



PHOTO CLUB

A day spent in a scene of local, young creatives balancing the hardships of everything “adult” between college, struggling to pay rent, part-time jobs to make ends meet, fitting fun and sociability into their schedule, and most of all, struggling to keep that pot of creativity flowing.

It has been an odd winter—a cold one, a wet one (at least for a California standard.) These wonderful and bright people (including myself) all hail from different parts: the central coast, by the Palm Springs desert, up north bordering Oregon, back and forth between the Bay Area and SoCal, and even Nepal. Thank goodness for the break between the rain—a



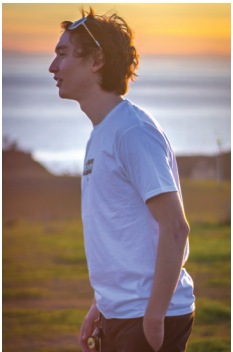
sunny day in which we waited for that break of mutual free time from work and errands to meet up and take photos.

“A PARK?
CAN WE SHOOT AT
A PARK TODAY?”

The guy from Nepal, Finso (a friend who got me into the group,) specializes in film and video, but his broad skills in creativity bring us together as photographers. The group formed a bit oddly, one or two of us may have been friends, classmates, or roommates once on opposite corners, but we are all connected through an online discussion group. Some of them or a combination meet up every few months. If the time comes, we’ll agree to meet up and shoot, and that’s exactly what we did.

A DAY WITH PHOTO CLUB

“A park? Can we shoot at a park today?” was how it started out. We leave the suggestions vague and wait for teamwork effort to elaborate. A girl in that group decided that the “park” would be a hiking trail she grew up near.



A little back-and-forth bickering between who’s in charge of the auxiliary cord, what genres to play on the trip, and mostly poking fun at Finso’s driving eventually led us to a little upscale neighborhood. There’s a fenced-off pathway that leads up little hills you can’t really see past. To my surprise, this “park” really is a hiking trail, but a very domesticated one. You don’t feel like you’re in the wild, but the elevation is enough to keep you in tact with nature and the upkeep of the area isn’t much that you won’t feel like you won’t reach a bathroom in 10 minutes or so. The view of the ocean was outrageously gorgeous and at the peak of golden hour, the lighting was great for some interesting portraits.

I have maybe two knockoff Canon lenses and a Rebel T2i with me, but the more experienced guy pulls out a camera bag with a telephoto lens and a Canon 60d with the real versions of the knockoffs I have and shoots a few portraits of the group. The girl I had met took photos of the man respectively, and a new guy with great humor takes candids of everyone, as well as a few dogs that walk by.

It took a little encouraging from them to have me take part of the experience, but I also managed to shoot a few candids of the group, the landscape, and some dogs as well. It was uplifting and a little more comfortable, and I learned very much how fun it is to congregate and do these things as a group.

After a couple of hours, and with the sun setting, the photo session came to an end, and we met up at one of their homes to relax and edit some of the photos we took. It was unlike any experience I’ve had, and much different than possibly a class activity session where you meet up in class and edit photos you’ve taken for an assignment. This was more relaxed as an environment, and it was easy sharing and constructive criticism that made it a more enjoyable experience to be a photographer in your own zone. The day was over and it felt great to have the full experience of meeting with a photography group.

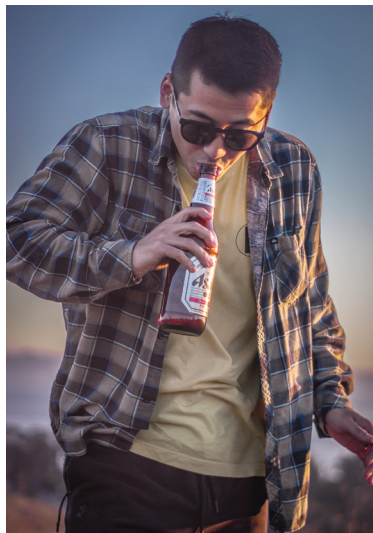


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