**November 9, 2021 – Carson Valley Photo Club Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

NJ Thompson

Barb Mower

Sandra Silva

Joe Clements

Donald Swezey

Nancy Hulsey

Robin Grueninger

Tracy Christenson

Kim Steed

Sandy Jonkey

Jean Desilets

Mary Kay Kaluza

Tami Force

Jim Mitchell

Sandra Branton

Sherri McGee

Mildred and Don Seibel

John Berry – guest speaker

Barb introduced John, her older brother, a professional photographer.

**Guest Speaker John Berry**

John Berry spent his entire career from film to digital as a professional photojournalist.  His shooting experiences have included the Lake Placid Winter Olympics, post 911 aftermath, and Syracuse University basketball – to name a few.  In addition, John was an embedded photographer with US troops during the invasion of Afghanistan.  His photograph of our troops was the inside cover of Time Magazine. Needless to say, he has had to adapt to a variety of shooting situations. He has also taught photography at Syracuse University. Worked for the local Syracuse paper for about 33 years.

Barb introduced John, her older brother, a professional photographer.

**John’s Photography Samples**

The gear he works with is with one body. He changes lenses back and forth. A lot of people carry multiple cameras. He uses military type pouches to carry the lenses. He uses full frame. Carries a spare battery, cell phone, notebook, 200-400 zoom lens f4.5-5.6 on a monopod.

He suggests you keep a bubble level to keep images straight like man-made objects. It’s helpful to take notes on things you are shooting.

He took us through images he has taken.

Sometimes light conditions are poor, too bright, too dark. Sometimes that can work to you advantage.

Part of his job is to go out and find weather features.

His shooting style has been described as clean. He crops out things that should not be in the photo, that are distracting. He would not clone on an image. He’s very cognizant of the backgrounds of his subjects and will adjust his position accordingly. If you have writing in a photo, it should mean something.

Sometimes he would have mundane assignments like job fairs, ROTC and high school, science fair, yard sales, quilt show, nudist colony, state fair, various sports, environmental portraits. Depth of field is important to clean up distracting backgrounds. His goal is to shoot the most visually interesting picture he can for whatever subject he is shooting.

He uses ambient light plus light kits, always striving for a natural look. When using a flash, he may funnel it to not have it spill where he doesn’t want it.

He was given a year to follow a farm family. Challenge was to make each of his images interesting.

Shared some 9/11 and Afghanistan images. Huge body of work.

Opened it up for questions.

NJ asked about the emotions he captures. He thinks that the cropping really helps to focus on the subject.

Don commented on his current and long-term assignment perspective was very impressive.

Suggested you buy a topographic map to show more details of where you can go. Google maps doesn’t help as much for the details of the surrounding area.

**Club Business**

New member Tracy introduced herself. She is up in Reno. Has been following some of us.

**Barn Photos**

Our photos will most like be displayed Thursday evening in a slide show at the Carson Valley Museum in Gardnerville. We are going to pause our barn outing until next year.

**December’s Meeting**
December 14, 6:30, at the Methodist Church in Gardnerville. Susie will be sending out all the details in an upcoming email. Current covid protocol include masks on unless you are eating or drinking. We will do a potluck. Bring your best picture of the year printed maximum 11”x14” and matte from there, no frames. Can do less than that. First prize $75, second prize $50, third prize $25.

We will talk about plans for next year. Positions are open for next year leadership. President, Vice President and Secretary. If you are interested on what any of the roles entail, reach out to Susie, Barb Mower, Sandra Silva, or NJ. It’s great way to get more involved and meet others.

Photo dues will continue to be $36/yr, due by end of January. Will send out information.

**November Photo Contest – HDR (chromacolor), Panorama, Fall Landscape**

**Judge:**

John Berry

**Judging Comments:**

#1 Fall Color Silver Lake – Just enough interest in the foreground with the white flowers, bounce to the evergreen tree. All subtle color, mountains blend in with the tone. Done really well.

#2 Golden Trees – Dark background allows the trees to pop against it. He might have underexposed it a bit more to drop down the shadows and bring up the highlights. Could crop some of the bottom out.

#3 Fall in Montana – Likes the foreground. The depth of field allows the background to come into it too much. Not sure it’s the right time of day to photograph the farm. Sun seems kind of high.

#4 Delicate Reds – Likes the darker background that allows the trees to pop. Depth of field would have helped a little bit.

#5 The Leaves of Fall – Has some strong positives. The depth of field, the center leaves are in the same focus area as the ones below. If you were to crop the bottom off, you can see how the bud cluster would pop out more. Has artistic subtlety.

#6 Genoa Trail – The bend of the tree over the bend of the road is set by the golden leaves. He likes this image. Gold leaves on asphalt adds. Would have burned down the upper right.

#7 Mono Lake Panorama – Left corner with gravel in the foreground gets in the way a bit, takes away from the focus on the landscape. Looks like the sky had some photoshop, done well, might consider dulling down the highlights.

#8 Snowliage – He likes the scene. Might like to see the snow darkened a bit, the range of light is almost too much. Likes this on the best over the other 2 views we will see of this cabin. Very pretty scene.

#9 Fall Comes to Mono Lake – Looks like post production treatment of the clouds, doesn’t mind, done tastefully. Might try to eliminate the gray road/gravel portion in lower left. Not a lot of color here, but it is subtle.

#10 Somewhere in the Middle of Montana – Centering the road is a little off for him. Telephone pole on the right could be eliminated.

#11 Aspen Meadow – He would have underexposed this a little. May crop in a little bit to cut off a bit of the shadow in the lower right.

#12 Golden Kelp – Likes the low angle of light being used. Try different treatments of this, different directions, maybe get lower on the ground. Likes the cross lighting and variations of black.

#13 Fall Cabin – Fence posts drive him crazy. Understands that adds to the information that is there. House is shot the right time of day, gives character to it.

#14 Reflections of Fall – Photo is almost cut in half by the line in the creek. That might actually be where the picture begins. More interesting parts are beyond that.

#15 A Touch of Snow – Seems like there is some post production or filter on this. Works really well. This could be cropped many different ways. Likes the tonality and the trees are broken down nice to provide more light details. Really likes this.

#16 Fall Rimmed River – Likes how the stream is not dead center, good to keep it off to the center. Good to use the height of the growth to the image. While the mountains provide visual interest, they are not the focus. Very nice treatment.

#17 Falls in the Fall – Twin fall hard to capture. What if you had shot it horizontally and cropped it so that the trees and top of large waterfall were more prominent, might be more colorful.

#18 River Spring Mustang Bands – Able to use the long lines to your advantage. Would have come a little bit closer to eliminate the gaps on left and right. That might make the herd really be as long as the mountains and more dramatic. Might give you more uniformity of the flow of the background.

#19 Fall and Winter – Not sure if this was shot a couple of minutes early or late. The sun is hitting the leaves a little and blackening them up. Maybe play around with depth of field so mountains are there, but not as defined? Is it too much tree? Maybe crop it a bit, would want to play with it a little.

#20 Fall Bridge – Something about the bridge that bugs him, maybe a little tilted. Likes that you see enough of the bridge and have stuff in the foreground to frame it. How much depth of field do you want? Could blur a little in the foreground.

#21 June Lake Stream – The color funnels your eye to the background. The gray blue mountains, the single yellow color, not sure if something is missing. Be aware of your foreground, do you really want those rocks there? Your eyes see that first.

#22 Fall Fun – The blurred background allows the leaves to pop out, really helps. Greater depth of field wouldn’t give you that.

#23 Valley Beauty – Tree bark fascinated him. Is it making use of HDR? Or is there some sort of natural reflection? Where the branch splits, that is the picture to him. Maybe crop out the limb that has been cut off. He sees a picture within the picture that bears looking at.

#24 Waterfall So Bishop Creek – The white shrub at the bottom of the frame doesn’t really work here. There is too much shrubbery after that to get to the waterfall. Maybe you use the green trees as your starting point and crop of edges in every direction?

#25 Red Lake Cow Camp – The cabin is leaning, just a little off. The tree doesn’t need to be vertical. Looks like post production is used or it is super saturated. Would want to desaturate it a little. Fall colors sometimes trap you into adding too much.

#26 Lake Tahoe Shoreline HDR – From the title he guesses there is HDR used here. Seems that the foreground is lighter. The 2 big rocks in the foreground are the least interesting rocks. If you had moved to the left, maybe that would help. Would make everything else bigger. Is the foreground natural light? Seems like too much. The woodland in the background, you can see how deep in shadow the rocks there are.

#27 Fall Reflection – Right side of the pond is more smooth and gives you a nice clean reflection. The right rock in the middle, almost dead center of the picture, drives him crazy. Be aware of what’s on your edges and what is dominant in the middle of the frame. Your eye sweeps through the image and hits that bright object.

#28 Fall Meets Winter – The road with the sweeping turn is more visually interesting with centering it. Color accents on the side are nice. Nothing traps you to follow through to the end of the road and beyond.

#29 Genoa Cottonwoods – Nice twisting road, the trees act as accents and framing points, almost perfectly placed for this. The stuff in the foreground on the right is shadowy and not distracting. The mountains in the background give you a nice mixture of terrain and clouds. Has a perfect balance. Has a nice feel, he likes this picture.

First Place: #15 Touch of Snow – Nancy Hulsey

Second Place: #8 Snowliage – Kim Steed

Third Place: #5 Leaves of Fall – Nancy Hulsey

Honorable Mentions:

#29 Genoa Cottonwoods – Vivian Powers

#6 Genoa Trail – Carol Heinricy

#1 Fall Color Silver Lake – Joe Clements

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 is Best Pic of the year. Bring a matted print to the December meeting on Dec 14.