

# Digital Focus

## Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

Editor: Dave Dornberg

June 12, 2012

<http://www.calregionphoto.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 Topic/Presenter

**Tuesday, June 12 - "Mastering Layers"** by Leann Angerman

**Tips & Tricks - "Image Lightening in Curves"** by Michael Kobe

**June Challenge:** Spring Images

### Munster Parks & Recreation Activities to Capture

Our club is sponsored by the Munster Parks Department which also allows us to use the Social Center for both our regular meetings and competition meetings free of charge. In return for this great opportunity, they ask that our members give them images from their many activities throughout the year.

[http://brochures.lerntools.com/pdf\\_view.cfm?id=333](http://brochures.lerntools.com/pdf_view.cfm?id=333)

Please check out the link and pick a couple of events you would like to photograph, then contact Louisa Murzyn at the May 8th meeting and she will give you a ID pass for all of the Parks Department events right on the spot.

Call Donna Chant at [dchant@munster.org](mailto:dchant@munster.org) or call 219-836-7275 before the event to confirm the event is taking place. Please wear your Munster Parks and Recreation Pass when taking pictures.

Contact Louisa at [lmurzyn@comcast.net](mailto:lmurzyn@comcast.net) or Vickie at [vjostes@comcast.net](mailto:vjostes@comcast.net). If you plan to attend an event and then let us know how many photos you submitted afterwards. photos can be submitted by email to Donna Chant [dchant@munster.org](mailto:dchant@munster.org) or on a CD that is labeled with your name, date and event.

### Upcoming Meeting Presentations

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.

### Upcoming Photography Workshops

The Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs, SWMCCC - August 2-5, 2012 in Holland, MI

<http://www.swmccc.org/WeekendOfPhotography.html>

2012 Macro Boot Camp by Mike Moats - September 7-9, 2012 - Schererville, IN

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

Nature Photography Workshop by Paul McAfee and Dave Dornberg - October 11-13, 2012 - Merry Lea College in Wolf Lake, IN

<http://merrylea.goshen.edu/news-events/events/nature-photography-workshop>



## Digital Bits and Bytes

### 10 ways to become better at Photography

As the old cliché goes, "practice makes perfect", but in photography it just makes you a better photographer, since even perfectionists are not really perfect.

With our photo shoot at the Munster Veteran's Park in July just around the corner, you might like to try the following weekend photo assignments to hone your photographic skills:

Since there are two days per weekend, pick two different items that you would like to work on photographically and then practice them each day.

1. Pick a lens to shoot with and shoot with only that lens for a day, so that shooting with it becomes second nature.
2. Try each of the settings on your camera's feature dial such as **TV**, (shutter priority), **AV**, (aperture priority), **M**, (manual mode), **Landscape**, **Portrait**, etc
3. Select Manual on the feature dial and turn off the autofocus on the lens and do everything in manual mode for a day. There is no better way to learn to become better with your camera than in manual mode.
4. **Composition** guidelines - shoot with an eye towards the rules of thirds
5. **Techniques** - Try working with HDR, high dynamic range, or image stacking or panning or fill flash. There are so many new techniques out there, that you won't get bored with this assignment
6. **Lighting effects** - Try some still life's indoors on a table top and then light them using the different directions of lighting such as full frontal, side lighting, shear lighting, rim lighting and back lighting.

7. **Out of the comfort zone** - if you typically shoot landscapes, try shooting sports or architecture. This is a sure fire way to learn something new.
8. **Black and White** - if all you've ever done has been to shoot in color, try shooting images with an eye to what they would look like in black and white and then convert them in whichever software you use be it Adobe Photoshop Elements, Photoshop, etc.
9. **Night photography** - shooting at night opens up a whole different realm when the camera is set for a long time exposure. Set up a tripod on a city street with lots of people and then set your camera for a long time exposure and watch the people disappear.
10. **Emulate another photographer** - pick up a book or go online and look at other photographers whose work you admire, then try to shoot the way they do. You can learn a lot about photography in this way too.

Idea for the assignments came from Darren Rowse in his Digital Photography School newsletter, June 7, 2012.

If you have question about these 10 items, look at our past newsletters on the website because many of them were discussed or go online to the many online tutorials to learn more about a technique. Here is an excellent site:

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

You can also ask your question(s) at the July photo shoot and then try the skill at the park that evening