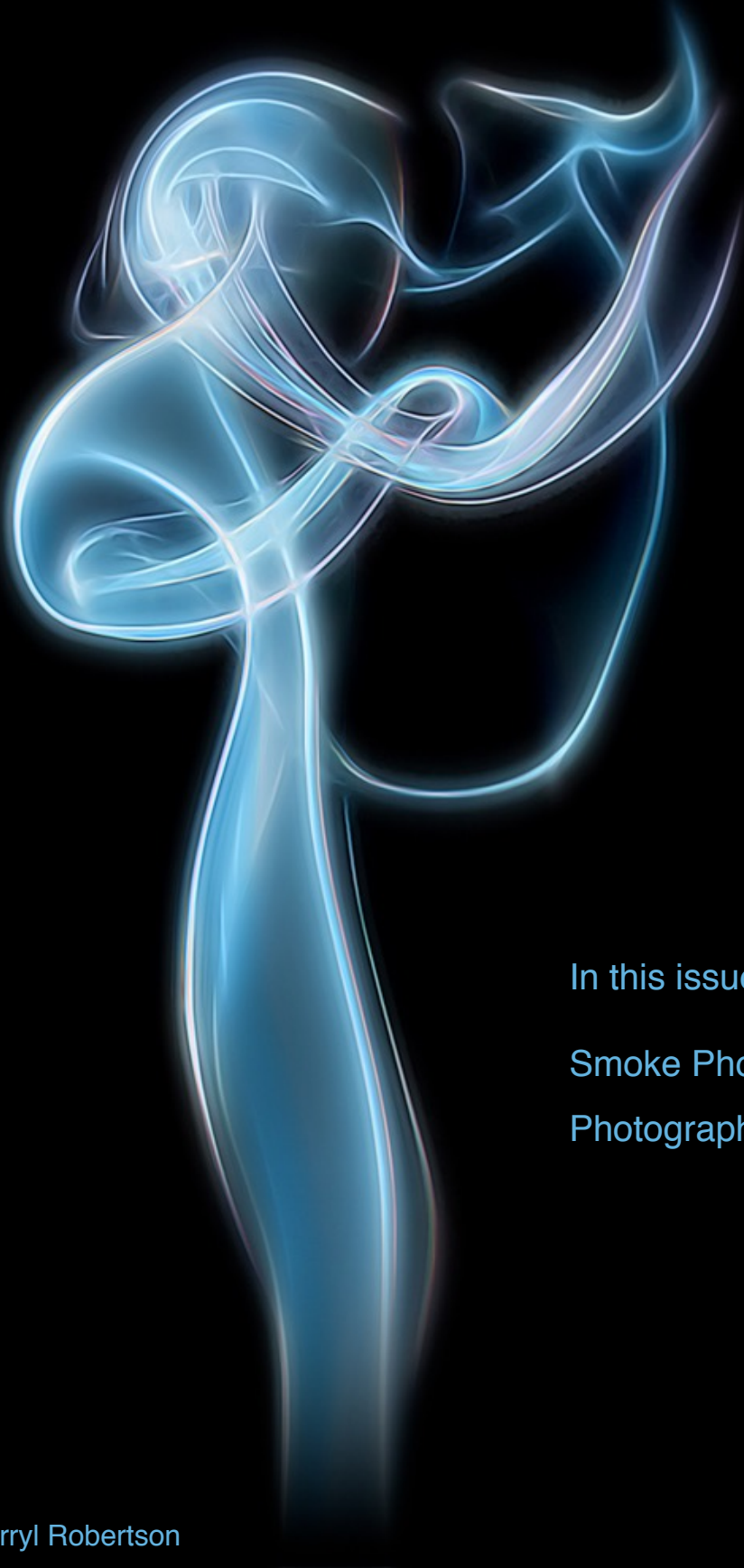


Bluenose Focus

The Newsletter of the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia
May 2016 Volume 51 Issue 2



In this issue:

Smoke Photography

Photography in Ecuador

Bluenose Focus

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Newsletter submissions

We welcome your submissions to Bluenose Focus, and will do our best to make sure that the best submissions make it into the newsletter.

Articles prepared using any current software may be submitted. Should there be a difficulty, the Editor will get in touch.

Submitted images should be JPEG format, sRGB colour space, and high resolution.

Submissions should be e-mailed to:

georgefm41@gmail.com

The Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

Directors

President:	Dean Hirtle
Vice-President:	Darryl Robertson
Past President:	Laszlo Podor
Recording Secretary:	Pam Mills
Newsletter Editor:	George Mitchell
Treasurer:	Kent Speiran

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Entry Chair:	Wayne Garland
Judging Chair:	Fred Greene
PSA Representative:	Viki Gaul
CAPA Representative:	Joyce Chew

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Public Relations:	<i>Vacant</i>
Honours and Awards:	TBA, Tony Landry, Sharon Moser (assistants)
Seminars:	Fred Greene
Nominating:	Laszlo Podor
Constitution and By-Laws:	Joyce Chew
Projection:	Joyce Chew
Host:	Laszlo Podor
Hospitality:	<i>Vacant</i>
Banquets:	Edie Greene
A/V Advisor:	Bill Murphy, Mervyn Kumar-Misir
Statistician:	Nick Honig
Webmaster:	Darryl Robertson
Judging Equipment:	Hubert Boudreau
Event Photographer:	Hubert Boudreau
Workshops/Field Trips:	Fred Greene
Shubenacadie Wildlife Park Guides:	Doug Leahy, Vic Fraser, Jen Fried
Outside Evaluations:	Colin Campbell
Digital Coordinator:	Bill Murphy, Mervyn Kumar-Misir (assistant)
Facebook Administrators:	Laszlo Podor, Viki Gaul



Editor's Corner

By George Mitchell

Hands up all of you readers who noticed that the January newsletter did not appear. Well, just a few. I have an excuse, of course. In January I was staying in a small town in Ecuador and the internet access was intermittent. The missing issue is Volume 51 Issue 1. In order to keep the numbering consistent, I am calling the present (May) issue Volume 51 Issue 2, even although it is the first one of 2016.

You will notice in Viki Gaul's PSA Report a number of colourful montages containing all the images that were sent away to PSA Interclub Competitions this past year. I thank Viki, on behalf of all Guild members, for providing this record.

The cover of this issue is an image of smoke taken by Darryl Robertson. Dar-

ryl has written an article for this issue (page 20) explaining the technique. The beauty of that cover image should stir us all into action.

I have used (abused?) my position as editor to include an article about Ecuador. It is essentially a photo essay with some emphasis on photographic opportunities. Of course, very little can be covered in a short article. If any of you intend to visit Ecuador, don't hesitate to approach Pip or me for information or suggestions.

Again, I encourage you, our members, to submit images, news items, and articles for future issues of the Bluenose Focus. You can reach me at georgefm41@gmail.com.

2016-17 Guild Themes At A Glance

1st Guild Assignment

"Light Painting"

(Must have been photographed after May 1, 2016)

2nd Guild Assignment

"From the Sea"

(Must have been photographed after September 1, 2016)

R. K. Mann Trophy

"Can one desire too much of a good thing" (As You Like It, Act IV, Scene 1)

(Must have been photographed after September 1, 2016)

President's Message

By Dean Hirtle



As our 2015/16 year winds down, I would like to reflect on our Program.

We made some adjustments this past year, including reducing the number of: meetings, competition nights, competition entries, and new images required. We welcome comments from members regarding these and other changes as well as suggestions on how to improve our Program next year.

Our Program continues to provide variety and opportunity. Twelve field trips were offered this year. We had first rate presentations from folks outside our club: David and Christopher Sheppard on the Fundy Shore; Guy Brun on Connecting with Nature; Stephan Reeb on Images from Northern Italy; and Kas Stone on Scenery and Secrets of a Landscape Photographer. In a change of pace, our Christmas party was held at the Museum this year and was well attended and well received. Thanks to Viki Gaul and Edie Greene for their efforts in organizing same. We continue to pull our weight as a member club for both CAPA and PSA as we hosted print competitions for both this year – great opportunities to see national and international competition images. Thanks to both Joyce Chew and Viki Gaul as our respective reps for CAPA

and PSA and their efforts to host these events. Laszlo Podor's presentation of images from his garden for our spring show was excellent.

Our annual business meeting on May 9th saw all of our Directors and Executive re-offering for the coming year. We are fortunate to have this level of ongoing commitment to our club. I am very grateful for this support. Our club and Program thrive on the efforts of volunteers, and I would like to thank all our Executive and committee members for their time and service to the Guild.

I would also like to thank all other Guild members who have contributed in some way this year, including contributions to our Spring Show, presenting seminars, leading field trips, etc.

We are fortunate to have such an extensive and rich program, and none of it would be possible without volunteer efforts. If you are able to contribute to Guild activities in any way, I urge you to do so.

I hope you are enjoying the Guild Program this year, and that it is informative, inspiring and fun. If you agree, I encourage you, as always, to be an ambassador for our club and spread the word! Thank you.

PSA Report

By Viki Gaul



I have had a busy year as your representative with the Photographic Society of America. The various jobs that need to be done include: paying the CSA Club Membership; enrolling in the various Interclub Competitions for the season; receiving, re-sizing, sorting, and sending in the images selected at the Guild competitions (both digital and print); receiving the scores and making sure that they are sent to be tabulated for “End of the Year” purposes.

The most wonderful part of course is distributing the Awards and Ribbons to the recipients. I love to be able to acknowledge the beautiful works of photographic art in each of the rounds in the six categories. This year we participated in 5 digital sections: the open category known as PID (Projected Image Division), Nature, Creative, Photo Travel, and Photojournalism. We also participated in 4 of the 5 Print categories: Large and Small Colour, and Large and Small Monochrome. The 5th category is Creative

and we will be considering adding that for next year.

I would like to thank each of the Guild members for participating in the Guild competitions, and extend a second ‘thank you’ for all the images selected to go away to PSA Interclub competitions. Our success in these competitions shows that we HOLD OUR OWN in the quality of our images, both those made here in Nova Scotia, and images made by those who travel.

Another duty of the club representative is to answer questions and supply membership information to Guild members who show an interest in joining the PSA as individuals. Anyone who would like to discuss the PSA and what it offers should contact me.

The PSA annual conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas this September. If you are looking for a photographic vacation this year, information can be found on the PSA website at psa-photo.org (and clicking on ‘Conference’), or from me.

**Attend the
2016 PSA
Conference**

September 10-17, 2016

A great way to meet people, have personal encounters with known photographers, and renew longtime acquaintances.

Photographic Society of America
78th Annual Conference

Join Us in
San Antonio
TEXAS

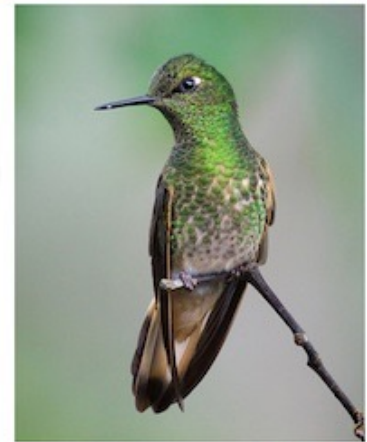
September 10-17, 2016

Viki Gaul, APSA,PPSA
PSA Club Representative
Photo Guild of NS
email-mudroom@mac.com
902-325-1621



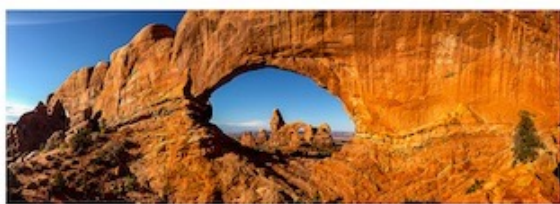


These are the 24 images
selected from the 4 Guild
Competitions to represent us at
PID (Digital Open) INTERCLUB.
Thankyou to ALL...
Hope to see your images again
in next year's submissions to
PSA Interclub .



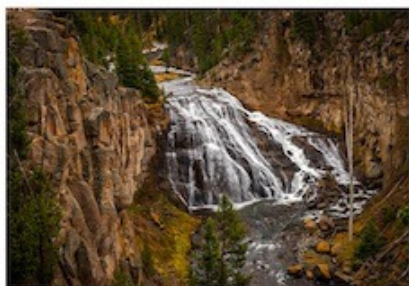
The 18 NATURE Images chosen from
the Guild competitions to represent
us in the 3 Rounds of
PSA Interclub Competitions
2015-16





18 images submitted to PSA
INTERCLUB 2015-16
PHOTO TRAVEL Division
....Thankyou....

To All PGNS Members
for sharing these
wonderful
travel photos !







6 Photojournalism images were selected from each of the 4 Guild Competitions and were sent 'away' to represent us in PSA Interclub Competitions 2015-16. Thankyou to everyone for the great 'PJ' images !!!!



ICPC - Club Standings By Round 2015-16

		Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Total
Large Color [LC]						
St. Louis CC	SLCC	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	373
Photographic Guild, NS	PGNS	89	95	90	89	363
Merrimack Valley CC	MVCC	100	82	93	86	361
Loveland Photographic Society	LPS	82	81	97	95	355
West Cumbria Photo Group	WCPG	88	78	91	92	349
South Jersey CC	SJCC	85	77	89	87	338
Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn	CNPA	92	50	91	87	320
Photographic Guild, Detroit	PGD		93	92	99	284
3HCC, Indiana	3HCC	81	74	87	41	283
Manchester CC	MCC	92		91	95	278
Boise Camera Club	BCC				96	96
Large Monochrome [LM]						
St. Louis CC	SLCC	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	376
Photographic Guild, NS	PGNS	89	89	89	90	357
Loveland Photographic Society	LPS	89	70	90	96	345
West Cumbria Photo Group	WCPG	82	76	91	92	341
Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn	CNPA	88	72	91	86	337
South Jersey CC	SJCC	87	72	88	83	330
Merrimack Valley CC	MVCC	80	66	92	90	328
Photographic Guild, Detroit	PGD		87	96	95	278
Manchester CC	MCC	94		92	67	253
3HCC, Indiana	3HCC	39	66	43		148
Boise Camera Club	BCC				91	91
Pacific Coast Photographic Society	PCPS	89				89
Small Color [LC]						
St. Louis CC	SLCC	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	368
Photographic Guild, NS	PGNS	88	91	94	92	365
East Troy Viewfinders CC	ETVCC	90	74	91	97	352
Loveland Photographic Society	LPS	79	74	95	90	338
Merrimack Valley CC	MVCC	85	74	92	82	333
Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn	CNPA	82	74	85	88	329
South Jersey CC	SJCC	88	70	84	83	325
West Cumbria Photo Group	WCPG	89	38	90	89	306
Image Makers CC	IMCC		68	88	82	238
SunCity Texas Photo Club	SCTPC	64	41	66	63	234
3HCC, Indiana	3HCC		79	88	40	207
Manchester CC	MCC	65		66	44	175
Boise Camera Club	BCC				94	94
Pacific Coast Photographic Society	PCPS	88				88
New Castle CC	NCCC	20	36	21		77
Small Monochrome [SM]						
St. Louis CC	SLCC	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	358
Photographic Guild, NS	PGNS	90	88	88	89	355
Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn	CNPA	88	68	87	93	336
West Cumbria Photo Group	WCPG	91	68	89	88	336
East Troy Viewfinders CC	ETVCC	83	76	86	88	333
Merrimack Valley CC	MVCC	83	70	91	89	333
Loveland Photographic Society	LPS	84	84	66	89	323
SunCity Texas Photo Club	SCTPC	60	38	67	67	232
South Jersey CC	SJCC	61	34	87	45	227
Image Makers CC	IMCC		72	85	63	220
Manchester CC	MCC	66		93	44	203
3HCC, Indiana	3HCC		58	22	23	103
Boise Camera Club	BCC				87	87
New Castle CC	NCCC	19	16	21	24	80
Creative Altered Reality [CAR]						
St. Louis CC	SLCC	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	363
West Cumbria Photo Group	WCPG	88	84	93	89	354
Merrimack Valley CC	MVCC	85	76	89	86	336
Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn	CNPA	82	64	91	88	325
East Troy Viewfinders CC	ETVCC	81	72	84	80	317
Photographic Guild, Detroit	PGD		77	95	97	269
Manchester CC	MCC	88		87	74	249
Loveland Photographic Society	LPS	80	81	73	73	234
Image Makers CC	IMCC		52	66	82	200
Boise Camera Club	BCC				89	89



After 4 rounds
of PSA Interclub

PRINT

Competitions
2015-2016

We are pleased to
announce that
PGNS placed
2nd in **ALL 4 OF THE**
categories

we participated in !

Congratulations

to all members whose
prints were selected
to represent us...

and further

Congratulations

to all members
whose prints

received **AWARDS**

and

Honourable Mentions

Hip Hip Hooray!!!!

INTERCLUB

PGNS is sitting in
6th place - 'Group A' - after
3 of 4 rounds in
PID (Projected Image Division)
INTERCLUB Competitions
Waiting for 4th and final round
of the season to be judged.

In total there are
129 clubs in 5 groups.
To see the top images in each
round for the last three seasons
please visit the PSA website
at this URL...

<http://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?pid-interclub-competition>

You then click on any one of the galleries
for any competition you wish...
Lots of lovely imagery to view...
including lots from PGNS among
the AWARD Winners and Honourable Mentions !!
HAVE FUN !

2015-2016 PID Interclub Competition Results						
Group A						
CLUB	LOCATION	pts Nov	pts Jan	pts Mar	pts May	totals
the sample	Belgium	81	73	73	73	299
Forest Grove Camera Club	CA	80	70	70	70	290
Photoclub de Lede	Belgium	83	68	72	72	295
St Louis Camera Club	MO	58	70	75	75	278
Group B						
Photographic Club of New South Wales	Australia	84	80	74	74	312
Highpoint Camera Club	NY	81	80	80	80	321
North Photo Club Club	NY	58	68	68	68	262
Cambridge Digital Camera Club	CA	80	64	67	67	278
Lancaster Photographic Association	CA	58	62	71	71	262
Greater Lynn Photographic Association	MA	54	70	68	68	260
Mid River Camera Club	MA	63	67	60	60	250
Proctor Camera Photo Club	United Kingdom	53	70	67	67	257
Case City Overlookers Camera Club	MA	55	68	68	68	259
New Haven Camera Club	CT	61	74	63	63	261
Begum Camera Club	AZ	67	70	61	61	259
Huntington Camera Club	NY	58	62	68	68	256
Horsham Photographic Society	United Kingdom	55	63	62	62	242
Lancaster Southcoast	Belgium	58	0	124	124	306
West Cornish Photo Group	United Kingdom	59	61	60	60	240
Great Falls Camera Club	NY	57	68	58	58	241
Central Coast Camera Club	CA	60	0	58	58	176
Group C						
CLUB	LOCATION	pts Nov	pts Jan	pts Mar	pts May	totals
Overlook Photographic Society	United Kingdom	67	67	67	67	268
London Camera Club	Canada	65	65	67	67	264
Green River Camera Club	IL	60	68	63	63	254
Seaside Photographic Society	MA	67	61	72	72	272
Digital Spectrum	IL	67	68	64	64	263
Purbeck Photographic Society	UK	54	67	62	62	245
Bundelton Camera Club	England	63	59	61	61	244
North Hampshire Photographic Society	England	67	63	61	61	252
Northwest Valley Camera Club	CA	63	63	63	63	252
Pomona Valley Camera Club	CA	54	64	60	60	238
Westside Camera Club	IL	61	64	60	60	245
Tampa Camera Club	OH	60	60	55	55	230
Bridge Camera Club	NY	60	60	58	58	236
Harvard Foto Soc Tilden	Belgium	62	61	60	60	243
East Troy Viewfinders	WI	67	58	54	54	233
Englewood Camera Club	CO	63	55	61	61	240
West Peak Camera Club	CO	48	54	57	57	216
Image Masters	WI	62	58	53	53	226
Houston Photochrome	TX	58	0	58	58	174
Midland Camera Club	NY	53	0	60	60	173
Cheshire Photographic Society	IL	53	0	0	0	53
Group D						
CLUB	LOCATION	pts Nov	pts Jan	pts Mar	pts May	totals
South Tama Camera Club	NY	58	77	68	68	271
Egypt Photo Group	Great Britain	53	68	60	60	241
Philbrick Camera Club	MA	51	58	62	62	233
North Photographic Society	Australia	55	54	60	60	229
Hampton Camera Club	United Kingdom	63	58	58	58	237
Long Top Photography Club	CO	60	58	58	58	234
Houston Camera Club	TX	60	58	55	55	228
South Shore Camera Club	NY	49	63	60	60	232
Glendora Camera Club	CA	49	62	60	60	231
Tamark Camera Club	NY	48	61	61	61	231
Burnside Camera Club	IL	51	0	108	108	159
Kalamazoo of Birmingham	IL	45	60	48	48	201
Manchester Camera Club	NY	51	59	48	48	206
Thunder Mountain Camera Club	CO	48	61	60	60	229
Charlotte Camera Club	NC	38	60	57	57	212
PAT Camera Club	MA	41	54	51	51	207
Bowie-Croft Camera Club	MD	36	61	53	53	203
Camera Club of Los Angeles	CA	38	60	47	47	192
Nebraska Camera Club	IL	0	63	53	53	116
Cheshire Photographic Society	United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0
Group E						
CLUB	LOCATION	pts Nov	pts Jan	pts Mar	pts May	totals
Palm Beach Camera Club	MA	63	0	133	133	329
PhotoClub FPO Dependable	Belgium	67	60	68	68	263
Kansas Photographic Society	CA	58	60	62	62	242
Louisiana Photographic Society	LA	60	62	62	62	246
Boston Camera Club	MA	0	130	62	62	354
Schaumburg Area Photographic Society	IL	55	62	60	60	237
Asheville Valley Camera Club	MA	55	0	125	125	305
Great Rapids Camera Club	MA	54	63	63	63	243
South Streets Photographic Society	England	54	60	60	60	234
West Tama Camera Club	Australia	60	53	54	54	221
Hamstead Photographic Society	CA	52	60	62	62	236
Hamstead Camera Club	NY	53	0	121	121	275
Puget Sound Camera Club	MA	54	57	62	62	235
Hand Photo Club	NY	53	54	63	63	233
Photographic Society of Cheshire	NY	52	58	61	61	232
Becky Photos Photo Group	Ireland	55	61	55	55	226
Club Superior Camera Club	WI	58	0	114	114	272
Western Reserve Photo Club	OH	52	58	60	60	230
Cape Fear Camera Club	NC	52	54	63	63	222
Self Creek Camera Club	IL	53	0	116	116	265
Westminster Digital Photographers	MA	57	0	111	111	269
ABC Photo Society	MA	55	55	55	55	220
Knap Photographic Club	MA	50	55	54	54	213
La Costa Photographic Society	TX	57	47	53	53	210
Lake County Camera Club	IL	52	55	42	42	191
Atlanta Photographic Society	GA	54	0	87	87	221
Photography West	AZ	53	0	58	58	169
Prichard Camera Club	MA	47	0	0	0	47
Cardinal Camera Club	CT	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Coast Photographic Society	CA	0	0	0	0	0
Group F						
CLUB	LOCATION	pts Nov	pts Jan	pts Mar	pts May	totals
Photography Pallet	Belgium	60	68	72	72	272
The Endless Group	England	67	64	69	69	269
Burner Beach Camera Club	FL	60	60	65	65	250
Photography Club of Beaufort	SC	57	65	58	58	238
Northern Tennessee Camera Club	Australia	57	54	66	66	243
South Jersey Camera Club	NY	51	63	63	63	240
Greater Bridgeport Camera Club	CT	50	61	63	63	237
Broke Camera Club	SD	58	63	61	61	243
Suffolk Camera Club	NY	51	0	122	122	273
Valencia Photographic Society	MA	50	59	64	64	237
Quintessence Valley Photography Club	CT	52	55	63	63	233
West Chester Photo Club	OH	48	0	122	122	270
Houston Camera Club	CT	48	63	60	60	231
North Shore Camera Club	IL	43	0	105	105	253
San Jose Photo Society	TX	44	62	62	62	230
Camera Club of Oxford Camera	CT	42	57	55	55	219
Unlimited Vision Photo Club	WI	45	57	61	61	224
Midland Camera Club	MA	44	51	68	68	231
Midland Camera Club	CT	43	0	119	119	281
Hill Camera Club	CA	0	112	49	49	161
Westwood Camera Club	NY	49	56	54	54	213
Schenectady Camera Club	NY	42	57	60	60	219
Coastal Camera Camera Club	NC	42	53	61	61	217
Winnipeg 21 Photographic Club	England	48	50	60	60	218
Tri-State Photo Society	NY	32	57	68	68	225
Clemson Photographic Club	SC	41	58	47	47	193
Catalina Regional Camera Club	RI	42	59	47	47	195
Grays Photo Club	CA	45	0	0	0	45
Montclair Camera Club	MA	45	0	0	0	45
Union Camera Club	ME	0	0	0	0	0
University Photo Club	SC	0	0	0	0	0
North Bethesda Camera Club	MD	0	0	0	0	0
Passadena Camera Club	CA	0	0	0	0	0
Passadena Photography Club	CA	0	0	0	0	0
Shutter Clickers Camera Club	CA	0	0	0	0	0

PID Interclub Competition

2015-2016 PID INTERCLUB RESULTS

Standings | Round 3 Gallery | Round 2 Gallery | Round 1 Gallery |

2014-2015 PID INTERCLUB RESULTS

Standings | Best of the Best | Round 4 Gallery | Round 3 Gallery | Round 2 Gallery | Round 1 Gallery |

2013-2014 PID INTERCLUB RESULTS

Standings | Round 4 Gallery | Round 3 Gallery | Round 2 Gallery | Round 1 Gallery |

2012-2013 PID INTERCLUB RESULTS

Standings | Round 4 Gallery | Round 3 Gallery | Round 2 Gallery | Round 1 Gallery |

Check out the 2016 PSA Conference

September 10-17, 2016

A great way to meet people, have personal encounters with known photographers, and renew longtime acquaintances.

Photographic Society of America 78th Annual Conference

Join Us in
San Antonio
TEXAS

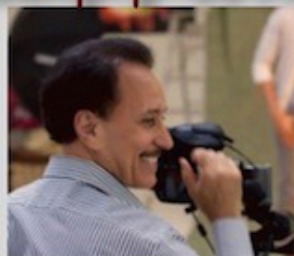


September 10-17, 2016

<https://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?2016-psa-conference>



David Akoubian
Sponsored by Tamron
Thursday, September 15



Parish Kohanim
Sponsored by Canon
Friday, September 16
Saturday, September 17
(Workshop)



Chris Nicholson
Sponsored by Manfrotto
Saturday, September 17



James Schmelzer
Sponsored by Sigma
Wednesday, September 14



Giulio Scorio
Sponsored by
Panasonic/Lumix
Friday, September 16

psa-photo.org

PSA
Photographic
Society of
America

For more information ... email
PSA-Canadian Maritimes Area Membership Director
using either of these emails
mudroom@mac.com or amd-canadian-maritime@psa-photo.org
...I will be happy to assist you ! Viki Gaul

CAPA News

By Joyce Chew



Spring has sprung and Summer is just around the corner. With all the events around HRM this summer there will be plenty of opportunities for you to use your camera.

In November, our club hosted both the Individual and the Club competitions for the Print Division, allowing our members to view the work of talented print makers from all across Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hubert Boudreau for setup, Dean Hirtle, Wayne Garland, Bill Murphy, Laszlo Podor for scorekeeping, Fred Greene for securing the judges, Darryl Robertson for assistance with the prints, Wade Pelly and Kim Dennis for helping with the Guild Goodies, and Wayne Garland for arranging the meeting space. It is only with the aid of such willing volunteers that events like these can run smoothly. CAPA and its participating members and clubs were deeply appreciative of PGNS for stepping forward to host the Fall Print competition.

PGNS tied for 8th place with a score of 133 points. Congratulations to Viki Gaul for earning the 3rd place Certificate of Merit for her print "Thoughtful Orangutan"! We improved our ranking from last year's 20th out of 27 clubs in the Fine Art Competition. This year, we placed 12th out of 27 clubs with a score of 137 points. In the Fall Nature

competition, we tied for 12th out of 28 clubs with 128 points. We finished 16th out of 24 clubs in Altered Reality with 119 points, 16th out of 19 clubs with 99 points in the Portrait competition, 7th out of 24 clubs with 138 points in the Spring Wildlife Competition and tied for 6th out of 8 clubs with 126 points in the Spring Print category. We earned an Honour Award for finishing 5th out of 21 clubs with 134 points in the Digital Theme "Creating Motion in a Still Image", and another Honour award for finishing 4th out of 28 clubs in the Spring Open category. Next year's CAPA digital theme is "Your Best Image".

As a precursor to the 2017 National conference in Ottawa, the Atlantic Zone of CAPA is hosting a two-day conference in Sackville, NB on June 25-26, 2016 at the Mount Allison campus. Talented landscape and portrait photographer David Brosha will be presenting at the conference, which will feature interactive workshops, photo tours, presentations, and most of all photographic exploration. Hopefully some of you will be able to make the trip to New Brunswick and make some new photography friends.

Thank you all for submitting your images to the CAPA competitions. Let's try to be in the top 50% of all the CAPA clubs next year!

CAPA News

Digital Fine Art- Hosted by Crescent Beach Photography Club

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1	Sandhill Cranes Taking Flight- Nick Honig	25.5	
2	Dunes 0575- Fred Greene	24.5	
3	Looking Anxious- Marg Nolen	23.5	
4	Broom Maker- Darryl Robertson	23	
5	McNeils Cove- Ken Renton	20.5	
6	Spruces on Fire- Bob Kerr	20	
	Total Score	137	12th of 27 clubs

Nature Digital- Hosted by Trillium Photography Club

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1	Spoonbill 4282- Fred Greene	25	
2	Rhino Trio- Dean Hirtle	21	
3	Flies on Dahlia- George Mitchell	22	
4B	A Heavy Load- Marg Nolen	20	
5	Heron Preening- Wade Pelly	18	
6	Purple Finch- Darryl Robertson	22	
	Total Score	128	Tied 12 th of 28 clubs

CAPA News

Print – Hosted by The Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1M	Saint Hubert Gallery- Dean Hirtle	20	
2C	Three In A Row- Marg Nolen	23	
3C	Surfer at Lawrencetown Beach- Wade Pelly	20	
4C	Thoughtful Orangutan- Viki Gaul	25	3rd CM
5C	Wolf Portrait- Darryl Robertson	21	
6C	Hooded Merganser 6941- Fred Greene	24	
	Total Score	133	Tied for 8th out of 10 clubs

Altered Reality Digital- Hosted by Woodstock Camera Club

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1	Guardian At The Gate- Joyce S. K. Chew	18	
2	Grizzly And The Kiddies 2529- Viki Gaul	23	
3	Fractals Lighthouse 1947- Fred Greene	18	
4	Mahone Bay- Mervyn Kumar-Misir	22	
5	Flower Fire- Ken Renton	19	
6	Tree Ball- Darryl Robertson	19	
	Total Score	119	16 th of 24 clubs

CAPA News

Theme “Creating Motion in a Still Image – Hosted by Abbotsford

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1	Wind And The Stream- Mervyn Kumar-Misir	26	
2	Tate Enters Home Stretch- Joyce S. K. Chew	23	
3	Magnificent Hummingbird- Nick Honig	23	
4	Terence Bay Rocks- Darryl Robertson	23	
5	Gooseneck Dance- Laszlo Podor	22	
6	Holding Hands- Ken Renton	17	
	Total Score	134	5th out of 21 clubs Honour Award

Open Digital- Hosted by Langley Camera Club

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1	Sunflower- Mervyn Kumar-Misir	22.5	
2	Terence Bay Sunrise- Darryl Robertson	25	
3	Tri-Coloured Heron 8736- Fred Greene	25	
4	View of Birches- Laszlo Podor	23	
5	Coming in For A Landing- Joyce S. K. Chew	24	
6	Cougar Stares- France Boutilier	23.5	
	Total Score	143	4 th of 28 clubs Honour Award

Open Portrait – Hosted by Victoria Camera Club

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1	Beautiful Bali Dancer- Marg Nolen	14	
2	Lady of Lisbon- Dean Hirtle	18	
3	The Pirate 5149 Mono- Fred Greene	15	
4	Inner Rock Star- Joyce S. K. Chew	21	
5	Connor and His Buddy- Viki Gaul	20	
6	Mother And Child- Nick Honig	11	
	Total Score	99	16th out of 19 clubs

Nature Wildlife Digital- Hosted by Calgary Camera Club

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1	Bull Elk Approaching- Viki Gaul	23	
2	Yellow Warbler- Nick Honig	24	
3	Snowy Egret 2105- Fred Greene	25	
4B	Pink Ladyslipper Defender- Joyce S. K. Chew	21	
5	Moose Bull- Laszlo Podor	22	
6	Purple Finch- Darryl Robertson	23	
	Total Score	138	7 th of 24 clubs

CAPA News

Print – Hosted by Victoria Camera Club

E n try		<u>Sco re</u>	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1M	Ride It Like You Stole It- Viki Gaul	22	
2C	Mahone Bay- Mervyn Kumar-Misir	17	
3C	Egret In Flight 7409- Fred Greene	22	
4C	Forest Impression- Dean Hirtle	19	
5C	Screaming Eagle- Darryl Robertson	24	
6C	Lawn And Fern- Laszlo Podor	22	
	Total Score	126	Tied for 6th out of 8 clubs



Smoke Photography

by Darryl Robertson

I recently read an article about a photographer named Thomas Herbrich who took 100,000 images of smoke over three months, broke one camera and ended up keeping just 20 images. I wondered why anyone would do that, so I started experimenting with smoke photography to find out.

I have discovered that smoke photography is fun, creative, frustrating and addictive. What seems like a simple enough concept turns out to be very difficult in practice. Based on information from various on-line tutorials I began building a setup under the steps leading down to my basement. After a lot of different arrangements and experimentation, this is my final 'smoke studio'.

The basic design requires a dark room with no air currents, an electronic flash at 90° to your camera aimed at the smoke stream and a reflector on the other side. A black background is needed and some faint light source that is bright enough to see the smoke but not enough to add to the exposure.

Simple design, but then the complications start to show up. The first is how to trigger the flash when it is off camera. Canon sells a flash extension cord for \$125, but Amazon has several alternatives that cost \$15 to \$40. I bought one for \$30 that works fine. For a lot more money you can get wireless flash triggers as well.



Smoke Photography

The light from the flash can't hit the background, or the camera lens, so some sort of "barn doors" are needed. I cut some from a thick felt card that works well. A spoon can be used to break up the smoke stream, so some sort of holder is needed. I actually use two different spoons and a fork, each one creating a different effect on the smoke stream. And the smoke can quickly become a thick haze, especially if your setup is in a confined area, so a small fan can help as long as it doesn't directly affect the smoke stream.

And, of course, you do need some smoke! The best source of smoke is incense but I don't like using incense sticks. The smoke stream from an incense stick is thin, and the position of the smoke keeps changing as the incense burns down the length of the stick. The solution is to use an incense cone. The smoke stream is thicker, and it always originates in the same position. One store where you can find incense cones as well as incense stands and ash plates is the Ikebana Shop on Quinpool Road. As a side effect the room will smell nice from all that burning incense, but it can get a bit overwhelming. A room with a window or door leading outside is often the best choice. One incense cone will burn for ten minutes and I usually end up with about 40 to 50 images per cone.

Determining the best exposure is done mostly by trial and error. The histogram will not help much, and a camera's au-

toexposure and autofocus modes can not be used. There are several conflicting considerations. Manual focus must be set at the distance of the incense cone but the smoke stream wanders around so a fair depth of field is needed. With my 100mm macro lens I need to stop down to at least f/8.0, but even then many of my images are out of focus. The flash unit must be on manual with a power setting as low as possible. Smoke rises surprisingly fast so a flash duration on full power is often too long to freeze the smoke. A power setting of 1/2 or 1/4 is best, as long as that is enough light for an aperture setting of f/8.0 or more. Increasing the ISO is not a good idea because even low noise is very noticeable in smoke images. Never use the 'high shutter speed' mode of the flash. Set the shutter speed to the camera's flash sync speed.

When everything is set up, the camera lens is focused, the flash is on and the air is still, it is then time to light the incense cone. The smoke starts drifting up and you wait for the steam to break up and produce an interesting pattern. It is a rule, I think, that the 'break point' will rarely happen within the camera's frame. A slight wave of your hand in the air to disrupt the stream can help, but usually the stream drifts out of the camera's depth of field when you do that. Placing a spoon in the smoke stream can lower the break point but that can also disrupt the smoke into a unordered blur.

Smoke Photography

This is the frustrating part! There really is very little you can do to control the smoke stream, you never see the same pattern twice, and suddenly the incense cone is done and you have no idea if you have caught something interesting or not.

Once the exposures have been taken, the next step is to process those images. Most your images will be out of focus, completely black (because the exposure was taken before the flash had time to recycled) or the smoke stream is simply uninteresting. However, chances are that you will have captured a few images that look promising. Lightroom can adjust the black and white points, set the colour balance to flash if needed, and apply a lens profile, but beyond that Photoshop is required.

Smoke images require a lot of post processing, and here the fun really begins. Smoke steams and patterns can be surprisingly flat so contrast adjustment is usually required to bring out the subtle shadings and shapes. The Topaz Clarity plugin is ideal for this, but Photoshop controls can be used as well. Some sharpening is always required, and a good de-noise filter is often needed, even when the images are shot at ISO 100.

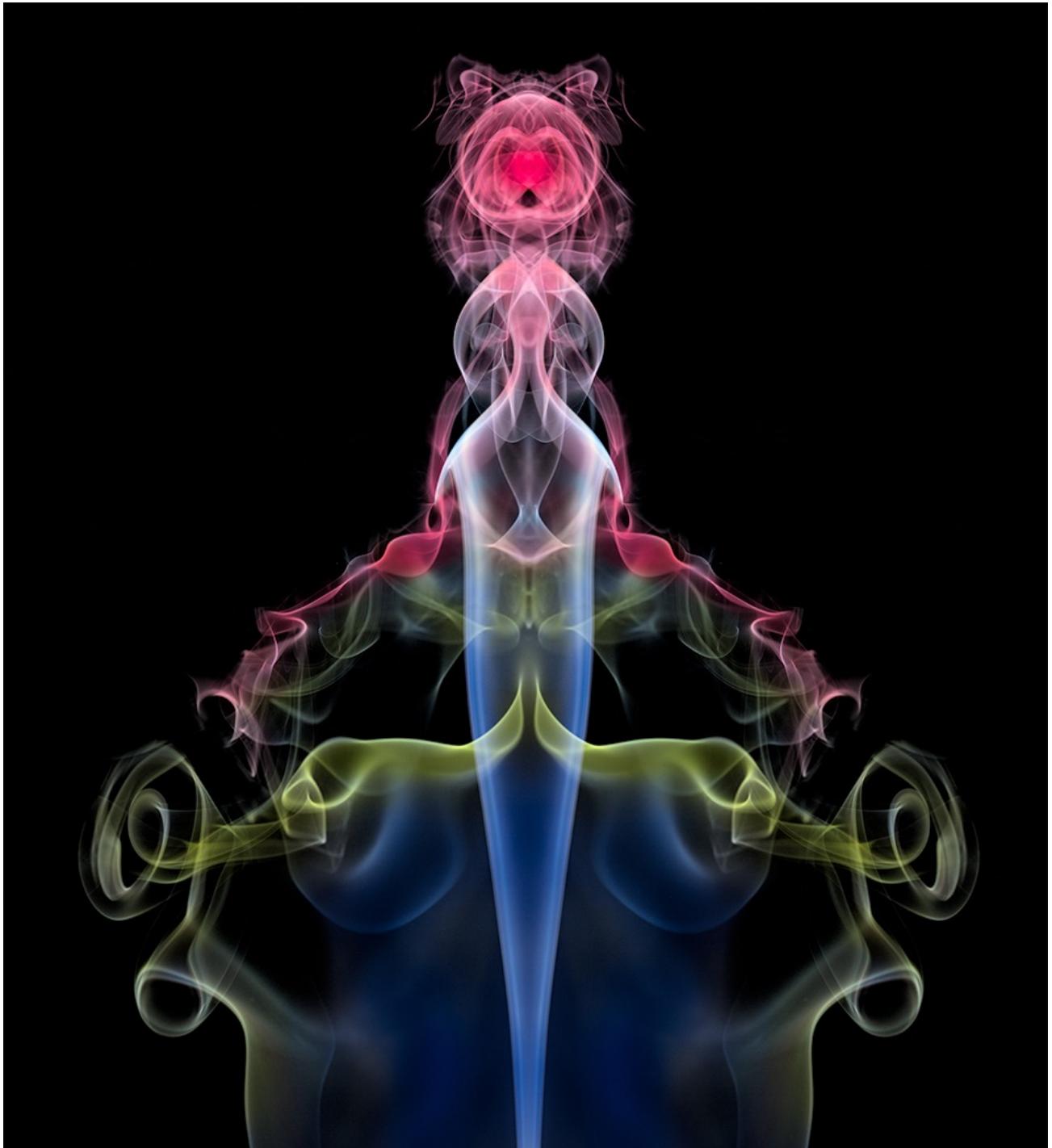
Incense smoke is virtually colourless except for a slight blue hue. You can use the hue and saturation controls in Clarity or Photoshop's Hue/Satura-

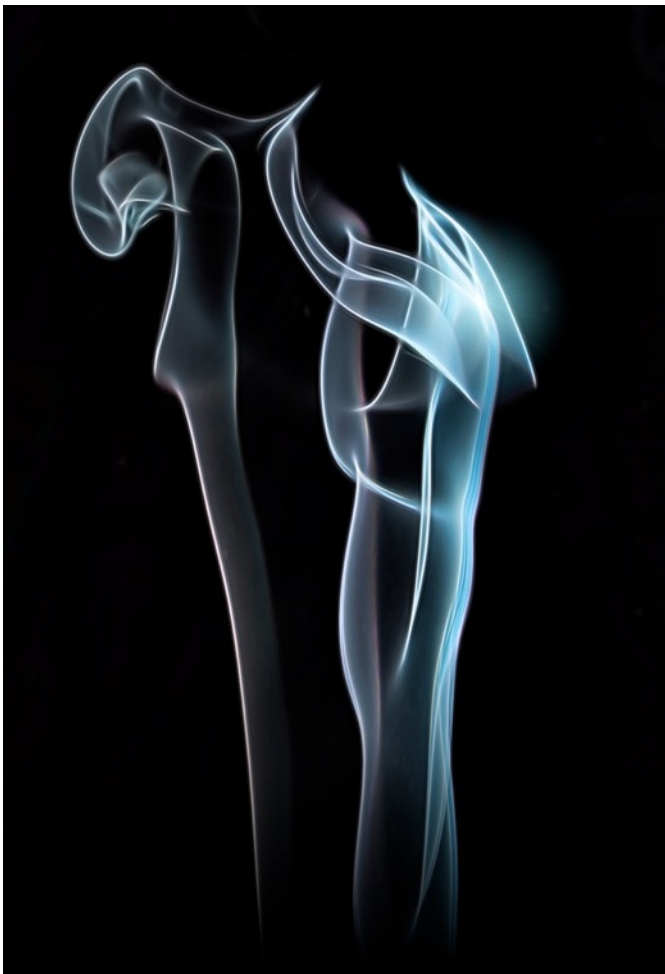
tion control to add some colour and shift the hue, but if you want bright and varied colours in the smoke pattern there are several things you can try. Adding a colour gradient layer in 'multiply' blend mode above the image layer can apply bright colours and different rainbow effects to the smoke steam. The Topaz ReStyle plugin has hundreds of colour combinations that can colour a smoke pattern in surprising ways. Duplicating the image layer several times, offsetting or rotating each one slightly in the 'difference' blend mode can produce bright colours and complex patterns. Inverting the final image will create a white background and very different colours.

Many smoke images are quite narrow and patterned on only one side. An effective technique to produce more shapes and a wider image is to duplicate the image layer, flip it horizontally, set the blend mode to 'lighten', and then move the new layer back and forth over the other 'half' until you get a pleasing symmetrical pattern. Usually only a small section of the smoke stream will contain an interesting shape or pattern, so cropping the original image is almost always needed.

The key here is to experiment, have fun and not worry about the fact that you have been playing in Photoshop for three hours on the same image.

Smoke Photography





PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2014-15



Go to the PGNS
WEBSITE AND VISIT THE
POY GALLERY



P.O.Y. Night - January 18th, 2016

We took a look at how to make 'COLLAGES' such as those used for posting to Guild related Emails, the website and Facebook. The one I made as a demonstration is titled "ICE PHOTOS"

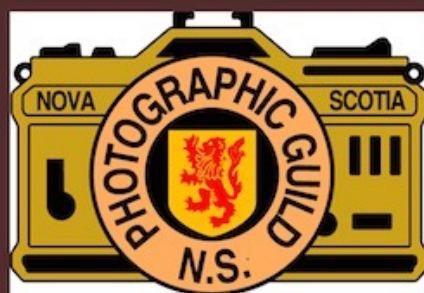


The audience was challenged to make one and share it...

3 people participated and the results are below...

From the pictures used by France and Keith (in the PHOTO BOOTH that evening)...you will see we had a good time....

Thankyou everyone !!!! Viki



Keith Vaughan



Tony Landry



France Boutilier

Photography in Ecuador

by George Mitchell

This past winter, Pip and I spent about ten weeks in Ecuador, from early January until mid-March. As you can imagine, I took many, many pictures. In this article, I will describe our trip, with emphasis on the photographic opportunities. For January, we rented a cabin in the small town of Mindo, on the western slope of the Andes. For the rest of our stay, we were based in an apartment in the old quarter of Quito, the capital.

Our flight arrived in Quito at about midnight. Quito is a high city, at an elevation of 2900 meters (about 9400 feet). We were advised to take acetazolamide against altitude sickness before leaving home. Since we had arranged to be met at the airport and driven down to Mindo, I did not take these pills and suffered no consequences. However, I would advise anyone arriving in Quito who will be staying in Quito or elsewhere in the sierra, to take their medicine! Mindo is only about 100 km from Quito, but the road winds down and around and the driving is quite slow. The drive took about three hours, so we arrived at 3:30 a.m., fairly weary.

Mindo is at an elevation of 1200 meters, situated in a valley surrounded by green, forested hills. The temperature is very comfortable. Many days have some rain, but it rarely lasts long. The region is called a cloud forest because the surrounding hills are often shrouded in cloud (no surprise!). The area around

Mindo is famous for its many bird species, but also for butterflies, moths, frogs, beetles, orchids, and so on. There are mammals, but they are rarely seen. The largest is the spectacled bear, which I was happy not to encounter.

While based in Mindo, we spent three nights at a nearby lodge, the Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve, at somewhat higher elevation. Bellavista has a good trail system and a great atmosphere. We also took a day trip to Milpe Bird Sanctuary, which is a bit lower in elevation than Mindo.

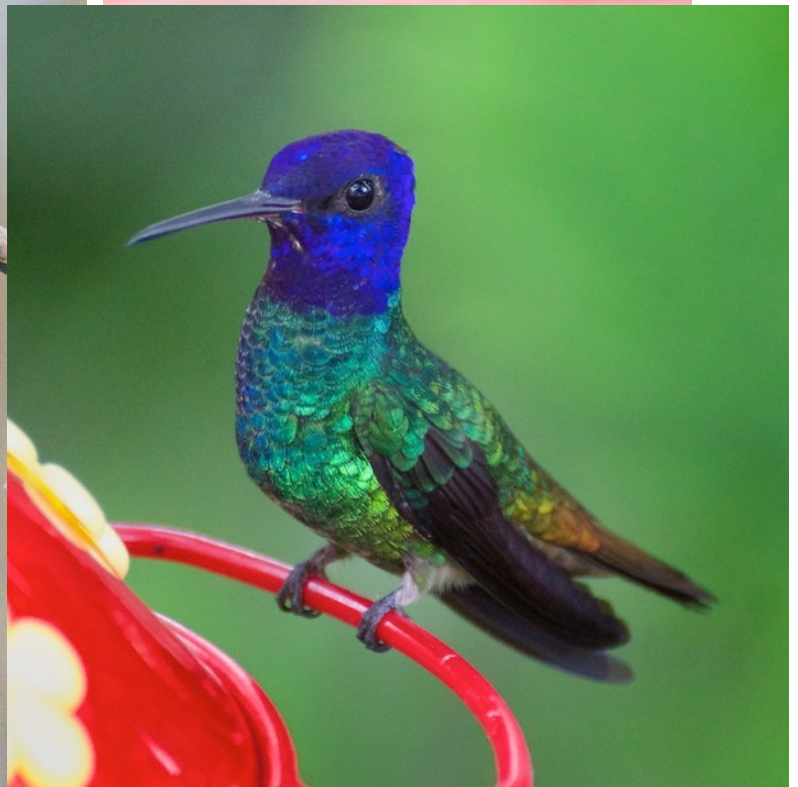
Our cabin was in the property of the Hacienda San Vicente. Hummingbird feeders at the main building attract several of the local species. Incidentally, there are 132 hummingbird species in the big field guide to the birds of Ecuador (Ridgely and Greenfield). I saw about three dozen species in my time in the country. All hummingbirds are marvelous, but several Ecuadorean species are very special, including, for example, the Booted Racket-tail, the Violet-tailed Sylph, and the Wire-crested Thorntail. By the way, I have arranged wildlife pictures here by type (e.g. frogs) rather than by location. Thus, for example, the hummingbirds that follow my description of Mindo are from various places.

Page X below shows some images of the town of Mindo. A few of the many hummingbirds are shown on the following page.

Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador

One of my objectives on this visit to the tropics was to do more night photography. Many of the creatures I am interested in are active only at night, including tree frogs, moths, katydids, stick insects, some snakes, some beetles, and so on. Since most of these are small, I used a macro lens. My regular macro has a focal length of 100 mm. Of course, night photography requires flash and the built-in (pop-up) flash can give poor results. I wanted to avoid elaborate equipment, so my solution was to use a diffuser with the pop-up flash. In many cases this worked well, especially when the subject was not highly reflective. By the way, does it need to be said that this night

photography required me to be out on a trail in the forest, alone, in the dark, with just a flashlight? During these excursions, my conviction that there is no danger is competing with the knowledge that jaguars, cougars, peccaries, and snakes are out there somewhere, most likely behind me. On my first night walks, I confess I did not get far before turning back. However, I soon became quite blasé.

The frogs below are all nocturnal and include rain frogs, tree frogs, leaf frogs, and glass frogs. They belong to several families, but I will spare you the details.



Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador

Quito: On February 1, we headed back up to Quito. This time, we were doing the trip in daylight, and it was spectacular, winding up and up through green valley after green valley, with rivers and waterfalls. The region of Quito, in contrast with Mindo, was quite brown and dry. The apartment we had rented in Quito was a step up in luxury from our modest cabin in Mindo. Quito is situated in a long valley surrounded by mountains. The city is about 40 km long and

only 5 km wide. As the population of Quito grows, houses are being built higher on the surrounding hillsides. This three-dimensional aspect, together with the varied colours of the houses, make the city a fine subject for urban photography. On Sundays, the core of the old town is closed to traffic, and people come out in large numbers to buy and sell or just to walk, making for excellent opportunities for street photography. The following pictures are of Quito.



Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador

We stayed in Quito for six weeks, taking several excursions, including stays at La Selva Amazon Ecolodge, Cabañas San Isidro, the town of Otavalo, and a drive down the Avenue of the Volcanoes.

La Selva Amazon Ecolodge is an upscale lodge in the Amazon lowland rainforest near the border of Peru. The trip to the lodge was an adventure in itself. The first stage was a half-hour flight from Quito to the lowland town of Coca. At Coca, we boarded an open, powered boat for a three-hour journey down the Napo river. The final stage was a canoe ride, powered by our guides, through a winding waterway, ending in a lake with the lodge at the far side. We spent five nights there. Activi-

ties at the lowland rainforest lodges are highly organized, not to say regimented. A small group six or eight people are given two guides for their stay, one an indigenous guide from the area, and the other a naturalist guide. One of the rules at all these Amazon lodges is that visitors are not allowed on the trails without a guide. This works very well for most people, but we photographers are different. We like to spend time at one location, getting the perfect shot. So, despite the extra cost, we decided to hire a private guide just for the two of us. In this way, we could go where we wanted when we wanted, including staying out on trails after dark.

The pictures below are from the lowland rainforest.



Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador

Avenue of the Volcanoes: Ecuador has ten mountain peaks higher than 5,000 meters. Several of these are active volcanoes. In order to see more of the sierra, with its mountains and valleys, we took a three-day trip south from Quito, with a commercial tour company (Happy Gringo, would you believe!). This trip included visits to the Cotopaxi volcano, the town of Pujili, the Quilotoa crater lake, the town of Riobamba, and the highest mountain in Ecuador, Chimborazo. Cotopaxi, at 5900m, is close to Quito and can be seen from Quito on a clear day. Just weeks before our visit, Cotopaxi erupted, sending ash in an arc which included Quito. Very little actually fell on Quito, and we saw no evidence of this activity while we were there. Another consequence of the eruption was the partial removal of Cotopaxi's beautiful, symmetrical snow deposit. We traveled into the foothills of Cotopaxi, but never saw the summit because of clouds. We did, however, get quite close to a glacier.

When we arrived at the town of Pujili, the market was in full swing. I was surprised to find few tourists: most of the shoppers were local, indigenous people. One noteworthy scene was a row of people operating treadle sewing machines, out in the open. It is perfectly reasonable to take your clothes to the market to be mended, but it doesn't happen in Halifax.

Another highlight of this excursion was Chimborazo. As well as being the highest mountain in Ecuador at 6300m, it is known for its population of vicuñas. These are the wild ancestors of domesticated alpacas. They were exterminated (by hunting) long ago on Chimborazo, but were reintroduced from Peru and are doing well. They live in the bleak, treeless terrain between 3200m and 4800m. On Chimborazo, Pip and I reached an elevation of 4800m, the highest we have ever been. We were not bothered by the altitude, probably due to our spending time in Quito. I must confess that we didn't climb: we were driven up a dirt road that ends at a refuge at 4800m.



Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador

Otavallo: The most famous market in Ecuador is in the town of Otavalo, north of Quito. We took a bus there and spent two nights. Otavalenos have been accomplished weavers since pre-colonial times, but the relative prosperity of the region dates only from the 1960s, when land ownership laws were introduced. The pictures below show something of the range of goods that are available. I

believe it is impossible to leave Otavalo without buying something.

The Parque Condor just outside Otavalo is a refuge for injured birds of prey. It houses a variety of avian predators, including a pair of condors. Twice a day, they put on flight demonstrations from an amphitheater overlooking a valley.



Photography in Ecuador



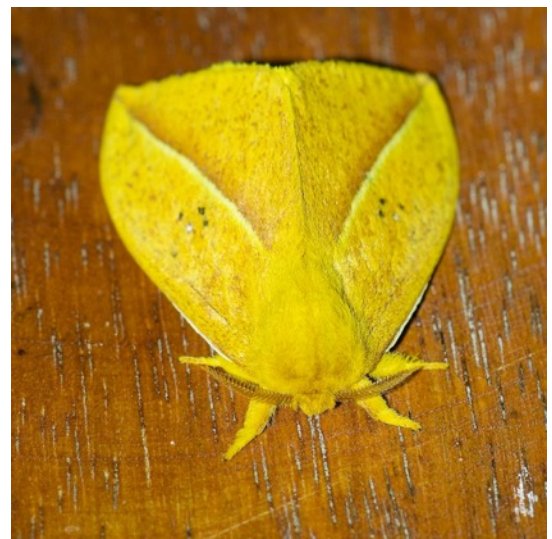
Photography in Ecuador

The **Cabañas San Isidro** is a lodge on the eastern slope of the Andes. Like Bellavista Lodge it is in cloud forest, but the wildlife is very different from that on the western slope. Many people come to Cabañas San Isidro for the birds, but are amazed by other things, such as butterflies and moths. (Also, the food is pretty good.) Moths are an under-appreciated attraction of the tropics, I think. The moths below are from a number of loca-

tions in Ecuador, including Cabañas San Isidro. The orange moth at the top left below is fur-covered and totally cryptic, only showing its bilateral symmetry when viewed from above. I end this photo essay with a few birds. The pair of yellow, green, and black birds on a branch are Inca Jays, a spectacular species, easily seen at Cabañas San Isidro. The other birds (clockwise) are a Swallow Tanager, a Toucan Barbet, and a Masked Trogon.



Photography in Ecuador



Photography in Ecuador



Photo by Joyce Chew



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