



Newsletter for September 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 **53 members!** Thank you all for your continued support.

Linda Elsdon has added her profile to the Members Page of the web site. All members are encouraged to follow suit.

Photography Forum Meeting

September 20, 2011

Share Photos Theme: Oakland Zoo

Program: Jeff Smith: “Kid Photography”

Camera Clinic: “Using Filters with a Digital Camera”

We meet in

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

Program: The primary focus of **Jeff Smith's** talk will be importance of doing your homework - great photos are the result of lots of hard work, careful observation, pre-planning and preparation. (Think wildlife photography and knowing the terrain) The talk will include suggestions for: 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. Jeff a long time member of the Photography Forum is a retired MFCC and specialized in children.

Camera Clinic: lead by **Tom Crews** will discuss “Using filters with a digital camera”. 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.

Thirty-six Members and guests met in August to share our photographic experiences. We viewed some excellent photos taken during a recent Field Trip to Winehaven, Point Richmond. **Gary Rosenthal** showed some of his photos taken on a recent trip to Oregon. You can see these photos on the “Field Trips Page” of the web site.

A Workshop is planned for **September 24 – Photographing Landscape and Wildlife presented by Tamron Lenses. (Note: You need to register for this workshop with Tom Crews at xptom@sbcglobal.net.)** These Workshops are in lieu of that’s respective months’ Field Trips (see the Plan Ahead section at the end

of this Newsletter). Anyone having a suggestion for future workshops next year please contact **Tom Crews**.

The August Program by Sacramento Photographer **Andy Pischalnikoff** was outstanding. His presentation included a photography smorgasbord that is the Burning Man Festival, challenges of photography in heavy dust storms, heat and cold, what equipment is necessary to cover an event of this magnitude, surviving in the desert and not being a burden to others.

The winners of the **June Photo Contest** (“Joy”) are:



FIRST PLACE: Jim Mammon

Comments: The composition is good. The expression of joy is good. She made it. She is joyous. I imagine her saying, "Oh yeah!" Great image. The joy that comes from a sense of accomplishment. Really caught my eye initially, but in looking at the many great choices, I wound up selecting images which captured the primary subject in focus. You can feel the joy and excitement. Nice composition. Good storytelling photo that nicely depicts the contest's 'joy' theme.



SECOND PLACE: Stephen Smith

Comments: The exposure and composition are correct. The look of happiness on son and father is great. Good Joy. A catch like that truly brings joy. Great capture; nice exposure into harsh frontal sun-light. A nicely composed picture of sharing the joy of success. A special moment. Great focus on the subjects. Consider using Photoshop to remove the background cord just below the hanging fish before enlarging. This image depicts many emotions - joy, pride, happiness - nice capture of the expressions of these two sharing these emotions.



Third PLACE: Kambiz Javdani

Comments: I like the close cropping, makes the image more powerful. A spontaneous smile, a happy face and the sparkling eyes convey a true feeling of joy. Great crop. I am drawn toward the baby's beautiful eyes and smile. This beautiful baby's expression is the essence of joy. Nice lighting and detail, especially the eyes. Would like to see the whole face on the right side of the picture.

Jim's winning photo is on display at Action Photo Services in Concord. As Second Place Winner, Stephen received a \$25 Gift Card from Camera West in Walnut Creek. As Third Place, Winner Kambiz selected "Everyday Life" as the theme for the February 2012 contest. The thinking behind such a rather nebulous subject is to try to capture ordinary scenes and events in daily life that often remain unrecorded.

The subject for the **August Photo Contest** is "Night Photography". Eleven entries have been submitted and may be viewed at <http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/contest.html>. Voting must be completed by September 19. 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 **September Photo Contest** is “The Edge of the Bay”. All September entries must be submitted by September 20; voting must be completed by October 17. 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>
September	“The Edge of the Bay”	September 20	October 17
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

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.**



Last month **Tom Crews** gave a tip on subscribing to Photoshop Elements Techniques magazine. This magazine is devoted entirely to Photoshop rather than the more extended coverage found in NAPP’s Photoshop User magazine which now covers all of Adobe’s Creative Suite programs. All of the material found in Photoshop Elements Techniques is applicable to both Photoshop and Photoshop Elements. [Click here](#) for more

information.

As an additional tip Tom reminded us that you can only have Photoshop activated on two computers at a time. Should you need to install Photoshop on another computer the program first needs to be deactivated (from Help menu). Should you forget or are unable to deactivate (computer crashes) you can get excellent help from Adobe.com to get the new program activated.

One last item: After you have read this, everyone should immediately go into their email program and write down all account settings and save them somewhere safe!!!!!!!!!!!!



"Your x-ray showed a broken rib,
but we fixed it with Photoshop."

“Sometimes I do get to places just when God's ready to have somebody click the shutter. “ Ansel Adams

More than twenty Members, family and friends enjoyed a beautiful day at the Oakland Zoo on August 20. This was one of the best turnouts ever! We look forward to seeing their great photos at the September 20 meeting.

October 22, 2011 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

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

Take Control of Your Digital Camera
Starts September 15

Inside Your Canon DSLR
September 17

Inside Your Nikon DSLR
September 17

Introduction to Photoshop
Starts October 12

Introduction to Photoshop Lightroom
Starts October 29

Jeff Smith will be teaching:

TTL Flash & Available Light Portrait Workshop
Starts September 21

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

**2011 Photo Scavenger Hunt
Contest Ends September 30
20 Subjects
Over \$2000 in Prizes**

[CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS](#)



[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****





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.

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: “Layers and Masks”

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

November 15: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Lachryma Montis
Program: **Tom Crews:** “Thailand Revisited”
Camera Clinic: “Blending Modes”

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**
Camera Clinic: "Cleaning your camera sensor"

January 28*: Field Trip to San Francisco - Fort Point

February 21: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Fort Point
Program: **TBA**
Camera Clinic: **TBA**

February 25*: Field Trip to Alameda – Hangar One

March 20: Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Hangar One
Program: **TBA**
Camera Clinic: **TBA**

March 22*: Pittsburg - Mt. Diablo Recycling Facility

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

June 2*: Field trip to Town of Locke – Chili Cook-off

August 25*: Field Trip to San Francisco AT&T Park

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.

Visit the Photography Forum Web Site

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

Contact: Tom Crews (xptom@sbcglobal.net)