**September 13, 2022 – Carson Valley Photo Club Meeting Minutes**

**General Meeting**

Guests were introduced – Laurie Hickle and Dale Roberts.

Susie Roaldson went over club officer roles and encouraged members to sign up for 2023 roles.

There was a discussion of whether there should be 2 groups for photo contest judging – experienced and non-experienced. It was brought up that the overall goal at the end of the day is to increase participation. It was noted that member participation, as a natural course of events, may vary by season or the current month’s theme.

**Tami Force’s Presentation - Ghost Towning**

Tami shared photos of her local travels. Initially she bought a book about the ghost towns of Nevada entitled Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps by Stan Paher. Her goal became to visit every ghost town in Nevada in her Jeep.

***How does she document her trips?***

At first, she started a website which included photos with short written information. She started out documenting things for history. She then started a Facebook group, then a Gab group. She became a ghost towner as a full-time job. A year into it, Nevada Magazine was interested in her work – and she received a seven-page feature. She has an article coming out in a winter issue of Nevada Magazine. More of travel writer/ historian/ photographer.

***What is a ghost town*?**

There is no defined criteria. Stan Paher’s criteria is 25 residences, postal delivery, and at least 1 shop. There are over 600 ghost towns in Nevada. Nevada has a lot because the towns had a specific purpose – i.e. mining, stagecoach stops, etc. Many times a miner would find ore and then mention it to patrons at the bar. People heard about it and moved on in.

***Why towns were settled?***

One big factor – water, in one of two ways. 1) What was available naturally and 2) what sellers charged buyers for water. Saloons were one of the first places built in a town.

Towns would boom with the mining, but when the load ran out, people left. Also, ranches were another draw to start small towns. Stagecoach also started towns, but the towns dissolved when the railroad took the place of the stagecoach.

***Watch where you step!***

Rattlesnakes and mines can be dangers. Please note, ghost towns are protected locations. Take only photos – protect these places. Taking things prevents experts from dating sites. Sites older than 50 years are protected by law.

***What are ghost towns like?***

Bodie one of the best in the world – but it is unusual. It was private property and is a park. Most ghost towns look barren relative to Bodie. At many you may only find nails, barrel stays, oyster shells and champagne bottles. Tami looks for geometric patterns to discover where structures were.

***Photo perspectives***

She takes one photo straight on because in the olden days, that’s how they took photos. By doing this you can compare photos side by side – yesterday and today. She also photographs structures on all sides. By taking pictures in this manner, she can compare rock structures between the old and new photos to determine if her find is an old structure/formation.

***Favorite spots:***

* Park Canyon out of Kingman
* Oprah Canyon. Many towns there are overgrown with vegetation.
* Sherman Town – Stone construction here as there were lots of kilns in town
* Belmont outside Tonopah. It has a jail cell that you can go into in a courthouse. Charles Manson has history in Belmont
* Orizaba is outside Gabs. Nevada does not have a lot of wood buildings as in Orizaba. This is because wood structures were often disassembled or put on skids to move them to the next town/location when a town closed up.
* Alpine Mills – They would store dynamite in the heavy buildings in the hillside away from the town
* Santa Clara – It is quite a walk there. But there are 20 foundations, which is unusual.
* Hot Creek Ranch

***North Nevada Ghost Towns – easy to reach from here***

* Pine Grove – One school house goes back to 1860’s. Lots of history & fun things. They are now starting active mining. Easy to get to as long as you don’t miss a turn. Need 4-wheel drive vehicle.
* Rockland, near to Pine Grove. Some standing structures.
* Chemung – outside of Bridgeport. You can see a processing mill and a mine office. Supposedly haunted – but only on Saturday night since one of the owners died falling/ being pushed down a mine on a Saturday night.
* Temple Masonic. Founded by masons in 1860/70s. A lot of ghost towns had fraternal organizations. Masonics never had a Masonic lodge.
* Tunnel Camp – popular camp to go to. A lot of buildings and a cemetery of people who lived a town above the camp. A lot of people died in a flash flood in that town and are buried in the cemetery in Tunnel Camp.
* Butters Mill – Many people today pass by on the way to Virginia City without stopping to take this site in.
* Humboldt – further away. Relatively easy to get to and there are a lot of buildings.
* Sutro Tunnel – 45 min away from here. 1860’s town. At the time there was a lot of water in mines. Sutro thought of a way to move the water away by building a tunnel to move water the Carson River. It is open for tours now & they have special events. Sutro then decided to sell frogs to the Virginia City restaurants.

***How to keep up with Tami:***

* Tami’s website is Nvtami.com
* Her Facebook page is “Nevada Ghost Towns & Beyond” or use the URL facebook.com/NVTami She posts a new Facebook letter every Wednesday.

***What does she shoot with?***

She used to shoot Nikon and then went over to a Canon 90D. She uses a 15-80 lens. Now has a drone DJI Mavic 2, which provides a new perspective at sights and lets her see the road ahead to see if it is passable or not.

***Next on her list / new project* *– a book?***

Originally, she was going to update Stan Paher’s book with more information. A professional suggested to her to create a book of 5 or 6 towns by county which would be a combo of photos, history, and travel info. We can hardly wait, Tami!

Thanks, Tami for a great presentation!

**Photo Contest**

Great shots from the latest field trip! Zoom meeting voting resulted in:

* 1st Place– Tom Shoots the Galactic Center – Joe Clements
* 2nd Place (Tie) - Camping Under the Stars – Tom Monti
* 2nd Place (Tie) - Gel Light Fun – Robin Grueninger
* Honorable Mention- Another Hope Valley Night View – Tom Monti

Winners please send a jpg to Nancy Hulsey full resolution photos (nancyhulseyphoto@aol.com).

And bring print to Robin at Marty’s Appliance. NJ will hang at library.

**Contest Reminders:**

Be careful of your photo being too large. Website can only take up to 25mb which is pretty large. Also, you need to properly name your shot before you upload it into dropbox.

Remember we have a deadline for the photos, midnight of the Tuesday a week before the meeting.

Thanks to those for participating! Next month’s contest (October) is Object in the Sky – objects like hot air balloons, planes, stars, birds, clouds and even UFOs if you can find them!