**October 11, 2022** **– Carson Valley Photo Club Meeting Minutes**

Guest Speaker – Jim Sculatti – Birds in Arizona (& Other Places)

Contest Judge – Arron Harris – Action Camera

Guests - Mitch & Vicki Palmer

Mitch started 3 years ago. Shoots with a Nikon. Travel all over the 11 Western states. Vicki a phone photographer.

Guest Speaker – Jim Sculatti

Started birding as a result of a movie called “The Big Year.” He decided needed 2 tools –The Sibley Guide to Birds and the National Geographic Guide to Birding

**Ebird** is a great phone app. Brings up all birds within a radius around you. You can indicate what you’ve seen & it updates your list. And you can add your media and photos. It indicates hotspots & you can see all the recent sightings when you click on a specific hotspot. The info goes to **Birdseye** app. You can browse by location & it brings up a map of hotspots around you. Click on a dot & you can see what birds were seen then and when. If you click on a specific bird, you can see how many times it has been seen and in what month – so you can figure out the likelihood of your seeing it in the month you are in. And you can look up a specific bird & it will show hots spots of where it has been seen lately. You can also click on a “Rare birds” tab so you can focus on finding them

**Merlin ID** – another app. There is a sound ID aspect and it can identify the birds that are chirping around there.

Codes 1-6 1=Common and 6= Cannot be found

His equipment – binoculars – most important tool - $250. He also likes a harness for his binoculars which makes them easy to grab. Uses 100-400 lens. Just got 500mm lenes -with 1\*4 extender which makes it 700. Wimberly?? mount vs. ball mount which can swivel. Likes tripod as it is more stable. Water proof lens cover is well worth it for $100

He likes a field guide with individual maps by bird of where they show up. He loves Arizona - Tuscan to Mexico border & also Tuscan to New Mexico border. He also loves Patagonia where people feed them. Also, Portal, AZ near New Mexico border gets a lot of rare birds. Sierra Vista has lots of birding with canyons and has roads! Goes to 9500 ft. Miller Canyon – rugged place.

When he is out alone, he always carries a spot – an emergency beacon that can send a satellite message saying I’m in trouble. For 3 days it costs $25 or a year is $250. Beatty’s Guest Ranch near Miller Canyon another feeder place.

Another place he likes – Texas along the coast. Houston to Galveston. Rookery has spoon bills. Laffite’s Cove near Galveston. He loves warblers. “Fallout” where Caribbean birds fly through. Santa Ana – lower Rio Grande Valley - Brownsville, etc. Lots of birds!

Magee Marsh in Ohio, south shore of Lake Erie. The birds wait there for the winds to slow down so they can fly over Lake Erie. New birds come in every day.

Some Guided Trips that He Has Taken

Gambell – Siberian Express – to Alaska to see birds he’d never seen. Used ATVs to see birds. Birds a bit out at the distance.

3 trips this year - **Never any airfare because he used miles.**

1. $3800 & $700 for a private room – 9 days – Colorado on leches (sp?). Had lots of birds displaying in an attempt to attract a mate
2. So. Florida $3900 & $550 for a private room – 10 days for birds you only can see in Florida
3. Costa Rica – Quest for Agami Heron – $3800 & $500 for a private room. Tropical birds. Went by boat to get some birds.

Also go off California Coast – San Diego and Los Angeles boat rides. They throw popcorn to attract seagulls who then attract other birds.

**How He Shoots**

If a bird is flying he uses large focus areas & increases shutter speed 1500-2500. His camera most used is a Canon7D Mark 2, but he just got a new Canon R7.

Doesn’t really go out with camera club to shoot. Most of his time he just goes out on his own & talks to people to learn about what they have seen/ where they go. But he’s glad he did the tours because he saw so many birds. Ecuador is the next on his list.

When he first started, he shot 800-900 pics – he learned his lesson – too many to go through. No longer takes 10 frames a sec. He limits himself to 400 pics. Now takes 3 per sec.

Has heard Australia & New Zeeland are good. And Taiwan.

He has recorded 682 No. American birds. Short time goal is 700 with is a huge goal for amateur birders.

Metering modes? He doesn’t own a meter. He adjusts ISO – if too dark, he increases ISO. He just does trial and error.

He hopes from his talk that people will visit Texas in April, Magee Marsh in Ohio in May, and Arizona in Spring.

**October Photo Contest – Objects in the Sky**

Judge: Aaron Harris works at Action Photo in Reno

Aaron shoots Fuji now. He has learned a lot from many other photographers. As a result, he says, he’s 50 photographers in one.

**Judging Comments:**

1. P51 Blondie Takeoff – Liked depth. Showed motion & that tells a story.
2. Going Separate Ways – lots of negative space which works here.
3. Jacks Valley Clouds – Aaron has a landscape photographer’s eye – he likes to see landscape tied in with dramatic sky
4. Smooth Blue Angels Curves – had symmetry with leading lines which give more attention to the photo. If there was a more dramatic sky it would have enhanced photo
5. Head for the Hole in the Clouds – Depth & dimension with the drama from the sky & the silhouettes helps tell the story
6. Fireworks in the Night Sky – As a landscape photographer, he likes to incorporate landscape as part of the photo. Include your surroundings
7. Milky Way Night Sky – Liked that land was added in it. In time, include the foreground as well. Heading in the right direction.
8. Wait for Me – Loved the shot. Great timing. Shows desert feel. Tons of layers. Bird going into towards the jet is great. A lot going on and definitely tells a story
9. Driver’s Seat – Shows speed & detail of the pilot. Tells a story. Really nailed the focus.
10. Starry Starry Night – Great shot. Very windy, so to get a sharp shot is great.
11. Coming at Ya – Likes the depth & loud focal point. Mountains behind tells a story. Inverted planes are cool.
12. Bear Up High – Nice sharp. Nailed the focus. Could see textures in the bear’s coat.
13. Smoke Trails – Good shot. Symmetry – like you get with mountains with water & reflections.
14. Hawk Over Dobe Valley – Cool shot. Like exposure & the textures on the feathers.
15. Look Over There - Cool shot. As landscape photographer, try & catch at an angle & ridge lines. Isolated shots can work, but try leading lines, balancing things with symmetry. Arron likes to make a scene vs. isolated shot
16. Diamond Formation – Likes symmetry & balance, exposure & focus. Balanced frame
17. Harvest Moon – Big on moon shots. Shot wide open, but he has found f9-f11 with higher ISO works for him. This a little soft, can get sharper. Shooting wide open can lead to softness
18. Opening Ceremony – Tells a story dragging the flag. Likes the subject matter.

**Judging Outcome:**

* 1st Place – #8 Wait for Me – take highlights down a little more – Sandra Silva
* 2nd Place - #5 Head for the Hole in the Clouds - the way it made him feel with the sky, heavens above & jets in formation. Got him at the heart – Connie Peters
* 3rd Place - #11 Coming at You - Love it – good depth, layered – Tom Monte
* Honorable Mention #1 - #12 Bear Up High – likes textures and foreground - like you can reach out & touch things. Focus was nailed! Robin Gueringer
* Honorable Mention #2 - #1 – Blondie Takeoff – Tells a story. You get something from it. You’re out in the desert, layers to it. Bob Malone.

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 (November) is Shadows – find what’s lurking in the shadows! The play between light and dark is what created texture, mood, and depth. Look at how the light falls one everything and photograph interesting shadows.

**Upcoming Field Trip/Opportunities with Aaron Harris and Action Camera Reno**

**Carson River Meet Up**

Aaron is going to do a Free meet-up the Carson River on **Oct 18th** – look at Action Camera – 4:30 – 6:00. See Action Camera website for location <https://www.actioncamera.com/classes-reno> – which says *“Meet at* ***4:30 pm*** *at the paved parking lot at Carson River Park (On Carson River Road next to Silver Saddle Ranch) in Carson City. Please wear sturdy walking shoes.”*

**Bridge at Donner**

He still has 3-4 spots still open on shoot the Bridge at Donner shoot on Oct 26th at 6:45 pm. Info at <https://www.actioncamera.com/classes-reno>

**Farrier Farms and Telescopes**

**Nov 16 6:30-10 pm** with Farrier Farms telescopes that you can connect to with your phone. People are welcome to come – (Free). See website <https://www.actioncamera.com/classes-reno> which says “*Come to Ferrari Farms in Reno on Wednesday, November 16th to get an amazing view of the night sky. Aaron Harris will introduce you to the popular Unistellar brand of telescopes - the easiest telescope to use that's ever been made! Unistellar telescopes combine both deep space viewing and photography. Connect your smartphone to these telescopes and capture deep space celestial images, such as nebulas, globular clusters, and galaxies! This is a FREE event! We'll be there from 6:30 - 10:00 pm.*

*Ferrari Farms - 4701 Mill Street, Reno, NV 89502”*

**Next Month’s Meeting**

 Zoom speaker subject “Adding Impact to your Images.”

Our 2021 and 2022 Board is retiring after two years of service. Please support the club by volunteering as:

* President
* Vice President
* Treasurer
* Secretary
* Photo Catcher
* Webmaster