



OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Last Month at AIM ~
September, 2008

If you were unable to attend last month's meeting, here's what you missed:

Events for your calendar ~

- **Pigeon Point Lighthouse Annual Lighting – Nov. 15.** See Corinne & Holger.
- **Holiday Party – Dec. 6**

Congratulations to Perry for passing his PADI dive instructor certification!

“Atta-girl” to Barbara Leary for completing the 2009 AIM Calendar in record time! She had it at the meeting for our perusal. Order forms can be found at the AIM website - <http://www.sacaim.org/> These stunning and unique calendars are \$15.00.

Interest and information sheets were passed around for an AIM trip to St. Vincent May 3 – 13, 2009 and for a summer escape to Holbox and Akumal, July 15 – 22, 2009. See Carol for details.

The **First Annual AIM Shootout at the Zoo** was a huge success!! We were treated to many wonderful images captured at the zoo. Thank you to Glen, the 10 minute person who shared a slideshow of the day in pictures.

Renee Viehmann was featured presenter, who shared images of her recent trip to the big island of Hawaii.

AN ARTICLE SENT IN BY HOLGER FOR YOUR CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Good Photographers are Good Editors

Let's imagine that you have three good photos and seven mediocre ones. If you show all ten to someone they will comment on the good ones but walk away with the impression that you are not really that good a photographer. Maybe those three good ones were just luck.

If you show only the three good photos the viewer will walk away thinking that you are a good photographer because you haven't shown them anything to prove you are not.

If you are tough on yourself when it comes to editing your own pictures it will not only improve your presentation to others but you will fall in love with each jewel you have isolated as a good picture and be inspired to build on that small, tight group of excellent images.

Also, when you are out and about with your camera, you will start to develop a better idea of what to take and what not to...you are in effect editing in the moment of shooting. Of course, in these wonderful digital times it hurts nothing to snap away with abandon. Sometimes great shots are captured accidentally.

You might be thinking 'how will I know if a picture is good or bad?' Admittedly, some subjective, "artistic" interpretation comes into play but beyond this are some time honored rules of thumb for judging a photo's quality.

1. Is the photo exposed well, is it too dark or too light? Can it be improved in Photoshop?
2. Is it in focus and if not why not? Did you move or use too slow a shutter speed or the wrong aperture? Analyze and learn from mistakes!
3. Does the composition work or detract from the picture? Have you applied the "golden rule of thirds?" Is the eye drawn in the picture by an S curve or the arrangement of elements? Can the picture be cropped to enhance balance and composition? That said, remember that some great photos break the rules but are great never-the-less.
4. Does the picture say anything/mean anything to you? If it speaks to you, it very probably will communicate to others. This is the intangible aspect of photography but when the content is properly exposed, well composed and uniquely interesting...you are no doubt looking at a good picture.
5. Finally, when you show your photos certain images will wind up getting the most acclaim and these will no doubt be good candidates upon which you should begin to build your portfolio.

If you take enough pictures and are tough enough on your self eventually you will be editing to weed out the good pictures from the great ones. You are now at a new level. You might decide to take them around to galleries to try to get a show. This is the time to build a tough skin!

You can minimize the pain of rejection by being familiar with what a gallery has shown in the past. Chances are that if you have felt moved by other shows exhibited in a particular gallery and your work is similar it is more likely to be accepted.

But exhibiting in a gallery need not be your goal. Some people are simply after the mind set that comes with looking for photos. Some are writing an image poem about their own lives. If they do it well, it will be a great source of pleasure to themselves, their family and friends for years to come.

The bottom line is that the process of editing not only focuses your vision, it enhances the impact of your work as a whole and ultimately sharpens your photographic eye.

Kpn

October 2nd A.I.M Board Meeting

Round Table Pizza 6:30 – 8:30p

Attendees: Craig, Karen M, Paul, Holger & Corrine, Glenn, Tom, Howard, Barbara L.

Discussion Items Proposed 2008 / 2009 Expenditures

Cater XMAS Party at Barbara & Bill's – Board approved max event expenditure of \$600, with the club treasury committing \$250, and the remaining cost of no more than \$10 per attendee.

This can be revised at Nov AIM meeting dependent on what Barbara finds out. Also, club members will provide desserts, and dinner will be buffet (not “sit down” w/waiters). Tom/Kathy asked to email Barbara per Bill the (above) board decision (don't want her to have too much fun in Indonesia)

Photo Pro Speakers – Discussion about bringing in a speaker (Marty Snyderman, Berkeley White,

Ansel Adams, Joe Wysocki) was held (deferred from prior board meeting). Karen M explained how MARS works it, Tom was asked to see what other UW Photo Clubs do and general costs. Suggestion was something in coordination with Dolphin Dive Shop's March event (e.g. Sea & Sea Pro, Nikon Pro, etc) Much more on this later.

1. Kathy Moore to be the “Event Calendar Coordinator” – responsible for the AIM calendar on Yahoo – not the “Activity Coordinator) Thank you Kathy.
2. Board decided that an “AIM TRIP” was to be designated every year. Bonaire was the last official trip (Cozumel Festival fell thru). Members want planning to start early on.
3. Special Board Meeting to be scheduled to document the official Film Festival Judging Process. Date to be announced.
4. Club Logo – Glen to work up several potential designs for “club-wear” & patches. Decision was to have Northern California somewhere on logo

5. Monthly General Meeting Presentations:

2008 October 10 min – Howard Holmer - October 45 min – Linda Krugman

November 10 min – Tom Moore - November 45 min – Tom / Kathy Moore

December – XMAS Party - no formal presentation

2009 January 10 min – Craig - January 45 min – Karen K

February 10 min - (Available) - February 45 min – Glen

March 10 min - (Available) - March 45 min – Karen M

7. Next Board meeting is Dec 4th at Round Table
8. October 22nd General meeting would cover suggestions for 2009 AIM Trip & date for special board meeting to document the Film Festival Judging Process.
9. Barbara Leary brought the beautiful 2009 AIM Calendars to the meeting & will bring them to other meetings (Sea Horse & AIM) Only \$15 each.

CALENDARS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OCTOBER MEETING!!

DIVE REPORT by Karen Kessel

On September 6th I headed off to Sulawesi for what turned out to be two wonderful weeks of diving with a great bunch of folks, mostly from the Sacramento area. The trip was put together by Dolphin Scuba shop, and I had signed up two years previous. I didn't know anyone else on the journey except for my friend Susan from the bay area who would join us on the second week aboard the Aggressor. Our group was headed up by Janie and Alan Richardson who were really great leaders.

The first week was spent at Kungkungan Bay Resort on the Lembah Straight in North Sulawesi. Every day we did three dives at different sites along the straight, and I was never disappointed. From *Ornate Ghost Pipefish* in abundance, to the *Orangutan crab*, there were rare critters to be found on every dive. There were several spine chilling moments when I realized what I was looking at! On a night *Mandarin* dive, I had been in the same spot for what seemed like hours, waiting for the little guys (and gals) to appear, when something directly under my nose moved! It was a *Wonderpus* about the size of a grapefruit!! It had come out of hiding and was actually "hunting" right in front of me. I followed it for the rest of the dive, watching it unfold its tentacles and expand them to create a "tent" every time it came across something it might want to devour. What a rare treat! (the battery was dead on my camera.....and you all know how that feels)

The second week was aboard the Aggressor, and we had a great Captain and crew. The dive sites were more of the coral reef kind, and only when the weather turned did we go back to the straight for muck diving. Only a few near disasters, like having my computer crash on the last day with ALL my pictures on it and no back up. I was lucky enough to have them retrieved!! And I won't go into the strobe I bought in Singapore that flooded.....All in all it was just an amazing trip. I met a lot of new diving friends and even

talked one into joining AIM. I will have the slide show ready for the January meeting. It will take me that long to get my programs back on my computer! Here are a few of my critter pictures:

1. pygmy seahorse pair



2. Hairy frogfish



3. Mimic Octopus

