

Digital Focus

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

Editor: Dave Dornberg

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<http://www.calregphoto.org>

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Meeting Information

Calumet Region Photo Club meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The 2nd Tuesday is our general monthly meeting, and the 4th 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 Topics/Presenters

The May 10, 2011 meeting topic is “What More Could You Do – Part 2 - Using Photoshop”. This meeting will feature 4 of our members: Michael Kobe, Phill DeCausemaker, Rick Heinzman and Anita Hocker showing how 4 of the images from the April meeting can be enhanced using Photoshop.

The June 14, 2011 meeting topic is “White Balance” by Phill DeCausemaker and will be a hands-on event at Munster’s Community Park. Members are asked to bring their cameras.

July 12, 2011 - we will be having a picnic dinner in Munster’s Centennial Park. We will then go across the street and photograph the Munster War Memorial. Members are asked to bring their cameras to this meeting.

August 9, 2011 The meeting topic is “**How to Make Your Picture Better - Part 3 – Using Photoshop Techniques**”. We will show how the May 10th images were enhanced with a step by step demonstration of techniques in Photoshop/Elements. The techniques will be:

- Curves
- Clone Stamp
- Levels
- Sharpening

Meeting Refreshments

Thank you to members Loisann Westerlund and Anita Hocker for providing refreshments at the April meeting.

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) prior to the meeting with the number of boards you would like to purchase.

CRPC Website Links

If you have pages on Pbase, Flickr, SmugMug or have created your own website, please send me the link information to those sites. There is a page linked to the Members Gallery page that allows other members to see your work.

Magazines/Books/CD’s/DVD’s

If you have old photo magazines, books and training DVD’s that you would like to donate to our club’s library, please bring them to the next meeting. The materials should be given to Don Kopenec. If you have questions, please contact Don at Donaldk992@aol.com. To check out what’s available, please see our website.



Digital Bits & Bytes

Purchasing the Right Photographic Equipment

One of the most asked questions at many club meetings, on blogs and photo forums, is what camera, lens, flash or accessory should I buy?

Unfortunately many people end up listening to someone else's opinion on what they should buy and never do any research into the question on their own. The result is many times the equipment they end up purchasing is either too expensive or they're not happy with whatever it was they purchased.

When I purchase photographic equipment, I too ask people for their opinion, but also do my own research.

Before purchasing a piece of equipment, ask yourself the following questions:

- What do I want to use this equipment for -- portraits, sports, landscapes, nature, table tops?
- How much money can I spend on this item without breaking the bank?
- Will I be able to use this lens/accessory for many types of subject matter or is it specialized for one thing?
- In the case of lenses, how fast should it be such as F2.8? If a zoom, how big? Should it have image stabilization?
- In the case of a DSLR, how many features do I really need, i.e. video capabilities or just stills?

Once these questions are answered, the next step to do is research.

When doing research, use magazines, equipment review websites, blogs, forums and talk to other photographers.

The best equipment review website I have found is called **Dpreview**. This site is free and gives a lot of easy to understand information about all types of camera models, lenses and other accessories. The address is: <http://www.dpreview.com/>

Steves Digicams has been around a long time and is packed with information too. Here is the

address:

<http://www.steves-digicams.com/>

Online Photo magazines are also valuable because they usually have searchable archives of their reviews for all types of equipment. The magazines to use for reviews are listed here:

<http://www.world-newspapers.com/photography.html>

Photography sites such as **Fred Miranda.com** contain a wealth of information on equipment and photographic techniques. The address for this site is: <http://www.fredmiranda.com/reviews/>

Blogs can also be helpful, but like advice from fellow photographers read many of them to get the best possible information. Here are two sites: <http://www.photos-of-the-year.com/canon-macro/>

<http://www.juzaphoto.com/eng/articles.htm>

If your purchase will be an expensive prime or zoom lens, go to Chicago and rent it for a couple of days before you purchase it to be sure it produces the images you expect.

Some of the reputable stores in Chicago that will rent equipment for a nominal fee are:

Helix Camera & Video

<http://www.helixcamera.com/rental/rental.html>

Calumet Camera

<http://www.calumetphotographic.com/rentals/index.html>

When you've done the research and rented and tried out the equipment of your dreams, then it's time to go out and purchase it. There are many places online to purchase equipment. The following are very reputable and have some of the best prices online.

B&H Photo Video Pro Audio

<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/>

Adorama

<http://www.adorama.com/>

Happy Shopping!