



Prairie Focus

Prairie Region of Photographic Arts
Volume 44 No. 3 Spring 2004



Maligne Pass—Morning Light by Bob Christopher, Foothills Camera Club
Best Landscape, 2003 Gerry Fish Trophy Print Competition

Alberta  Saskatchewan  Manitoba

PRPA Executive for 2003-2004

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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
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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
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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

How are you doing with your photography? I just returned from Africa with a great bag of slides. Yup, that was me delaying you in the line up for X-rays, expressing my views on the process to the poor security people who are trained to tell unsuspecting travellers that their films are safe. If you have a film under ISPO 800 and only go through one x-ray you may not notice any damage, but when you are lugging over 60 films through 20 x-ray machines you don't want to take too many chances.

I did have an opportunity to exercise the photographic part of my mind and rediscovered that if you want to stay sharp you need to practise. So, drag your camera with you wherever you go and "think" before you take your images if you want the best shots. Sometimes I forgot to use the "thinking" part. Those images are now lying on the floor in my kitchen waiting to be garbage.

I had the opportunity to exercise my photographic mind this spring in that I facilitated eight weeks of photography with students in k-3. We had fifteen digital cameras. I now know what a memory card is and experienced the dreaded shutter lag. These little guys know how to load the cards, erase them and format them. And, in spite of the cold (meaning that most of the images were taken inside) they have some phenomenal pictures illustrating such things as perspective, side lighting, leading lines, rule of thirds, portraiture etc. I particularly love one image taken on the playground by a Grade One girl. So much so that I attempted to emulate it, but I think hers is better than mine. It makes me wonder. Is there a way that PRPA can get young people involved? Might this be a new thrust for our club? What do you think?

Not too many of you have contributed to the discussion on the web site about digital photography. You may wish to do so. I'm sure Wes Swan would appreciate it.

It appears that there may be spaces on the ex-

ecutive for people who would like to contribute. Please email or phone me if you are interested. One of the bonuses of being on the executive is that we meet in Oyen and get to drive through some of the world's best scenery (although if you're not from the prairie you might not understand that.) Just be sure to leave enough time to take photos, as you want to arrive for lunch. We generally eat in The Lucky Dragon. They have some wonderful Wonton soup and a big steak.

Speaking of big steaks (Bob always orders that) congratulations to Bob Christopher on his continuing wins. He received two first place awards in the Canadian Geographic competition. If you saw the images you will know that he deserved to win. [one is on the cover of this newsletter—Editor]

The annual outing this year will be in the Foothills, appropriately hosted by The Foothills Camera Club. Please read the information provided by Noel Charchuk, who has been doing most of the work. There are intriguing possibilities for photography, so you will want to be there. Remember to bring your camera.

Eating Water Caterpillars in Zambia



Slide Circuit Report

by Wilma Gamble

SLIDE CIRCUIT RESULTS - FALL, 2003

Slide Circuit #1

First: Jean Harris
Second: Vern Sanders
Third: Alfred Hauck

Slide Circuit #2

First: Flo Quesseth
Second: Earl Hill
Third: Wesley Swan

Slide Circuit #3

First: Bob Christopher
Second: Curtiss Lund
Third: Palle Kjar

Why not consider joining a slide circuit? It is an excellent opportunity to view the work of our fellow photographers while at the same time observing how they see and interpret a subject. You will receive inspiration from them and experience the anticipation of learning how your work stands up when critiqued by other members in your circuit. It is a wonderful learning tool, an opportunity to communicate with other photographers, and just plain fun.

Just give me a phone call at 403-246-8343 or send an e-mail to wrgamble@shaw.ca and I will get you set up on a circuit immediately.

PRPA 2004 Annual Outing

June 18-20, Okotoks, Alberta



Due to a family crisis, Noel Charchuk was unable to submit a report on the Outing in time to include it in this issue. The Registration Form (and possibly other information) is included as an insert in the newsletter. For more information on the Outing contact Noel at (403) 278-1938 or email to nhcharch@shaw.ca

Print Circuit Report

by Phyllis Kube

The four Print Circuits with 24 members are presently circulating, ending the 2003-04 circuit in June. This is a good time to get your name on the Fall circuit. I can be reached at (306) 692-8495.

I would be pleased to hear from you and to answer your questions or put you in touch with one of the circuit members. Let them share with you their experience in the print circuit to get a good insight into what it is all about. Discover the expectation and fun of having that "binder" arrive at your door. Twice yearly you will have the opportunity to critique other photos and have yours done as well.

Look for the Print Circuit display at the Outing.

Congratulations to the following ribbon winners:

Circuit #1

First: Curtiss Lund *Something Amiss*
Second: Curtiss Lund *Showy Lady Slipper*
Third: Alice Pritchard *Family Outing*

Circuit #2

First: Hazel Rauch *Summer Sunrise*
Second: Don Walhella *Gardner's Delight*
Third: Mary Wright *Sweet Passenger*

Circuit #3—winners to be announced next issue

Circuit #4

First: Mary Jacobs *Double Delight*
Second: Mary Jacobs *Sunflower*
Mary Jacobs *The Hub*
Third: Marilyn Toderan *Lillies*
Arlyne Lawson *Graphic and Geometric*

Print Exhibition Chair Vacant

This position is still vacant. For a Print Exhibition to be held this year someone will have to take on the challenge at the AGM in June. If you think you may be interested contact the president or any of the executive.

Parkland Photography Club

Report by Darlene McCullough

Parkland Photo Club remains an active organization. Our meetings begin with our monthly theme shoot and since our membership has increased to 17 we have from 15 to 17 entries each month. This takes a little more time but proves to be an interesting activity as we discuss each entry.

We have submitted entries in almost all the PRPA competitions as well as Gleneath Foto Fun and the Transparency Battle. As we are becoming more involved with all the PRPA activities, we found that we could dispense with a program committee as we always seem to have lots to do. We enjoy and learn from the judging that we do and some of our discussions become quite lively ones.

Another new addition to our program has come about because of the 5 members of our club who belong to the PRPA Print Circuit. We have decided that the photos entered in these circuits should be brought to the meeting and as each is displayed, the comments written by the other members of the circuit are read and discussed. This year we also brought 5 favorite photos taken over the Christmas break and shared these.

Our club slide show has become quite a hit with the seniors so again this year we organized a show of 160 slides. The show has been taken to the 5 senior housing residences in Tisdale, one in Naincam, and one in Porcupine Plain. Since we had volunteered to judge the Portrait Competition for PRPA in April this year, we did a bit of extra work on that topic in preparation for the judging.

One of our members is a competitive small bore shooter and has attended competitions across Canada and the USA. He presented a digital slide show of some of his photos taken at these shoots.

Our web site has been included in Jerry Crawford's Greenwater Report page but this spring Wes Swan offered us a good bargain on web space so we are setting up a new site with Wes as our webmaster.

Tisdale is planning on publishing a history of the town for the centennial project so a report on the history of Parkland Photography Club was submitted. This report is published on our new web site www.parklandphotographyclub.com Wes has also put our theme shoots from the past three years on this web site and will continue to upload these so check them out each month.

In the fall we changed our meeting place from Fairlight Studio and Gallery to the Kin Hall which is also on Main Street. For those of you who attended the Transparency Battle when we hosted it, this is the hall where that event was held. We have lots of room so this is working out well for us. Our display board remains at Fairlight Studio and Gallery and photos on it are changed every three months.

Last June when the Relay for Life was held in Tisdale, we volunteered to record the event on film and digital photos, as well as video coverage. The committee was very pleased with the results and we were gratified to see that 3 of the 8 photos selected to go on the Saskatchewan report were ones taken by members of our club.

Three of our members plan to attend the Transparency Battle in Rosetown where we are also looking forward to seeing Stan Hingston's slide show "I am Saskatchewan". This is an interesting project, Stan, and we wish you well with it.

Four of our members attended the PRPA Outing last year and we have 5 members planning to attend this June. See you there!

Webmaster Report

by Wesley Swan
webmaster@prpa.com

Sorry, no report this issue.

Wild Rose Camera Club

Report by Curtiss Lund

W.R.C.C. has had an exciting season. We started the season with our September meeting held at Jake's studio. Monthly Theme was: Open & Closed. We started talking about 2005's PRPA Outing. Tossed around a few ideas.

October's meeting was held at my place. Monthly Theme was: Trains. Most photos were taken at Fort Edmonton as our last year's year end outing was there and all photos for the monthly must be taken after the monthly themes for the following season are announced in May. Some very interesting shots of trains and parts of trains. More discussion for the outing.

November's meeting was held back at Jake's. Monthly Theme was: Animals. We found this subject much too open and easy. We had wild, domestic, and pets. It was decided at this meeting that we would go and test out the location, the food, the premises, the lodging, and of course the prices at Goldeye Centre in Nordegg for our Christmas club outing. The club members were very impressed and we have tentatively booked the premises for the 2005 PRPA Outing. Dates are June 17, 18 & 19, 2005.

January's meeting was held at my place again. The Theme was: Tracks. This proved an interesting subject, as we had animal, train, footprints and numerous other tracks in different seasons. There was much discussion on the outing. We are really getting excited about this because it is such a beautiful area and most PRPA members have never experienced it. There is so much to see and do in the area that we are having a very tough time deciding tours or whether we even have to, as there is all the photography that you could possibly shoot in the weekend right on the premises.

February's meeting was held at Jake's again. Are you noticing a pattern here? You are right we try to alternate homes between Jake Zondag's and mine for the meetings. The Theme was Costumes. Again some great entries. I entered both shots for the

monthly taken at last summers PRPA Outing at Sukanen Pioneer Village (all the school kids with the teacher in front of the school and the old gent beside part of his old car). It was decided at this meeting that maybe we should gather what ever images we have of the Nordegg area so that I can start the Promo show for the outing. We thought that perhaps we could go for our year end wrap up party early and spend a weekend at Goldeye Centre wrapping up the promo show ready to show at this year's Outing in Calgary. Excitement is building and we just can't figure out how to get the message across about all the potential photographic opportunities in the area.

March meeting was held at my home again. Theme was: Patterns. Jake had a real interesting thought for this one. He had taken his wife's sewing patterns and set up a still life (in a pattern) photo of them. Very good. Members showed up with photos of Nordegg area so now another job for me has begun. Oh well, keeps me out of mischief.

April meeting will be held at my place as I have the equipment and should have a good start on the promo show. Theme is: Orange. This is the last formal meeting of the season as May's is our windup get together. A couple of our members are looking forward to this year's Outing and are anxiously awaiting full info on it.



Pat's Gadget Bag

by Pat Derbowka

Sorry no gadgets this issue.



Nipawin Camera Club

Report by Wesley Swan

president@nipawincameraclub.com

This has been a busy year for the Nipawin Camera Club. Our monthly theme shoot has been a great success, thanks to the idea from The Parkland Photography Club. This gives me something new each month to publish in our newsletter. I have even used a program called Proshow to create an excellent slideshow of them which I burn on DVD to view on TV.

Our membership has grown to ten with five new members in the past year and a half.

We started a fundraiser to make money for some equipment. First we raffled off a digital camera. Our big project was a Digital Photography Seminar. We tried in September but I guess this was the wrong time of year. Just a couple of weeks ago we finally had the seminar. Thanks to Timothy Shire of Tisdale we had a great response. The weather was a little shaky the night before, but we survived. Working with our photos using Adobe Photoshop was the main topic. I learned a lot and I think that everyone who attended did also.

I can see an exciting line-up of events for this summer. Although we do not have a planned agenda for the year, we go a month or two at a time.

We launched our new website two months ago and with a lot of work it is growing. Check it out at www.nipawincameraclub.com Check out our slide show of last year's themes. You can download a timed version of the show or watch it right online. I will be launching an online version of our newsletter shortly which I will be emailing to clubs.

Keep those shutters clicking!

Back Cover Photos

Bird in Dorothy Light by Randy Risdahl, Foothills; David Sisley, 2003 Gerry Fish Print Comp.

Etched by Frost by Betty Davis, Independent; and *Stone Sculpture* by Curtiss Lund, Wild Rose; tied for First, 2003 Attanyi Salon Print Competition

The Last Word

Editor's Report by Stan Hingston

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It is midnight of Tuesday before the executive meeting and I just finished this newsletter for the *second* time. One hour and twenty minutes ago I clicked "save" for what should have been the final time and the Publisher program crashed and somehow took the file with it including the saved copy on the hard drive. Fortunately I still had all the articles so it was just a matter of putting them all back in and reformatting and correcting the typos etc. all over again. Such are the perils of an editor's job.

At 8 pages this is a smaller issue than you are used to. I had been saving room for the Outing update and registration form, but just learned tonight that Noel was not able to get it to me on time and is copying it himself to put in as an insert. That left 3 blank pages but because of the format I need multiples of 4 pages so had to eliminate another page. I stuck a few notices here and there wherever there was room and made the PRPA membership form into an insert.

This is the third issue printed with Economy Stationery's color printer.

Bob Christopher is stepping down as Competition Chair and I have been considering taking on that challenge and letting someone else take over the *Prairie Focus*. Give it some thought and be ready to come forward at the June AGM.

Submission Deadlines for the Newsletter

Winter January 15

Summer May 31

Spring March 30

Autumn September 15



Bird in Dorothy Light by Randy Risdahl
Etched by Frost by Betty Davis
Stone Sculpture by Curtiss Lund
(details inside back cover)

