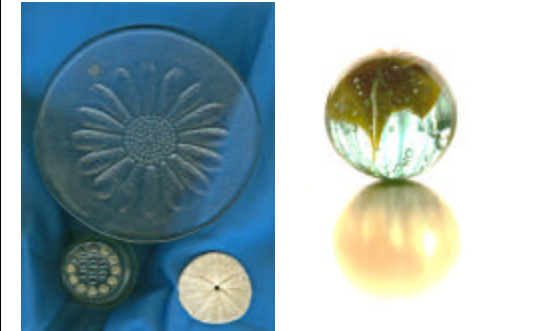




# Shutter Release

April 2008

	<p align="center"><b><u>Circular Theme Gallery entries</u></b></p> <p align="center">Blue Plate Special by Peter Ellis Glass by Tony Van Straubensee Current open theme: <b>Waiting</b></p>
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## OUR MEMBERS – My Favourite Place to Shoot! by our President, Jason Hollister

Well as many of you know I like shooting at the race track. The Caribbean beach is a welcome place as well. As of late I've developed a new love. New York City! A very unreasonable place to love taking pictures when you live 4000kms away!

How did this happen you ask? Well my wife is from NYC. She lived there for many years and when work took me there twice in the past 6 months I had a great guide. Many times I'd be on the phone calling out street numbers and getting GPS like directions – "Turn left, go straight, turn right, there it is!" I also got some not so good directions once. I was trying to take the subway to the special spot where everyone takes pictures of the Brooklyn Bridge. I ended up DEEP in Brooklyn late at night in a place where I had to exit the subway and walk a block to the return station. That one block saw me in a rough part of town with a lone officer standing



guard at the traffic lights. I chose to not photograph this scene. Since I had not taken a tripod with me, I arrived at the Empire Ferry Park and took a couple shots I was unhappy with. I vowed to return with a tripod.



Fast forward 3 months and work sees me back in NYC. I was armed with a tripod this time. I knew how to get there this time and was able to construct a fabulous panorama of the NYC skyline ( see below) and take some great shots of the Manhattan Bridge river bases from below. I was quite pleased!

The impetus for my trip was work related but it also happened to be a weekend where a number of NYC and NJ photographers were meeting up to shoot the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Chinese Lunar Parade. I couldn't pass up a chance to meet some of my fellow photographers that I had only spoken with online. We met at B&H photo, the world's largest photo store, bought some gear and we made our way downtown. The Canal Street area where Chinatown starts is

incredible. So much to shoot! Here I was in the middle of a Chinese New Year parade with 20 other photographers and the police were leaving us completely alone. I was thrilled! I got one of my best shots ever of a dragon (included here as well). Afterwards, we chose to head into SoHo for a couple burgers and we saw Brooke Shields get up and leave the restaurant. Think 10+ photographers would make her nervous?

What really hit home for me recently was how much I loved taking random shots of everyday things. The usual attractions of Rockefeller Center, Empire State building or Times Square were fun, but lacked the impact I had hoped. The epiphany was coming. I was walking Manhattan wasting away some time before a light came upon Elmo bumming for some subway fare. It was a completely random and unabashed photographic opportunity. What was



incredible was the older gentleman in the background taking a picture of the newly finished skyscraper to the far right. He missed out of this furry guy (red furry below).

I was posting some shots online recently of Vancouver urban shots and I started to realize I had these same opportunities here in Vancouver every day. I had a serious archive of great Urban shots. They were familiar to me, but the photographic merits of them appealed worldwide. Then, as I drove home from a dinner with friends last night in the downtown area of Vancouver, I looked over at the skyline and seriously pined to get my camera out this sunny weekend and shoot. I saw my own town in a different light. Travel photography is a wonderful tool for widening the "photographic eye".



## Upcoming Programs

### Apr 15, 2008 : Photography, Keith's Way!

Our club vice-president, Keith Griffiths, will tell us something about one photographer's search for a "style".



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#### **Agenda: (subject to change)**

- **Beyond the Green Square: #2 - The Golden Rule:**

(15 minutes) Derek will continue his series of short presentations for the "less confident" photographer. Tonight we begin to explore the so-called "Rules of Composition". If you're a novice photographer, learning the rules of composition will definitely help improve your images. This session we'll start with what is probably the most fundamental and well used rule in photography. This "rule" was discovered by almost every ancient culture on Earth, and has influenced architecture and paintings for centuries ... but just what do credit cards and the reproduction of rabbits have to do with photography? Come and learn!

- **Keith's take on Photography:**

Keith will treat us with samples of his photographic works and anecdotes about his own path through the world of photography. Keith is vice-president of our club, and also president of the Burnaby Photographic Society with decades of experience (he won't tell us just how many) with the various technologies arising from photography's evolution. It promises to be an interesting talk.

## **May 6, 2008 : Member's Night**

This meeting is a member's night (just in case we didn't get a chance to get to everyone at the March 4th meeting. Members may bring in their images (slides, prints, digital) for review and critiquing by fellow members. Guests are welcome to participate. Don't feel intimidated if you are new to photography! Anyone can have an opinion, and the old adage is true: I may not know art, but I know what I like. What you "like" is usually a well composed image!

### **Agenda: (subject to change)**

- **Beyond the Green Square: #3 - What's my line?:**

(15 minutes) Derek will continue his series of short presentations for the "less confident" photographer. We continue our exploration of the "Rules of Composition". If you're a novice photographer, learning the rules of composition will definitely help improve your images. This session we'll deal with one of the most powerful rules a photographer can have in their kit. Lines in an image can greatly influence how the viewer of your photograph feels about your work. We'll briefly discuss some of the most common line elements in photography and their psychological effect on the viewer.

Since this is also a member's night, you can put your new knowledge to work right away!

- **Critiquing session:**

Members view the offered images, offering critiques on what works and what could be improved. The intent of critiquing sessions is to help our members improve their compositional skills by evaluating other peoples' works and receiving feedback on their own.

## **Upcoming Outings**

### **Spring Fling Apr 13, 2008**

**Subjects:** To celebrate spring, we are going to join the CAPA Pacific Zone's Tulips of the Valley outings (April 13 and/or 20th) to tulip fields near Agassiz.

**Logistics:** We may arrange to meet at the school to carpool, but we will discuss at the club meetings and post details later. Arrival time at the Agassiz tulip fields is any time after 10 a.m. Weather and the timing of spring will determine whether we select one or the other (or both) of the outing dates.



**Details:** <http://www.capapac.org/outings.htm> for a map and some information.

## Spring Fling 2nd Date Apr 19, 2008

**Subjects:** This is the second date that CAPA Pacific Zone has scheduled for an outing to the tulip fields near Agassiz. We may join the April 13 or 19th, or both, depending on weather and desire.

**Logistics:** Refer to April 13 outing for details. More TBA.

**Details:** Refer to April 13 outing for details. More TBA.

## Lens Talk by Keith Griffiths

### The 'Normal' Lens

You may have heard the term before, but just what is a normal lens?

Most of us are familiar with 35mm cameras, and we are told that a 50mm lens is the 'normal' lens for this type of camera. When I first heard this, I thought it was so because this was the lens most commonly or normally supplied or sold with a camera. Now I understand that this fact may be true but it is not the reason it is called the normal lens for a 35mm camera.

I found a technical definition for a 'normal' lens that applies to a broad range of camera formats. It is quite simply stated as the diagonal of the film frame, or if you want something more complicated sounding then how about the square root of the sum of the squares of the sides. You may recognize this as Pythagoras's formula for a right triangle. For a 35mm camera, the true normal lens would be a 43mm lens. Standard convention has rounded this off to 45mm or 50mm, as a slightly longer lens gives a more appealing perspective view that going slightly shorter.



This formula gives an easy way to find a lens that will give a similar image across many different film formats. So if you have a 4x5 large format camera you would use a 6.5" or 160mm lens to get the same 'normal' view.

Okay, complicated math aside, just what does this 'normal' lens really mean. Another so called definition I have heard was that it gave us a view similar to the human eye. I misunderstood this for a long time. My eyes see a much wider field of view than a normal lens so how can this be?



Let's think about perspective and the look you get in the photograph from the use of different lenses. A normal lens gives you an image with a certain relationship between subjects that are near and far in your photograph. This is where the normal part comes from, things near and far have a similar relationship when viewed with your naked eye as when photographed with a 'normal' lens.

Caveat: These photos were taken with a point and shoot camera that has a 3x zoom from 6.3mm to 18.9mm . This

is about 38 mm to 114mm when compared to 35mm format. This photo was taken at mid range of the available 3x zoom at 12.6mm or about 70mm in 35mm format.

Okay, now I want you to think about different lenses and the view you get with each. Let's simplify the range and use some extremes of the range. If you put a wide angle lens on your camera, say a 20mm lens, then you get more stuff in your photograph but everything is very small. Or you can 'feature' a subject in your image by moving in close and filling a larger part of the frame with your subject, but this makes everything else in the image very small by comparison. This is sometimes called an exaggerated perspective.

Notice that the stump fills the same amount of the image (I moved in closer to it) but here the bridges and mountains are tiny by comparison.

Now try a telephoto lens, say a 200mm lens. Now everything is close up. So what can we do? We often move back from our subject so that we can still include our whole subject but now

our background is large by comparison to our subject. This is often called a compressed perspective.

Okay I know the stump is on the other side but as I moved away from the stump to use the max zoom on my camera and still keep the stump the same size in the photo I had to move around a large concrete retaining wall, but I hope you still get the point. Notice how now the bridges and mountains are quite large in relation to the stump.

So now we have seen three different views, exaggerated perspective, compressed perspective and yes, 'normal' perspective. So there you have it, a normal lens as I see it.

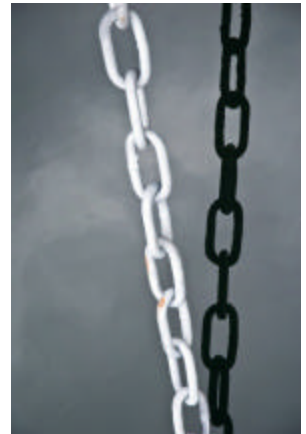
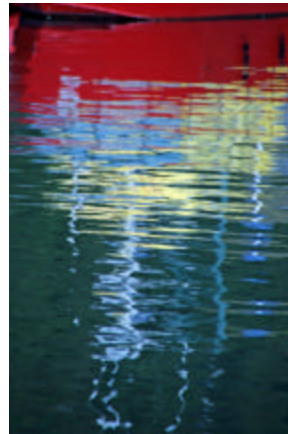
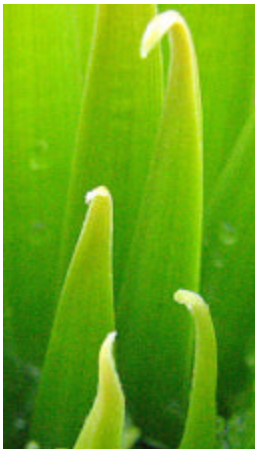


Next 'lens talk' will be portrait lenses.

## Recent Outings

### Mar 15, 2008 – Sea to Sky

This outing was **not** the "Sea to Sky" highway to Squamish and Whistler. Thirteen members showed up for this little exploration on the other end of the North Shore. We went straight to Deep Cove for seascapes and the harbour, and then some of us travelled up to Mount Seymour for some city and mountain views. This outing was a great opportunities for sea and mountain scenics, nature, snow...



Outing Photos by Derek Carlin, Jason Hollister, Shona LaFortune, Tony Van Straubensee, Grace Darney, Mary Ann Burton, Dave Emery

## **Theme Galleries: Waiting**

Submit your images for the ***Waiting*** theme. It will close on April 19.

## **2007-08 Executive Committee**

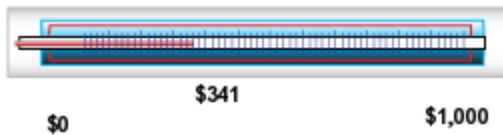
President: Jason Hollister  
VP: Keith Griffiths  
Treasurer: Tasha Robinson  
Programs: Peter Ellis  
Refreshment Coordinator: Grace Darney

Competitions: Fred & Joan Greaves  
Website: Derek Carlin  
Outings: Justin Ball, Shona LaFortune  
Newsletter: Dave Emery  
Special Events: Agnia Love



## **Club Key Contacts**

You can reach Jason Hollister at [info@nwphoto.org](mailto:info@nwphoto.org) or 604-518-8005, Dave Emery (Editor) at [editor@nwphoto.org](mailto:editor@nwphoto.org) or 604-517-6654; and Justin Ball/Shona LaFortune (Outings) at [outings@nwphoto.org](mailto:outings@nwphoto.org). Any of us will be happy to provide you contact information for the person you are looking for, if we can.



## **Projector Fund Update**

The Club Executive Committee set a goal for us to raise funds to purchase our own digital projector. Right now we borrow a projector from the office of one of our members. Our fund balance is at **\$341** thanks to the generosity of our members. We will make a “projector fund update” a regular section in the Shutter Release and on our website ([www.nwphoto.org](http://www.nwphoto.org)).

**Club Website** [www.nwphoto.org](http://www.nwphoto.org)



Photo by Jason Hollister