



Shutter Release

December 2011

Merry Christmas!

Another year has slipped away, and here it is, almost year end. Best wishes of the season to each one of you and your families. It's too bad that each new year starts with bleak winter weather, but new years are filled with promise anyway. Try something new in photography in 2012! That's an easy resolution to keep.

Oh oh

As mom would say, "If it's too good to be true" . . . We are paying half the money for twice the hours in our beautiful new venue, expecting things to be like they have been for our parties, but our first meeting revealed an unexpected issue. Another group meeting downstairs took most of the parking. They meet at 7:00 pm so if you like to come early and socialize, you should get a spot. This will only be an issue for the **first** meeting of each month. One area that was not utilized was the loading zone near the kitchen door, accessed off the road that curves on the east of the building, and that is particularly good if you are concerned about security. Park near the edges and there should be room for several cars. There is also parking on that curved road. Carpooling might be a good option as well if you know another member lives nearby.

Program

December 6 will be our **only** meeting in December, and it is our pot-luck with silent auction and entertainment. \$5/person cost for decorations, beverages and incidentals; bring some food to share and something for the silent auction. If you have not yet talked to Agnia or Dave to pay \$5 for you and each of any of your guests, **or** to arrange to bring an essential food item, please contact treasurer@nwphoto.org so they know how many tables to set, etc.

Our first 2012 meeting is **January 3** and it will be a "still life" workshop. We'll set up some stations with some props. If any members have lighting they can contribute, please let program@nwphoto.org know – otherwise we will have to resort to table lamps. (and that actually works fine, but studio type lights do give more options).

Outings

Let Justin know (outings@nwphoto.org or 778-891-4774) that you want to see some outings!

Rumour has it that another member may be setting up an outing for January 21. Keep your ears to the ground!

What you missed

We held our first workshop of the year on November 1 and we had great fun. From shining lights on the totem poles and plants outside to writing in air inside, everyone learnt a bit more about their cameras and slow shutter speed possibilities. Cathy, Shona and visitor Glen were the “skywriters” and Glen also posed for multiple-flash creations orchestrated by Peter.

On **November 22**, we held member sharing for outings and workshop results (or anything else) and the club’s digital competition (results in this issue). The sharing images were interesting, from caught in action wrestling shots (from an outing) to really good lighting painting (from the workshop).

Reminder, Allen Bargaen will be back on **February 7** with a great CAPA program on what makes a good photograph. You will not want to miss this presentation!

Themes

Remember, you can enter up to three interpretations of each month’s theme. Current running themes are:

Decorated closes January 8.

Boke(h) opens December 1 and closes January 15.

There are some interesting “Decorated” interpretations up already, so check them out and make a comment or two!

Closer than you think

As mentioned previously, we will compete in the digital competition “Fraser Valley Invitational” this spring. The theme is “**Street Photography**”, so keep your eyes open if this is not your normal type of photography. There will be lots of clubs competing, so try to capture a perfect moment. We will **select** these images on **April 17**.

We will also participate in the Crescent Beach black and white print event, so give some thought to your B&W interpretations. This can be harder than you think, so if you bring some B&W to the sharing and/or competition nights in January and February, you can get some pointers. We will **select** for that competition on **March 20**.

Artistic Endeavors (Shona LaFortune)

I am shooting through some weeds and flowers to focus on a distant blossom. It is sharp and well lit. In the foreground are leaves and flowers and I choose to place my camera so that some of these are out of focus in the viewfinder. This creates a lovely, soft, almost transparent looking vignette of greens and colours on the edges of the frame, which draws the viewers’ eyes deep into the area of the sharp flower. Nice image!

Now suppose I couldn’t find any flowers or foliage close to my camera, so when I get home, I use a photo editing program to create a soft, almost transparent vignette in greens and flower colours, around the edge of my photo. Nice image!

So here is where photography and artistry blend and twist and merge and blur. Choice of film, chemistry, toner, darkroom technique (hands up anyone who has tried the Sabattier effect in their darkroom. . . or know what it is?) like blending images, multiple exposures, etc. have always been part of the creative photographer’s repertoire.

Now we have digital photography – instant results, HDR, “fast fix”, RAW . . . there is no real “film negative” and the medium has its limitations, so we adjust the light balance, tone a bit (no toxic chemicals to dispose of), brighten, change the contrast... and then maybe blend

images or apply some kind of “filter” to create a poster “posterization” was old hat in the darkroom days and now it’s just a lot easier.

And people who had no darkrooms back then? Or no computers now?

Join the debate in our table discussion coming up in March. We are looking for topics and speakers, so contact Shona at a meeting or email program@nwphoto.org.

Free Stuff

There are some pretty good free products out there, for Photoshop’s various CS incarnations and for Photoshop Elements. My favourites are the various plug-in filters and Photoshop brushes. They’re free for the download so try some, play with them (just like you would have a new Cokin filter back in the day) and if you find you don’t have an application for them, delete them. Google “free Photoshop filters” or “free Photoshop brushes”, and watch for sites approved by your computer’s protection software. You can even pay, if you want, but freebies get you started.

And in that line, if you are just learning any software – say Photoshop Elements, and are stuck on something, just Google your problem and you will likely find dozens of free tutorials. It is wonderful the knowledge and skill that people are willing to share.

Last but not least, our club has members with experience in many areas. Don’t be shy about asking for help.

Results

Here are the results of the November 22 digital competition:

No.	Title	Artist	Total	Top 3
1	Stepping Stones Pompeii	Justin	23	2 (tie)
2	Night at Surrey Central	Robert	17	
3	Lake Through Trees Abstract	Barb	18	
4	Strange Cloud	Peter Ellis	23	2 (tie)
5	Ghost Lily	Jim Furey	22	3
6	Hillside	Shona LaFortune	24	1
7	White Rock Pier	Vince Singh	21	
8	Light Painting	Cathy Snyder	18	
9	Are You Looking At Me?	Mike Garson	23	2 (tie)

For those of you who may have missed the meeting, and because we have some space, here are the top 5:



Hillside © Shona L.



Strange Cloud © Peter E.



Stepping Stones Pompeii © J. Ball



Are you looking at me? © Mike G.



Ghost Lily © Jim F.



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