

WCPHA Newsletter April 2017



Next meeting Wed, April 5th 2017 at the Hillcrest Community Centre, Arts and Craft Room, 4575 Clancy Loranger Way, Vancouver, BC. Get anything interesting at Tonchi's show on Sunday? Bring it along for the show and tell.

From the President—Spring Cleaning Time.

Time for spring cleaning. For me this involves cleaning the places light never reaches for months. It is much like fungi on old glass it's there but you don't see it until you put light on it.

Lens fungus may form on a glass exposed to moisture and fungus spores. The latter is found in dust. The repair protocol is disassembly and chemicals treatment. Soaking the lens in standard lens cleaning fluid doesn't work too well. Alcohol is a little better. I soak the affected lens elements for ten minutes in hydrogen peroxide followed similar time or longer in isopropyl alcohol. If that doesn't work try equal parts hydrogen peroxide and ammonia and for longer. Follow these treatments by washing in warm soapy water and finish the cleaning with dilute isopropyl alcohol or better yet lens cleaning fluid (e.g., water, octylphenoxypolyethoxyethanol, benzethonium chloride). Mathieu Stern published a video tutorial on the matter. <https://mathieustern.com/2017/01/how-to-remove-fungus-from-a-camera-lens-fast-easy/>

Of course these days it is easy to find dusty and grimy cameras. There are techniques for cleaning cameras. However, it highly recommended you only ever clean gently. Bellamy Hunt of Japan Camera Hunter created a nice guide on cleaning classic cameras but not wooden ones. <http://www.japancamerahunter.com/2013/10/classic-camera-cleaning-guide/>

Andrew Nemeth, Leicaphile and chemistry teacher, has produced a guide on restoring vulcanized rubber on cameras. <http://www.nemeng.com/leica/032b.shtml>
Nemeth is known for the FAQ he ran on Leicas. Here is an FAQ on camera restoration. <http://www.historiccamera.com/cgi-bin/librarium/pm.cgi?action=display&login=diyrestoretk>
Always be gentle in cleaning.

Secretary's Message

AGM This is your formal notice of our AGM to be held on May 3rd at 7:45pm at the Hillcrest Centre—followed by a full evening buy and sell session. Bring stuff to sell or trade—and money to buy. You must be a fully paid up member to vote at the AGM. There is no advance payment requirement. You can pay Randy our Treasurer before the meeting.

2016 Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Confirmation of Meeting Notice and Quorum
3. President's message
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Officers
6. New Societies Act
7. Any other business
8. Adjournment

**Tom Abrahamsson's wife Tuulikki has invited members to a:
Celebration of Tom's Life**

Friday, April 7, 2017 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Jericho Sailing Centre, Burrard Room, 1300 Discovery St. Vancouver

Refreshments will be served. Bring your Tom stories and your cameras.

How does a Camera Design Evolve?

Many decades ago I worked for a large US Corporation. Each day I walked to the cafeteria through a large hall. In one corner were dozens of washers, stoves, and fridges in various stages of dismemberment. The company bought these products as they appeared at retail and they were meticulously pulled apart by designers and manufacturing engineers. How many stampings, how many screws were used; what parts were clipped together, how could we adapt any efficiencies or features into our designs and manufacture?. In concert with marketing and legal staff any new features were analysed. Were there any good selling points? What were just gimmicks. Were they patented? How do we work around any patent? I have no doubt that the Corporation also engaged in industrial espionage, hiring designers from competitors and trying to find new design features before they hit retail, sometimes using private investigators. There are few ethics in the world of large business, then and now.

Large camera companies are no different. They analyse the market and disassemble competitor's models. The fewer components and fewer assembly steps the more the savings. Their sales force will report back from their region. Competitor A's model X is selling well as it has such and such features or is retailing for \$50 less. This process leads to a boring consistency of design and features between cameras. Even patented features can often be worked around. The major Japanese companies have an assist here as the responsible Ministry will strong-arm companies—after a period of exclusivity—to license features to their competitors; but obviously only in Japan. It becomes more complex when you take into account that optics can be bought-in as are most sensors—often from competitors.

Spring Camera Show Tonchi's first spring show on April 2nd was a sellout with long lines to get in and the aisles packed. I hope you found a gem. I didn't, but came away with three cameras anyway—hopelessly addicted! One was a rather beaten Miranda Sensorex II but with some unique features.

The Miranda Camera Company, originally named the Orion Camera Company, manufactured cameras in Japan between 1955 and 1978. Many of their products were single-lens reflex cameras for 35mm film. Unlike many Japanese made cameras,



Miranda did not make their own lenses and had to rely on other manufacturers to supply them. All their SLR cameras, except the dx-3, had interchangeable pentaprisms, and a unique dual lens mount; an external bayonet mount or a 44mm thread mount within the mirror box.

Miranda was among the first to offer automated wide-open through-the-lens metering using a CdS matrix etched on the mirror—a necessity to maintain metering with any interchangeable pentaprism. This involved an external linkage and the convolutions of setting the maximum lens aperture on a separate dial. Later designs moved to an internal linkage—like their competitors—resulting in increasingly complex designs to accommodate more aperture and metering controls. Through all this, and unlike many other makes, they maintained compatibility with all of their older lenses.

Despite a high manufacturing standard—they have been compared to Nikon, They were unable to keep up with the increasing manufacturing automation of the larger manufacturers, and the increasingly sophisticated electronics of competing cameras, Miranda ceased producing cameras in 1978. This is a big “loss of face” in Japan and the Government often pressures a merger with other companies in such situations—with an understanding that the marque can be allowed to slowly fade away without disgrace. But not this time, and the result sent Miranda cameras, as Petri, into the history books—and various people’s collections—often categorised as orphan cameras.

RICOH POSTERS *From the Photographic Historical Society of New England Newsletter.*

Ricoh has issued two posters for the Pentax line, both available as free downloadable PDF files. The first poster (below) shows 104 camera models, from the 1952 Asahiflex 1, the first SLR manufactured in Japan, to the 2017 Pentax KP digital camera, and includes not only 35mm models but Pentax's forays into medium-format and 110 cameras. The poster also makes a visual point by picturing all of the digital Pentax models; since the Pentax brand was acquired by Ricoh five years ago the line has grown by 13.

PENTAX SLR CAMERAS 1952 - 2017



RICOH
imagine. change.

The second poster lays out a zigzag timeline and highlights several important models from each decade with some descriptive text, including the Pentax SP, one of the first through-the-lens metering cameras, and the K1000, a workhorse manual SLR that was many a photography student's first camera, and the Pentax 645 an auto-exposure, autofocus medium-format SLR first offered in 1977.

Tom Parkinson 2017