



# The FLASH!

November 2013

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

[www.planophotographyclub.com](http://www.planophotographyclub.com)



## BEST IN SHOW: *TAKING 5* - BY BUD BARLOW

My wife and I tossed around multiple ideas of 5 people, 5 objects and 5 numbers. Ultimately, I thought the simplest, most direct approach would work best. Starting with the numbers -- spray painted neon orange -- I tried several arrangements using mat boards behind and below, to arrive at one that contained both a separation of the numbers as well as a variety in their positioning... something that I was pleased the judge commented on.

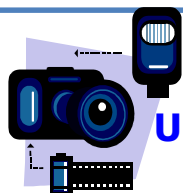
I took the resulting "numbers" image to the recent model shoot and had a couple of the models adopt poses that could be merged into the numbers image. I ensured the direction of the model lighting matched that of the numbers lighting. Then it was just a question of merging the images and generating reflections. Since the model and the numbers are at different depths in the foreground / background, the reflections had to be done individually. Early next year, I will be presenting a SnapShots session to show how the "numbers" still life was enhanced to get to the final image here.

I used a Sony Alpha 350 camera with an 18-70mm zoom. For the "numbers" image, settings were ISO 200, 22mm, F4.0, 1/60 second, with an off-camera flash. For the model, settings were ISO 100, 18mm, F6.3, 1/100 second, using studio lights.

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## Upcoming Club Activities

**November 25, 2013, 6:15 – *Snapshots!*** “Producing a Portrait” - John Lehman. See below for details.

**December 6 and/or 11, 2013, 5:30 - 10:30 PM – *Chinese Lantern Festival*.** Fair Park 3535 Grand Ave Dallas TX 75210. See below for details.

**December 7, 2013 5:30 – *Holiday Party*.** See below for details.

**January 18, 2014 – *Hagerman Wildlife Refuge*.** Everyone should bring binoculars plus their longest and fastest lenses. You may use a bean bag and shoot from your car window, using the car as a blind. There is NO entrance fee for this refuge; people can visit the land 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset. We will meet at 7 a.m. at the south end of the refuge.

Wildlife Drive is two lanes but the roads along the impoundments are single lane and you can only park at the ends without blocking traffic. They are all dirt roads or crushed granite. We will be announcing date, times and meeting place. For details of the park see: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Hagerman/>

## Guest Speaker – *Photographer of the Year* – Marea Downey

Marea Downey, a member of the Plano Photography Club, in the Masters division for competition entries, will discuss her work, what inspires her, and how she plans and carries out a shot, (including her mistakes)! Marea has qualified as a judge for camera club competitions through the Photographic Society of America. She will share with you some of the things she looks for when judging, and will pass along some of the things she has learned from the friends and professionals who have helped her.

A native of Surrey, England, Marea lives in Dallas with her husband of thirty-five years, spends time at their ranch near Farmersville, Texas, and reserves a few months each year for her hide-away cottage in Cadgwith, Cornwall. Marea's work has been published in Outdoor Photography, Cornwall Today, travel guides and newspapers. In her books, For Love of Cadgwith, and In the Heart of Cadgwith, she recorded her tribute to this historic Cornish village.

In 2012 she provided seventy-eight images for the best-selling book The Fisherman's Apprentice, authored by Monty Halls, which accompanied the six-part BBC series. The National Portrait Gallery in London acquired one of her portraits.

Marea devotes her photographic talent to assisting charities, such as creating images for a calendar in aid of the Leukemia Trust in Cornwall. Her teaching support of the advanced art students at Fairhill, a Dallas school for students with learning differences, has helped many achieve honors in annual statewide photography competitions.



## Producing a Portrait

John Lehman will take an image from the recent PPC Model Shoot and show how it goes from being downloaded into Lightroom through the selection process, basic editing, then into Photoshop for further touch up and editing and on to being a finished portrait that can go onto the web or be printed. He will also introduce you to Nik plug-ins including Color Efex 4 and Silver Efex 2, which can be used within Lightroom or Photoshop to further enhance the image. John focuses most of his photography on people. His Flickr site has had over a million views. His website is <http://thewizardofpixels.com>.

Watch for: Producing a Landscape Image and Producing a Still Life/Macro image to come in 2014.

## Annual Christmas Party

Our Annual Holiday Party is Saturday, December 7, 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, John and Lois Lehman will demonstrate how to make great holiday family portraits.

## Chinese Lantern Festival

As the sun sets at the lagoon within Fair Park, 24 lantern sets come to life. Brilliant, glowing artworks comprise stunning displays in a kaleidoscope of color. Each lantern set is made of hundreds and thousands of individual pieces. Visitors enter through an illuminated red tunnel to explore the festival, where each area has a distinct offering. At the center lagoon, a 130-foot-long Imperial Dragon Boat radiantly navigates amidst other twinkling showcases, such as the vibrant Castle of Dreams, cloisonné decorated vases, and palace lanterns. Elsewhere, the shimmering Porcelain Pagoda made up of more than 70,000 hand-tied bowls, spoons, and wine cups stretches 52 feet high. After sightseeing, festival goers are enchanted by mesmerizing twice-a-night acrobatics shows.

Admission, \$22, includes the acrobatic shows that take place at 6:30 and 8:00 pm. We will meet near the ticket office at 5:15 and share information about night photography. Come either date.

## Heard Nature Photo Contest

We are pleased to support the 36th Annual Heard Nature Photo Contest in February 2014. There are cash prizes awarded in 10 Categories of Nature Related Photo Prints in three Contest Divisions (Junior & Senior Student, and Adults).

All Contest proceeds to benefit the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. Contest details and instructions for submitting entries can be found at:

[www.heardnaturephotographers.com/contest](http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/contest)

[www.heardmuseum.org/photocontest.asp](http://www.heardmuseum.org/photocontest.asp)





## September's Winning Images – Take Five

MASTERS				ADVANCED			
Dennis Fritsche	<b>FIVE BY FIVE</b>	1st	15	Bud Barlow	<b>TAKING 5</b>	1st,Bos	15
Marea Downey	<b>AT THE END OF A LONG DAY</b>	2nd	14	Marie Hansen	<b>CATNAP</b>	2nd	14
Ernie Tacsik	<b>QUICK SMOKE BREAK!</b>	3rd	13	Linda Grigsby	<b>TAKE FIVE WITH A GLASS OF RED</b>	3rd	13
Jen Carrick	<b>ICELANDIC CAIRN</b>	HM	13	Carol Barlow	<b>A QUICK PARACAS SIESTA</b>	HM	12
Sharlott Hasty	<b>THERE'S FIVE - TAKE It! PPC 2</b>	HM	13	Jim Spencer	<b>NAP TIME</b>	HM	11
INTERMEDIATE				BEGINNERS			
Don Champlin	<b>FIREFIGHTERS</b>	1st	15	Debbie Conard	<b>STAY A LITTLE LONGER</b>	1st	14
Ron Lin	<b>DINNER TIME</b>	2nd	14	Cathy Lin	<b>STREET LAMP</b>	2nd	12
Bryan Zumbar	<b>QUITE ASLEEP</b>	3rd	13	James Walsh	<b>MESS WITH ME AND YOU'LL BE TAKING FIVE...KNUCKLES!</b>	3rd	11
Valerie Johnson	<b>JUST A QUICK FIVE</b>	HM	12				
Brian Prestemon	<b>OUT THROUGH THE #5 DOOR</b>	HM	11				



**Debbie Conard**



**Cathy Lin**



**James Walsh**



**Don Champlin**







**Ron Lin**



**Bryan Zumbar**



**Valerie Johnson**



**Brian Prestemon**



**Linda Grigsby**



**Marie Hansen**







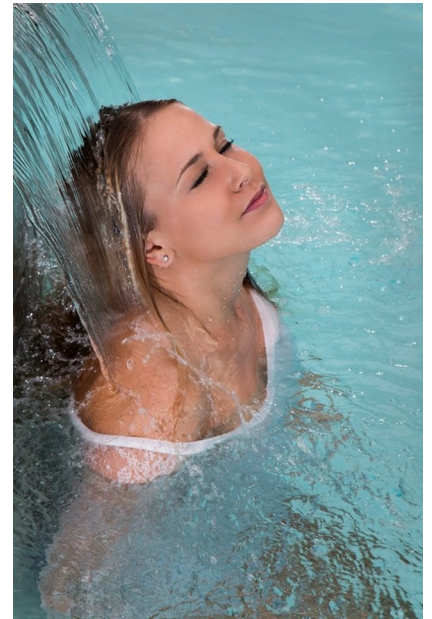
**Carol Barlow**



**Dennis Fritsche**



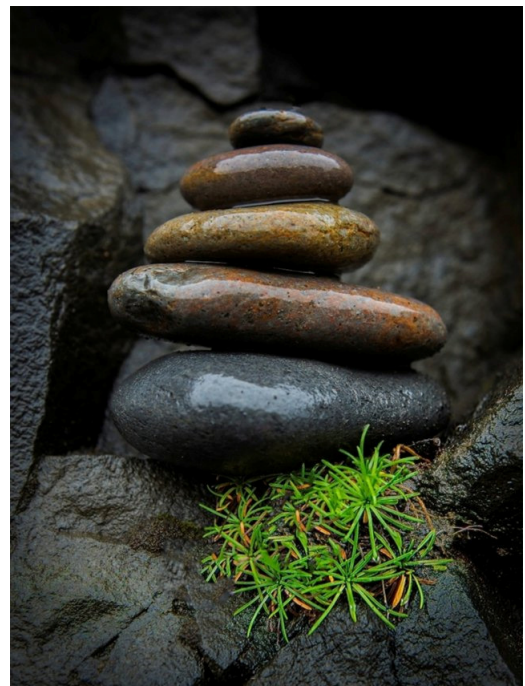
**Jim Spencer**



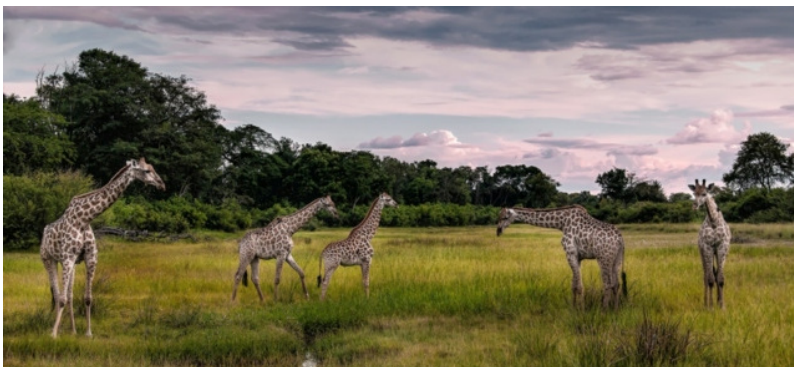
**Marea Downey**



**Ernie Tacsik**



**Jen Carrick**



**Sharlott Hasty**



COMPETITION TOPIC					
November	Stop Motion	March	Parts is Parts (Print)	June	Open
January	PJ: Found in the City	April	Open	July	Up in the Air
February	Open	May	S-Curve	August	Open

COMPETITION STANDINGS					
Photographer	Cumulative Place Points	Cumulative Judges' Points	Photographer	Cumulative Place Points	Cumulative Judges' Points
<b>BEGINNERS</b>			<b>ADVANCED</b>		
Debbie Conard	21	57	Marie Hansen	20	63
Robin DeRouen	16	59	Bud Barlow	18	61
James Walsh	12	57	Linda Grigsby	16	61
Leslie Johnston	10	55	Jim Spencer	17	60
Cathy Lin	12	44	Sam Wilson	4	56
Vijayakumar Balasundaram	4	32	Peter Luh	10	50
John Paul Douglas	10	23	Karen Chaney	0	53
Mary Jean Blevins	6	24	Carol Barlow	1	52
Bruce Barlow	6	23	Jerry Schlesinger	1	50
Lou Warren	0	9	Ming Luh	3	47
			Jim Shannon	7	38
			Linfen Hwang	0	43
			Aimee Wilson	7	36
			Steve Sutton	1	35
			Ken Morton	0	23
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>			<b>MASTERS</b>		
Don Champlin	48	73	Danette Volkmer	21	65
Chris Caho	13	63	Ernie Tacsik	16	63
Ron Lin	17	51	Dennis Fritsche	17	60
Charlie Henkle	9	58	Ron Hasty	14	58
Valerie Johnson	7	58	Marea Downey	8	62
Bryan Zumbar	3	53	Lee Hatfield	7	57
James Haynes	2	52	Larry Petterborg	3	58
Wayne Kenter	0	49	Lois Lehman	12	49
Parvin Stiles	0	47	Jose Artiles	4	56
Brian Prestemon	2	33	Jen Carrick	1	58
Ming Yang	1	30	Sharlott Hasty	1	56
Brad Sharp	0	30	James Stover	2	53
Jesse Flores	0	30	Peter Staxen	0	51
Melanie Dyer	0	28	John Lehman	0	44
Ronnie Scaggs	0	26			
Steve Carter	1	24			
Michael Losurdo Jr	0	21			
Joe Sullivan	0	20			
Sevy Strnad	3	13			
Retha Moulder	0	9			
Sudheer Vijayakumar	0	8			





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: PPC: A GREAT BARGAIN



It's an honor and pleasure to let people know I am president of the Plano Photography Club (PPC) because our club has so much to offer. At the last meeting, some of our members shared how they use photo projects to improve their photography. At the upcoming club meeting Marea Downey, Photographer of the Year, will share her process for refining images to meet her vision. Other members will explain post-production of portraiture, landscapes, and still life in the Snapshots sessions.

When you consider that photography classes run \$50 - \$125, PPC membership is a real bargain. Our members are excellent mentors who are willing to guide you from the inspiration through the capture and, finally, the production of great photographs. I hope you will attend the meetings, participate in the monthly contests, and join in the activities if you are seeking to improve your images.

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**

