



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release

April, 2011

Editor's Chatter

I am writing this from my new home in sunny Lillooet, surrounded by half-opened boxes marked "books", "motorcycle parts" and, my absolute favourite, "miscellaneous". But thanks to the wonder of technology, I can still communicate with the world. After much searching, I found the missing computer mouse, so I can throw together a quick newsletter.

What's in a name?

When I joined my first camera club in the 80s, it was most common to refer to the photographer as the "author" of a slide. I'm not sure how long that had been in use or where it came from, but it has slipped out of use, to be replaced by "Photographer" and "Artist". I think for a lot of today's photography, "Artist" is quite appropriate, not just from the "seeing" aspect, but because very few images go right from camera to viewer without undergoing some adjustment, if not **major** manipulation to make it into an amazing art form.

Although many Photoshop (and other) filters today can be used to transform your photograph into something that resembles a painting, sketch, poster or swirling blob, preferences as to this type of work vary. I'm happy that our club encourages creative expression so that we are all free to pursue and share our own visions, whether "straight" photography or wildly manipulated variations. Regardless of technique, I like to see the photographer justify the reason for taking the photograph... what are you trying to say or show?

Made in the USA

One of my treasures is a tiny cardboard box containing a small glass filter. **Certified** 100% solid optical glass, hard coated both sides, it has a 1956 copyright and sold for \$2.10 sometime after that. Inside the little box is a perfect, leather (not imitation) case, about 1.5" each side, stamped with the brand name, stitched on the sides and with a little flap and slot closure. And inside that, wrapped in crisp cellophane, an amber filter about the size of a penny (no metal edge). This one has probably never been used, and who knows what camera it fit, but the care that went into its manufacture and its relatively high price in the day makes me think of times when collecting each photograph was a thoughtful, meaningful process.

Shona

Executive Opportunities

Yes, our season will be over soon and it's time to think about helping with the operations of the club. Our activities don't happen without background work from our members, but at the same time, every volunteer has the backup and assistance of the executive, so you are never just "thrown out there". Executive jobs up for grabs include President, Vice-President/Program and Treasurer. The **President** chairs the club and executive meetings and makes sure everything is on track. The **V-P/Program** chairs when the President is not available, and plans the program with the help of the other Executive. The **Treasurer** collects the dues, pays the bills, balances the bank and keeps the budget.

Other volunteer positions include:

Webmaster: A Very Important Position requiring more than basic computer knowledge.

Projectionist: Receives entries for member nights and competitions and projects at meetings

Themes: Coordinates the on-line theme competition and prepares the results slide shows.

Outings: Presents regular outings/field trips to suit a variety of interests.

Refreshments: Coordinates volunteers for snacks and arranges the break refreshments.

Newsletter: Prepares the monthly newsletter, with augments our website.

Competitions: Coordinates the monthly competitions and maintains scoring records.

If you have any questions about what any of these jobs entail, feel free to email (see “contacts” on the website) or ask any executive member. Elections will be held the first meeting in May. Please contact the President if you have a nomination suggestion.

What you missed in March

At our first meeting, we reviewed images submitted by the members to illustrate “macro” and “close-up”. The hands-on portion allowed those who brought in cameras to try out their own and some of the close-up equipment and props that other members had brought.

At the second March meeting, we shared the macro and close-up shots from the previous meeting, and others. We commented on the members’ sharing images and judged the great selection of competition prints. (Results in this issue).

March Outing

For those who took advantage of this “outing”, at a studio at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, Justin had arranged for a male model as well as the studio. Seven members, including Justin, attended. Our model, Darwin, had brought some props and had some ready poses for those who might not have come prepared, and could not have been more professional. The group worked together, with one “principal” photographer at a time, and sometimes many “assistants” holding diffusers, reflectors, “light on a stick” or the “sun”. Every change in positioning of lights and reflectors made a noticeable difference, and everyone came away with a better understanding of lighting and posing. Special thanks to Justin for hosting this interesting and educational outing.

Upcoming Meetings

The April 5 meeting is a busy one! Here’s what you have to do to prepare:

1. Send up to 3 images of “time exposures” (longer than ¼ second) to photos@nwphoto.org by April 3. These can be people in motion, waves, star trails, etc., etc.
2. Bring to the meeting your camera and tripod, for the workshop.
3. Bring to the meeting, two prints for consideration for our entry (6 prints allowed) for the Crescent Beach Black and White Challenge. They don’t have to be matted, but if they are your final quality prints, you will have a better chance for selection.
4. For those who attended the last outing, bring to the meeting (unless you have made other arrangements) **two** 8X10 prints for our model, Darwin. Also (optional), you may bring a few prints for the side table to share with the members.

On April 19, we will have our usual “member sharing” evening, with results from the “time exposures” workshop, member’s choice photos and digital competition images. See the website for all the details on indicating the type of image so Derek can tell them apart.

Next Outing

The next outing will be a **road trip** probably in early May. Details TBA. Questions about any outing: outings@nwphoto.org. Or call 778-891-4774.

The Date Book

Photo activities and photo ops coming up. Some of these are also posted on the club's website, in more detail, under Announcements.

April 17 (Sunday) has **choices**. There is the big camera "show" (more like a flea market) at the Cameron Centre. Always worth a look, especially if you have older equipment or like to collect ... It opens around 10. Usually about \$5 or so to get in. . Our own Peter Ellis may have a table again, so stop in and say hi. On the **same day**, a British Car meet at the Community Hall in Fort Langley (Google for details) and the 25th annual **Classic & Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet and Show 'n Shine** at the South Delta Recreation Centre. Great **photo ops** whether you ride or not... some unique bikes and if you just hang around outside, no charge. **And wait, that's not all!** It is also the date of the Pacific Zone Print Challenge judging in Richmond, at the Arts Centre Lecture Hall, starting at 1:00. Admission to that is \$7. Clubs from all over BC participate and it's well worth attending.

April 21 is the monthly meeting of the West Coast Animatography Group at the New Westminster Library auditorium (downstairs) at 7 pm sharp. If you want to learn more about digital "slide" shows, this is the group to join (free).

April 22 is Good Friday. Happy Easter.

May 4 is the judging of the Crescent Beach Club Black and White Print Challenge. A small group in a small venue and some excellent prints. Alexandra Hall, Camp Alexandra, 2616 McBride Avenue, Crescent Beach. Doors open at 6:30 and judging is at 7:30. Space is limited!

May 7 – Fraser Valley Invitational at the Chief Sepass Theatre, Langley Fine Arts School. You can get more information about tickets, etc. at www.langleycameraclub.com.

Looking ahead, CAPA's Canadian Camera Conference is being held in London, Ontario June 29-July 3. For information: www.capaconference.com.

Our Club Themes

Current themes:

"Abandoned" closes April 17 (See Date Book: with so many other events on the closing day, don't leave it for the last minute!)

"Puddles, Pools and Ponds" opens April 1 and closes May 22. No rivers, streams, etc. allowed.

Contact themes@nwphoto.org (themes coordinator) if you have questions and webmaster@nwphoto.org if you experience any uploading difficulties.

If you should happen to mistakenly upload the wrong image, e-mail the themes coordinator with a copy to webmaster, and we will fix it as soon as we can.

In-club Competition Results

These are the results from the March 15 print competition, in no particular order:

Photographer	Title	Score (out of 30)
Tony	Vogue	23
Matti	Bee	21
Matti	Forest	18
Robert	End of the Line	19
Robert	What Happened?	16
Barb	Rose Campion	18
Marjorie	Connections	24 (tied for 3 rd)

Mike	Mount Seymour	24 (tied for 3 rd)
Mike	Bridge at Buntzen	23
Peter	Fall Glow	24 (tied for 3 rd)
Jim	Gastown	18
Jim	Fraser Titan	18
Barb	Pink Columbine	21
Peter	Quiet Corner	26 (first)
Karen	Tulips	21
Karen	The Door	23
Shona	Wedding Plans	17
Shona	Coral	20
Keith	It's Time	25 (second)
Keith	Fit to be Tied	24 (tied for 3 rd)

Congratulations to the winners! And don't take your scores too seriously. Our judges are not always perfect, but feel free to bring a low-scoring image in on a members' sharing night (second meeting of each month) to request feedback.

April shooting

"April showers bring May flowers" my mother used to quote. Kind of weird considering we lived in Manitoba where snow is more likely in April . . . and flowers in May are pretty much found only at the florist. And on the wet coast, April showers, May showers, June showers, July.... Well, you get the idea.

However, that's not to say there are no photographic opportunities in April, as summer starts to edge its way into our consciousness.

If you like flower photography, visit the Bloedel Conservatory in QE Park in April. For the whole month, the Vancouver Orchid Society is presenting one of the largest orchid collections in BC (over 50 new plants), including some rare beauties.

Also, all through April, the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival is held. (They used to limit to 2 weeks but nature didn't always cooperate). Check the website (www.tulipfestival.org) for a map of bloom times. It gets silly crowded during peak times, so weekday visits are best if you can adjust your schedule. There are local fields in the Agassiz area too, but they don't have the commercial publicity, are all private and can be harder to find.

See "Date Book" for an April 17 photo op if you like motorcycles. (Note to the wise: never, ever touch or sit on anyone's bike without asking). April 22 -25 is the Easter weekend. If you have children or grandchildren into the bunny and egg thing, this is a great family photo op. April 30 is the filing date for tax returns... oh, wait, that's not much of a photo op unless you want to catch the lines of traffic outside the Surrey Canada Revenue office.

Megapixels

Back in late **1993**, *BusinessWeek* interviewed Kodak asking if film had a future. Kodak indicated that it certainly did, as their Ektar 25 (ISO) print film can capture about 60 million pixels of visual information, while a **\$20,000** Kodak CCD camera captures only **1.5** million pixels (emphasis mine). Appropriate comments elude me.

Quick Tip

Polarizing filters – not just for darker skies. Even if you just have a point & shoot, you can hold it in front of your lens to decrease reflections off wet leaves, etc. that you just can't fix in Photoshop. (And besides, get it "right" the first time?)

www.nwphoto.org

Here are this month's **featured features**:

Bio – We've mentioned this before, but, accessible only to members, it lets us browse and find other members who might share our interests. Yes, the photos are public (member's galleries) so if you are hiding from the law or ex-spouse . . . or have other concerns, Derek has wonderful little blue alien people who substitute.

Otherwise, most of us would love to put names to faces we see at the club. If you need technical help,

webmaster@nwphoto.org is a fantastic resource, but be kind to Derek and try the "help" buttons first.

The Box – When you are signed in, look at the second row for "Tools". On the left is a link called The Box. This lets you send a suggestion, comment or question to the entire executive or just one specific (such as Pres) anonymously. You can request a reply. This is super useful when you think of an idea at 2:00 a.m. and want to run it by the executive. Of course you're also welcome to send an e-mail at any time as well.