



The FLASH!

March 2012

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club



www.planophotographyclub.com



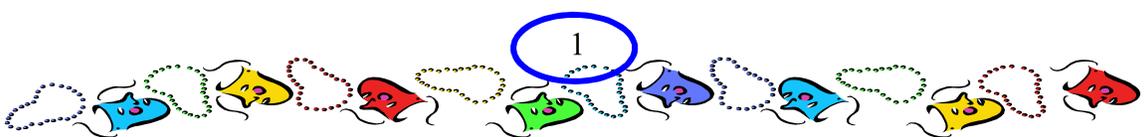
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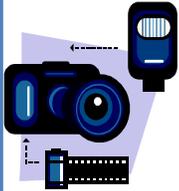
BEST IN SHOW: ASSURED CONTAINMENT- BY ALAN MANN

I do volunteer work with the Bill Glass Champions for Life "Behind the Walls" prison ministry and serve as the event photographer for that organization. As such, I'm approved for photography in various Texas prison units as well as those in some other states. This photo was taken inside the Mark Stiles Unit (state prison) at Beaumont, TX during an event early last December.

As our group was preparing to leave the unit, the exterior fence with its seemingly endless coils of razor wire, the lines and the texture, caught my eye. The glisten of the late afternoon sun reflecting on the wire added a special touch. Of additional interest is the stark contrast with the beautiful blue sky and the lone pigeon perched atop the razor wire near the center of the picture, both of which suggest freedom. This foreboding scene – the fence and the rusting "old school" guard tower (staffed with armed guards of course) – contrasted with freedom on the outside, inspired the title of "Assured Containment."

I shot this with a Nikon D300, ISO 400, 1/250 sec., f/8, at .67 EV with a Nikkor 16-85mm f/3.5-5.6G ED VR AF-S zoom lens at about 50mm. I love my Nikon equipment and enjoy all types of photography, but probably like "people photography" the best ... especially where I can capture emotions and tell a story. As such, most of my shooting tends to be event photography on a volunteer basis for several organizations. I enjoy continually learning more about the craft as well as experimenting with different techniques and gadgets.





Upcoming Activities

April 7, 2012 – Ennis Bluebonnet Trails: Look for details on the club website. We will meet at the Church at 6:30 AM if you would like to carpool together.

April 28, 2012 – Spring Indoor Model shoot: Second floor of the activities building at Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 West Park Blvd in Plano. There are a limited number of slots available and a fee of \$30. Signup and payment required. For information contact Ken Guthrie at modeling@planophotographyclub.com. Signup at the March meeting. Note, you must be a paid member as of the March meeting to attend. At 9:45 AM photographers will have a short meeting to discuss light set protocol and rules regarding work with professional modeling talent. The shoot will run from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Those wonderful club members who always seem to be willing to help set up the event should arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. Light set owners should begin setup no later than 9:00 AM. The modeling talent will arrive at 9:00 AM.

If there is sufficient interest in a pre-model shoot workshop, one will be organized. The workshop instruction and location will be provided by John Lehman. Attendance will be limited to 12 members. There will be time to get your camera ready to shoot in a studio and some basic posing and lighting instruction. While there will be limited time to shoot with the workshop model as this is predominately an instructional experience. The instruction will be accompanied by some time to use a studio light set and practice with a model. The no-cost workshop will be on a first come, first served basis. Sign-up will also be at the March club meeting.

For more information on the above activities contact: activities@planophotographyclub.com.

Other Activities of Interest

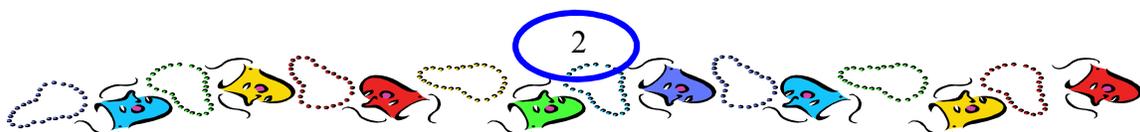
April 14, May 19, June 16, 2012 – PUG MARK PARK: McKinney, Texas Wildlife Refuge. See John Yates for details at johnyatesphoto@mindspring.com.

April 11-14, 2012 – Clark Crenshaw Workshop: Lake Martin and Southern Louisiana. For details see clarkcrenshaw.photodeck.com/-/galleries/workshops/lake-martin-and-southern-louisiana.

April 19-21, 2012 – Gulf States Camera Club Council Convention “Mudbugs & Shutterbugs” – The Lafayette Photographic Society hosts the 2012 convention in the Ramada Conference Center New Iberia, Louisiana. See gsgcc.convention.angelfire.com. Send an e-mail to thom1936@bellsouth.net with "Convention Update" in the subject line and you will be sent updates about the 2012 GSCCC Convention. Sunrise boat tours of Lake Martin have been arranged for the GSCCC Convention. These tours will be held on Sunday morning April 22, 2012. These tours are on first-come, first-served basis and only 20 slots are available. (If they do not have the necessary required minimum for these additional tours, you will be notified in time to make other arrangements.)

The members of the Lafayette Photographic Society have a great convention planned just for you. By attending, you will take advantage of an opportunity to learn from world-class photographic experts, experience the Acadiana culture, sample delicious cuisine, and have a good ole time in Southwest Louisiana.

May 5 - 16, 2012 - GRAND CANYON PHOTOGRAPHY RAFT TRIP: David Wille of the Plano Photography Club is organizing a Grand Canyon photography rafting trip. The trip goes from Lee's Ferry to Lake Mead and stops at the most photogenic locations within the Canyon. Each day typically involves some hiking. Because the trip is a photography trip, we have some ability to remain in certain locations for the best light. While this is not always possible, the guides do their best to accommodate the wishes of the photographers. If you are interested, please contact David at david.wille@bakerbotts.com. The cost is \$2700 per person. This includes a tent, sleeping pad, food, etc.



GUEST SPEAKER – WINTER AND SUMMER IN TANZANIA – ELEANORE AVERY-FERG

Eleanore will share photographs from winter in southern Tanzania (Selous and Ruaha parks) and summer in the south of the Serengeti where Wildebeest and Zebras gather for a huge birthing event before migrating north. Eleanore has won hundreds of awards in local, national, and international photographic competitions. She has traveled the world and has taken photographs in 65 countries. She is an active member of the Dallas Camera Club and the Photographic Society of America (PSA). She is the PSA Region 24 Director and President of the Gulf States Camera Clubs Council (GSCCC). Among her recent recognitions was a photo on exhibit at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., in the "Nature's Best Photography Highly Honored" exhibit which opened April 2011.

CHANGES TO CLUB COMPETITION PROCESS

The board has made a number of changes to the competition process effective with the May 2012 competition. We are adding a new competition level, Intermediate, between Beginners and Advanced. When a member registers at the competition web site, the member may select to join at either the Beginners or Intermediate level. The contest manager, any board member or Masters class member can give advice on selecting a level. Experienced photographers may petition the board to join at the Advanced class.

In April of this year, the Board will divide the current Beginner and Advanced competition groups into the three groups. The goal is to have three roughly equally sized groups where each group reflects those who are at about the same skill level in camera craft and scoring. Thereafter, at the end of each contest year the Board will consider promotions based on balancing the size of all levels, except for Masters. Typically, a member will progress to higher levels as photographic skills, contest experience, and success increase. A member will not be automatically moved to a lower level if their performance is down during a year. However, there may be occasions when the Board will give a member the opportunity to voluntarily move down if the member would be more comfortable competing at a lower level. All changes of levels occur at the beginning of the contest year. Promotion to Masters remains the same, by invitation of the board.

Beginner: Minimally experienced photographer. Has either not competed in Club contests or is having minimal success.
Intermediate: More experience with photography fundamentals and has had competition experience and success.
Advanced: Earned through competition experience and results. Approved by the Board.
Master: Earned through competition experience and results and service to the Club. Approved by the Board.

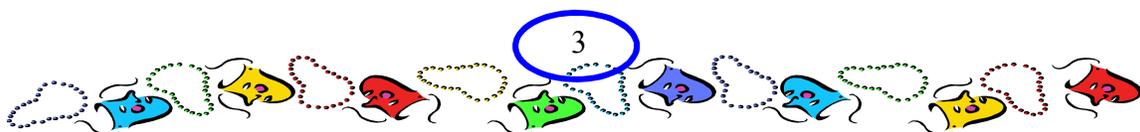
The board is also making changes to the judging guidelines. Previously, images were awarded 2 to 5 points in three categories: interest, composition, and technique. Beginning with the May 2012 contest, images will be awarded 6 to 15 points at the judge's discretion. This more accurately reflects how judges actually score images. Starting with the May contest the guidelines that will be given to judges include:

Minimum score 6: The effort of submitting merits a score of no less than 6.
7-9 represents a "fair" entry
10-12 represents a "good" entry
13-15 represents an "excellent" entry. For themed competitions, an "excellent" score may not be given to an image that does not fit the theme.

We don't force distributions. In other words the 1st place image doesn't have to receive 15 points, 2nd place 14 points, etc. Likewise, there may be multiple high scores. We want the images to be scored against the criteria, not each other. An image that scores 8 in the Master's category would also score an 8 in the Beginner's category.

In a monthly competition with a fixed subject assignment, the judge's scoring should reflect in part how well the assigned subject contributed to the overall image. Previously, a judge could disqualify an image. Now, the judge may simply deduct points if the image does not reflect the assigned subject.

More details can be found on the club's web site.



**Winning Images:
BEGINNERS**

Mary Petterborg	BLOSSOM	1st	13
Valerie Johnson	ROUGH TEXTURE	2nd	13
Melanie Erwin	WHAT A PANE	3rd	12
Debbie Conard	BOB	HM	13
James Haynes	LIGHT AND TEXTURE	HM	12



Mary Petterborg



Melanie Erwin



James Haynes



Valerie Johnson



Debbie Conard



**Winning Images:
ADVANCED**

Alan Mann	ASSURED CONTAINMENT	1st,BoS	14
Linda Grigsby	CAR DETAIL	2nd	14
Steve Sutton	OSTRICH	3rd	13
Aimee Wilson	HORSE APPLE	HM	12
Aimee Wilson	RED CACTUS	HM	10
Marea Downey	SUNSET IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS	HM	13
Sherri Kidner	STONE ON A BEACH	HM	12



Steve Sutton



Linda Grigsby



Aimee Wilson



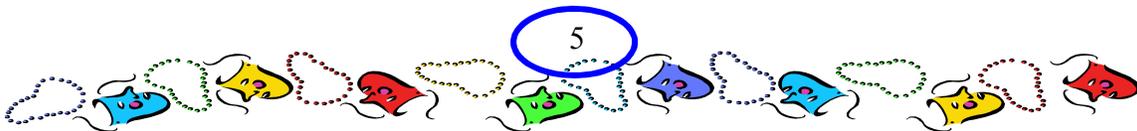
Aimee Wilson



Marea Downey



Sherri Kidner



**Winning Images:
MASTERS**

Dennis Fritsche	V8	1st	14
Dennis Fritsche	LAMB'S EARS	2nd	13
Jamie Hilbig	STRAWBERRY DELIGHT	3rd	13
Ernie Tacsik	(SORRENTO) ORANGE PEEL	HM	13
James Stover	THE WAVE AT COYOTE BUTTES	HM	12
John Lehman	MUD PRINCESS	HM	10
Jose Artiles	MINUTE PARKING	HM	12



JOSE ARTILES



DENNIS FRITSCHE



JAMES STOVER



DENNIS FRITSCHE



JAMIE HILBIG



JOHN LEHMAN



ERNIE TACSIK



ABOUT THE CLUB

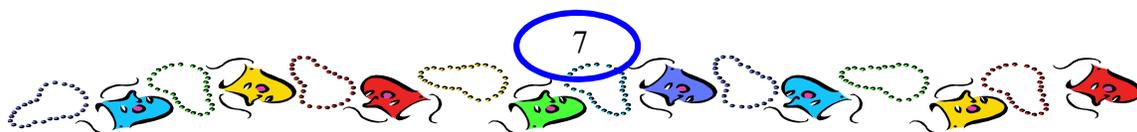
The club meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month (no meeting in December) at Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 West Park Blvd in Plano. Visitors are welcome!

Officers meet at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month (except December) at the church. Open to all members.

The club is a member of: *Gulf States Camera Club Council (GSCCC) & Photographic Society of America (PSA)*

COMPETITION STANDINGS

Photographer	Cumulative Place Points	Cumulative Judges' Points	Photographer	Cumulative Place Points	Cumulative Judges' Points
ADVANCED			BEGINNERS		
Marea Downey	23	190	Linfen Hwang	49	164
Ron Hasty	20	192	Mary Petterborg	28	177
Sharlott Hasty	13	177	Peter Luh	22	172
Kent Taylor	10	176	Ming Luh	13	173
Jim Spencer	3	173	Charlie Henkle	1	167
Marie Hansen	12	163	Karen Chaney	18	150
Jennifer Carrick	11	159	Melanie Erwin	4	129
Carol Barlow	0	165	Debbie Conard	2	128
Joe Sullivan	4	160	Linda Lee Bickford	7	107
Sam Wilson	0	163	Leonard Margolis	0	113
Lee Hatfield	3	157	Bryan Zumbar	0	86
Tim Morgan	6	151	Wayne Kenter	0	66
Jerry Schlesinger	0	155	Thinh Nguyenphu	13	42
John Lovelace	1	151	Valerie Johnson	6	46
Aimee Wilson	2	149	Wayne Honeycutt	0	51
Ronnie Scaggs	1	146	Lisa Jackson	7	40
Stephen Finnerty	2	144	David Allen	0	40
Bill Boyd	1	144	Kelli Schmidt	0	40
Linda Grigsby	7	136	Luellen Adair	0	26
Sherri Kidner	1	135	Jesse Flores	1	23
David Philips	11	117	Kurtis Allen	0	23
Steve Sutton	6	113	Jane Damon	0	21
David Forehand	10	101	Thomas McCallister	0	20
Sevy Strnad	0	103	Clinta Williams	0	19
Harold Walker	0	101	James Haynes	1	18
Jim Shannon	1	85	Janice Stovall	0	17
Ken Morton	6	80	Letty Ramos	0	13
Danny Fyffe	0	84	Don Huddy	0	11
Roger Boulanger	5	71	Vinay Rekapalli	0	8
Willie Baker	6	61	Michael Calverley	0	7
Thomas Kerwin	0	65	MASTERS		
Melanie Dyer	3	61	Dennis Fritsche	42	197
Alan Mann	11	42	Danette Volkmer	35	183
Retha Moulder	0	44	Jamie Hilbig	28	169
Jean Karlik	1	42	Ernie Tacsik	7	188
Paul Spencer	0	41	Larry Petterborg	6	178
Katherine Robertson	0	25	Jose Artilis	27	156
Hal Mayfield	0	24	Peter Staxen	12	166
Terree Stone	0	23	James Stover	3	174
Alex Jones	0	22	John Lehman	3	152
Gene Domingo	0	21	Lois Lehman	11	120



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: *WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE CHANGES?*

The article earlier in this issue outlines some changes the Board is making to the competitions and you may be wondering, "Why these changes and why now?"

The Competition Groups are changing in order to increase the educational value of the competition, which is the primary goal of the monthly competition. By receiving feedback from judges, we have a better idea of how to improve and, by receiving scores, we can see if we are improving. First, we have received input that some members are reluctant to submit images because they feel their images are not good enough compared to images submitted by others. So, we wanted to make the Beginner Group truly for those just getting started and at the same time, give those with more developed skills a place to compete without reaching the Advanced Group. Second, when analyzing last year's scores, it was apparent that the average and distribution of scores in the Beginner and Advanced Groups are about the same. That indicated that a method better than self-selection is needed when members are deciding which group to join. So we added Board oversight. No system is perfect, but for us at this time, the changes are appropriate.

The scoring Instructions we give the judges is changing to reflect how a judge really works and because judges find it awkward to score in the three categories we gave - technical, composition, and interest. We had been trying to reduce scoring to an algorithm and judging just is not objective – it is about how an image "speaks" to the judge. Feedback from judges is that they look through the images and sort them according to overall impact and interest and put them in natural groupings. They then assign scores within a range to the different groupings. We researched photo club rules, as well as instructions given by the Gulf States Camera Club Councils (GSCCC) to judges, and based the new model on what we saw. The challenge for the Contest Chairman is to work with the judges to give actionable input during the commentary.

I feel certain we can count on you to work with us as we make these changes.

Dennis Fritsche

PLANO PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB OFFICERS

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COMPETITION TOPICS BY MONTH

March	Black and White (Prints)
April	Open
May	Night or Low Light
June	Open
July	Repetition
Aug.	Open

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JAMES T STOVER

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EDITOR

