

# Meeting Minutes

Date: January 17, 2024

By: Heather Reinhart/Jean Davids

Assignment photos from: Brenda, Cindy, Katie and Trish

Presentation about “How to take a good selfie” by Heather Reinhart. Her daughter, Olivia, helped create the presentation but was unable to attend.

1. Eyes on the camera lens
  - a. If you don't know where the lens of the camera is located, your eyes might gravitate toward the shutter button or your face on the screen.
  - b. Focus your eyes on that camera.
  - c. This can be more difficult when taking a horizontal photo because you will need to look to the side.
2. Stretch out your arm
  - a. Have the person with the longest arm hold the phone.
  - b. If taking photos of a group, hold the phone with your outside arm.
  - c. The further away you are, the better you will look.
  - d. Shoot vertically to hide the extended arm from the shot.
3. Use a timer
  - a. Most phone cameras have a timer that will go as many as 10 seconds.
  - b. This allows you time to compose your shot and not have to reach awkwardly for the shutter button.
4. Find good lighting
  - a. Overcast light or shade is best for selfies.
  - b. Bright, harsh sun can produce shadows on your face.
  - c. Watch out for the shadow of the phone too!
5. Watch your background
  - a. Keep the focus on your face and avoid distractions in the background.
  - b. Common offenders are trees that appear to be growing out of your head.
  - c. If the background is important, move yourself to the side of the frame.
6. Consider portrait mode
  - a. Portrait mode automatically blurs the background to put the focus on you!
7. Angle your face up
  - a. For a more flattering look, extent your arm and shoot down while lifting your face slightly. This elongates your neck and downplays any hint of a double chin.
8. Have fun!

*Note from Jean Davids (The PowerPoint presentation as a PDF will be available via a link on the meeting minutes page so that you can see the photo examples of these techniques.)*

We then played two videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7BABRYXkC8> (2 minutes) \*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XnW7HvICkU> (5 minutes) \*

After the presentation, there was good, random conversation about the following topics:

- We talked about taking selfies when traveling alone.
- Using a selfie stick.
- Book to consider – *How to disappear* - no idea of author so...

- Pillars of light (cold weather brings this on). Some members had seen this during the particularly cold week we had. *Note from Jean Davids:* <https://atoptics.co.uk/blog/light-pillars/>.
- Sun dogs have also been prevalent in the cold. *Note from Jean Davids:* <https://dailywildlifephotography.nathab.com/photography-guide/how-to-photograph-a-sun-dog/#:~:text=focus%20on%20the%20sun%20and,a%20great%20place%20to%20start>.
- Starlink satellites – some were wanting to try and photograph these. Others did not know what they were. *Note by Jean Davids:* *Here's a link for tracking them.* <https://findstarlink.com>.
- *The B-Side* is a documentary about portrait photographer Elsa Dorfman. It's her story as a photographer starting with Polaroid. You can check it out from the library. *Note by Jean Davids:* *Here's a link that shows various platforms to watch this documentary if you choose.* <https://bsidefilm.com>.

### Up next:

Next month's assignment will be selfies or other self-portraits.

The presentation will be on Symmetry. We do not have a presenter. (*Videos will be the form of presentation.*)

## 2024 Camera Club Meeting Dates and Topics (Finalized)

February 21

- Assignment: Selfie Photo
- Topic: Symmetry (share videos of topic)

March 20

- Assignment: Symmetry
- Topic: Camera gear discussion - members bring in gear and share information on it

April 17

- Assignment: Photographer's choice
- Topic: Use of triggers and remotes - Don Pfliederer

May 15

- Assignment: Photos taken using a trigger or remote
- Topic: Blind Critique - Chris Lommel? David Hyttsten?

June 12th (note date change to 2nd Wednesday of the month)

- Assignment: Photographer's choice or share photos that you improved using critique
- Topic: Northern Lights or Astro photos - Meeting will be held at Sherburne Refuge Oak Savanna Learning Center as part of their presentation of the topic. Presented by Bob King (Astro Bob) - (<https://astrobob1.blogspot.com>)

July 17

- Assignment: Northern Lights or Astro photos
- Topic: Time-Lapse Photography

August 21

- Assignment: Time-Lapse photo
- Topic: How to Develop Your Photography Style

September 18

- Assignment: Share what you feel is your photographic style in photos
- Topic: To be determined

October 16

- Assignment: To be determined
- Topic: To be determined

November 20

- Assignment: To be determined
- Topic: To be determined

December 18

- Assignment: Top photo of 2024
- Topic: Holiday party, open discussion – bring your spouse. We will be meeting at 6:30 to get our food all ordered in advance of our meeting.