



Newsletter for May 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-nine members!**

Welcome to our latest members **Linda Elsdon** from Danville and **Loretta Clarke** from Orinda. We look forward to seeing them at our meetings and on our field trips.

Membership Renewals for the 2011-2012 year are now due. Please use the Application Form found at the bottom of this Newsletter. Dues for the 2011-2012 year are \$65.

May 17, 2011, Meeting

Photography Forum Meeting

Share Photos Theme: Elkhorn Slough Safari

Program: Alan Kite: "Snapping shots of timeless Holy Land antiquities, passions, fears"

We meet in
Walnut Creek Civic Arts,
Shadelands Facility
111 North Wiget Lane
Walnut Creek, California
Time: 7:00pm

Program: In April 2010 Alan took a self directed journey to Israel, including the West Bank. His intentions were to experience three photographic interests: how to take images of Biblical stories at high contrast desert archaeological sites; how to get wide depth of field in the close quarters of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim shrines and celebrations; how to snapshot images of cultural conflict, spiritual passion, and political pain. To attempt to meet this big order he shot in both Basic JPEG and RAW. The merits of shooting in RAW will be presented at the meeting.

Due to scheduling conflicts there will be no Camera Clinic at the May Meeting. The “Using Filters with a Digital Camera” Camera Clinic will be rescheduled for later in the year.

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-five Members and guests met in April to share our **Best Pet Photos**. You can see their photos in the Members Photo Gallery found on the “Membership Page” of the web site. Looking at these photos one can see how one’s pets play an important part of our lives.

Grant Reiling showed some of his VW Bug photos recently taken at [Kelley Park Weekend](#). You can see his photos on the “Outings” page of the web site.

Eleven members went on the **April Field Trip to Elkhorn Slough**. We look forward to seeing their photos at the May Meeting.

Jerry Samelson gave an outstanding program, both informative and entertaining, on “Arizona Living Desert.” You can see Jerry’s and Nancy’s excellent photos on the “Presentations” page of the web site. Here are some salient points from his presentation:

- Shoot in manual mode. Your camera's meter is based on 18% grey exposure for everything; the camera gets fooled under a lot of conditions. Trust your colored RGB-BW histogram as your best guide for exposures. Don't judge your exposure on the jpg photo on the LCD screen).
- Use the minimum ISO your camera will allow for the lighting present for best resolution.
- Know the "minimum focus distance" for each of your lenses; then you will not be surprised by the shutter not tripping because you are closer than the lens can focus for!
- Use back camera focus.
- Finally, take photos of you and your family on all trips and have a lot of fun! That's the main thing!
- Two pieces of equipment that Jerry emphasized were the [Singh-Ray Variable Neutral Density Filter](#) and the [Nikon ML3 Camera IR Remote Control](#).

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



FIRST PLACE: Sandy Fox Sohner

Comments: Too cute to not get a vote! Terrific shot. It's really hard to get an action shot that's this well composed. None of the boys' faces are obscured. Lots of action radiating out from the ball. I like the expressions on the faces captured in an intense moment. Good job of catching the action. The intensity of the moment is nicely captured along with a good composition.



SECOND PLACE: Kambiz Javdani

Comments: Great colors, no distractions, good composition. Great color. Great colors and sharpness. Does a good job of depicting what it's like to sit on the sidelines. Great color. I like this picture not because it has my grandson in it, but for the combination of colors, contrast with the background, reflections on the floor and his unique facial expression. Love the vibrant colors and the reflection on the floor.



Third PLACE: Tom Donahoe

Comments: Great action, extremely sharp but would like a tighter crop to remove the goal. A nice action shot. Good action shot.

Sandy's winning photo is on display at Action Photo Services in Concord. As Second Place Winner, Kambiz received a \$25 Gift Card from Camera West in Walnut Creek. As Third Place, Winner Tom has chosen "The Edge of the Bay" as the theme for the September contest.

The subject for the **April Photo Contest** is "Construction." Five entries have been submitted and may be viewed at

<http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/contest.html>. Voting must be completed by May 16. 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.**

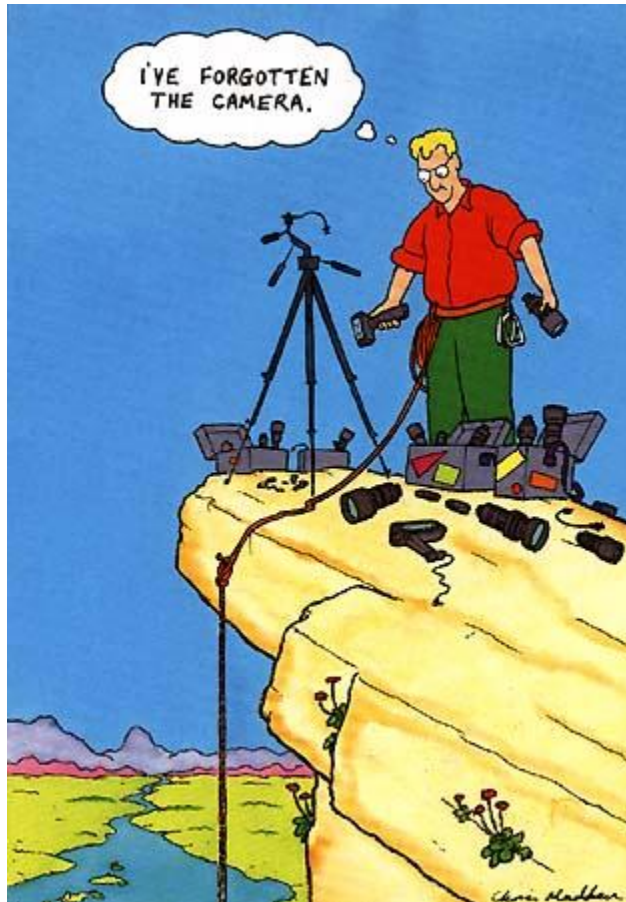
The subject for the **May Photo Contest** is "Bridges." All May entries must be submitted by May 17; voting must be completed by June 20. All images should be

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>
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
September	"The Edge of the Bay"	September 20	October 17

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





Tom Crews gave a tip on creating a new **Camera Raw Default** for those settings that seem to be always used every time an image is processed.

[Here is a link](#) that explains how to reset the **Develop Settings in Lightroom**.

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

Desk-Top Close-Up Photography Workshop

Time & Place: June 25, 10:00am – 12:30pm, Annex C

Additional Information: This Workshop will be lead by **Gene Farley**. After a demonstration, 3 or 4 participants would bring in the subject(s) for their tabletop and we will discuss staging, lighting and camera settings as a group. Then, those interested can set-up their gear and photograph it.

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 is you have any particular questions or issues you would like to have addressed.

Two additional Workshops are planned for 2011: **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 hate when I just miss a call by the last ring (Hello? Hello? @\$!!), but when I immediately call back, it rings nine times and goes to voicemail. What'd you do after I didn't answer? Drop the phone and run away?

May 21, 2011 Field Trip

Destination: Japanese Tea Garden

Time & Location: Plan to meet at the entrance to the Tea Garden about 11:00am. The Japanese Tea Garden is located at 7 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, east of Stow Lake, between John F. Kennedy Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

Photos for Sharing: Submit six (6) digital images to share at the June 21 Meeting.

Additional Information: The Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco is a historical Japanese-style garden originally built as the Japanese Village for the

1894 California Midwinter International Exposition. Today, the Tea Garden is one of the most popular attractions in San Francisco, featuring beautiful monuments, bridges, native Japanese plants and ponds. Guests can also enjoy the service at the tea house and gift shop. For directions and additional information go to <http://japaneseteagardensf.com/index.php>

Lynn Oakleaf continues to be a fountain of information:



[The Power of Black and White: In Adobe Lightroom and Beyond](#) is an eBook that presents the intricacies of Lightroom in a clear and understandable language, arming photographers with tools far beyond the use of the camera. This eBook lives up to it's classification as a master class in both Lightroom techniques and evoking the pureness of black and white photography. Here's the real kicker... How much would you pay for a master class in black and white photography and one on in-depth techniques for Adobe Lightroom? **How about \$4?** (Use the discount code: BWLIGHT4 to get the \$4 price).

2011 Photo Scavenger Hunt
4 Months, 20 Subjects
Over \$2000 in Prizes
[CLICK HERE FOR](#)
[COMPLETE DETAILS](#)

A question came up as to whether or not Photography Forum Members can order **Adobe Photoshop** and **Adobe Photoshop Lightroom** through Walnut Creek CAE at **student prices**. A call to **Melissa Ridenour** (943-5842) in the office confirms that indeed we can still place such an order. (Note: Photoshop and Lightroom Upgrades are not available through CAE.)

Scott Kelby's Blog (<http://www.scottkelby.com/blog/>) just announced that OnOne Software has released a Free Public Beta version (a pre-release version) of a plug-in called "Perfect Layers" which brings layers functionality to Lightroom. Check it out. It's going to expand what you can do in Lightroom to a whole new level (multiple layers, blend modes, layer masks, a brush—the works!)

Tom Crews will be teaching the following classes:

Shooting & Processing HDR Photography (2 sessions 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

Introduction to Photoshop Elements (6 sessions)
Thursdays, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, starts June 23

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

How to Take Exciting Travel Photos (2 sessions plus field trip)
Tuesdays, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, starts July 26

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

NAPP/Kelby Training Seminars

Adobe® Photoshop® CS5 Power User Tour: South San Francisco, May 27.

Join Photoshop expert and best-selling author, Dave Cross, one of the planet's most renowned Photoshop gurus, for the hottest, most-requested, jaw-dropping Photoshop CS5 tour of 2011! Learn the tips, tricks, and insider secrets of the pros

that are guaranteed to boost your creativity, productivity and Photoshop CS5 skills.
[Click here for more info.](#)

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Adobe® Photoshop® CS5 Power User Tour: Sacramento, June 6

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[Click here for more info.](#)



[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.

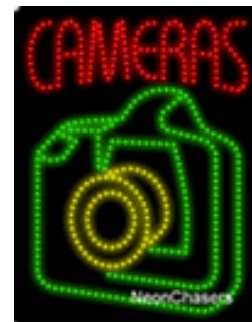
All images for each contest will be posted on the web site where members may vote for First, Second, and Third Place. Votes must be submitted by the deadline specified for each contest. Winners will be announced at the Membership Meeting. **Action Photo Services** will print and mount a 12x18 print of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



Doug Wiebe has a Canon EOS Digital Rebel XTi 10.1 MP w/2 lenses (Canon 28-105mm and a Canon 18-55mm) for sale. All in excellent condition. Includes 2 batteries, 5 CF cards, all software and manuals, and a compact camera bag with rain cover and soft cloth, UV filters and end caps. Asking \$375. Contact Doug at dwiebe@pacbell.net .



The “Free Stuff” Table has proven to be a popular feature of our meetings. The Table is for members to bring items to give away to other members. We have had everything from filters to memory cards to books and even monitor calibration equipment. 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.

- May 17:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Elkhorn Slough Safari
Program: **Alan Kite:** "Snapping shots of timeless Holy Land antiquities, passions, fears"
- May 21:** Field Trip to San Francisco Japanese Tea Garden
- June 21:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Japanese Tea 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: "Renaming and organizing your files"
- 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: "Using Filters with a Digital Camera"

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: **Eric James Leffler:** “Travels About the Bay”
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

April 21*: Field Trip to the Mt View Sanitary District Marshes

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.

- 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)



Membership Application Form

The Walnut Creek Civic Arts Education Photography Forum is open to all who have an interest in continuing to improve their photography skills. **DIGITAL CAMERAS ARE WELCOME.**

Member information will be provided to other members and is not to be used for any commercial purposes. Please indicate your wishes below:

- I do not object to sharing my information with other members.
- Please **DO NOT** share my information with other members.

Membership Dues are due June 1 of each year. Anyone joining after April 1 will be paid up for the following year (i.e., they will not be accessed for additional fees on June 1).

**Please submit complete the following information
and submit with payment of \$65 annual Membership Fee.
Make Checks out to City of Walnut Creek.**

Name: _____ **New Member:** __ **Renewal:** __

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Day Time Telephone Number: _____

eMail Address: _____

Bring this form along with payment to the next Group Meeting or mail to:

**Tom Crews
1511 Apple Drive
Concord, CA 94518**

