You'd Better Read Me News

This month's ATX meeting is a triple header. We have three speakers, a rarity for ATX. As you read on, you will understand. If you are learning or using Lightroom, or you have images with lots of digital noise in them, this meeting will help you. Our first speaker will be Lynette Kent who will explain, again, how to start importing into Lightroom so you don't create the mess that so many make of their files. Importing and setting up your catalog is paramount to using Lightroom. She will use metaphors as examples so you can get a good understanding of the process and what you are doing. This should not take too long.

Our next speaker is **Michael Pliskin** who will show in greater detail, how to use the **Library** and maybe parts of the **Develop** Modules in Lightroom. If you are just starting out, Lynette and Michael will show you enough to get your feet and maybe your ankles wet with Lightroom. If you already use Lightroom, you just might learn something new or a new way to work. I have to confess that I do not use Photoshop much any more. For those of you who have been long time members of ATX, you will remember that we introduced Photoshop publicly as early as February of 1990. Yes, it has really matured and is now used in movies as an integral part of special effects in Hollywood.

However for those who have taken their photography up a few steps and for anyone working trying to work with the numerous photo files we all have, Lightroom is the answer. It is an organizing tool AND it won't replace an image or accidentally overwrite an image you are working on like Photoshop might - unless you intentionally delete it.

Our next presenter is the fun group from Macphun. Their software can work from within Lightroom or Phtooshop, or even Elements, as well as a Stand-Alone! We first saw them when they introduced **Snapheal**. With Snapheal, you can easily eliminate unwanted items such as a second person in an image and the resulting image does not look like you used Photoshop's Spot Healing Brush with its almost hammer-like application. Maybe you can make a wall to look "normal" in Photoshop, however doing something like water with waves becomes a task. Somehow the engineers at Macphun worked it out and you can get more natural results with Snapheal. You can bring out the small details that make an image "pop" without over reaching the saturation of the image, using another MacPhun product, **Intensify**. If you are a landscape photographer you will totally enjoy this product.

Macphun also makes Noiseless. Several years ago Lynette and I went on a trip to Alaska. Unfortunately the whales did not follow the script and were way off in the distance. It was late in the afternoon and we had dark mountains as a backdrop. We did not have the higher ISO cameras that we have today. So of course some of these images are quite noisy. Photoshop, Lightroom and NIK have noise limitations. Well Macphun's **Noiseless** really solved most of the problem. Will it solve all noise problems? No! However it can make even everyday images look better, especially in those dark areas. But wait, there's more from Macphun with **Tonality.** Photographers who started out in black and white have had only one or two options. During the beta of Lightroom I started going back in time by trying some really interesting underlayments of colors when producing black and white images. I found that Tonality can now give me what I want and do it faster with more control. In addition. it allows me to add HDR effects without the Harry Potter look. For me the coolest part of Tonality is the ability to selectively color layers and bring them into the image with total control of the intensity of that layer's level. Could I create a specific underlayment of color and still be in a monochrome world? With Tonality I can do that. So when someone asks me *How did you do that?* You know my answer will be: *"Very well!"*

That is what the people from Macphun are coming to show us. Will they show us more? If time permits, yes! Will they offer us better pricing than we can get from the Apple Store? Probably. Are they ever going to make their software available to PC computers? From what I understand - they are working on it.

We meet on Saturday, June 20, at the **Burns Community Center** in Lakewood, California. The doors will open at 8:45 AM and the meeting will start 9:00 AM. Please try to be prompt. Coming in "just a few minutes late" disrupts the meeting and you will probably miss some of Lynette's presentation and miss out on most of the "deals" we have on the tables along the sides of the room. So be like the majority who arrive at least ten minutes before the start of the meeting and who knows, you might score a deal on some of the items before the meeting starts.

The following meeting on July 18, is a "Special Event" with **Stephen Johnson**. That meeting will start at 9:00 AM and end at 1:00 PM. We are working on finding a location for a Sunday follow up during which Steve will teach more about printing some of the glorious images he will have shown us on Saturday. Think about saving the weekend for a truly educational opportunity with Stephen Johnson.

Regards and God bless.
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