

Message from the President

November 2016

The recent survey of club members was designed to gather input on your desires and priorities for both field trips and workshops in coming months. Rick Shapka and the team thank you for those valuable responses. More on that below. One aspect of the survey particularly stood out for me. Of the 99 completed questionnaires, 30% came from new members, 37% from those who had been in the club 2-3 years and 33% from veterans with more than 3 years in the club. Although this is only a sample of the actual makeup of our membership, it does clearly represent the facts that the club has grown markedly in recent years and that there is considerable turnover.

What are the implications of these statistics? How do we maintain the health and vigour of our programs? It's clear, with many new and short-term members, that it is important that we all actively participate in the broad spectrum of club activities on offer. That includes contributing based on experience and ability, as needs and opportunities present themselves. New members will see the greatest reward when they join with stalwarts who have volunteered over the years to make the Victoria Camera Club what it is today.

To this end, I am gratified by what I have seen early in this new season. Our detailed organization chart is now available for download from the website (Resources > Documents & Files > VCC Administrative Documents > VCC Detailed Org Chart.pdf). A quick look will reveal that many positions are currently filled by members who have quite recently joined us. Others represent continuity in the underpinnings of our operations. Working together we can best attempt to optimize our programs to serve our members.

That brings me back to the survey. Several key workshop themes were identified. Those wishing to enhance their knowledge and skills have come forward. We also know that individuals with experience in those aspects of photography are to be found amongst us. My hope is that, under the leadership of Rick Shapka and his team, we will be successful in matching up the two, with the promise of an active season ahead. A similar sentiment holds with respect to the Field Trips program. Preferences and desires are now in hand. Teri VanWell and Mark von Arragon can put trips on the calendar, but doing so may involve someone among us offering to lead the outing. More hands make for lighter work. What is involved in leading a field trip is most often light work in comparison to the pleasure of being out shooting with your fellow club members!

Garry Schaefer, President