



Shutter Release

August 2016

Editor's Desk (Shona LaFortune – editor@nwphoto.org)

Summer is winding down, and although I'm sure we are hoping for a little more beach weather, there is something to be said for late summer's deep blue skies, longer hours with nice angles of sun, and sunrises that don't require getting up in the middle of the night. Maybe not so much the "back to school" hype, but back to the camera club – now there's something to look forward to.

Our **first** meeting is **September 6**, but don't forget the activities still to go in this month, such as the theme "Metal" closing on August 21, and the fun "PhotoCaching" outing on August 20. More details on these, and more, in this issue.

Meetings

We meet the first and fourth Tuesday of each month (with breaks for summer and Christmas.)

September 6: For our first meeting of the 2016-2017 season, we'll see the top 10 highest scoring images from the three themes that completed during the summer, **and** you can take part in our traditional "what I did this summer" (really, any image is fine) sharing of photos. You may send up to **three** photos or **one** short (1-2 minute) slideshow to the club's Dropbox page, no later than the end of the day on Saturday, September 3. (The Dropbox link is on the website, with the meeting description, or can also be accessed through "Tools" – see article in this issue). As always for member sharing, this does not have to be your very best awesome stuff – it can be something you're not sure about or that you'd like another opinion on, or some assistance with. Just something you want to share is great too, of course.

On **September 27**, we are bringing in a guest speaker, so you won't want to miss this. Kerri-Jo Stewart is a local (well, Steveston, just down the road) multi-awarded professional photographer and I know you will enjoy her work. Check out her website here: <http://www.kerri-jo.com/> Topic TBA but it's always interesting to hear from a pro. So don't miss this!

Outings (outings@nwphoto.org)

Our summer outings have proven very popular – who doesn't like getting together with friends for some summer photography, right?

Our last outing for the summer (“Photocaching”) is on **August 20th**, and it’s sort of a cross between a photo hunt and Geocaching.

Meet at Starbucks on the second floor of the New Westminster Skytrain Station at **9 AM**. The outing will start at Waterfront by **10** near Waterfront Station. Lots and lots of details on the website and, in addition, the set of GPS coordinates will be on the website and emailed to current members shortly before the outing. No GPS? Come anyway! – we’ll sort into groups with a GPS unit in each. At each set of coordinates, you look around and photograph what you like. Combining waterfront walk and urban streets, there will be something for everyone. Lots of opportunities to find food as well. Don’t miss this interesting way to wind up the summer outings. (Note, this outing will require a fair bit of walking).

After an Outing, please feel free to upload a few photos to the outings galleries to share. Our members and visitors love to see all the interpretations of the subjects we encountered. Log into the website, go to “Activities” and “Past Outings”, select the outing you want to post to, and click the camera icon. (Note the site is undergoing some updates, so exact procedures may be subject to change – but we’ll let you know if that happens).

Themes (themes@nwphoto.org)

There are two themes open now, “**Metal**”, which closes for submissions on **August 21** and “**Cloud(s)**”, which closes on September 18. Except for the “no shots of heavy metal bands” restriction, anything goes for “Metal”. And we know that clouds provide infinite variety, but see how you can tie them into your image to add more interest.

*Themes run for around 6 weeks. After a theme is closed for submissions, it is open for a week for voting. Comments may be made by members at any time from the opening date to the closing of voting. Note that the “suggestions” part of the comments is no longer a requirement, but all constructive recommendations and general comments are encouraged **and** appreciated by the photographers.*

Theme top 10 results will be in the September issue, so as not to spoil the surprise when you see them at the first meeting. September 6. Top 10 of 3 themes. Be there.

Dues (yes, that time again!)

No summer/fall issues would be complete without mentioning how we pay for our meeting place, guest speakers’ honoraria, affiliation dues, competition entry fees and so on. Well, ok, you all know how we pay for it – yes, **dues**. Kind of like taxes, but better, because you get the benefit at every single meeting and then some. Hey, you can barely get lunch for two for what we charge for a whole year of instruction, entertainment, social activities and just plain fun.

And although costs are rising, we think we can get through another season without raising the dues. So, please see the Treasurer at the first or second meeting, with your **\$35** (\$50 family) in cash or by cheque.

(If you know you will miss some early meetings, or can’t pay right away for some reason, please have a word with our Treasurer (email works too) so we know not to remove you from the website.)

The 2016-2017 Executive

The volunteers for the upcoming season have already been working on all the activities that make up a club year. Let's meet them all:

Karen is our President, and has been for a few years, going for some kind of record. Karen chairs the meetings, but that's just on the surface. A champion at herding cats, she keeps it all together and helps out where required. Karen also assists with setting up the refreshments for each meeting.

president@nwphoto.org

Mike Z., one of our newer members, is our Treasurer. Mike takes over from David L., who stepped down during the summer for a well-deserved sabbatical (although he'll still be at meetings!)

treasurer@nwphoto.org

Nancy has moved from Competitions to Program, and, as if that isn't enough, keeps our social media postings up to date and engaging.

program@nwphoto.org

Glenn has stepped up to do Competitions. Glenn was on the selection committee last year so isn't new to the concept. (Glenn is also the famous (if you're into fountain pens) "Pen Guy".) Of course we all have secret identities, aka other lives . . .

competitions@nwphoto.org

Nathan has two positions in the club. He is staying on as our Projectionist, which means receiving our images, setting up the equipment and running it of course. . . and is also taking on Outings.

outings@nwphoto.org

Barb is continuing with our online Theme competition this year, coming up with interesting and challenging subjects every month.

themes@nwphoto.org

Derek has stayed on as Webmaster. Derek brings a whole mass of expertise to this position and we are so lucky he has been willing to donate so much of his valuable skills to doing this for us. Behind the scenes it is, but there is a lot of work involved in maintaining our site.

webmaster@nwphoto.org

And I (Shona) am doing the newsletter again. There were some excellent suggestions that came out of the year-end survey, and I am looking forward to implementing them in future issues.

editor@nwphoto.org

Without volunteers, clubs like this would not function and we thank everyone who steps up to do these "official" positions as well as all the little jobs that go into making things run smoothly. Please lend a hand where you can, whether setting up chairs, signing up to bring refreshments or . . . ? We're happy to see some new faces on our Executive. Of course if you have questions or suggestions, all of the executive are happy to hear from you.

Away to the Races! (Karen Justice) NWPC's Outing to Hastings Racetrack on July 24th

At Jerome's restaurant, just a stone's throw from the pre-race paddock and main racetrack, eight club members enjoyed a casual lunch (and some serious camera talk, including a look at Nancy's new mirrorless and Geoff's Lens Baby inserts).

Two more folks showed up, and the ten of us tested our prowess at the track – not necessarily at betting (though *some* money did change hands!), but at capturing the grace and power of racehorses on the run.



Photo Finish (c) Karen J.

Plus a lot more. What an inspiring setting on a perfect summer day; the track is flanked by a view of blue mountains, and bright colours punctuate the scene at every turn.

Races take place every half-hour and most of us stayed for at least three or four of them, getting shots from various angles each time. In between the heart-stopping moments when hooves were pounding across the finish line, there were oodles of other subjects to occupy the lens. So overall, we found lots of photographic opportunities and challenges, both moving and still.

We spied ladies in their fascinators and other fancy hats... in fact, plenty of people of all ages get “dressed to the nines” for these events and are clearly having a terrific time. The entire experience was new to most of us, and it was fun and interesting to find out what's what and how it all goes down. (Special thanks to Brenda, who used to work on site and had loads of information and some entertaining anecdotes).

Check out the outing gallery for this one!



Awesome Achievements

Whether we call it “kudos” or “congratulations”, we're always happy to acknowledge our members' successes. So don't be shy – let us celebrate with you. Great stuff, people!

In early July, member **David Peto** had a photo published in the *Georgia Straight* under “Contributor's Photo”. That's it over there, and here's the link to the issue:

<http://www.straight.com/node/727966>

Garfield James had a photo essay accepted by *Tenth to the Fraser*, in June's monthly theme “Movement”. Check it out here:

<http://www.tenthtothefraser.ca/2016/06/16/photo-essay-movement/>

Great set of images of New Westminster!



Dropboxing



No, not related to kickboxing or much physical activity at all, really. And it's not a verb either (just a little literary licence there in the heading . . . although, alas, like "courier" and "text", I'm sure it will be a verb before long).

Dropbox, as many of you probably know, is one of many services that hosts files (commonly known as "cloud" storage). A Dropbox account allows you to synchronize files on multiple devices and easily share files with others. This is particularly useful when files are too large to easily email. Dropbox also allows transfers even if both parties don't have an account, and up to a certain

capacity, it's free.

And what does that have to do with the club? As you may have noted last year, we are using Dropbox now to transfer files from you to the club (the Projectionist specifically).

But never mind the what, how about the how?? Sooooo easy. When you are ready to send in submissions (say for member sharing or for a competition), head over to our website and look for the meeting description. For example, for the first meeting member sharing, the Dropbox **link** (which, just to confuse you, is called "Uploads page" (terminology may change), is in the "In Preparation" section at the bottom of the Upcoming Meeting. (You must be logged in to upload).

For some competitions, especially where the images are needed in advance by the Competition Chair (say, North Shore Challenge), the deadline and a meeting might not be related. In that event, the link reminder will be emailed by the Competitions chair, but you can always just login to the site, go to Tools and Uploads, and you will be at this page:

<http://nwphoto.org/toolDropbox.php>

You **must** be logged in, and this link should prompt you to login if you are not. Then you simply find event you want to upload files to (e.g. for the first meeting, you will see "Sept 6 – Member sharing", the deadline (which is the 3rd) and a camera icon). The camera icon takes you to the Dropbox page where you can choose a file from your computer or from your own Dropbox to upload. And you're done. The system generates a response for you so you know the files have been received.

Social Media

We all like to know what's going on in the world, right? Some prefer paper (newspapers/magazines) or radio or television, but a lot of us are keeping up with the world electronically, through our computers, tablets or smartphones.

In with all the world news, sports scores, recipes, vacation planning and the zillion other things you can access on the 'net, including bill paying and other mundane tasks like that, we have (ta da!) **social media**, a term that is all too often being associated with drek these days . . . you know, like Donald Trump's tweets, and what movie star is breaking up with whom (hey, if that stuff is important to you, we don't judge. Really). However, there are some benefits too. Almost all companies and organizations have a web page, one or two social media accounts and perhaps a blog.

Since many people skip viewing websites these days and go straight for the social media, to ensure we have that exposure, last year our executive considered which of the many choices to go with, and

selected two (in addition to our website of course). Just in case you're not familiar, here's a brief intro:

Twitter, originally designed for short (140 character) messages, still has a strong following. Super useful for quick updates (like traffic reports), many prefer the brevity, and follow the opinions of their favourite public figures. For a taste, click the birdy and if you're not already signed up and don't want to be, just ignore the pop-ups. Our feed is public.



Facebook is used more by people to share stuff with their "Facebook Friends", but while you are doing that, you can also "Follow" as many pages as you like, just like Twitter (usually, although Facebook has their own ideas of what you should see. You can select "Notifications" and then select "all" to make sure you don't miss anything). Many people like Facebook to keep in touch with friends and family, especially in more remote locations or other countries, and if you have friends who keep posting their game status or too many photos of their kids, you can "unfollow" them and just check their pages periodically. But you wouldn't want to do that with ours, because we post some interesting stuff on our page. Check it out by clicking the icon below. Again, our page is public so you don't need to be signed up with Facebook just to look. (You do need an account to comment).



And yes, you can make comments and even post as a visitor on the page.

We put our theme deadlines, outing and meeting reminders and interesting upcoming events on our pages, so if you do create a profile on either Twitter or Facebook (or both), you will get the notifications automatically.

Not for you? No worries. Everything you need to know is on our website:

www.nwphoto.org where you will find the schedules, outings, links to the newsletters, member profiles and so very much more. Yup, that's a link too. Click it and see.

Some dates to note

August 20	Summer outing "Photocaching", 9 AM start
August 21	Last submission date for "Metal" online theme
August 27-28	Enchanted Encounter – Renaissance Festival in Maple Ridge – see "News" on our site. Great photo op. Costumes encouraged
August 28	Voting closes for "Metal". You already voted, right??
September 1	A new theme opens. It's a secret until then.
September 6	First meeting of the 2016/2016 season!
September 18	Theme "Cloud(s)" closes for submissions.
September 25	Last day to Vote and comment on the theme "Cloud(s)!"
September 27	Club meeting with guest speaker Kerri-Jo Stewart.
November 4-6	PHOTOGraphie/Fusion at the Anvil Centre. Tickets available now. See "News" on the club website or: http://www.photographiefestival.ca/