

Focus on Victoria Camera Club

By Mike Wooding
Vice President,
Victoria Camera Club

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada is located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island off Canada's west coast. Founded in 1944, the Victoria Camera Club (VCC) has enjoyed a long and distinguished history and continues to flourish today. From an initial membership of 40, our ranks have swollen to 230 this year. The VCC held international salons from 1945 until 1966. The 648 prints and 2099 color slides submitted in the final year suggested that the Salon had become too successful and too large to manage for the club's members.

The first issue of the club's newsletter, *Close-Up*, appeared in 1946 and soon became an 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inch pamphlet which was retained for many decades. In January 2013, the newsletter was transformed into a full page color magazine. Entirely written and produced by club members, *Close-Up* has won a number of awards in the PSA competition over the years, starting with a first place in 1951, and again in 1989, 1992, and 2002. More recently, *Close-Up* received honorable mentions each year from 2011 to 2014 in the large club category. It also received special awards in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

The club's website was developed and launched in 2002. Under the capable management of a small group of dedicated volunteers, the website (www.victoriacameraclub.org) has evolved and expanded so that now it is the focus of the Club's communication of current events for both members and the public. It hosts the complete calendar of events, image galleries of all competition results, many other photo galleries for field trips and special events, current and archived copies of *Close-Up*, and much more. We are very proud



Victoria Camera Club's award-winning newsletter

that our website has won awards in the PSA competition in the large club category in 2011, 2012, and placed first in 2013.

The VCC holds three meetings each month from September through November and from January through April. The first meeting focuses on competitions where we have eight categories and three levels, from novice to advanced. Every effort is made to emphasize the educational aspect of competition, especially at the novice level. In addition to these internal competitions, we enter CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Arts) competitions at both the club and individual levels. We participate in other locally organized exhibitions such as the Lion's Gate Celebration of Nature and the North Shore Challenge. We also hold a friendly interclub competition with the Eastwood Photographic Society in Glasgow, Scotland. In 2009, the Victoria Camera Club took first place in the Camera Club category in the Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards.

The second meeting, Presenters Night, features a talented artist or photographer who is capable of teaching our members a technique regarding shooting or processing. Our third meeting, Members Night, offers the opportunity for individual members to feature their work or deliver a short talk on a technical subject. This meeting is usually well attended, since there is a keen interest in seeing what our fellow members have been up to.

Victoria Camera Club is very fortunate to have many excellent photographers who are more than willing to share their experience and expertise with some of the less experienced members. We



VCC members taking the CAPA judging course from Allen Bergen. Photo © Wyman Lee.



Victoria Camera Club members. Photo © Wyman Lee.

have an impressive schedule of workshops, usually eight per month, on a variety of subjects including PhotoShop and Lightroom instruction, specific photographic subjects, equipment use, image critiquing and more. Most workshops are available at no cost to members.

Field trip offerings expanded from one or two Saturdays per month to several weekends each month. A regular bimonthly Tuesday morning group theme shoot in a downtown Victoria location has been added and is very popular with some of our retired members. Weekend field trips are usually held in locations in the Victoria area, but occasionally, extended trips to more distant places are offered. We enjoy visiting locations in the US such as the Olympic Peninsula in Washington and next year we are planning a trip to the Palouse.

In 2012, we started Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for those members interested in specific aspects of photography. The Club now has four SIGs that meet monthly to focus on their areas of interest. Beginning with the Lighting SIG, we soon expanded to include Nature, Creative and Mac users groups.

Membership is the heart and soul of our club's success, and the celebration of our 70th anniversary is an acknowledgement of the untiring efforts of successive generations of members who have devotedly served the club. It is a time of considerable pride for all of us who are and have been part of the club and its inspiring journey. A strong spirit of camaraderie and cooperation has always existed within the Victoria Camera Club. We are constantly striving to maintain this cohesive and collaborative environment and to strengthen the bonds that exist among our members. Many members arrive thirty minutes or more before meetings formally begin, just to socialize with other members and exchange ideas and experiences. We have a very positive club environment and we always try to keep it fun.

Our members take much pride in the art that

they create and from the very beginning our members have been willing to share their expertise with one another. This was one of the principles on which the club was founded so long ago and it prevails to this day.

Thanks to the editors of our 70th Anniversary book and to Lois Burton, Past President for allowing me to use excerpts from their work. ■

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Progress Medal Award

The Progress Medal, PSA's highest award, is presented each year at the Honors Banquet at the PSA Annual Conference. The Progress Medal recognizes a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the progress of photography or an allied subject. The recipient does not have to be a member of the Society.

Each year, the Progress Medal Committee seeks and welcomes suggestions from the membership for suitable candidates for the award, not just for the current year but also for future consideration. Please send your suggestions to pmc@pcms-photo.org.

**Stuart Lynn, APSA
Chair, Progress Medal Committee**

Correction—December 2014 PSA Journal

Information about two chapters were inadvertently omitted from the December 2014 *On My Mind* column. Here is the complete list:

The following is a list of the PSA Chapters, their location, and their Chairperson:

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| • Central Florida Chapter | Florida | Jim Mahoney, APSA, EPSA |
| • Chicago Chapter | Chicago, Illinois | Jim Bodkin |
| • Everglades Chapter | Florida | Ted Bojer |
| • Gem State Chapter | Idaho | Max Burke |
| • Gold Rush Chapter | Northern California | Rod Bradford |
| • Inland Empire Chapter | Washington/Idaho | Jean Timmermeister, HonPSA |
| • Mid-Atlantic Chapter | Maryland, Virginia,
Pennsylvania | Tam Le, EPSA |
| • Southern California | Southern California
Roundup Chapter | Joanne Stolte, FPSA, MPSA |
| • Wisconsin Chapter | Wisconsin | Signe Emmerich, APSA |
| • Yerba Buena Chapter | Northern California | Lois Shouse |