



December 2015 Newsletter

Looking Ahead



Our next meeting takes place on **Tuesday, December 8, 7pm** at the Whitehorse Public Library. This will be our first presenters meeting of the year, and we're super excited to welcome photographic storyteller [Joel Krahn](#).

Joel will speak about his time volunteering in Africa, and share his experiences and photos of South Sudanese culture as well as bush pilots. Closer to home, a third photo essay will explore Tlingit culture.

This presentation is open to the general public, courtesy of the WPC.

Netherlands Photo Exchange

For those members who are participating in the photo exchange with the [Fotoclub "de Maasstad" Rotterdam](#), please note the following important dates:

- December 8: Final list of photos and bio sent to Sabine Schweiger;
- December 13: Final submission of photos to Sabine Schweiger;
- January 5, 2016: View and Critique photos from the Netherlands

**Watch your email for updates on a December
Pizza/Pics/Pints gathering!**

[The 2015/2016 Calendar may be downloaded here.](#)

There will be no club assignment for the month of December.

[Click here for submission specifications.](#)

[Click here for upcoming assignments.](#)

Reflects

November proved to be another busy month for the WPC.

Our Annual General Meeting occurred November 2 at the Whitehorse Public Library (upstairs, but that's a whole 'nother story...). The AGM was well attended by existing and new members, and a refreshed executive was selected:

- President: Stephen Anderson-Lindsay
- Vice President I: Matt Jacques
- Vice President II (Programs): Faye Cable
- Secretary: Michael Burdett
- Treasurer: Dan Scarffe
- Director 1: John Reeve
- Director 2: Lene Nielsen
- Director 3: Sylke Baranski
- Past President: Walter Gutowski

Minutes, President's and Treasurer's reports are available [here](#).

Next, we held a special meeting on November 8 to select our contributions to the annual Celebration of Nature Competition, where the rule is no "hand of man". 18 members participated, making the task of selecting only 8 for submission quite challenging...

Finally, the photo assignment "Neglect" was presented at our November 18 meeting:

"The world wide web is full of funny, happy, uplifting stories and pictures. But to truly appreciate these, we need to see and appreciate the other side. A part of this is the idea of neglect. Can you see it around you? Is it in your yard, neighborhood or city? How does the idea of neglect alter your outlook, and how does it affect your appreciation of life?"

“Celebration of Nature” Competition



"You're in my space" by Rob Kelly



"Dragon boost" by Walter Gutowski



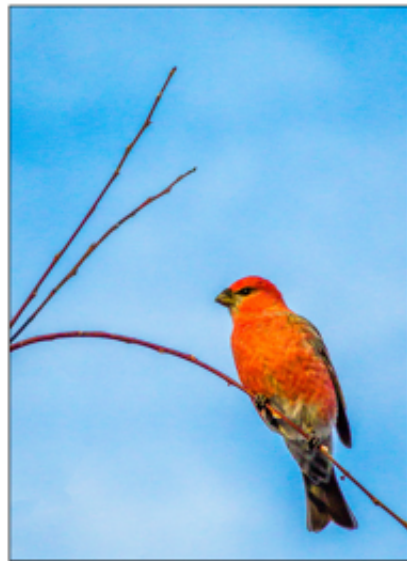
"The Gap" by Tina Brobby



"Stumped" by Stephen Anderson-Lindsay



"Eye to eye" by Lene Nielsen



"Flame On" by Angelo Gonon



"Dreaming of a River" by Maggie Leary



"Still Water, Excited Atmosphere" by John Reeve

“Neglect” Assignment

A sample of images from this assignment may be seen below, but make sure you check our [website](#) for many more!



©Ed Jenni



©Wendy Pryor



©Ingrid Wilcox



©John Reeve



©Norma Waddington



©Walter Gutowski



©Stephen Anderson-Lindsay



©Liz Reichenbach



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**"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."
Henry David Thoreau**

Exposure

The following is the first of three planned articles contributed by member Michael Burdett. Michael is a long-time member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, with particular interest in astro-physics and cosmology.

Stars

by Michael Burdett

Are you sitting still?

Actually, no, you are not. When you are sitting at your computer you are in fact being carried along by the Earth's constant movement through space at a pretty decent speed. So how fast are we moving? The Earth rotates on its axis once every twenty-four hours, marking what we consider to be "a day."

At the equator the Earth's circumference is 40,075 Km. To make one complete revolution in a 24-hour period the Earth therefore rotates at a speed of 1,667 Km/hour.



But as the TV commercials say "Wait! There's more!" We are actually moving considerably faster than that through space. The Earth orbits around our local star, the Sun, travelling a total of 940 million Kilometres every year, at a speed of 108,000 Km/hour. Our Sun, located in one of the peripheral arms of our local galaxy - the Milky Way - also orbits around the galaxy's centre at a speed of 782,000 Km/hour. So while just sitting and relaxing comfortably we are actually travelling through space at an approximate speed of 900,000 Km/hour. That's my sort of aerobic exercise!

From our perspective the visible stars appear to move across the sky during the course of the night. This is, of course, an illusion, as it is actually the rotation of the Earth that gives the stars their apparent movement. The exception in the northern hemisphere is of course the North Star, Polaris, which is situated almost at the northern polar axis. In the course of a night Polaris appears to be almost stationary while all the other stars seem to rotate around it. You can capture an image of at least some of this movement by taking a time exposure photograph of the stars. As the Earth rotates the stars slowly move through the camera frame creating a trail behind each star.

These are known as “Star Trails.” You can make a more aesthetically pleasing photograph by including an object such as a tree, a mountain or even a building in the foreground to give perspective. Including Polaris in the frame also provides a pivot point and highlights the rotational movement. Choose a clear night with no clouds, preferably moonless or a time when the Moon is below the horizon. Also make sure you are far enough away from towns, cities, street lights, etcetera to avoid any light pollution.

Star Trails can be captured in a camera, using a tripod and wide-angle lens, in one of two ways. The traditional method was to use a long time exposure using the “bulb” setting on a camera, in conjunction with a cable release, and an ISO setting of 400. The longer the exposure, the longer the apparent star trail.

Exposures of several hours were not uncommon. You can easily judge the length of an exposure by looking at the size of the arc that an individual star makes. For example a 45’ arc would mean that the exposure had been 3 hours long.

The second method is to take multiple images over a period of time and stack them using, for example, the “Layers” feature in Photoshop.

Stacking several hundred exposures can be a lengthy process and, to put it mildly, a pain. There are various apps, such as startrails.exe or StarStaX that provide a much simpler (and faster) method. Step-by-step directions are readily available on-line by simply Googling “Star Trails” or try

<http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-photograph-star-trails/>

Want to know more about the Whitehorse Photo Club?

<http://www.whitehorsephotoclub.ca> or on [Facebook](#)