



Volume 6 Number 7
November 2013

Shutterbug

NEWS LETTER





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

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

Sold an image? Exhibiting ? Win a photo competition prize? Taking a photo-related course? Other members would be interested in hearing about it.

Please send material to Editor

Frieda Van der Ree

newsletter.opc@gmail.com

Visitors welcome

You may attend two free meetings (either/or general or education) before deciding if you would like to join. Please check in at the membership desk as you enter. The annual dues are \$45 for the first year, which includes a name tag) and \$30 per year after that. Dues are prorated monthly after May.

Oceanside Photographers is a member of the Oceanside Community Arts Council



COVER PHOTO: For this evocative image of French Creek Marina OP Vice President Vivienne Bearder tried several things she hadn't done before: she took the shots at 6:30am to capture the early morning light, bracketed her exposures and then combined them using Photomatix HDR (high-dynamic range) software. Her experiments were in response to Libby's education meeting challenge to try a new photographic technique this summer. More about HDR on page 8.

Taken with a Nikon D90 set at f/6.3 1/160sec ISO 200

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

Club doings

A few words from the editor...

A while ago I put out a call asking for material for the newsletter and almost immediately the emails came in with promises, queries and attachments containing all sorts of wonderful material. It felt as if Christmas had come early to my desk.

This month's issue includes Phil Chabot's photos from a "celebration of spring" course he took at Yellow Point Lodge south of Nanaimo (see page 6) and Teresa Lange Kings' account and photos of a trip to Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park (see page 7). Under 'Member Doings' (next page) you'll find Shelley Harynuk's evocative description of a tour taken by a boatload of OP members to view grizzlies and other wildlife in Bute Inlet, with photos by Gary Wilson, Paul Edelenbos and Shelley. These three items highlight some of the photographic bounty to be found within easy range of Oceanside in spring, summer and autumn.

Watch for other offerings from fellow members in future issues. And because that stock too will be used up within a few issues please don't hesitate to send more—photo essays, technical hints and how-to's, interesting links, opinions, questions, suggestions—anything related to photography.

Frieda Van der Ree



General Meeting October 2nd

Unfortunately guest speaker Robin Lafleur was unable to attend so instructional videos from our library served as a substitute program.

Gail Courtice takes on executive post

Gail Courtice was appointed as director for field trips and assignments. The post had been shared between other executive members for several months but it was felt that the club would benefit from having one person to oversee the details.

A charter member of OP, Gail has served in a variety of posts including terms as treasurer and editor of the newsletter. She is an enthusiastic 'ideas' person and always keen to try new photographic tools and techniques.

This photo of Gail was taken at a session in which she had members experimenting with photographing brightly coloured objects through tubes of mylar.

Photo by editor



Next General Meeting Wed Nov 6th
Next Education Meeting Tues Nov 19th



Photo by Editor

OP exhibits

Above, part of the club exhibition at The Gallery@Qualicum Stationers. The exhibit will hang until the end of October. A number of items had sold within the first two weeks.

SIGs started up again

The special interest groups have restarted after a summer hiatus. Below, the Coffee Group chats (about photography?) at Café Brie.

Photo by Michael Van der Ree



Member doings: Grizzly Tour to Bute Inlet

Article by Shelley Harynuik

Photos by Shelley Harynuik, Gary Wilson and Paul Edelenbos

The fog was thick at 6:30 on Sunday morning so the drive to Campbell River was a bit slower than it might have been on a clearer day. Still dark, we thought it might be a harbinger of what was to come. Sure enough, once on board the boat and heading for Bute Inlet and the Orford River the fog increased in density until it almost felt otherworldly. The water was so still and with nothing to focus on it was like floating in space. Our Skipper, Jen, was calm and obviously had done this many times but even she had a tough time finding the dock once we got to our destination. Finally, 15 to 20 feet away she announced, "There it is!!!" and we all applauded.

Photo by Gary Wilson



There were a dozen of us eager to encounter the grizzlies we had come to photograph. As the sky cleared we finally began to think that there would be photographs taken that day. Most of us were from the club but there were two or three others who were not. We were introduced to our guides, Winston and Calvin, and herded aboard a bus that



Photo by Shelley Harynuik

took us to the Interpretive Centre, which, Calvin informed us, was known as "the pee and flee". We boarded the bus once more and carried on to one of the viewing stations on the banks of the Orford River. I was so impressed with the interpretation provided by our guides. They talked about the land and its creatures and their beliefs with such respect. They answered our questions patiently and thoroughly though I'm sure they had been asked the same questions over and over on each trip. I felt that they were sharing this with us so that we would be more educated about how important it is to take care of this finely balanced environment.

Those who took the same trip last October were amazed at how much more water there was flowing down the Orford River this year and indeed it was quite high. Several of us climbed up the stairs to the raised viewing station. We were quite quiet and respectful because we were visitors to this amazing area. It wasn't long before someone said, "Look, there's a big fellow headed our way." It took me a moment to find him but sure enough, coming from our right and wading and



Photo by Paul Edelenbos

then swimming across the water to the far side was a large bear. He seemed to be ambling, there was no hurry to his steps, more a meandering as he would stop and flip over a dead Chum salmon on the bank. He didn't bother fishing rather he would check out all of the available dead fish finally deciding to stop and plop himself down in the water with just his head and shoulders above the water eating the fish like an ice cream cone.

It just went from there - we saw Mamma Grizzlies with two cubs and three cubs and more males. So exciting. At one point, from another viewing station, we watched a Mamma Grizzly with her two cubs as they stood on a spit of land doing some foraging when, off to the left appeared an enormous Roosevelt Elk. He waded into the water heading towards the bears and the Mamma immediately alerted. My thought was that the elk perhaps hadn't seen the bears and was taking a chance when in fact the opposite was true. The bears quickly departed obviously feeling threatened by the elk. Our guides said they had never seen this happen before. A magic moment indeed.

Photo by Gary Wilson



And the magic continued. The entire visit to the area was a time of both excitement and reverence at what we had been able to share. We headed back to the bus and then the dock where we had a late lunch, boarded the boat and began our trip back towards Campbell River. I was hoping we might see some orcas but it didn't look like that was going to be happening. We saw some Dall's porpoises but our Skipper told us that they tend to be boat shy so didn't get a close look at that point. As we passed Jimmy Judd Island we saw (and smelled) some massive Stellar sea lions, fat and lumbering on land but shiny, powerful creatures as they moved through the strong rapids and currents catching fish as they were tossed up in the whirlpools created by the currents. I had never seen anything like that before.



Photo by Shelley Harynuk

Having pretty much given up on seeing the orcas I settled down to enjoy the ride back reveling in the excitement of the day. Suddenly, off to the starboard of the boat, a huge glistening body broke the surface, steam shooting from its blowhole and then

almost silently submerging. We had come upon not one but two humpback whales, gliding parallel to the boat. We couldn't believe our eyes as they rode along beside us for perhaps 10 minutes or more. We watched as their flukes, with rivulets of water pouring off, would rise and then sink into the water. As they finally cut across the front of the boat heading to their own destination we were almost exhausted from the beauty of the day.



Photo by Gary Wilson

While that would have been a fitting end to the whole experience, we were treated to a show of another pod of Dall's porpoises, looking like miniature orcas and as fast as quicksilver, surfacing again and again, so close to the boat that we could have reached out and touched them. Boat shy indeed - I don't think so.

The weather had held beautifully all day but the moment we docked back in Campbell River a light rain began to fall. We decided we wanted to prolong the day so the majority of us adjourned to a nearby restaurant/pub for dinner.

I can only speak for myself but I'm sure the others enjoyed it as much as I did. It was one of the most magical days of my life and I can't wait to sign up for next year.



Photo by Gary Wilson



Photo by Paul Edelenbos

Details of tour:

Normal price was \$330 but Paul got the price of \$279 per person if he signed up eight people.

hurricanejackadventures.com

OP shooting gallery

Phil Chabot: at Yellow Point Lodge

"I used my old Canon 20D. The University of Victoria gives a four-day continuing education course at Yellow Point Lodge each April. If I can convince Estelle I plan to attend next April. There were several interesting lectures and field classes."

For more info see: [Explorations-at-Yellow-Point-Lodge](#)



OP shooting gallery

Teresa Lange Kings: A Trip to Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park

The Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park consists of 16,450 hectares of magical rainforest on the west coast of Vancouver Island. It contains red and yellow cedar, hemlock, amabilis fir and the largest and oldest sitka spruce including the Carmanah giant at 95 metres tall and the Three Sisters. Many of the trees are over 800 years old. Wildlife in the park include bears, wolves, cougars and many species of birds.

We went on a day in late August that was unusually bright and sunny so the trail was dry though rough and rugged. I would not have been able to walk as far had the trail been wet and slippery. From the parking lot we followed a relatively steep descent through the large moss covered trees until the trail flattened out and followed the river.

After about 30 minutes of walking the trail divided and we took the less difficult path toward the Three Sisters. The other branch led to the Carmanah giant. Our guide pointed out various plants and interesting landmarks. He had walked the trails in every season and weather condition.

Our path ended on a wide gravel bar beside the river where we spent a very pleasant time enjoying the sun and the sound of the river. Although there were eight of us we did not feel the need for much conversation. The walk took about two hours. not nearly long enough to appreciate this incredible forest.

On the return trip in the bus we saw two black bear cubs. The bus trip took about eight hours from Nanaimo with a coffee stop in Honeymoon Bay and a stop for lunch overlooking the Pacific Ocean. We also stopped to look over Nitinat Lake to watch 50 or so sail boarders and windsurfers as tiny dots flying across the lake.

Access to the park is via logging roads which in places are steep, rough and windy. I was glad we had not attempted this trip in our car. **We went with Island Style Adventures. The regular cost for the trip is around \$200 but we purchased Island Daily deal for about \$60.**



OP Shutterbug



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f/10 ISO 160 **1/1600 sec**

f/10 ISO 160 **1/4000 sec**

f/10 ISO 160 **1/400 sec**

Photos by Mark Amy, from tutorial on Camera Labs forum.

Checking out Gail's link to [Camera Labs](#) dropped me down a rabbit hole into a wonderland of cyber-exploration, and I happily clicked my way from link to link, letting curiosity lead me by the nose. I quickly found connections to the HDR technology used by Vivienne in her cover photo, thereby linking the last page of this issue with the first page. Follow the trail, but be warned that hours will disappear!

Camera Labs main page—>**photography tips**—> This is where I found the photos (above) that demonstrate what HDR can do, in a step by step tutorial. As a bonus, there's a 15% discount for buying [Photomatix](#) (HDR

software) through this site. The downloadable trial copy has no time limit but a watermark appears on every image.

Main page—**photography books**—> *Top Ten HDR Mistakes and how to fix them* by Trey Ratcliff (about \$10 for the downloadable 22MB PDF e-book).

More details!—>Here I found (surprise!) more links—one to a four-hour long [free tutorial](#) on HDR— and the following information...

- Trey Ratcliff's photo of the Taj Mahal (right) is the first HDR image to be hung in the Smithsonian.
- He was born blind in one eye
- His website [StuckInCustoms](#) has a lot of followers (understatement).
- His primary camera is a Sony Nex-7 (\$1100 including 18-55mm lens) and his backup camera is a Nikon D800 (\$2800 for body only).

Trey Ratcliff's explanation of HDR:

HDR is an acronym for High Dynamic Range. If you use some special HDR software, you can see all the light in the final photo that you can see when you are standing on the scene. Perhaps you've been in a beautiful spot and taken a photo and it comes out flat and disappointing. With HDR processing there is no longer a need for that — now the final image can be as truly evocative as it was when you were there.

The human eye can see so much more than a single shot from your camera! I say there is no need to accept the limitations of the camera. You can use the camera in a simple and innovative way to replicate what the eye can do. You'll be using a combination of the camera and some software to achieve the final look.

The human eye can see about 11 *stops* of light. A *stop* is a measurable amount of light. A camera can see about 3 stops of light. This means you'll be setting up your camera to take multiple photos of a scene, all at different shutter speeds, so you get the full range of light.





FIRST

Steve Price-Francis *Driftwood Art by Mother Nature*



SECOND 

David Popham *Blowdown, MacMillan Park*

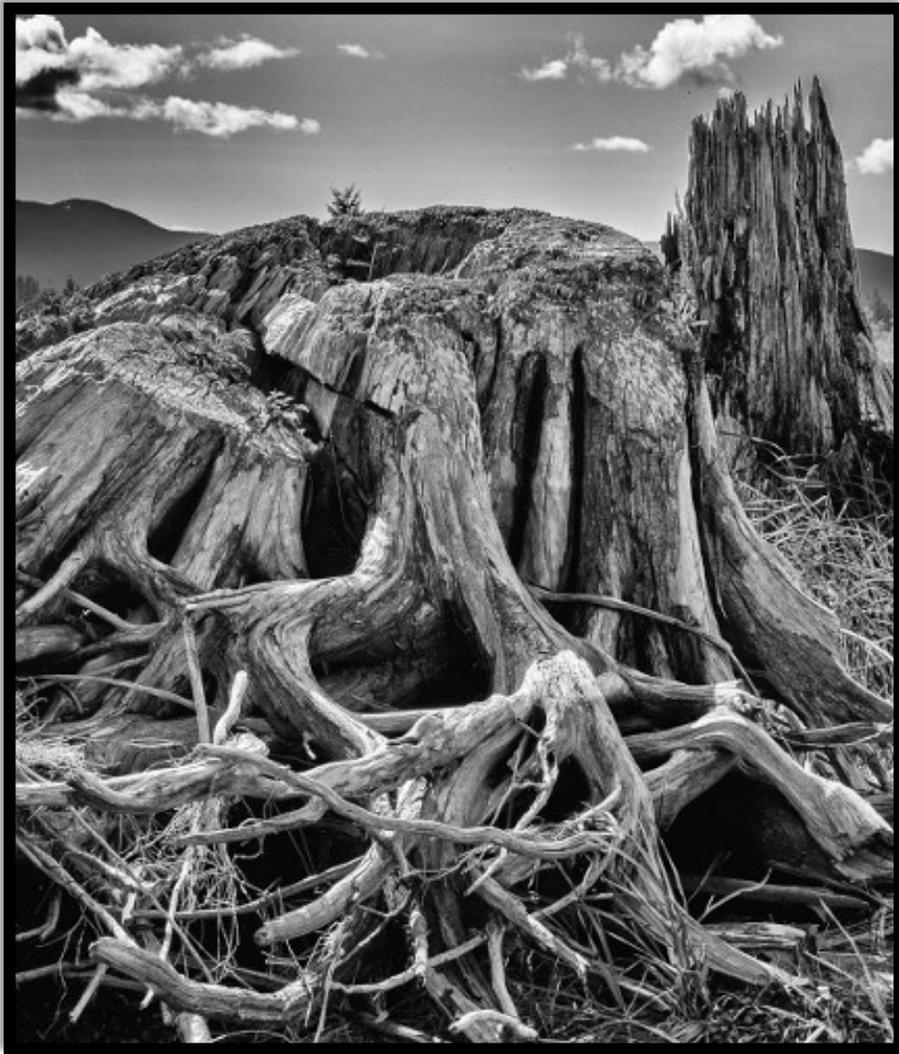


THIRD

Donna Wickstrom *Swirls and Curls*



Linda Lundstrom *Serenity on Wooden Bench*



FIRST

Kevin McGuinness

Estuary at Low Tide



Gail Courtice

Driftwood

SECOND



THIRD

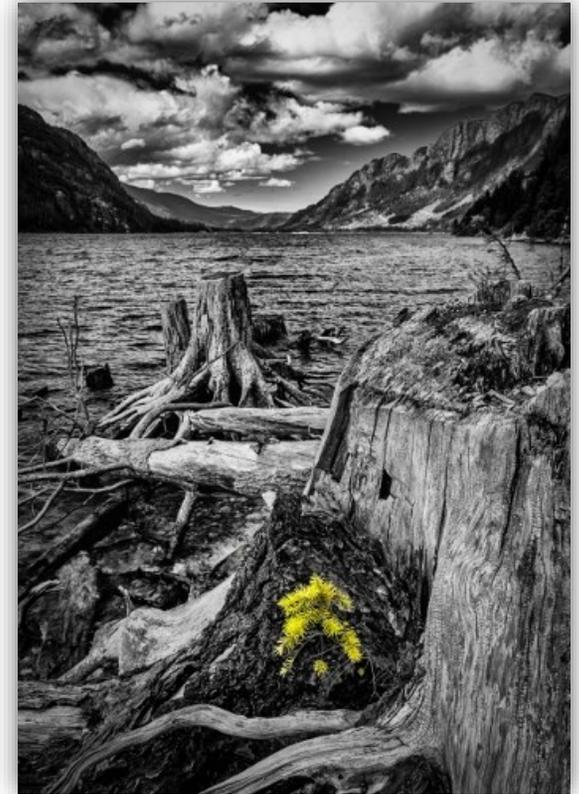
Sheila Hepton

Oaked



FIRST

Janice Austin
Sunlight Beyond



SECOND

Kevin McGuinness *Buttle Lake*



Donna Wickstrom *Beach Sculpture*



Steve Price-Francis *Wormhole*



**HONOURABLE
MENTION**

Libby Lovis *enchanted wood*

THIRD tied

Grabbed from the camera bag

Duplicating a photo with an iPad

David Popham wanted to duplicate a photo on his iPad so that he could apply app effects to it without destroying the original version. He emailed the picture to himself, thus easily getting an identical copy. Another way is to open a Drop-box account, drop in the picture and retrieve it again.

Photo apps which say they are non destructive save changes as a new version of the image without destroying the original, in which case you wouldn't need to create a duplicate first.

Oops!! Geoff Hallett snapped this picture in Panshan, China.



“You cannot depend on your eyes if your imagination is out of focus.”

—Mark Twain

Gear reviews and more

Gail Courtice suggests this site which features reviews of cameras and other photo gear.

<http://www.cameralabs.com/reviews/digital-camera-and-lens-reviews.shtml>

The site includes video tours of products as well as tutorials and workshops and forums on a wide range of topics.

Ugly Hedgehog Photo Forum

Marcie Gauntlett: The **"Ugly Hedgehog"** is just about the best photography forum I have ever found on the Net. It contains many different sections for your photos, questions about almost anything re cameras and photos possible. Many super photographers offer great ideas and information. Also an easy section for submitting photos where other photogs comment and/or critique. Even a section for "other" subjects - I guess if you get bored with photos - imagine! It's a fascinating place...and hard to stop reading and looking! <http://www.uglyhedgehog.com/>

One more Bute Inlet bear....photo by Paul Edelenbos



This photo by Ed Dunnett of the Goodlife Fitness Victoria Marathon (Sunday Oct 13th) comes with two stories attached:

First, one of the founders of this race is OP Lifetime Member Robin Pearson. You can read more about his connection to the race at <http://www.pqbnews.com/sports/173951621.html>

Second, Ed's picture can be seen on CBC's BC Almanac 'Listeners' Lens', something for other OP members to consider as a display site for their shots. http://www.cbc.ca/bcalmanac/photogallery/#igImgId_82424

You're a photographer if....

- You have 30,000 family photos neatly categorized in Lightroom. None of them are of you.
- Your carry-on is heavier than your checked bags
- You choose to buy the shirt that most closely resembles 18% gray
- You've gotten a ticket for an illegal u-turn— to go back for THE shot
- When performing daily duties, you adjust the angle of your head or change your line of vision for a more interesting composition