

You'd Better Read Me News

March 2015

I really was not aware that I was dyslexic or maybe not. The real date for the ATX meeting AND Piper Mackay's presentation is March 21st. Our daily routines have been totally off kilter since the Lynette's father's death and the almost daily trips to Her mother's side combined with me making almost daily trips to the hospital to get infusions of a drug to fight a serious infection I picked up. Actually I picked up three infections in my right shin, the place where my dermatologist removed a pre-cancerous growth and I picked up three bugs, two of which could fought with oral medications and for the third they had use a [PICC line](#). Okay, what is a PICC line? For those who are not familiar. A PICC line is method for you to receive a drug intravenously on a frequent basis. They insert a catheter into a vein between your elbow and shoulder. They feed a line into that vein and place the output catheter just before your heart on the input side. That way the PICC line distributes the fluid near your heart and it is distributed all throughout your system quite quickly. The line is usually bout 24 inches long and they check on the placement with an X-Ray to make sure it's properly positioned. So every day I had to be at the hospital to get my daily cocktail of this serious infection fighter. Then I took an oral pill that I call a "horse pill" that would not allow me to eat aged cheese or drink red wine. What? No aged cheese or red wine? Is this some form of new torture? Personally I think water boarding may be an easier thing to deal with! On Friday morning I went to my infectious disease doctor and she gave my nurse the okay to remove the PICC

line. Oh yes, the "horse pills" to fight the other two infections? I have to take these pills and eat some yogurt to offset some of the more serious side effects. Draw your own conclusions on this one. AND no working out during this time! Good thing this whole process is limited. Luckily I had to go into the room where really sick people get their cancer drugs before they arrive. I was usually out in about one and half hours. Luckily this whole process was only about two weeks long. When we meet on Saturday, the 21st, I may be wearing long pants to cover the large spot where I am putting another ointment on the original spot so it will heal more quickly. Enough medical stuff. Our speaker this month is [Piper Mackay](#). She has just arrived for a temporary visit as she has permanently moved to Kenya, Africa. Here is her [latest blog](#) where she writes about what she already misses the most about the US, including missing one of our own favorite places... Trader Joe's! Spend some time before the meeting so you can familiarize yourself with our speaker. That way you will have questions ready for her to answer during her talk and even start a whole new discussion. Yes, Piper organizes photo safaris to Africa. Now she lives there I feel that for any of you that have ever dreamed of going to Africa to experience the area AND take images, she is the ultimate go-to person. Now you can go to her [testimonials](#) and read for yourself. Are Lynette and I planning a time with her in Africa? Yes, and it may as soon as 2016 as we have already spent the budget for 2015! Another trip to Africa. I am looking forward to it and so might you

be planning for your first or subsequent trip to Africa. Does it sound like I am promoting Piper's safaris/ tours? Yes, I am. Having been on a photo safari already, we are ready for another one, specifically with Piper. Be prepared to get up early, probably very early. The animals are also getting up early as they do not have super markets for buying their next meal. Then during the mid day you may go out again as most of the animal preserves are closed by sundown. Depending upon when you go, sundown may be later than you are accustomed to, so sleep may not matter. The excitement of making images that knock your socks off and those of your viewers will make the loss of sleep well worth it. While you are looking at Piper's site wander over to her [FAQ](#) section and that may answer some questions that may still be wandering around in your mind. If Africa and particularly East Africa are on your bucket list, here is your opportunity to whet your photographic appetite and possibly take a trip of a lifetime with a photographer who knows the locations, knows the customs, the people and most of where to be at the best locations during the best times of day, so you can expand your photographic experience and knowledge. We meet on March 21st at 8:45 at the [Burns Community Center](#) in Lakewood, CA. The meeting will start at 9:00 AM. The doors open at 8:45 AM. Yes, we will have coffee. And we will have some books to buy at the tables, along with some items to add to your own skills and abilities. Also, future meetings are being planned as we speak. Our April 18th meeting will be with another long time ATX friend, Eric Joseph, who will show us what is new in papers and media for printing our images and how to determine which media will give specific types of images the absolute biggest impact. There

is a whole new genre in printing with desktop printers and achieving truly spectacular results. In May we will be showing how to get really close with macro photography, and in June we will have Michael Pliskin showing us how to get started with Lightroom. That appears to be the biggest stumbling block with using this program that many pros use for almost every image. Then on July 18, we are going to have a real treat - a special ATX meeting with Steven Johnson to show us what we can expect from large prints. In August, we will be having a special presenter. At the moment we are negotiating for a time that fits both of our schedules. NOTE: We are NOT having meetings in either September or October, 2015. So we start back in November on the 21st. We are also negotiating with a special all-day speaker for November. It promises to be a great one. Then comes our annual Christmas extravaganza that should be a great one again, [this year](#).

We meet next Saturday morning at 9:00 AM at the [Burns Community Center](#) in Lakewood, California. The doors will open at 8:45 AM. Yes, we will have a few items on the tables for purchase and some books for sale. Yes, the coffee will be brewing. As usual the fee will be \$10, the same it has been for the last twenty two years. What a deal. Name me something else that has remained the same price for over twenty years.

Regards,

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