

NVPS NEWSLETER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



February 2023 Issue

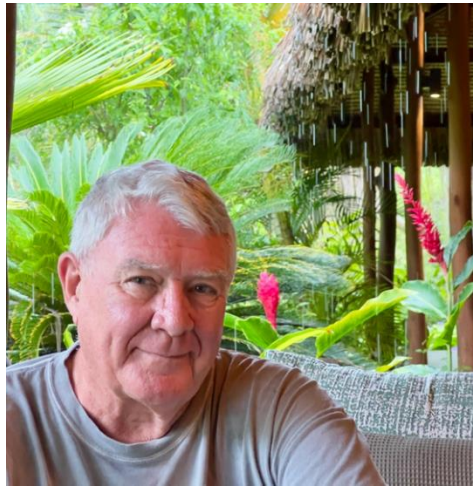
This month's meeting

February 27 – Judd Howell

Theme: Favorites

“Not always about birds...maybe just a little
from Italy to Bora Bora via Ecuador”

Judd Howell's entrée into photography began with a developing career in wildlife ecology more than 50 years ago. His goal was to document wildlife in their habitats. At present he enjoys any opportunities to capture images of an animal's life to share with others but also to capture images of the art and beauty around us.



“Early in my career, I studied bald and golden eagles along 600 miles of the North Platte River in Wyoming and Nebraska,” he said. “When I came to San Francisco Bay Area to work at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, I studied the first nesting of Heermann’s gulls in the United States on Alcatraz Island. I also began a study of migrating birds of prey in the Marin Headlands—now the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory—and studied tule elk at Point Reyes National Seashore.”



In the butterfly garden



Red-billed tropic bird

Judd, an NVPS member, who has a PhD in wildlife resource science with an emphasis in wildlife ecology, is a Fellow of The Explorers Club of New York and has traveled extensively for work and leisure across seven continents, including traversing the Northwest passage from Alaska to Greenland and Drake's Passage to Antarctica. He has conducted wildlife research in Arizona, California, Nebraska,

Montana, Wyoming, and France, and has developed research programs in China and India.



The monk

Although he began photographing in the era of film, he made the switch to digital and uses Canon Mark II and Mark IV cameras with Canon 70-200 mm and 100-400 mm telephoto lenses. In addition, he now enjoys his iPhone 13 Pro, which he uses as his go-to camera and digital *darkroom* for editing on the fly.

“A camera has always been a partner on this great adventure,” he said.

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 the meeting, members and guests may submit four photos for critique. Be ready to indicate *why* each photo was taken. Submit by the Saturday before the meeting according to the guidelines at the end of this newsletter.

Field trips & workshops

Sonoma Botanical Gardens

Saturday February 25



Meet at Park and Ride, 954 Golden Gate Drive, at 9:20am to carpool. Or meet at the Gardens no later than 10:00am: Sonoma Botanical Gardens, 12841 Sonoma Hwy, Glen Ellen.

Entry fee: \$12 (\$10 for seniors). For information:

<https://sonomabg.org/visit/#visitor-information>

This year the garden is expected to have vibrant spring bloom in the 25-acre Asian Woodland and a mass of wildflowers along the newly opened California Oaks Trail. Wear sturdy walking shoes and warm clothing. Bring a bag lunch and water in refillable containers. Water can also be purchased in the gift shop. Be prepared to pack out any trash.

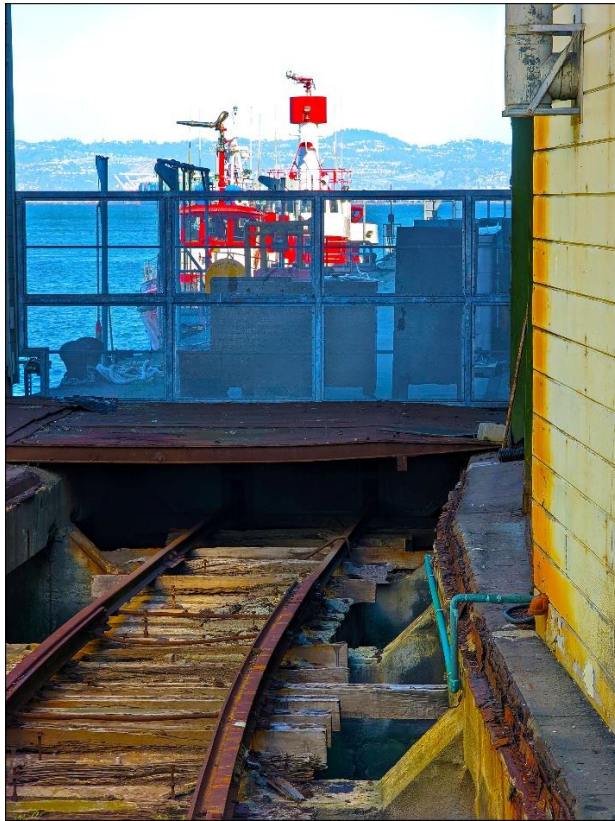
Also of note, the waterfalls are flowing this time of year, and there is an exhibition in the greenhouse: *From East to Zest: Citrus' Colorful Journey across the Globe*.

Please RSVP to Karen Noyes karennoyes@comcast.net by February 23. Rain cancels field trip.

NVPS Embarcadero field trip

Saturday, March 11 (Note: date change from prior announcement)

Meet at the Vallejo ferry building at 9:00am to catch the 9:20am ferry arriving at the SF Ferry Building at 10:20am. Shoot the Ferry Building, the waterfront, and the farmers' market. Eat lunch in the Ferry Building.



Take the trolley to Fisherman's Wharf. Shoot the waterfront. Take the trolley back to the Ferry Building to catch the ferry to Vallejo at 4:10 arriving in Vallejo at 5:10am.

Ferry tickets RT \$9.00 (seniors – Clipper card):

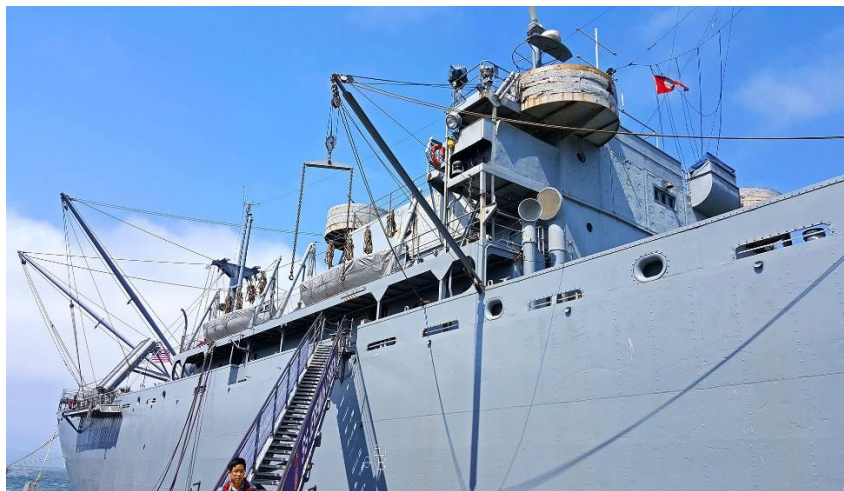
<https://sanfranciscobayferry.com/vallejo-ferry-route>

Ferry parking Vallejo \$8.00 per day.

Carpooling: Arrange carpooling from Napa *on your own* at the parking lot behind McDonalds on Imola Ave at 8:15am. Leader lives in Vallejo and won't be there.

Trolly tickets 1-way \$1.10 (seniors – Clipper card)

FYI: the trolly along the Embarcadero uses antique trolly cars from different cities around the country; interesting photo op. The ferry itself provides a photo op. The light (if a sunny day) provides a unique view of the SF skyline and the Bay Bridge. The Ferry Building and the Saturday farmers' market provide photo ops. The waterfront provides a photo op. And boats, ships, and fish markets provide photo ops. It's a photo op wonderland.



Contact Joe Sinclair for RSVP (please) by March 8 or for more info:
jt@sinclair3.com

Note: This field trip has changed the date to Saturday, March 11.

Digital photography workshop

March 5, 10:00am – 1:00 pm

Professional Tips for Improving Your Photos with Lowell Downey, professional photographer and teacher (from Napa).

Participants will also experiment with the classic Polaroid camera using black and white film, explore *The New Californians* exhibition together, and engage in lively discussion as we analyze what makes a good photograph. Discover our environment with sharpened eyes using our handy smartphones. Please bring your charged phone and walking shoes. Accommodations can be made if walking in Sonoma Plaza is difficult.

For ages 16+, maximum of 10 people. \$55 per person, per workshop. Pre-registration is required. All experience levels can participate.

<https://svma.org/events/>

Events

Library exhibit

The Napa County Library invites artists (all two-dimensional artists including photographers) to enter a juried competition. The deadline is March 31, 2023. For more information, visit the website.



<https://www.countyofnapa.org/3292/Call-for-Art-in-the-Library-Exhibitors>

Five artists will be chosen, and each will be exhibited at the library for two months in 2024. Apparently NVPS may be able apply as one artist.

Photography exhibit in Sonoma

The New Californians, photographs by Judy Dater, is an exhibit at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art in Sonoma through April 30. The museum is located at 551 Broadway, one half block from Sonoma's Town Plaza. Free 3-hour street parking is available within close walking distance of the museum. Open Wednesday–Sunday 11-5. Seniors \$7, general admission \$10, and free Wednesday admission.



<https://svma.org/>

Pomo exhibit

We Are Still Here: Pomo Artists and Our Cultural Landscape highlights contemporary artwork of Native Pomo artists and reflects the resilience of the Pomo Tribe and the strong connections to their land as a place for ceremonies, family events, gatherings, and religious observances. This exhibit runs at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art through April 30.

<https://svma.org/exhibition/we-are-still-here/>

Member news

Costco's exit

Costco is now apparently out of the photo business completely. It was a good place to get large prints inexpensively for proofs or for

framing. But it shut down its store photo centers two years ago. Now it has shut down its online photo services. Likely it's because photo prints are passé. Today everyone shares their photos electronically (phone to phone, texting, email, Facebook, Shutterfly, etc). Could this be a obvious clue that photo prints are not the future? Read the article in next month's newsletter to find out what the future is likely to bring.

Discount

Reminder: Speaking of photo services, keep in mind for metal prints Magnachrome (in Concord) gives us a 15% discount. Use the code NVPS15. You can also pick up your orders to avoid the cost of postage (i.e., for large orders).

<https://magnachrome.com>



Books

Books recently bought.

From the de Young bookstore: *Hockney's Eye, the Art and Technology of Depiction* (2022). Expensive, but a great book for painters and photographers.



And from Amazon (used): *Ansel Adams 400 Photographs* (2007). It contains plates of photographs, no text; it's a museum masquerading as a book.

Pier 24 to be shut down

Pier 24 (under the Bay Bridge) will cease operation at the end of 2024. The current photography exhibit and one more to follow will be the last two.





Pier 24 <https://pier24.org/> has had photograph exhibits for over a decade. It's a unique museum in that it's free but you have to have a reservation to get in the door.

The birds have flown

Carolyn Younger and her birds have *flown* into the Napa Senior Activity Center thanks to efforts by George Bartolome.



Malmgren's metal

George is shown at the Mechanics Bank where he hung Betty Malmgren's colorful metal prints.



Museum visit

A dozen members visited the museum. Jeff Rogers spoke to the group.





Articles

Shoot the Antelope ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair

The slot canyons near Page, Arizona belong to the Navaho Native Americans. To visit them you need a Navaho guide. So, I made a reservation for a three-hour visit. I showed up with about a dozen other people for the tour. Everyone else was a professional/fine-art photographer making the pilgrimage to Page to get the iconic shot of the sun streaming down into Antelope Canyon.



My version of the iconic photograph

To get the iconic shot, the Navaho guide picked up a hand full of sand and threw it up in the air. This set off the shaft of light just the right amount for an iconic photograph. It also put so much sand in my camera that it later took a full can of compressed air and 30 minutes to blow it all out. But what the hell, it's an iconic shot.



There are several things to keep in mind. You need to wait until the right time (about noon) to get the iconic shot. There are electrical wires that stretch across the slot canyons from the Navaho coal-fired electricity-generating plants nearby; you will probably want to keep them out of your photos. There are a lot of people in Antelope at noon, even though access is controlled. You could get caught in a flash flood. There was one in 1997 that killed 11 people in Antelope Canyon. But what the hell, it's an iconic shot.



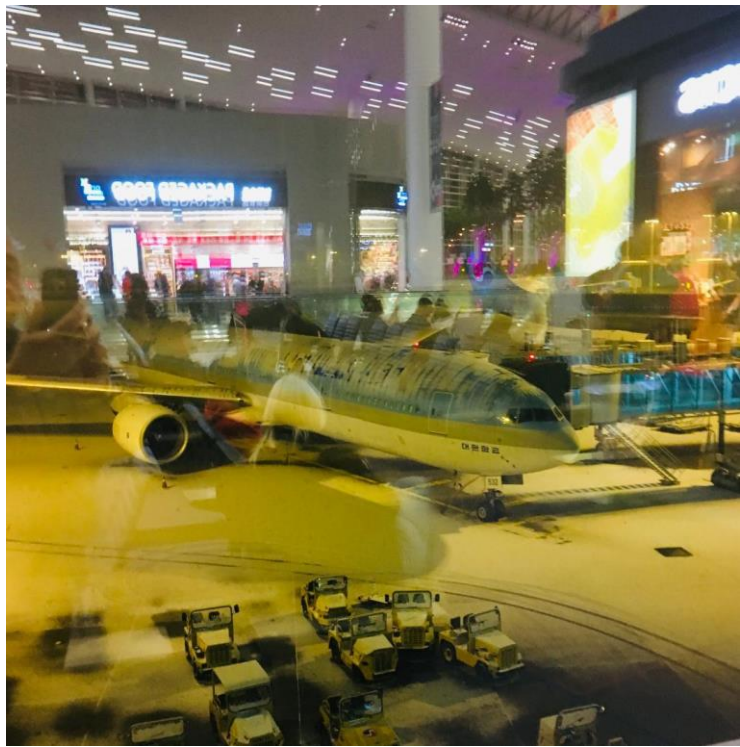
I calculated with information at hand that about 17,000 professional/fine-art photographers take the iconic shot each year. That simply means if you want to achieve any photographic status more than just as a mere amateur, you will have to go to Page. No exceptions permitted.

Featured photographer

George Bartolome











Photos needed from members for this section of the newsletter. It gives you the chance to let other members know you better through your photography. It also gives you the chance to put your photos on public display. Please submit photos according to the instruction at the bottom of every newsletter. For instance, photos *embedded* in email messages cannot be used. Photos must be *attached* or sent in a ZIP file.

Officers & staff

Elected Board members

President - Phil Venable

Vice president - Terry Smith

Secretary - George Bartolome

Membership Secretary – Nancy Hernandez

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: Napa Night ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair. All rights reserved.

Newsletter ©2023 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 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 issue 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 your 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 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.