**March 8, 2022 – Carson Valley Photo Club Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

Susie Roaldson

NJ Thompson

Barb Mower

Sandy Jonkey

Sandra Silva

Nancy Hulsey

Joe Clements

Suzie Zimmerli

Sherri McGee

Donald Swezey

Robin Grueninger

Susan Jack

Sharon Hoelscher Day

Sandra Branton

Sheila LeRoy

Daniel Day

Cherie Garrison

Jim Mitchell

Dave Morgan

Cindy Marple – guest speaker

Pat Leonard-Heffner – photo contest judge

**Guest Speaker Cindy Marple**

Lives in Phoenix, Arizona. Photography is a hobby for her. Going to talk about her May 2018 trip to Galapagos. There are 18 major islands, 3 minor islands and a bunch of little bits. Most lie south of the equator.

Galapagos Tortoise, huge and long living, differ on the major islands. The islands have abundant and approachable wildlife. They are not fearful of people because there are not a lot of visitors.

Rules and restrictions were established to keep wildlife safe:

1. No flash
2. Stay on paths
3. Stay with groups and guide
4. No approaching wildlife within 6 feet, always maintain a 6-foot distance

She took:

* 80D, 7DmkII (crop sensor
* 24-70, 100-400mm lenses
* Polarizer
* Tripod
* Cards, chargers, laptop, backup drives
* Underwater point-n-shoot
* Next time will take a wider lens or ff body, better UW

Couple of choices of how to visit. Can stay in a hotel in one of the bigger towns and take day trips. Downside is that by the time you get anywhere, it is the middle of the day.

Other option is visiting by ship. She was on a catamaran (Nemo II), about 12 people, pretty small vessel, for 2 weeks. Zodiaks would take them to and from the catamaran to the islands.

The islands are volcanic in nature. Some places the lava flow is quite recent like Sullivan Bay, Santiago Island.

There are 2 season warm Dec-May, the rest is dry. Most of the rain is in the highland areas which is where you will find the tortoises. Showed huge prickly pear trees. The other cactus she saw were lava cactus in the rocks. Even saw some mangroves. Had different kinds of beaches like lava, orange sand, and dark red sand.

Every day they had an opportunity to go snorkeling. The water was a bit murky, but the fish were very colorful.

Land animals she saw included iguanas, lava lizards, sally lightfoot crabs (feast on iguana skin), ghost crabs (change their color to match surrounding), giant tortoises, sea turtles, sea lions, and rice rats (only land mammal they saw, indigenous to the islands, there are also bats, but didn’t see those).

Birds she saw included flamingos, red-billed tropic birds (elegant and graceful), swallow-tailed gulls (nocturnal feeder), lava gulls (not as common), lava herons (look a lot like a green heron), yellow-crowned night herons, Galapagos doves, Galapagos mockingbird, Espanola mockingbird (Darwin studied them, they know the tourists have water, so they come to tourists for that), brown pelicans (very common), brown noddies, flightless cormorants (unique to the islands), waved albatross (8’ wing span), Galapagos penguins (very rare, furthest north you will find penguins, got shots of penguins and cactus, penguins and iguanas), frigate birds (the steal food from other birds, feathers are not waterproof, males have red throat pouches that they puff up in courtship), Nazca booby, red-footed booby (chocolate brown which is more common or white), and blue-footed booby (most iconic birds of the islands, plunge divers, comical on land, she even saw one come out of a shell).

Sea birds (pelagic birds, birds that live in the open ocean) included Galapagos shearwater, Galapagos petrel, and Elliot’s storm petrel (size of a robin).

Raptors included Galapagos hawk (saw them pretty regularly) and short-eared owls.

She took over 13,000 pictures on the trip. She uses [Catcher One](https://www.captureone.com/en), similar to Lightroom. She is headed to Svalbard, north of Norway in June. Hoping to see polar bears, walruses, artic fox. And going to Alaska in July for grizzly bears and whales.

**Club Updates**

Nancy brought up that the club stared in 2007, it’s our 16-year anniversary.

Let us know if you are interested in upcoming field trips like Animal Ark, Heron rookery, Carson Lakes. Send Susie an email.

Nature Conservancy at River Fork Ranch, she’d like us to display our photos. Anything to do with wildlife and landscapes of Carson Valley, April 29-May 1. We will display on Sat and Sun. They’d like a club financial donation. 1-2 people need to sit with the photos. Susie will not be here, she will need people to help out, need 2 shifts each day. Same time as Genoa Heritage Fair. Sherri volunteered to help out.

Nancy will get back to us on dates for an upcoming wild horse field trip.

Dan got a request to ask the photo club to have a 1-2 months showing in the Arts Council. Is anybody interested? Members are interested.

Sherri asked if the sub-committee is still meeting? Decided Wed, June 8, 6pm would be good.

**April’s Meeting**

Nancy will give a presentation on the wild horses.

Photo contest is Photo Trip Sharing. Picking up inspiration from Cindy’s Galapagos presentation, submit your best travel image(s). Go back as far as you like to share the unique image(s) you may have captured on a special trip. Submit by April 5.

Discussing going back to the church for the meeting. Board will be meeting on March 15.

**March Photo Contest – After the Burn**

**Judge:** Pat Leonard-Heffner

She teaches photography at Lake Tahoe Community College since 1980. She has a masters in art education, a bachelors in fine arts. Criteria she used: technical, composition and story.

**Judging Comments:**

#1 Death in the Mist – Black and white which communicates bleakness, vertical lines of trees, light is misty, depth of field great, nice low horizon line in the lower third which enhances everything on the top. Message, lonely desolate, story of death.

#2 Desolate Planet – Amazing. Is it 2 different images? Long exposure to get the stars and milky way. Horizon line very low with plants that have been scorched by the fire. Tells the story of destruction and that we are on one planet.

#3 Dome Fire Disaster – Look like yucca plants, good contrast, exposure, very sharp, lots of depth of field. Eye goes back and forth in distance, plants reaching to sky. Horizon line in lower third. Looks like it was shot at high noon. Tells story of death and destruction.

#4 Burnt Trees in Snow – Looks mostly black and white, maybe a little color. Great contrast, like the horizon line in top third. There is a bit of vignetting, shows impermanence in a way. Really nice. Message is death and destruction.

#5 Coming in for Water – Beautiful example of a helicopter. Diagonal of plane shows movement. Amazing shot, sharp, good contrast, a little centered. Is it telling a story about the fire?

#6 Fire Destruction Markleeville – Really communicates about the fire. Top third horizon. Shapes are amazing, the mountains in the background, dead trees in the foreground. Eyes move back and forth in the entire frame. Lighting in foreground is amazing. Really communicates the fire happened there.

#7 Fire Lake – A formal composition, good depth of field, great shapes, beautiful sky, nice clouds, maybe used a polarizing filter, trees on both sides frame it. Communicates the fire nicely.

#8 Filling Up – Communicates the message about what’s going on. Dead trees in back. Sharp, horizontal, best helicopter picture because of what it is showing in the background. Tells the story about the fire. Likes the red against the dead background.

#9 Franktown Road – Good contrast, the trees are highlighted against the darker rocks. Great photo. Sharp, there are a lot of shapes in the composition. Maybe crop it a bit to lessen the shapes. But maybe the point is to show how much of the forest got burned.

#10 Reflection of Fire – Good contrast between highlights and shadows, can tell mountains are in distance, many levels to the image. Time of day is subtle. The reflection is amazing, showing dead tress.

#11 Aspect – This is different because it is vertical. Lends itself to the shape of the vertical trees. Sharp, good depth of field and contrast. Love the vertical layout. Great leading lines to the distance, s-curve is great

#12 Felled – Sharp, can tell the tree was cut, but was it cut because of the fire? Good rule of thirds. Doesn’t communicate the fire well.

#13 Beauty and the Burn – Great exposure, uses a bit of the s-curve to create illusion of depth. Nice composition and point of view. Very little about the fire.

#14 Working that Water – Image look a little out of focus, sharpest item is the dirt on the right side. Might have used a high ISO, but shutter speed wasn’t enough to freeze the action. Tells the story of the action of what was happening that day.

#15 Still Standing – Good composition, another vertical, good sharp picture. The tree in the middle shows the burned out shell. Wonder if a polarizer was used, sky is really blue. Dead tree.

#16 My Days Are Numbered – Tree is marked to be taken down. Likes the numbers and trunk on the right side, branches are on top of the background, communicated 3-dimension space. Communicates the story of the burned tree.

#17 New Growth – Is the brush new growth, not communicating the story of the fire as well. Water shows distance. Could be new early spring growth.

#18 Burned Remains – Wow, this is amazing. This is obviously burnt. Great close up. Good exposure, tells a story about the fire. This is a good one.

#19 Airport Road, Markleeville – Really beautiful, pretty composition, perfect time of day, beautiful sky. You realize the amount of dead trees.

#20 Alpen Glow, Markleeville – Really pretty sky, but feels like too much sky in the image, could have cropped it a bit. Lighting on ridge is beautiful. Foreground with telephone pole and road communicates it’s a place where people live.

#21 Under the Skin – Another wow. Lot of burned trees. Great exposure, good composition, message is everything is burnt. Like the vertical format.

#22 Beauty in Black – Good black and white, good shutter speed, depth of field, horizon line is in top third. Sky could be darkened a little bit to get the cloud to stand out more. Hard to tell what trees are burned, but it is still beautiful. Fire message is not prominent.

#23 Highway 88, Caples Lake – Beautiful vertical. Showing all kinds of color in background. Would like to see the bottom of the burned trees on the left. Overlapping shapes of dead trees on live trees, good message.

#24 Mountain Tinder – Good exposure, great contrast, really nice and sharp, can see dead trees on top of mountains. Beautiful shapes in rocks and snow. Dead trees in foreground is great for the message.

#25 Only U Can Prevent Fires – Love this. Great exposure, contrast. Could turn the format to vertical to show the sign, fence and trees even better.

#26 Beauty and the Beast – Great title. Good exposure, composition, communicates dead tree message. Feels like maybe too many, could have emphasized a piece, but still great.

#27 Scorched – Uses the rule of thirds, tree on the side, excellent composition. Tells the story of fire. Amazing.

First Place: #27 Scorched – Susie Roaldson

Second Place: #2 Desolate Planet – Dave Morgan

Third Place: #1 Death in the Mist – Dave Morgan

Honorable Mentions:

#21 Under the Skin – Sherri McGee

#15 Still Standing – NJ Thompson

#8 Filling Up – Nancy Hulsey

#6 Fire Destruction Markleeville – Joe Clements

#4 Burnt Trees in Snow – Kim Steed

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 (April) is Photo Trip Sharing.