

NVPS NEWSLETER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



July 2022 Issue

This month's meeting

July 25 - Todd Pickering

Theme: Strategies in Nature Photography

Preparing for Success

Point Reyes photographer Todd Pickering will join the Napa Valley Photographic Society membership via Zoom for the Monday, July 25 meeting.

His presentation on nature photography will take up most of the meeting. No images will be critiqued at this time. Instead, participating members will take what they learn and apply it to creating three images for a triptych to be critiqued during his presentation at the August 25 general meeting.

(NVPS president Phil Venable will be holding a Zoom workshop on how to create a triptych. Date: July 27 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Phil will send the Zoom info.)

Pickering, a popular guest speaker, received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute where he concentrated on landscape photography and sculpture. Travels have taken him from above the Arctic Circle in Norway to the rainforests in Hawaii and the jungles of Sri Lanka. These days you can find him walking the Point Reyes region on the Marin County coast where he currently leads workshops at his Still Point Studio in Pt. Reyes Station. He has been photographing in and around Point Reyes for more than three decades and says his love for the region gets down to the nuances of the land: the blackberry, the creek, the redwood, the light, the smells -- and the quiet.

Examples of Todd Pickering's photography can be seen at <http://toddpickering.weebly.com>.

NVPS meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. The July and August meetings will be Zoom meetings. Starting in September the meetings will be in the Oak Room at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

No member-submitted photos for the July meeting. *For the August meeting members can submit one triptych image for critique.* See Newsletter Submittal Guidelines.

A word from the president

I want to welcome everyone to a new year. Thank you for your support. I have some items I need to get out to the membership.

First and foremost are dues. Dues remain at \$45 and can be sent to 2710 Beecham St., Napa 94558, or to PO Box 5914, Napa 94581. Make your check out to Napa Valley Photographic Society. Dues are our primary revenue, so collecting dues in a timely manner allows us to remain within our budget. As an incentive for you to get your dues in, we have decided that if you would like to participate in the *triptych* critique assignment Todd has given us, you need to get your dues in by Aug 20. Irena will be keeping track. Please get your dues in the mailbox so we can have maximum participation in what should be a fun assignment.

One of the questions that arose from Todd's August assignment is how to make a triptych. To help those who don't know how to make a triptych, I will demonstrate it via Zoom on Wednesday, July 27 at 7pm. I will send out the link for the Zoom meeting at a later time.

Now for the really big news. I met with Linda Button at the Napa Senior Center, and I was impressed with the amenities available to us. I brought it before the Board, and they approved the move to the Senior Center. The price of the Senior Center is \$40 per meeting. Because most of our members live in Napa and are over the age of 50, we may qualify for additional discounts to reduce the cost to about \$10 per meeting. The room has a big screen TV that we can plug a laptop directly into via HDMI, so the projector and screen may not be necessary. They have storage for the projector in the room, but no place for the screen. I am asking for volunteers who have some spare garage space to store the screen. Our first meeting at the Senior Center will be September 26.

Next up is the need for Membership and Hospitality Chairs. The Membership Chair is responsible for maintaining the active roster, maintaining and issuing the name tags, and acclimating new members to the club. The Hospitality Chair is responsible for organizing club events, such as the Christmas Party, club picnic in May, and other social events we might want to have. So, if you're interested, please let me or another Board member know.

In order to get us all out and about making great photos, Irena and I have come up with some field trips that might be of interest to the club. The first one is on July 31 at Mare Island. The event is the Obtainium Cup, a kind of a free form parade, which should make for some great street photography. I will be the point person and lead the group. If you are interested in going, contact me. For more information go to <https://www.obtainiumworks.net/general-info>.

On August 14 is the Suisun Criterion Bike Race, which is a great opportunity to practice your panning skills.

Irena has secured an opportunity to photograph the Napa Valley Wine Train rail yards for the second week of September. Contact Irena for more details.

For all you bird photographers, the migratory birds will be in the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is off I-5 near the town of Colusa. We are talking about a fall trip there.

For future trips it would be nice if we had volunteers to act as a point person to help arrange carpools and make sure everyone is accounted for.

That's all the news for now. I can't express enough the need for everyone to get their dues in to help us stay within our budget. We will see you on the Zoom with Todd on July 25.

Philip Venable, President
Email: philven@pacbell.net
Phone: 707-689-3092

Field trips & workshops

Obtainium Cup

This is July 31 at Mare Island, Vallejo. The event is the Obtainium Cup, a kind of a free form parade, which should make for some great street photography. Phil will be the point person and lead the group. If you are interested in going, contact him.

Suisun Criterion Bike Race

On August 14 is the Suisun Criterion Bike Race, which is a great opportunity to practice your panning skills.

Napa Valley Wine Train

Irena has secured an opportunity to photograph the Napa Valley Wine Train rail yards for the second week of September. Contact Irena for more details.

Photographer Breakthrough workshops

The Photographers Breakthrough workshops were announced for 2023 on July 16. You can see them at:

<https://photographersbreakthrough.com/>.

Events

Mechanics Bank

An exhibit by Chris Sauer at Mechanics Bank is up until end of July.



Thanks to George Bartolome for all his efforts to hang this show.

Quarterly city hall exhibit

Thanks to NVPS members George Bartolome, Nancy Hernandez and Marissa Carlisle for hanging photos at Napa City Hall. This ongoing project gives good recognition to NVPS. This current exhibit theme is *Growth Flowers*.



Thanks to Marissa for sharing this image.

Art in the library

Philip Venable will have an exhibit in the Napa County Library. You are invited to attend the reception Friday, August 12, 6:15 to 7:30 pm. Please make reservations at <https://philipvenable.eventbrite.com>.

Ocean and Coastal Photography Contest

Get the information for the California Ocean and Coastal Photography Contest, a state-wide contest: <https://mycoastalphoto.com/>

Member news

Dues

Dues are \$45 annually and due at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1.

Payments can be mailed to Napa Valley Photographic Society at 2710 Beecham St., Napa CA 94558, or to PO Box 5914, Napa CA 94581. Make checks payable to: Napa Valley Photographic Society. NVPS is also acceptable.

If your dues aren't received by August 20, you will not be eligible for submitting a triptych for critique.

Triptych

For the August meeting, submit one triptych image for critique (no more than 1920 pixels on horizontal side). Three photos must be combined into one image.

Phil will give a live tutorial on how to make a triptych. Date: July 27 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Phil will send the Zoom info.

Meetings

NVPS meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. The July and August meetings will be Zoom meetings. Starting in September, the meetings will be in the Oak Room at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

Yountville Art, Sip, and Stroll

Under the leadership of Phil Venable, nine club members submitted a varied selection of images for display and sale at the 2022 Yountville Art, Sip and Stroll event held in late May. Participants, who also helped set up and staff the booth, included Phil, George Bartolome, Nancy Hernandez, Angie Johnson, Betty Malmgren, Karen Noyes, Joe Sinclair, Terry Smith, and Carolyn Younger.

Phone-DSLR experiment

Joe Sinclair did a phone-camera-DSLR experiment comparing a Pixel 6 Pro to a Sony A7 MkII (with a very sharp Zeiss 55mm lens) set on APS-C as part of writing his article below. His conclusion: they are equivalent in regard to image quality, color, and chromatic aberration. The comparison was not definitive, as Joe is not a professional equipment analyst. Nonetheless, you might want to try to do your own comparisons. You may be surprised.



Note that an important comparison yet to be made is with large prints. Joe's comparison was strictly with digital images.

Nikon discontinues DSLRs

Nikon has stopped developing and selling DSLRs and will develop and sell mirrorless cameras for professional use in the future.

Head photo submittals

Head photos (for the top of the newsletter) taken by members are needed for future newsletters. See the Newsletter Submittal Guidelines.

Articles

Smartphone vs. DSLR

©2022 Joseph T. Sinclair.



Are smartphones becoming as good as DSLRs (or professional digital mirrorless equivalents)? The short answer is: for many purposes, yes. The long answer is that DSLRs have much more flexibility and a great variety of lenses and accessories not available to smartphones.

Yet for the limited capability that smartphones have, the essential question is: do smartphones measure up to the image quality of DSLRs? Astoundingly, the answer is yes for the latest crop of top-quality smartphones in 2020-2021.

Dxomark is the leading technical reviewer of high-quality cameras, phone cameras, and lenses. In an article *Smartphones vs Cameras: Closing the gap on image quality*, March 19, 2020,

<https://www.dxomark.com/smartphones-vs-cameras-closing-the-gap-on-image-quality/>,

Dxomark explains that since 2013, phones have closed the gap in image quality between phones and DSLRs. Apple, Samsung, Google, and others have done it at least five ways:

1. Larger and thinner sensors with a massive amount of MPs
2. Greater CPU processing power
3. Better optical image stabilization
4. Stacking multiple captures and fusing them into one
5. Using complex software to enhance image capabilities

What has enabled this accelerated development effort to achieve success in less than a decade? The manufacturers of smartphones have brought to bear an immense number of resources (including capital) to create innovation.

A recent but important innovation for phones is optical zoom lenses. The top-quality phone cameras now have one or two telephoto lenses and two wide-angle lenses. A user via software can zoom between the multiple lenses with little effort. This capability makes the top phone cameras much more practical for professional and fine art photography. And more and more such photographers are using phone cameras for part of their work if not all.

The standard normal lens for phone cameras is a 35mm-DSLR equivalent of 25 mm. A typical phone camera telephoto lens is 3x or 4x. (One top phone camera has a second telephoto lens at 10x.) For phone cameras, the magnification factor is a little different than for DSLRs. A 3x telephoto is 3 x 25 mm; that would be the equivalent of a 75 mm lens for a 35mm DSLR; whereas 3x for a 35mm DSLR is 3 x 50 = 150 mm.

What about lens quality? The tiny lenses that phone cameras have are inexpensive to manufacture at high quality. The comparatively huge lenses for DSLRs are expensive to manufacturer at high quality. Consequently, lens quality is not such a significant cost issue for phone cameras, as it is for DSLRs.

Finally, the thrust of phone camera development has been to automate the photographing process as much as possible without sacrificing image quality. The manufacturers have excelled in this effort, and new innovations seem to come with each new model. How does this effect image quality? Well, when the camera can take a better photograph than you can, image quality goes up, generally speaking.

This has been an article about image quality, not photograph quality. Good photographs require expertise, creativity, and talent on the part of a photographer. But if a photographer uses a poor camera, it can be a handicap. Using a high-quality camera provides a photographer

with the greatest latitude for taking good photographs. And the huge increase in the quality of phone cameras gives professional and fine art photographers a new tool.



Equipment

Epson R2880 printer

Used (minimally) and then not used for the past 5 years. Free to anyone who wants it. Ink has likely dried, and jets likely need cleaned, but it is in the original box with all the stuff it came with. It still worked when I last used it, but the profile is now removed from my computer so I can't check it. If you want to try it, email me johnpmcgill@sbcglobal.net, and we can set up a pickup.

Officers & staff

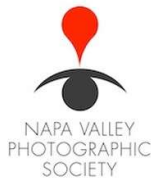
Elected Board members

President - Phil Venable
Vice president - Terry Smith
Secretary - George Bartolome
Membership Secretary - open

Treasurer - Irena Miles
Past president - Gary Sampson

Appointed board members & chairs

Member-at-large - Lanny Johnson
Program chair - Betty Malmgren
Website manager - Carolyn Younger
Newsletter - Joe Sinclair
Exhibit chair - Chris Sauer
Ongoing-exhibits chair - George Bartolome
Hospitality coordinator - open
Field trips - Irena Miles (Karen Noyes, Ann Seronello, Geoff Hansen)
Workshops - Phil Venable
Publicity - Zach Berkowitz
Zoom coordinators - Roland Dumas, Phil Venable
Digital projectionist - Angie Johnson (Roland Dumas, Peter Guenther, Phil Venable)
Facebook posting - Karen Noyes
Fundraiser chair – open



Head photo: City at Noon ©2022 Joseph T. Sinclair. All rights reserved.

Newsletter ©2022 Napa Valley Photographic Society. All rights reserved.

Newsletter Submittal Guidelines

Submittal deadline

The submittal deadline for newsletter text + photos (content) is the third Monday of the month.

Members' photos for the meeting

Members may submit images for the meeting and should be prepared to make a brief verbal explanation. To submit your photos for a meeting, send your images to the regular critique

site in the usual format (no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side) no later than the Saturday prior to the monthly meeting. The file name for an image should be:

members first&last name_title or theme_order number

Examples: John Everest_Harvest Time_01 and John Everest_After the Harvest_02

Send the files to: NVPS.Photo.Critique@gmail.com. Only photos taken by members accepted.

Newsletter head photo

If you desire to provide a head photo for one issue, submit a JPG 1920 pixels horizontal. The vertical can be between 450 and 900 pixels. Anything outside these parameters cannot be used. The file name should be your name plus the title of your photo, the word *head*, and the date:

name_title_head_date

Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: HEAD PHOTO (in all caps). Only photos taken by members accepted. And photos that have been published before on the NVPS website or in the NVPS newsletter are not eligible.

This month's meeting

Follow the guide for *Articles*.

Field trips & workshops

Announce of field trips and workshops should include all information including leader + contact info, date, time, meeting place, miles to location, cost, and nature of the photography as well as a general description. These are *participation* events. Announcements can run in successive issues *before* the event.

Events

This is an announcement of a photo exhibit, contest, or photo op of interest to members or one that includes a member or multiple members. It can run in successive issues *before* the exhibit.

This category also includes a call for member participants in future photo exhibits or contests with complete information on applying and participating.

If an event is a duplicate of full information elsewhere, it should be a brief announcement with a hyperlink.

Member news

This is a one-time *brief* announcement of a member's *past* achievement, such as an exhibit, a photo experience, a travel-photo experience, a photo learning experience, and the like. Use a hyperlink to indicate where full information is available.

If this is the sole information on a substantial achievement, it can be written like an article with full information; but it shouldn't be a duplicate of full information published elsewhere (use a hyperlink instead).

NVPS administrative news or other news is also appropriate for this category.

Articles

Articles (e.g., magazine-like articles) written by members can be posted in the newsletter for one issue. They will be assumed to be published by permission. They must be relevant to photography, of course.

Articles published by non-members are likely to be copyrighted. See *Copyrights* for the treatment of non-member articles.

Generally, only one article per issued will be published with membership-written articles given preference.

Equipment

Equipment for sale or giveaway can be listed here for one newsletter issue. Provide full information.

Photos for newsletter

Photos submitted for the newsletter should be: no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side. File names should be:

category_title of writing_author_title of photo_date

Photos taken by members will be assumed to be published by permission. Photos taken by non-members are likely to be copyright protected. See *Copyrights* for the treatment non-member photos.

Send the photo file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: PHOTO (in all caps).

Photo captions

If you want captions for your photos, include them in the photos. For instance, you can attach a white strip with text (in Photoshop) at the bottom of the photo for the caption.

Submissions

For all information (text) submitted, use a file name that identifies the subject matter and author. Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps).

Subject-line email

Unless you use the subject-line words requested for text or photos, your submission might be lost in the 400 emails received each day.

In the email, explain your submission. Example: *This photo goes with my article on shooting wildlife.*

Copyrights

For articles and photos by non-members, NVPS must have written permission for publication. The exception is articles or photos in the public domain; for such articles or photos, the author and source of the public domain archive should be stated.

One way to circumvent copyright problems is to use a hyperlink to the article or photo published elsewhere.

Typography

Use italics for emphasis. Use emphasis sparingly. Don't use bold or all-caps. Bold and all-caps are difficult to read. Nonetheless, all-caps are acceptable for acronyms and designations.

Suggestions

Suggestions for the newsletter format or otherwise should be sent to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line SUGGESTION in all caps.

Your editor

Your current newsletter editor is half-deaf with a short-term memory (25 seconds on a good day and getting shorter each year), lives in Vallejo (doesn't know Napa very well), and receives about 400 emails every day. Although the newsletter editor reserves the right to edit submissions, the newsletter editor's job is to *receive* content (information + photos) for the newsletter, not create it. So, please submit publish-ready content according to these guidelines. And please, no verbal submissions.