



The FLASH!

March 2017

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



Best In Show: *Dissenter NYC, 11-23-2016*

By Jose Artiles

For a photographer, being in the right place at the right time trumps all other advantages.

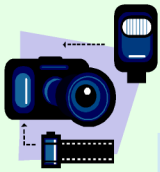
One may agree or disagree with the protesters. Having lived under both a corrupt and brutal right wing dictatorship and later under an equally corrupt and brutal communist one, I take great pride in now being a citizen of a country that protects and guarantees the right of its people to peacefully and publicly disagree with their government's policies at any time. Where I come from, disagreeing with the government was, and still is, a very unhealthy activity.

I used an iPhone 7+ and cropped a bit to enhance the impact of the shot. The man kneeling next to the protester was apparently just making noise with the flute.



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Upcoming Club Activities

North Texas Irish Festival: Unfortunately it was a cold and rainy weekend. If you were able to get to Fair Park and take some fun shots, remember to submit your photos for the April slide show by April 14.

Activities being planned:

April 1-30, 2017 – Ennis Bluebonnets – The Bluebonnet Festival in Ennis (<http://www.visitennis.org>), is April 7-9 and is usually very crowded, so you should start shooting as soon as the bluebonnets appear! There is a great map of the Ennis area bluebonnet trails at <http://bluebonnettrail.org>. I am sure many have their own favorite places to see bluebonnets. Stretch your photographic skills by focusing on unique ways to capture and post these frequently-photographed flowers. Please send 6-7 of your best photos to activity@planophotographyclub.com by May 12.

May 20, 2017 – Blackland Prairie Raptor Center – a great opportunity to take close ups of the raptors. The handlers will have them out and available. The cost is \$20 per person. See <http://www.bpraptorcenter.org>.

Other activities of interest through this year include:

- 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>

Time To Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder: Our club membership dues should be paid no later than May 1st. You may pay your dues at the same table where you pick up your membership badges at the monthly meetings. Dues are \$30 for the May through April calendar year. Dues for each additional membership in the same household as a member are \$2. Please don't wait till the last minute to pay your dues; try to remember to do it at the next meeting.

Also, a new year means new officers and volunteers. We need your help to keep your club great.

Thanks, everybody!

Changes To Competition Images

The Board has announced that beginning with the May 2017 competition, the maximum allowed image dimensions have been increased to 1920 x 1080 pixels. This allows images in what is known as "wide screen" or HD format. There is still a 10 MB file size limit. This also applies to images submitted for club activity shows.

Guest Speakers – "Lighting" – Jack Hess And Jack Kemp

Jack Kemp and Jack Hess, Certified Professional Photographers, are members of Professional Photographers of America. Both are staff photographers at The Heights Baptist Church in Richardson and also work together as partners in Jack's Wedding Photography.

Hess's specialty is event photography in a photo-journalistic style. He loves to work events and concerts. He has traveled extensively and landscape photography is also one of his favorites. Before Jack retired, he was a partner at a health care management consulting company in Dallas.

Kemp is the owner of Kemp Portraits and specializes in both portrait and commercial photography. Jack started his business in Round Rock, TX in 2003 and moved to Plano after retiring from IBM in 2006. He loves portrait photography and has a residential studio for both family portraits and commercial photography.

View some of their work at:

<http://www.kempportraits.com>

and <http://www.jacksweddingphotography.com>



GSCCC Convention

This year's GSCCC convention will be held May 4-7 in Fort Worth. Two of the many top notch speakers include Tyler Stableford, a Canon Explorer of Light, and David Woo, two-time Pulitzer finalist for news photography, also well-known for his work with celebrities in *Top Dogs* and *Their Pets*.

Friday night will feature a Texas dinner and photoshoot in the Fort Worth Historic Stockyards. Saturday night the Awards banquet will take place at the Texas Motor Speedway (next to the hotel), a unique location adding great fun to our banquet experience.

The weekend's hosts, the Cowtown Camera Club, has arranged a \$99 discount at the hotel, but do need a good turnout to cover the minimum stay commitment. It sounds educational and fun and the GSCCC encourages you to attend! Convention overview is available from DropBox:

<http://cera-fw.org/camera/home/schedule/>

Competition Changes

The Board has announced that beginning with the 2017-2018 club year, there will be no April competition. There will be an April, 2017 competition. The contest year will run from May through March and consist of 10 competitions instead of 11.

The annual awards dinner will coincide with the regular May, 2018 meeting instead of a separate awards dinner in June.

For 2017-2018 club year, There will be two special end of year awards:

Portrait Award
Photojournalism Award

Any member can submit up to three entries in each special award category. Digital submissions are due at the April, 2018 meeting. An overall winner in each category will receive the award and a plaque. The next two entries will receive second and third place rosette ribbons. The results of these special awards are not considered in the high points, image of the year, or photographer of the year competitions.

Members may propose and sponsor additional awards and provide the accompanying plaques and ribbons.

Light Painting Exercise

On February 11, 2017, about 20 eager Plano Photography Club members met to learn about Light Painting. We had two setups in a field, an old Jeep and a garden tractor. Each was positioned in front of some trees with a view of the sky in the background. It is important to have a good foreground subject, a middle-ground, such as trees, and a clear view of the sky as the background.

Much of this exercise involved using the camera in manual mode. So we all needed our camera manuals and a small flashlight to get all the settings correct.

Once we had our cameras set up, we practiced focusing in near total darkness. We used several extra-bright flashlights to highlight our foreground subjects so that the photographers could focus. Then everyone switched to manual focus. Whenever we recomposed our image, we had to refocus.

Next we made some exposures of the night sky. We used wide-angle lenses at their largest aperture and, setting our cameras on manual, set exposure for 30 seconds. We adjusted ISO to obtain a good exposure. For F 2.8, ISO 100 to 800 worked fine. However, each camera and lens is different, and the sky changes in darkness.

We also experimented with White Balance. Usually 3600 to 4200 gives the best results. The sky should look dark blue or black. A White Balance of Daylight gives the sky a muddy brown appearance. Even if you are shooting raw, setting White Balance correctly is important. You have to balance two different light sources, stars and the flashlight.

Different flashlights have different colored lights. LEDs are very blue, while incandescent are very red. It is important to be able to view the balance between sky and subject on the camera's screen and you can only get an accurate idea of what your image will look like if the camera's White Balance is set correctly.

Once we got composition, white balance, and exposure correct, we moved on to the actual light painting. Again, each flashlight is different and required a lot of experimenting to get exposure correct. We experimented with filters and gels over the flashlights. A soft, diffuse beam works better than a narrow beam.

Depending on the flashlight, we tried painting the subject for 10 to 30 seconds. We also tried painting the trees in the middle-ground. Finally, we placed some small flashlights inside or behind the subjects to illuminate them from within. We also used a large shed to act as a middle-ground and placed flashlights in it.

Participants practiced the necessary skills to produce their own light painting masterpieces. Thanks to everyone who participated.



January Winning Images – Photojournalism

Masters

Jose Artiles	Dissenter / NYC, 11 23 2016	15	1st, Bos
Larry Petterborg	Homeless in SF	14	2nd
Dennis Fritsche	Give Me a Boost	13	3rd
Marie Hansen	Dakota Access Pipeline Protest at 2017 Sundance Film Festival,	12	HM
Don Champlin	2nd Amendment -	11	HM

Intermediate

Leslie Johnston	Getting it Right	15	1st
Debbie Conard	Thank you	15	1st
Parvin Stiles	Cowboys	15	2nd
Aaron Leshner	Determination	14	3rd
Joyce Mangum	Weighing In	13	HM

Advanced

Jim Spencer	Natural and Man Made	12	1st
Valerie Johnson	Mother and Child in Cozumel	11	2nd
Ming Yang	Uncertainty Reflected From A Village Boy's Eyes	10	3rd
Ron Lin	The God's Dive	10	HM

Entry

Wenchi Lee	Black Lives Matter Rally at Downtown Dallas 07-07-2016	14	1st
Alan Daniel	Don't Let Go	13	2nd
Denny Farmer	Life After the Fire	11	3rd
Katherine Moulton	Going the Distance	9	HM
Carina Johnsson	The Selfie Empire	9	HM



Wenchi Lee

Alan Daniel



Denny Farmer



Carina Johnsson



Katherine Moulton





Debbie
Conard



Parvin
Stiles



Joyce Mangum



Aaron Leshar



Leslie Johnston



Jim Spencer



Valerie Johnson





Ming Yang



Ron Lin



Larry Petterborg



Dennis Fritsche



Marie Hansen



Don Champlin



Upcoming Competition Themes

April	Open	July	Perspective	October (Print)	Open	January (2018)	TBA
May	Closeups	August	Open	November	TBA	February	Open
June	Open	September	Geometric	December	No Contest	March	On The Road

Competition Standings*

Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points	Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points
<i>Entry</i>				<i>Advanced</i>			
Lee, Wenchi	88	37	125	Walsh, Jim	95	41	136
Johnsson, Carina	91	33	124	Lin, Ron	91	30	121
Daniel, Alan	79	26	105	Johnson, Valerie	89	29	118
Ratzlaff, Randy	81	18	99	Yang, Ming	86	21	107
Sarembock, Jeff	80	15	95	Spencer, Jim	84	22	106
Farmer, Denny	73	16	89	Barlow, Carol	85	13	98
Griffin, Lorretta	66	1	67	Hwang, Linfen	80	7	87
Moulton, Katherine	60	1	61	Schlesinger, Jerry	73	0	73
Wan, George	44	0	44				
Wan, Ying-Bee	41	3	44				
Duggu, Krishna	38	6	44	<i>Intermediate</i>			
Shang, Ping	36	4	40	Leshner, Aaron	85	27	112
Barlow, Bruce	10	0	10	Lin, Cathy	85	27	112
Cruise, Shannon	10	0	10	Mack, Nancy	86	18	104
Kundumkar, Deepak	7	0	7	Brock, Walter	84	17	101
				Stiles, Parvin	89	10	99
				Johnston, Leslie	85	12	97
				Mangum, Joyce	83	14	97
<i>Masters</i>				Davenport, Janet	80	8	88
Grigsby, Linda	93	30	123	McKeen, David	70	9	79
Artiles, Jose	90	18	108	Hwang, Jack	70	0	70
Fritsche, Dennis	89	17	106	Dailey, Daniel	69	1	70
Champlin, Don	75	28	103	Jaco, Sherry	66	0	66
Petterborg, Larry	89	12	101	Losurdo, Michael	63	0	63
Lehman, John	82	13	95	Carroll, Vincent	60	1	61
Carrick, Jen	78	12	90	Blevins, Mary Jean	58	1	59
Hasty, Ron	80	7	87	Conard, Debbie	47	10	57
Staxen, Peter	79	7	86	Zumbar, Bryan	56	0	56
Volkmer, Danette	76	6	82	Haynes, James	35	10	45
Hansen, Marie	79	2	81	Hytken, Louise	44	0	44
Edward, James	68	12	80	Moulder, Retha	37	0	37
Lehman, Lois	73	6	79	Rogers, Mark	36	0	36
Wilson, Sam	74	1	75	Huntley, Guy	32	0	32
Hasty, Sharlott	75	0	75	Warren, Lulu	30	0	30
Stover, James	70	0	70	Otto, Richard	24	3	27
Barlow, Bud	68	0	68	Bernthal, Mark	23	0	23
				McCallister, Thomas	18	0	18
				Gray, Paul	11	0	11
				Gardner, Paul	9	0	9
				DeRouen, Robin	7	0	7

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





President's Message: *Nominating Committee*

It is that time of year again to put together the board membership for the 2017-2018 calendar year. We need a volunteer to head up the Nominating Committee for the calendar year starting May 2017. This is an important position because it will help elect the board members that will help move the club forward in the next year. If you would consider this position, please email me at: ppc@planophotographyclub.com. Below is the list of board members leaving and remaining. Please consider volunteering for these positions. If you are in the Advanced level of the club, you need some service to the club to advance to the Masters level. Serving on the board will fulfill this obligation. Personally, I would continue the Presidents duties if I can find a volunteer for the VP of Programs position. Please email me or talk to me at the upcoming March meeting if you are interested.

President: Richard Vestyck will continue as President if we find a dedicated person for **VP of Programs**
 1st VP/Sec: Peter Staxen will continue
 Treasurer: Michael Losurdo will continue
 Contests: Jerry Schlesinger will continue as contest chair and contest site administrator
 Activities: Both Mary-Jean Blevins and Todd Matthews will continue
 Newsletter: James Stover will continue
 PSA Rep: Bud Barlow will step down
 GSCCC Rep: Larry Blackwell will step down

Richard Vestyck

Plano Photography Club Officers & Volunteers		
Title	Officer & Volunteers	Email Address
President	Richard Vestyck	ppc@planophotographyclub.com
1 st Vice Pres./Secretary	Peter Staxen	secretary@planophotographyclub.com
2 nd Vice Pres./Programs		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	gscgcc-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	Joyce Mangum	exhibits@planophotographyclub.com
Calibration Equip	Dennis Frische	calibrate@planophotographyclub.com
Tabletop Equipment	Cindy Vaillancourt	table_top@planophotographyclub.com
Slideshow	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

