



"In Focus"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

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

**April
2010**



Editor
Susan Brazelton
brzltn@garlic.com

"Life in Our Valley"
Gallery Show
Artists' Reception
Friday, 21 May
6:30 - 8:30
Morgan Hill House

April General Meeting

Time at every meeting is set aside for the sharing of prints. This is one of the elements that sets our club apart from most camera clubs. We don't just look at photos projected on a screen, we fraternize with photographic confederates, share a bit of ourselves through our photos, and forge new friendships.



Don, Lance & Ken
share a moment



Linda shows her print



Tracey enjoys
Bill's photo



Kermit shares a collage



Anita has been to
Africa



Tony comments on
Steve's print



Charlotte



Stella answers questions
about her photo



Noella makes
Howard & Scott laugh

It's fun to share.

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



Time to move to the
next round

By sharing prints, new members and guests are immediately integrated into the social sphere of the club. Everyone has an opportunity to mix, mingle, and talk photography.

Photo Print Critique

George Ziegler, as Critique Chair, twice a year arranges for an expert commentator to attend a meeting, view member photos, and make critical comments on composition, design, color, and clarity. Art Stein, was kind enough to attend our April meeting and through his critical comments, teach us all something about how to make better photos.



George introduced guest commentator, Art Stein

“Crop to a ratio that best shows the subject.”



Art first addressed the group, emphasizing that photography is a form of communication that uses color, shape and design. When you take a photograph, what are you trying to communicate? Additionally, as he examined each of the forty-two photographs that were submitted, he made the following points:

- Keep the foreground sharp. It is the first thing the eye sees.
- Not every photograph needs to “great.”
- Don’t let the subject touch the edge of the photo.
- Give moving subjects room to move forward in the composition.
- Be aware of shadows and high lights.
- The eye will go to the brightest spot in the photo. Is that what you want the viewer to notice most/first?
- Bright areas around the edge can be distracting. Darken edges 10%.
- Crop carefully so you define what you want the viewer to see.
- Crop to a ratio that best shows the subject, not necessarily to a standard size.
- Be aware of supporting elements in the composition. Negative space is also important.
- Be careful that the mat does not distract from the photo. White works best.



Photo by Roy Hovey



“A Moment in Time”

is an attempt by the *New York Times* to capture a slice of the history of the world by allowing readers to submit photographs taken on Sunday, 2 May 2010 at 1500 hours (GMT) (That’s 8am for us.) Here is the very long link to all the details: <http://www.petapixel.com/2010/04/13/new-york-times-lens-blog-launches-global-social-experiment/>

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

George Ziegler

Critique Chair
PSA Liaison

Michael Sue

BrownKorbel
Photo Diva

Roy Hovey

Web Master

Lance Trott

Pam Porter
Members-at-large

Welcome

to three new members who joined in April

Dennis Cica Alex Curtis Karen Friedmann

Our 2010 membership now totals 114
who have paid the full \$20 in dues

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 sorrowfully assume you decided not to stay with the club. (And we will miss you.)

The April meeting marked the second anniversary of the club, which gave us a reason to celebrate. Thirteen of the original members (There are twenty-eight still in the club.) came forward to lead the group in a toast to the club's phenomenal growth and continued success.



Charter Members

Tracey, David, David, Anita, Ken, Toby, Don, Susan, Noella, George, Lance, Judy, Noël
(Photo by Roy Hovey)

By the Numbers

Total Membership: 114

2010 New Members: 35

Members Since 2008: 42



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 Esprit de Corps with other local photographers

Have a Question?

Ask it on Yahoo.

Membership Directory

A list of members, their contact information, and Flickr names has been sent out to all members. Only fully paid members are included. Membership Chair, **Noël Calvi** warned that all future photos will be cursed if you don't follow the guidelines for use of the directory.

- The directory is for the convenience of members and **should not be shared outside the club.**
- Do not add these member names to mass email lists (jokes, political messages, warnings, etc.) without specific permission.
- All emails to the entire membership must go through Susan. If you have news to share, please post the message on the Yahoo Group Forum, or send the information to Susan.



Cathy



Ann



John T



Wanda



Alex



David R

Mug Shots



Roy



John H



Pat



David F



Luis



Dennis

Portrait Photography Class

Instructor: **Noella Vigeant**

Learn to pose, compose and capture great images of people.

2 Saturdays: 7/17 & 7/24

10am - 1pm

Offered through Gavilan College Community Education

Register online at: www.gavilan.com

or call 408-852-2801

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/>

Shoot-Outs



Photo by Roy Hovey

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 (brzlttn@garlic.com).

A shoot-out is scheduled every month on the Saturday following the general meeting. The one scheduled for Saturday, 6 March at Henry Coe Park was cancelled due a forecast of rain, so **Lance Trott** organized a make-up shoot. **Pat Stone, Lance, Charlotte Fernandes, George Ziegler, Steve Soult and Roy Hovey** met at Villa Montalvo for an afternoon of amity and photography.



Photo by Pat Stone



On Saturday, April 10th, **George Ziegler, Noël Calvi, Bob Thompson and Susan Brazelton** braved the cold at Big Basin State Park to frolic and photograph among the redwood trees.



View more photos from these and previous shootouts 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 1,900 photos have been posted since the club started in 2008. You may view these most interesting photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclub/>



Linda Tyson

April "Water"

Mary Phillips



Dennis Cica





Next Meeting

Wednesday, 5 May 2010

Centennial Recreation Senior Center (CRC)

7pm - 9pm

“Shootout at the Still Life Corral”

This hands-on workshop will answer many of your questions about indoor lighting.

Three stations will be set up with an expert at each.

- 1. Light Box for shooting small objects (to sell on eBay maybe)**
- 2. Flash, both on camera & off**
- 3. Portable studio Lighting**

Members are encouraged to bring their cameras

(Point & Shoot and/or SLR)

for an interactive experience at each station

(You might also bring your tripod)



“Life in Our Valley” **Gallery Show**

Morgan Hill House at Villa Mira Monte

May 21 - June 26, 2010

Co-sponsored by the Morgan Hill Historical Society

Please join participating club members at an

Artists’ Reception

Friday, 21 May 2010

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Over 50 photos of local people, places and events,

created by 21 club members

will be on display

R E S O U R C E S

A Few Things That Are Helpful to Know about Lighting

(excerpted from *Popular Photography*, May 2010)

1. The broader the light source, the softer the light. A broad light source lessens shadows, reduces contrast and suppresses texture.
2. The closer the light source, the softer the light. By moving a light closer, you make it broader in relationship to the subject.
3. Diffusion scatters light, essentially making the light source broader, and therefore, softer. An overcast sky, fog and clouds all scatter light in many directions, thus minimizing contrast and shadows.
4. Bouncing light will diffuse it. Aiming a narrow light source at a broad, matte surface, such as a wall or ceiling or deflector, scatters the light over a wider area, and thus, softens it.
5. The farther away the light source, the dimmer it is on your subject. If you move a light twice as far from your subject, you end up with one quarter the light on your subject.
6. Light falloff can be used to vary the relationship between light on your subject and the background. Placing the light closer to your subject will render the background relatively darker. Moving the light farther away will relatively brighten the background.
7. Front lighting de-emphasizes texture. Side lighting emphasizes it. Generally, the greater the angle at which the light hits the subject, the more texture is revealed.
8. Shadows create dimensionality, the sense of seeing an object in space, as opposed to projected on a flat surface.
9. Light has color, even when it appears white. This is called color temperature. The light source has color and the surface that light bounces off can add its color. Use the white balance control to neutralize color casts or to emphasize them.

The rain keeps falling, so the wildflowers continue to bloom.



Wildflower Web Resources

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

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

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



Javier Gonzalez, owner of **JAGO Frames** in Morgan Hill makes custom frames and mats for very reasonable prices.

He's good. He's fast. He's local.

And he gives a 10% discount to MHPC members

Call 408-665-5441

Matting & Framing Workshop

Offered through
Morgan Hill
Community Adult
School

\$35

Thursdays:

May 13 & 20

6:30 - 8:30pm

<http://www.adult-edreg.com/morgan-hill/>

(408) 201-5525

2010

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, 5 May

General Meeting

“Shootout at the Still Life Corral”

Bring your camera & tripod for a hands-on experience.

7 - 9pm CRC



Saturday, 8 May

Shootout

San Jose Rose Garden

Friday, 21 May

“Life in Our Valley”

Artists' Reception

Morgan Hill House

6:30 - 8:30pm



Friday, 21 May - 27 June

“Life in Our Valley” Gallery Show

Villa Mira Monte

Morgan Hill House Hours

Fridays: Noon - 3pm

Saturdays: 10am - 1pm

Saturday, 5 June

Shootout at Hakone Japanese Gardens,
Saratoga

Saturday, 10 July

Shootout at Natural Bridges State Park
Santa Cruz

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