



Focusing on...

STEPPING UP - IT'S TIME!

by Marcia Hart, SRPS President

When Sheri asked me to write a "President's Statement" for the newsletter, I'll admit I was a bit nonplussed. I tried one approach, then another, but nothing felt quite right. So, here goes with what does feel right.

This "message" is my look at how we're doing as a club and what we need to do to improve. Economically speaking, we're in fine shape and should be for the foreseeable future. Our "home", the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, has never looked better and it, too, is looking good from the perspective of the balance sheet.

Our membership appears to be holding steady with some new members every year replacing those who move on for various reasons.

We have made the transition from a club that was based on the sharing of photography via slides and prints to one that is competing and working predominately in the digital world. Non-members in a position to know, such as judges who work with many clubs, tell us we have made our move into the digital world more successfully than most. We are very fortunate to have several talented members who are responsible for making that happen.

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~ CALENDAR ~

JANUARY

- 02 Digital images due
- 06 Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 08 Dinner with the Judge 5:30pm
Monthly Competition 7:00pm
- 16 Digital images due for AI
Shelton Competition
- 22 Dinner with the Judge 5:30pm
AI Shelton Competition
- 26 Newsletter items to Sheri

FEBRUARY

- 06 Digital images due
- 12 Dinner with the Judge 5:30pm
Monthly Competition 7:00pm
- 23 Newsletter items to Sheri
- 26 Program tutorial and demo on
portrait photography by Ron
Pearson 7:00 pm

MARCH

- 06 Digital images due
- 12 Dinner with the Judge 5:30pm
Monthly Competition 7:00pm
- 23 Newsletter items to Sheri
- 26 Program: Electronic Salon 7:00

~ EXHIBITIONS AND ONGOING CALLS TO ARTISTS ~

EXHIBITIONS, ETC.

Deadline March 31: Napa City-County Library invites artists and photographers to submit work for jurying to exhibit at the library in the coming year. For details, email Stephania Pramuk at spramuk@co.napa.ca.us

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>

Clean Wash

A young couple moved into a new neighborhood.

One morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside.

"That laundry is not very clean," she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap." Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor hung her wash to dry, the young woman made the same comments.

About a month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this."

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

~ MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ~

SPRS WEBSITE

<http://www.santarosaphotographicsociety.org/index.html>

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION AND CORRECTIONS:

Contact Sheri Prager, Editor, The Positive Print

See SRPS roster for email address

~ Advancement ~

Level B to A:

Adele Wikner

TJ Mills

Lorna Peters

Kevin O'Connor

Harold Moore

Phillip Hann

Level A to AA:

Marcia Hart

Marilyn Caven

Level AA to Masters:

David Wallace

Congratulations to you all!

~ Membership ~

Your 2009 SPRS dues are now due. Send a check, payable to "SRPS", for \$55 (full member) or \$35 (associate member) to SRPS Treasurer Diane Miller at 10044 Loch Haven Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

ANYONE NOT PAID BY THE END FEBRUARY WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE ROSTER.

~ Swap Night ~

Would you like another swap night/flea market in 2009? Do you have photo equipment, computer gear, software to sell or trade? Let the program committee know what you would bring to the table and if there is enough interest we will try to schedule this for one of the 2009 second meetings. Send email to Bob Alwitt, alwitt@comcast.net.

2008 END OF YEAR RESULTS

GENERAL

Level B

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Adele Wikner | Winter Boating |
| 2 nd Harold Moore | Arch Rock Sunset |
| 3 rd Phil Wright | Waiting in Prague |

Level A

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 st Steve Palmer | White Ranunculus |
| 2 nd Bob Alwitt | Penn Cove Early Morning |
| 3 rd Marcia Hart | Pounding the Surf |

Level AA

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Liz Lawson | Shallow Depths |
| 2 nd Liz Lawson | Fronn Fan |
| 3 rd Bobbi Chamberlain | Sierra Gold |

Level M

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 st Diane Miller | Heron with Evening Clouds |
| 2 nd Jerry Meshulam | Dogwood, Merced River, Yosemite |
| 3 rd Edmond Bridant | Smiling Llama |

CREATIVE

Level B

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st Phillip Hann | Fantasy Duet |
| 2 nd Phillip Hann | Flying Fish |
| 3 rd Marilyn Caven | 3 Ranuncules Blossoms |

Level A

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 st Greg Gorsiski | Sunflower |
| 2 nd Dick Weston | Alligator Medley |
| 3 rd Dick Weston | Contemplation |

Level AA

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 st Larry Mackie | Leader of the Pack |
| 2 nd Linda Caldwell | Perfectly Pear'd |
| 3 rd Linda Caldwell | Ladybug at Rest |

Level M

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 st H Bruensteiner | Bubble Immersion |
| 2 nd H Bruensteiner | Moonlit Sentinel |
| 3 rd H Bruensteiner | Paint by Number Autumn Trees |

NATURE

Level B

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 st Adele Wikner | Praying Mantis |
| 2 nd Adele Wikner | Cucumber Beetle Eating Pollen |
| 3 rd Anne Abrams | Designs |

Level A

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 st Marcia Hart | Snowy Egret on Alert |
| 2 nd Marilyn Caven | Blue Eyed Darter |
| 3 rd Marilyn Caven | Damselflies in the Wheel |

Level AA

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 st Jim Thomason | Love Adelle Penguin and Chick |
| 2 nd David Wallace | Windblown Foam on Beach |
| 3 rd Joe Simons | Egret on Alert |

Level M

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st Marilyn Brooner | Cedar Waxwings Feeding |
| 2 nd Alan Glazier | Sandhill Cranes Taking Off |
| 3 rd Marilyn Brooner | Snowy Egret |

2008 End of Year Winners
B—General

**"WINTER BOATING"
BY ADELE WIKNER**



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The idea of "talented members" getting the job done leads me to the point of this "discussion": How is our club doing in the world of "employment"? It turns out that SRPS is pretty typical when it comes to solving the problem of finding willing workers to fill all the "job" slots that are required for the smooth functioning of our joint enterprise.

I'm sure it's not always apparent, especially to newer members, what a large number of people it takes to make our club work smoothly. For example, we could not function without our EI (Electronic Imaging) team. And, we would be clueless about the results of our competitions if we did not have a dedicated competition committee.

There would be no programs without the hard work of our program committee. While we can survive without refreshments, they certainly add to our enjoyment of the social interaction breaks we have at our meetings.

I could go on and on, but if I did you might not get to the most important part of what I have to say. The point of all this discussion about our "jobs" and the state of our "employment" picture is that we still have important unfilled jobs. And, we have a lot of members who are - from the perspective of SRPS - "jobless".

In talking to a member of the Marin Photography Club at our recent banquet, I learned they had not yet found a member willing to take on the job of president in 2009. Hopefully, that problem has been solved by now, but it is one that SRPS might be facing a year from now.

As you may know, our vice president's position is currently unfilled. The VP's role is primarily one of being a member of the Board of Directors and being ready to step in when the President is unable to lead a meeting, etc. Preferably, the person who takes on the VP's job would commit to moving into the President's slot when that position becomes vacant. One year on the Board should be enough to prepare someone to move into the President's position. Please, if you are able to do so, give serious thought to taking this job on.

We also are in need of members who can commit to helping open, close and set up the center for our meetings. Gary Saxe has volunteered to head the House Committee which is in charge of those duties. Please contact him via his number on the club roster if you can help him fill out his team. (In addition to the setting up of chairs, organizing blackout curtains, etc., the house team needs a couple of members who will be able to get our sound system up and running for each meeting.)

We have two members - Liz Lawson (competition night) and Elvira Lavell (program night) - who have taken on the responsibility for making sure we have refreshments at each meeting. They need help. Please call them to volunteer if you "need a job" and this is one that could work for you.

So far, no one has stepped forward to "apply" for the position of Exhibitions Chair. Talk to Donna Campbell if this "job" interests you and you want to know more about what it entails.

At mid-year, Jon Frieeseke will complete his term in charge of our PSA digital submissions. Please get in touch with him if that looks like a job you could do.

Of course, there are lots of jobs that are filled, but some of those jobs are being done by members who have done them for several years and they would willingly hand them over to someone else. Let me know if you see any job - filled or otherwise - and I will help you become a part of the SRPS "workforce".

I am a relatively new member of SRPS, having joined late in 2005. I had barely signed my "induction papers" when I took on the job of editor of the newsletter. I found that getting involved led to getting to know other members. Those contacts and friendships have enriched my experience of being an SRPS member in countless ways that continue to grow over time.

If you're a new member or are someone who has been a member for awhile but has yet to get involved by taking on some of the responsibility for making the club work, I cannot encourage you enough to contact me or any other member who is "working" for the club and let us know that you are interested and ready to "step up". We need you and we want to get to know you better. When that happens, it will, without a doubt, be a win-win situation.

Here's wishing us all a very successful and enriching year in 2009!

~ FIELD TRIPS 2009 ~

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM February 6, 7 and 8 or any combination thereof

Dear Members: I have spoken to the Best Western Monarch Resort, located at 1111 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, telephone 831-646-8885, about the rates. IF YOU ARE A SENIOR OR A MEMBER OF AAA, the rates are as follows: Queen with fireplace, king with no fireplace, two double beds with no fireplace -- \$100 per night. You must have a AAA membership or be a senior in order to qualify for this rate. I suggest for singles that you "share" a room which will cut down your costs and we will be working out a carpool for those who would like to participate. You can tell the reservation people that you are with the Santa Rosa Photographic Society. If you are not a senior or don't have AAA, your rate will be \$144 a night.

So, please let me know if you are going and if you would like to carpool. I will have a sign up sheet at the January Meetings. If you need directions, please go online and go to www.bwmonarchresort.com. This should give you directions to the hotel. The check in time is 4 PM and after so you might plan accordingly.

I am trying to work out a place for all of us to have supper together on Saturday evening.

Looking forward -- if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Janet
ladybear@sonic.net

~ FORUM FEATURE ~

~ Photo Image Challenge 2009 ~

Last year members participated in the 365 Challenge on the Forum. The challenge was to take and post a photo a day (or as often as possible) to the 365 Challenge section of the Forum. Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed!

This year we're trying something new — Photo Image Challenge (PIC) 2009. These are the rules as posted on the Forum:

Challenge Rules

Monthly Themed Challenge. Theme will be revealed on the first of each month.

You can post up to four images during the month. Posting closes on the last day on the month. An Online Poll Voting system will be used, and will open the first of the following month. There will be seven days of voting. You can only vote once, but can select up to three favorites. The top three images will be picked as the winners of that month.

Challenge Guidelines

Images should be 800 wide for landscape, 500 wide for portrait, and smaller than 350k in jpg format. Include your name, the title of the photo, and an artists statement. This statement can include why you took the picture, how it relates to the theme, how you made the image, how you were feeling that day. This will help everyone vote. The statement may be edited if there are errors.

There is no limit to when the image was originally taken. Please don't delete or edit your image once posted. If you would like to enter a second version, you're allowed, but it counts as one of your four. Discussion is limited to text only; image alterations are not allowed.

Challenge Suggestions

This is a THEMED challenge, not a competition for the prettiest picture. Read the artist statement, don't forget the theme, make it part of your vote.

Try to shoot new work for the spirit of the challenge, but if life gets in the way you may use something you've already taken. Entering is better than not.

Try to include a good artist statement. The more we know about what you are thinking and why your image relates to the theme, the easier it will be for vote for the photos that best relate to the theme.

Challenge Results

These images do not count toward the club's regular competition totals. They are not considered in determining advancements. We will leave each month's challenge up with voting results. Discussion can continue. Nothing will be locked except voting.

The images (number to be determined) will be shown at the second meeting of each month. Prizes will be awarded, probably ale or wine. It's the forum way.

~ January 2009 PIC ~

The challenge: "Picture-n-Picture"

1. Use a photo you have shot in the past of something local, and make a small print (4x6 or 5x7; it does not need to be a super quality print).
2. Go back to the location you shot that image, and re-shoot the scene. This time stand back and frame your shot to include your own hand holding the print.
3. Position it to blend in with the background and shoot.

Here are some examples of both picture-n-picture and object-n-picture.



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I will not restrict this to a print. Maybe you don't have one. Maybe you have a very cool object to place in your photo. If so, lets see it. I would like to see one of your four entries be a print. But let's have fun. Try an object as well.

Also, your print does not have to be something you have already shot. You could go out and shoot twice. Personally, I think it will be better if the image is older and out of sync with the background. But hey, go for it.

This challenge is all about creativity. It's also NOT about Photoshop. I tried to come up with an in-camera challenge that's all about creativity. This opens your composition to include something old and something new. You get to re-visit a shoot.

This pretty much does force you to go out and shoot. But maybe its just out in your backyard.

SO here's the procedure. (Also read the rules post for more details)

Post your images in the **01/09 Entries - Picture-n-Picture** Thread. Anyone can post comments, but alterations are not allowed by anyone, including the photographer. If you want to post an alteration, that's one of your four entries.

Please put an Artists Statement with your image. Maybe what you were thinking when you shot the old one, and what you are thinking now that you've gone back and re-composed it. It can be about anything. But talk to us about your image.

Don't worry about order of your entries. They don't need to be all grouped together. I will be moving just the images to a voting thread at the end of each month.

Please try to post images as you get them ready. Waiting for someone else to go first or the end of the month then blasting four will be really boring.

I hope this isn't too hard. But I like the creativity it pushes us to.

