



# "IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the  
Morgan Hill Photography Club



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

## March 2012



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## March Meeting

### Print Share

Mix, match and meet new friends. That what happens during the thirty minutes of print sharing that starts each meeting. As members and guests share their photos and something about themselves, the room fills with the positive energy of fun, friendship and photography.



### March Featured Photographer - Ken Brown

Ken, a charter member of the club and long time resident of Morgan Hill, has been taking photographs for over sixty years. His enthusiasm for the club and for photography is contagious. He graciously shared examples of his most recent work, which included landscapes, local scenes, and smiling people.



# “HDR Photography”

## High Dynamic Range

The camera sensor is limited in the range of light it can capture (usually 5 to 7 stops). When the range is too great for the camera, the photographer must make a decision: detail in the light or detail in the shadow. Sometimes a graduated neutral density filter is enough to even out the light. When it isn't, the photographer can take a series of photos, each with a different exposure, and combine them into one image using HDR software. Local photographer **Scott Schilling** explained how.



First he emphasized that the best way to get sharp photos is to minimize camera vibration by using a tripod, a cable release, and mirror lock-up. Shooting in manual mode, once he has his composition, he sets his focus point (approximately 1/3 of the distance into the photo), decides on the best the aperture (usually f10 to f22), and then takes multiple shots, altering each exposure by changing the shutter speed.

Depending on the range of light he is trying to capture, he will take three to five photos in one stop increments. This can be done in single shot mode or if the camera is set on auto-bracket, one click of the shutter will produce a quick succession of shots.

## Software

Although there are others, the two software programs that Scott described are **Photomatix** and **Nik HDR Efex Pro**. Both are user friendly, and Scott claimed that in about an hour a new user could be well on his/her way to becoming an expert.

Although each program works essentially the same way (merging multiple photos into one image), the Nik program has control points that can select portions of the merged photo to adjust exposure, contrast and saturation. With Photomatix such adjustments are global.

With Photomatix, you have the opportunity to select a specific section of one photo and the software will automatically make layer adjustments so the selected section is in the final image. (For example, if you think that the river currents in one photo look better than in the others, you can select the river portion of that one photo for the final, merged image.)

Both programs work as stand-alone programs or as plug-ins for Photoshop, Elements, Lightroom and Aperture. Nik takes significantly longer to process a HDR image than Photomatix.

## Workflow

Scott shoots all photos in RAW to have as much data as possible to work with. He first merges the bracketed photos into one HDR image and then processes it just like he would any image; sharpening, adjusting saturation, adding clarity, etc. He saves the image as a TIFF, which retains all the data (a jpg will compress the file, thus losing data).



Scott works closely with **Don Smith** and offered these discounts codes for ordering software.

Nik Software(15%): DSMITH

Photomatix Pro 4.0 (15%): donsmithphotography

Topaz Software (10%): SMITHPHOTO

Type in the codes at checkout.



## Member News & News for Members

### Welcome to New Members

- Darrel Neuenschwander •Cheryl Neuenschwander •Dennis McWilliams
  - Nancy Altman •Nicole Larson  
& Returning Member
  - Donna Weisblatt
- 2012 Membership Total: 136 (so far)



Before the featured presentation, **Michael Sue BrownKorbel** invited members to speak to the group during “open mike.”

Starting 5 April, **Curt Palm** will have abstract photos on display at Odeum Restaurant, 17500 Depot St. MH



**Satu Viitanen** has photos on display at Maurizios, 25 E 1st Street, MH through the end of May.



**Anne Rosenzweig** has two photos on exhibit at *Galeria Tonantzín*, which is next to Jardines Restaurant on 3rd Street in San Juan Bautista.

Congratulations! to **Lance Trott** who had two photographs accepted in the *Statewide Photography Contest & Exhibition* at the Triton Museum of Art. He won an Honorable Mention.

### 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

### 2012 Dues Are Due

All 2011 memberships have expired.

To renew for 2012 please send a \$20 check to  
**“Morgan Hill Photography Club”**  
17145 Munro Way  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

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



©Mike Winn



A picture of a person with the logo on his/her jacket is in this newsletter. The first member to reply with the name of the person will win a free embroidered logo on a personal article of clothing.

## 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](mailto:dwgdvm@aol.com)

This group meets the second Thursday of the month to review photos and learn more about using a P&S camera. **A P&S Camera Shoot-out is scheduled for Saturday, 7 April at Anderson Lake County Park from 3pm to 5pm followed by dinner at Dickey's BBQ.** Photos from the shoot-out will be featured in a slide show at the May General Meeting. (More details on page 5)

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

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

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 12 April 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 feature the new features in Lightroom 4.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 19 April 7:00PM at George's house**

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

Want to become a Macro-ite? Join this group to peer into places that most people pass over, like the intricate, inside world of a flower, or the eyes of a bug. Details for a macro shoot-out in mid April will be announced soon.

Look for **Green 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 grandchild's eyes. Practice different 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:** [brzlttn@garlic.com](mailto:brzlttn@garlic.com)

Join in the three part "City@Night" series of shoot-outs, which started in February in Morgan Hill. Practice shooting special effects like exploding zooms, light trails, and "ghosting" with rear sync flash. The second in the series, on Wednesday, 28 April, starts at 7:00PM at the entrance to the SJ Museum of Art, 110 S. Market Street. (More details on page 5). The third in the series will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, 19 May.



Exploding Lights



Tail Light Trails



Rear Curtain Flash



©Dan Gregg



©Andrea Bazely

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

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

This group held its first meeting prior to the March General Meeting and the members were so excited they scheduled a second meeting for just a week later. Each person shared a favorite app, resource and/or photo. See iPhone photos on Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1945737@N22/>

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11 April 5:30PM in the CRC Senior Center Lobby**

**Photo Critique:** An initial, organizational meeting was held prior to the March General Meeting, but there was not enough interest to form a focus group. Maybe later.

## Shoot-outs

Shoot-outs are a perfect opportunity to practice photography in an informal, social, and mutually supportive setting. Leaders often scout location ahead of time to determine the best sites and the time of optimal light.

### **Sunday, 25 March - Uvas Canyon County Park 10AM**

Meet in the upper parking lot or join a carpool leaving at 9:00AM from the Starbucks on Monterey (near Cochrane). After this great rain, the Waterfall Trail should be splendid! Bring your lunch for a picnic in the park.

RSVP to leader, **Alex Curtis** ([acurtis001@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acurtis001@sbcglobal.net))

### **Wednesday, 28 March - City@Night in Downtown San Jose 7:00PM**

Meet at the entrance to the SJ Museum of Art (110 South Market Street) or join a carpool leaving from the MH Library at 6:00PM. Second in a 3-part series of *City@Night* shoots (See page 4 for example photos from the Morgan Hill@Night shoot-out)

RSVP to Co-leader, **Susan Brazelton** ([brzltn@garlic.com](mailto:brzltn@garlic.com))

### **Saturday, 7 April - Anderson Lake County Park 3:00PM - 5:00PM**

**- Point & Shoot Cameras Only - Travel light by leaving that big DSLR camera at home.**

Meet in the parking lot on Cochrane Road just past Malaguerra Avenue.

Dinner at Dickey's BBQ immediately following the shoot.

Photos from this shoot-out will be featured in a slide show at the May General Meeting.

RSVP to leader **Dan Gregg** ([dwgdvm@me.com](mailto:dwgdvm@me.com))

### **Saturday, 19 May City@Night in San Francisco (Time & Place TBA)**

Third in a 3-part series of *City@Night* shoots.

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

### **May - Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (Date & Time: TBA)**

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

View photos from all club shoot-outs at:

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

## Flickr

The theme for February is **“Windows”**



©Bob Smith



©Marty Cheek



©Linda Tyson



©Luis Franco



©Duane Middlebusher



©Barbi Kutilek

View all the theme photos at:

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



©David Fritts

Editor's Note: **Marty Cheek**, a columnist for the *Morgan Hill Times*, writes an occasional column for *In Focus*. This month he introduces us to **Walker Evans** whose depression-era photographs are on display at Stanford University. (All club members are invited to write a guest column for *In Focus*.)

## Walker Evans Exhibit at Stanford's Cantor Center

Walker Evans wanted to be a writer. That's what led him into photography. He learned that a photograph is a story – a tale of the moment told visually. And a photograph, like a good story, draws its audience into its world, making you see the drama of the moment, making you feel the emotions of the characters, and making you awaken to a fresh perspective of the world.

Take a look at the photographs that Evans took during the Great Depression when he got a job for the New Deal's Farm Security Administration as a roving social historian. He captured in his camera stark images of work-worn sharecroppers, families living in grim poverty, the sad, lonely, empty streets of small-town America – his photos depict a sad nation in a state of losing confidence in its destiny.



Evans's images also tell a story about who we are as a people. His 1936 photograph "Alabama Tenant Farmer" shows a man in overalls and curly hair staring at you with a look of lost hope, and yet, in his eyes is the defiance of a fighter who will persevere.



"Main Street Block, Selma, Alabama" shows an Edward Hopper-like view of a row of run-down businesses in a Southern state, empty of pedestrians, waiting for a promise of economic resurgence that might never come.

And "Houses and Billboards in Atlanta" takes a comical turn on Hollywood, showing run-down homes fenced in by movie billboard showing glamour stars of 1936.



Evans began his journey into documentary photography in the mid-1930s when he traveled to Paris. Immersing himself in that city's vibrant art scene, he began working with a camera in 1928. His influences were Mathew Brady (the famous Civil War cameraman) and the Cubism and post-Impressionism artists of France. His advice to photographers: "Stare. It's the way to educate your eye. Stare, pry, listen, eavesdrop."

An exhibit of Walker Evans photographs is now being shown at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. Admission is free. The museum is open 11:00AM -5:00PM, Wednesday through Sunday and until 8:00PM on Thursday.

*Marty Cheek*

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

7:00PM



## Centennial Recreation Center

(Senior Center)

### New Member Orientation

6:00 - 6:45

All members are invited

Learn how to get the most out of your club membership:  
shoot-outs, community projects, focus groups, gallery shows & more...

Learn how to use our online resources.

(Flickr, Yahoo & the website)

### Print Critique by PSA judge **Betty Toepfer**

Members may submit up to 3 photographic prints for critical review.

In general Betty will speak to impact, composition & technical proficiency of each image.

The critique is designed to be a learning experience  
with emphasis on how images might be improved.

**Prints must be mounted or matted**

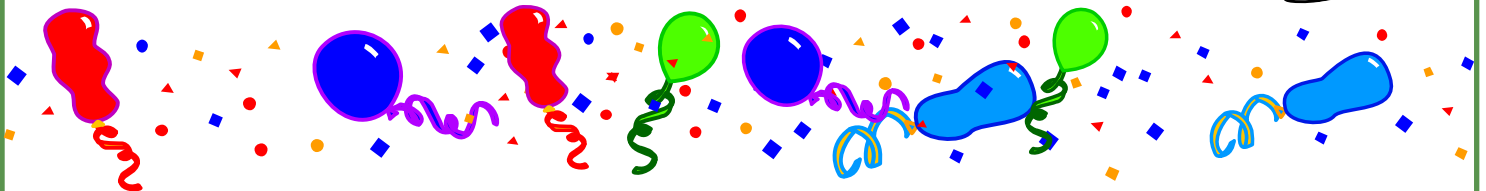
Minimum size is 8x10. Maximum is 16x20 (including mat)

**\$1 per print submitted.**

### MHPC's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Join in a toast to our club's splendid success in promoting  
Fun, Friendship & Photography

At the end of the meeting two group photos will be taken:  
Charter Members & EVERYONE AT THE MEETING



### A Look at What's Ahead...

#### May

Focus Groups Review  
Pre-meeting Swap Meet

#### June

"Elements of Composition"  
Photographic Scavenger Hunt

#### July

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

## March & April Events

### **Sunday, 25 March 10:00AM**

Uvas Canyon Shoot-out

Alex Curtis: [acurtis001@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acurtis001@sbcglobal.net)

(See Page 5)

### **Sunday, 25 March**

Submission Deadline for

“Garden Party” Gallery Show

(See Below)

### **Wednesday, 28 March 7:00PM**

City@Night Shoot-out

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

(See page 5)

### **Saturday, 7 April 3:00PM**

Point & Shoot Cameras Only Shoot-out

Anderson Lake County Park

(followed by dinner at Dickey’s BBQ)

Dan Gregg: [dwgdvm@me.com](mailto:dwgdvm@me.com)

(See page 5)

### **Wednesday, 4 April 7:00PM**

General Meeting “Print Critique”

+ New Member Orientation

+ 4th Anniversary Party & Photos

Centennial Recreation Senior Center (CRC)

### **Wednesday, 11 April 5:30PM**

iPhoneography Focus Group Meeting

Senior Center Lobby

### **Wednesday, 11 April 7:00PM**

Executive Board Meeting

### **Thursday, 12 April 7:00PM**

Point & Shoot Focus Group Meeting

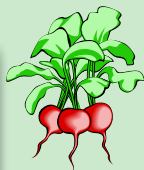
Dan Gregg: [dwgdvm@me.com](mailto:dwgdvm@me.com)

### **Thursday, 19 April 7:00PM**

**Lightroom Focus Group**

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

### **Gallery Show**



## *“Garden Party”*

**4 May - 24 June**

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

**Submission Deadline: Sunday, 25 March 2012**

**All photos must be taken in a garden.**

**(The name of the garden will go on the title card)**

**Please consider vegetables, sculptures, ornaments, gnomes, critters, & tools,  
as well as flowers.**

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



## **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/>