

Monticello Camera Club - Meeting Minutes

Date: July 17, 2013

By Jean Davids, Secretary

The meeting started at about 7:00 pm with Secretary Jean Davids presiding with 22 members and one guest, who joined at the meeting, in attendance. We had 6 members who had not renewed their membership but 2 have since rejoined. This leaves 4 members who did not rejoin the club. Currently we have 49 members who have paid for 2013/2014.

Jean showed the members her new Black Rapid shoulder strap for her camera. It is the sport model from blackrapid.com and seems to work really well at securing the camera around your neck and shoulder and relieves those neck muscles of the weight of the camera while still leaving the camera very accessible for those quick shots. She passed around the shoulder strap and some literature that came with it so members could check it out. *(Note: Jean took it on vacation following the meeting and it works well for the most part. It should be noted that you have to unhook it in order to switch to tripod which is somewhat of a pain but generally not a real big issue.)*

Several members sent in photos that were viewed for the OPEN - Photographers Choice photo assignment. Thanks for sharing your photos! It was briefly discussed that the OPEN category might be a good idea to do at least twice a year since it was kind of nice to pick out your own challenge for the month. Next month the assignment is Urban Landscapes.

Val shared that the club did purchase the "Greatest Courses" Fundamental of Photography course that was on sale. Members asked if we could develop a checkout system so that members could borrow it for home use. We will look into options that we can pursue.

Heather Reinhart stepped down as committee chair of the Events Committee and Christine Salls agreed to step into this role in her place. Thank you Heather for your efforts as committee chair! And, thank you Christine for stepping up to the plate to run this committee.

Christine Salls discussed the "let's shoot" idea from the June meeting. Included in this is the idea of creating a "bucket list" for great and/or personal favorite places to shoot. As expected, members started naming off some places that would be great to include. These included Munsinger Gardens, the Arboretum (3rd Thursday of the month is cheaper), the rodeo in Clearwater on August 3rd, the Tall Ships in Duluth this month, the Big Lake Triathlon August 3rd, 4th of July fireworks in Monticello and Spud Fest fireworks in Big Lake at the end of June. It was requested that members email Christine with their ideas so that she can continue to compile the list. Your ideas should include the following information where possible: Place/Location, Type of Photography, Website/Info and Date/Time of Year. If there is other relevant information, please include that, too. The list will be made available to members in some form based on what Christine and Jean can come up with that will work best for member access. Christine was trying to determine how best to do these events and what members wanted from the Events committee. It was determined that we all felt the list was a great place to start and then we can proceed from there. We can further discuss this at the next meeting.

Katie Friedman mentioned an issue with Nikon repair franchises being lost and that it is getting more difficult to take Nikon cameras in for service at places we have in the past. Members recommended taking them to West Photo in Minneapolis if taking them to National Camera Exchange doesn't work

Monticello Camera Club - Meeting Minutes

out anymore. Most of us had not heard anything about the issue so we appreciated the heads up from Katie.

Sanford Smith mentioned to me that Lake Maria State Park is having a Star Program on August 9th starting at 8:30 pm. You can find out more information at the Lake Maria State Park website as follows: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/3month.html?jsp=/templates/listing.jsp&k=SPK00217&nd=90&o=startdate

Jean attempted to play Lesson 1 from the "Greatest Courses - Fundamentals of Photography" DVD that was purchased based on discussion at last month's meeting. The topic: "Making Good Pictures". However, the sound setup for her laptop is currently inadequate for this purpose and a better setup is being explored for future meetings. Hopefully we can try again next month or soon at least.

The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 pm or so.