

# Bellingham Photography Club

Issue 39

July 2021



## *President's Message*

If you are reading this, you have survived our end-of-June heat extraordinaire. I have already put an entry in my planner for September to buy an air conditioner; hopefully by then our local suppliers will have them back in stock.

Our first month of two meetings went very well, and we had no trouble filling up the extra time during our 'sharing' meeting on June 23. At the end of September we will decide if we want to continue this format, but judging from our first trial month, it's a 'keeper.'

Restore has no plans for opening the room we used to rent (they say they don't have the resources to keep it clean/sterilized), so we will be meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

We will have our two meetings this month — see the program and monthly theme at right — and in August we will resume our tradition of a summer picnic instead of meetings. You can find more information on this inside. And unless COVID-19 requirements change, we will have our first club photoshoot/field trip since February last year. Ham Hayes, our program chair, has more information inside.

We have finalized our program and theme lineup for the rest of the year and are really excited about our presenters — including a very special program in October with Keron Psillas, photographer and award-winning book artist, direct from Portugal. You won't want to miss this.

It feels like our sequestering has broken along with our heat wave. We have a very promising year ahead of us!

See you on the 14th!

## Bellingham Photography Club Board

Lorraine Day - President	mesmerie1@gmail.com
Deanna Birdsall - Secretary	iamdela@gmail.com
Alan Alquist - Treasurer	alan@learn2inquire.com
Ham Hayes - Programs	hamhayes@outlook.com
David Johnson - Club Liaison	davidsamishphoto@gmail.com
Lorraine Day - Newsletter Editor	mesmerie1@gmail.com

## July 2021 Meetings

**July 14—Program**  
*Still Life*

**July 28—Sharing**

Monthly Theme:  
*Summer Play*

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## How to submit

- .jpg format
- Width = 1920 px or less\*
- Height = 1080 px or less\*  
Resolution not important;  
150—300 dpi typical.
- File names to begin with  
your last name and a  
sequential number  
( Day 1—Fish House.jpg)
- Total size of email with  
attachments: 10 MB max.
- Include exif info in your  
email if known

Send images for the website  
(Theme, Commentary, or  
Members Gallery) to David  
Johnson

[DavidSamishPhoto@gmail.com](mailto:DavidSamishPhoto@gmail.com)

Send images for the news-  
letter to Lorraine Day—  
[mesmerie1@gmail.com](mailto:mesmerie1@gmail.com)

*For those who care:*

Our website host will resize  
your images to a maximum of  
1,550 pixels wide by 960 tall. It  
does this "to prevent theft of  
your originally uploaded full  
resolution images and it also  
help to ensure that your  
images will always load with  
minimal loading delay. Your  
original image files are  
retained and remain unedited."

## About BPC

Bellingham Photography Club provides opportunities for photography enthusiasts to enhance and share expertise. Club activities include, but are not limited to, regular meetings, photography field experiences, photography competitions, and special interest forums.

Our goal is to provide encouragement, camaraderie and educational programs that will motivate photographers to improve their skills.

We are meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, when we have a program or demo, and on the 4th (not the last!) Wednesday of the month, to share our monthly theme photos, review photos submitted for critique, and have open photography-related discussion. During COVID-19 management we are meeting online via Zoom.

If you would like to join a meeting as our guest, please contact our president, Lorraine Day, at [mesmerie1@gmail.com](mailto:mesmerie1@gmail.com).

## Show Your Stuff!

The Bellingham Photo Club has many venues for sharing your work. We'd love to see YOUR work in one of these places!

### Website and Monthly Meetings:

- **Member Galleries** – Members can each upload up to 20 images to the members' gallery on our website. These can be anything you want – your own personal portfolio that you can share with friends and family!
- **Theme of the Month** – Each month, a theme is established and you can submit up to 3 images (the theme for the July meeting is 'Summer Play—Escape from COVID'). The themed images are for sharing, not for critical review (unless you ask for opinions). These images will be shared/reviewed at each monthly meeting.
- **Commentary/Review** – Each month, members can also submit up to 3 images for critical review. These do not need to be tied to the Theme of the Month. Members are encouraged to go online and enter comments; additionally, these images will also be shared at each monthly meeting.

**Newsletter** – Remember, members can send images the newsletter editor -- me, Lorraine, at [mesmerie1@gmail.com](mailto:mesmerie1@gmail.com) – for inclusion in the newsletter. Especially welcome would be a brief explanation of your inspiration, your technique, problems you tackled and overcame (or failed to overcome!), location, exif data or any other information you'd like to share. Absent this, a brief caption would be great.

Come on; let's show our stuff!

## Upcoming BPC Schedule

Subject to last-minute change, of course, here is our upcoming schedule for club meetings, programs, and themes.

July 14	Program: Still Life	Alan Alquist
July 28	Sharing Theme = Summer Play (Escape from COVID)	-----
August 7	No meetings — Summer picnic	
Sept 8	Program: Contemplative Photography	Ham Hayes
Sept 22	Sharing Theme = My Still Lifes	-----
Oct 13	Program: Layering Your Intent	Keron Psillas
Oct 27	Sharing Theme = Contemplating Fall	-----
Nov 10	Scavenger Hunt Results	Ham Hayes
Nov 24*	Sharing Theme = Enhancing Intentionality	-----
Dec 8	Member Slide Show	Ham Hayes
Dec 22*	Sharing Theme = My Still Life Images	-----

\*Possibly subject to change due to holidays

## 2021 BPC ‘Special Project’

Our special club project this year is — *your* special project.

Do you have a pet project you are working on? Is there something you always wanted to try? To learn? Are you thinking of submitting images to galleries or competitions and would like a friendly review? Anything goes! This is your opportunity—and maybe a little nudge to get you going.

For example, I’ve been photographing a friend’s orchard for many years, and have accumulated more than 2500 images that I’d like cull down and put into a book form. Trouble is, I also want to write text to go with them—and successfully combining the two has got me stymied. Maybe announcing this to the group will make me accountable (kind of like dieting) and get me off dead center.

We will share our projects at a meeting later in the year (tbd).

Henry James proposed asking of art three modest and appropriate questions: What is the artist trying to do? Does he do it? Was it worth doing?

- Robert Adams -  
*Beauty in*

*Photography: essays in defense of traditional values (Aperture)*

The job of the photographer, in my view, is not to catalogue indisputable fact but to try to be coherent about intuition and hope.

— Robert

Adams, “*Beauty in Photography: Essays in Defense of Traditional Values*” (Aperture)

*A photograph is a  
secret about a secret.  
The more it tells you  
the less you know.*

— Diane Arbus,  
from “Diane Arbus:  
A Biography” by  
Patricia Bosworth

*I keep trying to take  
better pictures. My  
approach is one of  
squinty-eyed  
doggedness. It would  
seem mechanical  
except for those  
ecstatic moments of  
luck that occasionally  
befall me. I am  
convinced that this  
persistence has  
played a far greater  
part in the making of  
my work than any  
special talent.*

— Sally Mann

## NWCCC News: Traveling Image Salon and 2021 Conference

### Traveling Image Salon

We have been voting monthly on images submitted to the [Northwest Council of Camera Clubs](#)’ Traveling Image Salon. (Don’t forget to vote for July! Go to [the NWCCC page](#), make a list of your 5 favorite images, and send your votes to David Johnson at [davidsamishphoto@gmail.com](mailto:davidsamishphoto@gmail.com).)

These images will circulate, one club per month, once a month, through September.\* The winners will be announced at the NWCCC Conference Awards Ceremony in November, and will be presented on the NWCCC website.

### 2021 NWCCC Conference

Also on the NWCCC’s schedule is their annual conference, coming the week of November 17.

The keynote speaker [Noel Nic’Ferguson](#), the print salon competition (yes! in-person prints!), and the awards ceremony will be held on site, historically in Shoreline, WA. There will be a presentation of the Digital Image Salon and the Slideshow; the classes/workshops/webinars will be online, as will the digital image competition and the slide show competition.

Members should begin to think about entering, assuming the same rules as before:

- Print Salon - up to 3 each BW and color, up to 16" by 20"
- Digital Salon - up to 4 jpeg images up to 1920 pixels wide by 1200 high, any topic
- Slideshow Competition - up to 2 entries per person, no longer than 4 minutes; makers name should not be part of the slideshows

If you are interested in submitting to any of these competitions, please contact our Club Liaison, David Johnson, at [davidsamishphoto@gmail.com](mailto:davidsamishphoto@gmail.com).

More information will follow, hopefully by our July 28 meeting.

### *2021 Field Trip: Run Salmon Run!*

Now that the COVID-19 numbers are going down and more and more of us are getting vaccinated, Ham Hayes is putting together our first field trip since February 2020.

We and our cameras will visit one of our region’s creeks or rivers to photograph the landscape and, if our timing is right, the salmon run. Date, time and location still to be determined, depending on what our fish are doing, but the runs generally occur from September through October or early November, so keep your calendars flexible!

## *2021 Picnic*

God willing and the creek don't rise, we will have our annual picnic this year!

Save the date: Saturday, August 7, 2021

Time: 3:00—6:00

Location: Birch Bay Village Community Club

RSVP: Lorraine Day [mesmerie1@gmail.com](mailto:mesmerie1@gmail.com)

We will have a pot luck and grill up some burgers on the beach at Birch Bay Village Community Club, where Lorraine Day lives. There are two grills, a shaded picnic table, benches, and a grassy area with rip-rap steps down to the beach for those who care to get their feet wet. We will also set up a 10x10 canopy for added shade.

We will need volunteers to:

- Carpool if possible
- Bring typical potluck dishes—salads, sides, chips and condiments (sign-up sheet to be provided at the end of the month)
- Bring ice
- Grill the burgers

A map and directions will be provided closer to the date of the event.

Please RSVP to [Lorraine Day](#) with your interest in coming by July 20.

## *Notes from the June 9 Program*

### *Not Bad... But is it Art? (Art Movements in Photography)*

As promised, I have finished my compilation of art movements and photographers discussed in my recent three-part presentation about the history of art in photography. I will be sending it out as a separate .pdf along with this newsletter. This is a very high-level overview, based largely on information from B&H online with material added by me (Lorraine Day).

I made the list of sources mainly for my own purposes, and not all of the information will be of interest to everybody; you can pick and choose. Additionally, I've added links to related websites and YouTube videos that I've found particularly interesting. Most of these photographers have had documentaries made about them and many, many books, which you can find on your own through the usual channels (Amazon Prime, Netflix, PBS, etc.).

Photography is a young medium. You will note that most of these photographers were contemporaneous with our own lifetimes! I can't help but wonder what they would have made of our digital world (it's been said that Ansel Adams would have been a Photoshop maven).

I hope you find it useful.

*I was a Catholic boy, I went to church every Sunday. A church has a certain magic and mystery for a child. It still shows in how I arrange things. It's always little altars.*

— Robert Mapplethorpe

*Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.*

— Henry Cartier-Bresson

*I can't tell you how many pictures I've missed, ignored, trampled, or otherwise lost just 'cause I've been so hell bent on getting the shot I think I want.*

— Joe McNally,  
from "The Moment It Clicks: Photography Secrets from One of the World's Top Shooters"  
by Joe McNally

*I keep trying to take better pictures. My approach is one of squinty-eyed doggedness. It would seem mechanical except for those ecstatic moments of luck that occasionally befall me. I am convinced that this persistence has played a far greater part in the making of my work than any special talent.*

— Sally Mann

*The mystery isn't in the technique, it's in each of us.*

— Harry Callahan,  
“More Joy of  
Photography” by  
Eastman Kodak

## *What Our Members are Doing:* David Johnson, Revisiting the Archives

*(During a recent conversation, David Johnson told me he has taken on the monumental task of going through his photographic archives, culling and re-evaluating his images. What follows is his answer to some of my questions. — Ed.)*

*David, why did you start this project of going back and looking at your earlier photos?*

My raison d'être was to find images from my past to match the Club's Theme of the Month and for Critique. I hadn't been shooting much over the last year, and my recent ones were scarce, except for the family. Getting into it, I found lots of untagged images, few rankings and keywords, so they were as good as lost.

*What was your reaction to looking at your early images?*

It's fun. I'm processing a lot of images I passed by on before. There are some “diamonds in the rough” I had missed before.

*Were you better than you thought you were? Or – were you worse than you thought you were? If worse, are you proud of your photographic growth?*

I see my “vision” in some of my earlier images, and now feel better about being able to realize the images to match my mind's eye vision. Yes, I have learned new Lightroom skills, and there is time to process them.

And also a lot of other distractions like 3D and video. In the past I have had a backload of images under deadline, as I was trying to prepare for the next publication of the What's Up Music Magazine (WU). That folded, so there's less push to get something ready. I can also experiment with my non-music images.



I'm as crafty a photographer as before. There are a lot of images with flaws; I'm terrible at focus, and tilt. Occasionally, I “see” something; and taking a photo is kind of like taking notes, for future use. Part of this processing is deleting the obvious losers.

I'm trying to get better at framing and composition, filling the frame. And of course the right exposure and focus.

Photographic growth—it's more of an accumulation. I am better able to use what I have. I am able to recognize how far I've come, and see directions I need to develop.

*If you have grown photographically, what do you attribute it to?*

Time, experience, work... And also, exposure to better photo-graphers' work, and art work in general.

*Have you seen an improvement in your creative eye?*

I suppose it's always been there, just less “attainable” due to incompetence, poor equipment and lack of processing abilities. Who

*Continued....*

*David Johnson, continued...*

knows, it may have since been dulled by preconceptions and influences. I don't have a novices' enthusiasm and willingness to experiment.

*Do you think you've gained a greater awareness of compositional "tricks"?*

I don't think "tricks" is the right word for improving the composition of an image. A lot of my best photos were unplanned, and accidental. Perhaps my best "trick" is recognizing potential in a photo, and now being able to work to achieve the "vision." Of course, you need to know the compositional "rules"; then you are free to break them.

*What do you think has helped your photography over the years?*

So many workshops, tutorials, blogs and podcasts have helped. Attending the BPC meetings, the Northwest Council of Camera Clubs conferences and occasional neighboring club meetings added to the gumbo. Cranking through several thousand images in a summer, capturing, selecting and processing them honed what I had picked up.



*What will you do with the images you are revisiting and re-editing?*

Now that my main outlet site is defunct (the WU), I'm going to get in touch with performers and bands that have been my subjects, and ask if I could do more work for them. I'm kind of soured on Facebook for my photos presentation, Sad, but on the WU Facebook photo page I had several years of selected, organized, and commented-on images that all went away (perhaps the Wayback Machine...). Of course, I still have those images, but maybe not as organized. It's part of my "mining old images" projects.

I still have a DavidSamish Photography Facebook page, but I don't update it often. I am planning on getting to work on my new website. I am interested in Instagram, etc.

I've been sharing family photos through Dropbox. One of my several projects is scanning old negatives of the family for my kids. I did make a "chapbook."

*David, please share any other thoughts you have while you are considering these questions.*

Back up, and check those backups. Unless you print, maybe 20+ years from now your digital image might not be accessible on your computer, perhaps "clouds."

With the rise of smartphone technology, the photographic world is opened up to many more photographers. There is so much potential for "computational" photography for so many new novice photographers. As individuals (and as a Club) who have some understanding of the "art" we have a responsibility to educate and advise.

Make useful comments in your social media: "your highlights are blown out," as opposed to "awesome," or "beautiful."

*In the end it all comes down to this: you have a choice (or more accurately a rolling tangle of choices) between giving your work your best shot and risking that it will not make you happy, or not giving it your best shot -- and thereby guaranteeing that it will not make you happy. It becomes a choice between certainty and uncertainty. And curiously, uncertainty is the comforting choice.*

— Ted Orland,  
"Art & Fear" by  
David Bales &  
Ted Orland

*You can observe a lot by just watching.*

— Yogi Berra

