



New Westminster Photography Club

# Shutter Release

Nov/Dec 2006



Photo © Dave Emery

## From the Editor

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual APAC Seminar has now vanished into history – well-attended (over 500 registrants), and as successful as usual. The trend in photography away from film and towards digital was more apparent than ever, this year. Nancy Rotenberg, the keynote speaker, presented two excellent shows, with most of her images made on film but, as her programs were shown on a digital projector and the film-versus-digital images weren't identified, it was impossible to tell which was which.

The improvement in quality of (a) the digital camera imaging, (b) the standard of projection, and (c) prints from a good inkjet printer, tend to undermine the arguments of the “electronic images will never replace film” school of thought. I have been a slide enthusiast for most of my life, and would have agreed that film would never die. Now, I have come to accept the inevitable.

There are millions of conventional cameras in use around the world, and there will still be a demand to supply film for them, but the old-established manufacturers – like Kodak, Fuji, Agfa and Ilford – are abandoning film production at an alarming rate. Their place will probably be taken by Third World makers, catering to the shrinking demand.

The evidence of this trend, in the program at Abbotsford, was in the proportion of workshops devoted to the two techniques. Of the twenty-nine sessions, twelve were digitally-related, while most of the rest were of general interest. APAC knows it must move with the times and the annual seminar is always well worth attending.

In closing, although this is being written at the end of October, and Christmas still seems far away, this will be my last opportunity to wish all members a very happy Christmas and a photographically rich 2007.

*Peter Ellis, Editor*



## Upcoming Program

### Nov 7

Select prints for the Delta Print Challenge. Members are allowed to bring two prints, in 16”x 20” mats to be selected by popular choice, one entry per member.

We need 10 images from 10 different people, and it would be nice to improve our standing in this competition. See Nov 26 item below, for further information.

Our 5-minute speaker will be Sherlyn Cordero – her subject to be announced that night.

## **Nov 21**

A guest speaker, Archie Miller, the New Westminster Historian and Archivist, will talk on “The Importance of Photography in History”

Please bring matted prints (8”x10” and larger, preferred) from the Remembrance Day and Chinatown outing, to display around the classroom during the meeting.

If there is time, Archie Miller may comment on any that have historical significance.

Don’t miss seeing Tasha – she will be collecting Xmas Dinner funds – no pay, no goodies!

## **Nov 26**

Not exactly a ‘program item’, but the **Delta Print Challenge** is being held on this date, at the Longhouse at the Delta Rec. Centre in Tsawwassen (1720 56<sup>th</sup> St.) Judging is from 1:00-4:00 pm. This is always worth attending, for the comments on the entries, refreshments and, by the way, to see how well our entry does.

## **Dec 18 (Remember, this is a Monday)**

### **Christmas Party**

Xmas Dinner, at the Queen’s Park Centennial Lodge (same building as the Arts Centre, where we had our last year’s Christmas dinner and the spring wind-up), **6:00 pm.**

Remember to bring a small gift (\$5 limit! – and if it is gender-specific, please state on the label), and any items you no longer need, photographic or otherwise, including books and baking, as contributions to the Silent Auction. Oh, yes, don’t forget to bring a good appetite – we always eat well...

After dinner, Alexa Love will show her slides of Russia and Viet Nam.

Spouses, partners, friends, family or other guests are welcome (we need 25!), but we caution that the venue and activities are not suitable for young children. Note there is parking just above the entrance, so you don’t need to park in that lower lot, especially if you have concerns about the footing, dark or safety. Cost will be \$25/person. We will eat around 6:30 so arrive a little earlier if possible to set up your silent auction items.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help with the decorating, set-up of tables, etc.

Please let Tasha know as soon as possible how many you will have attending (so she can advise the caterers). To cover the advance costs, we are asking for **payment in November PLEASE.**

## **January 2<sup>nd</sup> preview**

Equipment Night – by popular request, a chance to show off your favourite or unusual equipment – cameras, lenses and filters, tripods, gadgets and gadget bags.

## **Places to Be - Outings**

*Justin Ball, Outings Coordinator*

### **November 11**

#### **“Remember Chinatown”**

November is often gray, wet, depressing. This outing will take participants to the Vancouver cenotaph for Remembrance Day, and then to Chinatown and surrounding areas. Bright lights, street produce markets, cleaver wielding butchers, ethnic foods and bright produce will hopefully chase some of the November cold away. Bring raingear, flash, tripod, lunch money (you HAVE to try the pastries- so much whipped cream.) Transport by Skytrain. **Meet at 8th Street Skytrain Station at 9:30, or in front of Waterfront station at 10:15.** Bring the usual bits, and wear a poppy.



## **December 16<sup>th</sup>**

### **Christmas at the Fort**

Our Xmas outing is happening – weather and other variables permitting – on Saturday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> -- destination Fort Langley.

Meet at the school at 2:30 pm, to carpool to Ft.L., or meet us outside the Agricultural Museum, across the street from the Fort, at about 3:30. Don't worry about the meeting time there – it's Saturday, it's close to Xmas – there may be loads of traffic, there may be none. We will be 5 nights from the longest night so, depending on the weather, it may be dusk until 5:20, or pitch-black at 4:00.

There's more parking near the Museum; which could make it easier to find each other. Visit the Museum or Gallery if it's still too light and you want to wait for darker streets. Xmas shopping, shoppers, lights, and other kitsch abound. Bring money, and tripod.

See you afterwards (time and place to be determined pre-outing) for discussion, compare pics, arrange rides home.

## **Prior Outing Report**

### **Fall Festival of Death: *Photo/report by Shona LaFortune***



On the day following Friday the 13th, 13 of us took part in the third club outing of the year, the Death Fest (aka Fall Festival of Death). With a set of directions for each car, we left the school and headed east, fog setting the perfect atmosphere, for the first stop, an old general store. After a few purchases, and a quick check on the dinner buffet availability across the highway, we continued to the Weaver Creek spawning channel, where we were joined by a couple of members who had not car-pooled from the school. Red fish, grey fish, dead fish - no shortage of fish for everyone to

photograph, with optimum lighting to show off the amazing colours. After an hour or so there, lunch and group photos at a nearby small family cemetery, we made the brief drive to historic Kilby store and farm, where the special admission price arranged by Justin got brought down a little more. There were endless opportunities there to capture the essence of a dying way of life, heritage buildings and the friendly turkeys and other animals. Those who went home from there missed out on the buffet but 3 members enjoyed the meal, taking a few photos of heaped plates... The rain held off until minutes after the last members returned to New Westminster. Some photos from this creatively planned outing are available for viewing on the club website.

## **North Shore Challenge**

We will be selecting for this competition in January (16th or 30th). Images may be digital or slide (no prints). This is an intense competition (all BC clubs are invited) so keep an eye out for your very best work. We welcome 4-6 of your photographs, but none that have been previously entered in this competition.

## **Royal Hudson "Steam-up" (Sept. 28/06)**

### ***June Exworthy***

Royal Hudson arrived at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in May 2002. The complete four-year overhaul cost approximately \$600,000. This is her third career.

It has taken three days to get enough steam pressure to run her on this day. On the morning (6 am) the Royal Hudson was not ready to run but everyone breathed a sign of relief when she traveled under her own power towards the dignitaries on this



Photo © June Exworthy

eventful day. She was christened with a bottle of champagne by the Honourable Iona Campagnola, Lt. Governor of British Columbia.

Her Honour and escort arrived from Victoria by float plane, landing in Squamish Harbour. She was met by Jim Brown in the 1934 Chrysler Airflow donated to the West Coast Heritage Railway Park in May 2006.

While I was taking a photo of the Airflow's arrival to the park, the car stopped and out popped the Lt. Governor and her escort. My thought was, "Gee, the car broke down." To my surprise they made a direct beeline to me. Boy was I surprised! We shook hands and she graciously thanked me and my absent husband for the donation. Later she broke rank and came to chat with Bert. I'm sure it made his day. All in all it was a memorable day.

*(On September 28, 2006, the Royal Hudson 2860 made her triumphant return to steam to the thrills of a crowd of more than 1,500 people at the West Coast Railway Heritage park in Squamish. On hand to give the signal for the locomotive to steam into the station was the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, British Columbia's Minister of Transportation the Honourable Kevin Falcon, and his worship the Mayor of Squamish, Ian Sutherland. The 1934 Chrysler was donated to the Park by June and Bert Exworthy.)*

## **Cos-play-zoku**

***Kelvin Leong***

Have you ever wanted to be a member of the paparazzi, but were afraid of getting sued? Have you ever wanted to photograph runway models but could never afford the press pass? Have you ever wanted take photos of a bunch of crazy teens, but were equally afraid the aforementioned teens? Well now, if you ever find yourself in Tokyo, Japan, you can safely satisfy all three of these needs for the paltry sum of a subway ticket to Harajuku, photographing Cos-play-zoku.

The word Cos-play-zoku is Japanese and means costume play group or family. Here's what my Lonely Planet Guide says about Cos-play-zoku:

*A subculture consisting mainly of made-up teenager girls from the small towns and bedroom communities around Tokyo. Each weekend, Cos-play-zoku assemble at Harajuku's Jungu-bashi bridge (the bridge linking Meiji-jingu with Omote-sando). The Cos-play-zoku pose, preen and picnic, resplendent in both Goth and punk garb - a grab bag of S&M, queen arch-vamp, Victorian frill, colourful anime superheroes and nurses wrapped in bloodied bandages. Though either get-ups run the gamut, they are united in a sense of pride in their alienation.*

*What you'll encounter is Tokyo's most fun circus, as each weekend hordes of excited photographers, bewildered tourists and plain voyeurs gather to catch the show. The girls revel in the attention of the paparazzi till dusk...*

My wife and I arrived at the famous bridge late afternoon on the last Saturday of our Asian trip, and it looked like it was time for most of the Cos-play-zoku to hop on the train and go home for dinner as there were only a measly dozen or so teens still strutting their stuff. I managed about a hundred shots from afar with a telephoto zoom lens (70-200mm f/4) to capture them as naturally as possible and since it wasn't crowded I wasn't at all worried about someone walking between me and my subject.

The next day we showed up just before lunch and there literally hundreds of people on this bridge. The majority were tourists walking through and taking the odd curiosity shot with their point and shoot cameras, many were the Cos-play-zoku, and a handful of photographers who were there for the long haul; yours truly included in the latter category. In amongst the paparazzi, we saw a dead ringer for Dian Fossey with her Paillard-Bolex cine camera and a fellow with his Canon 1Ds & 300mm f/2.8 lens mounted on a monopod; he looked serious, too!

Here's where I got to practice my Japanese and ask, "**Sumimasen, anata no shashin wo tottemo ii deska?**" (May I take your picture, please?) As the day progressed, that phrase got more and more difficult to say, (or I became lazier) and a simple "Photo?" sufficed to get the point across. Pretty

much all of the Cos-play-zoku would oblige me and pose, except for a small group at the far end of the bridge who looked more interested in chatting up their photo-pimp (you had to pay him to take his girls' photos). There was very little chance to use the telephoto zoom as the crowds were too thick to get any shot off with any gap between me and my subject. I had to turn to my trusty 17-40mm f/4 and get right up close. We stayed there until dusk getting shots of everyone of them that would have their photos taken; total photos taken Sunday, 300.

If I had the opportunity to do this again, and with no weight constraints, I would have brought along the 24-70mm f/2.8 & 70-200mm f/2.8 IS lenses and a monopod for the latter parts of the day where available light was waning. I found that towards the evening, hand holding, even at ISO800 and f/4, produced a disturbing number of blurry shots. All in all, a memorable and eye-opening experience to see how some of the Japanese youths choose to express themselves. Thank you Cos-play-zoku.



Photos © Kelvin Leong

## Showtime 2006

When the Pacific Digital Photography Club was formed just a few years ago, most clubs were not embracing digital technology – in fact pretty much the opposite. It immediately filled a need for photographers switching to digital technology. The club began to emphasize audio-visual shows and on **November 25** they are presenting their 3rd annual "Showtime", a juried selection of "slideshow" (sic) presentations. Tickets are \$12 and include door prizes and refreshments. There is a matinee from 2:00 to 5:00 pm and an evening presentation from 7:00 – 10:00 pm. It's at the Inlet Theatre, 100 Newport Drive, Port Moody. You can get tickets online at <http://www.pdpc.ca> or call 604-435-5893 or 604-421-4252.

## Choo Choo

*Shona LaFortune*

Travel by steam train is not for the impatient. It feels sometimes that a child on a tricycle could outpace the train, but for those who appreciate the slower pace of life of bygone times, delays to take on water, build up steam or perform repairs are all part of the charm, an opportunity to talk with fellow travelers and to create photographs of course.

There are several railway journeys ("heritage" or otherwise) available in BC. I've been collecting little train trips, and one of the nicest is the Armstrong Explorer, traveling the beautiful country between Kamloops and Armstrong. The Kamloops Heritage Railway Society offers 4 trips per year.

Photography is challenging on trains, however powered. They rock and roll, making precise composition impossible, and even at low speeds, a million images pass by too quickly to capture.

Arrive early for your trip. The best photos of the train can be had while it is being prepared and loaded, (and while you are still outside!)

Forget the tripods. They will only transfer the train's vibration. Hand holding is the way to go. Bring fast film (or set a higher "ISO" on your digital camera) and the fastest lens for the type of photography you prefer. Heavy zoom lenses magnify every motion. A lens in the wide to normal range

will offer more versatility, especially for interior shots. Preset your focus and exposure if your camera requires manual adjustments.

Trees and other obstacles will leap out just as you click the shutter, so try to look ahead a little and be prepared to take lots of shots. If you are on the inside of a curve, you may be able to capture a view of the engine, or trestles and bridges, depending on how far back you are.

If you can access an open air car (or can look out between the cars) so much the better. If you must view through a window, shoot from the shady side, keep your camera close to the glass and shield it as much as possible from any interior glare. A polarizing filter can help but you will lose a stop or so of exposure.

Aside from views of the train (and station, if any), there will be plenty of scenery. Trains also go through back yards, so have your camera ready as you pass settlements, for those normally unseen views.....

And if you are on a steam train, bring a sound recorder to capture the whistle.

*Kamloops Heritage Railway:* <http://www.kamrail.com>, 250-374-2141.

## **Our website (<http://www.nwphoto.org>)**

It's encouraging to see new images appearing on the website – mainly pictures taken on recent successful outings. Keep them coming...they look great.

Reminders regarding the site:

- Each member can have a **gallery** page. If you don't yet have a page, or would like to do some updating, submit your images to Kelvin Leong digitally, via e-mail or CD. If you have questions about resolution or scanning your prints or slides, please contact Kelvin.
- We have an **announcements** page. Please keep an eye on this for items pertaining to the club and if you have seen any item of interest to members, send it along to Kelvin.

Please bookmark and visit our site **often!** Any updated information regarding **outings** or **programs** will be posted there first. As well, you can view a pdf version of each **newsletter** (or print it for your records). Let the executive know if there is anything else you would like to see on the site. If you have any questions about where to find information, contact Kelvin.

## **Club Key Contacts**

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