

IN FOCUS



Des Plaines Camera Club • Des Plaines, IL • April 2010

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Upcoming Schedule

April 2010

Monday, April 12 - Club Meeting
7 PM Jerry Hug to speak about
Black and White images, Club
Critique of club member images

Monday April 26 - Club Meeting 7
PM
Program to be announced

May 2010

Monday, May 10 - 6:30 pm Final
club meeting of the 2009-2010
season. Banquet to be held at
Silver Stallion Restaurant in Des
Plaines
Presentation by Marie and Joe
Rakaczy



Des Plaines Camera Club web site up and running

Our Des Plaines Camera Club web site, DesPlainesCameraClub.com is now officially finished and running. As the site grows and has regular updates it is hoped to become the “go to” place for club information. The site’s designer, Nancy Stahinic, is a professional web site creator, with a formal education in visual communications. “My original training was as a graphic artist, before computers were mainstreamed,” Nancy tells us. “Back then everything was done by hand, cutting out and pasting to boards for printing.” When computers and especially Windows were developed into the field, Nancy grew along with them

DES PLAINES CAMERA CLUB
OFFICERS

President.....Jerry Hug

Vice President....Tom Mulick

Treasurer....Irene Szilagyi

Secretary/Publicity... Cindy Uhlig

Recording Secretary...Kay
Michaely

Program Director...Tom Mulick

IN Focus Editor...Sue Lindell



Jerry Hug, DPCC President

From the President:

This is one of the best times of the year for landscape photography. Fresh clean leaves on the trees are a beautiful light green and spring wildflowers on already blooming. Our spring rains are usually bringing wonderful clouds and photographic skies. What more could a landscape photographer want in the Midwest.

Nancy is technically inclined, and therefore enjoys programming HTML code also. Five years ago, she started her business, Creative Edge Communication Inc. which designs everything from unique custom invitations to brochures, to event and business web sites.

The objective of our club web site is to create a consistent and easy way to learn of club news, club events and activities as well as see various galleries of images taken through club related activities and competitions. The site will allow everyone to easily see or confirm upcoming dates and information without having to save emails or files on their own hard drives. Competition information is also available, including all forms needed to submit entries as well as rules and information on how to properly size DPI entries. One of Nancy's favorite areas is the Useful Links section, where it will be possible to find links to all sorts of photography related web sites. Nancy feels it will be a handy way to quickly and easily find information on places to go, or also find supplies. The retail links will only be posted if club members have had good experience with them, and feel they are worth recommendation. If you have a particular web site you would like to recommend please send the link with your opinion to Nancy at N.Strahinic@comcast.net.

Next season, we will have a demonstration of the web site by Nancy who will show us all the details. In the meantime, you may access the site at DesPlainesCameraClub.com and explore the various pages within. The web site is being maintained by club members who have volunteered to help update information and maintain the content. This valuable group effort will help keep the web site current and useful to everyone. We are all especially grateful for the efforts of this special team as the web site will soon be an important communication link for club members as well as provide general club information to the public.

From the President continued:

Our next meeting on Monday, April 12 will feature a review of the many ways to produce quality monochromatic images from color images coming from the camera. Topics will include how to produce a toned print that matches other prints in a series, split toning, converting to infrared from color images and how to make great black and white prints from infrared capture. Questions in advance or during the presentation is encouraged.

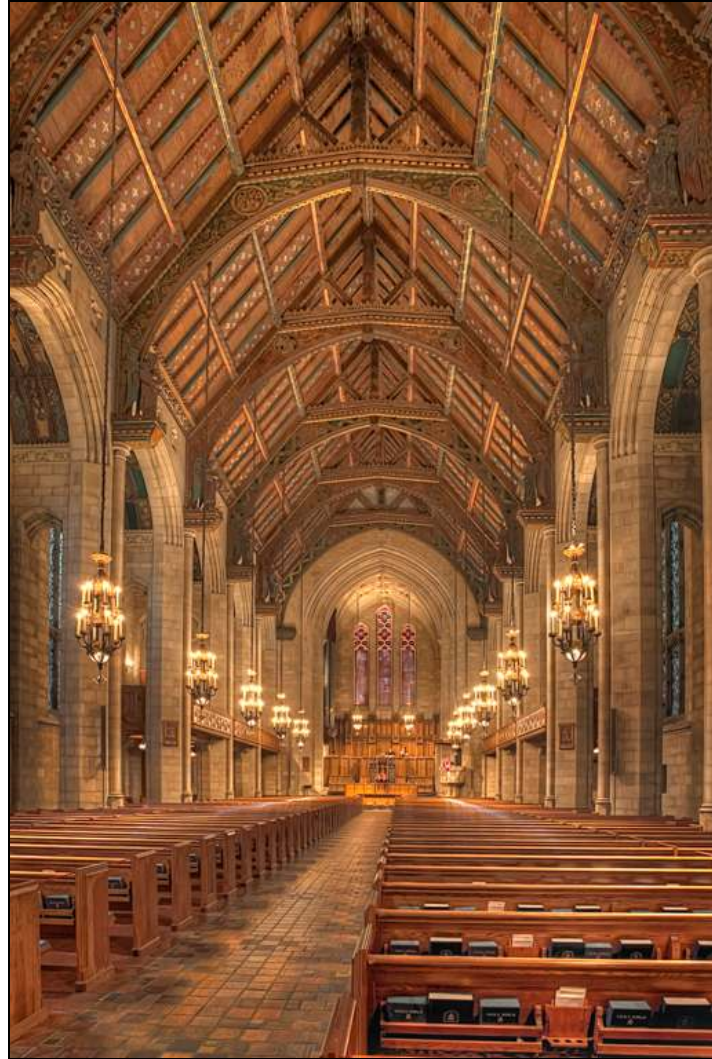
The second part of the evening will be critiquing images brought in by members.

Jerry Hug, President
Des Plaines Camera Club



Club Member John Kowalyk

Club Competition



4th Presbyterian Church by Jerry Hug

Print of the month for April is a shot of the 4th Presbyterian Church on Michigan Ave in Chicago by Jerry Hug. "I shot this by accident" Jerry says, "I was there in the area doing twilight shots of the Water Tower and saw the church doors open. No flash, only various exposures over and below the normal and then combined." This is an HDR image. This image earned an impressive top score of 27 points, the maximum amount available.

Complete competition results will be available on our web page.

Next Club Assignment

The new Photo Assignment is.....Me

Submit four (4) to six (6) pictures of yourself. These pictures must be taken by you of you, between March 8th and April 9th, for showing at our meeting April 12th. No other person is to be in the photograph and can be of a part of you. Images should be presented and edited in an artful way and show originality, proper exposure and good composition as you see fit. As usual, you will be asked to explain your submissions at the showing. Photo files should be renamed with **Your Name - Title** and resized to no larger than 1024 x 768 pixels. Files should be sent by Friday, April 9th, to Dave Waycie at dwaycie@wowway.com Mac users, please put your files into a folder and send the folder.

Recent Club Gatherings



Pizza party attended by members

In early March, our club members gathered together for a second pizza party, this time at a restaurant located in Des Plaines. Spouses were also included at what is becoming a fun and welcome social event.

At the end of March, several club members traveled out to Batavia, Illinois to photograph white pelicans. This photo op was spontaneous, with word going out through our exclusive members' only email listing.



Club Members on Pelican Shoot

Upcoming Club Events and Photo Ops

Monday, April 12; 7:00 PM Club Meeting. Jerry Hug will give a presentation on black and white images. We will also continue our club critique sessions. If you have an image you would like critiqued, please bring it on a jump drive. We will view the current assignment as well.

Monday, April 26; 7 PM Club Meeting. We will view the assignment chosen at the April 12th meeting. Program to be announced

Monday, May 10; 6:30 PM Final Meeting and Banquet Dinner. Our last meeting for the season will be held at the Silver Stallion Restaurant in Des Plaines. Marie and Joe Rakaczy will give a presentation on their trip to Canada.

Cuban Adventure

Tom Mulick likes the idea of traveling to unusual places. He was intrigued by the idea of seeing a country few Americans have seen in 50 years. "There's the adrenalin rush of the danger and excitement of no diplomatic relations", he says. When he heard of a chance to see Cuba last year he did not hesitate to sign up. He learned of the opportunity through another photographer friend of his who was also going on the workshop. Despite waiting a year before actual travel the appeal was irresistible.

Travel into Cuba was through Mexico. The entire journey started with an 8 am flight out of O'Hare, and ended with arrival in Cuba at 11 pm that night. The trip took place on the weekend of daylight savings, which added to the confusion.

The workshop included spending time with 2 different Cuban photographers, each of whom shared favorite spots to shoot. The first photo op featured an old church and surrounding area. The second tour, of a different island, featured an old fishing village. "I found great portraits of the people there" Tom says, "So many faces of character and expression!"



Image by Tom Mulick



Image by Tom Mulick

What surprised Tom most was the general quality of life for the Cuban people. Standards there are not the same as in the U.S. For example, homes that would be judged poverty stricken were considered well off by the residents due to running water and plumbing. Many items are strictly rationed, incomes are kept extremely low. Tom was told, for example, doctors there earn the equivalent of \$20-\$25 per week.

Traffic on roads includes horse-drawn carts, bicycles, pedestrians and lots of old vintage cars which have been converted to diesel engines. As tobacco is a large industry there, public smoking is common and inside buildings the air is thick with smoke. Hotel accommodations varied from place to place ranging from sparse, but clean to filthy and primitive.

The overall impression, however, Tom has of Cuba's people is they are generally happy and many are expecting things to change for the better.



Image by Tom Mulick



Image by Tom Mulick