"TELL THEM TO LOOK PERPLEXED!" *By Jill Margeson*

That is what **Al Reeder** told us at his portrait workshop on Feb. 1. It's a good way to catch those reluctant portrait subjects with a smile. Problem with reflections in those people with glasses? Take two shots in a row-one with glasses on and one with glasses removed. Later in processing you can cut and paste some eyes and block out the reflections. Don't cut off at the joints. If you are going to crop, crop a lot to make it look intentional...

...and my notes include so many more helpful tips as Al demonstrated the use of his equipment, shared his pointers and experience at capturing good portraits of individuals, and large and small groups. He very patiently answered our questions, and provided realistic solutions for good portraits without umbrella lights, professional backgrounds and expensive lenses.

Other things I'll remember? Pose people by telling them you are a mirror. Then they will copy your head tilt, shoulder angle and eyes. Wrinkles look better from the front rather than side lighting. Try black and white. Window light is great with reflector for fill light. Matt paper is best for prints. A 50mm lens and f/8-f/11 works well. Make sure the master flash is brighter than the room lights. Never shoot down on a child. Catch lights in the eyes are good. Check focus by looking at sharpness on eyebrows.

Thank you, Al, for your wonderful workshop and emailed handout you sent of tips. I am actually looking forward to taking our annual Thanksgiving family portrait! This year heads will be closer together and facing toward the center with shoulders turned 2/3. I will leave the house lights on, I will reflect some light to the back, put the men behind the women, ...it will be an awesome shot for the scrapbook!

Al Reeder Tips for Portrait Photography

- ➢ Use 100-150 zoom if possible (F4, 1/200 sec) lets ambient light contribute
- ➢ Telephoto for skinny & tall. Wide angle makes short & fat
- ➢ Shoot from slightly above
- ➢ Don't cut off hands or feet
- ➢ Leave room for crops
- ➢ Background, he was using dark blue
- ➢ Blur background in photoshop
- ➢ Use back light between person & screen pointing up
- ➢ Light & lens most important for portraits
- ➢ Rembrant lighting: 45 deg in front & high gives triangle of light on off side of face
- ➢ Reflector or light on shadow side
- ➢ Portrait Professional software
- ➢ Triangle for groups: tall in back mon & dad, children in front & left & right
- ➢ If you can't afford light set get the key light and use reflector or speedlites for others.

- ➢ Less shadow for older people.
- ➢ Get catch light in eyes
- ➢ Never crop to center use rule of 1/3 rds
- ➢ Spot focus
- ➢ Tilt head up on women
- ➢ Use auto WB and adjust in lightroom
- ➢ Always bounce speedlite with diffusior