



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, October 9, Vic Garrison, presents "Inventive Photographic Techniques".

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Cross

At our last Board meeting, it was unanimously decided to hold another all-day clinic. The date is set for Saturday, 2/16/2013, at the Performing Arts Center in Munster. Now we have to determine what photo-related subject(s) to offer and procure speakers. The rest is relatively easy as we only have to follow the great job done by last year's committee. If anyone has a suggestion as to what subject or subjects to offer, please communicate them to me or another Board member. Susan Stassin has accepted the Chairpersonship of this Calumet Region effort. I'm certain that Susan will accept any volunteer help that is offered by other club members.

There was discussion of requiring members to submit a minimum number of images for competition before they would be considered for upgrading from Class B to Class A. As of this point in time, members are upgraded with no consideration given to the number of images submitted. Please note that this subject is still under consideration. All CRPC members are invited to attend our Board meetings. As of now, we have not decided on a regular date or meeting place. Ask any current Director and they can tell you when and where the next Board meeting will be held. This is

the place to go if you want to see how your club operates. Feel free to come.

Have you got a special photographic subject that you would like presented at one of our regular meetings? If so, let me know by e-mail (rpcross@ameritech.net) or at a CRPC meeting. We want to present programs that appeal to as many members as possible.

We are also looking for ideas as to where we could go on a field trip. The Chicago-Northeast Indiana area has many possibilities. Give your ideas to me or Tom Zmigrocki, CRPC's Field Trips Chairperson. Your favorite photo destination(s) may appeal to many others in the club.

Last month (Sept), Jim Rettker presented a very informational program on what he takes along when he goes on a photographic vacation. He described in detail where he purchased the items, what they cost and how he makes some inexpensive gadgets from everyday offerings at your local Home Depot or other store. We learned a lot just by listening to Jim.

This month (10/9/2012), the program will be given by member Vic Garrison. Vic will explain how to apply inventive photographic techniques to your images. Vic is continually exploring fun and easy ways to make the presentation of your images more interesting. At least, they're easy when you know how. Let Vic show you. Bring a friend or two. You'll be glad that you did. More information regarding our club can be found on the website: www.calregionphoto.org.

R.C. SHOW EXPERIENCE

By Dennis Gray

My photo subjects usually don't move much. The beach, sand dunes, rocks and trees, and paths in the woods all pretty much hold still. So when I saw a flyer about the "7th Annual R.C. Air Show" (just a few weeks ago in September), I figured this might be a super opportunity to take action shots. After doing some thinking, I realized that "R.C." meant "remote control". Ah-hah, I'd try my stationary photo skills on flying airplanes! I could practice new skills and "push the limit" of my photographic experience.

Additionally there was to be a candy drop on the audience. Families were welcomed. I'd truly get some unique pics!

The Saturday afternoon weather in Highland was clear and bright, but breezy. The location was the Jean Shepherd Community Center in Highland. I checked my camera batteries, and then put my camera and tripod on the passenger seat of my Sienna. No need for my camera manual. What could be difficult shooting model airplanes flying low on a grassy field?

My first photo challenge: the R.C. Air Show was moved indoors to the gym. I left the tripod in the car.

My second photo challenge: those that fly the models offer no predictability of flight. That is, the typical flight consists of loops, weaves, momentary stalls, and quick dives. There were no slow, no even flight paths.

My third photo challenge: the gym offered no possibility of distance shots. The model plane flying area began just over twelve feet from the wall and had a four foot barrier all-around.

My fourth photo challenge: dozens of bright fluorescent lights.

After half an hour of trying to track my lens on the flying models, adjusting and readjusting camera settings, trying several pre-set auto modes, I decided the only photos I could get in focus were of the models sitting on the tables. Their owners enjoyed showing me their favorites, and all welcomed picture taking of their planes AND of themselves! I was back to photo subjects that don't move much! I enjoyed my photo shoot and learned to appreciate the skills of those photographers who capture close up action shots.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CRPC welcomes new members Paul Jones and Susan Toppel to the club.

OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO

By Bob Cross

Last month, I let everyone know about Scott Kelby's Annual Worldwide Photowalk on Saturday, 10/13/2012 (refer to last month's newsletter for a short article and the website). By coincidence, the Chicago Architectural Foundation is sponsoring Open House Chicago on the same date. It is a free public event that offers behind-the-scenes access to over 150 buildings in the greater Chicago area. The website is <http://www.openhousechicago.org/>. Many of the buildings can be photographed---Check first as many cannot.

My wife and I went to about six buildings last year. The highlight of our "tour" was Lake Point Tower on Lake Shore Drive at Illinois Street. The outdoor garden there was designed by Alfred Caldwell and is a gem in the midst of a big city (Lake Shore Drive is only about 50 feet away---but you wouldn't know it).

If you get a chance, sign up for and attend Open House Chicago. Choose the sites that interest you---just make certain that they are within walking distance of each other. You won't be sorry that you made the effort 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"

OUT OF CLUB JUDGES

By Bob Cross

The Calumet Region Photo Club (CRPC) depends on other camera clubs to provide judges for our monthly competitions. We could not function competitively without these volunteer judges from other clubs. In order to fulfill our responsibilities to these clubs, we need to provide judges for their competition meetings.

I am very pleased that the following CRPC qualified judges have volunteered their time and talents to judge at other club's meetings: Adam Bykowski, Bill Coughlin, Julie Cross, Vic Garrison, Vickie Jostes, Louisa Murzyn, Raleigh Wolfe and Tom Zmigrocki. We all owe them a big thank you for helping CRPC fulfill its out-of-club judging responsibilities.

If any other club members feel that they are qualified to judge and would like to help out, let me or any other Director know and we will add your name to the list.

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").

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT - SEPTEMBER MEETING

The General Meeting took place on September 11, 2012. Past President, Raleigh Wolfe, opened the meeting with a moment of silence remembering those that were lost that fateful day, 11 years ago. Current President Bob Cross welcomed new members and announced the appointment of Dave Dornberg, Webmaster, to the Calumet Region Photo Club Executive Board.

After various announcements, the nights headline speaker was our very own, Jim Rettker. He spoke on the topic, *Going on a Photography Vacation* and shared various tips and tricks. He had a handout which included the accessories and equipment he highlighted during this talk. Jim covered a range of topics regarding travel photography, including pretravel planning tips, staying safe while on the road, and what accessories one should have on hand while out in the field. Jim is a wealth of knowledge and a great resource!

After a short intermission complete with snacks, Michael Kobe shared information regarding Calumet Region Camera Club competition rules, as well as CACCA competition rules and procedures. Our club will now recognize Image of the Month, Awards, and Honorable Mentions of Digital Projected Images (DPI) by issuing ribbons complete with our new and improved logo. This new logo will also be shown on the new Print of the Month, Awards and Honorable Mentions Stickers, which are placed on those prints placing during competition. For more information regarding competition, members should visit our website: <http://www.calregionphoto.org/index.html> and click on the Competition link.

Next month, Calumet Region Photo Club member, Vic Garrison will present "**Inventive Photographic Techniques**". We look forward to seeing you at our October 9th meeting!



CAPTURING A MOMENT

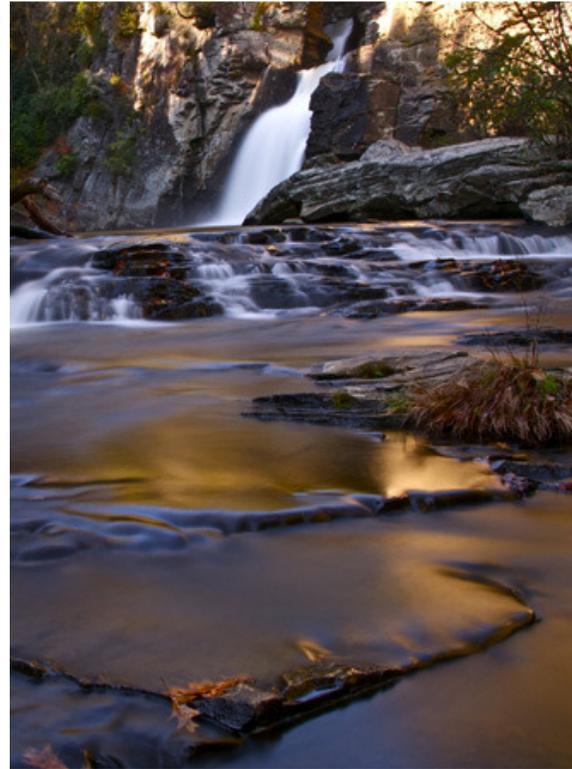
By Amy Metrich

For me, I see photography as a way of bringing my vacation home with me, a way of remembering the perfect moment, whether that be the perfect arch, snowy mountain, or blazing sunset. How do you describe the grandeur to the Grand Canyon to someone who has not yet seen the big hole in the ground? Photography captures what words cannot.

When I bought my Big Boy Camera, I was hoping that it would allow me the capabilities to bring my vacations home. I was tired of trying to describe the sights I had just seen to my friends and family. Take for instance, Linville Falls, located on the Blue Ridge Parkway. My husband and I have done the hike to the lower falls at least four times. Three of those times, I had my trusty Sony Cyber-Shot, which was GREAT for catching family birthday parties, but could never catch the power of Linville Falls. Last year was the first time I visited the falls with my Big Boy Camera. I had gotten pretty good at reading my camera's meter and figuring what shutter speed to use with my neutral density filter to blur flowing water. I wanted the falls to be smooth, the pooled water to be glassy, and most of all, I had wanted to capture the color of limestone walls, which surrounded the falls. The limestone walls are really what make this place spectacular. They seem to absorb the light and color around them.

The result of my first attempt to capture the falls with my Big Boy Camera was quite satisfying. I set my tripod low, low enough to include a large amount of foreground. This foreground included the glassy pooled water that had a great reflection of light in it. Those limestone walls were glowing and the falls themselves were hazy and smooth. I wanted the falls to be a character in this large setting, but not the only character. I had a few lives and dead grasses spread out in the scene. Finally, I could add this true representation of magical Linville Falls to my description. Finally, I could share that perfect moment in time. I could finally bring my vacation home with me.

I have plans to visit the Blue Ridge Parkway again this fall. I hope to use bracketing and HDR to catch those rolling misty mountain tops, like the ones you see on classic post cards. I also hope to return to Linville Falls and see what perfect moment I can catch and bring home with me this time.



Linville Falls

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, 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.**