



# "IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the  
Morgan Hill Photography Club

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

## March 2010

Editor  
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It's fun to share.

Everyone is encouraged to bring one photo print (any size, any subject) to each meeting.



## March General Meeting

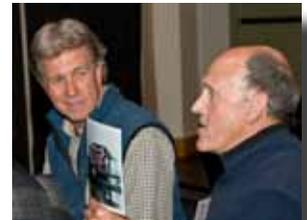
The well of people interested in photography seems to be bottomless. Seventy members and guests attended the March meeting, and most all had a photograph to share. Our motto is, "Fun, Friends & Photography" and the print sharing session that starts every meeting integrates all three.



Jill shows a portrait



David looks at Holly's photo



Ron listens while Mike shares



Mary answers a question from Bob



Mike shares his photo



Linda looks at Michael Sue's print



Harold & Barbara lean in for a closer look



Monica is happy to share while Brenda looks on



Jeff's photo looks a little fishy



Noella admires Stella's photo

By sharing prints, new members and guests are immediately integrated into the social atmosphere of the club. Everyone has an opportunity to meet new people, forge new friendships and talk photography.



## Ask the Panel (About Lighting)

Four members of the club graciously agreed to sit on a panel and answer questions about various lighting situations. Each panelist had a different speciality and brought a different perspective to the issue of lighting. Program Chair, **Noella Vigeant** introduced the panelists.



**Michael Sue BrownKorbel:** Point & Shoot Cameras  
**Scott Schilling:** Landscapes  
**Mike Winn:** Portraits and Events  
**Steve Tyson:** Commercial Photography



Roy asks a question

### Flash Diffuser

Need to soften the harsh light of a flash?

Michael Sue suggested that you drape a single ply tissue over the flash & shoot away.

### A few bits of wisdom from the panel:

Shoot portraits indoors with no flash by posing your subjects near a window.

To soften indoor lamp light, use two and point them toward the ceiling, or drape a pillow case over the light.

When shooting landscapes, use a graduated neutral density filter to bring down the contrast between a bright sky and a dark foreground. A polarizing filter will help bring out colors and cloud detail.

When the range of light is too great for the camera to handle, take several shots, each with a different exposure, and then combine them into one HDR photograph.

Does anyone still use a light meter? Not too many photographers choose to carry an external light meter. Choosing spot metering in the camera will essentially accomplish the same thing. You can meter the darkest and lightest areas in the composition to determine the range of light. If the range is too great for the camera, choose the right exposure for the most important part of the photograph, or bracket and use an HDR program.



Duane queries the panel



# Member News

## Executive Board

### Susan Brazelton

President  
Newsletter Editor

### Noella Vigeant

Vice President  
Program Director

### Bill Strange

Second  
Vice President

### Charlotte Fernandes

Treasurer

### Noel Calvi

Membership Chair  
Marketing Director

### George Ziegler

Critique Chair  
PSA Liaison

### Michael Sue

BrownKorbel  
Photo Diva

### Roy Hovey

Web Master

### Lance Trott

### Pam Porter

Members-at-large

## Welcome

to the seven new members who joined in March  
**Bob Smith Pat Stone Charles Kaekel Jean Myers**  
**Kim Meyer John Hopkins Bob Lesko**  
Our 2010 membership now totals 119

## Dues

If you joined the club in December '09 or January '10, and have not yet paid the additional \$10 in dues, you may send a check to "MHPC" 17145 Munro Way, MH 95037  
If we don't hear from you, we will assume you decided not to stay with the club. (And we will miss you.)

## Membership Directory

A list of members, their contact information, and Flickr names will be sent out soon (via email).

Only fully paid members will be included.

- This directory is for the convenience of members and **should not be shared outside the club.**
- Please **do not add these names to mass email lists** (jokes, political messages, warnings, etc.) without specific permission
- And lastly, **do not send any emails to the entire membership.** If you have news to share, please post the message on the Yahoo Group Forum, or send the information to Susan for inclusion in the news letter or the meeting reminder email.

## Mug Shots



Lennie



Tracey



Linda S



Will



Jim



Linda T



Travis



Bill



Ron



Maureen

# 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](mailto:chessnjava@mac.com)) or Susan ([brzlttn@garlic.com](mailto:brzlttn@garlic.com)).

A shoot-out is scheduled every month on the Saturday following the general meeting. The one scheduled for Saturday, 6 March was cancelled due to a forecast of rain. You don't need to wait for the next monthly shoot-out, you can plan one yourself. Any member may organize a shoot-out. Just decide where you want to photograph and broadcast the information on where and when to meet: in the newsletter, on the Yahoo forum, or at a meeting. On St Patrick's Day, **Roy Hovey, Charlotte Fernandes, Susan Brazelton, Lance Trott** and **George Ziegler** met at Uvas Canyon County Park to photograph along the Waterfall Loop Trail. We didn't see any ladybugs or leprechauns, but Roy found green rocks and a shark attacking a dolphin.



The start of Waterfall Loop Trail



George takes aim



Charlotte sets up her shot



Roy shoots off the bridge



View photos from this and previous shoot-outs at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclubshoot-outs/>

# Flickr Theme Projects

1,900 photos have been posted since the club began in April 2008. You can see these photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclub/>

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

## March "Barns"



Brenda Renzulli



Bob Smith



Toby Weiss



Diane Rocha



Marty Cheek



John Tarvin



Bob Thompson

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7 April 2010

Centennial Recreation Senior Center (CRC)

7pm - 9pm

**6:15 - 6:45 New Member Orientation**



## “Print Critique”

**George Ziegler** has arranged for a guest commentator, **Art Stein**, to attend our meeting and critique members' photos. In general he will comment on an image's impact, composition, and technical proficiency. The critique is designed to be a learning experience for our members with an emphasis on how their images can be improved. This is always one of our most popular and informative programs.

### **Guidelines for submitting photos to be critiqued:**

- Members may submit up to 3 photo prints.
- Prints may not be smaller than 8x10 nor larger than 16x20
- Prints must be mounted or matted. The mount or mat may be larger than the print, but may not exceed 16x20.
- The title and photographer's name must be affixed to the back.  
(The photographer's name is not revealed to the group.)
- There is a \$1 fee for each print submitted (We pay the commentator's expenses.)

**Even if you don't submit a photo, seeing the prints and hearing the comments will be a valuable learning experience,**

## April Birthday Bash

The April meeting will mark the club's second year of existence. We must celebrate!

Please join us in a toast to the club's start, its amazing success, and its promising future.



## New Member Orientation

You are invited to attend a  
New Member Orientation

**preceding the April General Meeting**

**6:15 - 6:45**

We will cover the many ways to be involved in the club, including shoot-outs, community projects, Flickr theme projects, gallery shows, special interest groups, and more.

We will also explain how to: • join Flickr and post photos • join the Yahoo Group Forum and post questions and messages • submit photos for gallery shows.

*“Life in Our Valley”*

Gallery Show at Villa Mira Monte

May 17 - June 28, 2010

People, Places and Events in South County

# Resources

## Benefits of Membership

- Participation in Gallery Shows
- 
- Mentor Program
- 
- Flickr Theme Projects
- 
- Special Interest Groups
- 
- Biannual Print Critique
- 
- URL Link on MHPC Website
- 
- Listed in the Membership Directory
- 
- Initiate Friendships, Reinforce Camaraderie, Spread Conviviality & Expand Espirit de Corps with other local photographers

All the rain we've had this winter promises a spring and summer full of wildflower blooms. The following are excerpts from "Bag the Blooms," an article in *Popular Photography*, with tips and techniques for making the most of this colorful opportunity.

**Fill the Frame:** Get in close to magnify the pistils and stamens and make them the center of interest.

**Find a revealing camera angle:** Place the camera at bloom level to render a bug's eye view.

**Diffuse the light:** Avoid harsh shadows by shooting on overcast days, waiting for a passing cloud to cast its shadow, or using a commercial diffuser.

**Get artistic:** Limit the depth of field and capture the background as a blur of colors that compliment the sharply focused main subject.

**Shoot the breeze:** Fill the frame with an expanse of blooms, use a slow shutter speed, and let the wind "paint" an impressionistic photograph.

**Take low-altitude aerials:** Position the camera high with the lens pointed straight down on several blooms of the same height.

**Bring in the blue sky:** Position the camera below blossom level and shoot up. The blue sky background will compliment yellow, pink and orange.

**Ignore the rules:** Shoot translucent blooms at high noon by using the sun as a backlight. Partially block the sun with a stem or leaf to produce star bursts.

**Go wide:** Create a dramatic landscape by including an expanse of wildflowers in the foreground.

## Wildflower Web Resources

<http://calphoto.com/wflower.htm>

<http://www.poppyfestival.com/>

<http://www.totalescape.com/active/leisure/wildflwr.html>

## Matting & Framing Workshop

Offered through Morgan Hill Community Adult School

\$35 Thursdays: May 13 & 20 6:30 - 8:30pm

<http://www.adultedreg.com/morganhill/>

(408) 201-5525

## Yahoo Group Forum

This forum is an important part of the club's communication network and we encourage every member to join. Just go to the site and click on, "Join This Group." 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, photographic events, and valuable resources.

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

**2010**

# ***Upcoming Events***

## **Through 9 April**

CCC Gallery Show  
*"Images of Nature"*

## **Wednesday, 7 April**

6:15 - 6:45 New Member Orientation  
7 - 9 General Meeting  
*"Print Critique"*  
Centennial Recreation Senior Center



## **Saturday, 10 April**

Shoot-out  
Big Basin State Park

## **Sunday, 18 April**

Electronic submission deadline for  
*"Life in Our Valley"* Gallery Show

## **Wednesday, 5 May**

General Meeting  
7 - 9pm CRC



## **Saturday, 8 May**

Shoot-out  
San Jose Rose Garden

## **Monday, 17 May - 27 June**

*"Life in Our Valley"* Gallery Show  
Villa Mira Monte

## **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