



# "IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the  
Morgan Hill Photography Club

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

**June  
2012**



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## June Meeting



Bring one print (any subject, any size) to share. What a great way to start a meeting!



### June Featured Photographer: Kevin Cook

Kevin wowed everyone with his photographs of San Francisco, like the one on the right, which he printed himself.



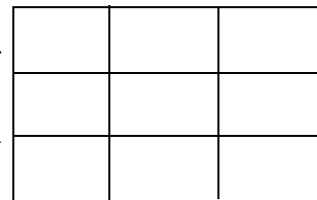
**July FP:  
Rodney  
Myatt**

## Elements of Composition Part 1



Taking a photograph requires a series of subjective decisions prior to pressing the shutter button. The first is usually what to include in the frame. The photographer gets to make creative decisions based on his or her personal vision. Rules cannot be applied to a creative vision, but an awareness of how certain elements affect the final composition can make the difference between taking a snapshot and creating a photograph. **George Ziegler**, who has a degree in Fine Art Photography, shared some insights on how various elements of composition may affect a photograph.

**Rule of Thirds:** Where the subject is positioned within the frame affects its visual impact. To find the positions that are generally considered “power points,” divide the frame into thirds, both vertically and horizontally. Framing your photograph so the main subject is on one of the intersections will usually increase its impact. Knowing the Rule of Thirds allows you to creatively choose to ignore it.



**Odd/Even & Symmetry/Asymmetry:** Because the human subconscious usually prefers to see a balanced world, an odd number of objects in a composition will add a sense of subtle drama. Symmetry in the composition may have a calming effect on the viewer; whereas asymmetry may incite a bit of excitement. This is one reason why placing the horizon on one of the grid lines shown above is usually preferable to placing it across the middle of the frame.



**Patterns and Repetition:** The human brain loves patterns and repetition. Including them will add visual interest and keep the viewer’s eye in the photo: a line-up of cars; row after row of flowers, a series of far off ridges. Sometimes the repetition *is* the subject.

**The Significance of Lines:** By consciously manipulating the lines in the composition, the photographer can create a mood or elicit a specific response from the viewer.

- **Vertical** lines symbolize strength and power.
- **Horizontal** lines create a feeling of permanence and tranquility. They are soothing and peaceful.
- **Zig Zag** lines are active and generate tension and anxiety.
- **Diagonal** lines are active and dynamic. Because they are out of balance, they create the illusion of action and motion.
- **Parallel** lines that lead to a vanishing point create depth and perspective.
- **Leading** lines pull the viewer into the photo and guide the eye to the main subject. A line that leads nowhere is confusing to the viewer.
- **Curved** lines suggest gentle motion, and can be used to frame a subject. It is usually best to include the whole curve.
- **Implied** lines also have an impact on a composition. Three trees on a hill or rocks in a stream may form an S curve. Eyes locked in contact form an invisible line that becomes part of the composition.



**Color As an Element of Composition:** Monochrome will have a calming effect on the viewer. To add drama, include colors that are opposite on the color wheel. How much of a color, or combination of colors, and how the color is placed in the frame will effect the final composition just as much as the elements mentioned above.

Now, let’s go outside and take some photographs!

## Elements of Composition Part 2, The Scavenger Hunt

After listening to George's presentation, it was time to get out and practice. Working with a small group and as an individual, each person received a list designed to offer multiple opportunities to consciously incorporate elements of composition.

### Scavenger Hunt List

1. The Whole Group
2. Rule of Thirds
3. Texture
4. Odd Number
5. Circle(s)
6. Reflection
7. Up Close
8. Repetition
9. Leading Lines
10. Diagonal Lines
11. Unique to Your Group
12. S Curve



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

## Elements of Composition Part 3, Share & Compare

After thirty minutes of scavenging around the CRC searching for photographs, groups reconvened in the multi-purpose room to share and compare their finds. Most people gathered all items on the list.



"Did you get everything on the list?"  
"I didn't see that. Where was it?"  
"Did you find an S curve?"



"Hey look! You have 4 elements in one picture."

## Elements of Composition Part 4, The Slide Show

Members who participated in the Scavenger Hunt may submit up to five (5) photographs for inclusion in the slide show, which will be played at the **July 11th meeting**.



#8\_Rodney Myatt

Instructions for Submitting Scavenger Hunt Photos  
Each member may submit up to five (5) photos

1. Resize each photo so the longer side is no more than 1000 pixels (2 megabyte max)
2. JPEG format only
3. Rename the photo with the scavenger list item number and your name.

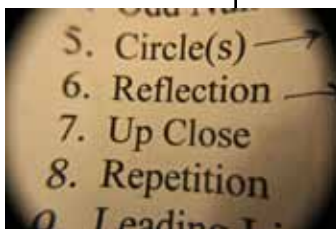
For example, if David submitted a Texture (# 3 on the list) photo, he would re-name the file:  
**03\_DavidRosas.jpg**

4. Send the photos via email to:  
[ScavengerHunt@morganhillphotographyclub.org](mailto:ScavengerHunt@morganhillphotographyclub.org)

**Deadline for submissions is Saturday, 30 June 2012**



#12\_Bob Smith



#7\_Roy Hovey



#8\_Luis Franco



#5\_Luis Franco Sr

## Member News & News for Members

### Welcome to New Members

•David Fredericks & Rigmor Munkvold

2012 Membership Total: 150 (so far)

#### Friday Night Music Series “Photos of Morgan Hill”

**Rich Firato** from the **Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce** asked the board if the club would like to create a slide show of Morgan Hill photographs to turn the Friday Night Music Series into a multi-media show. Thirteen members\* submitted over one hundred and fifty photographs of people, places and events that reveal the merits of living in our community. Originally, the slides were to be displayed on a large, on-stage screen behind the bands, but that proved to be a non-workable idea. Instead, the chamber set up a display table next to the beer booth, with the slide show playing on a forty inch TV; a bit of entertainment for those waiting in line to purchase beer.

\***Beth Ann Gardner, Claudia Santangelo, Daniel Gregg, Eric Stetson, Guiseppe Cantatore, Jose Vigano, Marty Cheek, Michael Sue BrownKorbel, Nichole Larson, Noella Vigeant, Roy Hovey, Susan Brazelton, and Toby Weiss**



#### *The Club Would Not Be What It Is Today...*

As president I often receive words of appreciation from club members. People thank me for starting the club and organizing meetings, shoot-outs and gallery shows. I tell them that credit for these activities and the success of the club goes to many people; but since I am the one most visible, I am the one who receives the most credit. In fact, the credit for the success of our club is shared by many.

**George Ziegler** is the club’s webmaster and so much more. He offers his technical expertise to ensure that video camera, light box, and projection screen work together for the biannual print critique (which was his idea in the first place). He receives all the electronic gallery show submissions and posts them online for the committee to review. He facilitates the Lightroom Focus Group. He started and moderates the Yahoo Group Forum. He has made several program presentations, including, “Getting the Right Exposure,” “Still Life in a Lightbox,” “Post Processing with Lightroom,” “Slow Shutter Speed,” and “Camera Controls.” He is the go-to person for almost every technical question that comes up. **“Ask George, he’ll know.”** On shoot-outs he often spends more time working with and helping others than taking his own photographs. He has served on the Executive Board since the club began, offering his ideas, advice, and opinions. **Without his commitment to the club and willingness to share his knowledge and experience, the club would not be what it is today.**

At the first Executive Board meeting **Noella Vigeant** offered to arrange the instructional programs that have become a powerful component of the club and a foundation of its success. She leads the board in soliciting input from the members, compiling the results, and setting the schedule of programs. She contacts potential speakers, provides them with a program outline, and confirms their appearance. She has been a presenter herself, including, “The Year in Review,” “Post Processing,” and “Lighting Techniques.” She designs the promotional posters for the gallery shows and lends her artistic eye in hanging the works. She is a professional photographer specializing in family portraits and teaching Photoshop classes, and she facilitates the Photographing People Focus Group. **Without Noella’s unwavering commitment, the club would not be what it is today.**

**Michael Sue BrownKorbel** has been on the Executive Board since day one. When we first established what positions would constitute the board, she said, "I'll be the Photo Diva." Her excitement about this new club was obvious, as well as the expertise she would bring to it. (She taught photography at Live Oak High School for many years and was then a tech resource specialist in another school district.) Even without any specific duties, her membership became invaluable. She brings a sane voice to heated discussions, offers creative suggestions (the first scavenger hunt was her idea), and looks for ways to promote the club. She helped insure that this would be a club for all photographers, not just the elite. She helped set a course that presented opportunities for members to have a quality experience with photography and fun with each other. ***Without Michael Sue's vision, the club would not be what it is today.***

**Noël Calvi** has been on the board as the club's Membership and Marketing Chair since the beginning. She sends notices about upcoming meetings to the ***Morgan Hill Times*** and the calendar in ***Out & About***. She compiles and updates the membership directory that is sent out in April and October. Even with a full time job that demands many hours, she is ready to help however she can. Her mostly behind the scenes work for the club is seldom publicly acknowledged, but is always appreciated; and underneath her quiet and sometimes serious demeanor lies an engaging sense of humor. ***Without Noël, the club would not be what it is today.***

**Ken Brown's** enthusiasm for the newly formed club was evident from the start. He helped assemble the first Executive Board and served as Secretary for two years. Even though he had over fifty years of experience as a photographer, he insisted that the club always consider the needs of the beginners. Like his daughter Michael Sue, his natural teaching ability shown through when he taught members how to mount and frame their photographs. "Featured Photographer" was his original idea and he designed and built the easels that are used to display photos. ***Without Ken's, guidance, the club would not be what it is today.***

**Roy Hovey** answered the original call for a webmaster. His intent was to create and then manage the site for a year, but three years later he was still taking photos and posting write-ups about the meetings, shoot-outs and gallery shows. The website that he created took the club to a new level; we became a genuine community organization.

**Lance Trott** is a charter member who served on the board as the first Member-at-Large. He took it upon himself to increase participation in shoot-outs, and organized at least one every month. When his tenure as M-A-L was over, he stayed on the board as the Commissioner of Shoot-outs, and continued to organize local photographic trips.

**Charlotte Fernandes** started attending board meetings as an interested member and when the treasurer's position opened, she volunteered to fill it. During her two years on the board, she also became the chair of the gallery show committee and was instrumental in buying the hanging system that we use at Morgan Hill House.

As a Member-at-Large, **Tracey Morris** organized the first swap meet (which has become a biannual event), and has twice led the Canon breakout group during the Camera Equipment program. She inspired several members to take on self-assigned photo projects and to start their own photoblogs.

***The contributions of Roy, Lance, Charlotte and Tracey have made the club what it is today.***

**Molly Gaylord** can organize anything. During her year as Member-at-Large, she planned and pulled off the seventy-plus member group photo for the club's four-year anniversary celebration and has helped arrange several programs, including the Bay Photo speaker for the upcoming July meeting. Molly is continuing on the board as Second Vice President, assisting Noella in planning the monthly programs. As a member of the Shoot-out Committee, Molly arranged early entrance to Uesugi Farms and led a cadre of members to Filoli Gardens.

**Dan Gregg** joined the club in 2009 and became club treasurer last year. He tends the books, collects dues, makes deposits, pays the CRC, and writes reimbursement checks. He looks for ways to improve efficiency. His creative suggestions at board meetings often result in a better process. He is on the Gallery Show Committee (creating an exhibit guide for each show was Dan's idea), and he facilitates the Point & Shoot Focus Group. He has traveled the world with his camera and loves to share his photographs and the practical knowledge he has gained.

**Rodney Myatt** joined the club during its third anniversary celebration and is now on the board as a Member-at-Large. Tasks often arise that do not fall under the realm of a particular board member's title. Rodney's, "I'll do that," is invaluable. Sometimes it's doing the small jobs that adds up to a big contribution

**Nichole Larson** is a new member and the newest Member-at-Large. Her newbie status didn't hold her back from suggesting that the club create a presence on Facebook. Her marketing background and innate enthusiasm are a welcome addition to the club.

***Dan, Rodney, Molly and Nichole are instrumental to the club's continuing success.***

### **The Presenters**

The credit for success is not limited to current and former board members.

The depth of talent and experience within the membership is remarkable and one of the unique aspects of our club is the willingness of members to share their knowledge and expertise, either informally at a shoot-out or as part of one of the monthly programs. **Barbi Kutilek** (who is on the Shoot-out Committee and facilitates the iPhoneography Focus Group), **Satu Viitanen, Alex Curtis and Dave Kutilek have been presenters**, and **Duane Middlebusher, Larry Campbell, and Bob BrownKorbel** have led or assisted with breakout sessions.

### **The Workers**

Members who work on gallery shows and lead shoot-outs play a huge role in sustaining the activities that make our club so popular; members like **Jean Myers, Sharon Russell, Pat Stone** (a former member-at-Large), **Chuck Kaekel, Curt Palm, Lennie Randall, and Diane Rocha** (the club's celebrated one hundredth member).

### **The Participants**

It is not just the leaders who have substantially factored in the club's success. Without the participants, we would be nothing. In addition to consistently attending the general meetings, these avid members post photos to the Flickr Theme Projects, submit photos for gallery shows, and attend shoot-outs: **Marty Cheek** (who chose the name for the newsletter), **David Fritts, Alan Futterman, Howard Hall, David Rosas, Bob Thompson, Mike Winn, and Richard Kintscher.**

The fact is that everyone who has joined the club has contributed to its success. Each person adds a unique ingredient to the mix. ***The club is what it is today because of each of you.***

***Thank you for creating a community of photographers.***



**Next Gallery Show at the CRC**

**"Sports"**

**7 September - 25 October**

**Submission Deadline: 9:00PM Sunday, 5 August**



## Focus Groups Review

Focus Groups have become an integral feature of the club. They allow members to delve more deeply into a specific aspect of photography and to work in a small group with other members who have the same interest. Once established, 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 who coordinates the meetings and activities. If you are interested in joining a Focus Group (must be a member of the club), please contact the facilitator.



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

Forget the big landscape photos. Become a macro-ite and peer into the intimate landscape of a flower or catch a bee in the act of pollinating. You'll see a different world through a macro lens. No regular meetings, but monthly projects and occasional shoot-outs. Flickr site: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/>

### **Point and Shoot Cameras - Dan Gregg:** [dwgdvm@aol.com](mailto:dwgdv@aol.com)

Want to learn more about your P&S camera? Even if you mostly shot with a "big camera," you probably own at least one small P&S. Learn how to use it to its fullest with this group which meets the second Thursday of the month to review and critique project photos and compare camera features.

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

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 12 July 2012, 7:00PM**



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

Learn how to take better family photos and formal portraits. The group sets up difficult lighting situations of bright sun, dappled light, and partial shade in which to practice. Learn how positioning a reflector can add fill light to the face of a person wearing a hat, and how fill flash can add detail. Members of this group will show the rest of us how to improve our people photos at the August meeting. To join contact Noella or **Larry Campbell** ([Larrycam@pacbell.net](mailto:Larrycam@pacbell.net))

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

Learn how to use one of the most popular (and powerful) photo processing programs available. Four members of this group traveled up to San Francisco for a day long workshop on the newest version, Lightroom 4. The members often watch short instructional videos and always share tips and shortcuts. All levels of users are welcome.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 28 June 7PM**

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



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

Make the most of your smartphone camera. Learn about apps and accessories, and how to turn your iPhotos into works of art. Group meets the second Wednesday of the month in the CRC Senior Center Lobby.

No meeting in July

**Next meeting: Wednesday, 8 August 5:30 - 6:45**

View iPhotos on Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1945737@N22/>

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

The group will return to the top of Fremont Peak twice this summer to photograph constellations, star tracks and the Milky Way (see page 12). View photos from the three City@Night shoot-outs at:

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



©Pat Stone



## Shoot-outs

Shoot-outs are an ideal opportunity to practice photography in an informal, social, setting with other like-minded people. Leaders often scout locations ahead of time to determine the best sites and the time of optimal light.

**City@Night** series of shoot-outs culminated on Saturday, 19 May in San Francisco. Sixteen members ventured north to shoot at three scenic locations: Ghirardelli Square, Lombard Street and Rincon Park.



The dynamics of the San Francisco shoot-out exemplified the cooperative and supportive nature of the club's membership. Carpooling, trading vantage points so everyone had an opportunity to shoot from a primo spot, sharing equipment, offering help with exposure and shutter speed, and exuding positive energy and enthusiasm made this one of the best shoot-outs ever.



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



©Nichole Larson



©Jose Vigano



©Barbi Kutilek

## Executive Board

**Susan Brazelton**  
President  
Newsletter Editor

**Noella Vigeant**  
1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President  
Program Director

**Molly Gaylord**  
2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President

**Dan Gregg**  
Treasurer

**Noel Calvi**  
Membership Chair  
Marketing Director

**George Ziegler**  
Web Master  
PSA Liaison

**Michael Sue  
BrownKorbel**  
Photo Diva

**Rodney Myatt  
Nichole Larsen**  
Members-at-large

facebook

Many MHPC members are on Facebook.

## Let's all be friends

To expand your MHPC friend list, start by friending the members of the executive board (all but 2 have Facebook accounts). You'll see other members' names on their friends list, and the expansion has begun.

### Like us on Facebook & win a MHPC Logo Patch.

**Step 1.** If you're on Facebook, click the link below and like us.

**Step 2. Option A:** Share one of the posts on the page so it will appear on your wall. All your friends will see it.



**Option B:** Create a new post on your home page that includes a link to the MHPC page. Ask all your friends to like it.



Help spread the Likes. We're looking for 100 Likes by September

**Nichole Larsen** launched the club's Facebook page last month. Check in for links to timely articles, happenings, quotes, and information about photography and photographers. As a member, you are welcome to share and post photography related articles and information.

Be careful what you post. This site is open to the world.

<https://www.facebook.com/MorganHillPhotographyClub>

## Flickr Theme Projects

**flickr** Since the first month of the club's existence, members have posted photographic interpretations of a designated theme to a special Flickr site. The themes, chosen by the members, are meant to inspire a broadening of techniques, subject matter, and skills. Some members pull photos out of their archives, and others challenge themselves to take new photographs each month.

## Remaining 2012 Themes

**June - Show Motion**

**July - Paths/Roads**

**August - Antiques**

**September - Animals**

**October - Texture**

**November - Trees**

**December - Music**



©Luis Franco



©Duane Middlebusher



©Linda Tyson

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



EDUCATING AND CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY



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.

An international conference is held in a different city each year, and 2012 is a golden opportunity for Bay Area photographers to attend because it will be held in San Francisco at the SFO Marriott.

During the Annual Conference registrants can participate in photo tours, classes, workshops, and photo shoots. There is an extensive Print Exhibition, a variety of programs, featured speakers in the evenings, social events, a vendor area with product demonstrations, numerous photographic activities, and a banquet on the last evening. <http://www.psa-photo.org/conference/>

## California Photo Festival

October 10 - 14

San Luis Obispo, CA



This four day festival includes lectures, seminars, workshops, socials and sponsor sales. The workshops are hands-on, often held outside, sometimes on the beach with models and horses. The instructors are well-known experts. [www.californiaphotofest.com](http://www.californiaphotofest.com)

Several members of the club have already signed up and selected their workshops and photo shoots. What are you waiting for?

## 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.

If you haven't yet joined Yahoo & Flickr (two integral online groups), go to the MHPC home page and click on: **Joining Yahoo & Flickr** for a step-by-step guide on how to, well, join Yahoo & Flickr.



<http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org>

YAHOO! GROUPS

We encourage every member to join the club's 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

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

7:00PM

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

#### ***“All About Printing”***

A representative from Bay Photo, an online photo printing service, will explain everything you need to know to get the best possible online prints; including creating an account, color management, preparing & uploading photos.

See examples of canvas wraps, metal prints, note cards, and more.



Receive sample products & discount coupons at the meeting  
<http://www.bayphoto.com/>

## Upcoming Shoot-outs



### **A Point in Time**

**Wednesday, 4 July High Noon**

Wherever you are at 12:00 Noon on the Fourth, take a picture and post it on the Flickr Shoot-out site



### **Elements of Composition, Part 5**

**Morgan Hill Farmers' Market Saturday, 14 July 8:30AM - 11:30AM**

An additional practice session with the elements of composition presented at the June meeting (See page 2) Meet in the BookSmart parking lot at 8:30AM to get a scavenger list (similar to the one at the June meeting). Meet back at BookSmart at 11:00AM to share & compare photos.

### **Fremont Peak (times 2)**

**Saturday, 21 July & Saturday 18 August 5:30pm to Midnight**

On moonless Saturday nights the observatory is kept open for astronomers and photographers. First shoot the sunset and then constellations, planets, pinpoint stars, star tracks, & the Milky Way.

An email will be sent out prior to each shoot-out with detailed information

**Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor**  
**Saturday, 4 August 4:00PM - Sunset**



**End-of-Summer BBQ**  
**Saturday, 8 September**  
**11:00AM - 3:00PM**

A complete calendar of club meetings and activities is on the website:  
<http://www.morgan-hillphotographyclub.org/calendar.html>

**Renaissance Faire at Casa de Fruta**  
**Sunday, 7 October 10:00AM - 2:00PM**