

SHUTTERBUG

DECEMBER 2010

TOOLS, TECHNIQUES & CREATIVITY



© 2010, Neil Henderson, All Rights Reserved

OUR PICKS: TOP PHOTO BOOKS OF 2010

Images, Ideas, Biz, Travel, How-To & More



WE TEST
Panasonic G2
 Compact System Camera



shutterbug.com

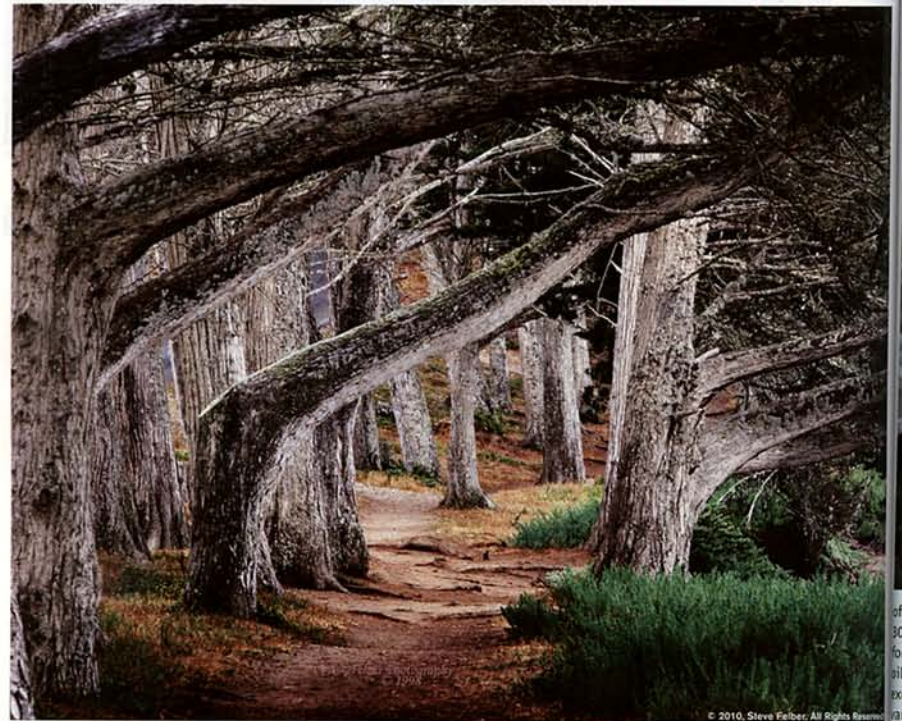
US \$4.99
 CAN \$5.99

0 70992 30325 0 1 2

A SOURCE INTERLINK MEDIA PUBLICATION

California's Photo Arts Group

An Informal Group Creates Extraordinary Imagery



© 2010, Steve Felber, All Rights Reserved

Photo Arts group members live in the Palm Springs, Redlands, and Joshua Tree areas of California, and we are very informal with no officers or rules at monthly meetings. We exchange critiques and chat about

photography in many of its myriad forms. We also eat well.

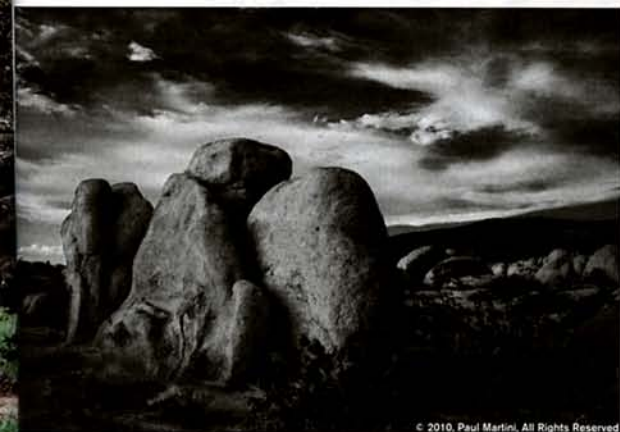
Some members are experts in Photoshop and related programs, some are infrared fans, a few favor black and white, and most have in-depth expertise

in digital printing. All are eager to share their knowledge, so brief "seminars" evolve during meetings. Most members are shooting with D-SLRs and a few use medium format film equipment.

Our 25 members come from a variety



© 2010, George Johnson, All Rights Reserved



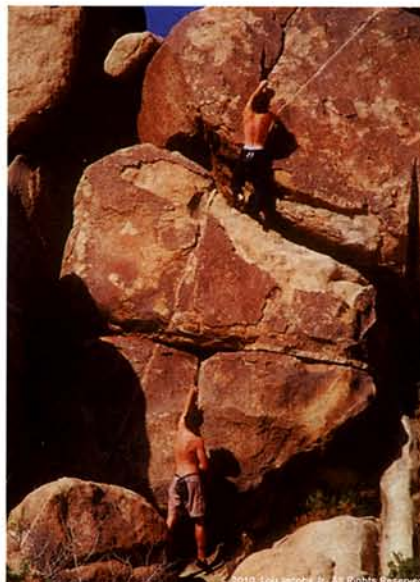
© 2010, Paul Martini, All Rights Reserved

is a favorite place to shoot except in summer heat. A few guys are inveterate hikers and know the park well. We all find new vistas on every visit. We have been meeting for about 20 years. New members join frequently and we often speak of those who have died and left us prints and memories of their personal work.

Steve Felber

While employed by a corporation Steve indulged his passion by taking many photography classes at a junior college. He also created a camera club at work, and shot weddings on weekends, which helped pay for his "never-ending list" of equipment. After retirement he began shooting landscapes and joined four photo groups, becoming the newsletter editor of the 150-member Redlands (CA) Camera Club. For the past five years he has been selling landscape images on his website (www.felberphotography.com) and has joined forces with another member, George Johnson, to sell at fine art festivals.

Steve uses Nikon's D300 and D200 bodies, and follows through with Nikon's Capture NX 2 software to make exposure and color corrections, then segues to Photoshop CS3. Steve and his wife,



© 2010, Lou Jacobs Jr., All Rights Reserved

Nancy, are RVers, and capturing the beauty of the U.S.A. is their motivator for travel.

Walk in the Woods: Taken on a short trail along the estuary in Morro Bay, California. Shot with a Hasselblad and a 60mm lens on Fuji Velvia 100. Exposure at f/16 was 1/60 sec. The image was scanned at 4000dpi with a Nikon COOLSCAN 9000.

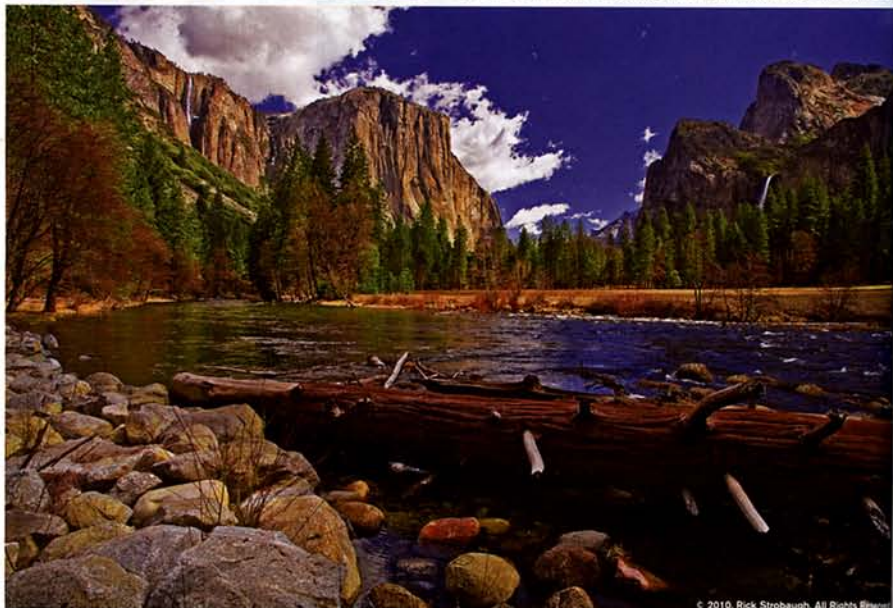
George Johnson

"In my youth I wanted to paint watercolors, but I can't draw so I drifted to photography. I always liked black and white and did all my own developing and printing until I moved and lost my darkroom. I learned the art of platinum/palladium prints as well as intaglio. When I retired after 26 years in law enforcement, I moved again, physically and into digital. Now I shoot infrared using a converted Canon Rebel XT, and print on an Epson 7800, and do all my own framing and matte cutting.

"The sand dunes are at Death Valley at sunrise. After a pretty fierce windstorm the night before, the dunes were pristine and the wind had created the scallop shapes around the small plants. This is a three-shot panorama, at f/8, ISO 200, and 1/500 sec, using the Canon Rebel XT with the 18-55mm Canon lens. I use that lens for almost everything, and it handles close-ups very well. I use Photoshop CS3 along with PTGui and Photomatrix Pro. My motto is: Keep It Simple."

Paul Martini

"I started in photography in 1975 with the purchase of a Leica M3, and took extensive college classes. At about the same time I



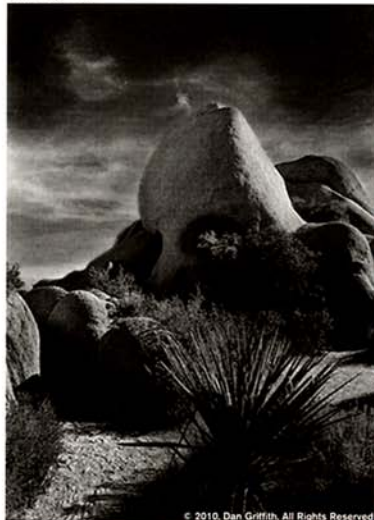
© 2010, Rick Strobbe, All Rights Reserved

backgrounds, including a former 12-year Navy photographer, a couple of former law enforcement officers, a former field worker, and several company executives. Their photographic educations range from self-taught to formally educated, and many are workshop lovers. Some travel widely to attend photo trade shows, and some wouldn't miss a good photography exhibition at the Palm Springs Art Museum or at other venues. We are a friendly smorgasbord,

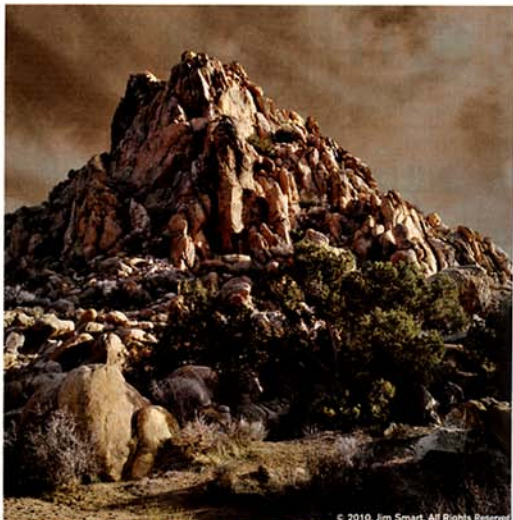
eager to explain techniques and show our work at meetings. We never know which members will bring color or black-and-white prints, or if they may project slide shows on laptops or handy screens. We are supportive of members when we critique their images, hoping to help them improve their seeing and techniques.

Since Joshua Tree National Park is very close to the homes of some members and within 40-70 miles of others, it

PERSONAL PROJECT: Lou Jacobs Jr.
California's Photo Arts Group
From page 146



© 2010, Dan Griffith, All Rights Reserved



© 2010, Jim Smart, All Rights Reserved



© 2010, Charlie Teel, All Rights Reserved

began shooting at Joshua Tree National Park. Good roads make many areas accessible, though I've been hiking for years to shoot arrangements of rocks and landscapes that visitors never see.

"This shot was taken with a Leica M8 and a 28mm f/2 Summicron aspherical lens. The exposure at f/16 was $\frac{1}{125}$ sec at ISO 160."

Lou Jacobs Jr.

"I'm an industrial designer who became a photographer who became a writer. I spent years in magazine photojournalism and also wrote articles for various photographic magazines. For two years in the 1980s I lived and traveled in a motor home. I enjoy shooting scenic pictures in national parks

and other photogenic spots.

"I live about 50 miles from the entrance to Joshua Tree National Park which I call a wonderland of rocks. The variety is endless and one can climb many of them. I look for formations with strong geometric patterns that show in this photo, which is improved by the two climbers. People in scenics

street scenes add interest that enlivens them. It was taken with the Canon Rebel XTi and the 28-135mm IS lens at ISO 200. A handheld exposure at f/11 was $\frac{1}{500}$ sec."

Rick Strobaugh

"I got my first real photography training as a detective in charge of the Redlands (CA) police department's forensic investigations unit. I took photos of crime scenes, injuries, dead bodies, and autopsies. I was able to transfer this knowledge to more enjoyable subjects such as landscapes, wildlife, and macro images. I attended several photo seminars, took a few college courses, and read a lot about photography. Joining a camera club and visiting art galleries also helped in seeing subjects from new viewpoints.

"I shot the Yosemite Valley picture with my Canon 5D and a 24mm lens. Exposure was f/11 at $\frac{1}{500}$ sec at ISO 100. I used a Bogen tripod, and Photoshop CS3 helps me tap into my creative side."

Dan Griffith

"I spent 15 years in the Texas oil fields and more time installing underground pipelines, so I welcomed outdoor photography when I got into it. After serious health problems and a tedious recovery time, I joined the Redlands (CA) Camera Club where I met Frank Peele, a Photo Arts member, and I joined the Photo Arts group. At first, critiques of my photographs made me wonder when I'd be shooting worthwhile pictures. When I began to listen and understood better what veteran shooters were telling me, I started to relax and grow.

"Two members of our Photo Arts group suggested that I start showing my work at the Annual Joshua Tree National Park Association Art Show. I submitted and was accepted. This picture at Joshua Tree National Park was taken with a Canon Rebel XTi, and converted to infrared. The lens was a Tamron 28-300mm f/3.5, on manual, at f/8 and $\frac{1}{500}$ sec, ISO 50, on a Ford Pan F."

Jim Smart

"I developed an interest in photography more than 50 years ago when in a high school photo class I made a pinhole camera, and also shot with a Speed Graphic. Much later I thought I could avoid the digital revolution, but was forced to succumb a few years ago when I became advisor to the school newspaper at California State University, San Bernardino, where I teach journalism, written and photographed. My students were already converts, and I had to learn enough to instruct them. I now use Adobe's Photoshop 4, Lightroom, and Apple computers, and print on an Epson 3800.

"The image entitled *Joshua Tree Mountain* was captured with a Hasselblad 503CX and a 60mm lens at f/5.6 at $\frac{1}{125}$ sec, on Kodak 400NC ASA film. I got out just before it started to rain."

Charlie Teel

"I became interested in photography after a severe heart attack in 1991. I had crime scene photography experience in civilian and military law enforcement, and later took a landscape



© 2010, Pat Murphy, All Rights Reserved

photography workshop in Twentynine Palms, California. After winning a few awards I was encouraged and learned more at one- and two-day photography seminars. Most importantly, I had valuable technical help from veteran photographer friends. My health has remained relatively stable, though I do seek photo opportunities closer to roads.

"The Gila Cliff Dwellings shot in New Mexico consists of three images stitched together in Adobe's Photoshop CS4. The hike to the area is a mile round trip, including a relatively steep climb, so I left my tripod in the car, and carried my Nikon D300 with a Sigma 24-70mm f/2.8 lens. To get the image I wanted at these ancient dwellings, it was apparent I would have to take multiple shots at ISO 400, my lens at 24mm and f/5.6 at 1/250 sec. I braced myself against a rock wall and carefully shot three images. At home I combined them and adjusted brightness, contrast, hue, and saturation, to match the reflected light in each segment of the panorama."

Pat Murphy

"I began shooting 35mm with a Petri FTE I bought at a neighborhood yard sale in 1977. I wanted to share some sights I witnessed on fishing, hunting, and hiking trips. I'm retired from working 30 years at a salt mine in the Mojave Desert, and I spend full-time with photography and other hobbies. Joshua Tree National Park is adjacent to my home, and I've found an endless supply of interesting subjects to photograph.

"Barker Dam, showing the last of the sun's rays on a cold December day, was taken with a Nikon D200 and a Sigma 12-24mm f/4.5 lens. Exposure was f/9 at 1/100 sec at ISO 100.



© 2010, Frank Peele, All Rights Reserved

Saturation was increased in Adobe's Photoshop Elements 7."

Frank Peele

"I'm a semiretired Certified Professional Photographer based in Redlands, California, specializing in commercial and fine art photography. Bitten by the 'photo bug' as a youngster, I was eager to learn from my father who was a career US Navy photographer. Using his 4x5 Speed Graphic, I shot my first commercial job at the age of 13. I enlisted in the Navy after high school to attend the Navy's excellent photo school in Pensacola, Florida. As it turned out, the Navy offered so many great opportunities that I stayed for 30 years and had the good fortune of assignments from darkroom work to directing motion pictures, teaching in the Advanced Photo School, navigating photo-reconnaissance jets over Vietnam, and commanding the Pacific Fleet's photographic forces. I retired in 1988 as a Commander.

"I was named California Scenic Photographer of the Year for 2001 and Inland Empire Commercial Photographer of the Year several times. I use 4x5 and medium format film cameras when it's appropriate, but these days my work is more often done with Canon digital equipment.

"Feelin' Cranky, Keys Ranch, Joshua Tree National Park: Pump casting shot with a Mamiya RZ67 Pro II, a Mamiya 140mm f/4.5 macro lens on Kodak Portra 160 color neg film. Exposure not recorded. Minor corrections made with Adobe's Photoshop CS."

For more information on this group, contact Lou Jacobs Jr. via e-mail at: ljaphoto@aol.com.