



THE

LAST FRAME

September 2006

St. Albert Photo Club's Monthly Newsletter



ZBYSZEK GORTEL

Digital photography has captured most peoples' attention these days.

From capturing the initial image to its final output, digital workflow can be somewhat intimidating to those first venturing into this realm of photography.

To dispel some of these issues, it only seemed fitting that the first guest speaker for the St. Albert

Photo Club's new season would be someone who has successfully made the transition from analog to digital photography.

Three different portfolios, one on architecture, another on portraits, and finally one on nature, were used to demonstrate the current state of digital technology.

The Early Days —————
Zbyszek Gortel developed an

interest in photography when he was just 6 or 7 years while growing up in Poland.

He photographed using a box camera. The lens on this camera only offered two apertures, f/5.6 and f/8.

It also only offered two shutter speeds -- 1/30-sec and 1/60-sec.

He soon found a school chum who knew how to develop film on

OCTOBER GUEST
SPEAKER
Darcy Cooper

OCTOBER
COMPETITION
"Faces"

Click here to
access our
website

NOVEMBER
COMPETITION
Leaf/Leaves

NOVEMBER
GUEST SPEAKER
Paul Thurlin



spools and it was through this associate that he had his first experiences with darkroom materials such as developers and enlargers.

As education and career aspirations began to take priority in his life, he had less time to pursue photography.

In 1968, while browsing through a camera store, he asked about shooting 35mm colour slides.

Shooting this way eliminated the need for time consuming darkroom work.

This was how he conducted his photography for several decades while his career as a Professor of Physics consumed most of his energies.

Film Experiences—

While still remaining active in photography over the years, he discovered about 3 years ago that if you want to maintain complete control over your finished image, you should perform your own scanning and printing.

Slide film that he had taken to Colorfast for scanning and printing produced only marginal results.

The dark areas and espe-

cially the blacks blocked up into detail-less areas of black blobs. This sparked his initial interest into the area of digital photography.

Conversion To Digital

In the spring of 2004, he purchased his first digital SLR, a Canon 10D, and by August he printed his first digital image.

The first problem he came upon was achieving a proper white balance setting in his images.

Customizing the white balance setting for each image seemed to be the answer.

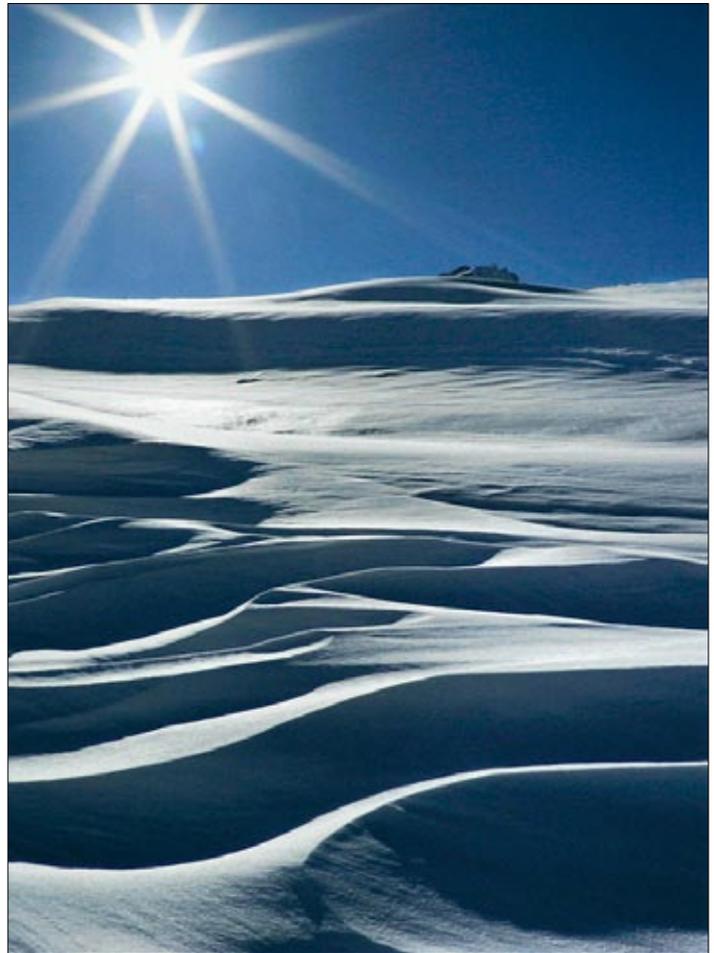
The next issue that he needed to resolve was getting a print that matched the colour saturation that he saw on his monitor.

This came down to making sure that he had a properly calibrated computer monitor.

He also needed to make sure that the printer he had connected to his computer, an Epson 2200, had a colour profile to accurately reproduce the results that he sought.

This printer enables him to produce prints up to 13” wide.

He doesn’t scan his slides anymore, as he is



Winterscape

kept too busy either capturing new images digitally or working with his new files on his computer.

Camera Suggestions—

To achieve the utmost quality in his images, he always photographs with his camera securely attached to a good tripod.

He also trips his shutter with an electronic cable release.

This is to ensure that his hands are off the camera

during actual image capture.

One source of unsharp images is due to camera movement when the shutter is released.

Most of his images are shot in Aperture Priority exposure mode, always watching the camera’s histogram (a graphical representation of exposure values), making sure there are no overexposed highlights.

<p>St. Albert Photo Club</p> <hr/> <p>Vol:6 Issue:1 PUBLISHED MONTHLY September - June</p>	<p><u>PRESIDENT</u> Derald Lobay</p>	<p><u>SECRETARY</u> and <u>TREASURER</u> Allen Skoreyko</p>	<p><u>PROGRAMME</u> <u>DIRECTOR'S</u> Derald Lobay Doug Poon</p>	<p><u>CLUB</u> <u>CONTACT</u> Doug Poon (780) 973-7035 dougpoon@shaw.ca</p>
--	--	---	--	---



Gortel and one of his nature photographs.

You cannot underexpose dark areas by too much, however, because noise then gets introduced when you process your images.

Photoshop Suggestions

Much of what Zbyszek learned about Adobe's Photoshop program came from Norman Koren's website.

He found the information presented there, especially when working with RAW files, to be invaluable.

RAW files by themselves look disappointing when viewed on a computer monitor.

While he used to use the Levels and Adjustment Layers features in Photoshop, he now prefers to use the Curves feature.

He also recommends that you be extremely careful when you increase saturation in an imaging

program; as saturation increases, the fine details become obscured.

One must never stop learning!

Workshops are an area where he finds a true source of inspiration.

It is not so much from the instruction that he finds inspiration, but from the exchange of ideas between workshop participants.

He attends the OPAW workshops in Kelowna every August and has also attended one of Darwin Wiggett's workshops photographing the Canadian Rockies in the winter.

By remaining actively involved in the development and evolution of digital technology, Zbyszek can continue to produce stunning photography to share with the World.

Article-Derald Lobay



Horizontal Vs. Vertical Format

The majority of people pictures are horizontal in format probably because it's easier to hold a camera horizontally. The horizontal format does work best for most group pictures. However, a vertical image can be very effective for pic-

tures ranging from full-length portraits to tight facial close-ups. The unexpectedness of a vertical format can also give an image added impact.

Backgrounds

Indoors or outdoors, a plain background will focus attention on your subject instead of a dozen other things. Indoors, avoid distracting furniture, toys, patterned wallpaper, and bright lamps. Outdoors, don't let tree



limbs, utility poles, wires, signs, and other people distract attention from your center of interest.

For more information see "Composing People Pictures" at www.kodak.com

THE LAST FRAME

CLUB MEMBERS WINNING MONTHLY PICTURES



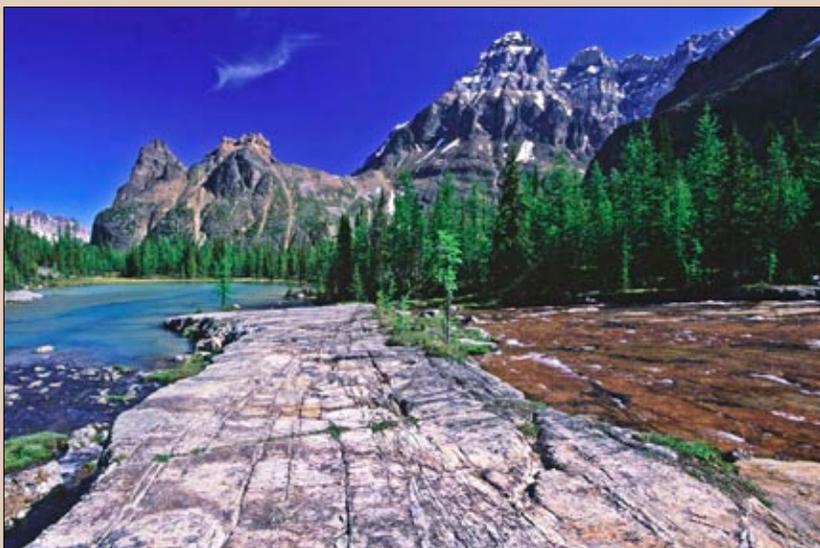
1st Place Print - Luc Guillemette



2nd Place Print - Al Popil



3rd Place Print - Al Popil



1st Place Slide - Derald Lobay



2nd Place Slide -
Derald Lobay



3rd Place Slide -
Sieg Koslowski