

Through Their Lens

A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

Terri Dion



Among her volunteer activities, Terri maintains the Club calendar, delivers to members the weekly Blast, and assists the social team.

When did your interest in photography begin? Like others, I had a Brownie Camera when I was a kid. Eventually I graduated to an SLR and was working at becoming a photographer, thinking that would be an interesting hobby. I got my first telephoto lens when I went to Africa the first time back in the 90's. Shooting that fly on the lion's nose was a thrill! As my interest in travel grew and I began organizing trips for the community I started a travel blog which pulled my focus to writing and using my

photos to supplement the text. I created the blog while traveling and soon realized I couldn't do it all well and still enjoy the trip. So, I gave up my dream of being a photographer and "just took pictures." My last camera "died" from sand in the telephoto lens after climbing in the dunes of Namibia. Now I just use my smartphone.

How did you arrive at Grand? I traveled a good deal on business and every place I went I looked to see if it was a place where I would want to retire. The Phoenix area rose to the top. I happened to know a couple that lived here and they invited me to look at Grand, I did, and that was it! Grand had everything I wanted; gyms, Grand Learning, golf courses, hiking club, and even a photo special interest group within the computer club. The opportunities are endless. I've lived here longer than any other place! This really is my home.

What do you most enjoy about Grand Photos? It sounds trite, but it's the people. They are welcoming and inspiring. I love the education classes and quite frankly I really enjoy contributing by doing the Blast. It provides a sense of community and I feel connected.



How did you find yourself doing Grand Photos Weekly Blast? Several years ago, Richard Coles put together a marketing committee to promote the club and asked me to be a part of it. He knew I organized trips, had a website, and had a background in industry so it was a good fit. When he said Mel Whaley could use some help with the Blast, I thought I might be able to help. Mel and I sat down, talked, and I was recruited! I saw it as an opportunity to ensure club members are aware of everything available to them. It's all on the website, but members have to know what to look for. The Blast pushes it out there and says, "Here's what's available, does any of it interest you?"

What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years? Capturing cultures and experiences. As we get older, memories fade. Seeing pictures brings back all the feelings along with the memories. It's almost like reliving the event. Travel is my passion. Mark Twain says, "To travel is to learn." For me, it's all about exploration and understanding of other cultures. I love seeing how other people live in the world and why they do things the way they do.

What are your favorite things to photograph? My photos are focused on the cultures, experiences, and memories rather than landscapes and iconic buildings. They are more documentary than artistic. When I put my photos out there for others to see, it's usually in the form of travelogues and presentations for Grand Learning.

