



FLASH

Volume 57 - ISSUE 11 - November 2014

GREATER SAN ANTONIO CAMERA CLUB

WWW.GSACC.ORG



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Yellow Bike

by Brian Duchin

**OCTOBER
WINNERS**



El Alamo

by Dick Boone

See more of our photos online at <http://www.gsacc.org/photo-gallery.html>



Monet's Canoes

by Tim Kirkland



The Photographer

by Mary Hunsicker

**OCTOBER
WINNERS**

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On the cover



This month's cover photo is "Lady Hummer" by GSACC president Dick Boone. Dick will not be GSACC's president for much longer. See the article below.

GSACC elections set for November 6



BY ADAM KINCHER
adamkincher@sbcglobal.net

GSACC will elect officers for the 2015 calendar year at the meeting on Thursday, November 6. Electable positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board member at-large.

Dick Boone has served as president the past two years. He has advised that he is not seeking reelection.

Since Dick is not seeking re-election, he will become GSACC's immediate past president and a Board member. This means that I will no longer be a Board member, as I will no longer be the immediate past president. I do not know if John Rudolph is seeking reelection for the other Board position.

Dick stated that Tim Kirkland is willing to continue as Vice President. I do not know if Donna Vaughan plans to continue as Secretary. I hope that she will remain. She

has done an outstanding job this year keeping me informed with the monthly meeting minutes. That is really helpful since my work schedule and commute don't allow me to make it to meetings. For those who don't know, I work in Austin from 10 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., so making it to most meetings isn't possible.

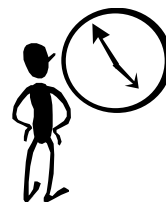
Gerald Jendrusch is also not seeking re-election as Treasurer. So, a new Treasurer is needed.

I will keep handling the *Flash*, yearbook and website and helping coordinate the digital competitions. I have no plans to quit doing what I'm doing, so whoever is in charge will not have to worry about these duties being handled.

Thank you to Dick, Tim, Donna, Gerald and John for their service this year.

Also, thank you to all of the volunteers who help GSACC. Our volunteers are great at providing me with competition results, articles, photos and feedback for the *Flash* and website. I couldn't do what I do without your support!

Meeting minutes



Submitted by DONNA VAUGHAN
donnav@me.com

General Meeting
October 2, 2014

Tim Kirkland called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Dick Boone is unable to be here.

Marty & Vic Watson gave a presentation on how to set up lighting. He is retired military and federal agent. He has been a professional photography for 35 years and currently practicing as a freelance. He teaches at Landers Studio. He also has a Meet-Up Group in Schertz that he organizes.

Donna Vaughan gave the secretary's report. Gerald Jendrusch, Treasurer, was unable to attend. He is currently unable to attend meetings and need a replacement until the end of the year.

Please see Ernie Clyma if you are interested in filling any positions.

Mary Hunsicker reported that our current challenge is to photograph at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens.

There are a lot to things to photograph such as the Lego Exhibit, Japanese Gardens and the trees changing colors around the lake. Bill Hunsicker also reminded everyone to take quarters to feed the ducks.

See **MINUTES** on Page 6.



Bill's Photography Tips & Tricks

BY WILLIAM HUNSICKER
whunsickerii@gmail.com

Polarizing filters and why we use them

In the August *Flash*, I discussed solid neutral density (ND) filters. This time I would like to discuss polarizers. As with solid ND filters, we use them to improve our images and save time in post processing.

Polarizing filters are just another kind of ND filter. They come in two basic types, linear and circular. A third type, not usually thought of as a polarizing filter is the variable ND (VND) filter.

A Linear polarizer is simply a rotating sheet of polarized glass that limits all light waves that pass through to a single plane of orientation. Light not aligned to that plane is blocked. Since the polarizer can be rotated around the axis of the lens, the photographer can select the light to be blocked or allowed in to the camera.

This works because reflected light, sky light, and most other scattered or defused light tends to become somewhat polarized and the polarizing filter can be used to selectively reduce the non-aligned unpolarized component of the light. This technique worked fine on most film SLR cameras, but Digital SLRs usually use a partially silvered mirror for metering and focus. Limiting the incoming light to a single plane and rotating that plane in relation to the sensor mirror can throw off both the metering and the focus. So linear polarizers are not recommended for DSLRs.

Bob Atkins (<http://www.bobatkins.com/photography/technical/polarizers.html>) explains this extremely well using a rope analogy for a light wave. For instance, if you had a rope pulled perpendicularly through a partially open set of vertical blinds, you could wave it up and down between the blinds, but not left and right. Waves of light are limited by polarizers in a similar way.

Circular polarizers also use a front element that is still a sheet of polarized glass that can be rotated, but the rear element is something called a quarter wave plate that is fixed in place in relation to the sensor mirror, so as to ensure consistent measurement. Light passing through a circular polarizer is limited to circular waves somewhat in the shape of a corkscrew (therefore the name). The angle of the light hitting the sensor does not change so metering is consistent. Bob Atkins does an excellent job of explaining this in detail, so I recommend to those that are interested to check out the above link.

Professor Shaoul Ezekiel of MIT does an excellent job of demonstrating how a quarter wave plate actually works (see video.mit.edu/watch/quarter-wave-plate). Short answer is always use circular polarizing filters on digital cameras.

Wikipedia says "A polarizing filter or polarising filter is often placed in front of the camera lens in photography in order to darken skies, manage reflections, or suppress glare from the surface of lakes or sea". That pretty much sums up how they are used. But you really need to experiment with them to understand how much they can dramatically affect an image by emphasizing clouds, revealing hidden detail and generally saturating colors. Most polarizing filters reduce the light coming into the camera by about two stops at their darkest, so their use will extend the required exposure time or aperture size, or raise the required ISO level.

Last time I mentioned Cokin and Lee filters. Since I am still discussing filters, I would like to mention some other manufactures of quality screw-on filters which I also like.

I like B+W (<https://www.schneideroptics.com/filters/index.htm>) and Hoya (<http://www.hoyafilter.com/>). Both seem to have excellent optical qualities, but B+W seems to usually be thinner (and more expensive) than Hoya.

Singh-Ray (<https://www.Singh-ray.com>) and Formatt (<https://www.formatt-hitech.com/>) offer both screw-on and rectangular filters for DSLRs. Formatt also makes filters for many other camera formats, including filters for smart phones. These filters also have excellent optical qualities.

To me, the most important thing about a filter, other than its intended function, is that it add NO optical distortion to the image! Probably the second most important is thinness, so edge/corner shadows are reduced or eliminated. Can those shadows be corrected? Usually yes in Lightroom or Photoshop, but every adjustment takes time and can reduce image quality. Many of the effects of ND filters can be simulated with Photoshop, but again, it takes time and can reduce quality. I'll discuss simulating them in another article. But as I said above, the whole point of using filters is to improve image quality and/or save time.

Variable ND filters (VND) are actually a pair of polarizing filters. Their most obvious use is in landscape photography and for the same reasons as the solid ND filters, but they are lighter, more compact to carry and can be adjusted. The front filter is allowed to rotate and the rear one is fixed. The light reduction is typically 2 to 8 stops depending on the amount of rotation. You can find some additional discussion on Lightstocker at (<http://www.lightstalking.com/variable-neutral-density-filter-portraits/>) where Doug Pruden discusses how to use a variable ND filter in portrait work.

See **TIPS** on Page 6.

MINUTES from Page 4:

Please pay your membership to the Lions Field, which is \$7. This enable us to have our monthly meetings here.

New Business:

It has been discussed to include the \$7 in next year's membership. This will also allow members to attend other facilities. The Lions Field facility has a lot of opportunities such as a gym.

The sound system has been worked on so that the sound will be better when CD's are played.

We regret to inform the membership that Art's funeral was this afternoon. Art will be missed. His photography was enjoyed by all. There are photos taken by Art on our website. Mary noted that people may visit the funeral website to leave messages of sympathy.

Images taken by Art Nisenfeld were shown in honor of his outstanding work. Art passed away earlier this week.

Editor's note: Photos by Art will remain on our website through the end of October.

Lions Field fee clarification

BY ADAM KINCHER
adamkincher@sbcglobal.net

When I read the above meeting minutes, I thought that perhaps GSACC was planning to raise dues to include the \$7 facility fee that Lions Field is requesting. Through e-mail discussion, I clarified that this is not the case.

GSACC president Dick Boone advised me that the club has no plans to raise dues. His understanding is that this fee would be paid from GSACC's existing dues

I called Lions Field to find out if our annual donation to Lions Field covers any portion of dues. Jackie at the Lions Field office stated that the center membership fees and donations to be separate.

There are still some questions that need to be addressed:

1. Should GSACC give Lions Field membership dues and a donation, or just one of these?
2. Can Lions Field accept a large sum for a group membership?
3. If the answer to the second question is "no", does Lions Field want membership information (names, addresses) for each individual membership?

I reviewed this year's membership list. If we gave Lions Field \$7 for every membership on this year's list, that would total \$350. This is not every individual, since some memberships are couples.

Perhaps resolving this issue could be a simple matter of giving Lions Field money based on this year's roster, assuming that everyone on this year's roster plans to renew. Obviously, the club needs to address the questions listed above in order to settle this matter,

TIPS from Page 5:

The major advantages of the VND are the light weight and reduced volume. One VND filter can eliminate carrying several solid ND filters into the field. Some of the major disadvantages are the higher cost and potential image quality impacts.

I have a Vivitar (67mm) VND for which I paid about \$50 and a proMaster (77mm) VND for about \$200. The prices on those have since dropped to about half that on Amazon. The biggest disadvantage to me was my images seemed a little less sharp and some images using the Vivitar had an unevenness of exposure that was noticeable.

Some of those images actually had a cross-shaped shadow that showed. It proved impossible for me to correct in Photoshop or Lightroom.

Another problem is that the design of VNDs is such that they are almost impossible to use with a lens shade and last that there is sometimes a noticeable polarizing effect that you would not have with a solid ND filter. I have since read that the very best variable ND filters don't have the exposure and sharpness problems, but cannot say at this time as I have not yet sprung for any of the expensive versions like the B+W 77mm XS-Pro Digital ND Vario MRC nano Filter at \$270 or the Singh-Ray 77mm Vari-N-Trio ND filter at \$540.

At those prices, I am sure the resulting images must be very good {:-). However, I can say that I can't recommend the two I purchased even at the lower prices. Next time I will discuss gradient ND (GND) filters and their uses.

More tips from Picturecorrect.com

BY ADAM KINCHER
adamkincher@sbcglobal.net

I receive e-mails with photography tips from picturecorrect.com. I presented a couple of tips from them in last month's issue of the Flash. Here are more tips:

1. Flower photography tips By Robert Rhatigan

The four tips are:

1. Consider your point of view
2. Notice your backgrounds
3. Use depth of field to your advantage
4. Focus on the small details

Read more online at:

<http://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/flower-photography-4-quick-tips-for-great-tulip-photos/>

See **PICTURECORRECT** on Page 8.

COMPETITION RESULTS

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS: Brian Duchin had four 1st-place images, plus one image that placed third. Dick Boone, Peter Florczak, Mary Hunsicker and William Hunsicker each had four images that placed. Mary and William each had a first-place image, so Hunsicker was the only last name aside from Duchin to appear in the first-place spot in October scores.

PICTORIAL COLOR DIGITAL:

1st place: Jag on the Move, by Brian Duchin
2nd place: In the Clouds, by Mary Hunsicker
3rd place: Monet's Canoes, by Tim Kirkland
HM: Fall Morning on the High Road to Taos, by William Hunsicker

PICTORIAL MONOCHROME DIGITAL:

1st place: Ruidoso Sunrise, by William Hunsicker
2nd place: El Alamo, by Dick Boone
3rd place: Panama Jack, by Brian Duchin
HM: My Best Friend Loves Me, by Peter Florczak

NATURE DIGITAL:

1st place: Grasshopper, by Mary Hunsicker
2nd place: Lady Hummer, by Dick Boone
3rd place: Blackbucks, by Tim Kirkland
HM: Portrait of an Iguana, by Peter Florczak

PHOTOJOURNALISM DIGITAL:

1st place: Defense, by Brian Duchin
2nd place: The Photographer, by Mary Hunsicker
3rd place: Hard Landing, by William Hunsicker
HM: Getting Ready for the Show, by Peter Florczak

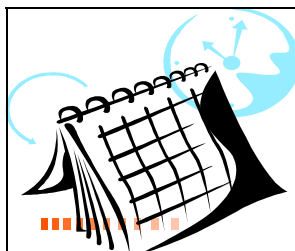
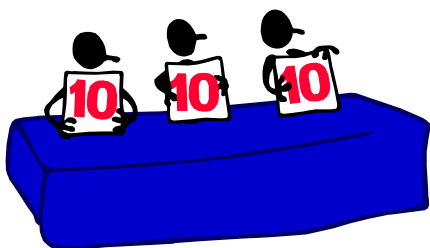
ASSIGNMENT DIGITAL:

1st place: Yellow Bike, by Brian Duchin
2nd place: SA Bike Rental, by Peter Florczak
3rd place: Abandoned, by Ernie Clyma
HM: Well Secured, by Dick Boone

CREATIVE DIGITAL:

1st place: Light Show, by Brian Duchin
2nd place: Desert Rose, by Mary Hunsicker
3rd place: Blue Stairs, by Dick Boone
HM: Chama River Bend, by William Hunsicker

Thank you to Dick Boone, Peter Florczak and Conrad Housler for judging the October images.



EVENTS

Thursday, November 6: GSACC educational meeting, 7:30 p.m.; topic TBA. Also, GSACC's annual election night.

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

Thursday, December 4: GSACC digital competition, 7:30 p.m.

Also in December: GSACC's annual Christmas party. Location, date and time TBA.

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

THE NEXT COMPETITION

November's competition is prints:

PRINT CATEGORIES:

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

November Assignment: Carnival: Roam the carnivals at the rodeo or Fiesta and find a good scene.

December's competition is digital:

DIGITAL IMAGE CATEGORIES:

1. Pictorial Color Digital
2. Pictorial Monochrome Digital
3. Nature Digital
4. Photojournalism Digital
5. Assignment Digital
6. Creative Digital

December Assignment: A pebble or the huge Enchanted Rock or any other rock(s) can be used in the subject or major part of the image..

Please e-mail entries to gsaccphoto@gmail.com by **Monday, December 1**. The December deadline is early. Since the only scheduled meeting in December is on the first Thursday, that is a competition night.

PICTURECORRECT from Page 6:

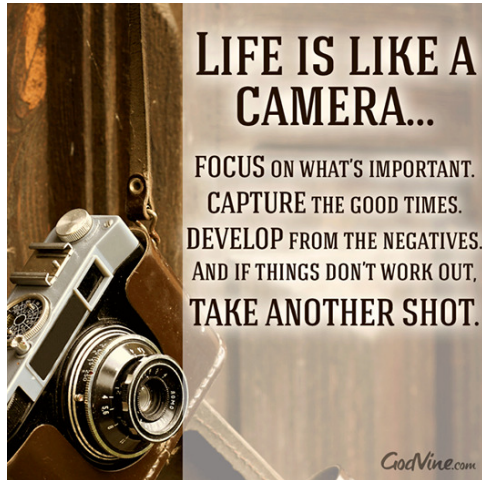
2. Top photo apps for smartphones and tablets

By Michael Sumastre

Advanced mobile technology has allowed us to get the most out of our smartphones and tablets. Aside from sending SMS, calling, and browsing, smartphones can now be used as digital camera substitutes. A lot of people who own tablets also use their devices to take photos. Although these gadgets cannot really compare with high-end point-and-shoots and DSLRs in terms of photo quality, there are apps that allow users to come up with pictures that are more than ordinary.

Read more online at:

<http://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/top-7-photography-apps-for-smartphones-and-tablets/>



GSACC LEADERS 2013-14:

President: Dick Boone,
dickboone37@gmail.com

Vice President: Tim Kirkland,
timkirkland@att.net

Secretary: Donna Vaughan,
donnav@me.com

Treasurer: Gerald Jendrusch,
geraldj66@gmail.com

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

CHAIRMEN:

Print competitions:

William Hunsicker,
whunsickerii@gmail.com

Digital coordinator: Lance Meyer,
lancejmeyer@gmail.com

Judging coordinator:

Brian Duchin, bpduchin@gmail.com

Assignments: Tim Kirkland

Awards: Harold Eiserloh,
clips@peoplepc.com

Hospitality: Mary Hunsicker
Scorekeepers: Ernie Clyma
and Ed Sobolak

Publications and Webmaster:
Adam Kincher

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 NOVEMBER 2014

Greater San Antonio Camera Club

Editor: Adam Kincher

P. O. Box 700171

San Antonio, TX 78270



Member since 1951