

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 21, 2021

By: Jean Davids, Secretary/Treasurer

The meeting started just after 7:00 pm and was presided over by president Heather Reinhart. We had a great turnout with 11 of 19 members in attendance. Once again, we met via Zoom. **We took a vote regarding when to return to live in-person meetings and decided we will begin again in May, hopefully at River City Extreme.** (Note: I have yet to receive a return call or email.)

Our assignment was Best Photos taken at a workshop or using a skill you learned at a workshop. We had 3 people submit photos this month. Thanks to all who did.

Prior to Tasha Herrgott joining us for the meeting, the following blog was shown and discussed by the group. <https://pinholepress.com/blog/what-is-lifestyle-photography/>. A discussion was had regarding this blog. Discussed that a walk-through of the house is probably done so as to prepare and know the best lighting areas and other issues. Bob discussed how he has done impromptu photos at weddings. At around 7:30 pm Lifestyle Photographer Tasha Herrgott joined us via zoom. Her website is <https://www.redbirdhills.com>. She considers herself more of a documentary photographer but does some lifestyle too. Documentary is undirected and only as it happens. Lifestyle can be more directed as needed. She shared the lifestyle gallery on her website which is a collection of her favorites. She explained how images were done.

Documentary is true photojournalism. Doesn't touch a thing to adjust lighting. Does this a lot with birth photos. Lifestyle can be more directed. For example, the photo of kids running down hill with chickens was sort of directed. She went to bottom of hill of suggested they run down the hill. Holding the new baby chicks, was not directed to do so. Her friend knows she likes the light so she had the kids bring them outside. Sometimes if she misses a shot and it looks too good to miss, she will have them repeat it. She will do that with lifestyle but never true documentary style. With the photo of the child hugging the chicken, she always keeps an ear out for what is going on around her in order to catch other possible photos quickly as she can. Does a lot of backlighting.

Sometimes people don't want to be themselves when being photographed. If they are real stiff or not relaxing, she will pick on the parents to try and get them to ease up and then will give some ideas of what to do to get them started on the session. Will try to come up with ideas prior to the sessions in order to get more images that will work. Shots of images at apple orchard, she tries to hide between rows to capture images. Always moving around them as they were picking apples. Likes to frame the with a foreground, middle ground and background. Likes to shoot through things like trees. She shoots lots of images to get that one really good shot. Does a lot of wide shots of groups and then closer shots of individuals and details. The really wide landscape images tell a story of what was going on.

If they are kind of stiff and kids are involved, has them tickle the kid or the kid tickle the parent to get them to smile. In image where dad is throwing child in air, the girls head is chopped off some but she feels emotion trumps all rules and so it was worth it.

In the scene of them in a room brushing daughter's hair she exposed for the highlights and letting the shadows fall where they will. Knew it would be good in black and white because of the dramatic lighting. Constantly moves around a scene to capture the best views and lighting. Doesn't stop unless she finds a perfect spot of light. Her favorites are often not the ones she expects to be.

When she cannot move around as much she uses a 35mm prime and an 135mm prime. Only uses zoom when it is interior design or at a wedding and dancing. Also will use a zoom for formal group shots. So sets her zoom to 50mm because she doesn't own a 50mm. Loves her 135mm lens. Indoors does the 85mm. Outside 135mm. If there are hard shadows in the images she likes to make them B&W. Once she has taken the photos that she knows that they wanted and that tell their story, then she feels like she can do some bonus shots for her. The B&W image of the dad between building and throwing his daughter up in the air is one that she set up because she thought the framing would be great. Keeps shooting even if the adults looks angry and kid is crying will keep shooting. If it feels like a private moment she will keep shooting unless they tell her to stop. She related the story of a traumatic birth that she was shooting and felt she should stop shooting but still kept shooting. The photos were needed by the mom to get through it so she was glad she did not stop.

Shot of shooting the family on the beach through tree branches shows the power of using other objects to block out unwanted objects from shot. There were people grilling on the beach behind the trees and branches. Will also just pull leaves off of tree to cover unwanted objects and creates a foreground that is pleasing. Always keeps an eye open for other opportunities. A lot of bobbing and weaving to capture images. A lot of the best images are those you can't plan for. And if kids need their "stuffies" or blanket, she always let them bring them in. If parents are mad at a child she just keeps shooting because the parent has no idea of what she is capturing.

She shoots with Nikon Z6 & Z7 and a backup camera of a Nikon 750. Carries camera with Holdfast straps. Holds them by her side and then she can pull them up as a quick draw. Wide angle is on her left side and longer mm is on her right. Then it is muscle memory to know which one to grab for what she wants.

Doesn't use reflectors generally. She appreciates those who use lighting techniques but she is shooting candid so she will move herself to get the better light. Will use a flash at weddings when at a dance she uses two off camera flashes. Otherwise, she is always searching for the light. She loves the challenge of making the light work when it isn't. With documentary or lifestyle you don't generally use any lighting tools. You are capturing life as it is. If it is something that is extremely important to client, she will use a flash and bounce it of a wall. In cases where the person doesn't know what to do for poses she does something called photobooth where she has them do different poses like 10 times in a row like they are a model. It helps them break out of that "don't know how to pose" mode.

She said that in photography we are told not to be a heavy shooter (shooting too many images) but in documentary/lifestyle photos, don't be afraid to shoot a lot because there are so many moments you will miss out on if you don't keep shooting.

We really enjoyed her presentation. She did a great job.

We were prepared to share these videos as well so I will just share them here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9Xv6CoE9Gw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBhIjPBgTKE>

After our guest speaker finished, we discussed our guideline for handling the death of a club member. We recently had two members who dropped out for health reasons and wanted to come up with an official policy for handling this. We voted to adopt the following policy and that there was no need to make it part of the bylaws.

“General guidelines to follow when a member or former member of the Monticello Camera Club (MCC) passes away.

- *Member for 0-4 years: send card from MCC.*
- *Member for 5-9 years: Send card and \$50 from MCC.*
- *Member for 10+ years: Send card and \$100 from MCC.*

Money can come in the form of a check to the family or a donation to a charity close to the departed. This is to serve as a guideline for the MCC to follow, but MCC offers have the right to override the guidelines on a case-by-case basis.”

Discussed what is coming up next month. Want to discuss a variety of mobile devices such as GoPros and such too. Also interested in controlling gear with other devices like iPhone controlling camera.

2021 Camera Club Meeting Dates and Topics

May 19

Assignment: Lifestyle Photography

Topic: Mobile Device Movie Making - Speaker/Member experiences/video – Anthony/Jean/others

June 16

Assignment: share a movie (short one) that you made on your mobile device

Topic: Editing video – DSLR or mobile – Anthony/Jean/others

July 21

Assignment: edited video

Topic:

Featured Photographer: Heather Reinhart sharing her Alaska Photos and experiences

August 18

Assignment:

Topic: Shooting Sunflowers (sunflower group photo shoot might be arranged at well)

September 15

Assignment: sunflower or flower photos

Topic: Voyagers Nation Park - Jeff Lavigne

October 20

Assignment:

Topic:

November 17

Assignment:

Topic:

December 15

Assignment: Top photos of 2021

Topic: Holiday party, open discussion

