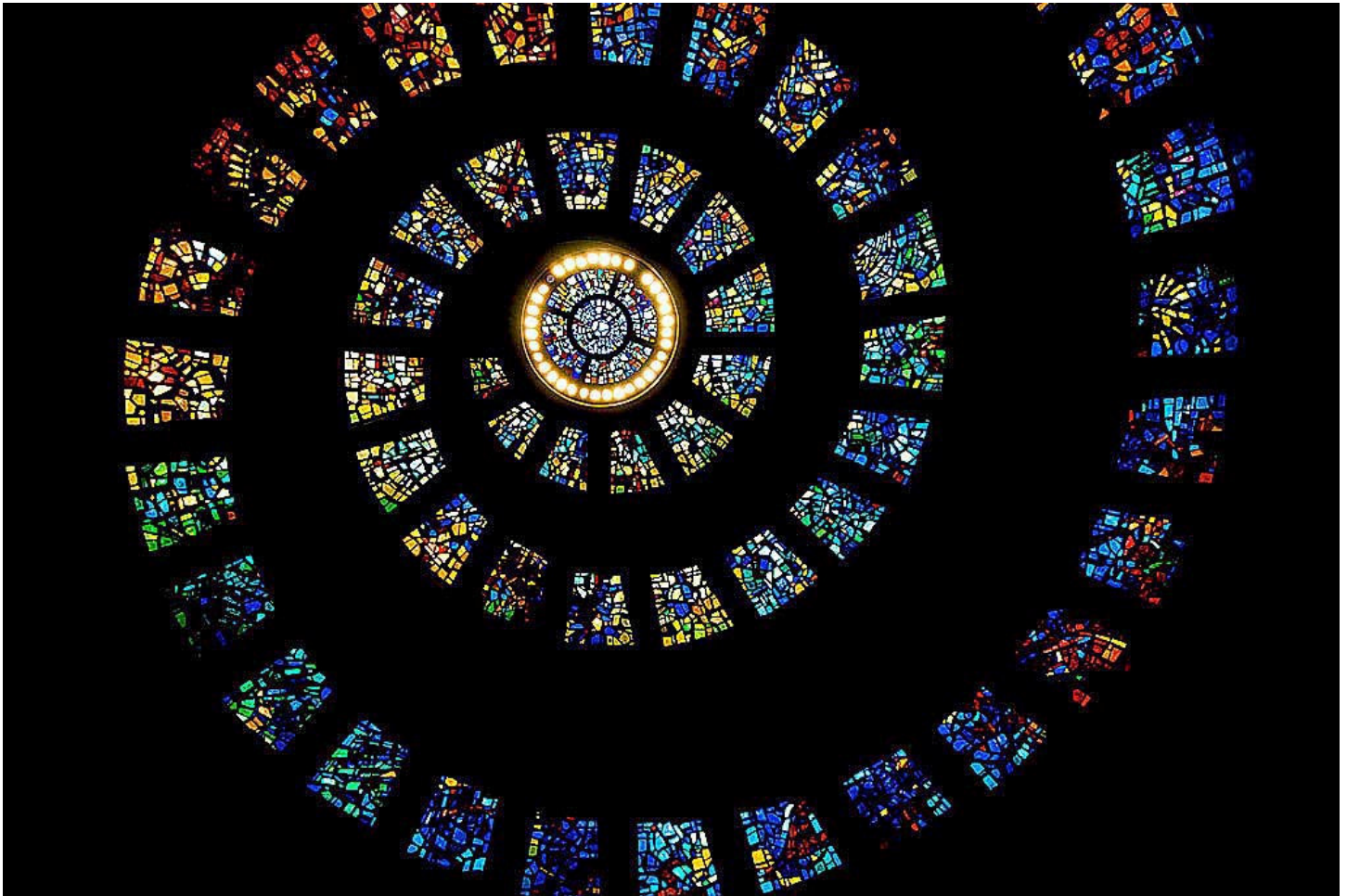




The FLASH!

FEBRUARY 2009

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



‘Glory Window’ forces shooter onto his backside

By **BILL J BOYD**

I lay on my back on the floor to capture this November Best of Show image of the Glory Window located in downtown Dallas at Thanksgiving Square.

This window forms a 60-foot-high ceiling of the Chapel of Thanksgiving and is one of the largest horizontally mounted stained-glass pieces in the world. Designed by French artist Gabriel Loire, the window symbolizes the blessing of the Divine descending to earth as well as the ascent of human praise and gratitude to God

I was thinking of a unique image to enter for the PPC 2008 November “Up” competition and decided to try shooting the Glory Window. In late October, I grabbed my camera bag and took the DART train downtown with the intent of photographing this window and hoping for a decent image. I actually photographed on two separate days trying different lenses and camera settings and then riding the train home to see what the images looked like on my computer.

I hand-held a Nikon D80 camera with an aperture of f/4.5, shutter speed of 1/15, focal length of 24mm and an ISO of 100. Post processing was done with Apple Aperture 2.1 and resized with Photoshop Elements.

It's Tabletop Time in the PPC : Saturday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church

One of the PPC's perennial most-popular events, the Tabletop Workshop, is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, Plano, upstairs in the Education Building.

This a members-only event. Your name tag is your proof of membership. New members can join on the spot for \$12 for the remaining partial year.

The most essential gear in addition to your camera is a tripod because most set-ups will have low light. Macro lenses can also be put to good use.

Drinks will be provided (juice, green tea, water). Otherwise BYOS (bring your own sandwich).

The following are scheduled:

1. Black Rim Glassware –

Glassware arranged in a black box and on top of a mirror base with a pebbled textured glass in the background. Light is aimed at colored papers placed about 12" behind the rear glass. Edges of glass are outlined in black against the colored background.

2. Black Light –

Black lights are directed at fluorescent (spray painted) objects in a completely dark room.

3. Waterdrop Reflections –

Objects are reflected in water drops sprayed or dropped on a sheet of glass. The surface of the glass is coated with Rain-X. The sheet of glass is positioned on a three-sided box containing your object. Light enters through the open side of the box.

4. Flower Studies –

Fresh flowers with different backgrounds and different lightings.



Photo courtesy Priscilla Killion

5. Textured Glass –

Objects (usually flowers) are photographed through a pane of textured glass. The glass behaves as a filter, giving an impressionistic or painterly effect. The more distance between glass and object, the more distortion.

6. Watery Effects (what's in the bowl?) –

Sink a flower into a vase filled with bubbly liquid (ginger ale or 7 Up) and see tiny bubbles clinging to the side of your flower. Or drop colored ink/dye into water (back lighting) and photograph as the color spreads.

7. Infinite Image – Playing w/ Mirrors

By positioning an object between two mirrors you find the one and only angle where your object multiplies and fades into infinity.

8. Macro – PPC Master Bob Frank, an expert in macro photography, will be available for consultations.

**Something Special
For Scavengers:
See Details Page 3**

9. Cacti – Irwin Lightstone will bring his most photogenic cacti to the workshop. Blooming cacti are precious objects to photograph.

10. Mylar Reflections w/ objects –

A sheet of Mylar can be used two different ways. You can photograph the rippled reflections of your objects or you can wrap the Mylar around your lens like a tube and your subject will have a special swirling effect around it when you photograph it.

11. Light Tent (in combination w/ Flower Studies & Cacti) –

By arranging your objects in a light tent you can avoid harsh light and get a diffused and soft light on your subject.

12. Lensbaby, Gorilla Pod –

Live demonstration 11-11.45 a.m.

13. Long Exposure with Second Curtain Sync –

You move your camera around and when you expect the flash to go off you point your lens to your main object. You can get mysterious images that way. This is a great effect to play with when there are lots of people around.

14. Light Painting with Still Life –

Your light source is a flashlight. In a darkened room you move the flashlight around your subject to create interesting lighting effects.

15. Inner Light in the Dark –

Light a bottle from underneath for a radiating effect.

16. High-Speed Photography –

Catch a drop of water splashing in the water bowl. It takes practice but it's fun to try.

Photographers always love challenge. For that reason there will be a Scavenger Shoot competition in connection with the Tabletop Workshop. There'll be eight subjects, and you will have two weeks to enter one to three images per category. All entries have to be taken at the Tabletop Workshop 2009. Entries will be shown and contest results announced at the End-of-Year Party this summer.

Subjects for the Tabletop Workshop Challenge

1. Flower Studies
2. Macro Studies
3. Product Shot
4. Reflections
5. What's with That Water?
6. In the Darkness of the Dark
7. Creative: Love Is in the Air
8. Creative: Creative Photoshop

Club announces sale of four-light set; Bids welcomed; \$100 reserve needed

The club has a set of four lights going up for bid. Please note that these are not monolights; they work only with an external power pack which is not included. All heads are Novatron. One is a model 2005, one is a 2020C, and two are 2010 models. Three light stands that extend over 8 feet tall, and a short background stand (one foot tall).

The highest bid meeting the \$100 reserve at the end of the April club meeting will be declared the winner. Inspection by appointment. Please direct all questions to Don Pool at Don@DonPoolPhoto.com.



Stewart Musket, PPC representative to the Gulf States Council of Camera Clubs (GSCCC), announces that this shot by PPC President James Stover won 2nd place in the January GSCCC Pictorial Projected competition.

Signup fee lowered to \$25 for April 25 Model Shoot

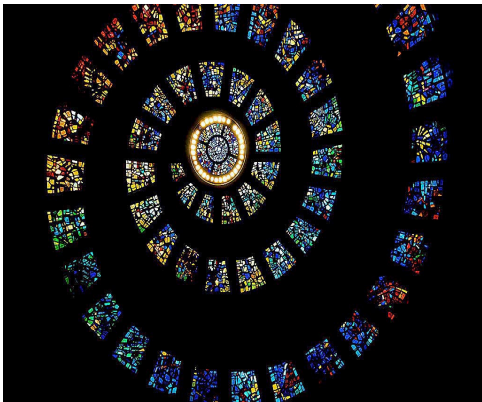
The PPC's low-cost Indoor Model Shoot scheduled for Saturday, April 25, just got lower.

Based on the club's strong financial year 2008-2009, directors voted to limit the signup fee to \$25 per photographer. It had been \$30, including \$5 per photographer for modeling agency fees. Now the club will pay those fees.

The Indoor Model Shoot will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 25 at Grace Presbyterian Church, Plano. The shoot is limited to 30 PPC members (as of the February meeting). Reservations may be made on a first-come basis by paying the \$25 at the PPC Feb. 23 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; details to be announced. 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.

Beginners winners in November 'Up' competition



Bill J Boyd	Glory Window	15	1st
Troy Becker	Live Wires	13	2nd
Willie Baker	Double Tree	12	3rd
Troy Becker	Waiting for the Wind	11	HM
Lee Hatfield	Cats Whiskers in Hawaii	11	HM
Linda L. Grigsby	Sculpture	10	HM

BILL J BOYD (see Best of Show article on Page 1



TROY BECKER



WILLIE BAKER

Advanced winners in November 'Up' competition

John A. Lovelace	Spirit of flight	13	1st
Harry Rumberger	Looking Up	13	2nd
Andrew Hollander	Going Up (Box Elder Bug)	14	3rd
Andrew Hibma	Broad Stripes & Bright Stars	11	HM
LeDon Becker	Flight	12	HM



JOHN A. LOVELACE



HARRY RUMBERGER



ANDREW HOLLANDER

Masters winners in November 'Up' competition

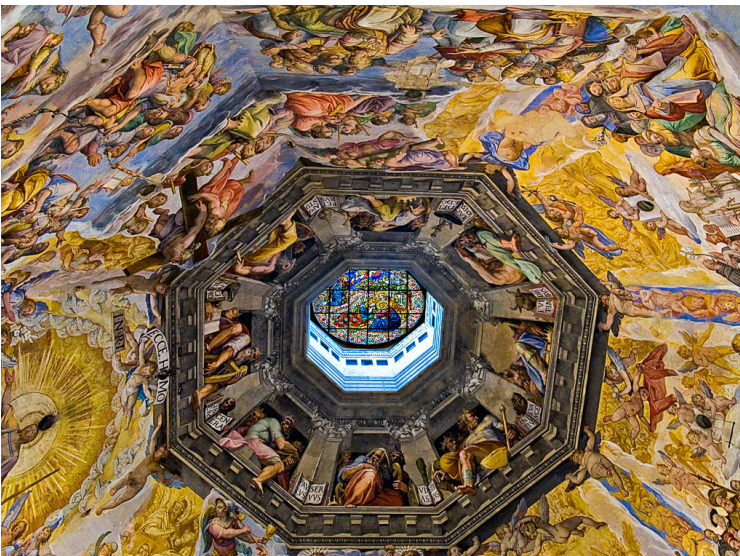


ELEANORE AVERY

Eleanore Avery	Windmill View	13	1st
Priscilla Killion	Floating on Air	13	2nd
Eleanore Avery	Looking Up at Dome Ceiling	12	3rd
Jose Artiles	They Went Up	10	HM



PRISCILLA KILLION



ELEANORE AVERY

Place points and Judges' points totals through November

BEGINNERS

Linda Grigsby	19	160
Ron Hasty	13	146
Svatava Strnad	3	141
Jim Shannon	10	140
Troy Becker	6	136
Betty A. Johnson	0	135
Bob Johnson	19	133
Michael Losurdo	6	126
Nicholas Tovell	9	123
Bill J. Boyd	20	117
Charles Henthorne	0	105
Brett Buchmiller	0	104
Willie Baker	0	99
Jean Karlik	3	93
Ray Daberko	10	92
Joe Sullivan	0	78
Laurence Briggs	0	35
Franz Crystal	6	34
Lee Hatfield	0	31
Aida LaPoint	0	27
Mike Konczal	0	26
Ronnie Scaggs	10	25
Lance Nail	0	22
David Ringrose	0	20
Valerie Harris	0	20
Debbie Tigh	0	19
Steve Wheeler	0	14
Jolynn Dumais	0	6

ADVANCED

Andrew Hibma	9	162
Bernie Pysz	0	151
Dennis Fritsche	17	150
Paul Spencer	14	147
Tatyana Bessmertnaya	18	146
Kent Taylor	11	145
John A. Lovelace	10	142
Alistair Wilson	11	141
Jim Spencer	0	141
LeDon Becker	0	140
Danette Volkmer	11	138
Stewart Musket	0	132
Billy Erwin	11	126
Marie Hansen	0	126
Andrew L. Hollander	6	118
Peter Staxen	0	115
Harry Rumberger	6	111
Kay Griffith	0	93
Terree Stone	0	87
Jerry E. Schlesinger	0	86
Katherine Robertson	6	81
Lewis Sheriff	3	78
Bud Barlow	0	75
Mary J. Baker	0	69
Anne Hargreaves	0	69
Warren Paul Harris	6	53
Fred Grossman	0	49
Bill McMurray	0	40
Holly Lynn	0	39
Carol Barlow	0	37
Hal Mayfield	0	29
Irwin Lightstone	0	25
Lee Vestyck	0	24
Jerry Whitty	0	14
David Drake	0	11
Rick Pang	0	10

MASTERS

Eleanore Avery	45	170
Jose Artiles	16	159
Jamie Hilbig	10	159
James T. Stover	3	149
Priscilla Killion	12	145
Larry Petterborg	6	128
Michael LaPoint	12	128
John Lehman	10	95
Ed Auger	0	83
Mitsuka Iwahiro	3	70
Elizabeth Szilagyi	10	48
Lois Lehman	6	36

Self assignment: Develop tools in your head and hands

By LARRY PETTERBORG

Many years ago I discovered Freeman Patterson (<http://www.freemanpatterson.com/>) and have been inspired by his photography and writings ever since. In his book, *Photography & the art of seeing*, Patterson says “A photographer who wants to see, a photographer who wants to make fine images, must recognize the value of the familiar. Your ability to see is not increased by the distance you put between yourself and your home. If you do not see what is all around you every day, what will you see when you go to Tangiers? The subject matter may be different, but unless you can get the essence of the subject matter through keen observation,



and express it through your photographs, it doesn't matter how exotic your locale.” Patterson goes on to suggest many exercises (such as locking yourself in a bathroom with a camera/tripod and making 10 images in 20 minutes) to help one improve their “visual thinking”. The goal of the book is to help you to develop the imagination, become a more accurate observer, and learn to express ideas/impressions more effectively in photographic images.

One way I have adapted Patterson's approach is to give myself photographic assignments/projects. The program I presented for the club in January (Close to Home: "2008 at Richland College"), was based on the self-assignment of seeing and demonstrating the changes occurring around the Richland campus during a year's time. As a result, I got a great deal of practice using my digital

camera and learned to take advantage of some of its technology such as the built-in noise reduction for night shots. Since the campus is literally “just out my back door,” I was able to prowl the grounds whenever I had the urge. When I went for walks, I would carry my camera and long zoom lens mounted on a tripod and my bag containing a short zoom, a macro lens, a lens cloth, a charged battery, and extra memory cards. Some days I would have specific images in mind before I went out and other days I just looked for interesting subjects or different views of previously photographed subjects. If I didn't find anything new or worthwhile I didn't take any pictures. If something out of the ordinary happened such as the March snow storm I could immediately take advantage of the situation.

One of the great joys of digital photography is that you can see what you have so quickly. Within minutes of returning home from a walk around the campus, I would download the day's images and begin to edit. I could see what worked and didn't while I still remembered what I did to get a particular picture. Even if there are no “keepers” on any given day, the experience gained by looking for images and using my camera to capture them will contribute to my seeing and making better images the next time I go out.

If you want to improve as a photographer, I strongly suggest that you give yourself assignments to get practice seeing and making photographic images that rise above the ordinary. And if you need any more inspiration, I suggest that you look at Jim Brandenburg's (http://www.jimbrandenburg.com/flash/index_flash.html) book, *Chased by the Light* (these images were first published in the November 1997 issue of National Geographic). This book documents his challenge to himself to only make one image a day for 3 months. Brandenburg is a highly acclaimed professional who used this exercise to examine himself as a nature photographer and as an artist. What he found was his deep connection to nature through photography. You too may be able to find a more meaningful connection to the world if you just practice and develop the tools in your head as well as the one in your hands to see and record your experiences.



Varied activities spark club's spring 2009 calendar

Downtown Dallas

March 21. Saturday 3 pm

Meet at the corner of Griffin and Young Streets and shoot around downtown in the afternoon sun. Venture atop the newly renovated Reunion Tower to get a glimpse of downtown Dallas and beyond. It is a good place to stay till sunset to photograph the city from above.

Weekend Getaway to Hot Springs, AR

May 1. Friday - May 3. Sunday

Hot Springs, a photogenic little town, is 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. A carpool is planned for as many vehicles as needed. We will do day and night time photography. 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. See www.dfwdragonboatfestival.com.

We will meet at 9:30 at the main entrance. 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.

Please let me know if you are interested in any of these events:

Elizabeth Szilagyi: 214-520-8827 or szilagye@aol.com

Monthly seminars talk photo business

Tom Maddery, Dallas photographer who has addressed the PPC, has announced a new monthly seminar series, "The Business View of Photography." First speaker in the series on Feb. 25 will be Matt Polze, lawyer and university professor, discussing the nature of the contract.

Monthly sessions will meet at the Workshop and Printing Studio, 10501 N. Central Expy, Ste. 214, Dallas. To register, reply to workshops@tommaddrey.com.



PPC member Katherine Robertson has this and three other prints on Hurricane Ike from the CCCCD Spring Creek campus Obscura Photo Club contest on view March 6-31 at 14th Street Gallery.

Congratulations

PPC members did well in the City of Richardson Annual Photography Contest. Numerous awards were won by Eleanore Avery, Mary Baker, Debbie Conard, Ron Marabito, Bill McMurray, Kevin Moody, and Stewart Musket. Winning images will be on exhibit until Feb. 24 at the Richardson Library (southwest corner of Arapaho Road and Central Expressway).

President's Letter: Testing, changes coming for monthly competition

The club is progressing on the evaluation of a new Contest Web Site. If you are active in the club's competition (see current list of competitors on Page 7 of this newsletter) you should have received an e-mail from the website operator, Photo Club Services. That e-mail contained your assigned, temporary login ID and password. Please log in and change your password to one of your choice and verify your personal information.

If you are currently active in club competition and did not receive an email, please contact the club secretary at secretary@planophotographyclub.com.

If you have not been competing and would like to participate or if there are multiple members in your family competing, please let the secretary know. We will be creating more accounts in a few weeks.

The new Contest Web Site will archive your images and allow you to upload images to your gallery at any time for possible inclusion in future contests. However, you can submit an image to only an active contest. We will announce a test contest at the Feb. 23 meeting. Following that, you may submit images for testing only. These are not part of the club's official contest.

We plan to change to this web-based contest system in May. If you have any questions, please ask.



JAMES STOVER

Contest Topics 2008-2009

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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Vice President — Activities
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Lewis Sheriff
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Stewart Musket
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Cindy Vaillancourt
Don Pool
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John A. Lovelace
LeDon Becker, Barry Jackson
David Lerry, Jamie Hilbig
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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.