



The FLASH!

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Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

www.planophotographyclub.com



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Best In Show: Solar Eclipse 2017 By Don Champlin

In August 2017 I traveled north to Missouri to photograph the Solar Eclipse in an area where totality could be observed in a rural setting away from crowds. Equipment included cameras, tripods, long lens, which for me was a Canon 400mm f/2.8 with a 2x extender giving 800mm f/5.6, large solar filter which could cover the 7" diameter lens hood and intervalometers.

We watched in disappointment while 2 minutes before totality the sun was completely cover in clouds. 30 seconds before totality the clouds parted, and we were presented with one of nature's most spectacular events. I was overwhelmed with emotion, as were most the others gauged by the silence in a group of thousands.

The image I chose for competition was compiled from 4 images, 3 taken during Totality and the 4th a full moon shot on a separate occasion. I wanted the image to show the corona along with solar flares which could not be both captured with the same settings. All images were shot at f/8 utilizing the sharpest aperture for the lens. I used Lightroom for RAW conversions and sent them all over to Photoshop in layers for merging and enhancement. I felt that the solid black disk of the sun could use the addition of the full moon helping to tell the story. Looking at the final image I feel the cloudy skies actually made this image unique.

Upcoming Club Activities / Photo Ops

Contact: activity@planophotographyclub.com

April 6 – 28, 2019 – Scarborough Renaissance Festival

May 18 – 2019 – Model Shoot For details and to sign up see below.

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 – *“Photo Intention Deficit Disorder (PIDD) And The Lack Of Impact.”* – Larry Petterborg

Larry has been a PP member for more than 20 years and in that time has presented several programs for the club and has been the PPC Photographer of the Year. In addition to the PPC, Larry and his wife Mary are members of the Heard Nature Photographer Club in McKinney. He joined the Dallas Camera Club a couple of years ago and has become a passionate print maker. He is an Emeritus Professor from the Texas Woman’s University School of Physical Therapy in Dallas and enjoys the opportunity to continue teaching at the PPC. Prior to moving to the DFW area, he had been active in photography clubs in Columbia, MO and San Antonio, TX.

Memorable photographs all have one thing in common, IMPACT! Impact is the subjective reaction one has when looking at images. Strong images have a lot of positive impact. Pictures that lack impact generally are quick snapshots of scenes taken with little or no thought. To create more impactful photos, you need to INTEND to make more impactful images. Impact is not accidental, impact is intentional. This presentation is designed to help photographers become more intentional in their efforts to produce images with more impact.

Future PPC Programs

June	Jason Weingart	Time lapse photography to chase storms, photograph the night sky, and create stunning landscape photography.
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Club Meeting Date Changes

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



Nominations For Club Officers

May is the beginning of the club year. At the April meeting members will vote on new officers and volunteers. The following members have been nominated. Anyone else interested in serving please contact Cliff, club president.

Position	Officer/Volunteer
President	Cliff McKenzie
1st Vice President/Secretary	Suzanne Beasley
2nd Vice President/Program Chair	Parvin Stiles
Treasurer	Michael Losurdo
Activities Co-Chairs	Karen Malone
	Suzy Beasley
Membership Chair	Greg Jones
Contests Site Administrator	Jerry Schlesinger
Contests Chair	Alan Daniel
Training Chair	Dennis Fritsche
GSCCC Representative	Alan Daniel
PSA Representative	Larry Petterborg
Newsletter	James Stover
Website/Technology Administrator	Sam Wilson
Slideshow Chair	James Stover
Contest Slideshows	James Stover
Exhibits Chair	Valerie Johnson
Historian	Cindy Vaillancourt

GSCCC Convention

Join us May 2-4, 2019 right here in Dallas TX for a great weekend of learning and fun as we explore photography-rich Dallas. There is something for everyone. Outstanding Speakers, Vendors, Field Trips, Extravaganza Dinner with Photo Shoot, and GSCCC Awards Banquet.

There is a special 7AM Friday morning field trip to the Dallas Arboretum for only \$30. Friday evening features a Cinco de Mayo inspired banquet at the famous Ozona Grill & Bar for \$35 followed by a night shoot in downtown Dallas. Saturday morning there is a Deep Ellum Street Shoot followed by the GSCCC Awards Banquet for \$57.

The Registration fee of \$75 includes 12 speaker presentations.

Register now at gulfstatesccc.org/convention-2019 or dallascameraclub.org.

North Texas Irish Festival

March 8th through 10th club members attended the North Texas Irish Festival. Here are a few of the highlights.



February Winning Images – Open

Masters

Don Champlin	Solar Eclipse 2017	15	1st, BOS
Valerie Johnson	Caddo Lake	14	2nd
Danette Volkmer	Nautilus	13	3rd
Ron Hasty	White-faced Cupuchin Family	12	HM

Advanced

Cathy Lin	Xiapu, Fujian	15	1st
Ron Lin	Caravan	14	2nd
Jerry Schlesinger	Chauvinist's Fantasy	13	3rd
Nock Wong	Rainy day at St. Mark Square	12	HM

Intermediate

Richard Otto	Society's Plight	14	1st
Larry Page	Terlingua Cemetery After Sunset	13	2nd
Daniel Dailey	Dallas: Lighting Up the Skyline	12	3rd
Parvin Stiles	Pearls in a Shell	12	HM

Entry

David Boomstein	Ready to Recycle	14	1st
Siu Wong	Wooden Farm House-5	14	2nd
Clive Fernando	Snack on flight	12	3rd
Randy Ratzlaff	Aqueduct	10	HM



David Boomstein



Siu Wong



Clive Fernando



Randy Ratzlaff





Richard Otto



Larry Page



Daniel Dailey



Parvin Stiles





Cathy Lin



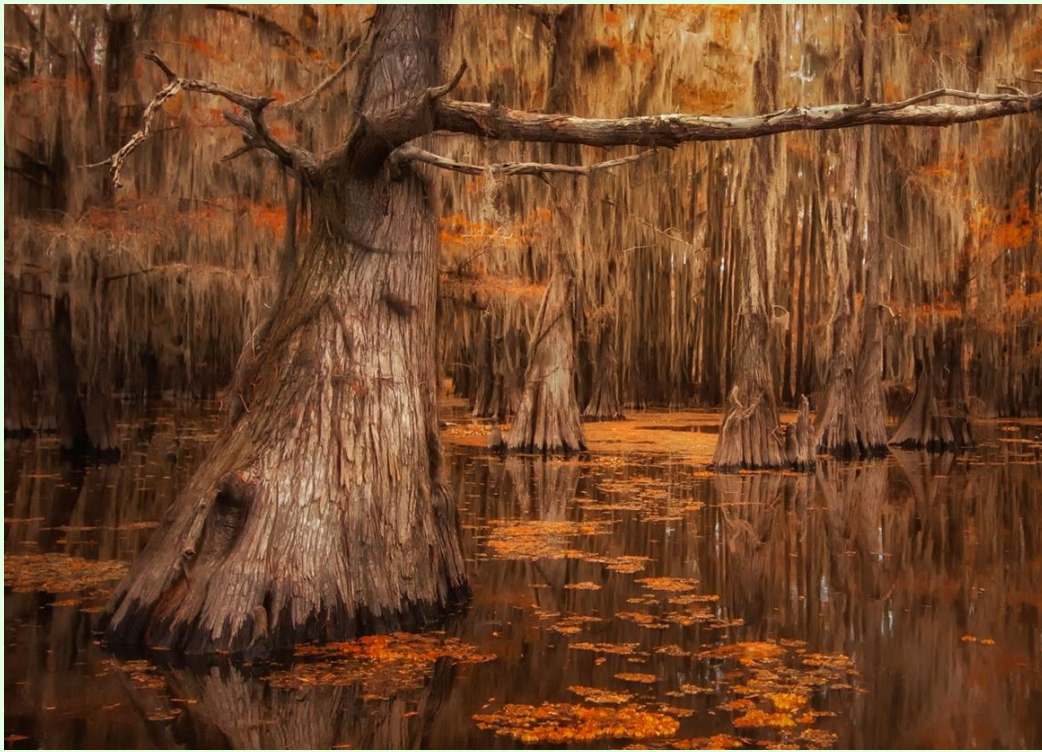
Ron Lin



Jerry Schlesinger

Nock Wong





Valerie Johnson

Danette Volkmer



Ron Hasty



35th Anniversary Party

At the May meeting, the Club will celebrate it's 35th anniversary at the Awards Party. Our Annual Awards Party will be held in our regular meeting room. Setup is 6:30 PM with dinner at 7. Please bring an appetizer, vegetable or dessert as well as a short slideshow on a Flash drive. Sign up at the April meeting. The club will provide meat, drinks and utensils.

Model Shoot

When: Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9:30-4:30

Where: West Plano Presbyterian Church (our usual meeting location)

Who: Photographers interested in more experience with portrait shooting, lighting, posing people, and working with models.

What: This is an opportunity for members to shoot in: a) studio settings with strobes; b) a natural light studio with reflectors; and c) outdoor portraits (weather permitting). We will have several models available in a variety of outfits, and are planning for some in cosplay costumes.

The event will include instruction on lighting and posing to help you advance your skills in people photography. There will be 3-4 studios with studio strobe lighting, one natural light (window light) studio and outdoors in the courtyard. We are planning on up to six models. You are welcome to bring your speedlights in the outdoor setting and the natural light set.

Agenda:

9:30 - 10:00 Get together, chat and have some coffee and donuts

10:00 - 10:45 Basic Lighting of people with flash and strobes presentation.

10:45 - 11:30 Basic posing styles for men and women presentation.

11:30 - 12:30 Lunch (provided) enjoy conversations and meet the models.

12:30 - 4:30 Model Shoots in various settings simultaneously within the building and out in the courtyard.

4:30 Conclusion of the shoot

Cost: This event is designed for our members with a maximum of 30 on a first come basis on the website sign-up. Cost will be \$40, which covers lunch and the model fees. Important: You need to sign up on the web activity page first. If you sign up, you are agreeing to pay the \$40 fee at the April 25th meeting, or make arrangements with John Lehman (see contact below). The first 30 who sign up and pay their fee are enrolled.

Providing photographs to the models: We would like each participant to upload 5 digital images for each model you shoot to an album we will provide. We'll give you information on where to upload them at the event.

NOTE: If you would like to learn how we set up lighting and studio equipment come early at 8:30 to help us with set up and at the end with tear down.

More information: Contact John Lehman at windsweptphoto@gmail.com or 972-814-0189

Contest Image Size

Beginning with the May Contest, the image size is expanded to a maximum width of 4096 pixels and a maximum height of 2160 pixels. This allows for higher resolution images than the current limits.



High and Low Key Portrait Photography – John Lehman

A high key portrait is very bright with little or no dark shadows present. It gives a very light feel. In a color image the colors are often washed out or desaturated, almost to white. In a black and white image, there are few, if any true blacks. Most are shades of gray. It's done to create a certain mood and is a creative decision. This can be created in camera, or in post-processing.



A low key portrait characterizes an image with striking contrasts, dark tones and often heavy shadows punctuated with the subject lit, sometimes brightly. It is often a more mysterious, or glamorous look similar to what was seen in the 1940's movie stills. In a color image, the colors are saturated in the lit areas. In a black and white image, there is often substantial black, or dark grays. These can be created in camera by using

minimal or a single hard light and leaving much of it dark. In post-processing, this can often be created by using a curve layer.



There are a lot of YouTube videos on both types of lighting. Check out Gavin Hoey's videos.

High and Low Key Landscape Photography – Dennis Fritsche

Let's build on the principles introduced by John and apply those to landscape photography. It is best to start with lighting that supports the mood you are after and then enhance it with your capture decisions and post processing actions. I have tried to force a high contrast scene to the high key realm and I just could not get there.

Starting with a very flat photograph is the first order of business in making a high key photograph. Take the photograph of White Sands at Twilight.





This definitely has its place but is different from low key where there is a predominance of dark tones and even darker shadows with just that touch of brightness.



I had tried to treat a shot taken earlier in the day as a high key, but the distant mountains were in shadow and the sands were still bright. No matter what I tried, those mountains would not bend to my desires. Then I worked on this final image which was taken after the sun was down for a while and the sands and mountains and sky were close to the same tones. I was then able to get the minimal differences in tones a high key photograph needs. I was then able to raise the brightness of the whole image to get the final effect. The photograph of Tufas at Mono Lake show how the colors can become pastel in a high key color image.

The photographs from Sol Tol Vista in Big Bend and the Grand Canyon after sunset are examples starting with an appropriately low contrast image and taking it darker and moodier in post processing. Notice the rich colors in the color photograph.



Note: The white sands landscape and the portrait both have one small area that is black – the bush and the model's eyes. Having that little contrasting area can strengthen a low key area. Surprisingly, starting with a low contrast image also works for low key photographs. If the photography has large areas of bright areas and dark areas, it more likely to fall into the definition of a chiaroscuro image.

Final Words

We hope this information has been helpful. The principles of lighting, capturing, and processing high and low key images can be applied to all genres of photography. Consider these lessons as you study photographs, and strive to incorporate them into your photography.

Both John and Dennis are longtime members of the Master Class, and both have served as president of PPC. - The Editor



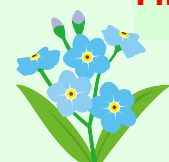
Upcoming Competition Themes

April	No Contest	August	Open	December	No Contest	April	No Contest
May	Breaking the Rule of Thirds	September	Texas Historical Sites	January (2020)	Down Time	May	TBD
June	Open	October (Print)	Open (B&W or Sepia)	February	Open	June	Open
July	High Key/Low Key	November	Music	March	(Print)	July	

Competition Standings*

Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points	Photographer	Image Points	Place Points	Total Points
<i>Entry</i>				<i>Advanced</i>			
David Boomstein	91	38	129	Mark Bernthal	115	37	152
Randy Ratzlaff	81	38	119	Nock Wong	113	25	138
Siu Wong	95	22	117	Wenchi Lee	107	23	130
John Eden	92	22	114	Nancy Mack	106	23	129
Sam Lucas	63	17	80	Ron Lin	87	25	112
Katrina Christopher	33	17	50	Linfen Hwang	99	13	112
Ping Shang	32	9	41	Cathy Lin	84	23	107
Debbie Nielson	24	10	34	Jim Spencer	101	5	106
Clive Fernando	12	3	15	Jerry Schlesinger	96	4	100
Ram Diwakaaran	9	0	9	Sergio Piumatti	69	3	72
Colleen Galles	8	0	8	Randall Dunn	59	7	66
Todd Matthews	8	0	8	Carina Johnsson	43	0	43
				Ming Yang	32	0	32
<i>Intermediate</i>				<i>Masters</i>			
Alan Daniel	117	37	154	Sharlott Hastv	114	31	145
Richard Otto	105	21	126	Ron Hastv	111	29	140
Earl Snoga	90	25	115	Danette Volkmer	112	14	126
Daniel Dailey	101	11	112	Linda Grigsby	106	19	125
Parvin Stiles	104	7	111	Jose Artilles	101	22	123
Michael Losurdo Jr	92	15	107	Sam Wilson	107	16	123
Jason Ware	92	12	104	Carol Barlow	100	16	116
Joyce Mangum	84	17	101	Don Champlin	90	24	114
John Lebeck	74	10	84	Dennis Fritsche	107	6	113
Katherine Moulton	82	1	83	John Lehman	101	8	109
Vincent Carroll	76	14	90	Larry Petterborg	106	0	106
Jeffrey Sarembock	74	1	75	Valerie Johnson	94	7	101
Gary Clinton	53	10	63	James Stover	92	0	92
Larry Page	33	6	39	Lois Lehman	90	0	90
Cliff McKenzie	38	0	38				
Retha Moulder	32	1	33				
Mary Jean Blevins	26	0	26				
Debbie Conard	12	0	12				
Bruce Irvine	9	0	9				

* Annual 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each Class is based on Image Points.
Photographer of the Year is based on Total Points.





President's Message: A

As

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 st Vice Pres./Programs	Parvin Stiles	programs@planophotographyclub.com
Activities	Karen Malone/Suzy Beasley	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
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Light Rental	Jerry Schlesinger	lightrental@planophotographyclub.com
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Webmaster	Sam Wilson	webmaster@planophotographyclub.com
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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

