

# Moose Podcast #431

**Moose Peterson** Harry Fox. And welcome to Moos Podcast number 431. New Year Gear Talk 2025. That's right. Happy New Year, folks. We are now in a new year. Even though it's just been a couple of days, it's a whole new year. Kind of puts a new spin on things. I love that one commercial that talks about this event comes up the second Friday, which is a give it up Friday kind of thing. Where are your new year? New Year's resolution is already toast. I hope yours last much longer and that the spirit fills your entire year. Well, here in Montana, winter officially is on the ground. We've got about six inches of snow. The good stuff, not the the wet stuff, but the really nice powdery stuff that lasts a long time. Critters are quite active. The storm has come through. On the bad side, I guess we've got some abnormally warm temperatures. It's 26 this morning. That's warm for us right now. And January, much rather see it colder. But we've got snow. So that's great news. A lot of folks have been asking if I've been reading any good books of late. I just finished the number four book, Eric McIntyre's Series On Wolves, that I talked about last podcast. I will have more book. RBC reviews. But recommendation for you as we go through the year, it's something that I'm going to try to add to the series. Many of the books won't be about F stops, and shutter speed is more about just simply what it is to be a photographer on this planet. Take it all in and then mix it all up and then putting it back out in those clicks. So I will begin doing that. I appreciate the input from you folks and hearing that you guys have been really outspoken this holiday season with your greetings, and I thank you a lot for that. My good friends in Bedford Camara. Bedford's a dot com. They are well versed. Some people seem to think they're just sell Nikon gear. Actually, they sell at all, folks. All the brands that you can think of and some others you might not hear about. They've got them. They've got this huge inventory and knowledge base to provide every one of us with the tools we need to be creative. They do that with incredible knowledge, crucially nice folks. It's a great staff there to help us in this new year make photography just that more successful and fun. If you happen to go to the Tulsa store on the outside, you're going to his big giant Monument Valley Pano. Yeah, that's my photograph there. That's on the outside of that store. It's just the installations coming up shortly. I'm really quite honored to be part of the store in that physical way. But hey, you head in, and I guarantee you, you see my name. You will see after you check out money in your pocket from the 5% discount. So. Bedford's camera, Bedford sitcom. They're the folks this year and last year, next year, the ones that will make our photography just a tad sweeter. Well. New Year Gear Talk 2025 start off with the first question that literally just came in. Just just check my emails before I sat down to do this podcast. Comes from Mike. He says he's got the z6. He really likes the camera but finds the body a bit small for his hand and it's just not comfortable. Mike says there's no camera stores nearby to go check out the NBN 14 grip. So his question is, does that grip make the z63 just a little bit more comfortable for his bigger hand? Hey, Mike, I am right there with you. I exact same scenario. I have friends will tell you when I first started shooting with it, I didn't have that grip yet. And I it was just not comfortable for my bigger hands. Now the NBN 14 is more than just a grip. Okay, first. It does give you that extra bulk that I really, really like. I've mentioned that many times why I like the Season nine so much because of that extra bulk, but it gives you the vertical firing button, which I think is really just essential. But what I really like about it is the way the battery system works. It's a tray. And it holds two batteries to the was in IL 15 days or OECD's whatever I don't

keep track of that as well as like I used to anyway it holds two in the tray and you can hot swap the batteries and that's to say that you have two batteries in there and A and B, A is the battery on the left, B's on the right, the B is the one that's deepest in the in the grip. So it uses the power from a first now works where you see in the bottom right corner, it will tell you the battery status and say A or B, depending which battery it's using. And then when it goes to read the say the camera set up on tripod, you're doing a time lapse excuse me. And it goes red. You can open the chamber now of course was doing time lapse you get move the camera but it gives you the ability to open the chamber, pop out the one battery just a and replace it and B will keep the camera going while you're doing that hot swapping and you can keep doing that just popping out and putting in New Age. Keep the camera going as long as you want or you just figure out how much time you have left and let B finish it off. But you got to keep the camera going basically indefinitely that way. So, yeah, the the grip Mike makes a big difference. And I. I hope that this quick answer helps you. It is definitely worth having. I got mine from Bedford's PD Q and I love it. So thanks for for writing in Mike and good luck with them critters. Jen had a question that I, I love the way she put it to me. It was, it was it was clearly quite sweet to basically paraphrase. She says she has Jen says she's she's got a great hubby and who supports her, her wanderings and her photography and photographing wildlife. It bought her a number of my books. Really nice guy for Christmas. He doesn't really know the stuff, so he had to depend on the advice from the salesman, but got her a pair of binoculars that he was told were the were the bee's knees. And they turned out to be well, not quite as as luxurious and effective as he was led to believe. So Jen wants to replace them, kind of do it quietly because she really, you know, her husband really supports her. Very sweet thing. So what can you do? Her basic question is what binoculars kind of recommend in around the \$100 range that he spent on these? Not so nice ones. Thank you very much. So, Jen. I first of all, it's great you've got support. That's that's really cool. And I love the way you phrased the email. Anyway, so to answer the question, yeah, the Nikon Pro Staff P three Papa three. I've got three pairs of these. I absolutely love them. I have had them since they first came out. Yeah. You can find them easily for less than \$100. You might have some money left over for for some ice cream or two or three when you're out there shooting those critters. Now the pro staff 3/1 they are physically light. Sharon has a pair. She just loves them. They're physically light weight. That's really important when you're looking for a long time. Next, they are incredibly bright, which is really important in binoculars. Last great feature that I want to mention is the fact that they are rubberized now. They're not true waterproof binoculars as we had back in the day especially. But these are I've had them in all kinds of weather. She and I both have never had an issue. So. Jenn Nikon Pro Staff P three Now the only thing that comes to mind that I should tell you about is they're not going to be black like the ones your hubby. Gotcha. They're dark green. So there is the possibility he might notice you swapped them out anyway. Nikon Pros Step three Really great binoculars. Anna. Anna. I must say a funny personal. Knew your gear. Tip top idea I want to pass along. So one of the fellow Nikon ambassadors, Todd, really a energetic, great shooter. He's the official shooter there at Jimmy Fallon's Tonight Show. Great stories. Love talking with Todd anyway. He kind of voiced out loud among the ambassadors, something that we've all kind of thought about was the iPhone. I know people love the iPhone camera, which is great. But when it comes to organizing images and looking at images, you're taken, man. The iPhone and that whole thing just sucks. It blows chunks, drives me frickin

nuts. And every time they update the phone, they change that system. So then everything you might have thought you had organized goes completely. The other thing is, I'm old school. There's no way around it. It's not going to change. Not like I'm getting younger, even though I like to adapt as much as possible. I like to put a car in a computer and I like to look at it on my computer. And I like to be able to go through adobe camera, make those tweaks, you know, get rid of some of those old age wrinkles and spots and stuff. Anyway. Todd went out and looked at the cool pics it's you know that was it for a long time with Nikon and he felt he picked up the coolpix a. Now if you if you don't remember the coolpix a it was a great little camera. I really wanted one, but they were really expensive when they first came out and I even though I wanted it, it's just because it's so small, it has a cousin 18 millimeter lens, but it's a direct sensor. So it's basically 26 millimeter. There's like that Z 26, 2.8 and if you didn't know, 26 millimeter is the same basic focal length on your iPhone when you're not using the three X or the the wide angle, when you just turn on your iPhone camera, it's basically a 26 millimeters lens. Well, that's what the Coolpix A has. And you would shoot it just like you could think an iPhone is. It's what I mean. Look, it's actually. It is. It's physically smaller than my iPhone. It is the same weight. It is a tad thicker, but it has a big giant LCD. You would hold it up. You would you're able to shoot it like a real camera because the sheriff is on the top and it takes an SD card which goes right in the slot of the Mac anyway. Todd brought it up and I go, I got it. I went to Bedford's. They had a. They said it was used became brand new the box and we had the carrying case for it picked it up for a song compared to what it was brand new and I love this thing. Yeah, the iPhone maybe for some things like that. When my motor my table saw this one out and I had a rewired, I took pictures of the wiring so I would remember how it went. I wouldn't use Coolpix for that. But when it comes to going out, it's in my pocket now and just it's the coolpix a as in alpha, you can find them relatively easily used. Just I just a simple pocket camera lets me take shots and organize them like I like to do so anyway. Onto another one of your questions come from Craig. Great question, Craig. So he Craig to paraphrase is basically he when the what mirrorless with the Nikon system and he got the Z 806.3 lens a marvelous lens specially for the price light. It's just a a really nice piece, a long glass. And he says he fell in love with it. Then he got into some other aspects of photography, sports in particular, football. And 800 is too much glass for for that. So then he picked up the Z 400 to HTC, which is a spectacular lens and TK means tell camera because it's actually integrated into that lens strip of a lever, it becomes of 564 lens. The 640 C does the same things before it turns into a 45.6 lens. So his question was going out to photograph birds. He knew I've shot with both those lenses. He said, I'm torn. Which one to take out for birds. The 806.3 or the 402.8 C? Well, I first told Craig. 800. Then I thought about it for a while and thought about it even longer and looked at images. And then I changed my mind after going through the thought process and the thought process being. Well one and this is really you don't shoot a lot you would this wouldn't come to mind is when you put on till converters you have to move your hands around and your hands often have to go above your head and they're between your body and the subject and that motion, especially if it's just bare skin. Critters can't help us see that. With a 400 to 8 C you want longer. You just simply flip a lever and the critters don't see that. Now, my personal preference it has been since the 805 six EDF lends the old air flows is a minor 800 mm comes to photographing birds. Now the 48 obviously isn't going to be that the 800 is natively but you could and this is I've done it I know for a fact it works just shoot with the 400 to

8. With the Z 200, the z2x that gives you an 800 millimeter 5.6 lens. My favorite combo. Now you first, they might be saying, well, you're losing light. You're still 305 six. My favorite 805 six RF LEDs is 856. It's you're not going to get a faster 800 when I go to 840 with this C 640 C, I'm an R 40 F 5.6. So you're not, you know, shooting a slower lens compared to the person next to you. But why else would what I why did I really think this was a better combo? The Z 400 to 8 focuses so much closer than the 800 I that in that minimum focusing distance, that's everything. That is everything. It makes it possible to photograph things like check it easy and they fill the frame because they're so close to you, your 800 millimeter. Now you have to be careful. You're going to have a little bit of a shallow depth of focus when a bird is at minimum focusing distance. So when you focus on that eye, that tip of the bill, depending of it's looking right down and spill out, you won't be sharp, you'll have to close down. But that's really not a big issue. So. Between 806.3 and the Z 402 HTC with A to X on it. I would take the latter. Every time that you have superior image quality. Killer minimum folks, it is. You're not going to be telling the critters that you are changing intel because you can still just go from 800 to whatever. 800. But 1.4 is 11. Go to 1120. In a heartbeat. So. There you have it. First podcast of the year, New Year Gear Talk 2025. You folks have a marvelous first week, what's left of it of the year. Get out there and shoot. And remember. To make every click. Your story.