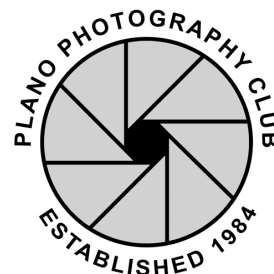


The FLASH!

APRIL 2010

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



ISO 1600! Blame it on Marfa lights

By JIM SPENCER

It was a pleasant and humbling surprise to learn that my photo had received best of show for February after my son, Paul, had the same honor the previous month.

"Desert Bloom" was taken in April 2007 at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center and Botanical Gardens south of Fort Davis on one of our trips to the Big Bend area.



Since the February competition judge commented on the sharpness of the photograph, I was interested to look back at the meta-data to see what it would reveal. The camera used was a Canon Rebel XT with a 17 to 85 mm IS kit lens set at 85 mm. There was no

flash and no tripod, so I guess image stabilization helped. I noticed that the shutter speed was 1/500th/sec and the lens opening was f13. So, I reasoned that these settings contributed to sharpness.

Then I checked the ISO. It was 1600! What? (I usually have it set at or about 200.) The mystery was solved when I looked at the series of photos and discovered that two nights earlier we had tried to capture the Marfa lights with ISO 1600 and I apparently forgot to reset the camera. Guess it did not degrade the image too much.

My son said, "Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good!"

Thanks again to the club for the opportunities to learn and have fun.

Here are your nominees for club officers 2010-2011

President: Dennis Fritsche
Programs: Ronald Hasty
Activities: Thinh Nguyenphu
Website: Ernie Tacsik
Secretary: Lewis Sheriff
Historian: Cindy Vaillancourt
Exhibits:
Jamie Hilbig, Ed Auger
Membership: Linda Grigsby
Lights: Don Pool
PSA: Eleanore Avery
Newsletter: James Stover
Models: Ken Guthrie
Treasurer: Peter Staxen
GSCCC: Danette Volkmer
Contest Web Site:
Carol Barlow
Contests: Hal Mayfield
Publicity: Open
Table Top Equipment:
Jamie Hilbig

These names will be placed in formal nomination to be voted on during the club's regular monthly meeting Monday, April 26. The club's 2010-2011 year officially begins May 1.

PPC'er hits Texas Monthly cover with balloons in mist

By LISA SMITH

I have loved hot air balloons since I first saw photos of the Albuquerque Balloon Festival some 40 years ago. How convenient when I moved to Plano in 1984; they had a Balloon Festival! I loved getting up in the dark to run over to Bob Woodruff park and see the balloons go aloft in the dawn light.

Fast forward to 2009, the 30th annual Plano Balloon Festival. Getting up for the dawn launch has lost some of its appeal. It was Sunday, Sept. 20, the last day of the festival. My husband and I woke up around 5 a.m. when I realized “oh, if I want to see the balloons at dawn we have to get up NOW”. We got moving and grabbed our camera gear. I had my prized Canon Rebel XSi that my husband gave me for a Christmas present just nine months prior, with a 75-300mm zoom lens as well as an 18-55mm.

We waited patiently with the hundreds of other spectators and photographers as crews tried numerous times to get three balloons to “glow” simultaneously for the traditional photo op. I got a few of those shots and thought I had a cool photo of a glowing balloon with the morning star in the distance.

I kept the zoom lens on, as most of the shots were in the distance. Then the balloonists started to arrive in quantity and began laying out the fabric, firing up the burners and beginning to ascend for the mass liftoff.

I snapped photos in rapid succession, always looking for a different angle or composition. I was standing near the curb behind families sprawled on the grass with their little ones, just as I had done with my own kids some years

back. This time I kept standing in photo position. As the balloons went aloft, a swirl of color and activity passed through my viewfinder. Each shot was a split-second slice of time that couldn't be repeated. I continued shooting with only a few settings changes. Although I had had a good, old film SLR 30 years ago and learned



the subtleties of setting the f-stop and shutter speed for the best capture, I was now mostly using my DSLR in the “P” (Program) mode. The ISO setting was maxed out at 1600.

When I got home and downloaded the images, two stood out – the one of the balloon glowing with the morning star and another, one of those split-second slices of time with multiple balloons in near and far range and in various stages of going aloft. In the middle of that photo sequence, one seemed to have the most interesting composition in the frame and some stand-out color. Looking more at the photo, it seemed to tell a story...so much action!

At the time I was enjoying uploading photos in online “competitions” on RedBubble.com. I entered the morning star photo and the one of balloons going up. Got hardly any response on the morning star photo but many positive responses on the other one!

A few months later, I joined the Plano

Photography Club in hopes of getting some live, in-person critiques and connections to help me build my skills. Soon I joined an Austin-based photography interest group calling for photo submissions for an upcoming gallery show in Austin. “OK”, I thought, “I’ll send the two photos that have gotten the strongest response on RedBubble” – one black b/w of two gentlemen I had shot on vacation in Italy...and the photo I titled “Balloons in the Mist”.

Several weeks later I got an e-mail saying that my two photos had been selected for the gallery showing and I needed to get some matted prints to them in Austin in less than a week! I e-mailed some PPC members for quick advice and got the prints matted and shipped off to Austin.

The Alpha and Omega Gallery show opening was Feb. 20. I could not miss this event! The show was packed, and I enjoyed watching how people responded to the “Balloons in the Mist” print hanging with many other outstanding prints.

A few weeks later I was in a waiting room and perused a copy of *Texas Monthly* magazine. What luck! *Texas Monthly* was running a theme of the “Bucket List” (as in “kick the bucket”) things to do in Texas. They were sponsoring a cover contest, asking for submissions of photos fitting the theme. That is how “Balloons in the Mist” made its way to become the Grand Prize winner of the *Texas Monthly* cover contest!

I am a Texas native and proud flag-waving fan of our state. There is a great deal of pride for me in participating in a contest that celebrates the beauty and unique qualities of Texas. It all started with a love of hot air balloons, a life-long love of photography and... a love of Texas!

May 1 instructional workshop to prepare 12 for model shoot

From **KEN GUTHRIE**

PPC Model Shoot Coordinator

A free instructional workshop limited to 12 participants is scheduled for 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 1, primarily to train inexperienced portrait photographers who have signed up for the club's annual Spring Indoor Model Shoot two weeks later on Saturday, May 15.

The workshop will be at the home of PPC members John and Lois Lehman, 2727 Gainesborough Drive, Dallas, phone (972) 307-8027 or (972) 437-4599. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact www.windsweptphoto.com. The Lehmans and PPC member Russell McGuire will lead the workshop.

Dr. Lehman said the workshop, with a model, will emphasize lighting, posing and etiquette. Weather permitting, limited shooting is planned indoors and out. The three leaders will check participants' cameras, lenses and other equipment and recommend those best for use at the model shoot.

The Spring Indoor Model Shoot itself will be held on the second floor of the Education Building at Grace Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The members-only event is limited to 36 attendees. The \$30 entry fee will cover costs of eight professional models booked from two local agencies -- Core Talent Agency and Dawn Rochelle Agency. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

If space is still available as of the club's April 26 meeting, reservations and full payment may be made there. Any questions, contact Ken.Guthrie@hp.com.

We need members to provide six additional strobe light sets. If you can offer lights for this shoot, please contact Don Spector at Mailto:robdomspector@yahoo.com. If we are not able to fill our lighting needs from within the club, we will scale back the number of models.

There will be no requirement to provide images to the models as part of their compensation package, but if you wish to provide your five best images of each model, burn them on a single CD and give it to me to mail a consolidated CD to each model.



This image, "The Ant and the Fly," by PPC member Billy Erwin won First Prize in recent Nature competition sponsored by the Gulf States Camera Clubs Council.

Contest topics for 2010-11

2010

September: Photojournalism

October: Open (prints only)

November: Reflections

December: No meeting, no competition

2011

January: Cemeteries

February: Open

March: Panoramics
(prints only)

April: Open

May: Planes, Trains
and Automobiles

June: Open

July: Shadows
and Silhouettes

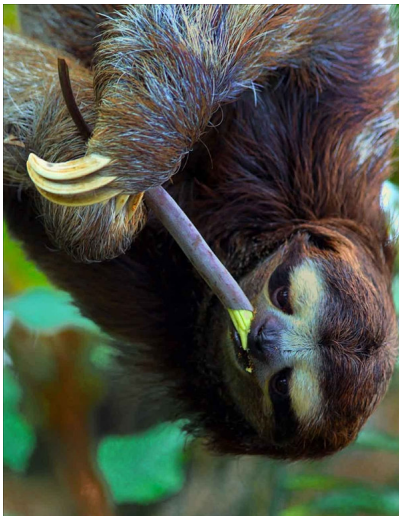
August: Open

Beginners
February
Winners

Stephen Finnerty	Winter Barn 2	1st	15
Ron Deage	Sloth Snack	2nd	13
Joe Sullivan	Snow day	3rd	13
Joe Sullivan	Hello Sunshine	HM	12
Willie Baker	Pier 121	HM	12



STEPHEN FINNERTY



RON DEAGE



JOE SULLIVAN



JOE SULLIVAN



WILLIE BAKER

Advanced
February
Winners

Jim Spencer	Desert Bloom	1 st ,BOS	15
Peter Staxen	Going Supersonic	2nd	15
Carol Barlow	Ruffled Feathers	3rd	15
Peter Staxen	Breaking Away	HM	14
Bud Barlow	Projection	HM	15
Marea Downey	Venice dawn	HM	15



JIM SPENCER
See Best of Show,
P1



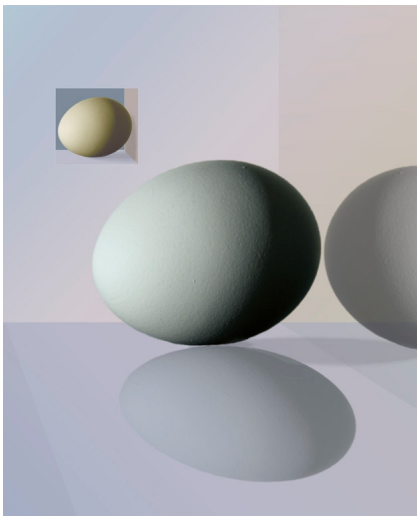
PETER STAXEN



CAROL BARLOW



PETER STAXEN



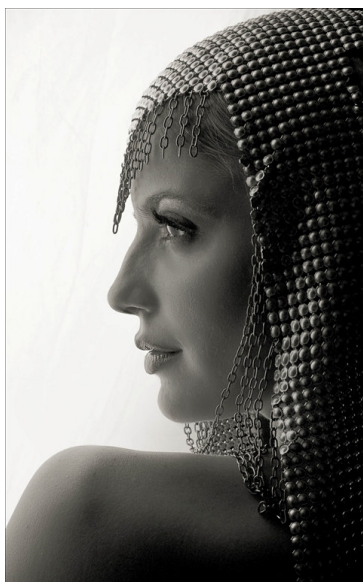
BUD BARLOW



MAREA DOWNEY

Masters February winners

Russell McGuire	Yana with head-dress	1st	15
Jose Artiles	Skylight	2nd	15
Eleanore Avery	Colors of Antarctica	3rd	14
Jamie Hilbig	Puzzled	HM	14
Lois Lehman	TX RR Mighty 300	HM	14



RUSSELL MCGUIRE



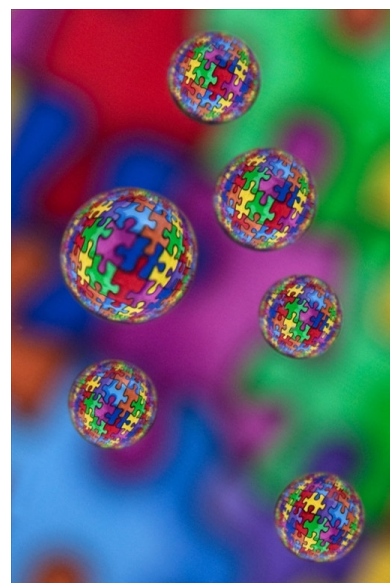
JOSE ARTILES



ELEANORE AVERY



LOIS LEHMAN



JAMIE HILBIG

Cumulative competitive scores as of February 2010

Advanced	Place	Pts	Judges' Pts
Dennis Fritsche	30		207
Danette Volkmer	10		204
Bud Barlow	9		203
Peter Staxen	16		200
Linda Grigsby	10		194
Bernard Pysz	6		192
Stewart Musket	0		190
Ernie Tacsik	6		188
Jim Spencer	14		185
Andrew Hibma	9		183
John Lovelace	0		182
Ron Hasty	9		181
Jerry Schlesinger	0		172
Carol Barlow	16		170
David Philips	0		170
Hal Mayfield	0		160
Paul Spencer	11		155
Ken Morton	6		153
Bill Boyd	0		147
Lewis Sheriff	6		103
Jim Shannon	0		100
Marie Hansen	17		99
Billy Erwin	0		91
Marea Downey	0		72
Kim Clack	0		70
Diana Jaramillo	0		61
Bill McMurray	11		59
Katherine Robertson	3		51
Terri Rapp	0		49
Tom Marusa	0		47
Lucy Huffstetter	3		44
Fred Grossman	0		23

Beginners	Place	Pts	Judges' Pts
Jennifer Carrick	30		182
Willie Baker	48		172
Michael Losurdo Jr	6		170
Jean Karlik	15		156
Sharlott Hasty	0		148
Nicholas Tovell	19		120
Ron Deage	12		116
Liz Graves	16		113
David Ringrose	3		105
Danny Fyffe	0		84
Steve Finnerty	10		79
Joe Sullivan	3		64
Rajibul Islam	12		60
Debbie Conard	3		44
Mike Konczal	0		38
Lisa Smith	0		25
Michelle Bowers	0		23
Ron Giordano	0		21
John Sutton	0		12
John Liu	0		9

Masters	Place	Pts	Judges' Pts
Eleanore Avery	26		220
Jose Artiles	21		213
John Lehman	22		212
Russell McGuire	30		210
Jamie Hilbig	28		199
Larry Petterborg	9		192
James Stover	3		185
Lois Lehman	16		142
Mitsuka Iwahiro	11		124
Ed Auger	6		41

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Mark Rogers, president of Frame Destination Inc., is the speaker for the club's April 26 meeting on framing and exhibiting photographs. Rogers describes his firm as an online supplier of fine art photography frames and framing supplies, offering both wood and metal picture frames. The firm also offers custom and ready-made frames, stretcher bars, mat board, plexiglas, acrylic, clear bags and photo frame mounting supplies.

Former PPC President Dan Leffel will speak at the May 24 meeting on Fall and Winter Photography, and Sean Fitzgerald will speak at the June 28 meeting on a subject to be announced.

Deadline is May 31 in the contest to replace the club's long-time logo (see right) with a new graphic. Each paid-up member in good standing may submit up to five graphic — NOT photographic — images in both color and black and white. Each entry should pay tribute to the history of the club and of photography. Board members will choose three finalists for voting at the June 28 club meeting.



Club member Hal Mayfield is organizing a trip to Caddo Lake in East Texas May 19-22, with two full days -- May 20-21 -- for shooting. Boat limit is five or six, including a professional guide. Cost for guide and lodging is estimated at \$320 per person. Mayfield said participants can anticipate a wide variety of wildlife and abundant landscape opportunities and spectacular sunrises and sunsets.. For more information contact hmayfield@dfw-mail.com or see him and pay a \$100 deposit at the club's April 26 meeting.

Contest Topics by month 2009-2010

April 2010: Open

May 2010: Opposites

June 2010: Open

July 2010: Diagonals

August 2010: Open

Note: Contest year 2009-2010 ends April 30. See article on Page 3 of this issue for additional 2010-2011 contest topics.

Plano Photography Club Officers

President
Vice President — Programs
Vice President — Activities
Secretary
Treasurer
Contests
Contest Site Administrator
GSCC Representative
PSA Representative
Historian
Light Rental
Membership
Newsletter Editor/Publisher
Webmaster
Exhibits
Model Shoot Coordinator
Tabletop Equipment
Publicity

James Stover
Dennis Fritsche
Ron Marabito, Ed Auger
Lewis Sheriff
Peter Staxen
Hal Mayfield
Carol Barlow
Danette Volkmer
Eleanore Avery
Cindy Vaillancourt
Don Pool
Linda L. Grigsby
John A. Lovelace
Ernie Tacsik, David Ringrose
Katherine Robertson
Ken Guthrie
Jamie Hilbig
Open

ppc@planophotographyclub.com
programs@planophotographyclub.com
activities@planophotographyclub.com
secretary@planophotographyclub.com
treasurer@planophotographyclub.com
e-contest@planophotographyclub.com
Cotest.admin@planophotographyclub.com
Gscrc-rep@planophotographyclub.com
Psa-rep@planophotographyclub.com
historian@planophotographyclub.com
lightrental@planophotographyclub.com
membership@planophotographyclub.com
newsletter@planophotographyclub.com
webmaster@planophotographyclub.com
exhibits@planophotographyclub.com
modeling@planophotographyclub.com
Table_top@planophotographyclub.com
publicity@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 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month except December at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road.