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

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

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

Composition – Create Your Photo-Graphic Vision

"Composition is the art of clearly presenting your creative vision in an appealing manner." To do this you must create order and structure from chaos in your photographs. **(Excerpted from John Shaw's, Nature Photography Field Guide)**

Here are some steps to follow to compose your shot:

- Pick the best lens for the job
- Choose the best camera position, high/low, vertical/horizontal
- Organize the camera frame itself – anything in the frame or image that distracts from your vision adds confusion and should be eliminated if possible

Many beginning photographers will simply point the camera at a subject and press the shutter and move on. As we all know this type of snapshot usually does not result in an interesting or award winning image. A great photo evokes an emotion and/or engages the viewer's mind.

Your first decision should be what to photograph and by this I mean choose one subject. Many people will make the compositional mistake of placing too many subjects in a photograph and not simplifying the image enough. If the viewer of the image must ask what the subject is in a photo, then the photographer essentially failed their audience.

An example of this would be an image of a beautiful boulder in a rushing stream. Instead of getting close and shooting the boulder with the rushing stream, the photographer shoots from 100 yards away with a wide angle lens and captures the forest, the sky and 25 other boulders.

If the viewer asks what the subject was and the photographer answers that the left most boulder was the subject matter, then the other elements should have been removed.

Before pressing the shutter, look at the subject matter and define what it is that you want your viewer to see, and then eliminate all other clutter or things that do not belong in the frame. Remember, a great photo is worth a thousand words, but a bad photo takes several paragraphs to describe.

Before you click the shutter, ask yourself the following questions:

1. "Why am I taking this photo? If you can't answer this question, don't take the shot.
2. "What do I want to convey to the viewer? If you don't know, then you are not telling them anything.
3. If you can give several answers to each question, then take more than one shot of each subject. There may be more than one message that can be conveyed with each shot.

Think graphically when you look at the image you are about to photograph. Think about the basic elements – **line, color, pattern, texture** and **form**. When you take the photo, you are arranging these graphic elements in your frame. Don't settle for merely documenting an event, visually think about it!

Here is a question that can be written on a card and kept in your camera bag:

"What I like about this scene is _____, so I will use _____(this equipment) and these_____ techniques to capture it photographically."

Hopefully the answer won't be this is a pretty scene, so I will take a picture of it.

What the answer should say for our boulder image example is this:

- I like the texture of the boulder, the browns and the tonality really make it dramatic in this fast rushing stream
- I want to show the raw power of the rushing stream, so I will blur out the

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background and the foreground around the boulder. To do this, I will use a telephoto to compress the background and focus in only on the boulder and a bit of the stream.

- I will use a tripod with a low camera position to show the detail in the boulder.

This may seem like overkill, but once you do this over and over, it will become second nature in all of the images you shoot.

Here is the checklist to think about before tripping the shutter:

1. Have I picked a good subject?
2. Is the light right for my subject?
3. Is the background pleasing?
4. Have I made a good composition?
5. Is this the best choice or are there others?

Here are some other things to do before shooting the image:

- Please yourself first and not someone else because this is your creative vision
- Move around your subject high and low and don't settle for the first position you see
- Handhold your camera to find the best composition then mount it to the tripod when you do
- Use the preview button to check foreground/background distractions
- Check around the edges of the frame for bright hotspots
- Check for thing sticking into the frame like stick, branches, poles and people

- Control the light with fill flash or reflectors and diffusers if needed
- Be aware of camera position and lens selection
- Position the camera accordingly. If you're shooting a frog, get down to its level not your eye level.
- Remember to simplify as much as possible

Here are things to not do before clicking the shutter:

- Don't shoot the first subject you find, look for other positions
- Don't mount your camera on your tripod before you've found the best composition and position
- Don't shoot high contrast subjects in bright sunlight
- Don't place your subject dead center in the frame
- Don't tilt your horizons or place them dead center in the frame
- Don't try to capture everything in a single shot – remember there may be many subjects in what you see. Capture them separately
- Don't shoot everything from your eye level – get low for ground level subjects
- Don't let things touch the frame, give them space to move inside the frame
- Don't pick a flower or plant or harass animals to get them into a better position for your photo

Information for this article Excerpted from John Shaw's, Nature Photography Field Guide.

For more information on Compositions, see the links below:

http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/guidelines_for_better_photographic_composition_introduction.html

http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Photographic_Composition#Lesson_1:_Framing

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