



Painted Churches of Schulenburg Shot-up by ASC

Saturday November——our Club carpoled to Schulenburg and really had a great time. Just before we actually arrived in Schulenburg we made a pit stop at a bakery in ——and filled up on delicious Kalachies and coffee. For those of you who don't know—kalachies are a delicate pastries that can be filled with just about anything: sausage, fruit, custard etc...Onward we went and arrived at the first Church on our list. The ceilings are some of the most amazing I have ever seen. And when I said shot-up I really meant it. You had to practically lay down in the aisles to do a good job. These churches were built and hand painted in the late 1800's by early Czechoslovakian and German immigrants. They are really set in the countryside, not actually in Schulenburg. Most have their own cemetery out behind the church. There are many poignant stories told on some of the tombstones. Some of the old photos of the deceased on the stones really pull at your heart. Each church had a little something different to offer. One had the most beautiful hand carved wood pieces. Another had breathtaking stain glass windows. And still another had statuary that was life like and touching in its own way.

Every one went about the business of photography in a very quiet and reverent way that was quite touching and some even kneeled in prayer

The morning light streaming in the windows enveloped us in a warmth that was palpable and uniquely spiritual. I know our film couldn't capture all we

saw or felt but left indelible memories in our hearts.

We finished the day back in Schulenburg at Franks Restaurant and chatted about our day and said farewell to a friend. Gavin Roberts traveled with as a club member for the last time. He and his wife have moved to Portugal and will be missed. He was an excellent photographer and we had a lot of fun together

Hot Air Baloons to Glow Again at Trail of Lights

by Dave Pinckney

The annual Trail of Lights celebration opens on December 9th, and once again the Central Texas Ballooning Association will cap opening night with a balloon glow (weather permitting). The main event of the opening is Santa's parade through the Zilker Park grounds and the Trail of Lights display. The parade finishes at the soccer fields on the south side of Barton Springs Road, shortly after dark. Balloons from the CTBA will be on the field to greet the end of the parade, and light up the night for some time after. The public is encouraged to get up close (kids love to stand in the basket with the pilot).

About photographing a balloon glow: It's called a "glow" because a hot-air balloon behaves like a seven-story light bulb. The balloon's engine is a 14-million-BTU propane burner, throwing a 20-foot flame filament up into the aircraft. The light from that flame shines through the multicolored envelope of the balloon like a frosted, patterned light bulb. Each balloon flickers on and off, as the pilots must keep the aircraft cool enough to remain on the ground. The challenges for photographers are the enormous variations in the amount and direction of available light.

As for exposure hints: negative film is probably best, because of the huge vari-

ance in brightness across the image. I would suggest metering while zoomed in high on the envelope during one burn, setting exposure, then shooting the next burn. The mix of colors in each envelope means each balloon transmits a different amount of light. AE settings are a good idea for closeups of people, if you keep the burner out of the frame.

Our participants were: Brian and Shirley Loflin, Gavin Roberts, C.A. and Linda Thorne, David Pinckney, Jack and Ruth Cox, Patrick Daniels, Alan Hann, Max Layard, and Lois Schubert.

AE settings are a bad idea for shots of whole balloons, unless the meter reads an area well away from the burner flame. Photographers planning to shoot the event should check with me about the weather. Hot-air balloons are very large and extremely LOUD; leave the dogs at home unless you're absolutely sure they're comfortable being close to these aircraft.

Christmas Party and Awards Dinner

Don't delay—sign up today!!! The Annual Dinner will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday, December 13 at the Springhill Restaurant at 2505 West Pecan in Pflugerville. The evening highlights include a nice buffet dinner, installation of 2002 officers, presentation of Scavenger Hunt awards and 2001 year-end awards. Door prizes add to the evenings enjoyment

If you wish to go, please contact Lois Schubert at 280-7522 for a reservation.

NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, December 13, 7:00 PM
at Springhill Restaurant at 2505
West Pecan in Pflugerville. This
meeting is the annual Christmas
and Club Awards Dinner.**

Club Competition Results - Nov.

High Points - General Slides

Tarra Warneke	Red Sky @ Night
Nancy Carroll	Untitled
Shirley Loflin	Ruby Chrysanthemum
Eric Genz	Columbine
Eric Genz	Poppy

High Points - General Prints

David Cree	Taos Pueblo Church
Erik Pronske	360 Bridge Shadows
Erik Pronske	Cattle Skulls

High Points - Assignment Slides

Tarra Warneke	Strike Three
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High Points - Assignment Prints

Erik Pronske	Christmas Tennis Town
Max Layard	Battle for the Bell

GSCCC Competition results - November

Here are the results of the "Small Prints" and "Pictorial Slides" competitions for ASC:

Small Prints:

An Eagle & Cubs by Erik H. Pronske received 5 points

Nature's Star by Tarra Warnke received 6 points

Early Bathroom [LBJ Farm House] by William Ricks received 6 points

Alpenglow & Moonrise by Lela Jane Tinstman received 10 points.

The winners ranged in points from 11 to 12. Judging was by Greater San Antonio CC.

Pictorial Slides:

Woodie by Charlotte Kidd received 10 points

Purple #5 by Shirley Loflin received 9 points

Pedernales Falls by Patricia Johnson received 6 points

Bridge & Sunset by Betty McCreary received 8 points

The winners ranged in points from 10 to 13. Judging was by Slidell PC.

ASC accepts the challenge!

On November 17, members and judges of the Austin Shutterbug Club stepped forward and accepted the challenge of the Gulf States Camera Club Council and rendered our best judgment

THE PREZ SEZ . . .

--Shirley Loflin

Can you believe that it's already December? And yet, as I look back, we've really jam packed the year full of fun activities, trips and new experiences for our club. With 65 members ASC has become one of the up and coming clubs in Austin and surrounding communities. We have a lot to offer Austin and are just beginning to shine.

And after our club election we have a number of new leaders that will start shinning in 2001. I am flattered that you have elected me once again as your president and I promise to do my best. I also believe that others were asked and declined because they felt they weren't quite

ready or didn't really have the time it takes for this position. Well I'm here to tell you that I know that within our ranks beats the heart of a natural born leader just waiting for the honor to be thrust upon him or her next year. To be honest with you, this job has been so much fun and you all have made me feel so good. Thank you again for placing your faith in me.

You have also elected several new leaders to the club and they will be presented at the Annual Christmas Dinner and Awards Ceremony on December 13th at the Springhill Restaurant 7 pm, in Pflugerville. We will not have our regular meeting at the Rec.Center that night.

If you have not made your reservations please call Lois Schubert, our Treasurer, at 280-7522 right away so we can make the appropriate arrangements. Tickets are \$14 per person.

Our entertainment for the evening will be viewing the Scavenger Hunt pictures and winners and also the top high point pictures of 2001. Awards will also be bestowed upon those who have worked diligently at their craft and / or who have served loyally this year. Seats are going fast, and please note that we can accommodate only the first 60 to make reservations. I hope to see all of you there as it promises to be a lot of fun.

I also want to wish you a Blessed Christmas, a Happy Holiday and a Great New Year. Make lots of memories, take lots of pictures and God bless all of you!

--Shirley

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lois Schubert reports a balance of \$485.51 and \$67.34 in our petty cash 'kitty'. She states that we have 65 paid members. We still have a few members who need to bring their dues up to date as they are in danger of not receiving their monthly newsletter.

Please see Lois Schubert to pay your dues. Your dues help support the refreshments, newsletter and club equipment.

Remember our dues for an entire year are less than one dinner and a movie.

for the November Photo Journalism Prints and Slides Competition.

The ASC judges were: Rose Epps, Charlotte Kidd, and Alan Hann. We had a total of 24 Print Images from seven member clubs. There were 45 Slide images received from twelve member clubs. The event gave us an opportunity to consider the story-telling quality of the images, and to select the best of those received. In this competition, the primary consideration is not technical aspects of the images, but the success of the pictures in conveying their story.

William Ricks arranged for the judging to occur at the Northwest Recreation Center, and handled the receipt and mailing of the images to the respective clubs as well as the the paperwork required.

REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS

Refreshment volunteers are a much appreciated support of each of our meetings. The following have volunteered to provide snacks for the upcoming months:

January; Delilah and Tracy Brown.

February; Tony and Pat Richardson and Randy Miller.

March; Charlotte Kidd and Lela Jane Tinstman.

April; Glenda Embree and Pat Johnson
May; Jack Cox and Ca Thorne.

Austin Shutterbug Club

Minutes of the November 8, 2001 meeting

Shirley Loflin, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed our guests who were: Jim Roosa, John Terwilliger, Jerry and Martha Garner, Julianna LeVay, and Tamas Marcias.

Brian Loflin, Vice President, reported on the November 10 upcoming field trip to Schulenberg to photograph the Painted Churches. All are to gather at the Northwest Recreation Center at 7:00 am. Those attending will caravan to Schulenberg at 7:15 am. Those not caravanning are to meet the rest of the group at Frank's at 9:00a.m to start the tour.

Brian also told of the field trip to Burnet on Saturday December 1. (Now, Dec. 9.) A city block Bethlelm scene with permanent buildings has been erected. A walk through will begin at 6:00 pm. An e-mail with more information will follow. Shirley gave information out about a Texas Riviera Photography Safari for anyone interested.

Brian introduced Joe Englander of Austin, our speaker of the evening. Joe was an assistant to Ansel Adams for two years then went on to find his own style and favorite subject matter. He teaches workshops and gives tours on travel photography. He limits each group to no more than six people so everyone receives quality time and attention. Joe presented several beautiful photos of both 35mm and large format which were excellent.

Refreshments were served at 8:15 pm by Glenda Embree and Shirley and Brian Loflin.

The meeting resumed at 8:35 pm David Pinckney won the door prize, a photograph book titled "Caught in Motion".

Shirley announced the Christmas party would be held in Pflugerville at Springhill Resturant again this year. The cost is \$14.00 which includes tax and tip.

Two sign up sheets were sent around for volunteers to be judges and to bring refreshments next year.

Brian introduced the nominees for next years officers and asked for additional nominations from the floor. Our new officers for 2002 were then elected including: Shirley Loflin-President; Patricia Johnson-Vice President and Program Chairman; Lois Schubert-Treasurer; Rose Epps-Secretary; C A Thorn and Jack Cox-Competition Co-Chairmen; Wayne Hillman-Chairman for Field Trips and Scavenger Hunts; Nancy Carroll-Hospitality Chairman; Charlaine Matthews-Refreshment Chairman; William Ricks-GSCCC Representative; and Brian Loflin-Shutterbug Editor.

William Ricks announced that on November 17 starting at 9:00 am at the Northwest Recreation Center, our Austin club will judge the November Gulf State Photo competition for Photojournalism.

Shirley announced a leadership meeting Tuesday December 4 at 7:00 pm at the Loflin's for the newly elected officers, combined with the outgoing officers together.

Nancy Carroll invited all to come to the photography showing held at the Yarborough Library until November 29. She will be showing some of her work.

Our competition judges were Jack Cox, Eric Pronske and Brian Loflin.

Randy Miller and Max Layard volunteered to update our website.

Shirley adjourned the meeting at 10:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Johnson-Acting Secretary

ASC field trip relives Main Street life in Bethlehem

Our field trip in December has been rescheduled for Sunday December 9. We settled on Sunday because the crowds aren't as large and it will be easier to photograph in smaller groups. You'll need flash so don't take tripods.

Now you ask, "what is Main Street Bethlehem?" This Christmas, visit Bethlehem in Burnet, Texas as the recreation of the ancient city of Christ's birth comes alive again for the eighth consecutive year. Feel the anticipation of Joseph and Mary approaching the gates. Pick your way through the transients, peddlers, the crippled, and aged in the town's fringe. Explore the narrow streets to faint strains of ancient music and savor the

smells of fresh goat butter, campfires, and hot bread. Then immerse yourself in the din of the marketplace, the revelers in the tavern, merchants and craftspeople and taxpayers and beggars all seeking money, or position, or revenge. Search for the inn, only to find it full (as others did, long ago). Then follow the trail to the cave, where a road-weary couple has moved in with the animals, their place in God's plan and secular history to be made secure on this night. For the child in their arms was the incarnation of God Himself, come to the world that all that would place their faith in Him might enjoy eternal fellowship in His presence.

Admission is free (donations are accepted). Free refreshments served at the exit. As this is an outdoor presentation, it is canceled in rainy weather.

Please call Brian or Shirley at 257-2227 if you plan to go. We will meet at Callahan's Country Store in Cedar Park at 4:00 PM. We'll carpool to visit Bethlehem at 6:00 to 9:00 PM and eat snacks together when we're through. Brian and Shirley went two weekends in last year and were very impressed with the authenticity and the sincerity of the actors. It is a wonderful experience. We hope you decide to go with us. Ok, all you Saturday working people, here's a Sunday field trip for you. Give us a call.

Changes in Air travel rules don't have to be a hassle

--by Brian Loflin

We all know everything has changed since September 11th - especially travel by air. We all will of course still travel, and carry our film and equipment. The FAA and the Airlines are being very quiet, but the following are actual experiences and my recommendations based upon what I've been able to find out so far.

It seems that you can still hand-carry film and equipment, and ask for hand inspection of these items. In all honesty, I don't believe a few passes through the X-ray belts at the security check point will harm film. Remember however, like light, x-ray doses are cumulative multiple exposures. The more passes, the higher the risk. So, empty film from all cameras. Put all cameras and lenses in your camera bag and run it right through the x-ray. If you are traveling with a companion, have them pass through first and "catch all your gear on the other end. This minimizes the practice of having a thief on the other end during a bottleneck to walk away with your things while you are stuck in the x-ray line.

The best idea is to check everything you possibly can. Use non-descript suitcases, not the "Steal-me" camera cases. However, do not put any of your film in checked baggage. Checked baggage may go through a CTX-5005 scanner in several airports which will ruin your film.

So my advice is to arrive early, perhaps 2-1/2 hours early or more. Be polite, but patiently firm while having your bags examined. Ask for a supervisor, if required. I have had waits at security check points as short as ten minutes and as long as four hours at Denver. Austin delays seem to run from ten minutes to an hour and a half. It also helps to fly at off-peak times. Avoid the early and late flights in a day. These are the heaviest scheduled periods by most business travelers. Security lines bunch up the worst during these hours.

Do not carry even a small knife, a nailfile or nail clipper, rat-tailed comb, anything of that sort. This rule is a by-

product of the airlines' over-reaction, as even a ball-point pen can be a lethal weapon. As can bare hands!

Be ready to have your lap-top and cell-phone carefully examined. And there may be a random "dump-search" of a checked bag. While most aggravating, this only takes about 15 minutes. And you may find very long lines at the ticket counters, for some inexplicable reason.

The Post Office and FedEx are reportedly X-raying all packages, and I doubt any labels will prohibit this process. "Medical Stickers" have been suggested, but I doubt they'd make any difference. Lead-Shield film bags alert the authorities and make the matter worse. If they can't see through your bags, they will turn up the power or open and search all your bags, possibly creating additional hassles and perhaps even flight delays.

Probably UPS ground service is the safest way to ship things. Things will settle down eventually, and when I get any additional information from FAA or the Airlines, I'll pass it along. Meanwhile, try to be patient. This is the price we pay for having a country with very porous borders and freedoms for all. We will get through this.

All airlines are committed to delivering a safe and efficient travel experience. Some airlines offer passengers and their families tips to ensure a smooth travel experience, including the following:

- Pack smart. Please place your cameras, medicine, jewelry, and other valuables in your carry-on baggage.
- Travel with as few bags as needed. Remember, you are allowed one carry-on bag and one personal item. A personal item is defined as a purse, briefcase, diaper bag or laptop computer bag. Per FAA regulations, both the carry-on bag and the personal item must fit underneath the seat in front of you or in the overhead bins.
- Please do not wrap gifts. Wrapped gifts may have to be unwrapped during security screenings. Consider shipping gifts ahead of

time. Do not carry wrapped gifts you have received from others.

- Allow sufficient time. During the busy holidays, anticipate possible slowdowns caused by heavy traffic, crowded airport parking lots, and busy ticket counters and security checkpoints.

- Be aware of items which cannot be carried onboard. Security requirements prohibit passengers from taking certain items in their carry-on bags, which include: knives of any length, cutting instruments (any kind) including carpet knives, box cutters and folding or retractable blades regardless of blade length or composition. Ice picks, scissors and knitting needles are also prohibited. Straight razors are prohibited but disposable razors, like Gillette or Bic, are allowed.

- Identify your baggage inside and outside the bag. Place a baggage tag with your name, destination address and telephone number on the outside of your bag. It is also a good idea to put your home address, telephone number, destination address and telephone number inside your bag.

- Baggage may be checked at the airport no more than four hours prior to departure time and no fewer than thirty minutes prior to departure.

- You will need ID. Airline's security procedures require that all travelers 18 years of age and older show a government-issued photo ID, such as a valid driver's license, a passport or military ID. If you do not have one of the above, you may show two forms of non-photo ID, at least one of which must be issued by a local, state or federal government agency such as the following: birth certificate, Medicare card, voter registration card, Social Security card. You must have your ID out and available for inspection at the security checkpoint and also during the boarding process. In addition, you will be asked security questions by airlines' agents, which all passengers must answer.

- In addition to your ID, you must bring one of the following documents to go through the security screening checkpoint: electronic ticket receipt/itinerary travel agency receipt/itinerary for electronic ticket airline's boarding pass (issued at ticket counter), paper ticket issued by travel agency. If you do not have one of these documents, you must go to the ticket counter.

- Stay close to the departure gate. Board when your row number is called. You may be selected for additional security screening during the boarding process.

- Once on board, relax and enjoy a safe and comfortable flight!

Check out our club web site:
www.austins shutterbug.com

Photographing your new Christmas Tree

After the initial struggle of dragging in the Christmas tree, removing the cat from the top branches several times, cleaning up what Fido did to the lower branches, untangling miles of twinkle lights, hanging all your cherished ornaments on the sweet smelling branches and tossing on a copious fistful of tinsel; it's finally time to capture this moment when the "tree" is perfect with a photograph. But alas, when you develop those cherished memories of tree trimming the color is all wrong. Whaaaaat Haaaapened???

Rules of Engagement:

- 1. Start with the right film.** Try to use a slower film like 200 or 100 ASA. Or if you don't mind a little graininess you can use 400. Remember that natural light is best. If you normally shoot slides, try tungsten film, which automatically corrects the yellow cast of incandescent indoor light, turning it neutral.
- 2. Don't take indoor and outdoor pictures on the same roll.** Indoor light is warm and outdoor light is cool. When a drugstore or supermarket lab develops a roll of film taken in both kinds of light, the outdoor shots will look true to color but the indoor photos of the tree will look a little dead. If you do both kinds of light, let the drugstore develop it and then choose your favorite and take the negative to a pro lab and have a custom color corrected print made. A little extra money but it's worth it. Ask for glossy prints and you'll get an image that looks a lot sharper.
- 3. Turn off the flash.** A flash will definitely kill the atmosphere of Christmas warmth and make the interior of the tree look desolate unless it's decorated all the way through to the trunk. Use natural light from outdoor windows or doors, or better even is to turn on as many incandescent lamps and overhead lights. You can even take off the shades to get the light you need. However if the lamp is to be in the picture, replace the bulb with maybe a 15 watt bulb to get the effect you want.
- 4. Choose the right time of day.** If your tree is lit with a lot of natural light from a window or door choose early morning or late afternoon warmth to add the right touch to your photo.
- 5. Take time to make a picture, not take a picture.** Here's where your tripod comes into play—use it!!! Really look through the viewfinder to see what you really have in the frame. You just might notice that your favorite antique ornament is being blown out by a blazing bulb. Tuck the bulb behind the branch and try again. Remember, if it doesn't help the picture—it hurts the picture. Happy Holidays!

Competition is a learning experience

Of all the club surveys produced and of all the club votes cast, members all want a common goal for their club experience -- to improve their photography. These same indicators tell us another thing -- the majority enjoy competition and elect to continue in its participation.

Competition is conducted for the competitive "Winning" value, yes. But, moreover it is designed to provide an educational feedback to image makers and those who participate and those who also elect to do nothing more than kibbitz.

Feedback comes in many forms. Seeing one's image on the screen, the comparison of the image to others are but examples. But the most valuable form of feedback is a sincere, well-meant, constructive critique. Here the reviewer will perhaps point out characteristics that were missed by the maker. The reviewer must also provide thought as to what may be done the next time to improve the image or the technique itself.

The main idea is to have fun and leave with a tidbit to improve your images.

Club leadership to meet

The ASC leadership, made up of officers for 2001 and those to be elected for 2002, met the first week in December to discuss plans for the new club year. The group addressed changes to the By Laws regarding competitions, the 2002 budget, program/field trip plans and other club activities.

The club exists for members to improve their photography and enjoy the photo-related social activities. Leadership's goal is to make this a positive experience for all.

The outcome of the meeting will soon be published for everyone to experience.



THE AUSTIN SHUTTERBUG

7900 BUCKSHOT TRAIL
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78729

AUSTIN SHUTTERBUG CLUB

The Austin Shutterbug Club (ASC) was founded in 1998 as a nonprofit photographic organization. The purpose of ASC shall be to encourage an interest in photography, to provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, to provide an enjoyable forum for the development of artistic and technical photographic skills and to promote a healthy spirit through educational programs, exhibition and through member competition.

MEETINGS

Every 2nd Thursday of each Month
7:00 PM until 10:00 PM
The Northwest Recreational Center
2913 Northland Drive
One Block East of MoPac at Hwy 2222

OFFICERS

President Shirley Loflin 257-2227
Vice President Brian Loflin 257-2227
Secretary Rose Epps 502-0608
Treasurer Lois Schubert 280-7522
Competition Chairman Alan Hann 347-0944
GSCCC Representative ... William Ricks 442-3832
Newsletter Editor Brian Loflin 257-2227

Member Club, Gulf States Camera Club Council

Club Competition

Assignments: 2001-2002

(In addition to Regular Competition)

Each member may enter two slides and/or two prints of the assigned subject. To qualify for competition the image must have been made at any time, but after the publication of this list. Members are encouraged to use imagination.

The images will be scored on interpretation of the assignment, photographic quality and impact.

November Sporting Event
December No Competition
January Candid/Humor
February Bubbles
March Black & White or Monotone
April PJ - Photojournalism
May Masks
June Glamour/Fashion
July Nature
August Insect
September Action/Sports
October Animals