

Through Their Lens

A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

Gary Jann

A past President of Grand Photos, Gary has served as a monitor, class instructor, photo shoot leader, SIG facilitator, and currently is the travelogue coordinator.

When did your interest in photography begin? I was in high school and my dad was into photography. He had a camera and even had a dark room in his younger years. He didn't use the camera much in my teen years so occasionally I asked to borrow it. I liked to go to the mall and take photos of the old cars that they had on display. Later I got more interested in taking landscapes and that is where my passion has been over the years.

How did you arrive at Grand? By car! We were looking for a place to retire and had been driving around the west. After 7 years in the D.C. area, we wanted to leave the east coast.

Our son moved down to the Phoenix area. We visited him a number of times and just as we were retiring in 2005, we looked around the valley eventually visited Grand. We thought this is a really cool place with the various club activities and amenities. We decided to settle here and we love it.



What do you most enjoy about Grand Photos? The fact that there is so much diversity in activities in which you can get involved. For me first it was competitions, then my interest shifted to creating and sharing travelogues of our trips. That illustrates the range within the club, you can go where your interest leads you.

How did you find yourself involved in the many volunteer activities and roles in which you have served in the Club? While attending classes on post processing software techniques it occurred to me that I had quite a bit of experience with topics that I thought others might like to learn about. I also thought it was a neat way to share my experience on the topics of lighting, and the art of seeing. For other volunteer activities often, someone asked me to help out. I enjoyed doing

things that broadened my understanding of photography and the club.

What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years? Growing up I was interested in aesthetics, how things look and feel. Photography is a way to capture and express that art. Coming out of high school I thought I would pursue engineering studies but after two years I had enough of the math challenges. Friends were pointing me toward landscape architecture. I could see that photography was a perfect fit with it that so I switched to take up those studies.

What are your favorite things to photograph? Travel photography in my passion. I enjoy taking photos of locations we visit to attempt to capture the cultural essence of that community or region. I've learned through experience that including the people in those photos provides the scale in relation to any buildings but it also helps express customs, clothing and characteristics of those who live there.



