



DIGITAL FOCUS

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

March, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 7

<http://www.calregionphoto.org>

Editor Dave Dornberg

Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 7 PM - Jim Rettker will present "Astrophotography and Light Painting", and show us how paint the foreground with light to create eye popping images of the cosmos.

Greetings,

Raleigh Wolfe our, President had open heart surgery, and made it through very well according his surgeon and is now in rehab. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he will join us once he is well enough to return.

Member, *Jim Rettker* will be presenting "*Astrophotography and Light Painting*", something far different from our usual down to earth presentations at the March meeting. Astrophotography is now within reach for all of us. If you own a camera that will allow you to set it to B or bulb, you too may shoot the stars and Milky Way overhead on a dark night and without any special telescopes or other expensive equipment.

Our March 21st mentoring session will be a little different as Dave Dornberg will show how he creates Kaleidoscopes using templates created by Lloyd Williams' a Colorado pro photographer. Our first taste of kaleidoscopes was back in February, 2016 when member Mylinda Cane gave a wonderful presentation on "Whirled, Twirled and Blurred". "I watched with fascination as Mylinda presented her material on the subject and I was hooked", says Dave.

In April, *Al Alvis* who has presented to our group in the past returns to give us an eye opening presentation on "*Creepy Close-Ups*". and it is about close-ups of reptiles and insects which include snakes, lizards, and amphibians in terrariums. He will then switch to butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, grasshoppers and whatever insects you may come across out in the local prairies. Al will also discuss equipment, such as macro lenses and adapting what you already have in your photographic collection. Other subjects included in the presentation are: manual, through the lens and fill flash. External, off camera flash, extension tubes, teleconverters, mono-pods, tilt-heads and other handy equipment.

In May, *Michael Kirkland* will present "*Google Nik Plug-Ins*" and how to use them to create stunning images in post process-

ing. Michael presented at one of our clinics in the past. Many people would like to know how to use Google Nik and this will be a great learning experience from beginners to experienced photographers.

Matte Boards for Sale For Competition

The club provides photo matte boards to current Calumet Region Photo Club members. (**Note: there has been a slight increase in the cost of our matte boards).

Boards may be purchased in the following sizes:

11"x14" black matte board w/out adhesive \$.95

16"x20" black matte board w/out adhesive \$1.40

Matte boards are available for purchase at club meetings.

Please email dennisw.gray@gmail.com with the number of boards you would like to purchase.

Articles Needed for Newsletter

After nearly 8 years of requesting that members send me article to use for the newsletter, Jackie Huppenthal took the plunge and sent me a nice article complete with photos! This interesting article may be found on page 2 of this month's newsletter. Now that Jackie has "broken the ice", so to speak, please send me an article that other members would like to see and read for a future article of the Digital Focus.

Refreshment Thanks!

Bobbie Czajka has been our refreshments chair for many years and she always brings all sorts of scrumptious food to our meetings. She also organizes and takes care of our holiday parties and our summer picnics too, so when you see Bobbie at the next meeting, be sure to say thank you for a job well done!

Space Invaders

by Jackie Huppenthal



St. Joseph Pier on Lake Michigan was covered in hunks of slippery ice on January 9th, 2017. Icicles hung from the catwalk and encompassed the outer beacon. It was otherworldly. The temperature was about 15 degrees that day and finally, at 20 minutes before sunset, the remaining photographers packed up their cameras and tripods and headed back to shore. Alone at last, I was grateful I wouldn't have to crop or edit too many people out of my shots later. I took some close ups of the ice formations from a few different angles, adjusted the settings and took some more, always watching my step and staying aware of my surroundings. Then I decided it was time to put my camera down and enjoy the moment and scenery instead of just recording it.

There wasn't much wind, I had dressed warm enough, and the sky had been very dramatic the last two hours. The moon was even coming up. I sat down and looked out at the horizon. Lumpy islands of ice bobbed in the wavy water. It was peaceful and hypnotic in an eerie way. Then, unexpectedly, that brief moment of bliss was rudely interrupted.

I heard a faint unfamiliar noise in the distance but it became louder quickly. My eyes searched the darkening skies until finally I spotted a small white flying mechanical creature. It buzzed around the pier and me, then back and forth a few more times. It was just a drone, but this was my first real encounter with one. A million thoughts went through my mind and my feelings were jumbled up. I was intrigued but irritated as I felt kind of violated and cheated all at the same time. It was an invasion of privacy in some ways for sure. Was this thing taking pics of me? Was I supposed to pose or pretend I didn't notice and wasn't fazed? Should I leave so it could get aerials without me in the frame even though I was the one who had walked all the way out there? Should I take pics of it so I could show my kids the expensive hi-tech toy that ruined my moment? If the batteries died, wouldn't it go down in the lake? What if I slipped and fell in the water, wouldn't I die in the lake? The controller would probably call for help for me so I should probably stay on his or her good side just in case. After all, I had a long walk back.

I did take a couple of pics and videos of the drone. I did cut my photo shoot a little short. I was distracted and had lost my focus, I determined as I navigated my way to shore. Mumbling to myself, I still felt a little disappointed and defeated... but then I thought about the times I had probably annoyed others by taking pictures, maybe even intruded on their space or privacy or moment. When I reached the beach I saw the thing up close and the man behind it.

"Hey, sorry if I ruined your pics. This is kind of embarrassing, but I was the one at the end of the pier... I have to ask... did you get any good pics of me?"

Yes, he did!



Photo by Bob Becker, Aerial Perspective Drones