



"IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

<http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org/>

August 2010



Editor

Susan Brazelton
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Inside...

New Focus Group
Night Photography
Page 2

Gallery Show
"Reflection"
Page 3

August
Shoot-out at
Guglielmo Winery
Page 5

Photography
Workshops
Page 7

2010 Calendar
Page 8

August General Meeting

I missed the August meeting, but I hear it was a big success with a total of sixty-one members in attendance plus thirteen guests. It's a good thing we have such a nice, big room for our meetings. I'm sure that having professional landscape photographer, **Don Smith** as our program speaker was a big draw. Read more about his presentation on page 6. **Roy Hovey** took the photos on this page.



Noella & Tracey took over running the meeting



It's Fun to Share

Our unique round-robin print sharing session sets us apart from other camera clubs. After four rounds of sharing, everyone has met someone new, viewed ten or more photos, and shared a bit of him/herself. Everyone is encouraged to bring one print (any size, any subject) to every meeting.





Focus Groups



We now have six Focus Groups, and an additional one starting in September. For more information or to join any of these groups, please contact the group's facilitator.



Charlotte sets up her macro shot

- **Macro Photography** - Facilitator: **Susan Brazelton** brzltn@garlic.com
The members of this group decided that the best way to learn more about macro photography is to hold macro-specific shoot-outs that will provide a variety of opportunities to practice shooting macro and to share tactics and expertise. Check the Yahoo Forum for the next macro shoot.



Bob helps Allan photo by Roy Hovey

- **Photoshop Elements** - Facilitator: **Roy Hovey** chessnjava@mac.com
In order to better accommodate member's schedules, this group will alternate evening and day-time meetings. The group will work its way through the PS Elements book, Top 100 Simplified Tips & Tricks by Visual Learning Systems (Wiley Publishing).

Next meeting: Monday, 13 September, 7 - 8:30pm at Roy's house. Contact Roy for his address, directions, and your homework assignment. (That's right! This group assigns homework.)



George leads the group through the Development Module

- **Lightroom** - Facilitator - **George Ziegler** George@gwzphotography.com
This group has looked at importing photos, assigning keywords, imbedding metadata, and several tools in the Develop Module. Next on the agenda is learning the tools in the Print Module.

Next meeting: Thursday, 26 August 7-9pm at George's house.



New Focus Group: Night Photography

If interested, meet at 6:15 before the September 1st meeting

- **Photographing People** -Facilitator: **Noella Vigeant:** nvigeant@gmail.com
Contact Noella if you are interested in this group and to find out about the next meeting

photo by Mike Winn



- **Mobile Photography** - Facilitator: **Bob Thompson** thompsbk@mac.com
Learn how to use your cell phone and other mobile devices to take great pictures, and explore the many applications available for editing and sharing photos and video.

- **Aperture** - Facilitator: **Jean Myers** birdermom@mac.com
Learn about Aperture's features: editing, organizing & storing photos. Expert users are encouraged to join and share.
Next Meeting: Wednesday, 1 September 6:15 at the CRC



photo by Roy Hovey

Any member may start/organize a Focus Group.

If you have an area of interest, email this editor and she/I will help you get it started.

Logo Apparel and Patches

Show your club spirit and pride by attaching a logo patch to your favorite hat, shirt, jacket or bag. Patches will be available for purchase (\$5) at the general meetings.

Or you may have the logo embroidered directly onto your favorite hat, shirt or jacket by bringing the garment to the next general meeting. For direct embroidery, you may choose the thread color. Cost is \$10. Approximate size is 4x2.5



Communication

The club uses multiple methods to spread the word about upcoming events, opportunities, resources, and deadlines. In addition to email announcements and this newsletter, information can be accessed on the website and the Yahoo Forum. And now with the membership directory, members can easily contact each other.

Yahoo Group Forum

We encourage every member to join the Yahoo Forum. Just go to the site and click on, "Join" You need a Yahoo ID to join, and the site will take you through the steps to get one. It's all free. Postings may include spontaneous shoot-outs, last minute changes to the calendar, upcoming events, valuable resources, and possible solutions to your photographic dilemmas.

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



by Noella Vigeant

Gallery Show

"Reflection"

At the CRC Senior Center

August 27th - October 14th

Artists' Reception

Friday, September 2010

Senior Center Lobby

6:30 - 8:30

Participating Photographers

- Dan Gregg •Charles Kaekel •John Tarvin •Bob Smith
- Ken Brown •Wanda Brown •Michael Sue BrownKorbel •Monica Hojda
- Laura Foote •Lance Trott •Chip Reynolds •Roy Hovey •Tony King
- Larry Campbell •Noella Vigeant •Eric Stetson •J Johnny •David Fritts
- Brenda Renzulli •Jim Burzo •Sue Brazelton •Dianna Rojas •Linda Tyson
- Gordon Diddons •Curt Palm •Marty Cheek •George Ziegler •Lennie Randall
- Margaret Woliny •Linda Solheim •Charlotte Fernandes



by Dianna Rojas

Member News

Executive Board

Susan Brazelton
President
Newsletter Editor

Noella Vigeant
Vice President
Program Director

Open Position
Second
Vice President

Charlotte Fernandes
Treasurer

Noel Calvi
Membership Chair
Marketing Director

Lance Trott
Commissioner of
Shoot-outs

George Ziegler
Critique Chair
PSA Liaison

**Michael Sue
BrownKorbel**
Photo Diva

Roy Hovey
Web Master

**David Rosas
Tracey Morris**
Members-at-large



Welcome
to new member
Kristen Cupello
and returning member
Kay Bravo



Our 2010 membership now totals 134

Open Mike & Announcements

Photos by
Mike Winn



Brenda described her
photo laminator



Charlotte displays the
logo patches
Photo by Roy Hovey



Twenty plus members
joined Bill in
photographing the
Gilroy Garlic Festival



Duane shares his Milky
Way photo techniques



Noël shows off
her jacket



George invited everyone
to a matting party



Lance Trott, George Ziegler and **Susan Brazelton** were up all night trying to catch a meteor from the Perseids Meteor Shower (Lance and George at Yosemite and Susan in Kansas). Check out their photos.

Susan: <http://visual-journey.blogspot.com/>

Lance: <http://www.high-def-photography.com/>

George: <http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org/>



Shoot-Outs

Opt-out Option

Roy Hovey & Susan Brazelton often pull photos off Flickr for use on the website and in the newsletter. (Photo credit is always given.) If you do NOT want your photos used on the website or in the newsletter, please contact Roy (chessnjava@mac.com) or Susan (brzltm@garlic.com).

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park August 7th



Photos by David Fritts

Samples from the Macro Practice Shoots



Linda Tyson



Susan Brazelton



John Tarvin



August Shoot-out Guglielmo Winery (1480 E Main Ave.) Wednesday, 25 August 9am

There are lots of grapes on the vines just waiting to be harvested & photographed. We'll have full access to the grounds: the villa, the vineyards, the gardens, the piazza, the grapes, the barrels, the bottles, & the beautiful foothills.

FYI: It's pronounced "Goo-yell-mo"

View more photos from these and other shoot-outs at:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclubshoot-outs/>

Flickr Theme Projects

Flickr is a photo sharing website on which our club has a group pool. Every month has a designated theme and members may post up to five photos based on that month's theme. Over 2,370 photos have been posted since the club started in April 2008. Comments on the photos are always appreciated.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclub/>



Diane Rocha



Eric Stetson



Luis Franco



Dianna Rojas



Tracey Morris



David Rosas



Joan Prather

August "Beach Scenes"

Landscape Photography

(Text by Roy Hovey, photos by Mike Winn)

Morgan Hill Photography Club members and guests enjoyed an excellent presentation by professional sports and landscape photographer **Don Smith**. Don dedicates 75% of his time to landscape photography, though he put in 25 years photographing Major League Baseball and the National Football league. Don has worked for the San Jose Sharks for 20 years. He does stock photography for Getty, teaches several seminars throughout the year, and also writes. His newest book is Refined Vision - Fifty Lessons for Improving Your Digital Landscape Photography.

During his presentation, Don covered several aspects of taking good landscape photos. He emphasized developing your vision, and practice, practice, practice. All the best equipment and technology won't make up for not having a great vision in your approach to shooting.

Forty of the fifty lessons in Don's new book deal in some way with the vision in your photography. Practice will help you find the sweet spot in each of your lenses -- and in your own skills. There is no perfect f-stop formula for landscape shooting. Experiment, then shoot with what works well for you. Here are some of the specific recommendations Don had for optimizing your shooting experience:

- Work with the Light & Colors. Don rarely worries about the subject(s), but rather how he can best utilize the light and color. The best times of day to get great light and color are dusk and dawn. The light fits the available sensor range of your camera during these times and offers windows of unique and special conditions for shooting--the light is softer, and has direction.
- Look for good foreground elements to use in your photos--they add depth and layers to your shots.
- Use simple lines & shapes to lead the eye. Photos with too much information fail to captivate -- look for the essence of a shot, and a strong focal point.
- "Magic happens at the beginning and end of a storm."
- Use polarizers and neutral density filters to improve your shots and cut down post-production work.



You can view Don's portfolio, check out his workshop schedule, and order his books on his website and blog.

<http://www.donsmithphotography.com/>
<http://donsmithphotography.aminus3.com/>

(He's also on Flickr, Twitter, and Facebook.)



Scott Schilling works with Don
(This photo by Roy)



*"Don Smith was great!
Lots of information and insight...."*

David Rosas

*"Don did a fabulous job.
Even though I am not a big landscape photographer, I felt connected with his intuitions as an artist....LOVED it!"*

Tracey Morris

"Great use of slide show & techniques."

Noël Calvi



Aperture
Focus Group
will meet at 6:15

Next Meeting
Wednesday, 1 September 2010
Centennial Recreation Senior Center (CRC)
7pm - 9pm

Night Photography
Focus Group
will meet at 6:15

“Show & Share”

Bring your camera, lens, and your favorite accessory

We'll break into sub-groups based on cameras. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and exchange information with others who use the same (or similar) camera. During the second half of the program, we will share our favorite camera accessories (bags, tripods, ball heads, filters, reflectors, diffusers, teleconverters, extension tubes, bellows, remote releases, etc. etc. etc.)

Looking Ahead

October Program: Print Critique

Members may submit photo prints for critical review by a qualified competition judge

R E S O U R C E S

Photo Workshops (summary of an article in *OP* by Don Gale)

A great way to improve your photographic techniques, and learn some new ones, is to sign-up for a photo workshop. Many professional photographers organize workshops in some of the most beautiful places on earth. They often have access to areas that are not normally available to tourists, and the good ones make sure that participants are able to shoot at the best locations at the best times. A little preparation before the workshop begins will help you get the most out of your experience.

1. Learn your camera controls and menu system. You don't want to miss a great shot because you were trying to figure out how to navigate the menu, instead of shooting. Take your camera manual. You can't expect the instructor to know everything about every camera.
2. Check on expected weather conditions before you pack. Even if the day is predicted warm, it can be quite chilly before sunrise and after sunset. You won't enjoy the experience if you're shivering and your teeth are clattering.
3. Take as much gear as you can manage, including several lenses of different focal lengths, filters (a polarizer and a graduated neutral density should serve you well), tripod, and a flash. If no list is sent out, ask your instructor about what to expect and what gear is essential. Don't forget extra memory cards, extra batteries & a charger.
4. Check ahead of time on the expected level of activity. Workshop days can be long and may involve some hiking. Know what to expect and choose a workshop that matches your level of comfort.
5. A positive, open attitude will go a long way in ensuring a good experience.

Workshop Resources (This is a list of possibilities, not recommendations)

- Adventure Photography: <http://www.advenphoto.com/>
- Arizona Highways Photo Workshops <http://www.friendsofhighways.com/>
- Don Smith Photography <http://www.donsmithphotography.com/>
- Photography Workshops with Don Gale <http://www.photographybydon.com/>
- Photographers Alliance Workshops <http://www.paworkshops.net/>
- Guide to workshops online: www.outdoorphotographer.com

2010 Calendar

27 August - 14 October
CRC Gallery Show "*Reflection*"

Wednesday, 25 August
Shoot-out at Guglielmo Winery
9am (See page 5 for details)



Thursday, 26 August
Lightroom Focus Group
7pm at George Ziegler's

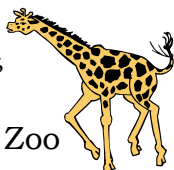
Wednesday, 1 September
General Meeting
7pm at the CRC
Program: Show & Share



Friday, 3 September
Gallery Show Artists' Reception
Senior Center Lobby
6:30 - 8:30

Wednesday, 8 September
Executive Board Meeting
7pm CRC

**Saturday, 11 September &
Tuesday 14 September**
Shoot-out at San Francisco Zoo



Thursday, 23 September
Shoot-out at San Jose History Park

Wednesday, 6 October
General Meeting
7pm at the CRC
Program: Print Critique

Wednesday, 13 October
Executive Board Meeting
7pm CRC

**Saturday 9 October &
Tuesday 12 October**
Shoot-out at Casa de Fruta

Thursday, 21 October
Shoot-out at Moss Landing

Wednesday, 3 November
General Meeting
7pm at the CRC
Program: TBA

Wednesday, 10 November
Executive Board Meeting
7pm CRC

**Saturday, 6 November &
Tuesday, 9 November**
Shoot-out at Santa Clara University & Mission



Wednesday, 1 December
Club Social
7 pm at the CRC



Wednesday, 8 December
Executive Board Meeting
7pm CRC

**Saturday, 4 December &
Tuesday, 7 December**
Shoot-out at SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge



2010 Flickr Themes

January - Reflections
February - Black & White
March - Barns
April - Water
May - Flowers
June - Patterns & Lines
July - Action
August - Beach Scenes
September - Signs
October - Structures
November - Shadows
December - People