



Newsletter for May 2010

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-one** members!

Welcome to new member **Laurie Muggee** of Walnut Creek. We look forward to seeing her at our next meeting and on the filed trips.

May 18, 2010, Meeting

Photography Forum Meeting

Share Photos Theme: Filoli House and Garden

**Program: John Ballou, President, Oakland Camera Club:
“Glorious Stereo Photography”**

We meet in

**Walnut Creek Civic Arts,
Shadelands Facility**

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

In January, 2010, the Oakland Camera Club held its 55th International Stereo Exhibition. This event has taken place yearly since the 1950s, and invites stereo photographers from around the world to enter this PSA-recognized Exhibition. Four sections were offered: Slides, Cards, Electronic, and Electronic Creative. In all, 332 images were entered, and 145 images were accepted. **John Ballou** will explain how to take and display stereo images and share with us a number of world class 3-D images.

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 attended our April meeting. As we have often done in the past we introduced ourselves by describing what **software/hardware we use to calibrate our monitors and printers**. Surprisingly almost half of the attendees do not calibrate their equipment either because they do not feel the need to do so, or did not know that you could. Several members use **X-Rites’ ColorMunki**. This is a fairly expensive product (\$377 from amazon.com), but there is a \$50 rebate available through June 30, 2010. By the way, many thanks to **Kathleen Brennan** for loaning us her ColorMunki to calibrate our projector; the color improvement is remarkable. Others use **Monaco X-Rite EZ Color/Optix XR Bundle** (\$149 used from amazon.com), **ColorVision Spyder 2** (\$189 from amazon.com), ColorEyes Display Pro (\$175 from Integrated Color; software only but will work with compatible hardware). One member has had very good results using the services of Profiles By Rick (\$25 for RGB Color Profile; \$15 for Advanced B&W Profile). Monitor Calibration Wizard is a free program that does not use any hardware. All of this information will be posted on the “Hints & Tips” page of the web site.

The winners of the **March Photo Contest** (“Fire”) are:



FIRST PLACE: Tom Donahoe

Comments: A very dramatic image; I love its evocative inference to fire's summoning of the spirit world and voodoo sacrifice. Very unusual way to present fire, good exposure for a night image. Dramatic, nicely framed by cropping out most of the man standing. Wish I could see it better! Looks very interesting. Wow! This image really tells a story, and it makes me feel like I'm there. Great shot. A puzzler, can't tell what it is. Maybe a campfire. Interesting. Keeps you guessing.



TIED FOR SECOND PLACE: Jeff Smith

Comments: Captured the theme, I like the symmetrical flames of the fire. Need to approach more creatively, pretty common place images. Some of the flames look like people, which is intriguing.



TIED FOR SECOND PLACE: Kathleen Brennan

Comments: Good composition, where there's smoke there's fire (must have been a big one), I like the hills in the background and the trees in the foreground. Nicely lit, uses rule of thirds effectively. Dramatic scene.

Tom's winning photo is on display at Action Photo Services in Concord.

Having tied as Second Place winners, **Jeff and Kathleen** have selected "Self Portrait" to be the subject for the July Contest and "Insects" to be the subject for the August Contest.

The subject for the **April Photo Contest** is "Fog." Ten entries have been submitted and may be viewed at <http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/contest.html>. Voting must be completed by May 17. Please take a few moments to provide your comments so that we all may learn and improve our photography.

The subject for the **May Photo Contest** is "Mt. Diablo." All May entries must be submitted by May 18; voting must be completed by June 14. All images should be in jpg format (no TIFF or PSD files). Entries may be submitted by email, cd, or flash drive. To be eligible for submission the photo has to be taken from within the park boundaries.

Although many of us have great photos in our archives, in keeping with the Photography Forum Mission to "practice and produce new work" contest images should be current and are not be have been photographed prior to the subject's announcement in the Newsletter. (See complete rules below.)

PHOTOGRAPHY FORUM PHOTO CONTESTS

Month	Subject	Submittal Deadline	Voting Deadline
May	“Mt Diablo”	May 18	June 14
June	“Horns” (1)	June 15	July 19
July	“Self Portrait” (2)	July 20	August 16
August	“Insects” (2)	August 17	September 20

(1) No photos taken before April; (2) No photos taken before May

We shared and critiqued photos from our **Field Trip to Briones Regional Park** at the April Meeting. You can see these photos on the Web Page. **Kathleen Brennan’s** photo was judged “Best of the Best,” and was presented with a Gift Card from Camera West.



When submitting your photos to share, select the one that you consider the “Best.” Each of these **“Best” photos will then be judged** by the Members attending the meeting and the “Best of the Best” will be selected. The winner will be presented with a Gift Card from Camera West.

Jim Mammon gave a very informative presentation on the “Mysteries of Infrared Photography Revealed.” You can see his comments on “Advantages of using an infrared converted camera verses a non converted camera” on the “Presentations” page of the web site. **Robert Mandell** also has provided additional comments on using a non-modified digital camera.

Photography Forum Membership is up for renewal in June. The fee for the 2010-2011 year is \$60. Please use the [Application Form](#) and either bring the form to a meeting or mail to the address on the form.

Susan Helms provides the following information: The Walnut Creek Arts Commission (with the Bedford Gallery) is coordinating local artist group shows to be hung in the new Walnut Creek Library. They're calling this display space the "**Community Art Gallery**". The library opens July 17 and they'll schedule local artist shows starting then. Sounds like they'll let most local group of artists sign up (i.e., it's not a juried process and they aren't planning to otherwise make it difficult to get a show there from what I hear) and they don't have many applicants so far. Fifteen Members and guests had a great time at the **April Field Trip to Filoli House and Gardens**. Those who went on Thursday afternoon had a very nice dinner afterwards. We will share and critique photos from Filoli at the May Meeting. [For more information](#). If anyone is interested in coordinating an exhibit for the Photography Forum please contact **Tom Crews**.

A follow-up to **Kathleen Brennan's** Grand Tetons presentation: she commented on how much she liked the TOPAZ suite of plug-in filter for Photoshop and Lightroom. Here is a link to the TOPAZ website:

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

Note: NAPP Members receive a 25% discount.

May 23 Field Trip

Destination: Niles Canyon Railway

Location: The Niles Canyon Railway Sunol Depot is located on Highway 84 approximately 26 miles south of Walnut Creek by way of I680.

Meeting Location: The first train departs from Sunol at 10:30am arriving in Niles at 11:00am. We can investigate some of the photo ops in Niles and catch a return train later.

Photos for Sharing: Submit no more than six (6) digital images to share at the June Meeting one of which will be judged as Best of the Best.

Additional Information: For additional information go to: <http://www.ncry.org/>
There are a number of restaurants in Niles where we could have lunch.

Special Workshop on Matting and Framing

Description: This Workshop will be conducted by **Gene Farley**. Gene teaches a similar workshop for Walnut CAE. We will provide all of the materials and instruction necessary for creating a 16X20 gallery framed image including archival mounting and matting.

Meeting Location: The Workshop will be at the Shadelands Facility in Walnut Creek (room TBA) on Saturday, August 14, 10:00am – 1:00pm.

Cost: The material cost for this workshop would be about \$50. The exact amount TBA must be paid by the July 4.

Additional Information: Each participant should bring:

- A finished 10x12 image suitable for framing
- A utility knife with 2 or 3 new blades
- A medium sized flat blade screwdriver
- A sharpened #2 pencil
- A plastic eraser

Registration: Any member interested in this Workshop should email **Tom Crews** as soon as possible. This special Workshop will be for Photography Forum members only and is limited to twelve participants, plus three observers (there is no cost for observers).

Adobe has just released Photoshop CS5. There is a lot of buzz about this latest version. Two good sources that discuss many of the new features are [Bryan O'Neil Hughes on Photoshop CS5](#) and [Your Photoshop CS5 Questions Answered](#). Photography Forum members may order Photoshop CS5 from **Melissa Ridenour at Ridenour@arts-ed.org** for \$295 plus tax and shipping. Upgrades are not available for student versions, only for full priced versions, which are way more expensive. [Upgrades are \\$199 from Adobe](#). NAPP Members receive 15% discount.

Jerry Samelson attended a recent seminar by John and Barbara Gerlach and shares the best of the Gerlach seminar that I think would benefit most people: Histogram: program camera to get colored histogram for every photo; do exposure adjustments based on the colored histogram that is farthest to the right; make adjustments to get that histogram to just touch the right wall; don't be alarmed by gaps in the histogram; gaps mean there are no pixels in the photo at that tonal (brightness) value.; don't worry about pixels going off the top of the histogram; this means that many pixels in the photo have the same brightness value; there is no such thing as the "perfect histogram."

Problems with Auto exposure mode: includes aperture & shutter priority, auto, & program. Each time you change focal lengths of the lens in auto mode the camera's meter will change the settings; Also, light entering the view-finder in auto-mode will change the settings (you must have a device to close the view finder or do mirror lock-up). To get the best exposure be in manual mode; "zero the scale for exposure in the view-finder; take your first photo; examine the colored histogram which is farthest to right, and do necessary adjustment to get histogram to just touch the right wall. Giving dark areas of photo more exposure minimizes noise.

Concept of Back Focus on camera: 1) set camera into continuous AF mode in custom menu; this disables the auto-focus on the shutter button; 2) be in manual exposure mode; 3) activate the center AF point in view finder because it is the most sensitive; 4) aim at subject; press AF button on rear of camera-now the camera "locks in" focus & exposure for the subject; 4) you can now release your finger from the rear AF button because focus is locked & re-compose- press shutter on top of camera for photo.

Tom Crews demonstrated why it is important to cover your view finder to keep stray light entering the camera from having an adverse affect on exposure.



View Finder Covered



View Finder Not Covered



Using Live View (Mirror Locked Up)

NAPP/Kelby Training Seminars

Location Lighting Techniques Tour: Sacramento, May 7.

Joe McNally (regarded as one of the world's best shooters and author of the ground-breaking smash best-selling book *The Moment it Clicks*) launches a nationwide lighting tour uncovering the secrets to using off-camera flash and on-location lighting to create the look you see in professional publications.

[Click here for more info.](#)

Adobe® Photoshop® for Photographers Tour: South San Francisco, May 17.

Ben Willmore has his digital camera in hand and is headed your way with the Photoshop for Photographers Tour. In this one-day seminar Ben teaches Photoshop speed tips that will let you perfect any image in record time. Plus, you'll learn his favorite photo-editing techniques for retouching, restoration, color correction, and anything else you need to crank out majorly cool images.

[Click here for more info.](#)

Photoshop Down & Dirty Tricks Tour: San Jose, August 23.

This tour consists of five amazing classes in Photoshop special effects, photographic effects, and design tricks. These tips & tricks are nothing but today's real world techniques – the same ones you see used by leading Photoshop photographers, designers, and special effect masters, and its all here in the only live workshop of its kind. [Click here for more info.](#)

Photoshop Lightroom Live Tour: South San Francisco, July 23

From start to finish, from image capture to final print - you'll see it unfold right in front of you as you learn step-by-step how to take control of your digital photography workflow. This seminar will teach you how to take your photography to a whole new level of productivity, efficiency, and fun with real world insider techniques that will make your life easier, and free your time so you can do what you really want with your photography, rather than boring, repetitive production tasks. [Click here for more info.](#)

Tom Crews will be teaching the following classes in Walnut Creek:

How to Shoot Exiting Travel Photos, 2 Sessions + Field Trip

Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30pm, May 19-26
Field Trip, Saturday, May 22

For more information on these and other classes offered by Walnut Creek CAE see the **2010 Spring Catalog**.

The **Spring Shadelands Art Sale** will be held April 30 – May 2. All Photography Forum Members may exhibit their photos at this sale. Applications will be sent out shortly.



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). Everyone wants to make this a learning session. 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. When submitted your photos to share select the one that you consider the “Best.” Each of these “Best” photos will then be judged by the Members attending the meeting and the “Best of the Best” will receive a Gift Certificate from Camera West.

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.

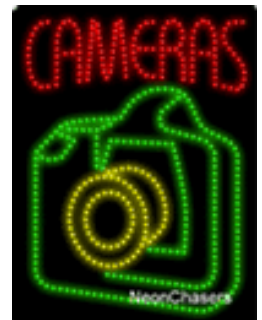
All images for each contest will be posted on the web site where members may vote for First, Second, and Third Place. Votes must be submitted by the deadline specified for each contest. Winners will be announced at the Membership Meeting. **Action Photo Services** will print and mount a 12x18 print of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

Contest images should be current and are not be have been photographed prior to the subject's announcement in the Newsletter.

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****



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 30 – May 2: Shadelands April Art Sale

May 18: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Filoli Gardens
Program: **John Ballou**, President, Oakland Camera Club:
“Glorious Stereo Photography”

- May 23:** Field Trip to Niles Canyon Railway
- June 15:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Niles Canyon Railway
Program: Program: **Members' Photos Critiqued**
- June 20:** Field Trip to Ruth Bancroft Garden's "Sculpture in the Garden Exhibit."
- July 10:** Field Trip to Scottish Games at the Dunsmuir House in Oakland
- July 20:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Ruth Bancroft Garden
Program: **Tom and Nancy Donahoe:** "Yellowstone in Winter"
- August 14:** Photography Forum Workshop: Framing and Matting
- August 17:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Scottish Games
Program: **Brian Haux:** Aerial Photography
- September 4:** Field Trip to Watsonville Fly-In Air Show
- September 21:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Watsonville Fly-In Air Show
Program: **Jerry and Nancy Samelson:**
"Fall Colors of New Hampshire"
- October 16:** Field Trip to SS Jeremiah O'Brien
- October 19:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: SS Jeremiah O'Brien
Program: **Robert Mandell:** "Color in the Eye and Camera"
- November 16:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: "Five of Your Best"
Program: Critique **Member Photos**
- November 21:** Field Trip Fremont Thai Buddhist Temple
- December:** No Meeting or Field Trip Planned for December

December 11: 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.

The following list of Photo Fun Events provided by **Lynn Oakleaf:**

May:

Rowell Ranch Rodeo – Hayward
Livermore Scottish Games
Fire Truck Day – Ardenwood Farms – Fremont
Art on Main – Walnut Creek
San Ramon Wind & Art Festival
Benicia Glass Artists’ Open House
Hawaiian Festival – Pleasanton
Music at noon – Tuesdays – Todos Santos Park – Concord
Bay to Breakers – San Francisco
Carnaval San Francisco
AMA Motorcycle Showdown – Infineon Raceway

June:

Livermore Rodeo
Sand Castle / Sculpture Contest – Crab Cove
Pirates Festival – Vallejo
Gay Pride Parade – San Francisco
Danville Fine Arts Fair
Alameda County Fair – Pleasanton
Solano County Fair – Vallejo
Crawdad Festival – Isleton
Pista Sa Nayon Independence Day Festival – Filipino Festival – Vallejo
Sonoma Historic MotorSports Festival – Infineon Raceway
Nascar – Infineon Raceway
Contra Costa County Fair – Antioch

July:

NHRA Drag Races – Infineon
Dunsmuir Scottish Games – Oakland
Vallejo Pow Wow
Benicia Jazz & Fine Arts Festival
Anything 4th of July
Berkeley Kite Festival
Crucible's Fine Art Fire Festival - Oakland
Gilroy Garlic Festival
California State Fair – Cal Expo

August:

Japanese Festival – Concord
Indy Car Races – Infineon
Air Show – Santa Rosa
Martinez Car, Truck, Bike Show
Oakland Chinatown Street Fest
Art in the Park - Martinez
Cajun/Zydeco Festival – Ardenwood Farms – Fremont
Body Art Expo – Cow Palace – San Francisco
Art & Soul Festival – Oakland

September:

Walnut Festival – Walnut Creek
Balloon Races – Reno
Folsom Street Leather & Fetish & Fetish Fair – San Francisco
Mutt Strut – Martinez
Delta Blues Festival – Antioch
Pittsburg Seafood Festival
Dragon Boat Races – Treasure Island
Italian Chalk Festival – Martinez
Oktoberfest – Clayton
Scottish Games – Pleasanton

October:

Pumpkin Festival – Half Moon Bay
Pleasant Hill Art, Wine, & Jazz Fest
Fall Crafts Festival – Danville
Gathering of the Ohlone Peoples – Coyote Hills Park
Dixon Lambtown Fair
Grand National Rodeo – San Francisco
Fleet Week – San Francisco

Oktober Fest – Concord

November:

Hawaiian Festival – Pleasanton
Cat Show – Pleasanton

December:

Holiday Frolic – Martinez
Ice Skating – Walnut Creek, San Francisco
Benicia Glass Artists' Open House
Dickens Fair – Cow Palace – San Francisco

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)
