



Greater New Braunfels Photography Club

Newsletter Volume 10, March 2024

A note from the Editor - by Christiane Menelas

Hello my friends,

I'm back from an amazing trip to Alaska and Suki is back from an awesome trip to El Salvador, so in this issue we will have a double feature in our travel section.

Besides sharing our fantastic travel stories I would also like to share some struggles, and maybe you have run into the same problem? I wanted to calibrate my lenses before my trip, so I would have tack sharp images. But boy did I struggle to get this right. I kept getting error messages on my camera when trying to calibrate my lenses. Has anybody else run into this problem?

Well I talked to Ed Zukowski at our last meeting, and he recommended a software called FoCal, by Reikan. I watched a couple of YouTube videos on it, and it looks like an amazing program. Let me know if you have any experiences with this. I will definitely report back in the next issue, after trying out this program.



*Happy clicking
Christiane*

El Salvador



*By Suzanne Daunt
aka Suki*

This past week I had the privilege to visit El Salvador with Fuller Center for Housing (<https://fullercenter.org>), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing homes to eradicate poverty housing by promoting partnerships with individuals and community groups to build and rehabilitate homes for people in need. Their faith-driven mission centers on “knowing that after we’ve done all we can do, the Lord will help finish the job – something that requires us to stretch beyond our rational reach.”

Since this was not a photo travel event, but a home building project, I will not provide photo tips as I spent most of my days undertaking tasks I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be doing.

First, a little bit about El Salvador... It’s a beautiful country situated in Central America between Guatemala and Honduras. The currency is the Salvadorian Colón, but everyone is happy to take U.S. greenbacks! It seems that everywhere you look in El Salvador it is green even though we were there during the dry season. The food is delicious, but don’t drink the water – not even to brush your teeth!

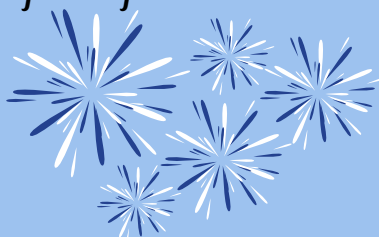
Apaneca is a 2.5-hour drive from San Salvador, the capital, and is the coolest part of the country at 1,477 meters above sea level, making it ideal for growing coffee. Fuller Center has already built over 1,000 homes in the region and while we were there five homes were being built simultaneously.

What were the fantastic skills I picked up during my week in Apaneca? For starters, I learned how to cut drywall, hang drywall, and sand drywall (ok, I already knew how to do this). Then I graduated to filling mortar between bricks that were laid by someone who knew what he was doing. In my spare time, I carried bricks to job sites, shoveled dirt to fill-in the foundation, and lots of sweeping (job sites get very messy). My favorite job was saved for last – painting the interior and exterior of the home we drywalled.

At the conclusion of the week, we dedicated a completed home by turning over keys to the new owner. It was a moving celebration that had nearly everyone in tears. Fuller House provided pizza for the entire community – and everyone came out for pizza!

The volunteers... It was an amazing group of 17 people from all parts of the country and all walks of life – Seattle, Atlanta, Minnesota, Oregon, Texas, Ottawa, Petrolia... We had a restaurateur, respiratory therapist, software developer, poultry farmer, critical care nurse, pediatrician, lawyer, magazine editor, accountant, and salesman. They were a fun group of people who loved to laugh between shoveling dirt and moving bricks. I would go on any build project with them again!

P.S. People asked me if I felt safe in El Salvador – the unequivocal answer is YES. They have a president (currently in his second term having won 83% of the vote) who is making every effort to turn the country around and seems to be making remarkable progress; the homicide rate has dropped 98% in nine years, making it one of the safest countries in Latin America.



Gals showing off their new t-shirts



Group portrait



A common sight



Coming home after a hard days work



Ice cream delivery



*A volunteer giving
comfort
where needed*



The old houses



Transportation to job site



Learning to make pupusas



New home dedication



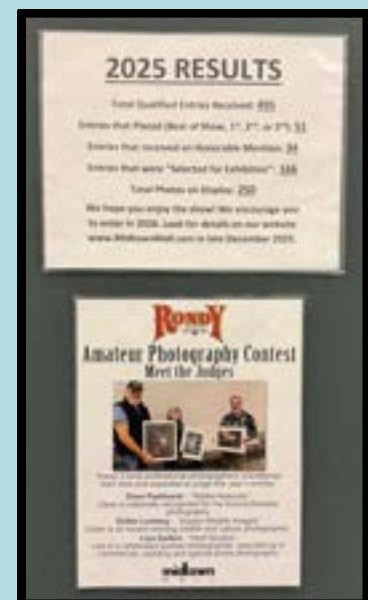
Renovations to downtown Apaneca



Alaska

by Christiane Menelas

Alaska is simply amazing to explore, I will never get tired of it. This was my fourth time visiting, and I cannot wait to go back. This visit was all about a festival called Fur Rondy. Fur Rondy, also known as the Fur Rendezvous festival, originated in Anchorage, Alaska in 1935 when local resident Vern Johnson organized a three-day winter sports tournament timed to coincide with the return of miners and trappers to town with their furs, essentially creating a celebration around the fur trade which was a major industry in the area at the time. The event was meant to bring the community together during the long Alaskan winter. Well this year was the 90th anniversary of Fur Rondy with sporting events, and entertainment lasting two weeks. Of course it's impossible to participate in every single event, but I sure tried. The absolute highlight of my trip was the amateur photo contest that I had entered back in December. Pictures had to have been taken in Alaska during 2024, and there were many categories, so I thought why not... Well to my absolute surprise and honor I walked away with 1st place in the black and white flower category, as well as best in show in the black and white overall category. Two of my photos got an honorary mention, and three others got chosen for exhibit. So out of my 7 entries, 6 placed something. To say this was a proud moment would be an understatement!



*Opening night
with fireworks
above the
skyline of
Anchorage, as
seen from
Earthquake
Park.*



*Views along
Turnagain
Arm in the
early
morning.*





Dogsled races, and snow sculptures



And the natives do a blanket toss. They ask for 40 volunteers to hold on to loops. The blanket itself is made of animal skins. After gently rocking, the leader counts to three in his native tongue, and up you go.



The actual start of the Iditarod is usually in Willow, but because of very little snow, it had to be moved to Fairbanks this year. However, every year they do a ceremonial start in Anchorage. And believe it or not, they brought in snow by the truckloads to pull it off.

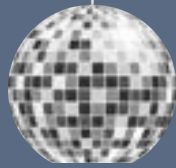


Followed by running with the Reindeer. It's just like running with the bulls, except nobody gets hurt.



One thing's for sure - Alaskans know how to have fun!

*Would it even be Alaska if you didn't
run into these guys here?*



*Did we have fun you
ask? Oh yes indeed!
We did a few road
trips to Alyeska,
Seward, and Whittier,
but I would have to
write a whole novel.
Our last night was
dedicated to ABBA – if
you know, you know!*



Whooping Cranes

Tiffany Lacey, Barbara Beversdorf, and Jackies Wise went to shoot the whooping cranes in Rockport on Feb. 8th. This was a private charter trip with Kevin Simms of Aransas Bay Adventures. Although the weather was decent, there were no sunrise opportunities due to an overcast sky. But great seafood, and awesome company made for another great photo adventure. Here are some of the pictures they were able to capture...



Photos on this page by Jackies Wise



By Jackie Wise



Photos on this page
by Barbara Beversdorf



RECOGNITIONS



The monthly competition winner for “Macro” went to Patricia Jones for her image titled “Heart of the Matter”



Congratulations

Congratulations!

to Jerry Kloehr



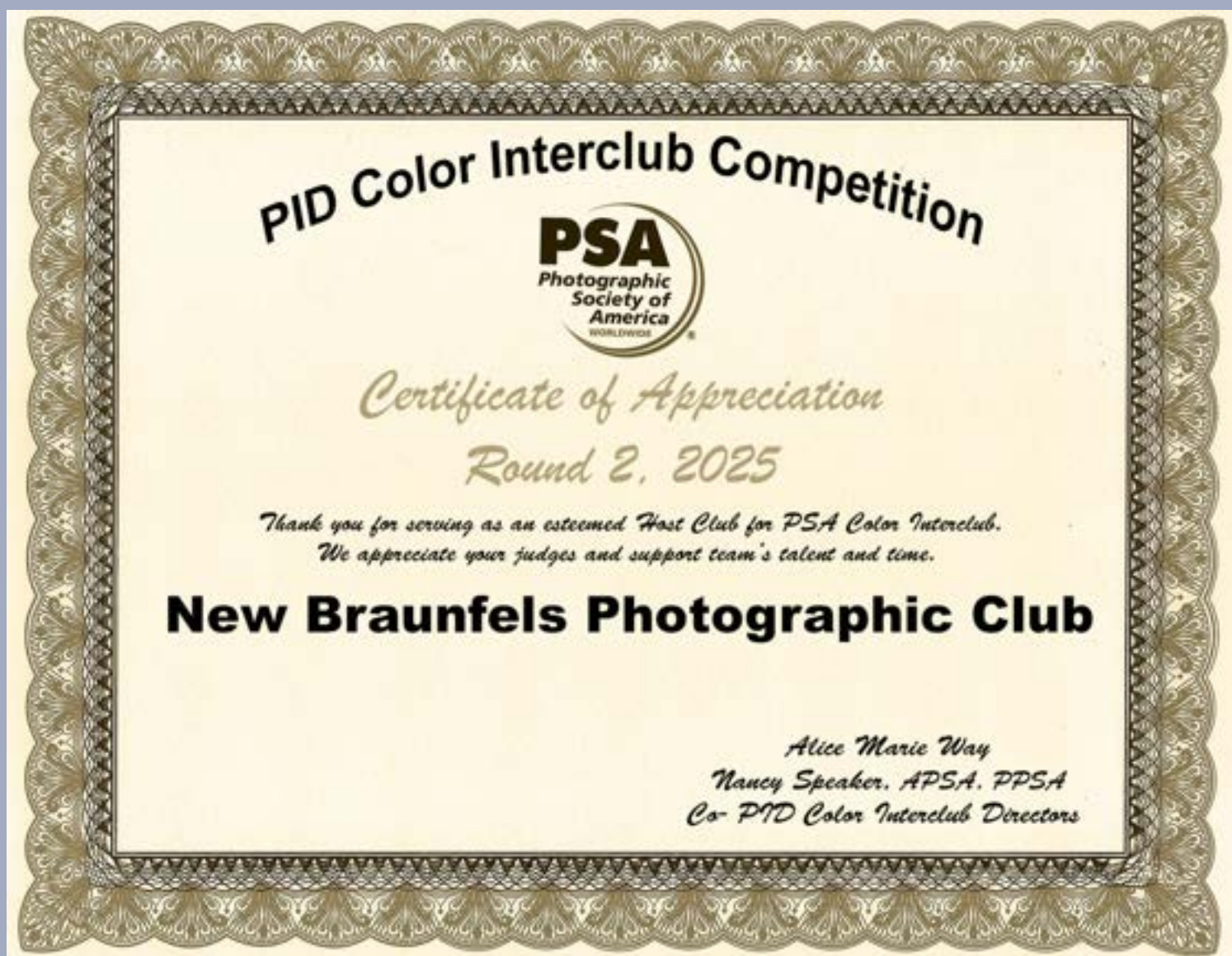
Last week Jerry Kloehr won a Spotlight Award at the New Braunfels Circle Arts Theater. Jerry has been volunteering his photography skills at the theater for a number of years. The theater uses his photos for marketing and publicity. His work is incredible!

Congratulations Jerry!

Shout out to myself
First Place and Best In Show
In The Amateur Photo Competition
At Fur Rondy In Alaska



*Frank, Craig, and James.... were recognized by
PSA for serving as judges in the round two
interclub competition!*





Upcoming Events for Photographers 2025



Rain or shine — David Valdez and The Williamson Museum will host the 6th Annual Texas Photography Festival on Saturday, March 15th from 10 AM - 4 PM in Georgetown, Texas.

Explore hands-on workshops, photo walks, chat with Featured Photographers, and listen to inspiring talks from some of my favorite photographers.

Don't miss the Happiness Happy Hour at District 6 at 4 PM, hosted by yours truly!
Visit www.thetexasphotographyfestival.com for all the details but here's a quick rundown of events:

9 AM

Photo Walk: Morning Light around Town with KEH Photo @kehcamera
Begins Lamppost Coffee Shop 809 S Main St.

10 AM

Founder, David Valdez - Opening Remarks
Georgetown Public Library 402 W 8th St.

10 AM - 4 PM

Featured Photographers
Various locations / shops around The Square
Sponsors (KEH will be buying used gear)
Grace Heritage Center | 817 S Main St.

10:15 AM

Pictures with a Purpose with Karine Aigner (@kaigner)
Hosted by Linda Nickell's Happiness Hour
Georgetown Public Library | 402 W 8th St.

11:30 PM

Macro Photography Workshop with Carol Whitney
Georgetown Art Center | 816 S Main St.

11:30 AM

Capturing the Spirit of Texas with Bridgett Piernik-Yoder (@bpiernik)
Hosted by Linda Nickell's Happiness Hour
Georgetown Public Library | 402 W 8th St.

11:30 AM

Photo Walk: Architectural Photography around the Square with Nikola Olic
The Williamson Museum | 716 S Austin Ave.

12:30 PM

Workshop: Mastering Landscape Photography with Marcela Briere
Georgetown Art Center | 816 S Main St.

1 PM

Photo Walk: Photographing Models in Natural Light with Cheyenne Morris
The Williamson Museum | 716 S Austin Ave.

1 PM

Macro on the Wing with Jose Madrigal (@jmad_images)
Hosted by Linda Nickell's Happiness Hour
Georgetown Public Library | 402 W 8th St.

2 PM

One Light Studio Lighting Workshop with Todd White
@Georgetown Art Center | 816 S Main St.

4 PM The Happiness HAPPY Hour

District Six | 105 W 9th St.

You're invited to help us close out the day!

Photo Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, March 22
8:00 – 11:00am

We will be meeting in
Downtown Seguin for a Photo
Scavenger Hunt from 8-11.

Feel free to join us for lunch
after!



For the full event schedule, go to our website and check under the tab “club news”. Things will constantly be updated in there.



Greater New Braunfels Photography Club

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Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
Open Scavenger Hunt	March 22	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	March 29	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	April 5	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	April 12	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	April 19	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	April 26	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	May 3	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	May 10	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	May 17	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	May 24	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin
Open Scavenger Hunt	May 31	8:00 - 11:00am	Downtown Seguin

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club
Website: www.gnbpc.org

Find events on our website or in our monthly newsletter!

Texas Photography Festival, March 15, Georgetown, 9 to 4

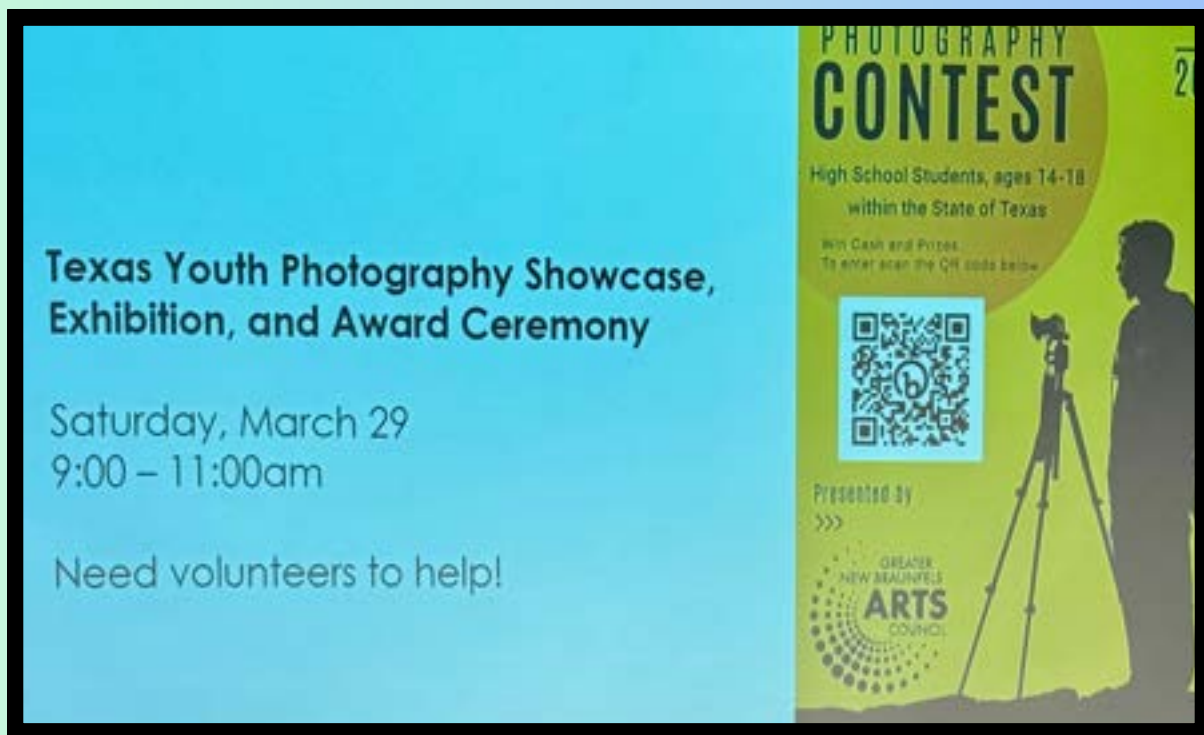
May 2 - Poetry Contest - Need a photographer

March - Photo Walk TBD - Ideas?

Art Haus - First Friday of the Month

We are still asking for entries for the Portraits of Texas project.

We invite all members of the New Braunfels Photographic Society to participate in this project. This is your chance to showcase your work, challenge yourself creatively, and contribute to a vibrant community project. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out, we encourage you to submit your best work.



*Please consider helping Victor with this worthwhile project.
He could use one or two more people.*

You can scan the QR code right from this picture to preview some of the amazing entries by the youth.

A SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY PHOTO CONTEST



Double click
for more info!



• www.visitsanmarcos.co...

SAN MARCOS ART FEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 |
DOWNTOWN SAN MARCOS

Immerse yourself in creativity at **San Marcos Art Fest 2025**, a celebration of art in all its forms! Taking place in the heart of Downtown San Marcos, this vibrant event brings together artists, art lovers, and the community for a day filled with color, inspiration, and hands-on experiences.

What To Expect:

- **Chalk Walk, 10am - 2pm** – Watch the sidewalk come to life as children in grades K-12 create colorful designs from chalk! This event promotes creativity, community spirit, and healthy outdoor activity while providing a fun and memorable experience for children and families. The event is free and all materials and supplies will be provided.



Sign-up will be required and will open March 15, 2025, and close on April 5, 2025. Limited spots are available.

- **Mural Jam, 9am - 6pm** – Live Mural Painting Demos from talented artists in Imagine Alley! Stop by to see the artists in action as they create large-scale works of art before your eyes.
- **Downtown Business Activities, 1pm - 5pm** – Engage in pop-up art stations and activities in participating businesses to participate in hands-on experiences throughout Downtown.
- **Kissing Alley, 10am - 9:30pm** – Join in to hear local artists talk about perspectives on real-life experiences, then come back later for live music. More details coming soon

Social



Feel free to join us after our monthly meetings at:

**La Cosecha Mexican Table
505 Business, N Interstate 35 Frontage Rd.
New Braunfels, TX 78130**

