

Moose Podcast #410

Moose Peterson Howdy. Howdy, folks. And welcome to Moos podcast number 410. A Blank Slate. Trust you guys are doing well. Had a excellent week. I saw a number of you this past week, even though it was via the computer monitor. Did a couple more zoom presentations. Somebody asked, How do you find out about that? That's the most the time. They are camera clubs that have invited me in. So you have to be a member of that club, I think. No one's ever said outright. And I have to be honest, I haven't thought about asking, can others just come in? But I think, you know, the clubs because their members pay dues, they just don't like collect guests come in unless they invite them. But I appreciate those that were at those. Online events for saying hello and your well-wishes. So thank you, guys. Well, here we are in the second week of August. Thunderstorms are still rolling through. My ops is going crazy. Luckily, knock on wood, all the the fires, the spot fires that have started the. Smokejumpers and the crews have put them out. So God bless you guys for, you know, being out there and doing what you do, risking literally sometimes your life to protect our properties and our lives. So thank you. Very grateful. The the weather has done a number on my photography and the other side. I had two air to air missions this past week that were long planned. Long planned. Both got scrubbed because of the the storms, which is just the way it goes. That's part of, you know, wiping off that slate. But hey, another week, more program progress and more to do. Just everybody understands the podcast is seen in many places or heard of many plays, I should say Spotify, etc. But it's always every month or every week posted on the website. There is a blog post for the podcast and there's a podcast archive which has everything from the very first podcasts which you listen to it. It's good for a laugh to the current one. So all that is there as well as the transcript for the last whatever has been six, eight months since the podcast Beta has been making them available. I'd be grateful if you have the opportunity to spread the word. You know, it's interesting to look at the trends for podcasts, not just the Moves podcast, but all podcasts. And they kind of go up and down and it's you know, there's always those who say it's the end of, you know, like I remember the in the end of print in magazines back when iMacs are showing up. Well, we know what happened there, and I think podcasts will continue to flourish. But I appreciate your support in spreading the word about the Moves podcast. I want to thank you, folks. Many of you reached out on my bear, the documentary Land of the Giants. Appreciate you going by watching it. Some of you have been kind enough to watch it twice. It's yes, it's not it's not a normal documentary. It's it's it's a short look at a week of the life of Kodiak Brown Bears in spring May they come to the flats after they emerge from their. Dense. It's a special world. And I. It means a lot to me to be able to bring it to you and even more that you go and watch it. Thanks ever so much. I will be and Arizona next month and Oregon in November doing a number of presentations live in person. Hey, if you get the opportunity, come on by. Love to say hello to you. Shake your hand. Ask your questions. So those. Soon as I have the information, I will get it posted on my website that I can advertise it. And we have our adventures. It's cranking up again. I'll be in Monument Valley next week on the what I think is the first adventure for the fall season. I know it's August, but I just got done with, oh what, almost six weeks of what we think of as a summer break. And so it's time to crank them up there on the website. We'd love to have you folks join us, have a large number of new people, and I'm excited about all you new folks signing up to join us the

rest of this year. I love my core folks, but I love to meet new people means new challenges. And to be honest with you, you ask questions that a lot of the people who've been on a number of adventures had asked when they first joined, but they kind of forget the answers. That's just human, just being a photographer. So you knew folks, you kind of bring life to some of the old folks. So have a chance. Come enjoy the adventure. We have a lot of fun. The blank slate. When we first start out in photography, we are often a real blank slate. We literally go into a camera store with nothing, right? Except for, you know, money, which we often leave with none of that. But we have all these beautiful boxes of really great aroma camera gear that we then start this process. So a blank slate. In some ways is a good thing. It means that nothing's carved in stone yet. We have no bad habits. We have nowhere to go but up. On the flip side. If you're been shooting for a long time. Long time could be, you know, defined as anything you want. Then all of a sudden. A blank slate is like a vast, vast, empty hole where all of a sudden, the motivation, the. The passion, the intensity also just kind of almost always evaporates, but gets to such a dull sound that it's not driving us forward. To go out, shoot more. It's, it's, it's it's kind of like in a very, very similar way, especially from the creative sense. Writer's block where you want to tell a story, you sit down back in the direct typewriter with a blank sheet of paper, and you sit down there, type out your story and. The paper says blank. Now, I could have said a blank sensor. Right. Because I'd been, you know, more accurate for four hour, you know, digital photography days or a blank viewfinder. But I knew that also people go, oh, something broke and they would listen. And it'd be that. No. We're talking about the creative juices coming to a trickle rather than a flood to motivating ourselves to get out and shoot when perhaps, you know, here it is, August. It's hot, hot. Some places. Some places really wet, some places really windy. Most places really kind of not great light. So. You look out there in these conditions, you're like, Oh, yeah, not today. And then you do tomorrow and the next day, all sudden it's just it's it can be really hard to wipe that slate and fill it with creativity. I know it is for myself. So here's just a couple of things that, you know, I think about when it hits. And yes, it hits me as well. You know, it's I with you know, I thought, for example, that this past week I was going to have not one but two inner ear missions with some really great aircraft that I had never been with in the air. And I was looking forward to I even had articles set up and done all my research and started writing the articles for both these shoots, only to have them go poof. Now, last week I was, you know, mentally getting ready to go out and do that. I was getting the gear out, sensors clean, checking through the notes, everything I need to do, brushing up the old brains, you know, practicing hand holding even more rigorously than I normally do. And then poof rug pulled out from underneath you, which that's part of the process. And that's what in my case brings up a blank slate because then it's like, okay, now what am I going to do to the point where I said, I'm looking at there's really been some really cool bird photography and and with the heat right now and with so much stuff hatching some better, knowing some of the photographic, I thought, okay. I'll. I'll busy myself and I'll sit there and see if I can do some bird photography. Which then also, you know, I'm like, okay, now I have to kind of change gears and lenses and lighting and and then all sudden you know, the the deer start playing again is like, okay, good. Don't go to the bugs right away. I'll go work the beer deer. But then they move through and they're good for ten, 15 minutes and then crickets again. That blank slate can be really hard to push through. You know, if you work a 9 to 5 job and you have that life thing to do, squeezing in photography, especially when you haven't done it for a while and you don't

have and here's the the heart of the matter. You don't have a really kind of. Marvelous last experience to go. I was out three weeks ago and I got this nice that a shot. You know, you're all excited. You still look at it. You don't have that that motivation to get out and to to populate that that blank slate can be a challenge. So the first thing I recommend is that you simply just put the camera in your hands and do some basic practicing. Just practice. And only technique first thing. Just kind of get the mind and the body in that tactile memory going to kind of just kind of, you could say limber up. Warm up. Motivator. Okay. And then. Nine times out of ten. Okay, maybe eight times out of ten. Maybe I'm being too positive here. But anyway, in that basic hand-holding technique and what I do is I move and look around at different things. And in that process, a lot of the time, something will click in the head, a flash of light will go through the viewfinder. A subject might also come in, snap into focus. And then. Okay. You're off to the races. That's one way to do it. What's another way? Well, last night and tonight is the height of the. Oh, so she written down. So there's that. Anyway, the meteor shower. Okay. Now I realize that some live in a city where seeing these meteorite showers can be a challenge. But, you know, it's kind of can be a really simple thing to go in and just, okay, I'm gonna go to where the skies are darker and I can work the meteorite showers. So there's the first way of starting to get the slate, you know, to populate. It was something because now you think about, okay, where do you want to drive to? It can be late at night. I want to take some refreshments. I'll take a chair. Take my spouse a friend. May I take a cup of coffee? Friends will make a fun evening of it. We'll go out to X, Y or Z and we'll set up one of the chairs. Okay, cool. Now, what do I need for exposure? What do I need for camera wearing, for batteries, money for lenses. And. And what happens there? Then all of a sudden, what? Then you start the juices going and it's b. It's a. You know, the it's just. There's times where the mind just and the creativity just starts to slow down enough that you just need to give it a little bit of a jump start. You know, connect that battery up, turn over the key again and and go. What other possibility ways of do you have it to to moving up that blank slate issue. Well. Believe or not talking to a friend. Who's a photographer and seeing where they're up to can often break that dam. Going to a presentation and seeing other people's photographs can break that dam. Going to an exhibit at a gallery or a coffee shop or a museum can often kickstart things. Going to a local event. Farmer's market. A parade. A rodeo, county fair. Any and all of those things can break the dam. None of these really involve spending much money. Another way of breaking the dam, which I'm a little hesitant to recommend, but it works almost every time, is to go buy a new piece of gear. But I would recommend that you don't go buy a piece of gear, because it's kind of like that. That advice they give, you know, don't go grocery shopping when you're hungry. Well, going into a camera store with a blank slate, you can buy things you really, especially at the end of the day, don't need. So go rent. Go rent. Yeah, yeah. You can spend a little bit of money, but whatever, you know, you rent, it's going to be fun and you'll have some time with it. And then if. It works out. Then, you know, we can formulate a plan to finances and use it and go out and have fun with it And if it doesn't work, you still have the fun and you save a bunch of coin. And if you think about it, you probably have already some mechanisms in which. You can wipe that blank slate off and fill it with goodness. One of the things that I do, I do it a bit in the wintertime when getting out is just not as convenient as it is. You know, other times is I go back into my files and in this day and age, I know one person, a really good friend who wanted to kind of I'm not going to say relive a past adventure, but he want to share it with others and. It's

not really convenient to carry around an iPad and just, you know, it's it's fun to see people's, you know, expressions when they see photographs and kind of, you know, elaborate on stories the photographs might tell. But he wanted to go further. And so he went and made a book. And it's gotten pretty darn easy and in the photographic world, relatively inexpensive to self-publish some books. He made a couple dozen and then he sent them off to people. And in this process he looked at old photographs. So he got to relive those memories. And that's what photography is all about. He got to be creative because he organized the contents of the book, you know, from page one to the end. And then he got to share his photographs, which is a whole new high. And then he got the response from those people who got the books. So there are ways of doing it out there. I guess the most important thing to understand is if you're facing that blank slate, that that empty page of paper. No. You're not alone. There's plenty of us out here to do it. Plenty of times. So. It's something that happens that you can photographically move forward. And the best part is that when you do, you know on the other side, you're going to be a better photographer, probably a little bit better person. So. That just showed me as scary that blank slate. You guys have a great, great week. Get out there and shoot. And remember. To make every click. Your story.