



# The FLASH!

August 2016

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

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



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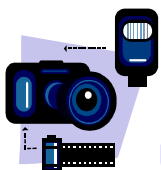
**Best in Show: *The Abbot* -  
By Don Champlin**

This image is part of a long term project documenting the monks at Assumption Abbey, a Trappist Monastery near Ava Missouri. This is the first formal, planned and staged portrait, with many more planned. I started with Father Albrich, the abbot of the monastery. My goal was to recreate the look and feel of the old master painters of the Renaissance, in the flavor of Caravaggio. I tried to give the illusion of the light in the room coming from the candle, a hard but subdued light. Actually the light came from 3 lights. The main light a 22" beauty dish left of camera frame, low at the same height as the candle. One Speedlight gelled orange illuminating the bookshelf and one more placed camera right as a rim light on the back of the head and shoulders in order to give a bit of separation from the background.

Finding a location with a good background was a major challenge. You would think that at a monastery there would be many great locations but the nature of the Trappist in Ava is austerity and simplicity. Most rooms are small and cluttered being short on the desired medieval or timeless nature I was looking for. I settled on the public library where I moved around the furniture to get the books to fill the background. I snagged props for the shoot from what was at hand. They did happen to have a bible in the library and the large sheet titled "The Psalms" came out of a huge book which was just too much for this image. I asked Fr. Albrich to bring a candle, which he did. I was thinking a fancy holder and short candle. They have a couple in the Sanctuary that would be great I hoped he would bring one of those. He brought this one, not exactly what I wanted it but there it was, just a candle and no holder. We found another little one to use as a holder. The symbolism is obvious with the bible and the Psalms are at the heart of the Trappist daily life. Fr. Albrich was curious about all the photo equipment and process, engaged in the show. Telling about his devotion was after I had placed the Psalms in front of him and was focusing and framing my shot I noticed he looked very intent and was looking at the paper. I asked what he was looking at and he said "I am reading about the Psalms."

Post production included several masks in Photoshop, color adjustment and cloning. A desaturation in color was done then it went to Photoshop where I added a black and white layer at low intensity and a detail enhancement layer using Topaz. The cloning consisted of removing all the library tags off the books which I thought detracted from the middle age setting. I did some work on the candle hiding the shadow cast by my light. So there you have it. It all came together and the portrait is a success.





## Upcoming Club Activities

**September 23-25 – Plano Balloon Festival** – See below for detail.

**Fall, 2016 - C.T.C. Auto Ranch** - The Auto Ranch strives to keep all the major brands of truly American cars from 1974 and older in stock. The cars are outside, so keep this in mind for setting your cameras and lighting. Bring water, bug spray and suntan lotion. The entrance fee is \$10 and once inside you are free to explore the grounds. We will meet at the entrance at 8:30 am. Following the photo shoot, those who are interested can join us for lunch at a restaurant TBD.

C.T.C.'s Auto Ranch is located just 4 miles north of Denton, Texas, on 3077 Memory Lane off of Interstate 35 across from North Star Dragway. Going north on I-35, take exit 474 (Cowling Rd). Stay on service road and loop under I-35. Heading south on I-35 service road, turn west almost immediately onto Memory Land:

<http://ctcautoranch.com>

**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](mailto:activity@planophotographyclub.com) if you are interested.

**Future – Table Top Workshop** - The workshop is free to members of PPC. Date to be announced. We are looking for volunteers to help.

There will be skill sessions lead by an experienced photographer. The instructors will provide background information for that session and then you will practice under their supervision. Each session will be offered at least once in the morning and once after lunch. Given the nature of these sessions, participation in each session will be limited. Candidate sessions (depending on instructor availability) are:

1. Sharpen your focus skills
2. Nail exposure
3. Getting the color you want
4. Adding light
5. Being creative with shutter speed.

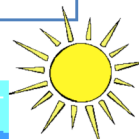
**Other activities which may be planned through this year include:**

- Greek Festival - Dallas festival is on Sep 23-25th <http://www.greekfestivalofdallas.com>
- Dallas Arboretum Pumpkin Patch season from Sep 17-Nov 23th
- 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>

## Changes to Competition Rules

The board has made a number of changes to the Competition rules. In calculating scores, the image with the lowest total score (Image points plus Place points) is dropped from the total. This issue of The Flash contains the scores from the first two competitions, and as such, shows only the higher of your two scores. As the year progresses, the totals will be recalculated and the lowest scoring image will be dropped.

In addition, we have changed the End-of-Year awards. Annual 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each Class is based on Place Points. Photographer of the Year is based on Total Points.



## 37th Plano Balloon Festival

The Plano Balloon Festival is a three-day hot air balloon weekend event, September 23-25, at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano 75074. The event includes concerts, a fireworks show Saturday, sky divers, food vendors, and the incredible hot air balloons. The balloons will launch Friday at 6:00pm, Saturday at 7:00am and 6:00pm, and Sunday at 7:00am and 6:00pm (weather permitting).

You can request one photographer pass from the Plano Balloon Festival, Inc. for this event, which includes free admission (assistants/other guests pay \$5 at the gate) and VIP parking. The photographer understands that in exchange for complimentary access to the event he/she will provide ten (10) high resolution digital images to the Festival. To request a badge, complete the form at <http://www.planoballoonfest.org/p/getinvolved/photographer-badge> in advance of the festival.

NOTE: The number of available badges are limited. Refer to <http://www.planoballoonfest.org> for updated information on the event.

## Guest Speaker – "The Print" – Dennis Fritsche

*The negative is the equivalent of the composer's score, and the print the performance.*  
– Ansel Adams

Dennis Fritsche will give a presentation on photographic printing. He will cover preparing the photograph for printing in Lightroom, choosing the paper, printing to an inkjet printer, sending your image to a lab, and mounting your photograph for display or a contest.

Dennis has been photographing since the 1970's and became heavily involved with the rise digital photography in 2003. His interests are varied and include landscapes, the outdoors, compositing, junk cars, abstraction – well, just about everything. He is equally at home with color and black and white and has been working with infrared landscape photography.

He is a member of the Dallas Camera Club where is currently the education director. He is also a member of the Plano Photography Club where he has served as president and programs chair and is currently the training chair. He was Plano Photography Club Photographer of the Year for the 2011-2012 contest year. He enjoys training and sharing with other photographers.

He has had numerous images published in the Black and White Magazine single image contests since 2006 and has had three portfolio recognized in the magazine. He has also had numerous images in the single image contest of Color Magazine and his Water Dreams portfolio was a winner of a highly sought after Spotlight Award. Images have appeared in juried shows at the PhotoPlace Gallery in Vermont and the on-line Chasing the Light gallery. He is the 2013 Grand Prize Winner for the Trinity River Photography Contest. He won the Gulf States Camera Clubs Council (GSCCC) Nature Print of the Year for 2015-2016. He has won print of the year in the Plano Photography Club and has won five times in the Dallas Camera Club.

You can see some of his work at <http://www.dennisfritsche.com/>





## June Winning Images – Open

Masters				Advanced			
<b>Don Champlin</b>	The Abbot	15	1st,BoS	<b>James Walsh</b>	The long, hot, rough road	14	1st
<b>Linda Grigsby</b>	Gray Hope Bay Lighthouse	14	2nd	<b>Ron Lin</b>	Catch of the Day	14	2nd
<b>John Lehman</b>	Pearls-on-her-back	14	3rd	<b>Ming Yang</b>	Sweat.Faith.Hope - Young Athlete After Training Session	13	3rd
<b>Marie Hansen</b>	Field of Canola Flowers	13	HM	<b>Linfen Hwang</b>	The Green Eyes	12	HM
<b>Larry Petterborg</b>	Gorilla	13	HM	<b>Valerie Johnson</b>	Rain on Islands	11	HM
Intermediate				Entry			
<b>Cathy Lin</b>	Sakuras	13	1st	<b>Carina Johnsson</b>	Wildseed Farms	14	1st
<b>Dave McKeen</b>	Err:520	13	2nd	<b>Wenchi Lee</b>	a dragonfly skimming the surface of water	13	2nd
<b>Aaron Leshner</b>	Lacrosse	12	3rd	<b>Ying Bee Wan</b>	Yellowstone Geyser	13	3rd
<b>Daniel Dailey</b>	Garden of the Gods December 8 2014	12	HM	<b>Ping Shang</b>	The Moment That Leon Lights Started Flickering	13	HM
<b>Parvin Stiles</b>	Transformation	12	HM	<b>Randy Ratzlaff</b>	Street Musician Finding Solitude on an Athen's Backstreet	12	HM



**Carina Johnsson**



**Wenchi Lee**



**Ying Bee Wan**



**Ping Shang**







**Cathy  
Lin**



**Randy  
Ratzlaff**



**Aaron  
Leshner**



**Daniel  
Dailey**



**Parvin Stiles**



**James Walsh**



**Ron Lin**







**Linfen  
Hwang**



**Ming  
Yang**



**Valerie  
Johnson**



**Linda  
Grigsby**



**Marie Hansen**



**Larry  
Petterborg**



**John Lehman**



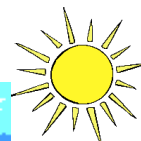
## Competition Themes

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

## Competition Standings\*

Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points	Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points
<b>Entry</b>				<b>Advanced</b>			
Johnson, Carina	14	10	24	Walsh, Jim	15	11	26
Lee, Wenchi	13	10	23	Johnson, Valerie	14	6	20
Sarembock, Jeff	13	6	19	Lin, Ron	14	6	20
Wan, Ying-Bee	13	3	16	Barlow, Carol	13	3	16
Shang, Ping	13	1	14	Yang, Ming	13	3	16
Ratzlaff, Randy	12	1	13	Hwang, Linfen	12	1	13
Farmer, Denny	11	0	11	Spencer, Jim	12	1	13
Cruise, Shannon	10	0	10	Schlesinger, Jerry	12	0	12
Duggu, Krishna	10	0	10				
Griffin, Lorretta	9	0	9				
Wan, George	9	0	9				
Daniel, Allen	8	0	8				
Moulton, Katherine	8	0	8				
<b>Intermediate</b>				<b>Masters</b>			
Havnes, James	14	10	24	Champlin, Don	15	11	26
Lin, Cathy	13	10	23	Grigsby, Linda	15	10	25
Mangum, Joyce	13	6	19	Volkmer, Danette	13	6	19
McKeen, David	13	6	19	Lehman, John	14	3	17
Leshner, Aaron	12	3	15	Artiles, Jose	13	3	16
Dailey, Daniel	12	1	13	Hansen, Marie	13	1	14
Davenport, Janet	12	1	13	Petterborg, Larry	13	1	14
Johnston, Leslie	12	1	13	Carrick, Jen	13	0	13
Stiles, Parvin	12	1	13	Edward, James	13	0	13
Blevins, Mary Jean	12	0	12	Fritsche, Dennis	13	1	13
Brock, Walter	12	0	12	Hasty, Ron	13	0	13
Hwang, Jack	12	0	12	Barlow, Bud	12	0	12
Losurdo, Michael	11	0	11	Lehman, Lois	12	0	12
Mack, Nancy	11	0	11	Staxen, Peter	12	0	12
Bernthal, Mark	10	0	10	Stover, James	12	0	12
Jaco, Sherry	10	0	10	Wilson, Sam	12	0	12
McCallister, Thomas	10	0	10	Hasty, Sharlott	11	0	11
Zumbar, Bryan	10	0	10				
Warren, Lulu	9	0	9				
Carroll, Vincent	8	0	8				
Rogers, Mark	8	0	8				
Conard, Debbie	8	0	8				

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







## President's Message: *USA Landscape Photographer of the Year Contest*

I just wanted to remind all club members about the USA Landscape Photographer of the Year contest. Charles Waite, a legendary landscape photographers' company is running the competition again this year. He is a friend of our own club's Marea Downey. The top prize in the contest is \$15,000. It is open for submissions until September 15<sup>th</sup>.

"This year for the first time we are delighted to introduce two Special Awards: *Life in the Landscape, The Digital Photography Review Special Award* is for the best images, which convey how people interact with the American landscape. *Wild Landscape, The Future Publishing Award* is for your view of the wild American landscape, from the Alaskan Fords to the Grand Canyon and everywhere in between! These may be taken on an expedition, road trip or camping adventure."

I also received an email about a chance to win a trip to New England in the fall, but when I went on the website, the link did not appear to work. Maybe they are still working on that. For more information on the contest or to enter your submissions, visit: [www.usalpoty.com](http://www.usalpoty.com).

Richard Vestyck

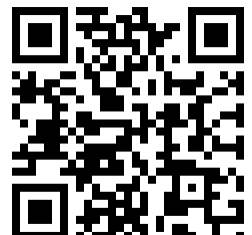
<b>Plano Photography Club Officers &amp; Volunteers</b>		
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### About The Club

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



JAMES T STOVER

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EDITOR

