

Digital Focus

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

Editor: Dave Dornberg

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<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 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

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

December 13, 2011 – CRPC Potluck – returns by popular demand because we had such a nice time last year.

Calumet Region Photo Clinic

The CRPC photography clinic is tentatively scheduled for January 28, 2012. In past years we have received many accolades on our clinics. Once more information is available, it will be posted on our website.

If you would like to add your photos to our members gallery webpage, please pick 8-13 of your best images and size them to 1024 x768 pixels, 72 dpi and send them to Dave Dornberg, crpcwebmaster@comcast.net and I will add them to our site.

Competition Meetings

October 25, 2011
November 22, 2011
December 27, 2011
January 24, 2011
February 28, 2011
March 27, 2011
April 24, 2011

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 and Bytes

Metering Your Subject Part 1

Too many photographers rely solely on their built in meters and never give exposure a second thought.

Exposure is defined as measuring and capturing light on a file. This can also be defined as combining the artistic with the technical which must be mastered for the best results.

Correct Exposure: Getting the results you want and not necessarily what your meter says.

Overexposure: results are lighter that you wanted.

Underexposure: results are darker than you wanted.

The unit of exposure is the **Stop**, which is a doubling or halving of the amount of light needed to capture the subject. Memorize the following shutter speed sequence: 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/15, 1/30, 1/60, 1/125, 1/250, 1/500, 1/1000 and also the f-stop sequence: f1.4, f2, f2.8, f4, f5.6, f8, f11, f16, f22, f32

Opening up: adding light (by using a slower shutter, a bigger lens opening or a higher ISO)

Stopping down: subtracting light (by using a faster shutter speed, a smaller lens opening or a lower ISO)

To master the technique of exposure means that a photographer needs to consistently and faithfully capture the subtleties of light.

Our eyes can only see a range of about 12 to 14 stops of light. Digital DSLR's can record about 8-11 stops. Since the camera doesn't record the same range as our eyes, then we as photographers must learn to see as our cameras do.

This range of light or tonal values should be memorized in the following way:

<<-2	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+2>>
Black	Very	Dark	Med.	Light	Very	White
No	Dark		Gray		Light	No
Detail						Detail

Do this test with a DSLR set for manual or a point and shoot if it has a manual mode. Set the meter to center weighted. Take a photo gray card and shoot it in the sun if possible. Shoot at F2.8, F4, F5.6, F8, F11, F16, F22 and F32. Then download the results to the computer. The results for my Canon 50D test is shown below:

F2.8	F4	F5.6
F8	F11	F16
F22	F32	

Using the test above F8 was the zero reference point the meter rated as medium gray. ISO was set to 100 and shutter speed was 1/640.

Using the test above for reference, a photographer can now look at the subject and set the camera according to the way they want the image to record in the final file. Let's say for example that the photographer is taking a photo of a white horse. If the photographer exposes the horse at F8 then, then the result will be a medium gray horse. If the photographer visualizes the horse as white, then instead the lens should be opened up 2 stops to F4 because F4 still allows for detail in the horse's coat and hair. If the lens was opened up to F2.8, the detail would be lost and the image would be overexposed or burned out.

Now let's say that the subject is a black horse, instead of exposing at F8, the lens would need to be stopped down by 2 stops to F16 to show detail in the dark hair. If the lens were stopped down to F22 or F32, the image would be underexposed.

When shooting RAW files, always **Expose To The Right**, (**ETTR**)

In the image below, the frog was exposed to the right to keep as much detail in the highlights as possible.

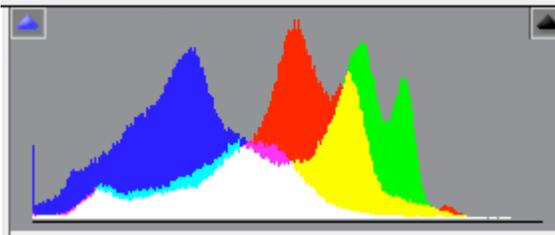
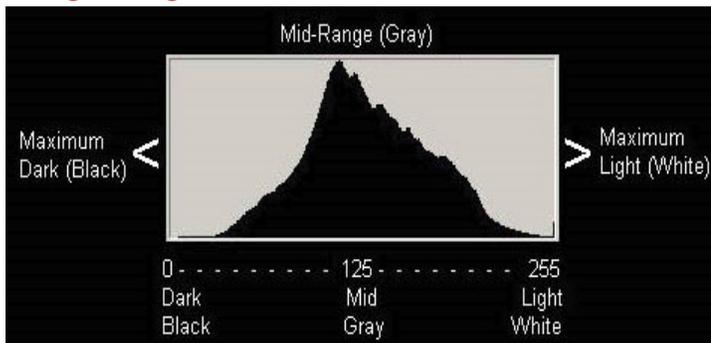


Photo by Dave Dornberg

Using Histograms



The graph above shows the maximum range of tonal values of light that the camera can capture. (Far left 0=Pure Black, no detail and 255=Pure White, Far right no detail) (All numbers are stated in pixels). As stated above, it is always best to keep the histogram more to the right especially when shooting in RAW mode to capture as much detail in the highlights as possible. If the image is too dark, it means that the histogram is clipping on the far left. If the highlights are blown out, then the histogram is clipping the far right.

If the camera has a histogram, which most digital cameras do, turn on the blinking highlights also known as blinkies, so that the camera's LCD will show when the exposure is clipping the right side of the histogram's highlights.

So remember, relying on your light meter and never changing the tonal values will result in average photos. What you visualize won't have the punch, pop or mood as you would have liked.

Material used from John Shaw's, Nature Photography seminar.

John Shaw's Nature Photography Field Guide

Types of Metering

Many of today's DSLR's and point and shoot cameras allow the photographer to pick and choose how a subject/scene may be measured.

The most popular types are as follows:

Multi-Zone/Matrix metering – the camera uses several points or zones in the scene and then combines the information to obtain the best possible exposure. First introduced by Nikon

Center Weighted metering – the camera uses between 60-80 percent of the central part of the viewfinder to obtain the reading.

Average metering – this mode uses all of the light coming from the scene to arrive at a reading.

Partial metering – this metering mode uses from 10 – 15 percent of the scene and is larger than a spot meter. It is used for extremely dark or light areas at the edges of the screen that may influence the meter. Canon cameras have this option.

Spot metering – only uses between 1 – 5 percent of the viewing area and is usually positioned in the center of the viewfinder. This is a very accurate mode of metering especially with small objects such as macros or backlit portraits and even the moon where the areas around the brightly lit moon are extremely dark.

Information for metering modes taken from Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metering_mode

For a tutorial on metering and exposure, please see the link below:

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/camera-metering.htm>