

Camera Club of Central Minnesota



CAMERA CLUB OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

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April Club Meeting

Our April club meeting included a few members sharing some of their photographs and receiving comments/suggestions from the rest of the members.

Larry Grover demonstrated a few techniques using Adobe Lightroom, techniques that we all will be able to put to good use.

Barry Weber then demonstrated a Photoshop plugin from On-1 which is a great aid in extracting.

Our club meetings are there to help each of us in improvement of our photography and thus we offer demonstrations and suggestions, even some philosophy. One comments is: "You only get one sunrise and one sunset a day, and you only get so many days on the planet. A good photographer does the math and doesn't waste either."

Animoto makes really cool movies from a series of still images - all online in a matter of minutes. It's pretty amazing technology, but up until now, the movies were "branded" with the Animoto logo. Now they're offering unbranded, or "white label" movies for photographers (or anyone else) who wants to

provide these movies for their clients. There's even a wonderful selection of music to choose from. Use Google and search for *Animoto* to investigate further.

And then there is Ansel Adams, on of the great photographers who said, "Simply look with perceptive eyes at the world about you, and trust to your own reactions and convictions. Ask yourself: 'Does this subject move me to feel, think and dream? Can I visualize a print - my own personal statement of what I feel and want to convey - from the subject before me?'" - Ansel Adams

Another insightful comment was, "My favorite photography accessory considering lights, camera bag, tripod, etc. is my polarizing filter. I capture many landscapes and using my polarizing filter allows me precise control over how reflections, like sunlight off of water, and refracted light, like a scattering of light in the sky, appears in my images."

Next Camera Club Meeting on the Thursday, 7 May

The next meeting of the Central Minnesota Camera Club will be on 7 May at the Saint Cloud Public Library building, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Besides the usual sharing of photographic images, Richard Heath will demonstrate a procedure in Photoshop that will help to turn a good photograph into a great photo-

graph. Richard will also demonstrate the use of the slideshow feature in Lightroom.

Special points of interest:

- BLACK AND WHITE VIEW IN LIGHTROOM
- BACKUP IN LIGHTROOM
- FAVORITE FEATURES IN LIGHTROOM
- RECOMMENDATIONS

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Quick View of Black and White in Lightroom



Whenever one use a program a lot, one learns shortcuts to make the workflow more efficient and more useable. One of the checks I frequently perform is the checking of how the photograph that I am currently examining would look as a black and white picture. The shortcut is the **V** key in the Develop module. This simple little key changes your photo

from color to grayscale. By the way, the word *grayscale* is just geek-speak for *Black & White*. Seriously, I don't understand why it's not called Black and White. That's what photographers call it right? I know graphic designers use the term grayscale but when was the last time you said "Hey, he shoots a lot of great grayscale stuff", or "Wow, look at that awesome gray-

scale photo!". Ugh, don't get me started! Anyway, if you ever want to see what your photo is going to look like as a Black and White (there I said it!) then just press **V**. Sure, it's the default conversion but it should give you a quick idea at least. Then just press **V** again to get back to color.

Backing Up Your Lightroom Catalog

Did you know, Lightroom will automatically back up it's catalog as often as you tell it to. You can set or change these catalog backup preferences in your Catalog Settings (Lightroom menu on Mac, Edit menu on a PC). The idea is that you set Lightroom to automatically backup the catalog, and if something ever gets corrupted (or your computer crashes), you'll have a backup of the catalog to rely on. But I'd like to give you the truth behind the backup and suggest that you never use it!

Before I move on, let's get one thing out of the way first. The Lightroom catalog backup (and my suggestion to you) doesn't back up your photos. That's up to you. I backup mine to a separate external drive upon import. The catalog is merely all of the stuff, changes, edits, metadata about your photos.

OK, back to backing up the catalog and why I suggest setting Lightroom's backup preference to Never. By de-

fault, Lightroom will back up your catalog to the local hard drive in the Lightroom folder. But if your hard drive crashes then your backup is gone right? Right!

But, when the backup dialog opens Lightroom will let you set another location. You could always just choose an external hard drive and you'd be safe, since it would be stored somewhere else. But that starts to get too complicated for me. Now you've got photos somewhere, catalogs somewhere, and (hopefully) a backup of your computer's hard drive (for emails, personal files, work files, etc...) somewhere else. These are potentially all in different places which gets messy.

So I suggest setting the preference to Never. Yep, don't ever back up Lightroom. Instead, why not be vigilant about backing up your computer's hard drive every day. By backing up your computer, you'll be automatically backing up your catalog

every day (I'm assuming you store the catalog on your local hard drive which is the default place). Here's a few options:

Mac option #1: Time Machine - This one is free. Time Machine comes with the latest version of the Mac OS (Leopard). It continually backs up your computer through out the day to some external drive you select. There used to be some concerns that Time Machine wouldn't back up your catalog correctly but I haven't seen any issues with this. I've tested it out and restoring the catalog works just fine.

Mac option #2: Super Duper - If you're paranoid (and I am) you may want to use option 2 AND option 1. Super Duper is a program that creates an image of your computer's hard drive. I plug my computer into an external drive every night and it automatically updates the image with whatever changed that day. So if my computer crashes, I have a backup.

THE LIGHTROOM
CATALOG
BACKUP DOESN'T
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The advantage Super Duper has is that it's bootable. If I'm traveling and the hard drive crashes, I can plug my external Super Duper backup in, boot from it, and start working immediately until I get a new drive. This comes in really handy as I teach a lot and can't afford to ask people to wait on class until I get a new drive to load my stuff on to.

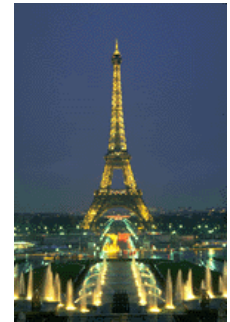
PC Option #1: *SyncBackSE* - PCs don't really have a built-in Time Machine equivalent. There is a program called

SyncBackSE that does something similar. It costs about \$30 but there's a free trial to give it a test run.

PC Option #2: *Norton Ghost* - this is similar to Super Duper. it makes a full system backup of your computer hard drive. If something goes wrong and your drive crashes, you can use that image to restore your system to the point it was at when you made the last backup. It runs about \$70.

So the truth about Lightroom

backups is that you don't need them. Backup your computer every day and you'll automatically take care of backing up Lightroom.



Ten Favorite Features of Lightroom 2

When Adobe first made Lightroom available, there was much excitement over it. But we soon had many requests for features that were not present and for features that did not work quite the way we wanted them to work.

Then version 2 of Lightroom became available with so many additions and improvements that it is now a very fine instrument for our workflow.

1. **The Retouch Brush** - localized Exposure, Brightness, Contrast, Saturation, Clarity, Sharpening and custom toning. Worth the price of admission alone!
2. **Sync on localized corrections.** It's way cool to see the localized corrections show up on a similar series of portraits or wedding shots.
3. **Clone Tool** - Now I don't have to take the time to pop over to Photoshop as often. LR 1.4 got us to about second base with

our images before needing to head to Photoshop. LR2 gets us pretty much to 3rd base.

4. **Skin Softening** - Buried under the Retouch Tool drop down menu, but still offers a quick touch up on faces.
5. **New Vignette Tool** - Just adds a nice finishing touch to the image. The new controls are just what the doctor ordered - again, perfect for the wedding/portrait guys and gals.
6. **Open image as Smart Object in Photoshop** - Now we have all the versatility of smart objects easily available to all of our Lightroom 2.0 images. This feature is a nice bit of grease to the axles for our workflow.
7. **External Editor Presets** - Lightroom 2.0 continues to limit you to two external editors. It's now possible to add External Editor Presets that sort of, kind of, give you ac-

cess to more than two.

8. **Camera Profiles** - for instance, Canon users will be able to choose profiles that emulate Pictures Styles such as: Standard, Landscape, Neutral, Portrait and Faithful. When installed, the new profiles will appear in Lightroom's Camera Calibration.
9. **Graduated Filter** - very cool for scenic and outdoor bridal shots. It kind of gets you the same results as the old Cokin graduated filters - Lots of different setting choices give you lots of different possibilities.
10. **Auto Tone works much better** than in Lightroom 1.0 (where I didn't think it worked at all.) I've tried it on LR 2.0 and it is much improved and should provide a good starting point for wedding shooters with hundreds of images.

Lightroom 2 became available with so many additions and improvements that it is now a very fine program.





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The Camera Club of Central Minnesota has decided to issue a monthly newsletter which will be distributed via e-mail. We expect the number of pages to grow with future issues. The newsletter will contain information about up-coming meetings, summaries of previous meeting, recommendations for photographers, questions and answers, announcements of photographic workshops, and other material that seems appropriate.

If you would like to send suggestions, comments, or other communications concerning the club or newsletter, please send your e-mail to rheath@tds.net.

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Recommendations

Four Camera Bags I Really Like

1. *LowePro ProMag 2 AW*
This is my all-time favorite camera bag, because of it's relatively small size and weight, but it can hold a surprising amount of gear.
2. *LowePro Pro-Roller 1*
This is the one I use when I need to bring everything (like for a wedding shoot). The fact that it rolls is a life/back saver.
3. *Think Tank Photo's Modular Set (and Steroid Speed Belt)*
If you shoot sports, or any type of photography where you need to change lens often, this is the system to get.
4. *The Boda Dry Lens Bag*
It's perfect for travel photographers who work light, and need quick access and good protection for just a few important pieces of gear.



My Top Five Favorite Fonts

1. *Satisfaction*
2. *Cronos*
3. *Mata*
4. *Sweetheart*
5. *Trebuchet*

Five Photography Books That Will Inspire You

1. *Flying Flowers*, by Rick Sammon
2. *Window Seat*, by Julieanne Kost
3. *Golden Poppies of California*, by George Lepp
4. *The Pixelated Image*, by David DuChemin
5. *Kentucky: Unbridled Spirit and Beauty* by Chuck Summers

Look for more recommendations in future issues of the newsletter.