



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release

Aug/Sep 2006



This graphic image by Justin Ball taken at Manning Park. See Sept. 23 outing for your opportunity to create star trails.



From the Editor (Peter Ellis)

Those of you who were at the club's wind-up party and were close enough, may have heard my response "That will be a tough act to follow" when Dave announced that I would be taking over from Shona as Editor of the Shutter Release.

She has put so much of her fine style and quality into each issue. I just hope I can follow her lead.

Now, of course, comes the cry for help that every newsletter editor puts out at the start of each club year.

Please, PLEASE – feed me! I am hungry for material to fill the pages with the kind of things you want to read about.

Have you been on an interesting trip, or heard of a great place to visit? Tell us about it.

Have you discovered a fresh way to improve your photography? Pass it on.

Have you taken pictures that you're pleased with? If you show us, we'll do our best to print them.

Have you won the Lottery? Let us know, and we'll celebrate with you.

Have Fun! Participate, Share, Learn & Enjoy!

Dave Emery, President

Welcome back to a new year of enjoying our favourite hobby together!

This year will prove to be an exciting one for us in the New Westminster Photography Club. Our club grew a lot last year. New members bring new ideas, talent and enthusiasm.

I have a few words of advice for all of us –

Participate in your Club! Your officers have been working hard to prepare a full program of activities based on input that **you** provided at the end of last year. I know that you'll be excited about the variety of diverse programs and outings in store for us!

Share your knowledge about photography! In addition to including talented guest speakers from the community in our program, I hope to see more sharing of talents within the club again this year. Each of us has specific talents that relate to our hobby, that we can share with other members. Don't be surprised if you get a call from Grace, our Program Coordinator, asking you to share a skill, technique or even a photographic failure (that you have learned from) with the other members this year. *Learning* from other members will definitely make us better photographers!

We will continue to value the traditional photographic techniques and media that have stood the test of time, as well as welcome new ideas from an ever-changing digital world. The bottom line is that good photos and good photographic techniques aren't changing; we just have new opportunities for creativity! We made a very respectable showing in the photography shows that we participated in last year. This was totally due to the participation and talent of our collective club members. I hope that we can all *enjoy* our hobby with new enthusiasm this year!

Be a Club Supporter!

This year we want to reward club members and honor their participation in club activities. We will award a Club Supporter point for attendance at meetings and outings. In addition, we will give a point for submitting work for competitions and doing presentations at club meetings. An additional 5 points can be earned by recruiting a new member to the club. It's a casual system and you can see that it is all about participation, not competition. At the end of the year, we'll provide a nice award to the top Club Supporters.

Upcoming Program

Sep 12

First meeting – don't forget to be there, to find out what will be happening in the coming year...

To start - a 5-minute presentation, by Lou Misshoula. Then it's Members' Night, where we show our summer photos – whether you stayed home and gardened, went on vacation, rocked a baby, visited the Arctic – bring us your pics and show us what you did. How many? Up to 4 images – prints, slides, or digital – send digital files to Dave by Sep 10, please.

Also...we will be collecting club dues this time, so bring money!

We have our 5-minute presenters set up for the first and, I believe, the second meetings – but Grace will be looking for volunteers to fill in for the rest of the program. Think up five minutes worth of knowledge you would like to talk about - then talk to Grace.

Sep26

Tonight's 5-minute 'show and tell' – subject and presenter TBA.

The main feature:- Grace Darney, giving a talk on "Beginning Photoshop", the first part of a 'how-to' presentation – to be continued at our next meeting. By correcting, improving and manipulating your images, Grace will show ways of bringing out the qualities that may lie hidden there.

Oct 3

5-minute talk. The 'who-and-what' will be announced at an earlier meeting, and/or on the website.

Grace moves on, with "The Beginner Gets Braver, Using Photoshop" – telling how to make those so-so images into great pics. If her first Photoshop talk made you think of questions to ask her, this is the time to bring them out and have them answered.

Oct 17

Details on this meeting will be in the October issue. Don't miss it!!

Places to be – Outings

Justin will have handouts for all of these – check with him for details and info.

September 16th

Lynn Canyon Park

For architecture and machinery – also flora and fauna...you choose your subjects.

Meet at 9am, 8th St. Skytrain Stn – then on by Seabus and bus

Bring boots, raingear (it could happen) and lunch.

For more info on the park, check www.lynncanyonparkguide.bc.ca

Sept 23rd

Saturday Night Double-feature

Car-racing at Agassiz speedway, and /or photographing star-trails at Manning Park.

Meet at school, 5pm, carpool – bring food, drink and money – tripods seriously recommended.

First stop, Agassiz Speedway (www.agassizspeedway.com), for lots of action pics of high-energy car racing.

Cool down at the Lookout at Manning Park, photographing star trails. See page 1 for the kind of thing to expect. You can stay at the Lodge (pricey), go to Hope (\$60/night), camp in the park, sleep in your car - or go home...

It should be quite a night!

October 14th

Fall Festival of Death

Meeting at 8am at school; suggest carpool, bring raingear and (oh,yes) money.

Stopping at Kilby Store and Farm, where we get a special \$7.00 admission price.

The Weaver Creek run is the next call, for a unique chance to shoot the peak-weekend salmon run.

Still not enough..? With Hallowe'en close, a visit to the local cemetery seems appropriate, where we could be taking group shots, on a zombie theme. For further details, check with Justin.

There will be good food opportunities at Kilby, on the way back.

For more exciting outing options, see our next issue. Don't miss it!



Photo of Kilby General Store by Shona LaFortune





"Summer in the City" was what the Toronto area photography clubs called the 2006 Camera Canada College (CCC). CAPA's (Canadian Association for Photographic Art, our "umbrella" organization) annual convention was in Toronto this year. With reasonably priced accommodations right downtown, it seemed like a good time to explore the city that everyone not living there loves to hate. And besides, it's the very first CCC where I wasn't attending board meetings or teaching a workshop. Freedom!

I'd been to Toronto before ... the airport, the airport hotels ... so I was looking forward to doing a little architectural photography downtown.

Each CCC is unique to its area, but all offer workshops, tours or outings, speakers and social events. The "meet and greet" held on the 27th floor of our hotel offered us a 360 view of the city. There were a few photographers hiding behind the curtains taking photos, a couple playing piano and the rest of us just eating and drinking, renewing old acquaintances and meeting new people.

Peter and I had signed up for a tour of the Niagara wine region, and the falls of course. Our energetic leader tossed aside the planned return to the city for dinner and, instead, added a few more winery visits, dinner at Niagara on the Lake and both day and night photography of the falls. The mist from the falls was wonderfully refreshing after so much heat (and ok, wine), the night photography was rewarding and except for almost losing one of our group, the day was perfect.

I didn't partake of too many lectures, preferring to walk around the city, but everyone had good reports. As always, there was information and inspiration to be found in all the presentations.

Gremlins plagued the banquet, denying us some of the planned program, but then Peter won a massive Lowepro bag as a door prize. It was like stuffing a giant PNE teddy bear into the luggage, but he managed without having to leave anything behind (like the Niagara wine...)

Watch for information on the next CCC, and plan to attend.

Just Do It!

Kelvin Leong

Vacationing with a digital camera is akin to having your cake and eating it too! Gone are the moments of running out of film or constantly justifying to yourself, "This is a good shot to take, right?" By the time you think about it, the moment can be long gone. Of course it helps to have a heap of gigabyte flashcards or a portable storage. My mantra for every photo-op while vacationing... Just Do It!



Photos by Kelvin Leong

If you ever go to Beijing, you simply must go see the Great Wall of China, well at least a section of it. The whole length would be hard to do seeing that it's over 4000 miles long. We hiked, yes hiked, up to the top of the Badaling section of the Wall. I hauled up a tripod, the dSLR with 70-200mm mounted for the far away shots, a 17-40mm and 2L of water in the backpack. The view from the top was breath-taking, if a tad hazy from the pollution. On the way down, I used the 17-40mm for the wide

landscape shots. A helpful tip; unless you're supremely fit, leave the heavy glass and body in the hotel, and take a pocket lightweight digicam with built-in 10x zoom

The Beijing Acrobatics Macrocosm was by far the best venue and display of acrobatics I have ever seen. Inside the theatre were prominently displayed signs (in English and Chinese) indicating that photography was forbidden. Bah, just do it! Well, it helped to sit up in the nose-bleed section where the ushers weren't going to go to the trouble of looking. A relatively fast (f4) 70-200mm lens mounted on a tripod (not exactly stealthy) running at ISO 800 allowed the blur-free capture of some 200 shots.

The APAC Seminar

This popular day of workshops has always been good value. This year it will be held on October 21 and 22 (usually the second day is a workshop by the feature speaker). The feature speaker is Nancy Rotenberg, perhaps not your pick if you are not into birds and flowers, however, there are print exhibitions, a trade show and a good choice of workshops to select from. Brochures are available at most camera stores and at the club. Check the APAC website (www.apac.bc.ca) for information, which is now available, with program and on-line registration

Canadian Association for Photographic Art (CAPA)

Now that our club no longer participates in the "CAPA Rounds" (competitions), our newer members may not be that familiar with our umbrella organization. CAPA is a volunteer-run, national photography organization. CAPA's objectives include "To promote the art and science of photography in all its forms throughout Canada and the world, and to further public interest therein." CAPA sponsors competitions, exhibitions and events, an annual conference (CCC – see above) and publishes a quarterly magazine, Canadian Camera.

CAPA is divided into zones across Canada. Pacific Zone encompasses BC, the Yukon and, unofficially, members in Washington. (The other zones are Prairie, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic.) Our Zone Director is Chris Sheffield, a member of the Langley Camera Club. (The previous Zone Director was Shona LaFortune). CAPA's national president, Val Davison, is a resident of Surrey. We are fortunate to be in Pacific Zone, the largest and most active in the country. Pacific Zone has over 40 clubs, almost 20 of which are in the lower mainland. That gives us access to the resources of workshop presenters, evaluators and club-sponsored competitions and activities.

Like many photography organizations, CAPA has been struggling with decreasing membership, a shortage of volunteers and the adjustment to digital photography. The CAPA board has worked hard for the past few years to make the organization more efficient and relevant to its members and is confident it can continue to provide a link and resource for photographers across Canada.

Individual membership is \$45 and includes 4 issues of the magazine and 4 issues of the Pacific Zone News newsletter, discounts at Lens and Shutter and other retailers, and discounts for some CAPA events. More information at www.capacanada.ca. Pacific Zone information can also be found at www.capapac.org.

2005-06 Executive

President: Dave Emery
Vice-pres: (open)
Treasurer: Tasha Robinson
Programs: Grace Darney

Competitions: Fred/Joan Greaves
Website: Kelvin Leong
Outings: Justin Ball
Newsletter: Peter Ellis

Club Key Contacts

You can reach Dave Emery at dave@nwphoto.org, or 604-517-6654, Peter Ellis (Editor) at gpetrel@shaw.ca or 604-463-7363; and Justin Ball (outings) at outings@nwphoto.org. Any of us will be happy to provide you contact information for the person you are looking for, if we can.