End of the Year Party

Gallery Walk

Morgan Hill Photography Club

Recognition & Awards

Delicious Food

Valuable Prizes

Wednesday

4 December 2013
7 - 9pm

Centennial Recreation Center

Please bring an easy-to-eat, non-messy appetizer to share

Friends & Family are welcome.

MORGAN HILL
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

CITY OF MORGAN HILL
CENTENNIAL
RECREATION CENTER
TOGETHER WITH THE YMCA

Share your Photos

Bring several prints to display or bring samples of some of the other creative ways you have used your photos: calendars, note cards, books, slide shows and movies.
(For the last two, bring your laptop.)
Here's a chance to show your creative spirit and maybe get some holiday gift ideas.

"In Focus"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org/

Swap Meet

Members were invited to bring their extra camera gear and photographic paraphernalia to a pre-meeting swap meet. Negotiations were intense as some members reduced their inventory while others added to their picture taking arsenal. Bags, tripods, filters, books, cameras, and more exchanged hands.

Image Share   We love to share our photos.

Print Critique by Hal Geren

Twice a year we invite a guest commentator to review prints submitted by members. Hal is an experienced photographer, trained judge, and president of the Fremont Camera Club. Hal commented on initial impact, composition, technical proficiency, and photographic interest on a total of thirty-three prints. When appropriate, he also made suggestions on how a photograph might be improved.

- Be aware of depth of field. A blurred back ground can make the main subject pop.
- A foreground element will add interest and a sense of depth, but don't let it block the viewer's eye from entering the photo.
- Eyes must be sharp.
- Avoid overlapping elements. Each object should have its own space.
- Leave space so paws, fingers, toes and heads do not touch the edge of the photo.
- The viewer's eye will go to bright areas first. A darker background with a lighter subject is better than a dark subject with a light background. Eliminate bright spots that distract from the main subject.
- Darken the edges to keep the viewer's eye in the photo, but make it look natural.
- Crop out dead areas that do not enhance the main subject.
- Crop strongly or not at all. Better to crop half of a person than just his feet.
- Use natural elements (like rocks or trees) to frame the main subject.
- Know the Rule of Thirds and then break it when centering works better.
- Use leading lines to guide the viewer's eye into the photo and to the main subject.
- Be careful of distractions at the edge of the frame: bright spots, twigs, unattached leaves, etc.
- Diagonal lines and angles add interest and drama.
- Good landscapes usually have a foreground (sand), middle ground (waves), and background (stormy sky).
- Unless you're going for a silhouette, shadowed areas need some detail.
- Be careful of an unwanted color cast (a tint that effects the whole photo).

Members may sign-up to be a
2014 Featured Photographer
at the December Social.

Executive Board

Member News & News for Members

Welcome to New Members
•**Jan Jeffers** •**Jim Jeffers** & Returning Member •**Holly Phillips**

2013 Membership Total - 179

Have you seen the Fall issue of ***Morgan Hill Today***? This full-color magazine, published four times a year is, "designed to inform its readers of the wonderful community in which they live as well as provide features and helpful ideas that will enhance their lifestyles." Free printed copies are available at the CCC, CRC, BookSmart and other local distribution points. Cover photo credit goes to this editor, **Susan Brazelton**. You can access the online version at: http://morganhilltoday.net/current-issue.html

Valle del Sur's open, juried art show at the Community & Cultural Center runs through 17 December 2013. **Curt Palm** received both a first and second place ribbon for two of his photographs, and in a different category, **Satu Viitanen**'s photograph earned a first place.

Community Connections
The club continues to create positive community connections. Every month **John Tarvin, Bob Thompson** and **Arne Kalma** share their travel adventures and photographs at senior centers and local assisted living facilities.

For the second time this year members of the People Photography Focus Group took formal portraits of over thirty seniors at the CRC. This works for both the club and the Senior Center. The photographers have an opportunity to practice their craft, and each senior receives a 5x7 print, compliments of the club.

Community Connections, cont....

An additional aspect of community connections is providing non-profit groups with photographers for their fund-raising and charity events. Once again these events are win-win situations: Club members have an opportunity to broaden their photographic skills, and the organizations may use the photographs on their websites, social media, and newsletters. Often, several of the photographs are published in local newsprint. Two recent events members covered included the **Howl-O-Ween** celebration hosted by the Morgan Hill Dog Owners Group (MHDOG) at the dog park. What could be more fun than dogs in costume?

©Dan Gregg

©S.Brazelton

©Jerome Sarmiento

©Andrea Bazely

The most recent event covered by members of the club was the **Community Foundation's "Night of the Stars,"** a gala dinner at the CCC where twenty-three community volunteers were honored for their service. The foundation contacted the club asking if we could provide paparazzi along the red carpet to make the honorees feel like stars, Oh, you should have seen the flashes popping as the two hundred guests glided along the carpet, waving and smiling for their fans. At the end of the red carpet, everyone stopped to pose for individual and group photos before continuing into the El Toro room for appetizers, drinks and entertainment. The paparazzi were the hit of the evening. The smiles lasted through dinner.

Not only did the guests feel special, the photographers got a lot of flash practice, and had a ton of fun. With so many community leaders in attendance, the club also received a lot of positive exposure (pun intended).

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: brzltn@garlic.com
For November, members of this group will be posting macro photos with an emphasis on "Simplicity." Flickr site: http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/

Compact Cameras - Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com
Flickr site: http://www.flickr.com/groups/1605480@N21/
Meets every other month on the second Thursday
Chances are you own a compact camera, whether it is your main camera or an adjunct to your DSLR. By joining this focus group, you can learn how to use all the features of these smaller cameras. They have evolved so much in the past few years that many photographers are leaving their BIG cameras at home.

Photographing People - Noella Vigeant: nvigeant@gmail.com
Learn about lighting, use of flash, and posing in this group that has frequent practice sessions. See page two to read about how they shot seniors.
To join contact Noella or **Larry Campbell** (Larrycam@pacbell.net)

iPhoneography - Michael Sue BrownKorbel: mbrownkorbel@yahoo.com
This group is currently on hiatus, but focus group members may still post photographs.
View iPhotos on Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/groups/1945737@N22/

Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com
A light painting shoot-out will be held in November, and a new location for shooting the winter full moon will be announced.
See night photos at: http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-night-focusgroup/

Lightroom - George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com
Meets the third Thursday of each month

New Focus Group Starting in 2014.
"Build Your Own Website"
Using Word Press

If you have a suggestion for a new Focus Group, contact George: George@gwzphotography.com

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Like us on Facebook
Earn a club logo patch by liking us on Facebook and then *sharing a post from the club's page*. Patches will be given out at the December Social.

https://www.facebook.com/MorganHillPhotographyClub

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. Participating in shoot-outs is an excellent way to meet other members.

Safe Halloween Trick or Treat

Thursday, 31 October

Several members joined the Monterey Street parade of scary people and super heroes on Halloween night. Have you heard about the ghost filter? Add this special filter to the front of your lens and the energy of the ethereal spirits who wander among us emerge. This filter works on any camera.

©S. Brazelton

©Andrea Bazely

©David Rosas

Niles Canyon Railroad

Wednesday, 6 November

Mark Grzan led an large group of people to a living history museum that interprets the importance of our heritage railroads in the development of California and the nation.

©Dan Gregg

©Rodney Myatt

©Mark Grzan

Pfeiffer State Beach

Sunday, 17 November

Led by **Rick Rasmussen**, an intrepid group of photographers drove down to Big Sur and hiked out to the beach to shoot the sunset, Heaven's Gate, and the surf lit by the full moon.

©Jerome Sarmiento

©Mark Grzan

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

flickr Flickr Theme Projects

The club now has over 4,800 photographs posted to the Flickr Theme Project site. The projects 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.** *These photos were all taken in 2013.*

©Jill McElvy

©Scott Isaacs

©Linda Tyson

©Cheryl Freedman

©Roy Hovey

©Bob Thompson

Members who attended the November meeting cast their ballots for the 2014 Monthly Project Themes.

2014 Themes will be revealed at the December Social

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/

The guest column this month was written by **Mark Grzan**. If you would like to submit an article for *In Focus*, contact this editor: sbrzltn@garlic.com

The Shot by Mark Grzan

It was late afternoon on Friday, October 25, 2013. I found myself with time and decided to go on a backyard photo shoot. I consider Morgan Hill to be the finest backyard anyone could have. Both sides of our valley are available for incredible morning and afternoon photography. No season of the year is any better than any other and I can venture along trails and roads any time of year.

One of my favorite places for local outdoor photography is Harvey Bear Ranch County Park on the eastern foothills. It is accessible at several points, but easiest is at the valley floor at the eastern end of San Martin Avenue in San Martin. It is open from 8AM to sunset. There is plenty of free parking. Adjacent to the parking lot is a wonderful paved and level loop that is over a mile long that walkers, strollers and bicyclists use often.

Heading east from the parking lot, the park has many trail options. You can walk in any direction and find great photography. You can stay on the well maintained trails or scamper off along the hillside or ridge lines. You may also share the trail with cows, horses, or an occasional coyote. On this afternoon I headed east from the parking lot and turned southeast on the Willow Springs Trail, and then north on the Townsprings Trail. There are stately oaks on either side. My light was from the west and primarily at my back. Getting good outdoor images is often about "side light" that defines and outlines shapes with a gradient wrap from light to dark. Light directly at your back creates a flat image, while side light of just about any angle gives you good contrast and tones.

On this late afternoon in the golden hour, I spotted a strong oak with light filtering through its massive, rustic boughs.   The composition was good with trees in the distant background and a drifting road which added balance. For a different perspective, I moved close to the tree and used the trunk to anchor the frame.

"Oak in the Sun" Harvey Bear Ranch County Park
5:25 PM 10/25/13 (Sunset was 6:17)
Nikon D800E with Nikon 14-24 f/2.8 wide angle lens.
No filters. Hand held at 1/250, f/11.0, ISO 400 @15 mm.
37° 6'8.06"N, 121°33'56.59"W

I set the shutter speed to 1/250 second to reduce camera shake, and aperture to f11, for good medium depth of field. Any higher would have forced me to a higher ISO which could introduce noise on some cameras. I locked exposure for the shadows. The wide angle lens pleasingly distorted the image. Hand-held, I framed to 15mm, focused and took the shot. Checking my camera's histogram (a must), the range of light was even and with no clipping (loss of detail). I took a few more shots from other angles as well. The final image is a non-traditional view with rich warm tones and a pleasing stratus sky. In order to get the lovely rustic bark, the focus of the image, I had to move in close. The result is a heavy crop of the tree, but it works. If you have to crop, crop strongly, so it is clearly intentional as opposed to looking like a mistake.

I processed the raw image in Adobe Camera Raw. I added vibrancy, adjusted temperature (a little warmer), added sharpening, adjusted for noise, added a little vignetting, and reduced some shadows. Slight cropping enhanced the composition. I used Nik's Viveza 2.0 add-on for more structure that caught additional light and brought out a tad more detail. The final image measures 18.5 x 13, is 375 MB @ 300 dpi, has a bit depth 16, and is saved as a Photoshop PSD file/image.

A message from the president

Fellow Photographers,

For some time I have been contemplating giving an **Adobe Lightroom 5 Course** at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center. Well the time has come. **Starting on Tuesday, January 21, from 7-9PM and lasting for ten (10) weeks** I will be covering all the modules in Lightroom 5 with special emphasis on the "Library" and "Develop" modules, which are the heart of Lightroom. In addition you'll learn how to make a book using the "Book" module and how to use the "Print" module to its best advantage even if you do not do your own printing.

We will also explore how to use plug-ins, external editing programs, and other add-ons that allow you to process more complex images such as panoramas, HDR, and time-lapse videos. I'll also explain how to correctly capture such images so when you process them in Lightroom so you'll get the best results. Although you can't process videos directly in Lightroom, I'll show you a trick that will let you make several adjustments that will improve the video you captured without having to use an external program like Adobe Premiere. Then we'll combine the videos and your still images into a slideshow that can be turned into a high-definition video suitable for YouTube or Vimeo.

What you'll need: A laptop computer with Lightroom 5 installed, an external usb hard drive to store your catalog and images, and a willingness to learn. Although there is no textbook I will suggest that you purchase at least one of the books that I'll recommend, to be used as a reference guide. No prior Lightroom experience is required, but you should be familiar with how the file system works on your computer.

The cost of this course is just $189. If you are a member of a photography or camera club within a fifty (50) mile radius or a college student enrolled in a photography program you will receive a $30 discount. [Payment through PayPal can be arranged.]

The course will be limited to twenty-two (22) students.
The minimum class size is fifteen (15).

If you are interested please email me at george@gwzphotography.com.

Cancellation policy: If you cancel before January 1 you will receive a 100% refund. If you cancel any time between January 1 and our second class [January 28] you will receive a complete refund LESS a $35 processing fee. Cancellations after January 28 are not refundable.

2014 Membership Application

Everyone who joins the club in 2014 (including returning members) will receive a membership application to complete that includes a few questions about photographic interests, cameras, and experience; as well as a liability release. The information will help the board in planning programs that meet the membership's diverse interests, and the waiver will help protect the club from litigation. A copy of the application will be sent out prior to the December Social or you may download it off the club's website.

2014 Dues ($20)
may be paid at the December Social

Coming Attractions

2014 Gallery Shows

"Explosion of Color"
4 February - 27 February, at the CCC

"Antiques"
May - June, at Morgan Hill House

"Machinery"
July - August, at Morgan Hill House

"After Dark"
October - November, at CRC

"Explosion of Color"

For this gallery show we are looking for objects/scenes that are literally exploding with color. Think of a box of crayons, or for you hippies, a tie-dyed scarf or t-shirt. It might be a bouquet of brightly colored flowers, a display in a store, intensely colored "wall art" on a building, or face painting. The more colors and the brighter and more saturated they are, the better.

**Submission Deadline
Sunday, 29 December 2013**

The first Wednesday in January is New Years Day, so the **January 2014 General Meeting** will be held on the **Second Wednesday, 8 January** at the CRC.

Mark your calendars now.

Due to conflicts at both the CRC and CCC **the February 2014 meeting** will be held on **Thursday, 6 February** (That's right: THURSDAY!) **at the CCC**

Happy Thanksgiving

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