



Prairie Focus

Prairie Region of Photographic Arts
Volume 45 No. 1 Fall 2004



First Light — Mesa Arch by Bob Christopher, Foothills Camera Club
Best of Show and Best Nature, 2003 *Everest Trophy Slide Competition*

Alberta ☼ Saskatchewan ☼ Manitoba

PRPA Executive for 2003-2004

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| 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 | Alfred Labrecque | Box 1777, Rosetown SK S0L 2V0 | 306-882-2261 |
| Past President | Rella Lavoie | Box 31, Smiley SK S0L 2Z0 | |
| | 306-838-4213 | ar.lavoie@sasktel.net | |

PRPA Club Representatives

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Central Alberta Photo Society | Curtiss Lund | 403-347-2709 | clund@rttinc.com |
| Caroline Clickers | Dan Jahraus | 403-729-2172 | |
| Chinook Camera Club | Don & Shirley Clark | 403-625-3254 | |
| 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 | Maureen Sinclair | 306-955-2373 | sinclair@sask.usask.ca |
| Wild Rose Camera Club | Verna Allison | 403-749-2003 | luson2@telusplanet.net |

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 |
| Northern Image Photographers | http://niphoto.tripod.com |
| Parkland Camera Club | www.parklandphotographyclub.com |
| Regina Photo Club | www.reginaphotoclub.com |
| Rosetown Photography Club | www.rosetownphotoclub.com |
| Saskatoon Camera Club | www.geocities.com/saskatooncameraclub |

From the Chair

by Gordon Hunter

Welcome to a new season of photography. As I thought about what I have to say to all of you I wondered about why you and I spend thousands of dollars on committing images to film or disc. Why don't we use the money for a new car or give it to the starving in Darfur? Why do we drag our gear along with us wherever we go? Why do we fill up shoeboxes with our efforts?

I think we are into photography because we have a need to be creators. We are artists, not just picture takers. In any art form there are complex reasons for undertaking the task: to record thoughts and emotions; to be a part of a group; to develop an area of expertise; to win ribbons and prizes and possibly even to make money.

The primary reason for attempting to capture what we see and think is that there is a part of us that is very spiritual, a part of us that calls out to be expressed. In my photos you will find a part of me. If you see the pictures I have taken you will know some of what makes me tick: a love of people; a desire to be in nature; fascination with water, a need to create something that wasn't there before I took the shot (that is why digital manipulation is so fascinating). I cannot take pictures without a part of me showing.

We save our work in the hopes that a part of us will last beyond this life. In a sense it will help us to be immortal. Our children and our grandchildren, if they are wise, will save some of our best work when they inherit it. If they are fortunate it will include some of their history, irreplaceable pictures of their parents and grandparents and pictures of them at various stages of their lives. I think they should also save not just images of people, but also save some of our other finest images, for our art will tell them about us and who we were.

Everyone's vision is personal. It is fine to win ribbons, but not essential for the statements you

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Print Exhibition

Report by Alfred Labrecque

Hello. I'm the new coordinator for the PRPA Print Exhibition. I am a member of the Rosetown Photography Club. The first PRPA Outing I attended was at Kindersley in 1999. I was also at Greenwater in 2002 and Okotoks this year when I offered to take on the print exhibition.

We need up to 23 prints for the show. If you are interested please phone me at (306) 882-2261 by Friday October 15 (if I am not in, please leave a message including your name, phone number and how many prints you have to submit). On that date I will decide if there is enough interest to carry on. Then I will phone each of you back and let you know my decision and, if it's a go, will ask you to mail me your prints. I will also ask you at that time which month you prefer to show the exhibit.

Six or seven clubs will be able to exhibit the show between November and May. Clubs with members submitting prints for the exhibit get first chance to show it.

Slice Circuit

Report by Wilma Gamble

One of the slide circuits was on display at the Summer Outing in Okotoks this past June. As a result we were able to increase our circuit members by one with interest being expressed by a couple of others.

It is easy to join and I believe the anticipation and excitement of entering your work for viewing and comments from your fellow members is rewarding. As a person who enjoys going out with my camera and trying for that perfect image, it is always a thrill to show off my work to other members in the circuit, receive their critique and view the images and interpretation of subjects made by my fellow photographers.

To learn how you can join one of the slide circuits just give me a call at 403-246-8343 or e-mail me at wrgamble@shaw.ca

Competition Chair Report

By Eldred Stamp

Hello. My name is Eldred Stamp and I volunteered for this position at the June AGM. Since many of you will not know me, I would like to introduce myself by telling you a little about myself and my experience with photography.

I am married to Margaret for over 51 years, have six children and seven grandchildren. My family and extended family are the most important part of my life. I was in the RCAF, worked with an electronic firm in Montreal in three positions, industrial trainer, technical writer and field engineer. This was followed by teaching electronics at the high school in Ponoka, AB where I presently live.

I have been involved with photography since 1952 but it is only in the last three years that my photographic skills, quality of work and knowledge have improved. I feel this has happened because it was at that time that I received a digital camera. I now can take pictures, immediately evaluate them and retake them until I am satisfied. Having gone from 120 to 2 1/4 to 35mm to digital, I have experienced my greatest improvement and satisfaction using my digital camera. My digital darkroom puts the finishing touches to my field work. For me digital photography has made my picture taking both satisfying and a pleasure. It was the best thing that happened to me. It makes my retirement years satisfying.

I joined Wild Rose Camera Club in 2002 which I learned about in a newspaper article. I also joined the PRPA at this time. My wife and I attended the Outing in Moose Jaw in 2003 and then the 2004 Outing in Okotoks where I volunteered (?) for this job.

I hope that this will be the last time I use the "I" word. The "we" and "you" words are much nicer to hear. Now to the club business for which I am responsible and as yet do not have a clear understanding of what I am to do. Please be patient as I "learn the ropes" and "earn my spurs".

Last year's slides are now making their rounds so sometime in the next 8 months you will be able to see the "best of the best from 2003". There are many great pictures so even if you didn't win an award you can still feel proud.

This year's competitions start out with the Outing Competition which is being hosted by Foothills. Deadline extended to October 31 (see page 5). This competition is quickly followed by the three slide competitions (listed with their judging clubs):

1. Everest - Foothills
2. Russell (Ancient / Modern) - Wild Rose
3. Mabel Clark - Rosetown, Parkland, Nipawin, Moose Jaw and Image West.

Slides for these three competitions are due by Nov.1. Include your CAPA number when you enter the Everest if you want to be considered for the David Sisley slide award.

At this time you might also start planning your Showmanship presentation which is shown at the Annual Outing. This can be either a club activity or an individual one. I have not tried it yet but I feel it would be an excellent way to get to know your fellow club members.

You could also be working toward the five print competitions (listed here with their judging clubs):

1. Gerry Fish - Gleneath
2. Attanyi - Saskatoon
3. Sports in Action - Caroline Clickers
4. Human Portraiture - Regina
5. Digital Photography (judging club t.b.a.)

All the photographs for the print competitions must be in by Apr. 15. Include your CAPA number when you enter the Gerry Fish if you want to be considered for the David Sisley print award.

In closing, I ask for your tolerance, understanding and well-wishes as I try to do a job that will make your picture taking and competitions rewarding and enjoyable. Til we meet in person: "*Good luck, God bless, and good picture taking!*".

Annual Outing—Okotoks, June 2004

Report by Noel Charchuk

Foothills Camera Club hosted the 2004 June PRPA Outing at Okotoks, Alberta. We had 41 registered participants, and 12 guests accompanying them. The weather cooperated Friday and Saturday, it was a little cloudy and rainy on Sunday, but the field trips went ahead.

Reviewing the accounts shows we came close to our projected budget. The revenue of \$3252 and expenses of \$2604 left a profit of \$648. This is normally split between the PRPA and the host club but the FCC executive decided to donate all profits to PRPA.

The profit was lower than projected due to 7 last minute cancellations for health reasons after I had to give confirmed numbers for the Stampede Breakfast and Western Barbecue. We had to pay for their meals without getting their registration fees.

I want to acknowledge the assistance of Randy Risdahl in scouting some of the facilities, Ken Meisner in setting up the Tongue Creek Ranch field trip, Janice Meyers-Foreman in her assistance with registration packages, and throughout the weekend whenever I needed help, Wilma Gamble for stepping in to do the awards presentations when Bob Christopher skipped town, and also throughout the weekend. Palle Kjar was very helpful in set up and moving, and led the Saturday Bar U Ranch field trip, and Elizabeth Hak led the Spruce Meadows trip. John Warga loaned his PA system, and ran the AV systems for all the presentations. I would like to express my thanks to all of them for their assistance.

Finally I would like to thanks Mary Lore, she sent in her registration, told me she couldn't come, but wanted to support the Outing anyway. We managed to talk her into attending the Barbecue and awards, and I think she enjoyed seeing some of her old PRPA compatriots.

*Mr. Len Suchan shooting at Spruce Meadows
June 2004 Outing, photo by Stan Hingston*

Outing Competition 2004

The 2004 Outing Competition is hosted this year by the Foothills Camera Club of Calgary. There are three themes for both slides and prints:

- Horses
- Working Hands
- Suns 'n Roses

Only PRPA members who attended the Outing at Okotoks in June are eligible. Maximum two submissions per theme. Prints unmounted, unmatted, color or B&W, max 8x10. **Note: the deadline has been extended to October 31.** Mail your entries to:

PRPA Outing Competition
c/o Noel Charchuk
120 Deercrest Close SE
Calgary, AB T2J 5T3

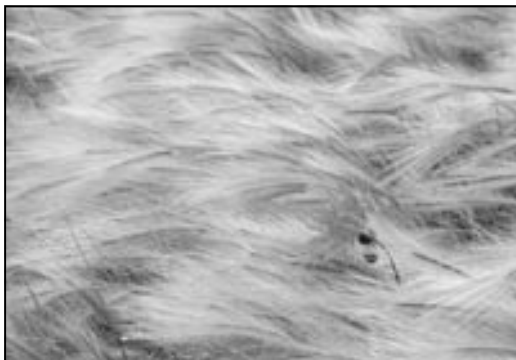
Contact Noel with questions or request for entry form at nhcharch@shaw.ca or (403) 278-1938.



Stamp's A Winner

PRPA member Eldred Stamp of the Wild Rose Camera Club took first place in a recent photo competition. The *Winnipeg Free Press* published the results of its annual Prairie Garden Photo Contest in its September 14, 2004 issue.

Of several thousand entries, the judges selected Eldred's digital shot of a yellow flower in a sea of wind-blown foxtail grass for first place. It and the four other winning photos were printed in color in the newspaper.



Title corrections to 2003/04 winners

There were two errors in the list of winners published in the Summer 2004 Prairie Focus.

The title of Mary Lore's Russell entry should be: "*Grace & Ashley*" / "*Mary*" not "*Grace*" / "*Mary*"

The title of the Best Landscape (colour) in the Gerry Fish print competition by Shirley Gerlock should be "*Prairie Sunset*" not "*Prairie Landscape*".

I apologize for these errors—Ed.

From the Chair

Continued from page 3

make. Sometimes striving for ribbons is destructive to our creative intent because we tend to shoot to winning formulas. Take photos that speak for you. We will all be interested in your way of communicating through photography.

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 of each year.

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 Phone (306)773-7320

Pixelated

Digital Photography Column

This column by Stan Hingston

Pat Derbowka has closed her “Pat’s Gadget Bag” column, which has given us many invaluable tips over the past few years. Thank you Pat for all those wonderful ideas.

At her suggestion, I am starting a digital photography column aimed at educating the pixelly challenged of us as well as those more experienced. I definitely belong in the former category but due to time restrictions will start off this column by sharing what little I know.

When looking to buy your first digital camera, the first criteria is the file size (megapixels). The minimum size to consider is 3 which (so “they” say) will allow enlargements to 8x10. This doesn’t give much room for cropping though. Serious amateurs (like most PRPA members) should be looking in the 4 or 5 mp range which can be enlarged to 16x20 and 20x30 respectively.

The next criteria is zoom range. Since only the high priced digital cameras come with interchangeable lenses, the zoom is critical. Many have only a 3X; a handful have 10X, the rest are in between. Digital camera lenses tend to start in the moderate wide-angle range—if wide angle is important for you, then ask about the low end of the zoom range. A macro or close-up feature is another item to look for in a camera if that’s something you use often.

I’ll ask someone else to write about batteries, cards and computer connections (any volunteers?).

Other considerations are the size, shape and feel of the camera—how it fits your hand—and, of course, the pricetag—how it fits your budget!!

Webmaster Report

by Wesley Swan
webmaster@prpa.com

No report this issue.

Photography Online

By Stan Hingston

Feature website: *Digital Photography Review*
www.dpreview.com

This site will be of interest to both beginner and veteran digital users. If you are in the market for a new digital camera, this site makes it easy to compare features (and prices) of dozens of models. This seems to be the main focus of the website. A feature I found useful is the Owners’ Ratings. Each reviewer submits opinions and problems from their experience and rates 5 features on a scale from 1-5. The camera that I am looking at, Kodak DX6490, has 73 reviews ranging from a perfect 5 score to “don’t buy this camera”.

There is also some more general information on this site. For example, from the left hand menu, choose learn/glossary/digital imaging/digital zoom or learn/photography techniques/composition.

I welcome submissions for this column from anyone who finds an interesting photography website.

The Last Word

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

This is another short issue. The September deadline always catches me by surprise since we started holding the fall Executive meeting in late September instead of October. I didn’t have time to ask for any club reports and am missing a few of the regular reports (eg slide circuit, print circuit, website).

You will be pleased (I hope) to learn that the consensus at the AGM in Okotoks was to continue with the color covers while still holding the membership fee at \$15. The generosity of the Foothills club in donating all the Outing profits this year will go far in subsidizing the newsletter. Thanks guys!

Submission Deadlines for the Newsletter

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Winter: January 15 | Summer: May 31 |
| Spring: March 30 | Autumn: September 15 |



Everest Slide Competition 2003

Morning is Breaking by Pat Derbowka, Saskatoon—
Best Landscape (left)

Waiting to Dance by Bob Christopher, Foothills—
Best Candid Child (bottom left)

Bill by Isabel Hill, Gateway Camera Club—
Best Human Portrait (below)

Columbia Ground Squirrel by Wilma Gamble, Foot-
hills—David Sisley Award (above)

