

**Lincoln Hills Photography Club
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 6, 2025
9:00 AM
Multi-Purpose Room in Orchard Creek Lodge**

1. Call to Order and Attendance: Approval of September 2025 Minutes

Present: President Vern Rogers, Vice President Truman Holtzclaw, Treasurer Phil Harmon, Secretary Nancy Whitaker, Recent Past President Ron Nabity, Membership Heather Brown, Webmaster Ray Avakian, Field Trip Coordinator Jim Sakaguchi, Technical Advisor Gary Sloan, Education Committee Chairman Cokie Lepinski.

Motion to approve the minutes of Sept 6, 2025 as written was made by Phil Harmon, Seconded by Truman Holtzclaw, Unanimous.

2. Officer and Chair Reports:

a. Treasurer: (Phil Harmon submitted treasurer report in advance of Board mtg)

- Checking Balance 8/31/25: \$3,857.88
- Member Dues Collected: \$140.00
- MailChimp: (\$13.00)
- Raffle Prize: (\$25.00)
- Checking Balance 9/30/25: \$3,959.88
- Petty Cash: \$200.00

b. Membership: (Heather Brown)

As of October 6, we have:

- Members 157
- Households 104
- Facebook, Members 72
- Posts 98 (-12%)
- Comments 72 (-31%)

- Reactions 577 (-2%)

Discussion. Heather asked “Do we want to list the attendance of the General Meetings?” Ray commented our General Meeting are the most important things we do every month. Jim used some past surveys to try to understand why more members don’t attend. By excluding a certain percentage of what appears to be disinterested members of the households, he estimated that perhaps 40% of the members do attend.

Several recommendations were made, (1) have a social gathering with light snacks after the General meeting, (2) make the meetings about interesting topics, like Nature and Landscape photography, (3) have some a commercial representative of a ‘brand name’ camera come and speak with us, (4) have our own Truman bring in some interesting speakers on new subjects like Travel or Street photography, and (5) how to plan for unique presentations.

c. General Meetings: (Vern Rogers)

Field Trip Coordinator Resignation, Because of his planned projects and travel, Jim Sakaguchi has decided to resign, but has offered to stay on until the end of the year. His last field trip will be the Victorian Christmas.

d. Communications and Social Committee: (Diane Margetts)

Communications:

As usual any information you would like included for the Sun Senior News or Compass Magazine is due to me on the 14th of the month.

Compass articles are limited to 125 words. This does not allow me to include a lot of detail. Sun Senior News is a bit more flexible, allowing up to 300 words.

Social Committee:

The **holiday breakfast** is now scheduled for ***December 5*** in the ***Orchard Creek ballroom***. The cost is \$12 per person. Diane, Nancy, and Vern will be meeting on 10/13 at 11am – Location TBD. Phil has tickets printed for the event and we can purchase them now and at the Oct & Nov meetings.

- e. **Website: (Ray Avakian submitted web report in advance of Board mtg) October 6, 2025 – Photo Club Website Summary**
- **October, 2025 – Photo Club Website Past Month Summary**
 - **September, 2025 Website Updates:** General Mtg, Extravaganza, Calendar, Exhibits, Education Survey, Videos, Field Trip Choice ("FT Selector"), Holiday Breakfast, Admin (Meeting Highlights)
 - Plan to replace seven Death Valley 2016 field trip promo videos
 - **Web site Unique Visitors :**
 - September, 2025 – 86 (181 sites sessions)
 - August, 2025 – 93 (211 sessions)
 - Desktop 60%, Mobile 39%, Tablet 1%
 - Mobile (August 37%, July 26%,)
 - Few visitors from Germany, Russia
 - **Videos through September 30, 2025:**
 - 9/10 – “Give Me 5” – 8 views (8/2025 Give Me 5 – 4 views)
 - 9/10 – Dog Days of Summer Challenge – 11 views (Wildlife Photography – 18 views)Ray commented that the views of the Videos happen shortly after the meeting and dies off later. He needs the receipt of the videos quickly. 42:29

RHA submitted on 10/01/2025

Discussion Over the use of Calendar. A question asked how many use the Calendar? Ray responded that there is no counter on the Calendar. Is the time spent establishing the calendar warranted? Do we want to spend a little time marketing the Website and Calendar at a General Meeting, or perhaps utilize a Facebook page?

Several responded that the President's monthly newsletter has also been very helpful. Ron suggested that perhaps we could use the monthly newsletter, and Facebook with links to encourage members to investigate activities, events, and news detailed on the Website. Facebook could be a good conduit to establishing a question-and-answer procedure by itself, but not all members are on Facebook. Adding a Facebook Chat might be an additional complication that is not really needed.

Field Trips/Challenges: (Jim Sakaguchi)

- **2025 Recently Completed Field Trips:**

- Old West Carson City and Virginia City, Sept 4 to 7

Members visited the old west capturing landscape, cityscape and action of camel and ostrich competition.

- **2025 Scheduled Field Trips**

- **November – Swan Festival, Nov 6 to 9**
- This is a FOTO OP format.
- There are 16 tours you can select covering a wide variety of bird photography.
- We will help share who is going where, and help those would like to carpool.

- Sign-up starts Oct. 7, see our club website to access sign-up link.
- **December – Victorian Christmas, Dec 17th.**
- Celebrate a Victorian Christmas, capture people in the era's dress and the charm of an old west town at night.
- Leverage the Sun City Day Trip bus. LST598

We are attempting to get reservations at a restaurant for a group of us, Friar Tuck's was one such mentioned and Heather is keeping in touch with them about how many could they handle. Jim suggested a number like 12 to be requested. Of course, there are other restaurants and individuals can possibly bring their own food or snacks for the event.

- **2026 Scheduled Field Trips Heather Brown**
 - **March – Death Valley Journey**
 - March 16 to 20, plan on additional transit days.
 - To be included in pre-planning and educational sessions members need to be signed-up.
 - Members interested in going, should contact Heather Brown for hotel and pre-activities information ASAP.

Heather speaking here:

We have had another meeting, showed another video that Charlie had produced. We discussed the way from Lincoln to Lone Pine the places to stop. Everyone is supposed to be there by March 15, Sunday evening. So the people who are there earlier will be able to go out with Truman and do a Ghost town shoot and possibly be able to do a sundown shot looking west over the sand dunes to snow on Mount Whitney. Those who have arrived earlier that Sunday will be able to explore the Western Museum and Alabama Hills.

On Monday morning early, we start the trip into Death Valley at 9:00 AM sharp. We will leave in a convoy and use walkie talkies. Truman will lead the convoy, with Greg Geren his assistant. The first stop will be Darwin with other stops on our way to Stove Pipe Wells. Rick Maness is the map man, but he has found a

large number of roads that are closed now. Even so there are a lot of places we can still see and visit even if they are closed in March.

For better clarification of locations in the Valley we're splitting the park into 4 parts. The first day, Monday, in will be the west. The second day will be Tuesday and we'll concentrate on the center around Furnace creek ranch. Possible there is Sunrise at Zabriskie Point, then having lunch at a Death Valley Inn (used to be called the Oasis). Twenty Mule team wagons are in that area, and also Dante's point. The next day Wednesday, we will highlight the South section (Example Bad Water) of the Park, and Thursday will be the North, which takes in the Racetrack.

Rick will have his maps and summaries about these specific sections of Death Valley. We can decide what we would like to see and explore. So far there are 16 people signed up to go.

f. Exhibits: (Denise Souza and Rhonda Campbell)

- i. **Denise Souza:** The Painters will be taking down their exhibit at Simple Pleasures on Monday, 10/13. LHPC member photos will go up in their place on the same day. If anyone wishes to display their pictures, contact Denise soon.

g. Photography Special Interest/Learning: (Education Committee)

- i. The Education Committee met on Wednesday, October 1 **at 9am** in the multi-Purpose room at OC. We continued discussing member surveys, special interest groups, and possible classes.
- ii. Cokie Lepinski has agreed to chair the committee going forward.
- iii. The Member Survey ended on September 30 and a basic result summary has been published. Further detail may be published in the near future.
- iv. **Snapseed for Beginners** –first session on October 6 from 1- 3pm in the multi-Media room. The second session will be

held during the same time frame on October 20. The class is full with one person on the waiting list.

- v. **Reflections, Color, and Light: Hands-On Photo Play** -- This class will be held on November 3 from 1- 3pm in the multi-Media room. The class is limited to 12 participants.
- vi. **Macro Photography Round Table** – This was held on Monday, September 15. We met from 1:00PM to 3:00PM in the Orchard Creek Multi-Media Room. This session was co-hosted by Cokie Lepinski and Ron Nabity. All attendees had a great time.
- vii. **Nikon Users Round Table** – An informal gathering of Nikon users has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th from 9-11am in the OC Multi-Purpose room. Carol Smith, our presenter for November's General Meeting has agreed to attend. She has great expertise with Nikon cameras and lenses.
- viii. **Snapseed Intermediate Class** – Has been tentatively scheduled for January 5, 2026. This date is not yet confirmed due to SCLH Association scheduling.
- ix. **Canon Users Round Table** -- Has been tentatively scheduled for January 7, 2026. This date is not yet confirmed due to SCLH Association scheduling.
- x. **Snapseed Advanced Class** – Has been tentatively scheduled for February 2, 2026. This date is not yet confirmed due to SCLH Association scheduling.
- xi. **Sony Users Round Table** -- Has been tentatively scheduled for February 4, 2026. This date is not yet confirmed due to SCLH Association scheduling.
- xii. **Last Death Valley Planning Meeting** -- Has been tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2026. This date is not yet confirmed due to SCLH Association scheduling.

3. Unfinished Business:

None

4. New Business:

- a. Ron has accepted some donations in the name of the Club. He asked how or if he could dispose of the equipment, what would the board agree to?

Motion by Vern: the donated equipment Ron has stored can be disposed of at Ron's discretion, Seconded by Phil Harmon, All approved.

- b. **No zoom meeting on Wednesday.** Gary Sloan has agreed to handle the technical issues to do a recording of the meeting.

5. Adjourn Meeting *Motion made by Vern, and Seconded Phil, to adjourn the meeting.*

Meeting ended 10:37 AM

Minutes submitted 11/07/2025 9:00 PM Nancy Whitaker