



Election!

In This Issue

Election1

Coming Events2

President's Column3

End-of-Year Events4

Editor's Desk5

Officer's Duties6

In the Bag7

Poly Exchange8

Bylaws9

It's time to elect new Poly Officers for 2012.

As many of you already know, at the end of each year, we elect (or re-elect) a group of officers charged with running the business and charting the course of the Poly Photo Camera Club for the next year.

Last month, Clark's article described the duties of the Club officers when they get together and function as the Executive Board.

This month, Clark has described the powers, duties, and responsibilities for each of them, when they work for the club as individuals (see Page 6). This timely article lets us all know what we can expect of the 2012 officers we will be electing.

We are very lucky with our candidates this year. Both Presidential candidates are well-qualified, and each has served as Poly Vice-President before this nomination.

Now you all have a say in how Poly will be run for the next year, so even if you don't choose to enter images in the monthly competition, come to the October 1 meeting and vote for your choice.

For the office of President the nominees are:

- Ernesto Corte
- Donna Wolfe

For the office of Vice-President:

- Shelly Britton

For the office of Secretary:

- Darlene Elwin

For the office of Treasurer:

- Diane Patterson

The election will be by written ballot and counted by a three member panel, selected by the presiding officer. Results will be announced at the meeting.

Special Announcement

Next month, my vacation will interfere with the Poly Speaks publishing cycle. Therefore, there will be no Poly Speaks issue for November.

However, we will publish a year-end issue for December, to bring you all "up to speed" about Poly news and happenings at the end of 2011 and at the beginning of 2012.

Coming Events

October 1: Competition. The Project Competition subject is “*Selective Focus.*”

Our Judge for September is Bruce Mason.

Bruce is an accomplished and well-known landscape photographer. He is a long-time judge and member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA). He has also been active in SCACC, and has served as its President.

October 13 (Thursday) to October 16 (Sunday): Field Trip: Eastern Sierra.

(You can also join the trip on Friday, Oct. 14)

Host: Judy Olesen.

This field trip’s main photographic purpose is to capture stunning fall images in the Eastern Sierras, as well as to have a rollicking good time with your Poly colleagues and fellow photographers!

Itinerary

- **Thursday night:** Arrive in Bishop. Those who arrive in time, have dinner together and go over the plans for the weekend. Stay in Bishop Thursday night.
- **Friday:** Dawn photo shoot at Mono Lake. (About 45 min. North of Bishop)
- Fall color photography in and around lakes in that area - from Mono Lake north to Lee Vining.
- Lunch together.
- More fall color after lunch.
- Late afternoon - Drive 1 hour (approx) north of Lee Vining to Bridgeport. Stay overnight.
- **Saturday:** Arise VERY early in the morning for a sunrise shoot at Bodie National Park.
- (Some may not wish to go to Bodie this early or perhaps not shoot in Bodie at all. Arrive at Bodie by 9 AM when park opens or shoot on your own in Bridgeport area.)
- Noon on Sat. - Picnic tail-gate lunch in Bodie parking lot.
- Sat. afternoon - Check out of Bridgeport hotel. Drive to Lee Vining and check into motel in Lee Vining.
- Sat. night - Dinner together in Lee Vining area.
- Sat. after dinner: Try some night sky photography for those who are interested and who learned how to do this in Dennis Mammana's workshop in Borrego.
- **Sunday:** Sunrise shoot in the Lee Vining area - more lakes, possibly drive up the road to Rock Creek.
- Lunch together.
- More fall color or rest in motel in Lee Vining. (Note: If the fall color in the Lee Vining area is not good enough because of the altitude, we may drive down to Bishop and shoot the fall color there. Bishop is lower in altitude and therefore changes color later. Some of you may want to visit Galen Rowell's Mountain Light Gallery in Bishop as well.)
- Dinner together in Bishop.
- Sharing of each other's images.
- **Monday:** Drive back to San Diego.

We have 17 people signed up so far. If there are any other members who would like to join us (and it would be great if even more members participated), please email me ASAP so I can put you on my list. From now on, I will be sending out information and additional details just to the members who have signed up. Also, if there are any members who have signed up and need to be deleted, please email me ASAP so I can take you off my list.

I intend to contact motels in the areas where we will be staying this week and will be sending out a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of these places very soon. I will be sending additional information only to the participants who have signed up, so please make sure you are on my list if you intend to make the trip.

This will be a phenomenal trip! I'm really looking forward to it!

Judy at tripodready1@gmail.com

President's Column

By Jean Eichenlaub

My year and a half sojourn in the President position is coming to an end, and during that time club membership increased by about 50 percent. Some 40 of the 49 people attending the July meeting were members for three years or less and at least half of those folks had not been members of another camera club prior to joining Poly. I knew the club was struggling to handle the number of members and wondered why it had become such a problem. At the September meeting I was startled to learn the club had about 10 members in 2001, then I understood the situation.

The rapid growth without operational adjustments has created stress on the system to achieve the club's objective: "Development of photographic skill through education, practice and critique." With the much smaller group it was not necessary to consider time constraints to focus on education and critique. Nor was communication amongst a small static member population difficult.

It was brought out in the September meeting discussion that critique and competition are not synonymous. For those not attending: compete – strive for superiority or supremacy; competition – an event or contest in which people compete; critique – formal criticism; criticism – an analytical evaluation of something.

Thus, the analytical evaluation of photographs is the club's objectives. Members attending the September meeting indicated that is the reason they joined the club.

Analytical evaluation (discussion) of images does not need to be limited to a single judge making comments the first Saturday eleven months of the year. Last year Buzz Bussino and I tried to stimulate members to discuss individual photos via the Yahoo group services. A few people participated; but, it was not picked up by the general membership and we dropped the effort. Probably because I did not do a good job of explaining it to all the members.

I want to thank Jim Mildice for his persistence with the competition committee resulting in the proposed changes to the procedures. The changes certainly help members incorporate what they have learned into yearend competition submittals.

For the future, I believe the club needs to address two issues: 1) meeting time devoted to critique and 2) club wide communication.

Item 1: Three years ago the number of submitted images permitted was reduced to three per member resulting in about 60 images submitted to open competition per month. Now we routinely have over 100 images per month. I believe reducing the number of images per member is contraindicated. Rather the meeting time should be extended. I suggest a half hour be added to the meeting, either by starting at 9am or ending at 12.

Item 2: Communicating with members. The issue is how to disseminate information to all without putting undo stress on any one person. Historically the club has used group mailing to individual emails. This means someone has to maintain an uptodate list of email addresses. Also, since many spam blockers delete emails addressed to more than twenty individuals a minimum of four separate mailings must be made to facilitate delivery. Since members are added monthly, email addresses are changed periodically, and sometimes during the year members cease considering themselves as a member, so an up to date list available at a moments notice is a major task. Basically it is something that is almost impossible for a paid professional and way too much to ask of a kind volunteer.

I believe the most effective strategy is to place the onus on individual members to check a specific location for information. With our current internet set up, there are two options. 1) the web site, or 2) yahoo group messaging. I do not envision anything sent to club members not being appropriate for general public viewing.

However, a few members seem to harbor privacy concerns for club business. Thus, if the web site is utilized a “members only” section needs to be created and members notified of the password. If one was really concerned, the password must be changed every few months and the current membership informed of the new password. Presumably everyone realizes this is asking a lot of time and effort from one person – Alan. I, for one, think it quite presumptuous to even consider asking him.

The other option, the Yahoo group, provides members with the option of automatic notification when a message is posted. Thus the onus of checking for messages can be handled with ease. The question of non current club members being members of the Yahoo group

remains. Personally, I have absolutely no problem with that. They were interested enough to initiate joining the club and yahoo group. Perhaps they will return to the group in the future. And, as I said before, if the message can’t be general knowledge it has no business being posted in the first place.

Another reason for using the Yahoo group is members will become comfortable with it, facilitating more use of the group features and interaction between members. As anyone involved in education knows, people do not learn by only sitting and watching. You didn’t learn multiplication by watching someone else do it. Interacting and discussion is necessary for learning and understanding. The more interaction between members the more everyone will benefit.

End-of-Year Competition Reminder

We would normally remind you of this in the November issue, but since November won’t have an issue this year, we’ll publish your reminder now. It’s not too early to be thinking about the images you will be entering in the Year-end Competition for “Picture of the Year.” The judging will be in early December, so your entries will need to be submitted during November. (Final dates will be announced.)

Remember, you can enter up to eleven images that were accepted (earned a score of seven or higher) in one of the 2011 monthly “Open” competitions, to compete for the “Picture of the Year Award.”

You can also enter any of your images that were first or second in a 2011 “Project” competition for the “Project Picture of the Year.”

Submit new copies of your images to the usual competition address. Size and identify them just as you do for a monthly competition. The

winning images will then be selected by a panel of three judges.

First, second, and third place winners in each category receive inscribed medals. The “Best of Nature” image is also selected from the “Open” category, and receives an inscribed plaque. Honorable mentions in the Open competition receive ribbons.

Along with the Best-of-the-Year awards, the “High-Points” winners will be presented with their awards. First, second, and third place High-Points winners receive inscribed medals, and if there is a first place tie both get awards.

All the Awards will be presented at our Year-end luncheon; and all the submitted images will be presented in one of Alan’s superb audio-visual presentations.

For any additional details and requirements, see ARTICLE XIII of the Poly Bylaws.

Editor's Desk

It's election time again at Poly! In the coming election, I see a positive indicator for the spirit of our Club. Back in 2010, the nominating committee had a problem finding one candidate who would agree to run for President. This year, we have two qualified candidates willing to do the job of President; and that's not an easy job to do. I hate to use such a cliché, but I will paraphrase it, because it seems so appropriate. *"Leading and guiding Poly is a lot like herding cats."*

Creative, artistic people (in our case photographers) are often outspoken, strong-minded, opinionated, and want to do things their way. They are also often competitive. All that often makes our membership hard to guide in any particular direction. So give the 2012 Officers all the help and consideration you can.

Poly members seem to have other qualities that save our Club from the obvious destructive conflicts often present in a group of such individuals. Most of them are willing to listen and learn new ideas. Most of them are open and sharing; of ideas, of techniques, of technology, of most anything else.

I have never been part of any group that focuses so strongly on competition (about half our meetings are competition related); and yet has members who are so open and considerate of others. That really works for us.

Some of the purists among us still disparage competitions on principle. But as I have pointed out before, our form of competition/comment/feedback seems to be just right for a large segment of our membership. It satisfies our competitive instincts, while it also provides a great learning tool.

I'm not trying to say that open discussion and feedback for our images is not also a good learning tool. We could be using that along with our established competitions; because the competitions have one advantage that simple criticism and exchange do not. They provide a quantitative gauge to measure our progress as photographers and artists.

We should also remember that, when we enter the competition, there is no requirement to compete for points and/or the High-Points Year-end awards. You can enter for the critique, observe your scores for your own purposes, and not even have them published on the competition page of the Poly web site. That way, if you make this choice, the "competition" becomes nothing

more than a critique and feedback by an outside, third party expert. You can still chart your improvement, and see how you compare with the others in the group.

Finally, you get to see the critiques of other photographers' images, and learn from them.

But even if you choose to enter on this more-limited basis, remember what we have said before. There is no such thing as an "unbiased" critic. Everyone who looks at a picture filters it through their own experience. So we also need to filter the critique. Even the easiest-to-understand criterion, "Would I hang this on my wall?" would reject subjects that the viewer simply doesn't like. I think that one of the best evaluations I have recently heard came from my daughter (who is a really good photographer), "This is a disgusting looking bug, and I don't want to look at it, but it's a very good picture."

"Leading and guiding Poly is a lot like herding cats."

Quote of the Month

"Learn from the mistakes of others, because you won't have time to make them all yourself."

Duties of Officers

By Clark Winsor

Last month, we learned about how the Executive Board interacts with various club officers. With the election of officers scheduled for the first meeting in October, I think it is time to take a look at the duties of each office. Let's start with the President.

Duties of the President:

1. Preside at all meetings of the club.
2. Preside at all meetings of the Executive board.
3. Function as ex-officio member of all committees.
4. Represent the club at all SCACC meetings. (if unable to attend a particular meeting, shall appoint a delegate).
5. In the event of any office (other than the President) the President will appoint a replacement, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
6. Before the first meeting in January the President shall appoint chairpersons for the following committees: Monthly Competition, SCACC Interclub Competition, Refreshment, Annual Banquet and Equipment.
7. Will appoint three club members to serve as a Nominating Committee. This should be done at the August meeting.

Here's a fuzzy part. The By-Laws revised in September 2003 also refer to the club auditor and Historian and states that they be appointed by the President before the January meeting. The current By-Laws (updated in December 2008) make two references to the duties of the auditor, but make no mention of the duties of the Historian. In addition, the appointment of the auditor is not mentioned as a duty of the President in our current 2008 By-Laws.

Duties of the Vice-President;

1. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President during the latter's absence or during a vacancy in that office.
2. Shall be the de facto Program chairperson.
3. Shall be responsible for organizing programs and field trips including obtaining cost, transportation, and notifying all concerned of the date, time and place of departure and return.

Duties of the Secretary;

1. Keep all minutes of the Club and the Executive Board and be custodian of Records.

Duties of the Treasurer;

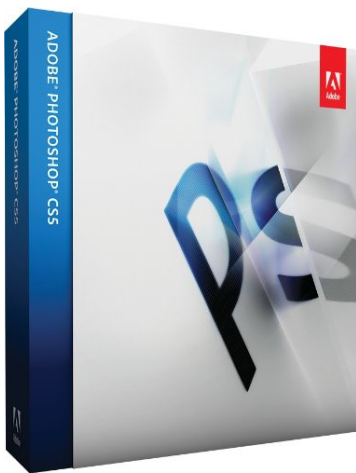
1. Act as custodian for the Club's funds.
2. Collect dues.
3. Make new rosters for presentation to the members.
4. Pay bills as directed by the Executive Board.
5. Keep an account of all receipts and expenditures.
6. Make a quarterly financial report at the first meeting of each quarter.
7. Notify all members that dues are payable December 31.
8. By default the Treasurer becomes the membership chairman.

I encourage all members who are planning to rejoin Poly in 2012 to attend the October 1st meeting and cast your ballot for the person you feel is best suited to serve the offices here stated.

In the Bag

By Stan Bell

Well, after a few months, It's software time. You may find this disappointing, but I use a pretty standard software set. When I first got serious about shooting digital, I asked our resident photographer how to improve my photography. Until then, I used Photoshop Elements and loved it. It was and is a fine program. It did all I thought I wanted to do. Our pro shooter made two suggestions: join a photo club and upgrade to Photoshop. I started with CS, got each upgrade. and now use CS5.



I joined Poly Photo Club and they helped (and continue to help) me in more ways than I can count. Its workshops helped me learn how to overcome PS's steep learning curve and what I should be doing with it. Taking the effort to learn many of PS's secrets has proved to be well

worth it. There is nothing you can't do with this professional standard.

One big advantage of PS is not only the fact that it is the most powerful photo editing program on the planet, but there are so many add-on's (called plugins). Just deciding which ones to use is a daunting task in itself. I have used many of them including Kubota's "Actions," and a ton of free ones (some better than others.)

I have settled on two that I can't live without; Nik "ColorEfx Pro V3" and onOne "Perfect Photo Suite 5.5." Either one is a powerhouse on its own. I just couldn't decide which one I wanted the most. Then I thought, "Why not have both." The Nik suite has over 52 effects in its full version. For less money, you can buy fewer effects. It now supports other platforms as well. If you are a serious digital photographer (and what shooter isn't?) and using Aperture, Lightroom, or Photoshop, "Color Efx Pro 3.0

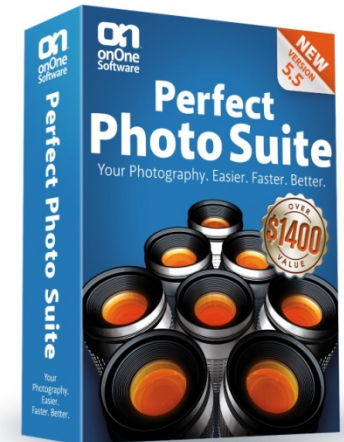
Complete" is worth its cost. A full review is available at:

<http://www.northlight-images.co.uk/reviews/plugins/color-efex-pro3.html>.

"Perfect Photo Suite" is made up of six different programs: FocalPoint, Mask Pro, Perfect Resize, PhotoFrame, PhotoTools and PhotoTune.

Each program has distinct and unique features that will help in different situations, and each program is incredibly helpful for any photographer's workflow. There is a very good review at <http://www.digital-photography-school.com/onone-perfect-photo-suite-review-plus-a-100-discount#ixzz1YYIWdyfP>'

While I live to Photoshop, I now do most of it in Lightroom. This program's workflow as been a godsend.



"Lightroom 3 unites your digital photography essentials in one fast and intuitive package" is Adobe's official line, and it's true. With one program, I can import, catalog, edit, output JPEG's for print, prep photos for the web and upload them,

create slide shows, and apply effects. And I can do all this with great speed.

These programs are not cheap. I know you could buy some fast glass (like a 24-70mm f/2.8) or take a trip with all the money this complete software setup costs, but you don't have to get it all at once. Start with the big boy, CS5 and work from there. There are excellent tutorials in the British magazines that helped me a lot. Photoshop TV is free and always has a ton of tips on each show.

The additional programs and plug-ins just make life a lot more fun. While both the Nik and

onOne packages are about the same value, I think Nik has the edge in that it has a little better user interface, but neither is difficult to use. There is nothing that the plug-ins do that you can't do in PS. They just make it a lot more convenient. Together these programs and plug-ins allow you to completely explore your creative impulses. The only limitation is you.

That's it for now. Until next month, what's in your bag?

Poly Exchange

Photoshop Books – Free. If you are still using one of the earlier versions of Photoshop or Elements, and would like a reference book, I have some books you may find useful. “*Adobe Photoshop CS3, Classroom in a Book*,” by Adobe Press; “*Adobe Photoshop CS3 Book for Digital Photographers*,” by Scott Kelby; “*The Digital Photographer’s Guide to Photoshop Elements*,” by Barry Beckham.

If you would like to have any or all of these, contact Jim Mildice at a Poly meeting or at jmildice@mac.com.

Proposals from the Competition Committee

We published these last month. We decided to add them on to this edition so you would have a convenient place to find them for any additional review before you are asked to vote.

Here are the Bylaws changes that are proposed by the Competition Review Committee.

Existing Bylaws parts in black; *Italics are for comments*; **Changes are in Red.**

Since Poly Speaks goes to all members, this publication provides written notification of Proposed Amendments to the Club Bylaws, in accordance with ARTICLE IV, Section 4.

ARTICLE XII – MONTHLY COMPETITION

Section 2: *Changed as follows*:

Images scoring seven or more shall be considered acceptances. Images scoring less than seven may be reentered. First, ~~and~~ second, **and third** place images shall be picked by the judge in the following manner . . .

Section 2 (D): *Changed as follows*:

Second **and third** place shall be selected from those images remaining . . .

Section 3: *Changed as follows*:

Judges shall be instructed to select first, ~~and~~ second, **and third** place winners at each monthly competition.

Section 4. *Changed as follows*:

Points received by a maker shall be recorded and counted toward the year-end High Points Award. **A member may participate in any or all of the monthly competitions and elect not to participate and have his/her scores totaled and posted in the competition for the year-end High Points Awards. That same member may still enter a maximum of eleven of his/her accepted images in the “Best of the Year” competition.**

Section 5: Once an **exhibited** image has been accepted in Club competition, it, or a near duplicate taken at the same time, cannot be entered in any future monthly competition.

Add the following: **Another image that is created from the same original digital file, that is clearly different, and not a near duplicate of the accepted image, may be entered in any future competition.**

ARTICLE XIII – YEAR END COMPETITION

. . . eleven of his or her images from those that have received a score of seven or higher.

Add the following to the first paragraph: **Submitted images may be improved versions of the original accepted images from the monthly competitions, as long as they are clearly the same image. Improvements may be based on the photographer’s judgment or the judge’s comments.**