



Newsletter for March 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-sixty** members!

Welcome to new members **Irma Balsover** and **Tim Blaney** from Walnut Creek and returning member **Holly Musta** from Danville. We look forward to seeing them at our meetings and on our field trips.

March 15, 2011, Meeting

Photography Forum Meeting

Share Photos Theme: Jack London Square

Program: Ann Gordon: Pet Photography

Camera Clinic: "How to get the best from your printer"

We meet in
Walnut Creek Civic Arts,

Shadelands Facility
111 North Wiget Lane
Walnut Creek, California
Time: 7:00pm

Program: Americans spend more than \$45 billion dollars a year on their pets with another 29 billion spent on their equine cousins. These companion animals are part of the family, surrogate children and best friends. Award winning CPP **Ann Gordon** will cover animal psychology, movement, and management, breed considerations, owner management, and tips and tricks for getting that perfect expression from the four-legged types. Learn to enjoy working with these rewarding and inspiring subjects.

An award winning Certified Professional Photographer, her work hangs in homes and collections in the UK, across the United States and in China. An acknowledged expert in the field she has been selected as an instructor of animal photography by both PPC and PPA for their professional enrichment programs. You can find a link to Ann's web site on the "Links" page of our web site.

Camera Clinic: "How to get the best from your printer" lead by **Tom Crews**. Tom will discuss Color Management, Photoshop settings and printer settings. 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**.

<p>Members are encouraged to visit the web site often as it is updated quite frequently. You might wish to "book mark" it.</p>

Forty Members and guests met in February to share our photographic experiences. Fifteen members went on the January Field Trip to Mare Island. You can see some of their photos on the "Field Trips" page of the web site.

Nineteen Members participated in the "**How to choose a camera lens**" Camera Clinic lead by **Tom Crews**. **Tom Donahoe** led a "Photo Book" Camera Clinic in January. Information from this Camera Clinic can be found on the "Links" page of the web site.

Ben Krantz gave an outstanding program, both informative and entertaining, on “Photography for the Theater.” He also talked about taking “Head Shots” for publicity photos. You can find a link to his web page on the “Links” page of our web site.

The winners of the **January Photo Contest** (“Windows & Doors”) are:



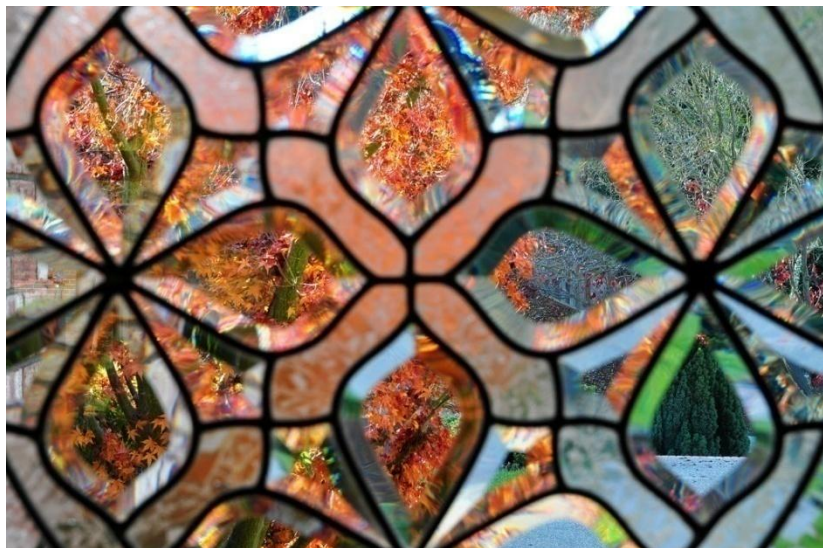
FIRST PLACE: Tom Donahoe

Comments: I enjoyed the simplicity of this picture and the subject matter through the window was inviting and colorful. Just perfect. Reminds me of a painting. It's a picture of a window and a picture in a window. Like the framing with the window and view is so well focused. Fits the subject matter of the contest well. Nice contrast between the black and the scenery outside.



SECOND PLACE: Mike King

Comments: Beautiful colors and patterns in the peeling paint and plaster. Nice composition, color and lighting. One can almost feel the texture on the walls and door. Would personally like a little less saturation on the greenery.



Third PLACE: Kambiz Javdani

Comments: I Love the feeling that the clear glass was stained in the fall colors that radiate through it. Nice focus on the window itself. Makes me want to see what was outside. A mosaic of colors and patterns seen through a window.

Tom's winning photo is on display at Action Photo Services in Concord. As Second Place Winner Mike received a \$25 Gift Card from Camera West in Walnut Creek.

As last month's Third Place Winner in the "Wild Birds" Contest, **Kathleen Brennan** has selected "Cars" as the subject for the June Contest. As Third Place Winner in the "Windows & Doors" Contest Kambiz has selected "Joy" as the subject for the July Contest. Kambiz says, "I would like to deviate from the traditional themes with physical nature that we have had for many months and choose a theme that represents an expression of a feeling of **Joy**."

The subject for the **February Photo Contest** is "Wild Animals." Nine entries have been submitted and may be viewed at <http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/contest.html>. Voting must be completed by March 14. 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 **March Photo Contest** is "Kids Sports (no older than high school)." All March entries must be submitted by March 15; voting must be completed by April 18. 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>
March	"Kids Sports"***	March 15	April 18
April	"Construction"	April 19	May 16
May	"Bridges"	May 17	June 20
June	"Cars"	June 21	July 18
July	"Joy"	July 19	August 15

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

**** "Kids Sports" no older than high school age.**

Twelve members went to **Ben Krantz' Studio** on our **February Field Trip**. Ben was a gracious host. Our visit was as much about wine and liqueurs as it was photography and was a great follow-on to his presentation at our February meeting. We will share photos taken on this field trip at the March Meeting.



"I want you to scan these and put them in the next newsletter."



Jerry Samelson recommends Nik Software **Silver Efex Pro 2** for creating Black & White prints. He says, "I have been using the above soft-ware for black & whites & it is fantastic; Kelby recommended it as a must."

Jerry also suggests trying Mike Lawson's "Toss the Camera Technique" as shown on <http://digitalphotobuzz.com/mike-larson-photography>.

Gary Ellis sends this link to a site has fabulous (and brief) how-to articles about all sorts of photography skills: <http://geofflawrence.com/>. Very worthwhile.

Tom Crews provides this link to some [Hard Drive Maintenance Tips](#).

Doreen Miller forwards a copy of George Lepp's technique for making a **faux mat**. Looks pretty cool.

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

March 26 Workshop : “Shooting Raw”

The majority of today’s digital cameras can take and save images as Raw files. Shooting Raw images is no longer just for “professional” photographers, rather it is for anyone who wishes to get the most from the images they make. We will talk about what are Raw files, what are the advantages and disadvantages of using Raw files, how to process Raw files and how does this process fit into one’s overall workflow?

Schedule: 10:00am – 12:00pm, Classroom YA-1.

Additional Information: Bring your camera and its instruction book to learn about this important feature of your camera. If you have a notebook computer with either Photoshop or Elements and Camera Raw, you may bring it to the workshop.

This Workshop is for Photography Forum Members only. There is no cost for this Workshop, however, please let **Tom Crews** know if you wish to attend so that we may plan accordingly. Also let Tom know if you have any particular questions or issues you would like to have addressed.

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**.

You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment at work when you've made up your mind that you just aren't doing anything productive for the rest of the day.

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. As there are a limited number of seats available, anyone wishing to reserve a seat must notify **Tom Crews** no later than April 16.

Lynn Oakleaf continues to be a fountain of information:

He sends this link to another camera resource site.

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/>

Check it out. It is a pretty cool sight.



The Last Roll of Kodachrome—Frame by Frame!

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:

How to Take Exciting Travel Photos (2 sessions plus field trip)
Tuesday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, starts March 1

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

Jeff Smith will be teaching:

TTL Flash & Available Light Portrait Workshop (6 sessions)
Tuesdays, 7:00pm – 9:30pm, starts March 29

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 Photo 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.

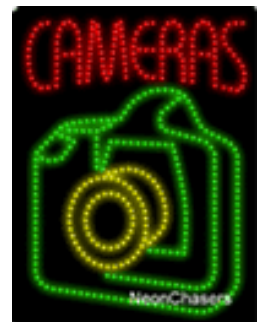
All images for each contest will be posted on the web site where members may vote for First, Second, and Third Place. Votes must be submitted by the deadline specified for each contest. Winners will be announced at the Membership Meeting. **Action Photo Services** will print and mount a 12x18 print of 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**



James Rockafellow has a Canon 17-40mm f4L lens for \$600. It's still in the original box and appears to be in new condition. Interested buyers can contact Rocky at 925-283-2227 or 925-766-9056.

At **Susan Helms** suggestion we will 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.

March 15: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Jack London Square
Program: **Ann Gordon:** Pet Photography
Camera Clinic: "How to get the best from your printer"

March 26: Photography Forum Workshop: "Shooting RAW"

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*: 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

*** 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)

