



You'd Better Read Me News

June 2014

It's the middle of June. Schools out for a lot of kids. Fielden Lundy's son is graduating from UCLA. Lynette is almost finished with her Physical Therapy. We are having quite an important meeting about a subject that some of us who are interested in photography should think about. Our legacy that we leave about photography.

No, I am not thinking about dying nor have I contracted a rare disease. I am thinking about what we will leave for our grandchildren or great-grandchildren when they find our digital files and negatives or slides and they wonder what we did with those ancient cameras. For instance, Lynette's parents gave her a box of negatives and slides several years ago. They sit in the same box that they gave to her. My mother sent me an envelope of pictures from my family's past. Most of the prints are still kept pristine in the envelope they arrived in. Yes, I have scanned the school photos and sent some to schoolmates and classmates. And all of that ties into our speaker this month. It's about legacy and what we will leave behind for your family so they can try and understand why you had such an interest in photography. All this came to the fore when I discovered that some group had paid thousands for the original negatives of Ansel Adams. I have seen contact prints of these negatives and it is obvious that Ansel did most of his work in the darkroom. These negatives are exposed quite correctly as there are very few if any, blown out highlights or way too dark areas. The magic of Ansel's work was pretty much done in the darkroom with his dodging and burning, making masks and his creative genius in the darkroom. The final print is where the magic is and it seems that all of us who are in the Adobe Photoshop generation have created some great work in the digital darkroom, yet we have not printed enough of our work to leave a legacy behind. Personally, I have to plead "guilty" to that.

We are having Eric Joseph from [Freestyle Photographic Supplies](#) as our main speaker at this month's ATX meeting. Freestyle calls this seminar: *World of InkjetPapers*. At ATX you will see, just like you saw on the web, a group of tables with a variety of media from RC paper to Canvas. Eric will be giving

you the information and knowledge you need to make the proper decision to leave your legacy about your love and time you spent creating some of your better images. Why? Do we know what will happen to those digital images or negatives that you have so carefully kept from light and stored on hard drives, CDs, or perhaps on the cloud? Will we have DNG files in fifty or seventy years? Will we have scanners or printers capable of utilizing those files? If we don't have a reference print that can last that long, what will happen to those unprinted files? I know I am not especially enthusiastic about printing some of those negatives today and if I do print them, will I do the necessary digital darkroom techniques to leave them as a part of my legacy? Yes, we have two Canon printers and will be printing some of them and mounting them so they can be preserved. I would like my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to know just how crazy I was to get some of those images in France, New Zealand, the United States National Parks and even here in Huntington Beach, California. Without a print, I think that those images will be lost. To add to the legacy I am adding the GPS data so they can actually go to some of those places where crazy Granpa Rick stood and took those pictures. Maybe they will say "Boy, that place has changed since he was here!" That's a legacy I hope to leave, along with the memories they have of us, the Photoshop generation!

We won't put up the giant ten foot screen today as we will be arranging tables with lots of print and different media that they will be printed on. Bring a notebook to make notes about what media you will consider for your legacy prints.

The doors open at 8:45 AM at the [Burns Community Center](#) in Lakewood, California. The KONA coffee will be freshly brewed.

Regards & God Bless,
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