



SHUTTERBUG

Volume 8 Number 1

NEWSLETTER

May 2015



Life's a Beach

Photograph by: Dennis Ritchie

Oceanside Photographers Club Welcomes Visitors

Visitors 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 \$48 for the first year (which includes a name tag) and \$36 per year after that. Dues are prorated monthly between June and April.



Meeting Times

OPC General Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in the East Hall at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

OPC Education Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in Windsor Room at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Bring your camera and manual if you would like help.

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

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THE SHUTTERBUG: 

This newsletter is published monthly via posting to the club website.

Back issues can also be accessed from the website.

Many thanks to everyone who offered submissions, encouragement and feedback during our term!

Frieda Van der Ree, Editor

Dennis Ritchie, Design and Production

CLUB MEETINGS:

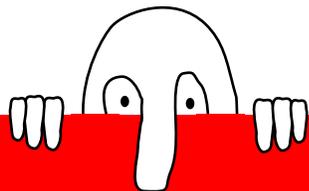
Please remember to wear your name tag to club meetings and events.

Lost your tag? See Debra at the welcome desk to order another.

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

Affiliations:

Oceanside Photography Club is a member of the Canadian Association of Photographic Arts.



WANTED: SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER AS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This issue of the OP Shutterbug is the last one produced by Frieda and Dennis. If the club is going to continue being served by a newsletter then someone needs to volunteer.

Please contact Frieda (newsletter.opc@gmail.com) with any questions you may have about doing the project. An incoming editor would get lots of help and support.



For Club Executive contact information, Upcoming General Meetings, Field Trips, Education Meetings and assignments please visit the OPC Website <http://oceansidephotographers.ca/wp/>

Update on Lifetime Members

by Frieda Van der Ree

Oceanside Photographers has awarded three lifetime memberships to people for their very special contributions to the club. For my final issue as editor I thought it would be fitting to catch up with these special members.



Dave Courtice had a key role in setting the club back on track when it had gone off the rails and almost folded, and during his term as president he overhauled the constitution to make sure the club stayed on track. Dave is still an active presence in OP. Lately his attention has been on writing rather than photography and the result, a memoir of his life working as a veterinarian, has just been published: [If Pets Could Talk is available as an e-book or a paper copy.](#)

Both **Ed** and **Robin** have moved out of the area – Ed first to Armstrong and now in Stavely, Alberta and Robin to Comox and Mexico – so I asked them to send a short update of their lives as well as a few of their recent photos.

Ed Mosier served several terms as treasurer and overlapping much of this time also took on the judging portfolio. Judging at that time involved a special meeting of the executive to study, discuss and rate every printed image--no online voting then! For overseeing this process Ed probably deserves a sainthood as well as a lifetime membership. He still submits photos to club assignments occasionally.



I have attached pictures taken since I moved here, the road sign indicating our town of Stavely, a scene just west of town in foothills country, a sunrise just east of town and a visitor to our feeding station which I used for my Christmas cards.

In January I had the pleasure of presenting a slide show to my local gardening club here in Stavely. Several people expressed interest in purchasing my work. I also have given myself a new challenge by recently purchasing a new Nikon D5200 camera and hope to master producing HDR Images.

I have not found any camera clubs close to where we live as yet but something may turn up. We go for drives in every direction and I'm always looking for that next great landscape or old building and hope to get

Update on Lifetime Members continued

lots of pics of water birds in the many sloughs in the area. Inspired by what Randy Hall is doing I have placed almost 200 images on the Fine Art America site (<http://ed-mosier.fineartamerica.com/>) Maybe I'll sell something. I have also formed two groups on their site for Roses and Garden flowers. The site is a great way to see what other photographers and artists are producing.

All the best to you and the club...Ed



Robin Pearson, a founding member of the club, started the club newsletter. He designed the club logo and singlehandedly produced a monthly issue from May 2008 until the end of 2011 when Gail Courtice took over the job. Robin's were paper copies, printed by AGS Business Systems in return for their advertising on the back cover.

Update on Lifetime Members continued

Being a founding member of the Oceanside Photographers is something that I am very proud of. Now that I have moved to Comox I still love taking photos but only on a personal level. That is, I have not joined a club. Every winter my wife Vicki and I live in La Manzanilla, Jalisco, Mexico for four months. This place is super photogenic! A truly great place for any photographer. Frequently I post my best photos on the La Manzanilla message board. Another ex-pat David Dagoli does the same and we compete to see who gets the better shots.

On a more personal note: here in La Manzanilla I help teach the kids how to play softball, I teach Jive classes once a week, play bocce on the beach and poker at friends Casa's each week. Then of course there is swimming and parties at Palapa Joe's. Back in Comox last summer I played my last (eleventh) season of rep softball with my Parksville team, The Breakers. Vicki and I joined Probus and do all kinds of things with them when we are not in Mexico. Life is good!

Best wishes to the Oceanside Photographer's members. Your shots that are displayed in the newsletters are very impressive and I wish you all continued success...Robin



A Frost Project

by Cliff Anderson

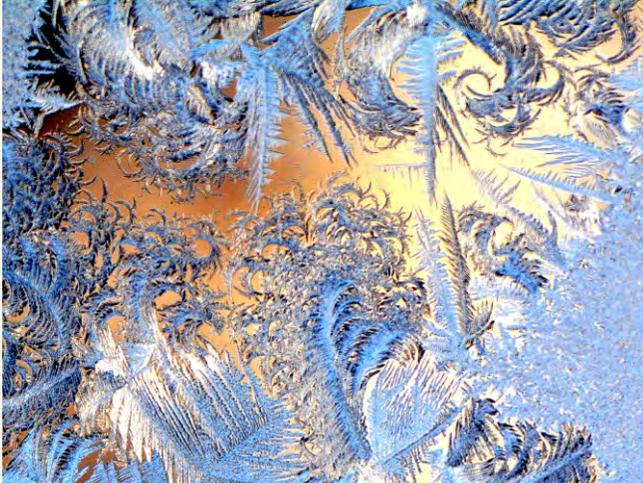
During our recent stay in Calgary, we experienced perfect conditions for the deposition of frost crystals with a reasonably out of focus background. The house we were staying in had a north-facing window above the kitchen sink. The window looked out at a crabapple tree in the back yard. The window was a dual pane aluminum slider with about a 4 inch space between the inside sliding pane and the fixed outside pane. Only a few days in January produced the ideal conditions for frost crystal growth. On those days, the temperature was about -17 degrees Celsius in the morning and -3 degrees Celsius in the afternoon. The frost crystals formed slowly under these conditions where a humid air mass between the window panes was trapped. The photos were shot through the inside window to capture the frost patterns growing on the inside of the outer window pane. Hence, some of the images are not as sharp as others. I had no choice but to shoot through the inside window pane and to focus on the inside of the outside window pane. If I had opened the inside sliding window pane, the crystal growth would have been disturbed and destroyed.

The photographs of the frost crystals over the three days of perfect conditions were interesting, varied, and exotic. The background of the out of focus crabapple tree provided added interest along with the changing lighting conditions.

These shots were taken with a Nikon D7100 camera and either a 105 macro lens or a Nikon 24 – 120 lens. The best results were with the macro lens.



A Frost Project continued



Updating Firmware on Cameras and Lenses

by Frieda Van der Ree

Have you updated the firmware on your camera and lenses lately? New versions may come with improvements to functionality and fixes for problems.

First, determine which firmware version is in your camera. Your manual should be able to help you find it. In my Sony a6000 I found the version info within the Setup Menu.

Now go to the camera (or lens) manufacturer's website and look under software and updates to find the latest version available for your model. My camera came out of the box with v1.0; two updates have been released since this camera model came out. The latest firmware version usually incorporates the contents of previous ones. The list of versions will include what changes/fixes/additions each contains.

The Sony site explains the process step by step

- where to find the firmware version info in my camera
- computer requirements (available hard disk space, RAM, operating system version)
- warned me to use a fully charged camera battery and only the USB cable supplied with the camera
- advised me to close all other programs, clear the taskbar and set the computer so it wouldn't go into sleep mode during the download
- said to remove the memory card from the camera before starting.

Every step came with cautions and warnings highlighted in red. The process is not reversible, and once started cannot be interrupted without risking serious harm to the camera. With only a week to go before a major trip, I decided now was not the time to tackle this project, but it's on my Do List when I return.



"now let's see... the blue wire goes... hmmm...
maybe I'll just update the firmware"

WORTH DISCUSSING

At the May AGM, Libby Lovis will finish her final term as Education Director, a ship she has so capably steered since it was first launched in April 2010. Going forward, we need new ideas and people to carry them out. We need discussion. To that end Shelley offers her analysis of the SIGs, which have been an on-again off-again component of the club's education program..Editor

Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Dead or Sleeping?

by Shelley Harynuk

We have tried various formats, various leaders and various topics but despite our best efforts we have not been able to breathe any life into the Special Interest Groups. There was a lot of interest when we started out - so many signed up for so many SIGs and then realized just how difficult it was going to be to attend just one extra event per month let alone five or six.

Why they should have worked:

- like minded people getting together to improve their skills on specific topics or techniques
- being able to contribute the knowledge each member of the SIGs might have so as to help other members of the group
- going on field trips in smaller numbers to achieve something specific
- getting to know other members in a learning environment
- being able to ask questions of one another in a group with one topic in mind.
- having a leader to coordinate meetings of SIGs

Why they didn't work:

- members overwhelmed by the amount of extra time they would have to commit to in order to be part of SIGs
- group leaders were expected to be teachers rather than facilitators
- finding times to accommodate all members was challenging
- group members' wide range of knowledge levels made it difficult to meet the needs of everyone in the group

Libby and Frieda did everything they could to promote the SIGs and will continue to arrange special get-togethers in the future on specific topics if there is enough interest. (Note from Frieda: Six people met at Lefty's in March to share tips on working with layers in Elements, and more such meetings are planned. Watch for notices.)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Dead or Sleeping? continued

It is interesting to note that the most popular SIG and the only one still regularly meeting is the Coffee SIG. For all intents and purposes this get-together is not actually a SIG rather an opportunity for our members to get to know one another and ask casual questions about photographic techniques or organizing outings. This will continue.

How does this affect the Education Meetings?

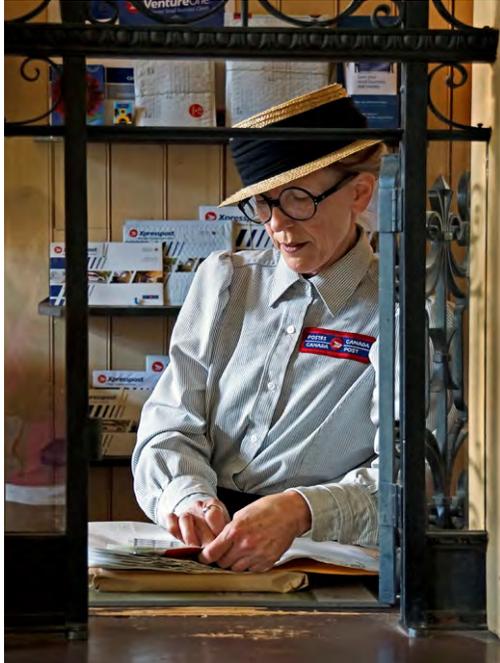
Generally speaking the format of the Education Meetings has been: a slide show and discussion of assignment results from the previous meeting, then introduction and carrying out of the hands-on project scheduled for that evening. Members are notified beforehand what the project will be so they'll know what equipment to bring along. From time to time there will be a speaker, primarily drawn from our membership, but by and large it will be a time for learning new techniques or increasing knowledge about techniques already being used. The programmes are followed by informal discussion groups and based on these some members may decide to further pursue a specific topic at another time and place.

We welcome your feedback on this or any other topic. Join the Management Team and be a part of the changes you want to see in the club.



Assignment: **Faces**

Category: **Colour**



Postal Clerk



Inge Mcdonald



Sheer Delight



Jack Harynuk



Seattle Public Utilities



Ken Meisner



Happy Girl



Tuomo Jantunen

Assignment: **Faces**

Category: **Black & White**



Charlie at Watch



Levonne Gaddy



Old Cowpoke



Ken Ginther



Soul Music



Clifford Anderson

Assignment: **Faces**

Category: **Digital Art**



Bella Coola Fisherman



Vivienne Bearder



Seattle Street Performer



Ken Meisner



How's your day Ma'am?



Inge McDonald

Grabbed from the Camera Bag

10 Rules of Photo Composition and Why They Work

Click [here](#) for this article in Digital Camera World. Submitted by *Gail Courtice*



These images, by photographers of the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information, are some of the only color photographs taken of the effects of the Depression on America's rural and small town populations. The photographs are the property of the Library of Congress. <http://extras.denverpost.com/archive/captured.asp>



Recent additions to the OP library by *Michael Van der Ree*

Digital Photography: a boxed set of five books by Scott Kelby. The lessons in each book are short, concise and easy to absorb.

52 Weekend Digital Photo Projects: learn new camera, equipment and processing techniques by trying out these fun projects.



Library books are brought to both the general meetings and the education meetings. Please use the sign-out sheet and return borrowed books within a month.



Reminder to Members

Members please take note of new members and visitors at the general meeting and make an effort to make them feel welcome.



Show your **OP membership card** to **get discounts** at the following businesses:

Island Exposures Art Gallery--15%

183 W Island Hwy, Parksville

The Source--10% on printer ink

701 Memorial Ave, QB

Qualicum Stationers and Art Gallery--10%

Ste 101-206 First Ave W, QB

London Drugs, Rutherford Mall--10% off all photo printing and photography gear (that is not on sale).

4750 Rutherford Rd, Nanaimo

