

IN FOCUS

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

May 2009

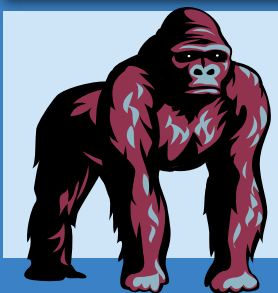
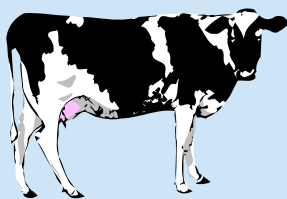


Editor
Susan Brazelton
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Flickr theme for
May is "Trees"



Theme for June is
"Animals"

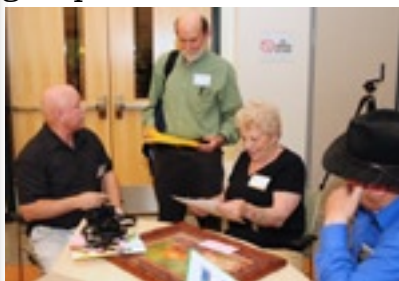


May General Meeting

We had our biggest meeting ever. Close to seventy people attended, thirteen for the first time. The well of people who are interested in photography seems to be deeper than anyone imagined. "Fun, Friends & Photography" is our motto and this meeting provided ample opportunity for all three.



We started the meeting with Ken Brown introducing May's Featured Photographer, Michael Sue BrownKorbel, who displayed her photos and explained how the club's Flickr projects have helped her grow as a photographer. We then moved right into our regularly scheduled print sharing session. (Most everyone brings a photo to every meeting and we sit with four others for six minutes or so and share our prints. Each person in turn shows his/her print and the others ask questions about it. We then all get up and reassemble with a different group of four for another round of sharing.)



The main purpose of print sharing is to provide an opportunity to get to know other members of the club and, of course, we all like to show what we've shot. After four rounds of sharing, everyone had met, talked to, and shared with at least twelve other people.



Welcome New Members

Executive Board

Susan Brazelton
President

Noella Vigeant
Vice President

Ken Brown
Secretary

Kathina Szeto
Treasurer &
Community
Partners Chair

Noël Calvi
Membership &
Marketing Chair

George W Ziegler
Competition/
Critique Chair

Noella Vigeant
Program Chair

**Michael Sue
BrownKorbel**
Photo Diva

Roy Hovey
Web Master

Toby Weiss
Member-at-Large

Charlotte Fernandez
Christina Macias
Jim Burzo

Susan Ferner
Maria Artega
Sondra Alexandre
and returning member
Barbi Kutilek

Gale Hammond
Stella James
Eric Stetson

There are now ninety-six members in the Morgan Hill Photography Club.

Mentor Program

Back in January when members brainstormed the types of activities and programs they would like to see the club sponsor, a mentor program came out high on the list. **Donna Weisblatt** has volunteered to establish a process for matching those who have expertise in one or more areas of photography with those who are looking to learn more. At the June meeting members who are interested in participating in the program (either as a mentor or mentee) will fill out a questionnaire, and then Donna will attempt to match mentors with appropriate mentees. Sort of like a dating service, only the objective will be to share and learn more about photography. The details of the program will be explained at the June meeting.

Mentor on Flickr

As part of the mentor program, **Don Schneider** has created a second club site on Flickr so that members may receive critical feedback on photos they post. Each member may post one photo at a time. Don is an experienced photographer and will offer constructive suggestions, along with those from other members of the club. Before posting, please follow the instructions on the opening page.

“MHPC Photo Critique”

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1089148@N20/>

We are very excited about these two initial elements of the new Mentor Program and would like to thank both Donna and Don for their willingness to volunteer their time and talents. We hope to expand the program as the club continues to grow.

Executive Board Meeting

The complete minutes of the May 13th Executive Board meeting are posted on our Yahoo Group

Gallery Shows

Two gallery shows are on the calendar. Our second show at the CRC is scheduled for October of this year, and we are tentatively scheduled for one at the CCC in April 2010. **JJohnny** is chair of the organizing committee, which includes **Noella Vigeant**, **Anita Mason** and **Bob Bennett**. More information regarding theme, matting and framing requirements and deadlines will be forthcoming at the June meeting.

Club Logo Wear

Bob BrownKorbel will be looking into creating a club logo that can be embroidered on various hats, vests, jackets and shirts. Let's identify our club while we are out there shooting.

We proudly announce the launch of the club's website



Web Master
Roy Hovey
displays
& explains
key pages
of the club's
new
website.



www.morganhillphotographyclub.org

We want to have lots of photos on the various pages. To that end, members are welcome to submit photos to Roy. Roy is especially looking for photos that were taken at meetings, events, and shoot-outs. To submit photos, go to <http://gallery.me.com/chessnjava> and click on the first folder, "Upload Photos Here". Then click the "Upload" button at the top of the page and follow the on-screen instructions. Or you may give a disc or thumb drive to Roy at one of the meetings.

Please select only your best photos and crop and edit them first (sharpness, color, white balance, etc.) Reduce the file size for online viewing.

NOTE: Photos posted online are vulnerable to unscrupulous downloading. If this is a concern, watermark your photos.

A release form must be on file before your photos can be used on the website. Contact Roy at : chessNjava@me.com or 408-828-9747



John Tarvin
reports on the
senior portraits
project.

Senior Portraits

The aim of the Community Projects Committee is to find ways to use the photographic skills and talents of our members to give back to the community. The first project, organized by committee chair, **John Tarvin**, was a terrific success. On May 1st, **JJohnny**, **Rick Kretz** and **Noella Vigeant** teamed up to photograph seniors at the CRC. Using a gift certificate donated by Costco (and obtained by **Kathina Szeto**), forty 8x10 prints were made and presented to the seniors just last Friday. They were thrilled to receive beautiful, professional quality portraits at no cost. John is already scheduling a second project, in collaboration with Community Solutions, to photograph low income families. This shoot is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th. More details can be found on the club's Yahoo Group Forum.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MHphotoclub/>

See page 6 for photos of the Senior Portraits Project

Show & Share

Remember “Show & Tell” from your young school days? Well, the club put on it’s own version at the May meeting. For the first half hour of the program, members divided into groups based on their primary camera. The point & shoot people got together, and the SLR folks subdivided into Nikon and Canon groups. This was an opportunity for members to ask questions about their cameras and learn from each other. The second half hour was devoted to sharing our favorite accessories. We saw tripods and monopods; bags, slings, and backpacks; flashes and filters; and tools that people created on their own (sort of like MacGyver). We have so much talent and knowledge and skill within our membership that everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to share with and learn from each other.



Bob, Mary, Sam & Diana discuss all things Nikon



Noella shows her monopod



Craig, Lance, Will & Noël share a laugh



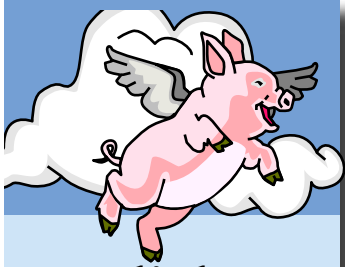
Charlotte & Mike look on as John shares a pink strap that would make MacGyver proud.



Barbi demonstrates her Canon set-up
(Photo by Toby Weiss)



Point & Shoot users exchange information



Flickr Comments

Everyone likes to read comments about their photos.

Come on, you know you do.

When you look at photographs in the Flickr pool, take the little bit of extra time to post a comment.

This is one of the ways in which members can connect.

The photographer will appreciate it, you'll feel good about yourself, and everyone will be happy.

Flickr Pool

Flickr is a photo sharing web site on which our club has a group pool. We have a different theme each month and each member may post up to five photos based on that month's theme. (The themes were chosen by the members in 2008.) The purpose of the monthly Flickr theme projects is threefold:

- 1.) To encourage members to get out and photograph;
- 2.) To extend our photographic comfort zone by photographing subjects we might not have chosen to photograph otherwise, or by trying out a new technique or style;
- 3.) To provide a common arena for sharing our photographs.

The photos posted to Flickr are not necessarily your best ever photos. They should be the ones that best reflect the theme. All members are encouraged to look at and comment on the photos. It is very interesting to see how different photographers interpret the various themes.

Any one may look at the photos on Flickr, but only members (dues paid) may post photos. Each new member is sent an invitation to join the group pool, or after paying the dues, you may go to the site and ask to join.

www.flickr.com/groups/MHPhotoclub

2009 Flickr Themes

January - Black & White

February - Still Life

March - Reflections

April - Water

May - Trees

June - Animals

July - People

August - Macro

September - Sunrise/Sunset

October - Three of Anything

November - Night

December - A Different Perspective

Yahoo Group

George W Ziegler keeps the club's Yahoo discussion site up-to-date by posting copies of the newsletter, executive board minutes, upcoming events, and helpful resources. Have a question? Ask it on Yahoo. Know of an event that might interest other members? Post it on Yahoo. Anyone may read the postings, but only members may post a message and read the files. The address is <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MHPhotoclub/> If you have any questions about the Yahoo Group Forum e-mail George at:

George@gwzphotography.com

Senior Portraits Project



Linda Tarvin, John Tarvin & Kathina Szeto look on as portraits are taken.



We learned a lot by watching the team work. Noella positioned the seniors in various poses, helping them to relax, bringing out their best qualities, and eliciting a smile at just the right moment, while John and Rick traded off taking the photos.



Rick's portrait of Mayor Steve Tate was auctioned off at a Rotary Club meeting for \$100, which will go to their Endowment, which funds community projects for youth and seniors. What goes around, comes around.

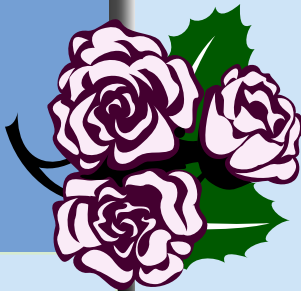


Next Meeting
Wednesday, 3 June 2009
Centennial Recreation Center
7 - 9 P.M.

- Program -
“Ask the Panel”

Bring your questions.

A panel of
experienced & knowledgeable
photographers
will be ready with answers
about
camera controls,
white balance, depth of field,
and more.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday 5/30

Roses & More Shoot-out (The Sequel)
MH Historical Society Rose Garden

Leader - Susan Brazelton
7am - 10am

Saturday 6/13

Downtown Morgan Hill Walk & Shoot

Leader - Susan Brazelton
9am - Noon, then out to lunch

Saturday, 6/20

Free Family Portrait Project
Community Park

Leader - John Tarvin
9am - 4pm

Saturday, 6/27

Shoot-out at Harvey Bear Park in San Martin

Leader - Craig Lore
8am

September (date to be determined)

Solis Winery

Leader - Holly Phillips

Saturday, 10/10

Shoot-out in Downtown Carmel

Leader - Holly Phillips
Time TBA

Meet at the CCC parking lot to carpool

Check the club's
Yahoo Group
Forum
for more
information
and changes in
the calendar.

You can order
M&M's
personalized with
your photos.
Go to:
www.mymms.com

Roses and More Shoot-Out Photos

Villa Mira Monte

The rain came down, but that didn't stop Toby Weiss, Howard Hall & Kathina Szeto from photographing the beautiful irises and roses at the Historical Society's Villa Mira Monte. Susan Brazelton & Noël Calvi waited a few hours. The rain stopped and the cloud cover provided beautiful, diffused light. Another shoot-out here is scheduled for Saturday, 30 May. See the calendar for details.

Howard Hall



Kathina Szeto



Sue Brazelton



Noël was not pleased with her photos, so declined to submit any. That's happened to all of us.



Toby Weiss

