



New Westminister Photography Club

Shutter Release

Summer 2014

Editor's Desk *(Shona LaFortune)*

Although the newsletter is something I can do from home (for those of you who don't know me, I live in Lillooet – yes, our club is **that good**), I can't make it down for all the meetings. So please keep me updated on the meeting reports and other announcements so that I can pass it all on to anyone else who wasn't at the meeting(s) either.

It can be too easy to fall into a “rut” when it comes to creativity. We find something that we like and that we're good at, and then we do it again. We win contests and get positive reinforcement, and sometimes we forget to try something new. I don't know many of our members who fall into that category, though. Our club is more than just a venue to showcase our best work. Being inspired by the work of others, trying new techniques at workshops, visiting different environments on outings and challenging ourselves on themes all help to spark new ideas and improve our skill sets.

Our summer activities

Although the club does not meet in the summer, some of our activities continue. **Online themes** go all year. There is always at least one theme open all the time, and that means you can not only enter, but you can comment as well – a great learning experience for both parties. This year, we are holding **outings** in the summer, and attendance is indicating that this was a good idea.

Your Executive doesn't take the summer off. They are meeting and planning all summer. Thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to the club.

Online Themes

Current themes are “**Abandoned Sites**” (open for voting and comments until August 24 – closed for entries) and “**Composition 101: The Rule of Odds**” (closes September 14). The top scoring image gets “Photo of the Month” on the home page of the club's website. The top 3 scoring images are listed on the website, but the top **ten** are only revealed at the club meetings.

Outings

Summer outings have been well attended. Refer to the last issue for the report on the visit to the Britannia Mines.

July's club outing to the old Fraser shipyards (Queensborough) was the perfect outing for anyone who enjoys visiting the past, and at least 11 of us came out for the opportunity. With a big “Development Proposal” sign on the outside fence, it's a good reminder that these opportunities should be taken advantage of, especially on the lower mainland. Buildings (from huge to flattened) with enough texture

and detail for everyone, relics of all kinds from big spools to out of place office chairs, deserted offices, rusty stuff, overgrown . . . everything . . . Well, head to the “Past Outings” section on the website where (at time of writing) there were 98 examples from participants. It was a warm and sunny day, so after exploring the shipyards for a while, we postponed the riverside walk for a later (cooler) time of year, and headed to the pub for lunch and refreshments.

Next Outing: August 23 to the Richmond Night Market

The market is at 8351 River Road, Richmond (a 5 minute walk from Canada Line's Bridgeport Station) and it offers “zillions of zany and colourful photo ops” plus a multicultural food section. Meet just outside the main entrance booths at **6:45 p.m.**, which allows for some good light and some twilight and nighttime shots later on. \$2.25 to get in, free for children under 10 and seniors 60 and up.

September 20 Outing to the West Coast Heritage Railway Park in Squamish. Check the website for details, but mark your calendar now. Always a great place to visit.

First Meeting of the 2014/2014 Season

Mark your calendars for September 2 (yes, the day after Labour Day) for the first meeting of the year. The results of all the **themes** that closed during the summer will be shown, we will have a a member sharing night, and some refresher information about our website.

Important changes for club digital submissions

We know we all put things off, but to give our projectionist a little more time to receive and organize the members' digital images for our meetings, we have changed the submission deadline for digital images (and that includes member sharing and any digital competitions) to **no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday before the meeting**. No images will be accepted after then, nor uploaded from CD or thumb drive on the night of the meeting. Look for an email from our projectionist with all the details, but in the meantime, we have member sharing for our first meeting  why not send a couple in now?

www.nwphoto.org

Did you know that our website is full of hidden gems? Unlock some of these secrets for yourself.

Forums

You know how before, during coffee and after the meetings, groups of members gather to talk about photography related stuff (or current events or) Here's your chance to continue those conversations. You can point out a good area for photography, comment (and/or link to) an interesting news story or website or tutorial, or recent club meeting, ask questions about equipment or techniques, sell some of your stuff . . . Click on **Resources**, then **Forums** (left hand menu) and sign in. The Forums use the same name and password as the site, but are a separate sign-in, so it's quicker to sign on to the site first, navigate to forums and then click on the sign-on for the forums. Don't worry; it takes longer to explain than to do.

Profile

This information is available **only to members** who are signed on to the site. A little about yourself, a photo so people in the club can identify you, and a contact in case someone you were chatting with wants to ask you to accompany them on an outing . . .

My Profile

Member	Contact	Subscriptions	Portrait	Biography	Links	Mailing
--------	---------	---------------	----------	-----------	-------	---------

For each "event" type, tell us how frequently you want to be notified and the means by which you want to be notified.

Notify me	By	When
Never	Unspecified	A comment is made on one of your member images
Never	Unspecified	A member's portrait is updated
Never	Unspecified	New member image submitted
Never	Unspecified	New outing image submitted
Never	Unspecified	A comment is made on one of your outing images
Daily	e-Mail	A new theme image is submitted
Daily	e-Mail	A new theme opens
Daily	e-Mail	A theme's voting starts
Daily	e-Mail	A theme completes
Never	Unspecified	A comment is made on one of your theme images

Subscriptions

One of the tabs on your profile, you can have emails sent to you (at a frequency you decide) to remind you when themes are open for voting, or when someone comments on your image, etc. Easy drop-down boxes for your selections and you won't miss anything:

Now is that cool or what?

News

The News tab has two important menu items. **Shutter Release**, which is this newsletter and its past issues, and **Announcements**. Executive members can post their own announcements; everyone else can email a notice in. If you know of a local event of interest to photographers, let us all know!

Questions or problems? Look for the "Help" buttons, or email webmaster@nwphoto.org if you are really stuck.

Credits and Congrats

Brenda Fairfax has had a photo accepted for the themed (Wait for Me Daddy) inaugural exhibit (two-dimensional works) in the community arts space at the new Anvil Centre. The exhibition opens September 14.

And that's not all. She also got a press pass and captured some great images at the Boundary Bay Airshow. Way to go, Brenda!

Peter Ellis received an HM in the Red River Exhibition. With entries from all over Canada, there is lots of competition! Congratulations, Peter! You can see all the winning images at www.redriverex.com/competitions/photo-contest/

Summer Light

Tired of grey sky? Worn out your variations on wet pavement reflections? Welcome to **summer sunshine!** Interesting that on the recent outing to the deteriorated shipyards, one of the most common comments was that it would have been nicer with some cloud cover! Yes, sun can fool your meter into

washing out your colours, and create horrible bright highlights in the background, but bright sun has some really good aspects as well:

Shadows on their own or echoing the shapes of your subject. Long morning and evening shadows can be great subjects on their own. **Contrast** in light and dark. Try it in black and white. **Texture** – find some side light on texture for results no cloudy day will give you. **Isolation** – sunlit subjects against dark shadow will create an almost black background. Or try the other way for interesting silhouettes.

You can always move to the shady side of a building for those softer images. Or use **HDR** (high dynamic range) in camera or software. Almost all cameras have a bracket function. (Even if you forget to bracket, your software may surprise you with its ability to level out your image from only one photo.) Take your exposures from brighter areas if you are in the sun so you don't get over-exposed highlights. Then again, it depends on your desired end results. You are the artist; just make sure that your tools are under your control so you get the results you envision.

Dues

It's that time again when we all pony up for the privilege of staying in the club. Dues go towards hall rent, entry fees, CAPA dues, speakers' honorariums, bribes (just joking) . . . , new car for the President every 5 years (old club joke but still a joke – sorry, Karen) . . .

Seriously, where else can you find workshops, instruction, outings, new friends and more for a mere **\$35/year** (\$50/family couple)? Potential members may attend three (3) meetings to decide if you'd like to join us. Returning members are expected to pay as soon as they can. (If you can't attend the first few meetings, or can't pay right away for some reason, have a word with the Treasurer so we know not to remove your access to the website.)

Adobe CC \$9.99 US

Subscription based software might not be for everyone, but if you're sick of buying expensive upgrades for all your apps, Adobe's Creative Cloud software may be worth considering. Their latest, for photographers, offers Photoshop and Lightroom for \$9.99 US/month. This gets you a full version on your computer, and every upgrade, as long as you subscribe. It's convenient access to pretty good software for a reasonable monthly fee. Read more about this on the club's **Forums**.

Photo Competitions

beware the fine print

Worth a reminder, if you enter any photo competitions, make sure you read the fine print on the terms. In some cases, you will lose the rights to your photograph. Some contests are just an opportunity to gather a bunch of good quality photos for advertising or whatever, and your photos could end up in brochures or ads or who knows where, and you won't even get credit., never mind money. In some cases, the photos will just be used to show the winners and advertise future years' competitions, and that's reasonable.

Here's a sample from a competition being run by Opus Art Supplies (entries are open to the end of August, by the way, with the theme “Black and White”. Read more at opusartsupplies.com/bigpicture.) This is their fine print:

“You grant Opus Art Supplies (Opus Framing Ltd.) the right to use your name and publish images of the photograph you have submitted to the Opus Big Picture Digital Photography Event for an unlimited

period of time. This includes, but is not limited to: on the Opus website, in Opus video productions, in Opus publications such as the Opus Visual Art Newsletter, promotional pieces used to promote this event and related events in this and subsequent years, and in independent news publications, without consent or compensation.

"If your photograph is selected as one of the prize winning entries, you additionally grant Opus permission to reproduce and display printed versions of your photo entry in store in all BC locations of Opus Art Supplies for an unlimited period of time without consent or compensation. The format prints will be printed and exhibited will be at the discretion of Opus; no special requests will be entertained. All entrants retain full ownership of their entry image and attribution will be given whenever an entered photograph is used by Opus under the terms stated at opusartsupplies.com/bigpicture."

CAPA

A quick reminder that our club is a member of the national association called CAPA (Canadian Association for Photograph Art). Worth joining nationally for the excellent magazine and the opportunity to enter many of their competitions as an individual. Locally, in Pacific Zone, they put out a pretty good newsletter. Check www.capapac.org (the late Zone Director, Chris Sheffield, came up with the palindrome) for a link to the *Pacific Zone News*. Well worth a read and available whether you are a member or not.

CAPA will be hosting a Photo Expo over the August long weekend in 2015. Watch for more news as this event draws closer.

Questions?

There are no stupid questions. Feel free to ask away.

General enquiries Info@nwphoto.org
Web site issues: webmaster@nwphoto.org
Themes: themes@nwphoto.org

Newsletter submissions: editor@nwphoto.org

You can find a complete list of executive members on the club website: www.nwphoto.org

Last Words

Last **summer** outing is **August 23**.

1st meeting of our new season is **September 2**.

(By the way, if it's like last year, parking can be tight for the first meeting; give yourself a little extra time to walk from your car.)

Member sharing images for the first meeting are due by **noon** on August 30.