

It's All About the Light

Dave Chidley: Seeing is Believing

By Lynette Jonson

Dave Chidley is a full time professional photographer who has covered Southwestern Ontario for the Canadian Press wire news. He brought us the topic "Seeing is Believing"

He started out drawing responses from the club on "What Makes a Good Photograph?" Our answers covered a broad spectrum from Light, Mood/Emotion, Story, Composition, Color, & Texture.

Dave's short list involved Light, Artistry, Subject & Timing and with these as his foundation he worked through his presentation and offered us several tips;

1. Do a 360:
Take time to see how things change as you move around. When travelling take the opportunity to use natural light and play with positioning.
2. Light Source:
Explore candles, fire, flash, spotlight, caverns of downtown, studio lights, reflected light, snoot, or muted (possibly using a white plastic bag to tone down a source light. You can add drama with lights to the background with the use of color gels.

Know how to mix available light and work with it.
3. Color – a quote offered from Dr. Ted Grant: "Color photos to show the clothes, but Black & White shows the soul"
4. F.B.I. – Foreground, Background, Interaction with Subject
Look at the whole environment. You control with what you leave in or leave out of your pictures and good pictures only happen when you put effort into it.
5. Practice, Practice, Practice. Make purposeful compositions.

Dave concluded his presentation with a door prize draw for a \$75 gift card from McBain's Camera Store, won by Vladimir Khlebnikov, and a bit of information about the Photo Tour Trekkers West tours that Dave is involved with (information available at <http://www.phototourtrekkers.com/>).