



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

Saturday, March 15, 2014 - CRPC 5th Annual Photo Clinic

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Cross

DECEMBER PROGRAM

It won't be long before we close the books on another year. We started a little early this year by holding our Holiday Potluck in November instead of the having it on the usual December date so that we could accommodate Canon representative Edward Meyers' presentation on lenses at our Tuesday, December 10th program meeting. But, it will be worth it. Canon has already shipped a box of assorted lenses to Michael Kobe for Mr. Meyers to show us during his program. Remember: A lens is a lens. It doesn't matter who manufactured the lens, they all work in the same way. Therefore, this program will be of interest to ALL camera owners and users---Canon, Nikon and all others.

Please note that we all owe Michael a great big thank-you for getting Mr. Meyers to present this special program to our camera club. Let both Michael and Mr. Meyers know how much we appreciate their efforts in letting us be the benefactors of having such a top-notch program.

The program is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2013, at 7:00 PM at the Social Center in Munster. Bring a friend. It is certain to be an informative program.

2014 CLINIC

Clinic Chairperson Susan Stassin has been working hard to line up speakers of our 2014 all-day Clinic to be held at the Performing Arts Center in Munster on March 15, 2014. See her article regarding the three speakers elsewhere in this newsletter. The hard part has been accomplished with regards to the Clinic. Now we need volunteers to man the various jobs that need to be performed in order to put on another top-notch photography clinic: Publicity, greeters and information personnel, acquiring prizes for attendees, running the raffle, etc., Talk with Susan or me if you can help out in one of those areas. There is still lots of work to do.

COMPETITION

Competition nights are held every 4th 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 (4th Tuesday at CRPC's meeting) and CACCA's

Individual competitions are given on our website. If anyone has questions regarding the procedure, contact me at 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 THEMED DPI COMPETITION

Your Board has held a special category themed DPI competition for the past three months. The themes are the same as those CACCA's monthly competition. Following are the themes of the three past competitions:

- **October 2013** **Planes, Trains & Buses**
- **November 2013** **Silhouettes**
- **December 2013** **Wind**

CACCA will continue with the following themes:

- **January 2014 (Due at CACCA 1/4/2014)** **Reflections**
- **February 2014 (Due at CACCA 2/1)** **Romance**
- **March 2014 (Due at CACCA 3/1)** **Repetition**
- **April 2014 (Due at CACCA 4/5)** **Temptation**
- **May 2014 (Due at CACCA 5/3)** **Steeple**

The CRPC Board will decide whether or not to continue the "extra" themed competitions at the next Board meeting on Monday 12/9. In any event, CRPC members can submit their images to CACCA.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaires have been circulated to enable your Board to determine subjects of interest to the membership at its regular monthly meetings. Ideas for field trips were also solicited. If you haven't filled out a questionnaire, pick one up at the membership table on your way into the next meeting. The questionnaire will also be available on the CRPC website. Results should be recapped and presented in the next newsletter.

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. The Holiday season is an especially good time to take some good images of their events. Please contact me at (708) 799-7778 or rpcross@ameritech.net if you can help. We really need to provide the Park District with some up-to-date images.

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 has not met since last Spring. Dave Dornberg moderates these meetings and requests that potential attendees reserve a spot as seating is limited. These meetings are held at Mrs. Dornberg's 24 Carrot Cuisine in Highland IN, usually on the third Sunday of each month. Dave

usually requests attendees to bring four images to be critiqued by the group. Thus, it can be a real learning experience for each participant. Dave will soon announce the next meeting of the Digital Focus Roundtable.

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.

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

So far this season, we have had only two field trips (Oak Ridge Prairie and Morton Arboretum). Note: We have had five field trips so far this year---the two named above in addition to Taltree Arboretum, Kankakee River State Park and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Pinhook Bog. 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.

CRPC NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

We need articles for our monthly newsletter. All submittals should be sent to Dave Dornberg at crpcwebmaster@comcast.net. 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.

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

CRPC's 5TH ANNUAL PHOTO CLINIC

Our annual clinic will be held Saturday, March 15, 2014, at the Center for Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana. The registration fee is \$60 which includes three exceptional speakers, a continental breakfast and tasty luncheon. During the breaks, there will be vendors displaying the latest photography equipment and services for you to browse and shop. You will not be disappointed with these very talented speakers who will spark your creative juices, teach you new skills and share their wealth of experience.

Our first speaker is **James Cook**. For over three decades, he has been an internationally respected photojournalist with his work appearing in prestigious publications including Time, Newsweek, Forbes and The Washington Post. Many of his images are held in museums, private and corporate collections. His portraits have included presidents and an array of celebrities. Jim has worked extensively for the Associated Press and was prominently featured in a nationally televised PBS special on contemporary photographers for his award winning photographic documentary on Native Americans with these photographs now housed in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Jim will give his presentation entitled "Seeing Things." Creating great images is a matter of seeing them in the first place. Practiced observation plus awareness of light and composition is what enables some photographers to consistently turn seemingly ordinary scenes into exceptional images.

This seminar is about creating art rather than photographs. It starts with a dialog in defining art and what makes a photograph art. The discussion moves on to how to be more observant and to thoughtfully explore visual opportunities. Then it turns to how to work out the best angles and compositions and why one may work better than others. Thoroughly non-technical, this seminar is designed to stimulate your eye and imagination; the key elements to seeing what others overlook.

James Cook's website may be found here:
<http://www.jamescook.biz/>

Our second speaker is **Dean Pennala**. Dean has been an avid nature photographer for thirty years. His goal in photographing a nature subject is to translate his vision and feeling for it into a digital image. He tries to capture the essence of his subject. His photography allows him to slow down mentally, live in the present moment, and see the nuances and details of nature about him.

Being in the field, often times, allows him to feel like his best, his highest self. His photographs have appeared in a variety of publications including Sierra Magazine, Whisper in the Woods Nature Journal, and Lake Superior Magazine and calendars. His nature photography workshops and classes have been presented in several locations in Michigan. Dean teaches nature photography classes at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

The program Dean will present is "Photographing Nature's Details." He will share with you how to use natural light to create memorable images of macro nature subjects. Topics to be shared include selecting the best equipment, artful composition, background control, visual hierarchy, how to get maximum sharpness and the use of diffusers and reflectors. Dean will share how you in the field can successfully photograph dew covered insects, wildflowers, frosted subjects, plant oils, and other unique and beautiful details in the natural world. In addition, Dean will discuss how you can develop your own personal style in photography and help you to think about why creating photographs has meaning.

Dean's Pennala's website may be found here:
<http://www.pennalaphotography.com/-/pennalaphotography/>

For our final speaker, we have international travel photographer **Ralph Velasco**. He is a travel photography instructor, author and international tour guide organizing tours around the world which have included Egypt, Mexico's Copper Canyon, Central Europe, Morocco, Spain, Death Valley, Bhutan, Nepal, Cambodia, Chicago and San Francisco. He's the author of several travel photography books explaining tips and tricks he's learned from the road, as well as providing over 100 sample images and interesting quotes. Ralph has a new e-book and digital application developed for his shot list method.

Ralph's presentation, Working from a Shot List to Improve Your Travel Photography, will talk about researching, preparing for and successfully embarking on a trip that focuses on photography. Along with a series of powerful tips for using a shot list in order to create a well- rounded set of photographs that truly captures the essence of a place and tells a complete story, Ralph will discuss a variety of gear and packing tips. Additionally he'll explain his system for image storage and backup.

Ralph Velasco's website may be found here:
<http://ralphvelasco.com/>

CRPC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The CRPC board met on October 28, 2013 at the Fitness Point at 6:30 pm. Present were: Bob Cross, Tom Zmigrocki, Susan Stassin, Nancy DePaoli, Raleigh Wolfe.

We will again at our December 10th meeting have questionnaire forms to be filled out by our members who have not already done so. These questionnaires will be used by the board to set up our agenda's and field trips for January through July 2014.

Thank you all for taking the time to fill out the information.

DIGITAL BITS & BYTES

NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN PHOTOGRAPHY

With the invention of the smart phone camera, programmers have created many applications that take photography to a whole new level.

Now there are also lenses that may be added to the smart phone camera to convert it to a more complex camera than just a point and shoot. Sony created a lens that has memory and a sensor built into it, which also will clip to an Android or iPhone. To see it in action, [click here](#).

Smart phones are now able to control a DSLR through wireless or bluetooth technology too. [Click here](#) for more information.

Focus Stacking is another new technology that wasn't available to the film photographer. Now by focusing at different points in an image on multiple shots, all one has to do is to use software to take all of the images and blend them together to obtain an image that is focused from the nearest point all the way to the farthest point. With focus stacking the lens' sweet spot may be used for all of the images instead of using f16-30 and ending up with a softer image because of diffraction. The most common software used for stacking is [Helicon Focus](#) and [Zerene Stacker](#) along with Adobe Photoshop.

Gigapan - Panoramic views have been all the rage for some time now. When digital first appeared in the mainstream, stitching images together became easy, but enlarging them didn't work very well. Enter Gigapan which takes hundreds of high resolution images and stitches them together in a large gigapixel image that one can zoom into or rotate from side to side. See this [amazing image](#).

Online Photography Magazines

More photography magazines are going online and some online magazines were never in print only on the web.

Here is a short list of some of the best online magazines:

- [Digital Photo](#)
- [Nature Photographers](#)
- [Outdoor Photographer](#)
- [PopPhoto.com](#)

iPad Photo Magazines - in Flipboard, look for Best Photography Magazines, which include:

- Street Photography
- Digital Camera 101
- Beginners Photography
- Photography Insight

Time Lapse Photography

Time lapse photography has been around since the days of film, but with digital it is now possible to do the most stunning projects like never before and one doesn't need to spend thousands of dollars either. Many people are posting their time lapse projects on YouTube and Vimeo. Take a look at some of the fantastic creative projects that have been done lately.

[Yosemite Range of Light](#) by Shawn Reeder on Vimeo

[Terra Sacra](#) by Sean F. White on Vimeo

On [YouTube](#) you can watch tutorials on how to create your own time lapse creations.

High Speed Flash Photography

High speed flash photography has been around since Harold Edgerton of MIT took it from the lab and put it in the hands of photographers, but currently amateur photographers are using it for amazing captures of things in nature that the human eye cannot see. Water drop photography is a popular topic in a lot of magazines and on websites.

The eye can stop movement of about 1/30th of a second whereas to see what a water drop looks like as it hits the surface of water, the duration drops to approximately 1/5,000-20,000 of a second.

[Martin Waugh](#) is often called the father of water drop photography because of the heights he has taken the art form too.

[Corrie White](#) of Liquid Drop Art fame is a famous liquid photographer in her own right. Her amazing images are mesmerizing.

My attempt at water drop photography appears below. While fairly involved, most intermediate to advanced amateurs can accomplish the same feat.



"Celebration" by Dave Dornberg

The technologies above are but a few of the more popular available today.