



The FLASH!

November 2012

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



BEST IN SHOW: *TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, BROADWAY-BY JOSE ARTILES*

There really isn't much to tell about this shot. It was simply a case of being in the right place with a camera. I came across it while walking in the rain on Broadway and 45th St. It was a one car accident caused by moving too fast, hitting the breaks and skidding in the rain. Thankfully, no one was hurt. Being that it was in NYC, most people didn't much care, mainly because it didn't block traffic!

I shot it with a handheld Nikon D200 and an 18 ~ 200 f/3.5-5.6 Nikkor zoom. Exposure was 1/30th at f/5.3 ISO 400 RAW. The image was color corrected and cropped.

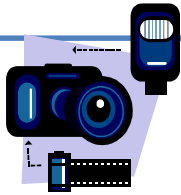
Jose

Editor's note: In 2011 Jose was Photographer of the Year and winner of the Master's Class, Digital and Print Image awards.

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Upcoming Club Activities

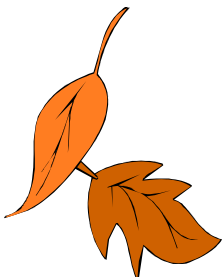
November 26, 6:15 PM 2012 – *Snapshots! Landscape Photography Composition*: By Dan Leffel. Dan will discuss approaches to composing landscape photographs. Emphasis will be given to compositions that create images with impact. Come and learn how to take your landscape images to the next level.

December 1, 2012 – *Holiday Party and Christmas Lights Shoot*. See below for details.

Holiday Party and Christmas Lights Shoot

Our Annual Holiday Party is Saturday, December 1, in our regular meeting room. Setup is 5:30 PM with dinner at 6. Please bring an appetizer, vegetable or dessert as well as a short slideshow on a Flash drive or CD. Sign up at the November meeting. The club will provide meat, drinks and utensils.

After the traditional slideshows presented by members, James Stover will do a short presentation on using the HDR technique to shoot Christmas lights. We will then drive to the Deerfield neighborhood north of Legacy between Ohio and Archgate and park near the entrance at Legacy and Archgate. From there we will walk into the neighborhood to view the lights and take pictures. Bring your tripod, camera, walking shoes and, if the weather is cool, a warm jacket. The neighborhood is known for its decorations and is a traditional Christmas destination.



Tips for Scenes with Extremes in Lighting

The difference between the darkest and lightest areas of a scene is the dynamic range. At night our eyes can perceive a dynamic range 600 times that of our daytime vision. Because a camera can detect a much smaller range than our eyes, the photos we take cannot match what we see with our eyes. However, there are techniques we can use to approximate what we see.

Bright overhead sun creates deep shadows whether of objects or people. Although it seems counter-intuitive, this situation benefits from the use of a flash to eliminate harsh shadows and open up faces and shaded areas as long as they are within 10' - 15' of the flash.

Brightly lit scenes reflect light from every surface. (Black will photograph as gray because of the reflection of light.) A polarizer reduces those reflections. Consider using a polarizer any time you are in sunlight, not just to enhance a blue sky.

To adjust over-exposed skies or a highly reflective surface such as water, use a graduated Neutral Density (ND) filter. Neutral density filters reduce the amount of light coming into the camera lens without affecting color. A graduated ND filter gradually decreases the density across the filter until it is clear. The darker portion is placed over the brightest part of the scene resulting in more even exposure of the scene.

Another way to capture the full range of light in a scene is High Dynamic Range (HDR), a technique combining 2 or more exposures of the same scene. It was first used in 1850 by Gustave Le Grey who used two negatives to produce one positive. You can replicate this by taking two exposures (one for the scene and one for the sky) and layering the correctly exposed sky over the scene. You can get free software, such as SNS-HDR, or purchase software to digitally combine several images taken at different exposures to produce an image correctly exposed throughout. Photoshop and other image editors include HDR features.

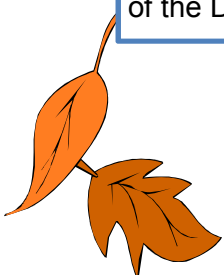
News to Use

On August 15, 2012, the club began delivering *News to Use* and other announcements from club officers via subscription. Email webmaster@planophotographyclub.com for instructions on how to subscribe to continue receiving the latest club news.

November Guest Speaker – *Up Close and Personal* – Dennis Fritsche

Close up photography is not only frame filling it also very fulfilling. Filling the frame with your subject is the ultimate in removing the distractions to reveal your subject. The many aspects of this world will be explored – subjects, gear and technique, processing, and the dreaded depth of field. (Dennis will not cover super macro, such as capturing a fly's eye.)

Dennis is an avid, amateur photographer residing in Plano, Texas with his wife and son. He likes all sorts of photography and really doesn't have a specialty. Dennis is a member of the Plano Photography Club where he is the 2011-2012 Photographer of the Year and immediate past president. Dennis has had his work recognized in Black & White Magazine, Color Magazine, Chasing the Light juried photo competitions, and the Photo Place Gallery of Vermont. Dennis is also a member of the Dallas Camera Club. Dennis enjoys sharing with and learning from others.



This Month's Winning Images

MASTERS				ADVANCED			
Jose Artiles	Traffic Accident, Broadway	1st, BoS	14	Sharlott Hasty	Meeting Government Regulations	1st	12
Marea Downey	Monty Halls	2nd	13	Linfen Hwang	There is no 'Retirement' in the dictionary	2nd	11
James Stover	Help The Less Fortunate	3rd	12	Ming Luh	Clean Energy	3rd	11
Dennis Fritsche	Green Lanes	HM	12	Alan Mann	Locked Up, But There's Hope	HM	11
Ernie Tacsik	12 million elephants in the room	HM	12	Jen Carrick	Got any change?	HM	12
Ernie Tacsik	Desecration of Dante Alighieri et al.	HM	11	Jim Spencer	Going It Alone	HM	11
Marea Downey	Humboldt penguins	HM	12	Marie Hansen	Street Performer	HM	11
INTERMEDIATE				BEGINNERS			
Jerry Schlesinger	In my dreams	1st	12	Ron Lin	A Place Called Home (Cambodia)	1st	12
Sam Wilson	Promoting Literacy:	2nd	11	Valerie Johnson	Taking a stance on 9/11	2nd	11
Aimee Wilson	Face of Immigration Reform	3rd	10	Cathy Lin	A Subway Passage in Tokyo	3rd	11
				Charlie Henkle	Escape Route	HM	11
				Linda Bickford	Honoring 0-11	HM	10



Aimee Wilson



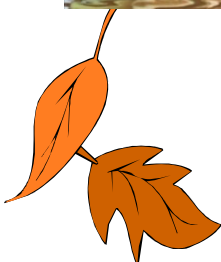
Valerie Johnson



Ron Lin



Linda Lee Bickford





Jerry Schlesinger



Linfen Hwang



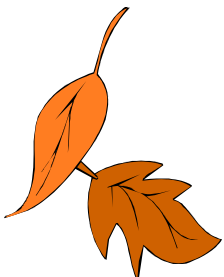
Sam Wilson



Jim Spencer



Sharlott Hasty





CATHY LIN



ALAN MANN



MAREA DOWNEY



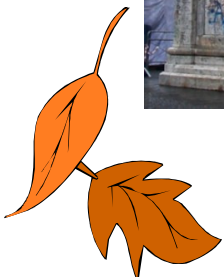
MING LUH



ERNIE TACSIK



JAMES STOVER

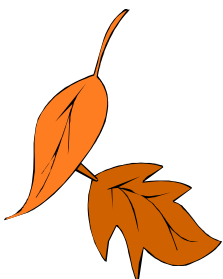


COMPETITION STANDINGS

Photographer	Cumulative Place Points	Cumulative Judges' Points	Photographer	Cumulative Place Points	Cumulative Judges' Points
BEGINNERS			ADVANCED		
Valerie Johnson	17	117	Lee Hatfield	20	118
Linda Lee Bickford	13	100	Linfen Hwang	13	117
Wayne Kenter	10	103	Marie Hansen	6	119
Charlie Henkle	2	109	Sharlott Hasty	11	112
Bryan Zumbar	0	96	Karen Chaney	10	109
Ron Lin	18	74	Ming Luh	4	114
Ming Yang	11	77	Jen Carrick	4	111
Debbie Conard	9	74	Jim Spencer	3	112
Don Huddy	0	83	Peter Luh	10	103
Melanie Erwin	6	64	David Philips	10	88
Cathy Lin	6	57	Stephen Finnerty	6	90
David Allen	0	44	Sherri Kidner	0	89
Leslie Johnston	0	42	Linda Grigsby	10	65
Kurtis Allen	9	29	David Forehand	0	70
Parvin Stiles	0	30	Alan Mann	1	66
Rajiv Karanam	4	26	Ken Morton	0	45
Jesse Flores	0	23	Steve Sutton	0	25
Victor Shung	0	21	Tim Morgan	0	18
Gerald Newman	0	20	Bud Barlow	0	16
Letty Ramos	0	18			
Cheri Soileau	0	16			
Terri Kropp	0	14			
Mary Jean Blevins	0	10			
Sherry Jaco	0	9			
Amrit Singh	0	8			
INTERMEDIATE			MASTERS		
Chris Caho	32	104	Ernie Tacsik	13	126
Sam Wilson	20	109	James Stover	20	118
Carol Barlow	9	109	Marea Downey	14	122
Jerry Schlesinger	13	99	Dennis Fritsche	15	117
Aimee Wilson	11	100	Larry Petterborg	12	119
John Lovelace	6	95	Jose Artilles	12	113
Ronnie Scaggs	0	75	Jamie Hilbig	6	111
Melanie Dyer	3	68	Danette Volkmer	3	112
Jim Shannon	1	69	Peter Staxen	1	112
Retha Moulder	0	60	John Lehman	14	97
Svatava Strnad	1	24	Ron Hasty	0	110
Harold Walker	6	12	Lois Lehman	0	106
Joe Sullivan	0	18	Russell McGuire	0	66

COMPETITION TOPIC

Nov.	Unexpected Angles	April	Open
Dec.	No Contest	May	Vanishing Point
Jan. 2013	Delicate	June	Open
Feb.	Open	July	Solitude
March	Prints - Close-Up	August	Open





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Last weekend I was in beautiful Zion National Park in the company of fellow photographers trying to capture the changing moods of the canyon. We experienced a crisp sunny fall day, drizzly cloudy skies, a dusting of snow, and below freezing temperatures all in a 4-day workshop. I can now appreciate the persistence it takes to get just one excellent shot.

The workshop leader left me with two questions that need to be foremost every time I lift my camera to my eye. "What is my subject?" It can be a person, thing, mood, lighting, or concept. "How can I compose the shot to bring attention to my subject?" Think of light and dark, focus, leading lines, or other components of composition. Only then do you concentrate on the technicalities of exposure and focus. Although I was not consistent in this exercise, it is something I think will greatly improve my photography, and yours, as well.

Carol Barlow.

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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 the church. Open to all members.

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

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JAMES T STOVER

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EDITOR

