

# Through Their Lens

## A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

### *Bill Stuart*

A past president and Club stalwart, Bill has volunteered his leadership in many activities. Currently he serves Grand Photos as a monitor, a SIG facilitator and photo shoot leader.

**When did your interest in photography begin?** Escape into the wilderness or environs of nature have been a passion of mine throughout life. I always wanted to be able to bring back the beautiful sights and scenes I witness on my excursions into this natural world. This led to photography as a way to capture those special moments and share my experiences with others. It was about 1981 that I purchased a Pentax K-1000 film camera with a detachable zoom lens to carry with me on outdoor adventures.



**How did you arrive at Grand?** After accepting a new job in Yuma County in 1996 my wife and I were looking for a nice place to build a new home and eventually retire. I quite liked the floor plans of the houses in the just opened Sun City Grand and with my wife's aging widowed mother in Sun City West this community was a very attractive option which we elected to exercise in 1997.

**What do you most enjoy about Grand Photos?** There is much I like about Grand Photos. It is a great group of friendly people with whom I enjoy interacting. The policy adopted early on by the club providing instruction and opportunities for all members to learn from others and improve their photo skills in an accepting and non-threatening environment free of charge appeals to my own sense of sharing with others.

**How did you find yourself involved in volunteer Club activities?** Over the years I have benefited from the help of many others. I have always felt it my responsibility in any organization to shoulder my share of the duties and responsibilities necessary to keep things moving in a positive direction and pay forward what was paid to me.

**What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years?** I have always wanted to bring back to show others the wonderful things that I have seen in nature. From my first encounters with the great pictures of scenery and wildlife that members were producing I seized upon every opportunity to take a class, tag along on a photo shoot and display my work in competition to get the constructive feedback from others concerning the quality of my work and how to improve it. That coupled with work in the field in the way of workshops, photoshoots and Special Interest Groups keeps me coming back for more interaction with a group of quite nice people that I am proud to call friends.

**What are your favorite things to photograph?** I grew up in the natural environment so I am particularly interested in shooting photos of the natural world. Wild animals and birds top that list followed closely by flowers and scenery especially in natural settings.



