

PhotoFile

A MINI-MAGAZINE FEATURING PHOTOGRAPHY AND ARTICLES BY
John R. DeLapp

Number 4
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Road Trip

*Photographs and experiences during
an RV trip in the West, May 2014*



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Cover Photo:
Lake evening light on yachts
anchored at Morro Bay, California

PhotoFile #4 - Road Trip—Western U.S.

After having completed two cross country trips in our new Sportsmobile Sprinter, first from the west coast to New England in May 2013, and then a return trip back to San Diego in October 2013, Tina and I decided to make our spring trip of 2014 a more modest trip. This copy of PhotoFile documents this trip which started in San Diego and ended two and a half weeks later in Palisade, Colorado. Along the way we camped or made visits to the following locations and/or attractions:

- El Capitan State Beach, Calif.
- Morro Bay State Park, Calif.
- Hearst Castle, San Simeon, Calif.
- Green Acres RV Park, Orland, Calif.
- McArthur-Burney Falls State Park, Calif.
- The Narrows RV Park, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon
- Craters of the Moon National Monument, Idaho
- RV park in Mountain Home, Idaho
- Yellowstone National Park (Madison Campground), Wyoming
- Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming
- Flaming Gorge Dam, Utah
- Dinosaur National Monument, Vernal, Utah
- Grand Junction area, Colorado

Other Publications by John R. DeLapp

Mini-magazines (available for purchase from www.magcloud.com)

PhotoFile #1: *Chinitna Bay Bear Camp*, October, 2012.

PhotoFile #2: *Redpoll Rally*, March 2013.

PhotoFile #3: *Denali*, July 2013

Books (available for preview or purchase from: www.Blurb.com)

Rock, Rock Art, and Ruins. Black and white photographs of travels in the southwest U.S. April 2012.

Road Trip, Colorado to Alaska, May 2011. Photographs and notes from my solo road trip from Grand Junction, Colorado to Anchorage in the spring of 2011.

Norah, With Her Family in Connecticut. Photographs and commentary celebrating the birth of my granddaughter. April, 2011.

Stories from My Early Years, by Warren DeLapp and John R. DeLapp. Stories and photographs of Warren DeLapp's early years with additional biographical notes about his later achievements and life. December, 2008.

Animals, A Portfolio of Photography. A presentation of my favorite wildlife photographs. November, 2007.

People, A Retrospective of Photography: 1968-2007. October, 2007.

Others

Sam and His Earliest Moments. Photos and notes commemorating the birth of my grandson. October, 2006. (www.lulu.com)

Reaching, The Story of a Young Minnesota Girl and Her Dream to Fly, by Mary DeLapp. Published 2005 by John and Tina DeLapp (out of print).



We began our trip in Escondido where our Sprinter was stored and made a visit to see Betty Schrod, Tina's cousin. Then we joined thousands (millions?) of other cars on the road as we headed north on I-5 through the center of Los Angeles, making a quick rest stop in Buena Park at a welcome center; then continuing on Hwy 101 to El Capitan State Beach located a few miles north of Santa Barbara for our first night on the road.



This flowering natural area was near a creek that ran through the southern edge of El Capitan Beach Park and seemed just the perfect location for an environmental portrait of Tina and I. The campground was not crowded with many spaces available on the Sunday night we were there. There were nice trails that paralleled the beach and stairs that made access to the beach easy. A number of birds and critters in the park, like this California Thrasher and beach rabbit (below) provided photo opportunities. We only stayed one night as we were planning more time at our next destination—Morro Bay and the Hearst Castle near San Simeon.





The night we spent at El Capitan the sky was clear and there was a full moon so I used that opportunity to make some pictures using a long exposures on the beach. This three minute exposure allowed the surf to be registered as a dreamy looking fog. One of the Channel Islands can be seen on the horizon. Not seen in this image were two off-shore oil platforms that were lit at night.



Morro Bay, California



In Morro Bay, we camped at the Morro Bay State Park which is located across the road from this marina and protected estuary which has hiking trails and views of the bay. We spent two nights here and enjoyed the variety of sights and things to do.



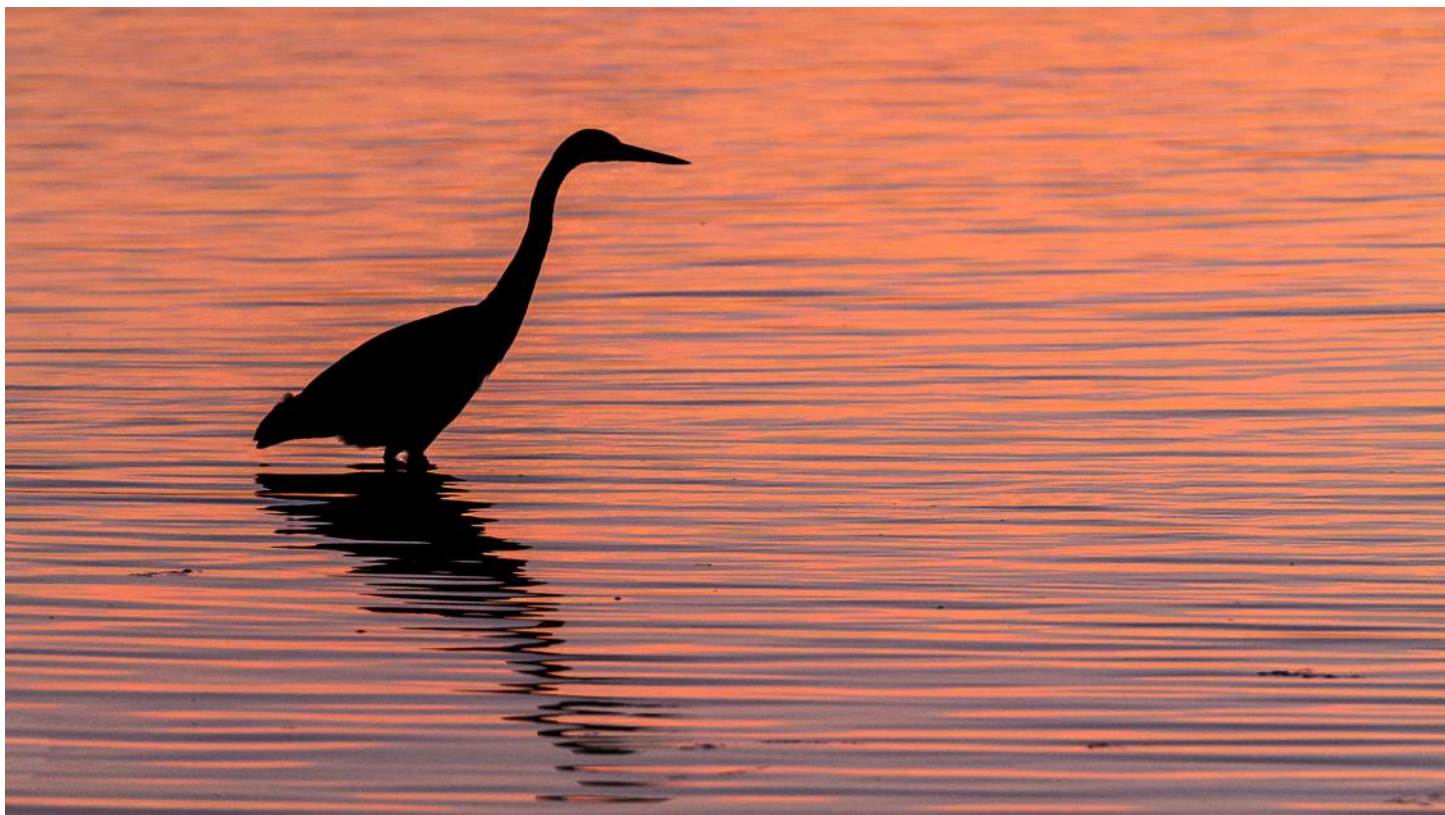
A woman photographs the sunset over Morro Bay while her son looks on. This beach was an easy walk from the campground.



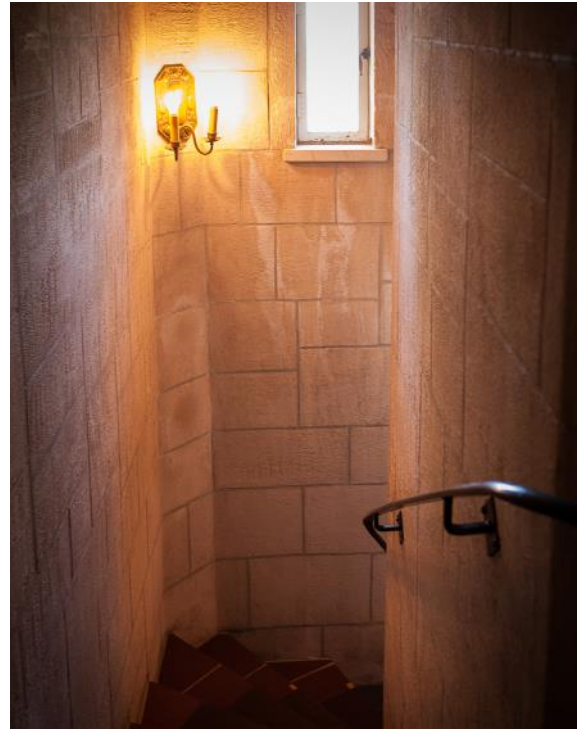
The moon was rising in the east over the Morro Bay estuary when I spotted the hummingbird perched on a dead tree. I positioned my camera so that the bird was “placed” in front of the moon to make an interesting image. Seagulls are maligned by many people but I think they are handsome birds, worthy of photographing. This bird was sitting on a post in a parking lot and posed for me.



Late evening light on yachts at one of the marinas in Morro Bay, CA.



Great Blue Heron silhouetted at sunset on Morro Bay.



View of a side door to the Hearst Castle being monitored by a docent and a typical stairway in the Hearst castle.



The indoor swimming pool with its magnificent décor at the Hearst Castle at San Simeon, California



Just north of San Simeon on Highway 1, we were fascinated by the number of elephant seals that had hauled out on the beaches.



Tina stands in one of the dressing rooms of the indoor pool at the Hearst Castle. It was unusually hot throughout California with temperatures in the 80's and 90's along the coast during our visit so the tour inside the castle provided a welcomed, although temporary, relief from the hot sun outside. While we were at the beach watching the elephant seals, this beautifully restored antique touring car appeared for a visit. Since the steering wheel is on the right, I assume it is a British car but I didn't have a chance to determine the make.

After two days on the coast we headed up Hwy 101 past the Bay area merging onto I-5 to Orland where we stayed at a nice RV park west of town. We plugged in and ran our A/C until it cooled off in the evening from the blistering temps (99 degrees) earlier that day.



After a night near Orland we continued on to McArthur-Burney Falls State Park in the southern Cascade Range (Calif) hoping to escape the heat in the central valley. The park was nearly empty but workers were preparing for the flood of people on Memorial weekend in another week or so. The park is located at about the 3,000 foot elevation near Burney, CA and includes this impressive waterfall, Burney Creek, and Britton Lake which was formed by a dam on the Pit River. The campsites are located in a beautiful grove of conifers and oaks and was a tranquil place during our visit. Weekends in the summer are usually very crowded and busy.

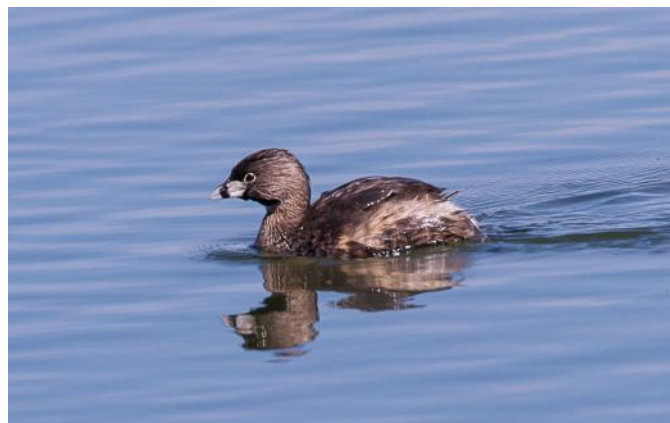


Steller's Jay gathering material for a nest.



Is that a tick stuck on the back of this squirrel?

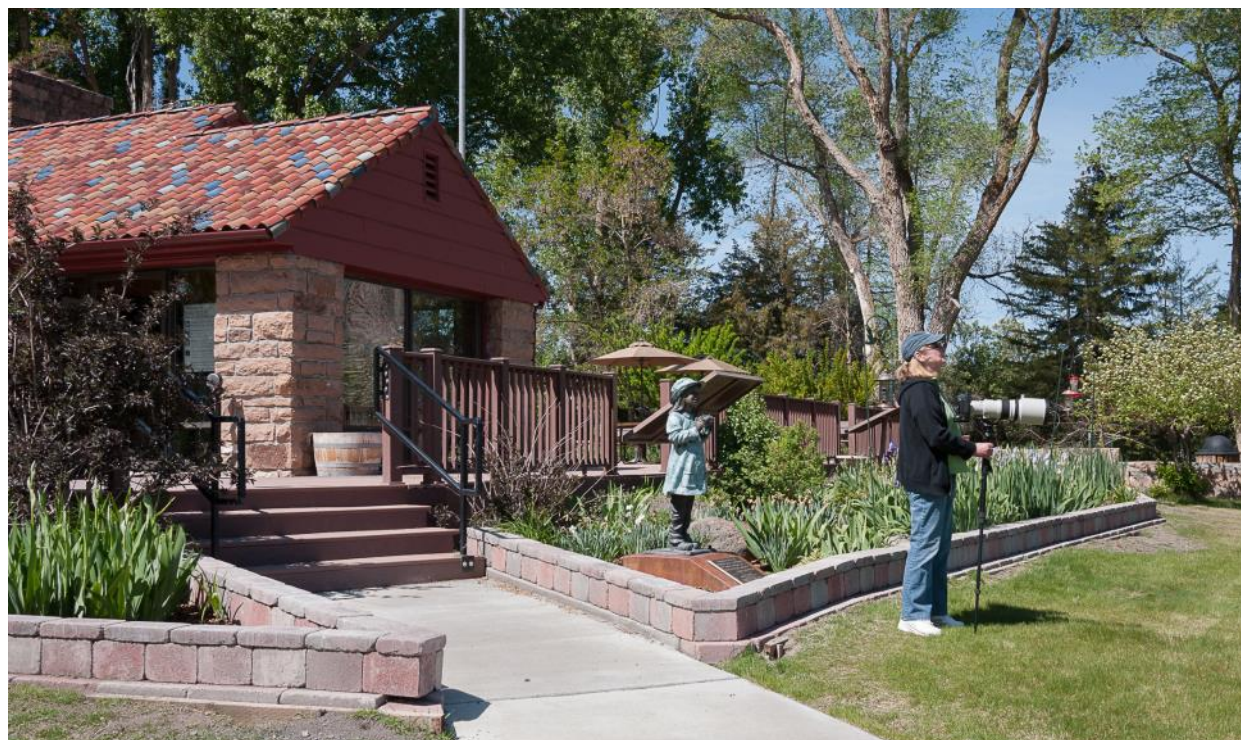




After leaving MacArthur-Burney Falls in California, we drove a great, lonely stretch of Highway 395 from Alturas, CA to Burns, OR, ending at The Narrows RV park just outside Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. We spent two nights there and enjoyed touring the refuge and the variety of wildlife. Above, clockwise from upper left are: Red-winged Black Bird; Western Tanager; Pied-billed Grebe; Yellow-headed Black Bird; Great Egret; and White-faced Ibis.



Here we share the boardwalk outside the Mercantile in Frenchglen, OR with the proprietor after we bought, and ate, the only two Haagen Dazs bars in the cooler. Frenchglen is 60 miles south of Burns and consists of this store, a historic hotel, about four or five homes. Its population is listed as 12. The community has a nice view of Steens Mountain to the southeast, a large fault-block mountain which rises to 9,734 feet. At the time of our visit, it was still snow covered. We were told that it is possible to drive to the top on a gravel road after the snow has melted and that it is the highest road in Oregon. Below: visitor's center at Malheur NWR.





From Oregon, we headed east into Idaho on I-84 and stopped for lunch in Boise at the Westside Drive In which was featured on Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives on the Food Network. The food was abundant and decent but probably not outstanding. We spent that night in an RV park in Mountain Home, ID and then continued the next day to a campground in Idaho Falls, below. Along the way we stopped for a visit at Craters of the Moon National Monument (photos on adjacent page).







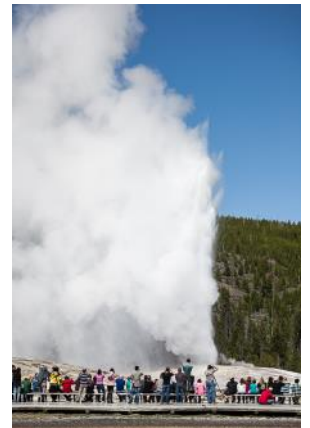
Following the night in Idaho Falls, we made the easy drive to Yellowstone National Park stopping for a short visit in West Yellowstone, MT. It is an interesting little touristy town that can be bitterly cold in the winter. A short drive to the east took us to the Madison campground in the park where we stayed for two nights. While in the park we had dinner at the Old Faithful Inn and of course watched old Faithful geyser put on its regular periodic show.



Tina contemplates the bear spray for sale but we did not see a bear in the park. The biggest hazard was the bison, which seemed to be everywhere on the roads.



View of the lobby from the second floor of the Yellowstone Old Faithful Inn, one of the few grand old inns in the NPS system.



A bison ignores a wolf, while another stares down a car. The crowd awaits Old Faithful's eruption. Even in late May, there was still lots of snow in some areas, evidence that winter is the dominate season.



We left Yellowstone through the south entrance where snow was still shoulder high along portions of the road then enjoyed the scenic views of the Tetons in Grand Teton National Park. After eating lunch at one of the lodges, we drove south past Jackson, to a small RV park in Boulder, WY, a “town” that is shown on the map, but we never did see evidence of a town. Above is the bathroom, laundry, and shower house at the RV park. Below is a view of our campsite. The cottonwood trees had still not leafed out yet.

The next day we drove farther south on Highway 191 toward our next destination—Vernal, UT, passing through Rock Springs and stopping for a short visit at the Flaming Gorge dam. This thin-arch concrete dam on the Green River was completed in 1964, creating the 90 mile-long Flaming Gorge Reservoir that extends northward from Utah into Wyoming. During our drive on Hwy 191 in Wyoming and Utah, we spotted numerous antelope and there were miles of wooden snow fence paralleling the road built to reduce snow drifts on the road. As I recall, the wind was blowing when we passed through.

Our last night on the road was spent at the KOA campground in Vernal, UT which was crowded and busy. In the morning we spent several hours visiting Dinosaur National Monument before driving the rest of the way to Palisade, CO (near Grand Junction) to meet Lynn and Karen. We spent three enjoyable nights there visiting with them, assisting with chores around the house, and where we could, helping with planning their wedding before flying home to Anchorage. Karen has a beautiful house overlooking local fruit orchards and offered to let us store our Sprinter there until early October when we return for their wedding.



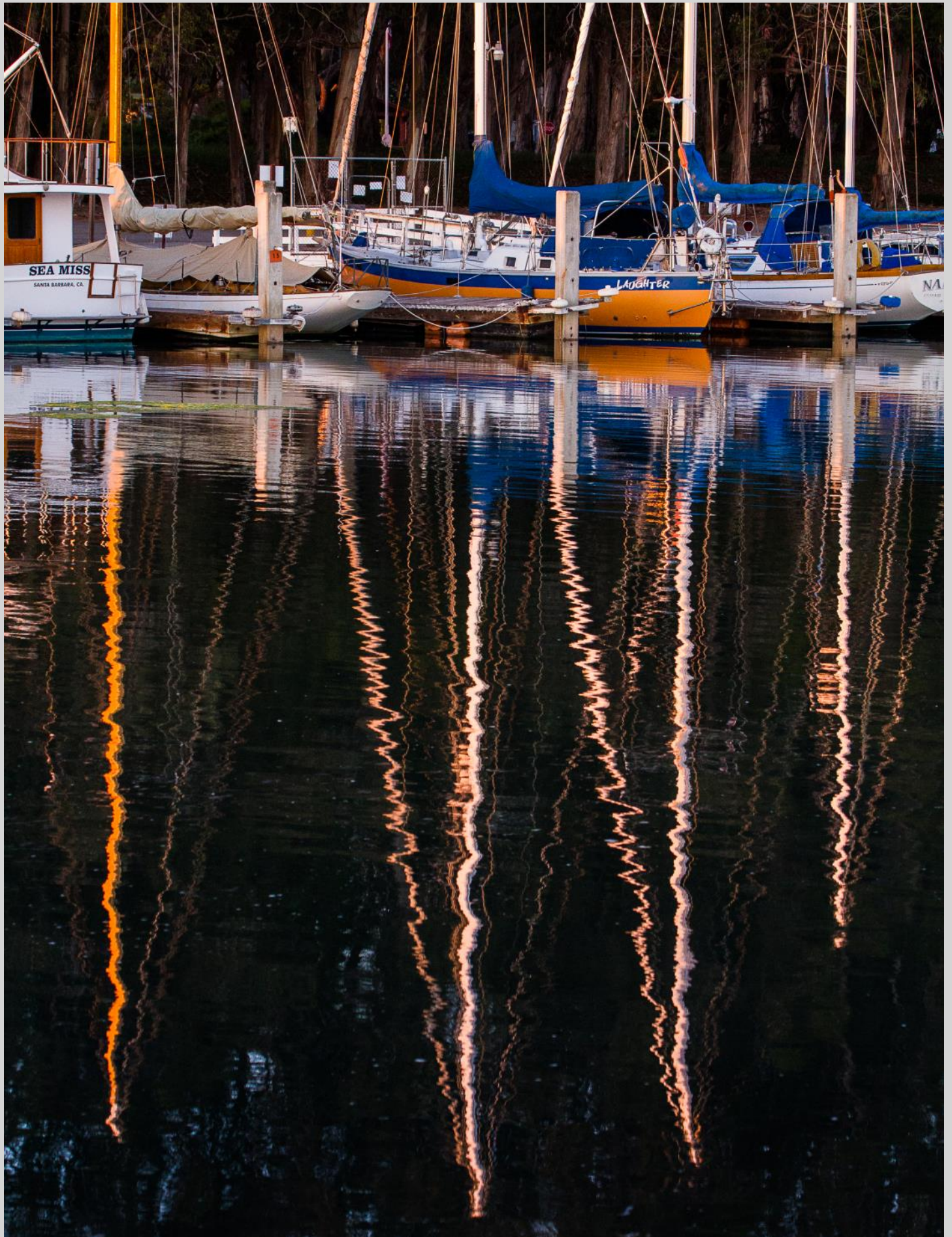


Karen and Lynn discuss their wedding plans during a visit at one of the possible sites for their ceremony. This ended up being the chosen site the their outdoor ceremony to be held in early October.



Breakfast at Karen's house in Palisade and the four of us enjoying a sunny afternoon on the deck.





Morro Bay, CA

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