



Photo Section Newsletter

Overview

Hello everyone. Your Photo Section leaders have been busy planning the winter season. In this newsletter, we wanted to let you know about planned photo hikes

in January through March, as well as informative meetings that we will be hosting over the coming months, and other matters of interest to photographers.

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate Photo Section leader. Their contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

Photo Trips

The Coachella Valley Hiking Club (CVHC) website lists all of the hikes available with your membership. Please review the calendar to see which are of interest to you and are suitable for your level of fitness. The website is set up to help you quickly identify all hikes and allow you to register.

In addition, the Photo Section of the CVHC has organized three hikes, one each in January, February and March. These were established to give photographers a variety of natural wonders to work with. In the past, these hikes have helped create a sense of community among our photographers, as well as allowed people to learn from each other and to share techniques. There is no charge for the hikes beyond your basic membership. The hikes are:

January 9

Dos Palmas Reserve

Dos Palmas Preserve is remote, one of the best and least known wildlife sanctuaries in the Coachella Valley, located 5km east of the Salton Sea. With hundreds of native fan palms, it's an oasis and bird refuge administered by the BLM. This trip begins early! In order to photograph waterfowl we need to be there around sunup. There are plenty of other photo opportunities besides bird life.

Desert ecologist James Cornett calls it one of the 10 best places to visit in the Coachella Valley, for those interested in nature. The Preserve is 45 minutes from Palm Desert, meetup is at I-10 and Washington; exact information will be provided to attendees. Carpooling from the meetup site is encouraged! Please remit \$10/passenger to driver.

Hike Difficulty: Easy – 3 to 4 miles, elevation gain negligible.

February 5**Imperial Sand Dunes**

From the website: "Located in the southeast corner of California, the Imperial Sand Dunes are the largest mass of sand dunes in the state. Formed by windblown sands of ancient Lake Cahuilla, the dune system extends for more than 40 miles in a band averaging 5 miles wide. Dunes often reach heights of 300 feet above the desert floor, providing outstanding opportunities for recreation [and photography]."

**March –
TBD**

The March trip has not yet been decided upon. Please continue to check the CVHC website and calendar for announcements.

To register for any of the hikes, please go to the CVHC website and search the calendar cvhikingclub.net.



Meetings

The photo section hosts a meeting every month of the season in the Cathedral City Library, located at 33520 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City, CA 92234. Meetings begin at 4:00 pm and usually last about 75-90 minutes. Each meeting has a theme with a presentation that helps you learn about an aspect of photography.

January 13 – We are pleased to announce that Jeanne Scott, an accomplished local photographer, and president of the Coachella Valley Desert Camera Club, will be our guest speaker at our January meeting. We all thoroughly enjoy our night desert skies and the panoramas of the Milky Way as observed over our beautiful mountains, but many of us have struggled with how to capture these memories in a picture. Jeanne will give us an overview of what makes for good night photography and she will share some of the wonderful photos that she has taken over her many years of photographing the night sky in our desert area.

We would like to see more of your work! To encourage this, we will have a theme for our three meetings and we ask you to submit your photos and your ego to our extremely uncritical committee for sharing with your other pho-togs.

January's theme is "WOW." 🤩

Please send your best "Wow" photograph, on any subject, taken at any time, to Gary Vandemark at gvndmrk@earthlink.net by January 10th. Let's see what you've got! Gary will project each photo, then we will discuss each, and the attendees will vote on the best one. The winner will receive (small prize).

Subsequent meetings have been scheduled for February 10th and March 16th, with agendas to follow.



Photo Section Leaders

The leaders of the photo section are listed below with their email contact information. Please contact the appropriate individual with your comments or suggestions.

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Other Matters of Interest

- We are delighted to announce that the Whitewater Preserve has reopened after last Valentine's Day flood. It has taken a great deal of effort on the part of many organizations and people to reverse the devastating effects of the flood. Whitewater has excellent hiking and photography opportunities and is an easy 20-minute drive from Palm Springs. For more information on updated trail conditions, call their office at (760) 325-7222.
- CVHC Website Update – As you may have noticed, our new website has a lot of new features; a great calendar, a news update page, club information, and access to many downloads for the public and even private ones for our members and hike leaders. In addition, members can check membership status and links for renewal. The calendar is color coded by hike difficulty, as well as including all other club activities. This offers a single place to go for viewing all club events, including alternate activities such as bike "hikes", social events, photo-oriented hikes, guest speaker series, Kids' hikes, and other special events of the club.
- Excursions – Feel like getting away? We do too! If you have the ability and interest to organize a photography excursion this season and take a few photographers along with you, we would love to hear from you.
- Field classes –
 - Joshua Tree Desert Institute offers courses to help you learn about the desert and its flora and fauna. Their website has a full list of all their offerings and instructions on how to register. Go to <https://www.joshuatree.org/desert-institute/field-classes.html>
 - Anza Borego Foundation also has field classes in this amazing natural environment. For further information, go to <https://theabf.org/events-calendar/programs-classes/> and click on Events
- The Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association also has hikes. For more information, go to <http://www.abdnha.org/calendar1.htm>
- College of the Desert offers extension courses. One of interest is Marc Rosen's "How to Be a Better Photographer." Each week, a new theme is proposed and attendees submit a photograph for group discussion and evaluation. To register, go to lirpalmdesert.com.
- The Book – As most of you know, last season we floated the idea of a photographic book that would allow us to share with others the many visual memories we have experienced while exploring and hiking in and around the Coachella Valley. Many of you submitted your material and we prepared a prototype which was successful in securing the approval of the CVHC Executive Council to proceed. Big thank you! As you are out this season photographing, keep this in mind. We want to see what you see. It can be realistic or interpretative but it should be representative of the natural environment we find ourselves in when we go hiking. We will be calling for more material shortly!