Focusing on…
Our Alaska Adventure
by Janet Gelfman

On July 3, 2008, Ira and I flew from Santa Rosa to Juneau, Alaska. As we flew into Juneau, we went over the Mendenhall Glacier. July 4th was celebrated with fireworks at midnight on July 3rd because the sky is light from 4 AM in the morning until 10:30 PM at night. There was a 4th of July Parade.

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~ EXHIBITIONS AND ONGOING CALLS TO ARTISTS ~

EXHIBITIONS, ETC.

Deadline August 10

Deadline August 22
Sebastopol Center for the Arts is reviewing applications for shows in 2009 in its Gallery II. Application for at http://www.sebarts.org/visual/pdf/GIIProspectus2009.pdf
General information at http://www.sebarts.org/index.htm - go to Visual Arts, then Gallery II.

ONGOING CALLS TO ARTISTS

Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department: Exhibits at Finley and Steele Lane Community Centers and City Hall. To apply, go to Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, to pick up an application. Community Center hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm and on Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. For further information, call 707-543-4512; contact is Tara Matheny-Schuster, email tmatheny_schuster@srcity.org

The Atrium Gallery at Marin General Hospital mounts four shows a year of "healing art." The gallery is looking for local artists for future shows. Previous artists have included Ernest Braun. Send slides and SASE to Wende Heath, Institute for Health and Healing, PO Box 8010, San Rafael, CA 94912.

Open deadline: SHOWCASE 2008. Plaza Arts Center is now taking applications for the Showcase 2008 season. Showcase exhibits are juried and run for a period of four weeks - including weekends, a reception and promotional postcards. Each artist is allocated 8 linear feet of display space except for the January Showcase which allocates 12 linear feet. All media are considered. The fee is $125 for a 4-week event. Showcase guidelines at: http://www.plazaartscenter.org/artistShowcaseGuidelines.htm

FIELD TRIPS

This is a gentle reminder to everyone that, if we are going to have field trips this year, it is up to the members to plan them. Bobbi Chamberlain has volunteered to be field trip coordinator for 2008, which means that she will be coordinating dates and assisting the field trip leaders if there are questions, but she will not be planning the field trips.

You don't need any prior experience to plan a field trip - most of the people who led field trips in 2007 had never done it before. If you're unsure of what needs to be done, contact Bobbi (see membership list for her email address). She has a list of things that should be considered. Also think about leading a field trip with one or two other people.
Jim Thomason is having a showing of prints of his wildlife photographs from various locations. It is at Fabulous Framers in Novato. He has 16 prints on exhibit through the end of August. This is in conjunction with the 3rd anniversary of the shop and they are having a reception with drinks, food and prizes on Saturday 2 August 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

Fabulous Framers
430 Ignacio Blvd
Novato CA

Take the Ignacio Blvd. exit from Hwy 101 between Novato and San Rafael. Go West on Ignacio about 1/4 mile to the Pacheco Center (on the right). Fabulous Framers is in the shopping center.

If you can't make it to the reception, Fabulous Framers is open 10:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Saturday and they would be happy for you to stop in and see the prints.

“Reflections on My Journey”
An All-Day Presentation by John Isaac
September 20, 2008 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Lark Theater, Larkspur, CA

Registration fee $65 per person • $25 student fee
Sponsored by the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs

Photo Contest
The California coastal Commission announces its 10th Annual Amateur Photography competition, with prizes.

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, August 22nd, 2008

Visit www.coastforyou.org for complete guidelines and entry forms, or write to:

California Coastal Commission Photo Contest
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105
MAY COMPETITION RESULTS

GENERAL

Level B
1st Waiting in Prague  Phil Wright
2nd Woman Sweeping  Kevin O’Connor
3rd Napa Sunset 2  Jim Oswald

Level A
1st Sausalito Twilight  Ira Gelfman
2nd Harvest Colors  Marilyn Caven
3rd XXX

Level AA
1st Saigon Woman  Drew Jackson
2nd Ceiling Invalids  Drew Jackson
3rd Shallow Depths  Liz Lawson

Level M
1st Rose Macro  Diane Miller
2nd Peek a Boo  Marilyn Brooner
3rd Nature Abstract 1  Tania Amochaev

CREATIVE

Level B
1st Magical Mediterranean  Phillip Hann
2nd XXX
3rd XXX

Level A
1st XXX
2nd XXX
3rd XXX

Level AA
1st I See Said the Spider  Janet Gelfman
2nd XXX
3rd XXX

Level M
1st Moonlit Sentinel  H Bruensteiner
2nd Awful Eyeful  Barbara Larson
3rd Smoke in the Sunset  H Bruensteiner

NATURE

Level B
1st River Otter with Crawfish  Adele Wikner
2nd Scrub-jay  Anne Abrams
3rd Fritillary  TJ Mills

Level A
1st XXX
2nd XXX
3rd XXX

Level AA
1st Windblown Foam on Beach  David Wallace
2nd XXX
3rd XXX

Level M
1st XXX
2nd XXX
3rd XXX

2007 End of Year Winners
B—Nature

"GREAT EGRET WITH GOPHER"
BY ADELE WIKNER

By Adele Wikner
"Great Egret with Gopher"
By Adele Wikner
"Great Egret with Gopher"
By Adele Wikner
Our Alaska Adventure
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On July 5th, we enjoyed a float plane trip from Juneau to Taku Lodge where we had a delicious fresh salmon dinner. We flew over five glaciers on our trip back and forth to Taku.

Late on the afternoon of July 5th, we boarded Cruise West’s Spirit of Discovery. This ship accommodates a maximum of 84 passengers. It is a very relaxed atmosphere with no “dress” requirements. Our cabin had twin beds and enough room for Ira to set up the portable computer and for us to put away all of our belongings. Food throughout the cruise was beautifully prepared and delicious. The weather was not wonderful but we had breaks in the rain throughout the trip and a moment or two of sunshine.

Our trip covered portions of the Inland Passage beginning in Juneau and going up to Glacier Bay. Our first stop was Tracy Arm where we boarded small inflatable boats and were taken nearly into a waterfall and along the sides of the Arm where the minerals and the mussels, together with lichens and mosses, created incredible wall art.

At Frederick Sound we saw some whales although they were quite far away. We also saw beautiful ice floes and our ship acted as the lead for two other smaller ships that followed us through the ice. White bergs hold many trapped air bubbles; blue bergs are dense and reflect long wave colors (blue); greenish bergs may have carved off glacier bottoms.

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Next we stopped in Sitka where we got off the ship and walked through the town (in the rain). We had a wonderful time visiting with local people. This is an old community originally founded by the Tlingit peoples. The Russians arrived in 1799. In 1867, Alaska was sold to the United States for $7.2 million dollars. After we returned to the ship, we saw sea otters. One of them came very close to the ship. They are actually the largest member of the weasel family.

We went on to Glacier Bay which was home to native peoples far earlier than when it was discovered by John Muir in 1879. It is the world's largest protected marine sanctuary. There are 16 major tidewater glaciers (those that go all the way to the water) and thirty alpine glaciers (those compressed between two hills). A Park Ranger, Emily, and a Huna Cultural Interpreter joined us. They both shared a great deal of knowledge with us. We saw sea lions, gulls, puffins, whales, orcas, and brown bears among other creatures on our journey into and out of Glacier Bay. At the end of the day, Emily pulled out her violin and played a most beautiful selection of music. The ship was hushed as her gift to us and the surroundings brought tears to our eyes.

We continued on to Pelican, a tiny town rarely visited by tourists. A local couple came on board to share the history of this community which was founded in the late 30’s and early 40’s as a place for the fisherman to process and store their fish. Much of the town is built on pilings and surrounding a boardwalk that stretches the entire length of the town. Pelican is only accessible by boat or plane (as is much of Alaska). There is so much to photograph here – flowers, reflections, rusted pieces and even a toilet for Drew.

Our final day on the ship found us taking a trip through Icy Strait. The area attracts one of the largest congregations of Humpback whales because of the food supply. The day was gray and foggy. Suddenly there was a whale on the port side and then another on the starboard side and then a pod in front of us. One of the whales has a distinct sound. Originally named Louis (for Mr. Armstrong), the name became Louisa when this whale was found with its young. The whales were blowing, breaching and spy hopping as they fed. It was easier to see the whales since they were closer to us and we could see the differences in their tails as they dove. The fins of the Humpback are small compared to the fins of the Orcas. Being amongst the whales is an incredible experience, as was this entire cruise and one we would recommend to anyone interested in Alaska, wild life or glaciers.
~ August 28th - Equipment Night and PSA TOPS Program ~

The August 28th program at Santa Rosa Photographic Society will feature a 45 minute video on the PSA TOPS program and an Equipment Night. The video will give us an idea of what is happening in the world of the Photographic Society of America (we did quite well this year) and the Equipment Night will give us the chance to see, touch, and talk about the latest, and greatest, tools available. It will be a rich experience I'm sure you will not want to miss.

For the Equipment Night part of the program any of our more experienced members will be bringing in the tools they use to take those amazing images you've seen at club meetings. Considering the jump into DSLR and want to see and feel the latest cameras? Have you ever wanted to see what a 500 or 600mm f4 prime lens looks and feels like? Are you curious about the most current digital tools available? If you answered, “Yes!” to any or all of the questions above, then this is the meeting for you.

Here are just a few of the highlights we have so far:

- Greg Gorsiski: The latest computer tools. (Beta CS4, Aperture)
- Alan Glazier: Telephotos and tripods.
- Jerry Meshulam: DSLR (Canon and Nikon)
- Diane Miller: Macro equipment (Lensbaby too!)
- Drew Jackson: Hauling Your Stuff (bags, vests, belts, etc.)
- Barbara Larson: Fun with Mylar (Did you ever wonder how she gets those incredible self portraits?)
- Marilyn Brooner: Macro techniques
- Howard Bruensteiner: What is a Tilt Shift Lens? Air filter
- Janet Gelfman: Sale / Swap Table too

More to be added . . . I’m sure
This should be a lot of fun!

If you have something to share, contact Drew Jackson or Bob Alwitt and help us out. All are welcome to bring their cool “stuff” and share. Let’s get together, share our tools, and talk about photography.

See you there.

Drew Jackson
Second Meeting Committee