



The FLASH!

May 2016

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



Best in Show: *Hello Soldier* - By Peter Staxen

This image was taken during one of Cavanaugh Flight Museum's Squadron photo shoots around 7 PM in August. With the sun low on the horizon, lighting the subject with golden tones, Amanda struck a classic pose on the wing. That could have been a shot by itself, but I also wanted to capture her reflections in the gleaming metal frame of the Mustang. The image was shot with a Canon 7D and Canon EF 70-200 f/4L IS USM lens at a distance of about 40ft. at ISO=100, f/4.5, 1/250 sec.

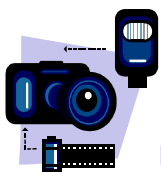
I do my post processing with Adobe RAW Converter in Photoshop Elements 11 with Topaz DeNoise as a noise reduction plug-in. I adjusted for temperature, added contrast, reduced highlight and whites (strong reflections in the air frame) and added just a little clarity and vibrance to make the model and the airplane to pop. In the main Elements program I applied minor cropping, noise reduction and some sharpening.

Black and white conversion was done using a custom Gradient map that I created for this purpose in Elements. After BW conversion I typically apply extra contrast and brightness. I applied some vignetting to give a slightly old fashioned look that matches the old fashion feeling of the image itself. For printing, I printed on glossy paper to make the BW image come alive.

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Upcoming Club Activities

May 23 – July 16, 2016 – Exhibit at Stonebriar Mall (Frisco)- Submit your work for the upcoming exhibit at Stonebriar Mall (Frisco). All experience levels are encouraged to participate. Prints are due May 19. Prints may be framed or unframed. Framed prints may not have glass, just lightweight plastic. Unframed prints must be matted or flush-mounted on mat board or foam core or canvas wrapped. Prints must have sawtooth hangers or loop at top corners. No wires. Themes include: Action Events, Fauna and Flora, Local Landmarks, Patriotic Celebrations, Summer Skies, Tropical. Email exhibits@planophotographyclub.com for more information.

June 4, 2016 – PPC End of Year Party – 6:00 – 8:15 PM in our regular meeting room at the church. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and the club will provide bar-b-q and drinks. On a USB drive or CD, bring a 3-minute presentation of some of your photos — a trip, a photo study, photo essay, or whatever you enjoy sharing. (Photos should follow our contest guidelines for content.) We will also present the contest awards. Family members are welcome. Sign up at the May meeting.

June 18, 2016 – Denton Air Show at Denton Enterprise Airport. Gates open at 9 am. Show includes warbirds, static displays, and aerobatics from 11 am – 2 pm. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the gate. Kids under 6, free. See <http://denton.schultzairshows.com> for more information.

June 28, 2016 – An Evening with David Bergman - The Dallas Camera Club is sponsoring an evening with David Bergman. David, based in New York, covers sporting events and rock bands. He has achieved 13 Sports Illustrated covers. The meeting starts at 6:45 pm, with David's presentation beginning at 7:15 pm. The location is Congregation Shearith Israel, 9401 Douglas Ave, Dallas, TX 75225.

October 27-30, 2016 – Fall Color trip to Petit Jean State Park Arkansas - We will be going to Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas next fall for a fun trip with fall colors. Call the Mather Lodge at 501-727-5431 or 800-264-2462 to reserve your room or cabin. Tell them you are with the Plano Photography Club. You will have up to 30 days before your arrival date to cancel. Please e-mail activity@planophotographyclub.com if you are interested.

Other activities which may be planned through this year include:

- Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, McKinney
- Fort Worth Water Gardens
- Fort Worth Stockyards <http://www.fortworthstockyards.org>

GSCCC Honors - WAY TO GO, PPC!

The Plano Photography Club placed very well in the Gulf States Camera Clubs Council's (GSCCC) fiscal year which ended last month. Among the 25 photography clubs that comprise the GSCCC, the PPC won 1st place in Pictorial projected, 1st place in Photojournalism projected, and 4th place in Nature projected.

Guest Speaker – *Big Cats of Africa* – Eleanore Avery, APSA FDCC

Eleanore Avery has won hundreds of photography awards in local, national, and international photographic competitions. Most recently, she was awarded the Silver Medal and Honorable Mention in the 2014 PSA Exhibition Nature Division of the PSA International Competition.

She has captured images from around the world, having traveled to 81 countries and all 7 continents. She has received multiple Nature's Best Photography Contest awards, including: Highly Honored 2004, Winner 2005, and Highly Honored 2010, the photos being exhibited at Smithsonian in Washington, DC in the year that they won.

Eleanore's Lions photo was featured in African Wildlife Foundation calendar for April 2012. Her photography on Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda was featured in a cover story in the PSA Journal. She is a Past President of GSCCC (Gulf States Camera Club Council), as well as a past PSA Regional 21 Director. She has presented both at GSCCC and at the PSA Convention for 6 years in the Travel, Nature and Photojournalism Divisions, as well at local clubs since 2003. Eleanore is a past member of the PPC.

She will show us her photographs of Big Cats in Africa, which she shot in two locations: the Luangwe area of Zambia and the Serengeti area in Tanzania. The program includes video clips, still photos and native African music.



Pre-Meeting Training Classes

Training is one of the most valuable benefits of being a member a photography club and the benefits accrue to all involved – students and teachers. We have several training venues and opportunities in the Plano Photography Club including pre-meeting Snapshots, Table Top set-ups, people photography, Lightroom and Photoshop intensive classes, and Basics classes. One of the big challenges in training planning is that there are so many needs based on the wide variety of skill levels. Another challenge is that people learn at different rates and may require multiple exposures to a topic. The Dallas Camera Club addressed these challenges by having multiple, small groups at every meeting. Some groups are cohesive and stick together for months on a single theme while other groups are fluid and address various topics. The ability to implement this type of program depends on having knowledgeable instructors and facilitators for the groups.

We will need instructors for some classes, but mostly facilitators to keep things on track.

Candidate groups are:

Print Study Group: A small, facilitator-lead group brings prints to share with the others in the group. Group members share constructive feedback with each other. These are normally open groups.

Digital Image Study Group: A small, facilitator-lead group brings digital images to share with the others in the group. Group members share constructive feedback with each other. These are normally open groups. The facilitator needs to bring a laptop and perhaps a monitor.

Fundamentals of Photography: A small group with an instructor covering the fundamentals of camera settings, lens selection, composition, and post processing. This is a closed group of 5-6 individuals who will stay together for several months. The objective is for participants to be able to achieve consistent results.

Lightroom: An instructor lead group concentrating on using Lightroom for organizing and processing photographs. The instructor needs to bring a laptop and perhaps a monitor. These are normally closed groups.

Photoshop: An instructor lead group concentrating on using Photoshop for processing photographs and creating composite images. The instructor needs to bring a laptop and perhaps a monitor. This may be an open or closed group.

Beyond Taking Pictures - Assignments: A group in which the facilitator gives an assignment that will push you to look at things differently and to expand your creativity. You will bring in images to discuss with your group. This is a closed group.

Beyond Taking Pictures – Projects: Each member has an individual project they have chosen and will work on the project for a number of months. During meetings, the facilitator and participants will help each other evaluate the collections. The work may be shown as a series of prints, a slideshow, a book, etc. This is a closed group.

The final classes will depend on interest and instructor/facilitator availability.

We had a great Kick-off meeting at the last meeting. There was a great deal of excitement about the program with 37 people signing up for a class. If you signed up at the meeting, you are all set and do not need to do anything.

If you did not sign up at the meeting and wish to attend a class, please send me a message at training@planophotographyclub.com with name of the class you want to attend.

Dennis Fritsche



March Winning Images – Monochrome (Prints)

Masters				Advanced			
Peter Staxen	Hello Soldier	14	1st, BoS	Bud Barlow	Knowing Look	15	1st
Marea Downey	Geothermal plant in Iceland	14	2nd	Jim Spencer	Big Sky in New Mexico	13	2nd
John Lehman	Harmonica-Man	13	3rd	James Walsh	The Canyon in Partial Shadow	12	3rd
Don Champlin	Fr, Robert	13	HM	James Edward	Forbidden Love	12	HM
Linda Grigsby	Dallas after the rains	13	HM				
Intermediate				Beginners			
Lou Warren	Quote the Raven	13	1st	Nancy Mack	Silver Lily	14	1st
Walter Brock	51 Chevy	11	2nd	Jeffrey Sarembock	Leopard In The Veld	11	2nd
Mary Jean Blevins	Thoughtful	10	3rd	Jeanne Shelton	This One's for You Ma	8	3rd
Joyce Mangum	A Picture for Mommy	11	HM				



Nancy Mack



Jeffrey Sarembock



Jeanne Shelton



Lou Warren





Walter Brock



Mary Jean Blevins



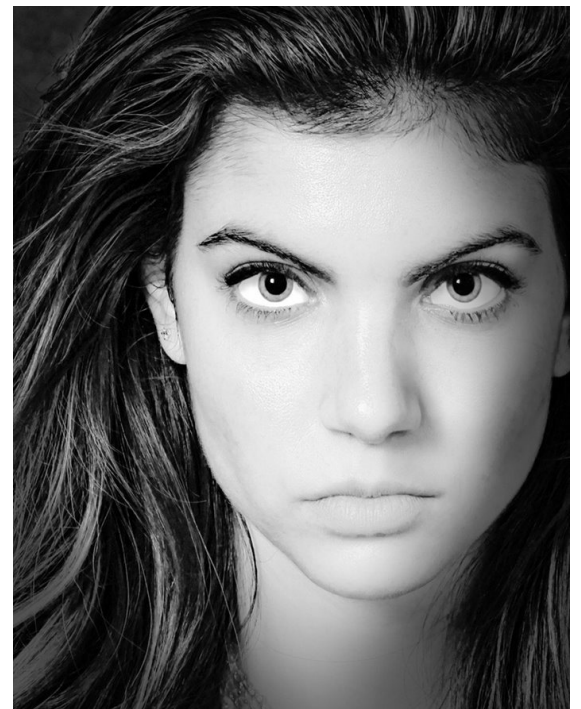
Joyce Mangum



James Walsh



Jim Spencer



Bud Barlow





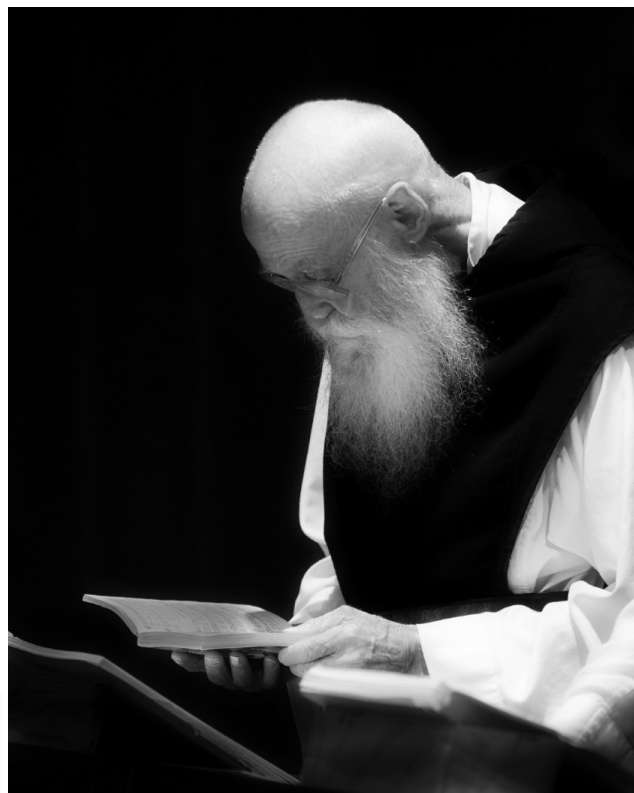
James Edward



Marea Downey



John Lehman



Don Champlin



Linda Grigsby



Competition Themes

May	Repetition	September	Shadow Play	January (2017)	Photojournalism	May	Closeups
June	Open	October (Print)	Open	February	Open	June	Open
July	Shallow Depth of Field	November	Person Involved in an Activity	March (Print)	Decrepit, Ruined or Broken	July	Perspective
August	Open	December	No Contest	April	Open	August	Open

Competition Standings*

Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points	Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points
Beginners				Intermediate			
Mack, Nancy	123	46	169	Yang, Ming	109	41	150
Johnston, Leslie	95	39	134	Johnson, Valerie	112	30	142
Lin, Cathy	88	32	120	Mangum, Joyce	115	25	140
Hwang, Jack	98	20	118	Warren, Lulu	75	14	89
Ratzlaff, Randy	70	16	86	Zumbar, Bryan	81	3	84
Griffin, Lori	60	7	67	Carroll, Vincent	72	10	82
Armstrong, Brenda	43	11	54	Blevins, Mary Jean	50	23	73
Sarembock, Jeffrey	32	6	38	Haynes, James	56	10	66
Shelton, Jeanne	32	6	38	Davenport, Janet	60	4	64
Barlow, Bruce	32	4	36	Stiles, Parvin	62	2	64
Conard, Debbie	32	0	32	Jaco, Sherry	37	10	47
Farmer, Denny	26	3	29	DeRouen, Robin	34	10	44
Wan, George	20	1	21	Leshner, Aaron	39	3	42
Quinn, Stephanie	14	6	20	Rogers, Mark	40	0	40
Wan, Ying Bee	19	0	19	Roldan, Oscar	32	6	38
Duggu, Krishna	17	0	17	Brock, Walter	24	9	33
Srinivasan, Amita	13	0	13	Flores, Jesse	30	0	30
Avellanet, Lois	12	0	12	Sharp, Leo	27	0	27
Dimmick, Russell	10	0	10	Moulder, Retha	26	0	26
Tovell, Nicholas	10	0	10	Losurdo, Michael	19	0	19
Moulton, Katherine	9	0	9	Blackwell, Larry	12	0	12
Cruise, Shannon	6	0	6	Singh, Kamalpreet	9	0	9
				Santos, Any	7	0	7
				Clark, Brittany	6	0	6
Advanced				Masters			
Barlow, Bud	125	46	171	Downey, Marea	127	40	167
Hwang, Linfen	119	31	150	Hansen, Marie	118	25	143
Edward, James	110	33	143	Champlin, Don	115	24	139
Walsh, Jim	119	21	140	Petterborg, Larry	124	12	136
Barlow, Carol	114	19	133	Hasty, Sharlott	125	10	135
Spencer, Jim	92	22	114	Lehman, John	117	17	134
Schlesinger, Jerry	96	7	103	Artiles, Jose	112	19	131
Lin, Ron	84	9	93	Fritsche, Dennis	118	12	130
Henkle, Charlie	50	10	60	Staxen, Peter	111	17	128
Morton, Ken	57	1	58	Grigsby, Linda	114	12	126
Shannon, Jim	14	3	17	Hasty, Ron	107	13	120
				Volkmer, Danette	110	4	114
				Wilson, Sam	102	10	112
				Carrick, Jennifer	99	0	99
				Stover, James	99	0	99
				Lehman, Lois	78	1	79

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





President's Message: *A President's Hello to the PPC*

First of all, I would like to thank Sam Wilson for his contributions to the club and for continued work as he stays on as our webmaster. Sam has done a fantastic job with the website and has received awards for his expertise. As well, I would like to thank the board members who are stepping down, for their hard work in helping the club grow and flourish. Some of you have served for multiple years and some of you are staying on in a new capacity. I look forward to working with the new and continuing board members in the coming year as we continue with new activities, an exciting new training program, guest speakers and contests.

For those of you who don't know me, here's a quick background.

B.F.A. in Photography – California Institute of the Arts

M.A. in Design Media and Management – Art Institute of Dallas

I worked in commercial labs for 25 years in both Los Angeles and San Diego.

Hope that doesn't sound too much like a resume, and I am looking forward to working with everyone in the coming year.

- Richard Vestyck

Plano Photography Club Officers & Volunteers		
Title	Officer & Volunteers	Email Address
President	Richard Vestyck	ppc@planophotographyclub.com
Secretary		secretary@planophotographyclub.com
Programs	Louis Aguirre	programs@planophotographyclub.com
Activities	Mary Jean Blevins/Todd Matthews	activity@planophotographyclub.com
Membership	Greg Jones	membership@planophotographyclub.com
Treasurer	Michael Losurdo	treasurer@planophotographyclub.com
Contests	Jerry Schlesinger	contest@planophotographyclub.com
Contest Site Admin	Jerry Schlesinger	contestsiteadmin@planophotographyclub.com
GSCCC Representative	Larry Blackwell	gsccl-rep@planophotographyclub.com
PSA Representative	Bud Barlow	psa-rep@planophotographyclub.com
Historian	Cindy Vaillancourt	historian@planophotographyclub.com
Light Rental	Lulu Warren	lightrental@planophotographyclub.com
Newsletter Editor	James Stover	newsletter@planophotographyclub.com
Webmaster	Sam Wilson	webmaster@planophotographyclub.com
Exhibits		exhibits@planophotographyclub.com
Calibration Equip	Dennis Frische	calibrate@planophotographyclub.com
Tabletop Equipment	Cindy Vaillancourt	table_top@planophotographyclub.com
Slideshows	Lulu Warren	clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com
Training	Dennis Frische	training@planophotographyclub.com

About The Club

The club meets the third Thursday of each month (no meeting in December) at West Plano Presbyterian Church 2709 Custer Road, Plano TX. Training sessions start at 6:00 PM and the main meeting starts at 7:15 PM. 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