



The FLASH!

August 2015

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



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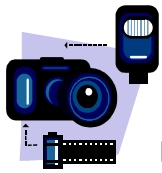
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Best in Show: *Sea Fog over Sand Dunes, Namibia* - By Marea Downey

This was taken from a helicopter at an altitude of around 3500 feet with the doors off so photographs could be taken without glass. I don't suffer from vertigo, but I came close to it when the pilot banked the helicopter a few times, with only a few inches from my feet to the open air. We took off at dawn from Sossusvlei, Namibia, with the hope that the sea fog would roll in because of temperature inversion. Looking straight down at the sand dunes, sculpted by the wind was a sight to be remembered forever.

Canon 5D MK III, ISO 400, 24-105 mm lens. Shot taken at 80 mm focal length, f.6.3 at 1/2500 second. With the rapidly changing light I needed at least 1/1000th second shutter speed to counteract the strong vibrations of the helicopter, and my own movement. No polarizer; I didn't want to lose any light.





Upcoming Club Activities

August 20 – Snapshot! John Lehmann - How to take portraits with window light.

August 29 – Tabletop Photography Workshop See below for details.

September 18-20 – Plano Balloon Festival

October 24 – People Photography Shoot at our regular meeting place, the West Plano Presbyterian Church.

October 31 – Polo at Prestonwood Polo Club

November 14 – Hagerman Wildlife Refuge

November 16 – January 19 – Plano Centre Exhibit Prints may be framed, canvas-wrapped, or metallic. Minimum image size: 8" x 10;" Minimum outer dimensions of frame or mount: 11" x 14". Maximum outer dimensions of frame or mount: 24" x 36". Back of the print must be wired.

November 19 – Snapshot! James Stover - Night Photography in preparation for the Dallas Skyline shoot.

November 21 - Night Photography Dallas Skyline/Margaret Hunt Bridge shoot. Attend the Snapshot! presentation November 19 to prepare for the shoot.

December – Holiday Party

TBD – Caddo Lake Overnight stay

Other activities which may be planned through this year include:

- Ft Worth Alliance Airshow (Blue Angels) - Sep 12-13 : <http://www.allianceairshow.com>

- 53rd Annual American Indian Pow Wow - Sep 18-20 : <http://tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie/events/53rd-annual-american-indian-pow-wow>

- Greek Festival - Dallas festival is on Sep 25-27th <http://www.greekfestivalofdallas.com>

- Dallas Arboretum Pumpkin Patch season from Sep 19-Nov 25th

- Frontier Flight Museum (Love Field): <http://www.flightmuseum.com/>

- Cavanaugh Flight Museum (Addison): <http://www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com>

- Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, McKinney

- Fort Worth Water Gardens

- Fort Worth Stockyards <http://www.fortworthstockyards.org>

Tabletop Workshop

The workshop is Saturday, August 29th. It will consist of a morning (10-Noon) session and an afternoon (1-3PM) session. You may attend either one by sending an email to training@planophotographyclub.com, stating which you want to attend: (a) the morning session, or (b) the afternoon session, or (c) either one. Sign up will be handled on a 1st come, 1st served basis. The workshop is free to paid-up members of PPC and will be held at our regular meeting place, the West Plano Presbyterian Church, on the west side of Custer Road, just south of Parker Road.

The workshop is the Club's annual informal educational event where members learn and participate with other members to compose and create images on a wide range of 'table top stations' – most of which can be replicated at home with little expense, or by borrowing the Club's equipment.

Each session will be limited to approximately 20 participants to minimize wait times. All participants, mentors and volunteers are encouraged to attend 'lunch' from Noon-1PM. Lunch, furnished by PPC, will also provide an opportunity to meet and socialize with other members. And photographs may be taken at the unmanned stations during the lunch hour if desired. For questions, contact Bud Mallar at training@planophotographyclub.com.

PPC Website Second Place in PSA Website Contest

The Photographic Society of America has awarded the PPC Website a second place in their Website Contest. Congratulations to Sam Wilson for all his hard work. Thanks!



Why I Compete – Larry Petterborg

I have been doing “competitive photography” for nearly 40 years. It all began while I was a graduate student in San Antonio when I joined the Woodlawn Camera Club (now the Greater San Antonio Camera Club). I went to a meeting at the suggestion of our Department’s electron microscopy technician and immediately discovered an entirely new group of friends with a passion for photography and helping others. I joined the club and began entering the monthly competitions. I can’t sing, dance, draw, or paint but I can use a camera. By participating in the club contests and taking all of the commentary (feedback) offered by the judges on my entries and those of the other club members to heart, I was able to get progressively better at making appealing images. In fact, in 1981 I received the first trophy (for high points) I had ever won in my life. Having contests to look forward to, encouraged me to try new things, work harder, and better appreciate good photography. I joined the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and began entering international salons (competitions) where I earned a “star rating” in nature photography. Our club sponsored an annual international salon and watching the judges go through hundreds of slides (yes, it was a while ago) in minutes gave me an appreciation of the value of “impact”. These experiences contributed to my desire to produce images that go beyond merely recording scenes (snap shots) and actually make photographs.

Following graduation, I took a faculty position at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The wife of the fellow I replaced in the Anatomy Department was active in the Mid-Missouri Photography Club and she introduced me to that organization. So, my involvement with organized photography continued. One of the many advantages of living in Columbia, MO was being able to observe the annual judging of “Pictures of The Year” (<http://www.poyi.org/>) at the MU J-School. I learned a great deal watching the best photojournalists in the world compete and their images being judged. When it became certain that we would be moving to Dallas in 1999, I actually joined the Plano Photography Club prior to our relocating. With the PPC I found the same enthusiasm for photography and sharing that I had in San Antonio and Columbia MO. The monthly contests, workshops, programs, and field trips have all provided me motivation and inspiration to make more and better photographs.

After all these years I still compete and intend to continue entering contests because I feel that it is a valuable learning exercise. Having said that, I can tell you that the least important thing I get from competing are the scores awarded to my entries. Like you, I would prefer not to receive a low score but that score is just one person’s opinion, possibly more objective than my own but a single opinion nonetheless. In addition to entering photographic contests, I have also judged competitions for numerous other clubs including recently an international salon: (http://www.oklahomacameraclub.com/hypochecks/2015/June_R2.pdf). It is much easier for me to judge someone else’s pictures than my own. Since we all have a very subjective and emotional connection to our photographs, it is difficult if not impossible to see them as others do. Getting a sense of how others see my work helps me refine my approach and further develop my skills. Club contests are not an end but rather a means to better pictures for me.

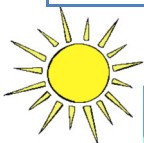
What I like the most about the competitions is the motivation they provide to continue making photographs and learning how to make them better. I find it very interesting to see the variety of entries we get every month and to hear the judge’s comments. Folks that do not stay for the commentaries are missing a great opportunity to learn (so I hope that you are pulling up those files latter on your computer, <http://www.planophotographyclub.com/commentary/>) and leaning from the judge’s comments. The contests allow me to show my work to others in addition to contributing to slide shows from our club activities and events. When you show your work you should only show your best and by participating in the competitions, you can find out what contributes to the making of better images. The club competitions are an invaluable factor in my continuing development as a photographer. find this program of interest.

Guest Speaker – Light Painting – Sam Eichenwald

Sam Eichenwald is a rising senior at St. Mark’s School of Texas in Dallas and has attended there since 1st grade. He entered the photography program in the 8th grade and his teacher is Scott Hunt. He has received many accolades for his photography, such as in the annual Richardson Photography Contest. Recently, he was named to the ATP Texas Imagemaker Team, a group of the top ten student photographers in the state based on previously received awards.

Although he does not limit the type of photography he shoots to a single category, Sam has taken a special interest in “light painting” photography after being taught by the DFW-based photographer Noel Kerns. He will discuss how he takes these photos, the materials he uses, and why he decided to take up “light painting.”

To see some of his photography, visit his website at sameichenwaldphotography.com.



June's Winning Images – Open

Masters				Advanced			
Marea Downey	Sea fog at dawn over sand dunes	15	1st, BoS	Charlie Henkle	Trumpet Player	14	1st
Dennis Fritsche	Caddo Lake Rainbow	14	2nd	Bud Barlow	Resting Pelican	13	2nd
Sharlott Hasty	Great Egrets Arguing- Breeding Season	14	3rd	Linfen Hwang	Cold April Morning (Iceland)	12	3rd
Larry Petterborg	Lower Proxy Falls	13	HM	Ken Morton	Setting Sun Skyline and Reflection in Trinity	12	HM
Danette Volkmer	Hill Country Twilight	12	HM	James Walsh	White Sands Sunset	12	HM
Intermediate				Beginners			
Mary Jean Blevins	Watching	15	1st	Brenda Armstrong	A Little Shut-eye	14	1st
Ming Yang	Foggy Dawn At Lake Louise	13	2nd	Nancy Mack	Essaouira, Morocco	13	2nd
Valerie Johnson	Horse and Clown	12	3rd	Jack Hwang	Red is Our Color	13	3rd
Joyce Mangum	Bicycle Parking	12	HM	Bruce Barlow	Aurora Curtain	12	HM
Lou Warren	Ready to Race	10	HM	Loretta Griffin	Grazing Eye to Eye	11	HM



Brenda Armstrong



Jack Hwang



Bruce Barlow



Nancy Mack





**Loretta
Griffin**



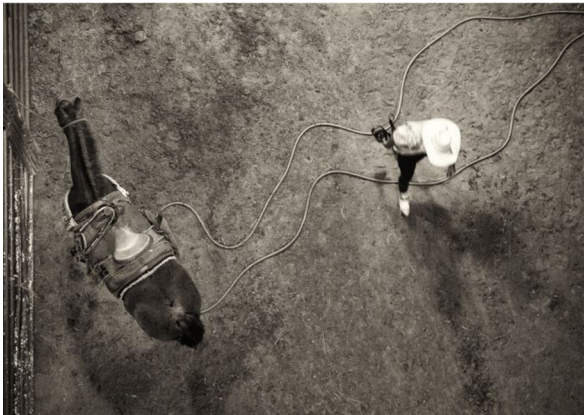
**Mary Jean
Blevins**



**Joyce
Mangum**



Ming Yang



**Valerie
Johnson**



**Lou
Warren**

**Charlie
Henkle**



**Bud
Barlow**





Linfen Hwang



Ken Morton



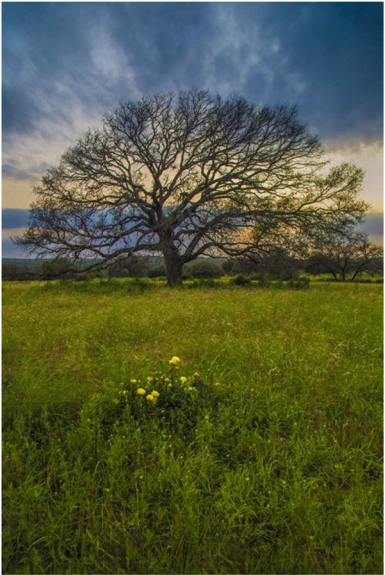
James Walsh



Dennis Fritsche



Larry Petterborg



Danette Volkmer

Sharlott Hasty



Competition Themes

August	Open	December	No Competition	May	Repetition	October (Print)	Open
September	Abstract	January (2016)	Photojournalism	June	Open	November	People (TBD)
October (Print)	Open	February	Open	July	Shallow Depth of Field	January (2017)	Photojournalism
November	Portrait of Character	March (Print)	Monochrome	August	Open	February	Open
		April	Open	September	Shadow Play	March (Print)	Decrepit, Ruined or Broken

Competition Standings*

Photographer	Judge's Points	Place Points	Total Points	Photographer	Judge's Points	Place Points	Total Points
Beginners				Intermediate			
Mack, Nancy	28	16	44	Yano, Mina	26	9	35
Armstrong, Brenda	27	11	38	DeRouen, Robin	24	10	34
Hwana, Jack	26	6	32	Johnson, Valerie	25	4	29
Conard, Debbie	22	0	22	Roldan, Oscar	22	6	28
Quinn, Stephanie	14	6	20	Blevins, Marv Jean	15	10	25
Johnston, Leslie	20	0	20	Carroll, Vincent	21	1	22
Griffin, Lori	18	1	19	Manum, Joyce	19	1	20
Lin, Cathv	18	0	18	Sharp, Leo	18	0	18
Barlow, Bruce	12	1	13	Zumbar, Bryan	17	0	17
Ratzlaff, Randy	10	0	10	Leshner, Aaron	16	0	16
				Flores, Jesse	11	0	11
				Warren, Lulu	10	1	11
				Davenport, Janet	10	0	10
				Stiles, Parvin	10	0	10
				Havnes, James	8	0	8
				Moulder, Retha	8	0	8
Advanced				Masters			
Edward, James	25	10	35	Downey, Marea	30	22	52
Walsh, Jim	26	7	33	Fritsche, Dennis	26	6	32
Barlow, Bud	25	6	31	Hastv, Sharlott	27	4	31
Henkle, Charlie	21	10	31	Champlin, Don	24	6	30
Hwana, Linfen	25	4	29	Lehman, John	23	3	26
Barlow, Carol	21	1	22	Wilson, Sam	25	1	26
Morton, Ken	20	1	21	Volkmer, Danette	25	1	26
Lin, Ron	19	0	19	Petterborg, Larry	25	1	26
Schlesinger, Jerry	19	0	19	Hastv, Ron	23	0	23
Shannon, Jim	14	3	17	Staxen, Peter	22	0	22
Spencer, Jim	16	0	16	Carrick, Jennifer	21	0	21
				Hansen, Marie	21	0	21
				Griesbv, Linda	20	0	20
				Stover, James	17	0	17
				Lehman, Lois	17	0	17
				Artiles, Jose	16	0	16

*** Annual 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each Class based on Total Points.
Photographer of the Year is based on Judges' Points. Promotion based on Place Points.**





Acting President's Message: *Learning More About Photography*

In my message last month, I asked, "Why Are YOU a Member of This Club?" If it's to improve your photography, one of the 3 ways I suggested to do that is by *learning*. There are many avenues you may take to learn more about photography. Not surprising, I'm going to focus on sources highlighted on our Club's website. If you haven't looked at it in a while, I believe it's worth your time to see what's available.

Start with the <http://www.planophotographyclub.com/links/> page. It contains tabs that include *Reviews*, more than 5 dozen *Books and Magazines*, and online/classroom *Education*, among others. It can be fun to discover a favorite photographer *Blog*, more than 20 of which are listed on that tab. If you like landscape photography, check out the *The Luminous Landscape* blog.

And then there's the <http://www.planophotographyclub.com/members/training/> page for Club members only*, archiving presentations by club members. Scanning the list of topics, you'll find many that are useful: a detailed *Flower Photography* "how to" by Larry Petterborg; several by Dennis Fritsche, including some on Lightroom, as well as how to *Make a Slideshow* and others; and John Lehman's tips on outdoor people photography in *From How to Wow!* One of my personal favorites is Ron Marabito's *Creating Art from Photography*.

So when you're ready for an adventure in *learning*, take a look at the PPC's site.

* ID and password required, which are "PPC" and "camera", respectively.

- Bud Barlow

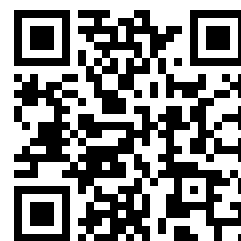
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Slideshows	Lulu Warren	clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com
Training	Bud Mallar / Don Champlin	training@planophotographyclub.com

About The Club

The club meets at 7 PM the third Thursday of each month (no meeting in December) at West Plano Presbyterian Church 2709 Custer Road, Plano TX. Visitors are welcome! Officers meet at 7 PM on the first Thursday of each month (except December) at our regular meeting location. 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

