

NVPS NEWSLETTER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



July 2023 Issue

This month's meeting

July 24 – Phil Venable

Theme: Lightroom Workshop

NVPS president Phil Venable will give a presentation on using the photo processing software *Lightroom* for editing and organizing images. Phil notes that

procedures learned in Lightroom can often be applied to other post processing programs.



Philip Venable Bio

I have been shooting photos since I was a kid when my Dad gave me a Kodak Brownie. I studied black and white photography in college and had plans to be a photojournalist until life intervened. After spending an adulthood in law enforcement, I picked up my camera again and began making art.

My preference is nature/landscape, but I'm drawn to shapes, lines, and shadows found in the urban landscapes. My favorite subjects are old rusted cars, trains, abandoned buildings, and brightly colored doors. I use several plugins to Photoshop to create surreal images from otherwise ordinary photos. I create photos in both color and black and white, depending on subject matter and mood.

I'm President of the Napa Valley Photographic Society, and a member of the Fairfield Suisun Valley Art Association, Vacaville Art League, and Lightwriters Photography Club. I'm also a member of the Professional Photographers of America.

My work has been shown at Viewpoint Gallery Sacramento, Yountville Community Center, The Old Sugar Mill, Arata Fine Arts Gallery, Roseville Brewing Company, Vacaville Art Gallery, Napa Public Library, Solano Town Center Gallery, and Gallery at Village 360; and I am a resident artist at The Little Shop in Benicia. I have won several awards at local shows and contests including a Juror's Choice Award at the 2013 Vacaville Art Gallery Juried Art Show.

For more information about the photos shown here, or to see more, go to my website at

www.philipvenablephotography.com

I'm also on Facebook as Philip Venable Photography.

NVPS meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm in the Oak Room at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

For this meeting, members may submit two photos that you aren't quite happy with and not sure how to fix, for discussion. Submit by the Saturday before the meeting according to the guidelines at the end of this newsletter.

A word from the president

Volunteerism is the backbone of any organization, and ours is no different. We have several positions that have gone unfilled since covid. We would like volunteers to step up and take these positions:

Exhibit chair

Hospitality coordinator

Fundraiser chair

Philip Venable, President

Email: philven@pacbell.net

Phone: 707-689-3092

Field trips & workshops

Meetup

Meetup.com is a good resource for photography workshops, from partial-day to multi-day.

Some workshops are offered by noted photographers at a high cost. Others are offered at a low cost. Some are offered free. The best way to discover such workshops is to join Meetup (free) and get a login and password to the Meetup website.

You can subscribe to various photography Meetup groups. Some charge a small fee. Most are free. Your

subscribed groups are listed for you by Meetup, so you don't have to keep track of them yourself. Check regularly to see what your Meetup groups offer for workshops and fieldtrips. You need to check often because some events fill up quickly.

There are dozens of photography Meetup groups in the Bay Area, which gives you plenty of choices. In addition, many Meetup groups are not designated photography groups but nonetheless provide outstanding opportunities for taking photographs. Such groups often have members who are good photographers with whom you can compare ideas and from whom you can learn new techniques.

Member news

Elections

Gary Sampson is the new treasurer. Mitchell Glotzer is a new member and will be the program chair. Other board members have retained their positions for another year, except for those who have left vacancies. The vacancies are: hospitality, exhibits, and fund raising. If you're interested in filling a vacancy, contact Phil our president:

philven@pacbell.net

Thanks to Irena Miles, Gary Sampson, and Betty Malmgren for their work in the position they are leaving.

Dues

Annual dues are now due. \$50 for members, \$25 for students. Checks can be sent to NVPS PO Box 5914, Napa, CA 94581 or brought to a meeting soon. Please make your check payable to Napa Valley Photographic Society or NVPS.

City Hall

Marissa Carlyle, George Bartolome, and Nancy Hernandez are exhibiting at Napa City Hall.



St Helena Library

Dean Busquaert is exhibiting photographs from the 20 years he's worked in the Napa Valley wine industry, which has allowed him to capture a *behind the curtain* perspective of the world-famous wine region. He's

documented the life cycle of the grapevines through macro photographs. He is displaying images printed on metal and fine art giclee paper.

Mechanics Bank

Nancy Hernandez has an exhibit at the Mechanics Bank in Napa.



Senior Center

Joe Sinclair has an exhibit at the Napa Senior Center.



Articles

White ? ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair

There has been a long-lasting fad of all-white paintings going back many years. These paintings are typically 4 ft x 8 ft or larger. They're all white. You can find them in some museum collections regardless of the size or prestige of a particular museum. If you want to buy one, they range in price from a few hundred to \$30,000.



Fortunately, this fad has come to photography. Not long ago in the Napa Valley, I saw a very large all-white photograph. So, now photographers can take part in this lucrative image industry. The question is, how do you want to do this? Ironically, it may be that you are

better off painting such a non-image rather than photographing it.

For example, if you are to make a 4 ft x 8 ft photograph all white, you need to find a clean white flat surface large enough to photograph (or perhaps create it in Photoshop). A metal print that size is going to cost you about \$1,200. Or a paper print is going to cost a lot of money too, and you'll have to mount it on a very large mounting board. Then you'll need to frame it and perhaps even put glass over it. That pretty quickly adds up to hundreds of dollars of cost. That's why I say, why not paint it instead? Here are the steps to do so:

- Buy a 4 ft x 8 ft panel of half-inch plywood with a layer of paper on one side. This is a standard lumber item.
- Buy a small can of latex glossy white paint.
- Rent a paint sprayer.
- Spray-paint the panel white on the paper side. (If you use a brush, viewers will see it's not a photograph.)
- Take 3/4 inch by 2-inch wood molding painted white (or gray) and attach it all around the panel for a frame.
- Attach some wiring on the back for hanging.
- Sell for up to \$30,000.

This is one of the rare artistic cases where painting is easier and less expensive than taking a photograph.

This is going to be a hard sell, however, unless you attach some BS to it to make it valuable. You have an explanation to write and the title to play with.

The explanation takes a little work but is not too difficult. Simply research on Google what other artists have said about their all-white paintings and distill to a similar line of compelling BS.

Titles are more difficult. They take some ingenuity and cultural awareness. But an all-white painting doesn't have much value without evocative title words. Here are a few suggestions:

Pallor of the Matrix

Nuclear Landscape

Cache of Enlightenment

Samantha's Anguish

Zachery's Clean Soul

Cloud Number 17

(I'm sure you can do better than I have.)

There you have it! An easy way to cash in on this long-standing trend. This is the easiest fine art you'll ever create. But a good title that is currently very trendy will take a lot of reflection. It might be something you want to refer to a focus group.

This fine artwork lends itself to easy scaling. (Again, an observation based on a Napa Valley photograph exhibit.) For instance, you can put a thin line across the panel (presumably at the Phi grid line), and the painting becomes a whole different work of art.



Or you can put a thick line, preferably blurry, across the painting in the same way to create an additional great work of fine art. Etc.



Why work hard when you don't have to? Be forewarned, however, that if you proceed as I have outlined, your spouse and your friends, relatives, and neighbors may think you're something of a slacker. They may even call you heinous names. But all great artists have endured such accusations, and you should not let that bother you. It's enough that museum curators and art gallery managers everywhere will applaud your vacuous work. So, the hell with your own people's scurrilous denunciations.

Cropping for a creative digital display

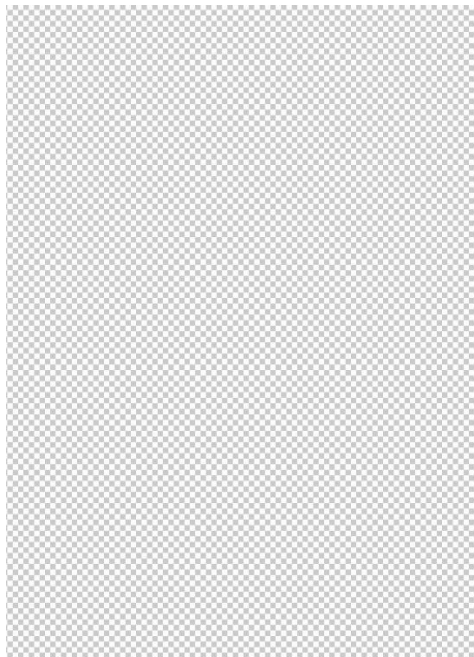
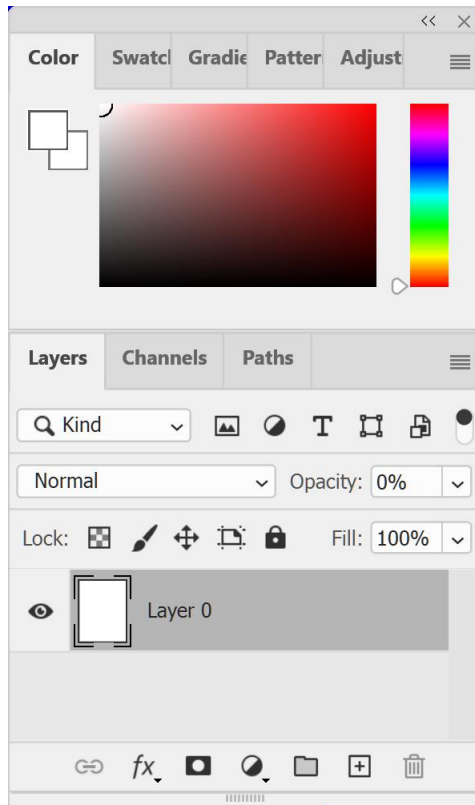
©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair

What is cropping a photograph for the sake of discussion in this article? It is changing the shape of the image into something other than a rectangle. Thus, when it displays on a digital screen, it has a new shape.

Create a new image in Photoshop the same dimensions of the photograph and make sure it's all one color (white is the default).



2. Make the opacity of the image 0. This is the background layer, and the background hash will show as you work.



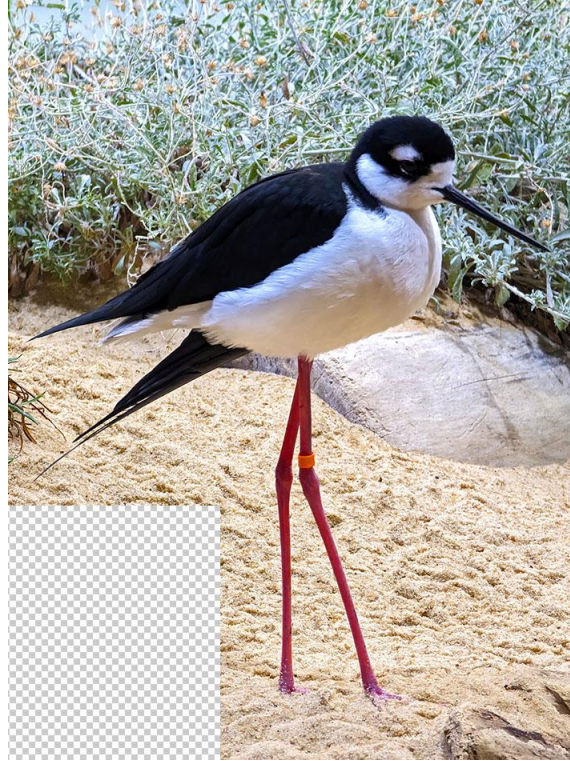
3. Create a second layer.

4. Import and place the photograph onto the second layer covering the entire layer. Then rasterize the layer.

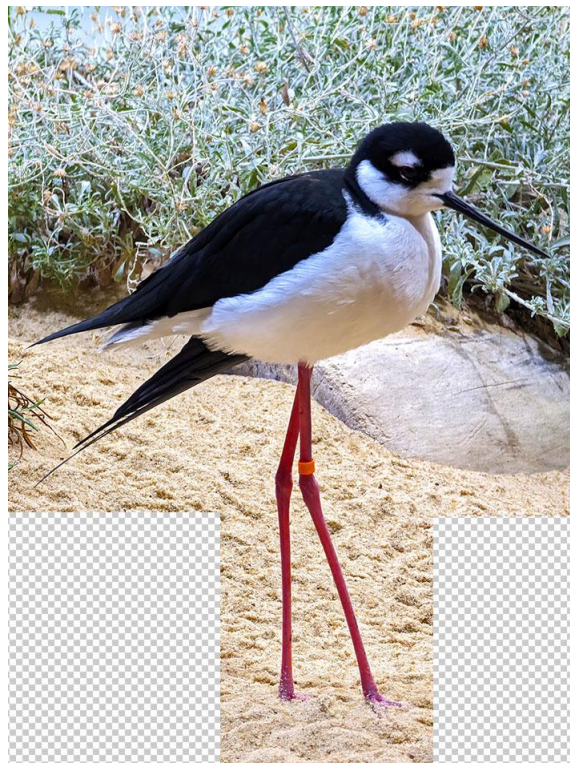


5. Use the rectangular marquee tool (or another selection tool) to create a shape that you want to cut away.

6. Erase that shape; be careful to erase everything within the shape.



7. Create more shapes to cut away and erase them until you get the crop (new overall shape) you want.



8. Merge the second layer to the background layer using the merge layers tool.

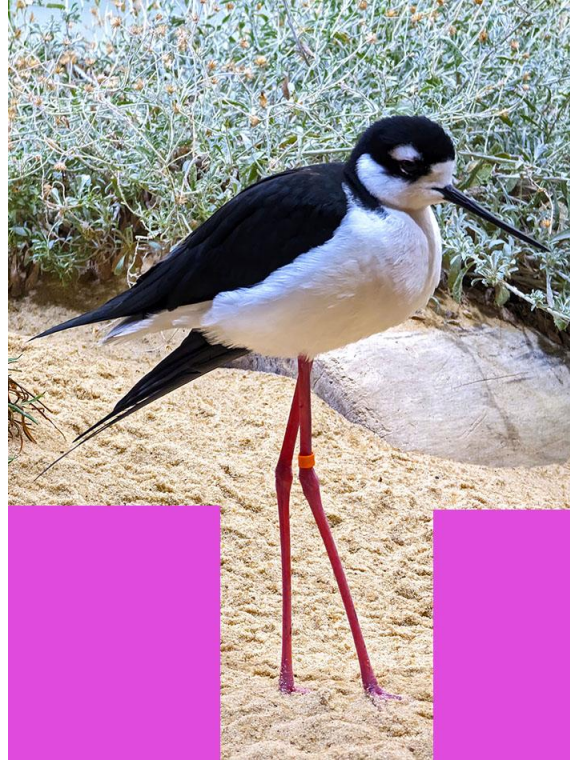
9. Save as a .png (PNG – portable network graphic).

How will this display? The cutaway portions of the photograph should not show (should be invisible) on most digital displays. (On some rare digital displays, the background hash will show leaving the photograph a rectangle with the background visible.)



Note: this will work only if saved as a .png photo file.

If you're going to cut away portions for a metal print, make the background layer a florescent color with full opacity so that the photo service will know where to cut. After the cuts, the metal print will have a creative shape.

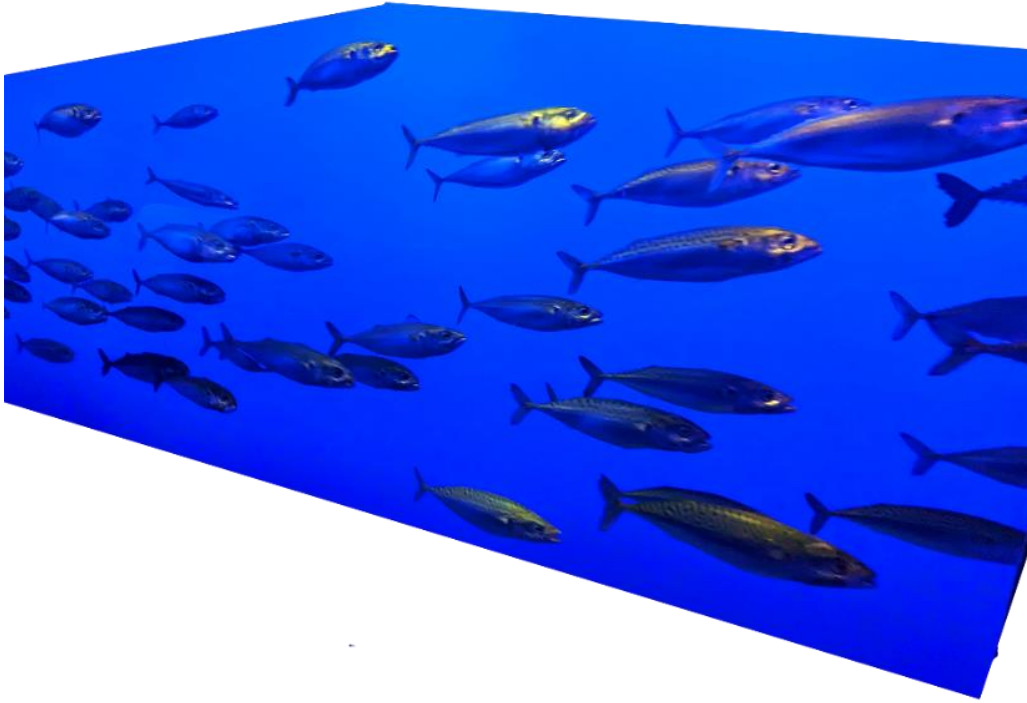


Most photo services do not offer cutting; one that does is MagnaChrome:

<https://magnachrome.com>

Examples

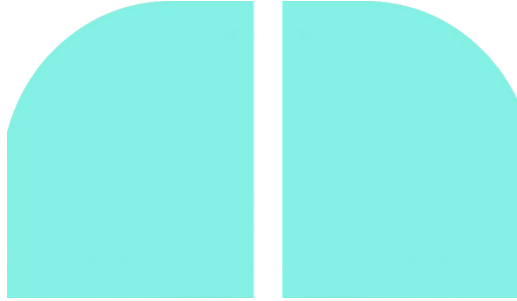
More dramatic than the original rectangle:



Funny:



Useful shape:



Silhouette:



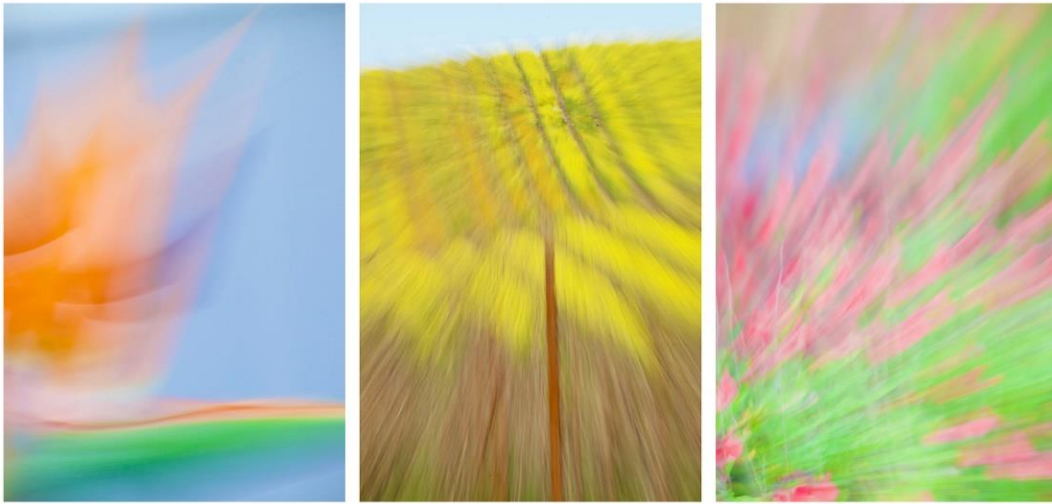
Featured photographer

Nancy Hernandez









Officers & staff

Elected Board members

President - Phil Venable

Vice president - Terry Smith

Secretary - George Bartolome

Membership Secretary – Nancy Hernandez

Treasurer - Gary Sampson

Appointed board members & chairs

Member-at-large - Lanny Johnson

Program chair - Mitchell Glotzer

Website manager - Carolyn Younger

Newsletter - Joe Sinclair

Exhibit chair - open

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: Prime Rib with Sea Salt a la Pacifica ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair.

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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 1100 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:

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 *attached* (not *embedded*) to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: PHOTO (in all caps). Due to incompatibilities between Apple and Windows, photos that don't conform to the specs in this paragraph may be unusable and thus required to be sent by ZIP file.

Photo captions

If you want captions for you photos, include them in the photo file name.

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 300 junk 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 exception to copyright protection is the use of copyrighted text or images in teaching, such as an article on photography.

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 month), 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.