

Monticello Camera Club - Meeting Minutes

Date: August 21, 2013

By Jean Davids, Secretary

Steve Huss, president, was unable to attend the meeting. The meeting started at about 7:05 pm with Secretary Jean Davids presiding with 13 members in attendance. We were in the side rooms this month and will be for the foreseeable future as they renovate the banquet room for other purposes and work to redo their game room as the new banquet room.

Six members sent in photos that were viewed for the Urban Landscapes photo assignment. Thanks for sharing your photos! Next month the assignment is Local Celebrations. Suggestions were made that we could shoot the state fair, local fairs, renaissance festival (<http://www.renaissancefest.com>) and other items.

Christine Salls was going to discuss the "Favorite Places to Shoot" bucket list that we discussed at the July meeting as well as finding out if there is any interest in a club newsletter. Christine is our new Events Coordinator/Committee Chair. She was unable to attend and so I (Jean) brought up these topics. The bucket list as it exists now was shared with the group. As regards the 35W bridge areas for shooting the Minneapolis skyline, members cautioned that you shouldn't shoot alone in those areas. Dennis Schmid said he had just taken photos at these locations and would forward me the information for locations since these weren't on the list yet. (*Editors note: Dennis did forward this information to me and I passed it along to Christine to add to the list on 8/27/13.*) Another location for shooting the Minneapolis skyline is from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Another location to shoot is the Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah, located in Henderson MN. The website is <http://hendersonhummingbirdhurrah.com>. Annually they band the hummingbirds as they come through the area and this festival serves to celebrate the ruby throated hummingbird.

It was suggested that we put the bucket list up on our website where it can be viewed by our members. I will discuss with Christine to see if it is ready for this or not. Another idea was to put it up on Facebook but I mentioned that it would not be accessible by all members from there.

As for interest in a club newsletter, it seemed to be the consensus of opinion at the meeting (13 members) that there is no need for one since our website basically serves that purpose as does our Facebook group. Given those two outlets provide us with more current information than a newsletter might, it was deemed unnecessary. It was also agreed that if anyone wants to add any information to our website on any routine basis that Jean was very open to any options we can come up with. If there is any newsletter type input that is wanted on the website, talk with Jean to add it.

Another item that Christine wanted to discuss is whether there would be interest in a full moon/night shooting event in September. There will be a full moon on the 19th (with moon rise at 7:11 pm and sunset at 7:16pm). The 19th is the day after our September meeting so we could use meeting time to finalize arrangements of where to meet. She also wanted to discuss whether anyone has ideas for where people could meet to take these photos. Jean Davids mentioned that it is always interesting to take moon shots over Lake Mitchell in Big Lake and that it might be possible to shoot from the sidewalk area at the end of her street in Big Lake. Basically, people could meet at her house and shoot from there. The one difficulty is that she will be leaving on a trip on the 22nd so might be crunched for time to participate herself. Still might be able to make this work though. Another idea was meeting at Buffalo

Monticello Camera Club - Meeting Minutes

Lake. I believe this was suggested by Kate Douglas. Might get more ideas of location there from her. If interested in participating or if you have ideas of where the group could meet for good moon photos, please contact Christine Salls (*use the membership directory for contact info or email Jean Davids to obtain contact info*).

Jon Holtz was going to attend the meeting and bring some photography books he is looking at selling. He was unable to attend but if you have an interest in obtaining any used photography related books, please contact Jon to see what he has available. If he passes along the information, I can make it available via our Facebook page or on our Swap or Sale page on our website.

There was a website brought to our attention by Katie Friedman. It is for the Picture Perfect School of Photography (ppsop.net). She has received some training from the site and now receives periodic training videos via email. We will look into options for sharing some of these videos for our members. In the meantime, you might want to check out their website to see if it is of interest to you.

In addition, Katie brought up a subject she mentioned at last months meeting which was about how Nikon is taking back its camera repair in-house rather than using places like National Camera Exchange. Anyway, she was able to find a location to take her camera in for repair. It is called Northwest Camera and Video Repair located in Lindstrom MN. Thanks to Heather Reinhart, we have the link for their website (www.northwestcamera.com). Thanks to both of them for the updated information. Katie mentioned that they may do 'gray' repairs meaning they get their parts via Japan as opposed to US options due to the way Nikon is doing things now. She sent her camera there for repair and can update us to how the process ultimately goes.

Carol Heesen asked if anyone had made purchases at this years National Camera Exchange tent sale. Dennis Schmid mentioned he had bought a variable neutral density filter. This brought up a discussion about the uses of this filter which can be darkening up a sky that is too bright or allowing you to slow down the shooting speed during a bright sunny day. He brought his filter in from the car so he could show it to the group. It was an interesting conversation and we were glad we could take a look at it.

Steve Fowler brought in some info on Creative Flower Photography. The info was from F.M. Kearney and can be found on naturescapes.net (<http://www.naturescapes.net/articles/techniques/creative-flower-photography-tip-6-add-a-flash-of-color/>). Rather than repeating the information Steve shared, I encourage you to check out the website instead. Steve also shared an orchid photo of his own as part of the presentation. He made use of a flashlight to highlight the center of the orchid and the rest of the lighting was from his sunroom. He made use of a black background to highlight the color of the orchid. Carol Heesen added that a maglite makes a useful addition to your bag. You can order sample packs of gels from various websites that you can put over the maglite for varying the color of the light.

It was already close to 8:30 pm and asked the group if they wanted to view the 1st section of the Greatest Courses DVD on photography and it was agreed to skip it this time around. Instead, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm and we just enjoyed having relaxed conversations. Everyone agreed that it was a very enjoyable meeting.