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Crystal Lake Camera Club Newsletter

Serving Crystal Lake and surrounding McHenry County communities since 1980

November, 2013

Year 2013-2014, Issue 3

Presidents' Column

Pumpkins, Ghosts & Witches, Oh My! Did you remember to shoot some pictures of Halloween related subjects for the "Show & Tell" photo challenge at our upcoming November meeting? Bring in a few *jpg* images on a thumb drive to project and share with everyone. Remember, this is not a competition or critique. It's a chance for you to show off the pictures that interest you, and a chance for you to say "I had fun making this image because ...". Feel free to show non-Halloween pictures too.

Ever ask yourself how you can become more creative working with your images? We have a *treat* for you at the November club meeting. *Marge Hurwich* from the Lake County Camera Club will show us a few *tricks* and techniques to nudge our pictures. Her post-processing techniques can punch up your photos into new realms. By **South Barrington, IL September, 2013** RB
 making use of layers, textures and blends your ordinary images can take on new life. Photography is an art and you are the artist. Doesn't it make sense to discover how you can use your tools in different and exciting ways? With a little experimentation and outside-the-box thinking Marge will help bring to reality those ideas bouncing around in your head.



Thanks to Bill Brown for his half day Photoshop Elements workshop on Saturday, October 19. Not only did he offer the basics for developing images, but gave out handy tips and tricks for creatively improving our final output.

Don't forget to pay your annual dues if you haven't already done so. Club membership has many advantages including competing in CLCC and CACCA competitions, admittance to workshops and participation in club photo-shoots, excursions and exhibits.

Hope to see you all at the November meeting!

Al & Chuck

Used Photographic Equipment Sale

The November CLCC meeting will include a used equipment/supplies sale. Attending members are encouraged to bring along any photographic equipment and/or supplies for which they no longer have a use. A table will be set up in our meeting room to provide easy inspection of the items for sale by prospective buyers. All equipment should be in a reasonable condition and tagged with the owner's name, asking price, original cost (if known) and working condition shown.

This is a good opportunity for members to clean out their shelves, drawers, camera cases, ... and find a new home for those items gathering dust.

All negotiations and resulting sales are between the individual parties. CLCC has no involvement whatsoever in any sales transactions. This is simply a convenience for our members.

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(September 2013 - August, 2014)

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David Jilek
- **Treasurer**
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- **Webmaster**
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DPI COMPETITION AWARDS FROM OCTOBER MEETING

The photographs shown below were winners in the DPI (Digitally Projected Image) competition at the October CLCC meeting.

Award - "Impalas on the Alert" - *Lyle Anderson*

Taken in Africa in the Serengeti, an area in the Masai Mara which is owned by the Masai tribe of natives. Adjacent to the country of Tanzania (but independent and self-governing), Lyle considers it one of the best places for photo safaris.

Award - "Pink Lily" - *Peter Pelke II*

Peter "borrowed" these flowers from his kitchen table (where his wife placed them for a family event) and took them to the basement to photograph instead of cleaning the house before the guests arrived like he was supposed to—uh-oh!



"Impalas on Alert"



"Pink Lily"

In addition to the above awards, Honorable Mentions went to - *Bob Arnold* ("Going For Two") and *David Peterson* ("Stitches").

WEBSITES

Roger Willingham suggested the following websites which might be of interest to club members (thanks Roger):

Ugly Hedgehog—Photography Forum <http://www.uglyhedgehog.com> - This is an extensive website with a wide variety of topics, galleries, discussion forums and more.

Fall Colors Photo Tips <http://www.photographytalk.com/photography-articles/3432-7-tips-on-capturing-the-perfect-fall-photo> - Seven tips for capturing the perfect fall photo.

DON'T WASTE "GOOD" PICTURES

Okay, you take hundreds or thousands of photos each year and store them on numerous disk drives. Or maybe you store them in that "great cloud in the sky." A few of those "terrific" shots you hand picked may be framed and hang on your home or office walls. Some you may choose to enter into competitions. But what happens to those "good" interesting or exciting pictures? Images of family events like vacations, kids sporting events or school programs are more often than not left to languish on some forgotten storage device, but maybe they can still have lives of their own.

Time once was that our photos wound up in albums, attached to pages with stick-on mounting corners. Flipping through these albums at family gatherings will evoke fond memories can elicit choruses of ooohs and aaahs. Our media has changed and we now print only our best images and forget about the rest, but that not need be the case.

With your computer software these images can still live on in slide shows presented in digital frames perched on living room end tables or family room mantles. Or you can send them off to companies like Snapfish, Walgreens or Blurb for transformation into colorful hard or soft cover photo books to place on your coffee table, desk or shelves for easy access. You can also generate personalized calendars to hang on your walls. Other options include greeting cards, thank-you notes or invitations. These ideas will show off your work for others to enjoy while you entertain or on special occasions.

Give it a try for the upcoming holiday season. Organize those fun pictures and produce personalized gifts for friends and members of your family. Over the years you will have created treasures that can last a lifetime.

Al Popp

TIPS OF THE MONTH

From: *Lyle Anderson*

Ever wonder why when you are working with the clone tool up close to some other detail in an image, the edge of the other detail shows up where you don't want it in the new desired replacement pixels you just tried to create? The problem is almost certainly caused by using a soft brush instead of a hard brush. Manuals rarely talk about when you should or should not use a soft brush, which spreads out the pixels in just as wide a radius as a hard brush does even though it has feathered pixels around the periphery. A good rule is to use a hard brush if you want the result to be a clean line on the edge (not feathered). If you want to have it feathered so it won't be obvious where you are replacing something backed up by a solid color such as sky, use a soft brush. Also, if the detail you want to place in an area has sharp edges, you want to use a hard brush, otherwise the edges won't look sharp like the rest of the existing image. Finally, don't use a brush which is too large or small for the area you are trying to fill.

From: *Al Popp*

Did you ever go off on a shoot and suddenly realize that the batteries for your camera flash are zilch? Of course you packed spares, didn't you? If so, no problem but if not it's too late when you're already on location. Don't forget to prepare well and keep those full batteries with you.

12V DC to 110V AC inverters are readily available and not very expensive. If you have your car on location they will allow you to recharge your camera batteries using a battery charger compatible with your camera. The inverter plugs into the car cigarette lighter socket, and the camera battery charger plugs into the AC socket on the inverter. Just invest in an inverter and an extra camera battery charger and keep them both in your car at all times. - Ed

OCTOBER PHOTOBUG BREAKFAST



The monthly October CLCC PhotoBug breakfast was held Saturday, October 12 at the Colonial Café in Crystal Lake. Topics of informal conversation included (but were not limited to) the new Adobe pricing paradigm for Photoshop software, data storage strategies, and tripod options. All current (and prospective) members are welcome to attend these breakfasts which are held at 8:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. There is no formal agenda and participants are invited to raise any photography related topics for one-on-one or group discussion. In the picture (seated L to R) are *Chuck Rasmussen, Roger Willingham* (partially hidden), *Lyle Anderson, Jim Petersen, Bob Popelka* and *Al Popp*.

CLCC COMPETITIONS

Our club competitions are held every other month. Don't be afraid to jump in, the water's fine. Competitions generally consist of both printed images and DPI (projected) images. Competition winners move on to the CACCA competition for all area clubs. Maybe you've told yourself "I'm not a good enough photographer to compete." How do you know if you haven't tried? This is a continual learning experience for all of us. Analyzing other's work provides a chance to improve our own work. Plan on arriving 20 minutes early to move your prints through the check-in process. Most of all, just have fun. Rules for entry can be found on the CLCC website. Mat boards for mounting your prints are available at rock-bottom prices at most club meetings.

Al Popp

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - November, 2013

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
November 5	6:15 p.m.—7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank 611 S. Main St., CL Community Room	"Drop In Early" Mentoring	1
November 5	7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank 611 S. Main St., CL Community Room	October CLCC Meeting	1
November 9	8:30 a.m.	Colonial Café 5689 Northwest Hwy., CL	Saturday Morning PhotoBug Breakfast Meeting	2
November 17	8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.	Elgin Community College 1700 Spartan Dr. Elgin, IL	CAPS 2013	3
November 19	-	-	Deadline for Inputs to December CLCC Newsletter	4

Notes:

- 1) CLCC meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Home State Bank is located in Crystal Lake. It's the large building behind the Drive-Up just southeast of the intersection of Route 14 and Main Street. The Community Room is on the lower level - take the elevator just inside the south entrance.
- 2) The PhotoBug Breakfast meeting provides an opportunity for open conversation related to photography in general. It's a great way to get to know the club members on a more personal level. The food is pretty good too. This event is held on the second Saturday of each month.
- 3) CAPS (Chicago Area Photographic School) is proclaimed as "The Largest One Day Photo School in the Midwest". Workshops and events will be held throughout the day. Further information can be found on their [website](http://www.caps.caccaweb.com/) <http://www.caps.caccaweb.com/>. Sign up on the website - let Al Popp or Chuck Rasmussen know if you need CLCC membership verification.
- 4) Email to Rich at richbickham@comcast.net.

BEYOND NOVEMBER

Events of note beyond the current month:

December 3 - December CLCC meeting including "Drop In Early" mentoring, program and competition.

December 14 - December PhotoBug Breakfast