



FLASH

Volume 57 - ISSUE 1 - January 2014

GREATER SAN ANTONIO CAMERA CLUB

WWW.GSACC.ORG

**Happy
New
Year**

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**Lessons from a hard drive
crash, Page 4**

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Snail Mail

by Art Nisenfeld

**DECEMBER
WINNERS**



The Bride

by Kimberly Clark



Caterpillar ►
by Tim Kirkland



◀ Barrel Racer
by Brian Duchin

**DECEMBER
WINNERS**

MEMBER INFORMATION:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

E-MAIL _____

CIRCLE ONE:

INDIVIDUAL

FAMILY

STUDENT/NON-TRADITIONAL

JUNIOR

2013 rates: Individual: \$30/year. Couples/family: \$40/year. Student/non-traditional: \$15/year. Junior (junior high and below) \$6/year. Dues are half of the above when joining in July or later.

New year, new hard drive



BY ADAM KINCHER

It is a miracle that you have a *Flash* issue to read this month. I did not think I would be able to complete an issue for January.

As many of you know, the hard drive on my desktop computer crashed on December 1st. Here are some lessons learned from that crash:

LESSON #1: Try not to panic. Of course, this is easier said than done. I thought I had lost many files (personal and GSACC) forever. The fact is that all hard drives will eventually crash. Several web sites that I read said that drives usually last 3-5 years. My drive was at the upper end of that time range. Drives will crash without warning. You can't control when they will crash. You can control your reaction and you can be prepared for it.

LESSON #2: Diagnosing computer problems takes patience and time. My Dell Inspiron would not proceed past the main Windows screen. That has happened occasionally in the past. When it happened before, I just restarted and the computer ran as normal.

This time, I tried restarting the computer several times without success. Eventually, I tried to start in safe mode. Various startup options failed. At some point, I got an error message that said "kernel data inpage error."

Research indicated that this was either a memory or hard drive problem. I followed instructions and entered a "check disk" command. This led to another error message stating that one or more unrecoverable errors were found on the hard drive. So, it took awhile to isolate the hard drive as the problem.

LESSON #3: Technology keeps changing. Adapt. I went to Altex the day after my 160 GB hard drive crashed, and searched for a replacement. I learned that 160 GB drives are no longer made. The smallest drives available now are 250 GB, so I bought one of those for \$70. It's weird now to think that floppy and hard disks that could store 1.44 MB used to be the standard for computer memory!

I took apart the computer and replaced the drive myself. I'm comfortable doing that. I replaced a CD drive in my previous Dell. Next, I started the long process of installing Windows and reinstalling all of my programs and whatever documents I could find.

LESSON #4: Having an alternate way to get online helps. I got online on my Kindle and on my laptop computer to research the error messages I was getting on the desktop computer, and to find the instructions for taking apart the desktop computer and replacing the hard drive.

In addition to my desktop computer, I have a Dell laptop. Unfortunately, I didn't have many documents saved on it. In August, I thought that I might sell that computer and removed many files from it. In retrospect, I'm glad that I didn't sell it!

LESSON #5: Save your product keys in a safe place. I haven't been able to find product keys for a few of my programs. I spent a few dollars to obtain new product keys for TuneJack, a useful program that transfers music from an iPod into iTunes and for a program that converts files into PDFs — a necessity for the *Flash*. I still need to purchase a product key for WinZip, which opens compressed files.

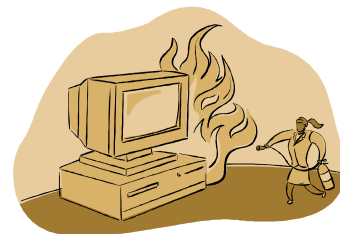
LESSON #6: Recovery may be possible, but there are no guarantees. After restoring what I could, I started researching hard drive recovery. Best Buy, Staples and other companies offer hard drive recovery services. The services generally start around \$250, and there is no guarantee of success. That didn't seem like a good option.

Then, I read that I might be able to recover files with a device called a USB drive adapter. I found one at Altex for \$25, and I'm glad that I bought it. The drive adapter consists mostly of cables. You connect it to the drive (obviously, not to the good drive that is in the computer), then connect the it to a USB port. While the bad drive can no longer be used to start the computer, the adapter allows you to try to read and recover files from the drive.

Using the drive adapter, I was able to rescue many files, including the most important files that I use to produce the *Flash*. Some files are apparently on the bad part of the failing drive and could not be recovered, but I was happy that I was able to save many files and documents that I thought were lost forever.

LESSON #7: Backup your files! In addition to buying a drive adapter, I bought a 250 GB backup drive at Best Buy for approximately \$45. I put many files (personal and GCACC) on it. I also copied files from the backup drive onto my laptop, so I have the same files stored on three devices.

If you don't have your computer files backed up, I urge you to do so. While I was fortunate and was able to save many files, the loss could have been larger!



COMPETITION RESULTS

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS: Peter Florczak placed first in two categories, and had four images that placed. Kimberly Clark also placed in four categories. Three members had three images that placed: Brian Duchin, Tim Kirkland and Art Nisenfeld.

PICTORIAL COLOR PROJECTED:

1st place: The Bride, by Kimberly Clark
2nd place: Brown Sugar, by Art Nisenfeld
3rd place: Lightning Rod, by Brian Duchin
HM: Feed Buckets, by Tim Kirkland

PICTORIAL MONOCHROME PROJECTED:

1st place: Petals, by Donna Vaughan
2nd place: Medina Landscape, by Peter Florczak
3rd place: Snail Mail, by Art Nisenfeld
HM: To the Past, by Kimberly Clark

NATURE PROJECTED:

1st place: Dragon Fly, by Peter Florczak
2nd place: Lizard, by Donna Vaughan
3rd place: Caterpillar, by Tim Kirkland
HM: Little Joshua Creek, by Kimberly Clark

PHOTOJOURNALISM PROJECTED:

1st place: Walking the Ledge, by Peter Florczak
2nd place: Barrel Racer, by Brian Duchin
3rd place: Not a Sissy Game, by Art Nisenfeld
HM: Botanical Garden Lecture, by Kimberly Clark

ASSIGNMENT PROJECTED:

1st place: Medical Lifesaver, by Tim Kirkland
2nd place: Boat Safety, by Peter Florczak
3rd place: Princess, by Brian Duchin
HM: Every Car Needs One, by Stan Andrews

Thank you to Peter Florczak, John Rudolph and Denise Willems for judging the December competition.

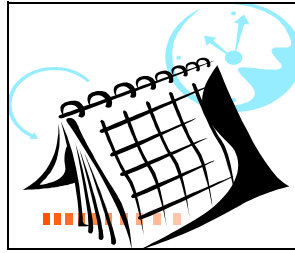
THE NEXT COMPETITION

January's competition is prints.

PRINT CATEGORIES:

1. Pictorial Prints Color
2. Pictorial Prints Monochrome
3. Nature Prints
4. Photojournalism Prints
5. Assignment Prints

January Assignment: Light streaks: Find a subject with at least 50% of the picture area made up of streaks of light, but also showing solid subject matter.



EVENTS

Thursday, January 2: GSACC educational meeting, 7:30 p.m.; topic TBA.

Thursday, January 16: GSACC print competition, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 6: GSACC educational meeting, 7:30 p.m.; topic TBA.

February 6-23: San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

Thursday, February 20: GSACC projected images competition, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 6: GSACC educational meeting, 7:30 p.m.; topic TBA.

Thursday, March 20: GSACC print competition, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 3: GSACC educational meeting, 7:30 p.m.; topic TBA.

Thursday, April 17: GSACC projected images competition, 7:30 p.m.

All regular GSACC meetings and Lions Field Camera Club meetings take place at the Lions Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming assignments

As a reminder, here are the next few upcoming assignment topics:

February (projected): Macro: Close-up of rock or vegetation. Show off your close-up or macro photography skills.

March (prints): On the edge: Interpret this as you will to show something on the edge.

April (projected): Trees: One or more, whole or part of a tree.

May (prints) Night Light: Outdoor objects at night lit by "available light" or by light printing techniques.

June (projected): Pier/wharf: Down by the riverside, lake or ocean find a photo of a pier or activity obviously on a pier.

THE LAST PAGE

Dues are due now

A new year is here, and that means that your annual GSACC dues are due. Dues become due in January of each year. Rates are the same as last year: \$30.00 per individual; \$40.00 for couples and families and \$15.00 for students/non-traditional members. Junior memberships (junior high and below) are \$6.00 per year.

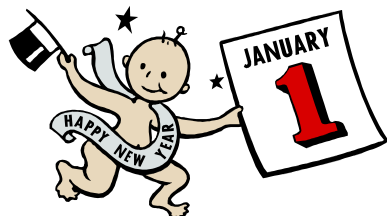
Please remember that you must be a member in good standing to be eligible to participate in GSACC's monthly competitions. Members who have not renewed by the end of February will not be eligible to participate in competitions until their dues are paid.

Also, dues must be paid by the end of February to guarantee that you will receive a printed copy of GSACC's annual information guide and rule book. If your dues are not paid by the end of February, you might not receive a copy of the book. The membership list as of the end of February is used to determine how many copies of the book to print.

A membership form is printed at the bottom of Page 3 for your convenience. Dues may be mailed to one of the following addresses:

Stan Andrews
11703 Adriana Maria
San Antonio, TX 78253-5917

GSACC
P. O. Box 700171
San Antonio, TX 78270



GSACC LEADERS 2012-13:

President: Dick Boone,
dickboone37@gmail.com

Vice President: Tim Kirkland,
timkirkland@att.net

Secretary: Donna Vaughan,
dnr97@grandecom.net

Treasurer: Stan Andrews,
stanley.andrews@sbcglobal.net

Board members: Adam Kincher,
adamkincher@sbcglobal.net
and John Rudolph,
drjrsat@sbcglobal.net

CHAIRMEN:

Print competitions:

William Hunsicker,
whunsickerii@gmail.com

Digital coordinators: Lance Meyer,
lancejmeyer@gmail.com
and Robert Moreno,
reno655@sbcglobal.net

Assignments: Tim Kirkland

Awards: Harold Eiserloh,
clips@peoplepc.com

Publications: Adam Kincher

Webmasters: Jacq and Jeremy
Davis, jacq@j2davis.com

FLASH SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Articles: Text may be handwritten or typed; e-mailed articles should be plain text, or Microsoft Word or Works attachments. Images: You may loan prints, slides or 35mm negatives to the editor; the preferred size for images sent via e-mail is 1024x768 and the preferred format is JPEG.

E-mail address for submissions: adamkincher@sbcglobal.net

Publication deadline: Submissions are due on the 20th day of the month before the desired publication month.

FLASH JANUARY 2014

Greater San Antonio Camera Club

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San Antonio, TX 78270



Member since 1951