

Howdy Howdy folks and Happy New Year 2024
and welcome to Moose Podcast Number 378.

Gaining the Advantage.

How are you folks doing this? Five years have been good for you so far. Been pretty good here for us at the Homestead in Montana. I've been busy this last week grinding away. I literally got a new benchtop grinder for my kids. Christmas had had some projects, so I've actually had my nose to the grindstone. Yes. I've been waiting all week to say that. What can I tell you? I'm a week person. I trust you are having a great start of the New Year. Had a great holiday. Here we are. New times, new spirits. Let's take advantage of it. So this is going to be the 43rd. Recording of the podcast using Adobe Beta Podcast 0101 It's going to come out of beta. I also wonder when the transcript will be updated, but transcript will be available. It is on the blog post for the podcast. I appreciate you taking some time. Appreciate the feedback here for another year. Got great stuff coming. Speaking of great stuff. Well, I think my good friend or Bedford's camera bedford's dot com for sponsoring the Moose podcast for 2024. It's a great honor, a privilege to be associated with these fine folks and their I really treasure their belief and support of myself and the podcast. Now, this sounds kind of weird, but it's the truth. January is one of the slowest months for camera stores. And, you know, my good friends at Bedford, when that slow, they get into all sorts of mischief. So I want to ask you that this January, you help me keep them out of mischief. They've got some great stuff going on. Got some great, great product. They have some sales still going on from from the holiday season. And, you know, you're going to save money because you've got that moose discount after you check out. You've got the great service the already low prices. So let's let's make their January just still a little bit more busy because typically where they're feeling mischief the stuff that lands on my desk that I've got to do it well hey, I just I do it this year so head to Bedford's Bedford scams, keep them busy remember to mention you want the moose discount and thank them for sponsoring the podcast. Well, I want to get into this week's the first episode of the year, gaining the advantage. Now, you could take this in many different ways. You could think of, you know, gaining an advantage over your competition. And as you know, from listening to past. Podcasts. The only competition I, I always worry about is, is myself. Yeah, there's, there's friendly ones out there in the field. I'm shooting in friends, but that's, that's not business. That's just adding a little more spice to the fun of shooting. No, I talk about gaining the advantage. I'm talking about over being human. Yeah, that thing being human. Excuse me. Too much party for Chris for New Year's Eve, anyway. Gaining the advantage. How do we gain the advantage over being human? Well, I want to start off with something. I know it's going to be kind of the you could say, the norm for Moose, but that is just our personal technique. Now, one thing. I mean, I'm not gonna talk about proper hand-holding along this technique. I've talked about that quite a bit of late. I was going to talk about technique of pushing ourselves to learn more. One thing that I don't mention very often, if I've at all, unlike the podcast, is going through your images. That technique. Now, how do we gain the edge? By improving that technique. There's a lot of ways people do it. And of course, you've got to file your images in a logical way, just like you would put stuff away in a in a rat reg regular analog plain old filing cabinet. You need to put things away on your hard drive. That same basic idea got filed. Cabinet. You have drawers, each drawers organize. Let's talk about that. I'm talking about the actual process of going through the images that you just shot. So I'm phone mechanics centric, as you know, and if I'm going through a whole lot of images from a day. More than likely there's going to be a couple of cameras and I'm going to probably I don't reset the

folder every time I start shooting. So there's more than likely the folder will roll over, which means the image numbers will change. So in photo mechanic, you have a number of way of the images being displayed to you, the thumbnails. When I have a multiple images from the day, first images on a select capture time for the way which organizes. So the very first picture I see will be the first picture that I took that day and the last picture would be the last one. And that's how I would go through the images. That's the first thing. Next, I'm going to hit the FSN Foxtrot. That's going to fill the whole monitor with the image. And then I'm hit f foxtrot key again. So I don't see any information. I just see the just see the photograph. And that is because I want to focus in on how the biggest amount of information. To see sharpness, because what I do is I just hit the forward key. I have my my thumb on the forward key. I have index finger on the delete key and I go through those images as fast as I can and for a few times you'll feel awkward for you. It always does. But also you're going to see that the way you do it, that way you do it quickly, that the sharp images just pop out at you. You can't miss them, which means the other ones are what? Delete key. So I'm going go. And that's how I go through images so quickly. But now here's the key that I want you to think about for giving yourself the edge. As you go through those images. Couple of things will go through. You're going to your mind, you're going to go and look at the sharpness and look at this, that and the other element. And there's going to be a photograph that will come up guaranteed no matter who you are, where you are, you're shooting a journey. There you can go. I wonder if and that's when you get hit the command or control e is an echo key. If you have your photo mechanics set up like I have and there is a YouTube video explains all that we hit the controller or command e echo key you're the you can go into adobe camera and there is where you can then look down and say that what if follow that thread that question and then instantly say, well, in my example would be often I'm going to take a photograph and I push those highlights. You could say to the edge, I want to see as much into the shadows sometimes as the highlights. So then I go in Adobe Camera to see if I can pull down those highlights when I'm photographing like a landscape and I've got clouds. Did I lose too much detail in those clouds? Because I like to have clouds with as much black and as much white as I can in them. So I'll take that one image that going through for a mechanic, bringing in adobe camera and I'll check that and then I won't say anything. I'm just going to do a quick check, then I exit out. Don't say anything. Go back to photo mechanic, keep on working through those images. And it's just. It's just a way of helping my self or helping yourself. One, see if you captured in the camera all that you wanted to. If there's a path, it's easily to finish that image. And three, as you go through images, you can say, okay, this work. Keep these images or they didn't work. Delete, delete, delete. And that's just one simple way of giving yourself the advantage is to learn from your own photography. Doing at a quick or pace and a quicker pace helps the mind's eye see things. And then when you see those things being good, you actually remember them. And when it's bad or failure, you remember them, so you don't repeat them next time you see it in the viewfinder. Because normally when we're shooting, life happens really fast. So we see things quickly. When you're going through images on your computer, you start training your mind and your fingers in that forward and delete key you're going and training your mind to see those things quickly on the computer and in the viewfinder. And answer that one question. I know that that's coming up. I simply. Hit the delete key and the image goes right to the trashcan. If and it does happen, I delete something by mistake because I'm going so quickly. I just stop for a second, go to the trashcan and you just take that file that you want and use. Drag it back down into the

light table, a full mechanic and it's right back in order and just keep on going. So I don't ever, you know, it's not to the very end do I deleted everything and no, I don't make backups when I. Ingest images. I do wipe the card off with a hard format in the Z9 Z8. So if a worst case scenario and knock on wood, I've not had to do it. I had to rescue that card because of something that happened. I could and not have to go back through, you know, a couple of terabytes of images. And and yeah, I do it without a fear because I know no matter how bad I screw up because I screw up bad, the sun will come up tomorrow. So that's just the kind of the first thing giving you is gaining that edge on yourself. The next is your gear. The next is the gear. It's a good time. You've got limited daylight hours. It is the start of the new year. Gaining the edge can be as simple as cleaning out some of the gear. I know a couple of people, one I just talked to. So, you know, who are talking about have too much gear, point blank have too much gear. So then when you go to shoot, you have too many choices. And when you have too many choices, what happens? Most of time we stop. We stop and we think and we ponder and we question ourselves. And that is not a path to growth or getting the image. Now a real simple way in which to figure out. What gear? You shoot a lot with in gear you might want to literally sell move on to get gear you need is I go to what I call my gallery drive that has all my finished images. That's the ones that go out to clients and go on to the website and go out to, you know, this, that and the other publisher. So in there I, I can go to like, for example, I can go to my air to air images and go to my landscape or location images and go to my bird and click on that folder. Once it's populated, you can go to the filter tab. You do is with other programs as well. And you go and you show you, you know, for example, you can look at lenses and I'll show you the Z 604, you know, take LEDs or show me how many images I have there in that folder for the say birds. How many of those images were taken with that lens? So you can see in the very bottom left corner the total number images in that bird folder. Then you can look at that, the number for the 640 Zealands, for example, you see how many of the overall are taken with that particular lens. You do simple math, you see the percentage and you quickly you can figure out, okay, I've got this lens, I got that lens. Well, I don't really use it that much or Wow, I use it a lot more. I thought, it's a real simple way of tracking for yourself lenses that you use and lenses that you don't use, and with this information you can then delve even more. Do you use that lens a lot and do you like the results with this f stop or that f stop or this distance from the subject? You can look at your gear in that way. You can look simply at, wow, all of this, these landscape shots. I only take this number with a fisheye. You just keep on thinking through the differences. And if you're like really anal, like myself, I apologize for this. Sometimes I actually will make my life simple and I will take a screenshot of those numbers and then I'll sit there and write down a piece of paper and do the old analog way and looking at and I think it through. And that's why I have probably fewer lenses than you might think I have. You go to Muse's Gear Locker, you'll see. I just updated the the photograph of the gear in my in my working kit and it's, it's, it's actually down. It's not. It's down. So it's just something to think about. It's just a way of gaining the advantage, again, of being human and thinking about, hey, how can I improve as a photographer by making my life simpler? And when we make things simpler, we do gain an advantage. Last little thing I want to talk about. I wrote it down with a simple heading. Show no fear. Seriously. Show no fear. That's how you gain the advantage. Now, what am I talking about? Or how about something like photographing, you know, grizzly bears or Kodiak brown bears? There are so many really bad urban myths and. And so many people, and it's sad. Oh, aren't you scared, aren't you? You know, you

have guns, you have bears spray about. So no show, no fear. Could be part, you could say. It's not to be afraid of critters, because I'm not afraid of critters. And you should not be either. But I am thinking about show no fear to just take that step forward into the unknown. Totally the unknown. There are so many aspects of our world that we don't know. I mean, I'm always I always get a warm, gooey feeling inside. I take someone for the first time, does something they've never experienced, and they say, I just didn't know this existed. And they've got smiles and they've got photographs and they've been challenged. I mean, that's just one of the greatest things about photography and teaching, I think is, is, is to open the doors to something new to to a photographer. Show no fear when it comes to pushing down the button. I'm always amazed how many people have these cameras we have today and they have them on single. As in, you have to push the camera shutter button one time to take one picture, not that you're going to, you know, hold it down to take a gazillion, but they just have it set for one shot at a time. Now, there are many different schools of thought about this. And if you've listened to past podcasts, you know, I have practiced my touch, feel my show release. So even though it's on the Z9 zero or on continuous high, I can take just one shot or I can hold it down and just blast away to a camera, start smoking. Now, why would you want this? Well, there there is some times where the spray and pray technique is how you get a photograph. There are times when it's fine to just hit that hammer where, you know, single. I mean, why do people do single shots? Are you saving more batteries or card space or pixels? I mean, once you've bought all that stuff, right. So just a great example. John Krauss put out this really marvelous shooting, 20 frames per second burst of the Falcon nine lifting off, and he set himself up beautifully. He's a really talented photographer, set it up beautifully. So the Falcon nine is going in front of the moon. So even though it's stills, it is 20 frames per second. All right. And video is 25 frames per second. But if you look at this thing, you can see the Falcon nine going right up through the moon. It's just masterful. And since he was shooting ten frames per second, he picked what he felt would and I think is gorgeous this shot single shot of the rocket in front of the moon and that has that comes from showing no fear. You know you just you go for it. You go, oh, man, this is the possibility I can totally blow up in my face or it can be the most amazing thing I've ever done. So we show no fear. More than likely, you're going to find the answer out either side. The question. And boy, that's. That's the excitement that I want you to bring to your photography in 2024. You folks have a marvelous week. Hope to hear from you. Enjoy the beginning of the new year. And remember to make every click. Your story.