



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release

November, 2010

2010-2011 Season

A belated **written** welcome to all members and visitors. We hope you enjoy this issue, which will summarize some of the changes in our club for this new season and our results and discoveries so far.

Wanted – Newsletter Editor

Our enthusiastic volunteer has been unexpectedly stricken with a case of too many commitments. This happens to the best of us so we are hoping one of our other enthusiastic members will take this on. You can prepare it in something as simple as Word and send it off to our webmaster, so no complicated publishing skills are required. You can even hand-write it if you want (do people still do that?) Contact president@nwphoto.org if you can help us out.

Biggest News: The Big Move

We started the season in the school where we had been meeting for some years, but the school's new liability insurance requirement was fiscally impossible. In addition, the new contract would not have included the ever so convenient room across the hall for our breaks, and our storage cabinet had to go. Thus began a frantic search for a new meeting place. In competition with other groups in the same boat, we were happy to find the Sapperton Pensioner's Hall. The new venue has lots of space for displaying prints or for hands-on workshops, is really close to Skytrain and the freeway and has a built-in screen. We do rattle around in it a bit, but it will be perfect for the times when we do need the space. At an October meeting, we discussed the cost shortfall and determined that, should it be necessary, we will have to assess an additional charge in early 2011 to cover the additional costs. One more thing about the new location - **Parking**: If you arrive early, please **do not block** all the wall and centre spots for those who arrive later. The caretaker prefers that the spots against the wall be filled first, so unless you need to be first out, please save space so that others in the club can park! (Note there are some spots behind the building also).

Special thanks to everyone who participated in the search, especially Marjorie who was on the phone for what seemed like weeks, and to those who house and carry the stuff we need for meetings (equipment, kettles and coffee supplies, sign-up book, name tags, etc.) If you can, please lend a hand with carting and set-up/breakdown.

Program Evolution

You will have noticed that our program is a little different this year, based on the idea of "trading skills" and "member sharing". We realize that we have many talented members who are not comfortable being put on the spot for a full program, but who have lots of knowledge and experience to share. So, our first meeting of each month has a topic/theme, and the program is made up of contributions from the members. The second meeting of each month is a photo sharing meeting, where members are encouraged to share two photographs demonstrating their application of the previous meeting's topic, one image of their choice just to share or talk about, and two images for our monthly competition (more about that later).

So far, skills topics have been:

September Simplicity
October Depth of Field
November Lines, curves, frames, “rule of thirds”

As we refresh our knowledge and practice these skills, we should look for them in every photograph we view or produce . . . sort of a building block effect. We have different ones coming up though... such as “black and white”.

Outings

Our Outings Director, Justin, is back from his most recent motorcycle tour of Europe and has some great outings lined up. We have outings like no other club, all interesting, fun, challenging and sometimes “out there”, which may likely introduce you to some types of photography you may not usually do. Contact Justin at outings@nwphoto.org or cell 778-891-4774.

Remember, after any outing, you can upload your photos to the website yourself. Just **log in** to the website, go to Activities, select Past Outings and click on the little camera icon you will see there. Remember to resize your images. You will be prompted with some instructions and you can add a comment to any image if you like.

Club Competitions: in-club and on-line

We have a **new, monthly** in-club competition this season, alternating prints and digital images. You may enter **two** images at the second meeting of each month. If it is a digital image month, send your images to photos@nwphoto.org **no later** than the Monday before the meeting. If it is a print competition month, you may bring your prints to the meeting. Please **put your name and title** on the back of the prints. The in-club competition will be scored by three of our more experienced photo evaluators and the results will be accumulated until the end of the season, where there will be awards for the top aggregate scores. Participation is as important as scores!

Our other monthly competition is our **website Theme** competition. You participate through the club’s website (again, you must be logged in). There are usually two themes running concurrently, one ending in the current month and one in the following month. You may upload three entries for each theme. The theme entry period is approximately six weeks. Once the themes close for entries, they open for a week in a **voting phase**. Each member (logged in) may select their 1st, 2nd and 3rd place choice. The image with the highest score is displayed on the club home page and theme page until the next theme’s closing date, and all 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners get awesome **virtual ribbons** next to their profile. How cool is that? **Any time** the theme is in its open or voting phase you may **comment** on any member’s image (as many times as you like). Until the theme closes, you will only be able to view comments on your own image. Comments are closed after the voting phase ends, but can then be read by any visitor to the website, logged in or not.

Competition Results?

How did you score? The Theme results can also be found on the website under Activities/Themes. (Select any **completed** theme.) At the meeting following the closing of a theme, we also present a short program showing the top 10. (Thanks to Derek who adds this little job to his already overflowing plate).

Monthly in-club digital and print results will be announced at the meeting, if time allows, at the following meeting, and published in the newsletter. (Yes, they’re in this issue).

It's Complicated

Not really... it just sometimes seems that way, like learning anything new. Each month you need images for the monthly skills topic (such as depth of field), the member sharing, the digital or print competition (all "open" topics, ie no assigned theme) and keep an eye out for photos matching the on-line theme. But the whole point of being a photographer is to take photos!

If you are getting confused, check the club website or contact themes@nwphoto.org (for themes), webmaster@nwphoto.org (for any problems in submitting your images) or program@nwphoto.org (for questions relating to the photo skills topics.) Don't confuse the two website **theme** topics with the club's monthly **skills** topics!

www.nwphoto.org

It's a modern world, and most of our club's activities are recorded on our website, including:

- Program and Outing details and dates

- Executive contacts

- Member information (as much as they choose to share)

- News, newsletters, announcements, notices

- Theme competition (current and past)

- Outings (upcoming and past – with descriptions and photos)

- Articles and presentations

- Member galleries** (you can have as many as you like)

- . . . and more . . .

New members will have to do the "set password" thing to log on. If you go to Resources, then Articles, there are directions at the bottom of the page.

Members are also encouraged to fill out their **bio** so we can all get to know you a little better. A picture is great too (unless you're hiding from the law or otherwise opposed... we understand) And, if you have a strong interest in something, even if it's obscure, list it on your bio and you may find someone with like interests... Or, perhaps you will find like interested members in our . . . wait for it: . . .

Focus Groups!

This is where, if you have an interest in a particular topic, you can reach all the other members who have a similar interest, and arrange to get out and shoot. Right now we have Focus Groups on Night Photography, Architecture, Nature, Macro and Digital "slideshow" (more about them later). These groups are intended to be **informal**. All you do is send one email saying where and when you are thinking of going to take pictures, ("I'm going to head to x at x:00 today; anyone want to come?") and all members of your group will be notified. So whether it's for an hour downtown or a day-long hike, you might find some company. On the **website**, look under Activities, then Focus Groups.

WCAG

Sharing members as a Focus Group, but a club in its own right, the West Coast Animatography Group includes members from many different lower mainland clubs who enjoy putting shows together. With monthly themes, "tech tips" and discussion periods, this group is inspirational for those who like to put their photos into motion. Check them out at <http://animatography.photoclans.net> (also linked on the club website in the Focus Groups section).

Club Competition Results

September 21 digital competition:

22	Tim	Alienfly	22	Derek	Truth is found in Reflection
19	Tim	Spinning Doughnut	22	Nancy	Frasier Shore
18	Jim	Ancestors	22	Nancy	Soaring
19	Jim	Kingfisher	23	Desmond	Catch the Moment
21	Peter	Mission Arches	19	Desmond	Rocky Beach
20	Peter	Shrine	25	Keith	Fading Away
18	Marjorie	Forest Floral	22	Keith	Hook
17	Marjorie	Summer	13	Fred	Antique
25	Joan	Cranberries (1)	17	Fred	Skateboards
21	Joan	Cranberries (2)	20	Lucille	Plays with Toys
21	Shona	Shed door	19	Lucille	Times Past
18	Shona	Gold	17	June	SFU
18	Mike	Feed Me, I Am Cute	24	June	Sumac
22	Mike	Glacier Panorama			
23	Derek	Olde Tyme Kitchen			

October 19 print competition:

Most images were not titled, so we can't tell you which print scored what. For the January print competition, we will be **much** more organized!

Derek	25 and 20	Robert	21 and 22
Peter E	14 and 20	Sarah	21 and 18
Shona	16 and 18	Nancy	22 and 25
Keith	23 and 23	Mike	19 and 21
Lucille	17 and 18	Ben	20 and 22
Tony	23 and 23	June	21 and 22
Tim	21 and 18	Ron	22 and 20
David L.	18		

How many days?!

As of the writing of this newsletter, there were fewer than 50 days to Christmas. And there are even fewer days until our Christmas Pot Luck! Yum – the favourite event of the year. **December 7** (a Tuesday), **6:00 pm** at **Centennial Lodge** in Queens Park (**not** our meeting hall). Sign up with Agnia or David Love at the November meeting. \$5/person to cover decorations, coffee, etc. Bring your favourite sweet or savoury dish to share for the pot luck and an item (photographic or not) to donate to our famous **silent auction**. Guests are more than welcome, but please let Agnia know in advance so that we can plan for supplies, tables, etc. There will also be some entertainment (hint: think exotic travel).



← Grumpy candy-cane expression means “NOT ready for Christmas!”