**June 8, 2021 – Carson Valley Photo Club Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

Susie Roaldson

Shannon Reddoch

Don Swezey

Bob Malone

Jim Mitchell

Suzie Zimmerli

Barb Mower

Chuck Burton

Sandra Silva

Nancy Hulsey

Sandy Jonkey

NJ Thompson

Susan Jack

Steve Davis

Carol Heinricy

Sheila and LeRoy

Sue Cooke

Nenita Wasserman

Jean Desilets

Susie welcomed group and introduced new member Bob Malone and guest speaker Cindy Marple.

Bob Malone – from southern California, spent some time in Michigan. Spent his childhood in Lake Tahoe. Involved with brass instrument design with Yamaha. Living in Lake Tahoe right now while he and his wife build a house in Carson City.

**Cindy Marple – Artistry in Wildlife Photography**

cindymarplephoto.com

Lives in Arizona. She has been doing photography since junior high school. Primarily wildlife and most often birds.

Gear: Switched from Canon to Nikon 2 years ago D500 and a D850. Been shooting 500mm f4 leans with 1.4 extender and a tripod. With her Nikon she now uses a 500mm f5.6, very small lens and more affordable than previous lenses. Also uses 80-400mm zoom, sometimes uses 24-70mm wide angle zoom. Doesn’t use flash at all. Doesn’t use filters. She gets her physical protection from a large lens hood.

One challenge with wildlife is finding a subject. Happy to get a documentary shot of animals at the very least. Action with wildlife is the most exciting to take and often wins contests with the captured drama, but not often a very pretty image. Tonight, we are going to talk about artistry.

Shared many beautiful images while talking about tips and ideas for wildlife images.

**Choose Artistic Light**

Right at sunrise or sunset, the golden hour, provides beautiful golden light to the image. Any subject in this light makes a pretty image.

Side light adds drama, depth and dimension. It emphasizes texture like the texture in the fur. With side light, watch out for the face and eyes to be lit properly.

Backlight can provide artistic light. Can be difficult to get detail in the subject with back light. Can give an almost ethereal look to the image. The rim light makes the subject stand out. Animals or birds that have translucent parts, the backlight will make the parts illuminate, like web feet, long ears.

**Choose Weather that Creates Mood**

Snow, fog

Fog creates a nice soft image, quiet mood. It obscures a lot of the background. Can give you some dew. Fog softens the light and makes the color more rich.

Mist at sunrise or sunset, backlit can create a nice silhouette.

Shooting in rain or snow, need to protect your gear. Can make a choice with your shutter speed to make rain or snow streaky or more crisp.

Big animals in the rain like bears, don’t like being wet. Capturing the shake can be fun.

Just dark storm clouds in the background can be very attractive. And if the sun starts to break through the clouds, that can give you beautiful light.

**Simplify**

Include blank space around the subject, making your subject smaller in the frame.

High key is one technique to help simplify. A white background makes it easier. Need to have no shadows on your subject. Shoot in shade or overcast makes it easier. Helpful to have a dark subject and a lighter or brighter background. Over expose the background by 1 or 2 stops to lose all the detail in the background. Might have to post process to bring back in more detail in the subject.

The inverse of high key is a well list subject with a shaded/dark background, having the background underexposed.

Shooting silhouettes is another simplification technique. Properly exposing the sky, the animals get silhouette. Pay attention to the position of the animals. For example, showing all 4 legs of the animal. The animal should be recognizable.

Simple doesn’t have to be completely minimalistic either. Could be going in really tight on the animal, tight on the face, focus on the eyes.

**Get a Little Abstract**

Example would be going in really close on the animal’s fur. Can make really interesting abstracts.

If the entire animal is completely rim lit, underexpose by 3 or 4 stops and just make the outline be the picture. Could do it in post processing too.

Do a pan blur. Use a slow shutter speed and pan the camera with the movement of the animal. Will give a nice motion blur of the background and sometimes part of the animal. Start with 1/100 of a sec. Subject has to be going left to right or right to left.

Put the camera on a tripod, have the background in focus and let the animals create the blur.

**Use Lines and Patterns**

Lines, patterns, textures and colors can provide interesting elements. When shooting subjects near water, you can get interesting reflections in the water.

Lines can be implied like in a pattern of a group of animals or real lines like the lines of a leaf or other foliage an animal may be near.

Sometimes the animal itself can give you interesting lines, like a bird preening, wrinkles in a seal, texture a bird’s feathers

**Use Repetition and Reflections**

These are special cases of patterns. Can help draw you into the image and provide more interest. One example, animals in the same pose as each other, can help unify the image. One animal in focus and a similar animal in the background out of focus.

Reflections can offer beautiful colors and patterns.

**Make Good Use of Color**

Birds can be very colorful subjects. Can be more difficult with mammals. Look for the colorful environment like flowers or red berries or blooming trees, then wait for the subjects to come. Take advantage of pretty sunrise and sunsets and colorful reflections. Can use bird feeders to attract birds to your setting.

Pay attention to the complementary colors, the colors opposite each other on the color wheel. For example, an orange bird with a blue background.

**Include Beautiful Environment**

Animal-scapes, including the habitat with the subject. Hummingbirds will often come back to the same perch. You can position yourself for a pretty angle and wait for the bird. Some animals can be oblivious to your presence or even a little inquisitive, take advantage of that with the landscape. Sometimes you cannot get close to the animal. You can back off a bit and include the beautiful environment.

Where would you like to go back to?

New Zealand, Australia, anywhere in Africa. In the U.S., Yellowstone, Alaska like Geographic Harbor.

This is Cindy’s hobby, she often travels to take pictures on organized trips, photo tours. Some of her favorite tour companies:

* Macdonald Wildlife Photography is one of her favorite tour companies.
* Jeff Munoz Rain Forest Photo Tours
* Cheesemans Ecology Safaris
* Nature Odysseys Worldwide (Costa Rica)

What kind of gear travel bags work for you?

Traveling internationally can be difficult with the weight limit for carry on. She does not check gear. She uses a photo backpack with a big lens and one body and a laptop bag (Urban Disguise) that has enough room in it for a camera body and a couple of lenses. They often don’t weigh the laptop bag. Mirrorless is going to help reduce the weight.

Do you make a shot list?

No, just tries to enjoy herself. She often has ideas like doing wide angles or portraits.

Are you using auto ISO?

No. The camera she is using now, she can’t see the ISO. She has to review the image to see it. She shoots in aperture priority. If the shutter speed starts getting too low, she knows she needs to change the ISO. It can work well for certain situations.

She uses Topaz AID Noise. Get the sharp shots and fix the noise in post.

If you had one place you can only shoot, where would that be?

Antarctica. She is hoping to go soon. Expedition Cruising, never a set itinerary because of wind, weather, other condition. Get penguins, whales, seals, birds and drop dead gorgeous scenery.

Have you been to Iceland?

She has. Lots of puffins and other birds, but scenery is awesome.

Have you gone to Hawaii?

Only for vacation, not photography excursion

Have you been to Patagonia?

No, but she would love to. Get beautiful landscapes, pumas/cougars and birds.

**Club Business**

Shannon will be stepping down as VP. We are looking to fill that role. The VP mainly helps out with the zoom and sending the meeting invites out.

**The board discussed getting together. How does the group feel?**

A couple of people spoke up for live, if people are vaccinated. Some people can’t be vaccinated. What if they mask up? Continue to social distance? Would it be difficult to be zoom and live? Could we simplify the zoom, just point a camera at the overall live room? Maybe we all just wear masks if in the church?

Consensus is let’s meet in the church in August and all wear masks.

How do people feel about doing a bbq in July for the July meeting, members only, Susie’s backyard? July 24 (best) or 25 or 31? Email Susie your preference. If we do this, we would not do the second Tuesday evening of the month for July.

Another idea we talked about was doing another hands on where we share our equipment with each other.

**June Photo Contest – Drama of Daily Life**

**Judge:** Shannon Reddoch

**Judging Comments:**

#1 Drama in the Pine Nuts – You can see the dirt flying. Really likes the passive horse not paying attention to the fight behind him. Definitely a dramatic picture.

#2 Cattle Drive – Iconic Gardnerville cattle drive. Great photo, see the dog, the dirt haze, it’s a nice crop focusing right on the cows.

#3 Scrub Jay – Nice depth of field. The bird it looking out, that is really nice.

#4 End of the Day – The modern-day cowboys. Represents the drama of daily life, working around the ranch. Have the guys with cowboy hats and one guy with a hoodie.

#5 No Breakfast – Great shot, see the little birds wanting breakfast. Does the big bird land or not land? Good use of open space.

#6 Vaquero – What are you roping? Likes the cropping, the room in front of the horse. You feel the motion of the rope, horse and whistling. Tells a story of our community.

#7 Balloon Wrangler – So full of color and line and energy. Just enough mountains to know where we are at, the line takes you into the guy wrestling the balloon.

#8 Horse Play – Action and drama, another great shot, great depth of field. What is the horse doing? Looking at the camera or the other horse?

#9 Stallion Action – Where is the horse going? Likes how the water is captured. Great short exposure. The foreground helps break it up. Just enough lead in front to wonder where the horse is going? Was the horse spooked? Great photo with great drama.

#10 Cormorant Twins – This is neat how the orbs go right to the ducks. Would like to know more on how it was put together?

#11 Eclipse of My Own – This is a cool photo composition. It’s the moon with the color behind it. Appreciate the thought that went into it.

First: #4 End of Days – Kim Steed

Second: #7 Balloon Wrangler – Sandra Silva

Third: #9 Stallion Action – Steve Davis

Honorable Mention: #11 Eclipse of My Own – Don Swezey

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

Susie talked about people not sticking very closely to the theme of the photo contest. What does the club think? Input:

* Stick to the theme. Trying to get out of our comfort zones.
* Judge should have in mind the theme and judge accordingly.
* Point of the contest is to push ourselves out of the standard box and challenge ourselves.
* Sometimes the verbiage of the contest theme is too loose. Be more directive in our contest themes.
* Judge needs to consider how well the photo relates to the theme, have it part of the criteria of who wins.
* Other photo clubs we have reached out to use established criteria for the judges.

Will have Don do a presentation on Orbs at another meeting.