



Newsletter for April 2011

Visit the Photography Forum Web Site
<http://www.photo-forum.info>

Mission

The Mission of the Photography Forum is to encourage photographers of all levels to continue to study the art of photography, practice and produce new work, and to share ideas and experiences. The Forum is open to all who have an interest in continuing to improve their photography skills. Both digital and film camera users are welcome. The Photography Forum is for the exclusive benefit of all members and is not to be used for any commercial purpose. Our membership is **Sixty-seven** members!

Welcome to new member **Michelle Su** from Walnut Creek. We look forward to seeing her at our meetings and on our field trips.

April 19, 2011, Meeting

Photography Forum Meeting

Share Photos Theme: "Our Best Pet Photos"

Program: Jerry Samelson: "Arizona Living Desert"

Camera Clinic: "Renaming and organizing your files"

We meet in
Walnut Creek Civic Arts,
Shadelands Facility

**111 North Wiget Lane
Walnut Creek, California**

Time: 7:00pm

Program: Jerry's talk will discuss: philosophy, technique, and equipment to produce exceptional landscape, wild-life, and "environmental" portraits of the flora and fauna of the great Sonoran desert in southern Arizona.

Camera Clinic: lead by **Tom Crews** will discuss **“Renaming and organizing your files”**. Bring your questions and solutions.

Camera Clinics are held from 6:00 – 6:45 (more or less) before the regular meeting starts at 7:00. If anyone has suggestions for future Camera Clinics, please pass them to **Tom Crews**.

Members are encouraged to visit the web site often as it is updated quite frequently. You might wish to “book mark” it.

Forty Members and guests met in March to share our photographic experiences. Twelve members went on the February Field Trip to Ben Krantz' Studio. You can see some of their photos on the “Field Trips” page of the web site.

Ten Members participated in the **“How to get the best from your printer”** Camera Clinic lead by **Tom Crews**. You can see the notes from this workshop on the “Hints & Tips” page of the web site.

Ann Gordon gave an outstanding program, both informative and entertaining, on “Pet Photography.” You can find a link to her web page on the “Links” page of our web site. Ann sent the following additional comments:

“I have two books that focus on painting and sculptures: [A Breed Apart: The Art Collections of the American Kennel Club and the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog](#) and [The Horse: 30,000 Years of the Horse in Art](#).

“Here are the photographers I enjoy. There are a great many out there, but I find these suit me:

Tim Flach - Dogs, Equus

Yann Artus Bertrand - Dogs, Cats, Horses, Good Breeding, and more

Gabrielle Boiselle - Grace and Beauty; A Study of the Horse, Fascination Horse, Pherd en Fotostudio (not available in English) and more

Tony Stromberg - Spirit Horses

“I love to look through these and the many others I have on my shelves. It's fun and helpful to really look at their lighting techniques and how they solve problems. Hope these inspire some of your members, too. I had a good time with your group.”

The winners of the **February Photo Contest** (“Wild Animals”) are:



FIRST PLACE: Robert Mandell

Comments: Beautiful symmetry, sharpness and reflection. Just enough reflection to make it interesting and break a sense of stasis. Up close and personal, sharp. Nice close-up of the seal against the blue rippled water. May have been even better if there had been a bit more water in front of the seal's nose.



SECOND PLACE: Tom Donahoe

Comments: Pretty composition and capture of the deer's' identical poses. They look like statues. Wonderful composition; love the pattern made with the 3 "Y's" of neck/head/ears. I like the line of light between ground and background brush, pushing the deer forward. Humorous triad, Sharp, accurate color. The arrangement of the deer against the emerald green grass is very pleasing. Would be better if not right in the center.



Third PLACE: Marilyn Verducci

Comments: Really nice composition of this zebra family portrait. It must have taken patience to catch them in this pose. This has the look of a protective family.

Always like to see animals doing something. What a great family shot! I really like the expressions portrayed by each zebra and how it's framed. Well done.

Robert's winning photo is on display at Action Photo Services in Concord. As Second Place Winner, Tom received a \$25 Gift Card from Camera West in Walnut Creek. As Third Place, Winner Marilyn has chosen "Night Photography" as the theme for the August contest."

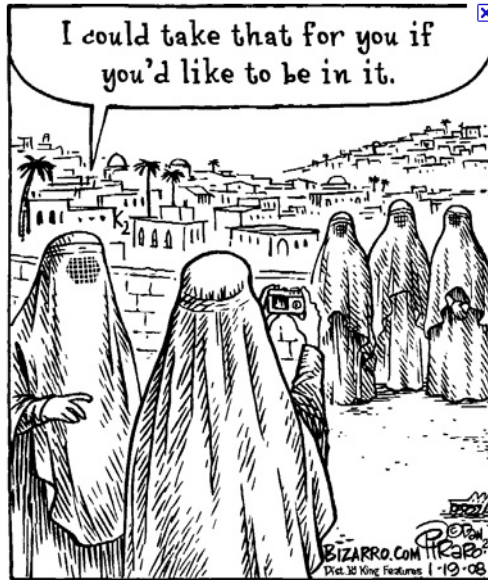
The subject for the **March Photo Contest** is "Kids Sports." Five entries have been submitted and may be viewed at <http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/contest.html>. Voting must be completed by April 18. Please take a few moments to provide your comments so that we all may learn and improve our photography. **A REMINDER: YOUR VOTE WILL NOT COUNT IF YOU DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE BALLOT.**

The subject for the **April Photo Contest** is "Construction." All April entries must be submitted by April 19; voting must be completed by May 16. All images should be in jpg format (no TIFF or PSD files). Entries may be submitted by email, cd, or flash drive.

PHOTOGRAPHY FORUM PHOTO CONTESTS

<u>Month</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Submittal Deadline</u>	<u>Voting Deadline</u>
April	"Construction"	April 19	May 16
May	"Bridges"	May 17	June 20
June	"Cars"	June 21	July 18
July	"Joy"	July 19	August 15
August	"Night Photography"	August 16	September 19

All photos must have been taken within 6 months of the contest.





Jerry Samelson provides [this link](#) to view some of the technical parameters of your camera. In particular, take a look at the dynamic range of your camera's sensor. Note how much dynamic range is lost with high ISO settings.

This and other Tips can be found on the Web Site.

Eleven Members attended the **March 26 Workshop: "Shooting Raw."** Seven attendees use RAW files to some extent; four do not. Six attendees use Photoshop to process their images; four use Elements; one uses Paint Shop Pro; one also uses Lightroom. Four attendees are Canon users; seven use Nikon. All in all it was a very productive workshop.

Three additional Workshops are planned for 2011: June 25 - "Desk-Top Close-Up Photography" lead by **Gene Farley**; September 24 – Photographing Landscape and Wildlife presented by Tamron Lenses; and December 10 – **TBA**. These Workshops will be in lieu of those respective months' Field Trips (see the Plan Ahead section at the end of this Newsletter). Anyone having a suggestion for the December Workshop ,or for future workshop next year, please so advise **Tom Crews**.

I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.

April 30, 2011, Field Trip

Destination: Elkhorn Slough Safari

Location: Meet at 8:30am at Moss Landing Marina. **The boat departs at 9:00am.** Directions will be provided to participants.

Photos for Sharing: Submit six (6) digital images to share at the May 17 Meeting.

Additional Information: This will be one of their Marine Mammal Behavior and Babies Specialty Tours. The cost for this trip will be \$42 payable at the time of the trip. **All of the limited number of seats has been filled.** Anyone still wishing to reserve a seat please contact **Tom Crews** to be placed on a standby list.

Lynn Oakleaf continues to be a fountain of information:



I went to a presentation given by Tamron. In talking to the presenter who is a staff photographer for Tamron he said that every electronic lens (including Canon and Nikon) has chips built in and that when they are manufactured that they have firmware that works with the camera bodies of the day. It may work fine for the body you buy it for, but let's say that several years later you buy a new camera body and you think that the focus of the lens is not what it was with the old body, it may be because the firmware is not in sync with the new body and it may be possible that by having the firmware upgraded it may bring that crisp focus back. (Of course, there are other reasons such as lens abuse that may be the culprit, but it may be worth sending the lens on a trip to the manufacturer to find out.)

Coming This Summer
2011 Photo Scavenger Hunt
4 Months, 20 Subjects
Over \$2000 in Prizes
Watch For Details

Tom Crews will be teaching the following classes:

Exploring Close-Up Photography (2 sessions plus field trip)
Saturday, 10:00am – 12:30pm, starts April 9

Shooting & Processing HDR Photography (2 session plus field trip)
Tuesday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, starts May 3

Take Control of Your Digital Camera (6 sessions plus field trip)
Wednesdays, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, starts May 4

Introduction to Photoshop (6 sessions)
Thursdays, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, starts May 5

For more information on these and other classes please see the Walnut Creek CAE Spring 2011 Catalog.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS

We are always looking for new speakers on anything photographic: techniques, vocations, experiences, trips, and different types of photography, Photoshop, anything

that would be of general interest. If you know of someone you would like to see, or if you want to make a presentation yourself, please contact Tom Crews.

WHEN DO PHOTOS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED ?

Sharing Photos: Submit no more than 6 digital images on a cd or flash drive at the Photography Forum Meeting (or by email to Tom Crews, no later than Noon on the Monday before the Meeting). If you are not able to attend field trips, yet do shoot images at other events or locations, you may bring them to a meeting to share and receive comments or suggestions for improvement.

Monthly Photo Contests

The **purpose of the Photography Forum contests** is to provide an opportunity for members to work on techniques, to engage in creativity, to see in unaccustomed ways, and/or to capture a place or a setting. It is not the theme or the subject itself that is most important; it's how the photographer goes beyond the theme by incorporating it into an "image" or a "keeper".

Each contest is open to all Members of the Photography Forum. Images may be either in color or black & white. Each Member may submit one image per contest. Members are encouraged to submit the best image they can create using all tools at their disposal, be it in-camera techniques or image processing software.

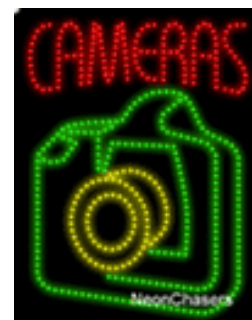
All images for each contest will be posted on the web site where members may vote for First, Second, and Third Place. Votes must be submitted by the deadline specified for each contest. Winners will be announced at the Membership Meeting. **Action Photo Services** will print and mount a 12x18 print of the winning image that will be displayed at their store in Concord. When the following month's winner is ready for display, the previous winner may pick up their print from Action.

All photos must have been taken within 6 months of the contest.

All images should be in jpg format. Entries may be submitted by email, cd, or flash drive.

FOR SALE

Anyone wishing to place an



**Ad for Used Photographic Equipment
(or seeking used equipment)
please contact **Tom Crews****



At **Susan Helms** suggestion we have a “Free Stuff” Table for members to bring items to give away to other members. Everyone probably has some small things that don’t make sense announcing but might be of use to someone (e.g., 70mm filters, batteries for 5D camera, etc.). So if you have something you no longer need and would rather not just throw it away, bring it to the meeting.

Plan Ahead:

Anyone having a suggestion for interesting Field Trip destinations please contact Tom Crews. Please note that these schedules are as accurate as possible at the date of this Newsletter, however, they are subject to change.

April 19: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: “Our Best Pet Photos”
Program: **Jerry Samelson:** “Arizona Living Desert”
Camera Clinic: “Renaming and organizing your files”

April 29 – May 1: Spring Art Show

April 30: Field Trip to Elkhorn Slough Safari

May 17: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Elkhorn Slough Safari
Program: **Alan Kite:** "Snapping shots of timeless Holy Land antiquities, passions, fears"
Camera Clinic: “Using Filters with a digital camera”

May 21: Field Trip to San Francisco Japanese Rose Garden

June 21: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Japanese Rose Garden
Program: **Susan Rosner:** “Wildlife Photography”

Camera Clinic: “Layers and Masks”

June 25: Photography Forum Workshop:
“Desk-Top Close-Up Photography”

July 9: Field Trip to Oakland Zoo

July 19: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Oakland Zoo
Program: **Members’ Photos Critiqued**
Camera Clinic: “Blending Modes”

July 23*: Field Trip to Point Molate Winery

August 16: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Point Molate Winery
Program: **Tom Crews:** “Thailand Revisited”
Camera Clinic: **TBA**

August 27: Field Trip to San Francisco AT&T Park

September 20: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: San Francisco AT&T Park
Program: **Tom Donahoe:** “On Assignment”
Camera Clinic: **TBA**

September 24: Photography Forum Workshop: **Photographing Landscape
and Wildlife presented by Tamron Lenses**

October 18: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: “Our Best People Photos”
Program: **TBA**
Camera Clinic: **TBA**

October 22: Field Trip to General Vallejo’s Home “Lachryma Montis”
in Sonoma

November 15: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Lachryma Montis
Program: **TBA**
Camera Clinic: **TBA**

- November 19:** Field Trip to Castello di Amorosa Winery
- December:** No Meeting or Field Trip Planned for December
- December 2-4*:** Winter Art Show
- December 10:** Photography Forum Workshop: TBA
- January 28*:** Field Trip to San Francisco - Fort Point
- February 25*:** Field Trip to Alameda – Hangar One
- June 2*:** Field trip to Town of Locke – Chili Cook-off
- September 22*:** Field Trip to Safari West

*** Tentative Schedule**

Other Photo Opportunities:

**If you know of any Other Photo Opportunities,
Please contact Tom Crews.**

If you attend one of these activities and have some good images that you would like to share, please bring them to a Meeting.

Other suggested photographic venues:

- Lake Merritt in Oakland
- Heather Farms Rose Garden
- Alcatraz
- San Francisco Zoo
- Marin Headlands (Point Bonita Lighthouse, Bunkers, Rodeo Beach)
- China Town at night
- Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival

Membership

To become a member of the Photography Forum, bring a completed [Application Form](#) along with a check (payable to City of Walnut Creek) to

one of our monthly meetings. You may also mail a completed application form to the address shown on the form.

After you have paid your membership and submitted a Membership Application you will be provided with a UserID and Password to give you access to all areas of our web site.

Visit the Photography Forum Web Site
<http://www.photo-forum.info>
Contact: Tom Crews (xptom@sbcglobal.net)