



"In Focus"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

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

July
2011



Editor

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July Meeting

What is it about the print sharing session that makes it a popular segment of every meeting?

- Is it because photographers like to show-off their work?
- Is it because photographers like to talk about photography with other photographers?
- Is it because photographers like to see the work of other photographers?
- Is it because it is an enjoyable social experience?

What do you think?



President's Message:

During the first year of the club's existence, I expressed to **Michael Sue BrownKorbel** my concern about low member participation in the monthly Flickr Theme projects. She replied, "Every member will find his or her level of participation, and for some it will be reading the newsletter." (She is the *Photo Diva* for good reason.) I immediately stopped fretting and talked this over with members of the Executive Board. We focused our attention on creating a variety of club activities from which members could choose to participate (or not). Over time, we added online resources, two new venues for gallery shows, six focus groups, and a shoot-out committee to plan photographic outings. "Getting the Most Out of Your Membership" (page 3) will help you decide your personal level of participation.

Susan

Developing Your Creative Eye, Part II

The second half of the two month program, “Developing Your Creative Eye,” started off with a slide show. More than thirty-five members who participated in the June Scavenger Hunt Shoot-in, sent their favorite photos to **George Ziegler** who compiled 171 photos into a ten minute show.



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Three members whose photos have shown a high degree of creativity formed a panel to explore how photographers might expand their creativity. **Alex Curtis**, **Satu Viitanen** and **Noella Vigeant** all emphasized that knowing the “rules” for making a significant photograph (such as compelling subject, dramatic color, repeating patterns, odd number of objects, interesting shapes, diagonal lines, and the oft-quoted ‘rule of thirds’) should be known so they can be followed or purposefully and creatively broken. Using photos from the slide show to illustrate their points, they showed examples of humor, simplicity, creative focus, abstract design, leading lines, and odd angles. When asked for specific steps a person might take to increase his/her creative eye, They suggested:



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- Move out of your comfort zone by shooting new subjects and locations
- Assign yourself projects
- Learn to manipulate focus, depth of field, and shutter speed.
- Progress in small steps, mastering one technique then adding another, and another.
- Get out and shoot as often as possible.
- Practice subtraction, taking out anything that does not enhance the main subject.
- When you are attracted to a subject, ask yourself, “What can I do to make this more interesting?”



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Impact is the effect or influence a photo has on the viewer. If you want your photos to go beyond snapshots or simple documentation



of a place or subject, you must strive to increase their impact. According to **Carole Kropscot** in the June issue of **PSA Journal**, “Impact is what makes a photo instantly appealing and memorable.” Next time you are out shooting, after taking the usual portrait shot, try “working” your chosen subject by exploring composition options. **Gary Hart** mentioned back in February that he does not bracket for exposure, he brackets for composition by moving in (or zooming) to fill the frame with an interesting aspect, or changing the angle of view from eye level (ordinary) to very low and looking up (unusual). Try including just a portion of the subject in the frame. As you continue to work the subject, think about how you might create a mood with your photograph, such as mysterious, peaceful, or dangerous. Play with depth of field: shallow will help the main subject stand out. Fiddle with exposure, possibly turning the subject, or a portion of it, into an abstract silhouette. After uploading, look through the results to see which photos are the most appealing; which ones hold your attention or provoke an emotional reaction. When you’re finished, go to a new location, find a new subject, and repeat all of the above.

Member News

Welcome to

(New Member) **Beth Gardner** and (Returning Member) **Barbara Dawson**

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

Web Master
PSA Liaison

Michael Sue BrownKorbel

Photo Diva

Roy Hovey

Web Master

Pat Stone

Molly Gaylord
Members-at-large

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



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Getting the Most Out of Your Membership

Why did you join this photography club? When polled, two reasons pop up most often: the desire to learn more about photography, and an opportunity to hang out with and talk to other photographers. Not every activity and program will appeal to every member, but the club has something to offer everyone. The more you participate, the more you will get out of your membership. Pick and choose as you please. (Items marked with an * are for members only.)

Monthly Meetings: Meetings incorporate several popular features of the club: social involvement, direct communication (announcements and reports), and an educational program. (See page 7)

***Focus Groups:** In addition to providing more in-depth learning of particular aspects of photography, Focus Groups allow members to connect in a small group, informal setting. The members of each focus group determine how often they will meet and the agenda for each meeting. (See page 4 for information on individual focus groups.)

Shoot-outs: A shoot-out provides an opportunity for photographers to expand their field experience by visiting special locations in the company of other photographers. Shoot-out leaders often arrange private access before or after hours to catch the best light and avoid crowds. Shoot-outs are social, educational, and sometimes venturesome. (See page 5)

***Flickr Photo Sharing:** In addition to the print sharing session at each meeting, members may share their photos and view others on the club's several Flickr sites. Join the monthly theme projects by posting up to five photos based on themes chosen by the general membership. The Flickr sites are open to the public, but only members may post photos. (Page 6)

***Gallery Shows:** With three themed gallery shows each year, members have an opportunity to display their best work for all the world (or at least the local community) to see. (See page 6)

***Yahoo Discussion Forum:** On one of the club's most valuable resources, you may ask questions, post answers, debate issues, solve problems, and stay informed on changes to the calendar, spontaneous shoot-outs and upcoming events. <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MHphotoclub/>

Website: Everything a person could possibly want to know about the club is on the website; including information on meetings, events, shoot-outs, focus groups, and gallery shows; resource documents, archived newsletters, and links to members' personal websites and blogs; and of course, numerous photographs. <http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org/>

In Focus: This newsletter is issued the third week of every month as an email attachment. It is designed to be a means of communication, a resource, a learning tool, and an enjoyable read. (See pages 1 - 8)

***Executive Board:** Have ideas for the future of the club or activities you'd like to see offered? Join the board which meets the second Wednesday of the month to plan the meetings and activities that will meet the needs of the members. Every meeting includes at least one flurry of fun and laughter.

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 group usually meets twice a month: first for a field shoot and then again to review and critique the photos, exchange ideas, and learn more about the capabilities of the cameras. In July the group's focus was the Fourth of July Parade and fireworks display.



©Cathy Cassidy



©Roy Hovey



©Eric Stetson



©SBrazelton



©Dan Gregg

See more of this group's photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1605480@N21/>

Their next outing is to Kelly Park Zoo on Thursday, 11 August starting at 1:00pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, 11 August 7:00pm

Lightroom - George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com

In its monthly meetings, this group continues its exploration of 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 Meeting: Thursday, 18 August 7:00PM at George's house

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

This group is on summer hiatus.

Next Meeting: TBA - Contact Bob

Macro Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltm@garlic.com

The macro-ites continue their practice of transforming the micro into the macro. Their July project is to interpret "Americana" through a macro lens. View macro photos taken by members at:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/>

Photographing People - Noella Vigeant: nvigeant@gmail.com

In June, members took individual portraits of some of Morgan Hill's senior citizens. This community service project served the dual purpose of providing practice for the photographers and unique gifts for more than thirty seniors. Members are tentatively planning a trip to the Renaissance Faire in September.

The group has a private website to view and critique photos.

Next Meeting: TBA

Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltm@garlic.com

What better way to practice night photography than a hometown fireworks display?



©Lance Trott



©Dan Gregg



Join this group for a sunset to midnight shoot on Fremont Peak, Saturday, 30 July

To view more night photos go to: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-night-focusgroup/>

Shoot-outs

Summer is a busy time for photographers; so much to see and so many opportunities.



Filoli Garden: On a Thursday afternoon in June, shoot-out committee member **Molly Gaylord** led nine people to Filoli Garden in Woodside to take advantage of an after hours access program for artists who want to paint, sketch and photograph without the distraction of the day-time throng of visitors. A plethora of photographic opportunities, including macro, scenic, architecture, and creative, greeted the group.



Back: Cheryl, Sandra, John
Front: Molly, George, Susan
Missing: Linda, Allan



Fourth of July: View member photos of the festivities, including fireworks on the club's dedicated Morgan Hill Fourth of July Flickr site: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/morganhill4thofjuly/>



Gizdich Ranch: After meeting at Starbucks at 6:30am, the caravan headed over Hecker Pass to Gizdich Ranch in Watsonville, landing participants in photographic overload. Farm equipment, antiques, junk, apple orchards, a strawberry patch, tomato rows, olala berries, flowers, and scenic vistas were among the photographic options. Group leader **Alex Curtis** had arranged two hours of pre-opening, private access under an optimal, overcast sky. Conditions were perfect and the pies were delicious (so I'm told).



View photos from all club shoot-outs at:
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclubshoot-outs/>

Upcoming Shoot-outs

Fremont Peak: Saturday, 30 July 7:45 - Midnight (Carpool leaving MH at 6:45pm)
Photograph the sunset & then the planets, constellations, and Milky Way
More information is on the Yahoo Forum or Contact George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com

Kelly Park Zoo: Thursday, 11 August 1:00 Join the Point & Shoot Focus Group
'cause, "it's all happening at the zoo." Dan Gregg: dwgsvm@aol.com

San Jose Jazz Festival: Sunday, 14 August Meeting time & Place TBA
Ed Honesto: ed@mastertractor.com

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.

Remaining 2011 Flickr Themes

July: City Lights

August: Street Scenes
September: Out of Town
October: Fences
November: Alphabet
December: Seasons



©Dan Gregg



©Roy Hovey



©Linda Tyson



©Duane Middlebush

BLACK & WHITE

Gallery Show

The next gallery show, "**Black & White**," will be held at the Senior Center starting on 7 October and running through 27 November 2011. All members are encouraged to submit their photos.

Please don't think that your photos are not good enough to put on display. They are! We want each gallery exhibit to showcase the diverse experience and talents of our members. Your photos will add a unique perspective that will increase the interest and variety of the show. For this show subject matter is at the whim of the photographer, as long as it is rendered in black and white and shades of gray. The call for works with all the details on how to submit, will go out in early August, but just to give you a heads up: the **submission deadline is Sunday, 11 September.**

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

JAGO Frames
408-665-5441

He's fast. He's good.
He's local
and
MHPC members receive a
10% discount

The latest issue (August 2011) of

Outdoor Photographer

is a

"Black & White Special"

with featured articles

"Shades of Wildlife"

"Why Choose Black & White?"

"The Making of Compelling Black & White Images"

and

"Printers for Black & White"

Just Published!

Clean Energy Nation

Freeing America from the Tyranny of Fossil Fuels
co-authored by Jerry McNerney and our own **Marty Cheek**

We are very proud to have booked two outstanding professional photographers (& workshop leaders) as speakers for the August and September meetings.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 3 August 2011

7:00pm

Centennial Recreation Center (CRC)

“Ten Tip for Taking Better Photographs”

and

“Less is More”

by guest speaker

Stephen Oachs

founder of Aperture Academy

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

Stephen was recognized in 2007 as wildlife photographer of the year by the National Wildlife Federation and was awarded best nature photographer in 2008 by National Geographic.

<http://www.apertureacademy.com/instructor-stephen-oachs.php>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StephenOachsPhotos>

**In September
Professional Photographer**

Don Smith

will return as a guest speaker

“Low Light & Night Photography”

His presentation will include how to photograph

dawn and dusk light,

the moon,

using light painting

and how to capture pinpoint stars and star trails.

Don is a prominent workshop leader, writer, & landscape photographer, & is the official photographer for the San Jose Sharks.

You can learn more about Don on his

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

July/August/September Calendar

Thursday, 21 July 7:00pm
Lightroom Focus Group Meeting

Meet at George Ziegler home
George@gwzphotography.com

Saturday, 30 July 7:45pm - Midnight

Night Shoot-out at Fremont Peak
(See page 5)

Wednesday, 3 August 7:00pm

General Meeting CRC
Guest Speaker Stephen Oachs
"Ten Tips for Better Photography"
(See page 7)

Wednesday, 10 August 7:00pm

Executive Board Meeting
Senior Center Lobby

Thursday, 11 August 1:00pm

Shoot-out at Kelly Park
Join members of the Point & Shoot Focus Group
Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com

Thursday, 11 August 7:00pm

Point & Shoot Focus Group Meeting
Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com

Sunday, 14 August

San Jose Jazz Festival Shoot-out
Time & Place: TBA
Contact Ed Honesto: ed@mastertractor.com

Wednesday, 7 September 7:00pm

General Meeting
Guest Speaker Don Smith
"Low Light & Night Photography"
(See page 7)

Sunday, 11 September 9:00pm

Submission Deadline for
"Black & White" Gallery Show

Wednesday, 14 September 7:00pm

Executive Board Meeting
Senior Center Lobby

Check the Yahoo Forum
for last minute changes & additions to the calendar

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

Next Gallery Show

"Black & White"

7 October - 28 November 2011
Centennial Recreation Senior Center

Submission Deadline
Sunday, 11 September 2011

Details will be sent out in August

Bay Area News Group Photo Contest

"Share the most amazing sight from your vacation"
Winners will be printed in the Travel Section of the
San Jose Mercury News on Sunday, 2 October
For complete rules & entry instructions, go to:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/travel/
ci_18224321?nclick_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/travel/ci_18224321?nclick_check=1)

Entry deadline is 16 September 2011

Photo Contest Directory

<http://proofpositive.com/contests/photocontests.php>

Before submitting photos to any contest, read the fine print about copyrights.
A contest may not be worth it if you are made to give up the rights to your photos.

Only you can decide.