



The FLASH!

January 2019 Vol. 35, No. 8

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



| Inside This Issue | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Best in Show | 1 |
| Activities | 2 |
| Guest Speakers | 2 |
| Photography Hints | 2 |
| Pre-Meeting Training | 3 |
| Why Compete | 3 |
| Winning Images from Competition | 4 |
| Christmas Party | 8 |
| Vitruvian Park Shoot | 8 |
| Dennis Fritsche | 9 |
| Competition Topics | 11 |
| Competition Standings | 11 |
| President's Message | 12 |
| About the Club | 12 |

Best In Show: Mushroom On Dark Background By Jose Artiles

Every now and then, an army of mushrooms invades my front yard. I usually ignore them and let the landscape folks repel the invasion by using one their most effective weapons: The Lawnmower. This time, however, a particularly distinctive mushrooms caught my eye. So, what better thing to do than to photograph it?

To that effect, I plucked it out of the front yard, cut the scruffy bottom of the stem, and placed it on a black cloth I had draped over a chair in the backyard. The sun was low in the sky, but it was still bright enough to illuminate my "field studio."

When I began processing the image in my computer, I realized it was flat; it had no depth. Using layers in PhotoShop, and placing a "light" behind, and at the base of the mushroom, corrected the problem.

Lens: f/2.8 105mm Micro Nikkor

Camera: Nikon D750 (on a tripod. A wireless remote was used to trigger the shutter)

Exposure: Manual - f/11 at 1/10th sec. ISO: 500

Processed with Photo Shop CC 2019

Upcoming Club Activities / Photo Ops

Contact: activity@planophotographyclub.com

February 23, 2019 – *Table Top Workshop*

March 8 – March 10, 2019 – *North Texas Irish Festival*

March 23, 2019 – *Bonnie & Clyde Tour*

April 6 , 2019 – *Sharkarosa Wildlife Ranch*

April 6 – May 27, 2019 – *Scarborough Renaissance Festival*

Spring – 2019 – *Model Shoot*

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

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. More details to follow.

Guest Speakers – “Photographing Birds In Flight, Fight, In Love & Birds For Art” – Sharlott And Ron Hasty

For the viewer to feel connected with your photos, regardless of genre, there must be an impact created through an emotion. This program will illustrate tips, techniques and practices for photographing birds which can, hopefully, make all your photography better. The focus will be on how camera setting combined with emotion created by behavior, light, motion, color, interaction, surprise and expressions can help tell your story.

Ron and Sharlott are members of the Plano Photography Club, the Heard Nature Photographers Club, and the Denton Camera Club. They are both award winning nature and wildlife photographers who combine their love of travel with photography. They have traveled to more than 50 countries. They judge photography contests, make photography presentations for area photography clubs and teach photography classes at clubs and for the University of North Texas Emeritus College/OLLI Lifelong Learning Center. They are both educators. Ron retired from UNT as a professor of marketing and logistics. Sharlott retired from teaching at Little Elm Elementary School. They are honorary members of the Nature Conservancy which has over one million members and has protected 120,000,000 acres of land and thousands of miles of rivers worldwide.

Future PPC Programs

| | | |
|----------|------------------|--|
| February | Nock Wong | (PPC Photographer of the Year) - Travel photography. |
| March | Jason Ulsrud | Unlocking the mystery of composite photography |
| April | Larry Petterborg | (PPC member) - Photo Intention Deficit Disorder (PIDD) and the Lack of Impact. |

Photography Hints From Dan Leffel

November’s guest speaker, Dan Leffel, gave us a number of hints for photography.

| | |
|--|--|
| Use Back Focus Button – separate focus from exposure | Hyperfocal Focus – Focus for maximum depth of field |
| Slow shutter speed to show motion | Slow shutter speed to remove extra people |
| Don’t “Steal” images – relate to people – get close | Use long lens for candid images and compression |
| Change perspective – get low, high, move around | Use auto ISO – set shutter speed and aperture you want |
| Create silhouettes and use shadows for something different | Create depth in images with composition |
| Shoot 1 hour before sunset and after sunrise – golden hours | Watch your background |
| Shoot 1 hour after sunset and before sunrise – blue hours | Include the environment |
| Use external flash or LED light panel – catch lights in eyes | Look for reflections |
| Look for details to help tell the story | Look for complimentary and contrasting colors |
| Include props in the composition | |



2



Pre-Meeting Training

New And Perspective Member Orientation

Lead by Carol Barlow and Mary Jean Blevins. The leaders will familiarize new and perspective members with information such as how to join, an overview of the web sites, the purpose of the competition, and an overview of the monthly contest process, and club events and field trips. This class is offered in January, February, April, June, August, and October.

Lightroom - Organizing and Enhancing Your Photographs

Lead by Dennis Fritsche. Learn how to use the powerful Adobe Lightroom to organize and enhance your photographs. The majority of the sessions will concentrate on the Develop Module and the powerful ways convey your vision in your photographs. The first two sessions will be an overview of Lightroom and a methods to organize and find your photographs. This class begins in January 2019 and will run through November 2019.

Developing a Critical Approach to Looking at Photographs

Lead by Larry Petterborg. This class ends on February 21. This Course is Designed to Help Students: 1) Critically look at and think about photographs, 2) To articulate their responses to the photographs viewed, and 3) To understand that judging a club photo contest is primarily a quantitative (scoring, ranking etc.) process the differs substantially from the qualitative nature of art criticism. It is hoped that students will be able to develop critical analytical skills that contribute to improvements in the photographs they subsequently make.

Photography Fundamentals Study Group

Class is full. No new participants accepted. A new class begins in May 2019.

Exploring Still Life Photography

Lead by Sam Wilson. Participants will explore techniques useful in creating still life photographs. The class will begin in March 2019 and complete in August 2019.

Contest Mentoring For Beginners

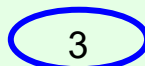
Lead by Larry Petterborg. One of the best ways to become a better photographer is to participate in the monthly club competitions. Preparing for and entering the contests each month stimulates creativity and fosters learning. Searching for and creating competition images on a regular basis helps develop photographic skills that carry over into your personal non-competitive work. If you have any questions or wish to register, please email Larry at lpetterborg@gmail.com.

Why You Should Compete By Larry Petterborg

Its been more that 3 years since I wrote a piece for the PPC Flash entitled "Why I Compete" (http://www.planophotographyclub.com/newsletter/2015/2015_08_Flash.pdf). In that article I stated that since "we all have a very subjective and emotional connection to our photographs, it is difficult if not impossible to see them as others do. Getting a sense of how others see my work helps me refine my approach and further develop my skills. Club contests are not an end but rather a means to better pictures for me." I want to be able to take pictures that make me happy and by way of the regular monthly challenges of producing contest entries, I am constantly being pushed to make better images.

If you joined the club to become a better photographer and are not regularly participating in the monthly contests, you are missing out on one of the greatest benefits of membership. Sure, the training and social events that the club offers are worthwhile and conducive to your development as a photographer, but if you really want to improve your skills, getting involved in the competitions and paying attention to the judges' commentary will prove to be invaluable. As a retired educator, may best advice to anyone about anything is you "learn by doing". Preparing for and entering the monthly contests is doing and you will learn alot!

If you are new to the club and/or still unsure about the contest process, I will be offering a contest mentoring class for beginners next year. Starting in February, participants will be expected to attend the final session of my current, Photography Criticism, class on "What Contest Judges Look For", as an introduction. From there on, we will meet regularly to discuss possible contest entries and strategies for improving your images and dealing with criticism. In addition, I will work with mentees to produce two prints to submit to our print competitions. The overall goal of the class is to encourage participants to become familiar and comfortable with photo contests and view them as just one of many ways to more fully enjoy their pursuit of photography.



October Winning Images – Open (Print)

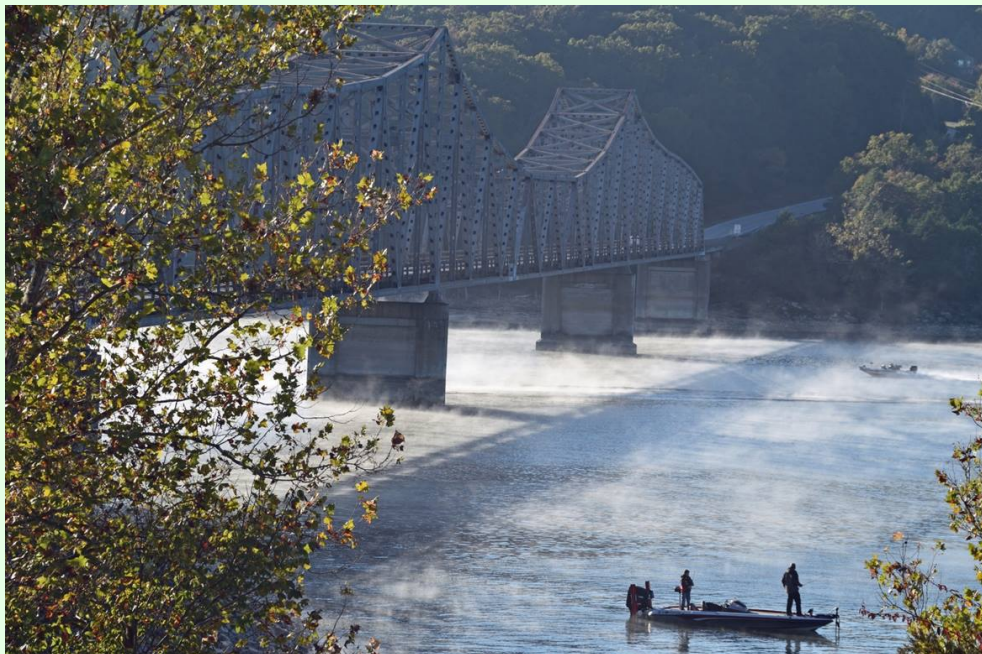
| Masters | | | | Advanced | | | |
|---------------------|--|----|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Jose Artiles | Mushroom on Dark Background (Print) | 15 | 1st,BOS | Mark Bernthal | Rupture ponders rust | 15 | 1st |
| Danette Volkmer | Warm and Cool | 15 | 2nd | Nancy Mack | Towne Lake | 14 | 2nd |
| Ron Hasty | Red-Eyed Tree Frog with Fly Costa Rica (Agalychnis Callidryas) | 15 | 3rd | Wenchi Lee | Morning sunlight over Aspen trees | 13 | 3rd |
| Sam Wilson | At the Edge of the Forest | 15 | HM | Nock Wong | The Silk Road | 13 | HM |
| Linda Grigsby | Spring Sunrise in New Zealand | 14 | HM | | | | |
| Intermediate | | | | Entry | | | |
| Jason Ware | The Eyes of Titan | 15 | 1st | Debbie Nielsen | Maroon Bells Fall Reflection | 15 | 1st |
| Alan Daniel | Storm Coming - White Sands | 14 | 2nd | Siu Wong | Mandarin Duck | 13 | 2nd |
| Parvin Stiles | a bull rider | 14 | 3rd | John Eden | Early Morning on the Water | 12 | 3rd |
| Jeffrey Sarembock | Frolicking in the Snow | 13 | HM | | | | |
| Richard Otto | Crystal Mill | 13 | HM | | | | |



Debbie Nielsen



Siu Wong



John Eden





Alan Daniel



Jason Ware



Richard Otto



Parvin Stiles



Jeffrey Sarembock



WINTER





Mark Bernthal



Nancy Mack



Wenchi Lee



Nock Wong





Danette Volkmer



Ron Hasty



Linda Grigsby



Sam Wilson



Annual Christmas Party

On December 1st the club held its annual Christmas Party. There was lots of fellowship, good food, and a variety of interesting slide shows. A great time was had by all.



Christmas Lights Shoot At Vitruvian Park

On December 12th the club held Christmas lights shoot at Vitruvian Park. Club members got to practice using HDR to capture stunning Christmas light displays.



Piece Of Advice: 'Get A Buddy Who Will Tell You The Truth' - Interview With Dennis Fritsche



Editor's Note: This is a reprint of a article about club member Dennis Fritsche that appeared in the October 2009 **The Flash**. It is designed to help PPC members get to know more about one another. The interviewer is Bill J Boyd.

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

I am a native Texan and have lived out of the state for less than a year over the past 62 years. I grew up in Beaumont and received an engineering degree from Lamar. I went to graduate school at Rice and stayed in Houston for 16 years where I was introduced to photography in the '70's. I worked for a small company in Houston for seven years where I met my wife, Lynne, and then Texas Instruments in Houston, Temple, and Dallas for 32 years. I retired in February. Lynne is a talented and avid quilter. Lynne and I have two sons, John and Steven.

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

I have been a member of PPC for two and a half years. I joined the Dallas Camera Club this year. I am a member of PSA.

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

My first camera was a Minolta rangefinder – don't remember the model in the early '70's. I moved on to a Nikormat EL SLR which I still have. A friend introduced me to photography in that time. From the late '70's through the rest of the century, I put my creative energies into raising a family, engineering, and starting the DLP projector business within Texas Instruments. I bought a Nikon D100 in 2000 and started competing in two contests a week at the on-line site dpchallenge.com. This really kick-started my second life in photography.

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

I am paring down my equipment (and have some things to sell). I often carry just one or two lenses with my Nikon D3. For instance on the Route 66 Road-Trip, I had only the D3, Nikon 24-70/f2.8 and Zeiss 100/f2.0 lenses with polarizing and neutral density filters, and a Gitzo Traveler Tripod with Really Right Stuff BH25 head, and cable release in a LowePro backpack. Other lenses I carry when not constrained are the 70-200/f2.8, 12-24/f2.8, 24mm tilt/shift . I have a Speedlight SB600 flash but rarely use it.

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

I like a variety of subjects – outdoor, water, flowers, rusty cars, old buildings. I don't have the patience to shot animals in nature and am shy about shooting people. I like stuff that doesn't move around and doesn't talk back. I try to shoot 2-4 times a week. In the summer this goes down. Describe any photo shoots and/or photo trips you want to do in the next few months. I want to go to East Texas and shoot around my mother's home town of San Augustine. I am anxious to get back into the creeks to work on my Water Abstracts – need the poison ivy and snakes to go in for the winter.

What lens to you use most often?

Toss-up between the Nikon 24-70 and Zeiss 100.

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



I sort RAW images in Adobe Bridge, RAW process in Nikon Capture NX, Fine tune in Photoshop CS4, and use the suite of tools from Nik Software – noise reduction, black and white conversion, and image enhancement. I highly recommend Nik Software Color Efex 3 – the tonal contrast filter in that plug end is worth the price of the package. I use Lightroom to look at the whole portfolio when I am choosing images for a particular purpose and will use it for noncritical RAW processing such as for an event. I print on an Epson 4880 and use Harman gloss paper for final output and Red River UltraPro Satin 2.0 for initial output.

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

I have had three images selected in the Black and White Magazine Single Image Contest – two in 2005 and one in 2008.

I was just notified that I am a Showcase winner in Color Magazine Portfolio Contest. I will have an 8 to 10 page spread in one of the issues next year – I am not sure which one. This is for my Water Dreams series that I showed at the year-end party. You can check these out on dennisfritsche.com.

Any photography advice for our club members?

Shoot lots of images – practice, practice, practice. Enter contests. Get a buddy who will tell you the truth. I have such a friend and we review each other's work almost every week. Shoot what you know. You can stay close to home and find great subjects – all three of my winning images in Black and White Magazine are from my own yard and two are of the same plant in different years!

Tell us about some of your non-photography interests.

I like to cook, read, and do a little gardening.

Editor's Note: It has been nearly 10 years since this article was published. Since then much has changed.

Dennis is a Fellow of the Dallas Camera Club, where he is the Education Director, and a Master Class member of the Plano Photography Club, where he served as President and Programs Chair and is currently the Training Chair. He was Plano Photography Club Photographer of the Year for the 2011-2012 contest year. He enjoys training and sharing with other photographers.

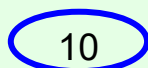
He has had numerous images published in the *Black and White Magazine* single image contests since 2006 and has had three portfolio recognized in the magazine. He has also had numerous images in the single image contest of *Color Magazine* and his *Water Dreams* portfolio was a winner of the prestigious Spotlight Award. His images have appeared in juried shows at the PhotoPlace Gallery in Vermont and the on-line Chasing the Light gallery. He is the 2013 Grand Prize Winner for the Trinity River Photography Contest. He had a solo show at the Grand Prairie Woman's Club in 2018 and had a print at the Center for Photographic Art in Carmel, California in 2018.

He has judged several local contests for the public schools and community organizations, as well as, the Gulf States Camera Clubs Council and other photography clubs.

Dennis is a gearhead. He has several Nikon DSLR's and mirrorless cameras with a shelf full of lenses from Nikon, Zeiss, and Sigma. He goes through phases of using just primes and then using just a couple of zooms. (Tip: To stretch your creativity, shoot with just a single focal length – you must think about new ways to show your subject. Then shoot the same type of scene with a different focal length.) A variety of tripods and heads for different equipment and situations. Rarely used polarizing and neutral density filters. (Tip: Buy just 77mm filters and then inexpensive step down rings for different lenses.)

Advice: Get feedback from knowledgeable sources. Entering club contests gives you feedback from an independent source – you might always agree, but it is another point of view. Get together with trusted friends and talk about each other's work. I have lunch with a long-time friend almost every week and we talk about our work. I also have a group of friends who go on outings – when we get back, we share a few photographs by email and comment on our images.

You can see some of his work at <http://www.dennisfritsche.com/>



Upcoming Competition Themes

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| January (2019) | On the Street Where You Live | May | Breaking the Rule of Thirds | September | Texas Historical Sites | January (2020) | Down Time |
| February | Open | June | Open | October (Print) | Open (B&W or Sepia) | February | Open |
| March (Print) | Panorama | July | High Key/Low Key | November | Music | March | (Print) |
| April | No Contest | August | Open | December | No Contest | April | No Contest |

Competition Standings*

| Photographer | Image Points | Place Points | Total Points | Photographer | Image Points | Place Points | Total Points |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Entry</i> | | | | <i>Advanced</i> | | | |
| John Eden | 62 | 19 | 81 | Mark Bernthal | 77 | 33 | 110 |
| Siu Wong | 62 | 15 | 77 | Nancy Mack | 72 | 23 | 95 |
| Randy Ratzlaff | 45 | 21 | 66 | Wenchi Lee | 74 | 17 | 91 |
| David Boomstein | 50 | 12 | 62 | Linfen Hwang | 67 | 13 | 80 |
| Sam Lucas | 44 | 14 | 58 | Nock Wong | 71 | 4 | 75 |
| Katrina Christopher | 33 | 17 | 50 | Cathy Lin | 58 | 13 | 71 |
| Ping Shang | 32 | 9 | 41 | Jim Spencer | 66 | 4 | 70 |
| Debbie Nielson | 15 | 10 | 25 | Jerry Schlesinger | 60 | 1 | 61 |
| Colleen Galles | 8 | 0 | 8 | Ron Lin | 45 | 10 | 55 |
| Todd Matthews | 8 | 0 | 8 | Randall Dunn | 47 | 6 | 53 |
| | | | | Sergio Piumatti | 45 | 2 | 47 |
| | | | | Carina Johnsson | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| | | | | Ming Yang | 32 | 0 | 32 |
| | | | | | | | |
| <i>Intermediate</i> | | | | <i>Masters</i> | | | |
| Alan Daniel | 78 | 26 | 104 | Sharlott Hastv | 80 | 30 | 110 |
| Joyce Mangum | 70 | 14 | 84 | Ron Hastv | 79 | 28 | 107 |
| Michael Losurdo Jr | 70 | 14 | 84 | Linda Grigsby | 73 | 16 | 89 |
| Parvin Stiles | 70 | 6 | 76 | Sam Wilson | 71 | 13 | 84 |
| Earl Snoqa | 56 | 19 | 75 | Danette Volkmer | 73 | 10 | 83 |
| Richard Otto | 65 | 7 | 72 | Dennis Fritsche | 71 | 5 | 76 |
| Vincent Carroll | 57 | 14 | 71 | Carol Barlow | 65 | 10 | 75 |
| Jason Ware | 57 | 11 | 68 | Jose Artilles | 63 | 12 | 75 |
| Daniel Dailey | 63 | 1 | 64 | Larry Petterborg | 70 | 0 | 70 |
| Jeffrey Sarembock | 62 | 1 | 63 | John Lehman | 68 | 2 | 70 |
| Katherine Moulton | 53 | 1 | 54 | James Stover | 60 | 0 | 60 |
| Gary Clinton | 43 | 10 | 53 | Valerie Johnson | 58 | 1 | 59 |
| John Lebeck | 38 | 0 | 38 | Lois Lehman | 57 | 0 | 57 |
| Cliff McKenzie | 27 | 0 | 27 | Don Champlin | 47 | 1 | 48 |
| Mary Jean Blevins | 26 | 0 | 26 | | | | |
| Retha Moulder | 20 | 1 | 21 | | | | |
| 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.



WINTER





President's Message: A New Year - A New Beginning

Alfred Eisenstaedt, world famous photographer of Life Magazine with 90 cover pictures and over 2,500 photos published said, "It is more important to click with people than to click the shutter." One of the many things I love about photography, is the camera is instant ticket to politely invade into the life of others. You enter their world and capture the moment, all with a click. You express gratitude for their hospitality and in almost all cases, you receive back a smile, a nod and even maybe a thank you.

As we start 2019, reach across the table at our next meeting and introduce yourself. Find out what motivates your fellow photographers. Learn what skill sets they have and trade your skills in return. There is no faster way to learn than from the synergy created by bonding with your fellow photographers. A new year, a new beginning.

Cliff McKenzie

| Plano Photography Club Officers & Volunteers | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
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| President | Cliff McKenzie | ppc@planophotographyclub.com |
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| Image Critiques | Larry Petterborg | lpetterborg@planophotographyclub.com |
| Training | Dennis Fritsche | training@planophotographyclub.com |

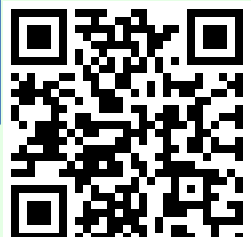
About The Club

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! – January 2019
www.planophotographyclub.com



JAMES T STOVER

12

EDITOR

