

# Focus

## Fresno Camera Club and the PSA Youth Showcase

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This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled **Focus**, which features a member or member-club, turns to the **The Fresno Camera Club and the PSA Youth Showcase**.



Oldest and youngest members of Fresno Camera Club. Tom Lord, 95 years young and Charlie Pack-Lo, 5 years old

Kevin Dill and Lee Cates, FPSA. Kevin is a student from Buchanan High, Clovis, CA who came to Yellowstone to see his print on the Youth Showcase wall

The one hundred eighteen year old Fresno Camera Club in California has been a staunch advocate for the PSA Youth Showcase since 2002. Led by **Lee Cates, FPSA**, the club has produced two national winners from its local students: the 2005 Gold Medal winner was from Riverdale Christian Academy, Riverdale, and in 2008 The Gold Medal winner was from Clovis High School in Clovis, California.

On behalf of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the Fresno Camera Club, Lee Cates takes the time every year to personally visit each participating school in her area. She explains the program, delivers an entry form, a copy of the September *PSA Journal*, and a CD of all the images from the previous Showcase. If the school is new to the program, Ms. Cates speaks to the teacher and the class. When it is time for the prints to be entered, Lee goes back to the schools and picks up all of the entries. Next, she arranges to have three qualified judges from the Fresno Camera Club look at all the images. This year they looked at 315 prints and the best from each school were selected, and sent to the PSA Youth Showcase, and when the results were known, Lee notified all of the schools. She says, "I photograph all of the prints before I send the entries in, and I make a CD for showing at the club, council or whatever." Lee calls all of her work, "a labor of love."

The Director of the Youth Showcase, **Kathy Braun, APSA**, tells us, "*Lee Cates has been the sponsor of the PSA Youth Showcase since 2004. When the local Chapter bowed out of the program, Lee and the Fresno Camera Club willingly stepped in, and she has been a strong sponsor ever since. Her involvement with area schools makes her a popular mentor as well. She continues to involve*



*students that make strong showings as winners or honorable mentions every year. Quite a record."*

The Fresno Camera Club states that their mission is to "provide an educational and social forum for amateur photographers in Fresno, Clovis and the surrounding central California communities. It is a club for those who are seeking to enjoy their hobby of photography and also to improve their skills with cameras through social, educational, and competitive activities with others having an interest in the same goals. Fresno Camera Club is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Photographic Society of America since 1944. The Fresno Camera Club is also part of the San Joaquin Valley Camera Club Council (SJVCCC) and members also attend the PSA Gold Rush Chapter meetings."

A very active club with a membership of over 80, meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month except for August and December and fees are a very affordable \$30 for the year. Competitions are held in print and digital categories. Both their Web site and their newsletter can be seen on <http://www.fresnocameraclub.org>. **Craig J. Hadfield** is the Webmaster and co-edits the newsletter *Highlights* with Lee Cates.

All chapters and camera clubs are invited to become involved in the PSA Youth Showcase. For information, please contact the Director **Kathy Braun, APSA**, at <Pkzbraun@aol.com> ■



Fresno member Jonathan Rollins' image won Best of Show this year and won an award at the California State Fair