



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release

September 2012

Welcome Back

Welcome all, returning members and new members. It's been a gorgeous summer and I'm sure many of you had some great photo opportunities during the prolonged sunny hot days.

I especially like the quality of the light in September. I see the Fraser River daily from my neighbourhood and observe its changing tableau throughout the day. I have especially been noticing cloud formations. Lots of fluffy cumulus clouds and some pretty interesting smaller cloud formations caused I guess from all the clear dry weather we've been experiencing. I never tire of looking at the sky as I walk or drive on a clear day.

I have to admit I haven't been using my camera as much this summer as last, when it was a new toy. However, I do take it camping because besides clouds, I was excited by the raging Chilliwack River while camping at the beginning of summer. Rivers are fascinating. I love to photograph their changing mood. And trees - back-lit trees late in the afternoon! It takes a lot of practice to capture them the way my eyes see them. Grandchildren present, for some of us, many spontaneous photo opportunities too. Would you believe my youngest grandson who is 16 months old already knows you stare at the camera and smile. What a card.

So there is no end of subjects available. It's what grabs your eye and forms a canvas in your mind. Be ready for it. Take the time to find those special shots (but check before you leave home that the memory card is in the camera - I got caught without it on my first outing and all I had was my iPad.)



New Executive

As the new newsletter editor, I've have two opportunities to meet with my fellow executive. And what a great group of people they are. They are knowledgeable and dedicated to the art of photography and the running of this club. Let me tell you a bit about them. **Karen** our new *president* is full of energy, enthusiasm and has lots of great ideas. As *president* her role is to consistently attend and conduct club meetings, contribute to NWPC promotion and publicity, and provide leadership and enthusiasm. **David** returns as *treasurer*. He accurately records all financial matters, handles all accounts receivable and payable and maintains the bank accounts. **Peter** wears two hats. He is in charge of *program* and *competitions*. He plans a balanced program of instructional and entertaining material, to advance and improve members' photographic skills. He schedules guest speakers, organizes and manages in-club and external competitions. **Shona** plans and coordinates varied *outings* through the year for fun and skill development. In addition she plans the monthly *online theme competitions* and prepares presentations of the results. **Derek** continues as *webmaster* maintaining the club website and resolving any issues members may have with it. He implements new features and keeps an eye on the overall security of members' photos and personal data. **Jim** continues as *digital projectionist*. He collects, assembles, re-sizes, when necessary, and prepares digital images and theme summary slideshows sent to him by email, and then projects them at our meetings. He handles special requests, such as guest speakers or instructional talks by our own club members. Again this year **Nathan** is the *refreshment coordinator* acting as a host during the coffee break providing tea, instant coffee, and hot chocolate. Your *executive* has been busy preparing for a new and exciting year of meetings.

Snacks

We have decided to stick with hot drinks only, for simplicity. Once again we will use a sign-up sheet for the membership to contribute snacks. If everyone takes a turn once throughout the year that should cover the membership and we'll have an interesting array of goodies for break time. We have decided to stop using the white Styrofoam cups and **once they run out there will be nothing available unless you bring your own mug**. Unfortunately we have nowhere to store mugs so you will have to get in the habit of bringing your own travel mug to each meeting. You should have one in your car already anyway right? As a fund raiser we've been thinking we might like to sell club- specific mugs to the membership. If you have some ideas for a design share it with us.



New Club Logo

Most members don't know it, but the club has had a logo for many years. But it's not been seen for quite a while. When it was reviewed recently the executive decided it was time to come up with a new updated version. Logos should represent the group and its activity. They are typically rather simple graphics that are easily reproduced in a variety of media, often consisting of multiple pieces so that they can be used in various formats and sizes. On the club website, you'll notice the new basic logo is on display. The outline is a camera (we're a camera club after all!) bearing the crown that's often associated with New Westminster's role as the Royal City. Finally it has the club's initials NWPC. If you've checked out the publicity posters on the website, you'll also see the logo there with its additional component, the full name of the club and website. The logo can appear on anything to which we want to affix our club's brand -- there's been talk of T-shirts, coffee mugs (as we phase out Styrofoam cups) and club business cards for members to hand out.

Program

Sept 4: For the first meeting of the year, so we'll review the top 10 scoring images from our summer themes and share some of our summer photos.

Sept 25: We'll have a guest judge to evaluate and comment on our digital entries. This is a chance to enter your best stuff and get some feedback from outside the club membership. If time allows, we will show some images from the September 22 outing to the Quay.

Oct. 2: Presentation by Karen - Double Vision: In the Eye of the Beholder. A comparison between colour and B&W. For the second half of the meeting, member sharing. It might be fun to bring some black and white images to discuss.

More program details on the website (www.nwphoto.org) or email program@nwphoto.org .

Dues

Your club membership is excellent value. It gives you a year of photo courses, mentors, workshops, speakers, outings, competitions and fun. The club incurs costs to hold (on average) two meetings a month: a meeting place, Arts Club and CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art) dues, competition entry fees and the odd cash gift to a guest speaker to pay for travel. The family membership rate is new this year. We hope it will encourage you to include interested family members to join you. We appreciate your prompt payment to help with budgeting. Please see our Treasurer, David Love, to pay your dues with cash or cheque.

Dues for 2012-2013:

Single Membership \$35 per year

Joint/Family Membership for 2 or more family members \$50 per year

Year End Survey

You may remember that we surveyed the membership at the end of last season about meeting components, participation, skills topic requests, themes, outings, newsletter, and other feedback. We got some valuable input and we're taking it into account for planning the 2012/2013 year. If you're new, you missed the survey or if you've got some new ideas for program, guest speakers or outings please contact the appropriate executive member.

New Equipment

The executive decided to use some of the money in the equipment fund to make a purchase. Jim as projectionist took the lead and decided that we could use a sound system for projected images and for speakers. We agreed to buy a Pyle PWMA230 portable PA system. This unit has a 200W amplifier, is portable and battery powered, and comes with a wireless microphone. We have also ordered an equipment stand so that the PA system can be elevated enough to be heard by all. We can also plug in our laptop sound output so we should get better, or at least louder, easier to hear, sound for those slide shows that have musical accompaniment. The PA system and stand came to USD \$165. If members feel that the mono sound from this system is not meeting our auditory requirements, then we can augment with a Bose system from Costco for under \$100.



“To the complaint, 'There are no people in these photographs,' I respond, There are always two people: the photographer and the viewer.”

— Ansel Adams

Outings

Our first two outings look like a lot of fun. Please check your calendar and try to make one of both of them. This is a great opportunity, besides meetings, to get to know your fellow club members in a less formal setting.

New Eyes

September 22, 2012

A meet and greet photo hunt to refresh your memory of some of the photo techniques you may not use on a regular basis. Meet at the base of the big toy soldier at New Westminster Quay at 10:00 a.m. This outing goes in any weather. This venue may be new to some or a daily walk for others, but every day provides changes in light and subject. You will be provided with a list of subjects or techniques (or maybe subjects that need certain techniques, both photographic and otherwise). You may use a point and shoot or a full SLR with all the bells and whistles. Each will present its own challenges.

After Dark

October 13, 2012

Groove with the spirits with a night outing to a local cemetery to practice ghost effects, strobe lighting, painting with light or whatever you like. (Let's show some respect. Although maybe the deceased are up for a laugh?) More details to be announced. Thanks to Vince for suggesting this outing. Bring lighting equipment you might have, including a flashlight, gels, any props you would like to use, etc. Some shots may require group cooperation to shield subjects from the city lights, so the more the merrier.

Photography Tips – Composition

(Submitted by Peter Ellis; source unknown)

Refreshers never hurt, so here's a little summary of some compositional elements (framing and lines). Source unknown.

The shape of the photographic frame often affects the statement made by the image. That doesn't mean the metal or wooden frame that may surround the picture, but the edges of the print or image – the borders.

Square format lends an air of stability, of calmness.

Vertical format is associated with gravity, monumentality, dignity, importance.

Horizontal format suggests a wide-spread panoramic effect.

The purposeful use of four fundamental lines will give pictures either -

Grace, with the curved line

Grandeur, with the vertical line

Serenity, with the horizontal line or

Drama and action/tension with the diagonal line.

Ideally, the eye will be first caught by the main subject of the photograph, led easily through the image so that nothing is missed.

Invitation to participate in the Burnaby Lake Photo Showcase

Hello Photographers

I am writing to invite the New Westminster Photography Club to participate in the Photo Showcase at Burnaby Lake Regional Park. I am the coordinator for the annual Photo Showcase hosted at the Burnaby Lake Nature House (4519 Piper Ave, Burnaby, V5A 3B5) and ***each year, we ask photographers to submit their images of the flora and fauna at Burnaby Lake.*** We post 4 pictures each weekend in the Nature House, along with a photo credit and brief description (either written by myself or by the photographer) which are viewed by park visitors (we average 180 visitors per weekend). At the end of the summer, a panel of judges picks their top 4 for the "Best Of" showcase, to be displayed on the Labour Day long weekend in September.

The Photo Showcase runs from Victoria Day long weekend in May to the Labour Day long weekend annually, and accepts all photos taken at Burnaby Lake within a one year time frame. ***In order to be ready for the start of the 2013 Photo Showcase, I am inviting members of the New Westminster Photography Club to visit Burnaby Lake.*** I understand that you have an active group that does lots of field trips. Taking Nature Photography at Burnaby Lake Regional Park would be a great new location for a group field trip. We'd be happy to give your group quick (15 minute) park orientation and provide maps, view point recommendations and some recent sightings. Please contact us (via email at naturehouse@metrovancover.org or call **Peter** at 604-520-6442) at **least 2 weeks in advance** so we can ensure someone is available an orientation (if desired). Any photographers who are interested in submitting photos for the 2013 showcase can do so by emailing naturehouse@metrovancover.org or by dropping off hard copies (size 8 ½ X 11 or 8 X 10) to our Area Office (9146 Avalon Ave, Burnaby, V3N 4G8), attn: Nature House Photo Showcase.

If you have any questions about Burnaby Lake or about the Photo Showcase, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Melissa Holloway

Park Interpreter – Central Area

Photo Showcase Coordinator

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

Office: 604.420.3031

Cell: 604.813.9702

naturehouse@metrovancover.org

"You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved."

— Ansel Adams

www.nwphoto.org

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It's definitely a different world than it was when the club began, 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 . . .

All paid-up members have access to the public (of course) and member only sections.

To access the member sections, you must log on. If you are a new member, one of the executive will enter you as a member, but you will have to set a password, etc. If you

go to Resources, then Articles, there are directions at the bottom of the page. Or go

here: <http://www.nwphoto.org/resources/articles/HowToLogin.pdf>

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, so we can put a face to your name (unless you're hiding from the law or otherwise opposed... we understand). Add your interests too! You may find a new friend or two.

The Fraser Valley Invitational was held Saturday May 5, 2012 at the Chief Sepass Theatre in Fort Langley, BC. The FVI is a photo competition among the photography clubs in Metro Vancouver. The theme was STREET. Each club entered 10 images randomly presented on screen and scored by a panel of experienced judges. The NWPC came 10th with a score of 184.0.

The entrants from our club included: Crossing – 20.5 - G. Marcus; The Lost Doll – 20.0 – K Justice; Quarter to Eight in Gastown – 20.0 – J Furey; The Reader – 20.0 – D. Love; Stepping Stone Pompeii – 19.5 – J Ball; Lunch Break - 19.5 – N Aladka; Light Speed – 17.0 - M Garson; On Surreal Street – 16.5 – P Ellis; Art for Sale – 15.5 – S LaFortune; Gay Pride Women – photographer unknown.

Well done!

About the Editor

I have edited four other newsletters in an amateur capacity and written many as a school teacher. I moved to New Westminster from Cambridge, Ontario 5 years ago. My favourite photography subject is landscape but has recently broadened to include my grandchildren. I considered joining a photography club most of my adult life and just never got around to it. I always thought I had a pretty good eye for a picture. So last summer, I took a photography course, borrowed my son's DSLR camera and fell instantly in love with it all. That's when I realized just how much I didn't know and decided I needed to be around other people I could learn from. This year to get myself even more involved and committed to the craft, I decided I could share my language skills as newsletter editor and listen in and learn more about amateur photography from my fellow executive. I'm really excited about the new season with the NWPC and plan to be much more involved with outings and competitions.

I invite you to submit any pieces you have written on a particular photographic skill or some other photo news you think is relevant. I'm not going to set a deadline. Just send it and I will print it in whatever newsletter is on the go. No pressure! Please submit it in a useable format so I just need to cut and paste. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Cathy

