

The theme of my photo collection presented for the Class of 1968 Virtual Art Show is encapsulated by the Greek elemental concepts of Earth, Air, Fire and Water. I am fortunate to live in one of the geographically most interesting and beautiful places in the world. The places I now call home, Reno and Lake Tahoe are located at the western intersection of the northern Sierra Nevada mountains and the Great Basin Desert. Some of the photos show the stark contrast between desert and mountains. One, in particular, shows the intersection at the onset of winter.

Unlike several of the presenters in this show, I have no formal photographic or other art training and my photography is purely opportunistic. My 30 years' experience as an anatomic pathologist and self-taught photo-microscopist trained my eye to see details that may be missed by those without such experience. While I try to carry my big Canon digital SLR as much as possible, sometimes the photographic opportunities present themselves only when I'm carrying my phone. Fortunately, cell phone cameras are now capable of photography that approaches the better of the dedicated compact point and shoot cameras.

Retirement should have presented an opportunity to improve my photographic skills. With all the other things I'm doing, there never seems to be enough time.

The photos:

- "Autumn Reflections:" taken from a north-facing sunroom on the front of my house. The weeping birch reflected in the window (not a double exposure) is located in the same direction as Peavine Mountain in the background. I'm still trying to understand the light physics that created this photo. How can there be a reflection of an object that lies beyond a window that's located between the camera and the tree?
- "Sunset Storm Over Peavine:" taken from the sunroom on a stormy summer evening. Note the virga, rain falling below a cloud and that evaporates before reaching the ground
- "Reno Sunset:" taken from the sunroom on another summer evening. It is said that when the snow melts from the mountain mentioned in the title, Peavine, spring has arrived in Reno and there will be no more freezing nights ... wishful thinking
- "Winters Edge:" taken in Reno when driving to Lake Tahoe. First snow storm of the year didn't reach the lower elevation of Reno. The photo presents an amazing contrast of fall color and alpine snow
- "Sanford Lake:" I've always admired photos of reflections in perfectly still water. This opportunity arose on a backpacking trip with my granddaughters in the summer of 2017. Glad I had my cell phone with me.
- "High Sierra Vista:" Tenaya Lake, taken in the summer of 2017 from Route 120 in John Muir's and Ansel Adams' beloved Yosemite high sierra.
- "Big Sur:" Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park on California's Route 1, south of Carmel and Monterey. Taken from my bike during an unsupported three-day trip from South San Francisco to San Luis Obispo with overnight stays in Santa Cruz and camping in the Big Sur State Park.
- "Shasta and Pilot Rock:" the Mt. Shasta caldera, last eruption in 1786, is part of the southern-most Cascade Range that includes Mt. St. Helens and several other well, known volcanoes. Pilot Rock, right of center is a prominent feature of the Siskiyou Range of southern Oregon and northern California. The burned husk of a tree simulates a prehistoric bird.
- "Lovell Lake New Hampshire:" location of my wife's family cabin near the Maine border.

- “Troncones Beach Ride Mexico:” about 40 miles north of Zihuatanejo on Mexico’s Pacific coast. Troncones is a small fishing village and is home to the Inn at Manzanillo Bay.
- “Trawler and Devil’s Thumb:” taken from Rick Pabst’s 30-foot sailboat on Frederick Sound near Petersburg Alaska. Our one clear day in eight!
- “Scenery Cove, Thomas Bay Alaska:” the bay water is clouded by runoff from the Baird Glacier. Bay water is 10 – 15 degrees cooler than the water in Frederick Sound. You can feel the difference in air temperature as you cross the boundary.
- “Port Houghton Sunset:” not really a port at all. It’s totally uninhabited.
- “BVI:” taken somewhere in the British Virgin Islands during one of Gerry Hill’s May Dartmouth flotilla trips.
- “Monument Valley Sunrise:” iconic sandstone towers photographed from my hotel balcony. Not shown in this photograph and slightly to the right of this photo were Venus as the Morning Star and an early waxing phase of the moon; spectacular!