



The FLASH!

NOVEMBER 2009

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



BOS details: Hand-held 1/20, ISO 800

BY MARIE HANSEN

I attended my first Balloon Festival in 2007, thanks to PPC. A handful of us met before the sun came up to participate in a club scavenger hunt. We ran around all morning looking for entries in various assigned categories and had a great time.



The balloons fascinated me. I was dazzled by the colors, the giant sizes and the shapes of the balloons—from a tree to a giant bear to the Energizer bunny. I went back for the evening balloon launch and the balloon glow, an amazing experience. I was not particularly successful in getting any good images from the balloon glow. The crowds were overwhelming, and I could not get close enough to the balloons.

Last year I went again to the festival using one of the press passes shared by members of PPC. The pass entitled us to walk on the field, so this time I could get closer to the balloons and avoid the throngs of people. For the balloon glow, just after sunset, many balloons are inflated while tethered closely together on a large field. An announcer gives a signal to the pilots to blast their burners to light up the balloons all at once. It is an awesome sight. It is tricky to get a picture with all the balloons lit and all burners firing up simultaneously as well as to get perspective of many balloons in the picture. And, of course, it is night photography. Given the large crowds and the long distances to walk even to get into the festival, it was not practical for me to be burdened with a tripod. I took this picture hand-held at 1/20 sec and ISO 800. I used a Nikon D50 with an 18-200 VR lens at f4.5 and 44 mm focal length. As for processing, I used Adobe Lightroom and bumped up clarity and vibrancy to emphasize the flames from the burner blast.

If you've never experienced the balloon glow, you really should put it on your list of things to see.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

FOR PURPOSES of the club's November contest, "Night" is defined as any time between 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset. Judge may question or discard any entry not seeming to meet those criteria. Submission date is extended to Dec. 15 to include images from Nov. 21 Downtown Dallas night shoot (see below).

SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY at Nov. 23 meeting. Setup at Grace Presbyterian Church at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Party begins at 4 p.m. Bring salad, vegetable or dessert. Club provides meat and drinks. Bring favorite brief slideshow on CD or memory stick.

TRINITY RIVER LEVEE SHOOT 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21. Security deposit of \$10 payable in advance. For more information contact Ron Marabito at (214) 676-4046 or at remarabito@att.net.

PPC Programs for 2009-2010



Eleanore in Africa

Were the Plano Photography Club to sponsor a contest for most-widely-traveled member, Eleanore Avery would almost surely win with 66 countries and seven continents since 1985.

Eleanore will speak and present a travel-related slideshow to the club's Nov. 23 meeting, complete with her signature authentic music background.

She is the club's Photographer of the Year for 2008-2009, based on scoring the highest total of judges' points in that year's competition.

In addition to hundreds of awards at local, national and international levels, her travel photographs have received recognition in PhotoGraphic and Popular Photography magazines and a four-page photo spread and write-up in the The Best of Nature Photography book. Most recently she had a cover photo and story in the August 2009 PSA Journal (see *The Flash* for October 2009). Other travel/photo articles have been published on her trips to Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, Austria, China and Norway.

In addition to being widely published, she has received Gold and Silver Medals in Nature Exhibitions of PSA International, Saguaro and Argentina Salons. She is active in the PPC, the Dallas Camera Club and the Photographic Society of America (PSA).

Club Meeting	Meeting Date	Program Theme	Speaker
May	25-May	Night	David Wille
June	22-Jun	Underwater Photography	Barry Guimbellot
July	27-Jul	Pug Mark Park	Tom Hicks
August	24-Aug	Photo Journalism	Vernon Bryant
September	28-Sep	Landscape Shooting and Post Processing	Charles Lai
October	26-Oct	Creativity and Growing as an Artist	Larry Lourcey
November	23-Nov	Photographer of the Year Presentation	Eleanore Avery
December	NA	NA	NA
January	25-Jan	TBD	Jeremy Woodhouse
February	22-Feb	Panoramas	Peter Poulides
March	22-Mar	Composition	Ron Marabito
April	26-Apr	TBD	Mark Rogers
May	24-May	TBD	Dan Leffel
June	28-Jun	TBD	Sean Fitzgerald

Others in the works

Members Share

Sun to Moon **Scot Miller**

Plano - travel **Jody Reed**

October print judge doing double duty

Jeremy Woodhouse, an outdoor photographer based in Dallas, is doing double duty for the PPC. He will judge our October print contest entries "live and in color" during the club's Nov. 23 meeting, then speak for the Jan.25 meeting.



He spends much of each year on the road, photographing landscapes, cityscapes and wildlife. Born in Nigeria, Jeremy grew up in Pakistan and Argentina. Prior to immigrating to the U.S. in 1991, he lived in South Africa where he developed his passion for wildlife and nature photography. Whether he's photographing a herd of elephants at a waterhole in Botswana or capturing the last light as it falls on the Tokyo skyline, Jeremy brings his designer's eye to the composition and creation of all his images. Having fully embraced digital photography, he feels that his creativity and productivity have increased many fold.

1st, 2nd, 3rd: Big winners in PPC Showcase 2009

“April” was taken in the Texas Panhandle near Groom, Texas, on a Route 66 road trip from Oklahoma City to California last June. We had been watching this storm and finally got a good view late morning.

I used my Nikon D3 and a 24-70 mm/ f2.8 lens at f22 on a tripod. I post-processed in Photoshop to increase the cloud contrast and detail to enhance the drama of an already dramatic moment. I have a horizontal version which shows more of the storm, but it has only a narrow strip of land at the bottom. I like this striped effect of the grass, plowed field and clouds.

It never did rain on us! The storm started abating and moving away shortly after the shot.

This photo won first place in the Dallas Camera Club color print competition and was the only image to score a perfect 15 from three judges in the Dallas-Fort Worth annual interclub competition.

FIRST PLACE

“APRIL”

DENNIS FRITSCHÉ



SECOND PLACE

“CLASSY CACTUS”

ED AUGER

“Classy Cactus” was taken during our club's shoot at Irwin Lightstone's home in natural light with my Sony DSLR-A350 (14.2 megapixel). I had a 105mm macro lens mounted and had the camera set at aperture priority with an ISO of 100. The exposure was 1/250 sec. at f/2.8 to limit the depth of field to a few inches. I have a passion for flowers and blooms of all types so a photo excursion to Irwin's is always a special treat for me. I've printed a larger version of this image on canvas (24 X 30) and it's displayed in our breakfast room, since the colors match the wallpaper.

I like photographing bottles. I named the image "Paprika" because the tiny flowers are from paprika fern that I grow in my yard. I used an ISO speed of 100; the f-stop was set at 22.

THIRD PLACE

“PAPRIKA”

JAMIE HILBIG



September winners Beginners

Jennifer Carrick	Rush hour accident in Berkeley	13	1st
Nicholas Tovell	Fun at the Festival	12	2nd
Debbie Conrad	Teamwork	12	3rd
Jennifer Carrick	Busking in Berkeley	12	HM
John Sutton	Shedding Light	12	HM



JENNIFER CARRICK



NICHOLAS TOVELL



DEBBIE CONRAD



JENNIFER CARRICK



JOHN SUTTON

September winners Advanced

Marie Hansen	Balloon Glow at Plano Balloon Festival	13	BOS, 1 st
Andrew Hibma	21 Gun Salute	13	2nd
Dennis Fritsche	Larry Wesolowski in Seligman, Arizona	13	3rd
Diana Jaramillo	Nameless Heroes	12	HM
Peter Staxen	Deflated Dreams	12	HM
Stewart Musket	Dancer	13	HM
Ernie Tacsik	Friendly Debate, Pete Sessions	12	HM



MARIE HANSEN
(see Page One)



ANDREW HIBMA



DENNIS FRITSCHÉ



STEWART MUSKET



DIANA JARAMILLO



ERNIE TACSIK



PETER STAXEN

September winners Masters

Eleanore Avery	Wheelchair Tennis Tourney	13	1 st
Larry Petterborg	Swing Batter	13	2nd
Russell McGuire	What a past - What future?	12	3rd
John Lehman	Ropers	11	HM
Russell McGuire	The Tug-of-War - Ladies Final - 2009	11	HM



ELEANORE AVERY



LARRY PETTERBORG



RUSSELL MCGUIRE



JOHN LEHMAN



RUSSELL MCGUIRE

Cumulative competitive scores as of September 2009

	TOTAL PLACE POINTS	TOTAL JUDGES' POINTS		TOTAL PLACE POINTS	TOTAL JUDGES' POINTS
Advanced					
Bud Barlow	9	114			
Linda Grigsby	10	113			
Dennis Fritsche	3	112			
Bernard Pysz	3	111			
Danette Volkmer	0	109			
Peter Staxen	10	109			
Stewart Musket	0	107			
Jim Spencer	3	106			
John Lovelace	0	103			
Ron Hasty	6	103			
Andrew Hibma	6	102			
Jerry Schlesinger	0	99			
Ernie Tacsik	0	98			
David Philips	0	94			
Carol Barlow	13	88			
Hal Mayfield	0	83			
Bill Boyd	0	82			
Jim Shannon	0	82			
Ken Morton	0	81			
Marie Hansen	16	69			
Lewis Sheriff	6	68			
Paul Spencer	0	65			
Billy Erwin	0	56			
Diana Jaramillo	0	43			
Bill McMurray	10	40			
Kim Clack	0	33			
Lucy Huffstetter	0	26			
Katherine Robert- son	0	18			
Terri Rapp	0	18			
Beginners					
Willie Baker			32	106	
Jean Karlik			9	98	
Jennifer Carrick			20	98	
Michael Losurdo Jr			6	98	
Nicholas Tovell			9	85	
Danny Fyffe			0	75	
David Ringrose			3	75	
Sharlott Hasty			0	71	
Liz Graves			16	70	
Ron Deage			3	57	
Mike Konczal			0	38	
Debbie Conard			3	21	
John Sutton			0	12	
Masters					
Eleanore Avery			10	119	
Jose Artilles			6	115	
Russell McGuire			9	115	
Jamie Hilbig			21	113	
John Lehman			9	113	
James Stover			3	104	
Larry Petterborg			6	103	
Lois Lehman			16	95	
Mitsuka Iwahiro			10	63	
Ed Auger			0	22	

Six hours of smooth shooting for members, models

By **KEN GUTHRIE**

On October 10th, the PPC held its annual Fall Outdoor Model Shoot at the Heritage Farmstead historic site in Plano.

The event was attended by 35 club members, and 8 experienced models. Four of the models were from the Dawn Rochelle Agency, two were recruited through the Model Mayhem website, and two freelance models were invited back, having worked with PPC at a prior shoot and workshop.

shots; but along with the overcast came cooler temperatures and a slight but cool breeze. Despite the cool weather, everyone seemed to have an enjoyable day, including the models, sometimes displaying their goosebumps.

The modeling talent feedback was very positive stating that our club members were polite, friendly, very professional and fun to work with. They felt comfortable and felt appreciated.

The event started at 9 a.m. with setup and model check-in and went continuously and smoothly until 3 p.m. our scheduled stopping time. From personal observations gained by walking around the location, I could see that our club members took advantage of the many unique and historic areas of the venue. Our members seemed to like the venue and all the photo ops that it offered.

We'll get a chance to see a representation of the great images during a five-minute show presented at the Nov. 23 club meeting. Thanks go to all of the wonderful club members that helped with setup and take-down. A special thanks goes to Russell McGuire as the event co-organizer and John Lehman for conducting an outdoor lighting workshop the weekend before the Fall shoot.

(SEE MORE IMAGES FROM MODEL SHOOT ON FACING PAGE)



The weather was cooperative to some degree in that it rained for a week before our shoot, and then rained for a week after the shoot. So we were fortunate to get our photo shoot completed in between the two storm fronts. The day was overcast, which is usually good for outdoor

**Contest
Topics
by month
2009-2010**

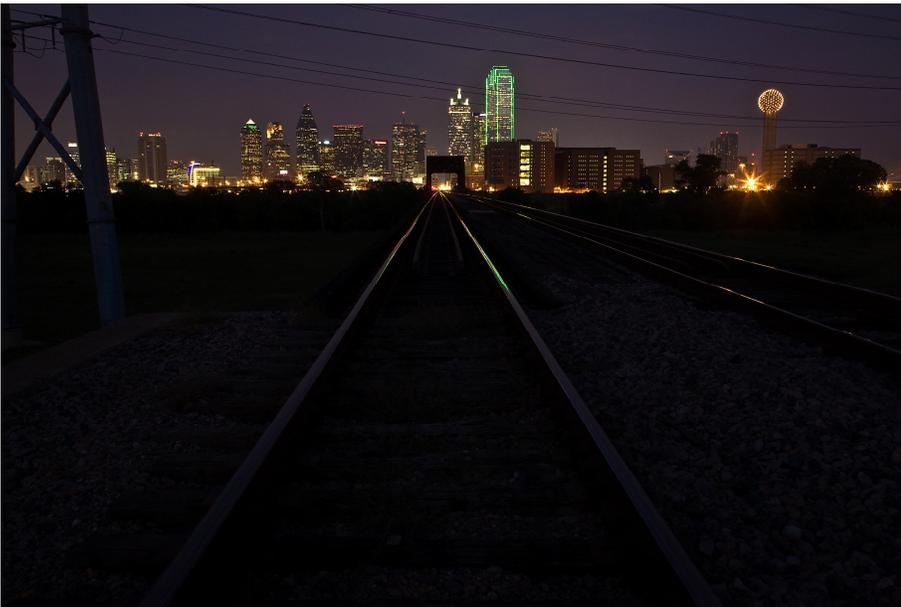
November 2009: Night (see definition on Page 1 of this issue)
December 2009: Christmas party Dec. 5. Details on Page 1 of this issue.
No meeting, no contest
January 2010: Yellow
February 2010: Open
March 2010: Selective Focus (prints only; no digital images)
April 2010: Open
May 2010: Opposites
June 2010: Open



*Heritage
Farmstead
provides
cool venue
for members
and models*



Plano Photography Club members Katherine Robertson (left) and Danette Volkmer received certificates recently at Dallas City Hall as winners in the City of Dallas' first photography contest related to the Trinity Valley Corridor. Harry Rumberger, a former PPC member now president of the Dallas Camera Club, was also a winner.



ABOVE: Second Place, Architecture-Structures, Amateur, Danette Volkmer

RIGHT: Third Place, Architecture-Structures, Amateur, Katherine Robertson

LEFT: Honorable Mention, Architecture-Structures, Amateur, Danette Volkmer



Week-long digital photography classes prove helpful

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of articles designed to acquaint Plano Photography Club members with one another and to encourage learning from 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.

I'm Lois Lehman. I grew up on a small farm near the tiny town of Otho, Iowa. After completing x-ray technology education in Iowa, I moved to Dallas in 1971. My first job in Dallas was at Children's Medical Center, and I have been a Pediatric Radiologic Technologist ever since.

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

In the mid 1990s, John, my husband, joined PPC. John knew I loved to do vacation and family photos and suggested I attend a club meeting. In the beginning, I was **very** new to the world of photography. But with much practice and perseverance, I rose to Masters level. We also became active club members as we volunteered to be officers, event leaders, and instructors.

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

My first serious camera was a manual SLR (no auto anything) given to me by John. I struggled to learn photo rules and practiced photo techniques with this frustrating camera. During my first year with PPC, I attended a photo class at Collin County CC called "Learning the Basics of an SLR Camera" Boy, was I happy two years later when I bought my first Canon Rebel with auto focus and modern features.

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

Currently, I have a Canon EOS 20D camera with 4 lenses (wide angle and telephoto). My camera bag also carries multiple filters, extra bat-

teries/memory cards, cleaning cloths, designated flash, extra lens caps, and rain protection for my camera.

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

I enjoy shooting southwest images; especially in Texas and New Mexico. My favorite subjects are western events, ranches, adobe/mission dwellings, American Indian culture, and rugged scenery. I am also fond of portrait work, travel (people and places), and event photography. I use my ProShow Gold program often. It is fun to create a slideshow of special photos (trip to Hawaii, weddings, family gathering, etc) and to add meaningful music to enhance the images. Then I can download the final show onto a DVD and share it with family and friends.



Describe any photo shoots and/or photo trips you want to do in the next few months.

John and I plan to spend five days in East Texas in November to shoot trains and fall foliage. My dream photo vacation would be to stay a few days at a working cattle ranch. Taking photos of cowboys, horses, cattle, sweat, dust, and morning/evening chores sound wonderful to me.

What lens do you use most often?

My favorite lens is my Canon 28-200 mm lens - great for portrait and travel.

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

I have Adobe Photoshop CS2. John and I have attended several week-long digital photography classes. These classes expanded my technical and artistic skills with my digital camera and Photoshop.

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

Several years ago, I won Best of Show with the Richardson Photography Contest. As a perk, they set up a month-long exhibition of my photography at the Richardson Main Library.

Any photography advice for our club members?

- 1) Enter as many PPC contests as possible so you can hear the judge's critique/advice.
- 2) Join PPC members at photo events. You will be pleasantly surprised by what you learn from fellow photo enthusiasts.
- 3) Take week-long photo classes and immerse yourself into your passion.

Tell us about some of your non-photography interests.

I enjoy time with our daughter and her family as Grandma time with our grandchildren is sweet. I also like traveling, movies, theater, and audio books (especially mysteries).

I enjoy teaching and I am a clinical instructor for El Centro CC and Midwestern State University in the field of radiologic technology.



FLASHbacks

Believe it or not, NO PICTURES at all (except clip art) were to be found in The Flash until 1998, when January winners were scanned into the March issue. Now, newsletters can be viewed on line in color.

August 1996-- Last month's trip to Jim Dunlap's Outdoor Learning Center in Plano gave 11 members a fun opportunity to be near and photograph lizards, pythons and an alligator.

Plano Photography Club Officers

President	James Stover	ppc@planophotographyclub.com
Vice President — Programs	Dennis Fritsche	programs@planophotographyclub.com
Vice President — Activities	Ron Marabito, Ed Auger	activities@planophotographyclub.com
Secretary	Lewis Sheriff	secretary@planophotographyclub.com
Treasurer	Peter Staxen	treasurer@planophotographyclub.com
Contests	Hal Mayfield	E-contest@planophotographyclub.com
Contest Website	Carol Barlow	To be determined
GSCCC Representative	Danette Volkmer	Gsccc-rep@planophotographyclub.com
PSA Representative	Eleanore Avery	Psa-rep@planophotographyclub.com
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Model Shoot Coordinator	Ken Guthrie	modeling@planophotographyclub.com
Tabletop Equipment	Jamie Hilbig	To be determined
Publicity	Open	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.