

# Digital Focus

## Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

Editor: Dave Dornberg

April 10, 2012

<http://www.calregionphoto.org>

Volume 3, Issue 8

### Meeting Information

Calumet Region Photo Club meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday is our general monthly meeting, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday is competition night (September – March only). Meetings are from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Munster Social Center located in Community Park at 8751 Lions Club Drive.

### Upcoming Meeting Topic/Presenter

**Tuesday, April 10** - "Photojournalism" by Jon Hendricks

**Tips & Tricks** - Cropping and adding a Stroke to your image will be demonstrated by Michael Kobe.

**Gadgets & Gizmos** by Mylinda Cane

### HIS PHOTOS ARE WORTH MORE THAN A THOUSAND WORDS

Photojournalist **Jonathan Hendricks** is a visual reporter of facts and creates images that tell a story. The public places its trust in its reporters to tell the truth and that same trust is extended to photojournalists as visual reporters.

Jon will discuss the differences between the photojournalists and other photographers. He will talk about the mobile lifestyle of today's press photographers and touch on new tools in the industry. His presentation will include images from his work in the Superbowl, Hurricane Katrina and various spot/general news events.

"A photojournalist is as good as their subject allows," he said. "To be the best photojournalist means finding the best subjects."

Jon graduated from Valparaiso University and has worked for various publications before joining The Times of Northwest Indiana ([www.nwi.com](http://www.nwi.com)) in 2000. He has covered all facets of advertising and news including President Barack Obama. Jon shoots Canon for his newspaper work and Nikon for his freelance work. His website is [www.jonlhendricks.com](http://www.jonlhendricks.com)

Biography provided by Louisa Murzyn

### Upcoming Meeting Presentations

Tuesday, May 8 – **Macro Photography: Getting Close to the Subject** by Michael Kobe

Tuesday, June 13 – **Image Evaluation** by Al Havlicek

Tuesday, July 10 – **Annual CRPC Picnic and Photo Shoot at Veterans Park in Munster**

### Supplies for Purchase

The club has purchased photo matte boards in the following sizes and prices:  
11"x14" white matte board w/self adhesive \$.85  
11"x14" black matte board w/out adhesive \$.85  
16"x20" black matte board w/out adhesive \$1.25

The matte boards will be available for purchase at all club meetings for those who would like to mount their photos.

Please contact Jim ([jrettker@comcast.net](mailto:jrettker@comcast.net)) prior to the meeting with the number of boards you would like to purchase.

### Competition Meetings

Tuesday, April 24, 2012



## Digital Bits and Bytes

### The Overlooked Shooting Locations

Temperatures are rising and so is gasoline, so what is a stir crazed Midwestern photographer to do? Most of us certainly don't want to jump in the car and drive for two days to one of distant points on the compass to shoot new subjects. Most people say the Midwest is BORING! Not so if you think out of the box a bit. If you are nature photographer, there are gems that are less than two hours away to get beautiful images.

Here are some ideas to help you get out shooting now before gas hits \$5 per gallon. While this is not a complete list, these sites will get you started.

If you're a nature photographer, consider these locations to capture your favorite subjects:

#### Indiana

[Cowles Bog](#), Porter County, IN - waterfowl, amphibians, wildflowers, insects

[Heron Rookery](#) - Chesterton, IN - wildflowers, trilliums in abundance

[Indiana Dunes State Park](#), Chesterton, IN - waterfowl, wildflowers, amphibians, insects

[Jasper-Pulaski](#), Medaryville, IN - waterfowl, birds, wildflowers, plants, animals

[West Beach](#), Portage, IN - waterfowl, wildflowers, amphibians

#### Illinois

[Chicago Botanic Gardens](#) - Glencoe - flowers, trees, birds

[Hickory Creek Bikeway](#) - Mokena - wildflowers, plants, creek, bridges

[Kankakee River State Park](#) - animals, wildflowers, plants, waterfalls

[Morton Arboretum](#) - Lisle - trees, shrubs, flowers

[Palos Hills Forest Preserve](#) & [Little Red Schoolhouse](#) - animals, wildflowers, trees, waterfowl, amphibians, prairie

[Starved Rock State Park](#) - Bald Eagles, waterfowl, wildflowers, plants, waterfalls, rock canyons

### Selecting a Tripod Ballhead

When purchasing a good tripod head, do the research and get the best head you can afford.

Most nature photographers shoot with about 9 pounds of equipment, which could be the camera, long telephoto lens, focusing rail and flash with bracket. Trying to attach a rig of this weight to a flimsy tripod head, is a recipe for disaster!

Most nature photographers shoot many different angles and need to do so quickly. The ball head allows for this and can hold a lot of weight.

Weighing your equipment on a bathroom scale will give you your approximate weight for the new ballhead. When purchasing a ballhead, look for one that will hold at least 18 pounds or double what your set up weighs.

There are many different manufacturers of ballheads and prices from \$70 to \$500. Go to the websites and look at the features and figure out what you will be doing with this head.



The **Manfrotto 322RC2** pistol grip ballhead (left) holds 11 lbs, but tends to drift with a heavy rig. \$189

The **Slik Pro 800** ballhead holds 11 lbs too, but on angles with a 70-200mm telephoto won't hold its position. \$79

For more information on ballheads, please click on the link below for **Outdoor Photographer's** article: "[Gadget Bag: Ballheads Deconstructed](#)" in the March 13, 2012 online issue.

Parts of this article were used to for the "**Selecting a Tripod Ballhead**" article above.