

California Coast in Winter

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Harlan Crowder, Organizer



Welcome to the LGSCC California Coast in Winter Workshop

No matter how many times you visit our coast, it is different every time. For photographers, this means you can stand in exactly the same spot on every visit and never see the same scene twice. Even a small stretch of coast contains an infinity of photographs. With that much potential, there are always a few keepers.

We will visit and photograph the California coast from Half Moon Bay to Pigeon Point. Starting in the morning, we will make stops at several beaches and coastal towns along the way. We will intersperse our photo sessions with info sessions and discussions about relevant topics. The weather will be unpredictable, but that will just add to the adventure. At the end of the day, we will retire to an historic tavern for debriefing and an early dinner.

Agenda

Contact information:

Harlan Crowder
408-981-8252 (mobile)

Each car should travel and photograph at its own pace. The schedule below gives you points to gather during the day and ask questions. You can check in with the group at gathering points at the specified times. You are not required or expected to be present at every gathering point.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9:00AM | Meet at Francis Beach, Half Moon Bay State Park. Smell the ocean. Take some photographs. Get ready for a great day. We'll have a discussion about potential photo subjects along the coast. |
| 10:30AM | Traveling south, we will meet at San Gregorio Beach. It is much different than the previous venue. We will discuss exposure challenges of coast photography. |
| 11:30AM | Meet at the San Gregorio General Store for lunch. You can buy lunch or just a drink if you brought your own. We'll photograph the store and surroundings. |
| 12:30PM | Move south to Pescadero Beach for more photographing and exploring. |
| 2:00PM | Pebble Beach (not the one in Monterey). Very unusual rock formations. We'll discuss using neutral density filters. |
| 3:00PM | Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Explore and photograph the surroundings (the lighthouse is closed). We'll discuss digital infrared photography. |
| 4:30PM | Downtown Pescadero (don't blink). We will explore and photograph. For those interested, we will gather for dinner about 5:30 at Duarte's Tavern on Stage Road, 650-879-0464. |

Venues and Directions

For all beaches and parks

The weather can change. Bring clothing for sun, rain, and everything in between. Bring your raincoat and your mittens. Bring layers.

Dogs are not allowed on beaches. Beach fires are prohibited. No fireworks.

Refrain from removing shells, driftwood and other natural features.

Pack out your trash. Leave only your footprints.

The ocean looks tranquil, but it's not. Always use caution. NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON THE OCEAN.

Half Moon Bay State Park, Francis Beach

A broad expanse of sandy beaches makes up HMB State Park. Francis Beach is located conveniently at the end of Kelly Avenue off of Highway 1. It will usually have a few surfers and fisherman that make good photo subjects.

Directions: From the South Bay, proceed up I280 North toward San Francisco to Highway 92. Head west toward Half Moon Bay. When Hwy 92 dead ends into Hwy 1, turn left toward Santa Cruz. In 0.25 mile at the first traffic light, turn right on Kelly Avenue. Got to the end of Kelly Avenue and enter HMB State Park at Francis Beach.

The entrance fee is \$6 per automobile. Save the receipt and use it for entrance to other beaches we visit that require a fee.

San Gregorio Beach

This beach is much different than Francis Beach. A protected driftwood-strewn estuary is at the back of a wide, sandy beach. There are also high grassy bluffs along the coast.

Directions: Look for the sign 10.5 miles south of Half Moon Bay, just south of the intersection of Hwy 1 and Hwy 84.

San Gregorio General Store

An institution, located in the tiny community of San Gregorio. Sandwiches, drinks and souvenirs.

Directions: 0.5 miles east of the intersection of Hwy 1 and Hwy 84.

Pescadero Beach

A variety of environments to explore and photograph: sandy beaches, rocky beaches, a tidal estuary nature preserve, and high bluffs along the coast. Something for everyone.

Directions: 4.0 miles south of San Gregorio Beach.

Note: There are several turn-offs for Pescadero Beach. You want the second one coming south marked, “Pescadero State Beach and Nature Preserve”, just south of the Pescadero Creek Bridge

Pebble Beach

A unique spot along the coast. A small beach is surrounded by interesting rock formations. And the small pebbles on the beach give this special place its name.

Directions: 1.6 miles south of Pescadero Beach.

Pigeon Point Lighthouse

Perched on a cliff, the 115 foot lighthouse is one of the tallest in America. It dates from 1872. The lighthouse is currently closed, but the surrounding buildings and natural features are good photographic subjects.

Directions: 4.0 miles south of Pebble Beach. (It’s hard to miss a 115 foot lighthouse!)

Pescadero

A quaint little town two miles from the coast, with shops, houses, a church, and lots of charm. Many photo opportunities.

Directions: From Pigeon Point, double back north for 5.3 miles to Pescadero Road. (Look for the large signs beckoning you to the town.) Turn right and go 1.7 miles, then left on Stage Road into to main part of town. Note that Duarte’s Tavern is on your immediate right as you enter Stage Road.

Equipment and Supplies

Here is an exhaustive list of photography-related and outdoor items you might bring to a workshop. Obviously, nobody would bring all these items – except a few of us fanatics!

Photography:

Camera (one or more)

Lens (one or more)

Extra film/memory cards

Extra charged batteries

Tripod

Polarizing filter (especially useful for costal photography)

Neutral density filters (we will have a discussion session about these)

Cable release

Lens cleaning cloth (if it is foggy, you will be glad you have it)

Plastic bags for camera/lens rain protection (hope we don’t need these)

Outdoor:

Water

Sunscreen

Chapstick

Sunglasses

Hat

Gloves (4:00PM at Pigeon Point, you might be glad you have these)

Layered clothing

Sturdy shoes and good socks

Tide Tables

Here are the tide tables for Princeton/Half Moon Bay, starting Friday, February 1:

| Day | | High /Low | Tide Time | Height Feet | Sunrise Sunset | Moon Rise Set | Time | % Moon Visible |
|-----|---|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|
| F | 1 | High | 5:24 AM | 5.3 | 7:14 AM | Rise | 3:10 AM | 34 |
| | 1 | Low | 1:16 PM | 0.4 | 5:34 PM | Set | 12:26 PM | |
| | 1 | High | 8:45 PM | 3.8 | | | | |
| Sa | 2 | Low | 12:40 AM | 3.5 | 7:13 AM | Rise | 4:08 AM | 25 |
| | 2 | High | 6:19 AM | 5.4 | 5:35 PM | Set | 1:14 PM | |
| | 2 | Low | 2:02 PM | 0.1 | | | | |
| | 2 | High | 9:21 PM | 4.1 | | | | |

Map

