

# INFOCUS

August 2017

[www.morganhillphotographyclub.org](http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org)

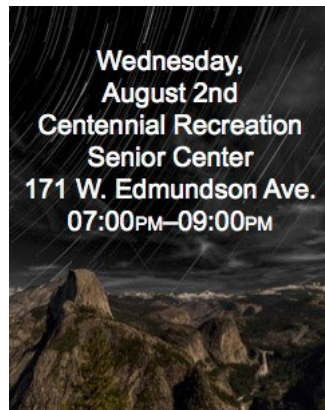
## August Meeting: Must Attend A Focus on...Focus Groups!

Morgan Hill Photography Club's August meeting will improve your photography potential in one or more areas via a focus on the following Focus Groups:

- People
- Video & Drones
- Macro
- Lightroom
- Night
- Compact Cameras
- and maybe more.

Each group leader will make a club presentation, followed by separate table discussions; each table will have a separate group, and one can stay at one table for the rest of the meeting, travel to two, three, or all the tables, it's your call. Now don't think you've mastered some, or all the groups, as that's impossible. At each group table, you can listen, learn, question, discuss, present, teach...anything!

August's featured photographer is Jeff DuBridge. Come early, or stay late & see his images, talk to him about his work, & enjoy his creativity. [*ed. an excellent artist!*]



### AUGUST 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 Calvi](#) 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](#))

## Monthly Theme

The Monthly Photo Themes for 2017

April – Glassware

May – Streams & Rivers

June – Tools

July – Looking Through a Window

••• **August** •••  
••••• **Selfies** •••••

September – Trains

October – Dilapidated Buildings

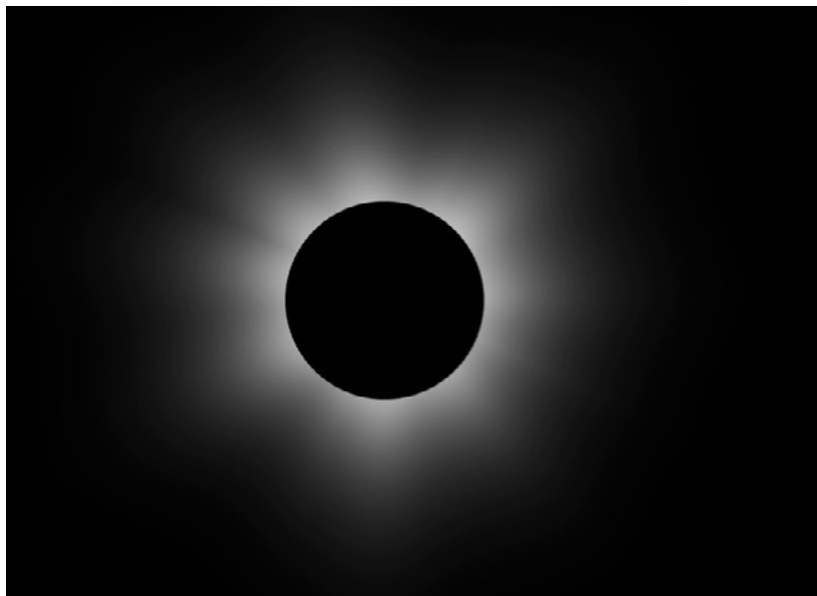
November – Cars

December – Orchards/Vineyards

# Editor's Note

by [Jeff DuBridge](#)

**M**y birthday is this Saturday, and my brother's birthday is just another sixteen days after mine—plus five years. While, I do love my brother, I simply refuse to see him and wish him well on his Monday birthday. It has nothing to do with my brother, or Monday's, you see, I'll be in Casper, WY. In 1971, I had just turned five, and do not remember my brother's first day home, but I hope to remember his



birthday this year. Do you see the correlation?

If you haven't figured it out yet, Monday, August 21, 2017, will be the day of a total solar eclipse crossing the continental United States of America from the Pacific in the west moving through our entire nation with an exit point upon reaching the Atlantic in the east. The eclipse first enters Oregon, moving to Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, ending through Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina before leaving our nation at the far east end of South Carolina. This entire eclipse will be during day light hours.

In Casper, the total eclipse will last up to 3 minutes and 28 seconds. Unfortunately, in Morgan Hill, the eclipse will be just a tad under 80 percent. It's better than nothing though.

To the best of my knowledge, our club's youngest member is seventeen years old (maybe eighteen now), and even he knows not to stare at the sun. If the sun is covered zero percent, or 80 percent, do not look at the sun. If you don't believe me and really want to ruin your eyes, or blind yourself, take a 400mm lens (any lens will do the trick), point it at the sun, stare into the viewfinder, now, say good bye to your vision, and good bye to your camera's digital sensor. A new digital sensor is a few hundred dollars. Your vision?

In order to directly view the eclipse with your eyes, you will need to wear a specially made, yet cheap, pair of solar glasses. NOT sunglasses.

These are extremely cheap, and still available at [bhphotovideo.com](#) (and other .coms I am sure). Upon a recent, last week, solar photo equipment purchase, I received two or three sets, five to a set, pairs of solar eyewear, for free...well, sort of for free.



Solar views with one's camera requires a bit more specialty—the same with binoculars and telescopes. There are two choices: an extremely strong ND filter, or special solar filters. As for the ND filter, it should be at least ND 100,000, and you must be aware that the ND filter does not filter all of the damaging rays of the sun. If you place it on your camera, only the LCD viewfinder can be used to view or adjust your lens. Even if you are wearing a pair of solar glasses, the camera's viewfinder cannot be used due to an increased solar exposure from the lens (telephoto or wide-angle).

The specialty filters are a coated mylar film, very fragile, than can either be screwed onto the end of the lens, or, usually a specialty folded paper based film bracer that is placed over the lens's end.

Assuming the fragile film is not torn or punctured, viewing the sun through the camera's eyepiece is safe.

If you not coming with me on my trip to WY this month, the question may arise: when is the next solar eclipse crossing the continental United State of America? The date is August, 12, 2045. The eclipse will travel from California to Florida. On that day, I will be a week into my 79th year. I hope I can make it...let's hope we can all make it, because the 2045 eclipse will last over six minutes!



# July Meeting Review

by [Susan Stillman](#)

The July guest speaker was Ron Erskine, “a writer, an outdoor photographer, naturalist, and a lifelong back-country wanderer.” ([www.ronerskine.com](http://www.ronerskine.com)).

The topic for this evening was making the extraordinary out of the ordinary.

Ron hikes with camera in hand. Not a small point and shoot but a substantially sized Nikon DSLR.

Being an avid and a strong hiker/backpacker means that Ron visits the most extraordinarily gorgeous landscapes...he commented “ninety percent of a good photo is ‘being there’”. And being there does not only mean arriving at a scenic place, it also is being aware of weather, sun angle, and a knowledge of native plants and the chance to see and capture wildlife.

An example of Being There was on a morning when Ron awoke early at his home. He knew it was cold with chances of snow showers. He was up and out with camera EARLY before E. Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill closed due to snow conditions. He hiked Coe’s Monument Trail to Erik’s bench and then made his way to the giant Valley Oak. This oak tree has been photographed by many. Ron’s capture is extraordinary because of the snow and lighting and his choice to try a unique angle



and perspective...I love how Ron did not try to capture the entire tree, but placed the main trunk to the left of his frame with snow covered branches flowing out and away.

Another early morning was heavy with fog. Ron took a walk which brought him to the this extraordinary scene of Moose standing in water.

One of Ron’s favorite photos is a simple scene we probably often have surrounding us at our feet but how often do we look with eyes of a photographer and then choose to compose. This is of yellowed and spotted brown aspen leaves, and dry grasses, lying at Ron’s feet...the point is, Ron says, “looking as a photographer” and seeing extraordinary in the ordinary.

Ron’s photos are inspirational and motivating. A reminder to notice what is happening in nature and forgo the comfort of sipping coffee on the couch—when the fog is thick or a storm is approaching, or the sun has not yet risen—that might be *the time* to get out and put on a photographer’s eye.

To view more photos, read his blog, or to find information on his book, *Measureless Mountain Days: A Father and Son on the John Muir Trail* by Ron Erskine, visit [www.ronerskine.com](http://www.ronerskine.com).



Here’s the Best Part  
of this Month’s *InFocus*:  
Logo patches are available  
at all meetings!

- Logo Patches \$5
- Embroidery Service \$10



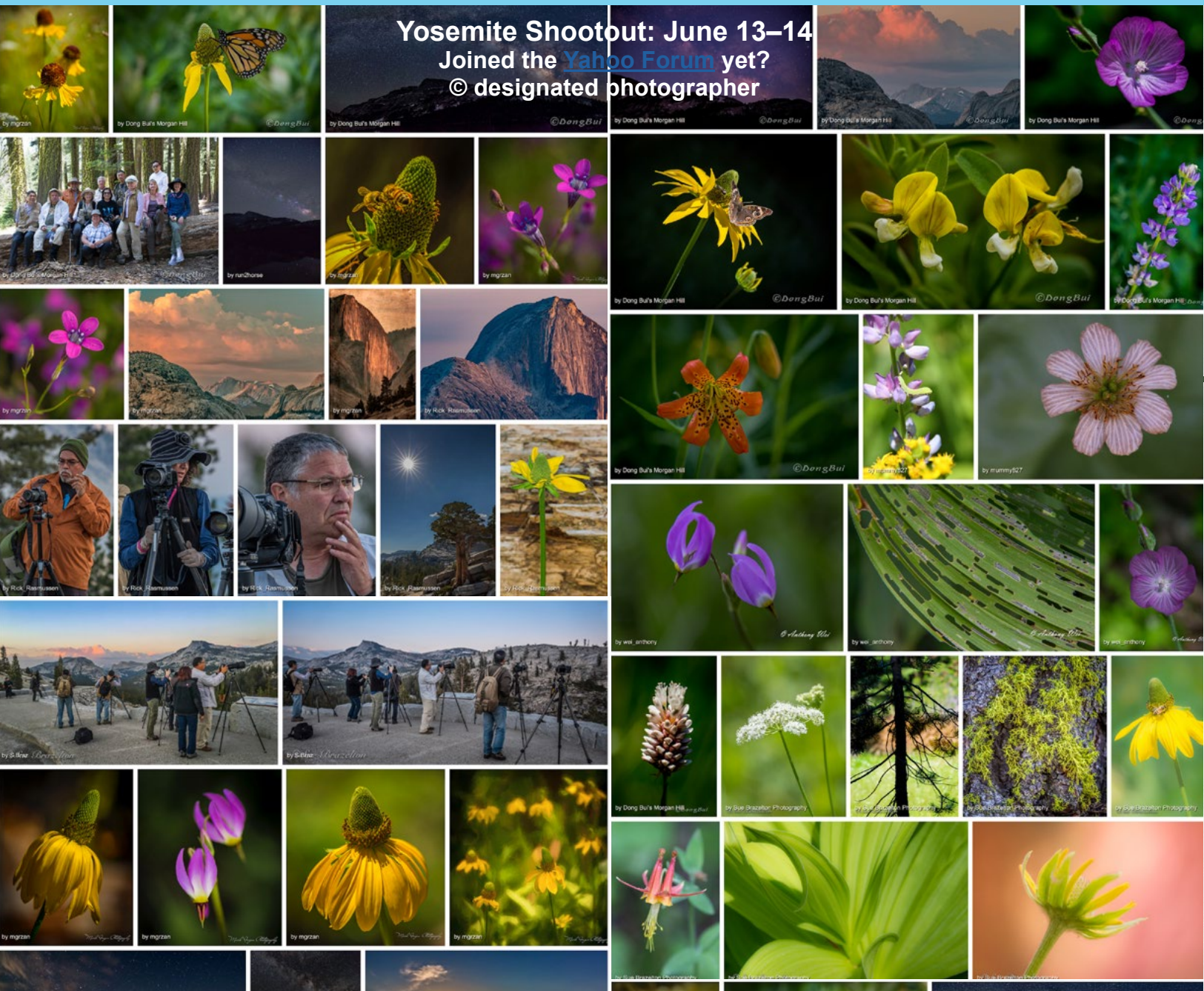
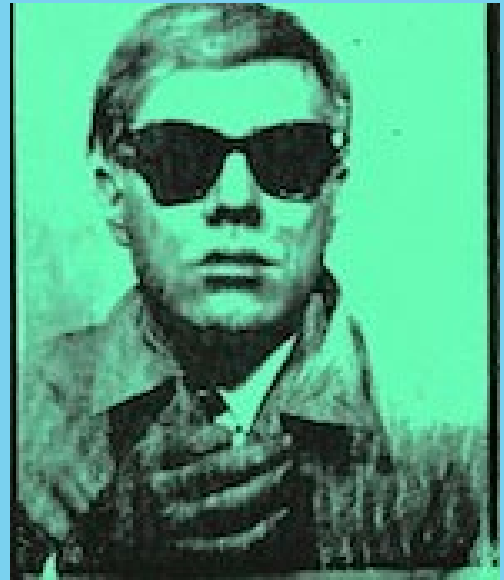
# August's Photo Theme: Selfie

Andy Warhol's first selfie may not have scored any likes back in the day, but the flattering shot has become a cult classic. The iconic pop artist's "Self-Portrait," made in 1963–64, was created using an image of Warhol originally snapped in a New York photo booth. The artist famously declared, "in the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes," a prediction that foresaw the rise of social media, reality TV and the wild west of internet virality.

By the way Andy Warhol's first self-portrait (above) sold in a London auction for \$7.7 million in June of this year.

Your selfie may never gain the fame, or be worth as much as Warhol's, but you never know. Participate in this month's theme and see what happens.

Take photographs that fit the theme and upload up to five of them to the club's Monthly Photo Themes flickr® group. If you are not a member of the Monthly Photo Themes flickr® group learn how to join here.



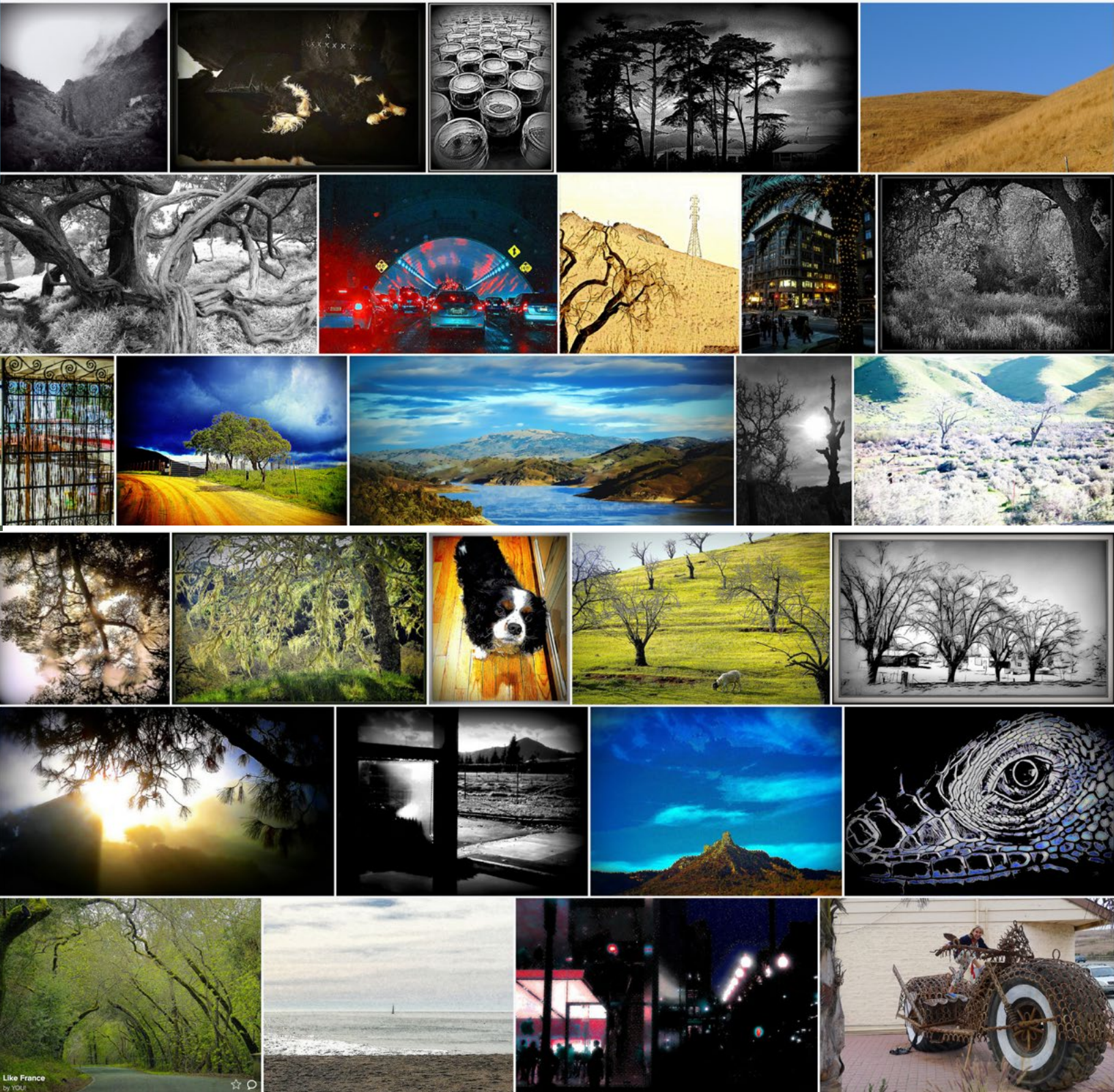
# This Month's Featured Photographer: Serge Mankovski

Upon my first view of Serge's photos, I was quite surprised, and replied to his email, "I must say that they are not fancy, cute, stereotypic beautiful pictures. They are much better than that. You have seen many club members' photos and while many are...beautiful pictures, and some definitely at the top of that category, an uniqueness doesn't always shine through. I have seen photos somewhat similar to yours, yet the photos you generate truly are linked to your own style. Your photos are not 'nice, cute pictures,' where one spends less than a second reviewing the photo before moving

on to the next picture. Your photos take longer to review and say something...not sure how to describe the feelings I receive from your photos other than to just say they are both portray a positive emotion overall and still bring a mystery on exactly what your trying to say, or even, more specifically, are you trying to say anything in particular at all?

Overall, love your pictures, and will definitely place them in the club's InFocus---just not all at once."

Photos © Serge Mankovski



# New Mandatory Regulations on: DRONES

by [George Ziegler](#)

**H**ave you been thinking about getting a drone to help elevate your photography? Do you already have a drone and are confused about the myriad of rules, regulations, and prohibitions concerning their use? Are you unsure if you need a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) license and/or need to register your drone? Are you not sure where you can legally use your drone? Well, you are not alone.

The drones used in photography ARE NOT toys. The FAA defines a drone as a small Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), which includes model aircraft, that has no possibility of human intervention directly from the aircraft and weighs between 0.55–55 lbs. The FAA has jurisdiction of ALL airspace in the United States. That means that as soon as the drone leaves the ground you must follow FAA rules governing safe flight.

Do I need a license? First and foremost, there a LOTS of mis-information, and sometimes contradictory information, floating around in regards to the guidelines for UAS use, and the need for a license. There are different guidelines if you are doing commercial versus recreational photography. If you are selling photos taken with your UAS it is obviously commercial use and you need a license. The FAA definition of a “commercial flight” is very broad. For example, you take a cool image during a recreational flight, which you later sell, then the FAA will retroactively classify your flight as commercial and all the commercial rules apply. Placing a video on YouTube where you collect ad revenue; a farmer using a drone to survey his crops (it benefits his business); or a neighbor gives you \$25 after you used your drone to check their

gutters, and are all considered commercial use.

The FAA has other rules:

- Flying at night is not allowed without a waiver.
- Flying directly over people, not involved in the production, is not allowed without a waiver.

***“The drones used in photography ARE NOT toys”***

- You must be able to see the UAS at all times (i.e. Visual Line Of Sight [VLOS]).

- Interfering with manned aircraft is prohibited (and will make you famous in all the

wrong ways).

- You can find more rules at [www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/fly\\_for\\_fun/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_fun/)

If you stand to commercially benefit whatsoever from your drone, then the FAA requires you have your license: [uavcoach.com/drone-certification/](http://uavcoach.com/drone-certification/). In my opinion, getting your Part 107 license, although there is cost involved, is a good idea even if you are using your UAS recreationally, since it will not only familiarize you with the FAA rules but will protect you in case the FAA determines you used your UAS commercially.



# Continued: New Mandatory Regulations on: DRONES

Do I need to register my drone. This has been very hot topic lately. The answer is that it depends. In Taylor versus FAA, the courts found the FAA did NOT have the legal standing to require recreational operators to register their drones with the FAA. However, they do encourage you to do so (to help in the recovery of lost equipment) and, remember, the FAA definition of “commercial” is very broad. If you are using a drone commercially, even part of the time, then you have to register it regardless. You can register it yourself here: [www.registermyuas.faa.gov](http://www.registermyuas.faa.gov) (there are companies which offer to do it for you—for more money, of course. Don’t do it, registration only take 4–5 minutes and is super easy).



Where can I use my drone? Perhaps a better question is where can't I use my drone? The answer is any place where it is prohibited.

- National Parks: You may not takeoff or land in any areas under the jurisdiction of the U.S. National Parks Service, which includes National Monuments, National Historic Parks, National Recreation Areas, etc. There are 417 official units of the National Park System [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_National\\_Park\\_System\\_official\\_units](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_United_States_National_Park_System_official_units).
- California State Parks: Recreational use of drones in State Parks are currently allowed ([www.parks.ca.gov/pages/937/files/csp\\_uas.pdf](http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/937/files/csp_uas.pdf)), however some parks have their own rules.
- Santa Clara County Parks
- You cannot takeoff, or land in Santa Clara

County Parks.

- National Forest System: Individuals that fly a UAS, for hobby or recreational purposes, may not operate them in areas of National Forest System lands that have Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) [tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html](http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html) in place, such as wildfires, without prior approval from the U.S. Forest Service ([www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/unmanned-aircraft-systems](http://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/unmanned-aircraft-systems))
  - Designated Wilderness Areas: You may not fly a UAS in designated Wilderness Areas.
  - Private Property: Do at your own risk. You run the risk of your UAS getting shot down by some homeowner with a shotgun in some remote areas.

This list is not complete, you need to check. In all cases where you are using a drone for commercial purposes you need a “filming” or “photography” permit. Regardless if you are using your drone as recreational, or commercial you need to follow the FAA rules.

Can I use my drone on a shootout? Club members and shootout participants are responsible for making sure that drone photography is permitted, that they have the required permits and licenses before taking any photos with a UAS. The club will not be responsible for fines imposed by authorities for flying drones illegally, or without required licenses and permits.

The club has a Video/Drone Focus Group to help you with your drone questions. Contact David Fredericks: [david@dosgatos.net](mailto:david@dosgatos.net) for more information.

# 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 Calvi](#) or [Rick Rasmussen](#). Contact either for more details.

## Eastern Sierra Fall Color Shootout

Thursday October 5–Sunday, October 8, 2017

During this shootout participants will be visiting many Eastern Sierra sites resplendent with fall colors. We will visit places such as Dundenberg Meadow, Virginia Lakes and beaver ponds, Carson Pass, Long Valley, Tioga Pass and Canyon, and other places along highway 120. When not in a National or State Park there may be opportunities for photographic drones to shoot the aspen canopy and colored canyons. Participants are responsible for making sure that drone photography is permitted before taking pictures at any location and whether or

not they have the required permits and licences necessary for such photography. The club will not be responsible for fines imposed by authorities for flying drones illegally or without required licenses and permits.

We will be staying at Lake View Lodge in Lee Vining, CA ([www.lakeviewlodgeyosemite.com](http://www.lakeviewlodgeyosemite.com)) Participants are encouraged to share accommodations, if they wish, which will help reduce individual expenses. Dining will be at the groups convenience or on your own. Participants will be shooting wonderful sunrises and sunsets along Highway 395, Mono Lake, and we may get a chance to visit the Historic Ghost town Bodie.

If you want to participate, RSVP to [Mark Grzan](#). Contact Mark for additional information. Please include your cell phone number.

**CAR POOL DRIVERS NEEDED:** We are looking for car pool drivers, so if you are willing to drive please let Mark Grzan know.

## 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

[www.facebook.com/MorganHillPhotographyClub](http://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 DuBridge

Newsletter Editor

### Dominic Godfrey

Community Connections Committee Chair

### Michael Sue BrownKorbel

Photo Diva

### Lennie Randall

Member at Large

### Susan Stillman

Member at Large



# Morgan Hill Photography Club

General meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:info@morganhillphotographyclub.org)



# Membership Application

<b>Personal Information</b>  Please print clearly  Application to be completed and signed on a yearly basis.	<b>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</b>			<b>YOUR LEVEL OF PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE/SKILL:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Low Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> High Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced/Professional
	Name: _____ Phone: [H] _____ [C] _____ eMail: _____ flickr@ screen name: _____			
	<b>THE CAMERA YOU USE MOST OFTEN:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Film (any format) <input type="checkbox"/> Phone/Tablet <input type="checkbox"/> Digital SLR <input type="checkbox"/> Point and Shoot <input type="checkbox"/> ILC (mirrorless w/interchangeable lens)	<b>PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERESTS (check all that apply):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Macro <input type="checkbox"/> Sports/Action <input type="checkbox"/> HD Video <input type="checkbox"/> Night <input type="checkbox"/> People/Portraits <input type="checkbox"/> Nature <input type="checkbox"/> Landscapes <input type="checkbox"/> City/Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Events <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
How did you hear about us? _____				
<b>Membership Dues</b>  (circle one)	RENEWAL: <b>\$20</b> Due and payable on or before January 1 of each calendar year.	NEW MEMBERSHIPS:		
		Join in January thru September - includes current year only. <b>\$20</b>	Join in October or November - includes following calendar year. <b>\$25</b>	Join in December - includes following calendar year. <b>\$20</b>
<b>Privacy Opt-IN</b>	MHPC periodically issues a membership directory. <b>Your name and flickr@ screen name will appear in the directory</b> , however, you may elect to share only some of your other personal information. <b>Please circle which personal information you agree to share in the directory.</b>			
	eMail	Home Phone	Cell Phone	None
<b>Membership Agreement and Liability Release</b>	I, _____ <b>PRINT NAME</b> _____, 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.  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.  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.  <b>I agree to the foregoing</b> and acknowledge that I have read and understand the MHPC Membership Agreement and Liability Release.  Signature: _____ Date: _____			
<b>Payment</b>	Cash or checks made payable to <b>Morgan Hill Photography Club</b> . A \$25 fee will be charged on all returned checks. <b>Membership dues are non-refundable.</b>			

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