



You'd Better Read Me News

August 2014

This bulletin is being written in the last few days of July. As a number of you are aware, we have to hold ATX meetings at a new venue for at least six more months. The floor of our old meeting room is buckling and it appears that a new floor will require digging up the old floor, finding the source of the buckling, fixing it and installing a totally new floor. It appears that the senior citizen work-out area may or may not be affected. *The bottom line.* We have to find a new meeting place. With a short notice of only a few days, the City of Lakewood was scrambling to find us a new meeting room. Initially it appeared that we would be meeting in a couple of different buildings, and even the City agreed that would not be conducive to consistent attendance. Then our contact at City Hall came up with a suggestion that appears to fix the regularity of single meeting place. It is the [Weingart Senior Center](#) about 4 minutes west of the Burns Community Center. Go to the web site and input your address and you will see a map that will direct you to it. It is a little bit tricky in that there is no street sign on *Candlewood* telling you to make a left from *Candlewood* and perform an almost immediate left U turn and then turn right onto *Oliva* Ave. Give yourself a few extra minutes to get accustomed to the left turn, and another turn to get to the Weingart Senior Center. It's one of those directions that once you know it, you may ever forget it. Because they normally open at 8:30 AM on Saturday, they will be there for us at our normal 7:30 AM set-up time. So yes, the doors to the Center will be open and you will see signs leading you to our sign-up desk and yes, *the Kona coffee will be ready in our new Meeting room. NOT AT the senior's coffee cart out front.* Personally I like the new meeting room as it will allow us to elevate our screen much higher so there should be less craning of your neck to see the screen.

At the last Meeting I talked about how the meeting room will cost us 50% more each month. **Well I was wrong. It's going to cost us 65% more each month.** How much will this effect our \$10 meeting fee? We don't know and are going to try and hold the \$10 fee for as long as possible. In the meantime we are working on having an Adobe Camp for later this year and that event, if successful, may enable us to hold the line on our attendance fee for a long while. I still have to ask all of you, *name me something worthwhile that has not gone up in price since 1992.* As we have in the past, we anticipate having a selection of books and some items for sale on the tables. Unfortunately the book publishing business is not what it used to be and we are not getting as many books as we have in the past. We are still holding some items for our usual Christmas extravaganza.

This meeting will be of special interest to anyone who likes to take family pictures, especially outdoors in the summer. We have seen people and their quite interesting gyrations when they are trying to take any sort of image outdoors, especially with the sun shining. Do you have the sun behind the people or do you have them face the sun? Or should they face to the side so the sun is not shining into the camera? It is really confusing and then you have the "photographer" who states "*use the flash to take out the shadows*" and everyone's face is blown out! If you have everyone face the sun, *they are squinting*, if you have them face to the side, *only half of their face is visible*, if the sun is directly overhead, they all have "*raccoon eyes*" with dark shadows where their eyes normally are. If you have the sun behind them, their faces are all dark because the camera closes down the aperture because the sun is shining directly into the camera. ***What are you supposed to do?***

Those are questions that our own Kirk Grodske is going to help us answer. He will be using flash, both on camera and off camera and some inexpensive methods to cut down the light on your subject(s) and some tricks for using flash to diminish the facial shadows. We will also show a few slightly more expensive tools that will have multiple uses such as a reflective surface to flash over a large area for a portrait that can be used for a group shot, an umbrella and large soft box for both portraits or small groups. Bring a notebook to mark some down some distances and the approximate shutter speeds and apertures. Also learn to eyeball the distances of 5, 7.5, 10 and 15 feet from where you are standing ahead of the subject. Start with a tape measure and try and learn those distances without having to bring out the tape measure. Those are the usual distances that you will use. Learning those distances from your feet to the subjects will aid you tremendously with your people photography. And do bring your camera, any camera, the flash unit, and the instruction manuals for both. Our more seasoned photographers will also offer their tips and tricks. Come learn to use your flash and camera outdoors! And yes, we will raffle some cool lighting tools.

We meet Saturday, August 16, 2014. The doors to the meeting will open at our normal time of 8:45 AM. As I stated earlier, leave a little bit early as the route to get the Senior Center is mildly tricky. However once you get here, you will probably never forget the "trick" to getting here. Yes, the Kona coffee will be ready.

Regards and God Bless,

Rick Redfern

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