



The FLASH!

JANUARY 2009

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

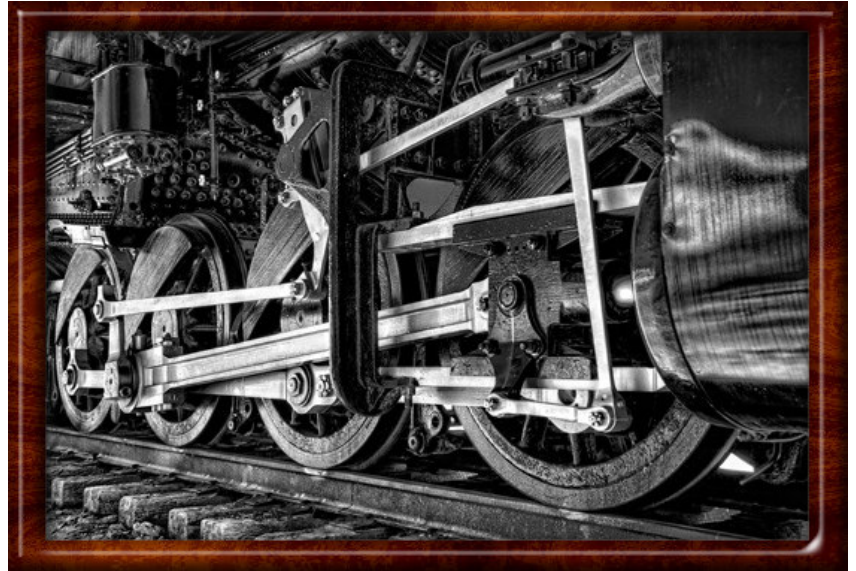


Who needs models when you can shoot a train three times?

By DENNIS FRITSCHÉ

Warning! These techniques are addictive. I photographed the wheels and drive mechanism on "Engine 19" during the PPC October Model Shoot at the Frisco Heritage Museum and it won Best of Show at the November meeting.

The striking detail comes about through the application of three different processes – digital IR camera capture, HDR (high dynamic range) processing, and tonal contrast filtering. I have been practicing with these three separately, and they came together in this photograph.



The camera is a Nikon D2X modified by LDP LLC (maxmax.com) for IR only photography. The lens is the Nikon 18-200 DX which works very well with IR wave lengths. Cameras modified for IR have the IR blocking filter and the Moiré filter (also called the "blur" filter) removed; this allows extremely good detail at the sensor. I was on the shady side of the train and had to position the camera to minimize light flowing through the many openings. I exposed three images at f/5.6 and shutter speeds of 0.6, 1/15, and 1/50 second. This resulted in a Goldilocks set – too bright, too dark, and just right. (Note that shooting with an IR camera is hit or miss. The camera's auto exposure gets you in the ball park and then you have to go up or down a couple of stops. I don't know how this was done with film.)

The three exposures were combined into an HDR image with *Photomatix* (hdrsoft.com). The *Details Enhancer* feature in the *Tone Mapping* tool enhanced both shadows and highlights. I was pretty heavy handed with the adjustments to really push the details.

In *Photoshop CS3* (Adobe.com), the image was converted to black and white (the native IR image is almost black and white after custom white balancing, but has a tint) and curves and levels were applied. The final detail enhancing step was to apply the *Tonal Contrast* filter from the Photoshop plugin *Color Efex Pro 3.0 Complete Edition* (niksoftware.com). This is a lovely filter. Again, I was heavy handed to really pump up the detail, particularly in the shadows.

This type of image is not for everyone or every situation. I encourage you to experiment with HDR and extreme local contrast to see how it fits your style. Joyful shooting!



Club Master's 2008 New Year's resolution results in year-later 'backyard' program

When PPC Master Class photographer Larry Petterborg presents the club's Jan. 26 program he will be fulfilling a New Year's resolution he made a year ago, in January 2008.

Here's how he and Program Vice President Ed Auger explain it:

Petterborg said, "Gas prices got you down? Did your 401 K tank? Not taking that big vacation this year? No problem! There are many photographic opportunities in your own backyard. Just go out the back door and see what you can find."



Auger said, "For the past year, Larry has gone across the alley behind his house and photographed the seasonal changes at Richland College in Dallas. The result is a collection of photographs that demonstrate the changing seasons captured in a wide variety of images ranging from nature to photojournalism. A project such as this challenges one to become a better photographer by taking pictures and solving problems. I think that this type of commitment is fantastic and very appropriate for a first-of-the-year meeting."

NOTE: The club's January 26 meeting will be on the second floor of the church's Education Building, not on the ground floor where we usually meet.



**From Stewart Musket
GSCCC Representative**



Tatiyana Bessmertnaya won Honorable Mention in the Photographic Society of America Photojournalism Interclub Competition for December with her entry "Victory Day" (left above)

Priscilla Killion won 1st Honorable Mention in the Gulf States Camera Clubs Council Photojournalism Projected Images competition for December with her entry "Follow the Leader" (right above).



PHOTOS BY JOSE ARTILES



PPC Christmas Party December 2008

NEWS YOU CAN USE

From PPC member Harry Rumberger:

Competitive Camera has informed us that Nikon will be increasing prices 10-20 percent on the entire line at the end of January to all U.S. retailers. Anyone contemplating a purchase of Nikon equipment should be aware of these pending price increases.

From PPC former President John Lehman:

Light Tec, the lighting rental company that sponsors our indoor model shoot, has several short lighting tutorials on You Tube. Professionally done, they feature Scott Smith who has spoken at our club and has been so gracious in getting us lighting for our shoots. They can be found on You Tube by doing a search for Light Tec (space between the words). They have four up with more to come and stand ready to provide lighting this year for our shoots, as needed.

Former Time magazine photographer Diane Walker's display of White House pictures from Jimmy Carter through Bill Clinton continues through March 15 at The Women's Museum in Fair Park, Dallas. Parking near the Music Hall is free. Admission is \$5.

Beginners winners in October 'Open' competition



BOB JOHNSON

Beginners

1st place: Bob Johnson, "Ready For Trout" – 15

2nd place: Nick Tovell, "Arizona Memory" – 15

3rd place: Svatava Strnad, "It's Feeding Time" – 15

HM: Jim Shannon, "Reflecting" – 14

HM: Steve Wheeler, "Pin Point Landing" – 14

HM: Linda Grigsby, "Balloon Workers" – 14

HM: Nick Tovell, "Catching The Sun" – 14



SVATAVA STRNAD



NICK TOVELL

Masters winners in October 'Open' competition



ELEANORE AVERY

Masters

1st place: Eleanore Avery, "After the Harvest" – 15

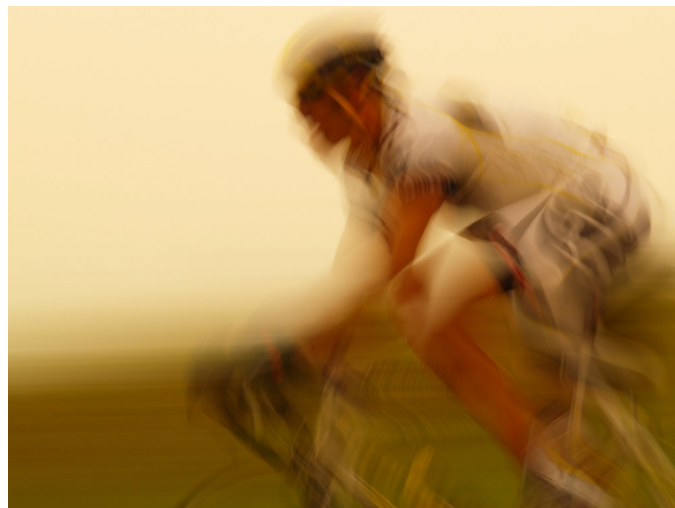
2nd place: Larry Petterborg, "Energy" – 15

3rd place: Priscilla Killion, "Crystal Line-Up" – 15

HM: Larry Petterborg, "Galapagos Crabs" – 14

HM: James Stover, "Dunes" – 14

HM: Jamie Hilbig, "Dahlia Dream" – 14

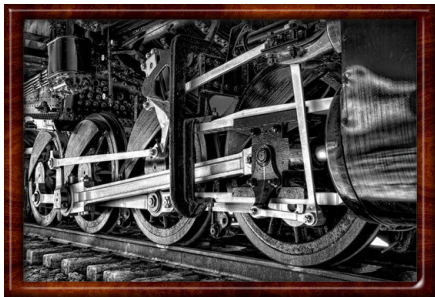


LARRY PETTERBORG



PRISCILLA KILLION

Advanced winners in October 'Open' competition



Advanced

1 st place: Dennis Fritsche, "Engine 19" -15

2nd place: Warren Paul Harris, "Gatekeepers" – 15

3rd place: Tatyana Bessmertnaya, "Still Life With Daffodils" – 15

HM: Andrew Hibma, "Orchid Falls" – 15

HM: Alistair Wilson, "Peas in a Pod" - 15

HM: Jim Spencer, "Lawn Chairs" - 15

HM: LeDon Becker, "Standing Watch" – 14

DENNIS FRITSCHÉ (see Best of Show article on Page 1)



WARREN PAUL HARRIS



TATYANA BESSMERTNAYA

Advanced HMs in October 'Open' competition



ANDREW HIBMA

Advanced

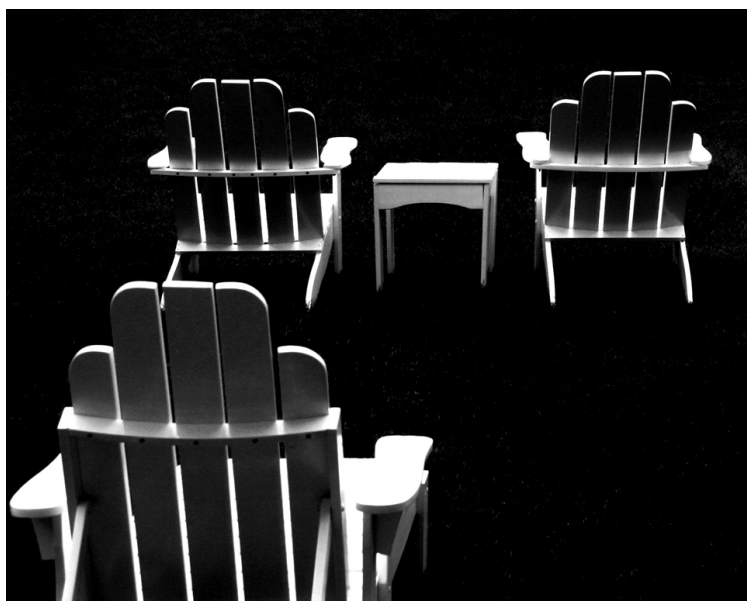
HM: Andrew Hibma, "Orchid Falls" – 15

HM: Alistair Wilson, "Peas in a Pod" - 15

HM: Jim Spencer, "Lawn Chairs" - 15



ALISTAIR WILSON



JIM SPENCER

Place points and Judges' points totals through October

Beginners

Linda Grigsby	19	142
Ron Hasty	13	126
Jim Shannon	10	124
Nicholas Tovell	9	123
Svatava Strnad	3	121
Betty A. Johnson		118
Troy Becker		112
Michael Losurdo	6	110
Bob Johnson	19	108
Bill J. Boyd	9	93
Chas. Henthorne		84
Brett Buchmiller		83
Jean Karlik		80
Willie Baker		75
Ray Daberko	10	73
Joe Sullivan		62
Laurence Briggs		35
Franz Crystal	6	34
Aida LaPoint		27
Ronnie Scaggs	10	25
Lance Nail		22
David Ringrose		20
Valerie Harris		20
Debbie Tigh		19
Mike Konczal		19
Steve Wheeler		14
Lee Hatfield		10
Jolynn Dumais		6

Masters

Eleanore Avery	32	145
Jamie Hilbig	10	142
Jose Artilis	16	141
James T. Stover	3	135
Priscilla Killion	6	125
Michael LaPoint	12	114
Larry Petterborg	6	110
John Lehman	10	77
Mitsuka Iwahiro	3	70
Ed Auger		67
Elizabeth Szilagyi	10	48
Lois Lehman	6	36

Advanced

Tatyana Bessmertnaya	18	146
Andrew Hibma	9	141
Dennis Fritsche	17	134
Alistair Wilson	11	129
Kent Taylor	11	129
Jim Spencer		128
Paul Spencer	14	127
Bernie Pysz		124
Danette Volkmer	11	123
John A. Lovelace		119
LeDon Becker		119
Stewart Musket		115
Billy Erwin	11	110
Marie Hansen		108
Peter Staxen		101
Andrew L. Hollander	3	93
Kay Griffith		93
Harry Rumberger		92
Jerry E. Schlesinger		86
Katherine Robertson	6	81
Terree Stone		80
Lewis Sheriff	3	78
Bud Barlow		75
Anne Hargreaves		69
Mary J. Baker		69
Fred Grossman		49
Warren Paul Harris	6	39
Holly Lynn		39
Carol Barlow		37
Irwin Lightstone		25
Lee Vestyck		24
Hal Mayfield		20
Bill McMurray		18
Jerry Whitty		14
Rick Pang		10

From Tabletop to tower top, PPC slate full of events

From Elizabeth Szilagyi
Vice President, Activities

Tabletop Workshop

Date To Be Announced

Rooms: 200-205 & 210-211 on the second floor

The Tabletop Workshop is all about experimenting and sharing ideas.

The setups this year are expected to include the following:

1. Flower Studies
2. Colored Light
3. High-Speed Photography
4. Black Light
5. Cross-Polarization (on Light Box)
6. Waterdrop Reflections
7. Textured Glass
8. Light Painting with Still Life
9. Black Rim Glassware
10. Light Tent
11. Macro
12. Mylar Reflections
13. Studio Lights with Still Life
14. Long Exposure with Second Curtain Sync
15. Lensbaby
16. Watery Effects (what's in the bowl?)
17. Inner Light in the dark
18. Cacti
19. Infinite Image - Playing with Mirrors

As always, all these setups need volunteer-monitors to make the event successful. Most setups are easy to handle and no previous experience is necessary. Monitoring the setups does not equate to babysitting the setups but they definitely need to be put out before the Workshop starts and taken down afterwards. I'll have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting so you can sign to be a

volunteer-monitor for the appropriate time slot. Drinks will be provided (juice, green tea, water)... otherwise BYOS (bring your own sandwich).

Downtown Dallas

March 21. Saturday 3 pm

We will meet at the corner of Griffin Street and Young Street and shoot around downtown in the afternoon sun. We will also venture atop the newly renovated Reunion Tower to get a glimpse of downtown Dallas. It will be a good place to stay till sunset to photograph the city from above.

Gulf State Convention in New Orleans, LA

April 2-4, Thursday-Saturday

NANPA

North American Nature Photography Association in the Texas Hill Country

April 16-19 Thursday-Sunday

Check out the details on their website: www.nanpa.org.

Indoor Model Shoot

April 25 (see article on Page 10 of this issue for details).

Weekend Getaway to Hot Springs, AR

May 1-3. Friday-Sunday

Hot Springs is a charming and totally photogenic little town and home to Hot Springs National Park only five hours from Dallas. The plan is to leave Dallas early Friday afternoon and return to Dallas early Sunday evening. We will carpool. The first car has one spot left if you want to share the ride. We will do day and night photography and will stay in a moderately priced motel in the area. This could be a good outing for the whole family.

Dragon Boat, Kite and Lantern Festival - Scavenger Shoot

May 17. Sunday

The Dragon Boat and Kite Festival was a surprisingly amazing event last year so it will be the perfect place for our next Scavenger Shoot. It will be held at Lake Carolyn in Irving. You can check out their website, www.dfwdragonboatafestival.com We will meet at 9:30 at the main entrance, and you can stay as long as your heart desires. There will be eight subjects to shoot. The subjects will be given to you in an envelope in the morning of the event. You will have seven days to enter one image per category. The results will be announced at the End-of-the-Year Party in June.

If you want to sign up for any events listed here, please contact me at szilagyi@aol.com or at 214-520-8827.

'Sound of Music' *images suggested*

PPC Master P.K. Killion offers this definition of "Sound of Music," the club's contest subject for January:

This could be any image that communicates the production or appreciation of music. Some possible suggestions are musicians, singers, dancers, marching bands, musical instruments, or some other music-related event/activity.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, PPC past president Dan Leffel is repeating his November PPC program for the Heard Nature Photography Club in McKinney. For more information go to www.heardnaturephotographers.com.

Indoor Model Shoot booked for April 25

The PPC Indoor Model Shoot will be held on the second floor of the education building at Grace Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The shoot is limited to 30 PPC members (as of the club's February meeting). The \$30 per-person cost pays for eight professional models, being engaged through the Core Talent Agency of Plano, and light snacks. Shooters are not required to provide images to models following the shoot.

Reservations may be made on a first-come basis by paying the \$30 at the PPC February meeting or no later than the March meeting.

A free instructional session for inexperienced portrait photographers will be held a week or two before the Shoot. Instructional sets and portrait photography assistance will be available at the Shoot. Direct questions to Bud Mallar at bmallar@yahoo.com or 972-783-9653.

Whose Camera is best?

"My camera is better than your camera" is a common refrain and the subject of much debate. Now there is an interesting website, www.dxomark.com, devoted to a scientific examination of digital camera sensors. They have collected extensive data on digital sensors, including metrics on ISO sensitivity, signal to noise ratio, dynamic range, white balance and other factors.



JAMES STOVER

With this data they have created scores weighted by the real world concerns of three types of photographers: landscape, photojournalist, and studio. Check out your favorite cameras and see how they compare. The results may surprise you.

And, speaking of surprises, the club is launching a new contest website. Members will be able to upload contest images and have a record of their scores. Details are being finalized.

Club Contest Topics

January 2009: Sound of Music

February 2009: Open

March 2009: Spirit of Texas (prints only; no digital mages)

April 2009: Open

May 2009: Special Effects (either digital manipulation of your image or in-camera special effects)

June 2009: Open

July 2009: Action (fast or slow shutter speed techniques)

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David Lerry, Jamie Hilbig
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membership@planophotographyclub.com
newsletter@planophotographyclub.com
webmaster@planophotographyclub.com
exhibits@planophotographyclub.com
modeling@planophotographyclub.com

The club meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month except December at Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 W. Park Blvd. Officers meet at 7p.m. on the second Monday of each month except December at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road.