**October 12, 2021 – Carson Valley Photo Club Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

Susie Roaldson

NJ Thompson

Barb Mower

Sandra Silva

Joe Clements

Nancy Hulsey

Suzie Zimmerli

Sherri McGee

Jean Desilets

Steve Davis

Jim Mitchell

Kim Steed

Mildred and Don Seibel

Tami Force

Sheila & LeRoy Clement

Sandra Branton

Sandy Jonkey

John Berry – Barb’s brother. Will be lecturing next month.

Cindy Marple – guest

Susie started meeting and quickly covered agenda. Welcomed Cindy Marple from Arizona Photo Club.

**Photography Trips and Tours**

Showed Costa Rica April 2019 images. The leader of the tour took behind the scenes photos.

8 full days of photography

Went to 4 locations:

* 2 areas in the Caribbean
* Central Highlands
* Pacific side

Species photographed: 105 Birds, 8 frogs, 4 bats, 1 sloth, 1 primate

Took 9,300 images

Checked in bag: tripod and ball head

Carry-on gear:

* D500
* D850
* 80-400mm
* 24-70mm
* 500mm
* 105mm macro
* Flash
* 1.4x extender
* Battery charger
* Binoculars
* Laptop
* External hard drive
* Rain gear

She takes 2 camera bodies when travelling because you never know. And because of the variety of subjects, she brought a variety of lenses. She ends up with 3 copies of every image from having the images downloaded every night to laptop and copied to external hard drives.

Costa Rica is in the middle of the peninsula which makes it a melting pot of north and south America. It’s about the size of West Virginia. Has very different habitats. That includes a range of volcanoes in the middle, the Caribbean and Pacific land and coasts.

Flew into San Jose, Costa Rica.

First photo shoot was at a park with a waterfall. The tour guides were setting up a hummingbird feeder area in a restaurant patio area with high speed flash. 2 people at a time shot, 20-minute sessions.

After that first set up, they changed the flower to have a different look 2 more times.

Auto focused on the flower, then changed it to manual focus. They were given the manual settings for the exposure. She did not look through the viewfinder. She stood back to watch when the birds were coming and took the pictures that way.

The next day they spent most of the day photographing frogs. The frogs are trapped in the morning and brought into a covered area for a few hours for the photo shoot. Used macro lenses and flash. Every frog had a different prop/plant/flower. They were tiny, colorful, and very cute.

Then she tried a wide angle close up to get the nice habitat in the background. She felt it looked contrived and set up. That technique works better when the subject is actually in the environment.

The next day they traveled to a location near the Nicaraguan boarder. Had a local guide that knew the area very well. First subject was a pair of spectacled owls. Saw white Honduran bats nestled in a big leaf. Then saw a sloth, followed by a variety of beautiful birds. They used bananas to entice them to the area. They went to another area to shoot toucans. They had a pole rigged up that they attached a new perch and fresh bananas to that attracted a variety of toucans and other birds.

King vulture blind was a hidden area behind glass. Then went to a private residence that had areas set up to entice small birds. Saw some iguanas. Shot bats at night using the same set up and process as the hummingbirds.

She used Topaz AI Denoise software to clean up background noise without removing the details in bird feathers.

Next day was the Resplendent Quetzal area. They waited 4 hours before the bird came. Got other birds. They had a sunset that night at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

The clouds cleared overnight and she saw the first sun in the morning. Saw a lot of birds.

Local guide took them around the Tarcoles Pacific area. The first spot they waited to see the long-tailed manakin. They had the opportunity to stand on top of the van and shoot a screech owl. Gave her a nice vantage point.

Saw more birds then some howler monkeys.

The final subject was a Common Potoo, a night shoot. They did a bird call to get it to come in.

Guides she has used and liked:

* Nathaniel Smalley – Nature odyssey Worldwide, [nathanielsmalleyphotography.com](https://nathanielsmalleyphotography.com/)
* Jeff Munoz
* Joe and Marianne McDonald – [hootandhollow.com](https://www.hoothollow.com/)
* Cheesemans Ecology Safaris
* Ron Niebrugge – Alaska tours for bears, [wildnatureimages.com](https://www.wildnatureimages.com/)

Price range was ~$4,500 for the Costa Rica tour cost which was a bit on the high end because it was a small group. Have to add in airfare.

**Barn Outing Update**

Sandy has been working coordinating locations for Saturday, Oct 16. Has one confirmed. She will send out an email to everyone with location and other details. The inside of the barn is what is interesting. Thinking we will meet at 9am.

Barb talked about her husband who is involved with a remote control flying group that will be gathering on Saturday, Oct 16, that is also off of Foothill on Hickey land. It’s fun to check out. Some planes are very large.

**Updated Outing Details**

We will plan to meet at the Reyloc Ranch, 775 Foothill Road at 9am.  This is a large barn built in 1870.  I will be at the gate to the ranch early to make sure everyone gets in.  There should be plenty of parking area so don't get too close to the barn with the cars.  Plan on some indoor photos of the old-time construction.  We will have as much time as we want.

This ranch is located about a mile south of the intersection of Centerville Road and Foothill Road, on the east side of the road.

When we finish at the Reyloc Ranch, Barb advises us of a fly-in by the Sagebrush Flyers.  We can caravan from the ranch to the "Hickey Field" so no one gets lost.  I strongly suggest you view the great website listed below for the Sierra Sage Flyers.  You can tell that Barb was the creator of that exciting website.

Come check out some Radio Controlled planes, jets, and maybe helicopters of all shapes and sizes at “Hickey Field”.   The field is a pasture on the east side of Foothill between Muller and Waterloo.  It is a small dirt road marked in red on the map below.  There will be balloons and a sign saying “Hickey Field”.  Go down the dirt road and go slow over the “funky – but safe” wooden bridge.

They fly from 9:00 to probably 2:00-3:00pm. The scenery is fantastic and the people are super friendly – they love to talk about their planes! Check out their website – [sierrasagebrushflyers.org](http://sierrasagebrushflyers.org/)  Questions?  Call/text Barb Mower 760-889-7246.

Any questions or comments on the overall field trip, please call or text NJ at 775-781-6364.

**November’s Meeting**

Will do zoom again because the speaker is not from the area. John Berry will be the speaker and judge. Pictures due Nov 2, fall and aspen landscapes.

**December’s Meeting**
Would you like to do it at the church? No guest speaker, but maybe an informal small lecture. Could also do a pot luck. Bring your best picture to show. Could have a judging team.

**Future Ideas**

Do a lecture on judging. Don Seibel will help put guidelines together.

**October Photo Contest – Sepia and Black & White**

**Judge:**

Tami Force

**Judging Comments:**

#1 Heceta Head – Likes the transition from mountain to the oceans. May have cropped some of the trees off. Having the people in there makes it less foreboding. People gave it good perspective of how big the lighthouse is. The light draws your eyes in.

#2 Flyin’ Back in Time – Different perspective than what you typically see. Can’t tell if the pilot is in the cockpit. Appears he may be, makes it more personal. Like the little soldier doll in the window. Likes the composition.

#3 Looking Back – The sky is gorgeous. Texture of the clouds ties in with the texture of the barn. Likes wagon in front. Struggles with the new building in the back.

#4 Mystique – Nice horse face, good close up and bokeh in background. Makes you think and feel freedom.

#5 Quiet Evening – Loves the sky and figure on the rock. Feels contemplative. Mood could also be sad.

#6 Triple JJJ – Really good action shot and stop motion. Looks like the horse is hovering. Like how you can see the cowboys’ faces. Good focus. Light and dark horses.

#7 Belmont Ghost Town – This is one of the most photographic ghost towns. Shows a good perspective of the town.

#8 Personal Treasure – This image sums up the family and their interests, the antique wheels and horns. The family is big hunters and interested in history.

#9 Hangin’ On – Like the stopped motion. It’s a little more soft focus than the other one. Likes the sharper focus of the other one. But this is good.

#10 Cow Camp Cabin – Nice crop. It’s a little in the shadows. It’s a hard cabin to catch with the right light. Black and white shows the patchwork of the roof.

#11 Just Resting – Loves the contrast of horse tack and license plate frame along with the aged wood.

#12 Peek-a-boo – Cute little bird. Likes the way the head and beak are above the branches, bringing focus to it.

#13 Light in the Burn – Really good job with light and sun rays. It’s a dark photo overall. Sun gives a new beginning feel.

#14 Big Horned Sheep – Makes you laugh. Looks like the sheep has a lot of character. Good job with sharpness of horns, nose and eyes and blurred background. Personality of the sheep comes through.

#15 Old West Luck – Like the title. Has really good texture. Really like the nails that look 3 dimensional.

#16 Trimmer Barn – This has nice light and shadows and contrast. Really good job lifting the shadows from the front of the bar. Neat to have the skull on the side of the barn.

#17 Out of Gas – The tank really draws you in. Good job with focus on the tank. Almost didn’t see the John Deere behind it.

#18 Seen Better Days – Likes the sun rays and texture on the barn wood. Eyes are drawn to the Guard Dog on Duty sign. Building has seen better days.

#19 Misty Morning – Makes you think about vacation, every day has new possibilities. The people give it a nice perspective.

#20 VC Mill – the bridge draws you into the Donovan mill.

#21 Pier from Past or Present – Perspective is good. Sepia tone works well.

First Place: #2 Flyin’ Back in Time, Kim Steed

Second Place: #20 VC Mill, Steve Davis

Third Place: #13 Light in the Burn, NJ Thompson

Honorable Mentions:

#14 Big Horned Sheep, Robin Grueninger

#6 Triple JJJ, Kim Steed

#17 Out of Gas, Sandra Silva

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 theme is HDR (Kodachrome color), panoramics, and fall aspen landscapes. Due Nov 2.