

Howdy. Howdy, folks. And you are good numbers. Podcast number 376. Sharp is not enough.

How are you folks doing this week? Oh, we're coming down to a week out of Christmas. A simple programing note. I always want to say that the podcast, but you know, it doesn't happen that often anyway, since next Monday is Christmas Day, the podcast will be on Tuesday. Fingers crossed. Well, it's been a great week. Great questions. I had a number of folks after my blog post about the deer kill on the property asking, well, what's happened? Well, I've learned a lot from it. It's amazing how. Just basically -£150 deer has got nothing in a heartbeat. The mean temperature got down to as low as seven while it was here and it's gone as high as 23. And you think with that, some of it would freeze and slow things down? No, no, no. Frozen meat didn't stop anything. The Cold Niggle, a couple of people ask because it was it's really cool did come back and it came back and I was able to photograph it from our morning room through the window. But yeah, no, it's, you know, it's, it's it's a distance off. But I did photograph it to break the jinx. The thing was one of the coyotes and that's the question was a one or more one of the coyotes kept coming back during the day. I saw it many times at night where I couldn't do anything about it. I thought about putting a game camera up with infrared just to get shots of it, but it came back a couple of times during the day, drove Maggie nuts, and it grabbed the head, which is kind of heavy. I've gone out there because there's Antlers segment. I collect the antlers at some point and actually pull the head and turn the whole carcass over, exposing a shoulder that had not been consumed, that brought some activity, brought the Golden Eagle back. And then after that, it's just a. For lack of better terms, melting back into the earth. It is an amazing process. I have seen the ermine a couple of times. It dashes in and out. It's kind of n in tall grass. You can see from the photos in the black post blog post. But the. Main scavengers, which is the magpies. They haven't been on out for days. It's been an amazing process. Jake said our son that I didn't keep putting out. See, just stick out some more carcasses and I have plenty of things to photograph. Yeah, no, we're not going to do that. Hey, but I want to thank you for the questions, and I do appreciate the season's greetings. Thank you, guys. It means a lot to hear those positive words and knowing that some of the trivia I put out there actually helps your photography, which is what it's all about. One of thank my good friends at Bedford Camara. Bedford Second, they they've been the sponsor for the podcast for many years now. They are. You know, they are just relentless in helping us move our photography forward, which is really what it's all about. They've got an amazing inventory. They've got great prices, great service. They've got the Nikon holiday specials going on right now. You got to watch out the time to get stuff on your Christmas wish list ordered and in your hands before next Monday are getting short. So there I guarantee you person is going to do everything they can to get to you in time. They've got it. And of course, they're the home of the moose discount. When you check out that 5%, that's real money back in your pocket. No matter the item, no matter the brand, no matter whatever that's there. So Bedford's dot com. Thank you, guys. And season's best to every single person that Bedford's this holiday season. Couple of people wish if I ask if I have a Christmas present wish. Nikon or camera gear wise. And one person said, And I'm not talking about the socks because you have a socks a bed for it's a really cool. Actually, I don't. Life is very, very good to us. And I was able to add the Z 640 C to the Gear locker and that was a biggie this last quarter And that pretty well rounds out what I what I might wish for. And of course, keep in mind that a new year is just around the corner. New tax year is just around the corner, so you never know. But right now I am sitting very happily with

what I've got. So let's get right into this episode. Sharp is not enough. I have to. I have to admit that there is probably nothing more rewarding than to receive an email from you folks and I get multiple. How you doing that silly, proper hand-holding practice. I keep talking about how it actually brings you those sharp results. I really am grateful to hear that because I mean, I didn't invent the technique. I'm just the one pass it along. But it does my heart good to hear that people actually hear it and actually practice and most importantly, see the results from it. But then, you know, I got to tell you, then I see a photo that is really sharp, just too blazingly tech sharp, but it's visually really boring. The light. Yeah. Not so good. And the elements. Awkward at best, but dang it, sharp. I mean, getting a sharp image is a huge challenge. It is a you know, and it is a criteria. You can't have an image out of focus, at least the subject, the subject's eye for critters and then, you know, getting that one that's not enough. You know, getting lots of images sharp consistently is even more of a challenge. Then you got to add to that. What doing all that good light and range the elements and get an exposure to communicate emotion and then tell that visual storytelling and still maintaining that sharpness. I mean, you got to wonder how we ever get a photograph to share. I mean, it's it is. That is it. And how can you not help but be confused in this process about sharpness? I mean, because I mean, you are led to believe by every clickbait thing you see on the web that if you own the sharpest lens ever. Or if you use this particular auto focus mode because this guy says it's going to get you sharp images, brother, that it's going to elevate your photography. You know, you're going to get that sharper image just from that process. Heck, you probably been led that, you know, get that down that road thinking you're going to get the best shot ever just by using proper handholding from what I say. Because, you know. Right, it came for me. But Pan, I mean, you hear me tell you about proper hand-holding along this test technique? I mean, surely that will make you the best photo ever. Right. And now. Oh, my gosh. And now. You can buy that software, that AI software that is going to assure that you're going to get famous because you're going to get the sharpest image ever. Using that software. Because. Right. That's what makes that's the final judge of photograph sharpness. Ball, Bucky. And that's the issue, because Sharp is not enough. And that is and that is the challenge. And I appreciate people sharing images with me. At the sharp end. They think it's a done deal. The bow has been tied. It's ready to be delivered. And it's not. So how do we get beyond that? Well, that is the biggie, because wrath of back sharpness is everything without it. But delete key, delete key. So that is kind of how you need to think about sharpness. It is or it isn't. If it's sharp, then you can go and say, Now, does it have this, that or the other? If it's not sharp, it's delete. Because just because you got a software like a make it sharp doesn't make it worth doing. Your time is still precious. The time you spend the computer is robbing you from the time to be out in the world with that camera capturing memories that you want to share. It's stealing your time. Don't let software do that to you. All right. So I know the questions coming. Ms.. So I get it sharp. Then what? Understand that sharpness has to be something that is done on a consistent basis. Consistent does not mean 100% every time you take a picture. It's tack sharp and that's an issue right off the bat. What is tax sharp? What's acceptable sharpness? What is not sharp enough? There is no web definition. There is no calculator. There is no visual scale. You just got to know. That's where printing comes in. That's number five. Other six other podcasts combined. Now. With that. Understood. The eye, the mind's eye first goes to light and bright. Number two is sharpness. So sharpness. Is not to be considered the entire image, not the vertical and horizontal axis multiplied together squared is not sharp. This

subject has to be sure because smack the viewer right between the eyes with a sharpness that's with the mind's eye is going to go to the second thing. If light and bright is right there of the subject, then they're going to see the subject. Now, how much sharpness you have before and after that focus point, that subject, that is up to you, the storyteller. What is also up to you is the way in which the light is playing off that subject. And is setting the stage for your subject, that background. And that's where sharpness actually takes kind of a backseat. Now there are going to be some photographs for. Yes, you're going to want to have everything in the photograph sharp. That's the way the story needs to be, tell. You want to tell it? But if you follow my images at all, you know, I'm quite the opposite. Very rarely do I close the lens down. It's almost always. Wide open. So then that background, that light, that exposure, I don't worry about that sharpness issue. I am simply looking at setting the stage for my star. My star is my subject. It has to be sharp. Not all of it, but the part that I want you to first lock on to. And that's probably the the hardest part sometimes for sharpness to sink in to photographers. What part of the subject should be sharp now but critters people. Eyeballs. Everything else. Boy, you know, aircraft you could have if it's in the air, it's it could be simply the front. If it's the engine, if it's a prop driven aircraft, if it's a jet, it could be the person in the cockpit. If it's a pass by, it could be a side of the plane more than the front or the cockpit. There are as it's photography, there are as many possibilities as you want to stick out there. But sharpness is not the only criteria which makes any of this. The photograph. And that is what I would love to see folks, photographers move forward. Okay. You've got to sharp. Okay. Pat yourself on the back now. Move on. That doesn't make it in itself an image worth sharing or bragging about or thinking you should be selling prints. It just means you've kind of ticked off the first thing on the list. And believe or not, sharpness is the bottom of the list. It's not the top. Sharpness is kind of like a given because of it's not it hits the trash can. So that's like the first thing that you say, okay, you're sharp. Now the rest of the checklist. And what's that checklist? Well, there is no actual physical checklist. I shouldn't say that. I bet you somebody is. Sadly put one out there that really isn't relevant. I mean, the web's got everything. But in my world, there is no checklists. You have to understand that you're telling a story and light and exposure are just this overwhelming, important, powerful part of it. We're sharpness basically almost doesn't even get on the same page of importance. And that's why you get understand that sharp is not enough. Well, you folks have a marvelous week. Have a great Christmas Eve. A great Christmas Day. Happy holidays to everybody who is not celebrating Christmas. You guys take care. Just great care. Love the one next to you. Respect all. And remember to make every click. Your story.