



LADYSMITH
CAMERA CLUB

August 2012 Newsletter

22 members present

Corporal Dave Giles – Forensic Photography

Dave started his presentation by explaining the purpose for forensic photography is to help tell the story to the Court. The training for RCMP Officers to become 'expert witnesses' in forensic photography, begins with a two month course followed by a three year apprenticeship and final exam before senior Department experts. Nanaimo has the third largest department behind Surrey, BC and Red Deer, Alberta.

Equipment – Dave uses a Nikon D300 as his primary camera, and has a D200 for backup. Some other Officers use Nikon D3 and D800. Generally, photos are shot at small aperture to maximize depth of field to show everything as clear as possible. The primary lenses he uses are a 50mm, and 105mm to match normal range of eyesight, and a macro lens to show details. On occasion, to show a whole small room, they use a wide angle lens. The office has a 650 mm telephoto, but he does not use it much, since there is enough resolution to show details like license plates at a distance. Another group in the office are using the lens for long distance surveillance.

Integrity of Photos – The RCMP forensic photo team, use Photoshop to burn/dodge, increase contrast, and sharpen images. Dave explained they provide defence legal counsel a copy of the Photoshop history, and RAW image files to certify integrity of the photos. Dave showed the audience procedure for capturing invisible fingerprint images using Infrared, converting the image to black and white, and then to a negative. Interesting fact – there are five primary finger print types.

Dave explained the RCMP's fingerprint checking procedure. He stated that confirmation bias is what they are working to overcome. He then went into the details of how they examine fingerprint ridges going up two rows and over to the right or left for several iterations, searching to disprove the match. Then the finger prints are passed to a second officer for review of the officer's finding. If the two officers are found to have made an error, it would lead to their dismissal from the Identification team back to general service, as the officer is no longer considered a reliable expert witness.

Photographing Small Items – Dave presented a hypothetical example of a matching part of a button found in a car grill with the other part on an accident victim's clothing. He showed how they go about showing the two button parts fit together. He presented several examples of how they would show the button, "telling the story". He went into detail explaining how they deal with shadows, and included a back-lit image over ground glass showing the two parts together.

A second example shown was a light bulb with a bent filament. Importance of the bent filament, is that it proves the light was shining when the glass bulb was broken in a car crash.

Showing Context and Location – First image is the house from the street or large property from the air.

Subsequent photos lead the viewer into the house/property, then the front door, and what is seen walking to the room, appearance of the room, and then toward detail items within the room that are to be shown. This is done with both a progression of still photos, and panning video images around rooms. The series of photos are used by witnesses to point out where they were and what they saw at that point.

An interesting side comment Dave made is they normally place video cameras on tripods and pan through a room, they do not walk video cameras, except when following a witness, leading the camera.

Shoes and Tires – scratches on bottom of shoes from pebbles and wear are unique. Shoe marks on floors, and mud are matched to individual shoes. Tire treads are matched to brand of tire. Soil photographs of shoe and tire marks are taken with strobe to increase contrast to show the tread. Standard procedure is to take photos (front, back, and right left) to show tread, and eliminate potential challenge of missing information.

Injury and Pathology – pathology images are directed by the pathologist. Less drastic injury photos are taken without medical direction. An 'L' scale is held beside the injury to show size.

Membership Renewal

A reminder to everyone, it is time to renew your membership for the coming year. Membership dues are due at the September meeting. Membership dues are

- Family \$50.00
- Single \$40.00
- Student \$20.00

Elections

Pat Hagen has volunteered to serve as the Club Treasurer. Following Club Bylaws, the president called three times for nominations for the Treasurer, hearing no other names, Pat was elected by acclamation as Treasurer.

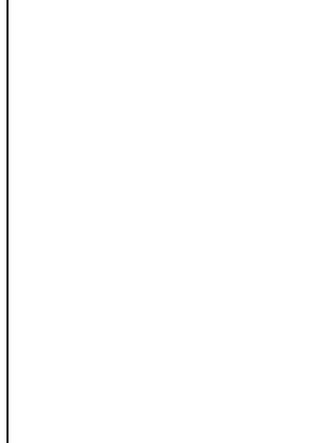
Show and Shine

Members that attended the Show and Shine - please send a copy of your pictures to the car club. Nita Grant is the contact person for the club, her e-mail address is grantjewellers@shaw.ca.

Judging Photos

A few copies of the judging criteria 'cheat sheet' were on the table at the back of the meeting, more copies are being printed. A copy is included with the meeting notes.

The August Theme Shoot was "Candid Portraits"

First - Ken Thorne	Second - Penny Moffat	Third - Crystal Banks
		

Open Category

The images that created the most discussion were:

Ken Thorne Quatsino Sound sunrise images	Crystal Clappis reflection images
	

News and Announcements:

Club badges are available.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 7 pm at the Hardwick Hall, High Street at 3rd Avenue in Ladysmith.

September Guest Speaker:

Wally Chinn – Wildlife Photography Challenges

Theme Shoots :

September - "Leading Lines"

October - "Doors"

November – "Windows"

Photo Submissions

To submit photos for the Theme shoot and Open categories, send your photos as email attachments to:
info@ladysmithcameraclub.com

The photos should be a minimum of 1920 pixels width and 1080 pixels in height. (These sizes are determined by the projector.) The images should be named as follows: yourname_image name_ category.jpg.

Submission deadline: Friday before the Tuesday meeting.

Ladysmith Camera Club Executive

President: Sean Sherstone sherstone@gmail.com

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Website: <http://ladysmithcameraclub.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ladysmithcc>

Meetings : 7:00 pm, 4th Tuesday of every month; Hardwick Hall of First United Church, 228 High St.@3rd Ave., Ladysmith, BC.

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General Tips for judging/critiquing photographs

Impact and interest

- does the image grab your attention
- does the image offer a fresh, original view of the subject
- does it avoid being too busy and confusing
- does it achieve the photographer's objective

Viewpoint

- is the viewpoint original, and fresh
- does it appeal to the senses
- is it the best viewpoint, a good viewpoint
- is it cluttered or distracting, and odd juxtapositions
- is the horizon level, are the verticals vertical

Composition

- is there space in front of animals, faces, or transportation
- does the composition lead the eye to the main subject
- does the main subject stand out from the background
- is there contrasting color, brightness or focus on the main subject
- is the image more than a snapshot
- does the image make good use of forms, patterns and textures
- does the image achieve the creator's objective
- does the image convey a sense of depth, shadow, perspective, selective focus
- does the image avoid being too busy and confusing

Technique

- does the image avoid blown out details, and dark shadows
- is the image sharp in focus where it should be
- was fill-flash used where it should be
- has good use been made of contrasting and complementary colors
- has the image been over-sharpened
- is there noise or pixilation
- are the eyes in sharpest focus