



Shutterbug

NEWSLETTER

OCEANSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY WELCOMES VISITORS

Visitors may attend two free meetings before deciding to join. Please sign in at the membership desk as you enter. Iris, the Membership Director, can answer your questions about membership.

MASKS

All members are required to wear a mask at all times. Masks must cover the nose, mouth, and chin. As per the BC mask mandate, face shields are NOT considered a substitute for a mask

MEETING TIMES

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

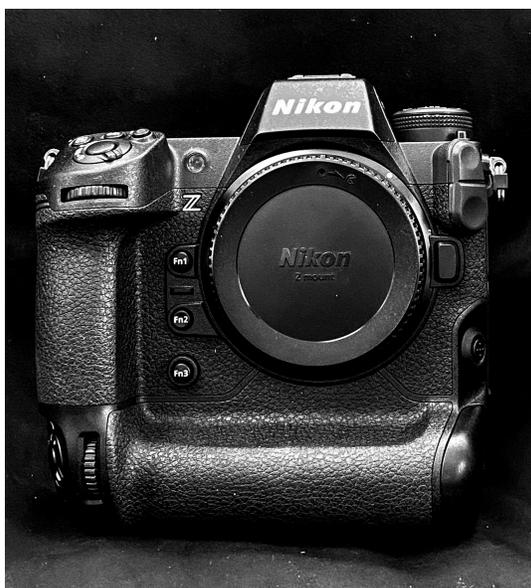
Education Meetings normally take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Windsor Room at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre except during July, August and December.

The DSLR is dead. Long live the mirrorless camera

by John Critchley

Hi everybody, it's John Critchley here. Some of you might remember me from three years ago when I served as your club education officer (?) well, person, if not officer! Over the last couple of months I have made the decision to switch from my DSLRs to mirrorless camera bodies. I thought you might like to read some of the thinking that went into my decision, in case there are those in the club with similar decisions to make.

I am now and remain a Nikon shooter. But in the 20 odd years that I have been clicking away, loudly, at wild life, I have noticed that my (personal) abilities in regards to eyesight in particular have held me back. In short I needed assistance from the camera to find and accurately focus on my subject. And as good as the Nikon DSLR's are or were, they have at last been completely eclipsed by the newly released Nikon Z9.



I became so frustrated that three years ago I gave up taking photographs completely. I was frustrated with everything. The weight of the lenses, the very difficult time I had focussing the 500mm f/4 (with its associated depth of field of 20cm at 15 metres distance and f/4) and the skittishness of the

chosen subject all conspired to put me firmly behind the 8-ball. I could not see the subject well enough to determine if the AF had locked on to the correct subject, or part of the subject, meaning, the eyes. Eye focus was, for me, a very hit and miss affair.

Many years ago I had tried a mirrorless (Nikon N1V1 for the inquisitive amongst you) and was firmly underwhelmed. So much so that I wrote it off as a toy. And was therefore less than enthusiastic to embrace Nikon's next offerings, the current crop of Z mark camera bodies. Still there was, in my opinion, insufficient help for me in any of those bodies.

And then came the Z9. And here Nikon deviated from their previous course of over promising and under delivering and delivered instead a game changer of a camera. (That means game changer for Nikon shooters as Canon and Sony have already released similarly capable cameras) The autofocus system is by all accounts ALMOST perfect. With the right settings in the menu, this camera will eye track birds, cats, dogs, people, planes, trains, bicycles and automobiles and it can and does differentiate between subjects all by itself. The algorithm has several fall back positions which are genius. For instance, if tracking the eye of a human, and the subject turns their head so that their eyes are no longer visible to the camera, it switches focus to the head. If the head disappears, it switches to the torso, and continues to track. Same applies to birds. And all the other animals and things. It is so good at eye detect that it will (using single point AF) find and lock onto a small bird partially hidden behind tree branches - as long as its eye is visible. If both eyes are visible it selects the one closest to the camera and tracks that.

Additionally, the view-finder breaks new ground for the industry. It is the first camera to separate incoming light into two streams. One for the viewfinder and one for the sensor. So even though the viewfinder resolution is lower than some others the view one gets is clear, bright and completely uninterrupted by flickering when taking continuous pictures or shooting video. Thus, the user is able to more accurately track moving subjects like runners, swimmers, speed skaters, etc. No black out means less missed shots and more correctly framed shots.

The stacked CMOS sensor is read by the Expeed 7 processor at 270 frames/second. (45Mpix sensor) = 12,150 MB/sec data speed. 120 frames/sec are processed for focus and aperture by the camera (which is another industry first as it has a quad-core processor) while the interleaved 120 non-frames are sent to the view finder. The remaining frames are used by the exposure control. One of the ways this helps photographers is that in the event you have an athlete (or grandchild, dog etc) running directly at the camera, one can shoot 11Mpix JPEG at 120 frames/second and as



long as the subject stays in the frame, the shots will all be focused perfectly on the closest eye of the subject. There are numerous examples of this on Youtube. And you can replay these shots as slo-motion video.

And then don't forget that Nikon changed the throat size of its cameras/lenses for the Z series. This change means that Nikon is able to manufacture better lenses than before. Some of these new S series lenses are testing as the best performing lenses ever made by anybody - at least according to this reviewer (photographylife.com) and several others. But one is also able to use almost all older F mount lenses on any of these Z bodies by using the FTZ adapter. If you do this the F mount lenses will perform as well or marginally better on the Z mount bodies. But $f/4$ is still $f/4$. A larger throat means simpler lens construction with fewer elements and fewer groups of elements to achieve the same or in this case, better performance.

The video capabilities are right up there with other industry leaders and because I know next to nothing about the technical side of video codecs etc I shall simply say that the video capabilities of the camera have been expanded beyond other competing brands. If you shoot video, you will know all about it. The biggest take away I have found is that it can shoot unlimited video at any resolution without overheating. For instance, it becomes the first Nikon camera to be able to capture n-Log footage internally. Rolling shutter is also a thing of the past in this camera.

It has a variety of other innovations. The low light AF performance is another industry first. The 'standard' minimum light for AF is rated at -5EV which is 2 stops faster than the Z7ii and up to 1 1/2 stops faster than any competitive model. But that's not all. AF detection range is -6.5 to +19 EV (-8.5 to +19 EV with starlight view (Measured in photo mode at ISO 100, $f/1.2$ lens))

In starlight mode it goes down to -8.5EV (Sony A1=-4EV, Canon R3=-4.5EV) This translates into an AF system that will track eye focus by starlight. The viewfinder and rear screen display switches to red illumination, the rear buttons are back lit and the display information also appears in red in the viewfinder and the rear screen, which is now articulated.

The viewfinder is bright and scalable if you wear glasses. And because it is being fed light via a separate stream, does not flicker or black out at all, ever. One can track and frame the subject without missed frames, skipping, or other sudden movements from the subject caused by the viewfinder.

It can shoot at shutter speeds of up to 1/32,000 sec which is 2 stops faster than most. Flash sync speed is 1/200sec, and auto hi speed sync is available for any shutter speed, with the right flash unit. It has 2 CF Express type B card slots. There is no mechanical shutter at all but you can dial in shutter sounds to taste, to alert you to the fact that you are shooting. The viewfinder diopter correction has been expanded to -4 to +3 which also helps to see what's in the frame.

So there you have it. My hope for this camera is that it will allow me to capture pleasing shots in more extreme conditions than any other camera in the Nikon line up. If you shoot other brands, some of the above improvements will also be available to you but remember, this essay is not intended as a cross



platform comparison or review. It is intended to show why I am excited to get my hands on one and the reasons that I bought this camera over other Nikon models. This I can summarize in two points:-

- 1) Auto focus performance
- 2) The Nikon Z lenses

Editor's Note: Not long after John wrote this article for the Shutterbug he received his Z9 and we were able to shoot some photo of his new camera. You will see some of the images throughout the article. He is very pleased with it thus far.

PRINT IT ON METAL!

by Ed Dunnet

What makes a photograph great? In a word when it's printed! Now I am not against photographs on screens. Indeed screens are a wonderful means to share images across a wide audience in a way that is impossible with prints. I particularly liked, last winter, the Victoria camera club's zoom presentation that featured wildlife photographer Jeffrey Wu speaking directly from the Masa Mara in Kenya. He was talking directly to BC camera club members via a PowerPoint photo presentation that was advanced in Victoria. Now that was creative.

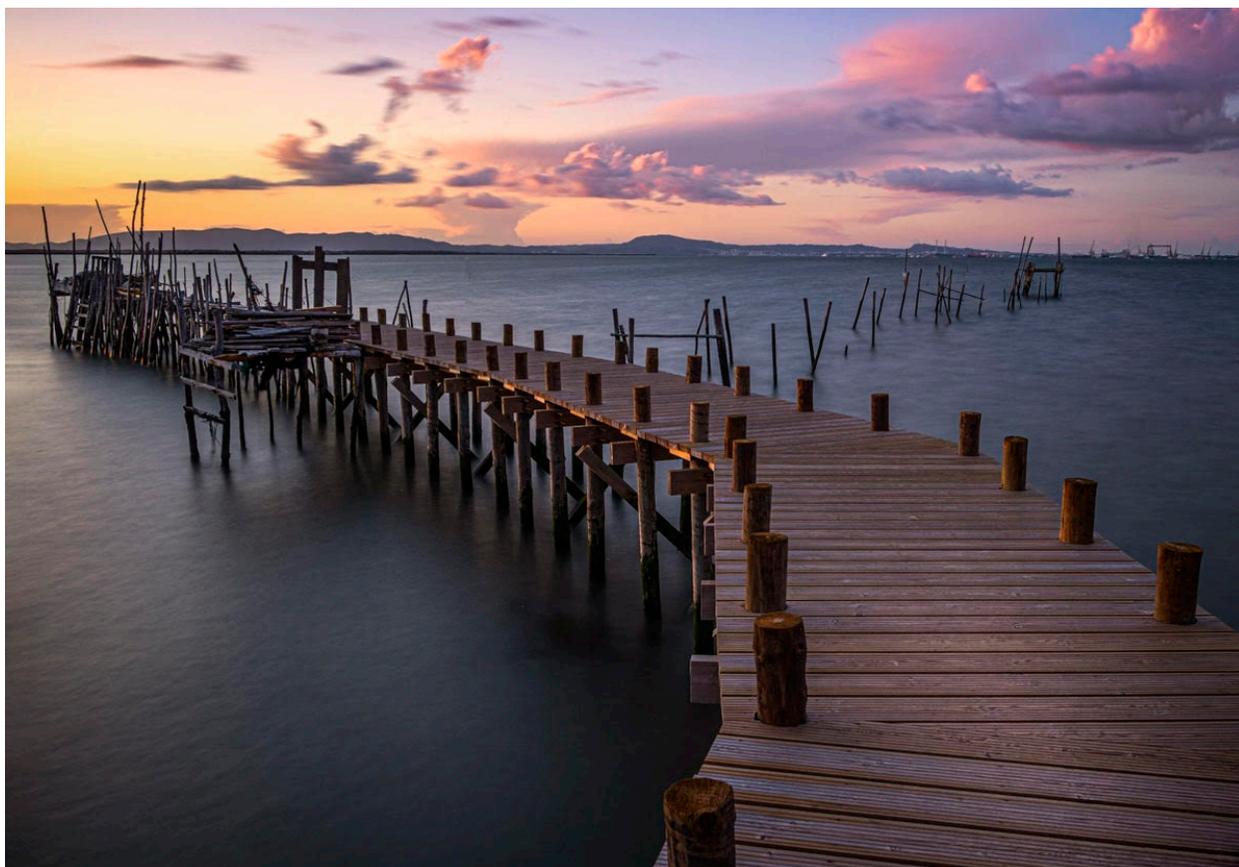


But if you have a wow photograph and you want your image viewer to say wow, it's got to be printed.

I have hundreds of personal images printed in a collection at home with more than 95% of them in photo books. I have a display table in the living room. I use it to rotate books from time to time that visitors can thumb through however they like, in ten seconds or ten minutes. But for the creme de la creme, the images have to be on a wall. My favourite wall is covered in printed photographs. They are printed on paper, canvas and one fairly recent discovery.

Last week I opened a large delivered package to my residence with trembling hand. It was a portrait photograph 13 by 20 that cost \$180. It was printed directly on metal.

I was trembling because I had seen aluminum prints before but all these have been landscapes. Would aluminum work for portraits? I had test printed on paper but it's much too expensive to do a test print on metal. So I took a flyer and went directly to a full sized aluminum print. Note you need to increase the exposure by one third stop to print on metal. That explains the trepidation. What if I had no use for metal portraits.



Well the story has a happy ending. Before the print, the photograph was a half wow, now on metal it has full wow status. It shines like a beacon on my wall, far more striking than any other beside it.

Now you do have to be careful finding a good location for the hanging. Metal prints are highly reflective so you do have to select a location with no bright light directly behind your frequent viewing position.

But if you can find this there is only one thing to do

OPS WINNERS IN QB PHOTO CONTEST

The Town of Qualicum Beach invited photographers of all ages and abilities to enter the "Our Town" Photo Contest. The contest showcased the best of Qualicum Beach, with an opportunity to put a spotlight on the people, activities, and places that make it uniquely "Our Town"

Two of our members came out winners in two of the five categories

- My Community:
 - Winner – Angie Ooms for the photo **A Tribute to Another Time**
- Hidden Gems:
 - Winner – David Cotton for the photo **After the Rains**
- Seasons:
 - Winner – David Cotton for the photo **Snow Along the Boardwalk**
 - Runner Up – Angie Ooms for the photo **Springtime**
- People's Choice:
 - Winner – Angie Ooms for the photo **Outdoor Dining**

Congratulations!

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 at:

newsletter.opc@gmail.com

FRAGRANCE FREE

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

REMINDER

If you haven't already done so please pay your 2022 membership fees. This Covid year the fees are reduced from \$40.00 to \$20.00 to reflect a reduction in services. The easiest way to pay is by electronic transfer to:

treasure.opc@gmail.com

Any questions about the Newsletter should be directed to:

Editor - Shelley Harynuk

newsletter.opc@gmail.com



You Are Invited to Participate In Our Annual PHOTO SALON 2022

Photo Salon 2022 will be held at
The View Gallery
Vancouver Island University
Nanaimo, BC
June 17th – June 26th, 2022

We are now accepting digital images until **April 16, 2022**

The Categories are:

- 1. Landscape**
- 2. Wildlife - Nature**
- 3. Artistic - Digital Art**
- 4. Open**

This year we have a further **non adjudicated category**: Environmental Photojournalism

Full details are available from and any questions can be answered by:
email hcpc.photosalon@gmail.com

Maggie Tilley
Harbour City Photography Club
Nanaimo, B.C.

THE WEATHER

February Assignment Winners

Colour



First
Tom Truss



Second
Diane Spaidal



Third
Iris Schurz

Black and White



First - tie
Iris Schurz



First - tie
Roy Watts



Second
Bill Lovegrove



Third
Mary Watts



Honourable Mention
Diane Spaidal

Digital



First
Alan Smith



Second
Rick Horte



Third
Tom Truss