



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release

October 2006



Photo © Tony Van Straubensee, from the Lynn Canyon outing.

From the Acting Editor

(Shona LaFortune)

Well, well. I no sooner passed this position on to someone else than that someone else decided to take a trip to the UK. So here I am again, with my last chance to make an editorial comment... (well, **here** anyway).

I am a generalist with an ever-widening range of interests and skills. My photographic interests are all over the map. Yet sometimes, although I may not restrict myself in **subject**, I use the same **style**, prefer a certain lens, etc. I have been giving myself exercises to break this lazy habit. For example, I went to Minter Gardens, a colourful place, with a 50 mm lens, a reversing ring and B&W film. I found great subjects! When you try this kind of thing, you see the world in a different way.

(Cont'd on page 5)

Upcoming Program

Oct 3

Program by Grace Darney: **“The Beginner Gets Braver, Using Photoshop”** – telling how to make those so-so photographs into great images. If her first Photoshop talk (Sept. 26) made you think of questions to ask her, this is the time to bring them out.

Oct 17

Program: Members Night – bring 2 photos for discussion - from outings, or other photos if you've not been on outings. These can be prints (8 X 10 or larger please, mounted on a firm backing for easier, safer handling), slides (bring the night of the meeting) or digital images (please email to Dave – dave@nwphoto.org by Sunday, October 15th! – contact Dave if you have questions).

Nov 7

Select prints for the Delta Print Challenge. Please see the guidelines under "Competitions!" this issue. We need 10 images from 10 different people, and it would be nice to improve our standing in this competition...

Places to be – Outings

Justin Ball, Outings Coordinator

*Like last year, I've tried to put on a selection of outings that in **each** outing provides photo opportunities to every kind of photographer. For example, a trip might be described as being mainly one theme, but other themes are just as findable. Don't be fooled by the description and not come. As photographers, we sometimes have our favourite topic, and we only see those things around us that cater to our theme. One might argue this is restrictive- we only see directly around us, creating a close horizon. Topics that are unfamiliar to us might seem pointless- until you try to find your topic in an unlikely scenario- in effect using our desire to see the same, as a way of forcing us into looking over the horizon...and who knows what you might see by looking through your long lens.*

October 14th

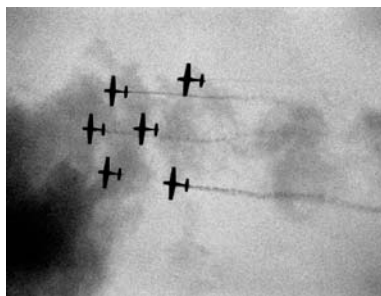
Fall Festival of Death

October contains the fall and Halloween, the month of the dying of the year. Trees lose their leaves, salmon spawn and die, people shuffle off their mortal coil, once lively rural centers are passed over and forgotten, great routes of transport are superseded and forgotten. This outing will include visiting a creepy family cemetery, salmon spawning streams (you should see the colours), a forgotten country general store, a trip along a forgotten highway, and lots of colourful flora. Full day-trip. Bring flash, boots, raingear, lunch and pocket money. **Meet at the school at 9:30am.** We will arrange carpooling the morning of.

- Bring money, rain gear and so on...
- Kilby Store Museum, special price for us (\$7)
- Weaver Creek salmon spawning grounds- free. River runs red with salmon- this is the peak weekend!
- Cemetery between the two for your Halloween pics ...Group photograph as the zombies from George A. Romero's black and white Night of the Living Dead
- Participants might want to visit the Abbey earlier in the day, or the longhouse just outside Mission.
- There is an EXCELLENT greasy spoon café/diner on the way back, beside the historic general store and post office. \$10 buffet is NOT to be missed.



© Justin Ball



© Shona LaFortune



Chinatown photo © Justin Ball

November 11th

"Remember Chinatown"

November is often gray, wet, depressing. This outing will take participants to the Vancouver cenotaph for Remembrance Day, and then to Chinatown and surrounding areas. Bright lights, street produce markets, clever wielding butchers, ethnic foods and bright produce will hopefully chase some of the November cold away. Bring raingear, flash, tripod, lunch money (you HAVE to try the pastries- so much whipped cream.) Transport by Skytrain. **Meet at 8th Street Skytrain Station at 9:30, or in front of Waterfront station at 10:15.** Bring the usual bits, and wear a poppy.

Past outings

September had two outings. Reports from Dave Emery, David Love and Shona LaFortune- thanks.

On Saturday, Sept 16, the Club had our first outing of the year, to Lynn Canyon Park. Four of us (Justin, Shona, Tony and Dave) met at the New Westminster Skytrain station for the public transportation adventure to the Park. After a ride on the Skytrain, a Sea Bus, a transit bus, as well as a short walk, we made it to Lynn Canyon. In spite of predictions for rainy weather, it was a beautiful, sunny day.

We met up with Matti and started hiking around the Park. The water levels were low, but the scenery was great! Photo opportunities included the water/river, lush ferns, tall trees, bridges, back-lit leaves, entertaining tourists and banana slugs! After a few hours, we regrouped and had a bit of a break while enjoying the sun. We were happy to finally meet up with Marjorie, who we had missed earlier in the park. Matti and Marjorie volunteered to save the rest of us from the second half of our public transportation adventure and haul us all back safely to New West.



Photo © Dave Emery



Photo © Kelvin Leong



Photo © Shona LaFortune

Ah, Saturday night (September 23) **and** a double feature (Screaming Engines and Silent Stars) – what better way to celebrate the end of summer! Only one member (David Love) took full advantage of the speedway, and said, "...met Cathy, the track photographer, got a pit pass, etc. - roamed the pits and watched the warm-ups and time trials from inside the oval, then switched to the stands for the races. It's not exactly NASCAR, but enjoyable none the less!" Eight members were at the Manning Park Cascade Lookout; five had briefly stopped in at the races. We had a perfect clear night with just enough breeze to keep dew off the lenses, an amazing array of stars (with a few "falling"), and a bonus view of aurora borealis. (Some digital cameras captured colours the eye couldn't see – see above photo; film results not available by press time). One member camped in the park and the rest drove back to the City. See the club website for more photos!

Justin, thanks for getting our Outings program off to a great start for the year!

Were you there?

The first meeting of the year, September 12, was attended by about 22 people. We welcomed visitors Alex and Sherry (guessing at that spelling). On the administrative side, the executive members gave their reports, we introduced new "timing cues" for our 5-minute presentations (thanks, Grace), and accepted nominations for VP (see story this issue).

Lou, in 5 minutes, shared with us some of the B&W photojournalistic photographs of workers by Sebastiao Salgado that he finds particularly impressive. Thanks for that, Lou. They were great images and I hope some people got a chance to flip through the library books you brought along.

"How I spent my summer" was the theme for sharing photographs. Overall, 15 people participated, telling us about their images. The digital photos were shown first, and after a break, the slides and prints. There was lots of variety -- our members made good use of the summer! We hope to see more of these great photographs in the upcoming season.

The second meeting, on September 26, was a program on beginner Photoshop, by Grace Darney. For the 5-minute presentation, Keith did a great multi-media (timed slides and music) presentation on county Clare in Ireland. For the business portion, Shona was elected VP.

The VP Story

This has such a feel of a fairy tale, it should start with "once upon a time...." At the AGM in May, Jason Hollister was elected Vice-President. However, most of you know by now that he has resigned. He and Ramona were married in the Turks & Caicos Islands in June. After he posted some of his photos on his website, he was contacted by Club Med Turkoise to work for them as a photographer. After thinking about it, he resigned his sales position at Sage Accpac and he and Ramona left for the islands. Jason says he works about 100 hours a week in 115°F heat, is learning lots (a "serious crash course" he says) and considering making photography his profession "once I decide to come back." You can see some of Jason's photos at <http://jasonhollister.com/>. What a great story. We all wish him well (although of course I'm sure we're all totally jealous.)

That did leave the small matter of the VP vacancy. We opened nominations at the first meeting in September, and Shona LaFortune, past President and past newsletter editor, volunteered. When nominations were closed at the second meeting, Shona was elected. Shona is looking forward to participating in the executive again and will be backing Dave up when he unable to chair the meetings.

Our website (<http://www.nwphoto.org>)

Kelvin Leong has taken on the job of looking after our website this year. Keeping on top of our dynamic program and activities is not easy. Thanks, Kelvin.

Reminders regarding the site:

- Each member can have a **gallery** page. If you don't yet have a page, or would like to do some updating, submit your images to Kelvin digitally, via e-mail or CD. If you have questions about resolution or scanning your prints or slides, please contact Kelvin.
- We have an **announcements** page. Please keep an eye on this for items pertaining to the club and if you have seen any item of interest to members, send it along to Kelvin.

Please bookmark and visit our site **often!** Any updated information regarding **outings** or **programs** will be posted there first. As well, you can view a pdf version of each **newsletter** (or print it for your records). Let the executive know if there is anything else you would like to see on the site. If you have any questions about where to find information, contact Kelvin.

Of Note/ToNote

- Please let Tasha (club Treasurer) know of any change in your contact information, particularly your phone number and e-mail address, when you pay your dues, (or any time it changes of course).
- Unfortunately, Ava is unable to continue phoning everyone with meeting reminders. We thank Ava for her conscientious devotion to that volunteer position. This year, Dave will **e-mail** reminders of the upcoming meetings. (That's why Tasha needs your e-mail address). If you don't have e-mail or would prefer a phone call, Marjorie Mowers has kindly agreed to handle the telephone reminders. However, **you must let her know** if this is your preference. See Marjorie at a meeting to request that you be added to the phone reminder list.
- Mark this date on your calendar right now: **December 18**. That is the date of the club Christmas party. Yes, it is a **Monday** night. And we will say no more about it until we start collecting for the tickets. Yes, our finances mean payment in advance, folks. Thanks.

- If you have not yet paid your 2006/2007 **dues**, note they have increased to **\$29** to cover the costs of our room and other budgeted items, and they are due now. Please see Tasha at the next meeting. (Visitors, you are very welcome to attend a couple of meetings as guests).

Competitions!

Our club participates in several competitions throughout the year with other lower mainland clubs. The first will be the Delta Print Challenge. Usually held towards the end of November, this is a **print** competition. Since we have not yet received a formal invitation to complete this year, we will assume we are invited and will select our prints at the **first meeting in November**. We will also assume the rules are the same. Our club will be looking for **ten** prints, each from a different member. The **minimum print** size is 6" X 9"; the **minimum matte** size is 11" X 14". The **maximum print and maximum matt** sizes are 16" X 20". All prints must be backed with 4-ply matte board and matted (except for 16 X 20 prints where it would be... impossible). Topic is open, colour or black and white, digital, film, commercial or self-processed. We've heard Wal-Mart makes quite good 11 X 14 prints for a very reasonable price. Remember, in print competitions, an 8 X 10 has less impact unless it is very simple.

Judging for this competition is usually held at the Longhouse at the Delta Rec. Centre in Tsawwassen. It's worth attending; we'll let you know when we have more information.

Editorial (Cont'd from page 1)

Shona LaFortune

Today's society seems to encourage specialists and it's certainly satisfying to be accomplished in something, whether it is cycling or gardening. And even in the diverse field of photography, most people quickly settle into what they like to photograph, whether it is a commercial aim like weddings or a hobby preference like flowers. Finding a niche in photography can be a good thing, but having knowledge about a wide range of subjects can expand your enjoyment and opportunities. Skills get rusty, so if you haven't recently used fill flash (or flash) or practiced panning or taken macros or done a portrait, you may miss a once-in-a-lifetime shot, or a job opportunity....

When I taught beginner photographers, year after year the majority wanted to know how to take better baby and holiday pictures. When I showed them how to minimize background distractions, optimize exposure, avoid dark shadows, flash falloff, etc. they were happy. But I also showed them many examples of other subjects they could photograph, and it was good to share their pleasure when they brought in close-ups of cutlery or birds-eye views of the street.

Our club provides a stress-free learning and sharing environment for whatever photographic subjects or techniques you wish to explore. You don't have to show us exhibition-quality work; you can bring in a work in progress for feedback. Take advantage of our workshops and outings as opportunities to "see", learn and experience something new, interesting and exciting, something that may lead you to a different path or new opportunities.

History in Photographs

One of the most captivating aspects of photography is the capture of history. Most museum archives have a wealth of photographs. Recently, the Vancouver Sun featured Vancouver photographs from Vancouver's past. What changes... The Vancouver Public Library has a Special Collections/Historical Photographs section with scans of 87,000 photographs or negatives:

(<http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/branches/LibrarySquare/spe/hisphoto.html>).

The City of Vancouver Archives also has a large online collection:

(<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/archives/photos/index.htm>).

Past Members

For those of you who remember Peter Jensen and wonder how he is doing, with the recent political events in Thailand (he has been teaching there for a while), he recently sent out this e-mail to his friends:

"Hello everyone! This morning has certainly been unusual even by all my experiences here. I went to school and found it was closed. Apparently during the night the army has deposed the Thai prime minister. It seems they are now running the country. I really don't know a lot right now..... I am safe and all is well....." and in a subsequent message: "Well I have survived SARS, Tsunami, bird flu, drought, floods and now a coup. AMAZING Thailand."

The APAC Seminar

If you haven't registered yet for this seminar (October 21), and would like to, don't wait any longer. It usually fills up and you may not get your choice of workshops even now. The feature speaker is Nancy Rotenberg. Lots of workshops for digital (Raw imagining, retouching with CS2, ways to share digital images, digital exposure, digital high-contrast imagery, digital workflow, etc.), but also: candid child photography, electronic flash, stock photography, astrophotography, macro photography, scrap yard abstracts, stress free wedding photography... lots to choose from. Brochures are available at many camera stores, the club and online, (<http://www.apac.bc.ca>), where you can also register.

Newsletter contributions

Tell us about exhibitions, opportunities, ideas, questions, thoughts, comments, techniques, equipment, sales... This newsletter is by you and for you. Talk to us!

Club Key Contacts

You can reach Dave Emery (President) at dave@nwphoto.org, or 604-517-6654, Shona LaFortune (VP) at shona@nwphoto.org or 604-970-3850, Peter Ellis (Editor) at peter@nwphoto.org or 604-463-7363, Justin Ball (outings) at outings@nwphoto.org and Kelvin (webmaster) at kelvin@nwphoto.org. Any of us will be happy to provide you contact information for the person you are looking for, if we can.