



"IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club



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

**October
2014**



Editor

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New Member Orientation

Twice a year board members meet with new members to describe what the club has to offer, answer any questions, and help them make full use of the club's electronic resources, such as Flickr, Facebook, the Yahoo Forum, and the club website. If you missed the October Orientation, another will be held just prior to the April 2015 meeting.

Image Share

What's as much fun as taking a photograph? Sharing it, of course. That's why our thirty-five minutes of round-robin image sharing is so popular.



Cameras & Accessories

During this program photographers learned from each other; first about their cameras, and then about various accessories that they didn't know they needed and now can't live without. Members and guests chose a sub-group based on their primary camera: Canon, Nikon, or All Others. Facilitators set up a circular forum, where participants could ask and answer questions about camera controls, custom menu settings, available lenses, button functions, and anything else.

Thank you to each of the group facilitators: **Lance Trott, Larry Campbell & Roy Hovey**



And then the accessories came out...



Sony's QX10

looks like a lens, but it works as a stand alone camera, or it can be paired with a smart-phone. The phone can be used as the view finder. The lens can be attached to the phone or the two can be operated separately.

WOW!



Never lose a lens cap again with this **Elastic Loop** which slips onto a lens and attaches to its cap.



Eyelead Sensor Cleaning Kit & Visible Dust Loupe
Both can be found on Amazon & E-Bay



Trigger Trap is an iPhone app for controlling your camera. triggertrap.com



You can leave that hefty camera bag at home when you fill the many pockets of this **ScottVest** with lenses & accessories

Member News & News for Members

Welcome to New Members

•Dennis Destefano •Chuck Wyatt
•Susie Martin •Marianne Eichenbaum
2014 Membership Total - 176

Executive Board

George Ziegler
President
Web Master

Noella Vigeant
Vice President
Program Director

Barbara Dawson
Treasurer

Nichole Larson
Membership Chair
Marketing Director

Susan Brazelton
Past President
Newsletter Editor

Rodney Myatt
Logistics Chair

Mark Grzan
Shoot-out Chair

Ali Adams
Mike McElvy
Members-at-large

Michael Sue
BrownKorbel
Photo Diva

Noël Calvi
Adjunct

October Featured Photographer:

Lisa Ponce: Lisa brought an eclectic mix of photographs, but her obvious talent is eliciting and capturing precious expressions on both children and adults.



Second Critique Assignment

Every two months, members are challenged with a photographic assignment. Those who choose to accept the assignment may post up to three of their photos to a designated Flickr site under the following conditions:

- The photos must be taken during the assignment period. (approximately 8 weeks)
- Each person posting a photo is expected to give and receive constructive feedback.

For every photo you post, you must give feedback to at least one other posted photo.

The purpose of the critique assignments is to help members improve their photography by taking new photos; trying new techniques; exploring different subjects; and giving and receiving effective feedback.

Second Assignment starts now

“Backlight”

Assignment period:

13 October - 8 December

https://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc_critique_assignments/

Any subject is acceptable as long as the light is coming from behind said subject. Natural light and/or studio light may be used. People, landscapes, and animals make good backlit subjects, But don't limit yourself to what you've seen others do. Make your own magic. With backlight you can create a glowing aura, a sun burst, or a high-key image. Here is a link to one resource. There are many more online.

<http://digital-photography-school.com/using-backlight-in-nature-photography/>

Would you like to be a part of the club's leadership team & help plan the 2015 activities? Of course you would. Join the board as the **2015 Member-at-Large**. Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Guaranteed fun.

If interested, please contact George:

George@gwzphotography.com

Like us on Facebook

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



How to Critique a Photograph

NOTE: Do not point out flaws in someone's work without the expressed permission of the photographer. This article is written as general information and expressly for the photos that are part of the Critique Assignments (see page 3). Comments on Shoot-out photos and Monthly Theme photos should all be positive.

Many people think that to “critique” means to point out what is wrong with a photo. That would be plain “criticism.” Critiquing means to analyze and evaluate a work by pointing out both its merits and flaws. Although a critique is an opinion, it is somewhat objective in that it is based on a core of common standards.

You don't need to be an expert to evaluate another person's photograph. Even if you feel you don't have a strong technical background, you can comment on how and why the photograph affects you, or how well it tells a story.

The key is to provide specific feedback. Compliments are always nice to receive, but they do little more than boost the ego. If you like a photo, comment on exactly why it pleases you. If you perceive a flaw in a photograph, point it out and suggest how it might be improved. Specific feedback helps the photographer become a better photographer.

Here is an outline that will help you focus a critical eye on a photograph (your own or another's). You don't have to use the entire outline on one photo. Choose the items that are most pertinent.

1. Technical Quality

- A. Exposure: Are any areas over or under exposed? How might the photographer prevent or fix this in the future?
- B. Focus: Is the main subject in sharp focus? If not, does this detract from the photo?
- C. Depth of Field: Note whether the DOF is shallow or deep. Does it work for this shot?
- D. Color: Is the white balance set correctly, or is there an odd color cast to the photo? Are the colors over (or under) saturated? If it's a B&W photo, is there true black and true white, with a full tonal range in between, or is the photo mostly gray?

2. Composition

- A. Where is the main subject in the frame? Would it be stronger in a different spot?
- B. Is there a foreground object to add interest and a sense of depth (landscapes)?
- C. Is the horizon straight?
- D. Is there clutter in the frame, especially around the border, that detracts from the main subject? Could it be removed by shooting from a different perspective, or by cloning?
- E. Are there bright areas that pull the eye away from the subject or out of the frame?
- F. Does each significant object in the frame have its own space or do they overlap?
- G. Is every object in the frame complete, or are any partially cut off?
- H. Did the photographer add visual interest with diagonal lines, implied shapes, or curves? Are there leading lines that pull the viewer into the photograph?
- I. Is the composition balanced (light vs. dark, big vs. little, foreground vs. middle & back grounds, etc.)?

3. Emotional Appeal

- A. How does the photograph make you feel?
- B. Does the photograph tell an effective story? If not, why not?
- C. Do you feel like the photographer communicated his/her intended message? How?

Critiquing provides benefit for both the reviewer and the photographer. As you learn to give effective feedback to others' photographs, you will naturally start to analyze your own photographs with the same analytical eye. Remember that a critique is no more a learning tool. As a photographer you can evaluate the feedback and accept it or reject it. You'll get as much out of the process as you allow.

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: brzltn@garlic.com

No regular meetings, just occasional practice shoots

Flickr site: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/>

Compact Cameras - Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com

Meets the Second Thursday every other month.

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

Photographing People - Noella Vigeant: nvigeant@gmail.com

Practice sessions once or twice a month at various locations.

To join contact Noella or **Larry Campbell** (Larrycam@pacbell.net)

Lightroom - George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com

Beginners and advanced users are welcome.

Meets the Third Thursday of each month

iPhoneography - Michael Sue BrownKorbel: mbrownkorbel@yahoo.com

No regular meetings, but members may post photos on Flickr.

Flickr Site: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1945737@N22/>



©Rodney Myatt



©M BrownKorbel



©Rosalinda Solarzano

Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

No regular meetings, but plenty of sunset, moon rises, and after dark shoots.

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

Designing Your Wordpress Website - Jean Myers dosriosjean@gmail.com

Meets the third Wednesday of every month. Currently on summer hiatus. Newbies are welcome.

Videography - David Fredericks: david@dosgatos.net

Meets the third Tuesday of every month.

Printing - Jack Yovanov: jack@yoracing.com

Meets the first Monday of every month at the Morgan Hill Library at 7:00pm.

Jack is the featured speaker at the November meeting.

Photo Processing - George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com

George posts an unprocessed photo each month and members then download the image and, using the software of their choice, process, crop, restore, retouch, or otherwise do to the image what they want and then re-upload their result within twenty-one (21) days. Once an image is re-uploaded, other members have the opportunity make comments on the various results, and possibly learn new processing techniques. Flickr site: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/2603218@N21/>

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



©Toby Weiss

Fort Point & Crissy Field - Sunday 21 September
Fort Point is a spectacular place to photograph the Bay and the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, especially at sunrise when wisps of fog catch the morning glow on the towers and buildings. Seventeen people took advantage of the early access granted by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Administration (obtained by leader **Mark Grzan**), to capture unique images from Fort Point and Crissy Field, and work up an appetite for breakfast



©Jill McElvy



Golden Gate from Baker/Marshall Beach Wednesday 8 October
Participants photographed the Golden Gate Bridge from the unique vantage point of Baker/Marshall Beach. With a minus tide -0.3 at 6:05 PM photographers could move in close to the bridge and include rocks in the foreground.



©Kim Meyer



©Noël Calvi



©Angela Pechin

Shoot-outs on the Calendar

The Pier at Capitola - Sunday 19 October This is the perfect opportunity for you to capture long exposure shots of the ocean at sunset to smooth moving water using neutral density filters. The pier is beautiful and with a wide-angle lens you can capture the bluffs and the pier or shoot clear across Monterey Bay. The town of Capitola is colorful and lively and excellent views can be captured of beach houses.

Carpools leave Morgan Hill at 2:45PM, return 8:15PM
R.S.V.P. **Mark Grzan**: fam.grzan@charter.net

Downtown Morgan Hill Safe Halloween

Friday 31 October 6:00 - 8:00PM

Photograph pumpkins, ghosts, and costumed revelers, like these from last year.

Meet in front of Granada Theater at 6:00PM

R.S.V.P **Susan Brazelton**: brzlt@garlic.com





Flickr Theme Projects

The club now has over 5,600 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.**



©John Tarvin



©Linda Tarvin

**Remaining
2014 Themes**

October - Signage

November - Cemeteries

**-December-
Through a Window**



©Bob Thompson

2015 Flick Themes

Voting at the October meeting culled the choices down to the top twenty-five.

Final ballot will be presented at the November meeting

View all theme photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclub/>

Gallery Show

**Artists' Reception
Friday 14 November
6:00 - 8:00PM
Senior Center Lobby**

**Last show of 2014
at the CRC**

"After Dark"

7 November - 18 December



©Al Ferla

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, post, and read the messages and files.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MHphotoclub/>

A complete calendar of club meetings and activities is on the website:

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



Next Meeting

Wednesday, 5 November

7:00PM

Centennial Recreation Center (CRC)
(Multi-purpose Room)

“All About Printing”

by

Jack Yovanov

(Facilitator of the Print Focus Group)

“The Journey of the Pixel from Capture to Printed Ink on Paper”

Image Capture

The Importance of the Computer Monitor/Calibration

Print Settings Found in Photoshop/Lightroom

Printers/Calibration/Papers

Jack is a retired Naval Aviator with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. In his retirement, he has placed a high interest in creating fine art photography, learning as much as he can through Digital Media Courses, and examining the finer points of a printed image.

November Pre-Meeting Swap Meet

6:00 - 6:45



Gather up all your old equipment and
sell it (or give it away) at the

Photographic Swap Meet

Someone wants what you no longer need:

Cameras, Memory Cards, Bags, Filters, Lens, Printers, Ink
Software, Books, Magazines...



Clear the Clutter and Make Money
or Buy Something for Yourself
(or for a Christmas Gift)

*“The quickest way to make money at photography
is to sell your camera.”*



December Meeting (12/3/14)

The last meeting of the year is

ONE-BIG-PARTY

•Awards •Food •Music

•Door Prizes



