

THE CAMERA CLUB OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA



The Newsletter of the Camera Club of Central Minnesota

Volume 10, Issue 10

October 2018

Club Meetings and Other Bits of Information

The Camera Club of Central Minnesota will be meeting on the first Monday of each month with the second Monday of the month as back up starting in January 2017. We will meet at the Public Library in St. Cloud from 6:45 to 8:45 pm.

The club has monthly photo topics, image sharing and critique, hands on demonstrations of photographic gear and software, member online gallery links, discussions about photography, and is open to all.

Remember, all your photo assignments and meeting dates are online at:

<http://cameraclubmn.com>

Assignments

Monday October 1, 2018, Mississippi Community Room 106, Wildlife: This could be something as small as a dragonfly or much larger.

Monday November With the library closed the first and second Mondays we might not have a meeting in November, **Environment:** Fall Colors

Monday December 3, 2018, Bremer Community Room 104, Holiday Gathering: Submit five photos of the year and we will put them together into a slide show. Send them to jbregan063@gmail.com



Inside this issue:

CLUB MEETING AND OTHER BITS OF INFORMATION	1
MAKING MISTAKES WITH YOUR PHOTOS	1
NINE BEST ALTERNATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY ACCESSORIES	3
WHAT SEPARATES GOOD PHOTOGRAPHY FROM BAD?	5

Making Mistakes With Your Photos

When you're just starting out in photography, there's plenty of times when you make more mistakes than you have successful photos. And that's okay! Making mistakes is a great way to learn and grow as a photographer.

But there are some mistakes and some errors of thinking that get you into trouble - and you might not even know it. With that in mind, here's a few common beginner photography mistakes that you need to avoid.

Undervaluing Post-Processing

A common mistake I see beginner photographers make is making the assumption that the beautifully created images they see on Flickr or Instagram are the result of using filters. And I don't mean lens filters, either...I mean the kind of filter where you press one button and voila, an awesome photo shows up.

Though platforms like Instagram have worked hard to provide in-app functionalities for adding filter effects and giving photographers basic controls to crop, lighten, and

darken photos, there is still no substitute for learning how to properly edit an image in post-processing.

This doesn't mean that you need to go out and buy Adobe Photoshop CC, but it would be helpful if you learned the ins and outs of adjusting your photos in post to bring out their best qualities. Doing so takes time and effort, but the final results are often more than worth it!

Not Investing Enough Time in Photography

You can have the best camera and lens in the world, but if you don't actually go out and take photos with them, you're not going to improve as a photographer. In fact, I find that some beginner photographers think that they can read a few tutorials and watch a few YouTube videos and know everything they need to know to create awesome photos.

And while that would be awesome, photography is far too complex an undertaking to



The Camera Club of Central Minnesota

Making Mistakes With Your Photos (continued)



Scarlet and yellow, russet and brown...

THERE IS A WEALTH OF POSSIBILITIES WHEN IT COMES TO DEVELOPING YOUR CREATIVE EYE.



spend a few minutes here and there reading what other people tell you that you should be doing.

Instead, put what you learn in tutorials like this into practice and go out and shoot.

Not only that, take photos every single day. And not just a couple, either.

Challenge yourself to find subjects to photograph. Photograph the same subjects at different times of the day to see how the light changes the scene. Take portraits, and then take landscapes.

The point is that you need to immerse yourself in photography and in the practice of photography if you hope to minimize your mistakes and maximize your success.

The Kitchen Sink Approach to Gear

Growing up, it seemed like my dad was always prepared for a cataclysm of events. Whenever we went on a trip, there was more food, more drinks, more clothing, and more flashlights than a family would need for a lifetime.

I see that same kitchen sink approach in many beginner photographers, too.

You know the type...

They have way too much gear and take every bit of it with them on every photo shoot.

But the problem with that (well, one of many problems...) is that it's just impossible to carry all that gear and not have it negatively impact the way you work.

That's why when I want to shoot "lean and mean," I put on my Holdfast MoneyMaker Solo and carry just one camera and

lens.

Working with just one camera and lens is a great challenge for a photographer because it forces you to work with what you've got.

There's no multiple lens changes, no going from a 12mm ultra-wide-angle lens to a 400mm telephoto lens.

Instead, when you shoot with a single setup, you're forced to get creative and stretch the boundaries of what your camera and lens can do.

Approaching photography in this manner is simple and easy with the MoneyMaker Solo, too.

This thing is every bit as comfortable as my original MoneyMaker, but the trimmed down version makes me feel unencumbered as I shoot.

I appreciate the fact that the Solo has the same materials and build quality of Holdfast's other products as well. This is truly a gorgeous piece of gear! And it's expandable, too.

Holdfast's cell phone pouch

pairs with it perfectly, that way I can keep my phone at my fingertips for quick shots with it.

And if I really want to increase the flexibility of the Solo, I can add a lens pouch to it without feeling like I'm bogged down with gear.

In other words, this system is ideal for photographers that want a comfortable and functional way to carry their gear!

Shooting the Same Subjects Over and Over

One of the best things about photography is that there are so many possible subjects to photograph. From landscapes to portraits, cityscapes to astrophotography, and everything in between, there is a wealth of possibilities when it comes to developing your creative eye.

Yet many of us (myself included) tend to get "stuck" with one or two types of photography and seldom venture beyond their borders.

That's a mistake, though, because testing the waters of different types of photography will only open you to more experiences and help

you develop skills that allow you to take better photos.

So, get your camera, get out there, and start shooting!



Nine Best Alternative Photography Accessories

What are my 10 best (alternative) photography accessories? Read on and you will find out – here I am writing about photography accessories that you will not find in a camera shop. One of them you won't find in any shop – it's free!

I was going to call this non-photographic accessories for photographers, but went with the snappier title above. Or improvisation in photography (see item #4).

In this light-hearted article I am going to tell you about ten things that I use in my photography work – and these are 10 things that you will not find in a camera shop! Yes I use all of these bits of things.

1 – Shortbread

How many times have you been out taking photos and reached for your chocolate based snack to find it has melted, and when you try to get the chocolatey mess out of the wrapping you get the stuff all over your hands. And it never tastes the same.

Shortbread is my non-chocolate snack of choice. It is pretty much inert, and is unaffected by hot and indeed cold temperatures.

We have recently experienced Arizona temperatures for an extended period here in the Minnesota, making taking photos in Minnesota more of a travel photography type experience.

This meant I had to buy extra short bread for Minnesota photography antics for the first time!

What do folks in other places

eat? I knew a photographer who swore by flapjacks, but I found certain types could fuse in extreme heat.

2 – Shoes

Proper walking shoes that is. These are what I wore for a photographic trip to Germany. Red pumps.

By the time I was walking back to the hotel on the last day the soles of my feet were really quite seriously sore. I had spent a week trekking up and down the German Hills at sunrise and sunset, and spending the days walking around Ingolstadt, and other built-up areas.

I went to Munich once and had nothing better than flip-flops. Ridiculous I know. Last time in Munich though I actually packed my photography shoe of choice – my Salomon walking shoes. Much better!

Wearing these bad boys I can safely and efficiently clamber up and down rocks all over the place, most of the time with my Canon SX50 HS in my hand.

These wonderful walking shoes have very well padded insoles and have the grippiest soles I have ever had, other than on climbing shoes that is.

3 – Hat

I have put on the years and have aged a bit. Put these two together and put me out at sunrise and I get a cold head. Even in Germany in April. My trademark North Face red hats have served me well, and also serve a second purpose.

Yes a red hat is quite distinctive in a landscape or travel

photography shot. And when I am working on an architectural shoot I take the odd image with the red hat included (having already taken the shot without the red hat that is).

There is a reason for this – I want to produce a set of images that have a red hat in them. This is a long term plan. I am going to do something different for interior shoots – a red hat in a period German country house just wouldn't make sense! It's a bit of a theme thing.

I just need to remember to take the hat with me. The other month in Mississippi it was absolutely boiling hot, and I completely forgot my red hat. I packed for the weather of course. But I did bring the proper shoes!

4 – Rocks

Sometimes I have to improvise. One of those times is when I forget something. Like when I was in Munich a while ago. I was taking photos for a new website. Photos and videos of me taking photos. While doing this I also took some videos of the lovely tranquil mountain. The problem was I forgot the tripod adaptor for my iPhone.

It was time to improvise.

I found a flat level rock as close as I wanted to where the sea and the land meet. I found rocks of the kind of size I wanted, placed my iPhone on the flat rock and used the other two rocks to wedge the phone in place.

I wanted a very low angle



BY THE TIME I WAS WALKING BACK TO THE HOTEL ON THE LAST DAY, THE SOLES OF MY FEET WERE REALLY QUITE SERIOUSLY SORE.



The Camera Club of Central Minnesota

Nine Best Alternatives ... (continued)



for the video, and this is what I got, six minutes of sunrise peaceful loveliness .

Which reminds me of the main problem I had with my iPhone – I just can't see the screen when the sun is out, especially on a German landscape at sunrise!

A lot of the photos and videos I took were pretty much guesswork. For the video I took on the rocks I was ok as the phone was secure and I could lie down on the pebbled river shore and get exactly the view I wanted. After I had taken my t-shirt off and draped it over my head and my iPhone that is.

I thought I had taken a photo of this complicated set up but it turns out I didn't – I was hoping to be able to show you all this wonderful set-up.

Sorry.

I also use larger rocks to place my camera on, not only to take photos with but also to take nice product shots of my gear.

5 – Flashlight

An invaluable tool which has just expired on me after many years of use. My beloved Petzl flashlight has expired, so I am now in the market for another one.

What do I use it for?

Two things.

Getting to places before sunrise, and getting around once I am there.

And also as my eyes are getting old and less useful than they once were they help with getting stuff out of my bag when I need it.

Thankfully I don't need a light to operate my camera or change a lens – but I do need help finding the lens to change without dropping it! No – the endless hours of practice and use with my good old faithful Canon mean that I can use my camera pretty much with my eyes closed.

That is when I take more than one lens. And it is invaluable for assembling the various bits for my Lee Big Stopper filter – my ND filter of choice.

Composition is a different matter – I rely on Live View for that!

6 – Raised thing such as tables and harbor walls. And rocks.

If I am travelling light I do not take a tripod with me. Not a full sized tripod that is. All I take is a Platypod and a Manfrotto Pixi tripod.

I take quite a lot of photos at low level so this is not a problem, indeed quite often I use these tiny bits of tools even when I have my main tripod with me.

But when I am travelling light all I do is find something to place the tripod or Platypod on.

Most frequent free accessories I have used include:

- Various restaurant, cafe and bar tables
- Harbor walls
- Breakwaters
- Hire car roof
- A fridge
- A lean-to roof
- A garage
- A flint wall

•A gas canister

You can't beat a bit of improvisation every now and then eh?

7 – Leatherman

My utility tool of choice. The one thing I always need to remember to do is put this in my checked luggage and not leave it where it lives in my backpack.

I use this for all sorts of cutting, fixing, removing and adjusting tasks.

This wonderful piece of tool has a dedicated and permanent place in my Peak Design Everyday Backpack.

I know it is a concern that I write so animatedly and emotionally about a piece of metal formed into a useful tool!

8 – Flask

My wonderful flask. This goes out with me every time I go out. In the summer it is filled and put in the fridge the night before, and in colder times it is filled with lovely stong hot hot chocolate.

On a shoot it fits in one of the side pockets on my Peak Design Everyday Backpack. On a driving shoot I just chuck it in the trunk in the bag with all my clothing gear.

It is important to stay hydrated – very important. And also equally important that I manage to stay awake!!

9 – Gaffers tape

I have gaffers tape wrapped around a tripod

IT IS IMPORTANT TO
STAY HYDRATED —
VERY IMPORTANT.
AND ALSO
EQUALLY
IMPORTANT THAT
YOU STAY AWAKE.



leg. Funny enough this is dead handy when out and about in cold weather as my Manfrotto tripod only has the plastic surround on one of the legs, so the other two legs can be very cold to touch. The gaffers tape helps with this problem.

And as I always have my tripod with me it means I always have gaffers tape with me.

I also have a small square of the tape on the back of my phone, and a small roll of it in my Peak Design Everyday Backpack.

Basically wherever I go I always have some gaffers tape

with me.

And it has endless uses in the house too – most recent one being to cover up the blue LED light on Mrs H's bedside charger, which was much too bright.

I also used it to cover up some redundant vents in the house we have just moved out of – after three years I just removed the tape and the paintwork behind was just fine.

And this weekend just gone I used it to temporarily stick two curtain pole halves together.

Back to the photography – I

have used the gaffers tape on my 17-40mm lens to fix the focal length at 17mm – again removing the tape leaves no residue behind.

And I have this wonderful stuff on endless temporary sticking things to other things, and also to cover things up that I don't want in a shot.

Summary

What are your favorite photography accessories that you can't buy in a camera shop – photography should be fun and not an exercise in spending cash on endless gear!



What Separates Good Photography From Bad?

Our favorite platform to discover new brands, enterprises and people is the internet. However, in online environments, people have become very hard to impress, and when it comes to first impressions, photography is pretty much make or break.

Good photography is what everyone's aiming for, but it's not as easy to recognize as bad photography. Poor quality photos are almost unforgivable when every phone now has a fairly decent camera. And they could be doing more harm to the reputation of your social enterprise than you'd like to think. Don't worry, though, we've got you covered.

Mediorite is a creative agency specialising in photography and video, but with a twist – it's also a social enterprise. The agency gives a foothold into the creative world for often marginalized youngsters by providing training and

other opportunities. We caught up with Mediorite's Director, Lucy Ferguson, to ask how an enterprise can become picture perfect.

Does your social enterprise need a website?

A website is the number one way of showing the world what your social enterprise is all about, and we've been talking to web developer and consultancy Pedalo to find out why it's worth doing properly.

Quality photography has no sell-by date

"Good photography is vital to the appeal of a brand," says Ferguson. "Think of it like this, you wouldn't leave the house for a job interview in your pyjamas. Investing in some decent images feels expensive, but a good photo never goes out of date and it can be used everywhere."

OK. So we know how important photography is, but what makes a good photo?

"For event photography, people, movement and energy make the best photos," says Ferguson. "I love when photographers capture a moment or find something beautiful in a scene, and record it. You can feel when a photographer has found something that interests them. It translates onto the image and the way you relate to it."

Be brave

So, what are the qualities that separate good photographers from the rest?

"You need to have a good eye, but you also need to be brave," Ferguson explains. "If you see something you want to shoot, do it. Don't hesitate, even if you feel self-conscious. I think interpersonal skills are really important in photography, as you're essentially working with people. But I

A WEBSITE IS THE
NUMBER ONE WAY
OF SHOWING THE
WORLD WHAT YOUR
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
IS ALL ABOUT





CAMERA CLUB OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Membership is \$25 per year. Members should provide: Email Address, Mailing Address, and Phone Number.

Camera Club Central Minnesota
101 12th Ave. S
Sartell, MN 56377

Newsletter Editor
Richard D. Heath
rheath@tds.net

The Camera Club of Central Minnesota publishes a monthly newsletter which is distributed via e-mail. The newsletter will contain information about up-coming meetings, summaries of previous meeting, recommendations for photographers, announcements of photographic workshops, and other material that seems appropriate.

If you would like to send suggestions, comments, or other communications concerning the club or newsletter, please send your e-mail to rheath@tds.net.

always remember a bit of advice I was once told: never ask permission, just beg for forgiveness."

How to tell your story to effect social change

Storytelling is a social entrepreneur's most powerful tool when starting a movement and trying to get people on board. We speak with Sara Minkara, who knows a thing or two about doing it well.

Take the time to plan

So, you've got your camera, you're being brave and you're ready to go. But do you know what you're trying to achieve? Ferguson believes that firstly determining the what and the why is essential to a good photo.

"Spend some time planning before you head out, and pack the right equipment," she says. "Lots of the young people we work with just wander around hoping to capture something, with no real concept of what it is they want to say. If you don't know what you're aiming to do, then how will you know if you've been successful or not?"

Why you should ditch your alarm clock if you want to be more productive

When it comes to tiredness, we can be our own worst enemies. Here Sleep East's Joy Bishop tells us why sleep should be at the top of the agenda, and how to get those essential hours of rest.

Find your own voice

"Practice makes perfect" applies to photography, as much as it does to everything else, but there's far more to it than simply taking as many photos as you can.

"You can take thousands of photos and im-

prove your technical skills, but not improve your eye or find your voice," says Ferguson. "Edit your work, really look at it and think about how you can improve and what you did well. Also, look at other photographers' work constantly and steal ideas that you want to try."

There are so many amazing photographers out there, whose work is posted to social media where we can freely enjoy it. But, as much as Ferguson recommends taking inspiration from them, she also stresses the importance of making your photography unique to you.

"Find something that interests you and work out what you want to say about it," she explains. "Then take photos that tell that story."

You need a quality camera if you're serious about photography

The smartphone camera keeps getting better. This means more people than ever before are taking photos and enjoying photography, but another offshoot is that many people no longer feel the need to own a camera if they have a top-of-the-line smartphone. Ferguson doesn't think that approach will be doing you any favors, however.

"We're awash with images, but a lot of them aren't that great," she states. "I think phones mean that everyone thinks they're a photographer and real photography is undervalued. A phone doesn't mean that you don't need to invest in a quality camera if you're serious about photography. You can manipulate a professional camera with depth of field, shutter speed and be much more artful."

