



DIGITAL FOCUS

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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Editor: Dave Dornberg

Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7PM – **Rafi Wilkinson**, a National Park Ranger will present photographs from all corners of the National Lakeshore and the surrounding region. He will be prepared to describe the location, vision and techniques behind each photograph.

President's Letter

By *Raleigh Wolfe*

Hello friends,

I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year, and remind you that 2018 will be a BYE year (Best Year Ever) for the Calumet Region Photo Club. Your board and other members have been hard at work on the upcoming 2018 clinic. We believe that this year our event will be a rousing success and one that everyone will want to attend.

Blake Rudis will be our featured speaker for the day. I have come to know Blake personally and can state without qualification that he is an excellent photography educator. His topics will include photographic composition techniques, color theory, and post processing workflow. Additionally, Blake will offer constructive critiques on the importance of consistent workflow, utilizing tone, color, and artistic effects to improve our photographic image making. Time permitting, we will have a question and answer period at the end of the fun-filled day.

This year our clinic is being sponsored by ON1 Software, Inc. Blake is an On1 guru and has been featured in many of their educational forums. Additionally, he has been featured on Creativelive.com and his Photoshop YouTube channel is in the top 100 world wide. Needless to say, he has much to offer us during his presentations.

I am asking members of our club to become even more active partners in making this year's clinic a huge success by carefully considering the value of attending the clinic. Moreover, I'm asking each member to take additional registration forms, which will be passed out at our next meeting, to encourage friends and family to attend the clinic, as well. Working together, will guarantee a successful event.

When deciding to attend the clinic, please keep in mind that it is not only a great day for learning and camaraderie, but it is also our only fundraising endeavor of the year. We rely on a successful clinic to fund our various equipment needs throughout the year. This fundraiser also supports our educational programs and field trips, our annual holiday dinner, our summer picnic, and the monthly and end-of-the-year awards we present to our members. Lastly, the "goodies" arranged and set up by Bobbie each month are supported by the clinic as well. So please come and enjoy the day as an active club member. We need your continued support!

Now on to other business. We were recently notified by the Fairmeadow Community Church that they are going to require an increase in our monthly rental payment. I have met with the minister and the church board members to discuss and negotiate the amount of the increase. It is not excessive, but it does put an additional strain on our club's treasury. This is all the more reason to attend the clinic to help us support the club. [Finally, after much deliberation, the board has decided it is necessary to increase the yearly dues from \\$25 to \\$30 a year for you and your spouse. The dues increase becomes effective on January 1, 2018.](#) We feel the increase is nominal and necessary. Frankly, we are clearly at the low-end of CACCA affiliated club dues.

Our program on Tuesday, January 9th, will be presented by **Rafi Wilkinson**. He is a National Park Ranger and photographer who will present information regarding our National Lakeshore and the best photographic opportunities therein. I'm sure it will be a great program, and I would encourage you to attend and feel free to bring other family members and friends along.

The programs for February and March will be presented by **Myllinda Cane** who will be speaking about The Softer Side: Techniques for Using Focus in your Photography.

In this presentation she explores the use of techniques, including selective focus, Lensbaby and long exposure, that can help you find your focus in your photography. This journey into the softer side of photography will challenge your ideas of what's "in focus"! **Jim Rettker's** March program will be about photographing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and in Minnesota along Lake Superior. Both club members are outstanding photographers whose presentations will be very beneficial.

January Speaker

Rafi Wilkinson, a National Park Ranger will present photographs from all corners of the National Lakeshore and the surrounding region. He will be prepared to describe the location, vision and techniques behind each photograph.

Although he has always enjoyed taking pictures, he really became an ardent student of photography in 2012. He experiments in many genres of photography but loves landscape the best.

Rafi is very passionate about the environment and enjoys showcasing the beauty of Northwest Indiana. He loves to learn and loves both the wonder and the engineering aspects of photography – the blending together of the equipment technicalities and the artistic views. He lives in Beverly Shores with his wife and 4 sons.

Calumet Region Photo Club's Annual Photography Clinic

Our club is a relatively young club, having come into existence in 2009. From the outset, our club has been dedicated to improving the skills of our members with various educational programs presented at our monthly meetings. In addition to the regular monthly program and club competition meetings, we have established a supportive mentoring group program that also meets monthly. Its purpose is to foster collegiality, provide photographic inspiration, and increase our members' photography skills at all levels. This is done through formal presentations on topics requested by our members. We also provide monthly critiques as a means to improve both confidence and skills of image making.

The crown jewel of our education program is our annual Calumet Region Photo Club Clinic. This year the Clinic will be held on March 24, 2018, and is sponsored by On1, Inc. who will provide substantial prizes for our raffle. The first Grand Prize is a one-year subscription to On1 Plus and a copy of On1 Photo Raw 2018 software. This is our ninth annual Clinic, and we are excited that our presenter for the day will be **Blake Rudis**, a landscape photographer who is extremely passionate about post processing images in Photoshop and in mentoring others. Blake is a world-renowned photography educator from Kansas City, MO. He is an On1 software guru who is featured in Creative Live.

Moreover, his Photoshop YouTube channel ranks in the top 100 nationally.

Blake's morning presentation will include a discussion of composition and color theory. His afternoon presentation will include a discussion of postproduction workflow, and he will offer constructive critiques of club members' images. There will be a question-and-answer session if time permits.

The Clinic will be held at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana. The day will include a Continental breakfast and a formal luncheon. Visit our website at calregionphoto.org for more information. Registration forms can be obtained from club members or on our website. All of this can be yours for a registration fee of just \$75. We hope you'll decide to spend the day with us!

Mentoring Meeting

On Tuesday, January 16 we will have our first mentoring meeting in 2018. Before we show our images, several of our members will be bringing their tripods and heads they use and will talk about them. Many members continue to ask about tripods and heads, so if you're interested, please come to this meeting and look them over and ask questions.

After the tripod demonstration we will have each member show 4 images that they bring on a flash drive. The rest of the members will talk about the images and provide feedback.

Matte Board Sales for Competition

The club provides photo matte boards to current Calumet Region Photo Club members.

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 Dennis Gray, dennisw.gray@gmail.com with the number of boards you would like to purchase.

Blake Rudis Images

Here is an image you will likely see at the clinic:

