



"IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

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

January 2014



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**February Meeting
at the CCC
Thursday
6 February**

January Meeting

WOW! A record setting ninety-five people attended the January meeting. The room was packed with people and energy. The one thing for sure that everyone had in common, was, of course, photography. And as our guest speaker pointed out, sharing your photographs is one way to become a better photographer. Plus it's just plain fun to share.



“In Pursuit of Excellence”

We were very pleased to have professional wildlife photographer and workshop leader **Oliver Klink** return as our guest speaker (he first spoke to our club in February 2009). oliver@incredibletravelphotos.com



To improve your personal photographic skills, Oliver suggests the following:

1. Embrace Change

Break out of your comfort zone and try new techniques, new locations, and new subjects. For example, if you usually shoot landscapes, practice photographing people or sports. Experiment with different exposures, shutter speeds and depth of field. Go to a location you have never been to before. Revisit the same location in different seasons.

2. Keep the End in Mind

How you intend to use your photos should influence your choices of equipment and techniques. If your final output will be a digital display (web, slideshow, iPhone, or TV) you won't need the same resolution and file size that you will need for print (framed enlargement, poster, or book).

3. Tell Stories

Let the viewer see the story by capturing animal/people behavior, including motion, or showing the subject within the context of its natural environment. For example, Oliver showed a photograph of the “Great Migration” that included a massive number of both wildebeests and zebras, and a river running through the savanna. If he had zoomed in on individual animal portraits, the story of the migration would have been lost.

4. Photograph with your other senses

Use more than just your eyes. If you feel the wind blowing, use a slow shutter speed to show the motion. Include texture to add a sense of touch. Blue will help the viewer feel the cold of an iceberg and yellow/orange will add a sense of cozy warmth.



“Giving nature the ability to speak through my camera is what inspires me.”
- Oliver Klink

“Postprocessing should be used to create, not to fix mistakes.”

“Don't re-create reality Be an artist!”



5. Concepts - Experiment

Find a purpose for your photography. Create a personal statement by photographing a concept such as romance or vanishing traditions. Choose your own concept.

6. Print more photos and more often

Process your photo, print it, and then review the print. Re-process it and print it again. Printing your photographs can help you improve.

7. Share

Reach out to nursing homes. Invite visitors to a personal gallery in your house or office. Submit photos to public gallery shows. Write about your photographs in a blog.

Editor's Note: As I was writing this I was struck by how much the club provides opportunities to practice many of Oliver's suggestions: shoot-outs, image share at the meetings, the Flickr Theme Projects, and four annual gallery shows. Hope you are taking advantage.



Member News & News for Members

Welcome to New Members

•**Rosalinda Solorzano** •**Phil Bowers** •**Nicole Burke** •**Daren Burke**
•**Larry Mickartz** •**Terri Parks** •**Miki Riso** •**Monique Riso** •**Paul Sperry**
•**Roslyn Weatherall**

and returning member **Craig Lore**

Executive Board

George Ziegler
President
Web Master

Noella Vigeant
Program Director

Barbara Dawson
Treasurer

Nichole Larson
Membership Chair
Marketing Director

Susan Brazelton
Past President
Newsletter Editor

Rodney Myatt
Logistics Chair

Barbi Kutilek
Shoot-out Chair

Mark Grzan
Ali Adams
Members-at-large

Michael Sue
BrownKorbel
Photo Diva

Noël Calvi
Adjunct

Executive Board Changes

After two years of collecting dues, making deposits and writing checks, **Dan Gregg** retired as club treasurer. A BIG THANK YOU to Dan! Charter member **Barbara Dawson** joins the board as the new treasurer.



Barbi Kutilek ended her tenure as the 2013 Member-at-Large and is staying on the board as the new chair of the Shoot-out Committee.



Ali Adams volunteered to be the 2014 Member-at-Large.

2014 Dues Are Now Due \$20

If you have not yet re-joined the club, please pay at the sign-in table at the February meeting. Or you may send a check & *the membership application*

to
"Morgan Hill Photography Club"
17145 Munro Way
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

As the Featured Photographer, **Kyrod Myatt** (right) displayed his photos at the January meeting. He doesn't claim a speciality, but mostly enjoys photographing landscapes. He often creates photographs of subjects that others may easily pass by. Check out his Flickr page to see more of his work: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/thedreadpirateroberts/>



One of the perks of membership is to have a link to your website, blog and/or Flickr photostream included on the MHPC website.

Send the link(s) to
George Ziegler:

George@gwzphotography.com

If you would like to be a Featured Photographer, July & September are still open.

If interested,
please email George Ziegler:
George@gwzphotography.com

Getting the Most Out of Your Membership and Contributing to the Club's Continued Success

A Message from the President:

In April 2008, a small group of enthusiasts gathered for the first meeting of the new Morgan Hill Photography Club. The initial group agreed that the emphasis of the club would be learning more about photography, sharing, and socializing. Over the years the membership of that small club has grown over 725%. We ended 2013 with a record breaking one hundred and eighty members.

As we look forward to 2014 the club's Executive Board plans to build on our past successes, most of which are the result of the members themselves. Without the many volunteers (who are too numerous to mention here): those who serve on committees, the board, facilitate focus groups, or organize shoot-outs, our club would not be the success it is. Therefore on behalf of all the club members I want to thank those volunteers, and wish everyone in the club a happy, healthy, and bountiful New Year.

A Dozen Ways to Become a More Involved Member (in no particular order)



- Join a Focus Group
- Participate in a Shoot-out
- Attend the General Meetings
- Invite a friend to a meeting
- Join the Shoot-out Committee
- Join the Gallery Show Committee
- Join the Community Connections Committee
- Participate in the Monthly Flickr Theme Projects
- Write an article for *In Focus* (this newsletter)
- Help set up the room before the general meeting
- Wear the club logo on your favorite photography shirt, jacket or hat
- Like us on Facebook



Although the board makes every effort to provide programs that members have asked for, often the selection of a program topic for a particular month is based on the availability of a speaker.

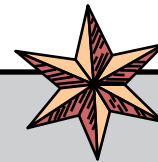
YOU CAN HELP!

If you know of a dynamic speaker or workshop leader who would be willing to present at one of our meetings, please contact George.

DON'T BE SHY!

Perhaps you would be willing to share your knowledge at a meeting as a speaker or as a member of a panel or small group leader. VOLUNTEER!

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/>

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. Several focus groups have Flickr sites for sharing member photos. **If you are interested in joining a Focus Group, contact the facilitator.**

Lightroom - George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com

This group explores the many tools and modules in Adobe Lightroom, often watching short instructional videos. **Next meeting: Thursday, 30 January**

Macro Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

Delve into the intimate world of the minute. No regular meetings, but monthly projects & themes. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/>

Photographing People - Noella Vigeant: nvigeant@gmail.com

With irregularly scheduled practice sessions, members continue to explore ways to capture better photographs of people

Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

Join shoot-outs to photograph full moons, stars, galaxies and city lights. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-night-focusgroup/>



©Archie Kregear

Compact Cameras - Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com

This very active group sets up a field shoot or project every other month and then meets to review and critique the photos, exchange ideas, and learn more about the capabilities of their compact cameras. Members will be shooting in Downtown Gilroy on 20 February.

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

See the Compact Camera article by Roy Hovey on the next page.

iPhoneography - Michael Sue BrownKorbel: mbrownkorbel@yahoo.com

Members post smartphone photos on the group's Flickr page with information on the apps used to process the photos and turn them into works of art. No regular meetings.

★ - TWO NEW FOCUS GROUPS - ★



Website Design Using Wordpress - Barbi Kutilek: BK@ImagesbyBK.com

Over thirty people attended the first organizational meeting for this new Focus Group. According to Barbi, "The purpose of the focus group is to learn to build a website using *WordPress*, learn about 'WordPress themes' and launch your website onto the web."

The first instructional meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 22 January. Contact Barbi for time and place.

Videography - David Fredericks: david@dosgatos.net

Most still cameras today have the ability to also take video. This focus group will help members learn to use the video features of their cameras and also to use software to create polished productions. Bring the camera you will use for video recording. Collectively, we will make sure everyone has enough understanding of their particular camera to record video. We will also create a prioritized list of interests and topics for future meetings. The group will meet the third Tuesday of every month.



The guest column this month was written by **Roy Hovey**, who, at a mini workshop organized by the Compact Camera Focus Group, presented comprehensive information about the myriad of compact cameras on the market today. If you would like to submit an article for ***In Focus***, contact this editor: brzltm@garlic.com



Compact Cameras

Today's choices for those seeking a backup camera, a travel camera, or just wanting to down-size or upgrade, are plentiful. Choosing a new camera for one of these reasons can be a daunting task. Any non-DSLR, mainstream camera will be more portable, though not all that fit this category can be considered truly compact. Nevertheless, those in general to choose from include the following types of cameras:

- 1) Interchangeable lens, compact system cameras (ILC's or CSC's).
- 2) Fixed Lens Cameras (high-end, long zoom/Bridge, lower-end)
- 3) Pocket Cameras (pocket, ultra-pocket, extended zoom pocket)
- 4) Phone Cameras and Cameras that attach to phones



Not all of these can be called compact cameras. They're smaller and lighter than DSLRs, though some higher-end ones not markedly so. When carrying one with a zoom lens and/or multiple lenses, they often don't make for a much lighter camera case or backpack load than carrying many entry or mid level DSLRs. Some new interchangeable lens cameras (e.g. the Olympus OM-D E-M1 and the Panasonic G6) have a narrower body than an SLR, (because the through-the-lens viewfinder system has been eliminated), and are categorized as ILC's and "compact system cameras," but it's hard for me to call them compact. This is not to say that they aren't great cameras, and they do lighten the load somewhat. If you are looking for a highly capable camera alternative to a full-frame DSLR or larger APS-C DSLR such as the Nikon D7100 or the Canon D70, some of the more portable ILC cameras including the Olympus PEN line, most of the Sony NEX's, the new Panasonic GM1 are good choices



Significant differences in size, weight, and power also exist in Fixed-Lens and Pocket Cameras. Whether you're downsizing or upgrading from a small pocket camera, want a camera with lens options or a fixed lens camera, or if you need a backup camera, there's a great compact camera out there for you. Smaller cameras are becoming impressively more capable every day, and future meetings of our group will continue to involve exploring ways to maximize the use of your compact camera. I invite you to join the Compact Camera Focus Group to learn more about these cameras that are the wave of the future.

Roy Hovey
chessNjava@me.com





If you're not on Flickr you are missing out on some serious club fun, and you're missing an opportunity to learn by viewing the photos that others take, and allowing others to view and comment on your photos.

Flickr is a photo sharing website that is an integral feature of the club. We have two main Flickr sites (**Monthly Theme Projects** and **Shoot-Outs**), plus three Focus Group sites (**Macro, Compact Cameras, and Night Photography**).

Anyone may view the club photos on Flickr, but to post your own photos, you must be a member of the club

The theme projects are like a month long, open shoot-out. Members are encouraged to take and post new photos.

The theme for January 2014 is

“Pets”



©Jerome Sarmiento



©Barbi Kutilek

View all 4,900+ Flickr theme photos at:
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclub/>



©Dan Gregg

2014 Themes

- January - **Pets**
- February - **Faces (Real or Imagined)**
- March - **Black & White**
- April - **Insects**
- May - **Missions/Churches**
- June - **Trains**
- July - **Statues**
- August - **Musical Instruments**
- September - **Historical Places**
- October - **Signage**
- November - **Cemeteries**
- December - **Through a Window**

Shoot-outs

Barbi Kutilek has taken on leadership of the Shoot-out committee, a group of volunteers that meets each quarter to plan and lead shoot-outs to interesting locations. If you would like to have a say in when and where shoot-outs are planned, you should join this committee.

The overall framework for all shoot-outs was set by the board: Over a span of time, shoot-outs should be held on various days of the week, at various times of the day, at locations within a reasonable driving distance, and provide diverse photographic subjects. Additionally, the committee members agreed that all shoot-outs should have a leader or co-leaders, include an opportunity for participants to socialize, and provide opportunities to learn/practice photographic skills.

Full details for each shoot-out, including time and place to meet, directions, what kind of photography you can expect, and car pool information will be sent out in separate emails.

Yosemite National Park -

Come join us for a winter shoot-out in Yosemite. We hope to capture the full moon and "The Firefall" at Horsetail Falls and other iconic locations in Yosemite Valley. We will leave early on Thursday, February 13th and return late on Saturday, February 15th. Each day we'll shoot from sunrise to well beyond sunset to capture the rising full moon and maybe even star trails.

Whether you drive with the group or arrange your own transportation and lodging, you are welcome to join this opportunity to photograph in one of America's most beautiful national parks. Contact **Noël Calvi** at: Have_camera.Will_travel@yahoo.com for more information.



View photos from all club shoot-outs at:

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

Gallery Show

"Explosion of Color"

4 February - 27 February 2014

Community & Cultural Center (CCC)
17000 Monterey Road
(corner of Monterey & Dunne)

Artists' Reception

Don't miss the first big social event of the year.

Thursday, 6 February 2013

5:30 - 7:15PM

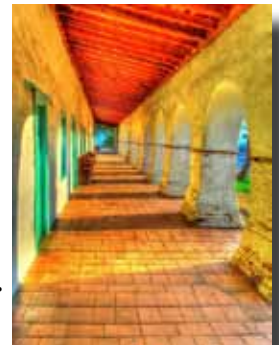
(Immediately prior to the February meeting)

Refreshments

See all 59 photographs on display by 36 club members



©Lance Trott



©Don Hoskins

Next Meeting
Thursday, 6 February 2014

Community & Cultural Center

7:30 - 9:00

“White Balance”



White balance or color balance is the process of removing unrealistic color casts, so that objects which appear white to your eye are rendered white in your photo. Proper camera white balance has to take into account the "color temperature" of a light source, which refers to the relative warmth or coolness of white light. Our eyes are very good at judging what is white under different light sources, but digital cameras often have great difficulty with auto white balance — and can create unsightly blue, orange, or even green color casts. This month's program will help you understand digital white balance and how to avoid unwanted color casts under a wide range of lighting conditions.

Meeting is on Thursday (2/6)
(not Wednesday)

at the

Community & Cultural Center

on the corner of Monterey & Dunne
(not the CRC)

Come early for the

“Explosion of Color”

Gallery Show & Artists’ Reception

5:30 - 7:15

Refreshments will be served.

General meeting will start at 7:30