

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 16, 2019

By: Jean Davids, Secretary

The meeting started just after 7 pm and was presided over by Jean Davids, Secretary. There were 11 members and 1 guest in attendance.

The assignment was Low Light Photography. Bob, Kevin and Sanford all shared their images. Thanks for sharing your great photography.

Jean Davids asked the group about future topic ideas. Specifically, she asked about advanced panoramas. There was a consensus of interest in that topic as well as instruction on how to best stitch panoramic photos together. These two topics will be added to our calendar. After the meeting another topic was suggested. That would be the subject of Food Photography. This would be easy to do at a meeting since we meet in a restaurant. If there is enough interest, this can be added to the calendar as well.

Jean Davids mentioned that the architectural photo shoot she was researching was approved. She will work with the owner of the property to get a date scheduled.

The topic was Architecture/Cityscape. For this meeting, Jean shared training videos by Hudson Henry on Cityscapes and Architecture. These were Principles of Shooting, Essential Gear and What Not to do. Here's my best effort to summarize the principles in the video.

Important Aspects of Shooting

- Lighting
- Subjects
- Reflections
- Scout things out first
- Use the Photographers Ephemeris to plan when the sun and moon will be in specific areas of your cityscape – prefers computer version over phone version
- Use Photo Pills or Sun Surveyor on phone to scout locations/times
- Go to shadow side of buildings to gather diffused light into different areas
- Bracket to balance sky and buildings properly – he uses +3 0 -3 for bracketing
- Shoot interiors
- On tripod, use everything in manual mode; ISO, aperture, shutter speed, focus
- When doing “run and gun”, use aperture or shutter priority and auto ISO to insure proper settings
- Blue Hour – ½ hour after sunset works great
- Stormy weather – on the edges of storms can be good
- Shadowy days – look for things to look down on for best light

Composition

- Leading lines/pathways to the architecture
- Don't distract from subject
- Combine elements to tell your story
- Make sure background and foreground are in harmony

- Use your phone to easily plan shots before setting up your camera/tripod – makes an excellent preview tool
- Use ND filters to slow down shutter speeds for more dramatic clouds and motion in general
- Panoramic capture works great for wider cityscapes

Essential Gear

- Roller Photo Bags – Think Tank Photo Streetwalker Rolling Backpack
- Tripod – use one that is rock solid, level – uses manfrotto photohead
- Uses parallax slider
- Ultra-wide lens – 14-30 mm lens F4
- Rectilinear lenses – keep things level – shoots in more straight angles rather than the bowed in edges
- Fast 50mm lens to zoom in a bit more on subject matter
- Fast short telephoto 85mm F1.8 – for people with cityscape as backdrop
- 70 to 200mm for more street details
- Carry cleaning items – clean microfiber cloths, zeiss wipes, rocket blower
- Filters – ND filters, polarizing filter – get all filters sized for your largest lens and then buy individual adapters to fit the filter to the smaller lens sizes

What Not To DO – 5 things

- 1) Don't fill the frame – make room for transforming and cropping
- 2) Don't get locked in on the rule of thirds – compose based on subject matter
- 3) Don't shoot like they are night sky shots – light pollution will interfere – blue hour is best
- 4) Don't oversaturate cityscapes – nature saturation is best – more subdued rather than oversaturated
- 5) Don't use presets – if you do, adjust the settings further to best match your image

Some of Hudson Henry's Gear

I have attached a copy of his gear list I found through his website. You will see that at the end of these meeting minutes.

2019 Camera Club Meeting dates and topics

November 20

- Assignment: Architecture/Cityscape
- Topic: Lensball photography including refraction photography in general presented by Jean Davids

December 18

- Assignment: Lensball photography including refraction photography
- Topic: Annual Holiday meeting - bring your spouse or significant other. Discussion is whatever you like.

FLUID HEAD AND TRIPODS: CAMERA SUPPORT

Here's everything you need to get your camera on a fluid head (Use an L-bracket to get vertical). I'll break it down into three different types of system and show you everything you need to buy in each. The first is my favorite system but it's a bit more expensive option that uses a set of legs with a 75mm bowl at the top and a half ball leveling adaptor. The second is a way to easily adapt an existing center column or flat topped tripod to level and use a fluid head. Finally I'm listing a complete budget option from Benro. [Check out this video](#) to learn more about fluid heads and how to assemble each of these systems.

1) THE BEST OPTION, 75MM BOWL TRIPOD LEGS WITH A 1/2 BALL LEVELER • 75MM bowl tripod leg options (choose one of these three):

- **Gitzo 3543XLS** xtra long, rugged & ultralight 79" systematic carbon tripod without accessories or bowl (5 pounds)

- 75mm Bowl needed only for the Gitzo 3543XLS (choose one):

- Sunwayfoto's affordable option: [Amazon B&H](#)
- Gitzo's much more expensive version: [Amazon B&H](#)

- ○ **Robus 5570** tall, rugged & beautifully made 70" systematic carbon tripod with bowl, plate, three sets of feet and case (5.5 pounds)
- ○ **Benro A373T** smaller, affordable aluminum 58" alternative with fixed bowl (4.8

pounds): [Amazon B&H](#)

- 1/2 Ball Leveling adaptor: needed for all tripods listed above. [Amazon B&H](#) (cheaper at B&H)
- Manfrotto 500AH fluid head: [Amazon B&H](#) (*Don't buy a larger model, this is the sweet spot for DSLR and mirrorless*)
- Arca Swiss Clamps (choose one):
 - ○ **Kirk Bridge** (top plate) replacement (my favorite style):
 - ○ Large fixed Arca-Swiss style clamp (attach to Manfrotto plate to clamp your body's L-Bracket): [Amazon B&H](#)
 - ○ **Kirk Universal Clamp** (easy 90 degree reversible high end clamp)
- An L-bracket for your particular camera body is essential to get vertical. Here are Kirk's for the [D850](#), [Z7/Z6](#), [A7iii](#), & [A7Riii](#)
- Long Manfrotto plate to mount to each of your long lenses with a collar and foot. [Amazon B&H](#)

2) ADAPT YOUR OWN FLAT TOP OR CENTER COLUMN TRIPOD LEGS

To level the head using your current non-bowl-tripod with a flat top plate or center column:

- Leveling Adaptors:
 - ◦ Kirk 17 degree leveling adaptor (for any tripod)
 - ◦ Acratech 10 degree leveling adaptor (for any tripod): [Amazon B&H](#)
- Manfrotto 500AH fluid head: [Amazon B&H](#) (*Don't buy a larger model, this is the sweet spot for DSLR and mirrorless*)
- Arca Swiss Clamps (choose one):
 - ◦ Kirk Bridge (top plate) replacement (my favorite style):
 - ◦ Large fixed Arca-Swiss style clamp (attach to Manfrotto plate to clamp your body's L-Bracket): [Amazon B&H](#)
 - ◦ Kirk Universal Clamp (easy 90 degree reversible high end clamp)
- An L-bracket for your particular camera body is essential to get vertical. Here are Kirk's for the [D850, Z7/Z6, A7iii, & A7Riii](#)
- Long Manfrotto plate to mount to each of your long lenses with a collar and foot. [Amazon B&H](#)

3) AFFORDABLE LIGHTWEIGHT COMPLETE ALTERNATE SYSTEM More affordable, lightweight, lighter duty fluid head system from Benro:

- \$270 Benro system with legs, leveler and head (5.8 pounds total) [Amazon B&H](#)
- *You still also need this clamp to attach to the head's plate to fit your body's L-Bracket:*
 - Large fixed Arca-Swiss style clamp (attach to Manfrotto plate to clamp your body's L-Bracket): [Amazon B&H](#)
- An L-bracket for your particular camera body is essential to get vertical. Here are Kirk's for the [D850, Z7/Z6, A7iii, & A7Riii](#)
- Long Manfrotto plate to mount to each of your long lenses with a collar and foot. [Amazon B&H](#)

TRIPOD MAINTENANCE, PROTECTION & ACCESSORIES

- Tripod stone bag (like the folding shelf on my tripod): [Amazon B&H](#)
- RRS Rock Claw Feet (my favorite all around feet): [B&H](#) (you need 3)
- Affordable Tripod Spikes (for sand and surf): [Amazon](#)
- RRS Tripod Spikes (if you want and can afford the best for sand and surf): [B&H](#)
- Road-bike cork handlebar tape for wrapping legs for protection and comfort: [Amazon](#) (you'll need two packs for 3 rolls).
- Super Lube Synthetic Grease: To maintain your tripod especially after desert or ocean use: [Amazon](#)
- Small grease gun for simple use of Super Lube above: [Amazon](#)
- Gaffer Tape: [Amazon B&H](#)

ADVANCED PANORAMA EQUIPMENT

Dovetail base plate rail: [Amazon B&H](#)

90 degree vertical rail: [Amazon B&H](#)

2 panning clamps (one clamped to head one screwed to top of the 90 degree vertical rail):

- Really Right Stuff panning clamp: not cheap, but the best: [B&H](#)
- More affordable version from China: [Amazon](#)

Kirk Nodal Sliders (worth every penny to me):

- [Long Slider](#)

- [Short Slider](#)

Cheaper Nodal Slider: [Amazon B&H](#)

NIKON MIRRORLESS KIT

Nikon Z6 (I highly recommend the Kit with the FTZ adaptor and 24-70mm F4 S): [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon Z7 (I highly recommend the Kit with the FTZ adaptor and 24-70mm F4 S): [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon 24-70 F4 S: [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon 14-30 F4 S: [Amazon B&H](#)

FTZ Adaptor: [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon 50mm 1.8 S: [Amazon B&H](#)

Atomos Ninja V 5" Screen and 10-Bit Log Recorder: [Amazon B&H](#) Kirk Z6 / Z7 L-Bracket: [Direct](#)

XQD Cards: [Amazon B&H](#)

NIKON SLR KIT

Nikon D500: [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon D850: [Amazon B&H](#)

Kirk L-Brackets: [Direct](#)

Sunwayfoto L-Bracket: [Amazon B&H](#) Nikon 300mm F4 PF: [Amazon B&H](#) Kirk 300mm F4 PF Collar:

[Direct](#) Nikon 70-200 F2.8: [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon 1.7 Teleconverter: [Amazon B&H](#) Nikon 1.4 Teleconverter: [Amazon B&H](#) Nikon 50mm F1.8:

[Amazon B&H](#)

Zeiss 35mm F2: [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon 20mm F1.8: [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon 14-24 F2.8: [Amazon B&H](#)

Tokina 11-20 F2.8 DX: [Amazon B&H](#)

Nikon 400 F3.5 and 2x Teleconverter for it: [Look on Ebay](#) XQD Cards: [Amazon B&H](#)

ULTRALIGHT SONY KIT

Sony RX100 V (tiny 1" sensor camera I love having in my pocket): [Amazon B&H](#) Sony A6500:

[Amazon B&H](#)

Sony 70-200mm F4: [Amazon B&H](#)

Sony 16-55mm: [Amazon B&H](#)

Voightlander 10mm F5.6 FF aspherical (widest full frame lens ever): [Amazon](#) [B&H](#) LowePro 200 AW Case for Sony A6500: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

FILTRATION

The Hoya filters I use: Use the coupon code HHPWORKSHOP for 20% off on the Hoya website.
Manfrotto Xume Magnetic System (get them and filters big): [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)
Step-up Rings: [Amazon](#)

FLASH, LIGHTING & ACCESSORIES

Nikon SB5000: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#) Better Beamer: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Dracast daylight panel LED light kit (I use these all the time in the field and studio, great for light-painting): [B&H](#)

Lumecube: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Lumecube Lighthouse with diffusers: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

CLEANING GEAR

Rocket Blower Brush: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Zeiss Lens Wipes: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Microfiber Cloths: [Amazon](#)

Small Travel Sensor Light: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Larger (nicer) Sensor Light: [Amazon](#)

Sensor Gel Stick (approved for Sony): [Amazon](#) Sensor Swabs & Fluid (Full Frame): [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Sensor Swabs & Fluid (APS-C): [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

NECESSITIES

Samsung T5 500GB SSD External Hard Drives: (FAST, small & light) [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

F-Stop [Tilopa Pack](#) (smaller than mine): [Amazon](#)

F-Stop [Sukha Pack](#) (mine) : [Amazon](#)

Think Tank Street Walker carry-on capable rolling camera bag.: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

[L.L. Bean X-tra large rolling duffle bag](#) (to check long tripods and all your other things on flights)

Think Tank battery wallets: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Headlamp Princeton Tec Vizz: [Amazon](#)

Outdoor Research Stormsensor Gloves: [Amazon](#)

[Lumalabs Loop 3 Strap](#)

Black Rapid Breathe Hybrid Sling Strap (MINE): [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Black Rapid Breathe Sport: [Amazon](#) [B&H](#)

Tripod velcro hammock (like the folding shelf on my tripod): [Amazon](#) [B&H](#) (cheaper at B&H)

PLATAPOD ULTRA: [Amazon](#), [B&H](#)

PLUTO TRIGGER: [B&H](#)

For full disclosure know that I'm an ambassador for Hoya, Black Rapid and Kirk Enterprises. The reason I work with those brands is that I believe in their products and trust them myself in the field.