



You'd Better Read Me News

March 2016

It looks like Spring may have finally sprung. At least it looked that way when Lynette and I took off for WPPI (*wedding and portrait photographers international*) in Las Vegas. When we took off, the sky was just cloudy. We caught up to Saturday night's rain and got ahead of it just before we got to Barstow. A smattering of rain got over the mountains and we had brought our umbrellas just in case they did. When we got there some photographers were talking about the bloom that had occurred with the few hours of rain that hit Death Valley. Checking further we found out that the normal spring rain had brought on the normal amount of spring bloom. Nothing like the 100 year bloom we experienced in 2005. For the uninitiated, Badwater had about a foot of water that year and yes, we were there to record that bloom, along with images of the water at the lowest place in North America. I think Chuck Behrman also ran over there to record some of his images.

This month's meeting will touch on two subjects: Digital Art and Travel Photography.

Our first speaker will be Lynette showing a new digital watercolor application. NO, this is not about Painter, Photoshop, or any other digital art app from the old days. Lynette will be demoing **Rebelle** from Escape Motions. This program really replicates true water color painting! NO you don't have to soak the media in water beforehand like most water color artists do. Those of you who have tried or even perfected traditional water color methods will be amazed at what you can do with this digital application. And if you are not a watercolor artist, you will enjoy the ability to experiment not only with watercolors but also acrylics, without spending a fortune for a complicated application (*or for traditional tools*)! And YES, you can trace from a photograph! When Lynette first found this program and started using it, I wondered where she had disappeared to. I did hear lots of oohs and aahs coming from the art room! Yes, she is still learning, yet she is proficient enough to show it at ATX. Not only is Lynette quite happy with it, I am happy not having to worry about water color pigments and water getting on the floors in our art room area. Rebelle is a one-of-a-kind, real watercolor, acrylic, wet and dry media painting program. Its phenomenal watercolor simulation is based on a real-world color mixing, blending, wet-diffusion, and drying. Escape Motions makes other artistic applications including FlamePainterPro and Amberlight, and also sells a Creative Package. Even though it is already **very affordable, the developer of this software offered ATX a fantastic discount** not only on Rebelle but also on their other applications. Watercolor aficionados as well as artist-wanna-be's will love this new creative digital tool - especially at this exceptional ATX price.

Our second presenter is Dave Gaitz (*pronounced Gates*) from **photonomads** who will talk about how and what to pack when

traveling with a camera - In other words how to plan for a photo trip or for photographing your travels. Dave will show what he carries in his own *travel* bag and his *shooting* bag. Whether you have already gone on photo trips or are planning to, it seems there is always something to learn from others who have more experience. Seeing what and how the pros carry their gear is extremely useful whether you are planning on photographing local places such as the Redondo or Huntington Beach Piers or the Bolsa Chica Preserve, or are planning a far away exotic trip. Dave will also talk about car vs. air travel, domestic vs. international trips with camera gear, researching the shoot locations, useful apps for shooting in the field, and some tools for adapting to changing or complicated light. Dave's company, Photonomads, sets up photography oriented travel to exotic places and even local places. In addition to the convenience of organizing the transportation and lodging, we have found that having a photo guide not only saves time, but also gets us to better places and helps plan the best times to be there! Result? Better photos and a more enjoyable trip! Just listening to Dave will save you money and time.

Yes, we have some real deals on the fund-raising tables, including two new Lowepro **Urban Reporter 250** Camera bags. These dual purpose bags can hold a camera in a **removable insert** and also be used as a messenger bag, and either way they hold a laptop. They will be priced at **\$25 each** although they currently sell for \$64.00 organella \$140! We also have a **Balance Smarter White Balance Target**. It works on one side with Canon digital cameras and on the opposite side with Nikon digital cameras. It can also function as a small white reflector. **Price \$15.**

On the FREE table are some items from Colin Smith and Photoshop Café.

The main raffle prize for this month is a **Lexar 64 GB 1066x speed compact flash card**. It writes at 155 MB/sec from the camera to the card. But wait, there's more... the winner also gets a **Lexar Professional USB 3.0 dual slot Reader**. These two items have a retail price around \$130. And yes, there may be more items for the raffle!

We meet on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at the **Burns Community Center** in Lakewood. Map is in the lower left quadrant. Doors will open 8:45 AM and the coffee will be ready.

See you then
Regards and God bless.
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