



New Westminster Photography Club Shutter Release

We're

60!

May 2009

*May is a busy month for the club, with lots of competitions, **elections** of new officers and our wind-up pot-luck.*

Upcoming Meetings

May 5 - Cameras and technology are rapidly evolving, but there are also things that don't change. This evening will cover both aspects in an "equipment night". We will open with a representative from the well-known Surrey store "Camera Expert", showing us the latest in technology in cameras, flashes, scanners, printers etc. The second part of the evening will be a "Show and Tell". **Bring in** a piece of equipment, small or large, classic (like a tripod) or "gadget" (filter, reflector...?) or even your newest camera... that you find useful, practical, interesting or indispensable, and show us why.

May 19 – Annual General Meeting. This isn't as boring as it sounds! We get brief reports from the Executive, elect new officers and wind up with a short program. It is rumoured that this year's program will be by the slide focus group!

May 26 – Wind-up Pot Luck with silent auction (see "Sweet or Savoury" in this issue).

Let's Get Out! – Club Outings (Lou: outings@nwphoto.org)



Friday, May 8 - Fraser Downs Harness Racing

17755 60th Avenue, Surrey, BC (Cloverdale, 60th Avenue and 176th Street)

Meet as close as possible to the track rail near the finish **line at the end of the first race**. I will be there trying to catch the winner. I am sure that if you have a winning ticket, we will find you when you jump up and yell. In case we are still lost, my cell phone is: 604-836-5750.

We will meet at the school in New Westminster to car pool at about 6:30 PM and proceed to Fraser Downs Racetrack. For those coming on their own, we will meet you at the track.

I am not sure about public transit to the racetrack, but by car the track is just off 176th Street at the Cloverdale Fair Grounds. You can Google for directions or call me at: 604-436-1178 or on my cell phone: 604-836-5750.

We have been given permission to photograph the activities in all public areas at the track, but we **cannot take pictures in the casino or use flash photography when there are horses present** as they are easily spooked by the lights. Betting at the racetrack and gambling at the casino is up to each individual (but I am a partner with all the winners). Reservations have been made for ten for the buffet dinner. Please let me know who plans to attend as we have complementary dinner

tickets for six and we can share the balance of the bill. If more than ten plan to come for dinner, I must call to change our reservation.

Past Outing: UBC Baseball (report by Shona LaFortune)

At the last minute, the game was moved from Nat Bailey Stadium to a new field at UBC. It looked rainy that morning, which apparently discouraged some who had said they would come, but the sun broke through here and there, and at worst it was cloudy bright with just a few little spits of rain at the start of the practice. Excellent light for photography. Thanks to Lou making arrangements with the coach, we could wander the field during practice, although we were so close to the action there was rarely a need. The practice gave the players and us time to warm up and get the timing right. Everyone was successful in capturing the ball in flight or some good action, and even once the game started, there were good angles and sight lines to capture some good sports action.

Even if sports photography isn't your thing, you never know when you will be asked to take pictures of a nephew or grandchild's big game or have a similar opportunity. I always figure that everything you can do to add to your skill set is a good thing, and this turned out to be an excellent outing for the 4 members who attended.

Thanks to Lou for setting up this unique opportunity.

I would encourage everyone to try the horse racing outing coming up. When it comes to competitions and exhibitions, having something different is often worth more points, so why not give it a shot, and enjoy a meal after with the other members attending?

Sweet or Savoury?

The annual wind-up pot-luck is coming up on May 26 – Centennial Lodge in Queens Park, 6:30 pm. Agnia will be taking donations at the door to cover incidental expenses (like napkins...) and will coordinate (during the two May meetings) somewhat to ensure we don't end up with 18 chocolate cakes (although some of us don't quite see any problem with that... but... we could also end up with 18 tossed salads...) As always, there will be a photography program for entertainment and the very popular silent auction. So, bring (1) food (2) cash for the door and to buy silent auction items and (3) something for the silent auction (it doesn't have to be photographic! – just something you'd be willing to donate). Proceeds go to the club equipment fund. Always a good time. **We could use some volunteers to help with the setup** (tables, etc.) **Please contact Agnia if you are available to come early to help.**

Competitions and Events

The **BC Print Challenge** is over for another year. Unfortunately, we placed 18th out of... 18 clubs. But that means we have nowhere to go but up next year, right? Congratulations to all our members for participating. Remember, everyone, we have a small club and are competing against some clubs that have 50 to 100+ members.

During the last members' night meeting, members commented on which images they thought would be good competition material. If you had one of those images, keep it in mind for next year!! Remember, we'll also have the Delta Print Challenge coming up next November.

The **Fraser Valley Invitational** is on Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 PM at the Chief Sepass Theatre in Fort Langley. If you have not yet obtained a ticket, they will be for sale for \$12 at the door. This is a projected image competition with the theme "Beautiful British Columbia". We have an entry so let's see how we do.

The **Crescent Beach Black and White Invitational** takes place on the evening of Thursday, May 7, 2009 in Alexandra Hall at Camp Alexandra, 2916 McBride Avenue, Crescent Beach, Surrey. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and judging will begin at 7:45 p.m.

It is traditional to try to wear black and white clothing to this event, so enjoy! There is no admission charge and refreshments are served. We have an entry in for this competition also so please come and show your support for our club!

You may have noticed we have Crescent Beach on May 7, our club outing on May 8 and the Fraser Valley Invitational on May 9. A busy week...

Not club related, but the provincial elections are May 12. Please get out and vote!

Executive

All our volunteers change office at the AGM on May 19. We hope all of you have been thinking of how you might help out the club this coming season. Here is a very brief reminder of some of the jobs that help keep the club running smoothly:

President: (currently Dave Emery) Chairs the club and executive meetings and keeps everyone on track.

Vice-President: (currently Keith) Chairs the meetings in the President's absence. Our VP also screens our notices, and distributes information and reminders.

Treasurer: (currently Tatiana) Collects dues and other funds, pays the bills and keeps the books.

Program: (currently Peter) Schedules the speakers, selection dates, and everything else that we do at meetings.

Outings: (currently Lou) Arranges the club field trips.

Webmaster: (currently Desmond) Keeps the website updated and functioning.

Newsletter: (currently Dave Emery/Shona) Most of our information is contained in the website, but we like a news sheet of some kind for guests and our non-Internet connected members.

Refreshments: (currently Lisa) Organizes the donation of snacks and sets up the refreshments for each meeting. May also organize special events (such as the two annual parties).

Special events (currently Agnia) Arranges the Christmas and wind-up parties. Maybe be part of Refreshments position.

Themes: (currently Shona) Selects the theme topics (member suggestions welcome) and sets them up on the website.

If you think you might be interested in any of these positions, feel free to contact the current position holder or any executive member for more information, and be sure to stick your hand up at the AGM! Our volunteers keep the club running and we thank them all for their hard work this year.

It's our Anniversary and we're Old!

Our club celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, 2009, and really would like to get something together to celebrate in New Westminster. We will be forming a committee to work on a project (or more?) over the summer that we might share with the city. Please talk to Dave Emery if you are interested in being part of this! (It would be excellent if we were **all** a part of this. We are one of the oldest clubs in the lower mainland – something to celebrate.)

Old Stuff

The April 26 camera swap meet at the Cameron Rec. Centre was very well attended, sometimes crowded. One of our members had a table and a few of our own members were there. It was interesting to see the trends, all the equipment and the pricing... and good to see there is still lots of interest in film cameras. There was some beautiful equipment for sale. Keep it in mind for next year. It's the biggest one around.

Themes

Congratulations to the winners of the last theme "Angles" (1st place: "Cheerful" by Keith, 2nd "Hive" by Tony and 3rd "Gridlock" by Keith). The themes are a year-round activity for us, and an excellent opportunity to practice creative, interpretive photography. Also, you can practice your commenting and receive valuable feedback from other members.

The current theme "**Shadows**", is open until May 21. You can add comments at any time, and you have a week once the competitions close to comment and vote on your top 3. Questions: email themes@nwphoto.org.

Focus Groups

Focus groups get together to concentrate or "focus" on a specific area of interest (such as architecture, portraiture, photo software or anything else that may not get as much emphasis during our meetings as we would like). Sign up on the club website for Google Groups and share your area of interest with other members. A great activity for the summer when the club isn't meeting!

Club Key Contacts

You can reach Dave Emery at president@nwphoto.org or 604-517-6654 Peter (Program) at program@nwphoto.org, Lou (Outings) at outings@nwphoto.org and Shona (Themes or Newsletter) at shona@nwphoto.org. Any of us will be happy to provide you contact information for the person you are looking for, if we can.