



Volume 6 Number 10

February 2014

Shutterbug

NEWS LETTER





Shutterbug

Newsletter

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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 at:

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 by Les McLean, taken at Van Dusen Botanical Garden.
F6.7 1/60 sec ISO 200 Exposure bias -0.5 steps
Metering—pattern

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





Wally Chinn sets up his slide show
Photo by Michael Van der Ree

January General Meeting

About 80 members and guests filled the Windsor Room to enjoy a vicarious trip to the Galapagos Islands—the perfect antidote to a rainy winter evening. Guest speaker Wally Chinn earned enthusiastic applause for a presentation that was both instructive and entertaining.

On the business side, members readily voted in favour of raising membership dues from \$30 to \$36 per year.

Coming up in February

General Meeting Wednesday Feb 5th: Guest speaker Robin Lafleur on iPhonography
7-9pm QB Civic Centre

Field Trip Sunday Feb 9th: [Deep Bay Marine Research Station](#) with lunch at [Deez Bar and Grill](#)
Please check in with Gail at the Research Station at 10am if you plan to come for lunch.

Education Meeting Tuesday Feb 17th
7-9pm QB Civic Centre

Exhibitions

Participating members' pictures were hung at the **Quality Resort Bay-side** after Christmas and will be on display until the end of January. *Correction:* This show will not be renewed monthly as mistakenly reported in the last edition. However our club has been invited to participate in another here display during the Brant Festival in March.

Exhibition Director Vivienne's photos (right) show the wall and the 'hanging party'— David Blackmore, Kevin McGuinness, Gail Courtice, Vivienne Bearder and Levonne Gaddy.

The OP display of b&w photos at Brie Café will change over at the end of January. Anyone interested in participating may send jpeg images to Vivienne for consideration by the café owners.



Where OP members live

Qualicum Beach	46	Port Alberni	2
Parksville	35	Errington	1
Nanoose Bay	9	Salmon Arm (lifetime member)	1
Nanaimo	3	Comox	1
Bowser	3	Not known	5

Total membership at January meeting 106

Club doings, cont'd

OP member Wayne Buhr exhibits at The Mac

About sixty people attended an opening reception January 10th for the three artists exhibiting at the McMillan Arts Centre throughout this month. Wayne's framed photos filled the Nemeth Gallery and his unframed prints in plastic sleeves were displayed on shelves and tables in what used to be the gift shop, offering a generous overview of his extensive output the past decade and confirming his mastery of candid street shots—surely one of the more challenging genres in photography.

Ordinary people in exotic places are a dominant theme for Wayne: figures in the context of where they live and what they do, close-up details of hands at work (wielding a straight razor, smoking a cigarette), and unforgettable head shots with eyes staring directly at the camera and by extension, at the viewer.

It was interesting to see different versions of the same image. One, rendered in subtle earth tones, carried a totally different impact when done with a colour shift and more saturated colours. Above, one of the images on display which was also the cover photo for the August issue of OP Shutterbug.



By Editor

January field trip

Fifteen members took part in the photo shoot at Art Knapp Plantland in Courtenay and most stayed to lunch at the Timber Room Pub. For the benefit of new members, here are some good reasons to participate in the monthly field trips:

—Both the shoot and the lunch are relaxed and informal, making it easy to chat with fellow members and get to know them.

—It provides a good opportunity for sharing information, asking questions and comparing notes about gear and techniques

—It provides a way of sharing your photos with the club in an anonymous, non-judgmental way: you may send up to six of your photos taken during the field trip to fieldtrips@oceansidephotographers.ca for inclusion in a slideshow seen at the next general meeting.

—Some members use this as an opportunity to find a shot to fulfill that month's photo assignment, as the field trip is usually chosen with the assignment subject in mind. For instance the next field trip is to the Deep Bay Marine Research Station, and an upcoming assignment is *Nautical*.

—For members new to Oceanside, the field trips provide a way to learn about some of the most scenic and interesting places in the area.

—It's fun!



Jack Harynyk (above left); Vivienne Bearder and Gary Wilson (above right) at Art Knapp Plantland. Photos by Gail Courtice.

Field trip group at Crown Isle Resort's Timber Room Pub. Photos below by Lynn Page



When I signed up for a Photo Workshop way back in 2006, I was given a list of requirements, one being a reflector. After going to the trouble of ordering one from London Drugs I found that I did not need it at the work shop, as the portrait instructor had lots.

A short while after the workshop, I decided that it was high time I used this fairly expensive piece of equipment. I set up the red roses that Dave gave me for Valentine's Day, attached my camera to the tripod and unzipped the 16" diameter black case that houses the reflector. Well, the thing leapt out of the case like a caged bird set free, but with a diameter of four feet! The problem came when I tried to put this huge, metal rimmed cloth circle back into the case. There were no instructions of course, and try as I might to bend and twist it, it would not cooperate. Admittedly, I made some interesting shapes, but not THE right shape to fit back into the case. Dave also made an unsuccessful attempt. It was like trying to control a flailing child in the middle of a temper tantrum.

In the midst of wrestling the reflector, Dave hit on an idea. He reminded me that we needed new passport pictures, so why not take the reflector with us when we got our photos taken? At that time we could ask the photographer to show us how to fold it. Surely he would know?

While we waited for our passport photos to be processed, I got the reflector out of the car and took it to the photographer. After fiddling

with the wire frame and getting nowhere, the man admitted defeat, so we were back to square one.

We looked at our passports photos in dismay. Canada has charming new regulations for passport pictures. No smiling. Remove eye glasses. Just give a blank stare at the camera. I looked at my photo and immediately went into a depression. Do I really look that glum and that OLD! I was starring at someone that looked as if they were in the final stages of dementia. Dave wasn't happy with his photo either and so we left the store defeated on two counts. People stared at me as I walked through the mall holding the reflector like a sail. Perhaps they thought I had trained a poodle to jump through the hoop to entertain them.

Not to be defeated by several metres of fabric stretched taut on a flexible wire frame, Dave, ever helpful in a time of crisis, suggested that we try the other photo shop in Parksville. The new place looked more promising as they advertised portrait photography. I optimistically approached the counter and ask if the photographer was in. I was informed he was not. Crestfallen, I told the young lady my dilemma. She thought that Janice might be able to help and went to fetch her. Janice was young...young enough to be my granddaughter. She took the reflector and with a quick twist of her wrist reduced it to sixteen inches. I asked her to go over it once more. She did.

We thanked her profusely and, somewhat humbled, departed with the reflector now safely ensconced in its case.

The trouble is, will I ever have the courage to release that monster again? Will I remember how to fold it up and place it securely back in its cage? On second thought, I think I'll take Freeman Patterson's advice and use crinkled tin foil, or white Bristol board! They are low tech enough that even I can handle them. Maybe!



Gavin Hoey to the rescue!!

"Getting a circular reflector back in its case is one of the hardest things in photography" says photography educator Gavin Hoey, and he created a video to demonstrate a simple technique for doing so. The numerous grateful comments he receives prove that this is indeed a prickly problem for many people.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjlsP9KDjcs>

One of my occupations over the holidays has been to go through my archive of photos. What I'm trying to accomplish is to have all the "keepers" named appropriately and filed so they can be easily retrieved. The "losers" were deleted. After years of accumulation you can imagine the scope of this project.

Photos are scattered across various hard drives and through the years I have used whatever file system that seemed best at the time. Now I'm renaming files so the first word in the file name will trigger a memory to make them instantly recognizable.

What follows are notes I made while going through the steps involved in this less glamorous aspect of photography.

- Keep your photo file system as simple as possible. Using the file system within the operating system is the simplest way to organize files (photos). Organizers with programs such as Picasa, Elements, Lightroom or Bridge, for instance, can be problematic down the road. The OS will always be there.
- The **F2** key on the top row of your keyboard will activate the **Rename** option for the file (photo or not) that is currently highlighted.
- Using shortcut keys will speed up the process. Particularly useful are the **Home**, **End** and the **arrow keys**. The Home key will take

you to the beginning of a line and the End key, ... I'll let you guess.

- Double clicking on a word will highlight the whole word. You don't have to backspace or delete the word – just start typing the replacement word.
- If you have two versions of a photo, original and modified for instance, keep the file names consistent. Example: Frank smiling .jpg / Frank smiling **edit 1** .jpg This will keep the photos together in your viewer / organizer.
- Leave a space between the last word in a file name and the period that is the file extension separator. Example: **Fish jumping^.jpg** with a space between the g in jumping and the period. This will facilitate single word searches using the word "jumping". The ^ indicates a space.
- **Start the first word in a file name with a single word (or two word combination) that will trigger a specific memory.** In some cases it may be important to use wording that other people will recognize.
- Batch renaming one day's photo shoot (with consecutive numbering intact), before deleting or editing individual images, will keep file numbers in order. After renaming you have numbering that refers back to the original file numbers.
- Some cameras allow you to shoot both file

types in one press of the shutter. Batch rename all the RAW separately and then all the JPG's in a separate batch when you have both file types in the same shoot. Again, this will keep the file numbering consistent.

- When renaming files individually it can be helpful to select and **Copy (Ctrl or Cmd +C)** names to use to **Paste (Ctrl or Cmd +V)** into the next instance.
- Keep names as short as possible. It's not a good idea to use abbreviations unless you use them on a regular basis and it is how you associate names with places, events, etc. If you are using the same brand of camera you can delete the first four letters (the prefix to the numbering) to further shorten the file name. Example: every file name begins with IMG_ or DSC_. You can discard this prefix.
- Use symbols that the operating system (Windows or Apple OS will accept) to give photos 'favourite' ratings. I have been using the \$\$\$ (dollar) sign but you can use the asteric or underscore and others instead. You can also use letters of the alphabet. If the OS doesn't like the one you've chosen, it will let you know. Example: **Frank's Fish \$\$\$\$.DNG**
- Using symbols in file names allow you to search for and find all your top rated images (in my case "\$\$\$\$") in less time than it

took you to read this sentence.

- You can create folders with ratings in the file name. These are examples of what this might look like:



- Keep it simple. Do not bury photos inside folders > inside folders > inside folders > inside folders.

Example: My Photos > Scenic > Beaches or My Photos > Scenic > Mountains. From that point you can have all the beach or mountain photos with the name of the subject in the file name. File paths can become too long for search to work (over 256 characters). You would be surprised by how easy it is to go over 256.

- If you use abbreviations or symbols as a code to represent a word or a process, make a note somewhere else in the event you forget what it stood for later.
- To designate photos that have been marked with a copyright or watermark you can use (c) in the file name.
- For Windows users I strongly recommend FastStone Image Viewer for viewing, organ-

izing, batch or single file renaming. FastStone Image Viewer is a free download to home users and is the best I have found. The options and features within it are almost endless. Download it from www.faststone.org. While there check out their other photo-centric software. If you like the software, please consider donating to support the work they have done on your behalf.

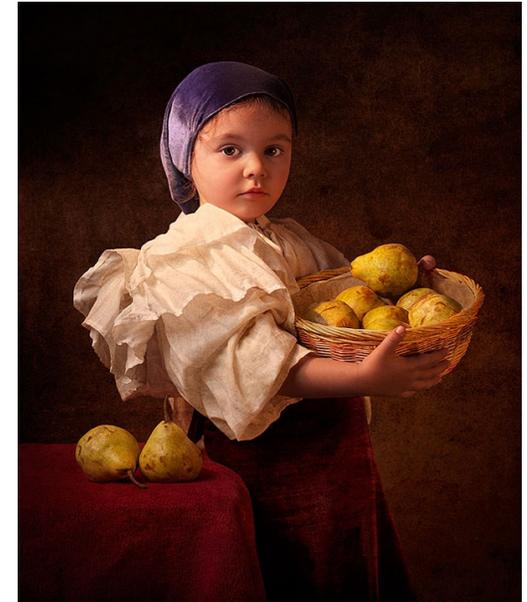
- Keep in mind that you are cataloging and making accessible your **best** images. This is the time to delete all the not-so-good. The only exception I make is when I keep one example of a subject I want to re-shoot. I can't emphasize this too much; get rid of the second rate and the clutter it represents.

- You may be thinking that this is an involved and complicated process and depending on the number of files you are dealing with, that could be the case. My suggestion is to attack the project in small, manageable chunks by allocating a set amount of time per session so you don't get overwhelmed. Chipping away on the job will lead to the point when you see the light at the end. Remember, it's all about the light.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact me at les4more@ymail.com **Note: that's Y Mail, not G Mail.** Y Mail is a variant of Yahoo Mail.

Replicating the Old Masters

Suggested by Marcie Gauntlett,
compiled by Frieda Van der Ree



We can learn a lot by trying to do what others have successfully done. Bill Gekas as a prime example of this. The self-taught Melbourne photographer has gained a considerable international reputation with his images that replicate paintings by Renaissance, Dutch, Flemish and Italian masters (see photo above).

With his young daughter as model and his wife helping with costumes and staging he meticulously re-creates in photographs the textures, colours and most especially the light of classic painted works.

More examples of his work can be seen on his website gallery at <http://www.billgekas.com/>. The site also includes an extensive list of international photography competitions he has won.

Continued on next page

- What can be thrown like a ball and take panoramic shots in mid air?
- What has 36 lenses with a total resolution of 108 megapixels?
- What product went from a master's thesis to nearly market-ready within three years, with international patents pending and over a 1.1 million dollars raised via crowdsourcing on indiegogo within a few months?

Preliminary Product Specifications



Diameter:	4.33 inches (11 cm)
Weight:	0.66 pounds (300 grams)
Camera body:	Tough clear plastic
Cameras:	36 fixed focus cameras
Total resolution:	108 megapixels
Mobile App:	for iOS6+ and Android4+

The answer to all of these is the Panono panoramic ball camera, dreamed up and developed by a student at the Technical University of Berlin. Jonas Pfeil thought of the idea while vacationing in Tonga and developed it as the subject of his master's thesis. He partnered with two fellow students to found Panono GmbH, the company that hopes to bring the camera to market later this year. The camera is able to take 360° panoramic images with no need for stitching. The images can be instantly viewed on a tablet or PC, be shared via social media, be stored on a Panono company cloud, or up to 400 panoramic images can be stored on board the camera for later downloading. The camera is expected to retail for about \$600.



Company website with explanatory video:

<http://www.panono.com/ballcamera/>

To pre-order one on indiegogo: <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/panono-panoramic-ball-camera>

Photo from website

Replicating the Old Masters (continued from previous page)

In Dec/Jan 2013 f11 Magazine <http://www.f11magazine.com/site/> (a free online Australian photo journal recommended by Gail Courtice in last month's Shutterbug) featured an interview with Gekas, in which he gives detailed explanations of his lighting techniques and setups. <http://issuu.com/f11magazine/docs/issue17-decemberjanuary2013?e=3147757/2472794>

Sometimes the replication is more subtle; a combination of colours, a relationship between shapes, or a mood in a painting become a frame of reference for a photograph. In his blog, a breakdown of creating "Ivy" (seen at right), an image which took its inspiration from a work by Monet, affords a fascinating look at his creative process.



<http://billgekas.blogspot.ca/2013/11/ivy->

Words from Bill Gekas:

..truth is I don't consider gear at all and find it's the main barrier between a creative mind and the scene at hand.

The technicalities of photography can be mastered; the art of photography is a life-long journey of exploration.

FIRST

Vivienne Bearder

Christmas Market



SECOND

Roy Watts

Reflections



THIRD

Ed Mosier

Happy Santa



FOURTH

Libby Lovis

Christmas Cheer

FIRST

Libby Lovis

Old Christmas



SECOND

Jack Harynuik

Carolers



THIRD

Cliff Anderson

Snow Person



FOURTH

Ian Dewar

Humbug and Baaa





FIRST

Frieda Van der Ree

The Other Side of Dark



SECOND

Libby Lovis

Old Fashioned Xmas

THIRD

Ed Dunnett

Surprise



Grabbed from the camera bag

Photos on the web

Are you ever disappointed at the way some of your photos look on the web? Sometimes my web postings of photos look different from what I have on my computer. In particular, low light colour shots sometimes look washed out on the web. And black and white looks a little bland. If so here is what I do and it works pretty well:

For colour shots, I check the result on the web after posting it. If it looks washed out, I go back to the photo using my photo editing program and boost the colour saturation a bit. This makes the colours stand out more. Then I post again and check the result. Going back and forth I can get the web photo to look the way I want.

For black and white, the trick I use is to boost the contrast in my photo editing program. This makes the photo much more striking.

Remember it is not what you post to the internet that matters. It is how it looks on the web that counts.

Ed Dunnett



Flipboard for photographers

I highly recommend the social media app Flipboard. I have it installed on my iPad. In Flipboard you can see a host of photography articles and photos daily. You can set up your own account and save articles to your own site you wish to use later.

For example, yesterday I saved a superb article on how to do HDR (high dynamic range) photo editing. I have wanted to do this for a long time but have been hesitant to get involved because of very inconsistent results I have actually observed to date in actual HDR photos. The Flipboard method involves using Lightroom and a Photomatrix plugin. Demonstrated results are superb and it is easy to use.

Through Flipboard I also access a superb set of photos from the Guardian which I enjoy daily. Give Flipboard a try—it's free.

Ed Dunnett

More about Flipboard...

Flipboard is a social-network aggregation app for Android, Windows, Blackberry 10 and iOS. It collects the content of social media and other websites and presents it in magazine format, allowing users to 'flip' through selected feeds. Click [here](#) to see a video demo of Flipboard for Windows. Available at the App Store, Windows Store, Google Play and Blackberry World.

(Sources: Wikipedia and Flipboard website)



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.photography

The new domain *.photography* will be of interest to anyone about to launch a photography-related website. The links in the screenshot above aren't active but you can [click here](#) for more information.

Suggested by Marcie Gauntlett



Chesterman Beach, Tofino by Ray Griffith