



The FLASH!

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Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



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Best In Show: Testing The Water By Alan Daniel

It was an early morning in mid-July at White Rock Lake. I had arrived for an early morning walk, but when I parked the car I noticed a group of egrets feeding along the shoreline. I decided that I should delay the walk and capture some images of egrets. I shot for thirty minutes and captured numerous (way too many) images of egrets catching fish. One egret caught my attention because of its reflection in the lake. The bird's feet on a limb with one toe in the water made it a keeper.

I captured several images, all in portrait orientation, which included the lower half of the body above the water and in the reflection. During processing, I decided to crop off the top and bottom to make a square image with the reflection of the feet the main focus. After the crop, there was very little color remaining, so I converted to B&W using Lightroom.

Side Note: When I showed it to my wife and told her my intention to enter in the contest, she laughed as said it's too weird and I would be lucky to get any points for it. Who knew.

Lens: Nikkor 200-500 f/5.6 at 440mm
Camera: Nikon D750 – handheld
Exposure: Aperture Priority – f/11 at 1/1000 sec. ISO: 640
Processed with Lightroom Classic CC

Upcoming Club Activities / Photo Ops

Contact: activity@planophotographyclub.com

February 23, 2019 – Table Top Workshop See below for details. Sign up is required.

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

June 29, 2019 – Dallas Heritage Village

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. For details: <http://www.gulfstatesccc.org/convention-2019>.

Guest Speakers – “Travel Photography” – Nock Wong

Nock is a US army veteran and after retiring from a long fulfilling career as an electronic engineer, he became interested in photography. Nock, with his lovely wife Siu, joined Plano Photography Club three years ago. He participated in club photo outings, took PPC’s training classes, and watched many YouTube videos on photography and Lightroom. They upgraded their photography gear and began traveling to enjoy retirement and practice their newly found passion.

Nock began submitting images to the monthly contest and won first place in the entry level 2017 competition. During the last year, his images were awarded 4 First places, 2 Second places, 1 Third place and 2 Honorable Mentions. Including winner 2nd places of Digital Image of the Year and 2nd places of the Print of the year. 7 of the 10 awarded images are from his travel images. You can view some of his images at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/126008119@N06/albums>

It is intriguing when someone gets serious about photography then in a short period of time produces award winning images. In this program, Nock shares with us how he prepares for a destination trip and lessons learned in producing his images.

Future PPC Programs

March	Jason Ulsrud	Unlocking the mystery of composite photography
April	Larry Petterborg	(PPC member) - Photo Intention Deficit Disorder (PIDD) and the Lack of Impact.

Club Meeting Date Changes

Because of church commitments, the April meeting will be held April 25th and the July meeting will be held July 25th.



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Annual Tabletop Workshop

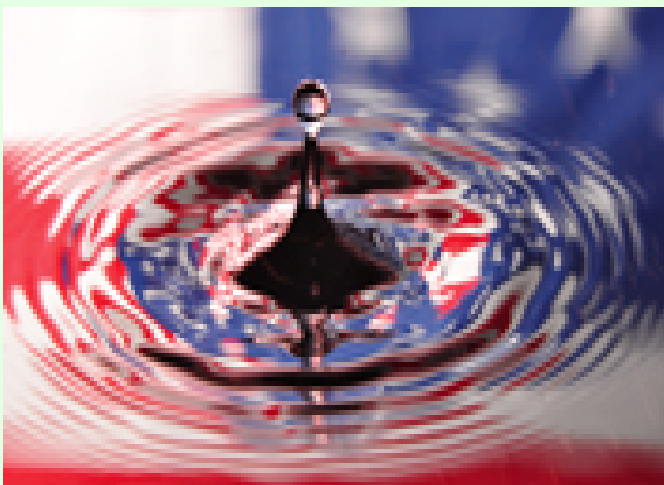


The Table Top Workshop is Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the club's regular meeting location. Snacks and a light lunch will be provided by the club. This activity is for members only.

However, non-club members may join the

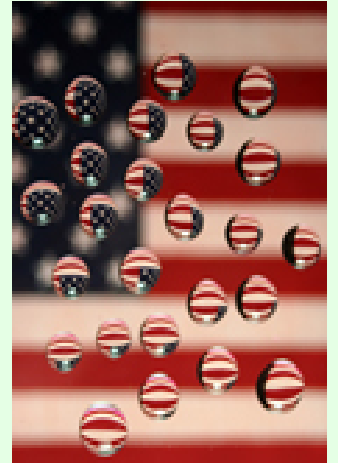


club and pay their dues at the door. Signup is required at the Members Only web-site <https://plano.photoclubservices.com/>. Login, then navigate to Organization >



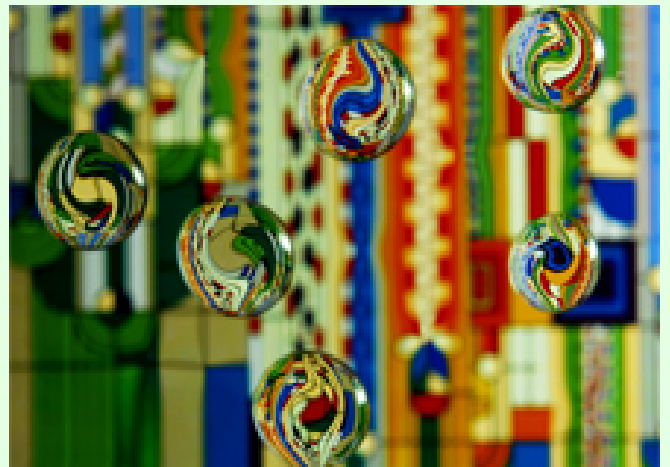
Calendar and click on the event.

This is an indoor educational photo opportunity. The format is a "hands-on" cafeteria-style photography workshop that encourages learning through participation. Please be considerate and share time at the various tabletop set-ups and digital stations.



Stations include: Paint With Light, Flowers, Camera in Motion, Crystal Ball, Still Life, Help Desk, Textured Glass, Lightroom Organization, and Macro. Garland Camera will have a station.

Members volunteer to set up objects or special techniques to be photographed. And some winning images are always produced.



Here are some sample images from previous events. So, please plan to volunteer to help in the workshop or attend as a photographer.



November Winning Images – Reflections

Masters

Jose Artiles	Sunglasses	14	1st
Carol Barlow	Zodiac Cruise - Pleneau Is & Lemaire Channel	13	2nd
Linda Grigsby	Reflections in the Trinity River	13	3rd
Danette Volkmer	A 'Reflecting' Pool	13	HM
Don Champlin	Double Trouble	13	HM

Advanced

Nock Wong	City of Dallas Nightscape NWB5954	15	1st
Ron Lin	Poplar tree	14	2nd
Mark Bernthal	Drawn into the vortex	13	3rd
Randall Dunn	Maple Leaf & Reflections	12	HM
Jim Spencer	Old Windmill	12	HM

Intermediate

Alan Daniel	Testing the Water	15	1st,BOS
Earl Snoga	Reflections	14	2nd
Joyce Mangum	Blue Reflections	14	3rd
Daniel Dailey	Fall Colors at Mckee Pond in Marble Colorado	12	HM
Richard Otto	In the Clouds	12	HM

Entry

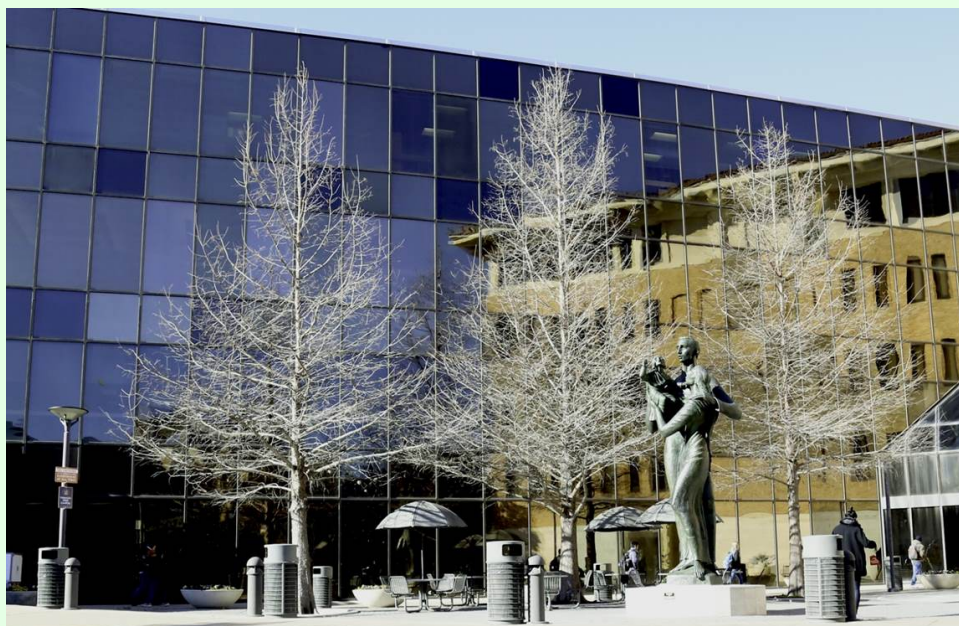
Randy Ratzlaff	Reflection in Toledo	13	1st
David Boomstein	Skyward	13	2nd
Sam Lucas	UT School of Business	10	3rd



Randy Ratzlaff



David Boomstein

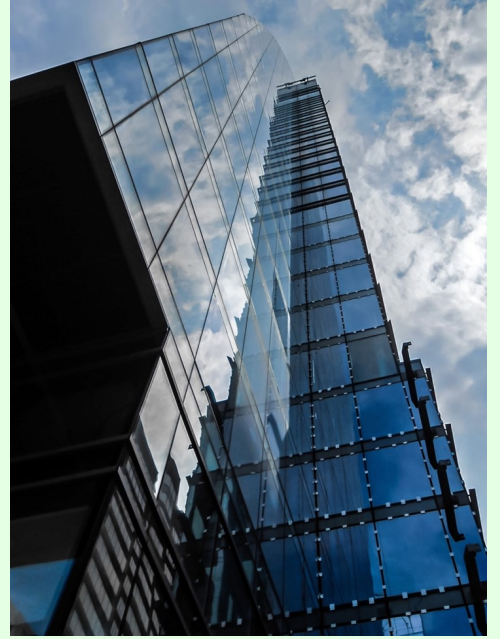


Sam Lucas





Earl Snoga



Joyce Mangum



Daniel Dailey

Richard Otto





Nock Wong



Ron Lin



**Mark
Bernthal**



Jim Spencer



Randall Dunn





Jose Artiles



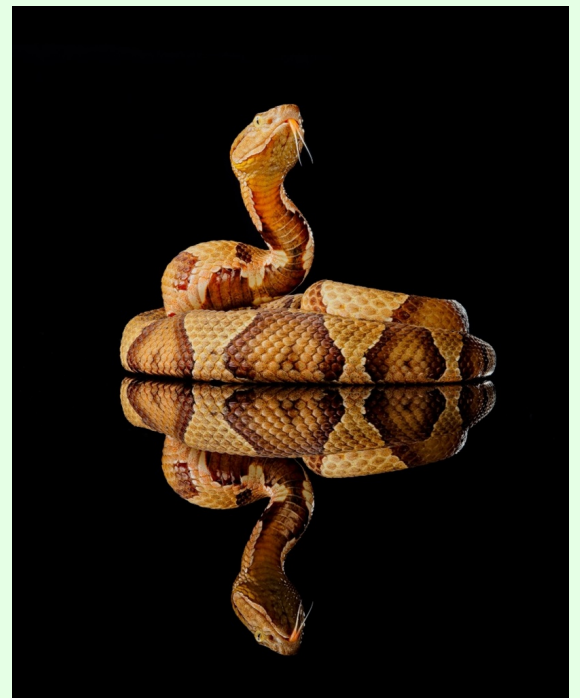
Danette Volkmer



Carol Barlow



Linda Grigsby



Don Champlin



35th Anniversary Party

At the May meeting, the Club will celebrate it's 35th anniversary. In September 1983, 9 people taking photography classes through the Plano Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) decided to organize a photography club. PARD continued to sponsor the club for six years and then the club became an independent organization. A check of the 1999 roster indicates that at least 10 members from that year are still active members.

The club has variously met at Schimelpfenig Library, the downtown Plano Fire Station, Grace Presbyterian Church and now West Plano Presbyterian Church. When we met at Schimelpfenig Library, once a year someone had to get in line at 5 AM in the morning to reserve the meeting room. It was first come, first served.

In April of 1984 the club joined PSA. In March 1988 the club held it's first overnight trip to shoot the wildflowers in the Hill Country. Since then the club has sponsored many activities, exhibits, workshops, classes, and field trips. The club contest started with slides and prints. Then as digital took hold, the club eliminated slides and transitioned to all digital in May 2006.

For our 20th anniversary we held a dinner October 23rd 2004 at the Double Tree Hotel. Three times Pulitzer Prize winner, William Snyder presented a program. 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, full of pictures, can be viewed on line in color.

Caddo Lake Shoot

On November 9th through the 11th the club traveled to Caddo Lake in East Texas. There the members spent three days shooting the beautiful lake.

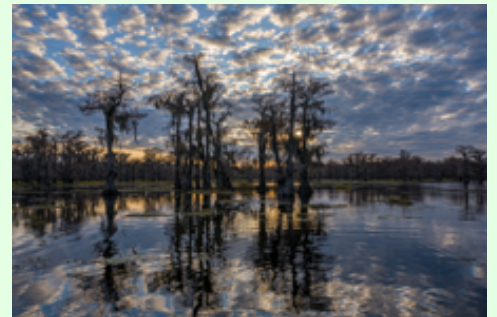


Photo Judging: Fair Or Not? You Be The Judge By John Lehman

Almost everyone appreciates being appreciated. That is especially true when the person giving the praise is someone who has been endowed (by someone) as having expertise. Likewise when such a person speaks critically of our work, it may seem especially hard to take. A variety of reactions often ensue, usually depending on how personally we take the criticism. Anger, disappointment, discounting of the person's expertise, devaluing of our self-esteem, etc. are just a few of the reactions that may surface.

Each month many of our members (including myself) subject our photography to being "judged" by a person designated as having enough expertise to take on that role. I have been on several sides of this process: I've had pictures judged over 150 times, I've been a judge for other contests, and my wife, Lois, and I have had to select judges for PPC. I've had "Best of Show" images and I've been the dreaded first one shown (usually the lowest scoring) in a given class.

The way in which the process is established--a "contest"--sets up a winner and loser mentality, and this encourages those who participate to "compete." For some, competition stimulates them to work harder and do their best; just look at the Olympics as an example. For others, competition isn't the motivation for seeking excellence in artistic pursuits. It's the opportunity to create that motivates them.

So how do we take the monthly process and make it personally meaningful? First, listen carefully to the judge's introduction of his/her credentials to judge. I personally listen more carefully to the critique of a person whose credentials are in line with the style of

photography I do. I am first and foremost a photographer of people. I value the critique of a portrait photographer more than a landscape photographer who's commenting on my portraits, for example. Second, listen to the critiques of all the images. Do they sound well thought out? Has the person hurriedly rushed through it or given the project some time and thought? If you can evaluate the "judge" based on his/her overall evaluations, then when yours are judged it puts it in context. Third, remember that the comments on your images are one person's opinion. A number of us have had images panned by one "judge" and won a 1st place or even "Best of Show" with the same image when judged by another.

There is a value in having the opportunity to showcase some of your work each month, and some themes push us to try new areas of photography. I would personally like to do away with the "contest" designation and "judges" and opt instead for a "showcase and critique" option without judging, points and winners and losers. We can learn from the critiques, but if we take them too personally they take on a role that isn't helpful. Most of all, in anything artistic, we have to please ourselves.

Editor's Note: John Lehman, a former PPC president, holds a doctoral degree in psychology and is a professional practicing psychologist. This article first appeared in the October 2008 The Flash. He wrote this article at the request of the then editor.

How dreadful it is when the right judge judges wrong! —

Sophocles

Judge not, that ye be not judged. —

Matthew 7:1



Panoramas (Print)

Our March 2019 Competition theme is Panoramas (print). The print must have an aspect ratio of 2:1 or greater. That is, one dimension must be at least twice that of the other. One popular technique is to stitch together multiple shots using software. Here are a few tips:

1. Shoot vertical to capture extra sky and ground. This improves resolution and provides extra space at the top and bottom for the stitching process. Do not closely crop in camera. You may need to severely crop the stitched image, especially if the camera was not exactly horizontal.
2. Shoot totally in Manual mode. Determine exposure and shoot all images with exactly the same settings. This include aperture, shutter speed, ISO, focus, and white balance.
3. Use a medium to short telephoto lens. Wide and ultra wide lenses introduce distortion and vignetting. A longer lens will introduce less distortion in the stitched image.
4. Overlap images by about 30% to 50%. One technique is to note where the center focus point is and rotate until that part of the image is at the edge.
5. If shooting handheld, keep you arms tight against your body and rotate the upper part of your body.
6. If using a tripod, make sure the top of the tripod stays level in all directions while rotated. Use a level or in-camera level and rotate the camera to make sure it says level. Your smartphone has a built in level.
7. Avoid having objects close to the camera. Foreground objects will suffer from parallax errors.
8. Set your aperture for a good depth of field.
9. No filters, especially polarizer! A polarizer will mess up the sky. Some filters will cause vignetting.

Note, this competition is for prints. Prints may be matted or mounted. Since panoramas have non-standard proportions, commercial mats may not be available. So you may have to have a custom mat made, cut your own if you have the equipment. Or you may prefer to just mount the print on a backing. Some judges are very critical of poor mounting and/or matting, so be careful.

Special Interest Contests

Starting last year, the club ran year long contests in order to provide a competitive environment for specific genres that are of interest to some members but which do not have a broad appeal.. This year there are three:

- Portraits of People
- Photojournalism following PSA rules
- Nature- following PSA rules

Note the reference to PSA rules. These are too lengthy to be included here but they can be found on the contest website.

These contests share the following traits

- Open until March 31, 2019 11:59 PM
- Competition levels are not used
- Awards only, no critiques
- NO POINTS are awarded
- Limit of three entries per person in each contest
- Entries may NOT have won an award in a previous monthly contest
- Award winners may NOT be entered in a future monthly contest





President's Message: Life Is Like Photography

It may surprise you to know that the author of "Economic Warfare: Secrets of Wealth Creation in the age of Welfare Politics" published in 2011, is the same Ziad K. Abdelnour author of a popular quote found on tee shirts today; "Life is like a camera. Focus on what's important. Capture the good times. And if things don't work out, just take another shot." I am in the beginning of my photography pilgrimage and I have noticed a trait of the good photographers, sometimes referenced as "spray and pray".

Do not be afraid in the digital age to shoot, shoot and continue to shoot to capture your goal, your objective. Focus on your objective and continue to follow through; there will be time later to process the results, to glow in the successes and leave the many negatives behind. Mr. Abdelnour also is credited with saying, "Life is like photography. You need the negatives to develop".

Cliff McKenzie

Plano Photography Club Officers & Volunteers		
Title	Officers & Volunteers	Email Address
President	Cliff McKenzie	ppc@planophotographyclub.com
1 st Vice Pres./Secretary	Suzanne Beasley	secretary@planophotographyclub.com
2 nd Vice Pres./Programs	Parvin Stiles	programs@planophotographyclub.com
Activities	Karen Malone	activity@planophotographyclub.com
Treasurer	Michael Losurdo	treasurer@planophotographyclub.com
Membership Chair	Greg Jones	membership@planophotographyclub.com
Membership Committee	Alan Daniel	membership@planophotographyclub.com
Contest Site Admin	Jerry Schlesinger	contestsiteadmin@planophotographyclub.com
GSCCC Representative	Alan Daniel	gsccl-rep@planophotographyclub.com
PSA Representative	Larry Petterborg	psa-rep@planophotographyclub.com
Historian	Cindy Vaillancourt	historian@planophotographyclub.com
Light Rental	Jerry Schlesinger	lightrental@planophotographyclub.com
Newsletter Editor	James Stover	newsletter@planophotographyclub.com
Webmaster	Sam Wilson	webmaster@planophotographyclub.com
Calibration Equip	Dennis Fritsche	calibrate@planophotographyclub.com
Tabletop Equipment	Mary Jean Blevins	table_top@planophotographyclub.com
Contest Slideshows	Alan Daniel	contest-slideshow@planophotographyclub.com
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 \(PSA\)](#)



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www.planophotographyclub.com



JAMES T STOVER

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EDITOR

