



DIGITAL FOCUS

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

January, 2019

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<http://www.calregionphoto.org>

Editor: Dave Dornberg

Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7PM – Michael Topp, former member and ornithologist will present “Birds of the Calumet Region for our members and guests.

Presidents Letter

By Raleigh Wolfe

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to 2019. I hope that everyone had a terrific holiday period. Now, as we start our 2019 adventure, I am hopeful that the Calumet Region Photo Club experience will be a good one.

We start off with our first meeting of the year on January 8, 2019. The program for that night will be a presentation by Michael Topp. His subject matter will be the birds of Indiana. Michael is an ornithologist and a noted authority on the various birds and species found in Indiana. I am confident the program will be both very interesting and informative and will likely offer guidance in finding and capturing images of the birds photographically.

Our first mentoring meeting will be on January 15, 2019, in the church library. The mentoring groups have proven to be very interesting, informative and helpful in improving our photographic skill sets. I encourage everyone to consider attending the meetings. I'm sure you won't be disappointed. Dave will let us know the subject matter to be covered in the January meeting. Our competition meeting will be on January 22, 2019. Our judges will be coming from the Forrester's Camera Club and all will be experienced judges. I encourage everyone to consider attending the meeting as it is another positive learning tool for our membership plus it is fun to see the images of our fellow club members. Moreover, I encourage members to participate in the friendly and collegial competition as a way of continued learning in the pursuit of good image making.

I want to draw everyone's attention to the rapidly-approaching date for our 10th annual Calumet Region Photo Club Clinic. The date is February 23, 2019, so please mark your calendar. As I am sure you all know, the clinic will be held at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster. Our featured speaker will be

Mike Moats. He is a nationally and internationally known photographer who specializes in macro and close up photography. He is an excellent trainer and educator who I'm sure will provide us with a day filled with very positive experiences and a lot of helpful information.

It is important to know that our clinic is not only a very positive learning experience for those who attend, but is the sole source of income for the club other than our annual dues. The funds are used for the purchase of materials and equipment for use by the club. Most important of all, the funds are used to support our various programs and field trips and other activities of the club.

I am saddened to report that that Gail Scott, our club's vice president, lost her father on January 3, 2019. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

I hope to see you at our upcoming programs and meetings. In the meantime, happy image making to all, and may 2019 find us all joyfully capturing the beauty of this world through the lens of our cameras.

CRPC Website Upgrade

Our CRPC website was in need of an update, so I re-wrote the site from scratch and thus gave it a face lift. The photo on the masthead will now be changed in a timely matter with the seasons.

January Photo Challenge

Since it is now January and colder air is just around the corner, our photo challenge for this month will be ice and frost.

Articles for the Digital Focus Newsletter

If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please send them to [cpcwebmaster@comcast.net](mailto:crcpwebmaster@comcast.net).

Matte Boards 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: dennisw.gray@gmail.com

with the number of boards you would like to purchase.

Digital Bits & Bytes

Storing Your Images Long Term

Digital photographers, whether amateur or professional, have thousands of images that need to be stored and cataloged.

Many have good workflow and cataloging systems in place such as Adobe Lightroom's catalog, Adobe Bridge or some other type of software cataloging system. However, too many photographers neglect to set up and maintain a reliable, long-term backup system that includes multiple levels for redundancy.

When I discuss storage with fellow photographers, many times I hear, "I just save them on a camera memory card or a flash drive". This answer gives me shivers because I know what happens to memory cards and flash drives over time. All media will either become corrupted over time, lost, or in some cases, even stolen. When any of these things happens, your photos ARE GONE FOR GOOD, unless you have a back-up. Even large external drives, while more reliable, are not corrupt proof, and in many cases, will stop working after 3-5 years of constant use.

In order to safeguard your photos, it is imperative for all data to be stored in multiple locations on different media and, then after a few years, be moved to new devices. You should plan for "disaster recovery", which means that in case your house burns, you are burglarized or there is a natural disaster such as a tornado or an earthquake, your data is stored in a safe location outside of your home.

To store image copies from your hard drive on another type of media such as an external drive, it is advised that you use a program that will verify the image data you are copying is in fact the same when it gets copied to the new media. A simple manual copy from Windows will not guarantee the integrity of the backup file. If the copied file, for any reason, is corrupt you will never know it until you try to open these files. If you no longer have the original images stored elsewhere, then you will be out of luck.

Jason Bradley, an outstanding photographer and Outdoor Photographer magazine writer wrote a great 4-part series about how to back up and archive your data. To read the entire 2018 article you, will need to subscribe to the magazine, but the information found in his articles are worth the cost of the magazine for a year. <https://www.outdoorphotographer.com/?s=backing+up+data>

I highly encourage all photographers to read the series and then follow the steps or create their own way of backing up their images. I read the article twice and then purchased the software called "Beyond Compare 4", by Scooter Software. This is the software Jason Bradley wrote about in his article and is used to do checksum testing to be sure what is being copied is the same as the original data. Once I installed and ran the backup on 4 different external drives it made a believer out of me. The software is extremely fast and efficient. Here is a link to the software site: <https://www.scootersoftware.com/>

Printing Your Photos Part 1

Fellow photographers ask me if I print my own images or send them out to be printed. I have been printing digital images since 2003 and gain a lot of self satisfaction in doing so. Printing your own images is not as daunting as many people make it out to be. If you follow some steps, then you too can gain self satisfaction in seeing images coming from your printer.

Step 1 –Calibrating the Monitor

Before starting to print, the monitor on the computer needs to be calibrated. Failure to do this step, will cause the images to look off color, muddy or low in contrast and/or brightness. There are a few calibrators on the market, and the popular ones are made by Datacolor, Pantone and X-Rite. The cost of these calibration devices are between \$150-\$500.

For an in depth article about calibrating your monitor to your printer, please read the article titled, "How to Color Calibrate Your Monitor to Your Printer", by William Harrel, September 20, 2018 in PC Magazine:

<https://www.pcmag.com/article/362097/how-to-color-calibrate-your-monitor-to-your-printer>

January Mentoring Meeting

At the January 15, 2019 mentoring meeting, please bring 2-4 images on sized 1400x1050 at 72dpi or smaller to talk about. The images may be from our Silhouette photo challenge in December or anything that you might be working on that you would like feedback about.

We will have a short discussion on backing up our photos.