



# Digital Focus

## Newsletter of the Calumet Region Photo Club

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Volume 5, Issue 2

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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, November 12** - CRPC Holiday Potluck

**Tuesday, December 10** - Edward Meyers, a Canon representative will present "Lenses"

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Bob Cross*

#### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the six new members that have joined since our new year began August 1, 2013.

**Elaine Chisholm** – Homewood IL

**Harry DeCourcy** – Merrillville IN

**Cindy Downs** – Dyer IN

**Helen Guadagno** – Lansing IL

**Teresa Torres** – Munster IN

**Doris Wood** – St John IN

#### THANKS TO LAST YEAR'S CRPC VOLUNTEERS

It takes a lot of work to keep your camera club going. I want to thank those that helped out last year (September 2012 through August 2013).

First of all come your Board of Directors. These people have kept the club going by putting on a super one-day clinic and providing programs for the membership. Last year's Board consisted of Dennis Gray, Amy Metrich, Tom Zmigrocki, Raleigh Wolfe, Dave Dornberg and yours truly. Dennis has very ably filled in for me whenever I was not able to attend a CRPC meeting. The clinic was guided to a successful conclusion last

year by Susan Stassin. The following CRPC members helped out during the clinic: Julie Cross, Bill Coughlin, Bobbie Czajka, Dennis Gray, Vic Garrison, Tim Kennedy, George Kvarta, Heidi Plavec, Therese Sons, Tom Zmigrocki, Louise Chickee-Wolfe and Raleigh Wolfe. And Dennis Gray helped to publicize the clinic in local newspapers.

Dave Dornberg maintains the CRPC website ([www.calregionphoto.org](http://www.calregionphoto.org)) and publishes the newsletter. These are two of the most important functions of our club and Dave deserves our continued support in order to maintain each task at the highest level. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication to Dave at [crpcwebmaster@comcast.net](mailto:crpcwebmaster@comcast.net). Anyone that desires to exhibit their best images on the CRPC website gallery should send their images to Dave.

Tom Zmigrocki maintains the membership rolls and keeps track of our dues. He also is responsible for paying for the various items that CRPC needs in order to function in his capacity as Treasurer. Secretary Amy Metrich kept minutes of the monthly Board meetings. Dennis Gray has served admirably as CRPC Ambassador to greet guests at our meetings. He aims to make them feel welcome at meetings and return for the educational and social benefits of being a CRPC member. Tom's wife, Beverly, also helps staff the membership table at

Program meetings.

Quite a few CRPC members presented programs during the year:

Jim Rettker: Packing for a Photo Vacation  
Vic Garrison: Inventive Photo Techniques  
Raleigh Wolfe & Dave Dornberg: GoogleNIK Software  
Dave Dornberg: Tabletop Photography  
Raleigh Wolfe – Describe Your Photo  
John Roquet – Lightroom 4 Image Enhancement Workflow  
Michael Kobe – Photographing Birds at Wolf Lake  
Steve Kaminski – Portraiture

Thanks to all of them. Our educational program was enhanced by their presentations.

Next come the many members that helped Competition Chairperson Michael Kobe provide a top notch competition night nine times last year. Michael's committee included Louisa Murzyn, Tom Zmigrocki, Amy Metrich, Jim Rettker, Dennis Gray, Vicki Jostes and Beverly Zmigrocki. My apologies if I missed anybody. Other CRPC members step up when any of the regular committee members are absent.

Adam Bykowski, Bill Coughlin and Tom Zmigrocki are heavily involved in the setup prior to each Competition meeting as the screen, projector, lightbox and scoring system all need to be prepared. And that doesn't mention setting out the chairs prior to both Program and Competition meetings.

Michael Kobe also serves the club as CACCA Representative. He attends each CACCA meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday) and takes our winning prints and brings back CACCA communications, including their newsletter. Members interested in attending a CACCA meeting can contact Michael to see if he has room for another passenger. CACCA now meets in Arlington Heights IL.

Michael Kobe and Dave Dornberg are helping communicate with the club by sending e-mail blasts to the membership. Michael sends us messages from CACCA, while Dave sends out information relating to club activities that missed the newsletter or are deemed important enough to warrant a separate e-mail. CRPC members can request to have their names removed from both Dave's and Michael's distribution lists.

Our club needs to provide judges for other club's competition nights in order to pay back those clubs for sending judges to our competitions. Last year, the following CRPC members served as judges at other clubs: Julie Cross, Irene Ganas, Vic Garrison, Vicki Jostes, Michael Kobe, Louisa Murzyn, Raleigh Wolfe, and Tom Zmigrocki. It should be noted that our Competition nights could not function without CRPC supplying judges for other club's competitions.

Bobbie Czajka, with help from Susan Stassin, has been coordinating the refreshments at our Program meetings. Two or three members provide the snacks each month, for which we are all grateful. Last year's donors included Tim Kennedy, Julie Cross, Kathleen Hocker, Amy Metrich, Heidi Plavec, Tom & Beverly Zmigrocki, Louise Chickee-Wolfe, Raleigh Wolfe, Richard Smyers, Bobbie Czajka, Irene Ganas, Jackie Huppenthal, Susan Stassin, Dave Blocher, Nancy Depaoli, Bill Coughlin, Adam Bykows-

ki, Scott Evers and Bob Howard. Many of those listed above brought snacks for two months.

Last year was a slow year for CRPC Field Trips. We only sponsored two: Taltree Arboretum led by Vicki Jostes and Kankakee River State Park led by Dave Dornberg. We do hope to sponsor more field trips this year. As of this writing, we have held three (Pinhook Bog, Oak Ridge Prairie County Park and Morton Arboretum). Hopefully, more will be forthcoming. Let me know if you would like to lead one.

A special thank-you to George Kvarita for taking pictures of various Munster Park District activities during the year in order to help CRPC meet the terms of our lease (to meet two times per month) at the Social Center. This is an especially necessary task and we all owe George a great big thank-you.

This year's Nominating Committee was composed of Raleigh Wolfe and yours truly. Elections for a new slate of officers were held in August 2013.

Michael Kobe also had the CRPC logo redesigned. Various types of apparel with the new logo are available at St John Sports thanks to Michael's efforts.

My guess is that the above is NOT a complete list. It is only as complete as my records. My apologies if I left out a task or left a member's name off the above listing. It is only due to the time and efforts of those listed above that we are able to offer an outstanding mix of programs and competitions. Personally, I think both are top notch.

#### LAST MONTH - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Our program last month went over well. The following members led discussions on the following subjects:

**Raleigh Wolfe** – Discussed various software programs for photographers

**Tom Zmigrocki** – Demonstrated how to resize digitally projected images (DPI's)

**Irene Ganas** – Discussed the advantages/disadvantages of a Point-and-Shoot vs a DSLR

**Bill Coughlin** – Demonstrated how to use some of those buttons on your camera

**Julie Cross** – Discussed how to mount an image on a matte board

#### HOLIDAY POTLUCK

This year's Holiday Potluck will be held on Tuesday 11/12/2013 at 7:00 PM at the Social Center. The change in date is necessitated by the lens program on Tuesday 12/10 (see below) that will be delivered by Canon Representative Edward Meyers.

We need members to sign up to bring dishes for the potluck. CRPC will provide plates, plasticware, napkins and beverages. Members will provide dishes to serve six or more. We need to know what you plan to bring in order that we don't end up with

100% desserts. It's not too late to call Bobbie Czajka at (219) 741-3165 and tell her what type of food you plan to provide. The Holiday potluck is an excellent way to socialize and meet other members of the club. No program is planned for the Potluck. But, members can bring prints which can be discussed by those in attendance. Also, photographic questions (of any sort) can be asked. There's certain to be someone in the assembled audience that can answer or, at least, shed light on where one might find the answer.

## DECEMBER PROGRAM

We are fortunate to offer a Canon Representative to present our December program. Michael Kobe has arranged to have Edward Meyers present a program on Lenses at our regular program meeting, scheduled for Tuesday 12/10/2013 at 7:00 PM at the Social Center in Munster. We plan to advertise this presentation to the general photographic public, so make certain to mark your calendars now to enjoy this educational program. Remember: Mr. Meyers may be demonstrating Canon lenses, but ALL lenses are the same. They all have f/stops, focusing rings or automatic mode and fixed or zoom ranges. And most lenses will accept a vast array of filters and other attachments. Mr. Meyers is certain to show us what lens to use in different photographic situations and how best to use them.

## COMPETITION

Competition nights are held every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday night (September through May) at 7:00 PM at the Social Center in Munster. They are well attended. 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. You are bound to learn a lot about your favorite hobby. 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 procedure for competing in CACCA's Interclub competition (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at CRPC's meeting) and Individual competitions are 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.

## CACCA's SPECIAL CATEGORY DPI COMPETITION

CACCA has been holding a themed Special Category DPI competition for a few years now. It's time that our club enters this competition. It is extremely easy. Michael Kobe sent all CRPC members a CACCA e-mail that details the new CACCA procedure for entering the themed Special Category DPI competition. If you did not get this e-mail, or deleted it, contact me and I will send you another copy. I am certain that this procedure will be posted on our website soon, if it isn't already there.

The themed Special Category DPI entries must comply with a monthly theme.

The themes for the upcoming season are:

<i>December 2013 (Due at CACCA 12/7)</i>	<i>Wind</i>
<i>January 2014 (Due at CACCA 1/4/2014)</i>	<i>Reflections</i>
<i>February 2014 (Due at CACCA 2/1)</i>	<i>Romance</i>
<i>March 2014 (Due at CACCA 3/1)</i>	<i>Repetition</i>
<i>April 2014 (Due at CACCA 4/5)</i>	<i>Temptation</i>
<i>May 2014 (Due at CACCA 5/3)</i>	<i>Steeples</i>

Start now by taking photos with these themes in mind. Then, when that themed month rolls around, you will be ready to submit your entries.

## NEW CRPC THEMED DPI COMPETITION

In line with the above CACCA themed DPI competition, CRPC began conducting an in-house trial competition of the same themed subjects for the first three months (October through December) of the above CACCA competition. Thus, CRPC members are urged to take DPI photos in conformance with the CACCA themes above. Send no more than four (4) entries to Tom Zmigrocki each month. Make certain that your e-mail is labeled "THEMED DPI". The title of the photo and the entrant's name should also be included. These entries will be judged by the regular judges that are assembled to judge at our Competition nights. The judges will be instructed to take into consideration the appropriateness of the photo in relation to the monthly theme. In this way, each member that competes will obtain a rough estimate of how their photos will fare at the CACCA competition on the same theme. NOTE: Each CRPC member is still responsible for sending their own entries in for the CACCA competition. CRPC will NOT send any entries to CACCA for this themed DPI competition. That is the responsibility of the individual entrant.

Hopefully, this new competition will entice more CRPC members to join in and actually compete. The CRPC Board has decided to limit the trial to three months to see how popular this additional competition will prove to be.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

The Board wants to schedule subjects of interest to the membership at its regular monthly meetings. In order find out what subjects are most desired, we are asking each member to let us know what they would be interested in. These ideas can be communicated via e-mail to me ([rpcross@ameritech.net](mailto:rpcross@ameritech.net)) or added to a questionnaire list that will be circulated at the Tuesday 11/12 meeting. The field of photography is full of separate subjects that may be of interest to the membership. We are interested in finding out which ones appeal to the most members. And, it wouldn't hurt to add field trip destinations at which you would like to spend time photographing.

## 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.

## **BOARD MEETINGS**

Our next Board meeting will be held on Monday 12/9 at 6:30 PM at The Fitness pointe 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**

Our next all-day clinic will be held at the Center for Visual & Performing Arts on Ridge Road in Munster is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2014. Susan Stassin has accepted the Chairpersonship of next year's Clinic Committee. If you would like to help, let her know and you will be welcomed as a committee member. Susan is busy canvassing the field for appropriate speakers so that our one-day clinic can be advertised successfully to the Chicagoland photographic public.

## **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. A baseball-style cap is now 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**

So far this year, we have had only three field trips (Pinhook Bog, Oak Ridge Prairie and Morton Arboretum). If you would like to lead another group to one of your favorite locations, let me know so that we can publicize the event via the newsletter and in an e-mail blast to the membership.

## **MATTE BOARD SALES**

Matte board sales are handled by Dennis Gray.

***This is a non-profit activity and is strictly a service to members.***

11"x14" black matte board @\$ .90

16"x20" black matte board @\$1.25

11"x14" white matte board w/self adhesive @\$ .90