# Bluenose Focus

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

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

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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

Dir	rectors
President:	Dean Hirtle
Vice-President:	Darryl Robertson
Past President:	Laszlo Podor
Recording Secretary:	Pam Mills
Newsletter Editor:	George Mitchell
Treasurer:	Kent Speiran
Standing Co	ommittee Chairs
Program Chair:	Fred Greene
Entry Chair:	Wayne Garland
Judging Chair:	Fred Greene
PSA Representative:	Viki Gaul
CAPA Representative:	Joyce Chew
Other (	Committees
Public Relations:	Vacant
Honours and Awards:	TBA, Tony Landry, Sharon Moser (assistants)
Seminars:	Fred Greene
Nominating:	Laszlo Podor
Constitution and By-Law	s: Joyce Chew
Projection:	Joyce Chew
Host:	Laszlo Podor
Hospitality:	Vacant
Banquets:	Edie Greene
A/V Advisor: Bill M	urphy, Mervyn Kumar-Misir
Statistician:	Nick Honig
Webmaster:	Darryl Robertson
Judging Equipment:	Hubert Boudreau
Event Photographer:	Hubert Boudreau
Workshops/Field Trips:	Fred Greene
Shubenacadie Wildlife Pa	ark Guides: Doug Leahy, Vic
	Fraser, Jen Fried
Outside Evaluations:	Colin Campbell
Digital Coordinator: B	ill 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 May1, 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 Reebs 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 9<sup>th</sup> saw all of our Directors and Executive reoffering 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.

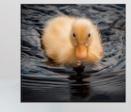
The PSA annual conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas this September. If you are looking for a photographic vacation this year, information can be found on the PSA website at <u>psa-photo.org</u> (and clicking on 'Conference'), or from me.



Viki Gaul, APSA, PPSA PSA Club Representative Photo Guild of NS email-mudroom@mac.com 902-825-1621

















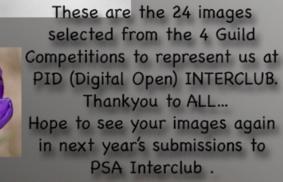


















































The 18 NATURE Images chosen from the Guild competitions to represent us in the 3 Rounds of PSA Interclub Competitions 2015–16

































18 images submitted to PSA INTERCLUB 2015-16 PHOTO TRAVEL Division ....Thankyou.... To All PGNS Members for sharing these wonderful travel photos !



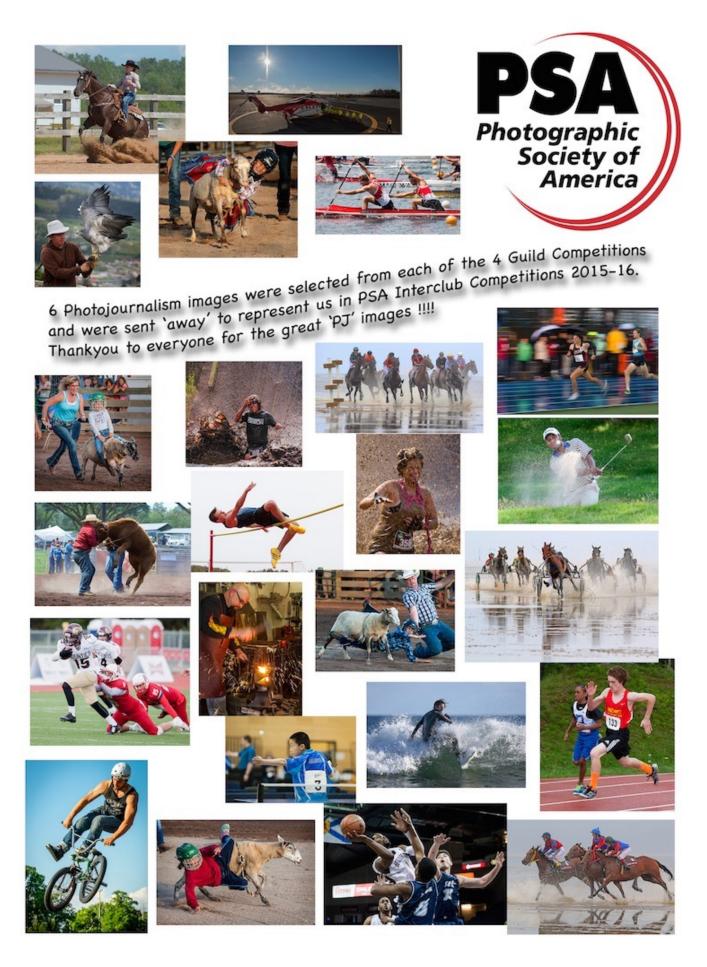












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Small Color (LC)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         91         82         95         100         368           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         88         91         94         92         365           East Troy ViewInders CC         ETVCC         90         74         91         97         352           Louis CC         MVCC         85         74         92         82         333           Merrimack Valley CC         MVCC         85         74         92         82         333           Carolinas' Nature Photographic Society         IVSC         85         74         92         82         333           Gardinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         82         74         85         88         325           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         89         336         66         63         234           Strict', Indiana         3HCC         79         88         40         207           Manchester CC         MCC         65         66         44         175           Boise Camera Club         BCC         NCC         20			00			91	
St. Louis CC         SLCC         91         82         95         100         7868           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         SICC         88         70         84         83         325           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         89         38         90         89         306           Image Makers CC         IMCC         65         66         44         175         80         234           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCC         0         36         21         77         7           Boise Carnera Club         BCC         NCC         88         87         93         336           Ves Cu	Pacific Coast Photographic Society	PCPS	89			-	89
St. Louis CC         SLCC         91         82         95         100         7868           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         SICC         88         70         84         83         325           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         89         38         90         89         306           Image Makers CC         IMCC         65         66         44         175         80         234           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCC         0         36         21         77         7           Boise Carnera Club         BCC         NCC         88         87         93         336           Ves Cu	Small Color II Cl		Pd 1	Pd 2	Del 2	D.d.A.	Total
Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         88         91         94         92         365           East Troy Viewfinders CC         ETVCC         90         74         91         97         352           Loveland Photographic Society         IPS         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         SICC         88         70         84         83         325           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         64         41         66         63         234           SUCC, Indiana         3HCC         64         41         66         44         175           Bolse Camera Club         BCC         MCC         65         66         44         175           Bolse Camera Club         BCC         NCCC         20         36         21         77           Strail Monochrome [SM]         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC <td></td> <td>SICC</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>		SICC					
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         SICC         88         70         84         83         325           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         89         38         90         89         306           Image Makers CC         IMCC         66         44         166         63         234           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         64         41         66         44         175           Boise Carmera Club         BCC         MCC         65         44         175         88         88         80         207           Manchester CC         MCC         SC         85         74         97         102         358           New Castle CC         NCC         820         36         21         77	All the second se						
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         SICC         88         70         84         83         325           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         89         38         90         89         306           Image Makers CC         IMCC         64         41         66         63         234           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         64         41         66         44         175           Boise Carmera Club         BCC         MCC         65         66         44         175           Boise Carmera Club         BCC         NCC         20         36         21         77           St. Louis CC         NCC         SICC         85         74         97         102         358           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         336           East Troy Viewfinders CC							
Merrimack Valley CC         MVCC         85         74         92         82         333           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         82         74         85         88         329           South Jersey CC         SICC         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           SunCity Texas Photographic Society         PCPS         88          94         94           Pacific Coast Photographic Society         PCPS         88          77            Su Louis CC         NCCC         20         36         21          77           St Louis CC         SL Cocis CC         SL Cocis CC         SL Cocis CC         88         89         335           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           East Troy Viewfinders CC         MVCC <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>74</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				74			
South Jersey CC         SICC         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         94           Pacific Coast Photographic Society         PCPS         88         70         102         358           New Castle CC         NCCC         20         36         21         77         102         358           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         335           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         91         68         89         88		MVCC	85	74	92	82	333
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           Manchester CC         MCC         65         66         44         175           Boise Camera Club         BCC         94         94         94           Pacific Coast Photographic Society         PCPS         88         777         78           New Castle CC         NCCC         20         36         21         777           St. Louis CC         NCCC         20         36         21         777           St. Louis CC         SUCC         85         74         97         102         358           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         336           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         91         68         89         88         333           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         84         84         66         89         323           Loveland Photographic Soci	Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn	CNPA	82	74	85	88	329
Image Makers CC         IMCC         68         88         82         238           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         64         41         66         63         234           BHCC, Indiana         3HCC         79         88         40         207           Manchester CC         MCC         65         66         44         175           Boise Camera Club         BCC         94         94         94           Pacific Coast Photographic Society         PCPS         88         77         77           Small Monochrome [SM]         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         85         74         97         102         358           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           West Cumbria Photographic Society         UPS         91         68         89         88         333           Loveland Photographic Society         UPS         84         866         89         323           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         60         38         67         67         232           South	South Jersey CC	SJCC	88	70	84	83	325
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         94           Pacific Coast Photographic Society         PCPS         88         77         77           Small Monodhrome [SM]         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         85         74         97         102         358           Photographic Guid, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         335           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           West Cumbrin Photo Group         WCPG         91         68         89         88         333           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         84         86         87         323           South Jersey CC         SICC         61         34         87         45         227 <td< td=""><td></td><td></td><td>89</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td<>			89				
3HCC, Indiana       3HCC       79       88       40       207         Manchester CC       MCC       65       66       44       175         Boise Camera Club       BCC       94       94       94         Pacific Coast Photographic Society       PCPS       88       77       88       77         Smell Monochrome (SM)       NCCC       20       36       21       77         St. Louis CC       SLCC       85       74       97       102       358         Photographic Guild, NS       PGNS       90       88       88       89       335         Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn       CNPA       88       68       87       93       336         West Cumbria Photo Group       WCPG       91       68       89       88       333         Merrimack Valley CC       MVCC       83       76       86       88       333         Suncity Texas Photo Club       SCTPC       60       38       67       67       232         South Jersey CC       SICC       51       34       87       45       227         Image Makers CC       IMCC       72       85       63       220							
Manchester CC         MCC         65         66         44         175           Boise Camera Club         BCC         94         94         94           Pacific Coast Photographic Society         PCPS         88         77         88         77           Small Monochrome [SM]         NCCC         20         36         21         77           Small Monochrome [SM]         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         85         74         97         102         358           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         335           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           East Troy Viewfinders CC         ETVCC         83         76         86         88         333           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         84         86         89         333           Suncity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         60         38         67         67         232           South Jersey CC         SICC         51         34         87         45         227			64				
Boise Camera Club         BCC         94         94           Pacific Coast Photographic Society         PCPS         88         77           Small Monochrome [SM]         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         85         74         97         102         358           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         335           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         91         68         89         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         MCC         72         85         63         220         Manchester CC         MCC         66         93         44         203         344         203         344				79			
Pacific Coast Photographic Society         PCPS         88           88           New Castle CC         NCCC         20         36         21         77           St. Louis CC         SLCC         85         74         97         102         358           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         335           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         91         68         89         88         333           Merrimack Valley CC         MVCC         83         76         86         89         333           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         84         84         66         89         323           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         60         38         67         67         232           South Jersey CC         IMCC         72         85         63         220           Manchester CC         MCC         66         93         44         203           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87         87			65		66		
New Castle CC         NCCC         20         36         21         77           Small Monochrome [SM]         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         85         74         97         102         358           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         335           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         91         68         89         88         333           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         84         84         66         89         323           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         60         38         67         67         232           South Jersey CC         IMCC         72         85         63         220           Manchester CC         MCC         66         93         44         203           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80			00			99	
Small Monochromo [SM]         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         85         74         97         102         358           Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         335           Carolinas' Nature Photographers Assn         CNPA         88         68         87         93         336           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         91         68         89         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         SICC         61         34         87         45         227           Image Makers CC         IMCC         66         93         44         203           3HCC, Indiana         3HCC         58         22         23         103           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87				36	21		
St. Louis CC         SLCC         85         74         97         102         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         333           East Troy Viewfinders CC         ETVCC         83         76         86         88         333           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         84         86         89         323           South Jersey CC         MVCC         60         38         67         67         232           South Jersey CC         IMCC         66         93         44         203           3HCC, Indiana         3HCC         58         22         23         103           Boise Camera Club         BCC         NCC         66         93         44         203           3HCC, Indiana         3HCC         58         22         23         103         80           St. Louis CC         NCC         66         93         44	new cusie cc	nece	20	50			
Photographic Guild, NS         PGNS         90         88         88         89         335           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           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         84         84         66         89         323           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         60         38         67         67         232           South Jersey CC         IMCC         72         85         63         220           Manchester CC         IMCC         72         85         63         220           Manchester CC         MCC         66         93         44         203           BlcC, Indiana         3HCC         58         22         23         103           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80	Small Monochrome [SM]		Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
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         IMCC         72         85         63         220           Manchester CC         IMCC         72         85         63         220           Manchester CC         MCC         66         93         44         203           BlcC, Indiana         3HCC         58         22         23         103           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80 <tr< td=""><td>St. Louis CC</td><td>SLCC</td><td>85</td><td>74</td><td>97</td><td>102</td><td>358</td></tr<>	St. Louis CC	SLCC	85	74	97	102	358
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         SICC         61         34         87         45         222           Image Makers CC         IMCC         66         93         44         203           3HCC, Indiana         3HCC         58         22         23         103           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Creative Alterod Reality (CAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         3	Photographic Guild, NS	PGNS	90	88	88	89	355
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         SICC         61         34         87         45         227           Image Makers CC         IMCC         72         85         63         220           Manchester CC         MCC         66         93         44         203           Boise Camera Club         BCC         58         22         23         103           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Groativo Altorod Reality (CAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         363							
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         SICC         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         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Greativo Attorod Reality (GAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         363           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         88         84         93         89         354							
Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         84         84         66         89         323           SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         60         38         67         67         232           South Jersey CC         SICC         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         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           CrossNov Attored Reality (PAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         363           West Cumbria Photo Group         WCPG         88         84         93         89         354           Merrimack Valley CC         MVCC         85         76         89         86         336							
SunCity Texas Photo Club         SCTPC         60         38         67         67         232           South Jersey CC         SICC         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         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Croativo Altorod Reality (CAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         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 <tr< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr<>							
South Jersey CC         SICC         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         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Creative Aktored Reality (CAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         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 <tr< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr<>							
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         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Creative Aktored Reality (CAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         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         66         93         44         203           3HCC, Indiana         3HCC         58         22         23         103           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Croative Altered Reality (PAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         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         81         73         234 <t< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>							
3HCC, Indiana         3HCC         58         22         23         103           Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Groative Altered Reality (CAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         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           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         80         81         73         234           Image Makers CC         IMCC         52         66         82         200			66				
Boise Camera Club         BCC         87         87           New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Croative Altered Reality (PAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         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         81         73         234           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         80         81         73         234           Image Makers CC         IMCC         52         66         82         200				58			
New Castle CC         NCCC         19         16         21         24         80           Creative Altered Reality (CAR)         Rd 1         Rd 2         Rd 3         Rd 4         Total           St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         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         234           Image Makers CC         IMCC         52         66         82         200							
St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         7 363           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         81         73         234           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         80         81         73         234           Image Makers CC         IMCC         52         66         82         200		NCCC	19	16	21	24	80
St. Louis CC         SLCC         86         83         94         100         7 363           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         81         73         234           Loveland Photographic Society         LPS         80         81         73         234           Image Makers CC         IMCC         52         66         82         200				0.10	0.45		
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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!!!!

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## 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 RESI	JLTS		
Standings	Round 3 Gallery	Round 2 Gallery	Round 1 Gallery	1
2014-2015 PID	INTERCLUB RESI	JLTS		
Standings	Best of the Best	Round 4 Gallery	Round 3 Gallery	Round 2 Gallery Round 1 Galler
2013-2014 PID	INTERCLUB RESI	JLTS		
Standings	Round 4 Gallery	Round 3 Gallery	Round 2 Gallery	Round 1 Gallery
2012-2013 PID	INTERCLUB RESI	JLTS		
Standings	Round 4 Gallery	Round 3 Gallery	Round 2 Gallery	Round 1 Gallery

**PID Interclub Competition** 



### 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



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



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 wll be happy to assist you ! Viki Gaul

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





competition, we tied for 12<sup>th</sup> 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 of 24 clubs with 138 points in the Spring Wildlife Competition and tied for 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

### Digital Fine Art- Hosted by Crescent Beach Photography Club

E n try No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	Sco re	<u>Awards</u>
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 No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	Sco re	<u>Awards</u>
1	Spoonbill 4282- Fred Greene	25	
<b>I</b>	spoonom 4282- i red Greene	23	
2	Rhino Trio- Dean Hirtle	21	
3	Flies on Dahlia- George Mitchell	22	
<b>4</b> B	A Heavy Load- Marg Nolen	20	
5	Heron Preening- Wade Pelly	18	
6	Purple Finch- Darryl Robertson	22	
	Total Score	128	Tied 12 <sup>th</sup> of 28 clubs

### Print – Hosted by The Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

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

#### Altered Reality Digital- Hosted by Woodstock Camera Club

E n try No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	Sco re	<u>Awards</u>
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 <sup>th</sup> of 24 clubs

#### Theme "Creating Motion in a Still Image - Hosted by Abbotsford

E n try		<u>Sco</u>	Awards
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name	<u>re</u>	
	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	
			5th out of 21 clubs Honour
	Total Score	134	Award

### **Open Digital- Hosted by Langley Camera Club**

E n try		<u>Sco</u> <u>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	
			4 <sup>th</sup> of 28 clubs Honour Award
	Total Score	143	

#### **Open Portrait – Hosted by Victoria Camera Club**

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

### Print – Hosted by Victoria Camera Club

E n try		Sco re	<u>Awards</u>
No.	Image Title-Photographer Name		
1M	Ride It Like You Stole It- Viki Gaul	22	
<b>2</b> C	Mahone Bay- Mervyn Kumar-Misir	17	
<b>3</b> C	Egret In Flight 7409- Fred Greene	22	
<b>4</b> C	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



### 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.



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.

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.

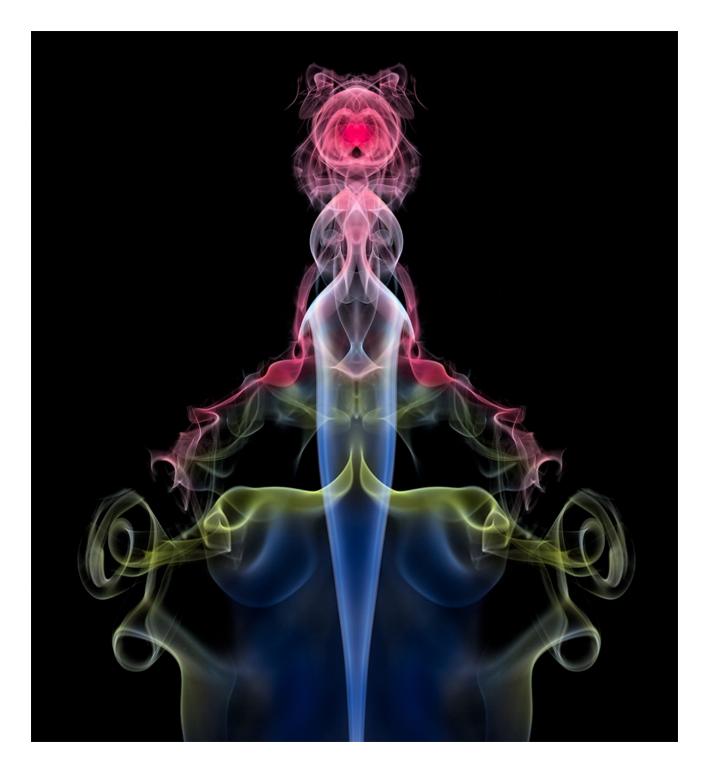
Once the exposures have been taken, the next step is to process those images. Most your images will be out of focus, completely black (because the exposure was taken before the flash had time to recycled) or the smoke stream is simply uninteresting. However, chances are that you will have captured a 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.

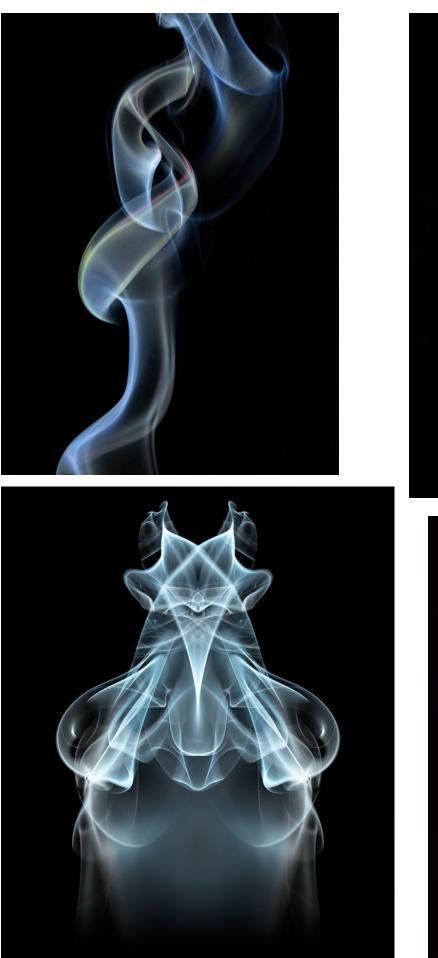
Smoke images require a lot of post processing, and here the fun really begins. Smoke steams and patterns can be surprisingly flat so contrast adjustment is usually required to bring out the subtle shadings and shapes. The Topaz Clarity plugin is ideal for this, but Photoshop controls can be used as well. 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.









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## PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2014-15

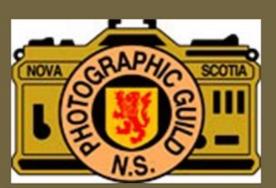


GO TO THE PGNS website and Visit the POY Gallery



1. 30-









## 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"

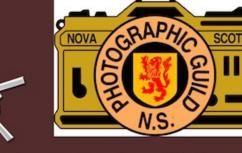




The audience was challenged to make one and share it...

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











France Boutilier

### 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.

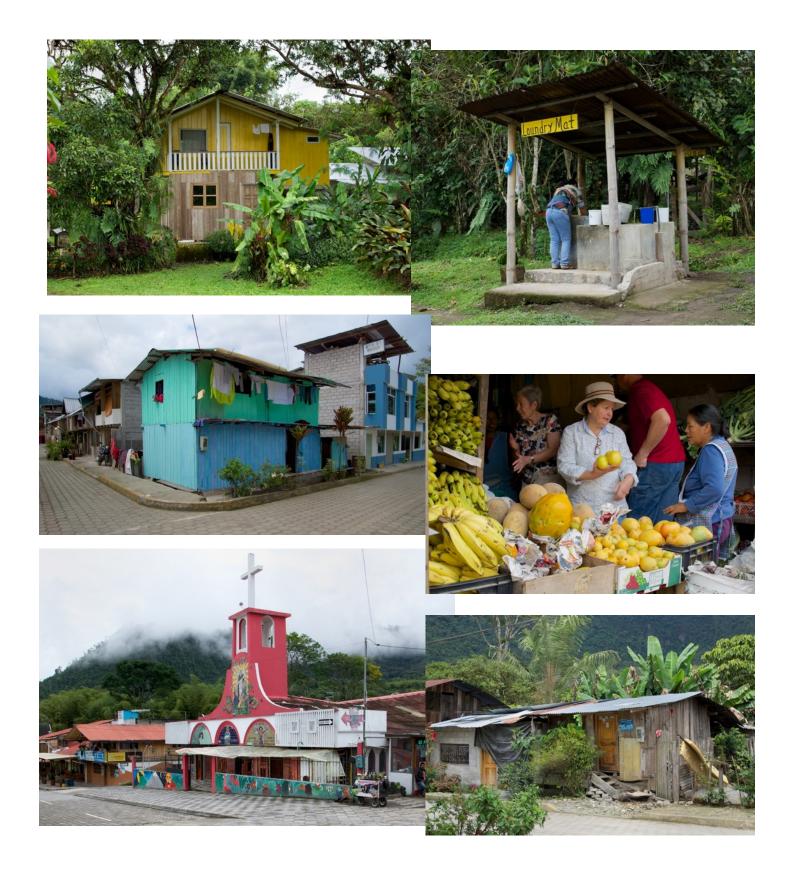
Our flight arrived in Quito at about midnight. Quito is a high city, at an elevation of 2900 meters (about 9400 feet). We were advised to take acetazolamide against altitude sickness before leaving home. Since we had arranged to be met at the airport and driven down to Mindo, I did not take these pills 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.

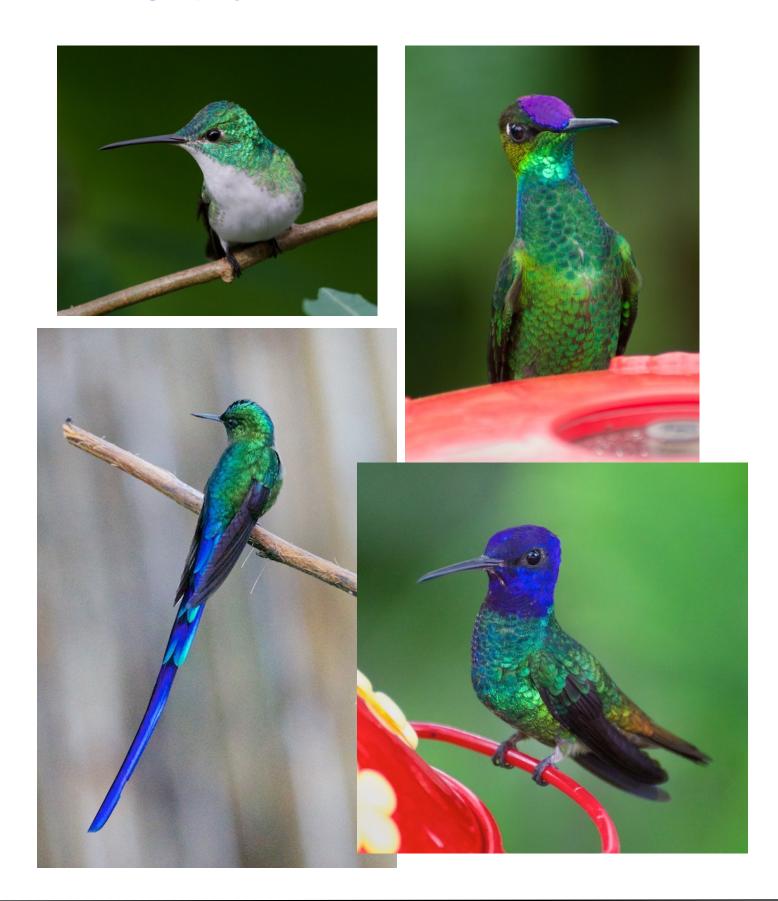
**Mindo** is at an elevation of 1200 meters, situated in a valley surrounded by green, forested hills. The temperature is very comfortable. Many days have some rain, but it rarely lasts long. The region is called a cloud forest because the surrounding hills are often shrouded in cloud (no surprise!).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





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 builtin (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.





**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.





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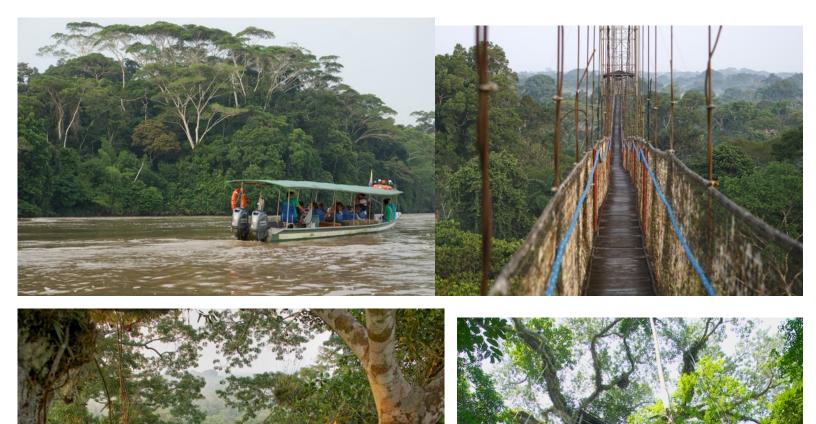


We stayed in Quito for six weeks, taking several excursions, including stays at La Selva Amazon Ecolodge, Cabañas San Isidro, the town of Otavalo, and a drive down the Avenue of the Volcanoes.

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. Activities 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.







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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.















**Otavalo:** The most famous market in Ecuador is in the town of Otavalo, north of Quito. We took a bus there and spent two nights. Otovalenos 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.





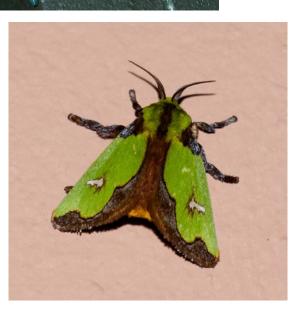
The **Cabañas San Isidro** is a lodge on the eastern slope of the Andes. Like Bellavista Lodge it is in cloud forest, but the wildlife is very different from that on the western slope. Many people come to Cabañas San Isidro for the birds, but are amazed by other things, such as butterflies and moths. (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 locations 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.



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