

PHOTOGRAM



March, 2002

In This Issue...

On the President's Mind New Members Jack's Ramblings
Back to the 50's Annual Club Banquet Field Trip

Get your reservations in by March 10

...for the annual banquet (see page 6).

Program Schedule

March 4 – **Annual Slide Competition Judging**
Election of Officers

March 18 – **Annual Banquet**
Slide Competition Winners

April 8 – **How I Won \$10,000 in a Photo Contest**
Henry Lehn

April 22 – **Members' Night – Prints and Slides**

Questions about the club?

Call Frank Peele at 798-7999 or 793-4104.
Or come to a meeting! (See map on back page.)

Redlands Camera Club meets the first and third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM
Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Avenue, Redlands, CA
Established in 1896 - Member of the Photographic Society of America

ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND

Franklin D. Peele

The waning days of what passes for Winter in the Inland Empire are a time for planning, for dreaming about getting out into fields of flowers and all the other wonderful photogenic delights that come with Spring. This month is a busy one for our club, too, with the annual slide competition judging, election of officers and the Installation Banquet on the schedule. As you read this you'll already have turned in your slides to Competitions Chair **Christie Hammond**, but may not have made your banquet reservations yet. Remember, the final deadline is March 10. Get your reservation form and check in to Treasurer **David Hartman** by then, so that Special Events Co-Chairs **Chuck Delameter** and **Gabi Rea** can include you and your guest(s) in the festivities.

At January's annual convention of the Professional Photographers of California in Pasadena, one thing was evident in every nook and cranny of the trade show: digital imaging is here and now. Improvements in the technology are coming faster than one can keep track of. As digital cameras, scanners and printers get better by the day, the prices are dropping as well. But about the only sure prediction about where this is all heading is this: no matter what you buy and when you buy it, before the ink is dry on your check, someone will have brought out a better, faster and cheaper one. If, however, you're tempted to sit on the sidelines and wait for the ultimate bargain, you'll probably never enjoy the capabilities that digital imaging opens up for the photographer. This I firmly believe: that these emerging technologies will, by and large, replace film as we know it for most applications. And probably sooner than any of us think!

Our thanks go to Exhibits Chair **Dan** and **Cidni Griffith** for the new club print exhibit at Redlands Community Hospital, along with congratulations to all the members who entered their photographs. When you go to the hospital to enjoy the exhibit, take a friend!

I find myself getting into a reflective mood, because this is my next-to-last regular column in the *Photogram*. The club will begin a new year on April 1, with a new slate of officers. I know that you'll give them the same great support I've enjoyed, and that the club's strengths will continue to develop because of it. It has been my great privilege to serve you as President the past three years, but it's good for the club to periodically gain new leadership and fresh vision. I'll have (a lot) more to say about this experience you've allowed me to enjoy, in my "swan song" column for the next issue.

All the best,

Frank

Check out our regular club exhibits:

Redlands City Hall

Second Floor

35 Cajon Street, Redlands

Redlands Community Hospital

Physical Therapy Wing

350 Terracina Blvd., Redlands

Welcome to **Cathy Decker**

Welcome to **Curt Burgess**

Cathy says she is the beginner and Curt is the expert. She has only been taking photos for a few years, but Curt has over 35 years of varied experience including photojournalism and professional wedding photography. Cathy has gone from point-and-shoot cameras to Nikon equipment, which Curt also uses, plus a medium format.

Both are avid animal photographers, and Cathy specializes in cats. They enjoy photographing period costume events such as the Renaissance Fair, Calico Days, and Oak Glen Heritage Days. Both Cathy and Curt were award winners in our last slide competition.

Curt is a college psychology professor and Cathy is a college English professor. She says one of the best things about the camera club is finding out that other people throw away as many slides as she does.

"A hundredth of a second here, a hundredth of a second there – even if you put them end to end, they still only add up to one, two, perhaps three seconds, snatched from eternity."

*Robert Doisneau
Quoted at www.annabelle.net*

Welcome to **Callie Jones**

Callie has been a registered nurse for over 35 years and is now semi-retired. She has been taking photos, off and on, for about 20 years. Now that she has more time, she is "back into it".

Callie uses both Canon and Nikon equipment. Her primary photographic interests are landscapes and candid people photos. She enjoys walking, bike riding, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities, and plans to start going on our field trips.

Callie says she likes the learning process of the club and the expertise shared by the members. She plans to enter the slide competition for the first time this year.

Welcome to **Marlene Mossestad**

Marlene has been taking photographs for many years, but somehow lost her interest a while back. She says the camera club has renewed both her enthusiasm and confidence.

Marlene started taking photographic classes at Riverside City College in 1995. Since then she has taken several other classes, including dark room techniques. Even with these classes she considers herself intermediate in skill.

Marlene uses Nikon equipment and her primary subject interest is portraiture. She recently participated in a workshop in Yosemite and says she needs more experience in scenic photography. Her goal is to learn more from club members, programs, and to build her own darkroom.

Marlene is a postal employee and her other hobbies include walking, reading and movies.

Professional Photo Expo 2002 - Early Friday morning, armed with credit cards, checkbook, and a wife who really had all the money, off we went to the Expo in Pasadena. The main theme was "Play to Win- Go Digital – The Future Is Now". Upon arrival, I was very pleased to see members of our club present. There were pictures, pictures and more pictures on display. They were all excellent. They probably occupied a foot ball field in display area. The theme was truly digital and at what was called the "Digital Café" was the workshop for Adobe Photo 6, with lectures and hands-on at the various computer stations. I saw digital photos retouched and could hardly believe my eyes. This is what we must do to professionally survive. The speakers had a true command of the software program and an artistic eye which I am still trying to achieve. Many of the exhibits were great but I was disappointed that Nikon, Sigma, and Tokina did not have booths. The two retail dealers were Sammy's Camera and Mel Gibson, both from the Los Angeles area. In talking with them they sold out of all the digital equipment they brought with them for the Expo. The Expo was a big success and the purchase of a digital hot dog and coke at lunch time hit the spot. Upon returning home the Friday afternoon traffic was a beast. However, my wife still had all the money and my credit cards looked like they melted. Next time we go, I think staying overnight would be the best bet. Not only for the Expo, but there is a lot to see in Pasadena.

Some Technical Talk - We sometimes hear the term "aberrations" used, and for those of you who would like a definition here goes: Optical faults that cause a lens to produce an unsharp or distorted image. These can be corrected (and sometimes eliminated) by the optical design of the lens. Also, stopping down to smaller apertures minimizes the effect of some aberrations.

Adventure Photographer - During my last visit to Bishop, I revisited Galen Rowell's photo gallery. I did purchase two books. The first was "North America the Beautiful" and the second, "Inner Game of Outdoor Photography". I especially liked the Outdoor Photography book. It is an inspired manual to taking better pictures and the journey of discovery into the creative process. I will use this as my bible for learning. Please visit Galen's web site at www.mountainlight.com.

Roll of Film - I received a coupon for a free roll of Kodak Elite Chrome Extra Color 100 film with up to a maximum value of \$10.00. Sounds like a good deal until I discovered none of our local dealers or those at the Expo had this film. I am very upset with Kodak and if anyone would like to buy my coupon for 10 cents, it's yours.

Camera Show - I went to the camera show at the B.P.O.E. Lodge 643 in Riverside this month. It was truly a place for the vintage camera enthusiast. The up side of this event is that all equipment is guaranteed. If you want to see digital or modern cameras, this was not the place to see it. I did get to handle some older cameras that I used to have and I don't know why, but I have a place in my heart for twin lens reflex cameras.

Ramble - I'll stop rambling for now as my calico cat accidentally stepped on the shutter release of my F-100 which happened to be set on fast exposure and off went three quick shots that scared the heck out of her. I'll ramble more at ya next month. Happy Valentines Day and take lots of pic's.

BACK TO THE 50'S, THE 50MM NORMAL LENS

David H. Hartman

One might say the 50mm f/1.8 lens is a boring lens. It's cheap; it's the lens everyone used to buy when they got their first camera, well almost every one. It simply has no caché!

My first lens was a 55/3.5 Micro-Nikkor – close, very close, but not the same. For the record my second lens was a 105/2.5 and my third lens was a 24/2.8. Did I know what I was doing or what? As nice as this setup was it lacked something.

Do you “Feel the Need, the Need for Speed?” You should! Today's consumer zooms feature a wide zoom range, barrel distortion at the short end, pincushion distortion at the long end and soft resolution to boot. That's hardly a winning combination, so what does it have? Well, it's got convenience. But it's got no speed!

With a 50/1.8 lens you can shoot flash free well after the sun has set. Setting a zoom to 50mms isn't the same; your maximum aperture is f/4.0 if you are lucky. Worse yet that lens probably needs to be stopped down a stop or two to get decent center sharpness, to say nothing of edge sharpness. I'll poke a few keys on my HP calculator: -2.33 stops is 10x! You will need ten times (10x) more light to take that photo with a Party / Disneyland Lens than you need with the 50/1.8. If you sit and brace an arm or lean against a wall, breath carefully and roll your finger smoothly over the shutter release you may get a good shot at 1/15th second f/1.8. Can you do that at 1/3rd second, hand held? I can't!

Ever heard someone say “I never,” “I always.” If that is what they do they will “never” and “always.” If one always uses a tripod there is a whole class of

photos they will never take. If they never use a tripod they will always be ignorant of the amazingly sharpness of a 50/1.8 lens. A 50/1.8 lens is usually among the sharpest lenses in a manufacturer's lineup and it's dirt cheap. You've got a choice and it will give you a choice so why not use it!

If you would never buy a 50/1.8, then you will never take a whole class of really great photographs! So always buy a 50mm f/1.8 lens and always keep it handy.



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Lori at the Tomorrowland Train Station, Disneyland, USA. 50mm f/1.8 AI Nikkor at 1/15th second, f/2.0 on Tri-X Pan, EI 200.

You are invited to the
Redlands Camera Club

Annual Banquet

Our annual banquet will be held on March 19 at 6:30 PM, and dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 PM. Our meal will be catered by the Redlands United Church of Christ.

The menu includes chicken cacciatore or vegetarian cacciatore, mixed vegetables, salad, bread, dessert, and tea or coffee. The program will feature the annual slide competition and awards.

The price is \$14.00 per person. Make your reservation and menu selection at the March 4 meeting, or by mail. We must receive your reservation and payment by March 10. Sorry, no ticket sales at the door and no refunds. Call (909) 796-3502 for further information, or to confirm reservations made by mail.

◆ *Club Field Trip* ◆

Swanson Photographics

34366 Yucaipa Blvd, Suite G, Yucaipa
(Old Von's shopping center - nearest cross street is 5th St.)

Thursday - February 21
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Enjoy an evening at Dave and Shari Swanson's Digital Lab.

As we receive a guided tour, see how they process film, print, and the equipment they use. Plus we will get to see a full digital portrait studio.

Each participant is invited to bring one item to process; one slide, print, negative or digital file.

Space is limited, so sign up at the next meeting.

Remember: field trips are for members only, thank you.

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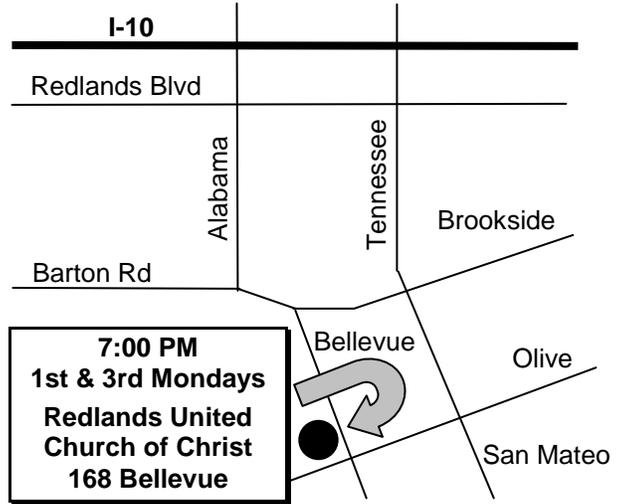
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Upcoming events...

- Mar 4** Slide Judging & Election of Officers
- Mar 18** Annual Banquet & Slide Competition Winners
- Apr 8** How I Won \$10,000 in a Photo Contest
- Apr 22** Members' Night – Slides and Prints
- May 6** Remote-Controlled Helicopter Photography

Where We Meet...



Photogram
Redlands Camera Club
P.O. Box 8311
Redlands, CA 92375
