

Howdy. Howdy, folks. And welcome to Moose podcast number 385.

Camera maintenance after the fact.

How are you folks doing? Hey is another really marvelous week here in Montana. It seemed that Winter thought it would reappear. It's been a little cold, little damp, a little snowy. We needed desperately, I hope, in your neck of the woods where it happens to be that the weather is favorable and you've been getting out making them, the clicks happen. Had a number of folks on Twitter. I'm sorry. Calling it ex just you know. Yeah. Ain't going to work. So we all know time out when I say Twitter, even though you click on things, there's X. Anyway, a number of folks on Twitter. I've seen some really marvelous photographs and people ask me why. All of a sudden they see me reposting and and and supporting much more than I have in the past of other photographers. And they create a world that happens to go with my New Year's resolution that coming into the middle of February. She's already I am working hard to do so. You don't have to tag me or anything in your posts if you have a really clean shot and it doesn't look like it's been photoshopped and cropped and it's just a great shot guarantee. I'm going to let everybody know. I think it's a really great shot. Hey again, this is being recorded on the Adobe podcast Beta, which will crank out a transcript which will be linked in the blog post for the podcast. I have not checked, not heard, but iTunes was supposed to be doing that as well. So both of those options, both audio and transcript is available. There's no two weeks from now. Two weeks from now. I thought I was getting better about the calendar, but maybe not anyway. Two weeks from now. Jake and I and Sharon will be in Butte, Montana, at the Montana Aviation Conference Convention. We actually have a booth there. We're there for a number of days, and we're there for simply one reason to say hello to people and help all that we can. Now, I've heard from two folks, and I want to thank you both saying you're going to show up because even though you don't live in Montana, you wanted to see Montana. And there's a good reason and I tell you, I'm grateful to know that. So come on by. I will have copies of my book take off. People want to buy them, get autographed, so come on by. And as a really kind of esoteric note, we will have Jake and I will each day will have three new 24 by 30 prints in frames there, and the following day will replace them. So those prints that are being replaced, people can buy I'm an autograph and give them to you. Nice. 24 by 30 print aviation. So come on. Bye. Love it. Say hello. Shake your hand and talk. My favorite talk. The aviation photography. One thing, my good friends. A Bedford, Canberra, Bedford's dark calm. There is a really big Z8. I know it's not a sale. What is it? I guess a promotion going on. You can save some serious dinero. I mean, big time bucks, four digits. And then you add on to that, the 5% for the moose discount after you check out and we're talking some big bucks and Bedford's they've got the inventory, they got the grape prices, they got this service. And they're not just Nikon folks. Everybody else who shoots other brands, other equipment needs other things for for example, for flash work or cases or the upcoming eclipse. Fritz has all of it. And you just mention my name and you'd be surprised how the doors fly open even wider. You'll save some more money. So I think Bedford's for sponsoring the Moose podcast. Please do likewise. Not only will save you some money, but it lets Beveridge know that all their efforts don't go unnoticed. So thank you. Beverage dot com. So this week's episode, camera maintenance after the fact. Now, I've talked about how I take care of my camera gear. In fact, there is a at least one complete tell me one class on camera maintenance. There is a couple of YouTube videos that I put out and a number of posts, but I had a specific email from Tony this past week. Who asks, Is there something different? I do when I come back from a trip and or project. When it comes to dealing with my camera gear. And I said, you know, to myself,

self, I don't think I ever talked about that process. So now's a good time. All right. Camera care and maintenance. Keep in mind that what I'm about to tell you is probably not recommended by the manufacturer, and it's probably not truly necessary because I know a lot of people don't do any of these things and they still are able to go out and take some really marvelous pictures. But it's just the way that I was raised that, you know, when you got done in the day, all the pliers in the hammers and everything got put back in its proper spot, clean and ready to go. So the next time I grabbed it, it was just like it never had been used before. And I guess because of that, I developed what I do with my camera gear. And from there and worse, passed it on to Brett and Jake. And it's it's I do get quite a heart rub when I see they do the same thing. And it's it's. So what is it? Well. I take care of my gear so it takes care of me and knock on wood. I have never had any issue where my camera gear has gone down and I've been out of work. And that's that's really the essence of the whole process is dust. You call it the fear factor. You can call it prevention. You can call it being proactive or simply, you know, trying to be planned, looked. But I have to have my gear work for me when I'm out to work now. When I'm out shooting and understand whether I've been out for a day or a couple of days a week in or a whole week or longer. I kind of have the same regime. I do. So when I get home. Everything gets taken care of. And the next time I want to go out and I'm ready to go. And it all starts the night before I travel, the night before I go home. So let's just say let's go with the worst case scenario. That I have been somewhere to say must go was sacked. Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is. Well, we've we it's been down. We've had as low as -22. Neither one of those members cooler than that. It's a cold. Wet can be very wet environment. So we're going to go with the worst case scenario. So I've been shooting for a week. I'm out in the snow. Snow falling on the gear. I've been photographing to my heart's content. Greek Reales. I come back each night. I go through my basic daily regime when it comes to taking care of my gear, bringing it back to room, temperature, cleaning, it drying to make sure it clean, to dry it off after I get it to room temperature, clean the sensor, charge the batteries, wipe the cards, all the basics The next day when I go out, it's or it's ready to go. It's been doing that for the whole week. Then comes this to say Friday night because I'm flying home on Saturday. Well Friday night that's where I start my whole camera maintenance after the fact routine. So prior to actually getting on a plane the next morning and normally I start I get in the system as early in the day as I can. So I have everything ready to go before my head hits the pillow. So the current regime changes a little bit each time. So I'm going to be traveling with the Z 600 F4 Tse Tse mean teleporter has a built in intel converter. So the first thing I'm going to do is I'm going to take that bag gear out of the bag from shooting that day, do my usual maintenance. But a couple of things I'm going to add to it. First is that tug of war. There's a little lock switch. So you have a phone or two. Wait, a 640 Z. A 100 or 400? Any of the Nikon lenses has a built in Taguba. I'm going to lock that tail diverter into place so that the tail converter is not engaged. Now, when you lock it, you can't accidentally become engaged. Now, why do I do that? Because I was told to. And it's that simple. I was given a very polite and very firm advice that when I travel, lock the door, lock better into the not engaged position. So I've been doing that ever since. I don't understand the logic behind it. I can make a lot of assumptions, but you know what happens when you assume something? But I do that because I was advised to by someone who I totally trust. Okay. So thank you, Mike. That that advice. Next thing I do is I make sure that the batteries in all the cameras are charged 100% before I travel. Why do I do that? There's a number of reasons. It started off way back when? Way

back when, decades ago. And I was traveling back and forth days, actually, and I was not making sure that batteries charged. I had a flight that might remember specifically that goofed up. My luggage were separated from myself because of it. I got stuck overnight and then I had this great, great, great shooting opportunity and I had a dead battery, so I couldn't take advantage of it. And I'm like, This is really stupid. Why would I shoot myself in the foot? Well, you know, there's a reason why I shoot myself on foot. And I try to every time it happens, not to do it again. So before I ever leave the batteries for both. But all the bodies are with me. They're fully charged and the cards are wiped off. All the cards are wiped off. And they're on the computer. They've gone on the computer. They've been dealt where they put on the back up. So I have two copies. Boom. So I do that every time before I travel when I've been on assignment. Now, if I'm traveling from the home to someplace. The batteries are charged. The tug rover's locked in place. The car has already been wiped. So that's my basic, you know, camera maintenance before I leave. That's, you know, that's the basics. Then I get home. Once I get home, almost, Sharon will tell you, I make a beeline. I make a beeline to the office. I leave when I leave out on a project trip. I leave the counter where I put my camera gear cleared off because the first thing to do is I'm come home, I'm going to wash my hands and use soap. So they're decreased. There's nothing worse than hamburger grease from an airport diner being transferred to your camera here once you get home. That just disgusting. So my hands are washed in degrees, and then I take all the gear out of the camera bag. Now, as I mention in this scenario, I'm talking about coming back from Zimbabwe, really cold, snowy, wet. My gear at some point probably got wet. Probably had got damp. Even though I try, there's a possibility that some moisture got inside the camera bag and as I went from terminal to the plane to overhead terminal and home. That moisture from inside the bag could have gotten transferred to like the neoprene cover or something like that. So. In the worst case scenario, what I do is when I get back home, the gear comes out of the bag almost instantaneously and the bag is left open so air can get inside and get dried out. But more importantly, back to the gear. What I'm going to do and I could like I'm saying, it's the worst case scenario. The gear will come out of the bag and everything will be everything. So all the lenses, they will be laying horizontal, they won't be upended, they won't be standing, for example, on the the the rear lens cap. They won't be vertical sitting on the front landscape, they'll be horizontal. I take the caps off both the rear cap and their front cap and it's going to be horizontal on the counter camera bodies will be open. One of the things I love about the Z9 and Z eight is that the exhilarate. Curtain so you can take the lens off and dust is going to be piling into it on that sensor because no matter what happens, that sensor still has a minute electrical charge that can suck in dust. Or in my case, Maggie, for especially in this time of year and then again in the fall when she starts to shed. So. The curtains engage. So the cameras there with nothing on the lens mount. The lenses are horizontal, laying on the counter with the caps on both ends off. Why is that? Erica, move around. Even though, in theory and bastardry time, I'm sure it's the case everything inside should be 100% dry anyway. I'm just going to make 100% before I put anything away or get ready to go. It's done. So that stuff all be sitting out caps off in the office. Not indirect heat by any stretch of the imagination away from any kind of either. No, probably six or eight feet away from any kind of direct heating vent. And they're they'll sit they'll sit on that counter for a minimum of 24 hours, minimum monthly. It's it's more like 36 hours. I'll let them sit. Let's say I get home on a Saturday, the sit all day Sunday, and then sometime Monday afternoon I'll I'll clean it, clean the gear. And I'm just going

to let them come to room temperature and to the humidity that I have here in Montana. Let them sit. Now, let's say, for example, you live someplace really humid. Okay. There's lots of places in the United States that have a lot of humidity. Leaving yourself open. Like I just mentioned, we have a high humidity in the room is kind of fitting the purpose. So I actually do have I still use the dehumidifier cabinet that I did a video on years ago. If you live in a place like Florida, Texas or at the central, simple central U.S. and other places where the human get really crank up at times a year, I would have my gear horizontal inside that cabinet, so it dries out. And why do I do that? Just because. Just because now some of this, and I'll be really honest, is really old school of thought. That probably doesn't apply today. But back in the day. All mount lenses. Back in the days of film driving. A long, long, long time ago. The lubes inside of them were kind of organic and that organic lube could create. And would grow and support fungus on the elements. Now that is a long, long, long, long, long, long time ago disappeared. Our lenses aren't done that way. But I still work under basically, I guess you could say that far process. So no moisture in the air means no fungus can grow. And I haven't seen fungus on a lens for decades, but I still work on that premise. So then the gear dries out 24, 36 hours after that happens, then I actually go and clean the gear. Now, it's more than likely, 100% possible that when I pack the gear in my bag before I got on the plane the next morning, I'd already cleaned it. I get home and I clean it again. Is this being really incredibly anal? Yeah. Yeah, yeah, it really is. Do you need to do it? Probably not. But knock on wood, I've never had gear gone down on me and I have been with people whose gear has gone down on them. So it just. Like I tell you, Murphy's Law. I don't know. So after all that period, it dries out. I clean it. Now I clean it basically, like you see in the videos I talk about on the website with a couple, couple exceptions. When I come back from a trip that's more a couple of days. One thing I'll do is I'll pull that battery out of that battery chamber, let the chamber dry out. Then I make sure the contacts are clean. I'm going to take the. The basic drugstore. Q-Tip. I'm a poor one, drop of lens cleanser on it, and I'm using Q-Tip to clean out all the little crevices, like around the lens release button and around the between the top of the camera and the prism. I'm in clean out the the hot shoe. I'm going to make sure the actual EVF back viewfinder piece, it gets cleaned out and I use a number of Q-tips and I always look at that Q-Tip to see how dirty it is. Because even though I was really punctual and cleaning my gear at night, it still finds something. And then I'm going to make sure that all the contacts on the lens mount on the back of the lens are cleaned with a little drop of lens cleanse on a Q-Tip. And then let me do the same thing for inside the body, and then I'm out to make sure the the grip on the camera gets clean, specially the how do I scrub as the inside of the grip where your fingertips grab, you know, not so much where your palm hits, but on the inside I make sure all that gets cleaned up. I put a couple of drops of of lens cleanse on a clean white T-shirt and clean off that leather and you surprise what comes out, especially if you've been doing aviation. And then when this is all done. Well, yeah. I also I should mention the back rim of the rear lens cap, that plastic. I clean that off with one of the Q-tips I've used elsewhere on the camera body and clean off any fine debris that's created from the friction of the lens cap going on the back, the lens. And I clean that out. I blow out, blow out, blow, blow out the rear lens cap because that plastic has static, it collects dust. I clean all that out and I put everything back and everything goes back into that humidifier cabinet. It sits in there till really until I'm ready to grab gear, go out the door for the next assignment. And that's basically that's pretty much everything really when it comes to keeping it camera maintenance after

the fact. So I hope that answers the question and I hope that helps you these tools that we we love, we spend time and money on and make our dreams come true with. Need some TLC and it's up to us to give it to them. You folks have a marvelous week. Can't thank you enough for spending some time with me. And remember to make every click. Your story.