



Digital Focus

Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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Editor: Dave Dornberg

<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 MEETING

Tuesday, September 11 - Jim Rettker will present "**All the Right Stuff - Do's and Don'ts of Outfitting for Travel**"

Tour of the CRPC website by Dave Dornberg

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Cross

This message is a new feature in your monthly newsletter. I hope that you find it informative. My first task is to introduce the new Board of Directors to you: President Bob Cross, Vice-President Dennis Gray, Secretary Amy Metrich and Treasurer (for his second year) Tom Zmigrocki. If you don't know us, please avail yourself of the opportunity to meet us. We will do our best to provide top-notch programs and to make the Calumet Region Photo Club (CRPC) a friendly club while helping you learn a little more about the art of photography along the way.

Our first order of business is to thank last year's officers (President Raleigh Wolfe, VP Vicki Jostes, Secretary Louisa Murzyn and the aforementioned Tom Zmigrocki) for a job well done. The new Board's hardest task will be to maintain the course that they set.

We have held one Board meeting already and will have held a second by the time you read this. Our main tasks are to fill the various Committee Chairs so that the club will continue to function in a manner that serves all of the club's members. Then, we need to decide

whether or not to hold another all-day clinic, similar to the very successful one that CRPC sponsored last January. I hope that you will seriously consider accepting a Chairpersonship or help with the work involved in holding another clinic. Let any Board member (old or new) know of your interest. We can use your help in a multitude of functions.

As most of you know, the 2nd Tuesday is reserved for a program to enhance our photographic skills. We will attempt to get interesting programs for the benefit of both beginners and more advanced photographers. Let a Board member know of a subject that you might want to have covered. The 4th Tuesday is competition night. We are hoping that the percentage of competitors will increase this year. Competition is one of the best ways for you to increase your photographic skills. We will also critique member's photos, as time permits.

This month (9/11), the program will be given by Jim Rettker, an experienced club member photographer/traveler. Jim will explain what to take, why to take it and how to pack it. And Michael Kobe will present a short Power-Point slideshow on the new CACCA rules for this year. Bring a friend. You'll be glad that you did.

More information regarding our club can be found on the website: www.calregionphoto.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

CRPC welcomes new member Steve Kaminsky to the club.

MEMBERS ADDED TO "A" CLASS IN COMPETITION

By Bob Cross

At the CRPC Board meeting on August 22nd, it was decided to elevate CRPC members that received an average score of 22 or higher to Class A based on their scores in the Small Color Prints category during the 2011-12 competitive season. Therefore, seven members were added to Class A for this year's competitions. These seven are in addition to three members that competed in Class A last year: Michael Kobe, John Roquet, and Norm Turner. The newly added members to Class A are: *Adam Bykowski, Dave Dornberg, Nancy De Paoli, Amy Metrich, Victoria Jostes, Jim Rettker and Raleigh Wolfe*. They are to be congratulated for their achievement. The ground rule for determining Class A versus Class B will be reviewed on an annual basis.

BEGINNERS: FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

By Vickie Jostes

Ok, you advanced people, you know who you are!
Stop right here! This tiny piece is just for newbies.

Now, let's chat. Do you come to meetings and feel sometimes that the information offered for your education is a bit over your head or a tad overwhelming? Is some of the vocabulary Greek to you? Do you sometimes feel you're in the pool, but your feet don't touch bottom? I hear you!

Let me say this about that: we've all walked down that road, my friends. We join groups like CRPC not only for the commonality, but to learn more about our fascinating hobby and as newbies, we don't know what we don't know, right? Don't despair; help is on the way. Here are a few suggestions to help get you up to speed:

- Check back on Dave's archived newsletters. They are a treasure trove of valuable information. Bless his heart for saving them - now I don't have to!
- Look through Jim Rettker's recommended site, Ugly Hedgehog. I can't stop reading the posts; there's always something to interest me. There are tons of sites out there. Find your favorites.

- Also, use Jim's other super useful suggestion: save magazine articles and website tidbits you've printed out and put them in a 3-ring binder, organized so you can find them when you need them.
- Michael Kobe has suggested using Scott Kelby's books for reference material. He also touts Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs (SWMCCC).

You are seeing a trend here, right? CRPC has in its membership so many excellent photographers with loads of experience and knowledge they're willing to share with you. Ask and ask some more - before meetings and after meetings and during the snack break. Seek out people who can perhaps answer your burning questions. Want to see examples of various types of images, the kind you might be yearning to snap? Come and sit in on our monthly competitions. See what your fellow members are shooting. "A picture is worth a thousand words". Look at their composition, their angle of view, the sharpness and the contrast. Soak it up like a sponge and apply what you've seen to your own photos. Competition is an amazing learning tool and yet another opportunity to pose a question to a participating member.

One last thought: group shoots, as well as being a social event, are a great way to learn. If you are longing to shoot somewhere, & don't care to go out by your lonesome, make your thought known & a meet-up can be organized.

All right then. You're armed with a few ideas, but most importantly, keep shooting! See you all on the 11th and just maybe, on the 25th, as well.

UPCOMING MEETING PRESENTATIONS

October 9, 2012 - "Inventive Photographic Techniques" by Vic Garrison

November 13, 2012 - "Getting a Handle on NIK Software" by Raleigh Wolfe & Dave Dornberg

December 11, 2012 - "Annual CRPC Holiday Potluck"

DIGITAL BITS & BYTES

Photography: A Slice of History Frozen in Time

I first was given a camera to record images of people and things around me when I was five years old. Those early images are not much to look at now, but they are a record of an instant in my life. Later in high school, I shot for the yearbook and newspaper. Photojournalism drove home the idea of recording an instant in time that will never happen again.

Our images are important to us

Think about this, if you had to evacuate from your home, what items would you take with you? Most people choose money, important papers and their photos. Images are first on many people's minds because many of the images are of family and friends. Photos record happy times such as birthdays, weddings, parties, time with friends and family.



Here is an image that was taken of my Dad and his two brothers sometime in the 1930's. This is an image that is very dear to my family. Two of the people in this photo have passed away, but I still have this memorable image of them to cherish for years to come.

Photos leave a legacy for future generations

When I was in college, I used to receive assignments to do "man on the street interviews". These were difficult because many of the people I interviewed were homeless men who didn't trust strangers. After a few weeks of just talking to Joe, he finally relented and allowed me to take his portrait. This black and white image makes it clear that he had a hardscrabble life for many years from living on the streets in downtown Peoria, IL.



"Joe"

Photo by Dave Dornberg

Photojournalism preserves history

Photojournalism records events as they happen and records a timeline for future generations to look back upon while studying history. Images recorded thusly must be shown in an honest and accurate manner and must not be changed in any way in photo editing software other than curves, levels, dust removal and some light cropping. While on the college newspaper in 1980, I had the luck to cover Ronald Reagan before he became president. He was in Peoria, IL stumping for president with former president Gerald Ford and a couple of other notable politicians of the time



"Ronald Reagan"
Photo by Dave Dornberg

Photography communicates a story beyond words

Photography allows us to communicate with other people around the world. In the pre-digital days before the internet, photography told a story about many events as they happened. The images were then published in newspapers, magazines and books and many people around the world knew what the story was about without knowing the language that the story may have been printed in. With the creation of the internet and digital files, people can now upload images via cell phones, digital cameras and home computers directly onto social sharing sites such as Facebook, Flickr and many other venues and the images can be seen instantly around the world with the same result.

Photography allows us to become artists

We may express ourselves and our passions using photography because it is an art form. No matter what it is that we wish to make images of whether a landscape, an abstract, a macro or perhaps a portrait, we become artists when the shutter is pressed.



"Tree Seeds"
Photo by Dave Dornberg

PHOTOGRAPHIC DEFINITIONS

Many new photographers become lost when other more experienced photographers start to speak in words or acronyms that are new to them such as bokeh, DOF, APC sensor, ISO, SD, SDHC, CF memory, noise and white balance.

Here is a list of terms that by no means is exhaustive, but will help the budding new photographer to become familiar with these terms when they hear them. Many of the definitions come from Wikipedia. [If you click on the word, it will take you to the site where the definition is shown in its entirety.](#)

APS-C Sensor - Advanced Photo System type -C is the image sensor format that is sized at 25.1 x 16.7mm. 35mm film negatives are 36x24mm. Some Canon and Nikon cameras use the APS-C size.

Bokeh - the aesthetic quality of blur. Using a wide aperture such as F2.8 to F4 will create out of focus regions in an image that help to focus the eye on the subject matter.

Crop Factor - is related to the ratio of the dimensions of a camera's imaging area compared to a reference format; most often, this term is applied to digital cameras, relative to 35mm format as a reference.

Depth of Field, DOF - is the distance between the nearest and the farthest objects in a scene that appear acceptably sharp in an image.

Four Thirds system - is a standard created by Olympus and Kodak for digital single-lens reflex camera (DSLR) design and development. The system provides a standard that with digital cameras and lenses available from multiple manufacturers, allows for the interchange of lenses and bodies from different manufacturers.

ISO - An index that relates to the sensitivity of the sensor to the amount of light hitting it. A low ISO of 80 will need more light to expose an image, but the resulting image will have little or no noise. A high ISO setting of 12,800 can be used in extremely dark situations, but will show a lot of noise in the image.

Memory Cards - These cards are expressed usually in gigabytes of data they hold such as 4GB, 8GB, 16GB, 32GB, 64GB and beyond. See [August, 2010 Digital Bits & Bytes](#) for more information about the types of cards available.

Noise - is the digital equivalent of grain in film. The higher the ISO or sensitivity of the sensor such as 12,800, the larger the noise or random speckles will be in the resulting image. [Definition by Cambridge in Colour](#)

White Balance - "White Balance is a setting in which the camera measures a scene's color temperature and adjusts it so that white subjects don't take on extreme color casts". **Definition from Digital Nature Photography by Jon Cox.** Also see [January, 2011 Digital Bits & Bytes](#) for a more in depth explanation.

PHOTOGRAPHY TUTORIALS

There are always new things to learn in photography and the best way to do that is through free tutorials from the web. Here are a couple of good sites to get you started:

- [Adobe TV](#)
- [Cambridge in Colour](#)
- [Graphics Tutorials](#)
- [The Luminous Landscape](#)
- [Lynda.com](#)

EXECUTIVE PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2012, 7:00
Fitness Pointe, Munster, Indiana

Members Present: President Bob Cross, Past President Raleigh Wolf, Advisor Michael Kobe, Past Secretary Louisa Murzyn, Vice President Dennis Gray, Secretary Amy Metrich, Treasurer Tom Zmigrocki, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor Dave Dornberg

Competition: Michael Kobe shared a presentation, which focused on revamping the current competition structure. After looking at current member rankings from Small Color category, it was decided by those present to continue using a two-tier competition structure. Category A includes those members who maintained an average score of 22 from the 2011-2012 Small Color category. Category B will consist of those members new to CRPC or those who have averaged below 22. Members can always opt to move up in the competition levels; members cannot move themselves down into the B category. This splits our membership in almost two equal parts. Hopefully this will provide both levels, A and B, with more healthy competition. Michael will share this presentation and new rules at the Sept. 11 meeting. A motion was made by Raleigh Wolf and seconded by Tom Zmigrocki and Dennis Gray.

Treasurers Report: Tom shared that our year-to-date balance is \$3,290.27 with no outstanding bills. There are a few upcoming expenses to plan for, which include the Holiday Party, CACCA expenses and fees.

Newsletter/Website: Dave Dornberg asked for feedback regarding the newsletter and website. He would like to make both resources for our membership to refer to as they grow their knowledge regarding photography. Bob requested that Board Members submit articles to the newsletter. Dave is planning on revising the current newsletter and website. Perhaps adding an events page or adding competition results. Board Members should watch for future emails regarding both the Newsletter and Website.

Field Trips: Field Trips were revisited and Board Members brainstormed how to ensure a successful event could be planned. Both Tom and Michael have ideas and volunteered to each run a field trip. Board Members would like to involve as many members as possible in these events.

Seminar: Last year's Seminar brought in \$1964 in profit to CRPC. This topic will be the main focus of the next Board Meeting.

Committees: The Board Members tried to fill in positions left vacant for the 2012-2013 membership year. Below are some of the positions filled during the meeting:

- Matt board Sales: Dennis Gray
- Photo Shoots: Louisa passed this job over to Bob
- Judging: Michael Kobe will continue to secure judges
- CACCA: Michael Kobe, with Louisa Murzyn alternate
- Refreshments: will remain the same
- Set-up/Take-Down: Suggestion Bill and Adam
- Scoring: Tom Zmigrocki and Jim Rettker
- Special Photo Topics: Raleigh Wolf
These would not be competitive in nature. More of a way to encourage members to share their work and try to be creative in fulfilling the topic.
- Publicity: Louisa Murzyn
- Social Activities: Vicki Jostes
- Seminar: Needs a Committee Chairman

Next meeting: September 6, 2012, 7pm at Raleigh Wolf's Home

MUNSTER PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES TO CAPTURE

Our club is sponsored by the Munster Parks Department which also allows us to use the Social Center for both our regular meetings and competition meetings free of charge. In return for this great opportunity, they ask that our members give them images from their many activities throughout the year.

[Munster Parks & Recreation Fall Guide to Events](#)

Please check out the link and pick a couple of events you would like to photograph. Call Donna Chant at 219-836-7275 or email her at dchant@munster.org before the event to confirm the event is taking place. Please wear your Munster Parks and Recreation Pass when taking pictures. If you don't have an ID pass, please contact Bob Cross by emailing him at rpcross@ameritech.net.

If you plan to attend an event, let us know how many photos you submitted afterwards. Photos can be submitted by email to Donna Chant at dchant@munster.org or on a CD that is labeled with **Your Name, Date and Event.**

OUT OF CLUB JUDGING

BY BOB CROSS

The Calumet Region Photo Club has agreed to supply the judges for two upcoming photo competitions:

- **Wednesday, October 10th at the Kankakee Camera Club**
- **Friday, November 2nd at the Oak Lawn Camera Club**

If you feel that you are qualified to judge images at a club competition, let a member of the current Board know and they will have your name added to the list of qualified CRPC judges. If you would like to learn how to judge images, let Bob Cross or Michael Kobe know. They can provide information as to when and where the next CACCA judging clinic will be held.