

Carson Valley Photo Club – Minutes Sept. 9, 2025

Attendees:

Deb Lockett
Dave Arstein
Wendy Whyman
Carol Heinricy
Robin Grueninger
Andrew Guerrero

Tom Monti
Davis Brodiy
Dan Seibel
Milly Seibel
Jean Desilets
Joe Polovina

Mike and Ginny Virdin
Carol Muir
Wendy Wyatt
Joe Clements
Ken Struven
NJ Thompson

The outing to photograph the Milky Way was a success in spite of the thunder, lightning and rain. 16 club members were in attendance, and everyone enjoyed the potluck and took some great photos

NJ outlined the possibility of a tour of the Buffalo Creek Art Center off of Foothill Rd in Gardnerville. Oct 5 at 8:00 was chosen as our preferred date and time. More information will follow.

Deb Lockett expressed her appreciation for the photographers that participated in the Smith Valley Art show in Wellington. It was a great success!

Deb Lockett, Joe Clements and Andy Guerro volunteered to develop a contest list for next year.

Our scheduled presenter, Scott Parsons is out sick and did not give us a presentation.

Photo Contest- The subject was “Geologic Features”

The winners were:

1st place - #18 – Rock Goblins- Kimberley Burchiel

2nd place - #8 – Sun Kissed Mobius Arch - Kimberley Burchiel

3rd place - #10 – Monument Valley – Joe Polovina

Summary of photo comments:

1. Yellowstone 1 – I can’t tell what this is a picture of. The top right corner is distracting, my eyes don’t know where to look! Is this a macro shot? It would have been worth taking a bit more time to set this up a little differently....if possible.
2. Whitney Portal – this is a challenging composition to get right. Here, the background is dark and the foreground is over exposed. Timing and lighting are everything. Sunrise or an overcast day would lend itself to getting the overall lighting in better balance. For this time of day, an HDR focus stack would also have been an option to balance not only the lighting but bring everything in focus.
3. The three towers....Mono Lake tufas – the composition is nice on this. Even with the horizon line dead center, the elements in the foreground are more prominent. Nice use of odd numbers with the three towers. However, this is overexposed and could easily have been corrected.
4. Mt. Lassen – Pretty landscape picture.
5. Lake Mary Rock – Again, pretty landscape picture. Better with the “rock” a bit more prominent, but still a landscape picture.

6. Drain Pipe – It is apparent where the name of this rock comes from! The image does bring the viewer in and down the short dead end path. The lighting is a bit harsh to appreciate the rocks in the foreground.
7. The Grand Canyon – This is a stunning image. I know space and footing are limited, but I wonder if a couple of steps to the left could have eliminated the tree on the right. Nice use of thirds and filling the screen with as much canyon as possible. Nice tonality throughout the scene, colors appear pretty accurate and appealing.
8. Sun Kissed Mobius Arch – This is a very well thought out image. The foreground and all of the Arch is very well focused with a gorgeous sun star capture. It's a bit 50/50 of a triangle. A bit of a crop on the top right and bottom left to tighten the focal point of the arch and sun star. Great representation of this month's contest.
9. Crater Lake – a very pretty landscape picture.
10. Monument Valley – Beautiful image. Nice use of the rule of thirds, lighting is good with the arch very well lit. I may have used a brush to tone down the highlights, or a linear gradient on the bottom left corner. Colors are so pretty, and the view beyond the arch takes you through to explore more. The focus is spot on showing all the layers and textures.
11. Chaos and Tranquility – the formation that moves from the right and towards upper center left is truly chaos! Another great representation of this month's contest. It's kind of 3 images in one with the layer through the middle, the green cliffs to the upper right, and finally the gentle and subtle water falls on the bottom left. Without being there, in regards to composition, would it have been possible to shift up and to the right, or up and to the left? This is a full location and I can appreciate to desire to capture it all in one image.
12. Passing Thru a Heart of Stone – This is stunning territory and what an adventure! This is teetering on the side of landscape, but there is something to consider with the train passing through "stone". The entire image is in focus except for the front right. I would consider cropping this out as my eye is continually drawn to what's NOT in focus! The lighting and color sare beautiful and the train provides a subtle pop of color. It's also worth pointing out all those pines that are thriving while growing on the rock surface.
13. Yellowstone 2 – As noted in the previous image, it's pretty amazing how well pines thrive growing in stone! The rock has really nice texture and detail, well focused. I like that the tree is growing out of center, saves the image from fourths! Great lighting with nice clouds.
14. Starlit Boulders – Yes we have boulders, but more of a milky way focal point than geologic! But it is a very well captured milky way!
15. Near Monitor Pass – Another image teetering more landscape than geologic. I do wish this was focused in on, especially the peaks under the tree. The structure and texture are very appealing, dark and edgy, would have loved to have seen this closer up.
16. Mammoth Rock – Very nice composition of Mammoth Rock. This geologic structure is clearly the focal point of the image. I like the way the pine trees draw your eyes up through the image directly to the focal point. It's a bit over exposed in the sky and maybe would have had less sky, or zoomed in a bit or a little crop. Great subject!
17. Alabama Hills – Nice rock formation. Maybe would like to see this up closer and from a lower angle to give some dimension and depth to the formation.

18. Rock Goblins – Love this! Great lighting with haunting shadows! The composition and focus are spot on here. The low angle tilting up adds to the daunting feel of the image, they feel like they are coming at you. Way to represent the geologic contest!
19. Tufa Reflecting the Sunset – I like the idea here, but the focus is in the wrong place.
20. Mono Lake Tufa – Nice image with a reflection of the tufas.
21. Monument Valley – a very famous and prominent location for photographers. In this image however, what stands out is the large rock in the foreground. Could the photographer not get in front of this or shoot over it? Otherwise nailed the contest subject matter.
22. Dancing Basalt – This image almost looks like a mosaic on the bottom right and into the dark hole. Very interesting and beautiful location. Timing of the day caused very harsh lighting on the along the top and left of the image.

Future Contest subjects:

October - High Dynamic Range - Due October 7

Some Cameras can do this in the camera. You may use software to achieve HDR for your picture.

November - Golden Hour - Due November 4

When sunlight turns magical. (Dawn or Dusk). Capture your pictures then.

December - Best of 2025 - Meeting December 9

Bring your best picture of the year to our last meeting of the year. Print at a maximum size of 11" x 14", no frames. First prize \$75, second prize \$50, their prize \$25.