FLASH

PSA Photographic Society of America

Member since 1951

GREATER SAN ANTONIO CAMERA CLUB

WWW.GSACC.ORG

3rd Place Nature
"Red Dragonfly"   Steve Manchester

November 2016 - PRINT Competition Images

PICTORIAL COLOR PRINT:
1st   "Portland Head Sunrise"   Dick Boone
2nd   "Oxbow Bend in Fall"   Mary Hunsicker
3rd   "Sunrise in Monument Valley"   Jack Smith
HM   "Dancing Around the Monument"   Peter Florczak

PICTORIAL MONOCHROME PRINT:
1st   "Rope Wall" Mary Hunsicker
2nd   "Monumental Landscape"   Peter Florczak
2nd   "Hummer"   Bill Hunsicker
3rd   "AF Academy Chapel"   Dick Boone
HM   "Monument Valley AZ"   Jack Smith

NATURE PRINT:
1st   "Framed Monument"   Peter Florczak
2nd   "Cub Standing Tall"   Jack Smith
3rd   "Red Dragonfly"   Steve Manchester
HM   "Midway Geyser Basin"   Bill Hunsicker

Judges for this PRINT competition: Mary Hunsicker, Brian Duchin and Jack Smith

PHOTOJOURNALISM PRINT:
1st   "Momma's Catch"   Jack Smith
2nd   "Tourist Hot Spot"   Mary Hunsicker
2nd   "Celebrating Dia de los Muertos"
3rd   "Morning at the Pond"   Steve Manchester
HM   "Honduran River Crossing"   Peter Florczak

ASSIGNMENT PRINT:
1st   "Piercing Eye"   James Moseley
2nd   "The Escalator"   Bill Hunsicker
3rd   "Esther Follies"   Peter Florczak
HM   "Eagles Flight School"   Jack Smith

CREATIVE PRINT:
1st   "Path to Poseidon's Playground"   Dick Boone
2nd   "Color"   Bill Hunsicker
3rd   "Canoe in a Dream"   Peter Florczak
HM   "Rolling Hills"   Mary Hunsicker

ASSIGNMENTS for 2016-2017

2016
April--Nut(s): photograph a favorite food alone or in some form of usage
MAY--Diamond: the rock or the shape of a diamond
JUNE-X's: Subject makes and "X" or X's
JULY-Sticks and Stones: image to contain both stone and wood in some form
AUGUST-Famous Amos: find your subject in the cookie Jar-chocolate chip, Oreo, or ?????
SEPTEMBER-Tools: things used to do some work
OCTOBER-Electric: depict electricity or some way it is used
NOVEMBER-Begins with "E": Name of object starts with 'E'
DECEMBER-Dramatic sky: Subject of picture is complemented by a dramatic sky BUT NOT a sunset or sunrise. The sky, however, is not the main subject.

2017
JANUARY-This Old House: the structure can be in pristine condition, falling apart, or in between
FEBRUARY-Domestic Animal: photo of a domestic animal, but no pets (dog, cat, bird, etc.)
MARCH-Ugly: title says It all-subject can be something like a bulldog & junk yard, facial expression, etc.

NATURE
"Framed Monument"   Peter Florczak

CREATIVE
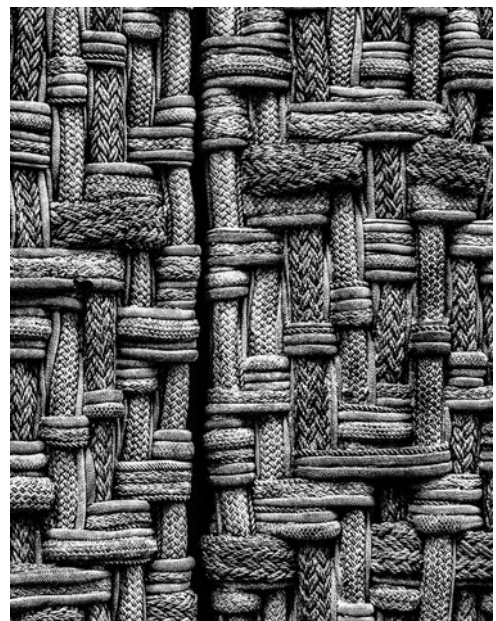*"Path to Poseidon's Playground"   Dick Boone*

PICTORIAL COLOR
"Portland Head Sunrise"   Dick Boone

PHOTO JOURNALISM
Momma's Catch"   Jack Smith
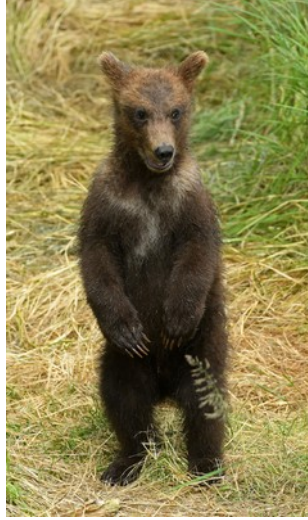

ASSIGNMENT
"Piercing Eye"   James Moseley

MONOCHROME
"Rope Wall"   Mary Hunsicker

PICTORIAL COLOR
"Oxbow Bend in Fall" Mary Hunsicker

NATURE
"Cub Standing Tall" Jack Smith
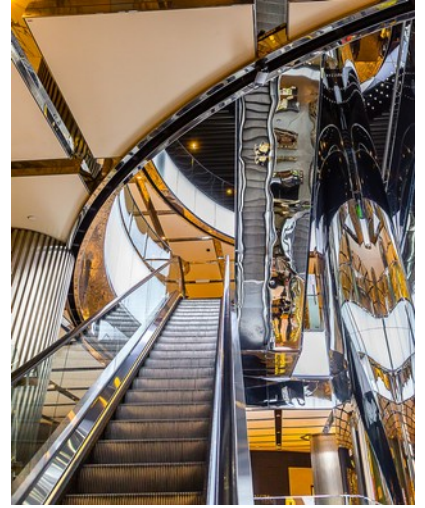
ASSIGNMENT
"The Escalator" Bill Hunsicker

MONOCHROME tie 2nd
"Monumental Landscape"   Peter Florczak

MONOCHROME tie 2nd
"Hummer"   Bill Hunsicker

CREATIVE
"Color"   Bill Hunsicker

PHOTOJOURNALISM tie 2nd
*"Celebrating Dia de los Muertos"
Dick Boone*

PHOTOJOURNALISM tie 2nd
"Tourist Hot Spot"   Mary Hunsicker

PHOTOJOURNALISM
"Morning at the Pond"   Steve Manchester

MONOCHROME
"AF Academy Chapel"   Dick Boone

NATURE
"Red Dragonfly"   Steve Manchester

PICTORIAL COLOR
"Sunrise in Monument Valley"   Jack Smith

CREATIVE
"Canoe in a Dream"   Peter Florczak

ASSIGNMENT
"Esther Follies"   Peter Florczak

5

See more of our photos online at www.gsacc.org/photo-gallery

GSACC COMPETITION RULES
effective 1 Jan 2017

Only current Greater San Antonio Camera Club (GSACC) members are eligible to enter competitions. Members are encouraged to enter any or all competition categories, but are limited to one entry per category per month. Competition images should originate as your own photographic image or images. Color images may be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Photographic post-processing techniques that add, relocate, combine, replace, or remove pictorial elements are permitted in some categories. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches are always approved, as is cropping. Stitched images are permitted depending on category. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are allowed depending on category. In general, any post –processing techniques, unless specifically prohibited by the category, that enhance the presentation of the photograph are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. All prints entered in GSACC competitions may be originated or printed by any photographic process, personal or commercial. Non-photographic printing processes such as lithograph, serigraph or silk screening processes are not permitted. All images must be your own work and must be submitted in the digital or print form required for the specific monthly competition. Odd numbered months are in the form of print submissions, even numbered months are in the form of digital submissions.

GSACC has seven (7) categories of competition.

1. ***Assignment (A)*** is a restricted "theme" category where the image must represent the unique theme specified for that month. Assignment themes are announced annually for 12 months (April through March) at a time. The assignment theme of the month should occupy at least third of the image. Images captured any time after the Assignments announcement may be competed. The Assignment Chairperson will be the final determining authority as to whether or not an image qualifies for the Assignment category.

2. ***Creative (C)*** is considered to be an Altered Reality "theme" category and therefore has additional restrictions and permissions. Images must be photography based, and not originated as a computer generated construct. Images must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape or any combination of these three. Creative images may be montages (a blending composite of multiple images). Note-High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are **not** considered "Altered Reality."

3. ***Pictorial (P)*** is an unrestricted "theme" category where images may be in color or monochrome. Digital capture, film photography, desktop and darkroom processing are allowed, and commercial prints are all allowed on print competition months. The content or subject matter of an image submitted to a GSACC Pictorial competition is usually unrestricted, but must always be your own work. The image does not have to portray truth or reality, however, all adjustments should appear natural or artistically intentional.

4. ***Monochrome (M)*** is a color-restricted, unrestricted "theme" category which may only contain shades of gray from black to white, or be a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. Any image that appears to have been multi-toned or has a spot of color shall be classified as a color image.

GSACC Specific Monochrome Definition
A pictorial image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of grey which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a greyscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example by Sepia, red, gold, etc.).   A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work.

5. *Photojournalism (J)* is a reality-based, restricted "theme" category where images shall contain informative content and/or emotional impact and should depict human interest, documentary and/or spot news. The image must have a headline like title of up to eight words which the images supports. **The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality.** In the interest of credibility, the photograph must represent the truth, and as such, any manipulation to alter the subject matter, or any situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Photojournalism. Human Interest images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional, or unusual situation. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the image, **without changing the photojournalism content**, are permitted. Specifically, cropping and techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, may be used. However, **HDR, focus stacking and specific photographic post-processing techniques that add, relocate, recombine, replace, or remove imbedded pictorial elements <u>are not</u> permitted except for cropping. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.** Color images may be converted to monochrome (see monochrome definition above). All adjustments must appear natural.

6. *Nature (N)* photography is a reality-based, restricted "theme" category that is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The **story telling** value of a photograph **should** be weighed more than the pictorial quality while still maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall generally not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the natural story of nature subjects, like barn owls, pelicans or storks, adapted to an environment that's been modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Landscapes, geologic formations, zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are still eligible in Nature competitions. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

7. *Travel (T)* photography is a reality-based, restricted "theme" category that is restricted to the use of the photographic processes to depict the characteristic features or culture of the land as they are found. Travel images show the physical or cultural character of an area. The picture should portray a **"sense of place"** by either the main subject or background. Shots staged for photography or using models are not allowable. Portraits of people are allowed provided the background shows some evidence of place/location (i.e. - Eiffel tower, Grand Canyon, city lights, mountains, desert, etc.). Since this is a reality-based "theme", processing techniques that add or remove objects are not allowed. Normal burning, dodging, spot / scratch removal, sharpening, vignetting and cropping are allowed so long as they appear normal/natural and do not alter the location story. Monochrome is permitted. To be considered GSACC travel photos, the images should have been made outside Bexar County. Titles may be used to help convey a "**sense of place".**

In General, for reality-based, restricted "theme" categories (nature, photojournalism, and travel), techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the story or the basic pictorial subject content, and that do not alter the content of the original scene except by crop, vignette, HDR, focus stacking or dodging/burning, are permitted. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are also allowed. Color images can be converted to monochrome (See above definition). **Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping or vignetting are not permitted. Stitched images are not permitted. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not permitted**. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.

Awards will be given at an End-of-Year (EOY) awards presentation for best prints and digital images of the year as outlined below. All images that place during monthly competitions will be re-competed for the EOY in their same digital/or print category. EOY winners in each category (1st, 2nd, 3rd and HM) will receive ribbons and/or certificates. In addition, there will be awards for Photographer of the Year (1st, 2nd, 3rd and HM). EOY competition will determine two "Best of Show" images awarded annually, one for the Digital competitions and one for the Print competitions.

ELEMENTS FOR COMPETITION JUDGING
By Brian Duchin

1. **Impact** the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compeling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger ,pride wander ,horror or any other intense emotion in you.

2. **Technical excellence**-all things you have learned about photography(exposure, focus, depth of field etc) that have to do with visual excellence of the image.

3. **Creativity**-is the image original, fresh, and an external expression of the imagination of the maker, and the viewer.

4. **Composition**- brings all of the visual elements together in concert. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to create a meaning from the image.

5. **Presentation**-Does the image have a finished look. The mats and border used, physical or digital, should support and enhance the image, not distract from it.

6. **Color Harmony**-An image where tones work together, effectively supporting the image, can enhance its emotional appeal. For Black&White, tonality may take the place of color and serve the image in a similar way.

7. **Interest Areas**-the point or points on the image where the viewer wants to stop as they view the image. These are called fixation points.

8. **Light**-the use and control of light refers to how dimesnion, shape and roundness are defined in an image.

9. **Technique**-Printing, lighting, posing, capture, presentation media, and more are all a part of the technique applied to an image.

10. **The Story**-Story Telling refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination the viewer.

PHOTO OPPS IN OUR BACKYARD

By Brian Duchin

I love to travel. I was thinking, wouldn't it be great to hop on a plane and head to New York City during this holiday season. The pictures I see of Rockefeller Center, the ice skating rink and the Christmas tree look so inviting. Maybe, even watch the ball drop at Times Square. However, it strikes me that I can photograph a uniquely San Antonio holiday celebration by just driving downtown to the River Walk. It's something the Big Apple can't match.

Obviously New York City has its diamonds but some real jewels can be found right here. We almost take the River Walk Lights, the Ford Holiday Boat carolers singing Feliz Navidad and the Alamo Plaza Christmas tree for granted. And forget the ball drop in Times Square when you can photograph the arrival of 2017 at the Tower of Americas.   Here are some uniquely San Antonio events to photograph.

For three weekends only, starting at dusk on Friday December 2, you can capture the holiday spirit of the River Walk with more than 2,000 Luminarias to photograph. Luminarias are a traditional Mexican Christmas lantern originally consisting of a candle set in sand inside a small paper bag. Prime time to film the Luminarias is on the weekends when you can enjoy both the lights and the Ford Holiday Boat Caroling.

The Ford Holiday Boat Caroling, along the San Antonio River Walk, will run through December 18. It's a great opportunity to hone your street photography skills as more than 185 school, church, corporate, and civic choral groups ring in the holidays by singing traditional carols on cruising boats. The eclectic mix of participants includes bell choirs, folk groups, and Latino ensembles. Caroling takes place Monday-Thursday 6:15pm - 8pm and Friday-Sunday 6:15pm - 9:30pm. Viewing is free to the public.

The River Walk photographs best at dusk and at night. Night photography with a digital camera can pose challenges and getting enough light is the key ingredient.   One way to accomplish this is to raise your ISO and set your lens wide open. But raising the ISO too high can create noise. All cameras are different and I encourage you to experiment to find the highest ISO you can use without degrading the image. For example, my Pentax K5 is rated by the manufacturer for an ISO of over 6000. But, I rarely go above ISO3200 after personally testing the camera. The other question you have to ask is how high do I have to raise the ISO to get a shutter speed that I can hand hold the camera.

The ideal night photography outfit would be a lens with at least a f2.8 aperture and a full frame camera body.   But as a hobbyist I find it difficult to spend thousands of dollars on the latest full frame Canon, Nikon or Sony cameras with high ISO capabilities to achieve noise free hand held night photos. The work around is to use a tripod on the camera you have now. With a tripod you can shoot at any shutter speed and avoid the need for using a high ISO and a fast lens

Look at these examples taken with my ancient Pentax K5. All were captured in RAW at ISO 200, white balance set to auto and the camera locked down on a tripod. The first two were exposed at F8 for 3 seconds.

For variation turn your camera vertical.

A 20 second exposure at F8. ISO 200.

ISO 200 again but a 6 second exposure at f11

As you can see, photo opportunities abound during the holiday season in the Alamo City. It's time to grab your camera, tripod and head downtown.

GSACC SCORING GUIDE

Zero (0)   - Used if the image is the judge's or belongs to a member of the judge's family.

One (1)   - Used if the Judge believes the image does not qualify for the category.

Two (2)   - Not Used.

Three (3)   - Image qualifies for the category, but has failed a major required element and would never be used. (Example - subject may be out of focus or seriously under exposed, this depends on category).

Four (4)   - Image may have succeeded in minor ways, but does not meet all the competition category expectations.

Five (5)   - Image is in the judge's opinion, average in most ways, but meets all category expectations.

Six (6)   - Image is above average, meets category expectations, but with some possible minor flaw that could be improved (example - could be cropped different to improve impact).

Seven (7)   - Image is a very good photograph that meets category expectations with no visible flaws and has some impact. (Example - the Oct 2016 Yellowstone Bear pic)

Eight (8)   - Image is a very good photograph, meets category expectations with no visible flaws, has impact, and in addition, exhibits some WOW factor.

Nine (9)   - Reserved for the very rare image with WOW factor and that is outstanding in virtually every way! (Example – Dick's October 2016 Lighthouse picture).

RESOLUTION OF TIES

2 image tie scores will stand for any score

3 or more way ties will be rescored

Note - Judges may participate in competitions that they are judging. However, judges may not score their own or a family member's images. When an image that was submitted by a judge or their family member appears during the competition, that judge will not score that image, and will enter a "0." An average of the other two judge's scores will be used to determine the third score. Only one member of a family at a time may judge any competition. A family member is defined as any person related by blood, birth, or marriage, including common law marriage.

ASSIGNMENTS 2017-18

By Tim Kirkland

2017

APRIL	Orange-the color or the fruit
MAY	Fences-show an artistic view of a fence
JUNE	Solo-person or object anone in a vast empty area--i.e. barn in big empty field
JULY	Monument-photograph a monument in a creative manner not the typical "tourist" shot
AUGUST	Inside-go inside something to find an interior picture
SEPTEMBER	Beer-make a picture of anything from brewing to drinking
OCTOBER	Sky scraper-look up to find a picture of the tall building(s)
NOVEMBER	Athlete(s)-show one or more in action or before/after action
DECEMBER	Sphere(s)-subject matter is a round, 3-D object

2018

JANUARY	Bottle(s)-limitless sizes, colors or shapes to use as a subject
FEBRUARY	Arches-three or more arches, natural or man-made
MARCH	Tree(s)-venture outside to picture a tree or trees or part of a tree.

GSACC Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party will be on the 3rd Thursday in December the 15th. It will be at our usual meeting place, the Lions Field Club and start at 6 PM. Bill Hunsicker has offered to pick up our Dinner from Bill Miller or Rudy's BBQ. Several other members have offered to donate deserts, salads and beans. Let me know if you are interested in attending ASAP so we know how many dinners to pick up. As we did last year, there will be a $10 per person charge.
Let's all get together!!!!!

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

2. Monday, November 28th: Digital entries must be submitted by 12 noon to be included in Thursdays competition. Also, to participate you must be a paid member, but visitors are always welcome!

3. To upload your images go to our website at: http://www.gsacc.org/gsacc-digital-photo-upload-page.html

4. Just follow the directions. Please limit the size of your photos to 2 MG each (I know the web says 20 MB, but please limit them to 2 MB) and also, please use the new naming convention, so John Kain knows whose photos they are, and in what category they belong to. The earlier you submit your photos the better it might work.

5. Thursday December 1st will be our Digital Competition.

6. The naming of photo entries has been simplified! This is up on our website already. Below is a sample to use for both DIGITAL and PRINT:

7. Pictorial Color: P_ABC_Title
Pictorial Monochrome: M_ABC_Title
Nature: N_ABC_Title
Photojournalism: J_ABC_Title (Note that title will be read and can be up to 8 words)
Assignment: A_ABC_Title
Creative: C_ABC_Title

8. Thursday, December 15th is our Christmas Party. It will be held at the Lion's Field Club. The cost will be $10 per person. Let us know as soon as possible so we know how many dinners to order.

9. Bill Hunsicker gave a really good presentation on how to reduce your images to 2 MB. I have also republished Bill's article on our website. Anyone still having trouble please contact one of our members and we will try to help you. Images greater than 2 MB per images MIGHT be rejected?

10. Also, I think that after months of using the website to upload images that it is working pretty well. We are going to stop allowing the emailing of images directly to John Kain. Again if you are having trouble using the website contact one of us. Images not uploaded on our website MIGHT be rejected.

11. The naming conventions listed above have also been in effect for a few months now. Any image that is not named properly MIGHT be rejected?

12. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, please let's try to make life easier for our volunteers by naming all of our images properly, resizing them to 2MB or less, and uploading them only using our website. It would indeed be a bummer if we lost any of our volunteers.

Merry Christmas!

GSACC BOARD MEETING
November 2, 2016

1. Membership dues will return back to being separate entities, GSACC dues will be separate from Lion's Field membership dues. Dues for GSACC membership will be as follows $30 for single person membership and $40 for person plus family. (or one other?).

2. As of January 1, there will be seven categories for competition entries. PICTORIAL, MONOCHROME, NATURE, ASSIGNMENT, PHOTO JOURNALISM, CREATIVE, AND TRAVEL.

3. The PHOTO JOURNALISM and TRAVEL categories will alternate throughout the year, January and February we'll have the Photo journalism category. March and April we'll have the Travel category, and will continue as such.

4. New changes to Scoring guidelines. As of January 1, we will be eliminating the IN and OUT process. The number scoring system will remain with the exception of TIES. If there is a tie between two images, both scores WILL STAY. If there is a tie between three or more images, we shall RE-SCORE the images, NO IN or OUT.

5. The FLASH will continue to have our JUDGING GUIDELINES for reference for our club members from this point on. We need more people to judge at our competitions and this will continue to help members learn and be more confident to step up and participate in the judging process.

6. Starting January 2017 Brian Duchin will be our new President, Robert Moreno has volunteered to serve as Secretary, and Steve Manchester will be our new Treasurer. Peter Florczak will be Member at Large.

7. The following Board Members participated in this meeting, Bill Hunsicker, Brian Duchin, Peter Florczak, Tim Kirkland, Robert Moreno, Ernie Clyma, and John Kain.

GSACC LEADERS 2016:
President: William Hunsicker
whunsickerii@gmail.com
Vice President: Tim Kirkland,
timkirkland250757@gmail.com
Secretary: Robert Moreno
reno655@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer: Peter Florczak,
peterflorczak@gmail.com
Board members: Dick Boone
dickboone37@gmail.com
and Brian Duchin,
bpduchin@gmail.com

CHAIRMEN:
Print competitions: Dick Boone
dickboone37@gmail.com
Digital Competitions: John Kain
Art-by-John@att.net
Digital coordinator: Lance Meyer,
lancejmeyer@gmail.com
Assignments: Tim Kirkland
Awards: Harold Eiserloh,
clips@peoplepc.com
& Dick Boone
Hospitality: Mary Hunsicker
Scorekeepers: Ernie Clyma
and Ed Sobolak
Publications & Webmaster :
Peter Florczak
peterflorczak@gmail.com

FLASH SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Articles: Text must be typed; e-mailed articles should be plain text, or Microsoft Word or Works attachments. The preferred size for images sent via e-mail is 1024x768 and the preferred format is JPEG.
E-mail address for submissions: peterflorczak@gmail.com
Publication deadline: Submissions are due on the 20th day of the month before the desired publication month.

2016 FLASH December

Greater San Antonio Camera Club
Editor: Peter Florczak
P. O. Box 700171
San Antonio, TX 78270

14