

Through Their Lens

A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

Dennis Hilgar



A Grand Photos member for six years Dennis has been a monitor, led photo shoots and currently serves as photo shoot team member, class instructor, and digital competition coordinator.

When did your interest in photography begin? My true interest in photography didn't begin until I came here to SCG. I had a camera from my early 20's onward which I took along for travel but the photos were basically snapshots. I didn't have the time or inclination to take photography to the level I feel I'm at today.

How did you arrive at Grand? I had retired in Florida and came out here to visit friends that I had worked with for many years who were living in this community. The large, enclosed community concept appealed to me and was something that was missing where I lived in Florida, so I bought a home here.

What do you most enjoy about Grand Photos? The camaraderie, it's a welcoming club. When I first showed up in 2015 members welcomed my participation in classes and photo shoots. They willingly responded to questions, and made me feel at home. On my first photo shoot the group went out to dinner and during conversations I truly felt others had a genuine interest in who I was and what my interests were. The Studio atmosphere is also a very comfortable social setting. You can drop in and shoot the breeze with others who share an interest in photography.

How did you find yourself leading photo shoots, serving as photo shoot team member, class instructor, and digital competition coordinator and other volunteer activities with the Club? The key

word is volunteer. It didn't take me long to realize that the Club vitality relies entirely on the volunteer activities of members. It's important that members open their arms to all who want to contribute at any level of involvement and that is how I became involved. Others asked me to help out and I willingly agreed.



What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years?

My very first exposure to Grand Photos occurred at an artist exhibition of travel photos. Although I had done extensive traveling as she also had done, I was surprised that the quality of my photos of those same areas didn't look at all like her photos. That started me on a learning journey. During the time that I've been here my photographic interests have evolved from travel, to landscape, to black and white and all sorts of different aspects of photography. The ebb and flow of what's new and exciting in photography, post processing and the Club activities is constantly changing so these things keep me going.

What are your favorite things to photograph? Originally it was landscapes. I still enjoy travel photography, and can't wait to get back to that. I really have developed an interest in artistic photography where you're not necessarily taking a photo of the family dog. Rather you are seeking architectural features or elements of design as a form of artistic expression.

