



# New Westminster Photography Club

## Shutter Release



October 2014

### Editor's Desk *(Shona LaFortune)*

The totally unexpected cancellation of our first September meeting (exploding toilets? - seriously, you can't make this stuff up) has resulted in some reorganization of our program, so keep an eye on the website for updates.

I had to set the newsletter aside, planned for early September, as I didn't want to print theme results before they were shown. Look for results of **four** online themes towards the back of this issue. For those of you who missed the September 23 meeting, Derek did his usual great job of creating fun intros for the theme results shows. Thanks for the effort you put into these, Derek.

### Welcome

A huge welcome to our new (and of course returning) members. All paid members have full access to the website. Be sure to fill in your bio so we can learn a little bit more about you, the kind of photography you enjoy, etc. Members' info is only available to signed-on members. Don't be shy!

### Upcoming

Our next meeting, **October 7**, is all about our members' work. A friendly competition of projected images and member sharing. (These are the images that had been scheduled for our canceled September 2 meeting). Look forward to a great variety of images.

On **October 28**, we will be meeting **downstairs** at the lodge so don't go away if you see some strangers in our usual room. Guest speaker Rick Church will be talking about **macro** photography including equipment, lenses, lighting, etc. Rick is a great guy and knows this subject well, so be sure to catch his talk.

The **November 4** meeting will be an in-house **print** competition, so think about your recent or favourite (but not shown before) images that might make good prints. Unless you print them yourself, you need a little extra time to have your prints made. We suggest 8x10 or larger, preferably mounted on something stiff so it stays up on an easel.

### Outings

The sun shone for the September 20 outing to the train museum in Squamish, and the 11 people attending brought back a variety of great shots. At last count there were 144 images from that outing on the website.



Coming up on **October 19** (Sunday), **It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown**, with many opportunities for those harvest shots with lots of orange pumpkins, hay wagons . . . the works. We will meet at the The Pumpkin Patch, part of Richmond Country Farms, located at 12900 Steveston Highway in Richmond, at **10:30 a.m.**. Directions on the club website. \$11 admission.

## Online Themes

The new theme, opened October 1, is definitely designed to get us outside, because, unless we are already doing Intentional Camera Movement, we can't dig into our archives. Yes, you guessed it - the theme is "**Landscape Intentional Camera Movement**". This is wonderful season for colourful images, so get shooting! Cloudy, rainy days are fine for those slow shutter speeds – go for it.

The theme "**Point of View – Low Angle**" closes on October 19, is open for comments now, and will be open for voting and comments from October 20 – 26. Each member may enter up to 3 images, and comments on the work of others are always much appreciated. You may find it easier to comment as the theme goes along, so you won't be overwhelmed by the last minute rush of entries.

Sometimes the results are determined by a small number of votes. You may vote if you are a member; you do not have to have entries in. So please take a moment to pick what you think is the best photo that interprets the theme.

## Coffee Break

Most of you have noticed the lack of styrofoam cups during our breaks. Yes, you are all asked to bring your own mug. We provide a small number of mugs for guests, but if you are a regular member, please don't deprive our guests of a mug – keep one in your car or put a big note on your door . . . The environment thanks you.

Things to eat are provided and appreciated by our members. There is a sign-up sheet drifting around during meetings, if you would like to contribute. You don't have to bake – Timbits or something from Superstore is just fine with us.

And finally, the coffee fund pays its own way. We do provide coffee, tea, sugar etc., so ask that you toss in 50 cents or a loonie when you can, to cover those costs.

## Dues

For the benefit of our visitors (who are welcome to attend up to three meetings to decide if you'd like to join us), and as a reminder to you tardy returning members, dues are \$35 for the year (\$50 for a couple/family). Outings (except site admissions), workshops, instruction, competitions and more are all included. Do let the Treasurer know if you intend to return and haven't paid, so we don't strike you off the website.

## [www.nwphoto.org](http://www.nwphoto.org)

In the last issue, we talked about your profile and selections for subscriptions, News and our Forums. (see the last issue on the website if you missed it). Derek, at our September meeting, talked about your passwords and subscriptions.

For this issue, we'll look at the Outings Gallery. If you go on an outing, you are welcome to share some of your photos on the Outings gallery. Each outing has its own gallery. Go to the **Activities** tab, and on the menu on the left, click on **Past Outings**.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the New Westminster website. The 'Activities' tab is highlighted with a red circle. Below the navigation bar, the 'Past Outings' section is visible. On the left, there is a vertical menu with options: Club Calendar, Upcoming Meetings, Upcoming Outings, Themes, Past Meetings, and Past Outings (highlighted in red). In the center, there is a text prompt: 'Have a suggestion for an outing? Contact t'. Below this, a list of outings is shown with their respective image counts: Trainspotting (144 images), Night Market Magic (37 images), Nautical, Then & Now (98 images), Britannia Mine Museum (75 images), and Lonsdale Treasures (85 images).

Click on the outing you would like to post pictures to (and you can do this at any time after the outing), then click the camera icon.

The screenshot shows a form titled 'Enter photo to upload and title:'. The form is set for the 'Trainspotting' outing. It includes a 'Photo:' field with a 'Browse...' button and the text 'No file selected.'. There is a 'Title:' text input field and a 'Description:' text area with the placeholder text 'Enter any descriptive comments here.'. At the bottom of the form, there are 'Submit' and 'Cancel' buttons. Below the form, a note states: 'Note: photographs submitted must be JPEGs. Photos should be at least 680 pixels on a side, and at most 1024 pixels on their longest edge. Oversized images will be scaled down. Most browsers have a 1 megabyte limit on file uploads.' The background shows a blurred view of the website's content, including a date 'Sep 20, 2014' and a camera icon.

The box that pops up is pretty self-explanatory. Browse to the photo on your computer (note the size information provided), give it a title, description if desired (not required) and click submit. Wait for the

confirmation. (If you click submit more than once, you will get multiple copies uploaded and will have to contact the webmaster to delete them for you.)

And that's it.

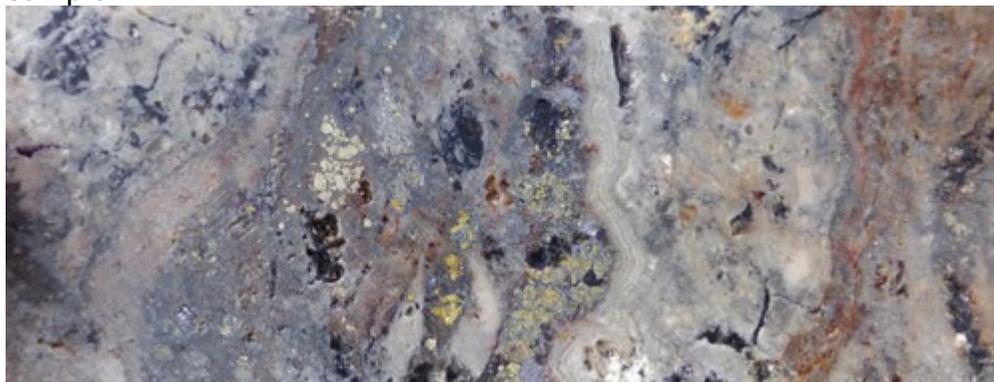
If you want to comment on the photos of others, feel free. And if you want to make sure you see any comments that people make on **your** photos, remember "Subscriptions" from your portfolio? Make sure that it set to advise you of any new comments.

In the next issue, we will look at the galleries you can set up for all your own photos.

Questions or problems? Look for the "Help" buttons, or email [webmaster@nwphoto.org](mailto:webmaster@nwphoto.org) if you are really stuck.

## Credits and Congrats

A photo taken by our member Ben Whiting has been chosen for publication on Intierra Maps new edition of "Mexico Mining and Exploration Activity." In addition, 20,000 copies of the Map is being distributed with the September 8-14, 2014 edition of "The Northern Miner" newspaper. Way to go, Ben! Ben says, "Every picture tells a story and this one tells more than a thousand words to the scientists and engineers viewing it. The photo is of high-grade silver-gold mineralization, showing beautiful textures indicating that the hydrothermal fluids were once boiling in this location. Assay results yielded Gold 38 g/t, Silver 4,990 g/t, Copper 1.39%, Lead 2.51% and Zinc 3.51%. It is a truly impressive sample."



OK, did you get all that? I say it looks like a pretty cool abstract.

## Looking to the New Year (competition-wise)

If you recall how fast the summer went by, you can assume that the days until 2015 will race by as well. It seems our outside competitions all come up early in the year, so throughout the months ahead, it doesn't hurt to be thinking of what you might want to enter.

**North Shore Challenge** – digital images of any subject. Lots of clubs so it's tight competition. We did well last year but let's not get complacent. Keep your competition, theme and complimented member sharing images in mind for this.

**Fraser Valley Invitational** – digital **theme** competition. The theme for 2015 is **Simplicity**. If you have something you think is simple and striking, maybe bring it to a member sharing night to get some feedback.



**Crescent Beach Black and White Invitational** – black and white **prints**. Usual strong and simple does well, and if past competitions are any indication, technical quality is also strictly judged.

## Tripod – what tripod?

When film cameras were made of metal, and long lenses weighed a LOT, the whole thing was almost impossible to hand-hold. Enter the tripod. Even when I had my smallest SLR with a little pancake lens, carrying a tripod was automatic – in the trunk, strapped to my backpack . . . As cameras became lighter, with more plastic and less glass, and various image stabilization methods, and digital cameras with adjustable ISO were all developed, and incredibly light super-zoom compact cameras came along, the tripod became something to only use at night, if at all. On a recent outing, I only saw one, but you know what, they still play a big role. Just for fun, here's a “then and now” comparison.

Situation	Then (film SLR)	Now (digital SLR)	Now (digital P&S)
Careful composition	Slides could only be cropped with tape, so a tripod helped you fine-tune.	Sure, you can crop any time, but why not look at all the corners to make sure you have the strongest composition? You can make very small adjustments with a tripod. Your arms don't get tired.	
Sharp focus	Some people can hold a long lens steady. Most can't and use a tripod.	You think it's sharp. Blow it up. Oops. Even with stabilization, a tripod ensures that there is no movement at all (unless the subject moves). (Some (all?) cameras need the stabilization turned off when the camera is on a tripod). Macro and long lenses really seem to exaggerate the slightest movement. Lock it down to make sure.	
Low light	Find higher ISO film. Use tripod.	Sensors often gather noise, whether at a low ISO for longer, or a high ISO. But a lower ISO is usually better (unless you are really looking for that grainy effect), and a tripod will ensure you don't move during any exposure. Of course you can use flash, but that's not always the look you want, or appropriate for the subject.	
Contrasty light	Tripod no help, really; fix it in the darkroom	HDR bracketing. To get your 2 or 3 or 4 shots perfectly aligned (yes, software will fix that too, but . . . ) a tripod is nice. Of course, some cameras do it all in camera. Fast. Gotta love technology.	
Subject adjustments	You have that little close-up scene all set up, and then realize there's a blade of grass or piece of background litter you need to move out of the way. Or maybe you need to show the model the pose you have in mind. No problem with a tripod. Just walk over and take care of it. Without a tripod, you have to come back to the camera and recompose. . .		

## Publicity

The club has a supply of business cards, with our logo and website. Be sure to grab some and hand them out when people ask you what you're taking a picture of. We also have posters on our website. Maybe print one out and post it in your condo lobby or . . . ??

## Many Many Results

OK, here goes. From the end of our last season to the start of this one, we had **four** themes close. Since not everyone was at the September meeting, and to keep a permanent record (only the top 3 places are noted on the theme pages), here are the top 10 (including ties) for the closed themes. All the photos can be found on the website under Activities/Themes. (Apologies for any errors.)

### Footwear

<i>Title</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Placed</i>
En Pointe Rainbow	Nancy	1 (39 pts)
Adidas on Wod	Mark	2 (22 pts)
Dino Roar	Nancy	3 (21 pts)
Dumpster Find	Karen	4
Feet to the fire	Peter E	5
Three left feet	Nancy	6/7/8 tie
Thrift store find	Shona	6/7/8 tie
Stop-action sneaker	Barb	6/7/8 tie
Botanical Boot	Karen	9/10 tie
Trail rider	Peter E	9/10 tie
Well used baby shoes	Barb	9/10 tie

### Need for Weeds

<i>Title</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Placed</i>
Spring Sentinals	Brenda	1 (36 pts)
Ready to fly	Milada	2 (32 pts)
Fireweed	Glenn	3 (22 pts)
Weedy silhouette	Shona	4
ICM#2	Bruce	5/6 tie
Thistle	Glenn	5/6 tie
Could use some weed	David L	7
Wild Mustard	Shona	8
ICM	Bruce	9
Alleyway	Karen	10 tie
Weed on old piling	Bruce	10 tie

## Abandoned Sites

<i>Title</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Placed</i>
Standing Stones	Barb	1 (27 pts)
Deserted Railway Station	Nancy	2 (26 pts)
Fraser Shipyards	Bruce	3 (24 pts)
Solitude	Bruce	4
Stones in the French Alps	Shona	5
Remains of the Farm	Glenn	6
Lost Silver Mine	Karen	7/8 tie
Hoarding	Brenda	7/8 tie
Weathered the Storm	Brenda	9/10 tie
Overgrown	Shona	9/10 tie
Water Tank	Ziggy	9/10 tie

## Composition 101 – the Rule of Odds (3)

<i>Title</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Placed</i>
I See 3 Wheels	Shona	1 (35 pts)
Stacks	Tim	2 (33 pts)
Stained Glass	Barb	3 (23 pts)
The Hulks	Bruce	4
Where's Mum	Nancy	5
Surreal	Shona	6/7 tie
Surf's Up	Jim	6/7 tie
He Shoots – He Scores	Brenda	8
Faces to the Sun	Brenda	9/10 tie
Whale Tales	Tim	9/10 tie
Sand Dune Riders	Milada	9/10 tie

## On the Forums

Do it yourself macro diffuser – cheap and easy.

Feeling bored? How about a public art assignment?

Lightroom – new healing brushes. . .

Go ahead – sign on (to the site and then the forums) and join the conversations. Resources/Forums.

## Questions?

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

General enquiries [Info@nwphoto.org](mailto:Info@nwphoto.org)  
Web site issues: [webmaster@nwphoto.org](mailto:webmaster@nwphoto.org)  
Themes: [themes@nwphoto.org](mailto:themes@nwphoto.org)  
Newsletter submissions: [editor@nwphoto.org](mailto:editor@nwphoto.org)

You can find a complete list of executive members on the club website: [www.nwphoto.org](http://www.nwphoto.org)

## Last Words

Entries for the digital competition (2) are due **October 4**. That's, like, tomorrow, so do it now!!

Next meeting is **October 7**. Digital competition and members' sharing (postponed from September 2)

Next full **lunar eclipse** is **October 8**, really early in the morning. Google it. Take photos.

Outing "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" is **October 19**.

**A World of Stories** presented by the West Coast Animatography Group is on **December 4**. Mark your calendars now. It's free. See "News" on the club website.