

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 20, 2012

By Jean Davids, Secretary Monticello Camera Club

Estimated 25 members plus 2 guests in attendance giving us a total of approximately 27 in attendance.

Steve Huss (President) opened up the meeting at 7 pm. He introduced Rose Luffel from the Arts Alliance who covered Matting and framing. She gave us two websites that show how to do the framing and matting. They are video links that I will add to our website as soon as possible. You can contact her with questions through the Arts Alliance. This link will be added to the website soon too. It is: <http://www.elkriverart.org/>.

Jean and Steve discussed the Membership Directory and the need for the remaining photos. At this writing (6/26), Jean has received all but 1 photo. As soon as she hears back on that then a new version will be released to the members.

Discussed the need for a new chairperson for the events committee. Also mentioned if any of the current chairpersons needed to step down or others wanted to volunteer that they should step up.

We discussed the banner used on our facebook page and how it is time to change it to something more 'summery'. A few of us discussed the idea of having a contest to see who could produce an image to use for the page. Voting will be done by a show of hands at the next meeting. Members are to bring their entries with so that they can be displayed. (Note: Jean Davids will be requesting that all entries be emailed rather than brought to the meeting). Images should be best displayed at 800x200 megapixels to fit the facebook sizing.

Reviewed the photo assignment, which was "**Back Yard Nature photography**". Around 15 members had images to display. Some members, Steve Huss specifically, had their camera settings to give to members.

Discussed topic, **Fireworks**. Steve Huss and others made suggestions as follows:

- Use bulb setting or leave open and cover lens between fireworks
- Manual Focus
- Low ISO
- Zoom in or out when fireworks goes off to see cool effect
- Depth of field won't matter so much since you want it all in focus

Warren Gammel brought in his new tripod gimbal and demonstrated it for those interested. This is what Warren had to say about this tripod head on facebook.

"New gimbal tripod head arrived today. \$119 from India with \$27 delivery by FedEx. While I don't have a \$600 Wimberley head to compare it to, it's ruggedly constructed out of cast

aluminum and precision made. I have no complaints about the quality. It comes with a sliding Arca-Swiss style mount to fit any camera/lens combination. I was initially a bit skeptical about ordering camera gear from India, but the company promptly answered all my emails and accepts payment by PayPal so the transaction was a breeze.

The camera and lens is balanced on 2 pivots: horizontal and vertical. A gimbal style head swings freely up and down and around in all directions making it advantageous for fast moving wildlife photography.

Some initial impressions: first off it's not a Wimberley so it doesn't have roller bearings and with bushings it's not as silky smooth, but that's not really objectionable from my perspective considering the price. You get what you pay for. I put a small amount of oil on the bushings and they rotate smoothly and the tension knobs are easily adjusted. For someone with a larger heavier lens than my 400mm, roller bearings are probably an important consideration and worth the extra money. That said, I think this head will suit my needs with the lens I have. One of the main reasons I bought the 400mm f/5.6 lens is that it's relatively small and lightweight compared to many other larger heavier telephotos.

If I was shooting for a living, I'd probably be lugging a 600 or 800mm lens around and have the Wimberly. For those who don't shoot for a living but would like to have a gimbal head without breaking the bank I think it's a reasonable choice. Another option is Opteka which also makes a reasonably priced gimbal head for \$169 that's getting pretty good reviews."



The meeting adjourned around 9:00 pm.