



In Focus

Volume 20 Number 2

October 2011



President's Message

We have had a very busy September with our first program and competition nights. I heard our first Program night with Dermot O'Kane was a full house. Thanks to all who attended. The "Introduction to Photography" workshop on the 19th drew one of the largest groups in recent memory and we were able to answer questions and show the many varied aspects of our club. Our first competition night and "50 Day Trips" program in October made it four weeks in a row!!!! We can now get to relax with two meetings with time to breathe between.

Our Facebook page is growing with members and many more people are participating. It is great seeing the posted comments and information sharing. This is what social media is all about.

We will continue to take names and collect for a Club Special subscription rate for Photo Life, a great Canadian magazine. The reduced rate is \$15 instead of the regular \$27. If US members are interested there is a \$10 additional charge for mailing. Note: this is the same they would charge at the regular \$27 subscription rate. The cut-off date for payment will be the first meeting in November which is the 7th. If you are a subscriber make sure you say renewal and if not it will be new. You can also add a gift subscription if you want.

Happy Turkey Day to all and see you at the next competition night on October 17th.

Terry Babij, President

Did you know that our club is one of twelve clubs that comprise the 'Niagara Frontier Regional Camera Clubs'. Four of the twelve clubs are Canadian,

Hamilton Camera Club

St. Catharines Photographic Club

Welland Camera Club

And our own **Niagara Falls Camera Club**

For up-to-date information on our own club's activities, remember to visit the club web site regularly.

www.niagarafallscameraclub.org

For up-to-date information on the NFRCC, visit the web site at.

www.nfrcc.org

October's Program

"The Niagara Insider's Guide to Fifty Photo Day Trips"

This presentation was by Leigh Daboll.

Leigh began his photographic journey many years ago as a teen, eventually moving up to the big leagues around age 20 with the purchase of a Canon A-1 film camera. He spent a lot of his time in the darkroom while at University before "retiring" from the serious pursuit of amateur photographic perfection in his twenties. About 2005, he was bit by the digital bug, and there was no turning back.

Today, nearly every evening or weekend when Leigh is not buried behind a pile of paperwork inside his Fonhill legal practice, you can generally find him outside crawling the hills and ravines of the Shorthills and the Niagara Escarpment. Leigh is ideally positioned for this calling, as he lives at and operates his business out of a seven-generation family farm in the heart of the St.Johns/Effingham area.

Monthly Competition Scores

September 2011

Colour Prints

<u>Group</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Entries</u>	<u>Awards</u>	<u>Score</u>
Bronze				
	Jim Koniar	2	2	27
	Scott Watson	1	1	15
Silver				
	Anne Shannon	2	2	32
Gold				
	Kirk Stokes	2	2	32
	Terry Rotella	2	1	28
	Silvia Greco	2	0	23
	Lorraine Pichette	2	0	21
	Eric Baloga	1	0	11
Diamond				
	Terry Babij	2	1	31
	George Beehler	2	1	28
	Chris Empey	2	0	25
	Karen Fulham	2	0	24
	William Stokes	2	0	22
	Jennie Grant	2	0	21

Digital Images

<u>Group</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Entries</u>	<u>Awards</u>	<u>Score</u>
Bronze				
	Cindy Phillips	2	2	31
	Jim Koniar	2	2	27
Silver				
	Laurie Rees	2	2	34
	Melissa Schumacher	2	2	31
	Charles Martyk	2	1	25
Gold				
	Doug Banas	2	2	34
	Terry Babij	2	2	33
	Lorraine Pichette	2	2	32
	Terry Rotella	2	2	31
	Cliff Empey	2	2	30
Diamond				
	Scott Simons	2	2	36
	Chris Empey	2	1	28
	Karen Fulham	2	1	28

Monochrome Prints

<u>Group</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Entries</u>	<u>Awards</u>	<u>Score</u>
Bronze				
	Scott Watson	2	2	28
Silver				
	Anne Shannon	2	1	25
Gold				
	Silvia Greco	2	2	31
	Lorraine Pichette	2	0	23
	Eric Baloga	2	0	22
	Kirk Stokes	2	0	22

<u>Group</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Entries</u>	<u>Awards</u>	<u>Score</u>
Diamond				
	William Stokes	2	1	28
	Terry Babij	2	0	23
	George Beehler	2	0	23

Niagara Falls Camera Club

2011-2012 Program Guide

2011 September

Dermot O'Kane

Landscape
Photography



2011 October

3 - "The Niagara Insider's Guide
to Fifty Photo Day Trips"

Leigh Daboll,
Welland CC

9 - ** Deadline for Digital Images

17* - **Monthly Digital & Print
Competition #2**

2011 November

7 - "Before you Click the Shutter"
Peter Ferguson, Welland CC

13 - ** Deadline for Digital Images

19 - NFRCC Annual Fall Seminar
Hamburg, NY
featuring Tim Grey

21* - **Monthly Digital & Print
Competition #3**

2011 December

5 - "Composition"
Paul Sparrow,
Latow Guild

11 - ** Deadline for Digital Images

19* - **Monthly Digital & Print
Competition #4**

2012 January

9 - "Workshop sponsored
by NFCC"

15 - ** Deadline for Digital Images

23* - **Monthly Digital & Print
Competition #5**

2012 February

6 - "Under the Surface"
Kevin Smith,
Welland CC

19 - ** Deadline for Digital Images

27* - **Monthly Digital & Print
Competition #6**

2012 March

5 - **Members' Night**

16 - 18th NFRCC Spring
Convention
Niagara Falls, NY

19 - **Digital and Print of the Year
Competition**

2012 April

2 - **23rd Rainbow Competition
hosted by NFCC**

28 - **Annual Awards Banquet**

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September to March.

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Club Website:

www.NiagaraFallsCameraClub.org

* Prints – bring your prints in on the evening of the monthly competition.

** Digital – email two images to Chris at cempey@NiagaraFallsCameraClub.org by the deadline date shown (second Sunday before the competition night).

Photography & Travel

Hi everyone! As photographers we face some serious decisions whenever we travel, particularly when flying. As I have just completed a four week vacation trip I'd like to share my thoughts on this and hopefully get some responses, especially from those with differing viewpoints.

Let me differentiate here between vacation trips (usually with family/friends) and photography trips. If I was to travel on a trip specifically for photographic purposes (a safari for instance) then I would take (beg, borrow or steal) the best photo equipment known to man. Been there, done that, and would love to do it again! If I am driving by myself or with other photographers to some local photo opportunity, then I would take the best equipment that I currently own. However, if I am travelling on vacation, usually with family and/or friends, particularly when flying, then I would now only take my high end digital compact camera.

Like many photographers I have in the past carried a rather large collection of photo equipment, DSLR body and two lenses (a Tamron 18-250mm zoom and a wide angle Tamron 11-18mm zoom); close up lens kit; plus recharger box and cable; a stack of memory cards; remote camera trigger; a tripod; and of course, a LowePro case in which to carry all of this. However, my recent trip has convinced me to leave all of that at home next time I travel and carry just a single digital compact camera (high end "Point & Shoot"). Now before some of you remove me from your Christmas card list (or more likely remove me as a Facebook "friend"). Here are my reasons for so doing.

- 1 Airlines have decreased the number and weight of checked baggage, or are charging extra.
- 2 I always carry my camera equipment on board with me, but there are limits to how much one can take on board.



DSLR DSLR Kit with Tripod: Weight without tripod, 4 kG
Weight with tripod, 6 kG.

- 3 My DSLR kit weighs approx. 4 kG (without tripod) and 6 kG (with tripod). Carrying it around is a chore.
- 4 My digital compact camera does 85% of what my DSLR does and weighs 1 kG (without monopod) and 1.5 kG (with monopod).
- 5 Using a compact camera makes it easier to photograph street scenes. With so many compact cameras used now, no one seems to notice them, but a DSLR is very much "in your face".

Now my decision to only use a compact camera is because I have one of the new generation of high quality digital compacts. My choice has been the Panasonic LX-5. There are several other makes that also have excellent specs., but these are what attracted me to the Panasonic:

- 1 Leica lens, wide angle (24mm equiv.), F2 max. aperture. 3.8 x zoom.
- 2 Larger sensor than the cheapie compacts, with excellent colour and other specs.
- 3 Ability to add filters such as a Polariser.
- 4 Ability to add an electronic viewfinder. Not perfect but much better than the LCD screen.
- 5 Ability to attach an external flash.
- 6 Records raw as well as jpegs.
- 7 Shoots very acceptable HD video as an extra bonus.

On my recent trip I found that after the first couple of days I left my DSLR bag in the hotel and only used the Panasonic.

I've owned the LX-5 for just over a year now, which means that in the incredibly volatile photographic market, there have been 486 newer models (give or take one or two) released since then.

/contd. On page 5.



LX-5 Kit with Mono-pod: Weight without monopod, 1 kG
Weight with monopod, 1.5 kG.

Photography & Travel /contd.

Now I hope that I am not contradicting myself here, but my ideal setup would be to have two compact cameras! This ideal setup would include the Panasonic LX-5, plus one of the latest round of CSC (Compact System Camera) units. There are a few on the market now and they are getting a good market share. Strangely, the big guys, Nikon and Canon have yet to enter this area, but rumours fly ... For me, the latest Sony NEX-7 is my current dream camera. It has an APS-C sensor (same size as most DSLR Sensors) but with a resolution of 24.3 megapixels. Plus a burst rate of up to 10 shots per second. It has interchangeable lenses but still has a much smaller size physically than any DSLR made. This is on my "wish list" except that the price is beyond my current budget!

Therefore, being limited to what I currently possess, then I stand by my first statement that when travelling by air, and on a vacation with family then I would just take my Panasonic LX-5 and enjoy the portability. I've just been looking at some of the images that I have brought back from my recent trip and (content aside), the images are well exposed, have very little digital noise (which can be easily reduced using "Lightroom"); and compare very favourably with the results from my DSLR.

Another aspect to this subject is that it's so easy to get into the mindset that we are only "there" to take pictures. I've caught myself busily finding the best angle and lighting conditions, and miss completely the incredible historical or cultural background to the scene in front of me.

One solution to this is of course to get myself out of bed at dawn and do the picture taking then, when the light is possibly the best of the day, and then re-visit the spot with family later and enjoy the shared experience. However, that kind of self discipline was left out of my mental makeup.

I guess my point is that with the latest batch of superb digital compact cameras, it is possible to both get good photographic results and also enjoy the social aspects of travel as well. Plus not find myself with an acute back-ache at the end of each day.

What do you think? I would enjoy receiving your response to this subject.

Denis Grantham
Editor/Publisher
In Focus Newsletter.

NFRCC Annual Fall Seminar

Subject: Photo Optimization Workflow

When: Saturday, November 19th 2011.

Where: Michael's Banquet Facility
4885 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075

Time: 9:00am to 4:30pm Registration at 8:00am

Cost: \$45.00 US/Cdn. Lunch Included



The Seminar features Tim Grey. Tim is one of the top educators in digital photography and imaging, offering clear guidance on complex subjects through his writing and speaking. He has written more than a dozen

books on digital imaging for photographers.

In this full-day seminar you'll see the full workflow Tim employs for optimizing photographic images to make them look their best.

The presentation will begin with an overview of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom, demonstrating some of the organizational tools that can prove very beneficial to any photographer. Tim will then move into Photoshop, demonstrating his workflow for applying basic adjustments, performing image cleanup, and applying advanced and creative adjustments. The focus will be on a flexible and non-destructive workflow, the best approach to tasks you'll perform on a regular basis, and the information you need to improve your image optimization skills.

Tim will also make time to address questions from the audience, helping to ensure everyone walks away more knowledgeable and confident about their ability to produce great photographic images using digital tools.

To download a registration form go to: www.nfrcc.org

As editor I am always looking for Newsletter content. If you have an idea or suggestion, send me an email.

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