



Digital Focus

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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<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 MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 12 - Jimmy Sommers from Goose's Scuba Shack will speak about Underwater Photography.

Member George Kvarta will speak about Sports Photography

Tuesday, April 9 - Alvin Alvis will give a presentation on "Flower Photography"

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

By Amy Metrich

The last general meeting of the Calumet Region Photography Club took place on February 12, 2013. The evening began with announcements from President Bob Cross. Announcements included the annual Photography Clinic, which our club sponsors each winter. This year's clinic was to take place on February 16, 2013 at the Munster Performing Arts Center.

Michael Kobe also made an announcement regarding club clothing for purchase. Many nice clothing items are available for order that will proudly show your membership in CRPC.

February's meeting consisted of members sharing their photos and describing how they snapped that gallery shot. In all, 11 CRPC members shared their photos and

techniques. Our members caught a variety of images from a monochrome Chicago fire shot, to a rare limpkin, and back to an unconventional family portrait. Members shared tips on Photoshop, Elements, and Nik Software.

One member even asked for feedback on which photo to include in the upcoming club competition and shared how she edited each shot.

At a previous meeting, tabletop photography tips and tricks were shared; one member talked about how she has since set up a tabletop studio in her house and shared an image she has captured using those techniques. Overall, our members have taken a variety of photos and have a wealth of knowledge to share with our club.

Be sure to attend our next meeting on March 12, 2013. Our next topic will be *Underwater Photography*, presented by Jimmy Sommers of Goose's Scuba Shack. Also, CRPC member George Kvarta will give a presentation on Sports Photography.

SPEAKER CALENDAR

May 14 - "Adobe's Lightroom 4" by John Roquet

June 11 - "Photographing Birds at Wolf Lake" by Michael Kobe

July 9 - CRPC Annual Picnic - We will eat at the Munster War Memorial and then walk/drive across the street to Centennial Park and have our photo shoot.

August 13 - "Portrait Photography" by Steve Kaminski.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Many times people believe they need to drive or fly many, many miles away to capture breath taking images such as landscapes, birds, wildlife, etc. Most people who live in the "region" which encompasses northwest Indiana and across the state line into Illinois don't realize that there are many gems in the area to shoot many subjects.

Here is a list with some links to these hidden gems which are mostly free or require a small fee. This is by no means an exhaustive listing:

Chesterton, IN - [Cowles Bog](#) - beach along Lake Michigan, wetland, forest, wildflowers

Griffith, IN - [Oak Ridge Prairie](#) - oak savannah, lake, creek, forest, grassland, wildflowers

Hammond, IN - [Gibson Woods](#) - wildflowers, wetland, prairie, savannah, woods

Kankakee, IL - [Kankakee River State Park](#) - River, wetlands, Rock Creek, waterfalls, rock gorges

Mokena, New Lenox and Tinley Park, IL - [Hickory Creek Preserve](#), - Grassland, forest, prairie, savannah, wetland and of course Hickory Creek.

Palos Hills, IL - there are 150 miles of hiking trails with prairie parcels, grasslands, forests, lakes and streams. [The Little Red Schoolhouse](#) nature center is a good place to start your journey. They furnish information about the area along with trail maps and other information.

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

Prime Lenses versus Zoom Lenses

Many beginning photographers ask the question: Which lens should I buy a prime or zoom lens? In the old days before digital, the answer was usually hands down the prime lens. Today, however, zooms have become much better in quality, cost and weight. Now most photographers carry both primes and zooms depending on what they are shooting.

Subject matters in the selection of a lens. If you will be shooting mainly photojournalism, where the subject changes rapidly such as sports or on the street reporting, then a zoom is what many photographers pick. In the old days a news photographer would carry two lens bodies with two different lenses such as a telephoto and wide angle or a normal lens.

If the subject matter is more static such as macro shooting of insects, water, wildflowers or plants, then a prime macro lens is much more useful.

If you talk to 2 or 3 photographers, each will have their favorite prime or zoom lenses.

Many articles have been written on Primes versus Zooms. Here are a few to read, since these do a great job of explaining the differences.

[Cambridge in Colour - Zoom Lenses vs. Prime Lenses](#)

[Digital Photography School - Prime vs Zoom Lenses - Which are Best?](#)

[PhotographyLife.com - Prime vs Zoom Lenses](#)

REFRESHMENTS

Our March refreshments will be provided by Susan Stassin, Jackie Huppenthal and Irene Ganas

CRPC COMPETITION MEETINGS

Competition Dates are as follows:

March 26, 2013

April 23, 2013

May 21, 2013