



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release



January, 2011

Welcome to the second half of our 2010-2011 season. We hope everyone is renewed from the Christmas holidays and ready to share their enthusiasm for photography.

Wanted – Newsletter Editor

Soon there may be an **elf rebellion**. Please, if you like having a newsletter, think about stepping up to help. You can prepare it in something as simple as Word and send it off to our webmaster, so no complicated publishing skills are required. Contact president@nwphoto.org.

What you missed

Caution from Environment Canada's insistent SNOWFALL WARNING (aka "storm that wasn't") likely kept some members away from our first meeting of 2011. We missed you! But we had an enthusiastic visitor, Sheila, previously from Quebec (she hates snow). The discussion topic was "Black and White", illustrated by some great examples provided by Keith. Also, Derek provided some **extremely** helpful information on calibrating your monitor **and** on sizing images for competition (with good examples of good and bad resizing).

Comments/discussion on **black and white** (B&W) included recommended best subjects, whether a full range of tones is necessary in a good B&W image, if all good B&W images have or need contrast, exposure methods, B&W latitude (eg no colour shifts), etc.

Due on January 18

For member sharing at the next meeting:

1. E-mail two (2) **skills** digital images to photos@nwphoto.org no later than the Sunday prior to the meeting (January 16 and yes, the website says Monday but Derek doesn't need a last-minute rush). These images must be black and white, should have a title and must have the letter **S** identifier at the end (so the webmaster knows which category they are to be shown in).
2. E-mail one (1) member's choice image to the same address as above. That can be any photograph you would like to receive advice on, show off or discuss. Particularly welcome is any experimental work you might like to describe or inspire us with. **Note that the digital images should be sized to 1024X768 pixels (no higher than 768).**
3. Two (2) **prints** for the in-club competition, to be brought to the meeting. No matting is necessary as they can be placed flat on a table, but please size to 8" X 10" or larger. It is recommended that these build on our skills covered so far, thus be **black and white**. As we saw, B&W doesn't always project that well, so this is your chance to make sure the viewers see exactly the image you want them to see. Any photo finisher can print a B&W image for you from a digital file... probably from B&W negatives also. Please **title** your image; you will sign it in as you enter, using our new, better system for tracking results.

Member Sharing

For your “S” (skills) photos noted in item 1 above, don’t forget to practice all the other skills we have covered as well; try to be aware as you create or select your images:

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| September | Simplicity |
| October | Depth of Field |
| November | Lines, curves, frames, “rule of thirds” |
| January | Black and white |

Next Outings

There is no fixed date or location for the next outing – it’s up to you! Number 4 of Justin’s “Almost Famous” series; teams were selected at the January 4 meeting. Your assignment: to create an album cover. A real life-sized LP cover (remember those?) that must have the team members’ photos on the front or back. Some classic examples were available for inspiration. Each team drew from a selection of “bands”. Those who weren’t at the meeting will get their chance to form teams at the next meeting, and the albums are **due** at the first meeting in February. Please see the club website for the “rules” and more information. Good fun!

The **February** outing is a full day on the 19th and will include instruction, photography and creation of 3D stereoviews. Stereo is big in movie theatres now; learn some 3D history and create your own Holmes format view to take home. Meet at 10 am at the New Westminster Skytrain station. Bring an exacto or similar knife and a good ruler, in addition to your camera gear of course. Not to be missed. Justin’s enthusiasm for this subject will have you seeing photography in a whole new way.

Questions about any outing: outings@nwphoto.org. Or call 778-891-4774.

The Date Book

Whether an “i” device or paper or wall calendar... however you organize your life, you will want to note these upcoming events:

January 11: Burnaby Photographic Society presents an evening with Anna Beaudry, 7:30 pm at the Shadbolt Centre (6450 Deer Lake Avenue). Tickets \$10 at the door but get there early – seating for 120 only. Members have received an email reminder or president@nwphoto.org for more info.

January 20: The next meeting of the West Coast Animatography Group, at the New Westminster Library auditorium (downstairs) at 7 pm sharp. Everyone with an interest in digital slide shows is welcome. No fee. Topic will be Pro Show Gold “styles”, and the theme for the member shows “Time for Reflection”.

January 22: Langley Camera Club presents a full day with Freeman Patterson for only \$75 (2 or more for \$70 each) at the Chief Seapass Theatre, Fort Langley. 604-788-6010 or expoblue@telus.net for more information.

January 29: CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art) outing to False Creek and Granville Island. Meet at Olympic Village Skytrain station on Canada Line at 9:15. Email doreenandneil@shaw.ca with any questions. Lunch at Granville Island.

February 3: Chinese New Year parade starts at the Millennium Gate in Chinatown. Celebrate the start of the Year of the Rabbit. Check local media for details... but arriving early is always recommended. It’s a popular event.

February 4: The Burnaby Photographic Society presents special guest speakers Dan and David Newcomb at the Shadbolt Centre, 7 pm. Check out their website (www.burnabyphotographicsociety.com) for this and other events hosted by that club.

February 5: The Burnaby Photographic Society presents their annual **Showcase**, lots of great digital AV (aka “slide”) presentations. Our President will likely have tickets, right, Keith? \$18 this year. In conjunction with that event, the club has an excellent print display at the Shadbolt Centre from January 30 to February 5.

February 19: Club outing. See above for details.

March 5: Thinking ahead, the North Shore Photographic Challenge. We will not have an entry this year, but it’s a great evening of viewing photographs from clubs all over BC and second-guessing the scoring by the experienced judges. Thirty clubs have registered, and tickets may be obtained from the Kay Meek Centre website at www.kaymeekcentre.com, or by calling 604-913-3634. www.nspcs.ca

Themes

Because of the extension of the November theme to January, we have one theme in **voting** phase until January 9. Your vote counts! Check in on January 10 to see who made “Photo of the Month”. That date is also the last chance to make comments on the images.

The two **open** themes are “Tradition” (submissions close on January 23) and “Flight” (closes February 20). This is strictly a website competition and any member may enter three images in each theme, comment on images any time during the competition or voting phase, and of course vote for the Photo of the Month. Good inspiration and exercise in interpreting the monthly themes. You can upload your entries yourself. Contact webmaster@nwphoto.org if you have any difficulties.

Tips on Black and White (Shona LaFortune)

Back where we started... despite the vivid colour available to us, black and white (B&W) photography has never lost its appeal, and although we are more likely to shoot colour digital and convert on the computer than use a traditional wet darkroom, the results can still be stunning.

If you shoot film, you probably have a good background in B&W. If not, there are lots of sources of information. Filters on the camera can really help enhance the image and that’s a whole art in itself. In the darkroom, your main controls are exposure and contrast (plus dodging and burning of course). Those are not unlike the tools available digitally, except that in the digital world you can also control each colour channel to get results you may not have anticipated.

For digital shooters, it’s best to shoot in colour (RAW if you have the option) to give yourself more options for conversion later. Try **not** to just use a simple “convert to grayscale” method if you have anything else available to you. Photoshop Elements now has several B&W options such as newspaper or “portrait” and many others. But don’t ignore those sliders; they give you much more control. Lightroom, if you have it, has good tools as does Photoshop. There is a wealth of information available on the Internet, and don’t be afraid of experimentation. You will know when the image matches your vision.

Composing in B&W can be a challenge if you are used to considering the “weight” or contrast of colour in an image. A bright clump of yellow flowers will have considerable “weight” in a photograph and can balance heavy elements in the rest of the photo. Converting to B&W can lose that balance. B&W is more about the light, so squint, view through a dark filter or, my favourite, preview on a small P&S set to B&W or even your SLR similarly set (but don’t forget to switch it back!) until you get more comfortable with seeing the B&W potential in a scene. (Gloomy west coast days excepted – those look almost the same in B&W!)

Darkroom looking for a good home

Jenneffer Owens acquired some darkroom equipment which she passed on to the club. Nice little Omega enlarger looks to be in good shape, with baseboard and easel, safelight, some trays/tongs, miscellaneous. Just add paper, chemicals and dark. We need this gone ASAP. shona@nwphoto.org

Parking

Just a reminder that there is quite a bit of parking available off the alley behind the hall (3 rows) and behind the hall itself (a few spots). Please fill the rows against the wall first – you will be able to get out when you leave, but otherwise no one can park easily once the back row is filled. The lower door is a fencing club, so climb the ramp along the building up to the main front door.

Competition Results

Theme results are available on the website (Activities/Themes) and are presented at the meeting following the end of voting of a theme.

Here are the results of the November digital competition. Sorry, no titles available at this time, but you know what you entered... (Two numbers mean two entries. Scores are out of 30).

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| Jim | 20/18 |
| Peter | 21/17 |
| Shona | 23/24 |
| Mike | 17/20 |
| Derek | 20/21 |
| Nancy | 24/21 |
| Keith | 24/18 |
| June | 21/20 |
| Tony | 18 |
| Justin | 20 |
| Matti | 18/20 |

www.nwphoto.org

Our website is the source for so much information. Refer to last issue for more ideas.

Members are encouraged to fill out their **bio** so we can all get to know you a little better. Members, don't forget to browse through these once in a while. You might make a new friend with the same interests that you have.

(Another way to share interests is by joining a Focus Group! Those are accessed via the website also.)