



The FLASH!

MAY 2009

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



Three-step 'Lightroom' process captures Civil War appearance

By JOHN LEHMAN

"Off to War," Best of Show in March "Spirit of Texas" competition, was taken at the 2008 Civil War reenactment at Dallas Heritage Village (Old City Park).

I really enjoy the opportunity to wander around in their camps and shoot portraits. While this isn't exactly a portrait in the usual sense, it really is a portrait of what this soldier is about. Photographing people has always been my favorite thing.

The image was shot while Lois, Bud Mallar and I were on assignment photographing the event for the park. The three of us have provided several images for their promotional materials and annual calendar. I made the image look more "gritty" and three dimensional using a Lightroom effect (courtesy of Scott Kelby). To create the effect you should:

- * Take the following sliders all the way to 100: clarity, vibrance, recovery, fill and contrast.
- * Adjust brightness and exposure to taste.
- * Desaturate the image by about 80 percent. This creates a wonderful three dimensional impact similar to the "dragan" effect which is quite popular now.

I shot this with my Canon 40D and Canon 28-135 mm IS lens at 135mm. The exposure was 1/100th at f/5.6. Flash with diffuser added a bit of the punch.



*** *Party Time June 13 for Plano Photographers* ***
Where: Grace Presbyterian Church, Plano (regular meeting place)
When: Saturday, June 13. Volunteers set up at 3 p.m. Meal at 4 p.m.
Who: Members, families and guests
What: Club provides meats and drinks. Members bring vegetables, salads or desserts
What else: Bring CD or flash card to show 10 or so of your images
And finally: Photographer of the Year will be announced

Board approves changes in promotions criteria

Minutes of the May 11 meeting, Board of Directors, Plano Photography Club

New (2009-2010) board members took over their positions.

The board voted the following concerning promotions:

* The top six members in the Beginners Class will be strongly urged to self-promote to Advanced. Other Beginners Class members can promote themselves or remain in Beginners Class.

* There will be no retroactive changes to the rules for the May 2008 - April 2009 contest year concerning promotions. The statement on the website concerning demotion of Masters Class was incorrect and shall be removed. No Master Class member will be demoted.

* Criteria for promotions for the May 2009 - April 2010 contest year became effective immediately. The new rule reads as follows:

"Promotion from Advanced Class to Master Class is at the invitation of the board. The board will take into consideration: Place Points for the contest year, Judges' Points for the contest year, overall artistic merit and service to the club."

Both the website and the newsletter are to be updated with this language as soon as possible.

The board voted against giving a refund to members who paid in advance but could not attend the April 18 Model Shoot. The board felt that the "No Refund" rule was well publicized and that any refund(s) would set a bad precedent for future events.

The board also discussed the End-of-Year Party (see Page 1), Fall Showcase Exhibit, activities for the coming year and the status of the contest website.

James Stover, President

Upcoming events



David Wille, former PPC president and a member of the Masters Class, is scheduled to speak at the May 25 meeting. Wille, an intellectual property attorney in Dallas, is expected to speak on one of his specialties — night photography. This is also the club's assigned topic for November 2009 competition.



Activities Vice President Ron Marabito wants to know what kind of events you would like during the 2009-2010 club year. If you haven't completed the survey form that he put together, please complete a copy enclosed with this issue of The Flash and turn it in to Marabito at the May 25 meeting.



Model Shoot Coordinator Ken Guthrie plans a shot-and-tell evening event soon for all members who participated in the April 25 shoot. All members will be informed and are invited.



Exhibits Chairman David Lerry has announced that the club's Fall 2009 Showcase will be Sept. 1-Oct. 23 at the Plano Municipal Center in downtown Plano. Each club member will be eligible to submit two framed, wired images for judging. On Oct. 24 one half of the exhibit will move to the Plano Centre.

FLASHBACK

December 1984-- The Photographic Center at 4030 Swiss at Haskell is offering its Fall/Winter schedule at 6 sessions for \$65. Workshops include "Platinum and Palladium" for \$25 and a Big Bend Traveling Workshop for \$225. (Note: The building is now an art gallery. Postage to mail each copy of the FLASH that year was 20 cents).

Introducing Helen Powell: First-year member pleads 'don't ignore us beginners,' tells how she seeks different points of view for her shots



Editor's Note: This is the second in a planned series of occasional articles introducing PPC members to one another. The interviewer is Bill J Boyd.

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

Helen Powell: I'm a native Texan (there aren't many of us around!) and have lived in Plano almost my entire life. I'm a big sports fan, love hockey, baseball and NASCAR. I watched car races with my dad when I was little. I've been learning to appreciate a good wine and how to pair wines with different foods.

How long have you been a member of Plano Photography Club? Are you a member of any other photo organizations and/or clubs?

Powell: This is my first year with PPC, and I am not a member of any other clubs.

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

Powell: About a year ago a former boyfriend let me borrow his little point-and-shoot. The pictures I took with it were OK, but then he wanted to take it on a trip overseas so he loaned me his Nikon D40.

That did it! I started seeing things differently – lines and shadows, building architecture, colors. I was amazed and HOOKED. Eventually he wanted his camera back so I had to get my own. I try to get out and take pictures every week although some weeks I'm too busy. But I can't wait to see what comes out of my camera.

What is in your camera bag? Describe the oddest item in your bag (if any).

Powell: Well, besides just the regular "kit" items, I keep some lip gloss, tissues and a small notebook. I write down places I want to go shoot and try to remember to record names of sculptures or memorials.

Describe your photography interests, i.e., what do you like to shoot, how often do you shoot, etc.

Powell: I love buildings, lines/angles, shadows, abstracts. I try to get shots from a different point of view – under a park bench, through a piece of iron, etc. I want to learn to take better photos in low light situations, especially portraits. I'll go back to the same places sometimes to retake shots or try another angle.

Describe any photo shoots and/or photo trips you want to do in 2009.

Powell: I definitely plan to spend time at the Arboretum, would love to go to a junk yard (imagine all of the rusty items!), as well as cemeteries. I find cemeteries very peaceful and full of old beautiful items. Plus lots more shots downtown Dallas and FW – love the buildings. Oh, can't forget the Trinity Audubon Center – gotta try that one.

What lens to you use most often?

Powell: AF-S Nikkor 18-55

What software do you use for post-processing your images.

Powell: Photoshop CS

Describe any photography highlights, i.e., awards, honors, anything published, etc.

Powell: A photo I took inside of the ThanksGiving Square Chapel was chosen by the Portland Symphonic Choir to be the cover shot of their 2008-2009 musical brochure. Plus an abstract shot I took of a heart-shaped candle holder is supposed to be in a book called "Love" this Spring.

Any photography advice for our club members?

Powell: Don't ignore us beginners – we need help understanding not just how to use our cameras but how to present things to the club and how to get active.

Beginners 'Spirit of Texas' March contest winners

NAME	Total Place Points	Total Judges' Points
Beginners		
Ron Hasty	26	214
Jim Shannon	22	199
Linda Grigsby	25	199
Svatava Strnad	13	183
Bill J. Boyd	30	160
Troy Becker	6	156
Michael Losurdo	6	154
Betty A. Johnson		150
Bob Johnson	19	143
Nicholas Tovell	9	132
Willie Baker	9	124
Charles Henthorne		115
Brett Buchmiller		104
Ray Daberko	10	102
Joe Sullivan		102
Jean Karlik		93
Lance Nail		39
Laurence Briggs		35
Franz Crystal	6	34
David Ringrose		32
Aida LaPoint		27
Ronnie Scaggs	10	25
Valerie Harris		20
Debbie Tigh		19
Mike Konczal		19
Steve Wheeler		14
Lee Hatfield		10
Jolynn Dumais		6

"The Spirit of Tranquility on a Texas County Lane"
 by Ron Hasty - 1st place -15
"Old Cotton Belt Line" by Jim Shannon
 - 2nd place -14
"The Spirit Sticks" by Ron Hasty - 3rd place - 13



RON HASTY



JIM SHANNON



RON HASTY

Advanced 'Spirit of Texas' March contest winners

Andrew Hibma	9	222
Dennis Fritsche	27	217
Paul Spencer	20	208
Danette Volkmer	11	206
Jim Spencer	9	205
John A. Lovelace	20	204
Kent Taylor	11	203
Bernie Pysz		196
Stewart Musket	3	193
Alistair Wilson	14	180
Peter Staxen		176
Tatyana Bessmertnaya	18	172
LeDon Becker		172
Billy Erwin	11	154
Katherine Robertson	17	127
Marie Hansen		126
Andrew L. Hollander	6	118
Harry Rumberger	6	111
Terree Stone		110
Mary J. Baker		106
Lewis Sheriff	9	99
Kay Griffith		93
Jerry E. Schlesinger		86
Bud Barlow		83
Warren Paul Harris	6	69
Anne Hargreaves		69
Bill McMurray		56
Hal Mayfield		56
Holly Lynn		56
Carol Barlow		52
Fred Grossman		49
Irwin Lightstone		49
Diana Jaramillo		43
Ken Morton		41
Lee Vestyck		24
Lucy Huffstutter		24
Steve Korevec		24
Jerry Whitty		14
David Drake		11
Rick Pang		10
Pam Renshaw		8

"Wagon Train" by Dennis Fritsche - 1st place -15

"Dusty 2" by Jim Spencer - 2nd place - 14

"Wheel of Texas" by Stewart Musket - 3rd place - 13

"Texas Cowboy Memorial" by Diana Jaramillo – HM - 11

"Boot and Post" by Kent Taylor – HM - 11

"Mesquite and Oil Pump" by Dennis Fritsche – HM - 11



DENNIS FRITSCHÉ



JIM SPENCER



STEWART MUSKET

Masters ‘Spirit of Texas’ March contest winners

"Off to War" by John Lehman -1st - 15
 "Lovely Texas Day" by Lois Lehman - 2nd - 14
 "Silver SPurs" by Larry Petterborg - 3rd - 13
 "Texas Icon" by James Stover – HM - 12
 "Signs, Edom, TX" by Jose Artiles – HM - 12
 "Windmill Farm, Tolar, TX" by Jose Artiles – HM - 12

NAME	Total Place Points	Total Judges' Points
Eleanore Avery	51	233
Jose Artiles	16	226
Jamie Hilbig	20	223
James T. Stover	3	208
Priscilla Killion	29	193
Larry Petterborg	9	176
John Lehman	23	161
Michael LaPoint	12	128
Ed Auger	3	126
Mitsuka Iwahiro	3	79
Lois Lehman	12	74
Elizabeth Szilagyi	10	48



**“Off to War”
 By John Lehman
 (see Best of Show
 article on Page 1)**



LOIS LEHMAN



LARRY PETTERBORG

Spring model event scores high for 40 participants

By **RUSSELL McGUIRE**

Under the guidance of Ken Guthrie nearly 40 PPC members assembled at Grace Presbyterian Church Education Building April 25 for the annual Spring Model Shoot. Two weeks earlier, John and Lois Lehman had hosted a training class for some members (space was limited).

On Shoot day, members set up multiple sets throughout the building with a wide variety of lighting arrangements. Ken had obtained nine models. They provided their own clothes and makeup. Lighting was provided by club members apart from the PPC's own set of lights.

Following the Shoot, a survey was conducted similar to the survey that followed the 2008 Fall Model shoot. Based on the



YANA

participants ranked it as Good or Excellent.

On a 5 point scale (5=Excellent, 4= Good, etc) the average score was 4.54!

The full survey report will be presented to the board, but a few highlights include:

- * 85% said they improved their knowledge level.

- * The most popular model was Yana – 83% gave her an Excellent vote. Haydee

survey results, this event was a great success and there was unanimous support for a repeat.

The overall rating was very high – 89% of survey

participants ranked it as Good or Excellent.

was next with 7 and then 6 for 5 other models.

- * There was unanimous support for the training session, and almost all members said they would like to attend a training session.

- * 100% of survey participants said they want to participate in a future model shoot (as a photographer).

- * 100% of survey participants said they want PPC to continue to organize this type of event. There were some negative comments, with food and drink bringing the most.

There were also a number of comments that could not really be addressed in a group Shoot such as this because of cost, time, etc. However, the positives far outweighed the negatives.

Monthly- Contest Topics 2009-2010

May 2009: Special Effects (either digital manipulation of your image or in-camera special effects)

June 2009: Open

July 2009: Action (fast or slow shutter speed techniques)

August 2009: Open

September 2009: Photojournalism

October 2009: Open

November 2009: Night

December 2009: No meeting, no contest

January 2010: Yellow

February 2010: Open

March 2010: Selective Focus (prints only; no digital images)

April 2010: Open

May 2010: Opposites

June 2010: Open

July 2010: Diagonals

Happy New Year, PPC!

Welcome everyone to a new year with the Plano Photography Club. I wish to thank the outgoing board members for the wonderful job they did last year and welcome aboard the new board members.

The club continues to expand with a new contest website, which will improve the whole contest experience. Our new activities chairman has promised us a full slate of activities for the coming year. And we will continue with the ever-popular model and table top workshops.

In order for the club to continue to grow we need the participation of all of our members. You are what make this club great and we appreciate your help and involvement.



JAMES STOVER

And if you have suggestions, ideas or complaints, please let us know.

I am looking forward to another successful year with the Southwest's greatest photography club.

Plano Photography Club Officers

President	James Stover
Vice President — Programs	Dennis Fritsche
Vice President — Activities	Ron Marabito, Ed Auger
Secretary	Lewis Sheriff
Treasurer	Peter Staxen
Contests	Hal Mayfield
Contest Website	Carol Barlow
GSCCC Representative	Danette Volkmer
PSA Representative	Eleanore Avery
Historian	Cindy Vaillancourt
Light Rental	Don Pool
Membership	Linda L. Grigsby
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	John A. Lovelace
Webmaster	LeDon Becker
Exhibits	David Lerry, Jamie Hilbig
Model Shoot Coordinator	Ken Guthrie
Tabletop Equipment	Jamie Hilbig
Publicity	Open

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 webmaster@planophotographyclub.com
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 To be determined
 To be determined

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.