



The FLASH!

MARCH 2008

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



Best of Show, January 2008 — Open Competition

By JIM SPENCER

This shot, titled “New Mexico,” was taken last fall in Northeastern New Mexico on either highway 72 or 456 near Folsom as my wife and I were returning from Yellowstone. I was lucky to have some fairly interesting clouds. The photo would have been pretty bland without them.

The picture is actually seven photos stitched together with Photomerge in PhotoShop Elements 4.0. It was shot with a Canon XT using a Canon 17-85mm zoom set at about 50mm. A tripod was used with a two-axis bubble level in the hot shoe slot of the camera. ISO was 200, 1/400 sec @ f/16) No polarizer or split density filters were used. Some fine tuning such as levels, contrast, and sharpening was done in Elements.

I am always grateful to the club for the helpful programs and encouragement that help us experiment with photos such as this.

Judge Gary Kelly offered this comment about “New Mexico”: This image has huge visual and emotional impact. The leading line pulls us in from the lower right to the house on the left; then the gully takes us straight over to the barn on the right. Great color and great composition. Many other pictures could have served well as Best of Show, but this is an image for which I have tremendous empathy. Congratulations!

**MODEL
SHOOT
MAY 10**

Details on Page 2

March speaker knows how to be competitive

The speaker for PPC’s March 24 meeting is Eugene Jabbour, sales manager of the firm about which *The Dallas Morning News* in 2003 wrote: “It’s hard to imagine a store with less glitz than Competitive Cameras.”

Eugene, 29, is the son of the firm’s founder, Ramsey Jabbour, and his wife, Mary. They started the firm in Garland in 1982. Now, says the *News*, their well-stocked, high-stacked 5,000-square-foot space on Irving Boulevard is “photography heaven” for many professional shooters. The newspaper says it’s one of the last major specialty camera stores in the Southwest and among the largest in the country. Many PPC members know Competitive Cameras as reliable, no-hassle purveyors of new and used cameras and equipment. Come hear Eugene Jabbour.

Sign up pronto for May 10 'shoot'

By **BUD MALLAR**

Come and join club members for the 2008 Spring Indoor Model Shoot. This year's event will be May 10 using the second floor of the education building at Grace Presbyterian Church. We will set up several full studios.

The shoot is limited to members of the club as of the March 2008 meeting. If you are interested in attending, sign up and pay your \$5 at the March meeting or e-mail Bud Mallar at bmallar@sbcglobal.net to reserve a space. Attendance will be limited.

The shoot will extend from instructions at about 8:45 a.m. to a 4 p.m. wrap. The morning teaching sets are intended to help those new to portrait and fashion photography.

NOTE: Each participants must provide each model with a CD of images in full resolution at 8X10 or 8X12 sizes. CDs must be turned in at the May 26 club meeting or mailed to Bud Mallar within 30 days of the shoot.

We expect to have an increased number of models who have not participated in a PPC model shoot. The photographer-to-model ratio is critical to the success of the shoot, so please do not sign up unless you are positive you will attend.

Volunteers are needed to help with set up, tear down and miscellaneous tasks. Someone to help with food would be greatly appreciated as well. The cost is \$5 to defray the cost of snacks and drinks.



Club members to provide portraits to military families

By **BUD MALLAR**

About a year and a half ago our club sponsored the first portrait shoot for families of military serving in the war. We did it to honor the son of our member, Louis Aguirre, who died in Iraq. The families expressed gratitude to the club for providing this opportunity at no cost. On said, "I greatly appreciate the club's contribution to the morale of the troops. I was able to view the pictures often on my laptop during my 10-month deployment. It brought me great comfort."

This year the club and the Cotton Mill at McKinney are sponsoring another shoot for military families. Invitations to the military families are going out through the organizations of soldiers' families.

The club is providing the photographers and the sets, and the Cotton Mill is providing us with a great place to shoot the images of the families. The photographs will then be provided to each family through www.fotki.com where each family will have their own album of images to download and share at no cost.

While the club is sponsoring the project, it is not a photographic activity for the general membership due to the extensive coordination required to provide these images quickly to the families. If any members are interested in helping with the logistics of the project, please contact Bud Mallar at bmallar@sbcglobal.net.

Want free advice? Here's how. . .

Veteran PPC member Larry Petterborg is the principal advocate and operative for a free service open to any club member but taken advantage of so far by very few.

It involves your selecting an image or two that you would like to have critiqued. To have someone tell you what's good about it? Not so good? Needs to be improved?

The process is simple:

1. Send your image to letterform@tx.rr.com.

2. Tell Larry you would like one or more Masters Class members of the club to critique the image.

3. Larry will forward your unidentified image to one or more Masters Class

members. Only Larry will know who submitted the image and only Larry will know who critiques it.

4. The critiques go back to Larry within a couple of weeks. He'll forward them to you. Expect the written feedback to be fair, honest and helpful.

As of a few weeks ago, only four members had taken advantage of the offer. So, as newsletter editor, I decided to submit the above image of an Alaskan homestead. Each Master critiquer offered one or more suggestions for improvement. One even ran it through his (or her) Photoshop software and improved it.

I won't hesitate to use this valuable service again. Neither should you. You can't buy better counsel for any price.

John A. Lovelace, Editor, PPC Flash

PPC 'hits the jackpot' with 'live' judge

From Elizabeth Szilaghi, Contests Vice President

Our Nature entries in January were judged by Sean Fitzgerald who is an accomplished nature photographer as you can read in his biography. We were honored to welcome him in person. It doesn't happen very often that we have a "live" judge at the meeting, but this time we hit the jackpot. Sean gave us detailed and well thought out critique on each and every entry. This benefited not only makers of the images but everyone who was present and didn't mind to stay overtime. To learn more about Sean and to view his images, visit his website at www.seanfitzgerald.com.



MEMBER MEMOS

Membership renewals for 2008-2009 will be available at the March 24 meeting. Same price, same bargain: \$24 for the year May 1-April 30, individual or family. See Debbie Tigh, Priscilla Killion or James Stover at the Membership table. You'll have opportunity, too, to update your personal profile form.

As of the March board meeting, Membership Secretary James Stover reported 184 members.

These 14 joined or renewed their membership at the Feb. 16 Tabletop Workshop: Troy Becker, Richard Chen, Clark Crenshaw, Courts Griner, Lee Hatfield, Linfen Hwang, Amin Jivani, Robert Johnson, Bob Krause, Katrina Lane, Matt Roppolo, Sarah Scott, En Swalu and Windus Wong.

At the Feb. 25 monthly meeting, the following joined the club: Pankaj Asundi, Eylem Bagci, Mary J. Baker, Brenda Cook, Marvin and Cecilia O. Moore, Michelle Oesterreicher, Carleen Sparkman and Charles E. Stuck.

Exhibits co-chairperson Ed Auger said he has about a dozen "abandoned" framed prints held over from the club's Showcase at the Plano Municipal Center and Plano Convention Centre. He's not threatening to burn or otherwise sully the remains but he would appreciate it if their owners would take them back

Winners in January 2008 ‘Leading Lines’ entries



Beginners			
1	15	Jean Karlik	Monks' Passage
2	13	Carlos Saenz	Hulking up!
3	12	Aida LaPoint	Death Valley Dawn
HM	12	Carlos Saenz	Walking the Lines
HM	12	Ron Hasty	Arch Old St. Andrews
HM	12	Ron Hasty	Sunrise on the River
Advanced			
1	15	Jim Spencer	New Mexico
2	14	Jim Berry	Buckets of Fun
3	14	Alistair Wilson	The Way Home
HM	13	Andrew Hibma	Sunday Morning on Canal
HM	13	Inwin Lightstone	Echevaria
HM	13	Danette Volkmer	Suspended
Masters			
1	15	Priscilla Killion	Rusty Chief Pontiac
2	14	Dan Leffel	Grand Canyon Light
3	13	David Willie	Elves Chasm
HM	13	Dan Leffel	Colorado Splendor
HM	13	Michael LaPoint	Sliding Rocks
HM	13	Elizabeth Szilagyi	Going to Town

First Place, Beginners
“Monks’ Passage”
 15 points
 Jean Karlik



Third Place, Beginners
“Death Valley Dawn”
 Aida LaPoint
 12 points



Second Place, Beginners
“Hulking Up”
 Carlos Saenz
 13 points

More winners from January 2008 'Leading Lines'



First Place, Masters
"Rusty Chief Pontiac"
Priscilla Killion
15 points

Second Place, Advanced
"Buckets of Fun"
Jim Berry
14 points



Second Place, Masters
"Grand Canyon Light"
Dan Leffel
14 points

Third Place, Advanced
"The Way Home"
Alistair Wilson
14 points



Third Place, Masters
"Elves Chasm"
David Wille
13 points

Club competition standings as of January 2008

Beginners

Svatava Strnad	21	164
Linda L. Grigsby	10	146
Jean Karlik	24	102
Clint Hastings	6	86
Paul Rimka	18	79
Billy Erwin	26	75
Aida La Point	9	65
Eran Spigelman	20	47
Ron Hasty	0	43
Sanaa Diab	3	41
Nicci Ackermann	10	33
Carlos Saenz	6	25
Gary Schweiker	0	15
Debbie Tigh	0	15
Phil Lewellen	0	14
Joe DeVincentis	0	12
Meirie Rusly	0	10
Gwynne Schweiker	0	7

Advanced

David Grossman	27	183
LeDon Becker	11	169
Dennis Fritsche	3	167
Jim Berry	6	165
Danette Volkmer	3	164
Alistair Wilson	3	163
Stewart Musket	14	162
Tatyana Bessmertnaya	23	158
Kay Griffith	6	153
Harry Rumberger	0	144
Andrew Hibma	9	143
John Lovelace	0	128
Marie Hansen	0	116
Bernie Pysz	0	112
Terree Stone	0	103
Irwin Lightstone	20	102
Anne Hargreaves	0	97
Bill McMurray	0	96
Barry Grossman	0	59
Fred Grossman	0	57
Kevin Moody	17	51
Paul Spencer	0	47
Jim Spencer	11	44
Anita Oakley	0	43
Jay Goode	0	41
Bud Barlow	0	37
Laura Farnham	0	36
Ken Morton	0	25
Jerry Green	3	23
Jeff Kearns	0	22
Marian Green	0	20
Ron Marabito	0	20
Ken Bynum	0	15
Carol Barlow	0	14
William Sun	0	14
Peter Staxen	0	13
Will Gunadi	0	8

Masters

Dan Leffel	18	201
Eleanore Avery	31	193
Jose Artiles	30	191
David Willie	6	189
Larry Petterborg	16	188
Priscilla Killion	10	188
Bob Frank	15	165
Dawn Attebery	3	162
Jamie Hilbig	0	156
Elizabeth Szilagyi	0	154
Michael La Point	9	139
James Stover	6	136
John Lehman	0	130
Lois Lehman	11	124
Ed Auger	0	71
Mitsuka Iwahiro	0	53
Cindy Vaillantcourt	0	34

FLASHbacks

CLUB FIRSTS: September 1983: Nine people taking photography classes through the Plano Parks and Rec Dept decided to help organize a photography club, which was sponsored by PARD for six years.

April 1984: The PPC joins the PSA

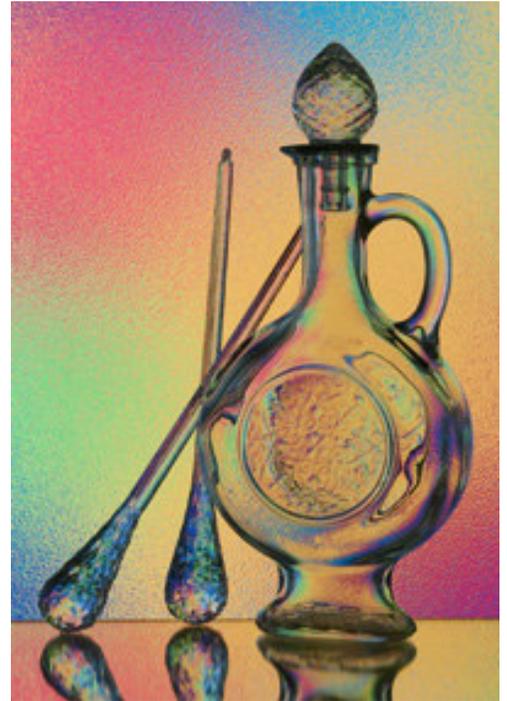
March 1988: The first overnight field trip was to shoot wildflowers around scenic Fredricksburg, Texas, in the Hill Country. However, "the wildflowers were few and far between, the hotel was loud, the drive was long, but the company and German food were great!"

-- From Cindy Vaillantcourt

We thank our Volunteers for the 2008 Annual Tabletop Workshop

There is a reason the Plano Photography Club Tabletop Workshop is so unique. This event requires a lot of preparation and participation by members. It is a major volunteer effort. This year, around 40 members were contacted about volunteering. The many members who were available did agree to help in some way. That amounted to approximately 30 volunteers. Those numbers should tell you that this is not your usual membership nor your usual photography club.

We thank our many volunteers. These volunteers helped create a multitude of photo opportunities from some 13 individual setups. Members who assembled and monitored tabletop setups, or assisted in some manner were: Ed Auger, LeDon Becker, Jack Dickson, Bob Frank, Linda Grigsby, Marie Hansen, Anne Hargreaves, Jamie Hilbig, Mitsuka Iwahiro, Jean Karlik, Priscilla Killion, John Lehman, Lois Lehman, Irwin Lightstone, Russell McGuire, Brad Moore, Stewart Musket, Larry Petterborg, Don Pool, Katherine Robertson, Harry Rumberger, Elizabeth Szilagyi, and Cindy Vaillancourt. Debbie Tigh, Bernie Pysz, and John Lovelace looked after the membership information table. Sarah Scott and other members brought items for members to photograph. Many attending members assisted other photographers with their camera settings and the setups. Bud Mallar deserves special thanks for arriving at 8 a.m. to unload equipment in the rain, move furniture, help set up and finally help re-load that same equipment in the rain at the end of the workshop.



At the Tabletop Workshop we try to create a "workshop" atmosphere where members can assist other member photographers but still get time for their own photography. Of course, many volunteers often do more "work" than photography. And we are extremely grateful to those individuals. The workshop is successful because the volunteers will share their time so that others may learn by doing photography.

So, if we have another Tabletop Workshop in 2009, we will need your participation. We will need members who are not necessarily "experts" but are willing to help other photographers learn and enjoy photography. Please volunteer and join us at future workshops.

... From Priscilla Killion

**Club
Contest
Topics
2007-2008**

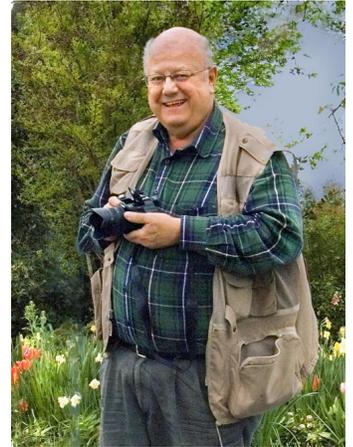
**March 2008: Portraits (prints only)
April 2008: Open
May 2008 (start of new contest year) Weather
June 2008: Open**

New officers' slate up for vote at March 24 meeting

Hello, Plano Photographers!

Well, our term of office will end at the April 28th meeting. And we have been very busy putting together a new slate of officers for next year which we intend to present to you at the PPC meeting on March 24th. Also at the March 24 meeting you can renew your membership dues for 2008-2009 -- a real steal at only \$24 per year! -- and update your membership form data.

It has been a very fast and exciting year as many fantastic events have happened and our club membership has grown to approximately 180 members. Wow! This was a surprise which we never could have imagined at the beginning of our term.



BERNIE

This year we tried the concept of Co-Presidents and Co-Chairpersons of the various functions, and it worked well. Having more than one allows the ability to share the effort, have another person to share ideas, and fill in when one is not available. It worked. We plan to continue the concept and invite new members to participate as co-persons, including co-president. We encourage you to help if not as leader. So please think about it.



BOB

One thing that needs to be mentioned is that club rules requires both winning images and club leadership participation in order to become a Master. So those of you in Advanced who are racking up lots of points need to volunteer for club service if you want to be voted in as a Master.

Remember to submit one or two prints (not digital e-mail images) for this month's Photo Contest. Each print must be mounted on backer board or matted and have a maximum 16 x 20 size or a minimum size of 8 x 10 to enter. This month's category is "Portraits" (people or animal). See y'all at the meeting, Bernie and Bob

Plano Photography Club Officers

Co-Presidents
 Vice President — Programs
 Vice Presidents — Activities
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Contests

GSCCC Representative
 PSA Representative
 Historian
 Light Rental
 Membership
 Newsletter Editor/Publisher
 Webmaster
 Exhibits
 Model Shoot Coordinator

Bernie Pysz, Bob Frank
 Michael La Point
 Jack Dickson
 James Stover
 P.D. Killion
 Elizabeth Szilagyi,
 Tatiyana Bessmertnaya
 Stewart Musket
 Carol Bohnstengel
 Cindy Vaillancourt
 Don Pool
 Debbie Tigh, Don Pool
 John A. Lovelace
 LeDon Becker
 Ed Auger, Jamie Hilbig
 Ken Guthrie

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The club meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month except December at Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 W. Park Blvd. Officers meet at 7p.m. on the second Monday of each month except December at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road.