

Moose Podcast #499

Moose Peterson Howdy, folks, and welcome to boost podcast number four hundred and ninety nine, The Self Assignment. Yeah. Episode four hundred and ninety nine. We're getting up there. We trust you guys are doing well here we are near the end of April the twenty seventh. And, uh, life is just cranking along. We have kind of a first here at the ranch this year. We, we have these nesting boxes. We call them condos because they're, they're two boxes on top of each other, but they're literally one physical unit. But there's two holes. We have red breasted and pygmy nuthatches nesting in the condo at the same time. It's kind of cool, really kind of exciting. Can't wait. I mean, think about it. If they, uh, at some point, right, they're going to have to go back and forth to feed the chicks. I can't wait and hope that I'm going to get a shot of both species at the same time doing that so I can dream, but I trust you guys are doing well. Enjoying spring. Boy, we had ten degree weather in the morning. Oh gosh. But everything keeps going. I trust it is for you as well. This episode of the Moose podcast is being recorded again through Adobe Podcast Beta, who creates both the vocal and the transcript that you'll find at the dedicated blog post on my website, Moose Peterson dot com, along with the archive. Uh, you can also head off to your favorite spots like YouTube and Spotify and iTunes to listen to the podcast. Appreciate you guys, you know, talking about it, getting more people to come and listen. I'm grateful for the extra ears and minds. And if you have questions, please, please, please don't hesitate to reach out. That is why I'm here. It's why I do these to see if I can help you kind of avoid some of the pitfalls, some of the pitfalls, all the pitfalls that I have had the great good fortune to fall into and then learn from. So learn from my mistakes and build on them. Ask the questions. But thanks so much for your support. It's really, really, really appreciated. I had a couple emails of late that I didn't get into last week's episode that I just want to touch on there about packing. And the basic question was, how do I pack the camera gear to go on the trips when I'm flying in a in a commercial flight? Great question. So. I have kits, I have kit, quote unquote for wildlife, a kit for aviation and a kit for landscape. So depending on what I'm going off to do, I'm going to pack accordingly. So for example, um, and it just so happens that the last two trips, one was for aviation, one was for critters. I both of those. I use the think tank Airport Advantage XT roller bag. Uh. I try not to put things on my back anymore. Yeah, I know, I designed photo packs, but, you know, it's just, uh, it's a lot easier. You can roll because I can just put my briefcase on the handle and zip zip through airports. Anyway, back to packing. I tend to have the bag completely closed, and I turn it over. So I'm working on the back side of the bag, not the front side with the flap, because the back side is a little bit more, um, stable. And then I will put my lenses and gear on the back and arrange it to see how they will fit in the space. Then I take a picture of the iPhone, turn the bag back over, open the flap and arrange the dividers accordingly. And with the, uh, airport advantage XT, I'm taking these last two trips basically the same gear. So there's the Z9 and it is attached to the one eighty six hundred. And then next to that is the Z8 attached to the seven thousand two hundred F two eight two. And then there's a little compartment for the XLR and then the twenty four to seventy two, eighty two um version two and the fourteen twenty four. No two after that one. I'll go underneath that on the what would be the um I guess if you're looking down on it and you're the handles at your chest would be on the left side, the Z nine with one thousand six hundred B on the right side. There's space below the Z nine with the one

eight thousand six hundred. That's where I put the the one point four Z one point four and two x. And there's an extra space where I put my backup drive for my images. And I have a white towel and baseball cap. And that basically fills it up. I don't put anything in the flap. And once that's all packed and good to go, I take an iPhone picture of it. Um, for a number of reasons. The main one is. So next time I pack it, I don't have to reinvent the wheel. So I hope that answers that question. A little lengthy answer, but I thought I should get it in there. I've got a, just an absolutely a marvelous book to recommend to you this week. Um, heard about it from a Ted talk, Rule Makers Rule Breakers by Michele Gelfand. Now there's times this book is really dry. There's some times where this book will have you in stitches. Now, it's not about, you know, figuring out when you can break the rules of composition or when you can go across that fence that says do not trespass. It's not that kind of book. It's not really quote unquote geared towards photographers yet. And it really ties in with this week's subject. It does apply to photography. You just gotta do the application. I'm just going to read, uh, because you might be wondering, rule makers, rule breakers because then its subtitle is tight and Loose cultures and the secret signals that direct our lives. So I'm just going to read one paragraph off the back of the book, because it really kind of does a great job of talking about it. Why are clocks in Germany so accurate while those in Brazil are frequently wrong? Why are red and blue states really so divided? Why is the driver of a jaguar more likely to run a red light than the driver of a plumber's van? Why does one spouse prize running a tight ship while the other refuses to sweat the small stuff? Yeah, that's the kind of answers this book actually starts to answer. Now, not to give away the ending or be a spoiler. Just think of it this way. Have you ever wondered why you posted a photograph and you thought it was just marvelous? You got no likes and then you post another one that you really don't think much of, but you just need to post something and everybody loves it. And you wonder why. Now here you go. This will give you some insights into that process. So is that not a book that delves into photography without talking about shutter speeds and apertures? I think so. So that's Rule Makers Rule Breakers by Michele Gelfand. You'll find it on the the the link for it in the blog post on the website. Also in the doodad list there on the website. Great read. Want to thank my good friends at Bedford Bedfords dot com for again, being the sponsor. Not just this podcast, but all of us photographers. It's, uh, you know, little camera stories. I tell you. They. They. In Biddeford, there's a little. There's seven of them. Um, they just don't get enough love as far as I'm concerned. I hear a lot of moaning, but man, the the great stuff they do. And I appreciate you that. Send the love notes thanking you, thanking me for sending you to Bedford, especially, you know, like right now you've got Nikon has some really, really pretty substantial rebates. Wonder why I won't go there anyway, uh, that, uh, once you check out, you get a lot of them are instant rebates. And then on top of that you get the discount. So I mean, it's like, it doesn't, it doesn't matter what brand you buy. They have incredible prices for everything in the store. Uh, and I get ready for a trip like I did this time. I go out and I grab something and it's like it was just a little doodad, right? It's a little flash. You do Hickey thing called them up. They had it sent it to me two days later. I was good as gold. I mean, just that just, I think makes life just so simple. And they got great people. So when you go to the website Bedford dot com, give them a phone call, uh, head into the store personally, enjoy. Say hello. Tell me who sent you. And when you check out, say, remember Moose sent me and you'll see something after you check out that, you'll go, wow, that's nice. That's Bedford's Bedford dot com. Now, I've been

published a few times across the the globe here in in my career. And people are always surprised to find out that I've never been given an assignment as in Dling Dling Dling. Hey, Moose, we need you to go photograph the woodchuck over in, uh, Nova Scotia. Here's a budget. Have fun. Yeah. Now that phone call has never come to moi. Uh, in fact, um, everything I've done has been self assignments. Now, when I was going to school at Brooks, um, probably once a quarter, the teacher we have because classes only lasted for seven weeks and you change would have a self assignment. They scared the bejesus out of me because you had seven working days to figure out what you want to photograph, the story you want to tell, execute it and present it. Seven days. Uh, there was never it was all photographic. There was no, uh, text involved. But I'm telling you that nineteen years old that just like what they expect from somebody who's nineteen to go and do, and I'll be honest with you, I'm going to say, other than there's only one that really stuck out in my mind, that's when I went and worked with the fire crew down Point Mugu Naval Station. The rest of them, man, were just like, oh, what a snore. And I think it's really kind of funny that, uh, my whole life has basically been, uh, what scared the bejesus out of me once upon a time, the self assignment. And it might, it might, um, scare the bejesus out of you. Which perhaps why you have not taken on the self assignment. Now, the self assignment can be as simplistic as just one photograph, and that's probably a great spot to start. But yes, you're right, you guessed it. I'm going to encourage you to go beyond just that one photo that you're going to put on social. I'm going to encourage you to do that story, you know, five or more photographs and perhaps no words. And if you get past that, put it with words and get it to a publisher and, and share that. Now in this, you got to wonder, where does one start? Right. It's a great question. Where do you start? The advice I give those folks to ask me this is start with what you're passionate about. Seriously, start with what you're passionate about. It doesn't matter if it's your normal genre of photography or not. For example, let's just say that you are into photographing motorcycle speedway racing pretty, you know, specialized, little niche, cool stuff. There's some great shots out there. I really love that stuff. Never did. It makes me wonder. But all of a sudden you and and your better half, maybe just you have got a really great green thumb and you, uh, you go online and you order some, uh, tomatillo seeds do do do do. And you get one of those special little eight dollar inside the house greenhouses from Amazon do, do, do do. And you start growing, you know, you see two days later, this little sprout and it keeps on going and keeps on going in this thing, and then all of a sudden you transplant it out in the garden, and then all of a sudden you've got these great tomatillos that you mix with avocados and make guacamole. I'm getting off the track here anyway. Let's just say that Mr. Motorcycle Shooter now wants to photograph the life of the plant, because you're now passionate about it. Well, talk about a really cool little story, right? And there's all ways you could, you could, you could photograph this. Everything from the plant growing, maybe a time lapse, you could do a making some meal out of the tomatillos to finish it off. I mean, there's so start with something that you're passionate about doesn't mean passionate about for your whole life, but it could be just that moment and that could be the great seed of germination. See, I tied that back in. Tricky, huh? And that can get you to start your self assignment. Now, as you think about what you're passionate about, consider some other little things in the self assignment. For example, work within your capabilities, stick within your. You could say your expertise don't go all of a sudden, you know, decide to to go, I want to go photograph the dark backside of the moon like the

astronauts do. Yeah, it's not attainable. So don't go there. Stick within your expertise to get going. Kind of, you could say make it as simple. So there's this little roadblocks. And then of course, physical and mental roadblocks. When you don't have any, you just keeps you moving forward at the same time, find the self assignment that fits the gear you have right now in your gear locker, in your kit. Don't think of something that you know. You're gonna have to go spend money. Don't do that. Don't put that pressure on you. Keep it simple, stupid. It's really good for the self assignment, man. Especially when it comes to funding it. Don't make it expensive. Make it so it fits your budget. Maybe you don't need any budget for whatever you have passion about, because you just want to start. Because once you start and you do your first one, you'll find that all of a sudden you'll come up with the next one. Then you'll start getting goals. And those goals are cool because then you start doing research for those goals. And then as you get a little more confident, you get a couple under your belt and you will. I'm telling you, you will get them under your belt. Once you do, they kind of start flowing. You'd be surprised that the that big roadblock that you felt when you first started the first one, by the time you've done your second or third, that roadblock is not even in the rear view mirror. It's so far behind you. And it's and I'm telling you from personal experience, they just snowball and they just snowball. Now you're going to have to get a little bit out of your comfort range. You're going to need to share these a little bit. You need to get people's, you know, reactions to your stuff where, oh yeah, that book, Rule Makers and Rule Breakers by Michele Gelfand might just help you understand a little bit of how people are reacting. And then you start taking all this in. Take notes, take copious notes. Okay. And then as you process through this, you're going to just be driving to the market to pick up a dozen eggs and you're going to look go, that's a great self assignment. That's how this works. And it is, it will make your photography just so much fun, so rewarding that you'll get hooked. And that's the goal. So take it on the self assignment. You folks have an absolutely marvelous week. I've got lots of fun coming up for you next week. Number five hundred. Ding ding ding ding ding. I don't have any sound effects. Maybe I should do that for next week. Make note to self you guys take care. Get out and shoot. Make every click your story.