



"IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club
<http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org/>

**August
2011**



Editor
Susan Brazelton
brzlttn@garlic.com

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Better
Photography**

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August Meeting



Thoughts from the President:

I was once accused of seeing the world only through a viewfinder. I say, "accused," because the statement was meant as a criticism; that the taking of photographs was limiting my vision. I disagree. I believe that photography has expanded my vision of the world. I now see so much more than I used to. I am certainly more conscious of light: its intensity, its source, and its color. I notice differences in color. Years ago, in the spring, I saw green and thought it lovely. Now I detect the subtle nuance of shade. New growth green is lighter and brighter. Whereas before I saw the whole landscape, I now notice the details that augment the grand view. I see patterns everywhere that previously I would have missed. And I now pay attention to the small world around me. Through a macro lens, I have peered into, and been dazzled by the complex and curious inner world of a flower, and I have admired the labor a bee covered in yellow dots of pollen.

So, contrary to the critical opinion of my friend, my interest in photography has not only substantially expanded my view of the world, it has heightened my appreciation of it.

You are invited to submit your thoughts on how photography has affected you to this editor: brzlttn@garlic.com

Guest Speaker Stephen Oachs



Award winning professional photographer and founder of Aperture Academy, **Stephen Oachs** kept a record breaking audience of seventy-six members and guests focused on how he photographs wildlife and landscapes.

Before launching into his **Ten Tips for Capturing Better Photos**, he emphasized that there is no right or wrong photograph; there is an exception to every

rule; there is more than one way to approach photography; and each photographer should find and develop his/her own style. He shoots with a Canon 1Ds Mark III for landscapes, and a 1D Mark III for wildlife (with a very big lens attached).



Wildlife:



©Mike Winn

1. The eyes must be in focus for the photo to work. "If you miss the eyes, you've missed the shot."
2. Use a telephoto lens to stay a safe distance, and to fill the frame with the subject. (If you have to crop later, you lose pixels.)
3. Set a wide aperture to isolate the subject against a shallow depth of field (DOF), but not too shallow. Keep the whole animal in focus.
4. To calculate minimum shutter speed (to nullify camera movement), multiply the focal length of the lens by two (100mm lens = 1/200 shutter speed).
5. The use of a flash can fill in shadows and add a glint to the animal's eye, but it should be used with caution. It can add unnatural light to the scene.
6. Spend some time researching rather than shooting. Plan ahead. Study the weather. Scout locations. Know where the sun is going to rise and set. Learn about the animal and its habitat.
7. Visualize solid compositions: use the rule of thirds; include leading lines, shoot at the animal's eye level, catch the eye.
8. Anticipate behavior. (See #6) Shoot with both eyes open, one for the viewfinder and one to see what is happening outside the viewfinder.
9. Use a tripod. Stephen said that he noticed a marked improvement in his images when he started to consistently use a tripod.
10. Less is more. Isolate important detail. Eliminate distractions. Within the frame, look at more than just the main subject. Be aware of the direction of light, depth of field, and colors. Think about the story you want to tell with the photo.

Landscapes:

1. Always use a tripod.
2. Include foreground details to add interest and lead the eye to more distant elements, such as a bridge crossing to a cityscape.
3. Leading lines don't have to be obvious. They can be subtle shapes that guide the eye through the frame.
4. Aperture comes first. Focus one third of the distance into the scene. (This is an approximation of hyperfocal distance.) A very high aperture often results in soft corners. The distance (from the camera) of the foreground elements determines aperture.



(continued on next page)

BOKEH

A slang term for a blurred background

Stephen Oachs cont.

5. Avoid overlapping elements.
6. Change the perspective. Show the subject in a way most people don't see it, like looking straight up.
6. Add a person or object of known size to give a sense of scale.
7. A graduated neutral density filter is a powerful tool used to balance a bright sky with a darker landscape.
8. Do your research. Check weather reports, sunrise/sunset, moonrise/moonset times, and tide schedules. Many mobile apps can give you this information.
9. Study photos others have taken by looking on Flickr and Google Images.
10. For locations you have never been to before, hire a guide or sign up for a workshop.

**Aperture Academy is a combination of photography school,
fine art gallery, and event venue that offers
on-location photography workshops, classes & more.**

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

Meeting Feedback

After each meeting, on the Yahoo Forum the executive board asks members to post feedback/comments on the program. This helps the board to know if the program met the expectations of the members (or not), and it helps in planning future programs.

The August meeting generated a lively discussion, and one of the issues raised was the amount of time that is set for each month's program. Stephen Oachs did not finish until 9:25pm, and a few suggested that the print share session be cut back to allow more time for the speaker. We are reluctant to do this since for many members, print share is one of the most popular parts of each meeting.

We do have flexibility in the business portion of the meeting and have often cut it back to allow more time for a program. If a speaker indicates that he/she needs more than an hour, we can accommodate.

Speakers try to gauge the pace of their presentation so it fits within the time constraints of the meeting, but the number and complexity of the questions from the audience is always an unknown.

It is important that we end the meetings on time, both for the members and guests who have to get up early the next morning, and for the CRC staff who cannot get into the room to re-set the tables until we are out.

Beginners Only

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

Digital Vocabulary

PIXEL: a word derived from PIX (for pictures) and EL (element). It is a tiny square that is the smallest area of a picture with a distinctive color.

MEGAPIXEL: One million pixels

OPTICAL ZOOM: Enlarges the center of the image, making a small area look bigger, and far-away objects look closer.

DIGITAL ZOOM: Crops the picture in real-time and only records the pixels near the middle. In other words, it takes a few pixels and blows them up. It will result in loss of detail and subjects will look out-of-focus. Don't use it.

APERTURE: The variable opening in the lens that allows light to enter the camera. A bigger number means a smaller opening because the number is actually the denominator of a fraction. f16 (one sixteenth) is a smaller number and opening than f8 (one eighth).

SHUTTER SPEED: The length of time the aperture is open, measured in fractions of a second, (200 means one two hundredth of a second), and on up to usually 30 seconds.

BULB: For shutter speeds longer than thirty seconds, Bulb allows the shutter to stay open as long as the release button is depressed.

Member News & News for Members

Welcome to New Members

- **Joseph Frankina** • **Jerome Sarmiento** • **Archie Kregear**
- and Returning Members
- **Elise Alexander** • **Jeff Bentz**



Dan Gregg has joined the Executive Board as the club's treasurer.

Susan Brazelton is a newly appointed member of the
Morgan Hill Library, Culture, and Arts Commission

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

“Breaking the Sound Barrier”

A free multicultural extravaganza of music and dance
Sunday, 4 September 2011
3:30pm to 8:00pm
CCC Outdoor Amphitheater

Pack your picnic basket and gather your friends and family for a musical and dance adventure around the world, featuring...
 Latin, Jazz, Irish and Indian performers.
 Big Band Swing

Sandoshinn Taiko Drums, Yamamoto Hula Ohana and Far East Dragon Lion Dance

If you'd like to photograph this event, contact Susan (brzltn@garlic.com) because now that she is on the LCAC commission, she has access to on-stage and back stage passes.

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

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



©Mike Winn

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. In August, several members visited Happy Hollow Zoo and the Japanese Tea Garden in San Jose.



©Roy Hovey



©Dan Gregg



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

The group project for August is to photograph in a park

Next Meeting: Thursday, 8 September 7:00pm

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, 18 August & 15 September 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: 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



©Archie Kregear



©Myatt Rodney



©Linda Tyson

View more 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. This group has a private website to view and critique photos.

Next Meeting: TBA

Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

Next Shoot-out: The rise of the Harvest Moon on Sunday, 11 September 2011.

Time & Place: TBA

Read about the night shoot-out on Fremont Peak on the next page.

View members' night photos on Flickr: <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.



Star light, star bright...

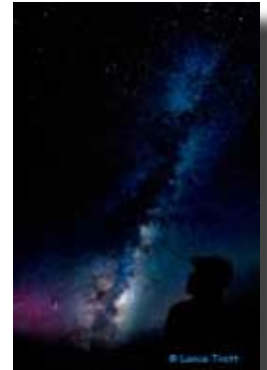
Every once in awhile, on dark, moonless nights, the observatory atop Fremont Peak stays open until midnight for amateur astronomers, and photographers who like to play in the dark. Nine members ventured up the mountain to first catch the sunset and then photograph stars, planets, constellations, a galaxy, and each other.



©Andrea Bazely



©Duane Middlebusher



©Lance Trott

Happy Hollow Zoo & Japanese Tea Garden



View photos from all club shoot-outs at:

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

Shoot-outs are an enjoyable way for members to visit local, photogenic places, get to know each other better, learn from each other, and sometimes to act a bit silly. Over the course of the year, shoot-outs are scheduled for different days of the week and at different times to accommodate as many schedules as possible. If you haven't been on one, you are missing out on a valuable learning and social experience. You are invited....

Upcoming Shoot-outs

- Full Moon Rising: Sunday, 11 September 2011 Time & Place TBA
- World Wide Photo Walk: Saturday, 1 October, Downtown Morgan Hill
5:00 - 8:00 pm Meet at BookSmart (Check Yahoo Message #884 for details)

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

August: Street Scenes

September: Out of Town

October: Fences

November: Alphabet

December: Seasons

At the August meeting we started the process for choosing the 2012 themes. Over one hundred and fifty suggestions were turned in. If you missed this meeting, you may turn in your suggestions at the September meeting. The first round vote will take place in October, and the final vote at the November meeting.

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 a letter of the alphabet; like this **S** found at Happy Hollow, and this **Y** spotted in Virginia snow.

A valuable prize will be awarded at the December social to someone who completes the entire alphabet.



Gallery Show

"Black & White"

A call for photographs has gone out (via email) for the next gallery show, "**Black & White**," which will be held at the Senior Center from 7 October through 28 November 2011. All members are encouraged to submit up to four (4) 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. **Submission deadline is 6:00pm on Sunday, 11 September.** Photos must be submitted electronically (attached to an email) for consideration. Please refer to the "*Exhibition Rules*" that was attached to the email sent on 15 August 201, and can be found under "Files" on the Yahoo Forum.

You are invited

**Gallery Show
Reception
Saturday,
14 October**

6:00 - 8:00pm

**Senior Center
Lobby**

Meet the artists

See the photos

**Enjoy wine &
hors d'oeuvres**



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 Creative Corner with j johnny

Webspirational blogging – or how to use a few of the many photography blogs to provide a spark of inspiration.

First set this article on your computer screen so you easily click the hyperlinks to follow along on this web walk.

Let's begin with a site that is an aggregator – this site puts many of the photography blogs on one page. The day this article was being written there were well over 200 blog sites on this page. It lists the blogs in order of popularity, i.e. web traffic. We will explore three sites listed on this page. The chosen sites were each unknown to me. The choice of a site was made by how interesting I thought the title of the site or a listed article might be.

Please click this link to go to the Alltop aggregator site for photography <http://photography.alltop.com/>. As you can see quite a long list of sites.

Since the articles listed under each of the blog sites are likely to have changed since the time of this writing, we will click on the blog site titles to seek some inspiration. Rather than your trying to locate each of these blog titles on the aggregator page you will find it significantly easier to **click the provided links**.

Our first stop on, this page has the simple yet catchy title “Improve Photography”. <http://improvephotography.com/> Two articles on the Improve Photography site by Jim Harmer caught my eye: “*How to Make Great Photos in Boring Locations*” <http://improvephotography.com/1493/how-to-take-great-photos-in-boring-locations/> and “*30 Tips for Stunning Sunset Photography*” <http://improvephotography.com/416/30-tips-sunset-photography/> Both articles offer good ideas on how to explore methods that will improve your ability to see the image you want to capture.

While the blog site “EPhotozine” did little to capture my eye, this title did “*Top Reflection Photography Tips*” http://www.ephotozine.com/article/top-reflection-photography-tips-17049?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Ephotozine+%2ePHOTOzine%29 The article provided some good tips that will inspire future images of ripples, puddles and wind.

Our last stop on this web walk is the blog site titled “PhotoNaturalist” <http://photonaturalist.net/> This caught my attention as the articles listed indicated that this was a site aimed at nature photography. Here are two articles to whet your appetite. The first is “*What to do When You Need Inspiration*” http://photonaturalist.net/what-to-do-when-you-need-inspiration/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+photonaturalist+%28PhotoNaturalist%29 The second article is “*How to Get Sharp Photos of Birds in Flight*” <http://photonaturalist.net/how-to-get-sharp-photos-of-birds-in-flight/>

As you have seen from this somewhat random walk there are many ways to catch some inspiration, from viewing images to reading about techniques, to visualizing an image, etc. What they all have in common are you, the image maker. Add to that your drive for more enjoyment of your process, and the constant improvement of your power of observation/ability to see the image.

Improving your photography requires you to improve your ability to see. That constant improvement in seeing is set upon a foundation that you know how to use your camera to achieve a desired outcome. If you can see in your mind's eye the image you want and the resultant image is less than desired, the source of the difference is often knowledge of your camera, including its limitations.

Please note that if you found a few of those blogs useful, you can set up your own Alltop page to show only the blogs of your choosing. Go explore the aggregator page and find something to give you a spark.

Until next time, stay well,

New Member Orientation

Before the start of the
September Meeting

6:00 - 6:45

All members are invited

Learn how to get involved in club activities, including shoot-outs,
community projects, focus groups, gallery shows & more...

Learn how to use our online resources.
(Flickr, Yahoo & the website)

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7 September 2011

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/>

Coming in October

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

\$1 per print submitted

Swap Meet

Before the
October Meeting
6:00 - 6:45

Gather your extra
photographic
equipment for the
2nd swap meet of 2011

Buy, Sell &/or Donate

August/September/October Calendar

Thursday, 18 August 7:00pm
Lightroom Focus Group Meeting

Meet at George Ziegler home
George@gwzphotography.com

Saturday, 4 September, 3:30 - 8:00pm

“Breaking the Sound Barrier”
CCC Outdoor Amphitheater
(See page 4)

Wednesday, 7 September

Pre-meeting New Member Orientation
6:00 - 6:45
General Meeting 7:00 - 9:00
Guest Speaker Don Smith
“Low Light & Night Photography”
(See page 9)

Thursday, 8 September 7:00pm
Point & Shoot Focus Group Meeting

Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com

Sunday, 11 September 6:00pm

Submission Deadline for
“Black & White” Gallery Show
(See page 7)

Sunday, 11 September
Rise of the Full Moon Shoot-out

Time & Place: TBA
Susan Brazelton: brzltm@garlic.com

Monday, 12 September 7:00pm
Galley Show Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 14 September 7:00pm
Executive Board Meeting
Senior Center Lobby

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)

Friday, 7 October
“Black & White” Gallery Show Opens
CRC Senior Center

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)

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/>