

Howdy howdy!

How are you, folks? And welcome to Moose podcast number 389

Catching Up on Spring Questions.

Hope you folks have had a great week. Yeah, spring keeps coming. We've got at least one pair of white breasted nuthatches already in a box. I don't know what they're doing in there, but I think at some spring hankie. Panky, I hope you're out there watching, looking for opportunities, making those clicks and sharing those photographs. I appreciate you spending more time with me this week. It means a lot to me. So thanks so much. You might have noticed this past week that there was another booze podcast. Yet it wasn't a MUS podcast, but it was mus on a podcast. I want to thank my good friend Tom over there at Camera Cafe where it was just a great experience talking with Tom. You know, the one thing that just I'm I just count our blessings for and totally amazed by is this this rural photography is. An incredible world in the fact that I was able to have this great conversation with this really gracious German over across the pond. And you guys get to listen in. I mean, it's just amazing. So thanks, Tom. I really appreciate and humbled by the opportunity. I want to say this is still being the podcast being called by Adobe. Now, according to stats, this podcast will put you over 1000 minutes, 1000 minutes using the Adobe Podcast Beta. So you guys are reporting that it sounds good. And that's really what matters to me because it is I being driven as far as the the mixing and the sound quality and of course, the transcript which is being generated, which you will find there at the blog post for the podcast. I want to thank my good friends of Bedford Camera, Bedford Seacom getting closer and closer to that. Eclipse. This is the headquarters for all that stuff. Filters and bodies and lenses and knowledge and all the things you need to record. The Eclipse. What? Another great, great natural moment we get to share and joy through photography as well as everything else that you want to do with whatever genre. Spinning your wheels. Bedford's guidance service prices. Great, folks, and it is the home of the moose discount. So I want to thank Bedford Camra for continuing to support the podcast. They've done it for so many years. They're such gracious people. Bedford Scott, thank you ever so much. Well, we get into these questions and boy. They were piling up, folks. Yikes. So I got a couple of people who. Would rather have said they'd rather have their name associated with the question. I'm not sure how a first name is incriminating to people, but just to stay on the side of PC where I seem to have a hard time treading, I'm not going to say who's asked the questions anymore. You will have to listen and and you will know if it was you. So I guess I'm going to go with all these questions, have lots of people asking them. So I'm not going to go in any particular order, just other than I wrote them down. One said many folks my questions was basically the z18 is 600 versus the Z 606 three. What are my thoughts? At this point, I can give you some some actual honest feedback. I really think both these lenses are really sweet lenses. So sweet. Jake got our suns. Got the one 8600. And I got to play with his lens. I'm here to tell you, I'm really I'm flabbergasted how cool that lens is. And he had very specific reasons for having it, which I think are are really valid. He does a lot of fly fishing and he is in the field and doesn't want a lot of weight. He wants to be able to cast that rod. And he does it so well. Got his gun flying past my abilities. Anyway, that one 8600 is gives him that ability, but gives him that reach because he sees all these cool things, minks and moose and stuff where he's out there fly fishing and it's. It's. It's small. It's light. Yeah, it's sharp. Where I've stopped. What difference does it make? I mean, in this day and age, really, everybody's just going to crank up the ISO. So other than depth of focus, it's irrelevant, it seems like, anymore. And he also does a lot of aviation, does it really well.

And that that that lens got my attention that one 8600 I'm currently using the Z 445 for ground air photography. I kind of like the idea that one eight is 600 range, so I'm considering it. Now the other lens is 663. That's another really nice small 600 millimeter lens. And I compare these both to the Z 640 C, which is my big lens, main shooting lens. And yeah, these are very small compared to that physically and weight wise. So when it comes to comparing the two, I got to be honest with you. If you're asking me which one you should get, I don't have that answer. You have to look at sincerely your photographic. Needs and wants and how you want to tell that story. That's really the important and most relevant factor into which lens to get. For me personally, I can recommend either lens to you. Hands down. No issues are one thing to tell you. And I've had a number of people I shouldn't say never. A handful people have said they've had sharpness issues with both lenses. And I only investigated one case as one person I knew. And the problem wasn't the lens I know. Hard to believe, right? It was the photographer. You get out to 600. Mm. You gotta remember, your angle of you is just like nothing and just a hair of movement. It will be out of focus. And that's not the lenses fault. That is the person giving that lens stability to be sharp. So I don't see any sharpness issues. I do see photographers need to practice their techniques and getting back to the basics is really kind of important that's going to be there. We're going to talk about that this year a lot. So hope that helps. Next question. It was really yesterday and it came in a key. I got a couple of a number of questions based on on wildlife photography. This is the first do I use Merlin bird I.D.? Now, for those who don't know what Merlin bird I.D. is, it is a free app that is available for any smart device. I have it on my iPhone. And if you're in the birding world, you know that it's actually a slight controversial app because birders are some individuals I should say, not birders, but some individuals are using just the the sound as a sound I.D. strictly to do their birding. They're not doing anything by visual. I'm not going to get into that kind of controversy. But when it comes to answer a question, do I use Merlin Bird ID? I do use the sound ID. I actually use it probably more at the ranch than other places, and I use it the ranch, to be honest with you, especially like right now, the pines skins are just thick in the trees and their course kind of drowns out a lot of things, like the Hammond Flycatcher, which has such a soft, little sweet call that if I don't have Merlin ID, I'm often not going to see it and then I'm not looking for it. And that's probably the biggest thing. Merlin ID I do use the sound ID because there's lots of things going on and there are times where like I just mentioned all the Siskin that are going on, but I don't want to photograph citizens. I want to photograph perhaps that flycatcher. That's one of the main reasons or main ways I use Merlin ID now. It also has a photo ID component and that photo ID component. I've used it a couple of times. You have to apply some logic to it. You just can't take it at face value. I use it often. When I'm photographing a mixed species gull flock, let's say there's in there, there's some lesser black back and some laughing, some other kind of galls in there and galls like bald eagles They take a number like four years for the to have adult plumage. And until they have adult plumage, they can be just a real pain in the neck to ID. So I've used Merlin I photo ID for that. So the quick answer is yes, I do use Merlin for murder, but I do use Merlin bird I.D. in those ways. And I think it's a great tool and it helps. All the knowledge you can get in photography no matter what it's about, is going to make you a better photographer. Kind of leads me to the next question. How important is it to be a birder? And I'm summarizing a number of emails. And the heart of the question is, do you have to be a a birder or a really good birder to be a really good bird photographer? The answer is yes and no and no and yes. It goes back

to what I mentioned a number of times, that very first writing lesson we had where our English teacher said to write about a subject, you need to know about a subject that is that makes you a better photographer when you know about the subject better. But when you start out, I when I started out, I knew birds had wings and a bill and things like that. But the nuances between downy woodpecker and a hairy woodpecker, especially when you see them. On your monitor and not in real life because the down is much smaller, it spill is smaller. You start growing about birds, you start noticing those things. Or unless your legs are greater, your legs, you start seeing it. But on the monitor for some of that stuff, harder, hard to just call up. So. Is it important to be a birder? I would say generally no. It is important to have field ethics. It's important not to stress that subject is important that when you're done photographing that subject, it can go about its life and you've not impacted its goal of survival. Now, if you can do that without being a birder, that works. The thing is, there are some critters out there that are. They're real precise. You know, they just don't want to be messed with, for lack of better terms. And the more you do with that subject, which birding brings into into light, the better you'll be at that. The other thing about when you are a true birder, not as my good friend Roger Troy Pearson would call a ticker, but you're really into bird biology. There's a lot of things that you can. You never know everything. We don't have all the answers. We have really good assumptions. We have some really strong lines that we can take investigation. But the more you understand that basic biology, the better you are at storytelling and the better you are at storytelling, the better you are as a photographer. So how important is to be a birder? I don't know. A way of scaling how important it is. It is that when you know the subject, you can photograph the subject. Question that comes in. I had I had over 100 emails, questions just about this one simple topic, the Z eight or the Z nine And a Z8 now has firmware 2.0 which really lights up that that that body. And I'm here to tell you. If you don't need built in GPS and the ability to log your points. And you're not shooting a ton of video. The Z8 is the way to go. Point blank. Simple. Smaller ways last. Costless does a great job. The Z8 just does a great job. If you're going to shoot a lot of video and that's quantified, let's say, 50% of what your content creation is video and you do need that GPS and GPS logging. Then the z9 is it. And that is for myself the only delineation between which battery and camera body I'm going to grab out of the bag. Now, there's there's one other thing which is totally irrelevant to the picture making process, and that is just the psyche feel. Of the rig that you're using. For example, the Z 604 TSI works perfectly with both body Z8 or Z9, but for myself it's always going to be the Z nine. I just like the look of it, the romance of it, the feel of it. It has nothing to do with image creation. It's just a mind thing. And that's that's that's it. And I love the Z nine. It is it is my primary body. I love the Z, but it is not my primary body. It is my second body. Now for yourself. Seriously, that criteria bear exception shooting video GPS. If you could say yes to one or no to the other, then that to me is how you determine where you get a Zeta Z9 and with firmware 2.0 that Z8 is a rocket ship. So I'm saving kind of boy. I'm going into time to save what was really the big question of this period. And I was I couldn't find what started it. But the the summer all up I got a lot of emails. And the gist is my photos are getting no likes on social. Clients are not calling after all I'm posting on social the photographs help. Wow. I thought about doing a whole podcast on this, and then I thought, you know, to be honest with you, the help that I can provide. Is it? Pod cap casts, length kind of help. There's a couple of things going on here. And the first is the likes. Yeah. You've got to understand that you have no control over those likes. You can post a gazillion photographs and

depending on a whole lot of factors which you have nothing no say in your pictures might not ever get sent out. One of my biggest frustrations as a personal user is those people who I want to follow on on the various social media streams. They won't let me see them. I mean, I want to see every post by Tim Wallace and those suckers. I don't get to see every post from my good friend and really great photographer and really great wisdom. Smart guy, Tim Wallace. I have to go looking for him. I literally search for his name to see all his posts because those suckers, those different social threads say, yeah, you don't really want to see all of them, even though you follow them. You don't really want to see them on. I really do. So you're not getting all the likes you think you should get. It's probably because you're images aren't going to all the people you think they should, which could be clients. But here's the other part of this coin. At least the clients that I work with and ideal with and an idea with such a small fraction of them on this planet. I don't think it even gets past three zeros after the decimal point is such a small fraction. But those who I deal and talk to, they don't go to the web. They don't go to social media looking for photographs. They still don't. Now, that is slowly changing. It used to be absolutely zero. Now there is a very small percentage out there, the younger ones who who do that. But, yeah, it's. It's like crickets. So. My word of advice is. Don't even. Give it a second thought about you're not getting the likes you think you should and the client's not calling. You need to call the clients. Point blank. Bottom line, you have to go out there and say, Hey, I'm here, I'm a nice person and I've got some great photographs. I have stories to tell. Let's work together. You'd be surprised. How about just upfront? Point blank? Confidence. And of course, you've got to remember, you've got to have the photographs to back up that confidence. You'll get the business. Well, I hope that I have helped you folks with the catching up on some of these spring questions. I really appreciate you guys reaching out and I appreciate all the kind words you folks have a marvelous week. And remember to make every click your story.