

**March 10, 2024
Sonora Library
Minutes**



Bill Heiser called the meeting to order at 1:06pm. He thanked members for attending, and he welcomed the new faces.

Welcome and Introductions: Bill introduced the agenda and some lessons learned from our January meeting. To more effectively manage time, agenda items will be “timeboxed.” He passed out a member survey and noted that it will help identify member interests and guide future planning. Guests and members introduced themselves.

Members present: Nancy Conti, Bill Heiser, Marie Hetherington, Kay Hoover, Pat Jennings, Mel Martin, Maureen Nolan, Catherine Stanton, Kathy Syverson, and Jan Alcalde.

A warm welcome to new members Lori Feigen and Michael Pinneo.

PHOTO DISPLAY: Theme: Black & White

Many members shared images. There was much discussion and constructive feedback about them. This process is still evolving as we determine the best method for providing beneficial image review for members.

Merced National Wildlife Refuge Slideshow - Bill Heiser

Bill had compiled a slideshow of images taken by members who attended the February 11th field trip. The trip was coordinated by members Connie Cassinetto and George Dondero, both of whom were familiar with the refuge. A wide variety of species were spotted and photographed.

PHOTO THEME FOR MAY: MINIMALISM – Marie Hetherington

Marie shared another outstanding overview for the coming Theme of the Month in May.

Minimalism is a deliberate “less is more” approach. *Simplicity* is key, with the subject reduced to its most elegant essence, emphasizing the bare essentials, clean lines, and empty spaces. This requires thought and consideration. *Negative space* is a big part of minimalism. It gives definition to the subject. “If the model or the performer is the noun, the negative space is the adjective.” Some suggest that at least 50% of the frame be empty. *Composition* is critical in minimalism. The more negative space, the more composition becomes matters. The Rule of Thirds is often employed and often broken. Isolation of the subject eliminates distractions. *Color* choices matter. B&W can add focus. Complementary colors can add impact. *Lines and shapes* move the eye. Leading lines, patterns, shapes, and strong shadows can draw the viewer in.

Treasurer’s Report – Marie Hetherington

Marie displayed a budget ledger that projected income and expenses for the 2024 year. At the moment, we have \$1,004.67 in the account. However, after the *anticipated* expenses, we will end the year with a \$141.34 gain. All expenses are projected and tentative.

Leadership Team Report – Bill Heiser

Bill talked about the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to keep our Club going. The team meets twice each month (sometimes more), once before a meeting to plan and once

after the meeting to review how things went and how it might be improved. Bill has focused energy on social media posts, and those posts seem to be paying off, as they are gaining followers.

BREAK

MLAA SHOW INFORMATION AND TIMELINE – Mel Martin

Mel reported that several members have expressed an interest in showing. There will be room for 20 pieces. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention, with Jeff Luhn as our judge. Mel encouraged members to enter, especially if they have never entered a competition before. This show is a good venue in which to show a photo you are proud of. Entries need to be properly framed (canvas and metal prints do not need frames) and wired for hanging. Bill and Marie volunteered to help hang incoming work. Mel strongly encouraged members to volunteer in some capacity at the show, which is all volunteer-driven. She reported having a nice turnout of items donated for our club's beautiful pine needle basket which will be up for auction. The past two years, the Club has donated show-generated funds that exceeded show costs to the MLAA. Bill wondered about the financial feasibility of that, since the Club operates on a shoestring, and our budget is so limited. A discussion followed with ideas about how we might support the MLAA in other ways. With limited funds and members, ideas were challenging. Kathy Syverson moved that we pay our judge, but that we not donate excess show income this year. Further discussion followed, noting the Club's benefits from being under the MLAA umbrella. Motion died for lack of a second. Catherine Stanton moved that the Leadership Team be given the discretion to decide about donating excess show income to the MLAA this year. Kathy Syverson seconded. Motion passed.

2024 PHOTO THEMES AND FIELD TRIPS – Bill Heiser

Bill showed the planning chart for field trips as well as monthly themes and presentations. Our June field trip will be a wander up Hwy. 108 in search of *Moving Water*. In preparation for that, Bill asked if any members would be willing to do a presentation on photographing *moving water* at May's meeting. Kathy Syverson may not be able to attend May's meeting, but she volunteered to pull together a presentation on the subject. If she is not able to attend, Bill will show it for her. Thank you, Kathy! Options were discussed for the April (14th) field trip. It was decided that a morning walk on the West Side Trail would be the outing. Bill asked if anyone would do a presentation on critiquing photography. Jan will work on this for May. The May meeting falls on Mother's Day. Changing the day/time was discussed, but it was decided to hold with our regular day and time because of scheduling the library room and no significant difference to members in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

InFocus Show Timeline – Barbara Stewart

Barbara was not able to attend the meeting, but she still needs volunteers to "sit" the show during the last few days of its run. Please contact her if you can help. Kathy Syverson gave a brief overview of the InFocus Show and how it has been organized and run in the past.

Member Content for Upcoming Meeting – Bill Heiser

- Mel confirmed that she'll present a slide show in September
- Kathy S will present a composites presentation in May (tentative)

Pros/What to Do Different Feedback – Bill Heiser

Bill asked the group to give feedback about the meeting:

Liked:

- Liked the B&W images and found them inspiring
- Liked that we made plans
- Liked the quality in critique commentary
- Liked the engagement of the group
- Liked more people
- Liked that the Leadership Team is keeping us organized

Would be better if we could:

- Consider presentations via Zoom
- Have a professional-led class/field trip
- Could find a way not to talk over each other during discussion...Bill needs to remind us!
- Spend less time on logistics and focus more on photography

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.

NEXT MEETING • Sunday, May 12, 2024

- **May TOM:** Minimalism