

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 17, 2016

By: Jean Davids, Secretary Monticello Camera Club

The meeting started shortly after 7 pm and was presided over by Lynn Anderson, president. There were 18 members (2 of those had joined that night) and 8 guests in attendance for a total of 26.

Any member that has photo related displays they would like to share at the Photo Show should let Bob Somerville, Craig Starr or Jean Davids know at the meeting or by phone or email.

Bob and Val Somerville, and Jean Davids arrived at the meeting location at 6:00 pm to be available for drop-offs of photo show entries. A number of people dropped off their photos between 6 and 7 pm. *Note: as of 2/22/16 we have only 91 photo entries.*

Bob Somerville made some photo show announcements. Mentioned that the Monticello schoolteacher that displayed kids photo contest entries from last year will once again be displaying. Jean mentioned that the Sherburne Refuge will once again have their display but will also have winning photos from their kids photo contest they held this year along with information about when to look for information to the 2016 kids photo contest.

Jean Davids asked if there are any volunteers to run for the offices of President, Treasurer, and Board Member at large (Arne's position). No one volunteered. However, Lynn Anderson, Ken Kvam and Arne are willing to keep the positions for another two years.

Bob Somerville discussed assignments for the next meeting. Since we postponed showing this month's assignment of boats/trains/planes, we can use that or the night photography (or both) for April's assignment.

Workshop by Bryan Hansel followed the meeting (around 8:30pm) for the six people who signed up and paid. Those individuals met at the south parking lot at Bertram Lakes Park by the horse barn. From those who attended, they said it was a great workshop and they learned a lot.

Topic for the meeting was Night Photography and put on by Bryan Hansel, Grand Marais professional photographer (<http://www.bryanhansel.com>). Notes from his talk follow at the end of these meeting minutes.

March - No meeting. Attend our Annual Monticello Photo Show

April 20

- Assignment: Night Photography
- Photographer of the month: Sanford Smith
- Topic: Upcoming Elections discussion in May - Need to vote on President, Treasurer, and Board Member (Arne's position)
- Topic: Photo Show summary

What follows is my attempt to take notes during Bryan Hansel's talk. Also included at the end of this is information related to his workshops for 2016.

Night Photography by Bryan Hansel:

Any camera that is 4 years old or newer can easily handle night photography. Bryan shared some of his night images many of which consist of Milky Way and Aurora photos as well as other styles. You can see samples of his work at <http://www.bryanhansel.com>.

Can add various lights to do different kinds of effects. He uses LED light panels that he has purchased on Amazon.com for around \$23. Has one that is 160 LEDs and another that has 210 LEDs on tiny panels. Works great for doing light painting or lighting specific areas/buildings.

Lenses that work best:

FX wide lens 14-24 mm. The faster the better. F2.8 is the sweet spot. F1.4 is better. F4 will work.
DX 1.5 crop – 10-16 mm and maybe up to 24 mm.
4/3 crop – 7-12 mm up to 17mm.

Want low noise at ISO range of 1600-6400.

Need the following in your Night Photography kit:

- Lights
 - Color temp – some are more blue which gives more of an industrial look. Yellow gives warmer tone.
- Headlamp – frees your hands for controlling camera
- Super duper bright flashlight – used for framing and focusing.
- Tripod
- Lens pen
- Hot shoe bubble level
- Shutter release cord
- Intervalometer for timed exposures

Planning

- Moon phase – new moon, crescent, quarter, gibbous, full, waxing, waning
- Moon rise and set times
- Plan for start photography when moon is new, crescent or quarter or moon is set. Careful planning can get your shots when gibbous.
- Shoot for 30 seconds or less to prevent stars streaking in skys.
- TPE (The Photographers Ephemeris) – software on internet for planning best time for night shots. Shows when to plan moon shots. Costs \$5 to use on iPhone but says it is money well spent.
- When the moon is up, can't take star shots but can take some other cool kinds of photos.

Predicting Milky Way shots

May to November is best time around here. Okay in April and December. January through March isn't as good. The Milky Way moves from east to west in the night

sky. In August it is straight overhead. The galactic core is what everyone strives to shoot and is the area of brightest light.

Cook County is one of the darkest areas in the country. It ranges from a 1-3 scale. Grand Marais is the darkest area from North Dakota down to Texas and to the east so is the best area to be for night photography.

Outdoor lights – the bluer the light (such as street lights), the more light pollution it causes. The yellower it is the better for reducing light pollution.

Selecting locations for shooting

- Interesting foreground or foregrounds you can light
- Clear view of night sky
- Silhouettes of tree lines – like gunflint trail

Camera Settings

- Shoot Raw
- Basic principles
 - use aperture of 2.8 or wider
 - shutter speed – 30 seconds or less
 - ISO – 3200-6400 – turn off auto ISO
 - Manual focus

Histogram will be about halfway across. Want them to be more equal over to the right side. The highest quality of image is to the right side of histogram. First 2/7 of image quality is on the right side.

White balance – changes the color of the night sky. Tungsten or incandescent give it a bluer look.

LENR – Long Exposure Noise Reduction – camera setting

Camera takes a photo and then takes a second photo without opening the shutter. The second photo samples noise. The camera then subtracts the noise found in the 2nd photo from the first photo to reduce the overall noise. Takes twice as long to take a photo when using this method because second photo takes exactly the same length of time as the first to take.

Focusing at night

- Live view focusing
- Zoom into a star and then turn focus ring until star is sharp
- Turn distance ring on lens to infinity – however, on some lenses infinity changes as you zoom. On others, infinity isn't correctly indicated.
- Flashlight focused on object in the distance so it is easier to focus
- To keep focus, turn off auto focus, tape focus ring on camera in place.

Ways to keep sharp focus

- Cable release
- Self-timer
- Mirror lockup

Lightning photography

- Safety first
- ISO 800, F8, camera on bulb
- Use shutter release cable – hold open for 30 seconds
- If lightning strikes release cable and press for another 30 seconds
- If no lightning, release after 30 seconds and press for another 30 seconds
- Continue this process until you feel you have captured what there is to capture

Northern Lights

- Spaceweather.com to find out KP numbers.
- General principles are the same
- Auroral Circle - the aurora is a crown of light that circles each of Earth's poles. It dips down lower after solar flares occur. They are ranked in KP numbers. KP3-5 is viewable up north (Grand Marais area). KP6 is viewable in the metro area, if you can find a dark area to see it.
- They rotate around the magnetic pole, not the north pole.
- Happen most often around the equinox for some reason.
- Use the fastest shutter speed you can in order to capture the shape and rays. Otherwise it will just appear as colored light.
- Speed depends on brightness of northern lights.
- Shoot at 1 second at 8000 ISO to get shapes.
- KP3 up at Grand Marais is just above the horizon.
- Proton beam lights up the sky and precedes many of the northern lights occurrences.

Composition

- Mainly sky - 2/3, 3/4 sky with a bit of foreground
- Visual weight and balance – bright areas, silhouettes with high contrast using human forms, areas of action (angles and lines)
- Balance – after defining visual weight, balance overall image. Want same weight on both sides of image.

Good spot for taking Northern lights is Mud Creek – Pine Mountain Road, Grand Marais. Dirt road to get there.

Enhancements

- Bryan Hansel has a set of presets for sale for use in Lightroom for night sky photos for \$19.99 (<http://www.bryanhansel.com>).
- Need to enhance Milky Way images to bring out the brightness.
- Has to de-saturate some of the aurora shots or the colors can appear to look fake even though it is what he saw.
- Has a northern lights workshop each year. In 2016 there are 2 in August and 1 in September (on labor day weekend). Otherwise does 1 each in July, August and September.

BRYAN HANSEL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS - WWW.BRYANHANSEL.COM

I offer Lake Superior photography workshops, photography courses and one-on-one and small group photography instruction in Grand Marais, Minnesota. I also offer workshops in the Badlands and the Smoky Mountains. In 2016, I'll add new destinations as well.

My workshops combine classroom time, field time at the most stunning locations and an image review. Using this combination, I teach you how to master your camera, how to see and how to capture better photos. If you're an advanced shooter, my workshops get you to the right locations at the right time for the best light. The small group size ensures that you'll get plenty of one-on-one time. If you want more one-on-one time, I offer personal and small group workshops for you and your friends. I also make sure that my workshops are fun, because learning should be fun.

Find this year's workshops below, and if you have other questions email me at bryan@bryanhansel.com. I personally answer every email I receive.

- February 12 to 14, 2016 - Lake Superior Winter Photo Workshop- Sold Out- Waiting list available
- February 19 to 21, 2016 - Lake Superior Winter Photo Workshop- Sold Out- Waiting list available
- April 16-17, 2016 - Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge Photography Workshop- Filling up
- April 22 to 24, 2016 - Spring Waterfall Photography Workshop- Sold Out- Waiting list available
- April 29 to May 1, 2016 - Spring Waterfall Photography Workshop- Filling up
- May 19-22 - Spring in Theodore Roosevelt National Park Photography Workshop- Sold Out- Waiting list
- June 17 to 19, 2016 - North Shore Wildflower Photography Workshop- NEW -Filling up
- June 22 to 26, 2016 - Badlands and the Black Hills Photography Workshop- NEW- Nearly full
- August 3 to 7th, 2016 - Northern Night Skies: Night Photography Workshop- Sold Out- Waiting list available
- September 1 to 3, 2016 - Night Skies of the Gunflint Trail- Half Full
- September 7 to 11, 2016 - Grand Teton National Park Photography Workshop- One space left
- September 14- to 18, 2016 - Grand Teton National Park Photography Workshop- Sold Out- Waiting list
- September 27 to October 2, 2016 -North Shore of Lake Superior Fall Photography Workshop- Registration open
- October 20 to 23, 2016 - Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fall Photography Workshop- Half Full
- November 4 to 6, 2016 - Gales of November Photography Workshop- Half Full
- November 12-13, 2016 - Achieve Your Vision: Processing Photos in the Digital Darkroom- Registration opens
- March
- December 2 to 4, 2016 - Badlands National Park Photography Workshop- Filling up

One on one, small group and photography club classes are available as well. I also have many one-hour presentations that I give. Both about photography and adventure.

2016 NORTH HOUSE FOLK SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES- 1.5 DAY CLASSES

March 11-12,2016: Capturing the Frozen Shoreline (Note: register via the North House)

May 13-14, 2016: Just the Camera Basics (Note: register via the North House)

June 3-5, 2016: Northern Landscape Photography workshop (Note: register via the North House)

October 8-9, 2016: October Skies: Night Photography Workshop (Note: register via the North House)

For more information visit: www.bryanhansel.com, call 218-370-8351 or email bryan@bryanhansel.com