

# Sierra Camera Club of Sacramento, Inc

# GAMMAGRAM



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**Congratulations to Willis Price. This photo taken at Preston Castle has been chosen to receive the Fine Arts Award of Merit at the 2009 Cal Expo Fine Arts Exhibition. See page 5**

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## Meetings

We have no meetings this month. However your board will be meeting on August 19. If you have any suggestions for meetings, activities or field trips let an officer know. We would love to have your input. We are also looking for members willing to step up and help in a variety of ways. Give us a call or e-mail.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Bob Hubbell

### **BULLETIN!!! There will be no club meetings in August. (Sigh)**

The Garden and Arts Center will be closed on the Second Tuesday because they are installing a new floor. Thus the Digital Division cannot meet. The Nature & Travel Divisions are taking their summer break as usual. See you in September!

The building will be closed. That means . . . Find those photo ops! Too hot to get outdoors? Find a window in your home that provides good light or use a porch in shadow before it gets hot. Then get a chair and a willing subject and practice portraiture. You don't need a lot of equipment but a few things will be helpful. First, get or make a reflector so you can fill in shadows that are too deep. If you plan to process the image Photoshop-style, use a backdrop that is a different color than the subject's hair so you can select him/her easily. A tripod and cable release are very helpful because you can talk to the subject and move around



a bit, rather than having your face hidden behind the camera all the time. Make lots of exposures. Begin with a couple to check your exposure. If your camera will display a histogram, take a look at it. Then blast away: talk a little, shoot a little, so the subject gets used to the camera. Some photographers always make at least two exposures at a time because people tend to get that prefab grin when you're going to shoot

but relax quickly as you (heh, heh) make a couple more exposures. And after that stellar presentation last month on flash, try some flash. Don't stop with traditional front-lighting flash; try some fill-flash, with the subject in front on the window, outlined by the light from outside. Most cameras have a setting for fill-flash so this isn't as hard as it used to be.

Or: (I don't want to get too long winded here), set up a table near the window and shoot close-ups. Try some flower shots. I have a jar full of dried beans. I push the stalk of the flower into the beans so it stays firm. I have the camera on a tripod. Then I can move the jar around, rotate it, etc., rather than moving the tripod. I use a black cloth draped over a cardboard box for a backdrop. I can move it around, too. And don't forget your reflector. Move it around and watch how the light on the flower changes. Nice! You can also use a diffuser

if the light is too strong. A piece of old shower curtain will do. Finally, you don't have to stick with flowers. Weston shot onions and peppers, and he did OK.

If you insist on getting out doors, don't forget the State Fair in late August and early September.

The coast is often foggy during summer, which leads to interesting photography, and it will be cool.

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### NATURE DIVISION

There will be no Nature Division meeting in August. However, we will meet in September on the third Wednesday, and we will be having a competition, so please be out there taking pictures of your favorite subjects.

I will be sending out a reminder toward the end of August. Have a great summer.

Donna Sturla, Nature Chair

### EDITOR'S NOTE

A huge thank you to all the members that contribute articles and pictures to the Gammagram. When there is no competition it gets a bit thin.

We have had so many new members this year. If you are a new member and did not get your green Membership and Guidelines book, please let me know.

Gay Kent

## DIGITAL REPORT by Dolores Frank

Hello Everyone. I missed our July meeting and I understand Truman did a terrific job presenting Flash Photography. We have some of the best photographers in our club and it is always a special event when someone will share some of their “secrets” with the rest of us. As I understand, there were also some shared ideas which Truman then followed up and some of you benefited from his extra efforts. Thank You Truman.

I was having a super good time in Iceland. We traveled there with Don Lyon of “Close Up Expeditions”. This was my second trip with Don and I can recommend him as one of the best trip leaders. He works hard, plans well and is an enthusiastic photographer who never competes with anyone in the group. Just has a good time and shows us the possibilities and gives help wherever it is needed or wanted. But, he doesn’t run to the best image and make you stand behind him, as some do. He tells you where it is and shows you the way. If you are interested in learning more about CUE, here is the web link: [www.cuephoto.com](http://www.cuephoto.com) Don also fixes “flats” and makes breakfast, lunch and dinner if that is required (it was in Iceland since there are not many restaurants) and carries luggage (with a few groans).



There are about 317,000 people who live in Iceland and over 116,000 live in Reykjavik, the most northerly capital in the world. That leaves 201,000 people living in the rest of the country. There are reported to be at least 200,000 Iceland horses and, I think we saw about 50 percent of them. They are much revered as a special breed of horse and are a little smaller than we are accustomed to seeing and

covered with a long lush mane and are extremely friendly. And, in the summer, we never saw “night”. It got almost there around am, but, not quite and then it passed and was daylight again. Great long photography days.



Iceland also has about 200 volcanoes, very few trees and, yes, there is also ice, snow and glaciers, and, birds and ducks and puffins. Millions, of birds..... but, many of them are nesting on the outside edge of cliffs so, I missed a few of them.

Some of the best scenery I’ve seen in years. Lava flows covered with green and yellow moss and zillions of little tiny pink or purple or white flowers. All is a sign of Nature doing its best to make a comeback. Fjords and cliffs and gorgeous views of farm houses snuggled in the side of a mountain. Almost all of the farm houses have red roofs and the committee that made that decision deserves the photographers applause.

Incidentally, the interior is largely without roads. There is a “ring” highway which goes around the country. We traveled on that a lot and also on unpaved roads and gravel roads. Once we took a three hour ferry trip to the Northern peninsula on our search for Puffins. Ask anyone you meet in Iceland if they live on the Coast and the answer will undoubtedly be “well, yes”. The villages are small and some are charming and some are simply a gathering of homes

*(continued on page 4)*

# Iceland

Continued from page 3

and a grocery store and a Bin Bon (liquor) store and maybe a pharmacy or a restaurant or a bakery or, all three.

And, waterfalls, everywhere. The glaciers and snow and ice are melting in the Spring and Summer and you can see water falling just about everywhere you go. Some of the waterfalls are mere trickles and some take curious paths and some are the most gorgeous, rugged masses of water you'll see anywhere. Simply beautiful.

I'll be working on an Iceland show and hope to have something to show you all in the next few months.

Now, back to business. There is no meeting in August. So, relax and go take some pictures instead. Our next meeting will be a competition and the meeting is scheduled for September 8th.



# Murals of the Mission District San Francisco

Travels with Sande Parker

When it comes to photography I'm always "looking for trouble" defined by me as looking for new and different subject material. So, when I saw Gale Perry of Light Fantastic Tours ([www.light-fantastic.com](http://www.light-fantastic.com)) day trip to photograph the Murals of the Mission District



windows and doors, even around mail boxes.

Now, I must warn you, this trip is not for the faint hearted. The walking is level but with Gale you will walk and walk and then walk some more. Gale offers tours that are near and dear to her heart and she doesn't want you to miss a thing. She will interpret



moods of this country reflected by commissioned artists over the years. You will see that one of these murals was painted in 1972. There are serious murals about immigrants, farm workers, women, and physical challenges. There are fun murals about old movie stars and kids fairy tales.



I was intrigued to even learn there were over 600 murals in the Mission District. Besides, what's not to like about a summer day in San Francisco? I talked my trip up with Ron, Truman and Sandy. Ron was busy, Sandy was busy and Truman was busy.



the murals for you (I needed that help because I was only looking at the parts of the mural, not the whole). She will find people on the street that would look good with a mural and ask them to pose for you. She will point out that a polarizer or a flash is especially helpful on a certain mural.



The residents of the Mission District are warm and friendly and if you look carefully, even posed with our murals... Yes, these murals touch you in your soul and become your own. The murals are painted in many alleys, on garage doors, around



But Gale Perry said look into the art and create your own images. Since I've been to Greece and Venice with Gale, I trust her guidance so off I went to discover what touched me (actually in many cases, profoundly moved me). Here is but a sampling of my photos of the history and many



I was touched by the day and also came home with 640 images.

Note cards, calendars, slide shows, Oh, boy, that should keep me out of trouble for a while.

Sandy

Gale Perry of Light Fantastic Tours ([www.light-fantastic.com](http://www.light-fantastic.com))

# Preston Castle

*by Willis Price*

If you missed the Preston Castle Photographer's Day last April, there will be a second chance to roam the castle on a self-guided tour on Saturday September 26th. Photographers will be allowed four hours to explore the non-restricted areas of the Castle.



This gives you the time you need to setup shots without rushing to keep up the pace of our normal informative tours. The Castle, which has deteriorated over the years, was built in 1891 to be used as a school to rehabilitate youthful offenders. It is located in Ione, California. The \$30 tickets must be purchased in advance, and is limited to only 100 tickets. If you are interested make your purchase now, last April it sold out early. Tickets can only be purchased on line using "PAYPAL" at

< <http://www.prestoncastle.com/photoday.html> >



The Image titled "The Open Door" (page 1) was created by bracketing five exposures and merging detail from each into a composite High Dynamic Image. This was taken at the Preston Castle Photo Day that was held last April. A Print was entered in the 2009 Cal Expo Fine Arts Exhibition and it has been chosen to receive the Fine Arts Award of Merit. The 12"X18" print will be on display in the Cal Expo Fine Art's Building.



## Photography Equipment for Sale

Nikon D200 Body only 10.2 Mega Pixel. It is in good condition and works perfectly. I recently purchased a D300. The body comes with 1 battery, charger, field guide book and software. I'm asking \$600.

My e-mail is <[closeupphotos@yahoo.com](mailto:closeupphotos@yahoo.com)>

Ann Quintero

# CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

*75th Anniversary*



Photographic Society of America  
International Conference of  
Photography  
Sept. 20 - 26, 2009  
Yellowstone, MT




Web Site:  
[www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)

Dates to Save

Next Goldrush Meeting  
Sunday August 16

Photoclave in Modesto  
Saturday October 31



The workshops being offered at the Viewpoint Gallery have been outstanding. Here are some coming up.

**Exporting Images from Lightroom**  
by David Robertson 8/8

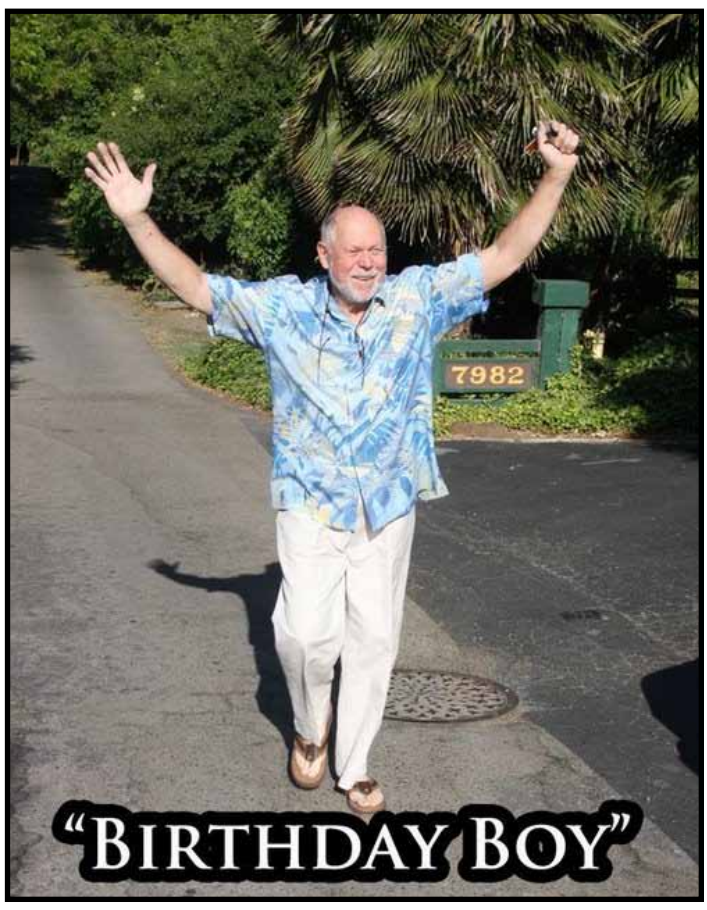
**Principles of Composition**  
by Terry Nathan 8/15

**Dodging and Burning in Photoshop**  
by Chris Schiller 8/22

**Fine Art Digital Printing**  
by David Robertson 8/30

**Social Network Marketing for Artists**  
by George Aiello 9/12

Check the Web Site for more information.  
[www.viewpointgallery.org/content/workshop/index.php](http://www.viewpointgallery.org/content/workshop/index.php)



Happy 70th Truman