



PHOTOGRAM

Sometimes Newsletter of the Robson Ranch Photo Club

July, 2024

Robson Ranch Photo Club meets the 3rd Monday of each Month, 7:00 pm CATC room 104. Workshops are on the 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 am and 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm CATC room 104 **when scheduled**. Check <http://rrphotoclub.org> for more information.

Victim of the Month

My name is Rod Dillon and I've lived in Robson since February of this year. I retired from Dallas Police Department in 2017 after 36 years. The last 10 years, part of my duties was being the sergeant over the Dallas PD Underwater Recovery Team.

I remember the first good picture I shot using my grandfather's 35 mm camera. I shot a thunderstorm crossing the sunset from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. It was my first "wall hanger"!

My freshman year in high school, I joined the student newspaper and yearbook staffs as a photographer using an old Rolleflex camera. I hated that camera! I asked my Dad that summer if I could buy a 35mm SLR. He allowed me to charge the camera to his credit card and I was to pay the amount off by working the summer hauling hay, mowing yards and announcing little league games. When the first payment came due, I learned about credit card interest! I vowed to never pay that again!

My first good camera was a Minolta 101SLR with a 50mm and a 135mm zoom. I shot sports and formal group poses along with candid's around the school and off campus events. My sophomore year, the school gave the newspaper and yearbook a small space in the back of the theater where I and a photographer one year ahead of me built a darkroom. I continued as a photographer for the school until I graduated with my trusty Minolta (which I still have).

In college, I took a couple of photography classes as electives and had plenty of models available. I had started experimenting with existing light shots of both mobile and still subjects. Lightning shots and fireworks along with faces lit by single candles were some of my favorite subjects.

After moving to Dallas, I took every opportunity to shoot what I could, especially on vacations. Beaches, sunsets, and the colors of the Caribbean became a new focus.

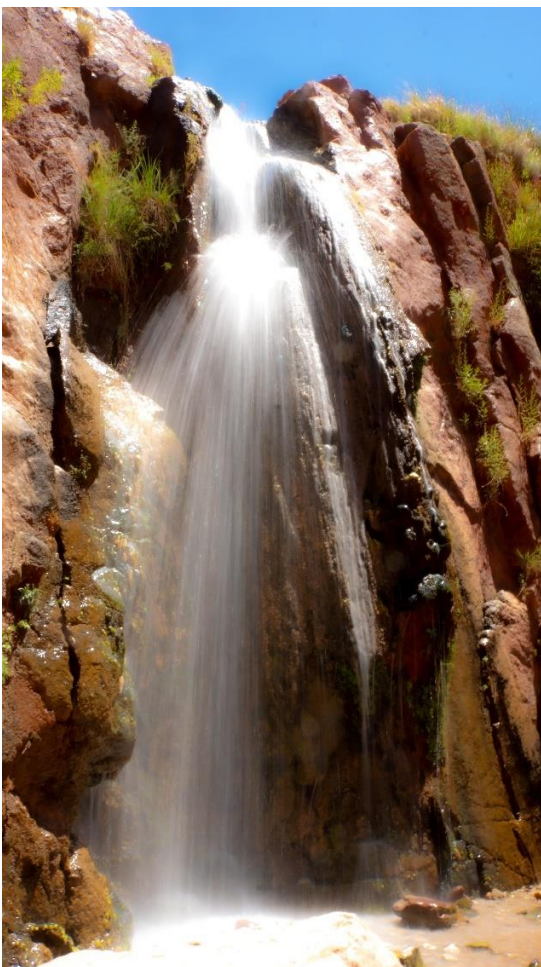
In 2002, I discovered scuba diving and from the very first I was carrying a camera on dives. I would have my gallon bag of 35mm film hand checked instead of being x-rayed as I was afraid it would fog the film. I found I could get 36 to 38 shots on a roll of film if I loaded it correctly. I also found that I should never shoot that last frame of the roll in case that elusive mermaid came by riding the back of a dolphin and I would be out of shots!

In 2008 I was certified as an Underwater Digital Photographer by none other than Cathy Church herself in Grand Cayman! A tough week learning by making mistakes and how to correct them along with the early “water proof” cameras finicky ways. Cathy started me down a path that continues today and I’ve had the good fortune to have learned at the fins of Stephen Frink (current Editor of DAN magazine) about the various sources of light underwater several times, including the 2011 Shark Shootout in the Bahamas. Watching, practicing, and beginning to “see” the sea, instead of just shooting everything enabled me to raise my performance and captured a few awards, including Norwegian Cruise Lines Guest Photographer of the Year in 2009.

These days I take the occasional gig at sporting events and family gatherings, and have sold a few underwater images to Caradonna Travel. I still make it a habit to dive with Stephen Frink and shoot whenever I can.

My current underwater (and sometimes above water) camera is a Sony NEX7 in a Nauticam housing with a couple of Inon strobes and various lenses. Macro photography is my new challenge and I’m working on it.

My surface cameras are Canon 5d MkIII AND 5d MkIV with various lenses and lighting setups. I just got back from 8 days on the Colorado River rafting the length of the Grand Canyon and shooting from a different perspective than that 12 year old me, that looked into the abyss and fell in love with photography. *We are certainly looking forward to more photos from Rod!*



June Photojournalism Contest Winners
Congratulations to Kimo, Carol and Betty!

Basic Level Winners

Kimo Sutton 1st place. "Pumping the Sniper Tower"



Kimo Sutton 2nd place "New Bocce Courts"



Advanced Level Winners

Carol Culkin 1st place Norman Rockwell "Shaving 2024"



Carol Culkin 2nd place "Totality Experience"



Masters Level Winners
Betty Alvarado 1st place "Saying Goodbye"



Betty Alvarado 2nd place "Fire Truck on the Way"

