



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release



April 2009

It's hard to believe our camera club season is nearly over, but many of our competitions occur at this time, so there will be lots to keep us going. Improving weather should enhance our outings too! If you are interested in contributing ideas and effort towards our anniversary celebrations, please speak to an executive member.

Upcoming Meetings

April 7: Selection night for Fraser Valley Invitational (digital images to be submitted to Keith in advance) and Crescent Beach Black and White competition (see "competitions" in this issue).

April 21 – This is an opportunity to share your images with other members and get valuable feedback. You can work on your own commenting skills in a non-judgmental atmosphere, get inspiration from your fellow members' photographs and maybe gain some insight into the techniques others use in their photography. Prints and digital images are welcome. We suggest you submit a total of 4, any combination of print or digital, but digital images must be submitted in advance (details TBA). Note that if we get a large number of entries, we may not get through all of them, but we will try to make sure that everyone gets 2 images assessed.

May 5 - Cameras and technology are rapidly evolving, but there are also things that don't change. This evening will cover both aspects in an "equipment night". We will open with a representative from the well-known Surrey store "Camera Expert", showing us the latest in technology in cameras, flashes, scanners, printers etc. The second part of the evening will be a "Show and Tell".

Bring in a piece of equipment, small or large, classic (like a tripod) or "gadget" (filter, reflector...?) or even your newest camera... that you find useful, practical, interesting or indispensable, and show us why.

Let's Get Out! – Club Outings (Lou: outings@nwphoto.org)

April 11th or 12th*, 10:30 a.m. – UBC Baseball at Nat Bailey Stadium
(* If there is heavy rain that morning, outing will be postponed to Sunday)



University of British Columbia Varsity Baseball – pre-game and game activities - The players, coaches, fans, field, and the stadium with all of its fixtures.

For those who want to car pool, meet at Glenbrook Middle School at 10:00 a.m.. Otherwise, we will meet at the front gate of Nat Bailey Stadium - 4601 Ontario Street, Vancouver. You can park in the lot next to the Nat Bailey Stadium (but be aware of flying baseballs – they do break windshields).

Spend about 1-1/2 hours before the game photographing the players and coaches preparing for the competition.

We will be allowed on the field but be **VERY** aware of flying baseballs, players, and equipment. When the game starts, find a seat and enjoy the game or get your action shots from beside the rail birds or from behind home plate.

*Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd.
Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack,
I don't care if I never get back,
Let me root, root, root for the home team,
If they don't win it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game.*

For those of you who are not die-heart sports fans and do not want sit through a game and watch young men try to hit a round ball with a round stick, immediately adjacent to Nat Bailey Stadium is the new Olympic curling facility and Queen Elizabeth Park.

Past Outing Report: Hastings Street Outing – March 14, 2008

Our photographic adventure got off to a good start when the clouds cleared and the sun broke through for most of the outing. Twelve club members and four guests ambled through the streets of North Burnaby photographing the people, architecture and other wonderments of the area that grabbed their fancy. Small shops and interesting residents provided many opportunities for capturing unique images. The highlight was everyone gathering for dinner at Vita Bella Restorante after we finished our walk and enjoying some wonderful pasta and beverages while reviewing our photos and encounters.



© Shona LaFortune



© Lou Misshula



© Matti Lagerbom



© Tony van Straubenzee

BC Print Challenge

We have made the selection of 20 prints for our entry to this competition. The judging will be held on Saturday, April 25, starting at 1:00 pm at the Richmond Arts Centre (7700 Minoru Gate), and there is a small (\$5) admission fee to cover the venue. This is an opportunity to see prints from clubs around the province, and they are displayed around the venue for a short while, so you can get a closer look at them.

Fraser Valley Invitational

We are selecting for this competition in our April 7 meeting. The actual event is on Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 PM at the Chief Sepass Theatre in Fort Langley. Note: Tickets are \$10 prepaid and \$12 at the door. The advance price of \$10 for e-mail/mail orders is only available for tickets

ordered **and paid for** by April 24/09. Tickets will not be held at the door. For information on ordering, email: tickets@langleycameraclub.com. (The club will also place an order).

Crescent Beach Black and White Invitational

We are selecting for this competition in our April 7 meeting. The Challenge takes place on the evening of Thursday, May 7, 2009 in Alexandra Hall at Camp Alexandra, 2916 McBride Avenue, Crescent Beach, Surrey. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and judging will begin at 7:45 p.m.

It is traditional to try to wear black and white clothing to this event, so enjoy! There is no admission charge and refreshments are served.

North Shore Challenge

Here are our results from the North Shore Challenge. We came in 17th of 30 clubs, at last report. Not bad considering our small number of entries compared to, say, the clubs with 100 members...

				
Hunter	Fuzzy Water	Depth	Texas steps	Bamboo
				
The Mist	Counting	Midnight Hoodoos	Flying on the Waves	Attack of the Giant Locust

Title	Photographer	NSC score
Hunter	Matti	17
Fuzzy Water	Tony	18
Depth	Shona	22
Texas Steps	Peter	21
Bamboo	June	19
The Mist	Mike	17
Counting	Dave E	21
Midnight Hoodoos	Keith	22
Flying on the Waves	Lou	21
Attack of the Giant Locust	David L	18

The Cost of Being a Photographer (Part 1) – Keith Griffiths

I will introduce this ramble with two items...I have never been told that photography was an inexpensive hobby, and as I write this I will reveal that I am approaching 'old guy' status maybe even grumpy old guy status.

I have not been doing photography for that long, around 11 years. But I do have some perspective from the film days.

I started into this venture full of naïve optimism. I had been using a little Pentax point and shoot film camera for years to keep a few memories of my daughter's youth, and then bought a second hand SLR. Well now the photographic world was mine and all my photos were going to be perfect. I had my new camera for about a week and took it away on a trip with enough film for a roll a day. I was going to come home with so many awesome shots....maybe you can imagine my disappointment when I picked the prints up from the shop. I was crushed.

Cost #1: was the basics of film and processing.

Cost #2: was how much I needed to learn.

Cost #3: the right gear.

In the 'old' days, there was print film and slide film. If you shot print film, you always had an invisible helper at the shop that would try to salvage your best shots. He would alter the colour balance, contrast and even the exposure for you and give you a set of prints that were pretty good. The down side or part of the 'cost' was that you lost your 'artistic control'.

If you shot slide film, you got the results of exactly what you took, be it good or not. But you needed a collection of colour balancing filters, and a lot of know how to use them correctly to get the results you expected. You needed to learn to see the colour of the light around you and filter accordingly. You needed to learn to use a 'spot' meter and measure the light in ALL parts of your image and adjust your exposures accordingly.

Slide film was in the neighbourhood of \$0.50 a shot, so you thought about each and every one. 100 bucks got you five or six rolls of film, and you needed a couple of hundred bucks worth of filters. So when you threw out all but three or four shots from a roll, those photos had real value.

The auto setting on modern digital cameras can produce some amazing results, and combine that with taking your files to a print shop so you can draw upon the knowledge and assistance of a great team with some very expensive hardware and software, you can get some pretty good prints. But is it still your photo and your vision?

Digital cameras make use of an amazing technological advancement in this thing called 'white balance'. It can save the modern photographer a whack of dough and space in your camera bag by not toting around all those coloured filters. And now that vast amounts of digital memory is inexpensive, and you can take an exhaustive number of iterations of any subject without incurring any additional cost to the photographer, it seems that many people think that going digital is a cheap way out. But at this point those great photos are still in the camera or on the memory card.

Digital means there are fewer bits that go on the road with you to take photos but you need to take along a great deal of knowledge of how the system works to make it behave the way you want it to. Then when you get home, there is far more equipment required than in the old film days. Beyond the obvious need for a computer, there is the need for colour calibrating equipment. Does your computer monitor show you the picture the way your camera shot it? Unless you have calibrated it with some calibration hardware/software, then it probably does not.

Cost #1 has shifted from film and processing to computers, calibration equipment and software. Cost #2 is still there, but now there is even more to learn.

Computer monitor calibration hardware, software for photo collection management and editing, and then the time, energy and cost to learn how to make this all work.....believe me, it ain't cheap.

If you made it this far, thanks for reading my rant, in another article I will ramble about monitor calibration and maybe move on to software.

Themes

Theme participation is a little slow getting going again after our winter website interruption, but we had some great entries for "On the Move", which just closed. Congratulations to Keith for scoring first place with "Speeding Home". Thanks also to those who contributed comments. Suggestions and comments on the images we share are very beneficial to not only the photographers, but all the viewers of the images as well.

The on line/website themes are "**Angles**", which is open for entries until **April 18** and "**Shadows**", which is open until May 21. You can add comments at any time, and you have a week once the competitions close to comment and vote on your top 3. Questions: email themes@nwphoto.org.

Some Sad News

We are sorry to report, for those of you who haven't heard, that one of the people killed in the tragic bus accident in Mexico on March 16 was our own club member, Marilyn Jackson. Marilyn was visiting her cousins in Texas, and one of her cousins was also killed in the accident, and another seriously injured. Marilyn was a keen participant in our outings and theme competitions, and I know we will all miss her ready smile and enthusiasm. Thank you to Mary Ann Burton, our past President and close friend of Marilyn, for taking the time to notify as many members as possible.



Focus Groups

For Focus Group members, we are setting up communication for each group via Google Groups. Watch our website under "Activities" for the links, and sign up!

Focus groups are, well, "groups" of members who get together to concentrate or "focus" on a specific area of interest (such as architecture, portraiture, photo software or anything else that may not get as much emphasis during our meetings as we would like). If you have an idea for a focus group that is not on the website, contact our webmaster and he will add a link for us.

Other Bits

Don't forget the **Swap Meet** on April 26 at the Cameron Rec. Centre (just north of the Lougheed Mall). It's a great place to browse for old and newer equipment and gadgets.

For Sale: Are you thinking to upgrade..? I have a brand-new, never-used (in original packaging) **14.2 Mp !! Sony a350 SLR camera** for sale. It has loads of great features, comes with a 18-70mm, f3.5-5.6, zoom lens, and is compatible with most Minolta-mount 35mm-style lenses. Two local camera stores stock it at \$800, plus tax, but I'm offering it for \$700, tax-free. For info on the camera, check it out at www.steves-digicams.com/2008reviews, who have an excellent write-up on it. Please contact me, Peter Ellis, at (604) 463-7363, or gpetrel@telus.net for more information.

Club Key Contacts

You can reach Dave Emery at president@nwphoto.org or 604-517-6654 Peter (Program) at program@nwphoto.org, Lou (Outings) at outings@nwphoto.org and Shona (Themes or Newsletter) at shona@nwphoto.org. Any of us will be happy to provide you contact information for the person you are looking for, if we can.