



Digital Focus

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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Editor: Dave Dornberg

<http://www.calregionphoto.org>

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Club Information

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, April 8, 2014 - "Photographing Spring Flowers and Gardens", will be presented by members: Mylinda Cane, Michael Kobe, Raleigh Wolfe, Vicki Jostes and Dave Dornberg

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 - "Understanding and Using a Histogram", will be presented by Goran Vrcel formerly of D&M Imaging in Crown Point, IN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Cross

APRIL'S PROGRAM

In order to get ready for the multiple field trips to photograph wildflowers and gardens that we are offering during late April and May (see separate article), we have planned a program to help members take pictures of flowers and gardens. Following are the presenters and their topics:

- **What Equipment is Required** by Mylinda Cane
- **How to Shoot Wildflowers** by Michael Kobe
- **How to Shoot Flowers-Another Point of View** by Raleigh Wolfe
- **How to Shoot Garden Scenes** by Vicki Jostes
- **How to Shoot Macro Shots in the Spring** by Dave Dornberg

Questions will be entertained from the audience. Further help can be had by joining one (or more) of the field trips and learning from the experienced leaders.

MAY'S PROGRAM

On Tuesday, May 13th, Goran Vrcel, formerly of D&M Imaging in Crown Point, will present a program on **Understanding & Using a Histogram**. This should be a very interesting program as it could lead many of us to take better pictures through the use of the little diagram that appears in the monitor of most of our cameras.

JULY PICNIC

Set aside Tuesday, June 10th, for our annual picnic. It will be held again in Veterans Park in Munster. Our plan this year is to meet earlier at 6:00 PM in order to take advantage of the light for a shoot in the park before dinner at 7:00 PM. After dinner, we will hold a short meeting in which the Print-of-the-Year awards will be made. After that, members can continue shooting in the park with what light is still available. The picnic is free to all members and their spouses. So, come one, come all. The pavilion is covered, so we will still hold the picnic in case of inclement weather.

2014 CLINIC

CRPC's 2014 Clinic on March 15th at the Performing Arts Center in Munster was another resounding success. Over 100 photographers attended. Clinic Chairperson Susan Stassin is to be congratulated for another outstanding day of presentations.

COMPETITION

Competition nights are held every 4th Tuesday night (September through May) at 7:00 PM at the Social Center in Munster. If you are new to competition, come on out and see how it is done. Then, enter some images in the next month's competition and see how you do. If you have questions regarding how to compete, ask any club officer. They will be able to answer your question or direct you to someone that can.

The best images, as determined by judges from clubs other than Calumet Region, are forwarded to CACAA (Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association) to compete in monthly competitions involving approximately 42 clubs from the surrounding Chicago area.

The procedure for competing in CACCA's Interclub competition (4th Tuesday at CRPC's competition meeting) and CACCA's Individual competitions is given on our website. If anyone has questions regarding the procedure, contact me at rpcross@ameritech.net or (708) 799-7778. If I can't answer the question, I will direct you to someone that can.

Tuesday, April 22nd, is the date of our eighth and last competition for the 2013-14 season. Judges will be from the 3H Camera Club in Munster. On Tuesday, May 27th, we will hold our Print-of-the-Year competition at the Social Center. CRPC members may enter any four of their images in each category that have been previously entered in the 2013-14 competition year. Judges are not yet firmed up.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Due to the expected length and interest in April's presentations by five CRPC members, the "Something Different" series will not be held. Look for it to reappear in May.

PHOTOS OF MUNSTER PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

As part of our obligation to the Munster Park District, we are committed to taking pictures of a few of their events each year. Please contact me at (708) 799-7778 or rpcross@ameritech.net if you can help. We really need to provide the Park District with some up-to-date images.

REMINDER:

WE NEED TO VACATE THE SOCIAL CENTER AT 9:00 PM SHARP FOR BOTH THE PROGRAM AND COMPETITION MEETINGS.

Otherwise, the club will incur a fee to cover additional cleaning crew expenses. It is very helpful when members help put away the chairs and tables. Thank you in advance.

DIGITAL FOCUS ROUNDTABLE

Dave Dornberg moderates these meetings and requests that potential attendees reserve a spot as seating is limited. These meetings are held at Mrs. Dornberg's 24 Carrot Cuisine in Highland IN, usually at noon on the third Sunday of each month. Dave requests that attendees bring four images to be critiqued by the group. Thus, it can be a real learning experience for each participant.

Due to Easter falling on the third Sunday this year, there will not be a Digital Focus Roundtable meeting.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our last Board meeting was held on Monday March 31st at 6:30 PM at The Fitness Pointe in Munster. The next Board meeting will be on Monday, April 28th at the same location. All Board meetings are open to all CRPC members. Please feel free to join us. The date, time and location of each Board meeting are also published on the CRPC website.

CRPC 2014-15 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We hold elections for officers at our August program meeting. Therefore, it is time to appoint members to serve on this year's committee. If you are interested in serving your club as an officer or would like to be a member of the Nominating Committee, please contact me. Your club has dedicated members that tend to the club's business matters. We need to continue that tradition and members like yourselves can contribute by nominating another group of individuals that have the best interests of CRPC at heart.

CRPC APPAREL

A newly designed line of apparel with the new CRPC logo is now available at St John Sports on Indianapolis Boulevard in St John. A few of our members are sporting the new clothing. It is high quality and very distinctive. A variety of shirts, sweat-shirts and caps is available. Find an order form on our website or order directly in the store. The clothing will help identify members at future meetings and outings. Note: Pricing is at cost---CRPC does not profit from these sales.

FIELD TRIPS

Refer to the article regarding field trips elsewhere in this newsletter.

If anyone is interested in a field trip sometime in the July through September period to the Renaissance Faire in Bristol WI, let me know. Steve Kaminsky attends every year and would be happy to organize it.

CRPC NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

We need articles for our monthly newsletter. All submittals should be sent to Dave Dornberg at [cpcwebmaster@comcast.net](mailto:crcpcwebmaster@comcast.net). The due date for inclusion of articles into the newsletter is the Wednesday prior to the program meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of each month.

To have some of your images included on the website's gallery, send a collection of your best images to Dave at the same web address. Our club takes some great photos. Let's display them on the Internet.

STILL LOOKING

I am looking for a CRPC volunteer to arrange for outside exhibitions of our outstanding prints. Libraries, coffeehouses and other public spaces are prime candidates for us to display the products of our favorite hobby. Many of the prints that I see displayed at various venues are for sale. This might be a way for members to recover some of the costs of this fairly expensive pursuit of ours.

2014 SPRING FIELD TRIPS

by Bob Cross

Some members of the Calumet Region Photo Club have stepped forward and offered to serve as Leaders for the following Spring field trips. We hope that you will join with them and get some really good shots. The Leaders or others on the trip will gladly answer your questions as to how the best images can be obtained including questions regarding your camera

and how to use it. Don't hesitate to ask them. It should be noted that all of the trips are subject to being cancelled due to the weather or other conditions. As of this writing, no rain dates have been established for any of the field trips. Potential participants should let each Leader know that you are interested in their trip so that they can let you know of any last-minute changes. Questions regarding the field trip program in general can be addressed to me at either rpcross@ameritech.net or (708) 799-7778.

Following are the Field Trips that will be offered this Spring. Exact times and places to meet will be announced at our regular meetings, future newsletters, e-mail blasts or by contacting each respective Leader. The weather will be a BIG determining factor in the scheduling of these trips.

1. Second week of April - Heron Rookery in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Chesterton IN.
Leader = Michael Kobe, mlkobe@sbcglobal.net

Photographers will be amazed at the abundance of wildflowers in this location. Hopefully, the wildflowers will be out and the wind will be close to zero.

2. Sunday, April 27, 2014 - 8:00 AM at Taltree Arboretum in Valparaiso IN. Leader = Vicki Jostes vjostes@comcast.net

E-mail Vicki to reserve a spot. If things work out (as they did in the past two years), admission will be free. The group will meet Vicki at the gate at 8:00 AM. Taltree is located at 450 W 100 N in Valparaiso. Go to <http://www.taltree.org> for more information. Again, hopefully, the wildflowers will be out and the weather will cooperate.

3. Sunday and Monday, May 4 and 5, 2014 - Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids MI
Co-Leaders = Vicki Jostes vjostes@comcast.net and Bob Cross rpcross@ameritech.net

Please note that Grand Rapids MI is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes Daylight Saving Time.

This field trip is planned as a two-day event, but it can be done in one day. Grand Rapids is approximately 162 miles from Munster. Plans are to meet at 11:00 AM EDT on Sunday when the Gardens open. Then, take a tram tour to acquaint participants with the layout of the Gardens. After lunch in the Taste of the Gardens Cafe, everyone is free to shoot until the Gardens close at 5:00 PM. Tripods are not prohibited. Those interested can have dinner at a restaurant in Grand Rapids (any ideas as to where?). On Monday, field trip participants are free to shoot in the Grand Rapids area or in towns along the way home. Cindy Downs has compiled a list of possible places to shoot that will help members decide where. Contact me if you would like a copy.

Admission to the Meijer Gardens is \$12.00 (\$9.00 for seniors) unless one has a membership to something like Taltree Arboretum or the Morton Arboretum. Then it is free.

4. Saturday or Sunday, May 17 or 18, 2014 - Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park in Hebron IN
Leader = Tom Zmigrocki tomzmig@comcast.net

There will be many opportunities for good photographs. Following is an excerpt from the Internet:

The 27th annual Voyageur Rendezvous, an 18th-century fur-trade era re-enactment, will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park.

Admission is \$3 per person. Visitors will peek into the lives of those who would have lived or traded along the Kankakee River more than 250 years ago when the Grand Kankakee Marsh was a source of valuable furs desired by merchant traders to take back to Europe. They'll meet American Indians, French-Canadian canoe men called voyageurs, British and French militia, early settlers and many others.

5. Sun 6/1- 9:00 AM at Oak Ridge Prairie in Griffith IN
Leader = Dave Dornberg, crpcwebmaster@comcast.net

This is one of our more popular field trips. It is close-by and, hopefully, the wildflowers will be in abundance.

Please note that CRPC will be happy to offer more field trips if more members volunteer to lead them. The following destinations would probably appeal to the most members: Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Botanical Garden, Downtown Chicago at night. But, other destinations can be selected. Most of our field trips have the participants drive themselves to the destination. But, CRPC is also open to the idea of renting a maxi-van or bus and, possibly, paying the parking and/or admission fees of participants if the Board feels that the particular field trip would appeal to a substantial number of members. Please feel free to contact me if you can lead a field trip of this sort.

Mark your calendars now. We have never offered so many field trips in such a short period of time. They will not only serve as a learning experience for the participants, but they should be excellent opportunities to get some good images, as well as a chance to share your hobby with other club members.

5TH ANNUAL 2014 PHOTOGRAPHY CLINIC *by Susan Stassin*

Thank you to everyone who attended and worked on CRPC'S 5th Annual Photography Clinic held on Saturday, March 15. We could not have been as successful without our club members volunteering with registration, welcoming and directing attendees, raffle and emcee (thank you again Raleigh). I especially want to thank Dave Dornberg, our webmaster, for his excellent assistance in publishing the event and getting PayPal on to CRPC's webpage resulting in nearly half of the attendees using this registration method. Additionally, thank you to Michael Kobe for promoting the Clinic during his presentations at CACCA clubs; his enthusiasm is infectious. Despite the conflict with CACCA's Salon, we had 109 attendees this year who had the opportunity to hear three great presentations.

Our first presenter, Jim Cook, spoke more to the art of photography, seeing lines and shapes, composition, repetition. Jim has a huge and diverse photography background from portraits of national figures to working with the Associated Press. His work can be found in museums and on television.

Dean Pennala's nature presentation taught us how to get so much closer to nature with our photography. He provided both specific technical information and perspective to help us develop our style.

Finally, nomad Ralph Velasco spoke about travel photography and shared photographs of exotic locales. He uses a system called the Shot List to remind us to capture the details and flavor of our travel destinations whether it's Bhopal, India or downtown Chicago.

Although there were some technical glitches with lighting and projector quality, the Clinics have been improving and growing. Each year we strive to make improvements enhancing the overall experience and this year's evaluations supported that effort.

Thank you again for supporting our club through the clinic and mark your calendars for next year. The 6th Annual Clinic will be held Saturday, February 21, 2015.

JERRY LIPSKI'S SPORTS AND ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY *by Susan Stassin*

If you missed our March meeting, you missed a great presentation by Jerry Lipski on sport and action photography. Jerry has been photographing a wide variety of sports from high school athletics to ice racing and beyond. He gave us technical information on lenses, light metering and angles to capture and freeze the action at its peak...the dust flying as a baseball hits the glove, the leap into the air as the receiver flies over his opponents. Capturing the action at its most exciting moments, understanding where to position yourself and how to select the best camera setting for those challenging indoor venues. Jerry also showed us some interesting camera accessories he uses to capture lightning strikes...another form of action photography.

You recently received Jerry's abbreviated presentation slides as a resource and we want to thank him for making those available to us and for his entertaining presentation. We are also excited to have him as one of our newest club members and I'm sure he would love to share his passion with you.

LOCAL CAMERA STORES *by Bob Cross*

Last month, I supplied a special password that could be used by CRPC members to obtain a discount at Calumet Photographic. Three or four days before our clinic on March 15th, Calumet Photographic declared bankruptcy and went out of business. In itself, this is not a problem.

But, in light of the fact that Helix Camera & Video and Wolf/Ritz Camera Stores have also thrown in the towel, finding a good source of information is getting harder.

As of this writing, I know of only three local shops where one

can get photographic information and handle the product that one is interested in purchasing: Central Camera on Wabash Avenue in downtown Chicago, Gary Camera in Merrillville IN and the Hinsdale Camera Shop in Hinsdale IL. If you know of other shops worthy of mention, please let me know. Thanks in advance.

There still are, of course, the large mail order houses: B&H Photo & Video and Adorama in New York City and Hunt's in Melrose MA. They give excellent advice, but it's hard to see and touch the equipment over a telephone line.

DIGITAL BITS & BYTES **Straightening Images in Adobe Camera RAW CC, (ACR)** *By Dave Dornberg*

With the latest version of Adobe's Camera RAW CC a photographer can now straighten images with just a few clicks of the mouse.

Open Adobe Bridge CC and select an image that needs straightening such as buildings shot with a wide angle lens.

- With the image selected, double click on it to open it in ACR
- Click on the Lens Correction button
- Next click on the Manual tab and click on the A which will do an Automatic Perspective Control
- Now click on the Scale slider and move to the right until the checkered patterns disappear or use the Crop tool if you want to be more exact.
- Click Open Image and watch while Adobe magically straightens your image. Below are two images Figure 1 is straight out of the camera and the Figure 2 straightened using this method.

Figure 1



Figure 2

