



# New Westminister Photography Club

## Shutter Release

December 2014

### Editor's Desk *(Shona LaFortune)*

By the time I get this out, it will probably be closer to 2015. 2015! - that is such a . . . futuristic date. Technology has advanced so quickly and . . . sneakily . . . in so many areas of our lives that someone walking in from 1984 would be astonished. It's a great time to be a photographer. We have so many ways to create our photographic art, whether we prefer representational nature shots or wild abstracts, or anything in between. And yes, our complex cameras and software come with a learning curve, but there's plenty of evidence to suggest that learning new things is fantastic for our brains. Our program for the second "half" of the year is going to give you lots of inspiration, so enjoy 2015 and all its opportunities.

### Upcoming Meetings

On **January 6**, we will be **sharing** some of our images with the members. These can be anything you'd like to show off or seek feedback on – from complete to work in progress. Remember the deadline – By **Saturday, January 3** (no later than midnight and no later images will be accepted) send **up to 3 photos** (sized no wider than 1024 and no higher than 768) to **photos@nwphoto.org**. *This would be an excellent opportunity to preview something you're thinking about for one of the upcoming competitions.*

We'll also see the top 10 from our last two completed themes and, if time allows, we have a cool little video presentation "Getting it Right in Camera".

On **January 27** (and this is a big one), we will be **selecting** our entries for the **North Shore Challenge** (see article below for the fine print – **images must be sent by January 24**). And, with the Fraser Valley Invitational coming up, our own Peter Ellis will be giving us some of his ideas on interpreting the FVI theme "Simplicity".

The **February 3** meeting will feature a speaker from London Drugs, talking to us about how to get a good print from a photo lab. Nancy will demonstrate conversion of colour to black and white.

Check the website for more details.

*Members are always welcome, to bring to **any meeting**, prints and/or photo books, etc. that they've created and would like to share, or any news items, upcoming events or exhibits they would like to review.*

# North Shore Challenge

Once again our Club will be entering the North Shore Photographic Challenge.

As always, the Challenge is open-theme, admitting images of all subjects. Digital manipulation of photos is allowed. However, since the Challenge is a family event, images with 'adult' content may be disqualified. The only other limitation is that you do not submit any image that has previously been submitted to the North Shore Challenge.

Our club did well last year; let's keep expectations high. On **January 27** (see above) we will be selecting the 6 images (from 6 different photographers) that will represent our club. You are all encouraged to send up to **two** images to be considered for the competition. Please note that images must be sent to Nathan at [photos@nwphoto.org](mailto:photos@nwphoto.org) no later than midnight on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please note: You should submit your images **sized for the competition** (which is different from our usual sizing.) Photos should be resized to no more than 1400 pixels on the long side for a horizontal image and no more than 1050 pixels on the long side for a vertical image. It would be helpful if you could include the name of your image as part of the file name. For example: nmatheson-threecats.jpg

and

For those of you who are rugged individualists, you can submit entries to the North Shore Challenge **as an individual**. You do not have to be a CAPA member to compete. If you are interested, the rules for individual entries can be found at: <http://www.nsps.ca/challenge/>. There is an entry fee, but you can enter online and pay the fee by PayPal, so it should be easy enough.

## Outings

Our next outing is on Saturday, January 17 to Granville Island. Meeting time and not yet available, but mark your calendars as this is one place that has such a wide variety of subject matter that it never disappoints. Architecture, people, boats and birds (well, mostly the messy, noisy birds), markets, art and artists, city views etc etc. If you went on the Lonsdale Quay outing, this is Lonsdale Quay cubed. Nothing like it. Because of the industrial history of the island, this is more than just a farmer's market. Don't miss it.

## Online Themes

On now and closing January 18, "Festive in Green, White and Red". Check the website for the full description and have fun photographing something that says "festive" or "joy" to you. (*Watch the website for the January 1 opening of the next theme*).

## Credits!

Brenda tells us that she entered several photos in the New Westminster Horticultural Society's annual photo contest. In four categories (Chartreuse, Visitors in the Garden, Garden View and Planters), she got two thirds and a first, resulting in a small cash prize and of course all the glory. Congratulations! She also said that, although happy with her results, she didn't understand the judges choices that beat her. "I guess I will never really understand how to excel in such a subjective skill", Barb says. News flash, Brenda - None of us will. It's impossible to know what judges will do. It's also possible that in horticultural competitions, the judges were, perhaps unintentionally, looking at the plants than at the art?

# State of Mind

(By Julie Waterhouse, *Ultimate Photo Tips* website, with thanks to Karen for pointing it out):

## Be Prepared but Flexible

You may not think of your **state of mind** as "basic photography information," but I think it's crucial to taking great pictures.

All too often, we photographers get a preconceived notion about what we're going to shoot that day. We decide that today is the day for us to shoot horses. Worse, we see a particular image in our minds ("I want to shoot a red barn against a blue sky, with some horses roaming in the front"). When we do that, we can spend the day driving around the countryside "looking" for that image, which may prove to be elusive (all the horses are in the barn that day!). End result? We've wasted the day.

Instead, be flexible. Sure, drive out into the countryside! But be open to what you find there. One of the best pieces of photographic advice I've received was at a talk by National Geographic photographer, Steve McCurry. Paraphrased in my own words, it was: **Look for where the great light is.**

## What's in that light? Shoot that!

On the other hand, as well as being flexible, you must still be prepared. There's always a balance between being open to what you find, and being prepared. Here's another favorite quote of mine:

**"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." --Seneca**

So, have your gear ready, expect the unexpected, and take what you find!

## Be Patient

State of mind is important, and patience is key. Landscape photographers must be patient enough to wait for the right light. Portrait photographers must be patient enough to wait for the right expression. Product and macro photographers who work in a studio have control over their subject and lighting, but must still have the patience to fine-tune their images.

Have the patience to persist until you get it right, and until you find that "wow" image. When you think you've taken all the images possible of a scene, you are often just getting started. Push through the block of thinking there's nothing left, and keep shooting. You may surprise yourself with the results.

## Connect with Your Emotions

One of my number one rules is to shoot what you're passionate about. If you're not reacting emotionally to your subject matter, then surely the viewer of your image won't either. If you're not feeling excited (or stimulated by some strong emotion) when you look through the viewfinder, then **don't press the shutter button!** Don't you have enough ho-hum images clogging up your hard drive already?

**Tip:** Always carry your camera! Sounds silly to say, but it's an essential ingredient of any great shot. If you have no camera, you have no shot at all.

## **Our exhibit in the library!**

Be sure to pop upstairs in the downtown New Westminster library to have a look at the exhibition of our photos, all through January.

## 2015 spring competition dates

**North Shore Challenge** – We will select on January 27. See article above (not surprisingly entitled “North Shore Challenge”) for sizing information. Remember, these should be **your best stuff**.

*We will select for **both** the following competitions at our meeting on **March 24**:*

**Fraser Valley Invitational** – digital **theme** competition. The theme for 2015 is **Simplicity**.

**Crescent Beach Black and White Invitational** – black and white **prints**. Usual strong and simple does well, and if past competitions are any indication, technical quality is also strictly judged.

## Upcoming Events of Interest

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual **Burnaby Showcase** (slide show and print exhibit) is **January 31, 2015** at the James Cowan Theatre, Shadbolt Centre in Burnaby. Tickets are \$18. The Burnaby Photographic Society sponsors this and you can get ticket information from their website. Google Burnaby Showcase 2015.

At a **new venue** for the first time in many years, the annual **Pacific Zone Print Challenge** will be held on **February 21** in the gymnasium of the Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship, 1160 Lansdowne Drive, **Coquitlam** and is hosted this year by **The Darkroom Group**. \$5 will get you in and judging starts “promptly at 1:00”. Although our club doesn't enter this one, it's always interesting to view prints from clubs all over the province.

The **North Shore Challenge** judging/show is on **March 7, 2015**. Held in West Vancouver, at the Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts at 7:00 in the evening. See the North Shore club's website ([www.nspc.ca](http://www.nspc.ca)) for ticket information.

CAPA's Pacific Zone is hosting **CAPA Photo Expo** this year, at UBC, on the August long weekend. With speakers and outings, photo tours (running July 28 through August 6) there should be something to interest everyone. Registration opens January 5. Individual CAPA members get a break and early registration (January 5 to March 31) will save you \$50. The early-bird 3-day pass is \$275 for CAPA **or** PSA **individual** members, and \$315 for the general public. One-day passes are \$100 to \$150 if there's a speaker you don't want to miss. Go to [www.capaphotoexpo.ca](http://www.capaphotoexpo.ca) for information.

*Theme competition results will be in the next issue. We don't want to give away the results before they are shown in the club!*

## Club Contacts

General enquiries: [Info@nwphoto.org](mailto:Info@nwphoto.org)  
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