

the **MONITOR**

northumberland photography club *newsletter*

March 2010

Issue 03

President's Message – *John Draper*

Believe it or not, spring is now here and we can venture out some more. One of my favorite spring events is the annual "Float your fanny down the Ganny". There is usually a good turn-out of members and other photographers too. My favorite spot is on the rocks almost in the river on the East side just up from the finish. A few people bring tripods but I think you get best shots hand-held because of the fast change in angles.

A few of us went to the Henry's event put on by the Hastings club. Apart from learning some stuff about new cameras and gadgets now available, we also saw how another club is run. There is always room for improvement and we can always learn from other clubs. Nothing dramatic, but we are planning a bit of tweaking on the showing of the theme photos

I must add a word of thanks to Brenda Nutter and her Outreach team. It seems the students at the school, as well as the teachers, feel it's too good to be true. A great job of helping kids learn to appreciate the fun of photography Watch for more announcements.



Next Outing: Saturday, April 3rd. Ganaraska River in Port Hope

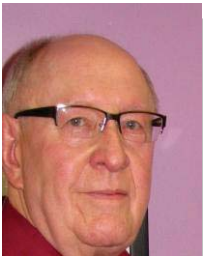
"Float Your Fanny Down the Ganny" by Outings Director *Bob Robertson*

Unless someone needs a ride, there won't be any car-pooling. If you need a ride, send me an e-mail or phone me and we'll see what can be arranged. 905-372-5640

Canoes and kayaks come down the river first, launching up-river at 10 a.m., with crazy craft launching at 11 a.m.

If you plan to go, let me know, and also let me know if you'd like to join other members for lunch at the Red Rice Buffet at 1.15 p.m. The downtown restaurants get most of the Race traffic, but up on Peter St., the Red Rice is usually not as busy.

This is a great time to try all those fancy settings on your camera with both action and color Check local news in case the race is postponed. The date has been changed in the past because of extra high water in the river.



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Featured Personality: *Editor's note:* Each month, our newsletter will feature a specific member of our club. The purpose of this is to broaden our awareness of who we are, as a group, as well as whom we are as individuals.

March Monitor Features: **Russ Donaldson** Vice President of the Northumberland Photography Club



Born : Toronto 1936. **Wife** .Donna. Married April 15th 1961. **Family** Son Steven & Daughter Robin. Five Grandchildren.

Education: Business Degree, Ryerson University & University of Toronto, Graduated 1967

Business Career 34 years with Bell Canada. Retired March 1990. Six years with the Toronto Blue Jays and Major League Baseball. Retired for the 2nd time: September 1995.

Past Positions . Elected Delegate to World Conference celebrating

100th Anniversary of YMCA, Paris, France, 1955.

Founding President of Treverton Park Community Assoc. President: Probus Club of Cobourg. President Bell Pensioners Association,

Director: Bell Pensioners Association. Co Chair of Cobourg's 200th Year Celebration Committee. Member of Cobourg's Canada Day Committee

Hobbies: Baseball, Golf, Bowling, Travel, Computer, Photography.

Camera Equipment Camera #1 is a Nikon Coolpix S 15 Mega pixels. This is basically a point & shoot camera. I use this camera mainly for travel. I like the compact size and the convenience of being able to slip it into my shirt pocket. At my age the weight of the camera around my neck becomes an issue when travelling. Camera #2 is a Nikon Coolpix P90, 12.1 Megapixels, 24X Zoom. Lenses are not interchangeable. It has a 3 inch Vari - angle monitor as well as vibration reduction. ISO 6400. This is basically a point and shoot camera, however it does have manual override. The fixed Telephoto Lens more than meets my needs. The 3" Variable Angle Monitor is also a definite plus.

Amusing Camera related story: Every Christmas it is tradition for our entire family to gather at our daughters for a celebration. It is my tradition to always insist that we all gather as a group for a "Family Photo". Invariably I screw up the settings on the camera including the timer and the family takes great delight in razzing me about my photographic shortcomings. The grandchildren have now caught on to this annual spoof of grandpa's camera inadequacies which only encourages grandpa to play to the crowd.

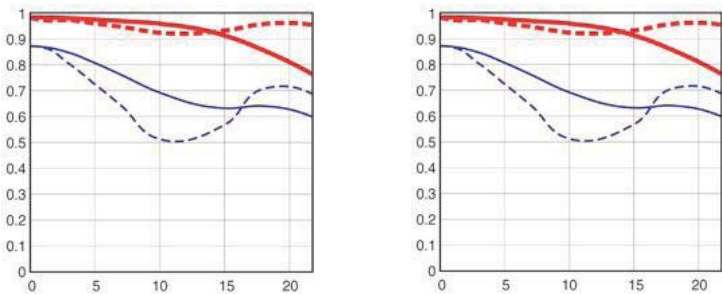
HOW SHARP IS YOUR LENS? BY JEFF GARDNER

In order to determine how sharp a new lens is before purchasing or to compare the sharpness of different lenses, you can use an MTF chart provided by lens manufacturers.

What is an MTF Chart?: It's a graph indicating a lens' ability to resolve sharpness, measured by both resolution (detail) and contrast (difference between white and black)

MTF Chart Format: Before I explain how to read the details, let's examine the axis in Example 1. The Vertical axis labeled from the bottom as 0 and 1 on the top and measures the lens' variance (its sharpness). 1 indicates 100% accurate or no variance. Generally anything below 0.6 (60%) is considered unacceptable by most photographers. The Horizontal axis 0 – 20 represents the distance in mm out from the centre of the lens to the edge. The sharpness is plotted using different colors for *resolution* and *contrast* lines (these are explained on the next page). Since this is a complex subject and we have limited space in the Monitor, you can obtain a more complete definition and explanation of how to read the MTF charts in my blog <http://jeffgardner.ca/Blog/?p=79>

MTF Chart 1
Canon TS-E 24mm f/3.5L II



Example 1

A perfectly straight line running along the top of the chart would indicate a perfect lens from the lens centre to its' edge. Newer MTF chart formats, as in Example 1, use four lines all measuring the lens when fully open). Older MTF charts have eight lines, four lines for fully open and four lines at f8. In example 1, the lens has excellent contrast since all red lines are well above 60%, but has slightly less detail at about 10mm from the centre of the lens. Objects may not be perfectly sharp at that point, but elsewhere on the lens detail is good. In personal tests, I could actually see some fuzziness with this lens near that point.

Chart Formats: The following table provides a key to interpret the lines in the MTF chart. Also please note that most manufacturers have switched to this new chart format so new lenses only come with MTF information corresponding to the lens fully open.

NEW CHART FORMAT LENS WIDE OPEN

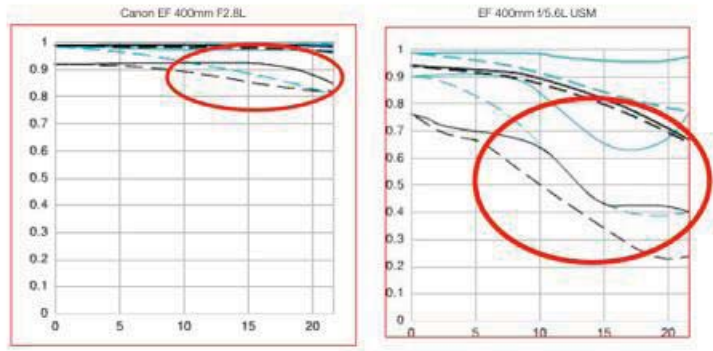
<u>MTF Chart Line Format</u>	<u>Sharpness Measurement</u>
<u>Green or Blue dotted</u>	<u>Resolution</u>
<u>Red – solid</u>	<u>Contrast</u>
<u>Red – dotted</u>	<u>Contrast</u>

To read the format of the older MTF chart formats, see my [blog](#).

Comparing two lenses

The following two MTF charts (SEE NEXT PAGE) compare two different types of Canon 400mm lenses. These use the older chart formats (4 lines fully open, 4 lines at f8). The F2.8 lens (left chart) is considered a very sharp wildlife/action lens. The 5.6 is not as sharp a lens and is of course slower but at one/fifth the price of the 2.8 lens. Note the areas circled in red which indicate weakness in the lens quality. The 2.8 lens does not degrade image quality below 80% which is very good. This holds true from the centre of the lens to its edges at both f2.8 and f8. Compare that with the 5.6 lens with a resolution that falls off dramatically 10mm out from the centre of the image. This resolution loss is more pronounced if the lens is wide open (note the black thin lines representing wide open f5.6 as compared to the blue lines at F8).

Comparing two Lenses continued.....



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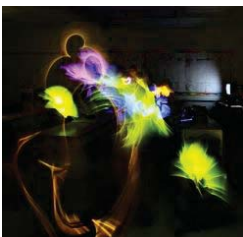
The Bottom Line

In the end, the quality of a lens is subjective, you either like the image quality or you don't. The quality of each lens also varies, so you may not achieve the same results as a lab, but at least the MTF table provides an opportunity to compare lenses in an objective manner.

March Outreach Committee Update by Brenda Nutter



Students at Terry Fox School creating unique designs with glow sticks provided by the Outreach committee



I would like to update you on our outreach projects. As you know we have been working with Terry Fox School this year and have committed to doing three programs for them. In January, Brian Hart led a session that helped the kids understand some of the history of photography. At the same time he gave them the opportunity to actually look at and through the lens of old film cameras and to handle other equipment. Thanks Brian! In February our plan had to be altered due to illness, but a program on Photojournalism will be lead by Richard Looye and has been scheduled for April 1. Thanks Richard! In March, Andreas Gada introduced a group of about 20 students to the wonders of astro-photography. The students were very attentive, asked good questions and had fun with a set of glow sticks! Thanks Andreas! Due to a suggestion made by Russ Donaldson, the Outreach Committee is now working out the details for a showing of the photos that students have taken this year. The event is still in the planning stage, but will take place in early June at 55 King E, the site of our own show. More info will follow about this event. Great idea Russ!

Please keep in mind that any member of NPC is welcome and invited to assist with the programming at Terry Fox. Each month several members of the club support the presenter and the students by attending the presentations. Maybe you would like to join us!

The Last Word – Larry Keeley



The following is an introduction to Andreas Gada's upcoming presentation

- **Eclipse Chasing: An Excuse To See The World**

Andreas is an eclipse chaser who has experienced and photographed thirteen total solar eclipses. He is an avid amateur astronomer who has been involved in astronomy since his teens. He is one of the founders and a Past President of the North York Astronomical Association, a small amateur astronomy club based in Toronto, Canada. In 1982 he started Starfest, Canada's largest (800+ people) annual, amateur, astronomy convention and Star Party. When not working on Starfest, he enjoys doing astrophotography and puttering in the "dungeon" (his basement machine shop), machining telescope parts.

On February 26, 1979 Andreas photographed his first total solar eclipse from the edge of the runway at the Gimli airport in Manitoba, Canada. It was a cold winter day, -25°C, with high cirrus clouds threatening to obstruct the view. Fortunately they did not and he was able to capture some awesome images of the eclipse, showing a luscious pink prominence licking the edge of the sun. No sooner had the eclipse ended than a cry was heard, "Africa--February 16, 1980, four minutes of totality!!!!" Thus began the life-long adventure of chasing the moon's shadow to exotic places.

Over the years some of his images have been published in newspapers, astronomy magazines and textbooks. In 1999 some of his images were used in "Hooked On the Shadow", an award-winning documentary about eclipse chasers <http://www.eclipseguy.com>. In this presentation Andreas will talk about his more recent adventures around the world, including South Africa, Libya and Mongolia.

Editor's note: Andreas sent me the information above as an introduction to his upcoming presentation. I found it so interesting that I decided to reproduce all of it here so that it could be read in its entirety by all of our members.

For your Information:

Northumberland Photography Club meets April 5, 2010. Guest presentation by Andreas Gada

>Richard Looye has submitted this link to a very interesting website. Many fascinating and controversial images. http://www.artdaily.org/index.asp?int_sec=2&int_new=36624

>Ganaraska Studio Tour, April 24 and 25

>Bill Crowley and Dawn Knudsen Exhibition continues to April 11, 2010

Many thanks to Jeff Gardner for his assistance in producing the Monitor. Thanks also to members who have sent materials for this newsletter!!

NPC Executive

President – John Draper 905 372 5839 –

Vice President – Russ Donaldson 905 372 7044

Debara Piercey – Secretary 905 377 8077

Treasurer – Lisa Poirier 905 885 7207

Diego Fabris - Membership 905 372 0368

Audio Visual – Josh Hamilton 905 885 9945

Outings – Bob Robertson 905 372 5640

Program – Larry Keeley 905 885 9288

Out Reach – Brenda Nutter 905 372 2683

Past President – Bob Robertson 905 372 5640

Please visit our website at www.northumberlandphoto.ca.