



# "IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the  
Morgan Hill Photography Club

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

**April  
2012**



Editor  
Susan Brazelton  
[brzltn@garlic.com](mailto:brzltn@garlic.com)

**Print  
Critique**

Page 2

**Group Photos**

Page 3

**Shoot-outs**

Page 4/5

**Focus Groups**

Page 6

**Digital Shoebox**

Page 7

**"Garden Party"  
Artists'  
Reception**

Page 9

## April Meeting

### Print Share

Seventy-four people filled the room with expectant energy, eager to meet with other photographers and share a photograph. Thirty minutes of round-robin print sharing continues to be one of the most popular elements of the general meetings. Look at all the smiles!



### March Featured Photographer: Larry Campbell



Larry's photographs showed his love of family and his sense of humor. Did you see his "Mona Lisa?"

### New Member Orientation

Before the meeting, the executive board met with new members to describe the many activities, opportunities, and resources the club has to offer. The next NMO will be in October.



## Print Critique



**Photographic Society of America (PSA)** judge, **Betty Toepfer**, scrutinized forty photographs submitted by members, commenting on overall impact, composition, and technical proficiency. The critique, which is offered twice a year, is designed to be a learning experience with an emphasis on how images can be improved. All in attendance benefited from viewing the photos (which were placed in a light box and projected onto the big screen), and hearing the comments.

Betty says...

- The main subject must be in sharp focus.
- What ever is closest to the camera should be in focus.
- With animals, the eyes must be in focus.
- A blurred background will make the main subject “pop.”
- Diagonal lines add drama to a composition. Lines can be literal or implied.
- Repetition of elements (lines, shadows, color, etc.) adds interest.
- Be aware of the background. Clutter and bright spots are distracting.
- Allowing space around the subject gives the viewer’s eyes a chance to rest.
- Crop out (preferably while composing the shot) anything that detracts from the main subject.
- Give the subject room to move by allowing more space in the direction the subject is facing.
- Including habitat will give context to an animal photo.
- Be careful of a centered horizon. If the sky shows a lot of drama, move the horizon toward the lower half of the frame. If the foreground is more interesting, move the horizon to the top half.
- A good landscape photo has an interesting foreground, middle ground, and background, but they don’t have to be given equal space.
- Placing a subject off center (remember Rule of Thirds?) usually adds interest to the composition.
- If the composition holds multiple subjects, don’t let them overlap. Make sure each has its own space. You may have to change your position to accomplish this.
- To get a unique photo, try a different perspective: get lower or higher or shoot from an angle.
- Complimentary colors are usually most pleasing. Check a color wheel to know what they are.
- The most dramatic color combinations are orange & blue and red & green.
- A pop of color (especially red) can give life to a photo if it compliments the main subject.
- A leading line pulls the viewer’s eye into the photo and guides it to the subject.
- Evoking an emotion is difficult, but fog, storm clouds, mist, and/or darkness can add mystery or a feeling of danger. Smoothing waves and waterfalls can create calm.



- Be careful of super saturating colors. Natural tones are usually best.
- Lighter in front and darker in back will add dimension to a photo.
- Making the bottom portion of a photo darker than the top will help ground the composition.
- An odd number of subjects is more interesting than an even number.
- Make sure the subject is worthy of a photo.
- Don’t forget to have fun

## Member News & News for Members

### Welcome to New Members

•Julie Riggs •Scott Isaacs •Sharon Tally

& Returning Member

•Johanna Weber

2012 Membership Total: 140 (so far)

## *Happy Birthday to Us!*

The club celebrated its 4th anniversary with a toast led by **Marty Cheek**



and a group photo of all who attended the meeting.  
(Isn't that how all photographers celebrate?)

**You may read Marty's toast on page 10.**

Thank you to **Molly Gaylord** and her assistants, **Greg Sargent** & **Noël Calvi** for getting the group in place, setting up the lights, and taking the pictures.



### Charter Members

Front Row: Ken Brown, Michael Sue BrownKorb, Don Schneider, Lance Trott, David Fritts. Back Row: David Rosas, Marty Cheek, George Ziegler, Noella Vigeant, Tracey Morris. Missing: Noël Calvi, Sue McElwaine, Judy Kinker, Toby Weiss, Anita Mason

## Shoot-outs

Everything blooms in the spring with renewed life, including photographers. Our seasons seemed backwards this year with a mild winter and a tumultuous spring full of rain, wind, cold, and thunderstorms. But now the hills are green, the poppies are in bloom, and club members are

meeting in the best places to shoot together and learn from each other. Shoot-outs are a perfect opportunity to practice photography in an informal, social, and mutually supportive setting. Leaders often scout locations ahead of time to determine the best sites and the time of optimal light.

### Uvas Canyon County Park, Sunday, 25 March Leader: Alex Curtis

Ten adventurous people hiked the Waterfall Trail to capture the tumbling, swirling flow of Swanson Creek. The waterfalls put on their best performance, thanks to the storm that had passed through over night.



Look closely to see the photographer in each of these photos.

### San Jose@Night Wednesday, 28 March Leaders: Jean Myers & Susan Brazelton

Eleven members met in downtown San Jose for the second of a three-part series of City@Night shoot-outs. Neon lights, reflections, car trails, and a sweet, little crescent moon gave everyone plenty of opportunities to practice night photography.



©Rick Rasmussen



©Barbi Kutilek

### Anderson Lake County Park, Saturday, 7 April Leader: Dan Gregg

The **Point & Shoot Focus Group** invited everyone in the club to join them at the park, but under threat of confiscation, no SLR cameras were allowed. After all, photographers make great photographs, not cameras.



©Roy Hovey



©Roy Hovey



These four found out that if you don't pay the fee, you pay the ticket.



Dinner at Dickey's BBQ topped off the shoot

## Shoot-outs cont...

### Nola's Iris Garden, Saturday, 14 April

Leader: **Sharon Russell**

Located in the east foothills of San Jose, Nola's Iris Garden has the largest bearded iris display garden in the Bay Area. Sharon arranged for early access to the property which offers scenic views from San Jose to San Francisco.



Nola is on the far right



View photos from all club shoot-outs at:

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

### Next Scheduled Shoot-outs:

#### Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, 28 April

Leader: **Barbi Kutilek** [kutilek@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kutilek@ix.netcom.com)

Meet in the parking lot at the end of the road at the Environmental Education Center at 9:30AM. This refuge includes a flat wooden boardwalk through the salt marsh offering close-up encounters with various ducks, geese, and birds. Adjacent to the main Center are native California plants and flower gardens (excellent macro opportunity). **Bring a picnic lunch.**

#### San Francisco@Night, Saturday, 19 May

Leader: **Susan Brazelton**

Third in the three-part series of City@Night Shoot-outs. Meeting time & shoot-out location will be sent out in early May

## Flickr

## "Landscapes"



©Bob Thompson



©Dave Kutilek



©Laura Cunningham



©Brenda Renzulli

## 2012 Themes

May - Rocks

June - Show Motion

July - Paths/Roads

August - Antiques

September - Animals

October - Texture

November - Trees

December - Music

View all the theme photos at:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclub/>

## 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. Focus Groups are a great way to learn more about a specific aspect of photography and to meet with other members in a small group setting. 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](mailto:dwgdvm@aol.com)



©Roy Hovey

There is more to a P&S camera than one might think. Do you know what the small icons stand for or how to navigate the menus? Even if your P&S camera is just a back-up, it would still be wise to learn how to use it to its fullest. Meetings are informal, fun, and informative

View P&S photos on the group's Flickr site:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1605480@N21/>

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 10 May 2012, 7:00PM**

### Lightroom - George Ziegler: [George@gwzphotography.com](mailto:George@gwzphotography.com)

Learn how to use the many tools and modules in Adobe Lightroom. The group often watches short instructional videos, and members share tips and short cuts that help them make full use of the software. The next meeting will explore the new features in Lightroom 4.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 17 May 7:00PM at George's house**



©Rodney Myatt

### Macro Photography - Susan Brazelton: [brzltm@garlic.com](mailto:brzltm@garlic.com)

Want to become a Macro-ite? Join this group to peer into places that most people over look, like the intricate, inside world of a flower, or the eyes of a bug. Every shoot-out offers macro opportunities. Look for **Spring Macros** on the group's Flickr site: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/>

### Photographing People - Noella Vigeant: [nvigeant@gmail.com](mailto:nvigeant@gmail.com)

Learn how to take better family photos and catch the highlight in your grand-child's eyes. Conquer difficult lighting techniques and flash settings. Learn how to fill in shadows and avoid glare. If you enjoy shooting people, this is the group for you.

To join contact Noella or Larry Campbell ([Larrycam@pacbell.net](mailto:Larrycam@pacbell.net))



### Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: [brzltm@garlic.com](mailto:brzltm@garlic.com)

Even if you missed the first two shoot-outs in the three-part "City@Night" series, you are invited to join the night shooters in San Francisco on Saturday, 19 May to shoot special effects like exploding zooms, light trails, and "ghosting" with rear sync flash. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/>

### iPhoneography - Michael Sue BrownKorbel: [mbrownkorbel@yahoo.com](mailto:mbrownkorbel@yahoo.com)

- Barbi Kutilek: [kutilek@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kutilek@ix.netcom.com)



The iPhone has revolutionized photography. If you have one, join this group to learn about the accessories, the apps, and how to get the best possible photographs. See iPhone photos on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1945737@N22/>

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, 9 May 5:30PM at the CRC (Senior Center Lobby)**

## **A Digital Shoebox for Your Old Photos** by *Marty Check*

If you have hundreds of old photos from the pre-digital age of camera technology and you want an easy way to use your smartphone as a scanner to convert them into images you can share online, check out a new San Francisco startup called **1000memories.com**. The company has an iPhone app called ShoeBox that lets you photograph the old snapshot with the camera built into these devices and upload the digitized image to the Internet to share on Facebook and other social media. 1000memories.com is also making a similar app for Android devices.

The ShoeBox app is free. The technology lets you decide whether or not you want your photographs to be private or public, and whether or not you want them to be found using search engines like Google. It's also a great way to archive your images of family and friends taken years ago. Think of all the photographs of vacations, weddings, barbecues and other occasions that are now filling up photo albums and boxes in your attic and which you haven't looked at for years. ShoeBox is a way to bring those photos into the open.

The system is relatively easy to use. The first step is to download the ShoeBox app from the Apple App Store for your iPhone or from the Android Market for Android phones. You next register or log in to 1000memories.com. You select the old snapshots that you want to digitize and snap a photo of each one with your phone. The ShoeBox app will automatically find the photo's edges and crop it for you. You next add information such as the name of the person in the photograph and the date taken. When you're done with all the snapshots you want to share, you upload all your photos to the web.

For more information on ShoeBox, go to [1000memories.com](http://1000memories.com).

### ***Beginners Only***

### **Shoot Consciously**

Digital photography has given us the luxury of taking an unlimited number of photos, but is shooting indiscriminately the best way to get a good photograph? If you want to consistently take better photographs, practice conscious shooting. That means THINK before you press the shutter button.

Let's say you are out with your camera and something catches your eye. You raise your camera, look through the viewfinder, or at the LCD, and now STOP! Do not take that picture until you have answered a few questions: What's my subject? (Let's say an oak tree). Is it worthy of a photo? (Yes, it's a beautiful, majestic tree.) How can I compose this shot to best high-light the tree? Are there distractions I can eliminate by moving or zooming closer? Would the angle of light be better if I moved to the side? How much foreground or sky do I want to include? How much depth of field do I want/need? Once you have thought about the shot and the conditions under which you are shooting, and adjusted your camera settings, then it is time to press the shutter button.

**For practice to be effective, there must be an intent to improve**

Some people may think this is too much work. It would be a lot easier to just take a bunch of pictures and hope for the best. (After all, even a blind sow finds an acorn once in awhile.) The problem with shooting without thinking is that you never refine your vision or advance your skills. For practice to be effective, there must be an intent to improve, and that means paying attention to what you're doing.

Think before you shoot and over time, you and others will see a marked improvement in the quality of your photographs.

## Executive Board

### Susan Brazelton

President

Newsletter Editor

### Noella Vigeant

Vice President

Program Director

### Dan Gregg

Treasurer

### Noel Calvi

Membership Chair

Marketing Director

### George Ziegler

Web Master

PSA Liaison

### Michael Sue

BrownKorbel

Photo Diva

### Molly Gaylord

Rodney Myatt

Members-at-large



Our club is a member of the **Photographic Society of America** (PSA), an international organization that promotes photography and offers resources and services to its individual, club and chapter members. The 2012 PSA International Conference will be held in San Francisco this year at the SFO Marriott.

<https://www.psa-photo.org/>

**Rich Firato**, director of the summer **Downtown Music Series**, approached the board about creating a slide show of Morgan Hill photographs that would be shown on stage while the musicians played and people danced. The board was immediately enthusiastic about this joint venture which would showcase the work of individual photographers, promote the club, and enhance the music series. In the next couple of weeks we will be soliciting the photos that **Marty Cheek** will organize into the show.

According to **National Geographic**, 53 billion digital photographs were taken by Americans in 2006 (177 per person). In 2011, 80 billion were taken (255 per person). *NG* predicts that in 2015 Americans will take 105 billion digital photographs (322 per person), and half of them will be taken with a camera phone

If you'd like to learn more about how to take full advantage of your smartphone camera, join the iPhoneography Focus Group and/or sign up for **Don Smith's iPhone Photo Workshop** in Carmel, May 4-6.

<http://www.donsmithphotography.com>

## The Answer Is on the Website

Have you forgotten the date of the next shoot-out? Want to know the Flickr themes for the rest of the year? Interested in joining a Focus Group, but don't know whom to contact? The answers to all these questions and more can be found on the club's website.

Scan this code with a smart phone



or go to:

<http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org>

## 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/>



**Next Meeting**  
Wednesday, 2 May 2012  
7:00PM

**Centennial Recreation Center** ★  
(Multi-purpose Room)

## **Focus Group Review**

- Night Photography
- Macro Photography
- Lightroom
- Photographing People
- iPhoneography
- Point & Shoot Cameras

Each of the six Focus Groups will review their recent activities,  
pass on pertinent information & how-to hints,  
and show lots of photos taken by the members

## **Pre-meeting Swap Meet**

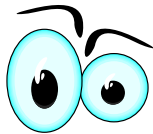
**6 - 6:45**

Bring all that camera gear you no longer use to sell at the  
pre-meeting swap meet.

And then look around.

You may see something you've always wanted (at a bargain price).

**Cameras, Lenses, Filters, Books, Bags, Tripods, & More...**



**June**

“Elements of Composition”  
Photographic Scavenger Hunt

**July**

**The July meeting will be on the 11th (not the 4th)**



©George Ziegler

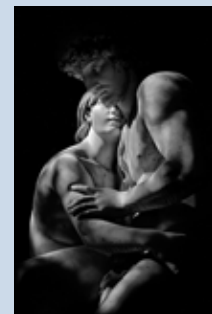
**Gallery Show**

*“Garden Party”*

**4 May - 24 June**

**Villa Mira Monte (Morgan Hill House)**

17860 Monterey Street



©Lance Trott

**Artists' Reception: Friday, 4 May 6:00 - 8:00PM**

## April & May Events

**Thursday, 19 April 7:00PM**  
**Lightroom Focus Group**  
George Ziegler: [George@gwzphotography.com](mailto:George@gwzphotography.com)

**Saturday, 28 April 9:30AM**  
**Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge Shoot-out**  
(See page 5 for details)  
Barbi Kutilek: [kutilek@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kutilek@ix.netcom.com)

**Tuesday, 1 May All Day**  
**May Day**

**Wednesday, 2 May 7:00PM**  
**General Meeting at the CRC**  
"Focus Group Review"  
**Pre-Meeting Swap Meet 6:00 - 6:45PM**

**Friday, 4 May - 24 June 2012**  
**"Garden Party" Gallery Show**  
Morgan Hill House at Villa Mira Monte

**Friday, 4 May 6:00PM - 8:00PM**  
**"Garden Party" Artists' Reception**  
Morgan Hill House  
(See page 9)

**4 - 6 May**  
**Don Smith's iPhone Photo Workshop**  
Carmel (See page 8)  
<http://www.donsmithphotography.com>

**Wednesday, 9 May 5:30**  
**iPhoneography Focus Group**  
CRC (Senior Center Lobby)  
Barbi Kutilek: [kutilek@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kutilek@ix.netcom.com)

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



©Mike Winn

**Wednesday, 9 May 7:00PM**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
CRC (Senior Center Lobby)

**Thursday, 10 May 7:00PM**  
**Point & Shoot Focus Group**  
Dan Gregg: [dwgdvm@me.com](mailto:dwgdvm@me.com)

**Thursday, 17 May 7:00PM**  
**Lightroom Focus Group Meeting**  
George Ziegler: [George@gwzphotography.com](mailto:George@gwzphotography.com)

**Saturday, 19 May**  
**San Francisco@Night Shoot-out**  
Time & Place: TBA  
Susan Brazelton: [brzltn@garlic.com](mailto:brzltn@garlic.com)

### Anniversary Toast

by Marty Cheek

Throughout our South Valley's geography  
Abides plenty of photo opportunity.  
Images of sunsets, mountains and trees,  
Flowers, meadows, and Pacific seas.

Downtown with its old church steeple  
Smiling faces of happy people.  
Clouds sailing across an indigo sky.  
A rose kissed by a butterfly.  
You will be sure to get a thrill  
If you're a shutterbug in Morgan Hill.

But if you really want some photo fun  
Join the group formed by Susan Brazelton.  
The Morgan Hill Photography Club is for friends  
Who like to get behind a camera lens.  
May I suggest you forget all the rest  
Cause Morgan Hill's Photography Club is the best.

So to all the members here,  
People whom I hold so dear.  
Happy birthday number four  
No doubt the'll be many more.

Let's now all raise a toast  
To the photo club we love the most,  
And to end this rhyme I ask you please  
Lift up your glasses and everyone say "Cheese!"