



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release

January 2006



Photo by Kelvin Leong taken on the Dec. 9 outing. See the "Outings Chronicles" for outing reports and photos.

2006: Lots more to see and do

Dave Emery, President

It is hard to believe that half of the school and club year is over. It has been a good year so far with great outings, informative programs and very constructive feedback for our work! The good thing is that there are lots of new photo opportunities to come in 2006!

Pauline has lined up an informative program schedule and Justin has some exciting outings planned for us! Shona will make sure that we are informed and Grace will help to keep the club in the black. Ava will remind us about meetings while the Greaves will keep our photos organized. Don and Stew will continue to provide leadership, while the Loves make sure that we have snacks at our meetings. All of your officers will do their best to make 2006 a great year for the New Westminster Photography Club! Thanks to all of our officers for ensuring that we are making our club efficient.

2006 is definitely the year to be inspired and push yourself to learn and try something new with our favourite hobby!

From the Editor

Happy New Year everyone. For the first newsletter of 2006, this is a record sized issue that includes outings reports I was forced to edit or they would have filled more than the pages I am attaching to this newsletter. I hope you enjoy the second half of the club year and all of 2006.

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Upcoming Program

Note we have a 3rd meeting in January, a "5th Tuesday".

Jan. 3, 2006

Members' print night. Bring two prints, any subject, for sharing and discussion. Prints must be 8X10 or larger, mounted on a firm backing. Mattes are optional; no frames please. Also, announcement of a Challenge to be due March 21.

5 minute presentation: Justin Ball

January 17

Workshop: Studio lighting/portraiture by Jim Britton. Jim is a retired professional photographer with a studio in New Westminster. He is a member of several photography clubs and the Annex Photographic Society. All participants: bring camera and tripod. Film shooters: bring 400 ISO black and white film. *(Jim has asked for two models, so if you have a friend or relative who might be an interesting model, please contact Pauline ASAP. Although Jim is well known for his photography of nudes, we're pretty sure the models can dress for this one, if they want! - Ed.)*

5 minute presentation: Peter Ellis

January 31

Basic Photoshop tips presented by Ewa Pluciennik.

5 minute presentation: Stew Hyslop.

February 7

Members' Projection Night. Bring two slides/digital images to show and discuss.

!! (Please e-mail digital images to dave@nwphoto.org well before the meeting so he can arrange them in a file for presentation).

Select or collect North Shore Challenge slides or digital images (bring 4-5 -- see article this issue.)

5 minute presentation: Fred Greaves

February 21

Hands-on workshop on hand-colouring black and white photographs, by Shona LaFortune. This will introduce traditional materials and techniques as well as hand-colouring inkjet produced photos and some information on digital methods. All materials supplied.

5 minute presentation: David Love

*The complete annual schedule (subject to change) is also posted on the club **website**.*

Outings

Justin Ball - Outings Director

January 21 (Saturday) "Almost Famous"

The object of "Almost Famous" is to produce a period image, which replicates an original (eg Lenin - See Aug./Sept. newsletter), or an original image of one that may have existed of a famous person/people, event or location. Think of it as faking a person, event, place, etc.

I suggest groups of three, but you may choose to work in pairs. For period places, use downtown New Westminster, or the interior of 48 Begbie Street. For period props, visit the SPCA thrift shop, Salvation Army etc. You may purchase/borrow the day of, or go shopping early if you have a group with ideas. One stipulation: no more than \$10 per person is to be spent on props! To keep things fair, you may only use an on-camera flash, incandescent lamps or natural light.

Meet at 10 am at 46 Begbie (the store front with the soaped windows). If there is a suite at 48 Begbie available for coffee/photos, I will post on door with "pls buzz".

Contact Justin (see "contacts") with any questions.

Burnaby Showcase

January 28, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

It's hard to believe that this print and slide-essay presentation by Burnaby has been going on so long, but this is its 10th year. They now present all the shows digitally, but many start with prints or slides. Tickets are \$12 each and may be obtained from Gina Botelho at clicafoto@gmail.com. (As usual these days, no phone no. is provided; non-computer users may have to ask one of the Internet connected members to get tickets.) It runs from 7:00 to 10:30, refreshments and door prizes. The Shadbolt Centre is at 6450 Deer Lake Avenue (in the park).

North Shore Challenge

This annual competition is the big one - open to all BC clubs. It had always been a slide competition but for the first time last year, all images were projected digitally using a high-end projector. That means we can enter slides **or** digital images (which can be direct from digital cameras or scanned slides, colour negatives or black and white negatives).

Last year we were able to enter slides, which were scanned by Custom Colour. We don't have the rules yet for this year, but if we have to scan our own slides, we will arrange to do it.

A little quirk about digital images is that the screen dimensions restrict the vertical height. So unlike slides, where horizontal and vertical images are the same size, digital vertical images are the same height as a horizontal would be. We've seen this in our club digital entries. Therefore, we think the greatest impact in entries will be for horizontal images and we suggest that's what you enter, whether digital or slide.

Last year, all scanned images were restricted to 1024 X 768 pixels (or for verticals, 768 pixels high X whatever). If you are going to enter a digital image, make sure it is at least that size. If we receive different information, we will announce it in the club.

We will collect or select (depending on time) our entry at the February 7 meeting. Subject is open. Please bring 4 – 6 of your very best slides or digital images, but **not any that have been previously entered in a NSC.**

Delta Print Challenge Results

Several of our members missed the Grey Cup on Nov. 27 to attend the judging of this annual event hosted by the Delta Photo Guild.

For this Editor, who also coordinates and teaches CAPA's Learn to Judge course, it was a most discouraging event, not only in our results (we were 5th of 5) but also in the most biased judging I have seen in a long while. Comments like "I like mechanical things so I gave this a good score" to "I don't like abstracts" did not impress the viewing audience. Dave's wonderful, colourful shot of the Chinese New Year's parade was marked down because one judge didn't like manipulated images and one didn't "get" the title. "Where's the parade?", he asked.

The Editors of the Delta paper did better by us: they selected two of our images to illustrate their article on the Challenge: Dave Emery's "Parade" and Jason Hollister's "Kneedragger". The Delta club kindly acquired copies of the paper for each of them.



Jason's (top right) and Dave's (bottom right) photos.

Delta also did a good job of organizing and hosting, with nametags for everyone, and

refreshments at the break, and they also fixed last year's lighting problem.

Special thanks to Grace for recording and transcribing all the judges' comments; copies were returned to our members with their prints.

We had a good, strong entry and I congratulate our club members for producing work that falls outside the boundaries of the easy-to-understand nature and landscape images that don't stress most judges' abilities. In my view, coming last can sometimes be a distinction.

Our individual scores (out of 30):
Arkadia Vines, Peter Ellis: 5/7/5: 17
Multiples, Shona: 7/4/6: 17
Tomato, June: 6/5/5: 16
Red & Yellow, Ava: 7/4/5: 16
A Growler, Fred: 5/5/4: 14
The Parade, Dave E: 5/4/5: 14
Potter's Fancy, Grace: 6/4/4: 14
Glass Abstract, Margaret: 6/3/5: 14
Kneedragger, Jason: 6/3/4: 13
Monochrome Magnolia, Jeremy: 5/3/5: 13.

The club scores (out of a possible 300):
Delta: 188; Richmond 185; Crescent Beach 180;
Langley 176; New Westminster 148.

The highest scoring image received 23 pts.

“Siegmond” – Part 1

An adventure story by Justin Ball

In a cold, pelting rain, low black clouds, and with fresh snow only 1000 feet up the mountain side, Shona and this writer went to the Squamish Chief to do some prep work on an idea sparked by an unremarkable print of giant trees and huge chunks of granite (taken on the club outing to Squamish), a short university seminar on Die Walkirie some 12 years ago, and the prelude to Die Walkirie on a compilation CD of "Heavy Classix". This writer wondered, if a picture speaks a 1000 words, can it also speak a 1000 notes? Can one art form, say music, be transferred to another? We all know great photos may come from great painting! But can sound become light, or smell, or touch?

And so this amateur photographer set about, like a combined architect and general contractor, to create a monument- to capture the

whole meaning and feeling of Siegmund's flight into the forest away from his pursuers during a stormy night- in a SINGLE photograph.

Like any general contractor, this writer enlisted (begged) the help of a specialist sub-contractor, and so we found ourselves flying up the Sea to Sky highway in Shona's turbocharged Sprint (it goes like a Tie Fighter with her at the wheel!)

Wet and cold we did a bunch of exposure tests, created lightning, and considered various locations and postures. Watch this space for Part 2 of "Siegmund"!

Anybody up for a challenge? I suggest capturing Holst's "Mars the Bringer of War" in ONE photo.

Website Marketing

Dave Emery



Dave's photo in Harmony Air in-flight magazine. Congratulations, Dave!

Setting up a website isn't for everyone, but I find it an easy way to share photos with family and friends. It is a more efficient way to share photos with people than emailing lots of photo files.

It only takes a computer, a web publishing software program (I use Microsoft FrontPage) and a web host provider. The host provider (www.land1.com for the club website) charges a monthly (typically \$4-\$11 CAD) or annual fee to have your webpage files on their servers that are available 24x7. The hosting provider

provides some tools to help you get up and running and will also help you to secure your web address.

An added benefit to having your photos on the Internet is that people and businesses can find you and your work. I am contacted at least monthly by people interested in using my photos for some project. I've had my photos used on doctorate thesis in Sweden and in sermon presentations in Australia. In October, I was contacted by the firm that publishes the Harmony Airways in-flight magazine. They decided to purchase one of my photos for the publication. Even today, I got an email from a local start-up business that wants to purchase a few of my Vancouver photos.

It is exciting and flattering to be able to passively market my work by just having a website. I'm not in business to sell my work, but it is great to be able to share my work beyond my circle of family and friends.

Exhibitions

January 6-27

"Intersections", photographs by members of the Annex Photographic Society, 305-1067 Granville, 10-5, 10-9 Fridays. Closed Sundays. Info: theannex@telus.net or www.theannex.ca.

Add to your calendar

Tempus fugit and all that.... It's only January but these dates will be upon us before we know it, so if you're interested, note them in your calendar or equivalent electronic device now, so you won't miss out, particularly where advance reservations or tickets are required.

Feb. 18-19: *Learn to Judge*, CAPA's judging training program, Feb. 18-19 in Langley. Contact learntojudge@shaw.ca or Shona at a meeting.

March 11: *North Shore Challenge*, 7:00 pm, Kay Meek Centre, West Vancouver. Tickets are \$12, available from 604-986-2159 or tickets@nsps.ca. Reserve early as this is usually

a sell-out. We will select our entry Feb. 7. See article this issue for details.

May 13: Fraser Valley Invitational at James Hill School Gymnasium, 22144 Old Yale Road, Langley. Topic is "airborne". Fifteen lower mainland clubs (including ours) have been invited. Do plan to attend: they have the best food! We will select our entry at the **April 4** meeting. The dictionary definition is "carried by or through the air" but I suspect that anything off the ground will be accepted by the judges. Try to think of something different.

July 14-16, Summer in the City, CAPA's Camera Canada Conference in Toronto. A special conference rate has been negotiated at 89 Chestnut, downtown (www.89chestnut.com: use special code: Camera 0714). Hosted by members of the Great Toronto Council of Camera Clubs.

August 11-13, Okanagan Photographic Art Workshops, Kelowna BC. One-day photo workshops, wine, food... (www.opaw.org)

October 21-22, Abbotsford Photo Arts Seminar with keynote speaker Nancy Rotenberg.

Club key contacts

Dave Emery, President/Webmaster

604-517-6654, dave@nwphoto.org

Shona LaFortune, Newsletter/Publicity

604-530-3128, shona@nwphoto.org

Pauline Hyslop, Program Coordinator

604-521-0155, program@nwphoto.org

Justin Ball, Outings

604-524-9498, outings@nwphoto.org

Shutter Release is edited by Shona LaFortune and is published monthly (Aug./Sept. and Nov./Dec. combined) except for June and July. Current and back issues are available on our website (www.nwphoto.org) as pdf files, and current issues are distributed at the first club meeting of each month to visitors, those without Internet access and anyone who requests a printed copy.

Contributions in any format (electronic to handwritten) are welcome. See Shona at a meeting or e-mail to shona@nwphoto.org.

All contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission of the authors and Editor.

Outings Chronicles

Thank you to Peter Ellis (PE), Grace Darney (GD), Don Pateman (DP), Justin Ball (JB), Dave Emery (DE) and Kelvin Leong (KL) for words and/or photographs. Opening Haiku by Peter Ellis.

Gastown

November 19

Attendance: 12!

Drifters haunt the streets

Drifting mist traps tall towers

Linked by our lenses

(PE)

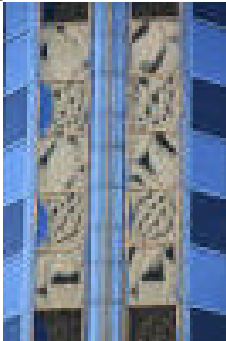


(GD)

... the triangle around the Waterfront Station, Gassy Jack and Victory square is a microcosm of Vancouver past and present. Here, within 100 yards, one will find modern boring glass-clad skyscrapers and intricate pieces of 19thC architecture, a conservative church and an Amsterdam coffee house, businessmen and women and vagrants, western Canada's premier fur outlet, and shops dedicated to BDSM leather gear. There are hosts more disparate subjects, separated by a property line, or 100 years. There are free art galleries beside soup kitchens and world-class restaurants. The purpose of this trip is to get people to see these differences, see detail, see people, see subjects from a different point of view. . . (JB)

After some misgivings about going down there with expensive camera equipment, I was pleasantly surprised at the great time I had. (GD)

Gastown left a word-mosaic in my mind - a thumbnail page of images for the mind - pictures of reflections, mist, fog, old/new, wealth, luxury, poverty, homelessness, fallen leaves, brick paths, street kids, welfare, needy, downbeat, beaten down, mirror image, alleys, graffiti, heritage, junk, flags, flowers, sunshine, shadows.... (PE)



(DE)

I must have been in a "reflective" mood, as my favourite shots are the ones I took that show bent reflections of buildings in the VCC windows, and also reflections in the fountain water at Granville Square. (GD)

My long conversation with the Malaysian woman handing out restaurant dollar-off coupons near the steam clock on Water Street gave the rest of the group a bit of pause. When I rejoined them, they said they were about to rescue me. But, she was dressed well, her hair was clean and shiny, and, in my innocence, when she reached in my bag to get my pen so I could write down her email address, it didn't occur to me that she was a threat (as it turned out, nothing was taken from my bag). I took a couple of photos of her. .. (GD)

Justin had done his homework and provided us with ideas for things to look for. Doing an outing like this causes you to look for things (people, leaves on the ground, architectural details) that you wouldn't normally look for as a routine tourist. (DE)



(PE)

We wandered into a couple of alleys, looking for good graffiti to photograph, and a fellow pushing a shopping cart told us there were better ones a block away. Later, we saw him again, shopping cart emptied of its bottles. (GD)

The art gallery owner told me that burgers are great at the Cambie Hotel, which was where Justin had suggested we meet for lunch, and he was right. (GD)

New Westminster at Night

December 9

Attendance: 7

If I remember correctly there were 6 of us and we pretty much stuck together although I kept wandering off, probably causing them some concern. The weather was good and we walked up 8th to Carnarvon and then along Carnarvon to Begbie until we came to Arundel Manor (the 1910 built building "Almost Famous"). Justin got us inside this great old building and we rode the old original elevator to the top floor and then took an enclosed staircase to the roof. From there we got several great images of the city at night, especially Westminster Quay, from a totally different perspective. We also got to inspect one of the suites which was a classic old unit. Afterwards we walked along Columbia to 4th, often meeting some of the local street people as we went. Then on to the Parkade and back along Antique Alley along Front Street. I got several shots I was quite happy with. Justin gave us each an assignment sheet of shots to take which added to the fun and the challenge, and for me resulted in opening my mind to the type of shots I could take. We wrapped up around 9:00pm with 3 of us in the Windsor Pub. If I was good at surreptitious photos, there were lots of quite unique individuals in the pub who would have made interesting subject matter. I personally really enjoyed the outing. (DP)