



# Shutterbug



## OCEANSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

### WELCOMES VISITORS

Visitors may attend two free meetings before deciding to join. Please check in at the membership desk as you enter. The annual dues are \$50 the first year (includes name tag) and \$36 per year afterwards. Dues are pro-rated monthly for new members joining between June and April.

## MEETING TIMES

General Meetings are 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 Society is to promote learning, sharing and the enjoyment of photography in a convivial atmosphere.*

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The editorial team reserves the right to accept or reject any article submitted for *The Oceanside Photography Society newsletter (OP Shutterbug)* and to edit submitted articles in any way deemed appropriate and necessary, including but not limited to length, clarity and conformance with selected topics.

Footnotes and links to source materials are encouraged.

**OPS SHUTTERBUG TEAM**

Rick Horte - Director/Editor

Marnee Pearce—Assistant Editor

John Critchley - Tech Writer

**COVER PHOTO:** Waiting for the Mist to Lift  
by Garry Campbell

**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 Vina Johnson at the membership desk or email [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.





The quote for the month is appropriate for John Critchley’s article on mirrorless cameras. John walks us through the decision-making process, consideration and thoughts on purchasing a “Mirrorless Camera” which are all the rage. It’s an interesting article from another perspective as it provides a process for acquiring any new camera. A great read at anytime to ensure you’ve covered all the basis for camera use and needs by a photographer.

**“Skill in photography is acquired by practice and not by purchase”  
Author Percy W. Harris**

For those dreaming of some winter travel, there’s the second article from Joe Crichton’s adventures in Vietnam. This is the follow-up to his trip bird watching in Cambodia. Fascinating insights to the wonders of a beautiful country. Plenty of images to further arouse your interest.



This month’s cookie recipe comes highly recommended after several quality control tests before and during the coffee break. It’s a wonderful cookie recipe from Vina Johnson just in case you wish to try your hand at baking one of her delicious cookies. Vina has been supplying the club members with cookies during our general meetings for the last year. Aside from her duties as “Membership Director” she’s a great cookie chef, job well done.

You may want to read the CAPP newsletter for September which is filled with interesting images and articles. <https://mailchi.mp/capacanada/capa-monthly-news-7120009ck1-653275?e=5c9d7dce1e>

Then there’s the gossip from around the club. Kathy Desjardins is in Saskatchewan tending to a new grand child. Lorene Kimora continues to travel to Calgary once a month to stay in touch with grandchildren. As does Ron Windrim continues to travel to Victoria twice a month for the same reason. Finally, Jack Harynuk our long serving technical director and life member is planning on stepping down next May, so he can enjoy his new Sony mirrorless camera. The executive needs your like assistance. The time commitment is not great and it’s a lot of fun! Why not attend a management meeting (second Friday of the month at Quality Foods Boardroom in QB) and see where you could possibly fit in?





**Birding Vietnam  
by Joe Crichton**

Last issue I wrote about a birding trip I did to Cambodia. Crossing the border to Vietnam we enter a very different country. It is nominally communist but don't tell the very enterprising people that.

Arriving in Ho Chi Minh City we find a very modern, vibrant city of about 9 million that some still call Saigon. Vietnam is trying to emulate the Chinese economic model and is industrializing very quickly. It is an ambitious undertaking but we never saw anyone sitting idle nor did we ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe.



However, the biggest impression with which I came away was the total futility and stupidity



of the Vietnam War. I came of age in the 1960s and talk of the war and communism was omnipresent back then. Before our birding trip we took a city tour which included the war museum; referred to locally as the American War of Aggression. After being exposed to some of this history it seemed a more descriptive title.

The War Museum was very well done and not at all political. It included an extensive gal-

lery of photos of the conflict, taken by international correspondents.

When I walked out into the streets, with the memory of such a brutal conflict fresh in my mind, I was stuck by seeing modern, well dressed people sitting in Starbucks and driving Fords. All those lives lost and years wasted. I



had never had such an overwhelming sense of human stupidity and the unthinking depths to which we can sink.

The next morning we met our guide and left the city. Birding trips always provide a very different perspective of a country as we spend most of our time in wild area, not the usual tourist haunts. Vietnam is a small country but with 96 million people you don't expect to find many wild places. However, during the French colonial period they had preserved large areas for their own hunting pleasure and the present government had the wisdom to protect these as National Parks.

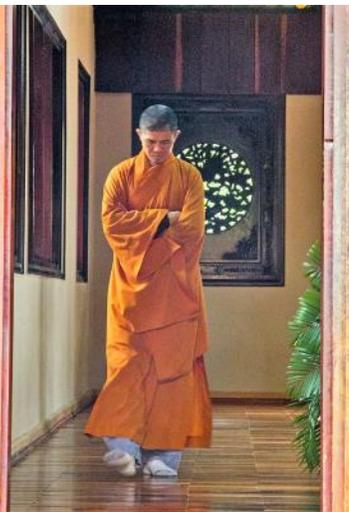


After a few hours on excellent highways we stopped at the end of the road. From there a small boat took us across the river to Cat Tien NP: a wonderfully diverse ecosystem that is being restored with efforts made to re-introduced the animals who once lived there. Accommodations

were pretty basic but there was cable TV and free Wi-Fi. I was even able to Facetime my wife from the open-air restaurant – for free.



The weather was hot but there were good birds and we enjoyed the company of Minh, our excellent Vietnamese guide. He tried to teach us a few words of his language which is very tonal. We were hopeless and decided not to embarrass ourselves. In this deep forest we felt much sympathy for the soldiers, on both sides, who fought in that terrible war many years ago. Those young men walked here in terrible heat with scores of ever present leaches, accompanied by the constant fear that any moment could be their last. But now the country is young and ambitious and no one wanted to talk about the war. We were here looking for birds – what a change.



Our next stop was in the mountains where the weather was lovely and moderate. Then for the last part of the trip we were based in the small city of Delat. No traffic lights here, just rivers of motorbikes. We were told that the trick to crossing the street was to walk confidently and steadily. The bikes will flow around you like the water in a stream. Amazingly it worked.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the food and the beer. Not only did we discover Saigon Red, an exceptional lager, and that the many small restaurants served wonderful food, but that it could all be enjoyed for less than 100,000 Dong. (that's about \$5) There is also a robust coffee culture here with many small cafes. I brought home some of the local specialty – Weasel Coffee. This is made from beans eaten by weasels then collected after they have “passed” them. It is much better than it sounds.



Our impression of the people was that they were friendly and honest. Checking out of each hotel the desk clerk would ask if I had used the water in the room's fridge. When I said that I had, she duly put that charge on my bill. No one was dispatched to the room to check.

On one occasion I had decided not to accompany the others into the forest as I had been on my feet for hours and felt in need of a rest. I sat alone at the side of the road. It was a quiet, remote road with a few passing motor bikes. I realised that I had put myself in a potentially dangerous position. I was alone, in the middle of a strange country with an expensive camera and binoculars in plain view. Just as I was having these dark thoughts a man on a motorbike slowed and looked back at me. He then turned around and came back. I stood up ready for I did not know what. The man stopped beside me, lowered his mask and asked, in good English, "Are you OK, do you need any help?"

That will be my enduring memory of Vietnam.



**So the question is, What about the mirrorless camera? Is it better than a DSLR?**

DSLR sales (to be accurate, Interchangeable Lens Camera Sales, or ILC, which includes mirrorless) reached their peak in 2012 and have been declining every year since then. Drastic measures have been introduced at Nikon. Lay-offs, plant closings, contraction, down sizing, price increases and dumbing down product to reduce manufacturing cost. Their repair and maintenance facilities have taken a huge hit, with similar closures and layoffs. And all to stop the bleeding. They really need to hit it out of the park with their latest offerings. If they don't? Goodbye Nikon Cameras. But heh!, they might survive. Profits are up on declining revenues, which is a good thing for the shareholders. Customers? Not so much. Because the cost of lenses and accessories and everything else keeps going up. Profitable for Nikon, expensive for Nikon users.

So full disclosure - I'm a Nikon shooter, and I have two DSLR's and a suitcase full of f mount lenses. You would be correct if, by listening to and reading all the hype, you thought that the DSLR is dead. It may well be suffering from terminal lead poisoning, but the shooter is, IMHO, the smart phone, not the mirrorless camera onslaught! According to some random scribe, more photos are taken with smart phones every day now than the total volume of pictures taken before the smart phone was invented. And most of them are uploaded, or so it seems.

Kudos to Sony (and Fuji, Panasonic, Olympus, etc.) for a job well done. They have succeeded where no amount of customer input has dared to go before - persuading Nikon and Canon that if they didn't get their act together and start competing with Sony, they would be trampled in the dust. The Sony mirrorless revolution (SMR) is well underway and their cameras continue to fly off the shelves and, if recent events are extrapolated, they are in short supply almost everywhere. But still the annual sales figures for ILC is in decline.

Nikon's Z7 and Z6 are announced, warts and all, for release at the end of September. But buyer beware. Nikon does not, as a rule, upgrade their cameras capabilities or functionality with firmware updates. Ok, they MAY correct errors or omissions, but they will also introduce, as an example, software designed to differentiate between their own brand batteries and so called off-brand batteries. Meaning that off-brand batteries will not work in their cameras until the battery manufacturers have reverse engineered the work around. SO don't expect to see the frame rate (crippled above 5.5 frames per second) improve, or the rolling shutter problem go away, or the awful two-button change focus point implementation improve, until the NEXT version of the camera is released +/- 2 years from now. (N.B As the owner of a N1 V1 Nikon, I waited for five years for a 'new' model with improved image quality to arrive. It never did, and the line is now dead in the water)

Canon's new mirrorless offering has no IBIS (In Body Image Stabilization) so they left the starting gate with a noose around their ankles. If Sony is your target, Nikon, Canon, and you want to stop customers bleeding away from your brand, then wouldn't it make sense that your FIRST IMPRESSION offerings have to be at least on a par with the competition? Obviously, inscrutable Japanese Business Man has other plans, which will remain secret.

So, New cameras. New lens mounts. New lenses.

Let's look at this from my perspective, as a long time Nikon guy. Why would I consider, never mind buy one of the two new offerings, the Z7 or the Z6? Of course I will need the adapter so that my f-mount lenses will fit and work on the new camera. But Nikon is pushing new lenses as well as new cameras. And this decision is designed to fix the one huge problem facing both Nikon and Canon. How to get the buyers of the cameras to fork out for new lenses as well (using the Gillette razor blade analogy, the camera is the blade, and the lenses are the razors).

Simple. You start making lenses that are markedly better quality than their f-mount cousins, but are NOT backwards compatible to f-mount cameras. So now, people like me, (under treatment for a bad case of Gear Acquisition Syndrome) feel the burn to get the best of the best. Cash in the old TFSA! and Just Do It!

They knew that to obsolete the f-mount would be an absolute disaster for them, but this way, they have slipped in the shank while you were singing in the shower. As they say in the 'Scrubs'.

Clever. Canon will be doing exactly the same thing. Don't leave money on the table!. Canon changed the flange to sensor distance which means that existing lenses will not work on their new camera without an adapter. Are you beginning to see a trend here??

So the Nikon message is :- "Buy the newest and greatest camera, and, oh, by the way, we have fixed all the flawed lenses we sold for years as f-mount glass, and now present them as they should have been, but only for the new cameras." Inscrutable indeed.

So, what's all the fuss about going mirrorless? Ok, first off, it's cheaper to manufacture. Less moving parts, no mirror, mirror box, or auto focus module, no big prism or other mirrors to deflect light into the view finder. Cheaper to assemble, cheaper to service, repair and maintain. All big wins for the tri-opoly. The design of the sensor is more complex, to be sure, because the auto focus is now done on the sensor. But if, like Nikon, you R&D your own sensors (with manufacturing done in China) there are more cost savings to be had. This has 2 distinct advantages over the DSLR. One, the auto focus sensors can be made to cover the entire frame, and 2, the auto focus being done on sensor eliminates the need to fine-tune your expensive telephoto lenses - as there is no auto focus module to calibrate.

And that MAY be the sum total of the advantages of mirrorless cameras. For the rest, it is just a camera. Sure a tad smaller and lighter, but with the adapter, not so much. And if you buy the new made for lenses, you are getting MORE glass and bigger lenses as they are made for a larger mount diameter. (The donut hole is getting bigger)

Other benefits are more or less improvements to the "digital camera". IBIS is a huge deal especially for folks with a collection of legacy glass. It is also a LOT cheaper to put it in the (one) camera than making lenses with stabilization in each one of them. Canon's dual pixel auto-focus is brilliant, but is it good enough to make up for the lack of IBIS? Time will tell.

Silent shutter? Well, a nice feature to have, no doubt. If you shoot concerts, golf, and wildlife, maybe. Good for time lapses and the like as it does not use any moving parts to wear out the shutter mechanism.

Video? Everybody's doin' it! And with video capability, newer is clearly better. Canon's dual pixel auto focus makes them a clear winner here.

EVF blackout? Same as DSLR's unless completely eliminated but could be a real bonus if 100%.

Canon and Nikon stand to make a lot of money with these cameras and lenses , if they can un-cripple the performance issues and follow through on their lens roadmaps.

Sony has done a great job of advancing the Art of The Camera, with their mirrorless offerings. Canon and Nikon had no choice but to try to compete or to continue to lose market share and a whole lot of volume to Sony.

But, are the cameras any better than a similarly priced DSLR? My take is no, they aren't. But they ARE the newest offerings and therefore should have the latest bells and whistles to match the price.

What counts for me, is things like,

How easy or difficult is the user interface, menus? Pretty good, in Nikon land, or so I read.

Have compromises been made to the functionality of the camera to accommodate its smaller size?

Exactly how many batteries do I need to carry with me to shoot with abandon on say a Grizzly bear expedition to Butte Inlet?

Does the camera have 2 card slots? I don't want to risk losing once in a lifetime shots through a defective memory card?.

Does it have the same flash controller ability?

Is it as easy to shoot with as my DSLR?

Is it as easy to CHANGE my shooting setup on the fly?

Is the smaller size of the body making finding the right grip and all the buttons more difficult?

There appear to be less programable buttons on the smaller body - does this interfere with my preferred method of setting up and shooting?

The weight is not an issue for me as most of what I carry around is lens, not camera. (with the notable exception of my D4, for which I have a concealed carry permit.)

If you were to make a list of things that your "new" camera could do, would it include the most excellent "eye recognition" trick a la Sony? How about shooting at 12 frames a second with locked exposure and auto focus? (essentially this simply repeats capturing the same data over and over again rather than accounting for changes in the scene. The only time I ever use 10 fps is for wildlife, and typically, the wildlife is moving as I shoot (the noise of the camera frightens the poor 'lickle did-umms!))

No, I see mirrorless cameras as a flash in the pan thing. Sure they may last a few years - at least through one more generation for Nikon, so they can get the functionality to where Sony is now.

No, I see the death of stand alone cameras in the smart-phone. Pretty soon there will be no distinction between the Image Quality of a smart-phone camera and any other. (Printing at wall size, notwithstanding) The only reason to carry a camera even today, is to utilize the fabulous lenses available for just about every eventuality. If you like, I see the real market for stand alone cameras, both DSLR and Mirrorless continuing to decline with barely a blip on the radar attributable to the new rash of mirrorless cameras from Nikon and Canon.

Does this mean that you shouldn't jump on the wagon and head on out on the trail? No, it doesn't. But in my view, you have to be prepared and budgeted for some of the new Nikon "S" class lenses as they are, according to published MTF curves clearly a quantum leap better than anything previously available in the world of photography. But better practise circling the wagons as the almighty smart phone gets more convenient, simpler to operate, bigger, more powerful and better, with more apps.

(As an aside to all this, how do professionals covering sporting events get their stills to their producers? By runner. Yep, a guy on a moped or ATV drives around continuously collecting memory cards and delivering them to the editor's compound. Mirrorless cameras don't fix that problem, but compound the issue by forcing the pro's to carry umpteen batteries, instead of like my D4, I can shoot +- 4,000 full frame at 10fps, images with full aperture and autofocus control and FULL BACKUP to second disk on one battery charge, and two 128GB memory card. How does your mirrorless camera rate against that?)

The Chump

As always, my information is gleaned from several sources including [bythom.com](http://bythom.com), [dpreview.com](http://dpreview.com), Nikon rumours, [PhotographyLife.com](http://PhotographyLife.com) amongst others. Extra reading assignments below!

<http://www.dslrbodies.com/newsviews/nikons-first-half-financial.html>

<http://www.dslrbodies.com/newsviews/nikon/about-nikon/nikons-2017-annual-report.html>

<https://photographylife.com/canon-eos-r-vs-sony-a7-iii-vs-sony-a7r-iii>

<https://photographylife.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-nikon-z-lenses>

## Cookie of the Month Coconut Sugar Cookie

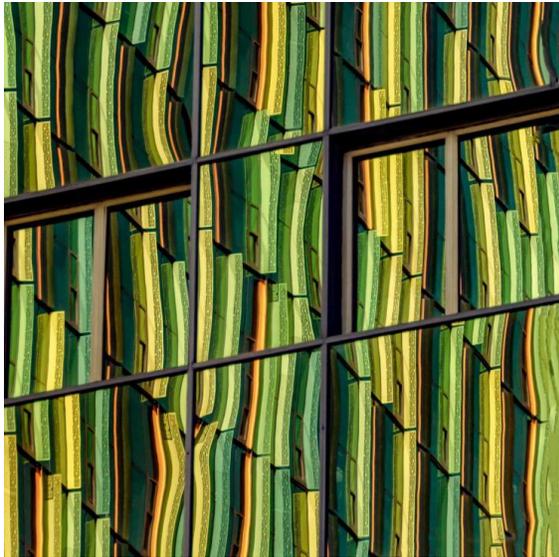
Now I know you have all enjoyed this cookie as they completely disappeared in a few short minutes at last month's General Meeting. Thank you, it's a compliment that they vanished so quickly.

1 cup butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 egg  
1 cup vegetable oil  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 cup rolled oats  
1 cup crushed cornflakes  
½ cup coconut  
½ cup chopped pecans  
3 ½ cups flour  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp salt

Preheat oven to 325 f. Cream together butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Add egg, oil and vanilla. Mix well, add oats, cornflakes, coconut and nuts. Stir well. Add flour, soda and salt. Stir until well blended. Drop by teaspoonfuls on greased cookie sheets and flatten with fork dipped in water. Bake 15 minutes. Makes about 8 dozen.



ASSIGNMENT: ABSTRACTS  
CATEGORY: COLOUR



Vivienne Bearder  
*Across the Street*



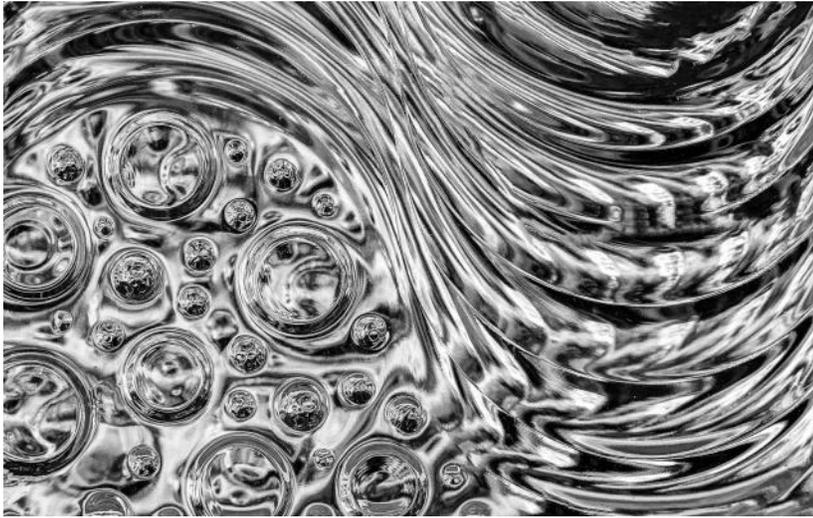
Jane Davidson  
*Rings*



Teresa Lange-King  
*Red*



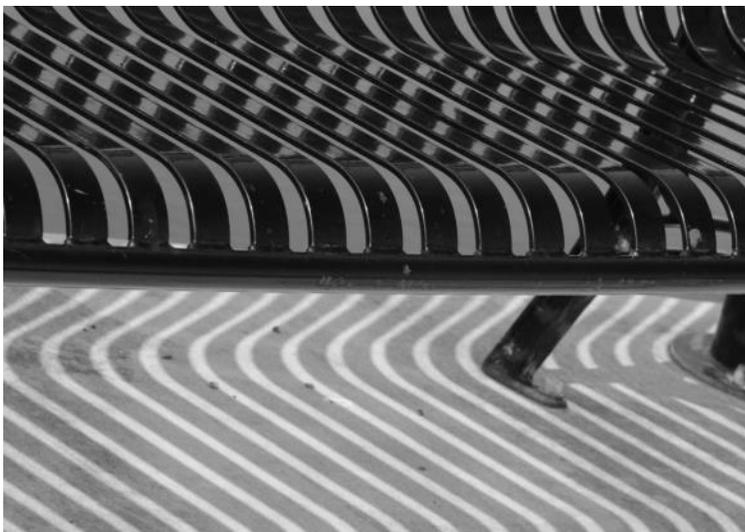
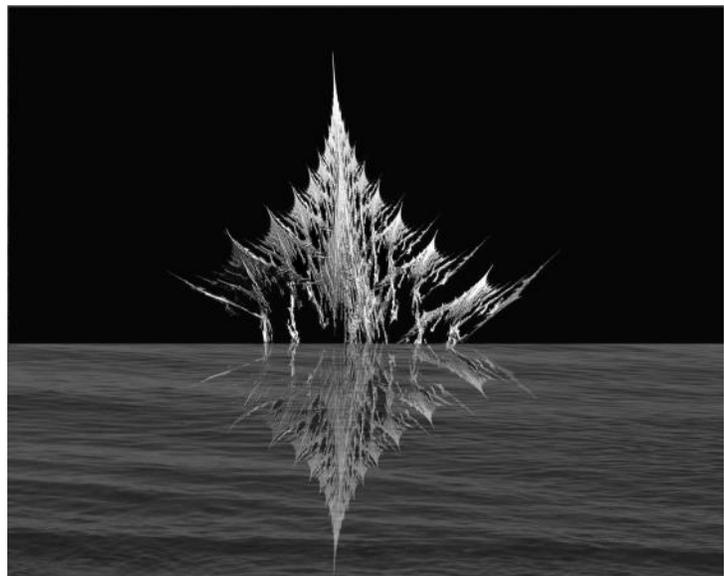
ASSIGNMENT: ABSTRACTS  
CATEGORY: BLACK AND WHITE



Vivienne Bearder  
*Breaking Waves*



Roy Watts  
*Reflections*



Clifford Anderson  
*The Chair*

ASSIGNMENT: ABSTRACTS  
CATEGORY: DIGITAL ART



Kathy Desjardins

*Sailing*



Roy Watts

*Aurora*



Mary Watts

*Dancing*

