Howdy folks and welcome that moose podcast #359
a professional is…?
I want to thank you folks for dropping by. I want to reach out to my friends in the Great White North up there in Canada who are dealing now in the northwest with some incredibly horrible fires around Yellowknife, as well as those folks over on the island. I mean, it's that wildfire stuff. It's scary as it can be. And well, if you can do anything to help any of these folks, I would encourage you do whatever you can, no matter how little you think it might be some time just letting people know you care to make a big difference. So I want to thank everybody for taking time to stop by. I really hope that what I have to offer does help you along as well in your photographic career. You guys have had some really great questions and emails this week, so I want to thank you for those correspondence. Couple of you. Yeah. Goes back a decade and it's great to hear from you again. So thank you so much. Once again, this is being recorded using Adobe Podcast Beta and the. Transcript will be on the blog post for this podcast. Coming up to a couple weeks now is Photoshop World. It's going to be online. Hopefully last time it's going to be online, but it's online. And I'll be there teaching two classes, one on. So you've done air show. What do you do next in aviation photography? The other one is using masking to finishing your story. New classes, new images, and really some new thoughts, new techniques, new gear. And I hope whether you're new to Photoshop World or what I have to offer or at all pro or anywhere between. Head to the links that you'll find there on my social media, on Instagram or on. Twitter, x, x, Twitter and threads. And I love to see you in class. It's going to be really, really great. I appreciate you with that. I've already signed up and reached out. I'm in the throngs and making these classes there can be really good. So just me saying so of course, but I think it could be great. So thanks. Also want to take my girlfriend's a Bedford camera Bedford dot com there also got the photo con coming up here in a month another great really great opportunity to socialize meet people get inspired energized they always have amazing show specials and but you're not you show up and say MOOC you're still going to see that discount after you pay the bills. So. Bedford, XCOM. Those folks are great. They support what we do and support the Moose podcast. So thank you ever so much. Let me get into this week's episode. A professional is. Starts off by going back, going back a ways. I was either a junior or senior in high school. Going to a Nikon event with my best friend, Roger. I know he's going to email me later on today to tell me if we were juniors, a seniors in high school. I don't remember. I remember I drove. That's about it. But yeah, this is a long time ago. I remember was a week's pay to get in. So to me back then it was a lot of money. And we drove down to Santa Ana. To your basic kind of. Photo seminar. Except for it wasn't it was pretty. This is pretty new stuff back there in the seventies and went into the conference room. This is the hotel and you walked in the door and at the back of the room was there's a higher huge wall, a slide projectors. For those who don't know what a slide projector is, it was a machine that if you had a carousel, you could either you could do 120 images, most of them, but only did 70. And I don't know, I remember how many projectors they had up against that wall. I want to say it was 16. I'm sure Roger emailed. Email me that his memory is so much better. That's why he was our best man at our wedding as well. Really great memory. Great guy. Anyway, you could hear them humming. You could see all the chords. You could see this big wall, you see this giant screen is basically going from wall to wall on the front and. Well, this is kind of, like I said, big deal back then. People weren't doing presentations every other day across the world and the room was packed. Just to give you a reference time. Reference the photograph on. The book that you were presented, you were given a lot of materials.

This is the days before the internet. So all materials were printed really nice. Nikon, as always, us. Oh, he's always done an amazing job and has never spare a dime in their printed materials. But the cover was a shot of the Saturn rocket taking off. Yeah, we're talking about Apollo days and the gear. The main gear back then was the F two. That's Foxtrot to the shot film. All right. I'll be honest. You know, I was wide eyed. Totally super, super green. At the point at that point in time, I believe I had just got myself to I'm not going to I might be so have been shooting not back then but we went in and we got our seat. We got all the materials, spirits and all good stuff and and they had that usual table of all those incredible Nikon piece of gear that just make you go, wow, especially if you're a high school student. And we were. There wasn't a whole lot of young people there. There were mostly older folks. And we got in the chairs and the first couple of images started to appear on the screen. And one of the presenters was a guy named Trevor Riaz. And and I'll always remember how he greeted us. Because after that, everything else was kind of a blur. Because the first thing he said just set my mind to spinning. It still does. And he asked the general question, What's your definition of a professional photographer? People, you know, a number of people said the usual and they make money from it, blah, blah, blah, have a client base, blah, blah, blah. Go to work everyday to take pictures, blah, blah, blah. And he said, you know, those are all very valid answers, very much the typical answers. But he said, my definition of a professional is. One who takes his photography seriously. And that just really just. Just like an ongoing rang my bell. Why did it ring my bell? What was it that. That really just kind of knocked me off? Why am I doing a podcast to tell you about this? There was a number of reasons. One, they get tired of seeing all these things, being professional technique, the professional technique, that pro pro quality pro. Yeah, just straight off the bat, it might. You know, I have adopted that definition, a professional one who takes it seriously to heart. So while those things too, then a lot of people push around that thing there are professional. But when I see one the quality of their product and to the consistency of that professional product, I'm like, Yeah, that's unprofessional. But more importantly, and this is really getting to the heart of it is that and I had a couple of emails again this week from folks. Heart goes out to them. But they basically were told. They should, just like I was when I first went to work for photographer that I should go back to carpentry because I wasn't a professional and these folks were, you know, were like. They were looking for, I guess for myself to say, no, no. That person who told you that was wrong, you are a professional. And I did. But I. I told them. In short email terms. Excuse me. That my definition of definition of professional. Is one who takes it seriously. And they all got back to me and they go, well. And a number of things were basically said, how does that work? And I told them, I said, the number of times that I have done a job. The very best I could with the best quality gear or the the best service, the best photographs. And the client was 100% satisfied that I didn't get paid for. Oh, there's a few of them. And understand that when I say adding it paid forms because I didn't ask for any pay. I didn't ask for any pay. I just did. Not one, but two jobs this past weekend. Two shoots. That. I didn't ask them to pay me. I returned the kindness and actually paid them in the fact that it was my gas, my time. And I still consider everything I did very professional in the way I prepared, the way I presented myself, the way that we conducted the shoots. Time spent, and most importantly, the consistency and quality. The images that got delivered. Now explain this to folks an email. As you know, emails have no there's no it's just black and white. You can't hear any inflection in any any of the words. You don't know if you know someone is being sarcastic or honest or. Or what.

And I'm here to frickin tell you, I'm being dead serious, honest that the vast majority of folks at that like yourself, who I have the honor and great fun to work with when it comes behind the camera. I consider you all to be professionals because you take it seriously. That doesn't mean you're not having fun, doesn't mean you're not feeling, doesn't mean you're not getting paid. It's not what it's about photography. Photography is so much about an attitude and a confidence that you know people. I don't know how this got started. Assume a professional photographer is really confident and never makes mistakes and everything comes out perfectly. It's like, Whoa, whoa, stop the train on this one. Because that's about as far fetched from reality as can be. Professionals can go down in flames just like an amateur. The only problem is amateurs, you know? They say, Yeah, I'm just amateur professionals. All these excuses come out, which initially tells you they're not really a professional, because if you take it seriously, it means you're going to pony up. When you say, I screwed up and you say I screwed up. But when it comes to improving your photography and that's for this podcast, you got to Believe US is all about, you know, my job here is to lead the horse to water. You've got to go the rest of the way and. I'm here to. Be your cheerleader. I'm here to give you what insights life's been good enough to share with me. That I can share with you so you can share your visual story. But it's really important to understand that what other specialty photographers say about you and your photography, you really have to learn to just take it the grain of salt just basically blow it off. Something that I was I've always been really bad at, really bad at. You have to. There's so many people looking to knock you down so they feel better. You've got to you've got to realize that it was my good friend. Roger has told me more than one occasion. Pioneers always have hurdles in their back. If you are that person who is going out all the time and shooting and sharing, you're not going to always hit a home run. There's times you're going to strike out. People are going to tell you both times, if they like, you're not well. You got a home run or you struck out. Ignore it is you got to go with what your gut tells you, what you feel inside you have accomplished. You're not accomplished, right? You do better. Or what you didn't do at all. So professionalism. It is a term that is used so loosely. I would encourage you not to use it. Just think about it. Put it in the back of your head. When you. When you have that. Passion that you want to go photograph, whatever that subject might be, that trip you're planning, maybe shooting that birthday party, that family party, that wedding, some professional event, something that you're getting paid for monetarily or just with a big thanks. Take it seriously. Do all your pre-planning. Do experiments with your camera, push the envelope. So when you show up to that event, you are putting your best foot forward. You are giving it a seriously your best effort. And if you do that. Whether you use the term or not, you are being a professional. And that is really. What photography's all about is putting that best foot forward and realize that the next day you probably take another step. You could probably be a little bit better. That means you'll be a little bit more professional the next day. If you take what you did the last day seriously. That's really what it's all about, folks. And if you do that with a big smile and you have fun. This profession will take you a long way in your lifetime. It's up to you completely. It's totally in your wheelhouse. How you want to make those clicks happen. I just want to encourage you to make those clicks and share those clicks. The world's a better place because of them. And because of you and your passion. You folks have a great week. Thanks for dropping by. And remember to make every click. Your story.