



Volume 6 Issue 3
July 2013

Shutterbug

NEWS LETTER



In this issue: Considering the Use of Special
Effects In Photography



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This newsletter is published monthly via posting to the club website. Back issues can be accessed from the website as well.

Submissions: The editor welcomes ideas, questions, suggestions, and photos that illustrate club activities.

Please send to Editor
Frieda Van der Ree at newsletter.opc@gmail.com

Deadline is the 20th of each

Cover photo: 'BMW Picture' by Mary Watts, awarded 'first' in the Digital Art Category of the Assignment *Motion Blur*

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NEWSLETTER

In this issue...

A word from the editor 3

Club doings

June meetings 4
Education meetings report 5
Meet the new membership director 6
Lifetime membership for Dave Courtice 6

Backstory 7

Evaluation 101:

Considering the use of special effects 8

Assignment: Motion Blur

Colour Category 9
Black and White Category 10
Digital Art Category 11

Fun stuff: Photo Apps for iPads 12

Due to allergies, asthma and other conditions, we request that you do not wear anything with a fragrance to the club meetings.

Please remember to wear your name tag to club meetings and events, to help us all match up names with faces. Lost your tag? See Deb at the welcome desk to order another.

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

A word from the editor...

Looking back The first issue of the Oceanside Shutterbug came out in May 2008 with editor Robin Pearson who conceived of the idea, talked AGS Business Systems into printing it gratis and for over three years gamely brought out one interesting issue after another. For this --and much more--Robin was made our first Lifetime Member. (Our latest Lifetime Member is featured on page 5.)

Gail Courtice stepped bravely forward at the end of 2011 and the *Shutterbug* was re-visioned and revised for the digital age. Life online freed the newsletter from size/cost restraints and allowed easy access to both new and archived issues from within the club website, and not just for our members: Gail's May issue was opened by 243 readers in Canada, three in Finland, three in the US and one in the UK!

Looking forward Both Robin and Gail laid a solid groundwork for the newsletter. As its third editor I will try to turn out editions that continue to show who we are, what we do and most important, that highlight our best photographic efforts.

A new feature that spins naturally from our monthly assignments will—I hope—encourage us to become

better at evaluating our own and others' images. Each month 'Evaluation 101' will look at a particular category or aspect of photography. Since OP is a CAPA member club, this feature will draw strongly on guidelines laid out in the CAPA judging manual.

I hope to make 'Backstory' (see page 7) into a regular feature as well and invite members to send a photo that has an interesting story behind it, where we need the words to fully appreciate the image.

I appreciate the generous response to my queries about your travels, and about your workflow when dealing with large numbers of images—these will become part of a feature in the next issue.

Please continue to send comments, ideas, anecdotes, questions and anything else you'd like to share with others. In that way the OP Shutterbug will serve as a voice and face for all members.



Editor Frieda Van der Ree

One photo out of focus is a mistake, ten photos out of focus are an experimentation, one hundred photos out of focus are a style. Author Unknown

Coming up in July...

General Meeting	July 3rd (first Wednesday of each month) Qualicum Civic Centre, East Hall 7-9pm
July Guest Speaker	Wendy Carmichael of Island Exposures Gallery
Field Trip	July 21st (third Sunday of each month) Butterfly World (1080 Winchester Road, Coombs)
Education Meeting	PLEASE NOTE THAT EDUCATION MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED FOR THE SUMMER; THEY WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER (third Tuesday of each month, QB Civic Centre, Windsor Room 7-9pm)

Visitors welcome...

Visit us out at two free meetings before deciding if you would like to join. Check in at the membership desk as you enter. The annual dues are \$45 for the first year (this includes a name tag) and \$30 per year thereafter.

Club doings....



Photo by FV

Artist Joan Larson speaks at June general meeting

Joan, seen here fielding questions from David Popham, delighted members with a presentation about her travels to photograph--and later paint--the wild horses of Sable Island, 175 km from the coast of Nova Scotia. Joan is widely known for her iconic paintings of the RCMP musical ride, which can be seen at her Creekside Studio and Gallery at 1471 Winchester Road, QB.

Joan also leads a photography group within the local 4-H Club. OP will be sponsoring and judging an upcoming competition for this group.



Photo by FV

Above, the welcome desk at **the general meeting**, with guest Marcie Gauntlett (left), VP Vivienne Bearder, Paul Edelenbos (back) and Deb Kuzbik.

Below, Steve Price-Francis and Vivienne Bearder chat with a guest at **the June education meeting**.



Stalking the macro shooter: Corrie DeKluyver caught this shot of Paul Edelenbos and the subject below at Libby and Eric's garden photo shoot .



Photo by Michael Van der Ree

We have had a very busy year for 2012/2013. The format was changed in March to have half of the meeting devoted to the SIGs (Special Interest Groups) which seemed to be very popular. The SIGs in general are going very well although after an initial spurt of interest where everyone interested put down their names on lots of subjects they soon realized, and this includes me too, that it was too much to sustain and have slowly removed their names from various groups. The most popular groups are Elements, Coffee/Discussion, Landscape, Macro, Mac and B&W. Please give some thought over the summer as to which groups you would like to be in and I will start over in September with new lists.

At most of the education meetings there is an assignment which is then uploaded to the web site and looked at during the following meeting. These are generally on subjects we have talked about in the meetings such as Brad Powell's talk on smoke photography, Michael van der Tol on overlays and others. There were programmes on macro and bubbles which were popular and they were the assignments for those months. These are used as a general learning tool and are great fun. We have had some fun times too with a programme on photographing bubbles and another when everyone had to bring magazines and a board and cut out their favorite pictures and stick them on the board —back to pre school here—and analyze the results.

We finished off the year in June with a packed

meeting with demos from Nick Zoltay and Shelley showing how to convert to B&W in NIK and TOPAZ software - thanks to both of you for that—followed by David Popham showing us Out of Bounds and Framing in Photoshop. Jack demonstrated again how to upload photos for the assignments and how to vote. Photos were shown from the garden visit to our garden.

We have watched some of the DVDs the club owns and many other things during the year. The project for the summer is to take pictures of something you have always wanted to try or are interested in and then use some software to experiment with different effects. Maybe download some free trial software like NIK and TOPAZ and play with those!!!! Then upload them into the special spot on the website and we will view them in September.

So all in all a very busy time and I hope you have enjoyed the Education Meetings and have learned at least one new thing. Have a wonderful time during the summer and I look forward to seeing you all again at the September Education Meeting on Tuesday 17th.



Libby Lovis, Education Director



Discounts with OP membership card

Your membership card can be used to get a 20% discount at **Island Exposures Gallery**, where Craig Carmichael will meet all your framing needs and do spectacular canvas wraps.

London Drugs will give a 10% discount on photo prints.

The Source will give a 10% discount.

Buying a Nikon doesn't make you a photographer. It makes you a Nikon owner. Author Unknown

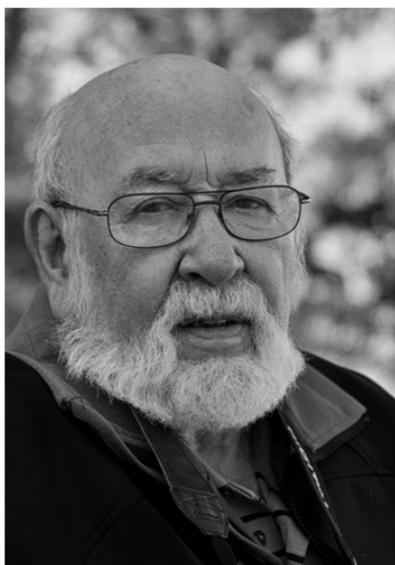
Meet the new Membership Director: Deb Kuzbik:

New to Oceanside (moved here in October) and to the club (joined in January), Deb is one of three members newly elected to the club executive at the May AGM, taking on the role of membership director from Vivienne Bearder who is now VP and Exhibitions Director.

Deb brings skills gained during a richly varied work career : classroom teacher, school administrator, university instructor, research coordinator and Director of Education in the Parkland School Division in Saskatchewan, plus author and photographer. Her photography can be found in private and corporate collections across Canada. She and her husband John have three adult children and recently moved to Qualicum Beach from Elk Ridge Resort, Saskatchewan.

Go to Deb's website (www.debrakuzbik.com) to see her galleries of images that explore a variety of genres, and those taken during travels to New Orleans, New York, Florida and Chile.

"The natural world in general, and forests in particular, have long been a source of wonder, personal renewal and inspiration for my photography. I prefer to interpret, rather than record the world around me, explore rather than explain, and, occasionally, transcend rather than reveal. I attempt to honour the transient beauty of the moment and invite the viewer to join me in an exploration of our deeper selves and our connections to each other and our universe."



Lifetime membership awarded to Dave Courtice

Dave Courtice rides herd at our club meetings with a running commentary of flippant quips and pithy asides but many members learned of Dave's more serious side at the June meeting when he was awarded a lifetime membership. He joins Robin Pearson and Ed Mosier in this select group; to all three we owe the present shape, form and--possibly--the very existence of the club.

In his acceptance speech Dave recounted that not so many years ago the club's membership had dwindled to the point that it could no longer afford its meeting room at the QB Civic Centre. Dave took the role of president with the goal of rebuilding the club.

Step one was to stabilize the finances. Meetings were moved to the Qualicum Community Baptist Church which could be rented for only \$10 per evening. The AV amenities there proved challenging but no one could deny the place had a special charm and vibe. Perhaps Dave channelled some of the spirit of the church because Shelley used words like 'inspired', 'renewed' and 'resurrected' to describe his contributions at that time. The 'resurrection' part involved both Dave and Ed personally contacting each person

who had given up their club membership and convincing them to try again. Most did.

Dave came to the position with plenty of practical experience, having served as president of almost every group of which he was part from class president at high school and Guelph U onward, including terms as president of the Vancouver Academy of Veterinary Medicine and the BC Veterinary Medical Association.

During his tenure as OP president he insisted on drafting a new constitution for the club, thereby insuring that any changes would need to be considered carefully--and most important--would need to be approved by all members. Members can find a copy of the constitution on the website under Guidelines and Minutes.

Thanks for this and so much more, Dave.

Sometimes a picture doesn't tell the whole story. Sometimes the story of why, or how, or where it was taken is needed for our full appreciation and understanding of the image. This was the case when Teresa Lange Kings recently took a cruise to Alaska and came back with this picture of an elephant seal taken, not somewhere along the wild north coast, but on Ambleside Beach in West Vancouver. Teresa heard about the seal on the news and detoured through Ambleside especially to see it for herself, and of course, to take this shot.



This is the backstory of her photo: Every year elephant seals undergo a 'catastrophic moult' when they lose all

their fur and underlying skin. During the three weeks or so this process takes, they remain on land sleeping and flipping sand over their backs to keep cool. The seals are regularly seen in our waters but rarely has one chosen to moult on a well-used public beach within a large city, thereby making national news. The discomfort of the moulting and the fact that they don't eat during the process (they can lose up to 25% of their body weight) could make for a short-tempered animal so officials closed off the area from onlookers and posted 24-hour security.

Photography Note: In this situation a photographer could stress either a photojournalistic or a wildlife angle. Teresa chose a wildlife focus: by pulling in close to the subject she captured the elephant seal in the act of flipping sand onto itself, an important part of this story. Her image also demonstrates how effectively the animal is camouflaged. Pulling back for a wider view would show the details of fencing, city background and crowds of onlookers, thereby telling a totally different side of the situation.

Have you checked your camera's diopter adjustment lately?

It's a good idea, because handling could have knocked the adjustment off its optimum setting or your eyesight may have changed. Also, when using someone else's camera this is the first thing you should check. The diopter can adjust the clarity of your view through the finder in the range of +3 to -3, enough for a serious discrepancy between what you and the camera lens see. It can be like looking through the wrong reading glasses.

On most cameras, even simple point-and-shoots, you'll find the diopter adjuster --a small dial or slider--next to the viewfinder. I've come across a number of recommended adjustment methods including one that involves removing the lens first(?!?) but the most straightforward seems to be:

Turn your camera on but don't remove the lens cap; looking through the viewfinder, turn the diopter adjustment dial until the guide numbers in the viewfinder look tack-sharp. With or without glasses? -- Whichever way you normally look through the viewfinder.

Thanks go to Donna Wickstrom for bringing this up at the May education meeting.

Considering the use of special effects in photographs by Frieda Van der Ree

Mary Watt's photo (see cover) received an unusually large number of 'first' votes. There was no question that it conformed to the assigned topic of 'Motion Blur'. With only a part of the subject in sharp focus and the rest lost in a blur, this is much as the eye would register an object rushing by. However it's her use of the Out of Bounds (OOB) effect that raises the image to another level. A car hurtling out of a frame suggests over-the-top power and speed: it is breaking through and breaking out. The frame in this case is more than just a shape surrounding an image; its role as a barrier to be broken out of makes it an active part of the subject. The frame also separates the parts of the car in focus-- the front end outside the frame sharp and the parts inside the frame totally blurred. The frame was made to be an integral part of the picture.

Mary's image is a good example of a special effect used well. The CAPA Judging Manual (CJM) discusses the difficulties attached to evaluating this type of image, of being "...totally bamboozled by altered reality pictures that, because of their novelty and apparent sophistication have received high awards for what amounts to the result of clicking a couple of software filter buttons.

The evaluator cannot always be sure whether a special effect was technically challenging to do or came as a software preset, but what counts is whether the effect is used to good purpose. CJM suggests asking

yourself: "Is the technique appropriate to the subject, mood or message?"

When we strive for that 'Wow factor' in our images it's easy to get carried away with special effects. Their novelty unquestionably carries an impact but can wear thin or look dated once becoming commonly used. Originality and creativity carry high value in photography as in any art form, and digital manipulation should be seen as one of many means to that end. CJM lists other means: unusual viewpoints, unique subject matter, spectacular lighting, simple compositions or imaginative use of colour or form."

On the other hand we can see the category of 'Digital Art' as an invitation to stretch the boundaries of what a photograph can be or do. The wonderfully surreal pictures by Eric Johansson (<http://erikjohanssonphoto.com/>) and the fourteen-year old who calls himself Fiddle Oak (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fiddleoak>) show some of the directions possible. But whether a photograph is taken or created (or somewhere in between) the underlying principles of making good art still apply, and this should figure in our evaluation.

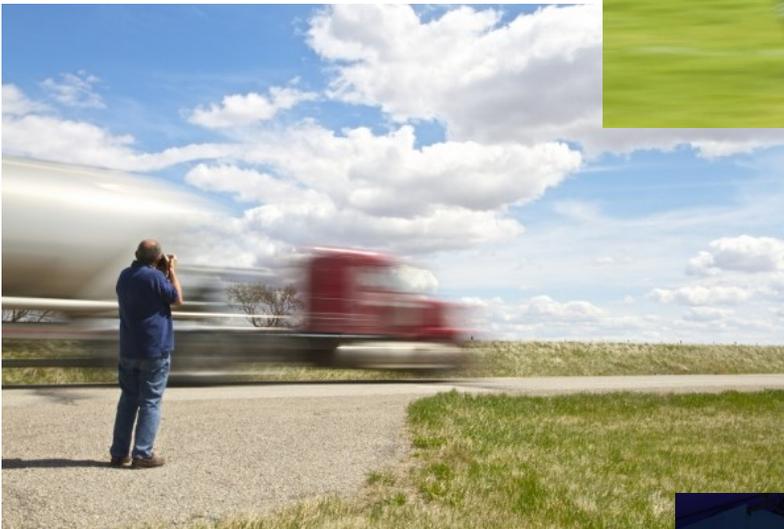
Note: Quotes are from the Canadian Association for Photographic Art Judging Manual, Student Edition CAPA © 2008.

"If I am made to see something in a new or unique way, I tend to think I've experienced creativity. That doesn't mean 'reality' has been altered, it means something about my perspective changing."

....Fred, in photo.net forum



FIRST: Jack Harynuik SOCCER GAME

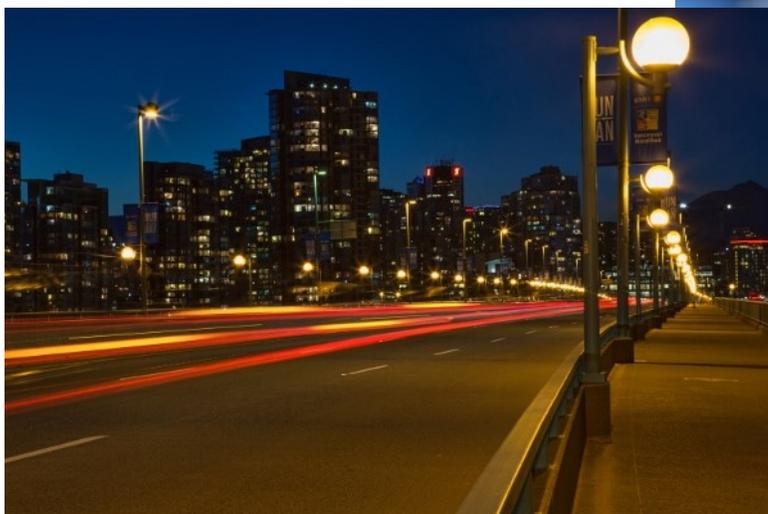


SECOND: Shelley Harynuik TRUCK ON THE MOVE



GOING FASTER

SECOND (TIED): Margaret Groenhof



THIRD: John Groenhof CAMBIE BRIDGE



FIRST: John Groenhof FLYING HIGH



SECOND (TIED): Teresa Lange Kings SO MANY FISH



SECOND (TIED): Jim Troyanek COOL WASSER



THIRD: Margaret Groenhof GRANVILLE ISLAND



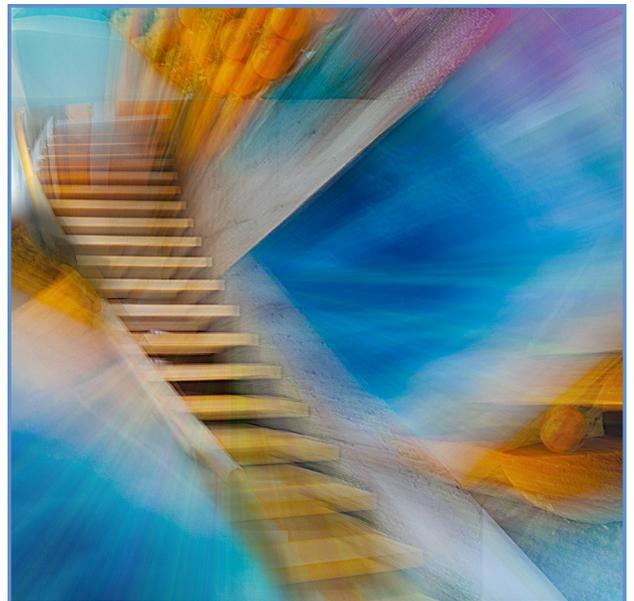
FIRST: Mary Watts BMW PICTURE



RACING WITH THE MOON
SECOND (TIED): Roy Watts



SECOND (TIED): Margaret Groenhof LIONS GATE



THE DREAM STAIRCASE
HONOURABLE MENTION: Beate Kuhn



THIRD: John Groenhof FUN TIME



I have downloaded and tested a wide variety of different photo editing apps for my Ipad. Because I do most of my photo editing in Photoshop, I wanted apps that were user-friendly, intuitive, fun to use and preferably free. I also prefer apps that include a range of effects, canvases and papers and various borders. I try to avoid apps that have a lot of advertising and are constantly pushing you to purchase more effects.

A lot of apps offer a “lite” version for free and a charge for the full version that has more features. The advantage of this is that you can download the lite version to see if you like the app or not and then purchase if the full version if you wish.

I have listed below, in no particular order, the apps that I use and would recommend. Although most of these apps are also available for the iphone, I find the screen too small to bother using for photo editing, so I have deleted all of them from it and just use them on the ipad. As you try these apps out, you will find that many have the same editing effects, but when you load an edited image from one to the other you can get some surprising results.

- Snapseed GrungetasticHD
- Photoshop Creative iDarkroomHD
- Phoster ColorSplash
- Metal Me HD PicShop Lite
- Pix Reflection
- Pixlromatic XnView Fx
- Photo Toaster BeFunky
- Aviary PowerCamHD
- 8mm is a really fun app that turns your ipad into an old-school movie camera. You can choose a variety of video effects.

