

# Message from the President

September-October 2017

Nesting Arctic terns are aggressively territorial and will attack intruders from above with determination. Puffins, sometimes considered to be small-sized penguin mimics, when not posing for their pictures, fly with a rapid beating of their stubby wings. Facts, not gleaned from the Internet, but, witnessed by being there on Vigur Bird Island, Iceland. What is a shutter bug such as I supposed to do under such circumstances?

I have long made the case that the vast majority of my photographs have been captured within walking distance of home. Equally, I have remonstrated that travel is for travel's sake, in my case to enjoy the time away with my wife, Margaret. Picture taking would be relegated to be a secondary pursuit. While that is still my 'official' stance, I confess to being swayed by the opportunities provided during our recent visit to Iceland, as part of a cruise to Northern Isles.

On Vigur Island, Margaret held the wooden stick, affixed with a triangular flag, to provide a high-point decoy to abet the terns' onslaught from above. I wielded the camera to catch the harshly calling birds hovering overhead while selecting their next target. That, plus keeping an eye out for those elves and trolls which inhabit the rocks and hills of Iceland, made for a great experience. Then there were the puffins, awaiting their time to head out to sea. With comical appearances and antics, they did not disappoint. Adventures enough to fully justify the many photographs captured on Vigur Island and elsewhere on this northern cruise. Such exposure to exotic environments was enough to sway me at least somewhat off my bent for inorganic abstracts towards a more vigorous pursuit of the wonderful world of wildlife photography, both at home and abroad.

So does this personal experience have anything to offer to the Victoria Camera Club. We are a diverse group encompassing a wide range of skill levels and interests. From what I have seen, many or most of us do travel, some to the far corners of the world and some a bit closer to home. Should our program more explicitly encompass the subject of travel photography? Or are the current opportunities present at Members Nights or the Nature SIG sufficient to meet our needs? Might a new Travel Photography SIG be worthwhile?

Just some thoughts based on a summer experience which left me with strong impression. Your feedback and input on these ramblings or on any other concerns and interests are always appreciated and welcomed.

Garry Schaefer, President