



Digital Focus

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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Editor: Dave Dornberg

<http://www.calregionphoto.org>

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Calumet Region Photo Club meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The 2nd Tuesday is our general meeting, and the 4th Tuesday is competition night (September - March only). Meetings are from 7 pm - 9 pm at the Munster Social Center located in Community Park at 8751 Lions Club Drive.

UPCOMING MEETING

Tuesday, January 8, our presentation will be "Shooting Tabletops", by Dave Dornberg

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Cross

Plans are proceeding full-throttle with regards to the 2013 Clinic. It will be an all-day event at the Performing Arts Center on Ridge Road in Munster on Saturday, 2/16/2013. Registration and a continental breakfast are between 8:00 and 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served at Noon. Lewis Kemper will address the group in two sessions: Taking Advantage of Digital in the morning, which will cover the following topics: Raw processing, Custom white balance, High Dynamic Range (HDR) imagery, High ISO photography, Panoramic stitching, Increasing /Decreasing Depth-of-Field, Tone mapping, Time lapse and more. In the afternoon, Mr. Lewis's presentation will be Light, Color and Composition and cover the quality, quantity and direction of light, including an explanation of the color wheel and color relationships and how to use this knowledge to make dynamic images. The art of incorporating color, line, form and light together can change an ordinary image into an extraordinary image.

Also in the afternoon, Gary Gullett, President of Photo Safari Network, will demonstrate how one can take eye-popping images in Alaska during one of the afternoon sessions. His presentation is titled Alaska – Rugged Photography.

There will be door prizes and a raffle. The clinic will be an extraordinary event and we hope that you and your photographic friends will take advantage of the low \$60.00 registration fee. Students with an ID will be admitted for \$15.00, which also includes the breakfast and luncheon. Mr. Kemper is an influential photographer as evidenced by his designation as a Canon Explorer of Light. Because of this, we expect a large attendance. So, get signed up now and assure yourself of admittance to this event. The clinic flyer can be found on the Calumet Region website.

As with any large undertaking, we need volunteer workers to help with the clinic. Sign-up sheets will be circulating at all of our meetings between now and the clinic on February 16th. Please help out and sign up if you possibly can. If that isn't convenient, let me know that you can help via e-mail at rpcross@ameritech.net.

I hope that you didn't miss our Holiday Potluck at the Social Center this past December. Bobbie Czajka and Susan Stassin went all out in arranging for members to bring different dishes of food (so that we wouldn't have 20 varieties of the same item) and decorating the tables. Bobbie provided holiday cards to the lucky winners at each table. They were a nice thought and appreciated by all. Tom Zmigrocki set up a continuing slideshow of the last two year's DPI Competition entries. As you can imagine, there were some real stunning images. We didn't learn anything about photography that night, but

everyone had a good time sampling all of the dishes and socializing.

Attendance at our 4th Tuesday Competition nights has been slipping, but the quality of the DPI's and prints competing has not slipped. Come and join us for a night of viewing some fantastic images. It's best if you compete, but just looking at top notch images by others will give you inspiration to take better shots in the future. Composition, subject matter, angle of view and many other things can be learned by just studying the pictures of others.

Another good way to improve your photography is to attend one of Dave Dornberg's Digital Focus Roundtables. The group meets at Mrs. Dornberg's 24 Carrot Cuisine on 45th Avenue in Highland on the 3rd Sunday at 12:00 noon. Reservations must be made with Dave as the seating space is limited. Basically, the group critiques images that are brought in by attendees. This is an excellent way to find out how to improve your photos.

Speaking of Dave Dornberg, January's program (Tuesday 1/8/2013 at 7:00 PM) will be presented by Dave. He will explain how to take tabletop photos. After

the break, members will have the opportunity to photograph various tabletop setups. Dave will be assisted in this endeavor by John Roquet and Raleigh Wolfe. So, BRING YOUR CAMERAS AND TRIPODS. The second half of the program will be hands-on.

If you have an idea for a future program, let me know and we will see if we can find an appropriate speaker.

Everyone is invited to attend our Board meetings. The date and time will be published on the website for all those interested. The next meeting will be held at the Munster Library on Calumet Avenue in Munster at 6:45 PM on Thursday, January 10th.

Michael Kobe has designed a line of apparel with the new CRPC logo. A variety of shirts and sweatshirts is available. Pick up an order form at a meeting. The clothing will help identify members at future meeting and outings. **Note: Pricing is at cost--CRPC does not profit from these sales.**

More information regarding our club can be found on the website: www.calregionphoto.org .

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20, 2013 - Digital Focus Roundtable

February 16, 2013 - CRPC Photography Clinic

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SCHOOL

By Bob Cross

The other day I was made aware of a website that contains a wealth of photographic information. It is owned and run by an Australian named Darren Rowse and has answers to many, many questions that have been submitted in the past. And you can obviously submit your own questions. Another feature is an e-mail tip-of-the-day that will be sent if you sign up for that service. One warning: If you check out the website, be prepared for a long session. There is so much information that you won't want to logoff.

Our webmaster, Dave Dornberg, has added the site to the Links page of the CRPC website, so that you can find the site whenever you feel a need to become a more educated photographer. To check out the site now, just click the following:

<http://digital-photography-school.com/>.

MOUNTING BOARDS FOR PURCHASE

The club has purchased photo matte boards in the following sizes and prices:

11"x14" black matte board @ \$.85

16"x20" black matte board @ \$1.25

11"x14" white matte board w/self adhesive @ \$.85

The matte boards will be available for purchase at club meetings and competition nights by CRPC members for their personal use . Please contact Dennis Gray (dennisw.gray@gmail.com) with the number of boards you would like to purchase. Payment can be by cash or check (payable to "CRPC").

DIGITAL BITS & BYTES

Tabletop Photography

Tabletop photography can be used for shooting small, medium or large objects. Lights may consist of LED, Tungsten, (incandescent), Fluorescent or flash. One light or multiple lights may be used. Accessories such as light tents, (translucent material) positioned around the subject help keep the light even and keep harsh shadows to a minimum. Reflectors in varying sizes and colors help add light where needed or to minimize harsh shadows.

Before shooting tabletops, a basic understanding of lighting is needed. Here are the most common types of light used in photography:

1. **Frontal** - Light is positioned directly in front of the subject. This type of light is harsh and cancels out textures and detail.
2. **Normal** - Light is positioned at a 45 degree angle to the subject. Texture, detail and color are highlighted. The subject is nicely defined with this angle of light.
3. **Side or Sheer** - Light is placed 90 degrees to the subject. Texture and detail is increased and lighting is more dramatic
4. **Rim** - Light is positioned 135 degrees behind object and causes the object to be outlined by the light or may look as if it is translucent as in flower petals or glassware.
5. **Backlight** - Light is placed directly behind the subject at 180 degrees and will cause an overexposed halo or rim of light around the subject and will also silhouette too.
6. **Top** - Light is positioned over the top of the subject to light evenly.
7. **Bottom** - Light is positioned underneath the subject while using milky Plexiglass or diffusion glass to produce lighting with no shadows. This type of lighting may be used for glassware, jewelry or other items where no shadow is wanted.
8. **Bounced** - Light is bounced off of an object such as a translucent screen or a flat white object to diffuse the light. May be used when lighting glassware or mirrored finishes on metal surfaces..

In tabletop photography, front lighting is almost never used for obvious reasons. Side/Sheer, Top, bottom, normal and bounced are the norm for bringing out the details, colors, texture and to dramatically light the subject.

Once the light or lights are placed, the shadows must be assessed. Depending on what is being lit, shadows may need to be lightened, so they don't appear harsh. Shadows show depth, so there is no reason to remove

them completely. To lighten shadows, reflectors or secondary lights may be used. Reflectors are easier to use because they normally will not cause other shadows to form as secondary lights may do.

Below are examples of different lighting setups.



Normal lighting adds light to the dark areas at the front of the egg rolls. Reflector used on left side of egg rolls.



Bounced light keeps the light from reflecting off the glass sided soup dish and gives the minestrone a nice diffuse overall look. Overhead light highlights the left and right side edges of the dish too. A reflector was used on left side of dish to add light to left front side.



Side light brings out the color, texture and details in this beet pancake on the right side and towards the center. A reflector was used at left to fill in the dark shadow next to basil leaf cast by the light at right.

All images were shot in a light tent with the main light at the right. Images were shot RAW and converted to JPG in Adobe Photoshop CS5.

All photos by Dave Dornberg