

# Digital Focus

## Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

Editor: Dave Dornberg

June 14, 2011

<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 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 Topics/Presenters

**June 14, 2011** - "Photomacrography" presented by Dave Dornberg.

**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** - "Photography Apps for Computer Tablets" presented by Don Kopenc.

**September 13, 2011** - "High Dynamic Range (HDR)" presented by Jerry Hugg past president of CAACA.

**October 11, 2011** - "How to Convert Color Images to Monochrome" presented by John Roquet.

**November 8, 2011** - "Landscape Photography and How to Modify Those Images Using Photoshop" presented by Alvin Alvis of Oak Lawn Camera Club

### CRPC Elections and Constitution

After two years as president of the Calumet Region Photo Club, Michael Kobe will be stepping down to make way for a new president and other officers to be elected in August. Raleigh Wolfe who is heading up the election committee will speak more about this subject and the new constitution for the club at the June 14, 2011 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](mailto: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 Kopenc. If you have questions, please contact Don at [Donaldk992@aol.com](mailto:Donaldk992@aol.com). To check out what's available, please see our website.



## Digital Bits & Bytes

### Shooting Macros

- Definition of a macro lens – a camera lens designed to focus at very short distances with up to life-size magnification of the image – “Merriam – Webster dictionary”

### Macro Lens Types

Every camera manufacturer has a variety of macro lenses usually from 50mm to 200mm. It is best to choose a longer lens, so that you are not right on top of your subject, such as a spider or wasp.

### Equipment Checklist

Equipment needed for macro photography includes the following:

- Point and shoot camera with macro lens attachments
- Point and shoot camera with 50mm lens reversed via step up or step down ring
- DSLR with macro lens attached
- Light travel weight tripod that collapses to ground level for point and shoot cameras
- Medium tripod w/ball head or pistol grip
- Heavy duty tripod w/side arm for close to ground photography
- Focusing rail - \$180 - \$400
- Right angle finder w/1.25x to 2.25x magnification – approx. \$185
- Wired or wireless remote approx. \$10-\$50
- Flash i.e., ring light – approx. \$519, external flash unit – approx. \$300 or double units – approx. \$749
- Diffuser for flash head i.e., Stofen – approx. \$10
- Reflector i.e., 22” Chameleon 5 in 1 portable – approx. \$44
- Macro flash bracket i.e., Kirk Butterfly Macro bracket – approx. \$70
- Extension tubes i.e., Kenko 12mm, 20mm, 36mm tubes – approx. \$167

- Plamp by Wimberley– clamp from tripod to subject matter to keep subject from blowing in the wind – approx. \$33
- Knee pads or small 3 legged walkstool 18”collapsible – approx. \$70
- Shooter’s mittens with fingerless gloves beneath the mittens
- Closed cell foam pad to lay on cold ground or hard ground for ground level shots – approx. \$5
- Plastic sheeting for laying on wet ground – roll of 6 mil plastic sheeting approx. \$5

### Ambient Light

You can shoot macros with natural light

1. Ambient light should be bright sun or bright overcast to shoot at the fastest shutter speed at the lowest ISO to keep the noise at a minimum - for shooting insects
2. Use reflector to bounce light back into the subject and to minimize harsh shadows – for shooting flowers

### Electronic Flash

You can use flash to stop action

1. Use fill flash at less than full power  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  to stop the action of the insect moving or flying
2. Fill flash can be used with flowers to light hard to reach areas inside a flower where ambient light can’t penetrate.
3. Fill flash will also stop action of the wind, but will still look natural with ambient light.

### Information Sources

Books: **John Shaw’s Close-ups in Nature**