

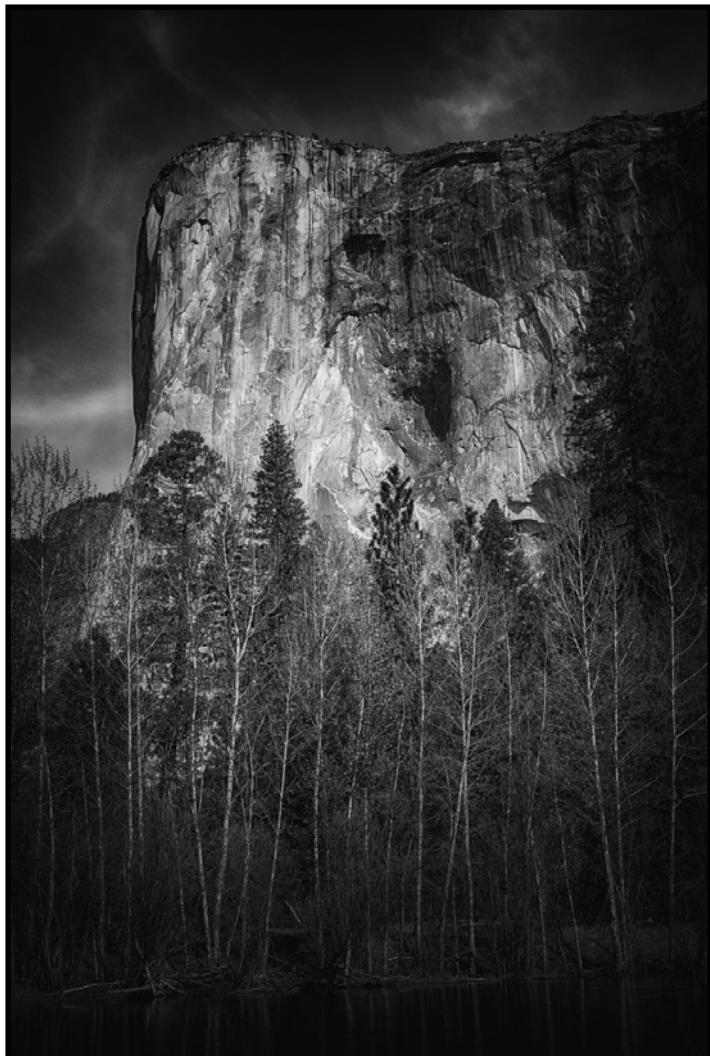


Fresno Camera Club

HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 69 Issue 2

February 2026



El Cap Behind a Screen by Patrick Rhames



Surprise by Liz Reelhorn

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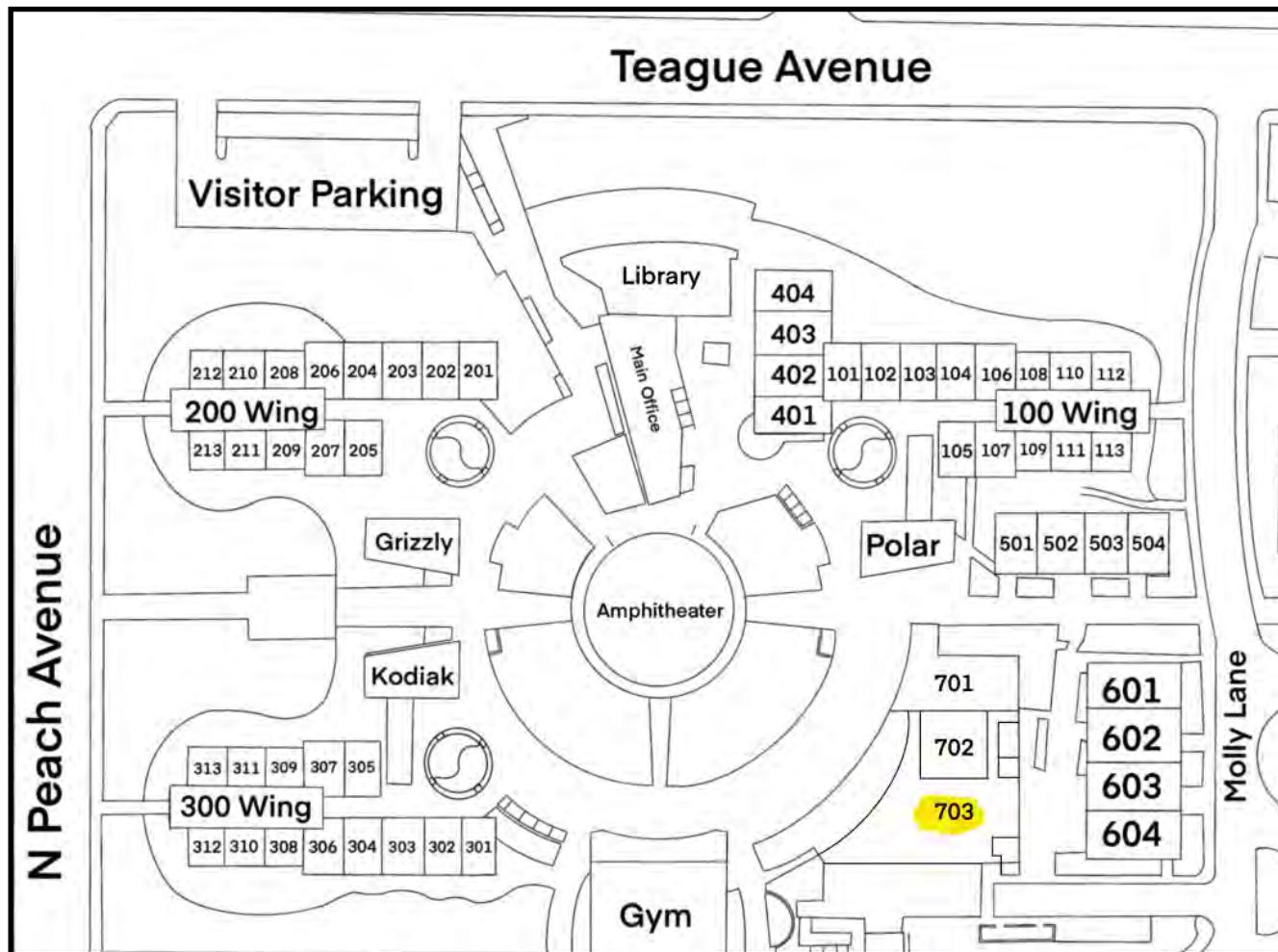
Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

Fresno Camera Club February Meetings

10th	Program Night—Field Trip & Mounting Prints	7:00 PM
14th	Field Trip to Merced Wildlife Preserve	
17th	Competition Meeting Digital	7:00 PM
23rd	Board Meeting	7:00 PM

New Meeting Location:

Alta Sierra Middle School MPR—380 W Teague Avenue, Clovis



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

From the President's Desk

I purchased my first real camera in 2017, and I say real because it wasn't a point and shoot Kodak or a cell phone. It was a Nikon D650 and it came with 2 kit lenses. Two years later, while at the Fine Arts exhibit at the Fresno Fair I came upon a booth for Fresno Camera Club. A list of the names of the members was on the table. I recognized one of the names and called him. I wanted to find out just what type of club this was. In other words, would they help me with my less than novice skills in photography. I had taken a class at Clovis Adult School in photography, but I still was just one step beyond shooting in Auto Mode.



I learned quickly that there is much to learn. Our cameras are like our brain. Most likely we only use a small percentage of what it's capable of doing.

Concepts, creativity, abstract, wildlife, nature, portrait, still-life, astro, macro, architectural, sports, street, pet, and travel are just a few types of photography you can do. Each has their own set of skills and photo editing. I had no idea what I wanted to learn. So, I experimented with many things. Everyone in the club made me feel welcome. Critiques were freely requested and honestly received.

Photo editing.... did I just say there was more to learn once you took the photo? Here is another world of possibilities. I'm not talking about AI, I'm talking about simple things like adjusting light, tone, and cropping. The members of Fresno Camera Club have always been my source of knowledge. If they don't know the answer they know where to look for it.

From hands on teaching, to field trips, and seminars, Fresno Camera Club helps photographers with the opportunity to grow and learn.

I'm on my third camera now 9 years later and I'm reminded by my friend Pat who told me "It's not the camera. It's the 10 inches behind the camera that makes the difference." That's right, it's the photographer who stops time and captures the moment in photography that makes the difference.

Lori Azevedo

President, Fresno Camera Club

Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

2026 Fresno Camera Club Calendar

February 10	Digitals Due	
February 17	Monthly Meeting – Digital Competition	7:00 PM
February 24	Program Night	7:00 PM
February 28	Blossom Trail Field Trip	
March 17	Monthly Meeting – Print Competition	7:00 PM
March 24	Program Night	7:00 PM
March 28	McKenzie Preserve	
April 14	Digitals Due	
<i>Spring</i>	<i>Fresno Fair – look for exhibit handbook online</i>	
April 21	Monthly Meeting – Digital Competition	7:00 PM
May 19	Monthly Meeting – Print Competition	7:00 PM
June 13	Summer BBQ – Print Competition – Cost \$20	
July 14	Digitals Due	
July 21	Monthly Meeting – Digital Competition	7:00 PM
August	NO MEETINGS – vacation	
September 8	Digitals Due	
September 15	Monthly Meeting – Digital Competition	7:00 PM
October 7 – 18	Fresno Fair	
October 20	Monthly Meeting – Print Competition	7:00 PM
November 10	Digitals Due	
November 17	Monthly Meeting – Digital Competition	7:00 PM
December 6	Year End Luncheon Cost \$15	10:00 AM

Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

January Competition Results

Karen Tillison was our judge for January. She judged 32 images and selected *Surprise* by Liz Reelhorn as Novice image of the night and *El Cap Behind a Screen* by Pat Rhames as Advanced image of the night.

We had three new members join: John and Liz Reelhorn and Cheryl Hagopian.

Welcome!

Novice Group

John Reelhorn

Snowman	CP 10	2nd
Cactus	CP 9	
Path Around Lake	CP 9	

Liz Reelhorn

Surprise	CP 10	1st
Fuchsia	CP 8	
Grapes	CP 8	

Advance Group

Debbie Abrames

Clouds over Mono Lake	MP 8	
Mono Lake Infrared	MP 10	
Mono Lake Long Exposure	CP 9	

Lori Azevedo

Milky Way Over Lone Pine	CP 10	
Aspen Lake Reflection	CP 10	
Burnt Tree	MP 10	

Elizabeth Bedard

Pathway in the Alabama Hills	MP 10	
Many Layers of Ronda Spain	CP 10	
Inside Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica	CP 10	

Dianna Dille

Seen Better Days	CP 8
Floating Beauty	CP 10

Dean Lawrence

View of the Rockies	CP 9
Colorful Roses	CP 10
Barely Hanging on	CP 10

Keith Putirka

Rain and Shadows Across Mt Tom	MP 10	4th
Storm Clouds Above Longs Peak RMNP	MP 10	3rd
Oak Trees on a Stormy Evening	MP	10

Patrick Rhames

El Cap Behind a Screen	MP 10	1st
Clivia 2025	CP 10	2nd
Shasta - The Sacred Mountain	MP	10

Jonathan Rollins

Three of a Kind	CP 9
Arches NP #12	MP 9
Arches N Park	CP 10

Jim Sanderson

Life's Foothold in Death Valley	CP 10
High Tide on the Central Coast	CP 10
Lone Tree in Nambia	CP 10

Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



Surprise

By Liz Reelhorn

Surprise was captured spontaneously with my iPhone when I noticed a moment that felt too delightful to ignore. The scene had such charm and immediacy that the phone became the perfect tool — quick, unobtrusive, and ready. Because it was a handheld shot, timing mattered more than technical perfection; I wanted to catch the exact instant that conveyed the feeling of surprise.



I did not edit. The iPhone made slight adjustments to exposure and contrast to bring out the textures and to keep the image feeling true to the moment.

The biggest challenge was simply reacting fast enough — the moment appeared and disappeared quickly, and I had to trust my instincts. That spontaneity is part of what makes the image meaningful to me.

Device: iPhone Mode: Standard photo mode Edits: automatic

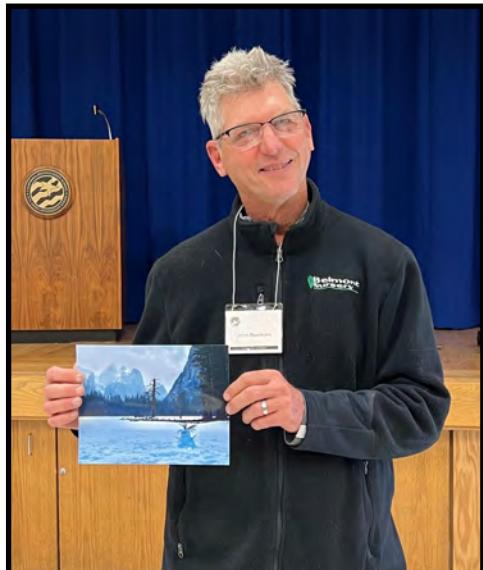


Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



Showman

By Jon Reelhorn



As for inspiration on 'Showman', Liz and I were spending time in Yosemite for Valentines Day. The park was quiet, chilly and overcast. We come across a cheerful, punk- rock snowman amongst the majesty the park and half dome. It was quite ironic and fun. The key was having my Nikon with me, framing the shot right and giving it a go. It made me smile.



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



El Cap Behind a Screen

By Patrick Rhames



On April 30, 2025 Jim Sanderson and I succumbed to a whim and drove up to Yosemite to blow the stink off and do some shooting.

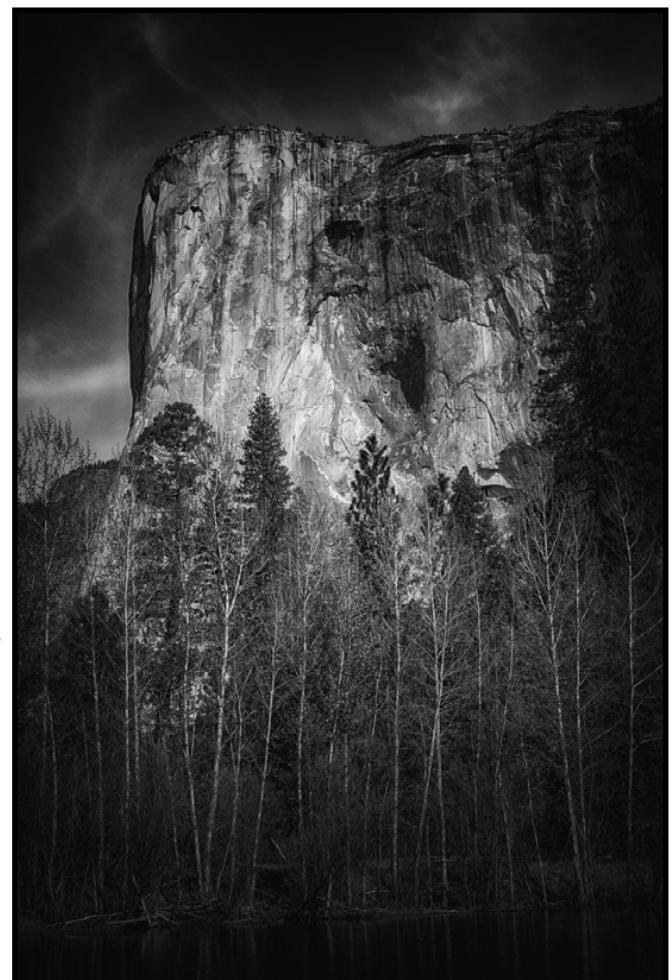
We hit several well-known spots along the River but this particular view got my attention. I've seen this spot before, but I never noticed the visuals exactly like they presented on this particular day.

Here is what grabbed my attention. First, and most notably those trees at the bank in front of El Cap were at a stage of fresh foliation where the trunks were still prominent enough to create a strong pattern of lines amongst the patterned green background of the leaves. I don't believe I'd ever noticed that before. In addition, they were artistically reflected in the water at their feet. That combination of lines, patterns and color formed a visual screen in front of the random patterns and subtle colors of the monolith behind it. Throw in the wispy cloud patterns in the sky and I was struck with the layered aesthetics of it all.

The image was captured with my trusty Nikon Z8 with a Nikkor Z 24-70 f/2.8 mounted. As in most cases, this equipment was mounted on top of a tripod. Manual exposure, 1/250 at f/22 ISO 800, matix metering focal length set at 43mm. This image is the rendering of 9 bracketed frames at 1 stop increments.

Post processing started with LightRoom for RAW editing, Photoshop for artistic adjustments and then on to NIK plugins for artistic refinement increasing contrast and then rendering in monochrome.

Candidly both the color and the monochrome version are nice renderings, but the monochrome version produced that dramatic toning that I am so attracted to.



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



Clivia 2025

By Patrick Rhames

This image is this year's portrait of a Clivia plant I have in my yard and wind up shooting every year, it seems. I'm annually attracted to the natural striking beauty of the bloom and the structure of the strap-like leaves as background.

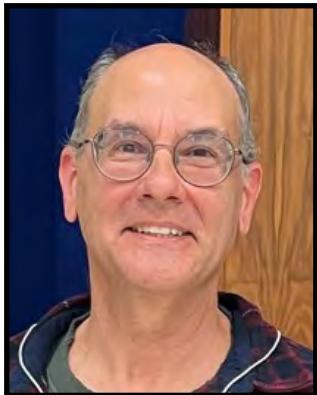
The technique I use for this type of photography is "focus stacking" and I use the program Helicon to merge the 15 individual images into a single rendered image.

Equipment used: Nikon Z8 with a Nikkor Z24-70 f/2.8 lens mounted all of which was mounted to the top of a tripod. Exposure was 1/320 at f/2.8, manual focus, spot metering, ISO 640, focal length 55mm. No flash was used. Only the light passing through a nearby window is used for exposure. As stated above, 15 separate exposures using the "in camera" focus stacking feature of the Z8.

Post processing began with Helicon in rendering to a .tiff file. Adobe Photoshop was used to begin the artistic editing finished with NIK software to achieve the "look" I wanted. The "look" intends to emphasize the bloom of the plant and to have the background of leave structure "fall off" to a supporting (but important) role.

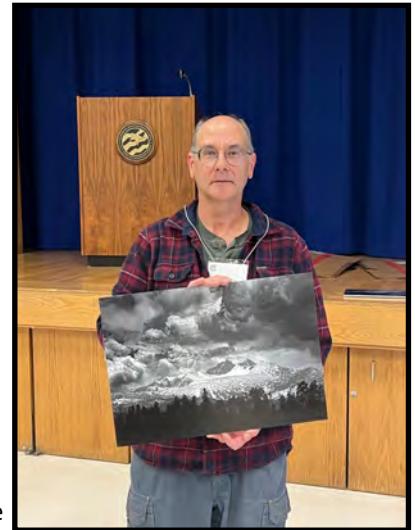


Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



Storm Clouds Above Longs Peak,
Rocky Mountain National park

By Keith Putirka



This photo was taken on May 27, 2025, probably at about 2:00 PM or so, with a Canon EOS 80D, with a Canon EF 18-135 mm (f/3.5-5.6) lens, at 72 mm, 1/500 sec and ISO 200 (aperture priority). As with the virga above Mt Tom, I'm using a faster shutter speed as the 80D is hand-held. The road through Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) was open only up to the Many Parks Curve Overlook, where this photo was taken. The direction is looking south from the lookout railing. The shot is from a road trip where I drove my youngest daughter to Fort Collins, for her summer internship with the CDC (since photography was not the main, focus, the 80D is all that I took – for quick hand-held shots). I think we are looking at Longs Peak, but I am not 100% sure. But I had the railing at the viewpoint to rest my arms so ISO 200 was possible. Longs Peak and the storm clouds above it were the main attraction at the time. I amplified these in Lightroom using global adjustments to take down the highlights and blacks slightly, which brings some added contrast and detail, especially in the sky. Here, I also used Lightroom's "Adaptive Sky - Dark Drama" preset; usually this effect is much too strong for my taste and I make my own adjustments, but in this case I thought it worked well, taking highlights in the sky down to -50 and blacks down to -15, with some increases in clarity (+15) and dehaze (+50) that add further contrast. (I've learned a lot by exploring the presets, and moving the same sliders to get the effect I want). I then used Lightroom to convert the image to Adobe Monochrome and imported the image to Photoshop. There, I used Camera Raw to add a very slight vignette and to increase the exposure on Longs Peak, and the snowy slopes below. I then added a high pass filter with the blending mode set to overlay to add sharpness at about 6 MP. I do this zoomed out, looking at the entire image; but zooming in, I can also see that on my 20 MP sensor, many of the smaller dark, snow-free areas on the snowy slopes are about 6 MP across; the high pass filter set at 6 MP does a very good job of increasing their visibility. Many of the small "curls" in the clouds are also enhanced by this same filter, as they are about 3-12 MP across. The high pass filter can sometimes look a little "hard" or "mechanical", and so I first tried reducing clarity in another Camera Raw filter, but in this case I didn't like the result as much as simply setting the opacity on the high pass filter to 54%.



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



Rain and Shadows Across Mount Tom

By Keith Putirka

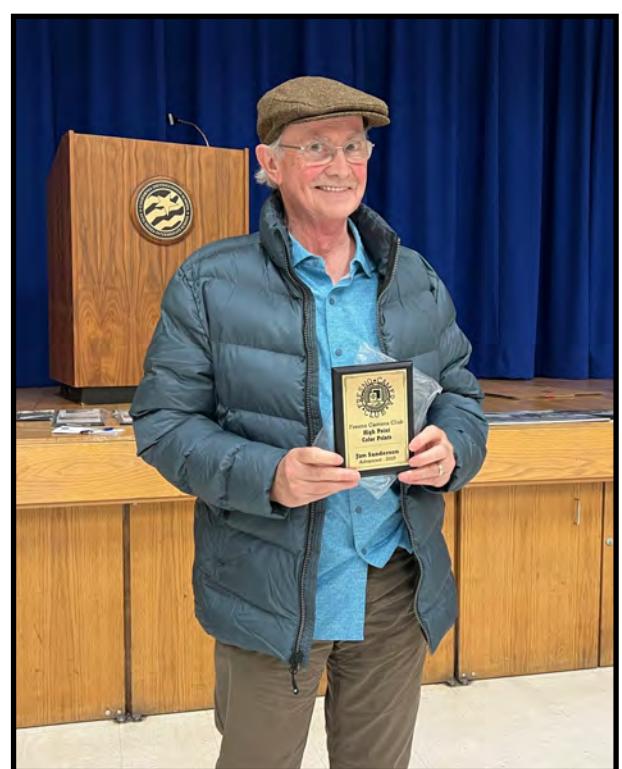
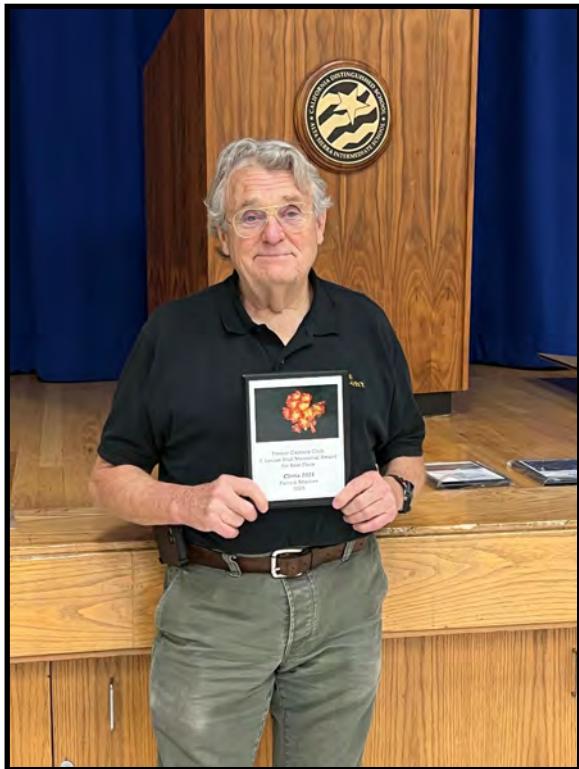


The photo was taken on Aug. 14, 2025, near 3:00 PM, using a Canon EOS 80D with a Canon EF 18-135 mm (f/3.5-5.6) lens, shot at 135 mm, 1/3000 sec, f/11 and ISO 3200, in aperture priority (my usual setting for landscapes, with manual ISO). The shot is looking west towards Mt. Tom, from S. Round Valley Road (just west of hwy 395), where it was quite overcast to the west due to storms building above the high peaks. Heather and I were headed north on hwy 395 from Bishop and pulled onto S. Round Valley Road to photograph virga (streaks of rain beneath a cloud, which evaporate before hitting the ground) and light rays filtered through the clouds and virga. I take my crop-sensor Canon 80D pretty much everywhere and prefer the lighter frame and lens, for quick, hand-held shots. My full sensor 5D was back at camp, otherwise I would have used it. So being hand-held, I was using a higher ISO and faster shutter speed. I've lost the record of Lightroom edits but I used noise reduction, setting it to 80-100% which I do for most landscapes that I shoot at high ISO. I probably also reduced highlights and the blacks in lightroom globally, and perhaps also increased dehaze, to add contrast. And I most definitely converted it to B&W in Lightroom as I think that Adobe Monochrome good job. As the judge mentioned, I was after a semi-abstract effect, which I tried to obtain by cropping the image so that Mt Tom is not the subject, and by cutting out the sky and foreground; really, there is no definite "subject", other than the virga and the patterns they make. After importing the B&W image from Lightroom into Photoshop there were only a few light edits, I added just two layers – both high-pass filter layers - to add sharpness (with blending modes set to "overlay"). I like high pass filters to increase sharpness as I can choose and preview the pixel groups that are being emphasized. I didn't create these layers as smart objects (so it's not easy to recover the settings) but I think one high pass filter is set at about 6 pixels while the other is set to 20 pixels or so. The smaller high pass filter emphasizes the vertical bands within the virga; the larger high pass filter helps set off the virga themselves from the adjacent shadows.

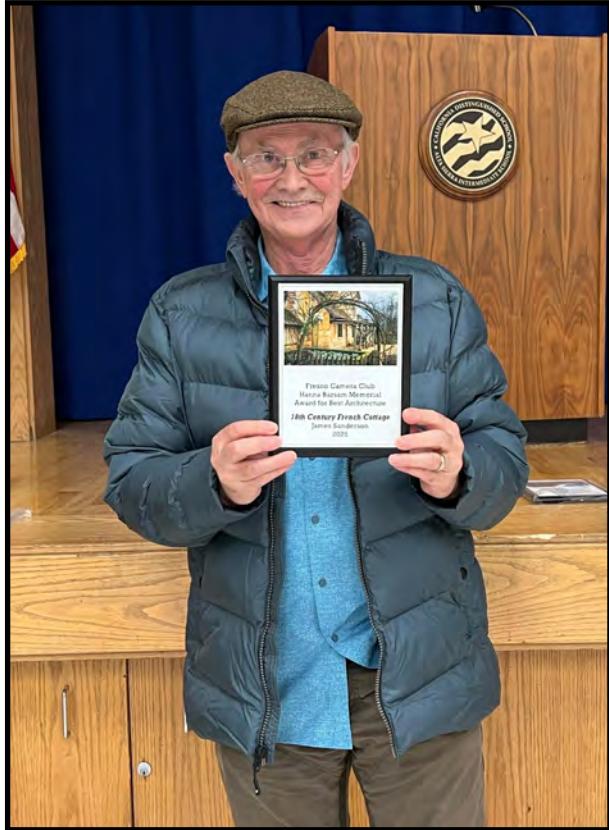


Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

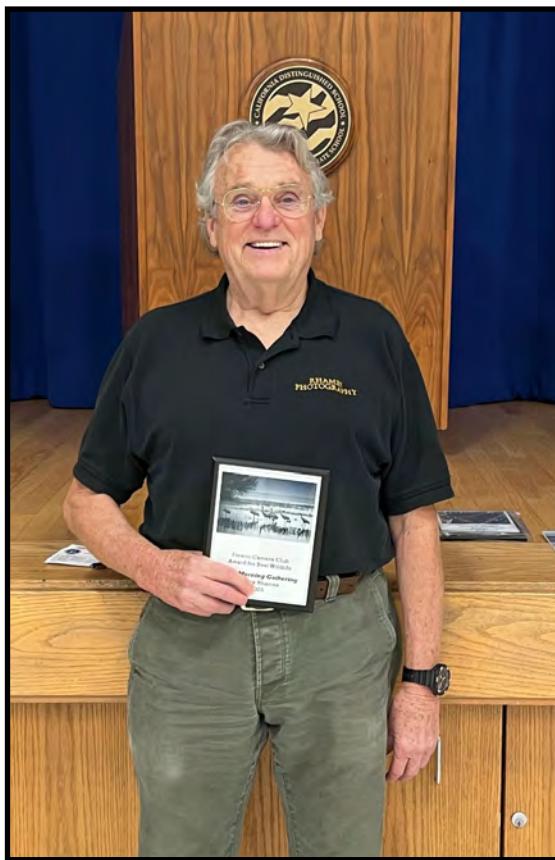
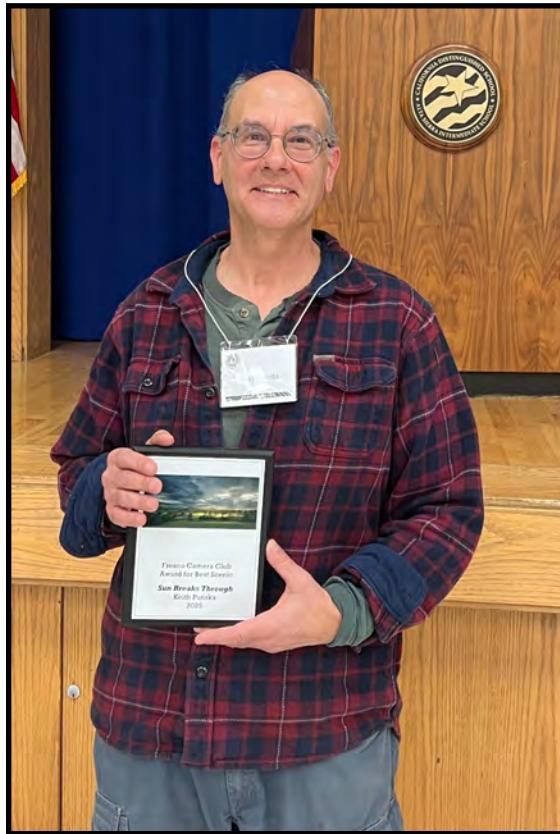
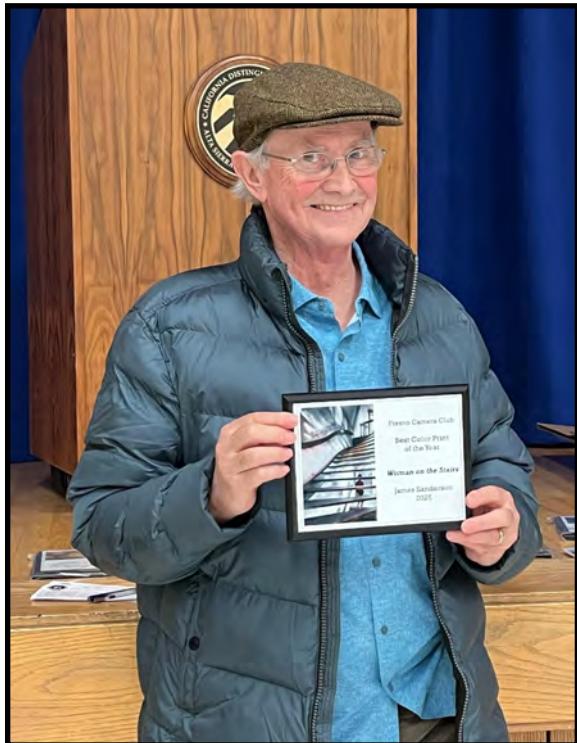
2025 Awards



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



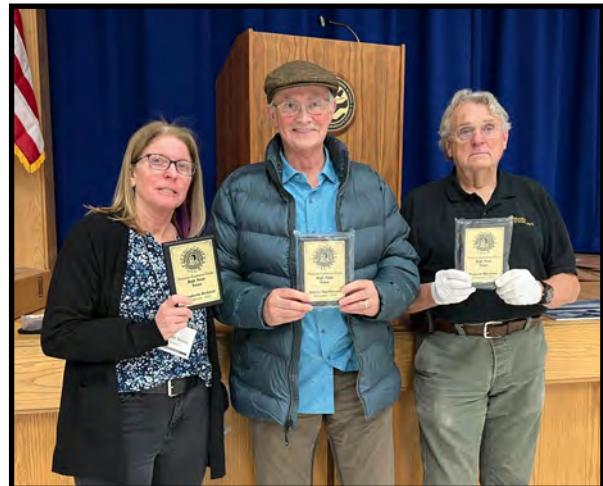
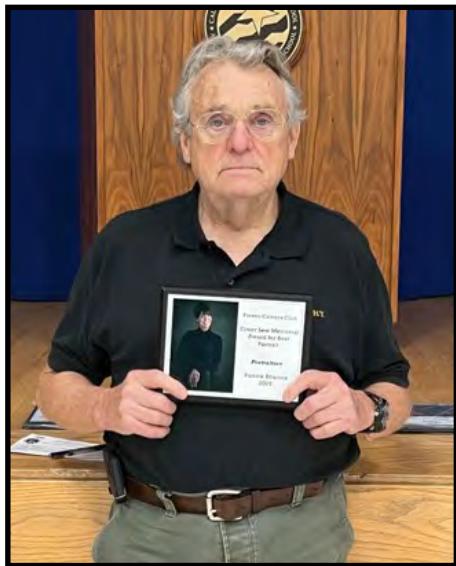
Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

Meeting Photos



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

San Joaquin Valley Camera Club Council



February 5	Digitals Due	5:00 pm
February 8	Competition Meeting	10:00 am
March 5	Digitals Due	5:00 pm
March 8	Competition Meeting	10:00 am
April 9	Digitals Due	5:00 pm
April 12	Competition Meeting	10:00 am
June 11	Digitals Due	5:00 pm
June 14	Competition Meeting	10:00 am
September 10	Digitals Due	5:00 pm
September 13	Competition Meeting	10:00 am
October 8	Digitals Due	5:00 pm
October 13	Competition Meeting	10:00 am
November 5	Digitals Due	5:00 pm
November 8	Competition Meeting	10:00 am
November 10	Digitals Due	
December 13	Year End Luncheon	10:00 am

Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

San Joaquin Valley Camera Club Council

Competition Classes for 2026

Monochrome Prints

AAA Elizabeth Bedard

AA Dee Humphrey
Loye Stone
Patrick Rhames
Dean Lawrence

A Members not listed

Color Prints

AAA Patrick Rhames

AA Elizabeth Bedard
Loye Stone
Jonathan Rollins
Dean Lawrence

A Members not listed

Photojournalism

AAA Loye Stone
Dean Lawrence

AA Elizabeth Bedard

A Members not listed

Travel

AA Elizabeth Bedard

AAA Loye Stone

AA Leroy Lambright
Dean Lawrence
Elizabeth Bedard

A Members not listed

Pictorial

AAA Loye Stone

AA Patrick Rhames
Leroy Lambright
Dean Lawrence
Elizabeth Bedard

A Members not listed

***If you are interested in Council, please ask any of the
participants for details***

Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

Photographic Society of America

PSA is a global community of photographers, people with photographic interests, photo clubs, and organizations. Members have access to diverse programs, learning opportunities, competitions, and networking with other members around the world. Membership offers benefits for both Individuals, and Club and Organizations.



More information <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/membership>

Some perks of PSA Membership include:

- Online photography classes,
- Webinars
- Competitions
- Division Study and Discussion Groups
- Mentors and Consultants
- Member Discounts
- PSA Journal



Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

Fotoclave

FotoClave is the premier in person photography conference and forum hosted by the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C) to inspire and educate the photographic community of California and the surrounding areas.



March 20-23, 2026
Santa Cruz, California

More info: <https://fotoclave.slickpic.com/>

The workshop will be four days of learning, connecting and sharing. It's your chance to connect with experts speaking on a wide range of photography topics from seascapes and surf photography to intimate landscapes and hummingbirds, to name a few of the varied subjects at this year's conference.

This will be a new and improved FotoClave with the majority of workshops to be held in the field. So bring your camera gear and get ready to have some fun and meet interesting people!

Included in the conference will be:

⌚ 3 keynote addresses	⌚ 10 different field trips to venues in the Santa Cruz area
⌚ 7 instructional webinars	⌚ 13 different break out sessions
⌚ 3 indoor workshops	⌚ Alan Shapiro's junk drawer photography
⌚ 2 no-host bar occasions	⌚ Saturday night banquet

Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

Horn Photo Classes And Events



Thursday
12
Feb



Basic Photography
Class - 2/12/26
6:30 to 8:30 PM
\$45

Learn the fundamentals of photography. Bring your camera!

Thursday
12
Mar



Basic Photography
Class - 3/12/26
6:30 PM
\$45

Whether you're new to photography, or want to better understand what makes a picture great -- This is the class for you.

Thursday
19
Mar



**Composition in
Photography Class**
3/19/26
6:30 PM
Tickets: \$45 per class

Rise above the ordinary snapshot, and learn how to make your images interesting.

Friday
- Sunday
1 - 3
May



**Outside Beyond The
Lens Photo
Adventure 2026**
\$2000 per person

Spend three days shooting in the spectacular scenery of the Alabama Hills located near Lone Pine, CA with Jeff Aiello, Horn Photo and pro photographers

Fresno Camera Club—February Highlights

Program Night

February 10th at 7:00 pm

We will be going over the Field Trip to Merced Wildlife Refuge

How to mount your photos for competition



Fresno Camera Club Membership for January 1 - December 31, 2026

The completed form below, together with your check/cash will pay your dues for the year 2026

Dues are paid by Calendar Year

Name: _____
PSA Member Yes No

Address _____
Street Address / Apartment # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Select Membership Type

Single \$35

Family \$55

Student \$20

Directory

Printed \$5

Digital Directory-Free

FAIR SPECIAL FOR NEW MEMBERS! Join in October and get the rest of 2025 for Free!

Make Checks Payable to Fresno Camera Club

New Membership Renewal Amount Paid \$_____ Cash Check #_____