

OCEANSIDE SHUTTERBUG NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Number 6, Oct. 2009

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Welcome to the newsletter of the Oceanside Photographers Club (OP). The OP meets on the first & third Wednesday of every month in the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre at 7:00 pm. Sometimes there is a computer program demonstration by a club member at 6:30 pm with the meeting proper following at 7:00 pm.

The aim of the club is to promote learning, sharing and the enjoyment of photography in a convivial atmosphere.

Membership is \$25 per person per half year (May to Oct. incl. & Nov. to Apr. incl.) and is open to anyone interested in photography. Guests are allowed to come to no more than two meetings for free after which they must pay a membership fee in order to continue attending.

Election of officers is held at the annual general meeting on the first Wednesday of May each year.

EXECUTIVE (May 2009 – May 2010)

Chairman	
Vice Chairman	
Treasurer	Ed Mosier
Secretary	Pauline Hannaford
Director - Exhibition Coordinator ...	Lynn Bieber-Weir
Director - Education Portfolio	Dave Graham
Director - Newsletter editor.....	Robin Pearson



I've been doing a lot of abstract photography lately, extremely abstract. No camera, I just think about it.

Every so often, I like to stick my head out the window, look up, and smile for a satellite picture.

I got my driver's license photo taken out of focus on purpose. Now when I get pulled over the cop looks at it (moving it nearer and farther, trying to see it clearly)... And says, "Here, you can go."

I have a very rare photograph. It's a picture of Houdini locking his keys in his car.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Both the grand and the intimate aspects of nature can be revealed in the expressive photograph. Both can stir enduring affirmations and discoveries, and can surely help the spectator in his search for identification with the vast world of natural beauty and the wonder surrounding him.



- Ansel Adams

Cover photo - Pauline Hannaford - "Through the Fog" (Beach category)

CROPPING

Medium format film has always offered numerous formats, from 6X6cm square, to 6X4.5, to 6X7, to 6X9, to 6X12, to 6X17. Large format sheet film similarly has different aspect ratios, with 5X7" being much more rectangular than is 4X5".

Go to the movies and you'll see a wide variety of formats on screen, as you also will on your new wide-screen TV. Visit an art gallery, and you'll see painting, etchings, lithographs and silk screens in formats from squares to circles to extreme panoramas. In China and Japan traditional scroll paintings are done in the form of extreme wide aspect ratio horizontals as well as verticals. And yet, there are photographers who insist on only printing their image "full frame". In other words, maintaining the supposed sanctity of the manufacturer's aspect ratio. Then there are those who insist on printing exclusively to match standard paper sizes. *What are they thinking?*

There is no magic bullet when it comes to cropping. It is an esthetic decision and therefore will be based solely on the photographer's creative judgment. Nevertheless, there are usually factors which can be considered and discussed somewhat objectively.

When I provide print critique sessions with students on my workshops and seminars, the first question that I ask is – "*What is this photograph about?*" I often find it remarkable when the photographer doesn't have a clear concept of this.

When looking at a new raw file of my own the first thing I ask myself is that question – *What is this image about, and what do I want it to say about the subject?* Only when I have a satisfactory answer to this can I proceed to crop and otherwise interpret the image. When this is in hand I then find it easy to arrive at a cropping because I simply remove everything that isn't relevant to my conceptualization.

Sometimes there is no clear answer, and I then have to honestly ask myself whether the shot in question is worthwhile. More often than not, it isn't. It's only when all the pieces hang together and an image makes a clear statement, that it's worthwhile pursuing on-screen and then in a print.

My feeling is that cropping isn't something that we do to an image. It does it itself – demanding to be constrained in certain ways. Sometimes there's more than one way, but it eventually becomes obvious what the photograph itself wants. This isn't metaphor. The best photographs demand to be a certain shape. The rest make no such requests, and that's what separates the winners from the also-rans.

LIGHT SENSOR BREAKTHROUGH COULD ENHANCE DIGITAL CAMERAS

ScienceDaily (June 22, 2009) — New research by a team of University of Toronto scientists could lead to substantial advancements in the performance of a variety of electronic devices including digital cameras. Researchers created a light sensor – like a pixel in a digital camera – that benefits from a phenomenon known as multi-exciton generation (MEG). Until now, no group had collected an electrical current from a device that takes advantage of MEG.

Cont'd over

Cont'd

"Digital cameras are now universal, but they suffer from a major limitation: they take poor pictures under dim light. One reason for this is that the image sensor chips inside cameras collect, at most, one electron's worth of current for every photon (particle of light) that strikes the pixel," says Ted Sargent, professor in U of T's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "Instead generating multiple excitons per photon could ultimately lead to better low-light pictures."

In solar cells and digital cameras, particles of light - photons - are absorbed in a semiconductor, such as silicon, and generate excited electrons, known as excitons. The semiconductor chip then measures a current that flows as a result. Normally, each photon is converted into at most one exciton. This lowers the efficiency of solar cells and it limits the sensitivity of digital cameras. When a scene is dimly lit, small portable cameras like those in laptops suffer from noise and grainy images as a result of the small number of excitons.

"Multi-exciton generation breaks the conventional rules that bind traditional semiconductor devices". "This finding shows that it's more than a fascinating concept: the tangible benefits of multiple excitons can be seen in a light sensor's measured current."

The research was supported by grants from the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canada Research Chairs, and the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Innovation Trust.



PAULINE HANNAFORD - Electrical - "Awaiting Nightfall"

August winners

July's field trip was to the Englishman River Estuary and the winners were...

- 1st - Pauline Hannaford - Queen Anne's Lace
- 2nd - Frieda Van der Ree - Estuary Wildflowers
- 3rd - Susan Lightburn

and the challenge winners....

Electrical

- 1st - Pauline Hannaford - Awaiting Nightfall
- 2nd - Lynn Bieber-Weir
- 3rd - Robin Pearson - Powerful Sunset

The Beach

- 1st - Pauline Hannaford - Through the Fog
- 2nd - Ken Davies
- 3rd - Penny Marshall - Man on the Beach



PAULINE HANNAFORD - Englishman River Estuary - "Queen Anne's Lace"

OP members **Gail Courtice** and **Lynn Bieber-Weir** attended - **JUDGING 101,**
from the Harbour City Photo Club Sept 09 - Here are there notes;-

You can't make a mistake judging as there are no right or wrong answers; it is just your opinion. Practice is the only way to improve your skill at judging
Be open minded to all subject matter and do not let personal feelings or interests influence your opinion.

'Your personal feelings should not be part of your point scoring or comments' –CAPA

The best image of its type should rise to the top. Like a dog show! Scoring is from 1-10

1-3 is a low score and (*as a courtesy*) should not be given

4-5 lack of impact and changes are needed

6-7 good photo but could be enhanced

8-9 very good image

10 excellent imagine no recommendations for change

If you give comments do not make them negative, like 'not my thing, I don't like the subject, blown highlights etc. Suggests constructive ways to improve the image, like try a tripod, flash, filter etc.

Score Breakdown

Impact 4 Points

- does it get your attention
- would you hang it on your wall
- is it unique, original
- does the theme comply

Technical 3 Points

- is it in focus
- correct depth of field
- correct shutter and exposure
- the quality and direction of the light
- right focal length for the shot
- creative use of filters
- is the image sharp
- is the print well produced, sized correctly, right choice of finish and well mounted



Composition 3 Points

- use of thirds, fifths
- proper cropping
- straight horizon
- proper placement of subject
- avoidance of clutter
- is foreground/background distracting
- use of leading lines
- use of repetition of shapes
- interesting use of textures, patterns, colours and good tonal contrast
- SIMPLICITY



Fellow OP members; As editor of this newsletter, I am always looking for submissions from members. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see or articles of interest to club members, please forward to

rockin.robin@telus.net

Thank you, Robin



Looking Good !



Always carry your camera with you for those unexpected moments.



CHALLENGES FOR THE NOVEMBER 4TH MEETING

MOVEMENT and THINGS YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY

FIELD TRIP

QUALICUM TRAIN STATION and CHURCH

NEXT MEETING; Wed., November 4th, 7:00 pm at Qualicum Civic Centre

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