

Camera Club of Central Minnesota



CAMERA CLUB OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

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October Club Meeting Minutes

The **Camera Club of Central Minnesota** met on October 1 in the Bremmer Room of the Saint Cloud Minnesota public library. It was a well attended meeting with lots of interesting discussion. Three members had brought digital photographs stored on flash drives which were displayed, explained, and discussed. The photographs were outstanding and the club member were exposed to several good ideas.

LaVona Sherarts presented some of her photographs and talked about her experiences in taking pictures locally and throughout the world.

After the meeting a few of us hung around to discuss various subjects. One of the things that I talked of was a promotional giveaway for an application called Aldus Persuasion. Remember that? Probably not. It was a presentation software introduced circa 1989 that was around until about 1997. At the time, it totally kicked PowerPoint's a\$\$, offering features that Microsoft took years to copy and include in PowerPoint. I remember many occasions when I was running a slide show and people would run up and ask how I did that, because clearly they were PowerPoint users

and knew that what I showed them wasn't possible in their software.

Unfortunately, one of the things that lead to the demise of Persuasion was that it cost around \$300, compared to the "you get it free in Microsoft Office" for PowerPoint. And since PowerPoint came "for free", no one went looking for other presentation software. So even though it was w-a-a-a-y better than PowerPoint, Persuasion eventually lost the battle, because of the cost and the lack of awareness of the product.

So why am I bring this up? Well, it occurred to me that there are probably other products - and people out there that are great but we don't know about them. So if you use a plug-in or camera accessory that you think is fabulous, tell people about it. If you see amazing work from a designer or photographer that isn't "famous", give them some mention in this newsletter.

I'd hate to think of other cool products or talented people that don't get their due recognition, just because no one has heard of them.

Next Camera Club Meeting on Thursday, 5 November

The next meeting of the Central Minnesota Camera Club will be on 5 November at the Saint Cloud Public Library building, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Richard Heath is scheduled to present and talk about his work in photography.

During the month of October, club members were shooting landscapes, trees, in fact, all

the signs of Fall. These photos will be brought to the club meeting for display. Bring photos on a Flash Drive as Jpegs or as Prints.

A demonstration of the clubs Gallery Website will be given and a workshop will follow in which attendees will learn how to upload their photographs to the gallery.

Special points of interest:

- CLUB MEETINGS
- LIGHTING EQUIPMENT
- PROTECTING FROM MOISTURE
- LIGHTROOM 3
- RECOMMENDATIONS

Inside this issue:

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING MINUTES	1
NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING	1
WEDDING AND PORTRAIT LOCATION LIGHTING, PART 2	2
FOLLOW-UP TIPS WHEN USING DSLRS IN HUMIDITY	3
LIGHTROOM 3 PUBLIC BETA	4
RECOMMENDATIONS	4

Part 2: Expanding Your Lighting Gear

In **Part 1** we looked at a very inexpensive way to do a location portrait shoot, or some wedding photography, using a simple “Hot Shoe” flash, one light stand and an umbrella. Now we’re going to take it up a notch.

There are two main things to get next:

1. An additional hot shoe flash unit

This gives you the ability to add a hair light, light a bride from behind, light a background, light a room interior, and about a dozen other things that will give your lighting a more professional look.

Nikon: If you’re a Nikon user and your DSLR has a pop-up flash, you’ll be able use it to wirelessly operate both flash units. If you have a high-end Nikon D2X, or a Nikon D3, they don’t have a built-in pop-up flash, so you’ll need to buy **Nikon’s SU-800 Commander** wireless transmitter unit. It costs around \$250, but if you have a D2X or a D3—you can afford it.

Canon: If you’re a Canon user, you’ll need **Canon’s \$210 ST-E2** wireless transmitter to operate those 580 EX IIs wirelessly).

2. A Reflector

This will help you fill in hard shadows on the opposite side of your subject’s face, and create a smoother more professional looking transition from the bright side of your subjects face to the shadow side facing away from the camera. It kind of acts like a second light, which is particu-

larly important if your second flash is doing something else (like lighting a background, or hair, etc.)

The reflector to consider is a Westcott Illuminator 30” Square Reflector with silver on one side and gold on the other side. It’s collapsible, so it folds up into a small circle and fits in a little zipper case, and together they weigh next to nothing. It costs around \$61 (B&H Photo).

Now, if you “work alone” (you don’t have an assistant helping you on shoots), then you’ll need to get a second light stand, and swivel adapter to hold your second flash (luckily, as you learned in **Part 1**, those are pretty inexpensive), but you’ll also need a light stand with a boom arm and two clips to hold your reflector in place.

The lightstand/boom-arm reflector holder

An excellent holder to consider is from Impact, and it runs about \$80 from B&H. It sounds like \$80 is a lot, until you have to pay an assistant to hold your reflector for a day, then it sounds like a bargain, and it pays for itself in one gig.

Since you bought an extra lightstand and swivel clamp, you may as well spend the extra \$10 and get another 30” white translucent umbrella for that second flash unit.

Carrying Bag / Case

You can carry all your stands, umbrellas, adapters, and even your reflector (albeit a bit snugly length-wise), in Impact’s Light Kit Bag #3, which sells for around \$45.



Now, you can toss your new flashes in your camera bag, but if you don’t mind spending a little more,

you can really protect your stuff and use the **Pelican 1560B Water-tight Hard Case with Black Dolly with Foam** (in Black).



Now, you can stop right here, and you’ll have a very workable system with two lights, on stands, with umbrella diffusers, a reflector to fill in shadows, and a stand to hold it up. Plus, you can work alone, because the whole system is very lightweight, and easy to set-up and operate.

Nikon Users: To add this additional SB-800 flash unit, another light stand, swivel adapter, umbrella, 30” reflector, boom lighting stand, the rolling Pelican case for your flashes and flash accessories, and the Impact carrying case for your stands and other lighting gear, it (altogether) runs \$700 (so add that to your \$375 flash and stands, etc. from yesterday, and you’re at \$1,075 for unit.



Nikon

A REFLECTOR WILL HELP YOU FILL IN HARD SHADOWS ON THE SUBJECT’S FACE, AND CREATE A PROFESSIONAL TRANSITION FROM LIGHT TO SHADOW.



Reflector

the whole 2-light kit and kaboodle).

Canon Users: To add this additional Canon 580 EXII flash unit, another light stand, swivel adapter, umbrella, 30" reflector, boom lighting stand, the rolling Pelican case for your flashes and flash accessories, and the Impact carrying case for your stands and other lighting gear, it (altogether) runs \$785 (so add that to your \$375 from yesterday, and you're at \$1,160, but realistically you're going to need that wireless transmitter, which adds another \$210, so you're at \$1,370).

But, if you can spend \$40 more, you might like this better:

Revisited Tips On Using dSLRs in High Humidity

In the last issue of this newsletter I included tips on controlling the effects of high humidity. At the time I never thought that I would ever be in the situation where my DSLR equipment would be affected by high humidity. However, in July of this year my wife and I travelled to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. It was hot and humid! When I went to take the first picture I notice that the picture was "fuzzy." That's right, a thin film of moisture covered the glass. So, the tips again.

Use Desiccant Packets

Desiccant packets are often found in new product shipments to absorb moisture. As I can, I save these packets to reuse in my camera bag

I fire my hot shoe flashes through a Lastolite 33" trigrip 1-stop diffusion panel held up by a Light stand to greatly spread and diffuse the light. This has both advantages and disadvantages:

1. The **advantages** are that your diffuser is not tied to the same light stand as your flash is, so you can position the diffuser as far away from the flash unit as you'd like, to create a very large softbox like quality of light.
2. Another advantage is that you can use the diffuser as a reflector
3. You can use it outdoors to diffuse direct sunlight (it works fantastic for this).

1. The **disadvantages** are: it requires another light stand and a clamp to hold it up.
2. It's more expensive than an umbrella. (The trigrip I'm talking about costs \$68).

when traveling. If you're not the saving type it is possible to order new desiccant packets online. While its impossible for these packets to absorb all the moisture in a camera bag that you're in and out of often, they can make a difference on segments of trips where a camera bag is not opened or opened infrequently.

Keep Sensitive Equipment in Ziploc Bags

While not perfect, keeping sensitive equipment in Ziploc bags can also reduce the negative effects of high humidity. Ziploc bags do wear out if opened and closed often, so this tactic might be best for equipment that is used less frequently. Com-

B&H photo has put a special kit together called "**The Scott Kelby Location Kit**" which includes:

- Two Impact Air-cushioned light stands to hold your Flash units
- Two Impact Air-cushioned light stands to hold the Trigrip diffusers
- Two 33" Trigrip diffusers
- Two Bogen Clamps to hold the Diffusers
- Two "Justin Clamps" that let you swivel your flash in any direction using a mini hot-shoe ball head.
- A 30" silver/gold reflector.
- The Impact Boom Arm that holds the reflector.

The kit runs for \$495.

binning the use of desiccant packets and Ziploc bags could be a great hybrid approach.

Dry Your Hands

Dry your hands before changing batteries and CF cards. This will minimize introduction of moisture, inside the camera, that might later condense upon returning home. Keep in mind this will be particularly true the sweatiest you are.

Bonus Tip

Toward the end of your trip utilize a hotel room air conditioners to dehumidify your gear. No need to place your gear too close.



The Scott Kelby Location Kit

Your whole kit for Nikon users runs about \$1,075, for Canon users runs about \$1,370.



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The Camera Club of Central Minnesota publishes a monthly newsletter which is distributed via e-mail. The newsletter will contain information about up-coming meetings, summaries of previous meeting, recommendations for photographers, 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.

Adobe's Lightroom 3 Beta is Available for Download

Adobe announced the availability of the public beta version of *Lightroom 3*. The download is free whether you have an earlier version or not. To download your copy go to labs.adobe.com/technologies/lightroom3/.

NAPP has put together a new learning center for this new version. Get up to speed fast by learning about all these new features. There is even an exclusive interview with Lightroom product manager Tom Hogarty. It's just loaded with all kinds of good stuff to get you ahead of the game in no time at all. The link is

www.photoshopper.com/lightroom3/.

Some of the new features included for you to play with in the Lightroom 3 beta are:

- State-of-the-art noise reduction
- Watermarking tool
- Portable sharable slideshows with audio
- Flexible customizable print package creation
- Film grain simulation tool
- New import handling
- More flexible online publishing options

Recommendations

Five Cameras I've Been Really Impressed With:

- *The Nikon D3* (I think it's the best DSLR ever made)
- *The Canon EOS 1D Mark III* (If it weren't for the D3, I'd be shooting this)
- *The Nikon D300* (Ridiculous bang for the buck)
- *The Canon 40D* (A pro-quality camera at a great price)
- *The Canon G9 Point & Shoot* (Probably the best point and shoot ever).

Five cool blogs you may not have run across yet:

- *Flash Flavor* (wedding and flash technique

blog)

- *Imaging Insider* (industry news feed)
- *PDN Pulse* (commercial photography news and gossip)
- *1001 Noisy Cameras* (All the digital photography news one could ever want)
- *Creative Bits* (Great Mac-oriented graphics and Adobe-stuff blog).

Look for more recommendations in future issues of the newsletter.