



You'd Better Read Me News

April 2017

It's April and the weather is definitely getting much warmer. The really good news is that our governor has declared the drought over for most of the state. So now the government is worrying about the amount of snowfall as it relates to the spring run-off. Yes, a lot of the state's reservoirs are filled to capacity and that's terrific. Does it mean we should start watering our sidewalks now? Of course not! Yes, it's springtime and April 15! Time for Spring Cleaning and Taxes.

That ties into our first speaker's topic: Backup of our Data. Our speaker is Lynette and she has researched the topic and knocked on a lot of software manufacturers' doors...! Should you should get any program and just perform a back-up? No! There are a few necessary operations and many simple options that will save you time and frustration later on, and Lynette will cover them. In addition, we will also have a media reseller to explain differences in types of external drives from HDD to SSD to RAID to NAS and who can explain more on the topic of longevity of those tools. Of course we have negotiated with the reseller to give us the best possible *ATX deals for back-up drives* at a cost savings. Lynette will demonstrate the back up steps and also the PRE back up steps so you can best back up for your particular needs. Back-ups are necessary and should never reside on the same drive as your start-up drive. In other words, you do not put your back-up on another partition of your startup drive. Hard drives and SSDs are reasonably inexpensive and reliable today - especially at this meeting!!! Lynette will cover the myriad of options from what to back up, where to back up to, and different types of back ups, like bootable, synchronized, cloud, incremental, and more to help you make a better decision about your own back up system. Additionally Lynette has contacted several software companies and has cost saving *coupons* and deals from several manufacturers to save you both time and money.

Our next subject is hopefully going to be a lot of fun. With the Fourth of July coming up in a few months - how about photographing fireworks? Additionally, some of us have tried to capture lightning strikes with our cameras. Like me, you probably have been unsuccessful. Some have tried just leaving the shutter open and that does not work either! When Lynette and I were at NANPA in Jacksonville, we happened upon a program called [Lightning Bug](#) and it showed how to capture lightning AND Fourth of July fireworks. They have a device that you hook up to your camera that really captures

lightning and the instructions show how to use the Lightning Bug to capture fireworks almost automatically. Lightning has a "tell" that I never knew until now. There is an instant of unseen infrared light that precedes the lightning. The lightning bug sees this light and it has a high speed photodiode sensor optimized to that infrared burst just before the lightning strike. Lightning occurs in about 200 milliseconds so that is faster than the normal human reaction. With Lightning Bug the camera starts its trigger cycle so the camera shutter is open when the lightning occurs. Thus you end up with pretty much the whole lightning strike. Sometimes the camera sees more than the human eye and some of the images from Lightning Bug show it. We have *struck a deal* with **mk** controls so you can get the Lightning Bug, along with a connector for your particular camera shipped *free* to you. You have to specify which camera you need the connector for. Their instruction [manual](#) is online here. The manual is quite complete and covers how to capture fireworks. We are lucky having Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm so close to practice with before the Fourth of July. Using a fireworks display as a part of your slide show can really bring attention to the kid in all of us. If you are ever asked how you got such great fireworks images, remember your answer: "*It's Magic*" and it truly is if you look at the technology packed into that little box on top of your camera. One warning notice that was quite prevalent throughout their manual - don't get too close to lightning, it can be fatal. The Lightning Bug warranty covers most problems, except operator error. I really enjoyed reading their user manual. So will you as it covers almost all possible uses of the product. This is one of those products that will take your photography to whole new level that most people only dream about. At \$179 it is a great product to use and amaze your audience.

We meet this coming Saturday, April 15 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Lakewood Masonic Building, 5918 East Parkcrest Street, Long Beach, CA 90808. The doors will open at 8:45 and the coffee will be brewed.

Regards & God Bless,
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