

Phoenix Photographic Group

Newsletter from Meeting of 15 April 2019

Introduction

Well, this new title's a bit of a shock isn't it? Twenty people turned out to attend our miscellany meeting and learned how essential it is to get movement, size, luminance and contrast early into your videos and presentations, if you want to stand out. In this week's header bar I've achieved many of the above in own my garish way ... if you want movement too you'll have to shake your own heads violently from side to side!

News Items

Joe briefly explained that this session had been pulled together at short notice. We'd hoped and expected to have John Armshaw, along with his 2½" scale locomotive. The plan was, and still is, that we shall all be able to take photographs of this large model which John has crafted himself. But the date will now be 3rd June so make sure – if you're a footplate fanatic – to be there on that day.

So, to keep the PPGers from open rebellion, we'd created items for the agenda – Bob Bell was to give us a talk about making videos with a DSLR camera and Joe had compiled what was hopefully a fun quiz, but with some serious camera questions hidden within, to bring out some conversation that would inform everyone about camera features that may not be familiar.

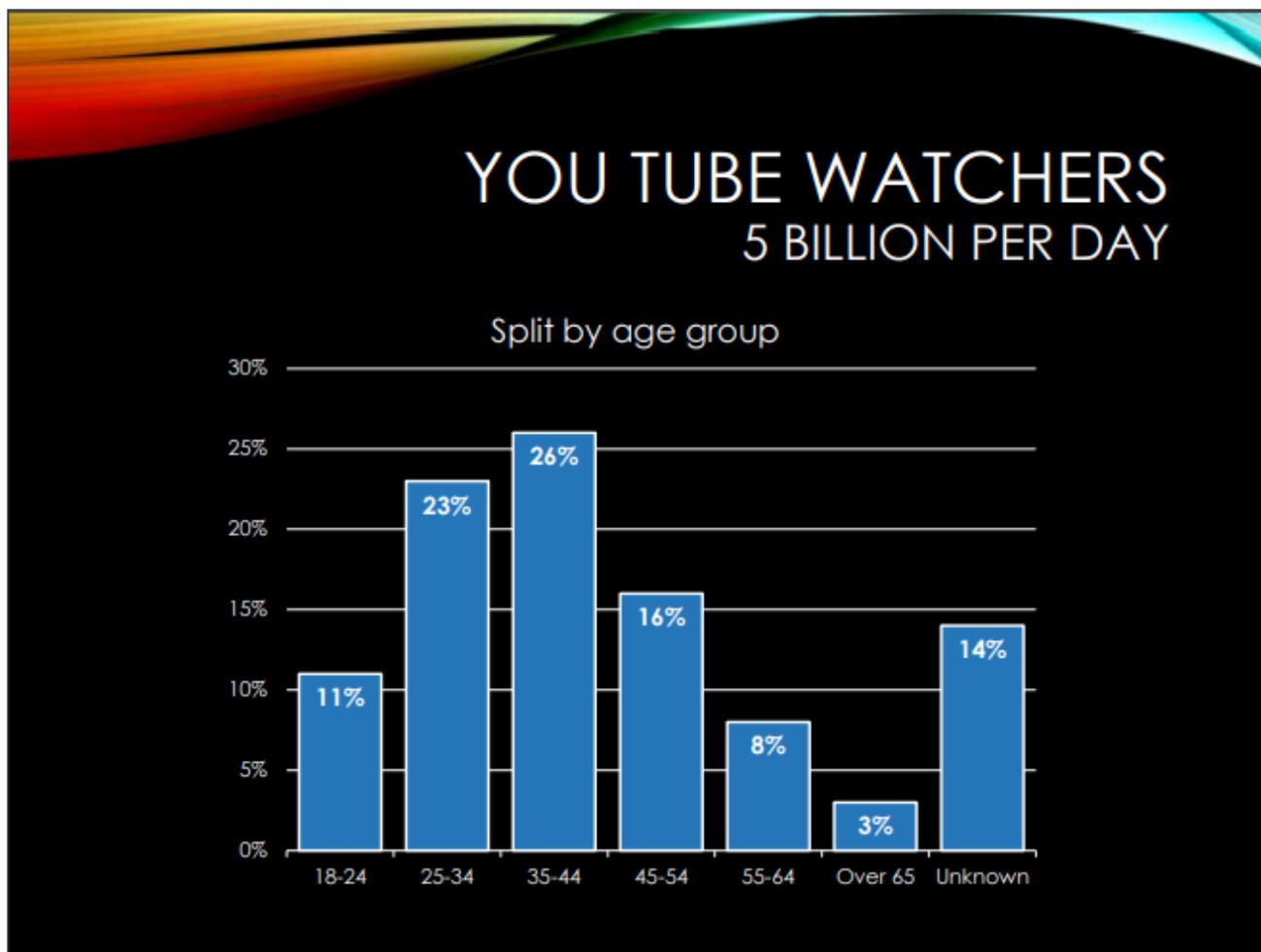
Marie had brought some returning hospital prints and requested more in portrait format.

Activities

Following this, Bob embarked upon his 'making videos' dissertation. This was an excellent step-by-step guide to what grabs the imagination of the viewer and then keeps his or her interest, followed by how to go about weaving those essentials into a video anyone is now capable of capturing with their digital camera.

Bob's slides do provide an excellent guide – they contains all the tips and do's and don't's that are essential to buff up on first if you ever do contemplate creating your own home video and then – am I expecting too much? – uploading it to You Tube.

One of Bob's slides did tell us something about You Tube and the laggardliness of us old grey-haired PPGers:



We've got all this time on our hands, yet we're sorely underrepresented. In fact it looks to me from the histogram like it's Mumsnet that's winning market share. So, come on PPGers, let's all try to post three minutes of Scorsese class action and then we'll organize a session where we can be amused by one another's efforts.

Next up was the quiz, put together by Joe, who's subsequently had to seek counselling due to the lack of general eagerness to answer the questions about camera features. Come on guys, we're a photographic group! In theory we should all have an interest in using our cameras to their best potential. This is just one – hopefully fun - way to reinforce some of the things we might not know or have forgotten. A couple of people popped up with excellent answers ... but are the majority interested? I'm unconvinced.

And I have to offer my apologies to John Ford, for unwittingly picking at an old but deeply seated scab. So simply for effect, I'll do it again!



Sorry John!

Next Meeting

Next Monday we'll be at Etching Hill Village Hall at 1.45 to experiment with overlaying text and similar objects onto images. We'll be using each of the common editing applications, and in addition PowerPoint, to create poster-type documents.

Just bring yourselves and your laptops!

Members Pics

Topics

Special Effects

Table Top Photography

Please send your images to: -

ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk

No members' pics below. Instead Bob's "Cheat Sheet" of points to remember when making movies. His full presentation is also attached to the mail that brought you this Newsletter.

Make a movie using your camera

Using Your Camera

Most modern digital cameras will let you shoot movie clips.

- Read the manual to find out what buttons to press. Usually one press to start or stop recording.
- Format a memory card.
- Make sure that your batteries are fully charged

Shooting

- Shoot movie clips for at least **10 seconds**. Anything less is just a waste of time. It can seem like an eternity but it isn't! Take plenty of time.
- Your camera movements must be **smooth, gentle & steady** (tripods and monopods are good).
- If you wish to **PAN** during a clip, **make it steady**.
- If you wish to **ZOOM** during a clip, **make it steady**.
- If you pan or zoom while filming, use the 10-Action-10 rule.
- Film for 10 seconds,
- then pan or zoom steadily and slowly for however long it takes,
- then continue after the pan or zoom for 10 seconds.



- Remember that you are also recording sound, so **zip your mouth & tell your "assistants" to do the same**. You are close to the microphone!
- Collect more clips than you need. Use the 4:1 Rule. For a 5 minute movie, shoot 20 minutes of clips.
- You can take stills & mix them in during editing.
- If you are using a longer zoom setting you will magnify any wobble – use a tripod or a monopod.

The Movie

- A movie tells a story. It has a **START**, a **MIDDLE** & an **END**.
- You need a "story board". This is nothing fancy, just a plan for your movie. Notes or sketches are fine. Just decide what the main scenes will be.
- The most important part (& most overlooked) is the **END**. Think hard about this. It is the climax of your movie. Don't finish in "mid air".
- Then work out a **START**, which will complement the **END** & set the scene for the story and lead into it.
- Then decide what clips you will need for the **MIDDLE**.



If you are posting on YouTube, the first 10 secs must capture the viewer's attention or they will click.

Editing

There are loads of movie editing programs.

- Many are free.
- Some programs are for professionals & make photoshop seem simple!
- Some are used in the film industry for feature films.

The basic ones will allow you to:

- Put your clips into the sequence that you want.
- Allow you to trim them, split them, duplicate them & so on
- Let you set transitions (like fades) that take you from one scene to the next (don't overdo it).
- Add titles & captions
- Include stills.
- Add & edit the soundtrack.

Have a Go – it's easy and fun.

It's very easy to make a good movie that is short and enjoyable.

Don't worry about soundtracks or adding music – master the movie process first.

It is very easy (and free) to put your movies onto YouTube in a private area so that others can watch them with your permission.

HAVE A GO AT IT!