



# New Westminster Photography Club Shutter Release

We're  
**60!**

*October 2009*



Photo by Peter Ellis, taken in Seattle.

*Welcome to the club! Whether you are a long-time member or first-time visitor, you are sure to find things to interest and challenge you. We hope you enjoy sharing your photographic interests with the other members.*

## Upcoming Meetings

**October 20:** Selection night for the **Delta Print Challenge**. This is an annual invitational challenge hosted by the Delta Photo Club. Bring two prints, any subject, colour or B&W. Prints do best at 11"X14" or larger, but smaller is fine for the selection night (but not too small; you want everyone to be able to see it!) and you don't need to incur the expense of a matt at this stage. Just stick it lightly onto something firm (part of an old box or whatever) so that they will stand on the easel. If your image is selected, you can bring the matted print in at the next meeting.

For the actual competition, minimum size is 8X10, maximum is 16X20. Prints must be **mounted** and matted with one single white matt).

We will narrow your two down to one and then select the final entry of 10 prints for the competition. Comments will be welcome at the first stage. Some of more experienced members will be available to comment on what makes a good competition image.

**November 3: "Extremes"** Well, it's not that extreme, but this meeting does span two very different topics:

Scrapbooking (*Lisa Divers*): Many of us believe that flipping through the photo album has it all over viewing images on a screen, and when it comes to saving memories for future generations, an archival photo album will likely last generations longer than digital media, unless every generation is conscientious about backing up and converting. Lisa will show us some of the logistics and fun of scrapbooking your photographs.

Abstract (*Shona LaFortune*): Whether you love them or hate them, with abstracts, you can always learn a little more. Although not an "expert", this is one of Shona's favourite subjects, and she will show some examples of how to create and perhaps appreciate a little more this often controversial art form.

*If you had a print selected for the Delta Print Challenge, please bring it (or arrange for someone to bring it for you) to this meeting.*

## **November 17 - 60th Anniversary Print Selection**

We have space reserved in the New Westminster Public Library for **December**. Because we are celebrating our 60th year as a photography club, we want to show not just the quality of our work, but its **diversity**. **Bring 2** of your best/favourite prints. They don't have to be matted, but they should be at least 8"x10" and mounted on something firm so they stand on the easel. If your image is selected, you will matt it to 16"X20" exterior dimensions (the size of our frame). If you have a plain silver or black frame available, please frame it also. Otherwise, the club has some frames available. Keith will be announcing and e-mailing information on when and where to deliver the final prints.

## **Club Outings**

**October 24: Chinatown and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Gardens.** In the past, Chinatown was regarded as nothing more than a ghetto site. It still bears some traces of its ghetto history but much has changed over the years. Chinese immigrant families who flocked towards the eastside of Downtown since the 1850's, have established a town filled with colourful and exotic Chinese architecture. With this in mind this **outing will be a Black and White (monochrome) outing**. Try to capture the feeling of days gone by, a time when things were done differently. Chinatown offers all sorts of photographic subjects from the old buildings (such as the Chinese Freemasons Building and the Wing Sang Building) to the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Gardens and even the people (if they consent to the photos of course).

**Meet:** at Stadium Skytrain station at the GM Place entrance at 1:00 pm.

**November 28: Granville Island** – details TBA but most of us know there is no shortage of absolutely fantastic and varied photographic material to be had there, so book the day now (it's a Saturday). You can always do some Christmas shopping if you need an excuse to be there.

## **December 9 – Christmas Party**

In honour of the season (ok, mostly because we're all too busy with other things to actually worry about structured meetings in December), our only "meeting" is our **Christmas Pot-Luck**. Note it is a **Wednesday** (because our favourite venue seems to book up for Tuesdays years ahead...)

So, bring a spouse, friend, family member(s) if you wish, some food to share and (optional) an item to donate for the silent auction **and** (also optional) a donation for the Food Bank (a new tradition we started last year to replace the gift exchange). Agnia will also be collecting \$5 from each of us for decorations and miscellaneous stuff, like coffee or whatever comes up.

There will be some entertainment too, in the form of photography of course. No dancing horses or anything like that. Always a good time and not to be missed.

And yes, Christmas is coming... fast... So here's another chance to pick up a great, expensive looking Christmas gift at the silent auction...

## **Travelling light (Shona LaFortune)**

I've been known to go away for a week with just an overnight bag, but when it came to camera equipment in the pre-digital day, it was a different story. I needed at least two of those heavy film SLR camera bodies (one for slide, one for B&W) ...several lenses including a long (again heavy) one, a flash just in case, a tripod, glass and Cokin filters, lots of film, cables... and a couple of Sherpas to carry it all (well, just kidding about that last part but it would have been really, really nice...)

Lately I've taken to travelling by motorcycle, so weight reduction has become much more than a preference – it's a necessity. Also, my days of toughing out a heavy bag while walking miles across a city or up a hill for a better view are about over.

Enter the compromise camera – the versatile "super-zoom". One camera, one lens. But what a lens. Most cameras of this type have a 10X to 15X zoom. My Fujifilm Finepix has a 35 mm equivalent of about 28 to 400 something, and can shoot in its "macro" mode as close as 1 cm. These little cameras also shoot video or HD video, and have lots of other little tricks. They are small enough to tuck under my jacket so to be always close at hand and have image stabilization (good enough to get sharp photos off the back of a motorcycle).

I was amazed, on a recent trip to Europe, of the camera's ability to almost see in the dark, giving me detailed, sharp photos under incredibly dim light.

Disadvantages? Even at 10 megapixels, the small sensor means digital noise at anything over 200 to 400 ISO is very noticeable. So if you are shooting for large prints or fussy customers, this may not be for you. But for projection and small to medium prints, the quality is fine. I am so sold on the convenience, versatility and quality images from these little cameras that I rarely dig out the SLR, even when I have the space.

Every manufacturer makes one or more of these cameras now, and the prices are very good. They are worth considering for a backup or for travel where space, weight or security of the equipment is an issue.

## **Write these dates down**

Paper, chalk or electrons... make a note of these outings and events to the end of the year (and a couple in 2010). Details to be found in this issue, club website or TBA... or ask someone.

**October 19:** Abbotsford Seminar

**October 23:** Theme "Relationships" closes. Club reps meet at BCIT for CAPA.

**October 24:** Club Chinatown outing

**October 31:** Hallowe'en. Give out candy. Dress up; scare a little kid... Stuff like that.

**November 14:** Pacific Digital presents **Photomotion**. In Poco. Details on club website.

**November 21;** Theme "Stairs" closes.

**November 22;** Delta Print Challenge judging. We are **selecting** for this on October 20, but the actual **competition** is on Sunday afternoon (from 1:00 to 4:00) at McKee House Seniors Rec. Centre, 5155 47th Avenue, Ladner. Admission is free and refreshments are provided. With the small number of clubs, it's an informative and friendly afternoon.

**November 28:** Club outing to Granville Island

**December 9:** A **Wednesday** for our Christmas Pot Luck

**December 25:** Christmas. Hard to ignore whether you celebrate or not.

**February 6:** Burnaby Showcase

**March 6:** North Shore Challenge

## Past Meetings

*If you missed any of our meetings, here's what happened! Thanks to Keith and Peter for the refresher.*

The first meeting was a "meet and greet". We started pretty informally as many of the exec were away. We mentioned that it was membership renewal time, welcomed some new members a visitor. We shared the images we had brought and had a nice long coffee time and a good social time. We also started a signup sheet for 5 minute member presentations.

With Keith away on his travels, Peter chaired the second meeting. Desmond began the program with an overview of the club's website, for the information for newer members and a refresher for the rest of us. Derek then presented a teaser of the course he's developed: "Storytelling in the Digital Age", demonstrating slide-essay techniques. As always, we were dazzled and impressed with his show.

## Themes



Laid by a Rubber Chicken – by Peter Ellis, one of the winners of the "Out of Place" theme.

The deadline for the website theme "**Relationships**" has been extended to **October 23**. The theme "**Stairs**" closes November 21. You can enter three images for each theme by uploading them to the website. No computer/internet? Any executive member can upload your images for you. Remember, once a theme closes, you have a week to get in your vote, although you can comment at any time from the theme opening date to the last day of voting. Questions: email [themes@nwphoto.org](mailto:themes@nwphoto.org).

## Club Key Contacts

You can reach our President, Keith at [president@nwphoto.org](mailto:president@nwphoto.org), Shona (Program and Themes) at [shona@nwphoto.org](mailto:shona@nwphoto.org), Lisa (Newsletter editor) at (are you catching on to this?): [editor@nwphoto.org](mailto:editor@nwphoto.org). For the other offices, contact Keith or talk to anyone at a meeting.