



Prairie Focus

Prairie Region of Photographic Arts
Volume 44 No. 2 Winter 2004



The Meade Hotel by Randy Risdahl, Foothills Camera Club
First, 2002 Mabel Clark Traveling Salon Slide Competition

Alberta  Saskatchewan  Manitoba

PRPA Executive for 2003-2004

Chairperson	Gordon Hunter	715 Deercroft Way SE, Calgary AB T2J 5V4 403-271-4039	ge.hunter@shaw.ca
Secretary	Shirley Gerlock	2471 Broder Street, Regina SK S4N 3T1 306-757-3328	sjgerlock@accesscomm.ca
Treasurer	Wesley Swan	Box 154, Nipawin SK S0E 1E0 306-862-4135	treasurer@prpa.ca
Membership	Irene Stinson	449-2nd Avenue SE, Swift Current SK S9H 3J7 306-773-7320	istinson@sasktel.net
Newsletter	Stan Hingston	Box 1177, Rosetown SK S0L 2V0 Res: 306-882-2263 Wk: 882-2220 Fax: 882-2370	sghingston@sasktel.net
Competitions	Bob Christopher	Box 42, Site 7, RR1, Dewinton AB T0L 0X0 403-254-2168	bobviv@telusplanet.net
Print Circuit	Phyllis Kube	124 Grandview St East, Moose Jaw SK S6H 4V7 306-692-8495	
Slide Circuit	Wilma Gamble	2403 24A St. SW, Calgary AB T3E 1V9 403-246-8343	wrgamble@shaw.ca
Print Exhibition	<i>position vacant</i>		
Past President	Rella Lavoie	Box 31, Smiley SK S0L 2Z0 306-838-4213	ar.lavoie@sasktel.net

PRPA Club Representatives

Central Alberta Photo Society	Thelma Lafee	403-346-2930	tlafee@shaw.ca
Caroline Clickers	Dan Jahraus	403-729-2172	
Foothills Camera Club	Noel Charchuk	403-278-1938	nhcharch@shaw.ca
Gateway Camera Club	Isabel Hill	780-475-2317	
Gleneath Camera Club	Sheila Keller	306-463-3940	
Image West Photo Assn	Arlyne Lawson	306-773-7561	
Innisfail Photo Club	Flo Quesseth	403-227-2148	
Moose Jaw Camera Club	Sheina Wait	306-692-8218	
Nipawin Camera Club	Wesley Swan	306-862-4135	wesley@swanphotography.ca
Parkland Camera Club	Darlene McCullough	306-873-2030	darlene.mccullough@sasktel.net
Regina Photo Club	Shirley Gerlock	306-757-3328	sjgerlock@accesscomm.ca
Rosetown Photography Club	Stan Hingston	306-882-2220	sghingston@sasktel.net
Saskatoon Camera Club	Dorothy Reimer	306-955-0884	pdriemer@shaw.ca
Wild Rose Camera Club	Curtiss Lund	403-347-2709	clund@rttinc.com

Club Websites

PRPA	http://prpa.ca/
Central Alberta Photo Society	www.mycommunityinformation.com/caps
Foothills Camera Club	www.foothillscameraclub.ab.ca
Nipawin Camera Club	www.nipawincameraclub.com
Parkland Camera Club	www.greenwaterreport.com
Regina Photo Club	www.geocities.com/reginaphotoclub
Rosetown Photography Club	www.rosetownphotoclub.com
Saskatoon Camera Club	www.geocities.com/saskatooncameraclub

From the Chair

by Gordon Hunter

Baby, it's cold out there!

And because it is cold it's tempting to stay indoors rather than to confront the problems of winter photography—frozen fingers, toes and batteries. Still, some of the most interesting images are created when we venture outside into the white stuff. You might want to set yourself a goal of a photo a day in the winter. Dash outside to catch the morning or evening light. But don't dash out in your night clothes. Photos usually eat up more time than we anticipate. Isn't it great that the lighting is never flat at this time of year? And that we can sleep in and still catch the morning light?

If you still are not enthused about winter outdoor shots, why not set up some indoor shots. What is in your fridge? (Mould is always a pertinent subject) How can you arrange it to be an exciting shot? Or can you take Grandma's antiques and make a pleasing arrangement in front of the window, using available light.

Another exciting avenue for us to explore is the world of digital images. We Luddites have to recognize that the world of film is being seriously challenged. Kodak is going to concentrate its efforts in non-film areas and do very little research and development of film. And perhaps travellers are going to be forced to switch to digital as the x-rays are being cranked up at airports to levels that destroy film. There is a very interesting article on this subject in the latest Photolife magazine (in my opinion the best photo magazine in the English speaking world – and it's Canadian, edited by Darwin Wiggett and his partner Anita Dammer). I don't yet have a digital camera, but I scan slides to my computer and manipulate them in a feeble photo program I have. There are many digital courses offered now. That could make for an interesting few weeks.

A great hobby to develop in conjunction with photography is genealogy. I have been exploring this in more depth since I retired. Relatives are

sending me fascinating documents, including old photos. The photos that people send me are often beautifully posed with great light, but not many people smiled. They couldn't hold a smile for the time that they had to sit or stand still. Through my photo program I am able to patch up many of the photos and make them better than they have looked for many years.

Two of my concerns are how long digital images will last and will we still be able to read compact discs in the future. Some of the photos I have are 150 years old. Will anyone in 2100 have any images from the year 2003? I know they will still have some from 1850.

While I am meandering in my writing I encourage you to let us know of your successes in photography this year. For instance, I am delighted to congratulate Bob Christopher on a first and second place in CPAWs. Bob also took two first places in the *Canadian Geographic Magazine* competition. In addition, Bob is winning many ribbons at the club level and now he is starting to challenge CAPA. I don't know how Bob finds the time to do all this as he is the slide competition director at Foothills Camera Club as well as being the competition chair at PRPA.

I also entered the Sask Tourism competition this year and was fortunate to win the People category. The best part is that the prize is a weekend in a Regina Hotel. This is a vast improvement for us as we usually stay at my mother-in-law's place. Her hide a bed was invented at the same time as the rack and the guillotine (possibly by the same person).

Why not let Stan Hingston (the editor) know what is happening with your photography or submit an article to help others with their photography. Don't forget that we will soon be submitting prints for the spring competitions.

And keep shooting!



PRPA 2004 Annual Outing

June 18-20, Okotoks, Alberta

Report by Noel Charchuk



Foothills Camera Club will be hosting the 2004 Annual Outing on June 18-20, in Okotoks, and Black Diamond, a few miles south of Calgary. The date moved from the original announced date, due to request by CAPA members that wanted to be able to attend the Nanaimo meeting on the following weekend. Program details have to be finalized, but we plan to have you out during the best light, and attending the meetings, awards, etc when the light is not as desirable.

We expect to be able to hold our fees to the same as last year, \$65 per person. Included in this will be registration, refreshments, a Stampede breakfast and a western barbecue. Meal fees for additional guests are yet to be determined.

We have a number of activities planned, including a field trip to the Bar U Ranch, nestled between the rolling Porcupine Hills and the towering Rocky Mountains, surrounded by the prairie landscape and shaped by Chinook winds, the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site of Canada is one of the first and most enduring large corporate ranches of the west. Steeped in history, the Bar U commemorates the history and importance of the ranching industry in Canada. More information can be found at:

www.pc.gc.ca/lhn/ab/baru/index_e.asp

Another of our field trips will be held at Spruce Meadows, for the Continental Cup. Located in the foothills of the majestic Canadian Rockies, this picturesque complex has captivated the worldwide audience of the sport of show jumping. There is no other place like it. Spruce Meadows blends the discipline of sport with the communication of international commerce and the goodwill of visitors... bringing Canada together with the world.

Spruce Meadows' four major outdoor tourna-

ments have attracted virtually every Olympic, World, European, and National Show Jumping Champion; but there is more than just athletic excitement and excellence at Spruce Meadows. There is also a quiet side to Spruce Meadows; the peace and tranquility of the country is, for some, even more enjoyable. More information is available on their website at:

www.sprucemeadows.com

We will offer both these field trips on Saturday and Sunday, so you can get to both locations.

Finally we will offer a field trip to shoot spring wildflowers at Tongue Creek ranch, just outside Turner Valley, followed by a sunset shoot there on Saturday evening.

All the locations we plan to visit are conveniently located to the hotels and campgrounds we will have arrangements with in Okotoks and Black Diamond. Carpooling is proposed as the most convenient mode of transportation. Knowledgeable area photographers will be available for all the field trips.

We will conduct our usual business meetings, have the winning prints from the past year on display, and will have the winning slides projected continuously while we are in the meeting hall.

Foothills Camera Club has a LCD projector and will make it available for the Showmanship Competition so if you have a digital presentation you were thinking about showing, but didn't wish to spend the money to rent a projector, we offer that service to you.

Please mark the dates on your calendars, and plan to attend the 2004 outing. We look forward to having you there.

Competition Chair Report

by Bob Christopher

Greetings to all PRPA members. I hope your year has been fruitful in terms of photography. Despite the cold I hope you have been able to capture a few nice images.

A reminder to have your prints sent to the judging clubs before April 15. If you choose to send your prints with your rep to the Executive Meeting April 17, you should contact the judging club ahead of time to make sure they will have someone attending the meeting.

The host judging clubs are as follows:

1. Gerry Fish — Innisfail
2. Attanyi — Wild Rose
3. Human Portraiture — Parkland
4. Sports in Action — Regina

The Outing Competition will be hosted this year by Foothills Camera Club. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

The Russell Trophy had 26 slides entered from 13 members while the Everest Trophy had 137 slides entered from 7 clubs and 1 individual. I look forward to announcing the winning clubs and members at the outing in June.

I have enjoyed being the PRPA Competition Chair for the last two years. As I am also the Slide Chairman for the Foothills Camera Club (with 150 members) I am finding time at a premium. I intend to resign from my PRPA position after the outing in June. If you personally have an interest in taking over the Competition Chair please contact Gordon Hunter (Foothills) or Rella Lavoie (Gleneath) and they will put forward your name at the executive meeting in April or at the outing in June. I hope you will take this as an opportunity to help the PRPA membership and also to gain some valuable experience for yourself as well.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Outing in the Calgary Area June 18-20.

Print Circuit Report

by Phyllis Kube

There are four circuits running at present with a total of 26 members. We have had 5 drop out since Fall so have room for more. This is a great opportunity for beginner photographers to have their photos critiqued and learn new tips for improving your photography (and for the more experienced photographers this is a chance to show off your work and encourage the newer ones).

To join, submit two prints which may be from 4x6 to 8x10 in either color or black & white. They are inserted in a binder which is sent to those participating in that circuit. When you receive the binder you will have about 10 days to view the photos and add your comments and scores before sending it on. Ribbons are awarded to the three top scoring prints from each circuit.

Each circuit is run twice per year, starting in September and again in January. They are running a little late right now, so you can still get in on the Winter circuit if you call me in early February. My phone number is (306) 692-8495.

The four binders will be on display at the Outing for all to view and enjoy. That will be a good time to sign up for the upcoming Fall circuits.

Congratulations, Bob!!

PRPA's very own Competitions Chair, Bob Christopher, took not one but two firsts in the prestigious Canadian Geographic's 19th Annual Photo Contest. His winning photos were Morning Light—Sunrise over Maligne Pass in the Canadian landscapes category, and Hang-glider over the St. Lawrence in Outdoor adventure.

You can see his winning photos on pages 80-81 of the January/February issue of C.G. (you will also see Maligne Pass on the cover of the Spring Prairie Focus in April when I showcase the 2003 PRPA Gerry Fish winners.

Well done, Bob—we're all proud of you.

PRPA Annual General Meeting
Friday, June 20, 2003 — Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

1. **Welcome** by President Gordon Hunter.

2. **Clubs** in attendance:

Foothills	Regina	Gate-
way Wild Rose		
Gleneath	Image West	
Saskatoon	Parkland	
Rosetown	Moose Jaw	

3. **Minutes from the 2002 AGM** – read by Pat Derbowka. Isabel Hill moved minutes be adopted as read (with minor spelling corrections). 2nd—Shirley Gerlock. Carried.

4. **Business arising from the minutes:**

Challenge Cup Slide Competition – Foothills accepted the challenge from Wild Rose. Rosetown had agreed to judge.

5. **Treasurer's Report** – Wesley Swan

Bank account - \$3105.35

GIC - \$3586.24

Total - \$6691.59

Last years total - \$5515.82

Wesley stated there is no need to increase membership fees.

Two Saskatchewan volunteers are needed as Power of Attorneys for PRPA for the Non-Profit Corporation Annual Return. Curtiss Lund moved we accept Laird Wilson and Len Suchan for Power of Attorney. 2nd – Valerie Ellis. Carried.

Wesley moved his report be accepted. 2nd – Len Suchan. Carried.

6. **Auditor's Report** – Wesley Swan

Receipts and expenditures were examined. The auditors reported the Financial Statement was accurate. Valerie Ellis moved the report be accepted. 2nd – Curtiss Lund. Carried

7. **Correspondence** – nothing

8. **Executive Reports:**

Membership – Irene Stinson. Total membership of 146. 140 are full members. There are 14 clubs and 11 individuals.

Slide Circuit – There are 3 circuits with 15 members. Submit your name by the end of

August.

Print Circuit – Phyllis Kube. There are 4 circuits with 31 or 37 members.

Competition – Bob Christopher. Report as in the Prairie Focus.

Russell not well entered by members. Next year – Formal/Informal.

Suggestion that the people with the print and slide circuits should bring the books to the annual outing for viewing.

Prairie Focus – Stan Hingston. Stan asked for a show of hands if points should be included in the competition results. No decision was made. Bob Christopher suggested that different clubs judge differently so points should not be included. The executive will make a decision if points should be included.

Stan suggested there should be an advertising coordinator to promote advertisements in the Prairie Focus as there were no ads in this issue.

Stan is making a power point slide show for the poem – “I Am Saskatchewan” and is collecting images for it.

Print Exhibition – Earl Hill. There was no exhibition last year. Earl wishes to resign from this position at this time.

Web Master – Wesley Swan. We have our own domain and web site: www.prpa.ca

He has set up a trial run for an online critique and moved to give this a trial. 2nd – Stan. Carried

Wesley would like judging clubs to send him their results by email so he can be prepared for the outing. Bob Christopher suggested this be discussed at the executive meeting. Noel Charchuk thanked Wes for his work on the web. Wesley moved his report be accepted. 2nd – Betty Davis. Carried.

Digital Committee – Communication is taking place and decision will be made later.

Chairperson- Gordon Hunter. Thanks to

the executive for their participation. Thanks to the Handbook Committee for producing the new hand book.

Betty Davis moved the reports be accepted.
2nd – Shirley Gerlock. Carried

9. New Business:

- Handbook –has been produced.
- Host for 2005 – Wild Rose
- Membership fees – To remain the same.
- Nominations for 2003 – 2004 –Rella Lavoie
- Chairperson – Gordon Hunter
- Competition and Vice Chair – Bob Christo-

pher

- Secretary – Shirley Gerlock
- Treasurer – Wesley Swan
- Membership – Irene Stinson
- Past Chairperson – Rella Lavoie
- All positions were filled
- Outing for 2004 – Noel Charchuk

Foothills will host the 2004 outing. A show of hands indicated that a center out of Calgary would be more popular. They will plan an out of city center.

Curtiss Lund moved the meeting be adjourned. 2nd – Valerie Ellis. Carried

Print Exhibition Chair Vacant

This position is still vacant. Earl Hill retired after several years and no one has come forward yet to take on the challenge. As a result there will be no Print Exhibition this year, but it is almost time to start planning for next fall. Anyone interested in taking on this position should apply to the president.

The job includes soliciting prints, selecting the best ones for the show, mounting them in the frames and loading them in the crate, organizing the exhibition tour & preparing the forms to go with it, and sending off the crate to the first location. Finally at the June Outing, display the prints and return them to their owners. And that’s all there is to it!



Application for Membership in *Prairie Region of Photographic Arts*

I hereby apply for membership in the Prairie Region of Photographic Arts. Enclosed is my membership fee of \$15.00 (payable to P.R.P.A.) Memberships expire June 30.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Email _____

I am a member of (photography club) _____

I am joining as an individual rather than through a club _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Mail to: Irene Stinson, PRPA Membership Chairperson
449—2nd Avenue S.E., Swift Current, SK S9H 3J7

PRPA Executive Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2003, Oyen, Alberta

In attendance: Gordon Hunter, Shirley J Gerlock, Irene Stinson, Rella Lavoie, Arlyne Lawson, Sheina Wait, Phyllis Kube, Sheila Keller, Wilma Gamble, Bob Christopher, Mabel Elder, Valerie Ellis, Alfred and Pat Hauck.

President Gordon Hunter called the meeting to order at 01:25pm.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last Executive meeting held June 22, 2003 at Moose Jaw.

MOTION: 09/07/2003: that the minutes of the June 22nd Executive meeting, be accepted as read. Shirley / Irene. Carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Curtiss Lund has contacted Earl Hill about registering our organization with the Alberta Government.

Stan Hingston reported that there is still no Advertising Coordinator.

Larry Easton will be contacted on the progress of CCC2005.

Phyllis Kube was concerned about her new duties as a newcomer. A discussion with Sheina Wait resulted in those who have been involved for a few years guide the newcomers.

No report from the Digital committee.

The FCC and Challenge cup is under the guidance of Curtiss Lund.

The Handbook needs another revision to give clearer meanings to rules and competitions .

A competition on the web was discussed. Irene Stinson suggested we have a separate online competition for the next Outing with images sent via email.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Reports

1. Treasurer – Wesley Swan had emailed his report, which was read by the Secretary. Our account balance is \$6,115.97 consisting of a GIC of \$3,586.24 and a bank account of \$2,529.73. He will renew the GIC in October. He has received 38 memberships from Irene Stinson.

Internet Report – Wesley Swan noted he has added new features on the website, with Executives owning their own PRPA email addresses. He is looking for articles to put online.

2. Prairie Focus – Stan Hingston had forwarded his report to the meeting. Stan submitted his job description for the Prairie Focus editor. (On file). The AGM minutes will be included in the Winter issue of Prairie Focus. Stan had the whole issue printed at Economy Stationers and he outlined the cost breakdown of this issue. Stan wished to have the following motions presented at the meeting.

MOTION: 09/08/2003: that we approve the Invoice for printing of \$330.92. Shirley / Wilma. Carried.

MOTION: 09/09/2003: that we approve Economy Stationers to be used for the printing of the Prairie Focus. Shirley / Wilma. Carried.

3. Print Circuit – Phyllis Kube reported that there are 4 print circuits in use and she would get them going next month.

4. Slide Circuit – Wilma Gamble reported that there are 3 slide circuits going with 17 members participating and she is going to work on new ones in December and January.

5. Print Exhibition: No coordinator yet.

6. Membership – Irene Stinson reported to date there are 42 members from 10 clubs. It was suggested that there should be a membership form on the Internet site. Gordon has contacted Wesley on it and Irene will check the site.

7. Competition Committee — Bob Christopher handed out host packages for judging the next competitions.

8. AGM – Foothills Camera Club. – Noel Charchuk reported a possible conflict of dates between CCC and PRPA; Gordon is checking with Noel. Tentative plans for 2004 are staying south of Calgary, because of the outing in 2005 near Red Deer. Friday - AGM, reception. Saturday - Stampede breakfast, then field trips and ending with a sunset shoot. Sunday - breakfast, field trip. Tentative budget for 80 attendees would be around \$65 per person. More will be forthcoming.

The Wild Rose Challenge will be completed in October. It is being judged by the Rosetown club.

MOTION: 09/10/2003: that we adopt all the reports as received and read. Shirley / Valerie. Carried.

An error was noted in our PRPA Handbook, page 12. It should read: PRPA to receive 50% of the Outing profit or cover 100% of a loss.

New Business:

President Gordon Hunter outlined his vision of PRPA with his idea of including those out there who do not have a club affiliation because of distance, work, no clubs near by or by being shut-in. To encourage other clubs to join. Letting people know they can join as an individual. We should continue involvement in digital competitions, circuits; encourage people to go to outings and by keeping our web site up to date.

Shirley Gerlock mentioned that the Regina Photo Club had created some model release forms and she was asked to include them in the minutes when sent. Bob suggested that we try and get individuals involved for PRPA membership. Noel is to check with a lawyer about taking an image of a person to show in a print competition.

Shirley Gerlock mentioned that Larry Easton had informed her that the next CCC would be held in Regina in 2005. The date would be September 10, 11 and 12, 2005 with details pending.

Wilma Gamble asked about people in the slide circuits that are not members. She was to check with Irene Stinson and confirm, then call the individuals involved.

The 2005 outing would be at the Gold Eye Centre west of Red Deer where there would be facilities for camping, cabins and catering. Dates and info will be forthcoming.

Irene would like us to have the ribbons on the display prints so we know who won the competition.

Alfred Hauck would like to see the print and slide circuits on display at the Outing for all to see.

Everyone is to have their job descriptions ready at the next meeting on April 4, 2005 at Oyen.

Sheina Wait informed the meeting that they had a profit of \$1266.00, which will be halved between the Moose Jaw Camera Club and PRPA.

Bob Christopher adjourned the meeting.

I Am Saskatchewan Project Report by Stan Hingston

The power-point slideshow based on the poem “I Am Saskatchewan” is taking shape but I still need more photos. Check the new Rosetown Club Website for a line by line posting of photos selected and those I still need <www.rosetownphotoclub.com>. I will not be asking permission to use the photos until after I have finalized the selection, so don't be surprised if you find your photo shown for one of the lines.

We plan to premiere the show at the 2004 Transparency Battle that Rosetown is hosting on April 25.

Gleneath Camera Club

Report by Rella Lavoie

Last September, our club participated in the Art Walk held at the Kindersley Mall during Goose Festival Days. We had several prints on display and received many favourable comments.

Later that month, a few of our members along with some members of the North Battleford and Rosetown clubs went on a day trip to the "Crooked Bush" located near Speers, Sask. This small bluff of aspen trees has very strange growth patterns with an almost eerie look. There are many theories why these trees are so distorted but scientists believe the twisted growth is due to a single mutant gene. The only other known place this phenomenon exists is in Verzy, France.

In October, Jean Harris and I showed our slides from the "Spring Valley Photography Workshop" led by Courtney Milne near Ravenscrag, Sask. While there, we were fortunate to visit "The Old Man on His Back", the former Butala ranch, comprised of 13,000 acres of natural prairie. It has now been purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and just recently, a herd of fifty bison from Elk Island Nat. Park was released there.

We have also had travelogues to Quebec City, New Brunswick, Death Valley, Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave Desert.

In November, we divided into groups to work on three mini slide sets with the themes "Landscapes", the color "Red", and "Animals." We viewed the first two sets at our Christmas meeting and will see the last one in February. During the winter months we will be working on "Table Tops" and experimenting with b & w film.

Our "Foto Fun" slide competition is now making its rounds among the participating Sask. clubs.

The Gleneath Camera Club meets the first Tues. from Sept. to June at the Kindersley Seniors Centre at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Rosetown Photography Club

Report by Stan Hingston

This has been an exciting year for our club. Our Education Program coordinator, Sandy Huckerby, has lined up speakers for each of our monthly meetings. In October, Laurie Friesen presented on photographing horses; Glen & Becky Grambo presented on wildlife photography in November, and Sandy presented on macro photography in January. Upcoming topics are better B&W, night sky, and camera maintenance.

In early December we enjoyed judging the Everest slide competition and also the Challenge Cup whose theme was "The Family of Man".

On December 6 our club participated in Rosetown's second annual public outdoor Christmas party at the Library Park "Winter Wonderland". Mayor Alma Dube and husband Bill were selling hotdogs and hot chocolate to raise money for the Winter Wonderland project - an entire block of park with all the trees strung with lights, many painted wooden displays, and Christmas music playing. For a \$1 donation to the project, Stan took a photograph of people posing as Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus standing behind life-size painted plywood props with holes cut out for the faces.

Our club hosted two digital photography public seminars led by staff from Don's Photo in Saskatoon. In December the topic was choosing the right digital camera for your needs; in January the focus was on how to use your new digital camera and photo software.

We are now busy planning for the April 25 Transparency Battle, a Saskatchewan club slide competition started by Saskatoon in 1970. This will be the first year Rosetown has hosted it.

I finally got a ROUNDTUIT and started on our club's website. Check out what I have done to date at www.rosetownphotoclub.com. Look over the "I Am Saskatchewan" webpage to see if you have photos that will fit.

Pat's Gadget Bag

by Pat Derbowka



Winter and the camera

Cold is very hard on cameras in two ways: it drains the batteries and presents a problem when bringing a cold camera back into the warm house.

Re: batteries - always carry extra batteries next to your body to keep them warm. We should also carry our cameras inside our jackets so they can benefit from our body heat.

Re: bringing a camera inside. When we take a cold drink out of the fridge in the summer we get condensation on the outside. This also occurs when we bring a camera in from outside on a cold day. The condensation can also occur **inside** the camera causing major damage to shutter, circuitry and film. Gradually ease a camera into the warm air. Put it on the floor by the door for a few hours or on a very cold window sill. To protect from condensation on the camera - put it into a plastic bag and seal it **before** you come inside the building. The condensation will then form on the outside of the bag and not on the camera! Still, warm it up gradually as the film is cold and brittle.

Speaking of outdoor winter photography - I wear soft leather gloves like curling gloves inside large mitts. These gloves allow you to manipulate the controls on the camera and serve to protect your hands until your camera is too cold to be useful. Idiot strings on the large mitts saves you putting them down or losing them.

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR NEEDED

PRPA is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the search for newsletter advertisers for *Prairie Focus*. If you think you could help us out in this way, please contact Stan.

Webmaster Report

by Wesley Swan
webmaster@prpa.com

Not much has been happening on the website lately.

I am adding another section without the Java animation for dialup users as some of the pages take a long time to load up with dialup. You can access either the Dialup area or High Speed area from the main page.

I have not had a good response with the online critique area. No one seems to be interested at this time. Maybe in the future there will be some interest. I am also trying a chat area for members. We will see how that works out.

Please remember if you have any ideas please email them to me.

The Last Word

Editor's Report by Stan Hingston **d**

I am writing this from "my office" in our new home. At least that is what I planned it to be, but it has become "the computer room" and I have to wait my turn as high school homework assignments have priority for computer time. This is a Friday evening when the kids are all out with their friends so I have "my office" all to myself.

This is the second issue printed by Economy Stationery's color printer (cover) and high-speed photocopier (the rest). Saves me a lot of time as I can even email the finished file directly to them.

With Saskatchewan's worst storm this winter blowing outside as I write, the Meade Hotel on the front cover looks very inviting.

Keep warm and keep shooting!

Submission Deadlines for the Newsletter

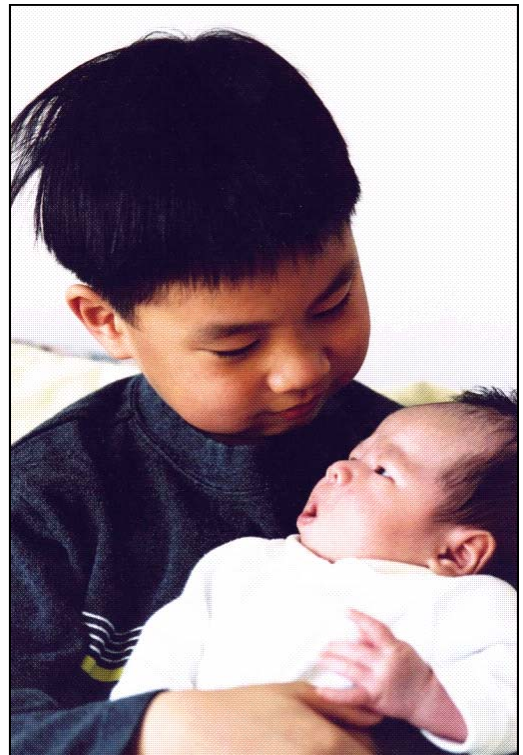
Winter	January 15	Summer	May 31
Spring	March 30	Autumn	September 15



Ashley (above) / **Bushlady** (top right)
by Mary Lore, Foothills Camera Club
First, 2002 *Russell Trophy Slide Competition*
(Theme: Young / Old)



What a Rush by Bob Christopher, Foothills
First, 2003 *Sports in Action Print Competition*



Brotherly Love by Pat Derbowka, Saskatoon
First, 2003 *Human Portraiture Print Compet'n*