

INFOCUS

July 2017

www.morganhillphotographyclub.org

July Meeting: Ron Erskine Finding the Extraordinary in Ordinary Places

Morgan Hill Photography Club July meeting will be an excellent presentation by well known photographer, Ron Erskine. Most photographers feel the need to travel far and wide to find a landscape, people, or place to photograph. For those of us who have lived in the Bay Area for many years, we find little to photograph in our surrounding area, yet people that travel to our realm constantly find much to shoot. It is the areas we frequent where we have become blind; our neighborhood, our city, our parks, or, at times, even when traveling away from the Bay Area we find there is nothing to shoot. Constant travels to locations such as Los Angeles or Seattle will also blind our eyes to creative photography. Here is where Ron Erskine comes to the rescue, he will present: Finding the Extraordinary in Ordinary Places. There is something to see everywhere. Meeting will be held at the Morgan Hill Community Recreation Center, on Wednesday, July 5th, from 7:00pm–9:00pm.



July ISSUE

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Focus Groups

Lightroom - Active meets third Thursday of every month.
([George Ziegler](#))

NEW START! Macro - Active, Contact [Ron Cabral](#) for times

NEW START! Night - Active, Contact [Noël Cavi](#) or [Rick Rasmussen](#) for times

People - Active, meets approximately every 4–6 weeks.
([Larry Campbell](#)) for more

information.

Printing - Currently inactive, but Jack can provide lots of documents to help improve your prints.

([Jack Yovanov](#))

Video & Drones - Active, third Tuesday of every month
([David Fredericks](#))

Compact Camera - Active, no regular meetings. ([Ram Gupta](#))

“To me, photography is an art of observation. It’s about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I’ve found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”

— Elliot Erwitt

Editor's Note

by [Jeff DuBridge](#)

Is your photography art? My answer has always been, yes. However, with some recent delves into this realm, I am not so self assured.

Before I yearn for an answer to the question, let us define art in the visual realm. According to the Merriam-Webster English Dictionary, the definition of art is:

- 1: a: branch of learning: (1): one of the humanities (2): arts plural: liberal arts
- 2: an occupation requiring knowledge or skill the art of *organ* building
- 3: a: the conscious use of skill and creative imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects the art of painting landscapes; also: works so produced a gallery for modern art
- b: (1): fine arts (2): one of the fine arts (3): one of the graphic arts

For the moment, we will label artists as the group in the painting, drawing, sculpture realm, while photographers, who may be artists, shall be defined as those creating photos.

Many artists irrationally label photography as not art, often with little premise. From the website [debate.com](#) (providing the online question: is photography art?), one artists states, "simply put: a 4 year old can take, on accident, or on purpose, on first attempt, the exact same photograph as Peter Lik, Stephen McCurry, or Robert Mapplethorpe. Or anyone could, for that matter. A 4year old cannot, however, sit down and play Moonlight Sonata on first attempt. That would require, skill, interpretation, and practice."

Photographers, just as artists, label art with little premise, or do they? A photographer, again from [debate.com](#), says, "For those who say that photography can't be art because anyone can do it. I will give you the chance to prove it: Pick an iconic photograph like Ansel Adams's The Tetons and the Snake River, the location is still there, go to the location and take a photograph equal to Adams's. Don't fancy traveling? Take any portrait by Yousuf Karsh and recreate it. Then come back here and show us how easy is to create those images."

Now, the money. Many artists state that the only reason a professional photographer takes pictures is for the simple intent of generating cash. Let's say that might be true. If photos are produced for the money, why does almost every professional artist, generate the almost the same pieces over and over and over again? It is simple, because they know that delving into other areas of interest would provide almost nothing in the way of money, and will most likely degrade their name upon review of this new art by the critics.

Next comes the question of the classification of the photographers' or artists' work. Is all work made by either end considered a final, quality piece? Photographers take pictures just on a whim (snapshots), being curious what might be generated with minimal pre-visualization. Artists do the same, often in a sketchbook (doodling), with quick gesture drawings without analyzing every motion to be made. Pieces made in either area may be beauties, but more often, not art.

Our definition makes a reference to modern art, yet almost no one online or my discussion with friends and family, provides little reference here. Without being said, all art discussed seems to be a nice representation piece of the landscape, face, house, flowers, or action. In modern art, photographer Man Ray, developed pictures with out a camera, simply placing items on a negative and exposing it to light. Art? Modern artist Ad Reinhardt had a gallery full of canvases, covered in black paint. Art?



Man Ray and Reinhardt, art? Yes, without doubt. Now, do you wish to spend a few thousand for either piece when these pieces first came out? Probably not. The point here is that it took many years of education and experience to arrive at such art. Most people with practice by a spontaneous swipe of the pencil or countless whacks to the iPhone could not generate such art upon their first attempts.

For the final time, we fall back to our definition. Art requires knowledge or skill, as does photography or desired use of the brush. Next, art requires conscious skill and creative imagination in the production of a person's conception of beauty, in particular ones taste for or approach to what is pleasing to the senses with greatest focus to sight. Most all photography and art, regardless of the time it takes make, has such intent (in truth some artwork, intentionally, does supply hate and disgust). Finally, is the production of works for a gallery of modern art. Galleries carry the classics, moderns, contemporaries, which are all labeled as fine arts—whether you like the piece(s) or not. Specifically, galleries will present common pieces as paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculptures, installation pieces, or any mix of such categories and not uncommonly presented with real (or recorded) people, music, or movements, and I can go on.

Is your photography art? Many people, often including amateur photographers, blindly label art as a sort of bizarre, disparate set of pieces that take time to appreciate. Here is a listing of fine artists, creating photographs (and possibly other forms of art), from many categories, and at least one shall provide you with a *conception of beauty, in particular ones taste for or approach to what is pleasing to the senses with greatest focus to sight*: Annie Leibovitz, Cindy Sherman, Steve McCurry, Ansel Adams, Joe McNally, Edward Weston, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Irving Penn, W. Eugene Smith, Walker Evans, Arnold Newman, Robert Capa, Robert Mapplethorpe, Vivian Maier, Dorothea Lange, Yousuf Karsh, Alfred Stieglitz, Brassai, Man Ray, Sebastião Salgado, Richard Avedon, Elliot Erwitt, Diane Arbus, Sally Mann, Jerry Uelsmann...

Think about what are some of the greatest photographs of all time, and many of the above artists would have pressed the shutter. Photography is art.

Photo Diva's Divinings

by Michael Sue BrownKorbel, Photo Diva (mbrownkorbel@yahoo.com)



July is a great image making month, with so much to capture; weddings, graduations, parades, events, outings, shoot-outs, and the list goes on. I am sooooo excited for our **Morgan Hill Photography Club July meeting**. With the mission statement of **Fun, Friendship, and Photography**, our **Guest Speaker** will show images and explore along the theme of **finding extraordinary images in ordinary places (like even your backyard)**. Many members and/or residents have attended his

hikes. He writes an ongoing piece for the local newspaper. Looking forward to seeing you at the July 5th meeting! Also, George, our President, is putting together a brief slideshow of images submitted by members, made during the last meeting (*Composition Project on Line Scavenger Hunt*).

Long sleeved T-shirts & short sleeved shirts with our club logo! Thank you, Susan Brazelton, for heading this up. Show your pride in the Morgan Hill Photography Club by wearing your shirt with the club logo and lettering in teal on a black T.

Now, as Monty Python would say, "It's time for something completely different!"

FLICKR ALERT: This is not a spelling error, as there is no "e" in the FLICKR.

Before this meeting, a few members will be available from 6:30 pm-7:00pm **to help members get on Flickr**. You'll learn how to get a Yahoo account (if you don't already have one), how to get a moniker and select your privacy settings. Then you'll see how to get connected to the Morgan Hill Photography Flickr Groups so members can post images to the monthly theme site, upload images to your Focus group, show images from a club shoot-out (and see other members' images, too), and see all the possibilities of other Flickr Groups to join or see their images.

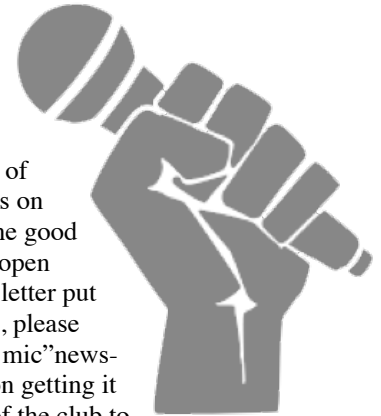
Get the word out about our great club! Invite a friend or relative, and/or "LIKE" us on Facebook.

I hope you had a chance to see the latest "Pet" Gallery Show at the Morgan Hill House on Monterey Rd (Villa MiraMonte). The next show is "Three", I'm looking forward to seeing the many interpretations of three in image form. Come and bring your family and friends to the Gallery opening night at Villa MiraMonte.

The Archibolds have volunteered their home as a meeting place to get the iPhoneography focus group up and running again. We will announce the meeting date at the July meeting. If you can't attend the meeting, but want to join us, send me an email, mbrownkorbel@yahoo.com, so you get on the email list and get notice of the meetings.

open mic:

A place to report on things photographically speaking (gallery openings, sightings of photo displays, new cameras on the market, photo info for the good of the club, etc.) So... now open mic is a column in the newsletter put together by your photo diva, please send any appropriate "open mic" news-worthy info, and I'll work on getting it published here for the rest of the club to read.



Hello and Good-bye (and good luck, too)! DeDe Wake was at our last photography club meeting, great to see her, but we found out, she was retiring and moving to the Sacramento area almost immediately. Larry announced it, and we all clapped for her, she will be missed in the People Group, having set up a shooting space for the group for over two years, was an "At Large" member of the Board for a year, and is an all around "nice" gal. We miss you already, DeDe!

The Community Connection group, headed by Dominic Godfrey, is looking for one or more new volunteers to show their movies or slideshows at Elderly Facilities. Bob Thompson, who was a longtime photography club member was very involved as one of the three volunteers who would trade off going to the different facilities and give a presentation. Unfortunately, Bob, passed in February, and is greatly missed. If you can help out in this area, please let Dominic know by email or at the next meeting. Those older folks are missing having the same number of presentations that they were used to. Please help if you have the time and/or the inclination!

Funny Times in Photography Land:

- Ever since buying a digital camera, I can only think of it's positive points. There aren't any negatives.
- How does Santa take photos? With his North Polaroid.
- A friend of mine is always going on about photography jokes. You just can't shutter up.
- When a friend retired from a lifetime as a photographer, he moved to an Old Focus Home.
- The only person happy with a 100% crop is a farmer.
- I think my pet crocodile is an amateur photographer. He's a bit of a snapper.
- ...and one for Canon camera users. A man walks into a photography shop and asks for a lens cap for a Nikon. The chap behind the counter says "seems like a fair swap to me".

Club News & June Meeting Review

by [Linda Sinyard](#)

In case you missed it here's what was happening in June. After being AWOL for two months, the dynamic father son duo of Luis's arrived. Welcome back boys. We missed you.

General announcements:

Jeff DuBridg, editor in chief, had a few printed copies of last month's newsletter back on Barbara's table. It can be found online. When it's ready you'll receive an email containing a link. It's packed full of frolicking good fun and will keep you in the loop.

Ron Cabral announced he is now the head honcho of the Macro focus group. He'll be sending out an email to find out who's interested in joining, what you're interested in shooting, and how much you know about Macro photography. If you don't know much, he's willing to teach you. It doesn't get any better than that! So be on the lookout for Ron to show up in your "IN" box.

Mark Grazen announced yet another wildflower shootout coming up in July. Tonights image share of the previous wildflower shootout should be enough to make you want to put this event on your calendar now and plan to go. You'll be guaranteed a fun good time. Mark has said so & past attendees agree. Time, date, and general logistics can be found on the Yahoo page.

Speaking of YAHOO, for those of you who don't know (or forgot) it's the club's general go to site for all kinds of information and "in between meetings" announcements, tips, and getting in touch with each other. ([Yahoo Forum](#))

Yahoo is where FLICKR is found. You NEED a YAHOO account in order to post a picture on the club's FLICKR page.

That's their rule, not ours. If you don't have a Yahoo account yet, you're missing out. We don't want anyone to miss out so we will help you sign up if you need help.

In July, a couple club members will be available before the meeting, say 6:30pm, to help you sign up. If you have a tablet or laptop bring it and we will walk you through the process. If you forget your device, or don't own one, no worries. We'll have a couple on hand for you to use. It's really simple and we will help you. Come see what you've been missing and join the fun.

Onto the topic of the evening. George presented a slide show on the photographic composition of lines. There are 10 lines, each conveying a specific trait, purpose, and emotion in a photograph. A vertical line, for example, conveys strength, power, & stability. Whereas it's close cousin the horizontal line is known to convey calmness, tranquility, and harmony. The 10 lines are Vertical line, Horizontal, Diagonal, Zig Zag/ Broken, S-Curve, C-Curve, Spiral, Implied, Leading, & Vanishing.

Where was all this talk about lines leading us? To the SCAVENGER HUNT of course! Just as twilight was upon us and the ducks were all headed into the tall grass to sleep, we dashed out of the building and converged onto the landscape of the CRC center. Clutching our little slips of paper listing the 11 types of lines we were to shoot, our cameras clicked away as darkness inched across the sky.

We all then returned to our tables to share our images then packed up and headed home. A good time was had by all. Until next month, keep your batteries charged, your lens caps handy (Rick), and look for those lines.

Monthly Theme

The Monthly Photo Themes for 2017

March – Parallel Lines

April – Glassware

May – Streams & Rivers

June – Tools

••• July •••

Looking Through A Window

August – Selfies

September – Trains

October – Dilapidated Buildings

November – Cars

December – Orchards/Vineyards

Photographers on Screen

If a photographer truly wants to improve his or her craft, they need to study how filmmakers and cinematographers captures moving images on the screen.

Just as important is for still photographers to watch films that depict the art of photography through Hollywood's eye and also visit the stories of celebrated photographers through documentaries.

Here are [40 notable movies](#) about photography every photographer should watch... in no particular order.



The Important Dates

NEW MHPC Focus Groups

The Macro Focus Group has been reignited with the help of Ron Cabral. Contact [Ron Cabral](#) for monthly times

The Night Focus Group has also started again by members [Noël Cavi](#) or [Rick Rasmussen](#). Contact either for more details.

Yosemite Shootout: June 13–14

Another great photo outing is happening on July 13–14th. Contact [Mark Grzan](#) for details.

Big Picture Exhibit: Starts July 28

See this year's award-winning photos—big, and in-person—exhibited at the [California Academy of Sciences](#) in San Francisco. Opening July 28, 2017.

BigPicture encourages photographers from around the world to contribute their work to this competition that will both celebrate and illustrate the rich diversity of life on Earth and inspire action to protect and conserve it through the power of imagery.

Chaired by award-winning photographer and Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers Suzi Eszterhas, this competition welcomes professional-level, high-caliber nature, wildlife and conservation images and is open to all photographers who aim to capture the beauty and fragility of the natural world through an artistic lens.

A small portion of the Big Picture 2017 Competition results can be found [here](#).

Eastern Sierras Shootout

A shootout is being planned for the Eastern Sierras in early November ~5–8th. Contact [Mark Grzan](#) for details.

Exhibition at the California Academy of Sciences July–October 2017

Every year, [BigPicture](#) poses the question “What on Earth have you photographed?” as part of our annual Natural World Photography Competition with winning images displayed each summer at the California Academy of Sciences for all visitors to enjoy.



Featuring the work of award-winning nature, wildlife, and conservation photographers from around the world, the exhibit uses photography as a means to celebrate and illustrate the rich diversity of life on Earth and inspire action to protect and conserve it.

Facebook

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

Like the club's page on Facebook and you'll gain another avenue of communication, not only with members, but with all the world.

Make friends with other members in the club (most board members are on Facebook) and share your photographic thoughts and links.



The 2017 Executive Board

George Ziegler

President, Gallery Show Chair, and Webmaster

Susan Brazelton

Past President and Community Events Director

Noella Vigeant

Vice President and Program Director

Barbara Dawson

Treasurer

Noël Calvi

Membership and Marketing Director

Mark Grzan

Shootout Committee Chair

Jeff DuBridg

Newsletter Editor

Dominic Godfrey

Community Connections Committee Chair

Michael Sue BrownKorbel

Photo Diva

Linda Synard

Member at Large

Susan Stillman

Member at Large

Morgan Hill Photography Club

General meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Morgan Hill Centennial Recreation Center
171 West Edmundson Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

<http://morganhillphotographyclub.org>
info@morganhillphotographyclub.org



Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY				
<p>Personal Information</p> <p>Please print clearly</p> <p>Application to be completed and signed on a yearly basis.</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Phone: [H] _____ [C] _____</p> <p>eMail: _____</p> <p>flickr@ screen name: _____</p>			
	<p>YOUR LEVEL OF PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE/SKILL:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beginner</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Low Intermediate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High Intermediate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Advanced/Professional</p>			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>THE CAMERA YOU USE MOST OFTEN:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Film (any format) <input type="checkbox"/> Phone/Tablet</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Digital SLR <input type="checkbox"/> Point and Shoot</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ILC (mirrorless w/interchangeable lens)</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERESTS (check all that apply):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Macro <input type="checkbox"/> Sports/Action <input type="checkbox"/> HD Video</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Night <input type="checkbox"/> People/Portraits <input type="checkbox"/> Nature</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Landscapes <input type="checkbox"/> City/Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Events</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>THE CAMERA YOU USE MOST OFTEN:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Film (any format) <input type="checkbox"/> Phone/Tablet</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Digital SLR <input type="checkbox"/> Point and Shoot</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ILC (mirrorless w/interchangeable lens)</p>	<p>PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERESTS (check all that apply):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Macro <input type="checkbox"/> Sports/Action <input type="checkbox"/> HD Video</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Night <input type="checkbox"/> People/Portraits <input type="checkbox"/> Nature</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Landscapes <input type="checkbox"/> City/Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Events</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	
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	<p>How did you hear about us? _____</p>			
<p>Membership Dues</p> <p>(circle one)</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>RENEWAL: \$20</p> <p>Due and payable on or before January 1 of each calendar year.</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>NEW MEMBERSHIPS:</p> <p>Join in January thru September - includes current year only. \$20</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>Join in October or November - includes following calendar year. \$25</p> <p>Join in December - includes following calendar year. \$20</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>RENEWAL: \$20</p> <p>Due and payable on or before January 1 of each calendar year.</p>	<p>NEW MEMBERSHIPS:</p> <p>Join in January thru September - includes current year only. \$20</p>	<p>Join in October or November - includes following calendar year. \$25</p> <p>Join in December - includes following calendar year. \$20</p>
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<p>Privacy Opt-IN</p>	<p>MHPC periodically issues a membership directory. Your name and flickr@ screen name will appear in the directory, however, you may elect to share only some of your other personal information. Please circle which personal information you agree to share in the directory.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> eMail <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> None </p>			
<p>Membership Agreement and Liability Release</p>	<p>I, _____ PRINT NAME _____, hereby renew or apply for membership in the Morgan Hill Photography Club [MHPC] and request to participate in <i>General Meetings, Shootouts</i> (photographic field trips and walks), <i>Focus Groups</i> (periodic gatherings of members who have a common special photographic interest), <i>Gallery Shows</i>, and other activities [collectively Activities] as organized by MHPC and/or its members.</p> <p>I understand that MHPC has been organized to provide its members and guests with the opportunity to participate in various Activities related to photography. In addition, I understand that such Activities may present inherent physical risks to my person and/or property, and that membership in MHPC does not require my participation in such Activities. I therefore voluntarily assume full responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury that may be sustained by me and/or my property, as a result of participating in such Activities. Furthermore, I understand that MHPC does not provide general liability, accident or theft insurance of any kind for it's members and/or guests.</p> <p>In consideration of membership in MHPC and participation in MHPC's Activities, I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless MHPC, its officers, and/or members, from any claims arising out of my participation in any MHPC activity, and agree to refrain from making any claims or commencing any lawsuit against MHPC, its officers and/or members.</p> <p>I agree to the foregoing and acknowledge that I have read and understand the MHPC Membership Agreement and Liability Release.</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>			
<p>Payment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cash or checks made payable to Morgan Hill Photography Club. A \$25 fee will be charged on all returned checks. Membership dues are non-refundable.</p>			

On the reverse side of this application describe any skills or expertise that you would be willing to share with others.