



"IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

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

September 2011



Editor

Susan Brazelton
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September Meeting

A New Member Orientation, held before the general meeting, brought in members who wanted to learn more about how to make the most of their membership. Members of the Executive Board reviewed how to participate in shoot-outs, Focus Groups, gallery shows, Flickr Theme Projects, and community service projects. Each person received a resource guide with instructions for joining Flickr and Yahoo, and navigating the website.

As usual, the general meeting started with the ever-popular print sharing session.



Thoughts from the President:

People often ask me if, when I started the club, I had any idea how big it would become. I must admit that I did not envision a club with over a hundred members, and with such a significant presence in the community. At the first meeting of twenty-one people, *"the most common reasons cited for wanting to join a photography club were: to connect with those who share an interest in photography; to learn from more experienced photographers; to join with others on photographic excursions; to meet people who might appreciate looking at their photos; and to forge new friendships."* (taken from the first newsletter in April 2008) These initial expectations laid the foundation for the club and continue to guide its growth. The club has evolved into a unique photographic community which I am very proud to have played a part.

“Low Light and Night Photography” by Guest Speaker Don Smith

No photographer need be afraid of the dark again. With a tripod, cable release, and a bit of pre-planning, photographs from dawn to dusk are possible with just about any camera. Don gave the audience of over sixty-five members and guests the tips and information needed to: make photographs during twilight; shoot the full moon and crescent moon; capture pin-point stars; and allow star trails to shine through. His presentation included much more information than can be included here. This is a partial recap of some of the points Don stressed.



Twilight is that time in the morning before the sun has risen and in the evening after it has set, while the sky still has sufficient light. This is an especially good time to photograph because the range of light is approximately six stops, which is within the dynamic range that most DSLR camera sensors can record. During twilight the light is even enough to capture a full range of tonal values, recording detail at all points on the spectrum.

“Rarely do I go out looking for a subject. I chase light and color.”

The best time to photograph a rising **full moon** is the evening before the moon is 100% full. It will rise during twilight, so the moon, the sky and the terrain are all within the six stops of light mentioned above. A second opportunity is the morning after the full moonrise, when the moon sets during morning twilight.

When photographing a **crescent moon**, which sets the same time as the sun, Don suggests metering on the sky to create a silhouette of the chosen, hopefully interestingly shaped, foreground. The lack of detail in the sliver of moon light will not be a problem in the final image.

To get **pin-point stars** in constellations and the Milky Way, use a wide angle lens and a large aperture, then set the ISO high enough to keep the shutter speed under thirty seconds.

500 Rule for Pin-Point Stars
500 Divided by Focal Length* = Shutter Speed
*35mm equivalent

To capture **star trails** in a single shot requires an exposure of five to twenty-five minutes. The longer the exposure, the longer the trails. Exposures of this length could introduce noise (random, colored pixels). *Long Exposure Noise Reduction* will help, but it will also cause a “black-out” period that will last as long as the exposure. The camera must remain on, but no additional photos can be taken during the black-out.

Another method for capturing long star trails is to take a series of three to five minute exposures, with a one second interval between each, and then in post processing, blend them into one image. Include the North Star (Polaris) in the frame and all the trails will circle around it.

For all star photographs: choose a moonless night; be aware of artificial light that might creep into the exposure; look for a foreground element that will add interest and a sense of depth; use AF to focus on a far-away element, then switch to manual focus, and without changing the zoom, re-compose on the stars. Practice in a closet until you can work your camera controls in the dark. **Don’s Contacts:**



- Website: <http://www.donsmithphotography.com/>
- Face Book: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Don-Smith-Photography/371422548082>
- Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/15972779@N04/>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/shrkshttr>
- Photo Blog: <http://donsmithphotography.aminus3.com/>

An invitation from



Aperture Academy™
FEATURING STEPHEN W. OACHS

Please join us on Friday, October 7th, from 6-9pm
for a wine and cheese party
1875 S Bascom Ave Suite 600 Campbell CA 95008
Gallery: (408) 369-8585

Presentations from our master photographer Stephen W Oachs and our Adobe certified instructor Scott Donschikowski with a Q&A session to follow
Come experience our beautiful 4000 square foot fine art photography gallery and classroom with the latest in photographic software!

Meet fellow photography enthusiasts from the Bay Area and beyond!

Free Raffle with Prizes!

Special discounts on workshops and classes!

RSVP via email to kristen@apertureacademy.com

Beginners Only

This is number two in a series of short, instructional articles intended to help those who are just getting started in photography.

Understanding the Histogram

A histogram is a two dimensional graph that represents the range of tones in an image. The horizontal axis shows the extent of tones, from pure black on the left to pure white on the right. The vertical axis shows how many pixels have each particular tonal value.

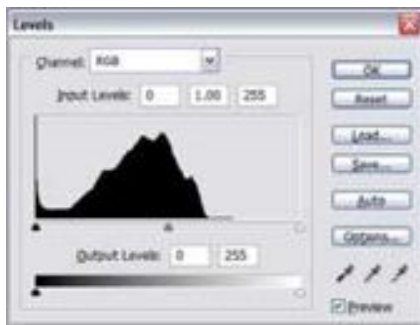
The histogram is a much more accurate method of assessing exposure than looking at the image on the LCD monitor.

There is no such thing as a perfect histogram. It simply indicates how an image is exposed, allowing the photographer to decide whether - and how - to adjust the exposure settings. With a picture of snow, the pixels will be correctly bunched toward the left; with a silhouette, they will be stacked up against the right.

If you want an image that has detail in both the dark and light areas of the scene, make sure no pixels are stacked up on the far left (dark) or far right (light) of the graph. If the tonal range is greater than your camera sensor can handle (usually 6 to 7 stops), you must decide which is more important: detail in the dark areas (with blown out highlights), or detail in the light area (allowing the dark area to go black).



All pixels are within the sensor's tonal range



Most pixels are in the middle of the tonal range, but the ones clipped on the left indicate a dark area with no detail



Although most pixels are toward the dark side, the small area clipped on the right indicates a blown out highlight.

Member News & News for Members

Welcome to New Members

• **Bob Lasswell** and • **Bonnie Kregear**

2011 Membership: 141

(69 women & 72 men)

Friends of the Morgan Hill Senior Center is presenting their *Harvest Moon Dinner and Casino Night* on Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 5pm until 10pm at Hecker Pass Winery. Mama Mia's is providing a full Italian Dinner. They'll have music, a silent auction and your favorite casino games. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit <http://www.fmhsc.org/harvestmoon.html>

The Senior Center supports our club, let's support the Senior Center

Executive Board		
<p>Susan Brazelton President Newsletter Editor</p>	<p>Dan Gregg Treasurer</p>	<p>Michael Sue BrownKorbel Photo Diva</p>
<p>Noella Vigeant Vice President Program Director</p>	<p>Noel Calvi Membership Chair Marketing Director</p>	<p>Roy Hovey Web Master</p>
<p>Open Position Second Vice President</p>	<p>George Ziegler Web Master PSA Liaison</p>	<p>Pat Stone Molly Gaylord Members-at-large</p>

Show your club spirit
by having the
logo embroidered on
your favorite shirt or
jacket



©Mike Winn

Gallery Show

Twenty-eight members submitted more than seventy photographs for the next gallery show scheduled to start on Friday, 7 October 2011 on the walls of the Senior Center.

You are invited

"Black & White"

Gallery Show Reception

Friday, 14 October 2011

6:00 - 8:00pm

Senior Center Lobby

Meet the artists. See the photos

Enjoy wine & hors d'oeuvres



©Noella Vigeant



©Jerome Sarmiento

Focus Groups Review

Focus Groups are self directing, with the members deciding where and when to meet and how they want to pursue their interest. Each group has a facilitator who is the contact person for the group and helps organize the meetings and activities. If you are interested in joining a Focus Group (must be a member of the club), please contact the facilitator.

Point and Shoot Cameras - Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com

This very active group sets up a field shoot or project every month and then meets to review and critique the photos, exchange ideas, and learn more about the capabilities of their P&S cameras. The project for September is to shoot in a park.

See Point & Shoot photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1605480@N21/>

Next Meeting: Thursday, 13 October 7:00pm at Roy Hovey's house: chessjava@mac.com

Lightroom - George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com



This group explores the many tools and modules in Adobe Lightroom, often watching short instructional videos. Members leave each meeting with new insights, shortcuts and skills for processing their photos.

Next Meetings: Thursday, 16 September & Thursday, 20 October 7:00pm at George's house

Photoshop Elements & Picasa - Bob Smith: rwsjls62@gmail.com

This group will re-start meetings in October.

Macro Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

The macro-ites continue their practice of transforming the micro into the macro. They are in the process of planning a group macro shoot. Time & place: TBA

View macro photos taken by members at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/>

Photographing People - Noella Vigeant: nvigeant@gmail.com

Members continue to explore ways to capture better photographs of people. Contact Noella or Larry Campbell (Larrycam@pacbell.net) to join.

Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

On Sunday, 11 September eleven club members gathered on the side of the road in San Martin to photograph the full moon rise over the eastern foothills and apply some of the lessons from Don Smith's presentation.



©Roy Hovey

Where will the moon rise?

View more photos from this shoot-out at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclubshoot-outs/>
and members' night photos on Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-night-focusgroup/>

Shoot-outs

As you can see from the photos on the previous page, shoot-outs are a perfect opportunity to practice photography in an informal, social, and mutually supportive setting. In addition to a few laughs, members share their knowledge, smartphone apps, and sometimes, their tripods.

World Wide Photo Walk: Saturday, 1 October 5:00pm Meet at BookSmart on Second Street
Scott Kelby's (the Photoshop Guru) Worldwide Photo Walk takes place every year in cities around the world. The objective of this event is to bring together photographers (virtually) to walk a city's streets and photograph. The event is free. Although it is not a requirement of participation, if you want to win one of the many prizes, you must register on the website: <http://worldwidephotowalk.com/>
George Ziegler is leading the walk: George@gwzphotography.com

The shoot-out committee is planning additional shoot-outs in October: one at a local a winery, and one at a pumpkin patch. Details will be announced on the Yahoo Forum.

View photos from all club shoot-outs at:

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

Flickr

Flickr, a photo sharing website, has become the main venue for members to show their photos. In addition to the Flickr site for the monthly theme project photos, and the shoot-out site, four focus groups each have a proprietary site. The sites are all open to public viewing, but only club members may post photos.

More than one hundred and sixty suggestion for the 2012 themes were submitted at the August and September meetings. The first round vote will take place in October, and the final vote at the November meeting.

Remaining 2011 Flickr Themes

September: Out of Town

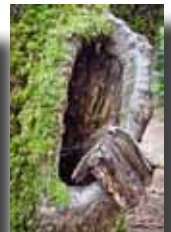
October: Fences

November: Alphabet

December: Seasons

September: "Out of Town" means anywhere that is at least fifty(50) miles from Morgan Hill.

November: "Alphabet" Seek out things (natural or human made) that look like letters of the alphabet; like this **J** or **Q**. A valuable prize will be awarded at the December social to someone who completes the entire alphabet.



"Out of Town"



©David Fritts



©Marty Cheek



©Duane Middlebusher



©Bob Thompson



©Diane Rocha

Next Meeting
Wednesday, 5 October 2011
Centennial Recreation Senior Center
7:00 - 9:00

Print Critique
with Photographic Society of America (PSA) Judge
Betty Toepfer

Members may submit up to three prints for critical review
In general the commentator will speak to the impact, composition
& technical proficiency of each image.

The critique is designed to be a learning experience, with an
emphasis on how images might be improved.

Prints must be mounted or matted.

Minimum size is 8x10. Maximum is 16x20 (including mat)
\$1 per print submitted

Pre-Meeting Swap Meet
6:00 - 6:45

Gather your extra photographic equipment to
Buy, Sell &/or Donate

Cameras, Bags, Tripods, Monopods, Filters, Lenses, Books, Accessories

Tables will be set up in the room for displays.

Please place a card with your name and the price next to each item.

If you want your items listed in a pre sale inventory, send the information
(item, brand, model, general condition, and price)

to Noël: Have_camera.Will_travel@yahoo.com

by 6:00pm on Friday, 30 September

All transactions are strictly between the buyer and seller. The club assumes no responsibility



December Social
Wednesday, 7 December 2011

The last meeting of the year is a

BIG Party

Awards, Door Prizes, Food (Lots of Food), Wine, Music, & Merrymaking



September/October Calendar

Thursday, 15 September 7:00pm

Lightroom Focus Group Meeting

Meet at George Ziegler home

George@gwzphotography.com

Saturday, 1 October 5:00pm - 8:00pm

World Wide Photo Walk

Meet at BookSmart

George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com

(See page 6)

Monday, 3 October 7:00pm

Shoot-out Committee Meeting

Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

Wednesday, 5 October 6:00 - 6:45

Pre Meeting Swap Meet

(See page 7)

Wednesday, 5 October 7:00 - 9:00

General Meeting

Print Critique (See page 7)

Friday, 7 October

“Black & White” Gallery Show Opens

CRC Senior Center

Friday, 7 October 6:00 - 9:00pm

Aperture Academy Wine & Cheese Party

(See page 3)

Wednesday, 12 October 7:00pm

Executive Board Meeting

Senior Center Lobby

Thursday, 13 October 7:00pm

Point & Shoot Focus Group Meeting

Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com

Roy Hovey: chessjava@mac.com

Friday, 14 October 6:00 - 8:00pm

Gallery Show Reception

Senior Center Lobby

Saturday, 22 October 5:00 - 10:00pm

Harvest Moon Dinner & Casino Night

Hecker Pass Winery

(See page 4)

Thursday, 20 October 7:00pm

Lightroom Focus Group Meeting

Meet at George Ziegler home

George@gwzphotography.com

Contact **Javier Gonzalez** for all your matting and framing needs.

JAGO Frames

408-665-5441

He's fast. He's good.

He's local &

MHPC members receive a 10% discount

Yahoo Group Forum

We encourage every member to join the Yahoo Forum. Just go to the site and click on, “Join” You will need a Yahoo ID, 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. Only club members may join the site and see the messages and files.

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