

February 21, 2021

RE: Shooting and Editing Video in your SmartPhone

Dear NCPTechTalk friends,

Wow, finally some sunny and warmer weather in Delaware! I took a walk in Brandywine Park this morning to enjoy the change, mindfully watching my steps to avoid slipping.

I used my phone to record the journey, and produced the video on my phone too (a Pixel 3a), using Power Director, a richly featured consumer grade video editor. It exported my video from phone to YouTube without difficulty. Here's the video:

<https://youtu.be/Ti80xGYzk8I>

In a recent post I commented that making short videos is a chief requirement for effective messaging in social networks; and, that making videos quickly is also required, because most of us have jammed schedules already.

I'm glad to report that the Power Director mobile app reduces production time by facilitating filming and editing on one device. Of course, there are other good mobile video apps out there. If you Google that phrase you'll see the abundance!

Occasionally when filming outside you'll get wind rumble. How to prevent that? For this project I plugged my cable earbuds into my phone and ran the cable down the inside of my shirt. The mic on the cable lay against my chest, a little to the right and slightly above my sternum. The clips where you hear rumble in this video were ones where I needed to raise my arms rather high to make a shot. That tugged on the cable and raised the mic out of its protected position. The very best way to protect a small mic from the wind is to tape it to your chest or clothing. Right against your skin is best because you get great resonance from your rib cage!

I find it amazing that the inexpensive mic on my earbuds cable not only picks up my voice well, but also ambient sounds like the wren singing and the rapids roiling. Ambient sounds are important for conveying context. It's been said that good sound is even more important in film making than great visuals are, for if you can't hear narration clearly the story is lost, and without a story film is scarcely worth watching.

If you are daunted by the complex task of editing video footage, start simply. Take clips in the exact order you want to use them in your film. Don't even bother trimming them. Just shoot, put the clips on a timeline and command the software to make (render) your video.

That's what I did with my very first YouTube video, called Nola's Carrots. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbPlcjQWUgk> (Nola is our California grandkids' nickname for their grandmother, who makes great granola and loves gardening).

Eventually, the pleasure of visual storytelling will likely see you through the trying stages of learning this new craft. You'll likely come to appreciate video editing as an invitation to creativity rather than just a tedious task. That being said, I must confess I still like making shots better than making films. But because video is queen of the media I persist.

-- Tom



[TCDavis](#)

President, [Interfaith Veterans Workgroup](#)  
302-507-6012 mobile