PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
WHITEHORSE
www.whitehorsephotoclub.ca

January 2016 Newsletter

Looking Ahead

Right out of the 2016 gates, the club had our first meeting on **January 5** for the **Dutch Photo Exchange** viewing.

Almost exactly one year ago, the club was contacted by a very interesting indivudual from amateurfotografenclub de Maasstad with a very interesting proposal. Truth be told I was suspicious at first, but when a follow-up letter was received via Post(!), I knew it was authentic. Happily, we agreed to participate!

The rules were loose, a friendly exchange of photos with the intention of giving the other club the opportunity to see something beyond their “normal”.

Our Dutch counterparts had 17 individuals participate, combining for a grand total of 187 photos! It was enlightening to see their homeland, and while windmills and tulips were certainly included, architecture and portraiture made a strong showing.

Despite a strong intention to keep to a schedule, we were forced to succumb to the time limits set by our venue and rushed through the final few photographers.

Special thanks to Sabine Schweiger for organizing and successfully executing on this wonderful project!

The 2015/2016 Calendar may be downloaded here.

January Assignment: Beauty of Simplicity

This month's topic was found while reading through David duChemin’s book “The Visual Toolbox”; I’ll let his words set the scene:

"Find a scene that pulls at you and make a photograph the way you normally might. Don’t think too much about it. Now find the “photographs within a photograph” and make six simpler photographs. They don’t have to tell the whole story. In fact, that’s the point. It doesn’t have to be a large scene either. Pick a vase of flowers, make a photograph of that vase of flowers, and then simplify — find six photographs within that scene that are less busy, more about line and color and pattern. Make the simplest photographs you can. Exclude everything unnecessary. Can you make one photograph of only a stem, or an abstract of defocused petals, eliminating even the need for sharp focus? Can you reduce the color palette to only different shades of red or green? Can you find a way to remove the color entirely? How much can you remove before you no longer have a photograph?” ~David duChemin, “The Visual Toolbox”, pg. 237

The photos will be viewed at our meeting on **January 19, 7pm at the Canada Games Centre.**

Click here for submission specifications.
Click here for upcoming assignments.

The next **Executive Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday January 12, 7pm**. A major topic of this meeting will be creation of a committee to plan the fall

workshop. Please consider how you can assist in creating another successful photographic workshop in the Yukon.

Finally, on **Tuesday January 26, 7PM at the Canada Games Centre** we will have the initial selection meeting for the **North Shore Challenge competition**.

There are no restrictions on the content of submitted photographs, so feel free to manipulate and stylize to your heart's content!

Each member is invited to submit up to four images for this initial selection to whitehorsephotoclub@yahoo.ca. One of each individual's four images will be selected by popular vote to proceed to round 2.

Ann Alimi has once again agreed to perform the second round judging, selecting the final six images which will be submitted to the North Shore Photographic Challenge.

The full "Digital Specifications Guide" may be found on the website, with the highlights listed below:

- JPG format
- maximum image size 1400 wide x1050 high (pixels)
- sRGB colour space

Reflects

The club was very happy to receive Joel Krahn as presenter in the month of December. Joel spoke about his role as a photographic storyteller, and presented on a number of photo adventures including his time spent in South Sudan, Tlingit culture and the Yukon River Quest. The audience was very interactive, and Joel admirably fielded questions on a wide variety of topics.

Thank you Joel!

Follow Joel at www.joelkrahn.com & on Instagram.

The club enjoyed our second **P3** event of the year, this time at Tony's Pizzeria. While the Pizza and Pints were a given, I was pleasantly surprised by the number of people who brought in their Pics to share. Whether books, calendars or loose photographs, it was a good experience being able to make a physical connection to the art, as opposed to viewing on a monitor or projector screen.

Thanks to Walter G for organizing, and to Tony's Pizzeria for being so understanding about our extended stay (what, you closed an hour ago?!?!?)

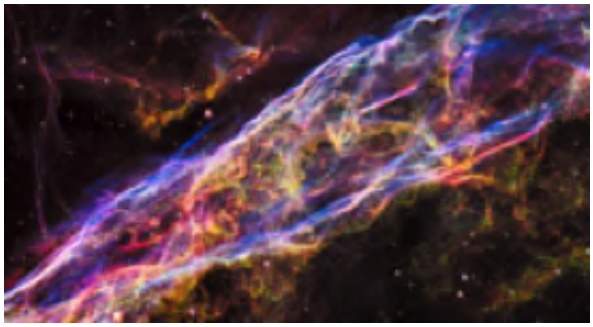
"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler."
Albert Einstein

Exposure

The following is the second 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.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

by Michael Burdett



Well, that may be the start of a well-known nursery rhyme, but it isn't really true.

The apparent twinkling of a star is caused by the turbulence of Earth's atmosphere. To the naked eye all the stars in the night sky look much the same and, while some stars seem to be brighter than others, they all look white. When we observe stars through binoculars or take a photograph of the night sky, however, different colours are revealed. Some stars look noticeably orange or red while others may have a distinctive blue or blue-white tint. Some "stars" also appear fuzzy or slightly elongated rather than a sharp point of light.

That is because they are not actually individual stars, but rather are collections of millions or billions of stars forming other galaxies. There are over a billion galaxies visible from Earth, which prompts the continuing question “Are we alone?”

The colour of a star depends on several factors: the surface temperature, indirectly on the size of the star and, to a lesser extent, on the star’s motion through space in relation to the Earth - the Doppler Effect. This effect, known in Astronomy as red or blue shift, causes a star to appear a different colour. When a star is moving towards us and the distance between a star and the observer is therefore decreasing, so the colour becomes more blue. If the star is moving away from us, the star’s apparent colour shifts towards the red end of the spectrum. The Doppler Effect was used to determine that the Universe is expanding as the galaxies and stars showed a red shift. An everyday example of the Doppler Effect is the apparent change in tone of an emergency vehicle’s siren as it first moves towards you, then passes and continues away from you.

Younger stars, which have a blue or blue/green colour, tend to be giant stars with a surface temperature of up to 50,000’C. These are very active stars, but they do not have a long life, typically ending their days in a massive explosion called a Super Nova. Here, courtesy of NASA, is a Hubble Telescope photograph of a portion of the Veil Nebula, showing a remnant of a Super Nova.

In contrast the photograph below is of the Orion Nebula’s star birth region, one of several “Stellar Nurseries” that are visible from Earth.

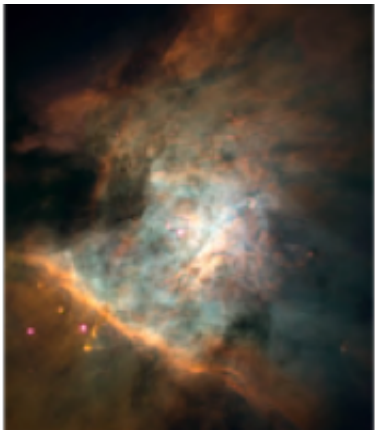
Stars that are white/blue are bigger and hotter than our own Sun, and have a surface temperature of up to 12,000”C. They live longer than a blue star, but less than the Sun.

Our local star, the Sun, is merely an insignificant, average mid-range star tucked away in an outer arm of a medium-sized spiral galaxy. We identify the centre of our galaxy as the Milky Way. The Sun, technically classified as a yellow dwarf star, has a surface temperature of approximately 6,000’C. The Sun’s estimated life is 11 Billion years and, as it is approximately 4.5 Billion years since its birth, it has another 6.5 Billion years to go before entering the White Dwarf stage.

Orange/Red stars have consumed most of their fuel - hydrogen - and are approaching the end of their lives. As their fuel, Hydrogen, is running low the star’s waste product, Helium, builds up in the centre of the star. The delicate balance between a star’s massive gravity and the outward pressures generated by the nuclear furnace at the centre of the star become altered as the gravitational force lessens. The outer part expands like a balloon and the star develops into a red giant. The heat generated by the star is spread out over a significantly larger area and consequently the surface temperature is quite cool, ranging between 2,500’C and 4,000’C.

The constellation of Orion - the Hunter - is a good place to see different star colours. During January, Orion will be visible in the northern hemisphere from the early evening onwards. A camera, mounted on a tripod, using even a medium telephoto lens with a wide aperture and an exposure of a couple of seconds should be sufficient to photograph the constellation. The star that forms Orion's left shoulder, called Betelgeuse, is a massive red giant. Below Orion's belt, at the right knee, is the super-hot, blue star called Rigel.

The three stars that form Orion's belt make the constellation easy to identify in the night sky. As seen in the photograph on the right, hanging below the belt is Orion's sword. This is the location of the stellar nursery, pictured above.



Orion is a useful place from which to locate other stars and astronomical features, using a technique known as "star-hopping." For example, by drawing an imaginary line through these three stars and continuing along it to the right you can easily locate the star Aldebaran. This giant orange-red star is situated in the Constellation of Taurus and is one of the brightest objects in the night sky.

Events in the January Night Sky:

Jan 2nd: The Moon's orbit reaches the furthest distance away from the Earth, known as the apogee.
Jan 4th: The Quadrantid meteors peak.
Jan 9th: Venus is a very bright object in the morning sky and will be in close conjunction with Saturn.
Jan 10th: New Moon.
Jan 20th: Aldebaran will be occulted by the Moon.
Jan 28th: Jupiter can be seen just to the North of the Moon.

Want to know more about the Whitehorse Photo Club?

http://www.whitehorsephotoclub.ca or on Facebook