

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 15, 2015

By: Jean Davids, Secretary Monticello Camera Club

Lynn Anderson, newly elected president, started the meeting shortly after 7pm. She let us all know about the purchase of the new speaker system to use at our meetings. It cost \$195 and after a few attempts, we got it working perfectly. This should make it easier for everyone to hear what is going on at the meetings.

There were 20 members attended the meeting, 3 of whom joined at the meeting.

We started off with the vote on the changes to the bylaws. These include adding the responsibility to the president's duties to assign an officer to lead the meeting in his/her absence, removing the duty to sub for the president in his/her absence, and addition of voting on issues at board meetings to the duties of the board member at large positions. The vote was taken and unanimously approved by the members present. An updated copy of the bylaws will be posted to the website.

Jean asked the members if they wanted our board member meeting minutes posted on the website or not. It was fairly unanimous that they do not need to be unless there are major events listed in them. These would naturally be brought up at a meeting of the members if there were major events to be discussed anyway.

It was brought to the attention of the members that someone had left a Canon camera lens cap at the last meeting. If it was yours, contact Lynn to get it back.

Lynn asked the members if there was an interest in critiques of their photos. There was some interest expressed. During the assignment photos, members were going to make it known if they would like to have a critique done or not.

We shared the "within 100 feet of your back door" assignment photos for July. We had several people who submitted photos this month. Some asked for critiques of their work. Thanks to those who shared their photos.

The June Spudfest Fireworks photo event (Friday night, June 26th) went off without a hitch but with only 3 members attending. Jean Davids hosted the event from the public sidewalk near her lake property in Big Lake. From this location, you can view fireworks from across Lake Mitchell as well as reflections of it on the water. Jean, Claire and Katie all got some great shots. What makes this a unique opportunity is the reflections of fireworks across the water. The only downside to the whole experience was the presence of mosquitoes. But, they were all prepared with bug spray and proper clothing so it was bearable. We hope to do this again next year if Jean's schedule permits it. Perhaps we can get a bit better participation next year.

Club members were asked if they have an interest in volunteering their photography skills to help community organizations that might need these skills. A few members indicated that they would be. They are encouraged to email Lynn Anderson who will try to help coordinate these efforts.

Lynne and Jean Davids spoke briefly about the membership directory. There are a few photos still needed for the directory. However, Jean plans to email this out this week regardless of whether we have all the photos yet or not.

Arne Myrabo gave his presentation about Dragonflies and photographing them. He referenced their website www.mndragonfly.org. It shows species of interest, calendar of events, biology and ecology and other items. He discussed some of the technical info regarding specific body parts that are used to tell one species apart from the others. Mentioned that there is a casting of a dragonfly from 300 million years ago and it had a 2-foot wide wingspan. Said that the most interesting ones are found in ponds/bogs and fishless areas. An aperture of F11 can be a concern as the background is not blurred enough to make it a pleasant photo. In this case shooting up towards the sky will create a decent image. Normally shooting around 8 or 9 for aperture will result in a pleasing image with enough detail to be worthwhile. Arne categorizes his dragonfly photos 3 ways: 1) Documentation, 2) Behavioral or 3) Art. He uses a zoom lens with tripod or a macro lens. If attempting macro photography of dragonflies, don't put them in a cold box as it makes their colors very dull. Knowing their behaviors is needed in order to find them. To catch them in flight, you have to shoot faster than 1/1000th of a second. In flight images are considered the holy grail of dragonfly photos because of the difficulty in catching them in flight. An interesting fact that he presented via video is that dragonflies can't see very slow motion. So, when approaching a dragonfly it is important to move very slowly as they will dart away if approached too quickly. Also pointed out a big safety concern with dragonfly photography is Lyme disease via ticks. It is important to be careful to protect yourself against the ticks. Claire pointed out during this that Deet is something you need to keep away from your camera gear as it softens plastic/rubber, which can damage your camera. Arne uses Permethrin sprayed on the bottoms of his pants legs. Do not use this on your skin. It lasts for quite a while on clothing and you can buy clothing already treated with it. You can purchase this from Amazon and other websites. Thanks to Arne for doing a great presentation and sharing some of his many great photos.

Jean Davids reminded the group about the upcoming Elk River Arts Alliance photo exhibit and training. Go to www.elkriverart.org for more information and forms. John Pennoyer is giving a class on Macro photography on August 22nd. The cost is only \$25 and will include hands on training. The entry deadline for the photography exhibit has been extended to July 25th. Click on the link for 6th Annual Photography Exhibit for the brochure.

The meeting broke up around 8:30 pm. A meeting of the Agenda Committee followed the regular meeting.