

## **Meeting summary for PPC/DCC Online Training in June (06/13/2024)**

### **Quick recap**

Larry shared his insights on photography, emphasizing the importance of practice, understanding light and composition, and seeking constructive criticism for improvement. He also discussed the benefits of participating in photography competitions, focusing on personal growth, learning, and the value of intrinsic motivation. The group also discussed the role of judges in contests, the significance of personal style, and the value of learning from others through critique and exploration of new approaches.

### **Next steps**

- All attendees to take photographs regularly and analyze the results to improve their skills.
- All attendees to seek feedback from others on their photographs and make necessary improvements.
- All attendees to photograph subjects they care about and convey their thoughts and feelings through their images.
- All attendees to study the work of other photographers and artists to learn different techniques and perspectives.
- All attendees to prepare their contest entries well in advance and get feedback before submitting.
- All attendees to set realistic goals for themselves in photography contests.
- All attendees to participate in photography projects or study groups to learn from others and stay motivated.
- All attendees to explore resources like books, websites, and presentations to learn about composition, light, and visual design.
- All attendees to have fun and enjoy the process of learning and improving their photography skills.

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### **Summary**

#### **Zoom AI and Club Competitions Discussion**

David brought up an article on Zoom's AI features and sparked a relaxed discussion on a variety of topics including a recent orientation, a botanical garden, and the use of real names in online meetings. The conversation then moved on to Larry's presentation, where he shared his insights and strategies for club competitions, using a metaphor of a child building sandcastles to illustrate personal growth and development through

learning and practice. He strongly emphasized the importance and benefits of participating in club contests for promoting member engagement and satisfaction.

### **Larry's 10-Shot Program for Improving Photography Skills**

Larry shared his passion for photography as both a hobby and a craft, highlighting the necessity of practice, self-study, and understanding one's motivations to improve. He suggested a 10-shot program to help enhance skills, which involved analyzing different shots for aspects like lighting, composition, and color, and seeking feedback from knowledgeable peers. Larry also emphasized the importance of continuous improvement, describing the process as cyclical and involving making photographs, analyzing them, and repeating the process for better results. He discouraged seeking praise from family and instead encouraged seeking constructive criticism to further one's skills.

### **Understanding Human Vision and Camera Imaging**

Larry discussed the fundamental differences between human vision and camera imaging. He explained that while human vision perceives a three-dimensional, emotionally connected world, camera imaging is limited to a two-dimensional, fixed plane. He further highlighted that the human eye's focus is center-weighted, while a camera's focus can be adjusted, and the human eye has a greater dynamic range. Finally, he emphasized the importance of understanding the three basic elements of photography - aperture, shutter speed, and ISO - and how their control can help achieve the desired effect.

### **Photography as a Creative and Competitive Activity**

Larry emphasized the importance of photography as a fun and creative activity, rather than a competitive one. He highlighted that while contests are a small part of a photographer's work, they can be a great opportunity to showcase one's images. Larry also discussed the role of judges in contests, stressing that they are asked to rank order submissions, which can be a challenging task. He then outlined the characteristics of a winning image, including a clear and interesting main subject, technical excellence, and sensitive processing, but reiterated that these are just guidelines and that photographers should have fun and experiment. Finally, he stressed the importance of understanding and working with light to create depth and contrast in images.

### **Photography as a Learning Tool and Contest Participation**

Larry discussed the significance of a judge's opinion as a learning tool in photography, encouraging photographers not to take it personally but to use it for improvement. He mentioned Parvin's efforts to make contest participation more accessible and hinted at the importance of creating photographs with depth, contrast, and a clear point of interest. Larry highlighted the personal benefits of photography as a hobby, including its potential for personal growth, learning, and connection with others. He also emphasized

the value of contest participation for self-challenge, validation, and becoming a more impactful photographer.

### **Larry's Philosophy on Photography Competitions**

Larry, a passionate photographer and electron microscopy technician, discussed his involvement in various camera clubs, including his role as president of the Mid Missouri Camera Club. He shared his approach to photography competitions, emphasizing that his primary goal was to create images for personal enjoyment rather than seeking high scores or judge's approval. Larry recounted an instance where his submission, a humorous still life of a tomato sandwich without mayonnaise, received a low score but generated positive reactions from others, underscoring his belief that the laughter and reactions his work evoked were more valuable than the judges' comments or scores.

### **Exploring Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivation in Education**

Larry discussed the concepts of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in education and their effects on learning and enjoyment. He emphasized that intrinsic motivation, which stems from within, is more effective in producing better results and a more enjoyable learning experience. He gave examples of how children learn through play, which is intrinsically motivated, and contrasted this with later schooling experiences that are often based on extrinsic motivation through grading and coercion. Larry argued that shifting the focus from extrinsic to intrinsic motivation can lead to increased enjoyment and better performance. He also shared his own experiences and observations about the benefits of intrinsic motivation in various aspects of life.

### **Personal Enjoyment and Contest Strategies in Photography**

Larry emphasized the importance of personal enjoyment and intrinsic motivation in photography. He stressed that photos should be created to convey the photographer's feelings and thoughts, and that contest outcomes, especially judging, should not define one's photography. He advised on the need to create images that meet specific contest themes, to submit entries early for feedback, and to set realistic goals. Lastly, he highlighted the role of judges in evaluating images based on impact, composition, and technical merit.

### **Improving Photography Through Feedback and Impact**

Larry emphasized the importance of taking feedback seriously and learning from it to improve photography. He discouraged relying on the point system, as the judges were primarily interested in the quality and impact of the images. Larry also stressed the need to be mindful of potential distractions in the images, such as sensor spots, noise, and misaligned horizons. He encouraged participants to ensure their images were impactful, with clear focal points and supporting elements, and to avoid adding unnecessary elements or altering the original image excessively. He also emphasized the importance of providing an accurate title for the image.

### **Improving Photography Through Learning and Practice**

Larry discussed the importance of understanding light and composition in photography, particularly in the context of judged competitions. He recommended several resources, including books by Rick Salmon, Bruce Barnbaum, and David, which offer insights and practical exercises for improving photography. Larry emphasized the value of practice and learning by doing. He also advised maintaining a folder of potential images and keeping a list of competition themes to refer to for inspiration. He underscored the need to keep moving and learning, and that there are ample resources available for further education.

### **Developing Personal Photographic Style and Skills**

Larry emphasized the importance of developing a personal photographic style focused on subjects you care about. He advised taking risks and submitting work for critique to facilitate learning. Dennis suggested joining online photography communities and forming local study groups for feedback. janicegoetz overcame intimidation and started submitting her photos for critique to learn from others' work. The group discussed the value of field trips in exposing them to new photographic techniques and subjects beyond their typical interests. The meeting covered actionable advice for improving photographic skills through sharing work, seeking critique, and exploring new approaches.

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