



Editor: Shawn Brown

Winter 2021 / 2022

Message from your President

It's great to be back for another season of photographic learning and seeing everyone's clinic and member's choice entries. Welcome to all returning and new members and thank you for helping to keep our club thriving and successful. I'm hopeful that we will have a fantastic year with several new members already joining our club and actively participating in the discussions. Please encourage your friends to join in the fun and learning.

This year's program is filled with great guest speakers and member shows. Our outings have already begun, with several more planned. Be sure to join in and share experiences with likeminded people.

As a St. Catharines Photographic Club member, you are welcome to take part in the NFRCC activities, so be sure to check out <https://nfrcc.org/> . Your support/participation will assist in maintaining our strong relationships with other clubs.

Wishing you another great year!

Regards,

Stephen Hops

Keep Shooting

Message from the Editor

Hello everyone. It was really encouraging seeing the COVID numbers decline and the restrictions lifting. Unfortunately, they've exploded again and we are suffering another lockdown of sorts. However, days are getting longer and soon the numbers will go down and we can get back at it. I don't know about you but it has certainly been a challenging time creatively but that should be the least of anyone's concerns as we make our way out of this pandemic. With the initial easing of restrictions in the Fall, I went on my first road trip since January of 2019 and it was exhilarating. As usual I only like 2 of the over 950 pictures I took on my 2-day October trip to Point Pelee but the experience was fantastic. After a day and a half of coming up completely empty I was about to pack up and leave the next morning. BUT, after doing some research that evening I got up early of that last morning and found a secluded spot at the mouth of a creek. Within the first 90 minutes, I was witness to 2 adult and 3 juvenile Bald Eagles, all very active.

The entire experience reinforced one thing, never give up.

Happy Shooting!

“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.”

~William Shakespeare

Richard Kearney

In September we lost a dear friend of the club.

Below Vic Ens shares a few stories of Richard:

As most of you may know, Rich, Bob Hutley, Chester Murawski and I would take a few weeks in September to go on a photo excursion. Rich and I would share a hotel room. Since I use a sleep apnea machine, I would find the closest outlet, usually near the outside wall. In one room, the outlet just happened to be near the bathroom. Like every older male, plumbing problems become more regular. Well, again in older men, the first thing that goes is our memory. In the middle of the night after Rich did his night time business, he comes out of the bathroom and jumps in my bed, he had forgotten where he was sleeping. I was not expecting this. I said to Rich that I love him but not that much. In the middle of the night, we both had a good laugh.

The funniest story I can talk about is our trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains. There was Bob Hutley, Chester Murawski (deceased Dec. 2016), myself and of course Rich. As it was getting closer to looking for a place to stay, Rich was always the first one on the phone to call a motel. He found a place called Angel Inn, called and they have lots of rooms. A few minutes later the fellow calls back and said that their computer was down and that he could only accept cash, Ok that was fine. A few minutes later the fellow calls again. He asks if we are close, Rich replies that we can see the Inn. Well, we were nowhere close; something didn't feel right so we did not go to the Inn. In our search for another motel, we found one; Rich went in and started talking to the guy behind the counter. Rich explains that we were looking for the Angel Inn and the guy almost falls off his chair in laughter. He explains to us that the Angel Inn rents rooms by the half hour and full hour. When we realized that it was a whorehouse, we also broke out in laughter. We talk about this experience to this day. I know this is a long story but we enjoy telling it year after year.

One more short story. As the years go by, our memory starts to get a little sketchy. We begin our trip by telling jokes stories, than some says "Didn't we hear this joke last trip, ya but I have already forgotten". I need to be refreshed.



CAPA NATURE RESULTS

Total score 133. Congratulations everyone!!

Shawn Brown "Spring Feeding" 25.5



Bob Jones "Harris Hawk" 23.5



Paula Cheese "The Stare" 22



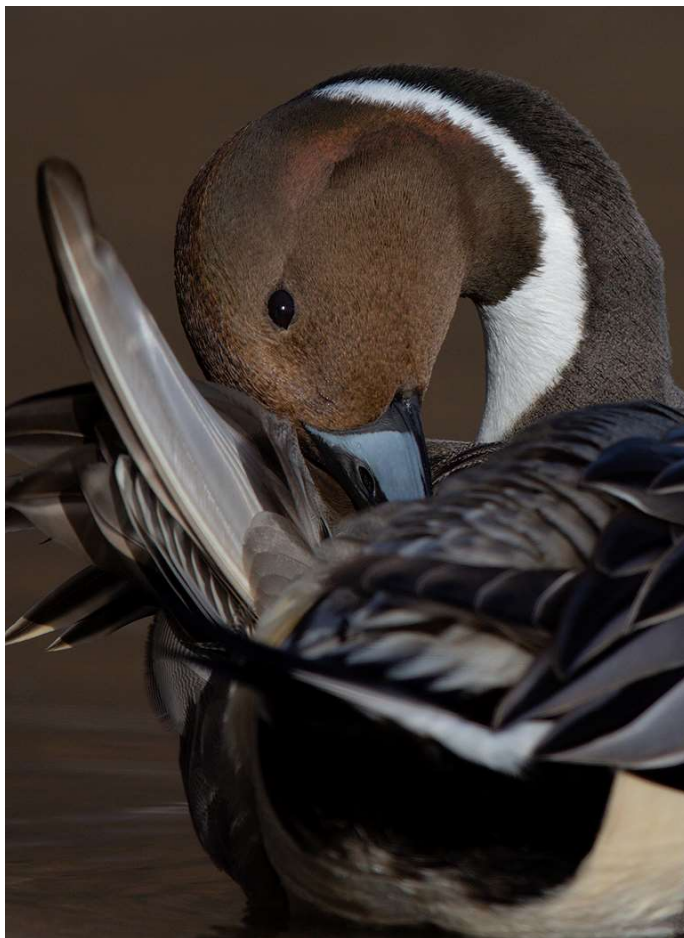
Dave Bauer "Bluebird with Grub Meal" 21.5



Cathy Swain “Loon” 21



Randy Lowden “Preening” 19.5



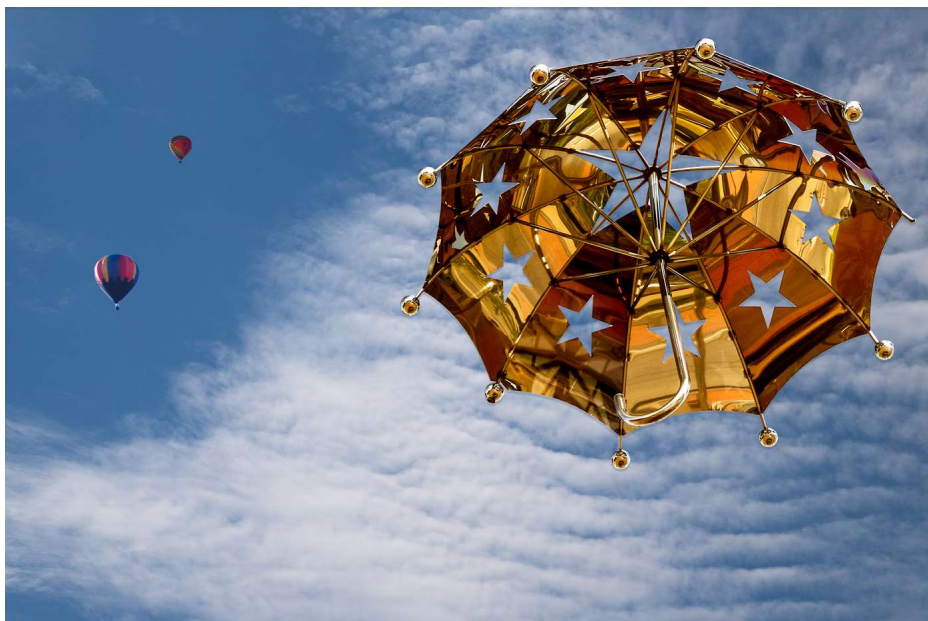
MCKELLAR #1 RESULTS

Total score 104. A score of 20 and higher would have received an honorable mention.
Science Museum and Trillium tied for highest score of 133
Congratulations everyone!!

Mike Hirak "Flowers" 19



Keith Francis "Floating Umbrella" 18



Paula Cheese "Black Bear" 18



Leah Parker "Screaming Tunnel" 18



John Weibe "A Good Evening 16



Dave Bauer "Bluebird with Grub Meal" 15



Tripod Maintenance

The below article is from:

<https://promediagear.com/blogs/guides/how-to-clean-a-tripod>

Tripod Maintenance: 3 tips to keep your tripod in good condition

Tripod is essential to every photographer and it goes through rough environments regularly. This piece of equipment gets dirty most of the time. Hence, the question 'how to clean a tripod?' pops in often.

Cleaning a tripod might seem like a daunting task. But even you can do regular tripod maintenance at home. Alongside that, these three simple tips ensure that your tripod will last a long time.

Keep it folded when not in use

Remember the day when you first got your tripod? It sits nicely in the box or bag with all legs folded. Also, the center column is tucked in. Now, it is important to store your tripod this way whenever it is not in use.

By folding the tripod, you are minimizing the risks of it falling. This is a rare occurrence. But, you may still scratch your tripod.

Now, a carbon fiber tripod such as the ProMediaGear TR344L is an expensive yet worthy investment. With that money spent on a well-made tripod, you must keep it free from unwanted debris.

Keeping it compact, folded, and inside the bag is one small step to ensuring that no unexpected incident will happen.

Always wipe after every shoot

Tripods are always in contact with the ground or any nasty place. It can get muddy, sandy, or even wet. Every after the shoot, you should observe proper tripod maintenance.

The basic way of cleaning a tripod is by using a microfiber cloth. Use it to wipe noticeable dirt on the tripod.

However, if it goes into mud or salt water, you should rinse it with fresh water first.

There is a tendency to leave a tripod and air dry after rinsing. But, this is not ideal. You should always make sure to wipe it dry. Do not leave any water spots.

Leaving a tripod to air dry often leads to watermarks. Just remember, it is highly recommended to rinse a tripod with fresh water after every exposure to saltwater. Wipe it dry after.

Either way, the easiest tripod maintenance to do is to wipe it after every shoot. You only need around five minutes for a quick wipe. This may sound repetitive. But, that is the most cost-effective way to protect your tripod.

Check the leg locks regularly

One of the most essential parts of a tripod is the leg locks. You should always check if the locks are well-lubricated regularly. If you feel that the locks are not twisting smoothly, then maybe it's time to open it up and re-lubricate.

Keeping the leg locks in top condition does not only ensure smooth movement. But, you also get the confidence that your tripod will not fail.

Different companies manufacture varying twist locks. Each has a different method of cleaning. In the end, the concept is the same.

Unscrew the locks entirely and check the washers. Wipe the threads and clean up any dirt or grime stuck in the locks. Using a mild liquid detergent and a little bit of warm water for any stubborn dirt.

Wipe everything once done and do not leave it to air dry. Reassemble the leg locks and use silicone grease to ensure smoothness.

You should do this step as need. If you are regularly shooting in the mud, snow, or any rough terrain then do it as soon as possible.

But, for casual shooters, a proper maintenance check should be done first before disassembly. Also, not everyone has the knowledge to disassemble and rebuild a tripod so be cautious.

The above article also has some cleaning instructions at their webpage however I have left that off and suggest you always follow your tripod manufactures recommendations on cleaning. For example manufactures like Gitzo have proprietary grease that should be used when doing a thorough cleaning.

If anyone has suggestions for future editions of Tripod Topics pleas feel free to email me at:

carefreehighway@cogeco.ca