



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 explain how to create eye popping images of the cosmos with equipment you already own.

Greetings,

Normally in this space is the President's letter. However, our president, Raleigh Wolfe, recently underwent open heart surgery. It went very well, according to his wife Louise, and he is now in rehab. We wish him a speedy recover, and look forward to his return!

There are many inspiring programs on the agenda this Spring, please check your calendar and join us for one or all.

Our March meeting presentation is "**Astrophotography and Light Painting**" by Jim Rettker. The world of Astrophotography is within reach for all of us! If you own a camera that will allow you to set it to bulb, you too may shoot the stars, all without any special telescopes or other expensive equipment.

At the March 21st mentoring session, I will demonstrate how to create Kaleidoscopes in Photoshop using templates written by Lloyd Williams, a Colorado professional photographer. My first look at kaleidoscopes was back in February 2016 when member Mylinda Cane gave a wonderful presentation titled "Whirled, Twirled and Blurred". I watched with fascination as Mylinda explained how she created her Kaleidoscopes and showed us her images. After the presentation, I downloaded the templates and the instructions on how to use them, tried some of my old images and I was hooked (and you will be, too)!

In April, Al Alvis returns to give us an eye opening presentation on "**Creepy Close-Ups**" featuring reptiles and insects including snakes, lizards, and amphibians in terrariums. He will also cover butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, grasshoppers and other insects you may come across out in the local prairies.

In addition, Al will guide you through capturing your own "creepy close-ups" utilizing your existing equipment (i.e. macro lenses, extension tubes, teleconverters, mono-pods, tilt-heads) and various flash techniques (i.e. manual, through the lens, fill flash, external/off camera flash).

In May, Michael Kirkland explains "**Google Nik Plug-Ins**" and shows us how to use them to transform your raw/jpeg files into stunning images. For those of you who have expressed interest in this subject, this is a great opportunity to learn more about it.
-- Dave Dornberg

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.

Submissions Welcomed for Newsletter

THANK YOU to Jackie Huppenthal who submitted an essay complete with photos that you can read on page 2 of this newsletter. I hope it inspires you to write your own article/story for a future newsletter!

Refreshment Thanks!

THANK YOU to Bobbie Czajka, our longtime refreshments chair. She provides all sorts of scrumptious food for our meetings. In addition, she organizes and takes care of our holiday parties and our summer picnic. 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