

Roatan 18-My World View

G Joseph Wilhelm – Roatan Honduras

Since my last article I have gone legally blind in my right eye. The good news is it may not be macular degeneration and may be treatable. However, I checked, and my inane sense of humor has not abandoned me. The image thru my right eye is entertaining as it somewhat resembles a funhouse mirror and when looking directly at someone expressing commiseration, depending on who they are, I can honestly comment on how much better *they* look. I overplayed the sympathy card with my wife. She is more of a slap you in the face, snap out of it, get over yourself type of gal who now stoically stands beside me with a fire extinguisher and burn cream whenever I try to light my pipe. My bruised cheek and finger burns are healing nicely thank you.

The doctors want to give me an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) scan to determine exactly what it is and then a very expensive shot in the eye (or series of shots at \$1,000 ea.) to treat it. I was told years ago my left eye suffers a non-progressive thickening retina and has a visual acuity of 20/40 that was untreatable and uncorrectable with glasses. When viewing thru a binocular scope with that left eye, it got impossible to get a sharp image. Now, combined with my right eye, my depth perception is shot and results in some interesting gymnastics when walking down the driveway.

So, my soul is relearning to drive this organic machine/body thru this reality (I read where monkeys were affixed with goggles that reversed and inverted the optical image and after some time, their brains relearned their sight interpretation and they became as adept as before the induced vision impairment.) I just now have to be smarter than a monkey. A challenge, I will admit.

After four weeks of this, there has been some minor improvement. I can now, just barely, see distorted images thru the dark spot. The images are getting slightly brighter. I'll take that as a good sign. Obviously, I can read and write with the left eye, but with some effort. (Ha! You thought you wouldn't have to suffer through this month's article.)

Something very interesting has happened. I was futzing around with some low power optics for the first time since this happened to see if I could see anything. With my right eye now the non-dominant team player, my left eye is "learning" to cooperate with the right to present a coherent view and the left eye picture has cleared up noticeably. I can now see hair on a fly's tongue with a loupe and even better with my trusty 10X front rifle scope lens. I can see all my little critter friends, just no stereo image. Never would have thought it. I can now navigate through the house using just my right eye periphery vision. So, as they say here "Todo bueno" (It's all good!)

I apologize for the necessarily truncated article. I get the treatment on the 19th and I will let you know how it turns out.

Powering through. "We never retreat".
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The author's earlier essays in the series can be accessed in the [Micscape](#) Library.

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