



DIGITAL FOCUS

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

January, 2016 Volume 7, Issue 5

<http://www.calregionphoto.org>

Editor: Dave Dornberg

Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – Member Michael Kobe will present “Aperture and Depth of Field” and the best way to use these settings to get the most out of your camera.

President's Letter

by Raleigh Wolfe

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year to all of our members and friends as we welcome in the year of 2016.

Big things are happening with our Club, and I am convinced that 2016 will be a great year for CRPC.

Michael Kobe will lead off the New Year with a presentation on Aperture and Depth of Field at our program meeting on January 12, 2016. As usual, our competition meeting will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month (January 26, 2016).

If you have not noticed already, Dave Dornberg, our talented and hard-working Webmaster, welcomed the New Year by creating a wonderful new website for our Club. Our new website includes many new features and sources of information so be sure to check it out. Dave, I want to personally thank you on behalf of our club for a job well done!

Next, our class on Photoshop Elements 14, conducted by Bill Brown, will be held in February, 2016. More specific information will be provided to all attendees who signed up just as soon as the plans are finalized with our presenter.

Our club's Annual Clinic will occur on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at the Wicker Park Social Center in Highland, IN. Amy Metrich has taken on the responsibility of securing our speakers along with Michael Ko-

be's welcomed assistance.

Additionally, Amy has developed all the information documents announcing and describing the Clinic Program. Thank you, Amy, for your outstanding effort and artfully-developed program brochures.

Well, that's it for now. I hope to see everyone at our January meetings. Until then, Happy Shooting.

Raleigh Wolfe,

CRPC President

Holiday Party Thank You

The Calumet Region Photo Club board and membership would like to thank Bobbie Czajka for her commitment to making our holiday party a great success once again!

Matte Board Sales for Competition

The club provides photo matte boards to current Calumet Region Photo Club members. Boards in the following sizes and prices are:

11"x14" black matte board w/out adhesive \$.90

16"x20" black matte board w/out adhesive \$1.25

Matte boards are available for purchase at club meetings. Please email dennis.gray@gmail.com with the number of boards you would like to purchase.

Calumet Region Photo Club Hosts 7th Annual Photography Clinic

By Amy Metrich

Are you looking for a way to beat the winter blues and talk photography??? Would you like to hear four well-known photographers share their secrets and better your craft??? *Calumet Region Photo Club* will be hosting its 7th Annual Photography Clinic on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at the Wicker Park Social Center, which is located at 2124 Ridge Road, in Highland, Indiana. This day-long event will cost \$65 per person with participants being treated to three sessions, **20/20 Vision to Improve Composition** with Todd and Brad Reed, **HDR Techniques-When One Image is Not Enough** with Alan Cox and **The Mechanics and Art of Bird Photography** with Al Alvis.

Award-winning Michigan photographers, Todd and Brad Reed will start the day with sharing how they use **20/20 Vision to Improve Composition**.



They will discuss the 20 artistic elements they use while in the field composing their photographs. This Father-Son team will focus on the art and vision side of photography, so that participants will see the choices and building blocks that are used to create great art. Todd and Brad have a simple approach to photography. They



choose subjects that touch them in emotional ways, and strive to convey their emotions through the photographs they make. They will share their most current project and the 20/20 vision behind those images, as well as lead a question and answer session.

The second session will feature a hot topic for many photographers today—**HDR Techniques – When One Image is Not Enough** facilitated by Alan Cox, current competition chair and past president of the Schaumburg Area Photographic Society. Alan has been both an amateur photographer and a software engineer for over 45 years. He still makes his living developing software, but spends much of the rest of his time readily sharing his knowledge and passion for photography. Alan realizes that many times the subject we would like to capture and share is just too extreme from its blackest blacks to its whitest whites, even when we do not realize it. That's when High Dy-

namic Range techniques are needed. Learn how to use various tools and workflows to achieve either natural or creative results with impact at Alan's session.



The day's last session will be presented by Al Alvis, who has been involved in camera clubs for over 35 years and has given various presentations to businesses and non-profit organizations, primarily camera clubs and garden clubs, for about the same length of time. Al's session, **Mechanics and Art of Bird Photography** is aimed at both photographers who are interested in

photography to improve their image placed on sophisticated will be dis-camera set-techniques, com-ioris and iden-to go to pho-locally and in Florida.



getting started in bird and those that want the technical quality es. An emphasis will developing a more and artful image. We cussing equipment, tings, field tech-positions, bird behav-tification, and places tograph birds both

Calumet Region Photo Club invites all those who would like to expand their photography skills to join them at the Wicker Park Social Center in Highland, Indiana on March 5, 2016 for their 7th Annual Photography Clinic. The \$65 admission fee will include all sessions, continental breakfast, and luncheon. Those interested in attending the CRPC Photography Clinic can visit www.calregionphoto.org for registration information or can contact Tom Zmigrocki at (219) 924-0537.

Photo Graphic Society of America Membership

By Amy Metrich

This year, Calumet Region Photo Club has joined the Photographic Society of America (PSA). This society is a worldwide organization with over 6,000 members who are amateur and professional photographers. These photographers reside in nearly 80 countries. There are more than 500 camera clubs who are members of PSA.

PSA hosts a conference in a different location every year. This fall, the PSA conference was in and around

Yellowstone National Park. Next year's conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

One of the primary activities of PSA consists of various competitions. Like CACCA, there are nature, photojournalism, creative, and general interclub competitions. Calumet Region is participating in two interclub competitions this year, Nature and Projected Image Division. Like in CACCA, the Nature competition only allows for images which show no hand-of-man and image manipulation must be slight. Images will be disqualified if obvious, over-the-top corrections have taken place, like a grunge HDR effect or painterly effect. Also, images must be free of hand-of-man, so no fences, footprints, or other manmade objects. In both competitions, 6 images will be submitted that best represent CRPC. Currently, those members who regularly compete in CRPC monthly competitions have been asked to submit images for consideration in PSA. Most of those images selected for consideration have been high-scoring and selected for competition at CACCA.

If you are a member of CRPC and would like to have an image considered for PSA submission, please email your best images to Amy Metrich at budesela@yahoo.com. Images must be no more than 1024 pixels wide and 768 pixels high. They also must have a resolution of 72. Only images correctly sized will be considered for PSA submission.

PSA has much to offer to its members. At this time, CRPC is only taking advantage of the competition portion of PSA. As PSA membership benefits arise, CRPC members will be made aware of those benefits. Hopefully, this new relationship will help CRPC members grow and sharpen their photography skills.

Digital Bits & Bytes

Tips to Keep You and Your Camera Warm in Winter

By Dave Dornberg

January is one of the coldest months to shoot here in the Midwest, but that doesn't mean the camera should be put away until spring! There are still plenty of subjects to shoot in the great outdoors this winter.

To shoot in extremely cold weather or to capture subjects in highly reflective snow, a few techniques become important. Snow is highly reflective - When

shooting subjects surrounded by snow, the camera will compensate for the reflected light and that beautiful white snow will look muddy and under exposed unless exposure compensation is set. Try +.3 to +.7 if using automatic mode. If shooting in manual mode, open up a half stop to a stop. Experiment by taking some test shots. This is what is known as bracketing.

Cold affects the camera, lens and batteries - Cold batteries will decrease the amount of images that can be taken unless they are kept warm, so place them in a pocket close to the body. Condensation can ruin camera equipment, so before going into a warm area, put all equipment into the camera bag, zip it closed and don't open the bag for an hour, which allows the equipment to warm slowly and will keep condensation to a minimum. If the optical viewfinder is still used, take care not to allow the breath to freeze the camera controls. Consider using live view even though it uses more battery than the optical viewfinder.

Freezing tripod legs - Before taking the tripod on an all day shoot, consider adding a cover to one of the exposed metal legs if the tripod doesn't already have one. Tripod covers protect the hands from cold and frostbite. Insulated pipe covers make a great cold weather handle for the tripod and they are readily available and reasonably priced from Home Depot, Lowe's or Menard's.

Keep your hands warm - Bulky gloves and mittens are no match for small buttons and other controls on digital cameras. Try Glomitts which are fingerless gloves and mittens rolled into one. Hunters use them and many photographers now use them too. You can purchase them at Cabelas or at other online outdoor sporting good stores.

If you want to get down on the ground to photograph ice crystals or other low to the ground subjects, place a closed cell foam mat underneath your body to keep you warm. The thicker mats will also protect your knees too.

If you will be out all day shooting in the cold, bring along a thermos of hot tea, cider or coffee to keep your body warm because you can become hypothermic in cold weather.

When shooting in winter, keep your camera and yourself safe and warm, so you can bring home those beautiful images!