



# Digital Focus

## Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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<http://www.calregionphoto.org>

### Inside This Issue

- 1 Upcoming Meetings
- 1-3 President's Message
- 3-4 Storing Those AA & AAA Batteries by Jerry Lipsky
- 4 Photography Info Around the Web

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

**Tuesday, July 8, 2014** - CPRC Annual Picnic at Veterans Park in Munster. We will start shooting at 6:00PM and eat at 7:00 PM -

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Bob Cross*

#### APRIL'S PROGRAM

I hope that you didn't miss last month's program. It was one of the best programs this year and was put on by four CRPC members: Mylinda Cane (equipment), Michael Kobe (how to shoot wildflowers), Raleigh Wolfe (another point of view) and Dave Dornberg (macro nature shots). Vicki Jostes was scheduled to tell us how to shoot garden scenes, but her Keynote presentation was not compatible with the version of the program that was available at the meeting. Each of the presentations could easily have been stretched out to fill an entire night's programming. They were very interesting and instructive. Many thanks to our talented presenting members.

#### 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. See separate article in this newsletter for more on Mr. Vrcel's program.

#### JULY PICNIC

Set aside Tuesday, July 8th, for our

annual picnic. (My apologies for typing the incorrect date in last month's newsletter. Correct your calendar if need be.) 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. Hopefully, mentors will be available to answer any questions that might arise and to help members take better pictures. 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.

#### 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 ap-

proximately 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](mailto:rpcross@ameritech.net) or (708) 799-7778. If I can't answer the question, I will direct you to someone that can.

Our last competition for CACCA's 2013-14 season was held on Tuesday, April 22nd. 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 will be John Hewitt of the Wright Camera Club in Chicago and Phillis Brauer & Lynn Polyak of the Foresters Camera Club in Palos Heights IL. Winners will be awarded certificates at the club's picnic on July 8th.

### **SOMETHING DIFFERENT**

I am hoping that this activity will again be held after the refreshment period of the May 13th program meeting. Due to the cancellation of the 4/28 Board meeting, it has not been decided what photographic questions to answer for the benefit of interested CRPC members.

### **PHOTOSHOP CLASSES**

Member Steve Kaminsky held the first of his Photoshop classes at his home. New member Joan Scully was very pleased with what she learned. See Steve's article elsewhere in this newsletter.

### **DONATION**

Your Board of Directors has approved the donation of one camera kit (Olympus camera, SD card and battery) to the Dunes Learning Center. The kit will be used by disadvantaged youth at the Learning Center. Mylinda Cane, CRPC member and Chairperson of the Center's Board, brought the request to the attention of the CRPC Board. The Board is in agreement that this expenditure is a perfect application for a portion of CRPC's bank account.

### **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](mailto:rpcross@ameritech.net) if you can help. We really need to provide the Park District with some up-to-date images.

Many thanks to Raleigh Wolfe, his wife Louise, and Cindy Downs for taking pictures of Park District events earlier this year.

**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.

Next month, Dave hopes to hold a field trip to Oak Ridge Prairie County Park in Hobart on Sunday, May 18th. More information regarding this field trip will be available at a later date. The next Digital Focus Roundtable at Mrs. Dornberg's 24 Carrot Cuisine will not be held until Sunday, September 21st.

### **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, May 12th at the same location. 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 also published on the CRPC website.

### **2014 CACCA BANQUET**

This year's CACCA Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, August 23rd, at noon at the William Tell Restaurant in Countryside IL. CRPC pays for all Board members and CACCA Representatives. If you are interested in attending this luncheon, please let me know and give your payment to Tom Zmigrocki. Last year's fee was \$20.00, but I have not yet seen this year's charge. This event is as close to Chicago's southland and northwestern Indiana as CACCA gets. So, you might want to consider attending.

### **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. Better yet, if you are interested in serving your club as a member of the Board, contact me ASAP. Elected officers are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

### **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**

By the time you read this, two more field trips (Taltree Arboretum and Meijer Gardens) will be history. That makes four total for the club-year September 2013 through August 2014 (Oak Ridge Prairie and Morton Arboretum last fall).

Michael Kobe's trip to photograph wildflowers at the Heron Rookery was never held due to the lingering winter weather.

Vicki Jostes' Taltree field trip found a cool, breezy day, but no rain. And Vicki found approximately eight varieties of wildflowers for us to photograph. Given the long, hard winter and still-present under-normal temperatures, the trip was very successful and enjoyable.

The next scheduled field trip will be on either **Saturday or Sunday, May 17 or 18, 2014 at Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park in Hebron IN.** The leader will be Tom Zmigrocki. He will send out an e-mail blast letting everyone know which day he plans to lead the field trip. He can be contacted at [tomzmig@comcast.net](mailto: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.

**On Sunday June 1st, Dave Dornberg will lead a field trip to Oak Ridge Prairie County Park in Griffith IN.** The start time has not yet been set. Note that this park charges an admission fee. This has been a very popular field trip with CRPC members in the past. Dave would appreciate your contacting him if you are planning on participating [crcpwebmaster@comcast.net](mailto:crcpwebmaster@comcast.net).

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

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, Old World Wisconsin. 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.

## CRPC NEWSLETTER and WEBSITE

We need articles for our monthly newsletter. All submittals should be sent to Dave Dornberg at [crcpwebmaster@comcast.net](mailto:crcpwebmaster@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.

## PHOTOSHOP CLASSES

Club member Steve Kaminsky is offering editing help and assistance for club members who are interested in learning or improving their use of post processing editing software. The software programs are Adobe Lightroom (Steve is using version 4 but they all are similar enough), CS6, Elements (he is using version 10), and Photomatrix HDR. If you are interested in learning and becoming more comfortable with any of these programs please contact Steve via email at [kaminskykandid@yahoo.com](mailto:kaminskykandid@yahoo.com) to set up a time, place, and date to meet.

Here is Steve's photography Web page if you wish to see samples of his work and how he used the editing programs to complete his images.

<http://www.facebook.com/kaminskykandidphotography>

## STORING THOSE AA & AAA BATTERIES

By Jerry Lipsky

It has at one time or another happened that we have a slight mix-up on which of the rechargeable batteries (AA and AAA) are full and which have been used. Oh of course, the old "Right pocket is RIGHT and left pocket of used" may work sometimes but I believe I have a flawless method for keeping your batteries high and dry as well as knowing which are used and which are charged. The rechargeable batteries you may use look similar to the ones shown below in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1



Why not carry them with you in your bag contained in used plastic prescription bottles shown in Figure 2. Water tight, dustproof and self contained. It can rain on them and they will not get wet.

FIGURE 2



A full set of charged batteries would look like the ones in Figure 3 after placing the cap on.

FIGURE 3



Now you may ask “Well that’s just fine but how to I know if they are used or full charge after a day of shooting?” Simple, the fully charged batteries are placed in the container with the plus “+” side UP.

For your USED or discharged batteries, place them with the flat side up to distinguish them from the remaining fully charged ones as shown in Figure 4

FIGURE 4



Happy Shooting!

### **MAY 13TH GUEST SPEAKER - Goran VrceI** *By Susan Stassin*

We are excited to have Goran VrceI give a robust and multifaceted presentation at our May meeting on three topics of great importance to all photographers - histograms, image organization and backup systems. Several of you may already know Goran from his excellent work at D&M Imaging as a graphic designer helping hundreds of photographers achieve their creative visions. Prior to that, he worked for Playboy Enterprises retouching images for some of Playboy’s top photographers such as Arny Freytag. Goran is presently working for Well Advertising as a freelance graphic designer and photographer. He has a degree in visual communications from the International Academy of Design & Technology in Chicago.

His first topic is The Power of Histograms whereby he will show us how to make sense of the information available to us through our camera’s display and how to use it to improve our photography. His second topic is Organizing Hundreds of Images Effectively is designed to make decisions on how you can organize and retrieve your images in a meaningful way. Goran’s

final subject is Back It Up or Lose It so that we will hopefully never encounter the loss of our images through a technological or human failure.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY INFO AROUND THE WEB**

I read a lot of photography articles on the web and there is so much material it is easy to become side tracked and sometimes I forget what time it is!

Here are some great links to articles I found that I think have great value to photographers of all levels:

#### **Flash Photography**

For those who would like to know how to light all type so subjects with flash, the **Strobist** site has a wealth of information:

<http://strobist.blogspot.com/>

#### **Photoshop Tutorials**

Adobe TV Tutorials - Many people ask me about tutorials for Lightroom and Photoshop. Adobe TV has a wealth of information about their products in the form of tutorials. Adobe Digital Imaging Evangelist is Julieanne Kost is one of my favorite hosts. She is extremely knowledgeable. You can find her here:

<http://tv.adobe.com/evangelist/julianne-kost/suggested-shows/>

#### **Light Painting**

Light painting with a flash or flashlight is all the rage now that digital makes it so easy. Here is an in depth article on how to get started with this art:

Light Painting Part One - The Photography by Darlene Hildebrandt in the Digital Photography School.

<http://digital-photography-school.com/light-painting-part-one-the-photography/>

#### **High Dynamic Range Tutorial**

High Dynamic Range is another technique that is extremely popular in digital photography and Trey Radcliff is one the most popular photographers who uses this technique all over the world and the posts it on his Stuck in Customs website. He has a 47 minute video that really gives a taste of all the features that can be accomplished in HDR.

<http://www.stuckincustoms.com/hdr-tutorial/>