen from the bottom of the hill.

From the East: Hwy. 52 (San Clemente Canyon) to La Jolla Parkway West which turns into Torrey Pines Road. Left on Girard Avenue, left at next traffic light on Pearl Street, go two blocks and turn right on High Avenue. Follow the winding road up the hill. The Clubhouse can be seen from the bottom of the hill.