



The FLASH!

March 2019 Vol. 35, No. 10

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



Inside This Issue

Best in Show	1
Activities	2
Guest Speakers	2
Meeting Date Change	2
Table Top Workshop	3
Winning Images from Competition	4
35 th Anniversary Party	8
Photo Contest Winners	8
Jose Artiles	9
Breaking The Rule Of Thirds	10
Competition Topics	11
Competition Standings	11
President's Message	12
About the Club	12

Best In Show: Fire By Don Champlin

For a while whenever I heard sirens, I took off in search of the emergency, hoping to get some photojournalism experience. I have encountered auto accidents, police chases, arrests and many fires. This day started that way. Hearing sirens and seeing smoke I drove to a location about half a mile from my house in Plano. I arrived quickly with camera at the ready with a 70-200mm lens. I was able to get within a hundred yards of the house as the fire department was establishing a response.

I photographed for 30 minutes, trying various angles, looking to capture some moments of the firefighters in action. This image was taken at the end of the firefighting when the emergency aspect was over. This was a duplex that was involved and only two front rooms were destroyed. By cropping in tight at 200 mm I was able to isolate the firefighter with the burned structure, smoke and chaos, creating a compelling image. The image looks like significant destruction, when in fact, only a small area was consumed by the fire. The house was still standing and the roof was in place. Canon EOS 50D, 70-200mm at 200, f/5.6, ISO 100. Minor cropping and adjustments in Lightroom.

Upcoming Club Activities / Photo Ops

Contact: activity@planophotographyclub.com

March 23, 2019 – *Bonnie & Clyde Tour*

April 6, 2019 – *Sharkarosa Wildlife Ranch*

April 6 – 28, 2019 – *Scarborough Renaissance Festival*

May 18 – 2019 – *Model Shoot*

May 31 – June 2, 2019 – *Mowdy Wild Mustang Ranch*

June 29, 2019 – *Dallas Heritage Village*

For details and to sign up for these and other events go to the Members Only web-site:

<https://plano.photoclubservices.com/>, login, then navigate to Organization > Calendar and click on the event.

May 2-4, 2019 – Gulf States Camera Club Council (GSCCC) Annual Convention - The Dallas Camera Club will be hosting the GSCCC 2019 annual convention. For details: <http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/convention-2019>.

Guest Speakers – “Composite Photography” – Jason Ulsrud

Jason Ulsrud, “The Photillustrator”, has been creating fun and entertaining Compositd Portraits all over the country for the past 3 years. Jason also helps photographers bring their visions to life through the magic of Composite Photography and wants to help photographers discover their own unique style, bring it to life in an awesome picture, and make money doing what they love. You can learn more about Jason on his website at www.photillustrator.com or if you have questions you can email him at jason@photillustrator.com.

Future PPC Programs

April	Larry Petterborg	(PPC member) - Photo Intention Deficit Disorder (PIDD) and the Lack of Impact.
June	Jason Weingart	Time lapse photography to chase storms, photograph the night sky, and create stunning landscape photography.

New Club Officers

May is the start of the new club year and new club officers. Most of the current officers have indicated a willingness to continue in their posts. The following are new officers nominated for positions. Voting will be held at the April meeting. If you are interested in serving as a club officer, please contact the president.

Valerie Johnson: Exhibits, Alan Daniel: Contest Chairperson

Club Meeting Date Changes

Because of church commitments, the April meeting will be held April 25th and the July meeting will be held July 25th.

Annual Tabletop Workshop

The Table Top Workshop was held Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the club's regular meeting location. We had a terrific turnout of about 50 members.

The textured glass, black light photography, and water drop reflections instructions and materials from the Tabletop Workshop are available for check out and personal use by the membership via the club website.



January Winning Images – On The Street Where You Live

Masters

Don Champlin	Fire	15	1st,BOS
Sam Wilson	Sunset Panorama	15	2nd
John Lehman	You're-finally-home	15	3rd
Dennis Fritsche	Lonely Pine	14	HM
Sharlott Hasty	Winter in My Backyard	14	HM

Advanced

Nock Wong	Street before sunrise	15	1st
Wenchi Lee	Vitruvian Park Lighting Celebration at Addison	15	2nd
Ron Lin	Someone to watch over you	14	3rd
Sergio Piumatti	fallen from his nest	14	HM
Mark Bernthal	Oxymoron	14	HM

Intermediate

John Lebeck	A wild horse up the street; (located at Phillips Creek Ranch)	15	1st
Daniel Dailey	Dallas Art Districts Weather Abstract (by Nature)	14	2nd
Richard Otto	Neighbor's Plight	14	3rd
Jason Ware	One-upping the neighbors on Christmas Eve.	13	HM
Michael Losurdo Jr	Looking Down	12	HM

Entry

David Boomstein	Tree Owl	14	1st
Randy Ratzlaff	"Look Both Ways Before Crossing"	13	2nd
John Eden	Alley Beauty	11	3rd
Siu Wong	Neighbor's Christmas Light	10	HM



Randy Ratzlaff



David Boomstein



Siu Wong



John Eden





John Lebeck



Daniel Dailey



Richard Otto



Michael Losurdo



Jason Ware





Nock Wong



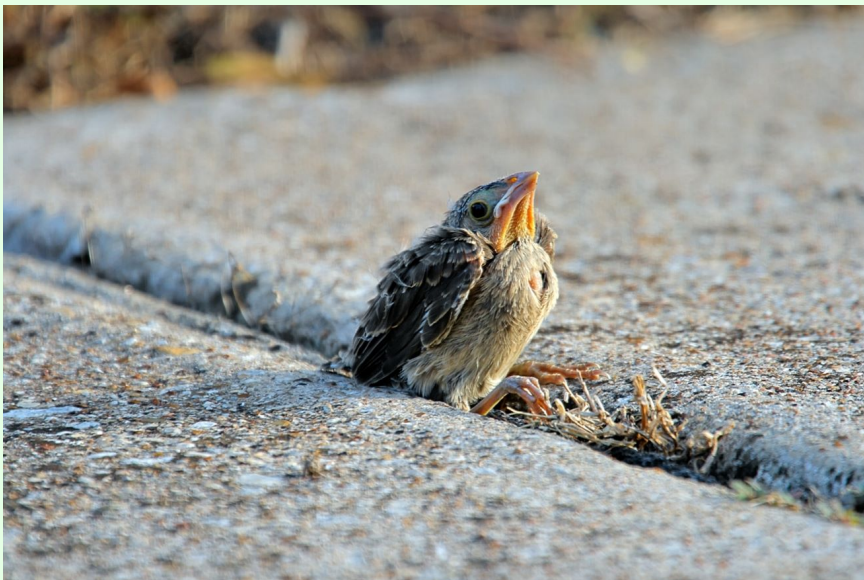
Wenchi Lee



Ron Lin

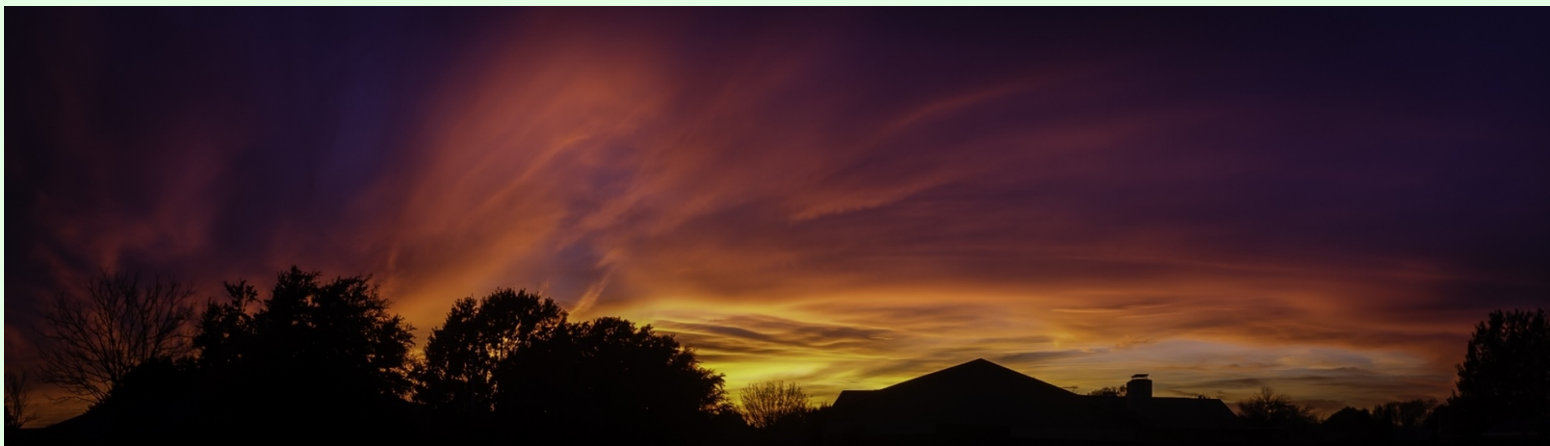


Mark Bernthal



Sergio Piumatti





Sam Wilson

Dennis Fritsche



John Lehman



Sharlott Hasty



35th Anniversary Party

At the May meeting, the Club will celebrate it's 35th anniversary. In September 1983, Sue Padden of Plano Parks & Rec (PPR) and Fred Hartke, a student in a PPR photography class, organized the Plano Photography Club. The first meeting was held January 1984 and in March the first issue of ***The Flash*** was published. In April the club join PSA and had its first Field Trip. The first contest was held in May and the club's first workshop, print mounting, was held in December. Other firsts include the first club dinner in June 1985, first scavenger hunt in October 1987, and first model shoot in January 1988.

Photo Contest Winners

The PPC was well-represented at the 2019 annual Richardson Photo Contest.

- Linda Grigsby: 1st Place in Anything Goes - ***Reflections***
2nd Place in Waterscape - ***New Zealand Coast at Sunset***
- JD Luttrell: 1st Place in Waterscapes - ***Grand Prismatic Spring***
2nd Place in Anything Goes - ***Citrus in Water***
3rd Place in Anything Goes - ***Grapevine Fireworks***
2nd Place in Scenic/Landscape - ***Ashton Barn***
HM in Scenic/Landscape - ***Lower Terraces***
- Sam Wilson: 1st Place in Scenic/Landscape - ***The Edge of the Forest***
2nd Place in Sports/Action - ***Kayaking on Caddo Lake***
3rd Place in Sports/Action - ***Paddleboarding in Solitary Splendor***
3rd Place in Still Life - ***Pine Cone and Lake Rocks***
3rd Place in Wildlife - ***I Only Have Eyes for You, Dear***

The PPC is a member of the Gulf States Camera Club Council and submits images into their monthly contests. Here are recent winners.

September 2018 Nature Projected

Sharlott Hasty 1st Place - ***Fighting Vulture and Caracara***



January 2019 Color Projected

Danette Volkmer 1st HM - ***Warm and Cool***



January 2019 Photojournalism Projected

Carol Barlow 1st Place - ***Zodiac Cruise- Pleneau Is & Lemaire Channel***

Nock Wong 2nd HM - ***The Silk Road***



Congratulations to all the winners.



They – Time/Life – Paid Me To Pursue My Hobby By Jose Artiles

This another in a series of interviews with prominent club members.

Give us some background information, i.e., how long you have lived in Texas, and anything else you think your fellow members would like to know.

I moved to Miami from Havana, in 1961 after the Bay of Pigs debacle. Several months later, I relocated to NYC and started working for Time Inc., which at the time, were the publishers of Time, Life, Sports Illustrated and several other publications. I was hired as the equivalent of a copy boy, but eventually became a photo lab technician. After 34 years, they finally got wise to the fact they had been paying me to have fun instead of working. Realizing the gig was up, I beat them to the punch and retired in 1996. In preparation for that day, Mary Ann and I had a house built in Frisco in 1993. She lived here, and I commuted every week till 1996, when I finally became a full fledged Texan.

How long have you been a member of PPC and are you a member of any other photo organization or club?

I don't quite remember when I joined PPC, but I think it was around '97 or '98. At one point, I was a member of the Visual Arts of Frisco, but I wasn't very active.

Tell us about your first camera and how you got interested in photography.

At age 8 or so, my grandmother gave me an Imperial Six-Twenty Snap Shot camera (impressive name for something small and cheap). I eventually upgraded to a Brownie HawkEye, flash model no less! However, I didn't begin taking photography seriously till I discovered Life Magazine. Little did I suspect that, eventually, they would pay me to pursue my hobby

What is in your camera bag? Describe the oddest item in your bag.

Over the years I have owned a variety of cameras, most of them Nikons. Currently I mostly use 2 Nikons D750. One with a 14-24 mm lens and the other one with a 28-300mm. The good thing is that I can still use all my old Nikon lenses.

The oddest item I used on a regular basis, was a Russian Horizont FT-2 35mm panoramic camera, which

I bought at Spiratone Camera store in NY. in the mid '60's. Spiratone, by the way, was a great place to buy excellent inexpensive photographic items. Some quite unusual.

The Horizont was one of them. It made 12 140° images on a 36 exposures roll. Each frame was the length of 3 standard 35mm frames. The camera had a 50mm lens that pivoted on it's axis. There was a vertical slit on the front of it that acted as the shutter curtain. The film sat on a concave black cloth pressure plate. When the shutter was pressed, the lens would swivel, thus "painting" the image on the film. The camera looked like a black metal brick and, at first glance, there was little to indicate what it really was. Amazingly, it had a very sharp lens.

Unfortunately, the FT-2 was stolen sometime in the mid '80's. Around '98, I replaced it with a "modern" Horizon 202 that actually looks like a camera. The images it produces with its 28mm lens are "only" 120° spread over 2 frames. I still have it, but I very seldom use it; dealing with film has become a problem for me and stitching images in Pshop gives great results.

Describe your photography interests, i.e, what do you like to shoot?

I only like to photograph two different types of subjects: those that move, and those that don't.

Describe any photo shoots and/or photo trips you want to do in 2019.

I rarely make plans to photograph anything in particular. Sometimes I just happen to see situations that could potentially make good photographs. Some times, I even have a camera with me...

What lens do you use most often?

The lens I use most frequently is the 28-300. It's very versatile.

Editor's note: For the 2010-2011 contest year, Jose was Master Class winner, Photographer of the Year, and won Digital Image of the Year and Print Image of the Year. A clean sweep of awards.



Breaking The Rule-Of-Thirds

Most beginning photographers, myself included, tended to shoot our subjects straight on with the main subject dead center. As we progressed, we learned many rules of composition, including S-curves, leading lines, and most famously, the **Rule-of-Thirds**. But once we have mastered those “rules” we come to learn these are really “guidelines” and there are times they may and should be broken.

The Rule-of-Thirds divides a frame into three sections using two vertical and two horizontal lines. The center of interest is placed on one of the four points of intersection of the lines. Many cameras have an option to project such a grid in the viewfinder. Our competition topic for July is **Breaking The Rule-Of-Thirds**. So when should we break this rule?

Simplicity and calming. An off-center image is more dynamic and has more tension. A centered image can be calmer.

Portraits. A subject looking directly at the camera or with beautiful symmetry can be centered.

Equal weight. To give equal weight to the two halves of an image, use a prominent horizontal or vertical line in the center of an image that perfectly bisects it.

Square or round images. A centered round or square object set equidistant from the edges works well. This is particularly useful with Polar Panoramas.

Emphasizing symmetry. The symmetry of an image can be enhanced by placing the line of symmetry in the center. See last month's Best of Show **Testing the Water**.

Draw your eye. You can draw the eye to the center, especially when combined with leading lines or vignetting.

Avoiding distractions and mergers. Sometimes we need to focus our attentions on the main subject and eliminate outside distractions. Off-center parts of the image may be distracting or boring.

Create a sense of space. This is useful for faraway objects especially if the surroundings are dramatic. A relatively featureless landscape can be enhanced by a dramatic sky.

Shallow depth of field and vignetting. These effects sometimes look artificial when the subject is not centered.

Nature. In nature photography the subject at any of the four points of ‘interest’ may not be possible or may leave too much dead space, especially with birds in flight.

Knowing when to break a rule can sometimes lead to a great image. For an example see Mark Bernthal's Best-of-Show Polar Panorama image **Pigeon Prison**.

James Stover



Upcoming Competition Themes

March (Print)	Panorama	July	High Key/Low Key	November	Music	March	(Print)
April	No Contest	August	Open	December	No Contest	April	No Contest
May	Breaking the Rule of Thirds	September	Texas Historical Sites	January (2020)	Down Time	May	TBD
June	Open	October (Print)	Open (B&W or Sepia)	February	Open	June	Open

Competition Standings*

Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points	Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points
Entry				Advanced			
Randy Ratzlaff	71	37	108	Mark Bernthal	104	37	141
David Boomstein	77	28	105	Nock Wong	101	24	125
John Eden	82	22	104	Wenchi Lee	99	23	122
Siu Wong	81	16	97	Nancy Mack	95	23	118
Sam Lucas	54	17	71	Linfen Hwang	90	13	103
Katrina Christopher	33	17	50	Jim Spencer	91	5	96
Ping Shang	32	9	41	Ron Lin	73	19	92
Debbie Nielson	15	10	25	Jerry Schlesinger	83	1	84
Todd Matthews	8	0	8	Cathy Lin	69	13	82
Colleen Galles	8	0	8	Sergio Piumatti	69	3	72
				Randall Dunn	59	7	66
				Carina Johnsson	43	0	43
				Ming Yang	32	0	32
Intermediate				Masters			
Alan Daniel	105	37	142	Sharlott Hastv	104	31	135
Earl Snoga	80	25	105	Ron Hastv	99	28	127
Richard Otto	91	11	102	Linda Grigsby	97	19	116
Joyce Mangum	84	17	101	Jose Artilles	91	22	113
Parvin Stiles	92	6	98	Sam Wilson	96	16	112
Daniel Dailey	89	8	97	Danette Volkmer	99	11	110
Michael Losurdo Jr	82	15	97	Carol Barlow	90	16	106
Jason Ware	82	12	94	Dennis Fritsche	96	6	102
Vincent Carroll	66	14	80	John Lehman	89	8	97
Jeffrey Sarembock	74	1	75	Larry Petterborg	94	0	94
Katherine Moulton	73	1	74	Don Champlin	75	13	88
John Lebeck	63	10	73	James Stover	81	0	81
Gary Clinton	53	10	63	Valerie Johnson	80	1	81
Cliff McKenzie	38	0	38	Lois Lehman	79	0	79
Retha Moulder	32	1	33				
Mary Jean Blevins	26	0	26				
Larry Page	20	0	20				
Debbie Conard	12	0	12				

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





President's Message: A

As you know, our club membership year runs from May 1st to April 30th. You should be getting an email reminding you to renew. Please use our "Members Only" web-site. This gives each member full control and ownership of their contact information for PPC. You can access the Members Only web-site by clicking on the Members Only menu button in the upper right corner of our primary web-site planophotographyclub.com. Or you can go directly to plano.photoclubservices.com. Or by clicking on these embedded links.

You can pay your dues by either check or cash at a club meeting and sign the Agreement of Waiver of Liability form, or via PayPal transactions on the web-site. In either case, we still need everyone to sign the Agreement of Waiver of Liability form.

Cliff McKenzie

Plano Photography Club Officers & Volunteers		
Title	Officers & Volunteers	Email Address
President	Cliff McKenzie	ppc@planophotographyclub.com
1 st Vice Pres./Secretary	Suzanne Beasley	secretary@planophotographyclub.com
2 nd Vice Pres./Programs	Parvin Stiles	programs@planophotographyclub.com
Activities	Karen Malone/Suzy Beasley	activity@planophotographyclub.com
Treasurer	Michael Losurdo	treasurer@planophotographyclub.com
Membership Chair	Greg Jones	membership@planophotographyclub.com
Membership Committee	Alan Daniel	membership@planophotographyclub.com
Contest Site Admin	Jerry Schlesinger	contestsiteadmin@planophotographyclub.com
GSCCC Representative	Alan Daniel	gsccl-rep@planophotographyclub.com
PSA Representative	Larry Petterborg	psa-rep@planophotographyclub.com
Historian	Cindy Vaillancourt	historian@planophotographyclub.com
Light Rental	Jerry Schlesinger	lightrental@planophotographyclub.com
Newsletter Editor	James Stover	newsletter@planophotographyclub.com
Webmaster	Sam Wilson	webmaster@planophotographyclub.com
Calibration Equip	Dennis Fritsche	calibrate@planophotographyclub.com
Tabletop Equipment	Mary Jean Blevins	table_top@planophotographyclub.com
Contest Slideshows	Alan Daniel	contest-slideshow@planophotographyclub.com
Image Critiques	Larry Petterborg	lpetterborg@planophotographyclub.com
Training	Dennis Fritsche	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 \(PSA\)](#)



Plano Photography Club The FLASH! – March 2019
www.planophotographyclub.com



JAMES T STOVER

12

EDITOR

