**February 8, 2022 – Carson Valley Photo Club Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

Susie Roaldson

NJ Thompson

Barb Mower

Sandy Jonkey

Sandra Silva

Sherri McGee

Joe Clements

Cherie Garrison

Jean Desilets

Dan Day

Sheila LeRoy

Pat Leonard-Heffner

Carol Heinricy

Sandra Branton

Tami Force

Jim Mitchell

Susan Jack

Bob Malone

Matthew Henderson – guest speaker

Ken Bodner – photo contest judge

Dan Day

Historical Society is going to have birds of prey presentation Feb 10, Thursday, 6:30pm, $5, Gardnerville Museum.

Jean’s photographs from the Soaring plane event at Minden Airport last year were published in the Soaring magazine this month. Congrats!

**Guest Speaker Matthew Henderson**

Matthew Henderson is a wildfire photographer. Henderson Fire Media. 15th wildfire season this past year. He sells his photos to news stations globally. And he uses Facebook mostly. He also has an agent in Europe that sells his work. He was a research and design engineer at Microsoft and then Toyota. Moved to Michigan for the job at Toyota. Ended up taking some photography classes at the local college which he really loved.

He shared images of his work. One comment he made was to put your name on any photos you post.

Often shoots lightning at 5.6 at 1/15 or 1/30. He sets himself up in the car with the camera on a tripod outside so he keeps himself grounded with the car tires.

He shared model pictures and some studio lighting images. He likes to experiment. Then shared his photo journalist images.

Shared his fire pictures. There have been times where it’s been too hot for his camera and he’s had to shut it off.

When he is in the field, he helps when he can and the photography comes second. He has memorized the settings on his camera so he knows how to quickly set aperture and shutter speed. He shoots totally manually.

His career started with shooting full time for a newspaper. Then people started noticing his work and contacting him. 90% of his income comes from social media. He live-streams now. Often talks directly to people being evacuated. And often checks on address for people during fires.

Mimea 645

Canon 1D

Canon 7D Mark II is his work horse and had been through hell

He stressed to be a decent person when you are out shooting.

**Committee Meeting Update**

Sandra B. highlighted that Robin came up with many great field trip ideas. Was a good meeting that generated many ideas.

**March’s Meeting**

Will be on zoom.

Cindy Marple (Arizona photographer) will be presenting on a Galapagos trip and what it is like photographing there.

**February Photo Contest – Eagles & Ag**

**Judge:** Ken Bodner

kenbodner.com, landscape photographer. Grew up with a Kodak granny camera, then played with his dad’s Kodak tourist camera. First photo class was in Michigan in the 1970s. Built a B&W darkroom in his basement. He retired 5 years ago after serving 40 years as an epidemiologist. He has taken many classes at the Lake Tahoe Community College and was awarded during many exhibitions. He’s a member of the Tahoe Art League and has displayed his work there. Has an upcoming solo exhibit at Lake Tahoe Community College this fall.

Shoots Nikon D750, mostly on a tripod. Prints using a Canon prograph2100. Also uses a zone 6 field camera on occasion. That equipment is much heavier than digital equipment. He edits, prints, mattes and frames.

When he shoots, he selects scenes that speak to him. Could be appealing patterns, subjects, lighting situations, etc. In critiquing, he tries to apply the same. He doesn’t have a lot of experience with shooting wildlife or long lenses.

Submissions for this contest, 13 birds, 5 in flight, remainder in portraits. 3 farm life photos.

**Judging Comments:**

#1 Hit by the Light – an owl in flight. There is some flare from the sun, partially controlled, not too offensive. Hills provide height of the bird and context of scene. Focus here is not optimal.

#2 All Hay, No Cattle – lighting is from behind, which puts much of the image in the shade and doesn’t highlight the hay bales well. Interesting perspective with the converging lines from left of hay stack to the truck. Not sure that was the photographer’s goal. Focus/resolution doesn’t look quite optimal for the hay or background. May be the situation.

#3 Dropping By – composition is well balanced, interesting diagonal stream on right. Fence lines and background gives a horizontal balance. Foreground and background nice. Mix of static and dynamic subjects. This combo points to a complex natural environment. Doesn’t see many shadows, maybe done at noon or diffused lighting. Area around the cows could be in better focus. Depth of field could be better.

#4 Soaring – is this an aerial shot, gopro or mountain shot? Snowy background provides neat context for whole scene. The shutter release is almost there. A little interference with dark trees and wing. Whole scene is in high contrast. Tough to expose both the snow and dark bird at the same time.

#5 Baldie’s Best Side – portrait, solid blue sky is remarkable, profiles the subject nicely. The branches provide some context, but not too complicated to distract from the image. The exposure is excellent. Can see the highlights on feathers and branches and beak. The eye is perfectly in focus and directed at the camera which is very nice. The lighting is ideal and brings out a lot of highlights in the bird and the wings. Could have been cropped a little bit more on the left. The 1/3-2/3 rule is not as critical in this kind of portrait view.

#6 When Will It Warm Up? – frosty family of cows. Thinks he sees some vignetting of the lens. Lighting is fairly diffuse, so contrast in photo is not very high. Might experiment with adding a little contrast and vibrancy. As it is, it creates a mood. Frost on cow is interesting, shows that it is pretty cold. Might be able to highlight that frost in post processing. The cropping could be increased a little more on the right hand side to draw attention to frosty cow in center.

#7 What’s Up? – one of his favorites. Beautiful focus on eye and head of bird. Has near and distant bokeh. Uniform background isolates subject nicely. Focus and exposure are excellent, provides fantastic detail in beak and feathers. There is some flare in the breast of the bird, not sure what that is, not really offensive or distracting. Cropping is optimal. This is perfect.

#8 Barn Owl – interesting frontal lighting here. Was it natural or flash? Metering is perfect, isolates the subject and provides dark background. Focus and exposure are excellent, provides nice detail of beak and feather and particularly right side. Angle draws some interest to scenes, color scheme is pleasing, kind of monochromatic.

#9 Weathering – focus is perfect, image is simple, minimal depth with deeper shadows. Highlighting in grain of lumber is very pleasant. Exposure range is full between highlights and shadow. Placing the door 1/3 of the way pleases the eye, makes it look less flat. Loves coloring and texture. Very comforting.

#10 Falconry Demonstration – the bird is still in motion. The shutter was pressed at perfect moment just at the bird alights. Well lit, direct from frontal lighting which highlights the bird very well. Focus is perfect. Must be wide aperture which isolates the bird from the background. The falconer is placed outside the frame and main focus is on the bird. Viewers eye is drawn to the highlighted wing. Really pleasant.

#11 Stunning Beauty! – a respectable portrait. Sky is uniform, limits distractions. Whole scene is mostly in focus. The branches provide some interference with focusing on the bird. Might have zeroed in on the head and shoulders of the bird more to reduce some of the network of branches. Not sure how well that would have worked.

#12 Mournful Walk – this was really interesting. Wasn’t clear to him at first was the mourning. Wondering if the black blob was the dead calf. Lighting is diffuse. Sepia tone. Produces somewhat of a somber mood. Lower horizontal features and non-descript hillside, very pleasant.

#13 Smooth Sailing – bird is in mid-flight and captured very nicely with a long lens, fast shutter, bird in perfect focus including the eye. Background is uniform blue with appropriate highlights and shadows in bird. It was cropped to give the bird travel into the frame. It is somewhat of a portrait so could be centered. It might have been interesting to take the photo with a slower shutter speed to give a feeling of motion. This is fine as it is.

#14 Eagle Portrait – maybe one of his favorites. Hard to believe this was not a studio portrait. Bird’s eye is focused on something below it which draws our attention. It creates a story. The focus is amazing, can see all the features of the bird, the grain in the fence post. The stance of the bird at an angle also draws the eye. Great local contrast. Plenty of light and shadow. Cropping excellent for a portrait. Magnificent animal!

#15 Deer Talking to Bobcat – one of his favorites. What an amazing opportunity to come across, but perhaps found on a piece of farmland. Serendipity found. Exceptional image, winter surrounding, placement of the subjects in the diagonal corners and they are staring at each other. The viewer follows the lines of sight for both the animals. The bobcat is nicely disguised. Eyes are perfectly exposed. The whole image creates a powerful story and powerful tension. Viewer tries to determine what each animal is thinking. Composition is very good. Hesitant to change anything, but might do some post processing and add a bit more vibrancy to that animal’s coats, but very good the way it is now. Amazing find!

#16 Just Visiting – technically this was a difficult shot. Photographer seems to be level with the eagle and far above the valley floor. Fast shutter speed that stops the eagle in mid-flight. What was the focal length?

#17 Standing Proud! – good portrait. Lighting provides no distraction from main subject and foreground is minimal. Seems very precarious on the tip of the tree branch. Bird looks content and self-confident. The diffuse lighting provides somewhat of a flat image and diminishes the color of the feathering. Exposure is accurate for all the elements. Wondering if the it could have been a vertical aspect. Otherwise, very nice.

#18 Very Cold – high key, pure white and pure black. Very simple, makes the cold theme very obvious and creates a mood.

#19 Is it Spring Yet? – a pair of eagles, different poses, different levels, staring in different directions makes for an interesting image. Cropping and framing are ideal. The tree contributes quite a lot to the overall image, provides light patterns, does not distract. Crossing trunk draws some attention.

#20 Run Away Bull – very nice portrait. Cooperative pose. Subject looks content. Strong directional lighting from the head and side. Limited depth of field that produces a golden bokeh in background. The lighting highlights the face and horns which are in perfect focus. The color scheme is very comforting, browns, tans, golds nicely blended. The white head stands out very nicely. The framing is interesting. The body seems to be placed on right 2/3s of image, eye is centered, very pleasant. Nice angle view. Eye is in wonderful focus.

#21 Washoe Eagle – another good portrait, a side profile, head peering over the shoulder. Nice solid blue sky that frames the subject nicely. Lighting shows the geometric patter very nicely. Excellent focus including texture in beak and eyes. The near foreground branches are kept out of focus to not distract.

First Place: #14 Eagle Portrait – Steve Davis

Second Place: #15 Deer Talking to the Bobcat – Robin Grueninger

Third Place: #9 Weathering – NJ Thompson

Honorable Mention: #10 Falconry Demonstration – Sandra Branton

If he could give more awards, he liked Runaway Bull, Is it Spring Yet, and Very Cold.

Winners please send a jpg to Nancy Hulsey full resolution photos ([nancyhulseyphoto@aol.com](mailto: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 (March) is After the Burn/Post Fire.