

# INFOCUS

April 2021

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

## April Anniversary Meeting

The club began 13 years ago in April of 2008. In celebration, the club will be holding a Zoom meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. As a part of the meeting, an image critique will be held by renowned image assessor, Melanie Lewert. [see below box for image submission details]



Below is from Melanie's bio:

I have been taking pictures since I received first camera in 1969, a Kodak Brownie Holiday; I became enamored with capturing the world on film. In college I purchased my first 35mm camera—Minolta 370—and found that I had a great eye for black and white. Until I moved onto a digital camera, years later, all of my work was in black and white—enjoying the use of contrast and shadows to tell my story. Since going to digital I have found a photographic voice that is unique unto my own. I've won a number of ribbons and have shown my work in several shows, outside of my club's annual exposition. Photography is more than a hobby for me, it's a passion—it's the way I can capture and celebrate life.

When I look at a photograph I wonder why the photographer took the picture and what they wanted to say—what's the "story" behind the picture? There are a lot of photographs out there, but most don't make you see or feel what the photographer saw and felt when they took the photo—a good photograph does all that and more.

Each image must be of a different subject and different category, such as landscape, nature, portrait, still life, creative, photo journalism, black and white, etc, so that a diversified presentation can be made.

Each image must be at least 1920 pixels on the longest side and all watermarks and other identifying text must be removed. Rename your file to include your name and a number, for example *Ima\_Photographer\_1.jpg*. Include the title of your image in the metadata, or submit it along with your image, and we'll insert it in the metadata for you. Email your images to [submissions@morganhillphotographyclub.org](mailto:submissions@morganhillphotographyclub.org) no later than **Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, by 9PM**. The selected images will be available to Melanie the day before the meeting so she can prepare appropriate comments.

All submitted images may not be selected due to time constraints. HOWEVER, each member who submits an image will have at least one image selected for critique. There is no charge for submitting an image.



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## Facebook

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 always share your photographic thoughts and links.

# Editor's Notes

by [Jeff DuBridge](#)

Let me start off by saying, “You’re Welcome” in that I will not be writing anything about that annoying “bug” that has been all the focus of our society in the last year.

Instead, I’d like to tell you about my Christmas present, a Deardorff 4x5 Special large format camera. A short list of desired gifts was supplied to my wife in early December, and a large format camera was on the top of the list.

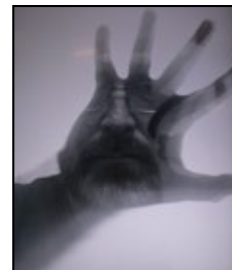
A fellow club member, Steve Soult, found my “new” camera online and informed me of a prior owner and the manufacturing date of the camera—around 1950.

Right after Christmas, the camera needed the purchase of additional equipment to make it a full camera: two lenses, dark cloth, focusing loupe, film holders, and a variety of 4x5 films. Thankfully, I already owned some of the other necessary equipment: shutter release cables, 4x5 film holding developers, film development chemicals/equipment, and a light meter.

Now, I know some of you might be thinking, “Well that’s nice Jeff, thanks for telling me all about your new camera, but the old film photography realm is not for me.” If this is your viewpoint, that’s fine since film photography and digital photography are simply two different forms of the art of photography. A similar comparison would be that some people like drawing, some like to paint, while others enjoy delving into both mediums—neither is right or wrong.

One of the reasons, I believe, that I never delved strongly into film photography as a youngster (even with a father working at a Kodak film processing plant that would develop and print all my film for free) was that the 4x6 or 5x7 prints I would receive were printed on bland, glossy paper and often cropped not to my liking. Such a process worked well for stereotypic snapshots of my brother opening a birthday present, yet for a more artistic intent, the end results were far from satisfying.

About a year ago, I started to try film out once again, mainly to give a try one final time where *I* was the person that did the developing and printing *myself* and *I* would be the person to decide on printing papers and where to crop... or not crop. Plain and simple, when *you* do the development and printing process *yourself*, the end results are much more satisfying than going through the old Kodak, photo lab, drugstore, etcetera process from old times. When it is *you* that is pulling that negative or transparency out of the development tank to dry a few days after *your* arduous hike up that steep hill to capture that special tree on the top of the hill, it is hard to put into words the satisfaction received upon initial glance of the piece after all the hard work placed into capturing just one or two photographs from a large format camera (or even a smaller film format).

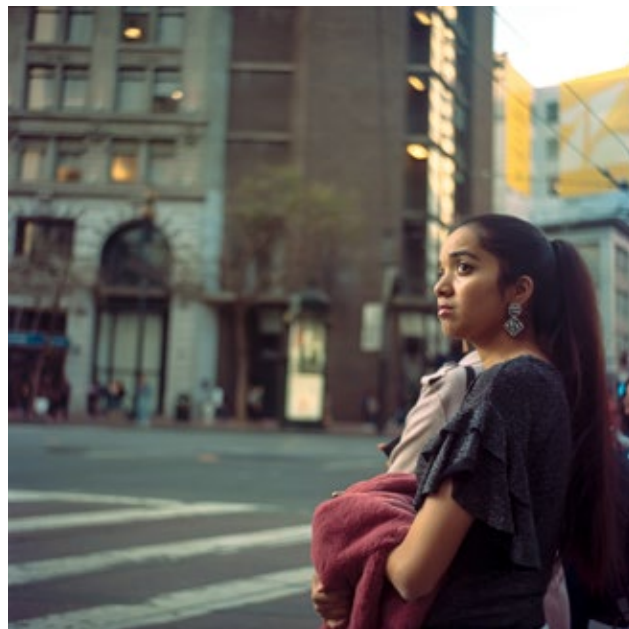


Another benefit I obtain in film photography is the difference in the two mediums of film versus digital. While digital photography is excellent in capturing the reality of the scene at hand, the various choices of film the artist can choose from cannot be equaled in the digital realm. Certain films, such as Kodak Portra, can only be slightly mimicked in post digital processing with your pixelated groups of ones and zeroes. Again, one photo is not necessarily better than the other, yet I argue that a quality capture of a well intended portrait of your granddaughter (not a mindless snapshot) on Portra 400 is going to give your granddaughter and yourself a whole lot more satisfaction (especially if you make a print) than a capture placed on Instagram taken with your pricey Nikon D850.

Give it a try, you’ll be appreciably surprised.



Deardorff 4x5 Special



Kodak Portra 400, 120



Jeff DuBridge: April's Featured Photographer ([https://morganhillphotographyclub.org/?page\\_id=2025](https://morganhillphotographyclub.org/?page_id=2025))

## Focus Groups

**Lightroom** - Virtual meeting, contact. ([George Ziegler](#))

**Night** - Contact ([George Ziegler](#)).

**People** - On-hold. ([Larry Campbell](#)) for more information.

**Video & Drones** - On-hold ([Lance Trott](#))

**Mobile Phone Photography** Contact ([George Ziegler](#)) for more info.

**Photoshop Elements** - Virtual meeting, contact. ([Noël Calvi](#))

**MHPC Chat & Share** - Virtual meeting. ([Lance Trott](#))

## April Flickr Theme: Holes



This month's theme allows you to get out of the "hole" you are in and exhibit your creativity. There are black holes, donut holes, Alice went down the rabbit hole, worm holes, keyholes, pot holes, etc. that can be interpreted in either realistic or an abstract manner. It's up to you.

## The 2020 Executive Board

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President, Gallery Show Chair, & Webmaster

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Vice President

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**Susan Brazelton**

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**Jeff DuBridge**

Newsletter Editor

**Michael Sue BrownKorbel**

Photo Diva

**OPEN**

Member at Large

**OPEN**

Member at Large



## This Month's *InFocus* Photographer: J. Daniel McCranie



Dan's is quite an artist with a focus in both nature photography and watercolor. This month he shares some brilliant nature photographs from a wide variety of trips through various parts of the world. Dan joined the club just last month and, hopefully, he will be sharing his photos with us all far into the future. (<http://www.mccranie.biz>)

All photos © J. Daniel McCranie



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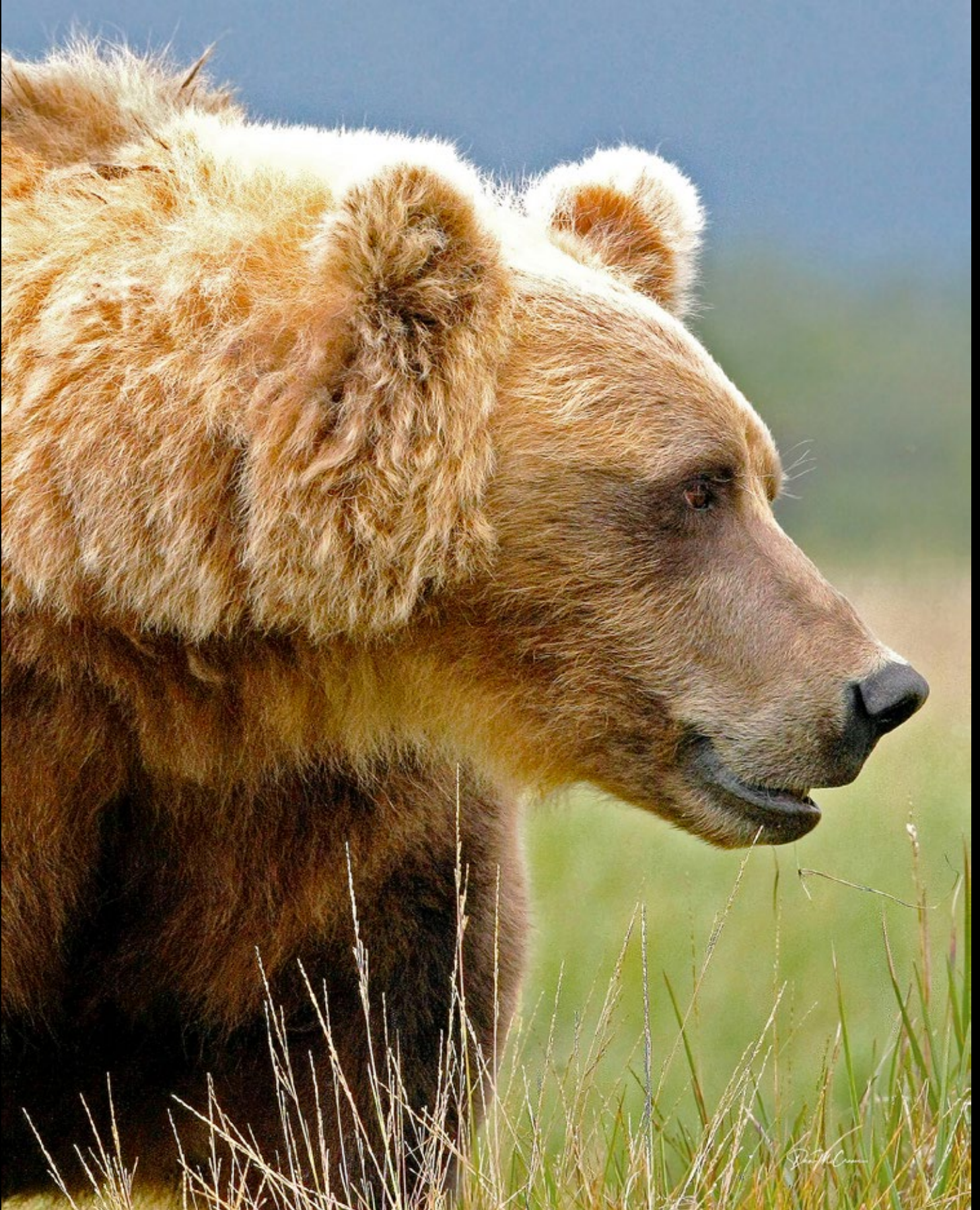


Female Coyote, Yellowstone, Winter

J. Daniel McCranie



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# The Master Photographers: J. Daniel McCranie

Interview with J. Daniel McCranie on December 30<sup>th</sup> by Jeff DuBridg e at the Ladera Grill

**Jeff DuBridg e: When did you start into photography?**

Dan McCranie: I started late into real photography when I retired at the age of 57. I both backpacked and hiked a lot and always carried a camera with me. As my backpacking increased, I became more and more interested in photography and after around half a decade, I started to go out for the sole purpose of photography and not backpacking. Currently, most of my day hikes and my extended hikes are 100% for photography,



**make macro lenses that do more than just simple macro, but they actually have macro lenses that will do up to five times or more focus magnification.**

**We've discussed a bit about the supposed desire to travel in order to find locations worth photographing. In a recent club photo safari to Utah, a member and myself found ourselves talking with a photographer who traveled from Europe to Arches National Park to take a bunch a photographs. Why do you think he came to the United States?**

DM: I have no idea.

**JD: Because he stated that there is nothing to photograph in Europe. (laughter)**

**And why do we go to Europe? Because there is nothing worth photographing in the United States. (more laughter) It's always better somewhere else.**

DM: I travel every year, late September to early October, to the Grand Tetons, and always a ton of Europeans come there every year. I never ask them why they come to the States. There must be large amounts to photograph in Europe.

**JD: What's your career history?**

DM: I was an electrical engineer, then electrical engineering manager/designer. Actually, I started out early making

smart bombs back in the '60's during the Vietnam War timeframe. Following that, I went into computer science, general management, and then we started our own little semiconductor company in the '80's. I retired in 2001 from all that work. I'd gotten up to CEO in a couple of companies, and then started a second career doing turnarounds, which is simply aiding a bunch of public companies that stumble. And so the second half of my career from the age of 57 to 75 was on turnarounds and that was fun. And then from 75 to 77 I detoured everything into the hobby businesses like the restaurant ([Ladera Grill](#)) and the gallery ([Colibri Art & Framing](#)). I'm a little busy right now moving, accidentally, into alternative energy companies with focus on electric vehicles and, also, a battery company.

I always wanted an art gallery, and had an idea about what a gallery could look like in a non-travel destination. It's pretty easy to get galleries in



places like Carmel or Santa Fe, but a little harder to get galleries in small towns like Morgan Hill. Just two weeks ago, the City of Morgan Hill approved my plan to build

a two story 6,000 square foot art gallery in the location of the old bike store in downtown. [ed.: at the corner of Monterey Road and Second Street]

What would the Morgan Hill Photography Club like to see in the community? The reason I ask this is because in the new gallery I want to have the ability to have a large 80-100 seating second story area where I can actually have workshops and presentations for all

**JD: What was your first camera?**

DM: Actually, the first camera I purchased was a Canon DSLR Rebel.

Today, I'm using the 5D Mark IV, 1Dx Mark III, and for birding I just purchased a Nikon D850 with a Nikkor 500mm lens.

**JD: What type of photography do you focus on?**

DM: Almost all nature. My favorite is wildlife, and my secondary is landscapes.

**JD: Where do you hike around here?**

DM: Several times a year Henry Coe, Big Sur, Yosemite, but I haven't done too much Lake Tahoe yet.

**JD: Have you tried street photography, people, products...?**

DM: No, I haven't. I've wanted to explore some work in macro because I really enjoy some of the post processing.

**JD: Canon, and other manufacturers,**





# The Master Photographers: J. Daniel McCranie

Interview with J. Daniel McCranie on December 30<sup>th</sup> by Jeff DuBridgde at the Ladera Grill



forms of art. The building will not be up for another 15 months, but eventually I want the new gallery to be a new center place for a growing art engagement in South County.

**JD: I think that'd be great!**

DM: Not just 2D fine art forms. You paint and draw, right?

**JD: Yes.**

DM: Me too. Poorly, but I've taken a lot of courses, little three and five day courses from the masters, and it's transformational. I figured, "Wouldn't it be great to have a steady, robust series of events and courses where, maybe ten days a month, the master artists would be available. A wide variety of training will be available. For example, a short course over a two to three week period in Photoshop or Lightroom would greatly improve a lot of peoples' photography. Other courses in areas such as pastel, watercolor, plein air work, pen & ink, colored pencil...there's such a wide variety of disciplines that can attract people.

**JD: Whose work work has influenced**



influences in that area.



**JD: What's your favorite lens?**

DM: For the wildlife I use a 100mm, *f*/5.6. My new Nikkor 500mm is used for birds. For astral I use a Sigma 14mm.

**JD: Among your work, do you have a particular favorite?**

**Be it in any of the arts: watercolor, photography...**

**you the most?**

DM: Easy trivial answer, Ansel Adams.

My other hobby is watercolor painting and I have lots of

CS4. Once I start playing with macros and now that I've seen some of the some of the new tools that Topaz has, I plan to buy it and start to spending some time this winter on this software.

**JD: Among all the photography gear that you've bought over the years, is there something you wish you hadn't purchased?**

DM: I've overbought tripods. I wish I



would have bought the biggest, meanest, heaviest, serious tripod in the very beginning, because it is my big one that is the only one I use now. I'd love to get rid of all my toy tripods.

You too?

**JD: Actually, I heard that story before I bought my first tripod. (laughter)**

DM: I was worried about the weight and have carbon fiber now.

**JD: Do you have a webpage?**

DM: Yes, I can be found at <http://www.mccranie.biz>

**JD: What tools do you use for post processing?**

DM: Photoshop