



Shutter Release

September 2007



Jason Hollister,
Club President
2007-2008

A message from the President

Well summer is dwindling and I'm sure we all have a fresh batch of new photos to share! As this new year presents itself, my goal is to continue with the many traditions the club has while aiming to bring some new things to the club - with as little change as possible.

I've come to learn that being a photographer is akin to a medical doctor or lawyer. The landscape changes. We must all consider ourselves "practicing" photographers. I have learned much from other photographers, revelling in passing on anything found outright onto others. My goal this year is to enable all members to share their collective knowledge and take their photography to a new level. We can paint outside the lines together, continuing our way of sharing and learning together while having fun!

New Online Theme Competition Shona LaFortune

It's the club's 60th anniversary year, and as part of our celebrations, we are introducing something new, but with roots in the past: "Theme Shooting Online". Long-time club members will remember "assignments", but instead of bringing slides to the club, you will be able to upload your images to our website.

Also new: Online comments. Every month there will be a new "theme". You'll have about 7 weeks to interpret it and post your images, but the sooner you enter (a maximum of 3 photos) the sooner you can benefit from the other members' comments. And we know that friendly feedback is a great learning tool, so please take the time to comment on the other photos!. (Until the theme closes, only you will be able to see the comments on your photos. After that, everyone will be able to see all comments).

But wait, there's more. If a new assignment every month, and all that helpful feedback isn't enough to challenge and inspire you, we have awards! After the theme closing date, everyone can vote on our "Photo of the Month". The highest scoring images will be honoured with really cool virtual trophies and ribbons (and these will also appear on your member profile page so you can show them off). So the more you enter, the more chances you have to get those little ribbons lined up beside your photos and your name.

At our wind-up dinner, we will have some special prizes for the most entries, highest aggregate scores and anything else we can dream up during the year.

If you don't have a computer, tug the sleeve of someone in the club with a scanner, and ask them to enter your slides or prints for you.

The first theme opened August 1 and you have until September 22 to upload your images. The next theme opens September 1, so check the site often. At our first meeting, we will be inviting your input on theme topics.

Contact Shona (shona@nwphoto.org or at the club) if you have any questions. Derek (webmaster@nwphoto.org) is the one to go to for technical questions.

Upcoming Program

Sept 4 – Summer Shots

Have you traveled to "far-away places" in the three months since we took our summer break? Did you stay local, heading for the lake or cottage at weekends - or did you just hang around the garden or the neighbourhood, soaking up sunshine?

Whatever took your fancy I'm sure your camera wasn't on vacation, so let's see some of those summer shots, wherever they were taken. Prints, digital or slides - it makes no difference. Four to six would be about right.

This won't be a critiquing session, so we promise not to comment on them unless you invite us to do so.

In Preparation: Submit digital images to webmaster@nwphoto.org at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Sept 18 – Beginning Photoshop

The main feature: Grace Darney, giving a talk on "Beginning Photoshop", the first part of a 'how-to' presentation – to be continued at our next meeting. By correcting, improving and manipulating your images, Grace will show ways of bringing out the qualities that may lie hidden there.

Oct 3 – Print Night

Many of you asked for more chances to show and discuss your work. We hear you, and this is the time to bring out some (2 or 3) of those prints you've been keeping to yourself since last season. This time there will be comments - come and find out what other members have to say about them.

Note: this session is specifically for prints -- which can have quite different qualities from projected images. So if you have digital images for review, take them to WalMart or CostCo for printing if you don't have a photo printer at home. 8x12 prints are quite reasonable in price these days, many places charging less than \$5.

In Preparation:

- Remember to get your prints done ahead of the meeting! If using a lab service, make sure they will be ready in time!



Prints must be at least 8x10 so people in the room can see them. They should be mounted on cardboard so they stand up properly on the easel (any firm cardboard will do, even the sides from cardboard boxes)

Summer Outing – Othello Tunnels Derek Carlin



Photo by Matti Lagerbom

July 7th, 2007 (7/7/7) was considered an auspicious and lucky day by several cultures and it is said there were more weddings planned for that date than any other day of this year. So what does a photography club do with such a "lucky day"? Why go shooting, naturally!

In an earlier outing ("Beyond Hope") I was told that the Othello Tunnels had been considered as a side trip, but time and weather did not permit it. So an "unofficial" summer-hiatus outing was held taking a drive back to Hope to visit that marvellous example of Canadian engineering history. The site is an example of the rounded curves of nature combined with the unnatural straight lines of man-made

constructions, blended together in solid granite.

With two archetypes of exposure: brilliant sunlight in the gorge and the deep darkness of the tunnels, it would be natural for a photographer to gravitate to one or the other but our members showed illuminating alacrity in trying shots at both ends of the spectrum. Some even dared to combine both extremes in one shot by applying HDR (High Dynamic Range) multiple-exposure techniques.

Justin took the opportunity to attempt another of his "ghost shot" ideas with "Ghost Miners", contrasting modern happy tourist families with a ghostly reminder of the many men who lost their lives constructing the tunnels. It was amusing to overhear many tourists who thought a movie production was underway --- forgetting the fact that most movie crews don't use still cameras!

The event was attended by large contingent of 14 members and one guest who had found our website and said we sounded like a "fun group". The event has gained the name of "Beyond Hope 2" and member photos from the outing are on display in the Photos/Outings section of the club's website (nwphoto.org).

Upcoming Outings

Streets of Seattle

Sept 15, 2007

Subjects: architecture, alleys, flowers, food, textures, art, neon, people, history, LIFE!

Logistics: Bring: ID to get you across the border (seriously, you will need your passport, or a birth certificate (original or certified copy) and a current, valid, government issued photo ID (like a driver's licence)), clothing for the weather and your preferred length of stay, camera gear

(you are going there to take photos, right?) that you won't mind carrying around for a while, and money. US dollars work best. Or credit cards. Oh, and some of you need to bring cars.

We will arrange and announce meeting time, place, carpooling arrangements, etc. at the first meeting. Watch this space for updates.

Details: Our first "official" outing for 07/08 will be a day trip (you're welcome to stay longer, but you'll have to make your own arrangements with whomever you carpool) to Seattle. We'll stay within one area (walking distance) to take in architecture, Pioneer Square, Pike Street market, galleries, etc. More details TBA

Wind-up Pot Luck – June 5th

Report and photos by Shona LaFortune

It was an overcast, cool day for our wind-up pot-luck. When I arrived, the elves (Agnia, Peter and Margaret) had the tables set up in vibrant summer colours, with red checked tablecloths that would have worked with any summer picnic: vibrantly coloured plates and napkins and, on every table, all the toys one would need for sandcastles and beach play. Agnia had made a



point of requesting desserts, so this year there was no shortage. "Pot lucks always work out", Dave said, and sure enough, there was everything from seafood chowder to pizza, with enough salads for this vegetarian writer (followed by enough chocolate cake for a two-day sugar high – what was I thinking?!).

Dave, our outgoing President, had thoughtfully procured gifts for the outgoing Executive and the #1 (Keith) and #2 (Shona) club supporters (measured

by participation during the past year). After the acknowledgements, Dave showed us a program of images from his trip to the Galapagos Islands. Who knew that sand and iguanas came in such diversity of colour, and that little sea lions were so cheeky?

At the Surrey Photography Club's presentation the week before, Justin had procured a gift card from Photo Expert for 50 8X10 prints. Fred guessed the correct number and won the card. That business, in Scottsdale Mall, is a big supporter of local camera clubs and has great pricing on photofinishing and equipment. Highly recommended.

Thanks also to those people who helped with the setup and cleanup. Everyone's participation helped make it a great party!



Club Finances 2006-2007 Submitted by Tasha Robinson, Treasurer

2006-2007 CLUB INCOME

- Membership fees (24 x \$29, 2 x \$14.50) = \$725
- Coffee donations (avg \$8 x 18 mtngs) = \$144
- Raised for Christmas party (22 x \$25.00) = \$550
- Silent Auction = \$212

TOTAL INCOME = \$1631

2006-2007 CLUB EXPENSES

- Meeting Room = \$572
- CAPA Membership = \$80
- Christmas Party and Spring Potluck = \$900
- Competitions = \$45
- Website = \$60
- Other = \$70

TOTAL EXPENSES = \$1727



Camera Comparisons Shona LaFortune

I've been making photographs for a long time, quite seriously at times. Using and viewing my collection of SLR cameras lately has got me making comparisons.

For a long time, film cameras were relatively similar in features: aperture, shutter speed, maybe a meter or DOF preview... that was pretty much it. Then along came auto-exposure and auto-focus and choices of metering modes and high speed continuous shooting and timers and auto-bracketing and flash bracketing and scene modes and manuals the size of the Oxford dictionary, and it seemed the choices that had to be made before every shot drove almost everyone to "auto" mode until generations forgot why you would change the aperture in the first place.... (Do I write science fiction? Wait and see).



Comparing features has become a common purchasing tool but we all know that it's not the features, it's how you use them. (Check out "Russian Soldiers" in the Past Outings Gallery for a look at some great shots that were taken with disposal film cameras). Still, my digital "super-zoom point and shoot" (P&S) and a digital SLR had me comparing features myself. (Depending on your equipment, your results may vary).

The SLR captures more information, (even assuming equal megapixels, it still has a larger sensor) and seeing through the lens gives you that big, bright, real image. But the P&S's electronic viewfinder can see in the dark. It brightens the image so much it's like having a night scope. With the SLR, dark is, well, dark.

Look ma, no lenses. The P&S has a built-in 35-405 35 mm equivalent and weighs very little. You'd have to get something like a 20-300 to get the same reach on an SLR and it would be have to be slow, like an f5.6 to keep the weight down.

The P&S has a "virtual" 2.8 lens. But it's noisy. Digital noise, that is (looks like film grain). At anything over 100, the P&S results look like the cheapest fast film ever on the market. The most common, slower SLR lenses may be f4.0-5.6, but noise isn't as evident until maybe ISO 800.

The SLR has manual focus options. The same option on the P&S is pretty much useless, and some shots are lost because it simply won't lock focus.

The P&S has "toys". "Serious" photographers may scorn "scene" modes (although they are found on a good number of SLRs too) and other in-camera options, but often "playing" helps you see things in a different way. Few SLRs offer the option to see what your house would look like painted blue, or green or yellow... or to capture just the pink flowers and leave everything else in black and white.... (yeah, sure you can do it all in Photoshop but it takes more time...)

Both cameras have image stabilization, a feature that is just making me too lazy to carry a tripod, thus missing some shots. However, I'm also taking photographs I never would have

before, because no time is lost setting up. And I can go on long urban walks and not have to carry a camera bag.

The P&S has an intervalometer (to take a series of photographs at timed intervals). And it can shoot movies, 30 fps, with stereo sound, and with zoom, at the touch of one button. The SLR can't do that.

For travel, I prefer the P&S, despite its limitations, because of its incredible versatility. But if I could only have one camera.... it would be something without batteries.



References:

Kodak breakthrough boosts light sensitivity of cameras
(<http://www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2007/06/14/tech-filter.html>)
PhotoShop TV: <http://www.photoshopusertv.com/>

2006-07 Executive Committee

President: Jason Hollister
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Treasurer: Tasha Robinson
Competition Coordinators: Fred & Joan Greaves
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Refreshment Coordinator: Grace Darney
Special Events Coordinator: Agnia Love



Club Key Contacts

You can reach Jason Hollister at info@nwphoto.org or 604-518-8005, Dave Emery (Editor) at editor@nwphoto.org or 604-517-6654; and Shona LaFortune (Outings) at outings@nwphoto.org. Any of us will be happy to provide you contact information for the person you are looking for, if we can.