

# SHUTTERBUG NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 7, November 2012

## PUMPKINS GALORE



**The aim of Oceanside Photographers is to promote learning, sharing and enjoyment of photography in a convivial atmosphere.**

**Contact information for all those on management is available on our website. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the editor by phone at 250-586-3323 or email me at [newsletter@oceansidephotographers.ca](mailto:newsletter@oceansidephotographers.ca), or [gailcourtice@shaw.ca](mailto:gailcourtice@shaw.ca)**

### Guest Speakers

**November: Brad Powell, star stacking.  
December: Xmas Social with Favourites Slide Show.**

### Please note

**Next Meeting will be  
Wednesday, November 7th  
2012 in  
Pioneer Hall East at the Civic  
Centre. The big room at the  
front of the building on your  
right.**

### Front Page Photo Credits

Left—Right: Mike Davies,  
Nicole Muchowski,  
Jack Harynuk,  
Frieda Van der Rees,  
Ed Mosier,  
MJ Turner,  
Vivienne Bearder,  
Donna Wickstrom

### Field Trips

**November's FT: Demex on  
the Port Alberni Hiway.  
Lunch at Coombs  
December FT: Xmas around  
QB. Lunch at Bailey's  
*Details on our website***

### Assignments

**November: Weather  
December: Barns and Benches  
(Assignments due by the 20th of the  
month)**



## CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

### Please Note

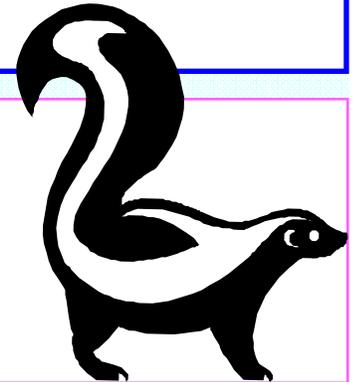
There will be no coffee and goodies served at the meetings. Feel free to bring your own.

### EDUCATION MEETING

**THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM AT QB CIVIC CENTRE. WE MEET IN THE WINDSOR ROOM. ANY QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT LIBBY LOVIS**

**Submission Deadline for the December Newsletter is November 23rd**

Due to allergies, asthma and other conditions, we request that you do not wear anything with a fragrance to the club meetings. Thank you from those who suffer!



Please remember to wear your name tag at each general meeting, education meeting and field trip. We have so many new members it would be nice to be able to put a name to the face.



### Important

**If you change any of your personal information, like email address etc, PLEASE let us know so that we can update our records.**

### From The Editor's Desk



This is something that you all should do, submit a photo to Wayne's Weather Window on Global TV. It is quite thrilling when you see your photo on the TV! I have submitted photos three times and twice they have been shown! The most recent one got photo of the week (Oct 5th) and my prize was an iPod! (A whole new learning curve coming up!) The photo I sent is at the bottom of page 7, the one with the boats and fog. I honestly didn't think I would win the weekly prize as it has been my experience that they usually pick cute photos or sunsets, so imagine my delight when I got an email from Wayne Cox telling me that I had won. I had to sign over the copyright of the photo, so legally I am not sure what that means, but one thing is for sure, it is the most that I have made on a photo, as apparently the retail value of the iPod is about \$200.00. I have seen so many lovely images taken by club members that I know a lot of you would get your photo shown, so I encourage you to give it a try. Go to their website for more information, or email your photo to: [weatherwindow@globaltv.com](mailto:weatherwindow@globaltv.com). Good luck and do let the club know if you succeed. And I will put the photo in the newsletter.

### Submitted by Corrie Dekluyver

As you probably know, the American Rhododendron Society held its annual meeting in Nanaimo last month. As part of this event a rhodo photo contest was held. I submitted an entry in each of the four categories and I was informed by Mary Parker, a well known rhodo expert in Oceanside, that I had won two prizes. The one on the left won first prize. It is a "r-macabeanum hybrid" and was photographed at Milner Gardens earlier this year. The second attachment won second prize and is a "r-montroseanum hybrid", also taken at Milner Gardens. I thought the members might be interested. *Well Done Corrie!*



Here's an oldie but goodie basic definition of composition from Harry Sternberg's Composition: the Anatomy of Picture Making, Pitman Publishing, 1958.

"The position {of the subject} in relation to the borders, the size, the direction, their values in tone, colour or texture are the means by which the artist designs his pictures. This designing, organizing or structuring a picture is composition."

# Assignment: Nature & Manmade



L-R: **First Place** Colour, Sheila Hepton  
**First Place** B/W, Kevin McGuinness  
**First Place** Digital Art, Sheila Hepton

L-R: **Second Place** Colour, Kevin McGuinness  
**Second Place** B/W, Donna Wickstrom  
**Second Place** DA, Ken Ginther



**Well Done!**

## ALERT BAY GC

What fun taking off with your best friend for three days? Especially when you don't see her often. Carol and I met 36 years ago when we worked for Dave at Burquitlam Animal Hospital on the mainland. Carol was Dave's surgical nurse and excellent at her job. We hit it off right away. I was drawn to her sharp wit, great sense of humour and Carol's ability to tell wonderful stories; she always had such unusual and interesting experiences, which with her way with words, held me captive. So imagine my delight on September 10th to be able to listen to her fill in the gaps, over the next three days, of the parts of her life that I'd missed. After leaving the animal hospital in 1978, Carol spent over 30 years in Southern California. She now lives in the Squamish Valley.

I knew Carol was interested in Native art, especially masks, so Alert Bay on Cormorant Island came to mind as a good destination. We stayed at the Haida-Way Hotel in Port McNeill. \$109.00 a night for a room with two queen beds was a bargain. The dining room served good food and breakfast is included in the room rate. The ferry to Alert Bay is a two minute car ride from the hotel and we decided to catch the 8.40 AM ferry the next day, which allowed us lots of time on the island to explore. The ferry ride is half an hour and so we went upstairs to enjoy the view on what, after arriving in pouring rain, turned out to be a sunny day. Between Cormorant Island and Vancouver Island was a thick bank of fog as high as the island and dense like ice, in fact, it looked like a glacier. I knew that as the fog dispersed, I might get some interesting images. This was my fourth time to the island and I was just as excited as on the first visit.

Our first stop was the U'Mista Cultural Museum. It was founded in 1980 to house potlatch masks and other artefacts that were seized by the government when the potlatch was outlawed. As I had been there three times, I decided to let Carol enjoy it and take as much time as she wanted while I went photographing. Next to the museum is St. Michael's Residential School. To me, it is hauntingly beautiful in its ugliness. A huge red brick building with remnants of peeling white paint. It was built in 1929 as a school for First Nations children to be taught assimilation into white culture. A sad and arrogant episode in Canadian history.

In spite of the building's grim history, the crumbling edifice fascinates me. Bind weed tangled around metal railings, their large trumpet blooms delicate against the decay. Blackberries covered fire escape ladders and encroached up the crumbling brick walls. A strange silence seemed to surround the building, as if hiding a thousand unspoken memories. It was a profoundly touching experience and I was overwhelmed as to where to point my camera. I didn't bother with a tripod because the light was good and I was constantly changing angles. (My excuse!)

The fog bank was now breaking up and a thin line of white stretched out hugging the water, highlighted by the dark hills behind it. With so much reflection from the water, aluminium boats and fog, I knew this should be an HDR. I noticed a small dead tree and the way the branches were enabled me to support my elbows so that I could take my three exposures. I admit this was the lazy way and I should have gone to the car for the tripod!

A couple of hours later Carol emerged from the museum. She was totally enthralled by what she had seen and was lucky enough to tag along with a National Geographic tour group and hear details about the displays. The group's small 80 passenger boat was moored at the dock. It had just been to Alaska and this was the last stop before heading back to the States. I was fortunate to have a chat with one of the NG photographers!

He voiced what many of us think, that it is harder and harder to come up with different and unique images and of course, with all the photo editing programmes, almost anything is possible.

After a disappointing lunch, we headed to the Ecological Park and meandered the boardwalk. It is a bog filled with dead silver snags sticking up like totem poles, witches hair lichen grows profusely on stunted trees, there is a thick carpet of spongy sphagnum moss and lots of plants only found in a bog. Adding to the magic, the silence was broken by the haunting cry of ravens. We drank it in and enjoyed the solitude. It was comforting to see the sign at the trail head assuring us that there were no bears, cougars, wolves, or other predators on the island. I found the bog difficult to photograph so that I could do it justice. It was probably a place that one needed to give a lot of time to planning each shot. And of course, you could not step off the boardwalk.

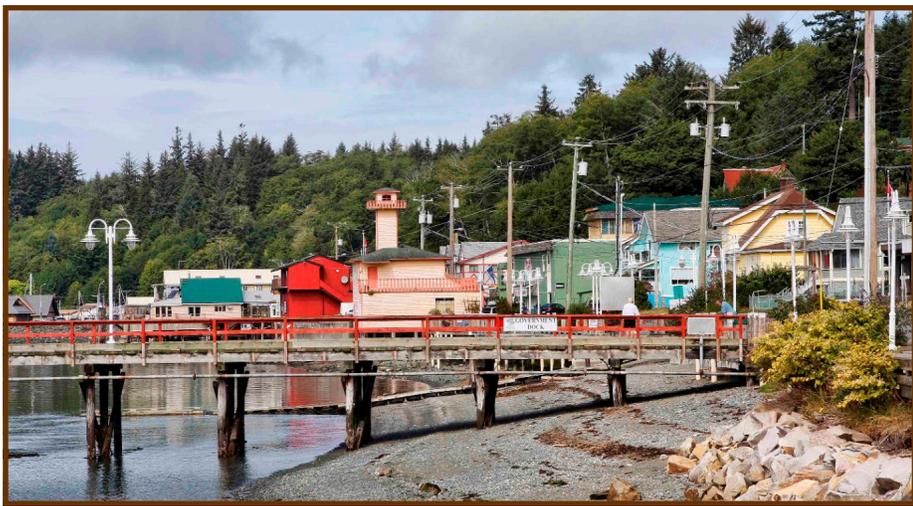
We finished our visit at the Tourist Information where we had an informative talk with the lady in charge. She was First Nations and had a long family history on the island. I asked her about why St. Michael's was still standing, as I had heard a few years ago that it was to be demolished. She said it would cost over a million dollars to pull down because it contained asbestos! Apparently, there had also been a discussion about turning it into an art centre: Taking a negative and turning it into a positive. But once again, it came down to lack of funds. So who knows what the future of St. Michael's Residential School will be.

We caught the 3.15 ferry back to Port McNeill and talked about what a wonderful day it had been. A lot of work has been done in the main street of Alert Bay to make it more attractive and they have done a great job. It is a quaint and charming island, full of history as it is the oldest community in north Vancouver Island. I hope you will consider taking a trip there one day.

[www.umista.org](http://www.umista.org)

[www.pmhotels.com](http://www.pmhotels.com) (Haida-Way Hotel)





# Alert Bay

Once you let go of worrying what others think about your photography or how they classify it, only then will your photography truly represent the world as you see it. Darwin Wiggett

## On The Road with Jack and Shelley

It seems like we've been on the road all summer, back and forth to the mainland and off to Alberta so it only seemed appropriate that we take a vacation in the form of, of course, a road trip! Jack and I thought it might be fun to spend some time traveling through the Pacific Northwest, perhaps finding a few photo opportunities and so we just let the road be our guide. Fall is my favourite time of year and to be on the road in the fall with Jack is something I enjoy immensely.

We made the decision to avoid the larger highways and to find places a little more off the beaten track. There are always positives and negatives when you make a decision like that as you well know. I was very impressed with Google Maps in that they now let you tick a small box when you are looking for travel routes, which lets you avoid major roads. For those looking for that option, input your beginning and end points, find directions and then under "show options" you can click on "avoid highways".

We set off from Vancouver, crossing the border with little delay and got off the I-5 almost immediately. We drove along at a leisurely pace with the idea of heading into the interior of Washington state, turning the car around when we thought there might be a good shot. I saw a beekeeper kneeling over a frame in a field and asked him if I could take a photo. He agreed quite readily as if he was asked all the time. We found a really interesting antique mall and I got a few more interesting shots.

We carried on towards the mountains thinking that the sky was pretty hazy but not really being sure about why. As we went further and further inland and up country we started to smell the smoke and quickly worked out that there must be some pretty intense forest fires burning in the area. We had planned to stop in a small town called Leavenworth because we'd heard there was a nice antique mall there but were surprised to find that it was a totally Bavarian town complete with Bavarian style paintings on the buildings and many tourist trap stores selling all manner of "made in China" Bavarian souvenirs.

Jack and I decided that perhaps we should just push on rather than stay in Leavenworth and found a place in Wenatchee, about 35 km further east; sadly there were fires burning in two canyons not much more than 3 km from town and the smoke was horrible. The irony was that there were signs posted all over the hotel we stayed in admonishing guest to not smoke or there would be fines to pay. The rooms just reeked of smoke as did our car and clothing.

Needless to say we "got out of Dodge" as fast as we could the next morning heading almost straight south towards the Washington/Oregon border and followed the amazing Columbia River all the way along the southern border of Washington. The landscape is quite barren through the interior of the state which surprised us because we had not spent any time there in the past. We also saw incredible wind farms with massive windmills standing like huge stanchions on the crests of the hills as we passed. Mostly we were on a mission to get as far away from the smoke as possible.

Even the Portland area smelled of smoke so we decided after one night there that we'd head for the Oregon Coast. It was like arriving in heaven. The air was clear and fresh and the water was beautiful. We meandered down the coast stopping here and there to see what was on the small streets finding a market here and a coffee shop there - just a lazy drive.

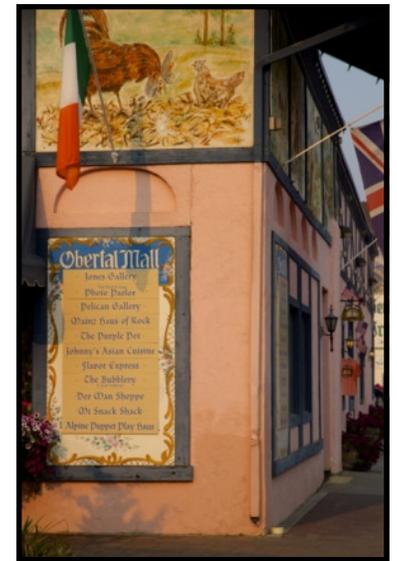
We talked about California and whether we'd go or not, deciding after some discussion that we would indeed go so Jack booked us into a town called Eureka, California for

the next night. On our way there we passed through a northern California town called Crescent City and spent the afternoon driving the somewhat perilous road through the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park which is home to the world's largest (not tallest) old-growth redwoods. It was tinder dry and well patrolled to ensure that there were no fires.

We arrived in Eureka fairly late and once checked into our hotel and unpacked we set off to see what Eureka was all about. We realized that we were very near the historic district which we scoped out on our way to supper. Up early the next morning we had good light so went directly to the magnificent Carson Mansion. Regarded as one of the highest executions of American Queen Anne Style architecture, the home is considered the most grand Victorian home in America. It felt like finding a 100 dollar bill on the pavement to be there without other people and their cameras - having the whole district practically to ourselves.

The detail on the many Victorian houses was quite incredible and we enjoyed our early morning shooting. We did a quick pass by on our way out of town later that morning and saw that there were literally dozens of people trying to photograph Carson House all jockeying for space. We smiled and left!

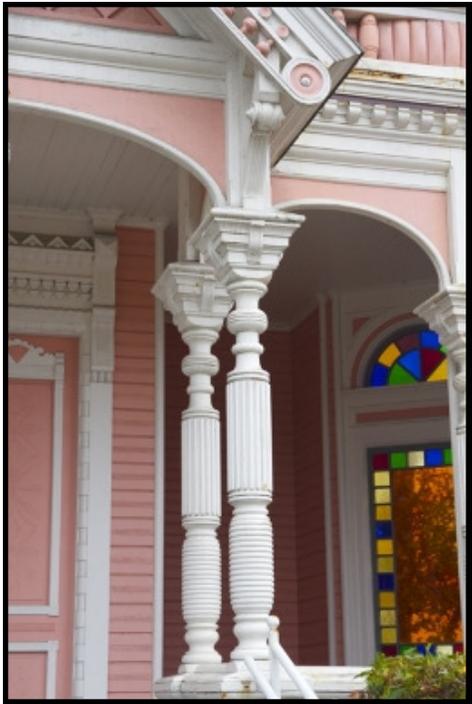
There were other highlights; the great egrets, the crashing waves, the artwork and the morning mists, even the huge quilt patches on so many of the buildings along the Oregon Quilt Trail, all of which we tried to capture, but what will stay with us is the joy of traveling wherever the road takes you and the surprises you find along the way.





Carson Manor

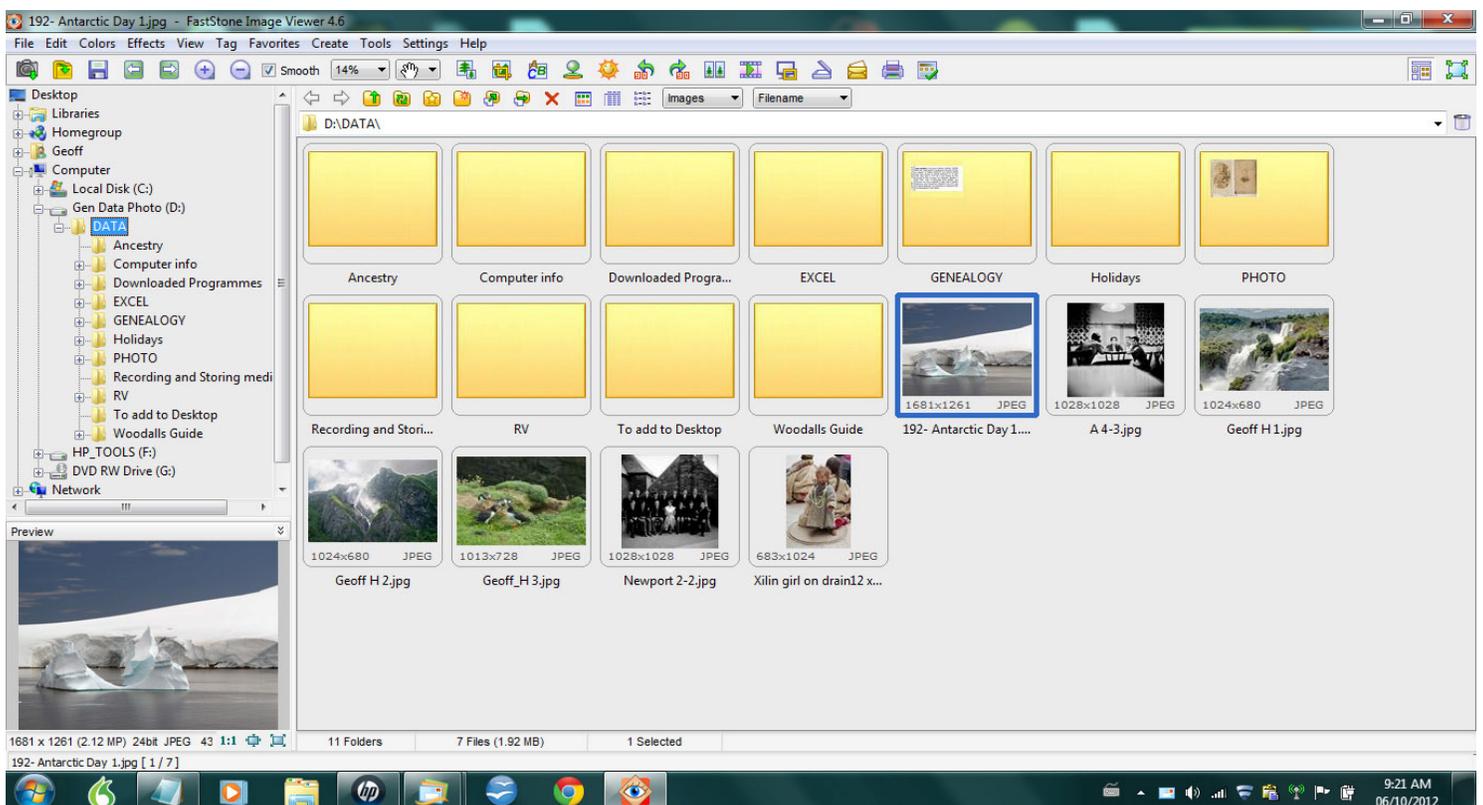
**Article and photos  
by  
Shelley Harynuk**



## FastStone Software submitted by Geoff Hallett

I am a new member of the club and want to share with you information on a simple software programme that I use all the time. It is FastStone available for free or voluntary donation at <http://www.faststone.org/> and the size is only 5.3Mb. The programme [now FastStone Image Viewer 4.6 ] was introduced to me by a member of the Lanark County Camera Club that meets in Perth, Ontario. I am a user of CS5 and Lightroom 4 and at first thought that FastStone was too simple for me but now I use it all the time. After a photo shoot I use it to triage my images – I shoot in RAW and it handles these very rapidly, and most importantly I do not have to wait for Lightroom to add unwanted photos to a catalogue and produce thumbnail images which have to be deleted later. If I have to e-mail a small jpg image then I shoot in RAW and download to FastStone and save as a jpg. I have used it for simple editing and slide shows and it can manage most digital photo-editing functions. The image shows the first screen you get to and then when you have selected an image roll your mouse to the 4 edges of the screen to show the many functions available. Below is what is posted on the website :-

“FastStone Image Viewer is a fast, stable, user-friendly image browser, converter and editor. It has a nice array of features that include image viewing, management, comparison, red-eye removal, emailing, resizing, cropping, retouching and color adjustments. Its innovative but intuitive full-screen mode provides quick access to EXIF information, thumbnail browser and major functionalities via hidden toolbars that pop up when your mouse touches the four edges of the screen. Other features include a high quality magnifier and a musical slideshow with 150+ transitional effects, as well as lossless JPEG transitions, drop shadow effects, image annotation, scanner support, histogram and much more. It supports all major graphic formats (BMP, JPEG, JPEG 2000, animated GIF, PNG, PCX, PSD, EPS, TIFF, WMF, ICO and TGA) and popular digital camera RAW formats (CRW, CR2, NEF, PEF, RAF, MRW, ORF, SRF, ARW, SR2, RW2 and DNG). ”



## **Winter Photography - Keeping Yourself and Your Equipment Safe**

Submitted by Shelley Harynuk

In the winter there are opportunities for great images everywhere, from snowy landscapes to winter sports, and from frozen nature scenes to icy, wind-swept city streets. Unfortunately, cameras aren't quite as enthusiastic about the winter as photographers are. They're designed to work at moderate temperatures, and although they will continue to function in the cold weather, they do become more susceptible to damage as the temperature drops. Thankfully there are a few simple things you can do to protect your digital camera from the cold weather. They will help keep it operating for as long as possible in the chilly temperatures, and reduce the chances of causing any permanent damage to your equipment.

### **Take Spare Batteries**

Of all the parts of your camera, the battery is by far the one which is most affected by changes in temperature. A drop of 10 °C (18 °F) can cause your battery life to deplete by as much as half, meaning that in very cold climates you'll soon find yourself running out of power. Take at least one spare battery pack so the cold doesn't bring your photo-shoot to an early end.

To help prolong your battery's life, turn off all unnecessary features of your camera. This includes the LCD screen, flash, image stabilization, and even the auto focus if possible. You should also turn your camera off completely whenever you're taking a break between shots. No matter how careful you are with your battery, there's still a good chance it'll run out, so take at least one spare. Carry it in an inside pocket to keep it warm; this will help maximize its life once you start using it. When you swap batteries, put the depleted one in the same pocket and warm it up again - after a while you'll find that it's regained some of its life and is ready to be used again.

### **Protect Your Camera from Condensation**

Although flat batteries are an annoyance, they won't do any permanent damage to your camera. The same is not true of condensation - moisture inside your camera can damage electrical components and leave watery marks on the inside of lenses, making it the number one thing to avoid when heading out for some cold weather photography.

Moisture is the surest way to damage your camera equipment. Condensation is caused when you move from cold air to warm air or vice versa. When shooting outdoors in the winter, this typically happens when leaving your house, and when returning later, so you have to be particularly careful with your camera at both of these times. The first thing to do is to ensure that any temperature changes happen as gradually as possible. A good way to do this is by leaving your camera in an intermediate environment such as a porch, garage, or car. Doing this for at least an hour in between environments will give your camera time to adjust to the conditions more gradually, reducing the chances of condensation forming. While doing this, remove your battery and keep it warm to extend its life when you start shooting.

You may still get some condensation no matter how slowly the temperature changes. Luckily photographers have a tried-and-tested trick for dealing with this moisture - put your camera in an air-tight bag such as a Ziploc, and add a sachet of silica gel.

These sachets come in the boxes of most electronic goods and will soak up any condensation, keeping your camera safe and dry.

### **Provide Some Padding**

In cold weather, plastic and glass become more brittle, meaning that they break more easily. Seeing as cameras are made almost entirely out of these materials it's not hard to see why that could be bad news! A padded camera bag will protect your equipment if you drop it, and also help keep it dry. To protect your camera from being dropped, keep it in a padded bag or case as much as possible, and only remove it when you're standing still, on firm ground, ready to shoot. When you do remove your camera, be sure to use the neck or wrist strap, as it can easily slip out of your hands, particularly if they're cold and wet or if you're wearing gloves. Some people recommend keeping your camera round your neck at all times, and putting it inside your coat when not shooting. However, because the air next to your body is warm and the camera is cold, this can cause problems with condensation, so is not a good idea.

### **Keep Yourself Warm**

With all this talk of protecting your camera from the cold weather, it's easy to forget that it affects you too. In fact, you're much more likely to give up before your camera does, so it's important to go out properly prepared. Protecting yourself from the cold is as important as taking care of your camera. Wear plenty of layers to keep you warm, and include waterproofs if the ground is wet or snowy, as you may find yourself having to crouch or kneel down to get the shot you want. A hat and gloves are a good idea, although thick gloves can make it hard to operate your camera's buttons so either wear fingerless gloves or mitten-style ones with a finger section that folds back.

Finally, a flask of hot drink and a few high-energy snacks are ideal for maintaining body temperature and keeping your energy levels up. Winter photography can be a lot of fun, but it can take its toll on your equipment, as well as your body. By following these simple tips you can protect your camera from the cold weather, and prolong its life so that you can get all the pictures you want and make the most of your time outdoors.

Taken from <http://www.photographymad.com/pages/view/how-to-protect-your-digital-camera-in-cold-weather>

#### **Wet Weather Tip**

I wanted to take photos in the garden of rain drops on leaves while it was raining. I do not have a rain jacket for my camera. I didn't want to use a plastic bag because I thought it would make it difficult to turn dials easily if I needed to do so. I decided to use Saran Wrap. I was only going to be a few minutes hand holding the camera and thought this would suffice. It did, and allowed me to easily press the shutter and even move a dial, plus I could clearly see everything on the camera. A Shower cap from a hotel works too. Obviously this would not work for any length of time, but for a quickie shot, it was just fine. Of course, I left the end of the lens uncovered because that would be easy to wipe off later. One could use the lens hood to stop rain splashes. I admit, for the most part, not being happy about taking my camera out in the rain, but sometimes an image is just too tempting to miss, come hell or high water!

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Annual Membership Cards are now available and will be handed out to members at the next General meeting. By showing your card to places like The Source, London Drugs, Island Exposures Gallery etc, you will receive discounts on your purchase.

## SAVE ALL YOUR MAGAZINES!

Libby has a fun project planned for an upcoming education meeting: Date to be announced, but probably in the New Year. For this you will need magazines of every description so start saving them. More details later.



## December Social

If you would like to participate in the slide show at the December meeting, send 2 of your favourite photos by November 15th to Randy Hall at [pastpres@oceansidephotographers.ca](mailto:pastpres@oceansidephotographers.ca). Using the same size image as for our monthly assignments. Photos must have been taken within the last 12 months. Can be any subject.

**Bring finger food to the December Social. Coffee will be supplied but please bring your own mug. The December meeting is strictly a social affair where we get an opportunity to mix and mingle.**

## Photo Challenge, 'Shutterbug Spotlight'

Each month we will post a photo challenge and the chosen submitted photo will feature on the front cover of the newsletter. **December's challenge photo is 'Xmas theme'** There are no limitations as to how you do it. Black & white, colour, manipulated. Have fun with it. The photo must have been taken this year. Please send it no less than 1 MB. Email photo to: [newsletter@oceansidephotographers.ca](mailto:newsletter@oceansidephotographers.ca) Deadline is November 23rd for December's edition. Each month a different committee will pick the front page. The images are sent to them anonymously. **\*Only one photo per person Please!!**

**With so many new members, when submitting, Please give me your full name, just your email address is not enough. Thanks.**

For me, photographs take their power from memory and emotion. A picture tells its own story, shaped by the mood or insights of the person you are at the time you see it. It becomes layered with the past and the present. Anonymous



Cute Corner



## Did You Know?

**ISLAND EXPOSURES ART GALLERY WILL GIVE OCEANSIDE PHOTOGRAPHERS A 20% DISCOUNT.**

Talk to Craig Carmichael at 5-183 West Island Highway,  
Parksville (Beach Club)

Phone: 250-586-5225

Craig will meet all your framing needs and do spectacular  
canvas wraps.