



# Shutterbug

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 Number 2 June 2017



## OCEANSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

### WELCOMES VISITORS

Visitors may attend two free meetings (either/or general meeting or education meeting) before deciding whether to join the club. 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 afterwards. Dues are prorated monthly for new members joining between June and April.

### MEETING TIMES

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

Education Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Windsor Room at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre except during July, August and December.

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

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### OPS SHUTTERBUG TEAM

Vivienne Bearder - Director  
 Frieda Van der Ree - Design and Layout  
 Shelley Harynuk - Support and Planning  
 John Critchley - Support and Planning

**COVER PHOTO** by Jack Harynuk taken with a Canon EOS 5D Mark III.

Exposure 0.8 sec at f9; ISO 400; Metering - pattern

### SHUTTERBUG

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

### SUBMISSIONS

The newsletter team welcomes suggestions, questions, ideas and photos that illustrate club activities.

Sold an image? Exhibiting? Win a photo contest? Been travelling and have a story and images to share? Other members would be interested in hearing about it.

Please send material to the newsletter team at:

[newsletter.opc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.opc@gmail.com)

### CLUB MEETINGS

Please remember to wear your name tag to club meetings and events. To replace a lost nametag see Frieda at the membership desk or email to

[membership.opc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.opc@gmail.com)

Due to allergies, asthma and other conditions, we request that you do not use any fragrance when attending club meetings.

### AFFILIATIONS

Oceanside Photography Society is a member of the Canadian Association of Photographic Art.



## Shooting Fireworks from the Beach by Jack Harynuk

I had my third outing for shooting fireworks at the *QF Festival of Lights - Canada 150* down on the main public beach. I'm still experimenting with getting fireworks and will try something different next time. This past year, I did some milky way shooting but it's been two years since I tried fireworks so I went and checked my camera settings from two years ago. I use a Canon 5D3 and always shoot maximum raw image. I used a 24-105mm lens back then and remembered that I had zoomed in for most shots and missed some of the water level action. So for this outing I decided to use a 16-35mm lens and then relied on cropping for my image selection. I also found myself in a different location this year on the beach right across from the Qualicum Beach Inn so the barge was almost in line with the set-



ting sun. After my first trial shots, I found that there was a lot more ambient light than on my previous outing. The skies were clear with a very thin new moon; I used it to set the focus to infinity, this is essential to get the fireworks in focus.



My equipment included a lawn chair, a fleecy and a light jacket; you don't want to start getting chilly and then have to find a washroom and miss some shots. Once the sun was down, they were needed. My camera equipment also included a tripod, a remote cable release, a 16-35mm lens and a 24-105mm lens as 'backup'. The camera settings were Bulb mode, ISO 400, aperture F9 and most shots in the 30 to 35mm focal length range. I used manual focus with the focus set to infinity. As it turns out, i could have used my 'backup' lens at about 80mm but I was already set up and didn't want to miss the action.



For my initial shots, I had 'live view' on so I could ensure that everything I wanted was in the frame. On

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my previous outing, I was shooting straight into the sky with no horizon or ambient light and many of those shots were in the 5 second range. This time, I blew out a few initial shots when I held the button for a two-count and found that if I held the shutter open for about half a second the image looked reasonable. Personally, I don't rely on using the LCD panel for anything more than setting the focus with live view and general framing of the shot. I try to time a shot from when I hear the boom to when I expect the firework to appear and that takes practice.

So, about twenty minutes and nearly 200 images later, I was packing up and heading home to see how things went. I'm a Lightroom user and for these images I did tend to follow the workflow that Rick Hulbert outlined to us. His technique doesn't work for some of my shooting but it did for these. I've included an original image so you can see how I'm comfortable with not filling the frame and then later relying on cropping; sometimes severe cropping.

Enjoy your outing and I hope this helps with your fireworks shots!



Original image



Cropped image



## CANADA 150

### WHERE TO CATCH THE ACTION

#### Parksville:

<http://www.parkvillechamber.com/events/celebrate-canada-day>

#### Qualicum Beach:

<http://www.harbourliving.ca/event/canada-150-celebration-in-qualicum-beach/2017-07-01/>



**DIGITECH**

By John Critchley

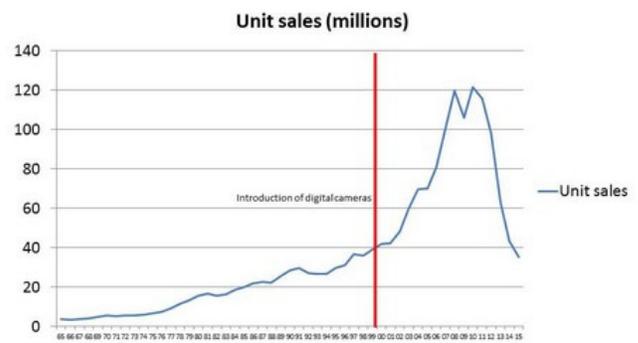
**DIGITAL CAMERAS - THE STATE OF THE ART**

Sales of compact Digital Cameras, and other types, as judged by the sales figures of the major camera manufacturers, are in a steep decline. In particular, Nikon because they are not only suffering from steadily and steeply declining sales of Interchangeable Lens Cameras (ILC) but also because they are losing market share to Canon. The other member of the ILC triumvirate, Sony, is also losing sales, but is maintaining market share better than Nikon. Despite this trend, Nikon continues to be "relatively healthy" according to noted Nikon expert Thom Hogan.

(<http://www.dsrlrbodies.com/newsviews/about-nikons-financials.html> ).

(<https://www.dpreview.com/news/1794776925/interchangeable-lens-camera-sales-steady-as-canon-profits-plunge>).

**Total camera sales 1965-2015**



Canon is not immune from the shrinking market either. "Canon Japan reported flat ILC unit sales as one of the bright points in first quarter reports that saw a 17.5% fall in net income. A strengthening Yen, poor performance in the laser printer business and continued decline in compact camera sales combined to give the company a tough quarter."

Nikon imaging sales have fallen by almost 50% since the peak of 2012 and there is no sign that the bottom is even in sight, let alone approaching. Nikon needs sales volume to make sense of its production capabilities and so they have cut support, service and everything else they can to ensure profitability on their shrinking volumes. They have laid off 1,200 workers in Japan, cancelled projects that had already been announced, and fallen far short of the target when it comes to their software products and even their camera's firmware. The D500, for example, will not download pictures to the Mac computer using Nikon's proprietary software. The quote below is Nikon's own work around for this un-fixed bug. "Removable Disk (including memory cards inserted in card readers or card slots) cannot currently be se-

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lected as a source in macOS Sierra 10.12 or later. Pictures can be copied from memory cards to your computer using a camera that supports PTP, or you can use the Finder or Image Capture on your computer."

(<http://www.dslrbodies.com/accessories/software-for-nikon-dslrs/software-news/digital-photography-software/how-did-nikon-fix-transfer.html> )

As an aside I always use Image Capture on my Mac, as it appears to be bug free!

This is normal in the context of the life cycle of a consumer product (mature product) and has been likened to the condition that GM found itself in at the turn of the century - too many similar products chasing a declining market. It is explained in part by the following examples:

1) The CMOS digital sensor technology has reached the limit of development. Only minor, small, incremental improvements can now be anticipated in newly released cameras at significant extra cost of development and production. The ROI (return on investment) is not as great as it once was and reduced volume production is leading to increased per unit cost.

2) Image quality, in current full frame sensors, is now at or very close to the quality of medium format film cameras of the past. No meaningful improvements are foreseen with the current technology. Incremental improvements in the 1/3rd stop range may still be achievable. Hardly earth shattering!

3) Camera features have stagnated and some would argue still leave room for enhancement and improvement, but would require considerable investment in R&D by the manufacturers who, for the rea-

sons stated above, are cutting back on software and R&D development.

4) Nikon has severely cut back on beta testing of new models, relying instead on first purchasers to "test" their new products in the real world and then report problems. This process has drastically reduced the buying public's enthusiasm for new product, and has left a bad taste in the mouths of buyers who have found it necessary to return product, at their own expense, for warranty work that should have been found and fixed during the pre-release beta testing phase. (more cost cutting measures)

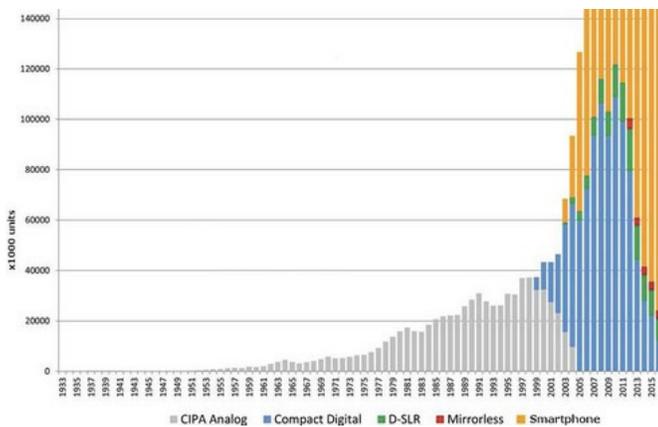
5) As computer chips continue to improve there is some scope for improving the internal processing speed of image data that may lead to some improvement in camera frame rates, write speeds, buffer capacity, image processing algorithms and the like, but we have reached the physical limit of the mirror movement at 15 fps, so, to go faster than this, mirrorless cameras must be used. This in turn requires drastic reworking of all camera bodies, and to a lesser extent, legacy lenses, because they will require an adapter to fit the mirrorless body.

So what is the future of digital cameras? The smart phone will continue to evolve rapidly and its camera capabilities will obsolete compact cameras. To a large extent, this is already happening. Nexoptic, a Canadian company that is developing a revolutionary flat lens system has announced that their first foray into mass production will be for smart phones (<https://www.equedia.com/nexoptic-technology-corp-a-revolutionary-flat-lens-system/> ) This optical design reduces the length of a telephoto lens to about 1/5th of the present focal length, eliminates spherical aberration from the image (there are no

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spherical lens elements in the array) and eliminates a host of other problems associated with the Galilean telescope design which is the only design the human race has ever known. This invention is exactly what is needed to re-invigorate the digital camera market and could, at least on paper, lead to as big a revolution in cameras as digital sensors did in the closing years of the twentieth century.

(<https://www.cnet.com/news/photos-the-history-of-the-digital-camera/> )



In the last five or so years we have witnessed Nikon in particular push their sales efforts to full frame sensors at the expense of every other sensor size. They have withheld fast prime lenses for their otherwise successful cropped frame sensor system (known as Dx) and as a consequence have seen their sales and market share in this important market segment fall dramatically. (<http://dslrbodies.com/lenses/lens-articles/focal-length/missing-nikkors-2017.html> ) This lack of a comprehensive set of fast primes and the crippling of Dx camera bodies through slow frame rates and tiny buffers have led purchasers to the far more complete Fx lineup of camera bodies and lenses. But that process is caus-

ing potential customers to balk at the cost of an FX system, and migrate to competitive manufacturers with better crop frame selections (Canon) and mirrorless systems ( Sony, Olympus etc).

On the plus side, the Nikon Fx offerings of pro and prosumer grade cameras is second to none with industry leading dynamic range and high ISO capabilities. But the sales figures don't lie. There are simply not enough customers who are willing to spend \$8,600 plus tax on a camera body. (D5 at Aden Camera) Lens prices have recently been increased again for Canadian customers, no doubt due to the shrinking dollar value. So in short, where does this leave us?

If you have any DSLR camera that was made in the last three to five years, changing it is unlikely to yield any appreciative benefit in Image Quality (IQ) The only realistic reason for changing a camera from now on will surely come down to feature selection, such as frame rate, or sensor size. There are still significant observable differences in the IQ from full frame sensors compared to smaller sensors, but very little difference between the IQ of competing brands with the same size sensor. Here your choice is a matter of taste rather than IQ. Your existing lenses will last almost indefinitely, save accidental damage. Furthermore as Canon and Nikon increase their lens prices to maintain their profitability, companies such as Sigma, especially, and Tamron, have seized the bit and are forging ahead with some very high quality products at greatly reduced prices compared to Canon. (<http://dslrbodies.com/lenses/lens-articles/focal-length/missing-nikkors-2017.html> )

Nikon continues to try to force brand loyalty by, as an example, introducing firmware updates to ex-

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isting cameras that cripple third party batteries. (<https://www.dpreview.com/forums/thread/3576566>)

Some effort has also been made to cripple other accessories such as grips, radio controlled flash units and the like. Plenty of examples are easily found on the internet. This tactic seems very likely to alienate customers.

The industry followers like Thom Hogan (<http://www.bythom.com/>) foresee the survival of both Nikon and Canon in the camera business (DSLR) but in a smaller format and with a much smaller set of offerings aimed at higher cost/profit per item, and much fewer unit sales. For those of us using DSLR cameras this is comforting news. Other, smaller manufacturers producing mirrorless cameras and crop frame and smaller sensor cameras are unlikely to survive the onslaught of advanced featured smart phone cameras. As the graphs included here clearly show, the digital bubble has burst, and the euphoric gas of success is quickly dispersing.

The camera industry is under attack and losing

ground across the board. As the shrinkage begins to bite into things like sensor production and economies of scale are lost, costs for new and improved sensors will surely increase and drive up the costs of the remaining camera offerings. In a full frame sized camera, the sensor accounts for fully 50% of the cost of producing the camera at this time, and is set to increase from that level.

From a purely personal point of view, my days of rampant GAS (gear acquisition syndrome) are now behind me. I can see no reason to upgrade anything in the foreseeable future, especially as the likelihood of anything truly new and exciting from Nikon is, well, unlikely. I am happy to stay where I am in terms of IQ and have no need to purchase the capability to print wall sized prints from my camera. And so I do not see myself buying anything new unless something I use wears out, or breaks. Perhaps what we are witnessing is the end of the digital camera era, and the dawn of the truly smart phone cameras with comparable features and capabilities? It kinda looks like that to me.



### Tips and Links

**Lens cleaning info by Jack Harynuk:** Are you looking for a reliable company to clean or repair your gear? Vancouver Island Photographic and Electronic Repair (VIPER) has done an excellent job for some of our members. He was a sponsor for our last Rick Hulbert presentation. The office is located in Courtenay so call beforehand to set up an appointment.

Link to site - <http://vancouverislandelectronicsrepair.com/>

**Frieda Van der Ree suggests 7 Powerful Photography Tips for Amazing Photos** by Joshua Cripps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZPuc3HV5O8>

**John Critchley suggests 31 inspiring photography documentaries:** <http://resourcemagonline.com/2017/05/31-inspiring-photography-documentaries-every-photographer-must-watch/78295/>



**DIGITECH**

By John Critchley

**STOP THE PRESSES!**

Follow-up to preceding article "Digital Cameras:  
The State Of The Art".....

Just when I thought it might be safe to ignore the camera rumours web sites, along comes the announcement of the Sony a9 camera. \* Nikon rumours \*

The really exciting technical news is that this camera features a new type of sensor technology. Well, a new improvement of existing technology at the very least. It is called the "world's first full-frame stacked CMOS sensor, 24.2 MP resolution".

A quick search on Google and the secret ingredient is revealed. This sensor is comprised of three layers, rather than the previous two.

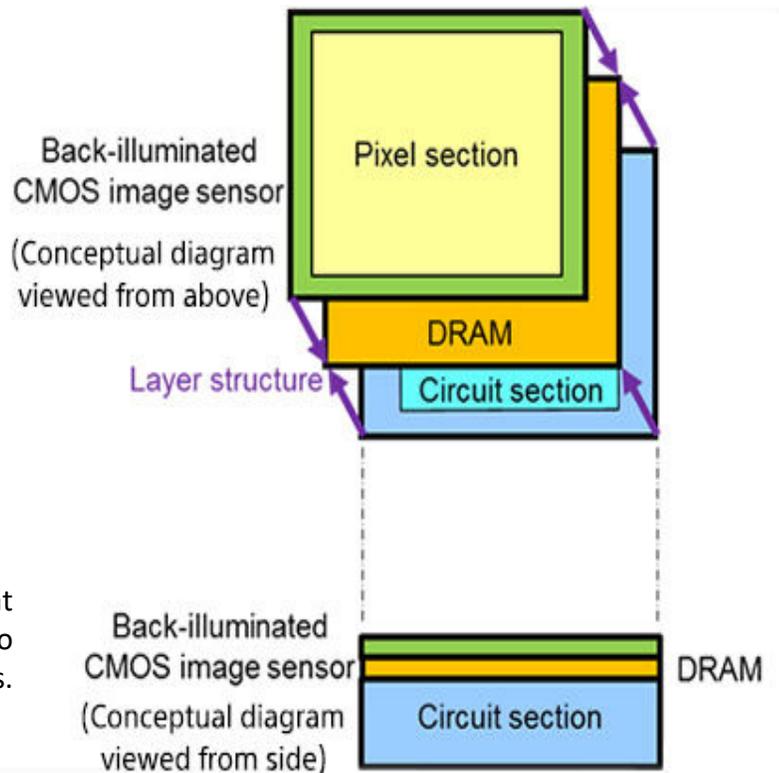
Up until now, the two layer design utilized the image pixel layer and a layer for image circuitry. This circuitry was responsible for reading the pixel data after each exposure, and providing the pathways to feed the data to the image processing computer chip. The design worked very well at exposure frame rates up to the current state of the art (+- 12-15 fps for full frame sensors, higher rates for smaller sensors)

The new technology sandwiches a layer of very fast Random Access Memory (DRAM) between the Pixel section and the circuit section.

This design allows the image sensor to be read at speeds up to 1/120 second and translates into camera frame rates at hitherto unheard of speeds. See this article:

<http://www.theverge.com/circuitbreaker/2017/4/19/15356680/new-sony-a9-mirrorless-camera-announced-specs-price-release-date>

All I need now is a lens adapter that will allow me to use my Nikon lenses on the Sony mount! :)



## STUMP THE CHUMP: SURGE PROTECTORS



You do use a surge protector to guard against electrical problems with your TV and computer gear, right? Did you know that they wear out? Like a light bulb wears out. And worse, most surge protectors will continue to provide power to your equipment after the protection has been used up, so that in the event of a

surge, you will have no protection at all!

Not to worry. Here is all you need to know.

<https://www.cnet.com/news/9-things-you-should-know-about-surge-protectors/>

<http://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-surge-protector/>

May I suggest one final thought? Buy two and keep one as a spare in case of an electrical storm that fries yours which then leaves you unprotected and forces you to go without until you can order another one!

Are you stumped by anything photography-related? Stump the Chump with your question!

Send your question to The Chump at [newsletter.opc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.opc@gmail.com)



### WHO KNEW? By Frieda Van der Ree

“In the nineteenth century, when photography was still in nappies, exposure times were so long that people who were walking would be blurred. They would have ghosts flowing out behind them. It was this that introduced the idea in paintings and drawings that movement could be indicated by lines flying out behind a moving object. Photography changed our visual ideas and that changed representations in other mediums.”

From *The Horologicon* by Mark Forsyth

With the more sophisticated cameras of today, photographers may choose to freeze motion entirely or to show it flowing to any degree they wish depending on their creative vision for the shot. To learn more about the techniques involved, look up **motion blur photography** or **shutter drag photography**.



Photo by Ben Von Wong



from Bing Images

Assignment: Action Category: Colour



**Vivienne Bearder**

*Reach for the Ribbon*



**Lorene Kimura**

*catch the jump*



**Karen Gold**

*Kite Surfing*

ASSIGNMENT: ACTION CATEGORY: BLACK & WHITE



**1**

Karen Gold

*Windsurfing*



**3**

Lorene Kimura

*ride the rails*



**2**

Jack Harynuk

*At Bat*



**3**

Mary Watts

*Sand Shot*

ASSIGNMENT: ACTION CATEGORY: DIGITAL ART



Lorene Kimura  
*barrel racing practice*



Roy Watts  
*Swinging*



Bill Trace  
*Soccer Star*

**A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Welcome to a new year of your club newsletter! During the past club year I was privileged to work with a wonderful team led by Shelley Harynyuk and supported by Frieda Van de Ree and John Critchley. Fortunately Frieda and John and Shelley have agreed to continue on the newsletter team with me.

Photography is a visual art, and, as the saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” However, when we view the assignment results, favourites and field trip images during a general meeting, we don’t always know the story behind the image, the reason why the photographer chose to take the picture or the challenges he or she may have faced while capturing the image. Submitting to the newsletter a paragraph or two or three along with some images gives you an opportunity to share your story.

As this new club year progresses, we look forward to receiving your submissions and to hearing your stories. So why not dust off your lenses, take to the street/countryside and share your experiences and pictures with us!

Vivienne Bearder, Newsletter Director

[newsletter.opc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.opc@gmail.com)



Photo by OPS member Alice Sarog  
<https://www.summerandcompany.com/>

LAST SHOT *o canada!*

We asked Members to share their best shot of a Canadian destination to help us celebrate the country's birthday. No surprise that most of them were from BC! These were a few of our favourites (clockwise from top left):

- Emerald Lake, BC**, by Mike Rogers, North Vancouver  
 -BCAA Member since 1990
- Trinity, NL**, by Diane Chalmont, Vancouver  
 -BCAA Member since 1979
- Nuttal Bay, BC**, by Marcie Gauntlett, Nanoose Bay  
 -BCAA Member since 2002
- Topley, BC**, by Brian Hick, Chilliwack  
 -BCAA Member since 2004

**SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!**  
 BCAA Members are invited to submit travel photos to our "Last Shot" page. Amazing stuff, please. Email your original photo to [bcasongwriting@bccon.com](mailto:bcasongwriting@bccon.com) before August 1, 2017. Please include your full name, your city of residence and a paragraph describing your image and where you took it. Photos must be in colour and sized at a minimum of 2,600 pixels in width. Only Members whose photos are chosen for publication will be contacted.

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**MEMBER NEWS**

The quarterly BCAA Magazine features a page called Last Shot to which BCAA members are invited to submit photos on various themes. Marcie Gauntlett answered the call for photos of a favourite Canadian destination and her shot of Nuttal Bay in Nanoose was one of four selected to run in the Summer 2017 edition (see screenshot). Well done, Marcie!

**CELEBRATING CANADA 150**

Canada 150 will be the theme of our next edition so we invite you to dig through your files and send us a couple of images to show something you treasure about this wonderful country, along with a few sentences of explanation to put the picture in context. Let's see how many provinces and territories we can include in this collection.