

Curveballs and Adjustments Part 2

1 message

Fri, Nov 14, 2025 at 8:10 AM



Silvana Della Camera Photography

Greetings! Thank you so much for the many lovely emails I received after my last newsletter. Your well-wishes were uplifting and brightened my days. It was also heartening to learn that relaying my experience about the retinal detachment helped others get medical assistance sooner rather than later. I was surprised that several of you either had a loved one have a concurrent retina experience or had an issue themselves. I have also learned a lot about retinal detachments from you and appreciate your input. Retinal detachment is more common than we realize, which is quite frightening.

Recovery from the surgery has been slow but steady. A month after the surgery, I am still unable to drive, so I look for opportunities to photograph without going anywhere. As someone with intense wanderlust (aka fire up my butt), it has been a challenge. The saying "shoot with the camera you have" has been replaced with "shoot where you are". Luckily, there is always something to photograph, no matter where you are. I've been experimenting with different camera techniques and dusted off my strobe lights. A couple of days ago, the Sun threw us a couple of juicy CMEs that generated two nights of aurora. Normally, I'd be planning an interesting foreground for the aurora shot. This time, my shed was as good as it was going to get, so that is what I used. I shot a time-lapse and stacked frames for some colorful star trails in an even more colorful aurora. I've also learned that fumbling in the dark is twice as hard with one functioning eye.

Owners of the Benro Polaris Astro gear up, exciting stuff is happening next month! You may already know that the Benro Polaris Astro can be controlled via a PC for star tracking, and this functionality has been available for about a year or so. The update that is coming in December is crazy cool! You won't need the Benro Connect app to initially connect to the

Benro Polaris for PC control or mobile device, and it will be completely controlled via Alpaca, N.I.N.A., Stellarium, and other applications that support the ASCOM Alpaca platform. Many of the steps required in V1.0 have been automated, making the entire process smoother. The amateur astronomy community discovered this powerful little smart tripod head, and they have expanded and elevated the astro functionality of it. The Benro Polaris Astro went from a great tripod head to a full-featured telescope mount. Here's the current Kickstarter page that describes the project and the GitHub links to the V1.0 and beta V2.0 open-source software. Check out the overview of the Alpaca Pilot. If you are not familiar with what the Benro Polaris is, you can read about it in this post.

Clear skies! Silvana



Nikon Z9, Nikon 14-24mm | f/2.8 | ISO 3200 | 4 seconds | 940 frames stacked in Sequator and finished in Photoshop

Ditch the Screw: Why a Lever Quick Release Plate Transforms Your Ball Head



The Screw Plate Struggle: Why It's Holding You Back Picture this: You're hiking to that epic sunset spot, tripod in tow, only to fumble with a tiny screw knob for agonizing minutes while golden hour slips away. Sound familiar? That's the silent killer of outdoor photography: the

stock screw plate on your ball head. How much better could your shots ...

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Beat Light Pollution with Didymium Filters: A Comparison



As a night shooter, I am always on the lookout for filters that can fight the ever-invasive light pollution. My first light pollution filter was the Benro True Night filter, and to date, it remains a favorite. I have since tried others on the market. This is a review of the Kase Neutral Night filter, the ICE LiPo filter, and ...

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How to Photograph the Aurora



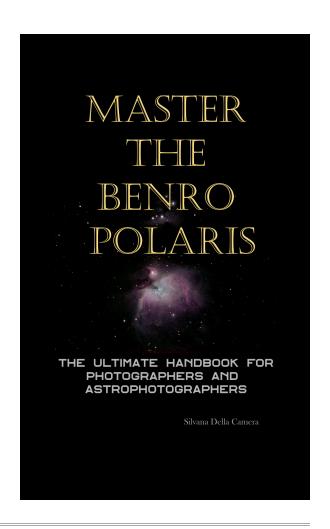
We are entering a wonderful time to experience the aurora close to home. Learn how to plan and photograph this most beautiful and elusive event. Our Sun is currently increasing its activity, which is evident from the appearance of numerous sunspots on its surface, flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs). These phenomena have a significant impact on Earth since everything ...

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Benro Polaris Manual

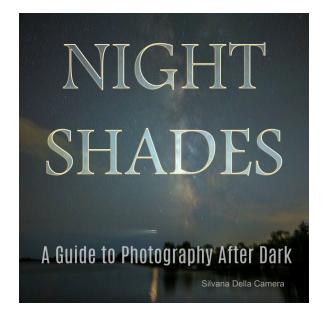
Transform your photography and astrophotography with this definitive manual on the Benro Polaris Smart Electric Tripod Head, the world's first smart tripod head with integrated camera control and precision tracking. Tailored specifically for photographers and astrophotographers, from passionate beginners to seasoned professionals, this comprehensive guide unlocks the full potential of the Polaris to help you capture stunning landscapes, flawless panoramas, and awe-inspiring celestial images with unparalleled accuracy.

Learn more



Night Shades - A Guide to Photography After Dark

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