



Newsletter for October 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 **55 members!** Thank you all for your continued support.

Welcome to new members **Stevan Cavalier** and **Frederick Nelson** from Walnut Creek. We look forward to seeing them at future meetings and field trips.

Photography Forum Meeting
October 18, 2011

Share Photos Theme: “Our Best People Photos”

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

We meet in
Walnut Creek Civic Arts,
Shadelands Facility
111 North Wiget Lane

Walnut Creek, California Time: 7:00pm

Program: Bay Area native and emerging pro photographer **Eric James Leffler** will share some of his favorite places to shoot around the San Francisco and East Bay areas and beyond. In addition to showing several examples of his landscape and city work, Eric will detail what was involved with them, from initial capture to post-processing techniques, to sharing photos on the web. Also discussed will be the rise of the new social media platform Google+, tips on how best to use it, and why everyone in the photography community is so excited about it. Here is a link to Eric's Web Site: <http://www.ericjamesphoto.com/>. Here is Scott Kelby's take on Google+: <http://www.scottkelby.com/blog/2011/archives/21882#comments>.

Camera Clinics which address single item issues related to cameras, photography, or Photoshop have been held before the regular meetings and have been well received. Unfortunately classroom scheduling conflicts preclude our having Camera Clinics for the time being. A suggestion has been made to have a Saturday Workshop incorporating a number of the Camera Clinic subjects. If anyone has any comments or 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.

Thirty-seven Members and guests met in September to share our photographic experiences. We viewed some excellent photos taken during a recent Field Trip to the Oakland Zoo. You can see these photos on the "Field Trips Page" of the web site.

Twenty-five persons attended the **September 24 Workshop – Photographing Landscape and Wildlife presented by Tamron Lenses**. This was one of our best workshops of the year. **Ken Hubbard** is a very good photographer and provided many good points to consider not only when shooting landscapes and wildlife but in any photographs we wish to make. Ken also mentioned that the Tamron web site not only provides information on Tamron lenses, but is a great source of information on photography in general. We were very privileged for Tamron to make Ken available to share his images and photographic knowledge. You can find a links to Tamron's and Ken's web sites on the "Links" page of our web site.

We plan to continue these Workshops next year (See Plan Ahead below). Anyone having a suggestion for future workshops please contact **Tom Crews**.

The September Program by **Jeff Smith** was outstanding. His presentation included the importance of doing your homework - great photos are the result of lots of hard work, careful observation, pre-planning and preparation. He discussed suggestions on how to build necessary trust and cooperation with both the child and parents which leads to natural looking photos. What not to do, fatal errors in working with children, camera settings, equipment choices, special techniques for kids. You can see “**Notes from Jeff Smith's Child Photography Talk**” on the “Hints & Tips” Page of the web site.

The winners of the **July Photo Contest** (“Night Photography”) are:



FIRST PLACE: Marilyn Verducci

Comments: Wow, this image really pops with color. Very nice composition and balance of the Palace with the reflections in the water; good exposure for the scene. Beautiful composition. I love how the rich blue of the sky contrasts with the golden glow of the buildings. Amazing colors. Color vibrant and exposure extremely sharp. Combination of colors and reflections make this a beautiful picture. Beautiful. Great sky color sets off the subject. Well done. Great composition, color and exposure.



SECOND PLACE: Lisa Franklin

Comments: I love the simplicity and the composition of this picture. Interesting use of shadow, creative. Very elegant photo. Captures the shadow of the stairs nicely. Very well cropped. Photo leads my eye nicely into the scene. Am I the only one who shoots in B&W? Creative, and great use of light and shadows. Created a feeling of mystery. Like the lighting, particularly the highlight on top of the rail. Like it's simplicity. The composition is good. A beautiful picture created from a simple subject. A very creative photo. A great eye for seeing it and wonderful execution. It's just as stunning in its own way as the more spectacular shots. Dark and somewhat eerie.



Third PLACE: Michael Warwick

Comments: Where was this taken from? Great composition, love the star filter effect. While not original, it is classic. Excellent exposure and very sharp. Very interesting shot, but so familiar. Beautifully composed and executed. Strong graphic elements capture the eye.

Marilyn's winning photo is on display at Action Photo Services in Concord. As Second Place Winner, Lisa received a \$25 Gift Card from Camera West in Walnut Creek. As Third Place, Winner Michael selected "Curves" as the theme for the March 2012 contest.

The subject for the **September Photo Contest** is "The Edge of the Bay". Nine entries have been submitted and may be viewed at <http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/contest.html>. Voting must be completed by October 17. 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 **October Photo Contest** is "Gates". All October entries must be submitted by October 18; voting must be completed by November 14. 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>
October	“Gates”	October 18	November 14
November	“Reflections in Objects”*	November 15	December 19
January	“Texture”	January 17	February 20
February	“Everyday Life” **	February 21	March 19
March	“Curves”	March 20	April 16

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

*** Reflections in objects as opposed to a body of water, something a little more creative.**

**** Capture ordinary scenes and events in daily life that often remain unrecorded.**

For discussion and comment: Our recent Field Trips have shown an increase in interest and attendance. Also participation in our monthly contests has increased with submittals of some really fantastic photography. Part of our **Mission Statement** “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 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 proposed to combine these two activities to take advantage of our photographic experiences by not only sharing those experiences but to add the challenge and rewards of our efforts by making the Field Trip destination the subject for that month’s photographic contest. Photos taken on the Field Trip would continue to be the subject of the Photo Sharing portion of our monthly meetings. Since some people may have conflicting obligations that make it difficult to attend the Field Trips some of the contest subjects will continue to be “non-trip” related. (Details will be promulgated in future Newsletters.)

No changes to present procedures will be made until next year. This is your Photography Forum. Your thoughts and desires are very important to making your participation meaningful and fulfilling. Please send your comments to **Tom Crews**.



Last month **Tom Crews** gave a tip on **Planet Photoshop** as being a great source for tutorials and other resources related to Photoshop. One feature Tom really likes is the **Tip of Day** to which you can subscribe. Here is the link for more information:

<http://www.planetphotoshop.com/>. You can find this link and others on the “Links” page of the web site.



“There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs.” Ansel Adams

October 22 Field Trip

Destination: General Vallejo’s Home “Lachryma Montis” in Sonoma

Time & Location: Meet at Vallejo's Home located less than a mile west of the Sonoma Plaza at 10:00am.

Photos for Sharing: Submit six (6) digital images to share at the November 15 Meeting.

Additional Information: “Lachryma Montis” was the estate of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Military Commander and Director of Colonization of the Northern Frontier. It is only one of the historical sites that make up the Sonoma State Historic Park a scattering of historical attractions consisting of six midtown locations near Sonoma's Plaza. They are: Mission San Francisco Solano, the Blue Wing Inn, Sonoma Barracks, the Toscano Hotel, the Servants Quarters (the remains of La Casa Grande) and Vallejo's Home. For more information:

<http://www.parks.sonoma.net/lachryma.html>

http://usparks.about.com/od/historicalparks/a/Sonoma_State_2.htm

November 19 Field Trip

Destination: Castello di Amorosa Winery

Time & Location: Meet at the Parking Lot at 11:00am.

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

Additional Information: First opening its doors to the public in April 2007, the Castello di Amorosa is located near Calistoga, California. It is the pet project of 4th generation vintner, Dario Sattui who claims to have spent nearly all his resources during the 14 year process of building this medieval replica castle on the vineyard grounds. For directions and more information:

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

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castello_di_Amorosa

Lynn Oakleaf continues to be a fountain of information:



Lynn reports that he went to a Nikon class on flash photography at Camera West where the Nikon rep said that Vibration Reduction should be turned "OFF" prior to turning the camera off to lock the "VR" element in place. On most lenses it may not make a difference, but on some it will depend on the size of the VR element. For example, a 105mm macro has a very large element and when it's not locked in place it feel like marbles are loose in your lens. Supposedly this is in every information sheet that comes with a VR lens.

Note: This does NOT apply to Canon or Tamron lenses.

Tom Crews will be teaching the following classes at Walnut Creek CAE:

Introduction to Photoshop
Starts October 12

Introduction to Photoshop Lightroom
Starts October 29

For more details on these and other class see the Walnut Creek CAE Fall Classes Catalog.

NAPP/Kelby Training Seminars

Light It. Shoot It. Retouch It. LIVE! South San Francisco, November 14.

Scott Kelby, awarding winning author of "The Digital Photography Book" and Editor of Photoshop User magazine, brings one of his all-time most popular Online classes to life in this amazing day where you learn it all; the lighting, the shooting, and the retouching, all live as it happens. [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.

TOP SALE

Anyone wishing to place an
Ad for Used Photographic Equipment
(or seeking used equipment)
please contact **Tom Crews**





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 more. 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.

October 18: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: “Our Best People Photos”
Program: **Eric James Leffler:** “Travels About the Bay”

- October 22:** Field Trip to General Vallejo's Home "Lachryma Montis" in Sonoma
- November 15:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Lachryma Montis
Program: **Susan Skinner:**
"From Buckingham Palace to the California parish pump: A photojournalist's journey."
- November 19:** Field Trip to Castello di Amorosa Winery
- December:** **No Meeting or Field Trip Planned for December**
- December 2-4:** Winter Art Show
- January 17:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Castello di Amorosa Winery
Program: **Members' Photos Critiqued**
- January 28*:** Field Trip to San Francisco - Fort Point
- February 21:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Fort Point
Program: **Tom Crews:** "Thailand Revisited"
- February 25:** Photography Forum Workshop: **TBA**
- March 20:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: **TBA**
Program: **TBA**
- March 22:** Pittsburg - Mt. Diablo Recycling Facility
- April 17:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Mt. Diablo Recycling Facility
Program: **TBA**
- April 21:** Field Trip to the Mt View Sanitary District Marshes
- May 15:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Mt View Sanitary District Marshes
Program: **TBA**

- May 26*:** Field Trip to San Francisco AT&T Park
- June 19:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: San Francisco AT&T Park
Program: **TBA**
- June 23:** Photography Forum Workshop: **TBA**
- July 21*:** Field Trip to Alameda – Hangar One
- August 25*:** Field Trip to Borges Ranch
- September 8*:** Field Trip to The Crucible in Oakland
- October 20:** Photography Forum Workshop: **TBA**
- November 24*:** Field Trip **TBA**
- December:** **No Meeting or Field Trip Planned for December**

*** 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.

Visit the Photography Forum Web Site

<http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/photoforum.html>

Contact: Tom Crews (xptom@sbcglobal.net)