

The premiere photography club of the Sierra Foothills since 1952—Auburn, CA

A Visit to the Folsom Powerhouse

The PCPC's first outing of 2024 on February 29 took us to the the Folsom Powerhouse, a California State Historic Park. The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as being significant in the areas of engineering and industry on the national level for advancing the science of generating and transmitting electricity. In 1895 the facility generated high-voltage alternating current over long distance transmission lines for the first time.

Because of its history and unique photographic opportunities, the Powerhouse was an obvious destination

for our club to visit! With our private tour scheduled outside of normal hours, we had the place to ourselves. And what great photo ops there were. The historic significance of the powerhouse made it easy to focus on the large machinery and the building itself but there were lots of details that caught our attention. Here are detail shots from a couple of participants. And a few more shots of the participants! There are more on the PCPC Website. [Click here](#) to see all the photographs submitted by members who went on the outing.



©Dennis Morgan



© Don Goldman don-photo.com

Fun at the Powerhouse



More Fun at the Powerhouse



Ask Auntie

Have questions about photography?
Auntie will answer them here. Send
your question to:

pcphotoclubnewsletter@gmail.com



Dear Auntie:

I can't always use my tripod so what's the best way to hold my camera to keep it steady so I can get sharp images without using a tripod?

—Unintentional Camera Movement

Dear UCM:

Great question. Some people say that if you want a sharp image, you've got to use a tripod. I'm here to tell you, that is not true. Plus, you don't always have the luxury of using one. Two examples are when you're not allowed to take a tripod into a building (a museum, for example) or when you don't have time to set up a tripod before the intended subject moves or disappears. You can get sharp images without using a tripod but you must use **proper hand holding technique** to keep your camera steady. And it takes practice.

So what is **proper hand holding technique**? Think about making your body like a tripod. A tripod has three legs, three points of contact to make it steady. You need to create three-points of contact with your body but two of them are not your legs. Here's how to do it:

1) Pick up the camera in your right hand by the grip and put the camera's viewfinder to your eye. Press your eye against the eye cup.

2) Place the palm of your left hand under the lens, not on top of it, even if you have a zoom lens. This hand will then support the weight of the camera and lens to help prevent shaking and to stabilize it. From this angle, your thumb and forefinger can easily access both the zoom ring on a zoom lens and the manual focus ring for fine-tuning focus. If it's a shorter lens, place your

palm under the camera body and grasp the lens with your thumb and forefinger.

3) Suck both elbows in, against your rib cage. This makes your arms a rigid part of your body which helps steady the camera and lens. Don't let your arms fly out.

So, the three points of contact are: 1) the eye against the viewfinder, 2) your hand under the lens to support it, and 3) sucking in your elbows. It can also help your balance to place one foot slightly ahead of the other. This technique works for all lenses from wide angle to telephoto. With longer telephoto lenses you will probably need to place your left hand further out under the lens barrel to make sure the end of the lens doesn't wobble up and down.

Finally, practice, practice, practice until it becomes second nature to pick up and hold your camera this way. You will get consistently sharper images. In addition to **proper hand holding technique**, you can raise your ISO or open up the lens to its widest aperture to get faster shutter speeds if you're shooting aperture priority. One way to practice improving your ability to hand hold is to photograph a clock face, analog or digital, it doesn't matter. Practice with various shutter speeds, setting a slower speed to challenge yourself as your steadiness improves. By photographing a clock face or something with lettering on it, you will easily see if an image is in focus when you check your results. As you practice hand holding, start to slow your shutter speed and keep practicing so that eventually you will be able to hold your camera at those slower shutter speeds without a tripod and still get sharp images.



Upcoming Field Trip to Locke

The PCPC is heading back to Locke.
Mark your calendars for March 20, 2024, and
RSVP to

Pam Kappelhof
(cell) 925-408-4540
(email) pamk86@gmail.com

We were last there in 2018 so it's time to revisit that historic Delta town. The town of Locke was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990. It is the only town in the United States built by Chinese for Chinese. It was built in 1912 by three Chinese merchants initially with three buildings: a store and saloon, a gambling hall, and a hotel and restaurant. Check out the National Park Service website for information about Locke:

<https://www.nps.gov/places/locke-historic-district.htm>

The old buildings and interesting side alleys offer lots of photo ops. Fascinating glimpses into the town's past abound inside at the gambling hall and, of course, in Al the Wop's as well.

Gear recommendations:

You might want to bring a couple of lenses to this shoot and a tripod if you feel you need to use one. Suggested lenses include:

- Wide angle lens to capture the buildings and the charm of the town (e.g., 14-24mm, 24-70mm, 24-120mm).
- Macro lens to bring out the details.
- Fisheye lens to show the quirkiness of the town.
- Longer lenses or zoom lenses if you see birds along the river.

And of course there's lunch at Al the Wop's!
Check out their menu.

<https://www.althewops.com/#menu>



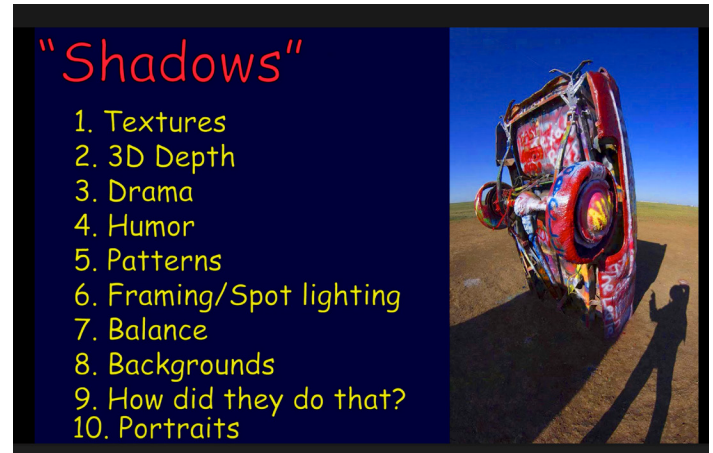
Jack Bachelder captured some of the quirkiness of Locke with this image taken on Locke's main street.

Shooting Shadows

Our very own Truman Holtz-claw was featured speaker at the January 2024 PCPC meeting, giving an inspirational presentation about the effectiveness of incorporating shadows into our photographs. His complete presentation is available to view at the PCPC website. Click this link <https://placerphotoclub.org/galleries/slide-shows/shooting-shadows-2024.html> If you're aren't already signed into the website, sign in, go to the Galleries menu, select Slideshows, select 2024 Shooting Shadows. Here are a few highlights from Truman's presentation:



Members were challenged to use what they learned in Truman's presentation and at the February meeting they shared some of the results of



Truman explained that light illuminates and shadows define. Without shadows, an image can be flat but with the inclusion of shadows, that image pops. There are many ways that an image can include shadows to different effect. Here is a list of some of the most important ways to use shadows that can vastly improve an image.

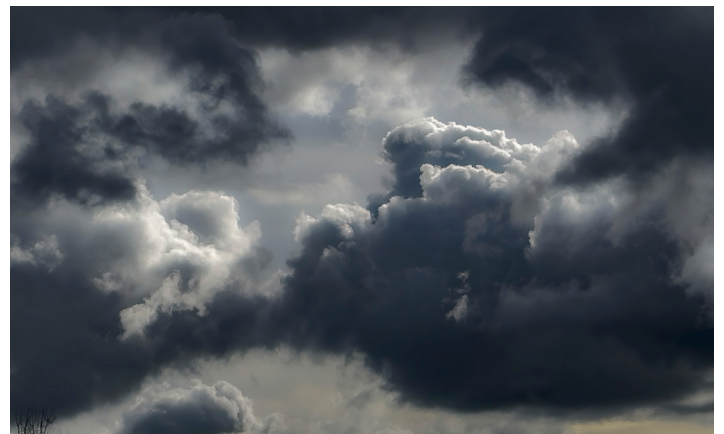
their efforts. With limited space we couldn't include all submitted but you can view all at the website. Click Galleries, Critiqued images, and the date.

Shooting shadows, PCPC Style:

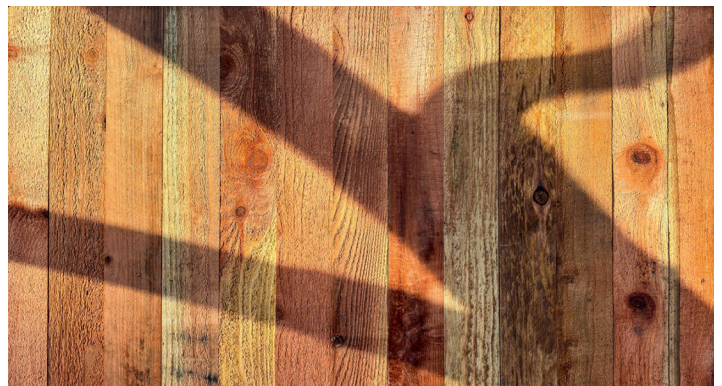
For some, iPhones came out for shadows. The April PCPC meeting will feature a presentation by Dennis Morgan about iPhone photography. Don't miss it! Here are a few shadow shots taken with iPhones.



©Yvonne Carter—iPhone 11



©Dennis Morgan—iPhone 14 Pro Max

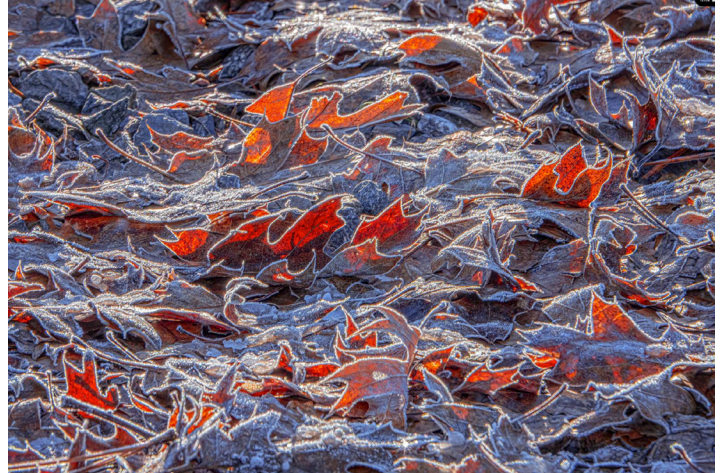


©Dick Bosworth—iPhone 14 Pro Max

More Shooting Shadows, PCPC Style, No iPhones



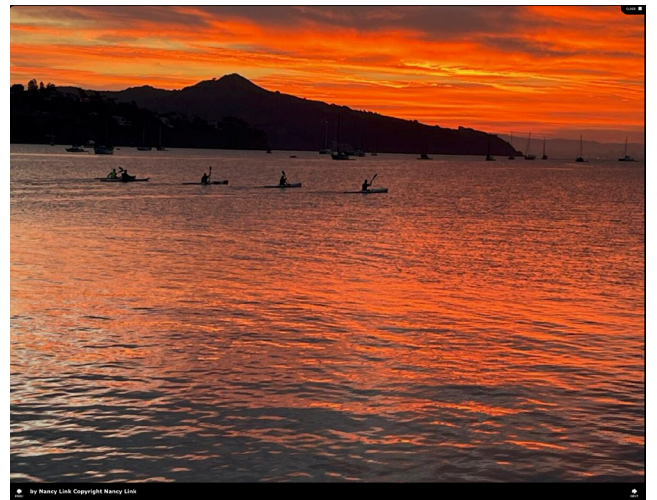
©Mike Schumacher



©Tony Hallas



©Ron Nabity



©Nancy Link



©Nanette Means



***We've sprung forward!
Don't forget to adjust
your camera's clock for
Daylight Savings Time.***

Where Can I Learn More?

It's not hard to find opportunities to learn and advance your photography both the basics and more advanced techniques. Many are on-line but there are also lots of opportunities to learn photography in a hands-on environment. Here are just a few for you to consider:

Action Camera offers both on-line and in person photography classes for all levels of photographers from beginners to advanced. They currently have a number of online classes ranging in price from \$10 to \$35. <https://www.actioncamera.com/classes#!/Virtual-Courses/c/89703047>

Check on their website for in person classes.

Action Camera is moving from Roseville to Rocklin in a month or so. New address is:
4415 Granite Drive, Rocklin

Sierra College also offers both on-line and in person classes. Jeff Burkholder, a photographer familiar to many members as a judge in past years, teaches some in person photography classes at Sierra College through the Sierra College Community Education Program at the College's Roseville center. Check out their website for more information on both digital photography courses and photo editing with classes on Photoshop and Lightroom. https://sierra.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&int_category_id=20&int_subcategory_id=160

KelbyOne, which was reviewed in the Fall 2023 issue of the PCPC Newsletter offers a wide range of photography and photo editing courses. Full access requires annual membership but there are various membership options and limited access is available free. <https://members.kelbyone.com/>

Julianne Kost of Adobe Systems, has many on-line tu-

torials about Photoshop, Adobe Camera Raw, and Lightroom. <https://jkost.com/blog/photoshop-training-videos>

Moose Peterson, wildlife and aviation photography, (<https://www.moosepeterson.com>) and **Dave Black**, sports, (<https://daveblackphotography.com>) are two photographers who share their extensive knowledge and expertise online through their websites, KelbyOne, and YouTube.

Most camera manufacturers offer on-line learning experiences. Check out the website for the manufacturer of your particular camera to see what types of education opportunities they offer:

Nikon's Learn and Explore program offers many free photography lessons in a wide range of topics. <https://www.nikonusa.com/en/learn-and-explore/index.page>

Canon's Learning and Inspiration Portal offers many classes and opportunities to improve your photography. <https://www.usa.canon.com/learning>

Sony offers shooting tips through its USA education program <https://www.sony.com/electronics/support/articles/00206559>.

Google searches are one way to find opportunities for learning more. Ask photographers you know if they follow anyone on-line who offers photography classes or learning experiences. Check out photography magazines like **Outdoor Photographer** or **Digital Photographer**. If you know of any places that you've had positive experiences learning more about photography, please share. Email the newsletter at pcphotoclubnewsletter@gmail.com and it will be mentioned in the next newsletter.

100 Years Ago on Focus

Photography as we know it (well, in a manner of speaking) has been around for more than 200 years. In 1822, a Frenchman by the name of Joseph Niépce, took the first photograph. The Eastman Kodak Company was formed in 1892 and for many of us, our first cameras were Kodak Brownies or Kodak Instamatics when we were kids, of course much more recently than 1892. Kodakery was a monthly periodical about photography for amateur photographers published by Eastman Kodak. That magazine

was in publication for about 20 years from 1913 to 1932.

One hundred years ago, the November 1924 issue of Kodakery carried an article about focusing the lens, something that many of us still struggle with despite advances in camera technology. Here is that article, written rather quaintly, but I'm sure that once read, you'll have a new appreciation for the focusing capabilities of today's autofocus cameras.

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K O D A K E R Y

PACE THE DISTANCE

"YOU'VE been playing guessing games again," said Jimmie's father as he handed the boy a wallet of negatives and prints fresh from the finisher's.

"Why do you say that? I haven't played a guessing game since last winter," Jimmie declared.

"I can't understand, then, how you ever got some of these pictures so badly out of focus. I think that before you make an exposure you close your eyes and cross your fingers and think of any number between ten and one hundred. Then you set the focusing scale of your Kodak accordingly. That's why the sharpest focus, instead of being on the principal object, is in front of or behind it."

"Here's the negative of Helen in the swing," continued the parent. "Do you remember what distance you estimated she was from the camera?"

"No, I don't. I think I wasn't very careful. Probably didn't really think. Just trusted to luck," confessed Jimmie.

"There's no reason for trusting to luck when you can do a thing—right. You should have paced off the distance. Do you know how long your pace is? See how many steps you will have

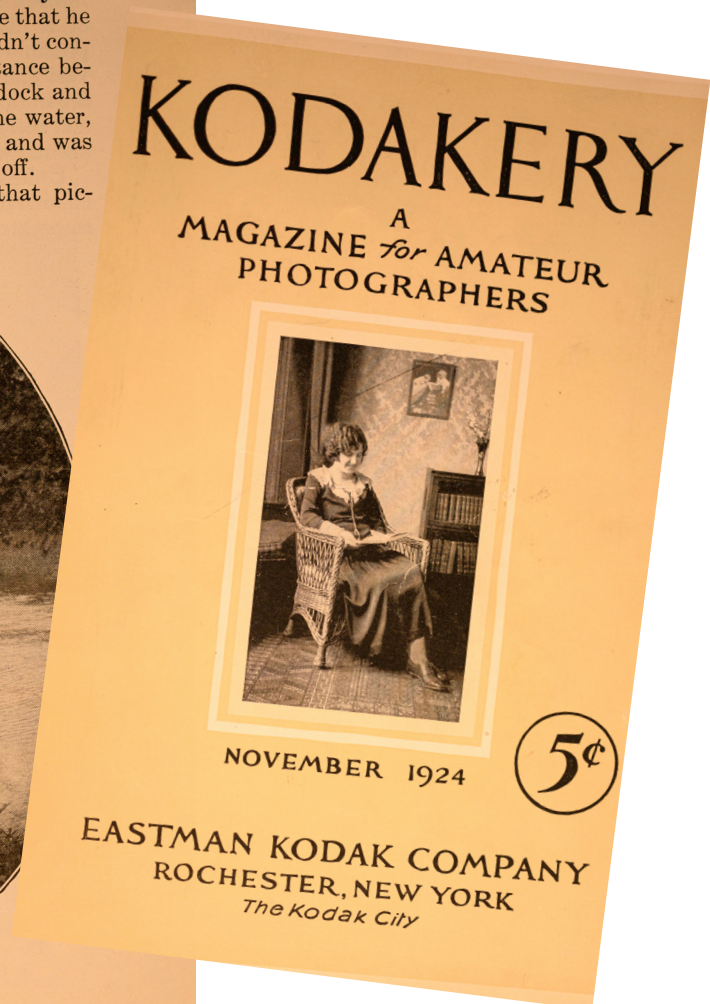
to take to cross this porch; the distance is thirty feet."

Jimmie and his father figured out that his steps averaged two feet, and Jimmie's pictures are always in sharp focus now, except one that he made at the lake. He couldn't conveniently pace off the distance between his position on the dock and his father's fat figure in the water, so he resorted to guessing, and was a couple of nautical miles off.

Jimmie never showed that picture to his dad.



THE PATIENT ANGLER



Club Details

How to Contact Us

Next mtg: March 19, 2024

Website:

<https://placerphotoclub.org>

Email:

placercameraclub@gmail.com

Newsletter:

PCPhotoClubNewsletter@gmail.com

Meetings:

Date: 3rd Tuesday of Month

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Beecher Room,
Placer County Library
350 Nevada St, Auburn

Zoom: Details in meeting reminder email

PCPC Board Members (As of 1/1/24):

President ----- Dick Bosworth
Veep & WebMaster-----Dennis Morgan
Secretary-----Liz Staats
Treasurer-----Mary Nunes
Member at Large Mike Schumacher

Non-voting Board Members:

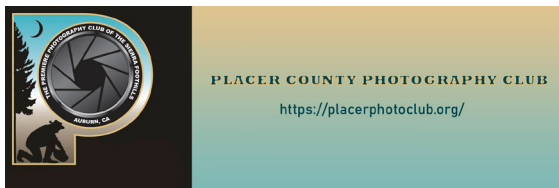
Activities Coordinator--Pam Kappelhof
Newsletter Editor-----Carol Smith

Dues

Single: \$24/year

Couple: \$36/year

Dues are payable in January and are delinquent as of March 1. Delinquent members cannot participate in club activities or image reviews and your images will disappear from the website. Pay at meeting or mail a check payable to Placer Camera Club. See Membership Application and Renewal form below.



2024 Membership Application & Renewal Form

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Email Address(s): _____

Phone: _____

Annual dues are \$24 for a single member and \$36 per couple

Make checks payable to "Placer Camera Club"

Turn in the form and payment at the meeting or mail it to:

PLACER COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

c/o: Mary Nunes
13040 Windsong Ct
Auburn, CA 95602