

Celebrating 84 years of Press Photography in Southern California



Just One More, Jr.

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Check our website at www.ppagla.org for complete monthly contest results and judges comments.



The key to capturing a moment

Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG

First Place, General News: Maria Martinez, center is comforted by daughters Veronica Martinez, left and Griselda Martinez as they say their last goodbyes to son and brother Army Spc. Enrique Roman-Martinez during his burial at Forest Lawn Memorial in Covina on Aug. 22.

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Closing the book on a difficult year

Dear Friends,

After such a difficult year, it's hard to believe it is actually coming to an end. We still have a long way to go, but thank goodness a vaccine is on the way. I am grateful we can stay connected on Zoom, and continue to share our photography and friendships.



Amy Gaskin
President

This quarter we enjoyed a fantastic portrait lighting seminar by our own PPAGLA Photographer of the Year, Terry Pierson.

Over 90 lucky attendees saw Terry's incredible images and heard him

share how he makes the magic happen when working with subjects from all walks of life.

Also featured is Sam Dubin, KTTV/Fox 11, one of our "Members of the Month."

We are proud to have judge Barry "Bear" Gutierrez' gallery of winning images for Quarter

Three. Be on the lookout for revisions to our annual contests in both the Stills and Video categories, which will be announced after Jan. 1. Our contest committees are working hard to bring those to you soon.

We'll kick off the New Year together

with a social event on Zoom New Year's Day. Please join us on Jan. 1, 2021 for a Zoom party, BYOB, potluck.

We'll be the biggest event in town! Please see ppagla.org/events for details and registration. There's more information on page 6.

Do you have ideas for events? Suggestions? Want to help? Please feel free to email them to us at president@ppagla.org.

Here's to hoping for a brighter year next year for all of us!

Amy
AmyPPAGLA@gmail.com

The story of Skidoo

By Jim Ober

We've all heard the controversy about posing or "setting up a shot" for news purposes.

However, in 1908, the remote desert town of Skidoo and a Herald reporter took the concept to a new level.

Skidoo was a busy gold mining camp in the Panamint range of Death Valley, with a post office, a bank, a couple of bars, a weekly newspaper, the Skidoo News and running water that was piped in 23 miles from Telescope Peak. Newly strung telephone wires and poles ran across Death Valley to the town of Rhyolite, about 60 miles away.

The town's name came from a popular phrase of the day "23 Skidoo," which meant "scram" or "vamoose." The post office shortened it to Skidoo.

On a night in April 1908, one of the town drunks, "Hooch" Simpson, shot and killed a very popular guy who was the town banker named Jim Arnold. After a brief one-sided gunfight, Arnold was shot, and died that evening. Simpson had been arrested by a couple citizens. The poker parlor Club Skidoo was turned into a temporary guardhouse.

Suspect Simpson showed no re-

morse, and actually boasted about his feat while in custody. The sheriff was not due in town until five days later, so the miners decided that Simpson should pay the price then and there. So the guard was overpowered and Simpson was hung from a telephone pole.

About 24 hours after Simpson was buried, a reporter from the L.A. Herald showed up. He rented a horse and buggy and took the rocky and dusty trail in from Lone Pine as soon as he heard the news. He needed a photo, so he talked the citizens into digging up the body and they rehung Simpson on a tent frame. The reporter got his shot.

This story was based on facts culled from the book "Mines of Death Valley" by L. Burr Belden published by La Siesta Press, Glendale, 1994.

The story was published in the Skidoo News, and a copy of that paper resides in the Inyo County Library in Independence.

Skidoo's glory days lasted about 10 years, and except for the huge mining mill, the town has disappeared. The water pipe was dismantled at the start of WWII for scrap. You can still view what's left if you visit Death Valley and have a 4x4 or a pickup truck.

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Pierson shares tips on portraits

By Jim Caccavo

The word "photo" means light, so it's critical that photographers understand the subject and the process of recording subjects that are affected by light in either a well-planned and executed photograph or the perception and skill involved in capturing the most revealing moment of an event.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, 90 PPAGLA members were treated to an hour of one of the Southland's masters of both controlling and manipulating the lighting of subjects from a pharmacist to an all-female water polo team, making one and all into "rock stars" — at least, in a visual sense.

For the hour that Terry Pierson, an 18-year veteran of the Riverside Press-Enterprise was online, he took us through the planning and execution of dramatic portraits of athletes, developers and other Southland professionals. He represented his images followed with rough diagrams sketched out on cardboard showing the location, direction and position of lights, including one image of a cowboy football player lit by a strobe hidden behind a pile of cattle dung visible in the image.



Courtesy Terry Pierson

Riverside King water polo starters from left Mary Myers, Caitlyn Eno, Samantha Shaw, Hannah McCarley, Madison Stamen, Chase Kelly and Anay Ramirez are ready to fight their way to a CIF title in this November 2014 photo.

Many of Terry's images were a mixture of ambient sunlight and carefully calculated strobe exposure, some with color filters — all of which require

manual control of both camera and his Canon 580 flashes that can function on TSL — but without the personal creativity that manual allows.

At the heart of Terry Pierson's photos is the imagination — and the fun he has — employing full control of his equipment. The eight-time PPAGLA Photographer of the Year uses primarily a Canon 16-35 mm zoom lens; 70-200 zoom and a 300 fixed 2.8 lens for throwing the background of a subject completely out of focus. All of this is packed in a portable bag — quick and easy to set up. The strongest point Terry made to working photographers was to make sure they have a good working relationship with the writer on your story and to know beforehand the details of the story, so as to minimize the time taken up from the subject when you arrive.

Hopefully, the "Terry Pierson Zoom webinar" will be a "to be continued" with more work to see again in the near future, as there is no end to the excitement he brings with his camera and bag of strobes.



Courtesy Terry Pierson

Terry Pierson also discussed his equipment preferences, which include a Canon 16-35 mm zoom lens, a 70-200 zoom and a 300 fixed 2.8 lens.

Catching up with past president Paul Buck

By Jim Ober

Many on-the-street shooters occasionally ask each other "What ever happened to Paul Buck?"

Many of you will recall that Paul served as the PPAGLA president for a couple years and was an assignment editor for a European Press Agency who also shot many assignments here in the Southland, as well as all over California.

He was living in an apartment not far from Dodger Stadium, and he also purchased a house and property in the desert community of Landers, near Joshua Tree. He and his fiancée, Melanie, started spending more and more time there, eventually spending all their time in the desert, while Paul was commuting to assignments in Los Angeles. Enjoying his time in the desert, Paul left the agency.

Paul and Melanie married, and had

Paul is also developing some photo clients in his community of Landers and nearby Palm Springs

a child, Joe, in 2017.

Melanie had a job as a library assistant and was very popular with her co-workers and many who she met on the job.

Tragically, when Joe was 6 weeks old, Melanie died at home unexpectedly.

Paul was left with caring for an infant, and luckily his mom stepped up to help. Two online fundraisers were launched, and raised almost \$100,000 to help care for Joe.

Today, Joe and Paul are doing fine.

During a recent telephone interview, Joe was raising Cain with his dad, acting very much like a typical 3-year old. "He's really a good kid, but sometimes gets rambunctious. And he's really a gearhead — he loves mechanical things, and we have the whole desert out here to roam and play in."

Joe attends a daycare two times a week, and that gives Paul an occasional break. "When he starts going to regular school, it will only be a 5-minute commute, but now his daycare is 15 minutes away."

Paul is also developing some photo clients in his community of Landers and nearby Palm Springs. He also has plans to build a darkroom in his home, but in the meantime he frequents a nearby business that has darkrooms for rent. Who else do you think would find a darkroom for rent in such a remote community?



A little bit about Sam Dubin

Sam Dubin, our PPAGLA Featured Member, is a news photographer for KTTV/Fox 11.

When did you become a PPAGLA member?

I have been a PPAGLA member since 2014.

How long have you been a photojournalist and how did you get started?

I have been a professional photojournalist for seven years. I started out as a stringer in college, and got hooked on news. I then landed my first job in a small market, then eventually moved back to LA. I have also worked for KCBS/KCAL and Univision network.

Please share some career highlights:

Some career highlights for me include traveling across the coun-



Courtesy Sam Dubin

Dubin has enjoyed the travel from covering everything from brush fires to hurricanes to a presidential campaign through his career in journalism.



Courtesy Sam Dubin

KTTV/FOX 11 news photographer Sam Dubin offered sound advice for anyone thinking about a career in photojournalism: Don't burn any bridges.

try on the campaign trail during the 2016 Presidential election, covering hurricanes in Texas and the countless brush fires in the LA area, such as the 2018 Woolsey fire.

However, meeting new people everywhere I go, no matter the story, is my favorite part about my job.

What advice do you have for those hoping to become photojournalists?

Don't get a job in news! Just kidding. It's one of the most rewarding careers out there and I love what I do.

Get to know some people working in the specific position you want.

Learn from them and listen to them. Before you know it, you could be working alongside them.

What is something you know now that you wish someone had told you when you were starting out?

Never burn any bridges in this industry — it's smaller than you think.

What is your favorite part of being a PPAGLA member?

My favorite part of being a PPAGLA member is connecting with other photojournalists in the market, especially those I do not get to see in-person on a regular basis.

PPAGLA INVITES YOU:



JANUARY 1, 2021 • 5-7 PM

VIA ZOOM • ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Social Happy Hour Potluck & BYOB in our own homes!

Join PPAGLA friends to say goodbye to 2020 and inject 2021 with some great spirits!

Register at: ppagla.org/events

Meet our judge, Barry 'Bear' Gutierrez

We are excited to announce our quarterly results from Quarter Three with the help of our judge, Barry "Bear" Gutierrez.

For a complete listing of winners and to see Gutierrez's notes about his judging process, visit PPAGLA.org. Enjoy!

Barry "Bear" Gutierrez is a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer based in Denver, Colorado, who has built a business around his talent and reputation in the photography industry.

Bear has helped companies build their brands through powerful visuals since 2009. With a foundation



Barry "Bear" Gutierrez

in photojournalism, Bear provides a dynamic array of photography for businesses and agencies, which include advertising campaigns, marketing rollouts, annual reports, executive and creative portraits.

Prior to launching his company in 2009, he worked as a staff photographer at the Rocky Mountain News in Denver for 10 years after earning a bachelor's degree in Western Kentucky University's premier photojournalism program.

In 2012, he was published on the front pages on more than 100 newspapers, magazines, and websites across the globe for his coverage of the Aurora Theater shootings. Gutierrez lives

in Denver with his wife, Fairlight, and his 10-year-old son, Sol.

Photography is his passion — he coaches at workshops, speaks at events, teaches classes and mentors photographers.



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Keith Birmingham, Pasadena Star-News/SCNG
First Place, Sports: Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Josh Reynolds can't hold to a pass over cornerback Darious Williams in the first half of a scrimmage Aug. 22.



Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG
First Place, Portrait: The El Dorado Fire is reflected in the glasses of an Arroyo Grande Hotshots firefighter as he watches a back-burn in Yucaipa on Sept. 6.



Gina Ferazzi, LA Times
First Place, Feature: Elias Lomeli of Desert Hot Springs turns away from the blowing water as a fire-fighting helicopter fills up at a pond near a rest stop off Interstate 10 while battling the Snow Fire on Sept. 18 in Whitewater, California. The fire is 8 miles northwest of Palm Springs and has burned more than 2,500 acres. Elias is with his mom Rocio, left, brother Emiliano, middle, and brother Ezequiel, right.



Jay L. Clendenin, LA Times
First Place, Entertainment: International pop star Katy Perry takes a selfie with a billboard promoting her sixth studio album, "Smile," near her record label Capitol Records, in Hollywood on July 29.



Mel Melcon, LA Times
Honorable Mention, Portrait: Former TikTok influencer Noah Beck is photographed at his home in Bel Air.



Keith Birmingham, Pasadena Star-News/SCNG
First Place, Spot News: A President Donald Trump supporter, right, punches a Black Lives Matter supporter as both groups held separate rallies along Foothill Boulevard in Tujunga on Aug. 14.



Keith Birmingham, Pasadena Star-News/SCNG
Honorable Mention, Feature: Kids have fun with Bubbleman Frenchie Monceaux at sunset at San Clemente State Beach in San Clemente on Aug. 7.



Jayne Kamin-Oncea, USA Today Sports

Honorable Mention, Sports Action: San Jose Earthquakes midfielder Jackson Yueill (14) is mobbed by his team as they celebrate his Sept. 27 goal in stoppage time to defeat the Los Angeles FC.



Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG

First Place, Photo Stories: Arroyo Grande Hotshots are silhouetted as they watch a back-burn at Carter Street and Bears Den Ranch Road in Yucaipa on Sept. 6.



Apu Gomes

Honorable Mention, General News: A protester stands on her car and shows her middle finger to people gathered for an Oct. 3 pro-Trump rally in Beverly Hills.



Thomas R Cordova, Long Beach Post
Second Place, Spot News: A burglary suspect celebrates his giant leap from one rooftop to another as Long Beach SWAT looks on at Alamitos Beach rooftops in Long Beach on July 14.

Ringo Chiu
Honorable Mention, Spot News: A firefighter stands next to a fire truck as flames from the Apple Fire flare up in Cherry Valley on Aug. 1.



Gina Ferazzi, LA Times
First Place, Sports Feature: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, season ticket-holder Keith Hupp, left, and David Lopez, right, watch the Dodgers play the San Francisco Giants on Aug. 8, from a spot overlooking Elysian Park, home of Dodger Stadium.





Mindy Schauer, Orange County Register/SCNG
Second Place, Feature: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Epic Yoga students take part in an outside class on the rooftop of JD's Kitchen and Bar in San Clemente on July 26.



Katharine Lotze
Third Place, Sports Action: Chiasa Maruyama surfs near the Huntington Beach Pier on July 13.



Jay L. Clendenin, LA Times
Honorable Mention, Portrait: Maurice Harris, a visual artist with a show on the streaming service Quibi called "Centerpiece" that showcases his floral artistry, is photographed at his storefront, Bloom and Plume, in Los Angeles on July 17.



Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG
First Place, Pictorial: At least a half-dozen homes were under immediate threat but ultimately saved by firefighters during the Sept. 9 El Dorado Fire in Forest Falls.



Kent Nishimura, LA Times
Honorable Mention, Pictorial: Firefighters conduct a back-burn operation along CA-168 during the Creek Fire as it approaches the Shaver Lake Marina on Sept. 6.



Raul Roa, The Daily Pilot/LA Times
Second Place, General News: Alyssa Skobis, 22, of Downey, is baptized in the Pacific Ocean by Salt Costa Mesa Church leaders Joe Ferguson, left, and his wife, Taylor Ferguson, during the weekly Saturate OC worship event on July 10.