

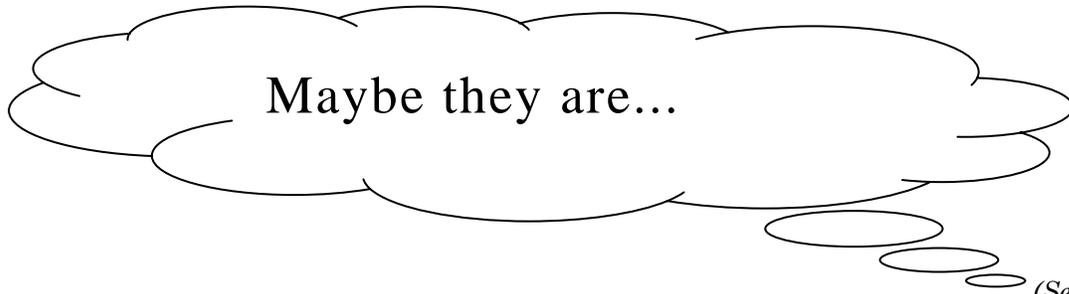
PHOTOGRAM



January, 2003

In This Issue...

From the President Photos in the Photogram?
Being Good Enough



(See page 5)

Program Schedule

January 6 – **Redlands Color Lab**
Steve Wormser

January 20 – **Members' Night**
All

February 3 – **Polar Bears of Churchill**
Peggy Burnett

Questions about the club?

Call Lisa Rutherford at (909) 849-0399.
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

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Lisa Rutherford

It's almost here!

Well, no, I'm not talking about the New Year. Isn't it amazing that a whole two years have passed since the world contemplated the new millennium and when it arrived breathed a collective sigh of relief that all the clocks hadn't melted like those in a Salvador Dali painting or that civilization hadn't imploded as a result of massive technology failure?

Actually I was thinking more about the **Two Towers**, second movie of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. *It's* almost here. I have been looking forward to it all year.

As I am reading the book about the making of the movie I am extremely impressed with the special effects used in the movie and how footage of live action is so skillfully blended together with computer generated components and backgrounds. Gone are the days they used Jell-O for the parting of the Red Sea in the Ten Commandments!

And what does that have to do with photography? Anymore most discussions about photography invariably swing to digital or computers. Reading the Science News article "Photography at a Crossroads" (November 23, 2002 issue) Dusan Stulik of the Getty Conservation Institute says that the arrival of digital cameras is similar to the introduction of Gutenberg's moveable-type printing process in 1455. "Everything changed," he says.

It really hasn't been but a couple of quick years since the club members used mostly conventional film and cameras. The enthusiasm and raves for one our more recent program, **Photoshop 7** by **Steve Burns** of San Diego bears out the fact that more and more members are using some type of advanced technology to produce images.

I have heard nothing but kudos for Steve and his program and some have said that they thought that it was the best program ever for the club.

(Hey, didn't some say the same thing about the Empire Underwater Photographers program?)

Because of the enthusiastic feedback we will definitely be inviting Steve back in the near future.

With all the raves for that program I was truly sorry to miss it. But, boy, did we have a great time at **Joshua Tree National Park** that same night watching for Leonid meteors!

We couldn't have had nicer weather for the middle of November at 4,500' elevation. There was no wind and it was not so very cold. The firewood lasted through the night at our awesome campsite with about ten club members and their guests enjoying the camaraderie and opportunity to shoot some astral pictures. The moon was nearly full and so we didn't see as many meteors as we had hoped, but we saw some great ones.

Those of you that went, (and those that didn't, but took pictures in their backyards) remember **Member's Night** is coming **January 20th** and we all are looking forward to seeing some of those images. Thanks again to **Tyler Nordgren** for the tips on star photography in the Photogram, which were passed around camp.

Now thoughts turn to the holiday season, so I would like to wish all our members and their families a very wonderful Christmas with abundant peace and joy in the coming year.

Season's Greetings,

Lisa

Fictitious feedback...

To the Editor:

Why aren't there any photos in the Photogram?

After all, isn't this a camera club?

Good question! The fact is that every photo received for publication has been printed (hint, hint). But there are some technical challenges, too. First of all, an image would need to be converted to digital form in order to fit into the publication process (but access to scanning or copying with a digital camera should be easy enough within our group). It would then have to survive being rendered in black and white with the limited tonal scale of the photocopy process (but most can actually do fairly well). If the image size needs to be reduced (can't do 11 by 14's here!), the subject matter should still be visible. And there has to be page space available (but often there is).

Here's an idea: What if we published examples of what's up at the city hall and hospital club exhibits? We could print some selected work in issues of the Photogram that appear while the work is on display. The reproductions may not be wonderful, but they might stimulate interest in visiting (if not entering) the exhibits. Perhaps someone with a digital camera could record entries at the time new work is hung.

Sometimes the Photogram just seems to have the same old stuff month after month. It needs more originality and creativity!

After all, isn't this a camera club?

Well, we *do* have original and creative material in the Photogram. For example, Jess Wall, Jack Kruse, Tyler Nordgren, and Fred Mandabach have given us interesting articles on very diverse topics in their unique styles. Even our regulars (like Lisa Rutherford and Judith Sparhawk) manage to keep things fresh each month – not an easy feat.

But if you do see some deficiency here, perhaps the last paragraph contains a clue to the remedy. Creativity and originality are products of *individuals* (say, *you're* an individual, aren't you?). The club publication is not produced by "the club" (there really is no such thing). It comes about through the efforts of specific *people*, each of whom has had to grind through the personal work of making a part of its construction. The process interferes with normal life. It can take a fair amount of time. Some may see this as obligatory drudgery, but others might realize some sense of giving themselves, whether for benevolence or appreciation (or both) – much like putting a photograph on public display.

"The photographer is like the cod which produces a million eggs in order that one may reach maturity."

George Bernard Shaw
Quoted at www.aiaa-usa.com



See This Space?

We'd like to fill it with
something from YOU!

If you're a **Redlands Camera Club** member, you probably have a greater interest in **photography** than most people. And what you **think** about it, **feel** about it, **know** about it, have **done** with it, and **get** out of it would most likely **interest** and **benefit** other members (yes, **really!**). There just isn't the opportunity to **share** much of this at the meetings, so how about using the **Photogram**? Whatever you might want to say about **your experience** of photography could be in **print!** We're not looking for major articles here (although they'd be **welcomed**) – brief letters or notes would be fine. You could even send us a tidbit or two **every month** if you'd like!

Whatever you come up with, send it to the Photogram **editor**:

Photogram
c/o Don Christopherson
PO Box 767
Cedar Glen, CA 92321-0767

E-mail: dkchris@earthlink.net

Being Good Enough

Don Christopherson

For those of us who enjoy photography as simply a creative outlet and means of self-expression, having the opportunity to display our photographs in a public place is really quite rare. That's why the Redlands Camera Club exhibits at City Hall and Redlands Community Hospital are so valuable. But despite the fact of being open to any member, many are reluctant to participate. An often-heard reason is, "My photographs aren't good enough."

But what does that mean? What do they have to be good enough *for*? Good enough for *whom* or *what*? I suggest that one of the following possibilities might be true when it seems like a photograph doesn't measure up:

Possibility #1: Maybe you honestly don't like it.

It may be obvious to you: too light, too fuzzy, a tree growing from someone's head. Or you may be clueless: it just doesn't have the zing that you felt when you looked through the viewfinder. Here's where the common rules of photography (for exposure and composition, for example) and the experiences of others can be helpful. They might suggest what could have been done differently to move it closer to what you wanted it to be.

Possibility #2: Maybe it doesn't look like the work of others who have a reputation for being good.

It can be hard to like something if you assume that someone you respect would not. One way to clarify your feelings about your work is to spend time with it. Put it on display where you'll see it everyday. Live with it for a while. Notice whether it grows or grates on you, and why. It's like building a personal relationship – getting past first impressions to seeing real qualities, good or bad.

Possibility #3: Maybe it's really good enough.

OK, it's not perfect (an infinitely worse minefield than "good"), but, when you're honest with yourself, you truly like it. What you were hoping the photograph would do, it does for you. You feel good calling it yours. And that's good enough.

"Warning:
If experiencing a photograph
can not be done
with some of the abandon
of a boy riding a bicycle,
or children wading in the
gutters after a rain,
there is no reason
to experience photographs."

*Minor White and Walter
Chappell
Quoted in Aperture
Winter, 2002*

Redlands Camera Club
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Fiscal Year 2003

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Past President: **Frank Peele**
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*Assistant Photogram
Editors:* **Jack & Kathy Kruse**

Member Exhibit Rules:

- The work must be yours, a member of the Redlands Camera Club.
- The work must be ready to hang, using wire eyes and wire, no saw tooth hangers.
- You may use a frameless presentation but the work must be glazed for protection of the work.
- The work must be hand delivered on take in day and picked up on take down day.
- There is a \$3.00 fee for each work hung. Cash or check. Bring correct change, please.
- The work may be offered for sale or not.
- Works may not be removed till the exhibit is over.

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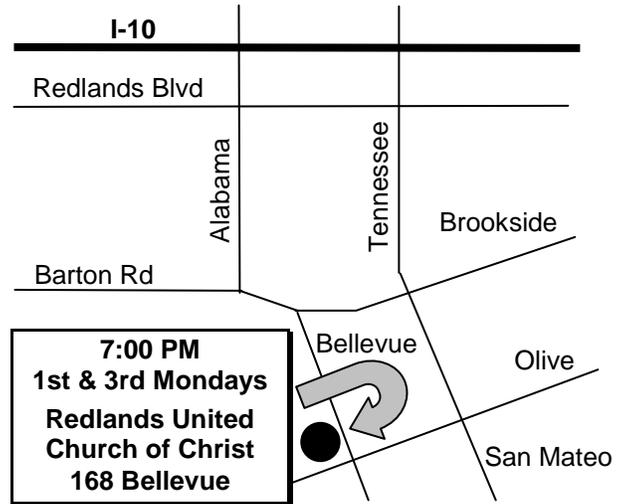
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E-mail: dkchris@earthlink.net

Upcoming events...

- Jan 6** Redlands Color Lab
- Jan 20** Members' Night
- Feb 3** Polar Bears of Churchill
- Mar 3** Annual Slide Competition & Election of Officers
- Mar 17** Annual Banquet
- Apr 7** Members' Night
- Jun 16** Members' Night

Where We Meet...



Photogram

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