



New Westminister Photography Club

Shutter Release

September/October 2015

Editor's Desk *(Shona LaFortune – editor@nwphoto.org)*

Back to classes and back to meetings. It's that time of year when we get enthused about learning new things.

Photography is an art form, but like every art form, you have to know how to use your tools (that's the learning part). Magazines, books and forums (to name a few) often seem obsessed with cameras, lenses, tripods, flash, not to mention software . . . (Well, those ads pay the bills, but still . . .)

As many of you know, magazines, books, forums etc. for painting (just one example) also seem obsessed with "tools". In most cases, an artist can use anything, although if any of you have painted, you know that quality materials can be so much easier to handle, and inspiring in their richness. Not to say you can't make a great drawing with the cheap crayons in the box at Montana's. Similarly, a photographer can make a good photo with any camera. Some of you may remember the challenge we had a few years back, where we used disposable cameras? Many excellent shots came out of that series.

I think that the most important thing is that no matter whether you are using your phone or a massively expensive DSLR, think about what you want or need to do with every photo, and make sure that you know what your camera can or cannot do to help you achieve that. Can you over-ride your auto-focus if necessary? How about moving subjects? Can you set shutter or aperture priority, or is there a "mode" that would be suitable (such as "portrait" when you want shallow depth of field)?

Get comfortable with your tools, and you can concentrate on point of view, composition, and the message in your art, rather than clicking through menus while your subject heads down the road. Come on, we've all been there. Make this a year to learn.

We have lots of learning opportunities coming up in our programs and outings. Good to have you with us.



Upcoming Meetings *(program@nwphoto.org)*

At our next meeting, **September 22** (just a few days away), don't miss guest speaker **John Gordon**. I first saw John's work many, many years ago when he was with the Langley Advance newspaper (hope I have that right) and talked to the Langley Camera Club. John is an excellent photographer who always seemed to come up with striking angles and different ways of looking at things, and I'm sure his bird photography is no different. He will also be talking about the best spots for bird photography, equipment and "birding ethics". Don't miss this!

On **October 6**, a full program including the in-house print competition (see "in preparation" in the meetings section of the website – 2 prints 8x10 or larger (and please send digital versions to photos@nwphoto.org for projection at the October 27 meeting, when the winners will be announced).

Also that night, Nancy will share some tips and techniques on adjusting pixel saturation for a specified range within your image. And wait, there's more – Nancy will also introduce the upcoming **Editing Challenge**.

At our **October 27** meeting, we will see the results of the B&W print challenge from the prior meeting, and Shona (that's me, your trusty editor) will talk about (with lots of examples) the **abstract**, including how to create and how to evaluate.

This is just a quick summary. For more detailed information, please check www.nwphoto.org

Outings (outings@nwphoto.org)

Do try to make it for the O.W.L. open house outing on Sunday, September 20. It's a great opportunity to see some birds up close and personal. Meet at 10:45 in the parking area at 3800 72nd Street, Delta.

Be on time so that you can catch the 11:00 eagle lecture. Bird release at 1:00 PM. Directions and lots more information on the website: <http://nwphoto.org/outings.php> Here are a few of the many birds you might meet, from O.W.L.'s educational bird residents:



Winnie, a Short-Eared Owl



Jessie, a Barred Owl



Pygar, a Golden Eagle

On **October 18**, expect some amazing costumes at the Vancouver Halloween Parade (and Expo). Parade starts 11 AM downtown. Further details TBA on the website, but mark that date! Sounds like a LOT of fun.

Themes (themes@nwphoto.org)

Closing in a few days **"The Writing on the Wall"**. Don't forget you can comment at any time, and vote after the closing date, and you can comment and vote for a week.

And open now, until **October 18** (the date of our club outing, so enter earlier) is "Waiting". Personally, I'm going to be looking for "waiting", rather than just sitting around, in the interpretations. This isn't one you can do at the last minute, especially in a small town like mine, where no one has to wait for anything, not even a traffic light (because we don't have any – eat your hearts out). Anyway, good luck with this one. Let's not all do bus stops, now.

And the theme that opens October 1 is still a mystery because, well. . . it's not October yet.

Remember, under "My Profile/Subscriptions" you can elect to get an email or text when a new theme opens! How cool is that?? Try it.

All the results all the time

We had three themes close during the summer. The results were shown at the first meeting, but we always record them in the newsletter to keep a more permanent record. Congratulations to the winners! If you place in the top 3, your images and your virtual ribbons will appear on your **profile page**.

Keepin' it Real

<i>Title</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Placed</i>
Painting in Gastown	Nancy	10 th
Guardian	Nancy	9 th
Another Day	Brenda	7 th /8 th (tie)
Graffiti Guy	Karen	7 th /8 th (tie)
Downtown	Sheryl	6 th
Rough Walls	Bruce	5 th
Barbershop Moment	Brenda	4 th
Courthouse	Bruce	3 rd (23 pts)
Baseball	Sheryl	2 nd (34 pts)
Reading Together	Karen	1 st (95 pts)

Yumm!!!

<i>Title</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Placed</i>
Don't Spill a Single Grain	Kane	10 th (tie)
Fresh off the Vine	Sheryl	10 th (tie)
Persimmons	Barb	9 th
Vegetarian Plate	Monica	8 th
Belmont Lunch Special	Geoffrey	7 th
Berry Delicious	Karen	6 th
Very Berry	Sheryl	5 th
Let's get together	Sheryl	4 th
Salad in a jar	Barb	3 rd (18 pts)
Steak and Salad	Monica	2 nd (22 pts)
Drizzlicious	Karen	1 st (34 pts)



Look at this. Sweets won over steak by a wide margin!
© Monica Rosales (2nd) and Karen Justice (1st)

Keeping Cool

Title	Photographer	Placed
Aaaaaahhhh.....	Karen	10 th
Spray games	Peter	9 th
Nothing cooler than the beach	Shona	7 th /8 th (tie)
Plenty of cool water	Shona	7 th /8 th (tie)
Having Fun	Milada	6 th
Keeping cool	Milada	5 th
Fountain Refreshment	Karen	4 th
Walk right in	Shona	2 nd /3 rd (tie) (18 pts)
Capture a moment	Milada	2 nd /3 rd (tie) (18 pts)
Yikes	Brenda	1 st (66 pts)

Dues

Have you paid yet? The best deal going for a year of instruction, inspiration, comradery and cookies. Dues cover our rent, honoraria to our guest speakers, CAPA/Arts Council dues, etc. It only costs:

Individual members **\$35**

Family rate **\$50**

Pay the treasurer (David Love).

And if you would like to add a little something towards the recently depleted equipment fund, donations are welcome.

Visiting? You are welcome to attend three meetings before you decide whether to join us. This applies only to new members.

Social Media



If you're on Twitter, look for our tweets.



We had a slight delay with our Facebook page; will be testing and announcing soon.

Stories?

Still waiting for contributions, people. If I have to write all this myself every month, the newsletter will get smaller and smaller and smaller until it's all gone ...

www.nwphoto.org

This is where you will find information on the programs, outings, other members, themes, forums, contacts, etc. Visit often.

And members, please **fill out your bio so we can get to know you**. It is only visible to other members and we're all curious to learn a little about you, your favourite subjects, etc. A good way to break the ice with other members.

Look for articles in the September, 2014 onward issues of this newsletter for tutorials on how to use the site.

Pacific Zone News

The Pacific Zone of CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art), of which our club is a member, produces a newsletter every quarter. More accurately, Ursula Easterbrook produces a newsletter and does an amazing job of pulling it together. Whether or not you are an individual member, the newsletter is available online for anyone to read. **This month, Russel and Wendy Kwan have a great article *On Critique – Part 1* starting on page 25. Seriously good stuff** including quotes like “Impact” is highly over-rated”, “Always say something nice! It takes a great deal of courage to put pictures up for review, and (almost) every picture has something good about it.” and “Help photographers make their next pictures better. The picture before you is what it is –so remaking it in your own image is not only insulting, but counter-productive.”

I can't legally copy the whole article here, but you can go to: <http://www.capapac.org/PZN.htm> and click on the pdf icon for the Fall, 2015 issue (in a yellow box). Be patient while it loads. Also in that issue, plenty of information on upcoming events, photo competitions and exhibitions, etc.

Looking Ahead

I don't know about you, but tempus fugit at warp 8 (what – you didn't grow up watching Star Trek?) for this photographer, so just a reminder to make a note of your best stuff for the upcoming competitions.

North Shore Challenge, usually selected around January. Projected images. Any subject.

Crescent Beach Black and White Print Challenge selected in March. Obviously, B&W prints.

Events

The 38th **APAC** (Abbotsford Photo Arts Club) **Seminar** is being held on **October 24**. Bryan Peterson will make several presentations, and there is a trade show, etc. At the Michael J. Fox Theatre, 7373 McPherson Avenue in Burnaby. \$95 until October 21 or \$110 at the door. For more information or registration, follow the links from www.apac.bc.ca. This is the revamped version, not the multi-speaker format you might be used to. Still good value.

The popular Pacific Digital **Photomotion** is coming up on **November 14**. Two shows as usual, 2:00 and 7:00 PM. Only \$15. For tickets call Elfi 604-929-7860 or register online at www.pdpc.ca.

And looking way ahead, for more great slide shows, the **Burnaby Showcase** will be held **February 6, 2016** if you want to put a sticky on your calendar now.

Pithy saying goes here. Any contributions? I really forget what I was going to insert here. Brains MIA again.

Don't vote – can't bitch

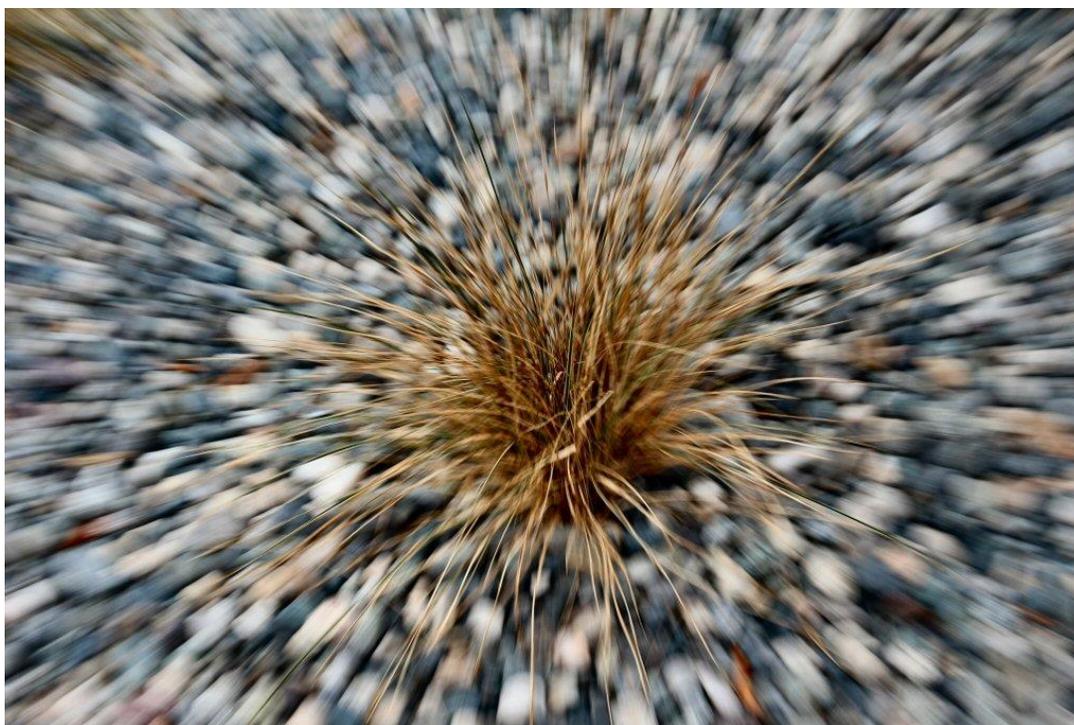
I know that the people who vote in the themes are sometimes unhappy with the results. That's because **every vote counts**, and when only 8 or so people vote (out of 40 members) one vote makes a **huge** difference.

Now transfer that to our upcoming federal election. Don't let a few people make a decision for you. We have the wonderful right to be able to select the people to represent us (just like in the club) so make your vote count. Yes, I know it's a hold your nose and mark your X kind of thing sometimes, but remember, your local MP represents **you** and the people in your community. It matters.

October 19 – VOTE.

This has been an unpaid political announcement approved by the Editor.

Closing Shot



This cool image is by Kane, from the August 16 Skytrain Quest outing.