



The FLASH!

October 2011

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



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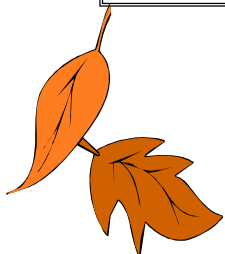
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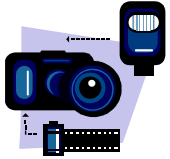
BEST OF SHOW: *STRENGTH PERSONIFIED* - BY KAREN CHANEY

This image was taken on March 25th, 2011 at the Garland Events Center where they were hosting the Carden Circus International. I was enjoying taking pictures of many events at the circus when I noticed a fantastic shadow on the corrugated metal wall of the event center. Remembering that there was a shadow/silhouette competition coming up soon in our photo club - I took multiple shots of the aerialist's shadow. My camera is a Canon Rebel XT and the lens I had on that night was a 70 - 300mm Quantaray. I was set to auto focus, aperture priority mode with aperture set at 5.6. Based on critique feedback from the anonymous master judges I changed the image to black and white and bumped up the contrast in Photoshop Elements. (Thanks for the tip Master Photographer!)

I am left scratching my head in confusion on winning Best Of Show with this picture. I loved many of the other photos that were entered in this contest much more than mine (i.e. "The 1st George W" by Danette Volkmer was my personal favorite). Even though I took this picture with the intent of entering it in the shadow/silhouette contest, I'm glad I waited until the open category. As has been said in the photo club multiple times, judges have different and personal preferences. I am very glad, and jaw dropping-ly surprised, that the judge chose my photograph.

I was asked to tell something about myself so I've chosen to tell about my "job". I entered a photo contest that my local newspaper (The Murphy Messenger) was holding in the fall of 2010. The publisher/owner enjoyed the photos I submitted and offered me a job as staff photographer which turned into a reporter/photographer position. I have been "working" since January and have enjoyed having the thrill of seeing my photos in print twice a month. I use quotation marks around job and working because this position is more fun than anything I could have hoped for.





Upcoming Activities

November, 2011 – Trinity River Audubon Center: Look for details later.

December 3, 2011 – Christmas Party: See below for details.

January, 2012 – Wyly Theatre behind the scene: Look for details later. www.thedallasartsdistrict.org/venues/wyly-theatre

March, 2012 – Denison Arts and Cultural District: Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site. Look for details later. www.denisonartsculture.com/

April, 2012 – Ennis Bluebonnet Trails: Look for details later.

For more information on the above activities contact activities@planophotographyclub.com.

Other Activities of Interest

Nov. 19, and Dec. 17, 2011 – PUG MARK PARK: McKinney TX. Wildlife Refuge. See John Yates for details at johnyatesphoto@mindspring.com

May 5 - 16, 2012 - GRAND CANYON PHOTOGRAPHY RAFT TRIP: David Wille of the Plano Photography Club is organizing a Grand Canyon photography rafting trip. The trip goes from Lee's Ferry to Lake Mead and stops at the most photogenic locations within the Canyon. Each day typically involves some hiking. Because the trip is a photography trip, we have some ability to remain in certain locations for the best light. While this is not always possible, the guides do their best to accommodate the wishes of the photographers. If you are interested, please contact David at david.wille@bakerbotts.com. The cost is \$2700 per person. This includes a tent, sleeping pad, food, etc.

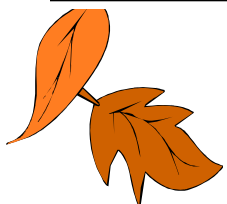
GUEST SPEAKER – *LIGHT AND FOCUS - FEATURING IMAGES FROM RECENT TRIPS TO JAPAN AND ALASKA* – DAN LEFFEL

Dan will discuss two of the most important aspects of photography, responding to what the light is presenting you and making sure the parts of the images you want to be in focus are in focus. The presentation will be 50% instructional tutorial and 50% slide show featuring the snow monkeys and other wildlife of Japan, and the grizzly bears of Katmai National Park and other scenic images of Alaska. Compositional elements that create images with impact will be discussed during the slide show.

Dan has been an avid photographer for over 45 years, and has been pursuing photography full time since he retired 12 years ago from EDS. His passion for photography includes shooting fine art, scenic landscapes and wildlife, as well as commissioned portraits and model portfolios in his studio.

Dan's photography has taken him on two 12 day rafting trips through the Grand Canyon, an 11 day rafting trip through the Alaskan wilderness, and on trips spanning North America to Antarctica. He has hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru and photographed Iceland. This past February Dan spent two weeks in Japan photographing the snow monkeys and other wildlife, and this summer he spent two months photographing in Alaska. He frequently photographs New England, the Colorado Plateau, the Four Corners area, all parts of California, the Canadian Rockies, and the Northwest.

Dan has earned first place awards in the Dallas Sierra Club photography contest and the Heard photography contest, as well as at many Plano Photography club competitions. He has also received numerous acceptances in the annual juried Showcase competition, sponsored by the North America Nature Photography Association (NANPA). He is a frequent presenter to local camera clubs and organizations in the DFW area. Dan's photography is marketed globally by the ageFotoStock company, based in Spain. Before "retiring" from club competitions he won "Photographer of the Year" honors with the Plano Photography Club for the last three years he competed.



REPORT ON PSA CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 2011

The 73rd Annual International meeting of the Photographic Society of America was held in Colorado Springs. This was a wonderful setting with near perfect weather. People came from as far away as Australia and China just to attend the conference.

There was a wide variety of activities available to the attendees, including photo excursions to the Garden of the Gods, Pikes Peak and the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. Classes were offered in Elements, Photoshop, Lightroom, Photodex Proshow Gold, and HDR Efex pro from Nik Software.

Among the featured presenters, elegant Tyler Stableford captured the audience with his dramatic photos of mountaineering and skiing. He emphasized that photographs should tell a story. George Lepp and Joe Le Fevre inspired us with photos of nature. They both stressed the importance of taking good photos in our own back yard, even if Texas is not as spectacular as Colorado. Eleanore Avery gave a program entitled "Bhutan, Kingdom in the Clouds". Jodi Cobb, National Geographic photographer, spoke of the loneliness of her assignments in China in the 70's. Energetic and knowledgeable, Julianne Kost from Adobe, conducted classes in Light room and Masking and Compositing in CS5. Her website www.jkost.com is searchable and has many training videos in Lightroom and Photoshop.

There were so many presentations it was difficult to decide which to attend. Some of the choices were: Macro, HDR, Monochrome, Conversion, Infrared, Raw Power, Sports Photography, Printing for competitions, and ten favorite Photoshop tips.

Next year's PSA will be held in the lovely city of San Francisco.

Jen Carrick

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual party will be held December 3rd in our regular meeting room, Wheelus Hall, at Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 W. Park Boulevard Plano, TX 75093. Setup is at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:00 PM.

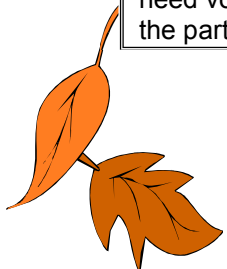
You and your spouse/date/friend are invited. The club will provide meat, drinks, plates, serving utensils, etc. Please bring a potluck dinner item such as a vegetable, dessert, appetizer, etc. A signup sheet will be circulated at the November meeting.

Also, bring a few of your favorite images to share with everyone. A pre-made slide show of about 3 minutes on a USB drive (CD acceptable) would be helpful. We need volunteers to help plan and set up the party.



CONGRATULATIONS SVATAVA STRNAD

Svatava Strnad's "Occupied" received 15 points and first place in the Gulf States Camera Club Council's September Nature Digital Competition, which previously won an HM in our PPC February "Open" contest.



Winning Images: BEGINNERS



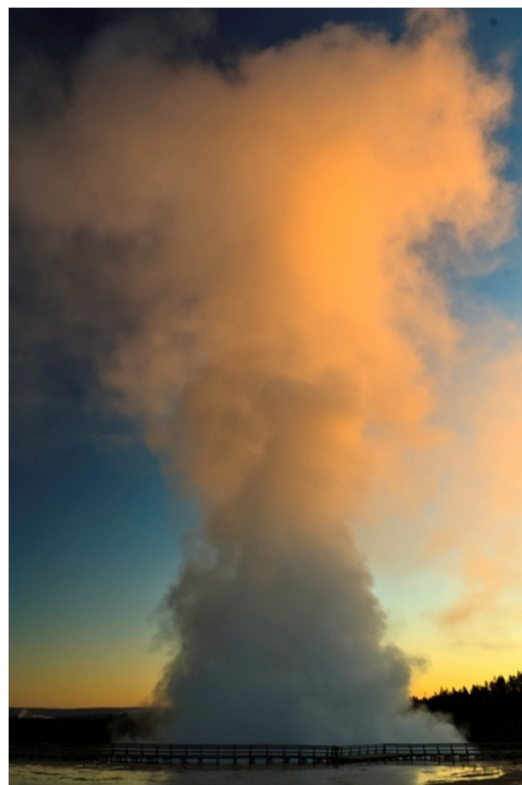
LINFEN HWANG



LINFEN HWANG



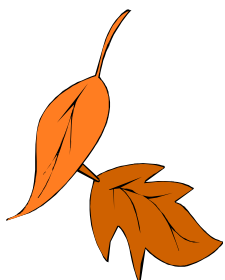
JESSE FLORES



MING LUH

Winning Images: ADVANCED

Jennifer Carrick	CADDO SUNRISE	1st	15
Willie Baker	WALKING ON AIR	2nd	14
Lee Hatfield	OPEN THE DOOR!	3rd	13
John Lovelace	MAKE ME BIG	HM	12
Linda Grigsby	ARTISTIC PURPLE FLOWERS	HM	12
Roger Boulanger	AWAKENING	HM	12
Sharlott Hasty	SUNRISE ON A WINTER MORNING	HM	12





JENNIFER CARRICK



JOHN LOVELACE



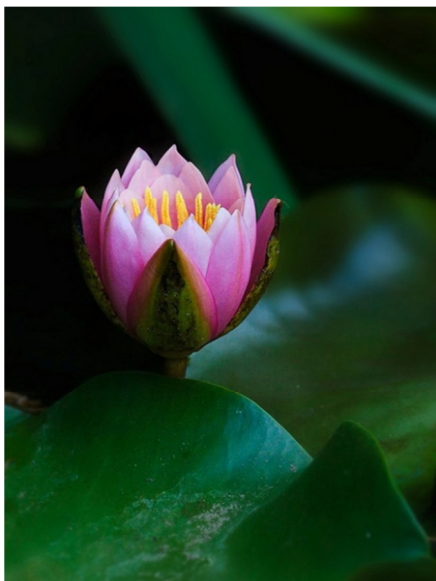
LINDA GRIGSBY



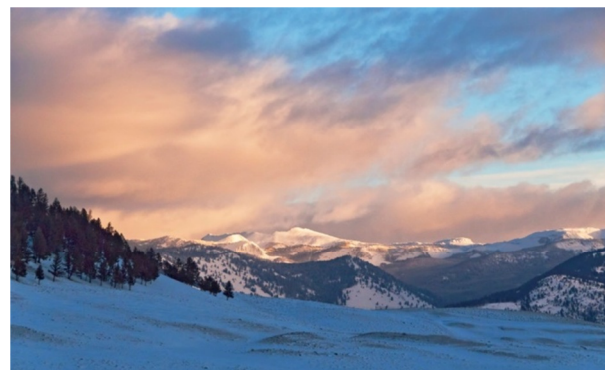
LEE HATFIELD



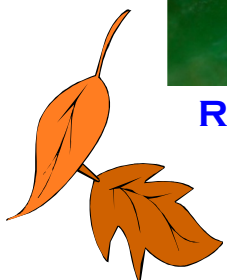
WILLIE BAKER



ROGER BOULANGER



SHARLOTT HASTY



Winning Images: MASTERS



LOIS LEHMAN

Lois Lehman	DEREK WORKING	1st	14
Danette Volkmer	THE 1ST GEORGE W.	2nd	14
Peter Staxen	MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS	3rd	13
Ernie Tacsik	SULTRY SOPHISTICATION	HM	12
John Lehman	COWBOY-AT-SUNSET	HM	12



DANETTE VOLKMER



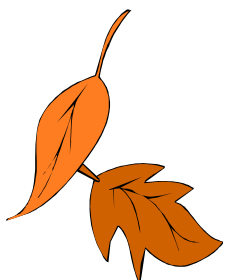
JOHN LEHMAN



PETER STAXEN



ERNIE TACSIK



ABOUT THE CLUB

The club meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month (no meeting in December) at Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 West Park Blvd in Plano. Visitors are welcome!

Officers meet at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month (except December) at a *location to be announced*. Open to all members.

The club is a member of:
*Gulf States Camera Club Council (GSCCC) &
 Photographic Society of America (PSA)*

COMPETITION STANDINGS

Photographer	Cumulative Place Points	Cumulative Judges' Points	Photographer	Cumulative Place Points	Cumulative Judges' Points
ADVANCED					
Ron Hasty	18	97	Sevy Strnad	0	21
Sharlott Hasty	12	87	Steve Sutton	0	21
Jennifer Carrick	11	87	BEGINNERS		
Tim Morgan	6	86	Linfen Hwang	37	77
David Forehand	10	82	Karen Chaney	18	87
Marea Downey	4	87	Mary Petterborg	14	84
Joe Sullivan	4	86	Ming Luh	9	86
Lee Hatfield	3	82	Peter Luh	1	83
Jim Spencer	0	84	Charlie Henkle	0	78
Marie Hansen	0	84	Leonard Margolis	0	77
Sam Wilson	0	84	Melanie Erwin	0	65
Ronnie Scaggs	1	80	Debbie Conard	0	61
Carol Barlow	0	80	Wayne Honeycutt	0	44
Kent Taylor	0	80	Lisa Jackson	7	21
Bill Boyd	0	79	Luellen Adair	0	26
Jerry Schlesinger	0	79	Jesse Flores	1	23
John Lovelace	1	77	Kurtis Allen	0	23
Stephen Finnerty	0	77	Jane Damon	0	21
Roger Boulanger	5	71	Kelli Schmidt	0	21
David Philips	0	69	Linda Lee Bickford	0	21
Sherri Kidner	0	69	Thomas McCallister	0	20
Harold Walker	0	68	Bryan Zumbar	0	19
Willie Baker	6	61	Janice Stovall	0	17
Thomas Kerwin	0	65	David Allen	0	9
Linda Grigsby	1	61	Vinay Rekapalli	0	8
Aimee Wilson	0	61	MASTERS		
Ken Morton	6	42	Danette Volkmer	22	93
Danny Fyffe	0	44	Jamie Hilbig	12	86
Jim Shannon	0	44	Dennis Fritsche	3	92
Jean Karlik	1	42	Peter Staxen	6	89
Paul Spencer	0	41	Ernie Tacsik	3	91
Melanie Dyer	0	35	Larry Petterborg	6	88
Hal Mayfield	0	24	James Stover	1	87
Terree Stone	0	23	Jose Artiles	23	63
Retha Moulder	0	22	Lois Lehman	11	67
Gene Domingo	0	21	John Lehman	1	66



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: IMAGE ANALYSIS: IS IT OBJECTIVE OR SUBJECTIVE?

PSA offers training for judges and one of the exercises is to analyze a set of images. For exactly the same image, here is a sampling of the comments "The image is over exposed; The image is underexposed; The depth of field is off; The depth of field is right on; The center of interest is placed well; The center of interest is off, use the rule of thirds; The black and white is a good choice; I think it should be in color.; The highlights are blown out; The highlight has good detail; The shadows are too dark, need detail; The shadows are good and balance the image well; The leading line should not come from the corner; The composition is excellent; The image should be flipped; The diagonal lines are just right from right to left." And the winner is: "I didn't know what it was so I can't judge it."

Since judging is both subjective (opinions) and objective (facts), comments will naturally be all over the place. You can't control what the judge will think and how he will react to the SUBJECTIVE nature of the photographic art, but there are things you can do to make sure you maximize the impact of your image from the OBJECTIVE point of view. Here is a checklist to consider. Of course you must determine how it applies to your artistic purpose in each photograph.

Horizon and buildings straight; Something in focus; A point of interest; No clutter; No dust spots; No blown highlights; Some shadow detail; Corrected colors; No processing artifacts; Not over-sharpened. Following these will not guarantee a 15 on every image, but should raise your score a point or two.

Dennis Fritsche

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COMPETITION TOPICS BY MONTH

Oct.	Open (Prints)
Nov.	Wide Angle Perspective
Dec.	None
Jan.	Texture
Feb.	Open
March	Black and White (Prints)
April	Open
May	Night and Low Light
June	Open
July	Repetition
Aug.	Open

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James Stover, Editor

