



# Digital Focus

## Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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<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, May 14** - "Adobe's Lightroom 4 Image Workflow" by John Roquet

**Tuesday, June 11** - "Wolf Lake by Michael Kobe

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Bob Cross*

#### PROGRAMS

April's program by Al Alvis was entertaining and informative. Al explained how he improves his technique and tests new equipment by visiting local greenhouses. Such sessions can be undertaken without regard to the vagaries of the weather . . . and there is no wind to disturb your focus. Our many thanks to Al for presenting such an interesting and timely program.

**Tuesday 5/14** Lightroom 4 Image Workflow by John Roquet

John is a member of CRPC and President of Image Makers Camera Club in Chesterton IN. He is well versed in Adobe's Lightroom and will demonstrate why so many photographers are using it.

**Tuesday 6/11** Wolf Lake by Michael Kobe

Wolf Lake is one of Michael's favorite sites for shooting birds. To prep yourself for his presentation, refer to his article in the March issue of the CACCA newsletter.

**Tuesday 7/9** CRPC picnic at Veteran's Park in Munster.

After dinner, we will break into small groups to photograph the Memorial or across the street in Centennial Park. Instruction will be provided to those with questions. Don't miss this free dinner

and chance to socialize with other club members.

**Tuesday 8/13** Portraiture by Steve Kaminski

Steve has been showing us some very original images (One at the "Describe Your Photo" presentation last February and one at the Digital Focus Roundtable in April.) This program will be a little more laid back, but I can assure you that you will learn a few tricks at Steve's presentation.

#### COMPETITION

Our Competition nights are in need of more photographer-competitors. The quality of the images being judged each night is high. It would be nice if more images were entered. So, start taking photos (or scour your hard drive) and bring some images to our Competition night (4th Tuesday). You won't be sorry and you just might learn something. At our May Competition Night meeting on 5/28, we will again hold our DPI & Print-of-the-Year competition by category (DPI, Small Color, Large Color, Small Monochrome and Large Monochrome). The categories are the same as the ones that are judged on a monthly basis. Each CRPC member can enter up to four images in each category, but these images must have been previously entered into a CRPC competition during the 2012-13 year. Note: There will be no distinction between Class A and Class B entries in our Print-of-the-Year compe-

tition.

*The Print-of-the-Year competition will be our last club competition until next season. Interclub competitions will resume in September 2013.*

#### **REMINDER**

WE NEED TO VACATE THE SOCIAL CENTER AT 9:00 PM SHARP FOR BOTH PROGRAM AND COMPETITION MEETINGS. Otherwise, the club will incur a fee to cover additional cleaning crew expenses.

#### **DIGITAL FOCUS ROUNDTABLE**

The Digital Focus Roundtable is taking the summer off so that we can enjoy the good weather to come (we hope!). The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 20th. More about that in later months.

#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

The last Board meeting was held on Wednesday, May 1st at Tom Zmigrocki's house in Griffith. A summary of the meeting's business will appear in June's newsletter. Our next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 6/5 at Dave Dornberg's house in Munster. All Board meetings are open to all CRPC members. Please feel free to join us. Abbreviated minutes are published in the CRPC newsletter. The date, time and location of each Board meeting are published on the CRPC website.

#### **2014 CLINIC**

Susan Stassin has graciously accepted the Chairpersonship of next year's Clinic Committee. We all know what a fine job that Susan did with regards to this year's clinic. So, we are off to a running start in sponsoring another successful clinic. Our next all-day clinic will be held at the Center for Visual & Performing Arts on Ridge Road in Munster on Saturday, March 15, 2014. Mark your calendars now so that you won't miss this outstanding learning experience.

Sponsoring a clinic each year not only gives our CRPC members a chance to learn photography and its techniques, but it gives us a chance to share these presentations with other photographers. And that is not to mention that it serves as a fund raiser for our club. Only good can come from your support of Susan in her efforts to offer another top-notch clinic.

#### **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 and sweatshirts is available. Pick up an order form at a meeting, find one 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.

#### **OUT-OF-CLUB JUDGES**

During the 2012-13 year, CRPC has provided a total of nine judges for competitions at other clubs. Only by doing this can we be assured of a ready supply of judges for our own competitions. Many thanks to all of them: Julie Cross, Irene Ganas, Vic Garrison, Vickie Jostes, Michael Kobe, Louisa Murzyn, Raleigh Wolfe (2), and Tom Zmigrocki.

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

One field trip was held since publication of the last newsletter. Vicki Jostes took a small group to Taltree Arboretum to shoot wildflowers on Sunday, April 21st. Due to the cool (cold?) weather and rains earlier in the Spring, most of the wildflower varieties were still in the budding stage. The model railroad and warm depot kept the group interested for quite a while. Later, they drove over to a woods behind Deep River County Park in Hobart and found many wildflowers near a marshy area. It was a most successful outing and our thanks go out to Vicki for arranging it. Note: Vicki was able to get the admission fee of \$10.00 waived for each participant. In return, Vicki sent two images from each CRPC member-participant to Taltree for their use.

**On Sunday, May 19th, Dave Dornberg is leading a group to Kankakee River State Park.** He intends to walk along Rock Creek from the Kankakee River northward and photograph whatever looks interesting. The outing starts at 9:00 AM. Participants should park near the Refreshment stand that is in front of the pedestrian bridge that spans Rock Creek. Contact Dave directly if you need more information.

Hopefully, CRPC will be offering some more field trips/photo shoots in the coming months. Please let me know of a photo shoot destination to which you would be willing to volunteer to lead a small group. Do so and we will advertise the outing at our next meeting and in the CRPC newsletter. We can even send an e-mail blast to all CRPC members.

#### **TREASURY**

The Board authorized the purchase of Spyder 4 software to calibrate and profile the computer (Tom Zmigrocki's) and projector (CRPC's) that we use to project the Digitally Projected Images (DPI's) at our monthly competition meetings. We are still looking for other ideas to spend the surplus that we earned from sponsoring this year's all-day clinic. Let any Board member know about your idea. We will consider any and all of them.

#### **CRPC NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE**

We still need articles for our monthly newsletter. All submittals should be sent to Dave Dornberg at [crpcwebmaster@comcast.net](mailto:crpcwebmaster@comcast.net). Two members have recently added images to the CRPC gallery. But, we can use more. Send a collection of your best images to Dave at the same address. Our club takes some great photos. Let's show the photographic community the quality of our efforts.

#### **USED EQUIPMENT SALES**

If you have used equipment that you would like to sell, bring it to a meeting and put it on a table in the back of the room. You can set a firm sale price or negotiate with the potential

buyer. My suggestion is that you attach a small card with your price and name. Write "firm" after the price if you do not want to negotiate. Interested buyers will find you as the meeting progresses. This is another service provided by your club. We do NOT make money on sales of equipment by members.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Raleigh Wolfe and myself. We were successful in filling out the slate of officers to be voted on at our August meeting. Many thanks to those that are current officers, but cannot serve again for a variety of reasons and to those CRPC members that gave serious consideration to running.

Following is the slate of officers that will (hopefully) be elected on 8/13/2013:

**President – Bob Cross**

**Vice-President – Susan Stassin**

**Secretary – Nancy DePaoli**

**Treasurer – Tom Zmigrocki**

These four officers will serve on next year's Board of Directors along with:

Past President – Raleigh Wolfe

Webmaster – Dave Dornberg (Appointed)

### **CACCA**

The annual CACCA Awards Banquet will be held at the William Tell Restaurant in Countryside IL on Saturday, 8/17 at 11:00 AM. Tickets at \$20.00 can be purchased from our CACCA Representative, Michael Kobe. The last date for purchasing tickets is approaching, so contact Michael as soon as possible if you want to attend the banquet.

The last CACCA meeting of this season is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. The next CACCA completion will be in October 2013.

This year, CACCA is sponsoring the Chicago Area Photographic School on Sunday, 11/17 at Elgin Community College. This event is only offered every other year. Refer to the CACCA website for more information. It is usually sold out. So register early if you want to attend.

CACCA is planning to co-sponsor a program with Calumet Photographic (with locations in Chicago-Goose Island and Oakbrook) that will give members of CACCA clubs a discount on many purchases. More information on this program as it unfolds.

More information regarding our club can be found on our website: [www.calregionphoto.org](http://www.calregionphoto.org).

### **CRPC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

Lynn Larsen

### **MAY MEETING REFRESHMENTS**

CRPC thanks Nancy DePaoli, Dave Blocher, Tom and Bev Zmigrocki for providing refreshments at the April meeting

May's CRPC meeting refreshments will be provided by Heidi Plavec, Amy Metrich, Bill Coughlin

### **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

*Amy Metrich*

#### **April 9, 2013 General Meeting**

The topic UnNatural Nature was presented by Al Alvis. This presentation was intended to be more entertaining and inspirational rather than educational. Mr. Alvis wanted to inspire members to get out and practice with new equipment and techniques. He was eager to share his favorite places and what equipment he used in those places. He also shared that he uses these images when practicing new Photoshop techniques.

Mr. Alvis suggested visiting the Chicago Botanical Garden to practice taking photos of flowers. He encouraged members to play with composition and light. His message was to take pictures of everything around you. Mr. Alvis also shared that the Morton Arboretum was a great place to capture images of trees. Although there were plenty of other random things around the arboretum to take pictures of as well. Pilcher Park was another of Mr. Alvis' favorite places. He uses this place to practice macro photography and specifically how to separate subject from background. Finally, Lincoln Park conservatory is a great place to practice taking pictures of water lilies. Throughout the presentation, Mr. Alvis shared images from each of his favorite places demonstrating what techniques and equipment he was focusing on.

As a bonus, Mr. Alvis shared some Photoshop tips and tricks. These tips and tricks included the burn and dodge tools, the magic wand tool, and adjusting of the images brightness and contrast. He utilized images he had taken his various favorite places.

The Calumet Region Photo Club will have its next meeting is on May 14<sup>th</sup>. John Roquet will present on the topic "Adobe's Lightroom 4 Image Workflow." Should be another informative evening!

## DIGITAL BITS & BYTES

### Cleaning Your Camera's Sensor

Many people ask where they should send their cameras to have the sensor cleaned. My answer to them is that sending the camera out to a camera service or manufacturer is both costly and time consuming in that on average a camera will be away from the photography for up to 3 weeks or more depending on the service.

Before attempting to clean the sensor for the first time, it is important to find detailed instructions on how to clean the type of camera that you own. Once you are comfortable with what needs to be done to clean the sensor, you will need to purchase the tools to accomplish the task.

#### Tools/Supplies

**Micro-Tools** has the tools, cleaning supplies and easy to follow documentation on how to do it right. I have used them many times and they are both reputable and have good prices.

<http://www.micro-tools.com/3.html>

The tools and cleaners I use are as follows:

- *Blower, Giottos Rocket-Air Large*
- *Eclipse Cleaning System Solution*
- *Sensor wand for Canon D series DSLR (see \*\* below for notes)*
- *PEC Pads - lint free wipes (see \*\* below for notes)*
- *Avery labels to wrap around the PEC pad to affix to the sensor wand - purchase the long narrow labels. A small pack of these should last you a long time.*
- *Optivisor w/Light and extra loupe for more power - (if you're like me it is getting harder and hard to see close up, this tool is a necessity. I use mine all the time for cleaning and for other times when I need the extra magnification).*

**\*\*The swab is a new development which wasn't around when I first started cleaning my own sensor. If you purchase a set of swabs then all you need is the Eclipse cleaning solution and you won't need the PEC Pads or the Avery labels or the Sensor Wand, which is probably a better deal.**

For Canon DSLR owners, there is a special power pack that fits in the battery compartment and allows you to use the cleaning setting on your camera. This cleaning selection allows you to lock up your mirror for an extended period of time while cleaning the sensor. If your mirror should drop down while you are cleaning, you could damage your sensor and mirror. I always use the A/C adapter when cleaning because you never know when your battery might run out of juice and your mirror will just drop down without warning.

Be sure to match up the products above with the exact manufacturer and model of your camera. This site will tell you which products go with which camera systems.

Lastly, when you clean your camera make sure to do it in the cleanest area of your home and if you have an overhead fan running, turn it off. Failure to turn the fan off will just be adding more dust to the inside of your camera when you remove the lens to clean it.

### OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Many times people believe they need to drive or fly many, many miles away to capture breathtaking 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 Practice the art of photography.

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:

[Deep River County Park, Hobart, IN](#) - subjects include old grist mill and pond, winding paths, wildflowers and plants

[Buckley Homestead County Park, Lowell, IN](#) - subjects include historical farm setting, native american village

[Turkey Run State Park](#), subjects to shoot are Sugar Creek, rock gorges, waterfalls, wildflowers, large trees and plants, creeks and streams throughout the park

Illinois

[Rock Cut State Park, Loves Park, IL](#) - subjects include wildflowers, sailboats on the lakes, trees, grasslands, forest, approximately 3092 acres

[Moraine Hills State Park, McHenry, IL](#) - subjects include bogs, marsh, wildflowers amphibians, waterfowl, birds and animals

[Volo Bog State Natural Area, Ingleside, IL](#) - subjects include rare bog plants, wildflowers, birds, amphibians and waterfowl, bogs and open water

### CHICAGOLAND POINTS OF INTEREST

[The Chicagoland Digital Photography Meet Up Group](#) - meet with other Chicagoland photographers to learn photography, attend workshops and shoot with other like minded photographers.

[Calumet Photo University](#) - attend photography workshops in Chicago or Oakbrook. Photo workshops cover a wide range of interests.