

# TTL:

## THROUGH THE LENS

Volume 1, Issue 1

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### Special points of interest:

- Photographic word of the month
- Product spotlight
- Monthly project

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### An Introduction

Hi! my name is Eric Wethington. I will be writing some of the articles for this newsletter. Other coworkers and friends of mine will also be contributing to this newsletter and I will introduce them to you from time to time.

Let me introduce myself and a little of my photographic background.

I am been a semi-professional photographer since 1994 and have done a lot of photography for local animal rescue groups. I am also an active member of the Cleveland Photographic Society and is a past member of Medina County Photographers of the Park.

I have had an image in an exhibit at the Cleveland Institute of Music and has

been published in the Cuyahoga Community College Literary Journal "Breakwall" (Spring 2012). Several pieces of mine are for sale at the Eye Candy Gallery in Tremont, Ohio. I am currently working on my photography degree at Tri-C.

Currently I shoot with a Pentax K5, and have been a Pentaxian since 2004. He has been employed by Dodd Camera & Video for the past 20yrs.

You can see more of my work at

[www.facebook.com/wethington.photography](http://www.facebook.com/wethington.photography).



Tiger fish at Greater Cleveland Aquarium

### Inside the newsletter

As there will be several levels of photographers reading this newsletter, I hope to have several points that everyone can take and learn from.

I will introduce a photographic word of the month. Sometimes vocabulary can be intimidating. I will take that word or phrase and explain it in layman's

terms. Hopefully, in a way, that will make sense to everyone and make digital photography more fun.

I will introduce a mini assignment. It will be something that all levels of photographers can do (no weddings, I promise!), but yet might be challenging even to those who have had a camera for awhile.

I will also introduce a product that you may find useful. I will keep products non-brand specific, but may mention a few by name.

Hope you enjoy some of my pictures along the way.

Eric Wethington.



Hale Farm Civil War reenactment. Rebel Cavalry running from Union troops

## The Word is: Shutter speed (fast)

Photographic Word of the Month - SHUTTER SPEED

Shutter Speed is how fast your camera takes the picture. Not to get mixed up with motor drive (which is how many times it can take a picture in a second). Shutter Speed is also known as Time Value. Some old film cameras show shutter speed in numbers on a dial, some more modern ones will show the shutter speed on a small LCD readout.

In layman's terms how fast your camera "blinks". With a slow shutter speed (1/30th sec or slower) you can see

movement in your subject (eg the blur of a waterfall, or blurry wheels on a race car). If you wish to see them water frozen in droplets, or the frozen spokes of a bike, then you want a fast shutter speed (1/500th sec or faster).

The example to the left shows a fast shutter speed. The horses hooves are frozen in place. Little to no movement can be seen. This shot was taken at 1/250th of a second.

Try taking a picture of a child on a bike. If you were to use a faster shutter speed you might freeze the wheels. How

about someone on a swing? You can catch them in mid swing with their hair being blown around. Of course birds flying in the air are always a fun target to shoot with a faster shutter speed.

What do you like to take pictures of? Does it help if you can get a faster shutter speed and freeze the movement?

Faster or Slower? Take the same picture of a moving subject and see what you like!

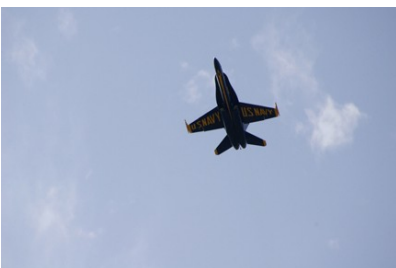
## The word is: Shutter Speed (Slow)

Now lets slow things down a bit. Fast shutter speed allow you to freeze movement. That does help. But what if you want to see movement?

In the example to the right, the monster trucks moving very fast and I wanted to show the movement. Notice how the wheels appear to be spinning? The slower shutter speed (1/50th of a sec) caused anything that was moving too fast to blur.

Of course, if its too slow of a shutter speed then you can run into a few minor issues. One, the subject moves to fast and the entire image is a blur. Two, if you shoot too slow, your own movements of the camera may cause the entire image to blur. Camera or Lens stabilization helps in this case.

But will not help if subject still moves too fast.



Shot at 1/750th of a second with plenty of light. You can freeze a Navy Jet.

## The word is: Shutter Speed (final notes)

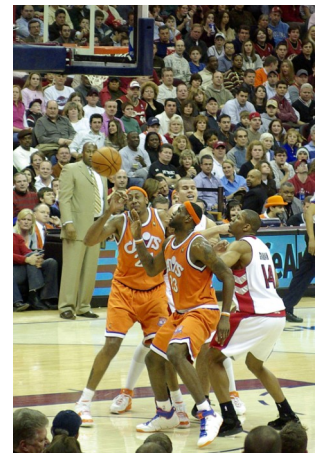
While most DSLR, and film based SLR's have a wide range of shutter speeds to pick from. Be aware that there are 2 other things that dictate how fast you can shoot.

The first thing is your lens. How "fast" is it? Will it let enough light in so you can get the fast shutter speed?

If your lens can get to f2, 1.8, or any smaller f number that will help you when you need

to stop action.

The other thing to be aware of is how much light you have. On a nice bright sunny day, you have plenty of light and can get a very fast shutter speed even with a normal "kit" lens. But at night, or in a stadium expect some movement as the camera needs to take some extra time in getting your picture.



## Photographic product of the month – TRIPOD

Photographic Product of the month - TRIPOD

Tripod - typically refers to a 3 legged contraption that is designed to hold your camera still while you take a picture. Some can be big and bulky, while others are table top sized.

In most cases, if you are planning to take landscape pictures, then having a tripod is a good thing (especially at Night!). The picture to the right shows a group of photographer using their tripods to help them take some nice night shots of Cleveland skyline.

The nice thing about taking the time to set up a tripod, you are also taking the time to set up the shot. Sometimes taking that extra minute or two, you can see another angle or something in your photo you don't want (like a random coke can)

When you look for a tripod you want to make sure it is strong enough to hold the equipment your going to put on it. Small cameras can have smaller tripods, but bigger cameras need a bigger tripod that can hold the weight.

Several companies make tripods and can be found at

your nearby camera store. Just to name a few: Bogen/Manfrotto, Vanguard, Pro-master, and Slik are just a few. Expect to spend \$70-\$100 on a tripod for a light-weight DSLR like a Canon Rebel or Olympus Pen series, but if you have a bigger camera like a Nikon D800, expect to spend closer to \$300-\$500 for a tripod !



A group of photographers using their tripods to take a night shot of Cleveland

Fast or slow? Do I want the movement? Its your choice!



## Monthly project: "Taking a second Look"

Monthly project - "Take a second look"

Most people are so used to their local surroundings they don't see the photographic opportunities right outside their own home. Here is an assignment for you.

Take a minute, step outside your front/back door. Take no more then 10 steps and look around. See that broken window in your garage?

How about that vine growing on your house?

Something growing in your garden perhaps?

How about the green army guys in the kids sandbox?

How about a small windmill or bird feeder?

Take a moment, or a few moments and see what shows up at your door step.

Questions?

Comments?

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10' tall windmill outside my mom's back door.





## TTL: Through the Lens

### A part of our history

Dodd Camera was founded in 1891 at a location which is now East 4th Street in downtown Cleveland.

Still family owned after all these years we operate 10 stores in the Greater Cleveland area and six stores in Dayton. In 2008 we expanded into Chicago with a Dodd Camera store dedicated to renting high quality gear to professional photographers.

Our corporate offices are located in downtown Cleveland at the corner of E. 30th and Carnegie Ave. This is also the site of our 8500 sq. foot camera superstore. A visit downtown will surely make you say Wow!



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E36th Rapid station. Part of "Riding the Red line" Series

### A little about Eric Wethington

My first camera was a 110 Kodak I took on a class field trip to Washington DC. It wasn't until 1989 with my first SLR (Minolta X-9) that I found out I was pretty good with a camera. I won a best of show in the local fair and have been hooked ever since.

I started shooting weddings, pet portraiture, senior pictures, anything I could to pay for the film and developing. Back in 2004 I switched from a nice 35mm Nikon system to my current digital Pentax system. I have expanded into themed shoots or project to keep a variety and test my photographic abilities. I have named such themes as

"Riding the Red Line: a photo-journalistic approach to the RTA red line; "Vampire Hunter in Training" a more comical approach and B-movie type model photo shoot.

I have shot, from the stands, the Cav's, Indians, Browns, Monster Trucks, Air shows, reenactments, Hot air balloon fests, all sorts of things just to keep fresh ideas going in my head.

I don't want to be a stagnant shooter that only shoots one thing. I want to push my limits, try different angles, and let my creativity flow.

Lake Gull at Edgewater Park

