**Carson Valley Photo Club**

**Meeting Notes April 11, 2023**

**Attendees:**

Joe Clements

Barb Mower

Sandra Silva

NJ Thompson

Sandy Jonkey

Sheila & LeRoy Clement

Mitch Palmer

Tom Monti

Robin Grueninger

Connie Peters

Carol Heinricy

Dave Arstein

Nancy Hulsey

Tami Force

Susie Roaldson

Wendy Whyman

Sandra Branton

Susan Jack

Kimberly Burchiel

Dan Day

**Guests**

Sara Danta – Rejoining the club, had moved to CA for a couple years. Loves wildlife, colorful images and black/white photography

k.m. Boyd – Kathleen, amateur photography. Interested in landscape and portrait.

**Birds, Buckaroos, and Beauty Update**

* Need volunteers to staff, email NJ. Only have the reception staffed (Susie Roaldson and Wendy Whyman). Connie can do Saturday afternoon. Mitch and Joe offered to fill in as needed.
* If you are exhibiting, bring a beverage.
* If you are visiting, bring a snack.
* Need help distributing flyers. Please pick some up at NJ’s house.
* There is going to be a bird walk on Saturday morning. Those people usually end up in the gallery.

**Barn Tour**

Sandy is working on a new barn tour. Planning the Dangberg Barn for Sat morning, April 22, 8am. She will send out an email after details are finalized. Is going to try to add 1 or 2 more.

**Field Trips**

Stillwater to see the Blue Herons. Robin not available May 13 or 20.

**Upcoming Community Events**

Mark Twain Festival in Carson City – April 21-22

Big Mama’s Car Club Show – May 13

Hot Air for Hope Balloon Festival – May 19-21 at Lampe Park in Gardnerville

Carson Valley Days – June 8-11

**Possible Upcoming Speakers**

Will Enos and/or his wife

**Guest Speaker Irwin Lightstone**

Topic: Black and White in the Digital Age

Started BW photography in grade school, fell in love with it. Felt there was magic to it, developing the images in the dark room. Ended up going to law school and didn’t pick photography back up until he had kids.

Started converting succulent images to BW and realized how much more beautiful they looked. Put some images together for a book.

Factors:

1. Is there good range of tones dark to light?
2. Are there good surface textures
3. Are there interesting forms, geometries, patterns and shapes?
4. Is there good contrast and tonal separation between the key details of the image or will they mush together as similar grays? Can the contrast be improved by filtration?
5. Does the background have distracting or ugly colors in it?
6. Is the subject monochromatic?
7. Is the light too contrasty for color; do the colors seem harsh?
8. Are the shadows great?
9. Is color an essential part of the image?
10. Is color a distraction?
11. More abstract/less realistic impact?
12. Which creates the appropriate mood?

By peeling away the veneer of color, BW is an abstraction that makes us see our subject differently.

Architecture lends well to BW. Patterns can be emphasized. Atmosphere works well. BW can create a moodiness. Light and shadow can be emphasized.

Silver Efex Pro: Walked us through a conversion, used to do everything in this software. But now uses Lightroom also.

BW doesn’t work for every image. Play with it.

When printing, he likes a luster paper, sometimes uses gloss. Does not like matte. Likes Red River paper.

Favorite Photographers:

* Ansel Adams
* Irving Penn
* Richard Avedon
* Alfred Eisenstaedt from Life Magazine
* Imogen Cunningham – favorite BW plant photographer
* Michael Kenna

Talked about focus stacking a little. Offered to come back to do a full presentation on focus stacking.

**April Photo Contest – Baby Animals**

Judge: Irwin Lightstone

#1 Long Cold Winter – Very good feel of time and place. The snow obscures a little too much, like in front of the face. Realizes it’s a difficult situation. Likes the shot, gives him the chills. He might have lightened the calf a little so the eyes stood out.

#2 I’m a Day Old Hammer – Love the position of the colts head. It’s a fun shot. A little awkward on where it’s cropped on the legs. Might be a little stronger cropped a little higher or lower. It like cutting of humans at the knees. Love the expression on the horse’s face. Very nice image. Background is handled well, gives a sense of place.

#3 Showin’ Off Those Lashes – Lised the image a lot except for the pink tag. The tag is very distracting. It is the one item of color in the black and white image and draws your eyes there. The expression is great, eyes are in sharp focus, background is suitably blurred so calf stands out.

#4 Cold and Alone – Everyone loves a rabbit. Has a very distracting background. Could put the rabbit in context to the background or make the rabbit stand out from the background. Eyes are too dark, no catch light.

#5 Caramel and Cream – Love this image. It’s nurturing. The 3 lines from the faces come together. Catch lights in the eyes. Great expressions. Very nice image.

#6 Are You My Mother? – Makes me laugh. Captures an emotion, makes an excellent image. Technically it could be improved. Would darken the background, it’s a little distracting. You lose the rump into the background. Maybe shoot more wide open to blur the background. Love that face.

#7 Twins – Very distracting. Sees the stairwell as well as he sees the deer. The branches in front take away from it. Hardest thing with wildlife is getting a clean image.

#8 Frosty Baby – Has a great feel. Is a difficult exposure with the white snow and black calf. Would have lightened the eye on the left side to make the image sing a lot more. Like the position of the calf.

#9 Chicks for Sale – Doesn’t see any one of the chicks as being sharp. Looks like there is a color shift, not dealing with neutral colors.

#10 406 – Likes the expression of the calf and the self-grooming. Nice shot. To make is stand out, would need something additional.

#11 Pygmy Hippo Calf – Major problem is the eyes. Looks like he’s been drinking all day, no catch light. If the eye had a little gleam, it would be a very interesting shot. Would crop more of the mother out.

#12 2023 Filly Pine Nut Range – Loves this shot. Likes the bushes in foreground and distant hills. Cut a little too close on the bottom.

#13 Got Milk – Likes that you can see it looks like a brand new calf, maybe it’s just wet. There is a sweetness there. Calf stands out enough. Sweet shot. It captures the moment.

#14 Rylee – Likes the creativity of using a human as a baby animal. Background is a little too focused and takes away from her beautiful face. Caught the eyes beautifully, face is lovely. Would have been a stronger image with a more blurred background and the light in the upper right knocked down.

#15 Newborn Foal-Hammer – Contemplative. Likes the pose a lot. Captures the place. Would crop some of the top of and make the image a square. That would cut out some of the excess background to make the colt more of a focus of the image.

#16 Nifty Fifty – You can see that the eyes are in focus, they have catch lights, the background is blurred, there is movement. A very nice image.

**Winners**

First Place: #5 Caramel and Cream – Mitch Palmer

Second Place: #12 2023 Filly Pine Nut Range – Kimberly Burchiel

Third Place: #6 Are You My Mother – Wendy Wyman

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners:

1. Please send a NON-watermarked full resolution jpg to Nancy Hulsey (nancyhulseyphoto@aol.com).
2. Bring an 8"x10" or 8"x12" printed photo of your winning image (which 300 dpi is best to print from) to Robin Grueninger 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 May is **Stairs due May 2.**

1, 2, and 3rd Place winners send your photo to Nancy Hulsey at nancyhulseyphoto@aol.com

**Share the Love**

Need field trip leader and speaker suggesters for this year! Share your knowledge and network!