

Howdy. Howdy, folks, and welcome the Moose Podcast number 392

Preparing for the Unknown.

How are you folks doing? I hope you're all safe and well. What a crazy week of weather. Wow. It's got. You know, I grew up with certain things happening each time of the year in certain ways. Not that it was carved in stone, but this craziness, I tell you, for this old guy and all this change, it can be befuddling. But there is some there is some crazy stuff going on out there. And I hope you and yours are safe and sound. And I appreciate you spending a little bit more time with me or higher on the Moose podcast. Yeah. Number 392. I it's wow. It's it's amazing how many of these that have been put out there and you folks listen to. So I'm very grateful. Hey, I've had a number of emails and questions. Ask me my thoughts on something that I got to be honest with. You really isn't in my wheelhouse house, but I'm really very excited about. And that's the fact that Nikon has acquired Red, the video company. I do shoe video, but it's not the main component. But I am well aware of red and what those cameras do. I have been on set with them and. And they are impressive and. Very imaginative group of engineers and technicians behind red soda combined. Those two companies, to me it seems like a natural and I remember having a conversation with some folks a number of years ago kind of like, Wouldn't it be cool if and now it's happened? So other than that, I don't know anything other than that. But I think it's really cool and very exciting. Very exciting. Had a number of questions about the new 22 400 Zoom from Nikon. Also, very cool, very exciting. I don't know what I'm going to do. I haven't seen it yet. I haven't heard anything about it yet from anybody that I trust their opinion about for the lens. So I don't have any thoughts about that. Recurring questions about the 182 600. Jake got one and really likes it. And I just had another opportunity to to actually do a little, little time. He brought it with him and I was able to shoot there for a while. It's a very cool lens. It might just end up in the gear locker for sure. I could see some things where that be there be a great tool. So yeah, I think keep changing, evolving and all for the better. Get us out of shooting. And and I tell you, some new folks have been sharing some great images. So thanks for for that. Hey, I want to thank also my good friends at Bedford camera Bedford's dot com now. They've got the photo expo coming up, which is just pure Bedford's camera, where it's just a gathering of of a lot of talent, a lot of gear, a lot of inspiration, a lot of learning. And for a couple of days there in Little Rock, just having a grand time celebrating photography. But again, that's what they do almost every day at the store. Now, Bedford's dot.com. Has a whole lot of stores. Did you know that all stores, except for one, I think is in the path of the solar eclipse coming up. In fact, it would be today, huh? You might be happy right now, huh? Come think about it anyway. If you haven't got your supplies, you need help for that? I don't know. Maybe it is too late. I don't know. But Bedford's would be the place to get it, as well as everything else. Photography. And just to be clear, everything else. Photography, everything at Bedford's, when you mention Moose, you're going to see that discount if you check out here. And if you're Yukon up or going through the website, over \$100 free shipping. So Bedford's dot com is the place for the gear, the imagery, the knowledge and the service and the price. And when you do remember, thank them for sponsoring the Moose podcast. Well, preparing for the unknown. I had a number of you folks reach out and asked, you know, they saw my Instagram posts or what I put on the website about my recent journey down to Costa Rica. And they asked. Yeah. It seemed like he had been there before, Moose. How did you know what to take, what to do, how to maximize your time? I had a number of folks on the same vein. Said they have never traveled to photograph solar eclipse. I tell you now, I've said it out loud. I'm wondering if it is happening right this

moment. I'm occupied. I can't go Google, see what the time is. I'm in Montana, but I'm curious. Anyway, they said they'd never done that before. How do you how do you how does one go about preparing for the unknown? Well. Here's the thing. You can't really prepare for the unknown per say, but you can prepare for the known. Right. And what's the known? The known is you and your camera gear. And what it takes for you to have fun, to be comfortable. That's kind of how I go about preparing for the unknown. So, for example, the gear is important, but I, I tend to start by thinking about more when I go out to do something, especially going someplace that's new and. That's something that people have a hard time fathoming is that I go out to new places and explore. Still, I remember now a couple of months ago on a one of our our adventures and one of the persons was there and he was just he was just totally befuddled that I was going someplace new. And it's like, wow, I don't know to tell you. But there's a gazillion places on this planet that I've not been to yet that still, you know, intrigued the bejesus out of me. Like, I'm looking at going in Iceland, which I never thought I would do. But there is a there is a good chance I'll be doing that in 2026. So preparing for the unknown, I start with myself and kind of start from the ground up. Now I will do and I will use the web to some extent. But here's the first and most important thing. I know I'm a little weird about this, but I don't trust everything I read on the web. Yeah, I. There are things out there. There's just, like, what? You know, so. First thing I check out is what's the weather like? And. As you and I both know right now, that weather prediction is kind of. Well, it's kind of gotten a little whacked. And what I learned this last week about how they've got a guy involved, I understand how weather predictions gotten a bit whacked when it puts six fingers on people's hands and some other things. So I look at the weather and I actually look at the last ten years. I there's a number of places you can search. You can see for certain periods of time over the last ten years what the trend has been for that location. And I'm going to look at that. Why is that important? Well, it's a couple of things. So you have he. You have called it everything in between. Now, if you go into place, some place is going to be cold. It is essential that you are prepared to deal with that cold, not to stay warm, able to function with your camera here because everything we do is going to be based on taking photographs. It was going to be hot. I mean, do the same thing now. I have no problems with cold heat. If it's a quote unquote dry heat doesn't bother me. Poor boy. When it's a wet heat or humid like Costa Rica. Yeah. Then, you know, I start I think about all those things. And based on that information, I, I. Pen and paper. I make a list and that's one of the main things I do when it comes to preparing for the unknown is I make a list and what do I think I need? Do I need heated gloves or any sunblock? Do I need a couple pairs of socks per day or one per day? I mean, I go and I make a list of all those sort of things. And once I am satisfied that that I personally can function, I've got the shoes and everything up else to do, you know from wool and cap to wide brimmed hat, I make sure I have all those things for myself based on the weather. And it's from there I started thinking about camera gear. Now. Preparing for the unknown. And I only speak for myself here when I'm going to a location specially for the first time. Let me use Costa Rica because that's fresh in my mind. I'm going prep for one thing. Okay, I have there's a target I'm going for. So in comes a camera gear. I'm going to have the gear for that target. But you've got to remember the thing that I've learned forever, that just because I show up doesn't mean the critters are going to show up. And being skunked is something that is that is part of the process. And I got to tell you, it happens quite a bit even today, more and more, because the great migrations, the great fallout places, they still happen, but not the same quantities. You got to prepare for the fact that. If you're

going someplace, you've been there a hundred times, you got to realize that you're going for a target subject to photograph. There's a real possibility it won't be there. So in this case, I went to Costa Rica for hummingbirds and we went to Rancho Naturaliste, which is a gorgeous location. It's kind of surrounded by a lot of wiped out habitat. So what they have preserved on their on their hillside is a treasure trove for the birds and Hummers. And they are known for one specific, the snow cap, which was so so my target now hummingbirds. Now snow cap, second smallest on the planet. You'd be the smallest of it. You took the tail off and it doesn't have much of a tail. So it's a smaller guy by the size, your fingertip or your pinky a little bit bigger, really small. So that was my main target. Now knowing the physical size. Knowing how crazy hummingbirds can be, how to think about lenses. They had to think about light. So those are the two things are really important for Hummingbird. You've got to get them big enough in the frame so that people can see them. You got to have enough working distance so they just don't go out and run off into the forest. And then you got to realize you are working in a darker world and they are made to reflect light. And if you're in under a canopy, you don't have that much direct light to reflect. So then you're dark. You've got to bring in light for all that color because they're reflecting color. So in preparing for the unknown, you've got to decide what your subject is. I'm heading to the shore a lot, so when I head to the seashore, I'm going for shorebirds. Make sense, right? Seashore shorebirds. Okay. That means I need to take my frisbee and panning play mean down low where working with the hummingbirds total it's kind of different extreme the humid rainforest. I'm going to shoot with a 400 with two pro photos. I'm going to get to that working distance. And then I'm going to. Have those two flashes out there. That's what's bringing out the color. You looked at my Instagram feed for last week, kind of celebrated the hummingbirds there that I photographed in Costa Rica. You can go to mus pearson dot com, go to the bottom to my gallery. And I posted about, I guess, 5055 photographs from our Costa Rican trip. You can see all the different varieties I photographed with that same basic rig. So I went prepared. For what I know and can do so I can photograph the unknown. And the same thing when I went down to do shorebirds. In that case, I took I had the Z 604 and I have the 1.4 or two X. I can add to the external side as well as the one built in. So in those scenarios I had just the one lens and rig panning, played frisbee for the shorebirds hummingbird rig, the dual flashes, 400 for hummingbirds. And that was the main thing that I had to make sure I got to that location. So in preparing for the unknown, I went for the one thing that I knew I wanted to photograph not guaranteed is going to. And that's what I prep for those i, i, i. And back at the homestead I am making sure that all those things are working. And before I leave, like the hammer rig, I set up all the, the arms, the brackets, the flashes, the connect to make sure they're working. They're shooting their charge. So that's. That's who I'm putting all my eggs in the basket. Same thing if I go relocation the whatever the prime rig I'm going to use, that's the one that's really got to get there. So then preparing for the unknown. I'm going to go and photograph hummingbirds. Little dudes with a rainforest has other birds. Right? So I don't want to ignore them. In fact, I kind of want to photograph them because it's a new challenge. Well, how do you go prepared for that? Total unknown for for birds. You don't even know their names. You've never seen them before. I went down there and I saw 64 new species. New life was for me, photographed 38 of them. So means there's a lot of birds. A photograph I've never photographed before. Well, that process for myself. And you've got to always turn all this stuff into you and your own photography. If I'm photographing birds, I'm going to have the 600 Z. 600 is my bird. That's

so. I went to Costa Rica literally with just three lenses and that was it. The 400. The 600. And then my my I made general purpose lens for landscapes and people and stuff. And the Z 24 120. That was it. I didn't have anything else. Now I'm going to go do birds. Sure. Believe or not, the kid's not going to change. I mean, the six hour will be the prime. I have my 400 days. I go after some birds and flight. I won't have the humming, the flashes and stuff. And then I'll have the 20 for one, 20 for the rest of the the idols kind of shooting. Now, if I want to do landscapes, the whole thing will change. I won't have the 600, I'll have a semi 200. I mean, every time I'm go somewhere I'm a change that kid. And that's based on on a myself in the story I want to tell. And that's how you should go about it as well. So don't think of it and approach it as preparing for the unknown. Think of it as working with the known what you like to do and what you want to come back with. And just go with child's wonder. Wide open. Let it come in. Work the scenario. Now, as long as you are physically comfortable, you'll have a great time and you'll come back with images. That's that's what's important. Now a one email. He said, How do I, you know, prepare for going to the unknown and coming back with the image? Well. The image, if we could say, I'm going to go, I'm a go climb Mount Everest. Those days were long past and I'm going to go to the top and I want and I'm going to get the image. You're asking too much from yourself and from photography and from life. If the image presents itself and you are present at that moment to take it, you've got to count your blessings. And even if you don't come back with that photograph, it is going to be exposed on the thin emotion of your mind. And that's a pretty powerful thing to bring with you and have for the rest of your life. But don't ever put that kind of pressure when you're going somewhere thinking. That you're going to come back with the photograph of a lifetime, that it does happen, but something you can't prep for and something that you should not expect You go back and record the memories, all that you have, and you will come back a rich photographer. You folks have a marvelous week. Got to go see if that solar eclipse is going on. It's driving me nuts. I hope if view. There you see it with clear skies. 4 minutes of magic. Hey. And remember to make every click. Your story.