**May 11, 2021 – Carson Valley Photo Club Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

Shannon Reddoch

Kim Steed

Don Swezey

Jim Mitchell

Robin Grueninger

Sherri McGee

Steve

Sandra Silva

Nancy Hulsey

Susie Roaldson

NJ Thompson

Sandy Jonkey

Dale Miller

Melanie Miller

Susan Jack

Barb Mower

Bill Gosma (guest attendee)

Marsha Zangroniz – President of Boynton Beach Photo Club

Bill Gosma introduced himself. Lived in SF for about 30 years. Retired now. Moved here last year. Engineering background. Been doing photography for a long time, likes landscapes.

Susie welcomed group and introduced Art Silverglate and Marsha Zangroniz.

Marsha (President of Boynton Beach Photo Club) said one of her members will be discussing compositing next week and will send info to Susie. We are invited to attend. Meeting will be May 17, 6:30pm EST. Susie will send link to club members.

**Art Silverglate – The Psychology of Composition**

Shared Ansel Adams quotes.

**What is Photographic Composition?**

In the visual arts, composition is the placement or arrangement of visual elements or ‘ingredients’ in a work of art, as distinct from the subject. The term composition means ‘putting together’ and can apply to any work of art, from music to writing to photography, that is arranged using conscious thought.

**Composition is important for 2 reasons:**

1. It establishes a “path” through your image.
2. It can add mood or help tell a story.

These 2 factors are key to great photographs.

The way you decide what’s in the photograph and what you take out.

**Composition Tips: Black and White**

* Texture
* Tonal contrast
* Simplicity
* Use diagonal lines

**Composition Tips: Color**

* Color contrast
* Monochromatic color
* Limited color palettes
* Pastel colors

**Composition Tips: Landscapes**

* Leading lines
* Horizons – should always be straight
* Scale
* Telephoto lenses

**Composition Tips: Placement**

* Rule of thirds
* Central composition
* Balance
* Creating tension

**Composition Tips: Portraits**

* Simplicity
* Blurred backgrounds
* Framing
* Black and white – the contrast can set off the image

**Composition Tips: Shapes**

* Triangles
* Circles
* Squares and rectangles
* Irregular shapes

**Leading Lines**

Lines that make you look through the image

Works well with wide angle lenses

Rule of Thirds examples

**Fibonacci Spiral Sequence in Photography**

Ed Weston’s famous nautilus image

Leads you through the image

Can go right to left or left to right

Positive and Negative Space examples

**Symmetry**

Works well in composition

**Mood in Color**

Showed examples of warm colors

Showed examples of cool colors

**Shapes**

Showed examples of images forming shapes like a building being a rectangle, a flower being a circle

**More composition tips and examples:**

* Is the horizon straight?
* Is the subject strong and obvious within the image?
* Is the Rule of Thirds being used effectively?
* Leading lines – makes a powerful image
* When moving objects enter the frame, leave room in front of that moving object
* Patterns and repetition
* Rule of odds – people are more comfortable with odd number of items in an image
* Depth of field – focus on a specific portion of the image
* Negative space
* Keep images simple
* Don’t be afraid to crop the image
* Get in close to your subject, focus on what you want your audience to see

Art can be reached at [5thexposure@gmail.com](mailto:5thexposure@gmail.com)

**May Photo Contest – Symmetry/Asymmetry or Best Photo**

**Judge:**

Art Silverglate – did before and after for some images to show what he would like to see as a judge.

**Judging Comments:**

#1 Silent Storm – don’t put your horizon in the middle of the image, would like to see the storm cloud portion more

#2 Heron Love – liked the image and silhouette, thought the bottom portion was distracting so he cropped that out, would get a score of 9

#3 Winnemucca Folds – he wouldn’t touch this one, the 3 layers work well, foreground, middle ground and sky. Sky is a little tight, would be nice to see a little more. Nice colors for each layer. Very good composition and set up.

#4 Here’s Looking at You – come in a little tighter on the duck, don’t need to see all the water. Symmetry of top and bottom work well. Image is the duck and reflection.

#5 Around Monterey – really like the curve. Lightened the foreground a bit to show a little more detail. Great leading line of the curve. Don’t necessarily need to much sky. Horizon is nice and level.

#6 Any Questions – nice bird shot, resolution is low. Looks like a sky replacement in the image, doesn’t seem right. Make sure the sky matches the light on the subject.

#7 Sand Harbor Sunset – cropped out a little piece of the tree in the upper right. Made a couple portions a little darker. Nice framing of the sunset.

#8 Winter Wings – great eagle shot. Don’t need that much top and bottom. Bumped up the contrast a bit so it wasn’t as flat. Cropped it a little to get rid of the bottom branch. Really good.

#9 Enchanted – great shot. Shirt was a little bright. Took highlights down a bit. Darkened the ground a bit.

#10 Blip – like the muted colors on the flower. Might have made the background even darker. Would have added a little more room at the top and the bottom, as well as not cut off the left leaf. Nice shot.

#11 Majestic Pose – another great eagle shot. Don’t think you need all the space on the left, crop it in more to make the eagle stand out.

#12 Nature’s Painted Sky – nice sunset, added a little more saturation. Would have liked to see a little more of the mountains.

#13 Knocking on Heaven’s Door – tough shot, wide angle lens makes the image lean back. Step back a little further to get the building more straight.

#14 Night Hunter – really good composite. Would like to see higher resolution. Nice shot.

#15 Saguaro Sunset – cropped out the twigs on the right, straightened the horizon. Nice sunset.

#16 Ebony Flight – great, a little tight in the front. Nice texture in wings.

#17 Do you want something – foreground is distracting. Would look better to crop out the foreground.

#18 Midnight Flight – good use of negative space. Works quite well.

#19 Spring at Last – wasn’t sure if all the foreground was needed. Darkened the sky, brought in more detail in the mountains. Or take out the mountains and show reflection of the mountains.

First: #3 Winnemucca Folds – NJ Thompson

Second: #2 Heron Love – Kim Steed

Third: #19 Spring at Last – Tom Keller

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

**Field Trips**

* Asked who is planning to go on the Fallon/Carson Lake/Stillwater field trip on May 15? Changed meeting time to 8am at Walmart in Fallon.
* A couple members (Ralph and Chuck) are working on getting the club access to the gold mine near Virginia City as a potential field trip.

**CVPC Barn Project Update**

* NJ and Sandy provided an update.
* *See their update notes below.*
* Thinking of going to the Berry Farm one evening next week, possible Monday, May 17. Sandy is working on coordinating the outing with the owner. Might not have to limit participation for this particular location. Info will be sent out when details are confirmed.
* Also trying to get access to another location where there are 3 barns on the ranch.
* There are some barns (like Scosa) that you can get pictures right from the road. Members can do on their own anytime.
* On the CVPC website, if you put your cursor over the Gallery link, you will see a link to get to the barn photos.

Jim talked about a barn at the entrance to Chichester. He also said that Carson City Photo Club is starting to get better. Might be enlightening to reach out to them and invite them to see how we run our contests.

**Next Month**

* Drama of daily life image, street photography, due June 1.
* Next month’s meeting we will be on zoom again. We are thinking of sharing photos with the Boynton club. Susie is still discussing with Art. Will send out more info once details are finalized.

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**CVPC Barn Photo Project**

Update: May 12, 2021

Sandy Jonkey & NJ Thompson

**Background and Original Vision**

Photographing the Carson Valley Barns is the brainchild of Sandy Jonkey. She saw and purchased a book from the Douglas County Historical Society on the barns in the valley. The publication contains a brief description of each barn and a black and white photo of it. The black and white photos do not capture the vibrance of these structures. Some of the barns are gone, however, many are standing

Sandy thought – what if the CVPC photographed the remaining barns and shared them with the DCHS?

The original vision was to photograph the barns, share the images with the DCHS, and let them use the photos with attribution to the CVPC and photographer to republish the book with the updated images. Positive communication occurred between the two organizations regarding the project and CVPC board decided to proceed with it.

The Douglas County Historical Society operates the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Gardnerville and the Courthouse Museum in Genoa and sponsors events throughout the year, such as the Barn Tour. The DCHS published a book titled, "Barns of Carson Valley - A Pictorial History", in 2003 and it is available for purchase at the museums.

With the Covid-19 restrictions loosening, the DCHS’ focus is on reopening and staffing the museums. We’ve heard they want to conduct a Barn Tour in Fall 2021. It appears the DCHS is unable to focus on the barn project now, but that doesn’t mean they can’t or won’t in a few months.

Should you want to learn more about the DCHS, donate, or become a member, visit https://www.historicnv.org.

**Where We Are on May 12, 2021**

* Photoshoot completed of the Dressler, Groenendyke, and Neddenrip barns
* Barn section added to the carsonvalleyphotoclub.org/gallery website
* Decision to proceed without current Historical Society buy in – however, we want it to be a joint project and are continuing to interface with them. Buy in from the DCHS will be an important lever in approaching barn owners and seeking access to their property and barns.
  + Sandy and NJ met on May 8 to discuss the project and think the CVPC should move forward with the photographing the barns while minimizing the DCHS’ effort in the project.
    - There is plenty of interest among club members in participating in field trips to photograph the barns.
    - From a historical perspective, it is a good to capture images of the barns before they disappear. Many of them were built in the 1870s.
    - From a civic perspective, it is nice to have two Carson Valley community groups working with each other.
    - Theme for a Fall CVPC exhibit at the Nature Conservancy (we’re staying in touch with TNC regarding an exhibit at the River Fork Ranch. They want us and we want them.)

**Revised Vision – May 2021**

The revised vision of the Barn Photo project is for the CVPC members to:

* Photograph the barns of the Carson Valley & Douglas County
* Submit photos to the Barn Gallery on the club website
* Link the CVPC “barn gallery” to the DCHS website
* Establish “Barns” as a theme for the CVPC exhibit at the Nature Conservancy
* Potentially – coordinate the Nature Conservancy exhibit with the DCHS Barn Tour to help draw interest for both organizations.
* Precedent – for a theme – one year we made images taken in the Carson River Watershed the theme for the Birds & Buckaroos exhibit.

**Next Actions**

* Keep in contact with the Historical Society
* Set up a field trip to shoot three barns on Waterloo Lane.
* Establish some guidelines/procedures for the barn photo shoots
  + Potentially limiting the number of CVPC members on each “barn shoot.”
  + Number of images to be submitted by members to the “Barn Gallery.”