



"IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

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

August 2012



Editor
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August Meeting

With seventy-five people in attendance, the room was filled with photographic energy, shop talk, and lots of sharing of favorite photographs.

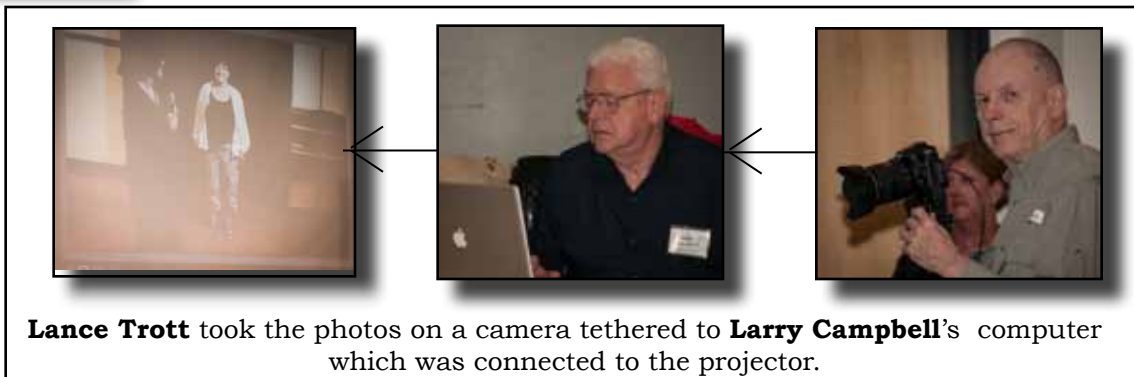


“Photographing People”

The members of the **Photographing People Focus Group** have been meeting and practicing their people skills for over a year now and at the August meeting, they shared what they have learned. After an introduction by group facilitator **Noella Vigeant**, **Molly Gaylord** demonstrated techniques for posing a single person and a group, stressing these key concepts:



- Your purpose as the photographer is to flatter the subject.
- There is no perfect pose that works every time.
- Objects closer to the camera, appear bigger. Try to get hands and feet on the same plane as the body.
- Although it is not necessary to include the whole person, do not crop at joints. If the knees show, you must include the feet.
- Posing may cause the subject to tense up, so try to create a rapport with the subject by talking and joking .
- Asking the subject to say, “Cheese,” creates a smile only on the lips. You want a smile that lights up the whole face, especially the eyes.



Lance Trott took the photos on a camera tethered to **Larry Campbell's** computer which was connected to the projector.

General Posing Guidelines:

- A straight on stance with hands hanging at the side is lifeless and unflattering. Have the subject turn diagonally to the camera and bend one arm with the hand on the hip, in a pocket, or on the thigh.
- Hands that are flat to the camera look large. Let the subject pretend to gently hold a card.
- Use props (toys), jokes and funny words to elicit a whole face smile and CLICK!.

Posing Groups:

- Avoid horizontal eye lines. Do not allow subjects to line up shoulder to shoulder. BORING!
- Form a triangle or a diamond, but avoid one head directly over a lower head.
- Use blocks (like a stack of phone books), chair, or stool to create height variety.
- When posing a large group, start with three and then add others in, children and antsy adults last. Use a squeaky prop to get everyone to look the same direction.



Molly demonstrates how to pose a group



The models: Noella, **David Rosas**, **Didi**, **Wake**, **Kim Meyer**, **Richard Kintscher** (seated)



Photographing People (cont.)

There is more to getting a good photograph of people than posing. Noella asked: What is the difference between an ordinary people photograph and a memorable one? The answer: lighting and background. The multiple examples she showed on screen demonstrated how to deal with different lighting situations and improve background.



Backlight: The main source of light is behind the subject (for example, a person sitting in front of a window). There are several measures a photographer can take to deal with this high contrast situation.

- Spot meter on the subject (although this could result in a blown-out background).
- Decreases the contrast by using fill flash to lighten the front of the subject.
- Move to create a different camera angle using side light.
- Use a reflector to bounce light onto dark areas. You don't need a professional reflector, a white piece of paper or board will do the trick.
- Ask the subject to move.
- Not all backlight is bad. It can be used to create a high key photo or to add a glow to strands of hair.

Direct sun: Harsh sunlight often creates the high contrast of both shadows and very bright areas that must be evened out for a good photo.

- Move the subject to the even light of shade.
- Use fill flash to lighten the shaded areas.
- Use a reflector to bounce light onto the dark areas.

Background:

- As you compose the picture, look at all the elements in the composition and eliminate anything that distracts from the main subject. This may require a different camera angle, moving or zooming in, switching to a vertical format, or a post-processing crop.
- Separate the main subject from distance objects so a flag pole or tree doesn't look like it is poking out of the person's head.
- Be aware of bright spots that will distract from the subject.
- Remember the **Rule of Thirds** and DO NOT place the subject's head in the center of the photo.
- Use a large aperture so the subject stands out against a soft background.



Two More Tips

- Direct light on glasses may cause glare. Tilt them down or ask to subject to take them off.
- If you know ahead of time that you will be taking a family photo, ask the members to wear the same dark or complimentary colors. Avoid the distracting combination of horizontal stripes, vertical stripes, plaids and Hawaiian prints.

Member News & News for Members

Welcome to New Members

Denise Melroy & Carlos Zapata

& Returning Member

Craig Lore

2012 Membership Total
155 (so far)

How do you get a
professional photographer
off your front porch?

Executive Board

Susan Brazelton
President
Newsletter Editor

Noella Vigeant
1ST Vice President
Program Director

Molly Gaylord
2ND 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

Satu Viitanen has displays of her Architecture & Nature Photos, including pictures from local areas, out of state, and foreign lands, in three local establishments.

Solis Winery

3920 Hecker Pass Hwy. Gilroy, CA
Through 27 September 2012

The Good Fork, California Bistro (formally Fuzia)

17340 Monterey Rd., Morgan Hill, CA
Through 31 October 2012

First St. Coffee

1211 First Street, Gilroy, CA
Through 1 November 2012

Pay him for the pizza

August Featured Photographer

Folks gathered around to see **Duane Middlebusher's** simultaneous slide shows of his many landscape, cityscape and nature photos.



Come early (or stay late) to see the photos of young **Miguel Carlos** at the September meeting.

Sam Shueh's photo from the Morgan Hill Farmers' Market was one of three chosen by County Supervisor **Mike Wasserman** to hang in his office.



Like us on Facebook

Share a post from the club's page & get a free logo patch



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

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.

Macro Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzlttn@garlic.com



©Archie Kregear

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

Want to learn more about your P&S camera? Even if you mostly shoot 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, 13 September 2012, 7:00PM



©Eric Stetson

Lightroom - George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com

Learn how to use one of the most popular (and powerful) photo processing programs available. Members often watch short instructional videos and always share tips and shortcuts. All levels of users are welcome.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 18 October 7PM (no meeting in September)

iPhoneography - Michael Sue BrownKorbel: mbrownkorbel@yahoo.com

Barbi Kutilek: 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. Several members of the group have taken iPhone workshops and share what they learned. Group meets the second Wednesday of the month in the CRC Senior Center Lobby.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 12 September 5:30 - 6:45

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



©SBrazelton

Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzlttn@garlic.com

It's fun to stay out after dark. Join this group to learn how to take star trail photos, capture the full moon rising, or paint with light. A third trip up to Fremont Peak is scheduled for Saturday, 20 October to photograph the sunset and the Orionid meteor shower.

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



©SBrazelton

Photographing People - Noella Vigeant: nvigeant@gmail.com

We were treated to an informative presentation by this group at the August meeting (pages 2 & 3). This very active group meets irregularly to practice dealing with difficult lighting situations, posing groups, and taking candid shots.

If you have a suggestion for a new Focus Group, please contact this editor: brzlttn@garlic.com

Shoot-outs

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

Fremont Peak I 21 July 2012

Two or three Saturdays a month from April through October, the observatory atop Fremont Peak is kept open until midnight for amateur astronomers and photographers. An intrepid group of members wound their way up the twisting road to the top to photograph first the setting sun, and then the stars, planets and galaxy. While waiting for darkness, many focused on the setting crescent moon, and several lucky people caught one of the brightest and longest lasting shooting stars ever witnessed.



Santa Cruz Boat Harbor 4 August 2012

From late afternoon through sunset, members wandered the harbor and beach focusing on pelicans, guard dogs, Hobi Cats, volleyballs and a lighthouse. The sunset on this night was one of the most spectacular of the year. As the sun dropped, the sky turned pink, orange, and then a fiery red, all reflected in the water.



Fremont Peak II 11 August 2012

A return trip to Fremont Peak introduced more members to the iconic pinnacle, and gave everyone an opportunity to photograph the sunset, the ever fascinating Milky Way, and a meteor.



©Jose Vignano



©Molly Gaylord

View photos from all club shoot-outs at:

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

Future Shoot-outs (including a return to Fremont Peak) are listed on Page 10



Flickr Theme Projects

The club now has over 3,700 photographs posted to the Flickr Theme Project site. The themes are meant to inspire a broadening of techniques, subject matter, and skills.

Although it is not mandatory, members are encouraged to take and post new photos as often as possible.

Remaining 2012 Themes

August - Antiques

September - Animals

October - Texture

November - Trees

December - Music



©Luis Franco



©Barbi Kutilek



©Roy Hovey

2013 Flick Themes

The process for choosing the 2013 Flick Themes started at the August meeting. After careful consideration, members submitted fifty favorites. Additional suggestions may be added at the September meeting.

NOTE: Themes from 2011 & 2012 are not eligible.

October: First ballot vote

November: Final ballot

December: 2013 themes revealed at the December Social.



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/>

"You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved." □ Ansel Adams

Creating a Panorama Image

It is simple to create panoramic images on your home computer, and thanks to advances in software, it's becoming even easier. There are still some general guidelines to follow to help you increase your odds of producing great photos, because, remember, you can't fix everything in a computer after the fact. I've made a number of mistakes over the years in learning about panoramas and it's my hope that these guidelines will help shorten your learning curve and give you a head start in creating stunning panoramic images.

A 35mm to 70mm focal length is my choice for a lens. A wide angle lens does not always produce great panoramic shots. It is better to make multiple passes of the same scene, with ample overlap, and let the stitching software do what it does best to create your masterpiece

Using the portrait camera position (vertical) usually works better than landscape (horizontal) for doing panoramas. I use a panorama head designed for this type of photography.

Overlapping is one of the most important skills to practice when creating a panoramic image. I overlap each frame by 25 to 30%. Increasing the amount of overlap helps reduce "flaring." When the software is forced to use all of the image frame, including the corners, distortion may be introduced. You can see the overlap in the images below.

As you combine more images, keeping your camera level becomes extremely important. I have taken more than sixty photos and combined them into one image.

It's also important to even out your metering, meaning scan the entire scene making note of the aperture and shutter speeds your camera is suggesting, then picking one pair of settings in the middle (or slightly darker) to make sure sky details is preserved. Using a DSLR, set your metering mode to manual so both shutter speed and aperture remain constant. I do this most of the time, panorama or not.

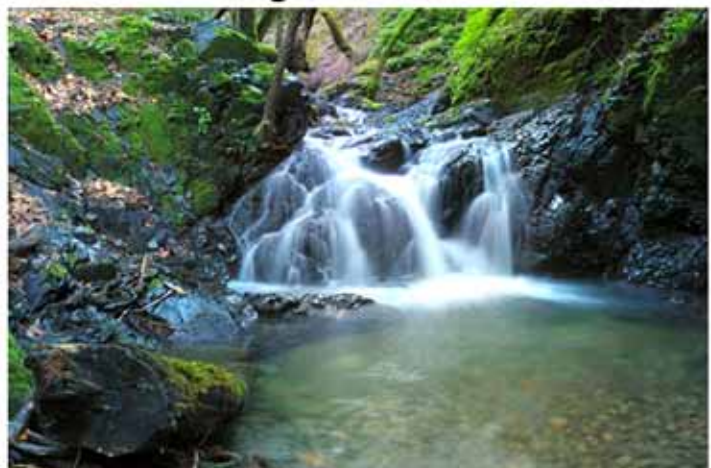
With new software you are not limited to just a single pass from left to right to capture your desired image, so don't be afraid to make more than one pass. Start with the initial pass from left to right (or top to bottom) and then move up or down to grab more detail and make another pass. Remember the overlapping rule above and how it will now pertain to not only the sides of the shot, but also the top and bottom overlaps. Keep it tight and your image can have the added quality of extra skyline or foreground features.

Lance Trott

16 Images



Joined together to make 1





©Diane Rocha

Gallery Show at the CRC

"Sports"

7 September - 25 October

Artists' Reception

Friday, 17 September

6 - 8pm

Senior Center Lobby



©Bob Lasswell

Photographers

- Veronica Gilbert •Satu Viitanen •Rodney Myatt •Peter Kapetanic •Noella Vigeant
- Molly Gaylord •Marty Cheek •Larry Campbell •Jose Vigano •Eric Stetson
- Didi Wake •David Fredericks •Susan Brazelton •Bob Lasswell
- Beth Gardner •Barbi Kutilek •Diane Rocha

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 5 September

7:00PM

Centennial Recreation Center (CRC)

(Multi-purpose Room)

"What's in My Bag"

Four panelists, each with a different speciality, will show the gear they use and share their best tips

•Travel

Barbi Kutilek

•Night

George Ziegler

•Landscapes

Duane Middlebusher

•Events

Susan Brazelton

Bring your questions

2013 Gallery Show Themes

Winter - **"Water"**

Summer - **"Cityscapes & Architecture"**

Fall - **"People"**

Exact dates and venues will be announced toward the end of 2012.

Upcoming Shoot-outs

Art in the Park at Gilroy Gardens

Sunday, 9 September 9:00AM - Noon

Free admittance & parking for *artists who pre-register*
(408) 840-7130 or email: ArtInThePark@GilroyGardens.org
(limited space available)

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

Renaissance Faire at Casa De Fruta

Saturday, 7 October 9:00AM - Noon

Fremont Peak III Observatory

Saturday, 20 October 2012 5:30PM to Midnight



September/October

MHPC General Meeting

Wednesday, 5 September 7:00PM
CRC Multi-purpose Room
"What's in My Bag?"

"Sports" Gallery Show

7 September - 24 October
CRC

Art in the Park

Sunday, 9 September 9:00AM
Gilroy Gardens

iPhoneography Focus Group

Wednesday, 12 September 5:30PM
CRC Senior Center Lobby

Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, 12 September 7:00PM
Senior Center Lobby

Point & Shoot Focus Group

Thursday, 13 September 7:00PM

Artists' Reception

Friday, 14 September 6:00 - 8:00PM
Senior Center Lobby

MHPC General Meeting

Wednesday, 3 October 7:00PM
CRC Multi-purpose Room
Print Critique

Pre-meeting 6:00 - 6:45PM

New Member Orientation

Sunday, 4 October 9:00AM

Renaissance Faire Shoot-out
Casa de Fruta

Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, 10 October 7:00PM
CRC Senior Center Lobby

Point & Shoot Focus Group

Thursday, 11 October 7:00PM

Lightroom Focus Group

Thursday, 18 October 7:00PM
George@gwzphotography.com

Fremont Peak Night Shoot-out

Saturday, 20 October 7:00PM

7 November 2012, Last **Swap Meet** of the year (before the general meet-

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