



The Tail Trail Tribune

News from Matt & Odee

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IT'S ALL IN A NAME - ODEE ON THE FRONT PAGE!

What's in a name? Odee talked about names last month, now it's my turn. When I registered the domain photodogjackson.com I thought it would be an easy way for people to remember the website name. I didn't really think about the time when Jackson wasn't around for the name to make sense. He was supposed to live forever; well I really knew he wouldn't but didn't think about it. After Jackson crossed the Rainbow bridge I changed the Facebook page to Photo Pup Odee, I had been considering changing it to Photo Dog Odee since he has matured.

This spring I registered the domain name The Photo Dogs; I'm feeling better about this as it includes Jackson, Odee, all my former dogs, plus me, an old dog – The Photo Dogs. So I have started slowly “rebranding” different aspects of social media we, the dogs, share on. Now that Odee is 3-years-old I think the FaceBook page is going to be something along the lines of The Photo Dogs – Featuring Photo Dog Odee, or maybe just Photo Dog Odee, I'm still thinking about that. I have already changed the website to thephotodogs.com and I have kept the photodogjackson domain and it will direct searches to the new The Photo Dogs. Over the last year I changed my sites to look more professional and added a gallery and sales section and either matthewirvin.com or matthewhirvin.com will take you to that site.

Well enough talk about domains, names, and rebranding Odee and I started training lessons last week. It's time to work on areas I don't have the knowledge or skills to do so. We had a really good class on Friday and now we have work to do until the next class. I think I'll let Odee talk more about what we are doing in the training arena. He has an expanded column this issue.

Also in this issue I am spotlighting Christmas/Holiday cards and ornaments. I wanted to get this information in time to order and use this season. In our Holiday supplement coming out next week we will highlight gifts.



From Odee's Point of View

Woof, we have been up to a lot since our last newsletter but the biggest news is I am in school now. Matt decided I needed to know more about doggy decorum. I didn't know what that word meant so I had to look it up... so Matt thinks I need to improve my behavior! I will admit I do get very excited when I meet people and other dogs, I just can't calm down at first so Matt told me he called a trainer and set up some classes for us.

I found out I am not the only one doing the learning, much to my surprise Matt has to learn the same time I do. That makes me feel better that I am not the only one that has to do the work in our class. We have to drive for an hour to get to there, It's a pretty drive and when we got there we met other dogs learning doggy decorum and their persons learning how to help them. Our trainer is nice and I like her, but she makes me work a lot and now I have more lessons I have to do during our daily walks, woof!

My teacher asked Matt if I had a backpack and I found out I am getting one. Jackson, Matt's last dog, had one but it is in North Carolina. I think that must be pretty far away because Matt's friend is mailing it to us. Matt uses one so now I can be like him, he said I can carry my toys, portable water bowls, and things like that. So it must be something like the backpacks he uses when we go on a hike.

Here I am on one of our camping trips. I am learning I can't wander off and have to stay in camp!



The Holidays are Coming Soon - Get Your Cards & Ornaments

Greeting Cards

Greeting cards are 5x7 inches using 100lb cardstock. Each card is coated with a UV protectant. The inside of the card can be personalized with your own message up to 500 characters. Box sets come with envelopes as well as individual cards. Click the QR code to view my greeting cards.



Scan this QR code to see our greeting card selection



Scan this QR code to see our ornament selection



Christmas & Holiday Ornaments

These are available in six different shapes. These are mounted on wood with hangers included. There is a magnet on the back so you can use them on your refrigerator. To view these quality ornaments click the QR code.

To see all our products we offer online please check the links below. We also offer throw pillows, duvet covers, tapestries, towels, yoga mats, notebooks, zip pouches, fleece blankets, shower curtains, bath and beach towels.

The link to my sales page on my website:

<https://5eul.short.gy/MatthewsSalesPage>

The link to my sales page on Fine Art America:

<https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/matthew-irvin>

Photo of the Season



Christmas Tree Farm in the Mist

On a trip to a state park in the fall of 2018 I passed this Christmas tree farm. The mist and early morning color in the sky made me stop and photograph the scene.

This photograph is available from greeting cards, ornaments or any of our other quality products.

Matt's Holiday Photo Tips

(An edited reprint from 2019)

Now that the holiday season is in full swing I'm sure a lot of people are interested in photographing their Christmas tree or other beautiful holiday displays. With sunset coming earlier we have fewer daytime hours. Up in the northern latitudes we have even less, but do not fear we have lights to photograph and should welcome the dark hours to observe and photograph them.



Tripods are essential for a lot of these photographs with DSLR, mirrorless, and most point and shoot cameras.

I know a lot of you would like to take some good photographs of personal and public decorations. Some of the newer cell phones have nighttime settings and automatically make compensations for the conditions. For DSLR, some point and shoot, and mirrorless cameras you need to make some considerations on your exposure and exposure modes.

For DSLR and point-and-shoot cameras one of your first instincts might be to increase your ISO if you are used to shooting manually or semi automatic. Remember you are usually photographing reflected light (the way we see our landscape.) Another thing is not to use your camera's flash; it can overpower some of the lights and create a scene you aren't happy with. That's not to say you can't use your flash, but it would be helpful to know the aspects of using "fill flash" and other techniques.



With a lot of displays you will be dealing with direct light. Depending on the situation and ambient light your backgrounds can go from fully lit to black. Some items that would be handy would be a tripod, a macro lens or point and shoot camera that has a macro feature, and a star effect filter can be fun to use on a few.

So here is a short primer:

Set your camera in manual mode, automatic settings won't work as well photographing these situations.

For good quality you will need a tripod, it doesn't have to be an expensive one but your camera needs to be held steady as you will be using longer exposure times than normal. You can also use bean bags to stabilize your camera during long exposures.

Do not set your ISO any higher than 400, set your aperture (f/Stop) to f/8, I know there are recommendations for lower but this setting can give a subtle "star" effect on the lights.



Start with a shutter speed of around 1/4th of a second, if the photograph is too dark increase your time by selecting 1/2 of a second or longer; conversely if the photograph is too light select a faster shutter speed like 1/15th of a second or faster.

Now, when is a good time to photograph? You can get some beautiful effects during twilight, but it is a balancing act. If you are too early too much daylight drowns out the lights on display.

If you have any photography questions be sure to send them in. I'll be glad to answer, or if I don't know I will do my best to find out. Our email is:

photodogjackson@carolina.rr.com.