

Crystal Lake Camera Club Newsletter

Serving Crystal Lake and surrounding communities since 1980

April 1, 2014

Year 2013-2014, Issue 8

[CLCC Website Link](#)

In This Issue:

Presidents' Column	1
Local Business Displays	1
Calumet Photographic	2
You be the Judge	2
Illinois Legislation STRANGE	2
Member Focus	3
CLCC Matte Cutter	3
Tip of the Month	3
The Fringe of Still Photography	4
Help Wanted	4
From the Editor	5
May Show & Tell	5
Jim Pierce	5
Ask an Expert Request	5
Statistics & Charts	5
Calendar & Future Plans	6
Humor	6

CLCC Officers

(September 2013 - August, 2014)

- **Co-Presidents:**
Al Popp
Chuck Rasmussen
- **Vice President:**
David Jilek
- **Treasurer:**
Larry Swanson

CLCC Support Staff

- **Webmaster:**
Sandy Wittman
- **Newsletter Editor:**
Rich Bickham

Presidents' Column

It's been said that on any given Sunday, any NFL football team can win. After about sixty years of watching NFL games, we kind of have to agree with that theory.

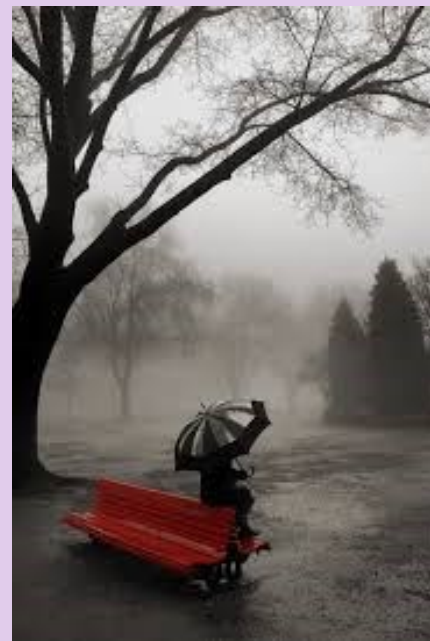
So, taking that statement a bit further perhaps we could also say, "In any given photographic competition, any print could win." Therein lies the rub, because in a photographic competition there is that added extra powerful element called – the Judges!

The "Judges" - or better referred to as "The cruel part of putting a photo into competition." But, you know what? The same cruel principle applies in gymnastics meets, dog shows, ice skating competitions, ski jumping contests, antique car & plane shows and countless other events where Judges make educated mental critiques (sometimes in split seconds) to determine a champion/winner. Like politics and religion, we will never all agree with the judges - and in some cases, we may really develop a very poor, non-sportsman-like attitude regarding their decisions. Trust us, we've been there. Long time ago... lesson learned.

So what is it about judging that drives us nuts? Are we all more qualified to make better decisions than the judges? Are we honestly more equipped and better educated with tons more experience than the judges? Can they really be that inept? Can they possibly be that bad? Are they really blind? Well, who really knows? We have to put our confidence and faith in someone or there would never be a competition or sporting event without chaos. Judges actually create and restore order to the arena. Imagine for a second, Caesar without a thumb.

Judging is very independent, and certainly subjective. Sure there are rules to be followed and guidelines to adhere to, but

See **President**, Page 2



April Showers Bring Internet Stock

CLCC DISPLAYS AT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Rich Bickham

Club members' photographs will be on display at the following businesses in the Crystal Lake and surrounding areas starting in early April. We thank the participating businesses listed below for allowing us to showcase our members' talent:

- Ameriprise Financial - 56 E. Crystal Lake Avenue - Crystal Lake
- Cary Chiropractic - 395 Cary-Algonquin Road - Cary
- Crystal Lake Nature Center - 330 North Main Street - Crystal Lake
- Illinois State Bank - 1301 Pyott Road - Lake-In-The-Hills
- Nelson's Jewelry - 1 Crystal Lake Plaza - Crystal Lake

Members having at least one photograph on display at one or more of the above participating businesses are:

Lyle Anderson	Rich Bickham	Jeff Chemelewski	Maureen Harris	Grace Moline
Jim Petersen	Al Popp	Chuck Rasmussen	Rich Russo	Roger Willingham

See **Displays**, Page 3

interpretation (ah, that magical word, “interpretation”) of those guidelines and rules by the judges (don’t forget to include their individual experiences and likes and dislikes of certain criteria) make the process look like a big block of Swiss cheese. It’s not a solid foundation by any standard - it is full of holes, but it normally stands on its’ own. It shimmies a bit sometimes, and in some instances even omits a pretty foul odor. But it normally works; and it works pretty well considering the many possible dilemmas presented to it. When you consider what judges have to do in a very short period of time without the benefit of instant replay, they really do a pretty outstanding job. Do they always get it right? Obviously not. Just ask the guy who took second place. Judging will always be a giant Swiss cheese, but when you put that Swiss cheese on the chicken casserole before it goes into the oven, or you place a slice of it on the ham sandwich before the tomato and lettuce, it really is very good.

By the way, you may have noticed we didn’t take the bait this month. As we write this in early March there is NOT one mention of the word SPRING. ◇

Chuck & Al

CALUMET PHOTOGRAPHIC CLOSES

Sandy Wittman

Photographers in the Chicago area are mourning the loss of a wonderful resource for them, both amateur and professional - Calumet Photographic. The 75-year old national chain, which had stores in Chicago and Oakbrook, closed its doors on March 13. The move was sudden and stunning. The announcement was made on Facebook and was met with both outrage and sadness. The store has filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy - the liquidation kind. Photographers are now questioning what will happen to the equipment that is in for repair, the equipment that is rented and the remaining stock of the company. Then there’s the matter of Calumet’s large group of employees nationwide who probably didn’t see this coming. Calumet’s website is no longer active and all U.S. stores have closed, although its few European stores are still open.

It isn’t as if there are a lot of photography stores in competition with Calumet, but the online competition is fierce. It’s nice to be able to order online but you really never know for sure what you are getting if you can’t see it first. I once bought a camera backpack from B&H Photo. It looked like just what I needed. However, when it came and I filled it with my gear, I found that I couldn’t stand up with it on my back. Then, as it turned out it was the beginning of a religious holiday so B&H was closed for more than a week. I couldn’t return it until after the holiday which made the time short between getting a more acceptable backpack and the date of my upcoming photo workshop.

Sometimes you just need to see an item or talk to someone. I bought my rolling camera bag and my tripod and head from Calumet. I am pretty sure that what I finally bought, both of which I love (instead of buying what I thought I wanted) had to do with the help I received from Calumet’s well-informed staff. Often I even called them on the phone with camera questions; they were much more helpful than Canon ever was.

According to an article in the Chicago Sun-Times, “... roughly 56,000 people nationwide make all or a portion of their income from photography, according to a 2012 report (the most recent) from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Out of those 56,000, just more than 2,300 work in the Chicago area. There are likely more professionals than those numbers indicate. Avid amateurs and students bump the figure up considerably.”

The Chicago Tribune noted that, “Rumors circulated the closure was due to two private lenders and investment groups. Allegedly the two companies refused

See **Calumet**, Page 5

YOU BE THE JUDGE - INFORMAL SUMMER CRITIQUES

Chuck Rasmussen

With judging at the top of the list this month, Al and I have decided to plan another evening where we invite anyone who is attending the meeting to be a judge again. The last time we did this we received some of the best feedback ever, and everyone had a great time playing “Judge”. Since May is the annual year end competition, and we are now meeting during the summer months, perhaps we can use one of those summer time periods to have another in-house Judges Night.

Following with the idea of judging, we are toying with the idea of a club meeting during the summer where we will have three or four stations established in our club meeting room where we will have two very qualified photographers at each station. You will be invited to bring any of your photographs for an evaluation (we hate using the word “critique”, but really, that is what it is) by the members at any of the stations. Having multiple stations will allow you, and hopefully all who bring prints, the opportunity to have them looked at by numerous qualified photographers. Doing one at a time as we usually do on competition night is extremely time-consuming, and unfortunately not everyone has the opportunity to hear about their print. Please email Al or me if you plan to bring a print or two or three so we can get a flavor of how many judges and stations we are actually going to need when we do this. ◇

PROPOSED PHOTOGRAPHY-RELATED LEGISLATION IN ILLINOIS

Rich Bickham

Illinois State Senator Phillip Aprile plans to introduce a bill in the state legislature to prohibit the use of photographic evidence in criminal trials within the State of Illinois. The proposed legislation applies only to pictures, not to video. Pointing to the increased prevalence and increasing capabilities of commercially available photo editing software such as Adobe Photoshop, Aprile maintains that it has become too easy for photographic images to be modified to portray a false reality, seriously jeopardizing defendants’ rights to a fair trial. “It is time to nip this in the bud before it gets out of hand.” Aprile stated, referencing a recent case in downstate Illinois where the prosecution falsified an image of defendant Jessie Dey pointing a gun at Walbath County prosecutor Alexander Clayton when in reality he was only extending his hand in an offer to shake Clayton’s hand in an apologetic gesture after admitting to having an affair with Clayton’s wife. Subsequently tried for attempted armed robbery with a doctored photograph showing Dey apparently holding a gun at Clayton (who’s arms are raised over his head) presented as a key piece of evidence, Dey was convicted by a jury and sentenced to two years in prison. However he ended up serving only three months of the sentence before the truth was finally admitted by Clayton who stated “I deeply regret having staged the incident .”, with an unsuspecting Dey. “I doctored the photograph and extend my sincere apologies to Mr. Dey. I will work in whatever way I can to see that such a thing can never happen again in the State of Illinois.” Clayton has since been disbarred, but pledged to do whatever he could to help get such a bill passed.

On the other side of the Illinois General Assembly, Illinois State House Representative Helen Phools is crafting a different version of the bill, which also proposes to ban photographic evidence from trials, but goes farther than the Senate version in that videos would also be included, and civil cases would also be subject to the law. Phools is more motivated by the rights of the prosecution (fearing falsified evidence by the defense) than the rights of the defendant. “I’m not going to stand by and let this technology make a mockery out of our justice system, allowing criminals to go free just by photo-shopping pictures”.

Both Phools and Aprile have agreed to work together to craft a bill acceptable to both the House and Senate. At this early stage of debate, interested readers have ample opportunity to write to their state congressmen to express their views on this matter. The legislation is commonly referred to as the *Aprile-Phools-Dey* bill, for which more detail can be found in this link [APD Bill](#) . ◇

CLCC WINNERS AT MARCH CACCA COMPETITION

Per Lyle Anderson, our club had its most successful month ever in CACCA competitions in terms of percent of our entries which won. CLCC entered ten prints, five of which won (50%), and entered four DPLs, one of which won (25%). Overall six of fourteen (43%) of our entries were winners! Congratulations to the following winners (listed in alphabetical order):

Lyle Anderson:

"Little Sur River Meets the Ocean" - Large Color - Award

"Pigeon Point Lighthouse" - DPI - Award

Jeff Chemelewski:

"Ice Art" - Large Monochrome - Honorable Mention

Tom Hughes:

"McHenry Winter Barnyard" - Small Color - Award

"Seeing the Light with Praying Orchids" - Large Color - Honorable Mention

Bob Popelka:

"White Mushroom" - Small Color - Award

Two of the above photographs are shown below (winning photographs from Tom Hughes and Bob Popelka are not currently available):



↑ "Little Sur River Meets the Ocean" - Lyle Anderson



"Ice Art" - Jeff Chemelewski



"City Lights" - Chuck Rasmussen

Chuck Rasmussen's February CLCC competition winning photographs were listed in the March newsletter but were unavailable for publication at that time. Now available, one is shown at the above right. ◇

MATTE CUTTER DONATION TO CLCC

Chuck Rasmussen

If you have need of a matte cutter, the club now has one available to its members. Gwen Selby, a long time member who passed away not long ago, owned this matte cutter and her husband generously donated it to the club. For convenience, because it is a very large matte cutter (it can handle full sheets of matte board) it is being kept at club member Laura Kohlbrand's Lark Creative Studios. If you need to use it all you have to do is call Laura to make arrangements to go there and cut your mattes. There is no fee for this availability and use by our members. The club thanks Laura for graciously donating the storage and space requirements. ◇

Lark Creative Studios is located at 835 S. Virginia Rd., Unit A in Crystal Lake. Telephone Laura at (779)-220-4257- Ed

TIP OF THE MONTH

Submitted by David Jilek

Spring is slowly coming back to us here in the Midwest. The robins are back along with redwing black birds and cranes. The longer days are giving us more and more light and that warmth fills the soul. So what are we waiting for? Spring is fleeting - it's here for such a short time, but that time is full of activity. The snow and ice are melting and the waters are rising. Those little streams that might run dry over the summer flow with vigor in the early spring. Now is a great time to capture that running water.

Running water is easy to capture. Either a long shutter to blur the water, or a short shutter to freeze it in place. I like longer shutter speeds myself. I love the romance of the water flowing through my shot as the light builds an image. A sturdy tripod is a must. A cable release is nice but a self timer will do.

- 1) Find a great location that will allow you to set up safely.
- 2) Have both moving water and stationary objects in the frame - opposites attract.
- 3) Bracket your shots using shutter speed more than aperture. F16-22 is perfect for this type of shooting. Shutter speeds longer than one second are the trick!
- 4) Let the water flow through the shot in a way that complements the composition.
- 5) Get out early or stay late. The best shots will come just at the dark side of those magic hours.
- 6) Neutral density filters can help extend your shooting time. Polarizing filters can help add or reduce reflections.
- 7) Dress for the weather. Spring can be tricky. I'd rather peel layers off than wish I had them. Dry socks too - its spring so it can be wet and muddy.

There are some great places to go this time of year, like Starved Rock State Park, Matthiessen State Park, Devils Lake, etc. But don't forget those smaller waters. Nippersink Creek, Boone Creek, the Kishwaukee River and the Fox River are all great bodies of water. ◇

Displays, from Page I

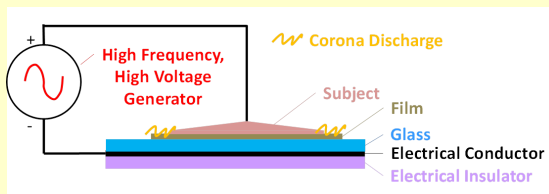
All photographs will be rotated on a periodic basis once through all business venues, then be replaced by new photographs. New photographs are always welcome - give them to Chuck Rasmussen. Please let your friends know about this opportunity to view our club members' work, and encourage them to drop into these businesses for a look. ◇

THE FRINGE OF STILL PHOTOGRAPHY *

KIRLIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Rich Bickham

The term Kirlian Photography refers to creation of still photographs by various means that show mysterious auras emanating from living or recently deceased life forms (examples include humans, plants and fallen leaves). The practice of creating these images dates back to 1939 when Semyon Kirlian, a Russian electrical engineer, and his wife Valentina developed (no pun intended) the process for creating these images - the process consisted of energizing an object placed on photographic film with a high frequency electromagnetic field as shown below.



Upon developing the film, one sees an image comprised of a silhouette of the object surrounded by and/or containing an aura that seems to emanate from it (see example on the right). The aura is actually the result of a coronal discharge (an electrical phenomenon) to which the film is responsive (sort of like an X-ray). A contact print is created so a camera or lens is not required, however means of capturing these images with a traditional film or digital camera have since been developed.



Leaf Internet

In the mid twentieth century Kirlian photography was the subject of scientific, parapsychology and pseudoscience research, mainly in European Eastern Bloc countries in the 1960s & 1970s. During this period, claims of the aura being a previously unknown "life force" emanating from living and recently deceased subjects were common. In the later 20th century such claims were widely dismissed and it was shown that the aura is due to the presence of surface moisture on or within the object. Kirlian images of inanimate objects can also be made to show the aura (see photograph at left). However, a fraction of paranormal researchers continue to promote the life force explanation to this day.

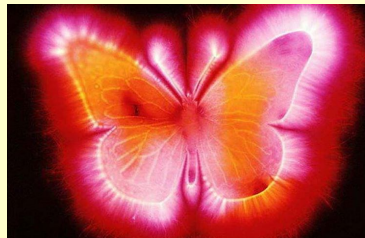


Coins Internet

Whatever side of the fence you are on (science or pseudoscience), the fact is that interesting pictures can result from creation of these images, as the below examples demonstrate. While similar images can be created through photoshop-



Flowers Internet



Butterfly Internet

ping techniques, the results of Kirlian photography capture a real physical phenomenon invisible to the naked eye, as opposed to being the result of the creative imagination of the photoshopper. ◇

* This column (the fifth in a series) deals with areas that are peripherally related to still photography. - Ed

HELP WANTED - FRONT PAGE !

Rich Bickham

If you are a regular reader of the CLCC newsletter you are aware that since our format change last October each issue has featured a picture with a seasonal subject/theme in the Presidents' Column on page 1. Here is your chance to have one of your images on the front page. Starting with the May issue, the front page picture will be chosen from entries received from club members. Here is the procedure for submitting pictures and requirements for the images:

- Email a jpg image to richbickham@comcast.net with the subject line "Front Page Image Entry - Month" where Month is the intended newsletter issue month.
- The image must be color (no monochrome), have a seasonal subject/theme, not be extensively edited (nothing surreal or abstract), and must have been taken by the club member.
- Include a short title indicating the locale and time frame of the image (example: "Siesta Beach, FL – January, 2014") – it does not have to be a recent photo.
- The entry must be received by the newsletter input deadline for the target issue (always two weeks prior to the target club meeting date).
- The image will be resized as required to fit within the Presidents' Column, but will not be cropped, and the original aspect ratio will be maintained.
- In the event of multiple entries, the newsletter editor will choose which image will be published (non-published images will be kept on file for possible future use). While open to all club members, **preference will be given to those entrants who have rarely or never had their photographs appear in the newsletter** as a result of winning in the CLCC or CACCA competitions.
- The newsletter editor reserves the right of refusal of any image for reasons of non-seasonal theme, inappropriate/objectionable material, or other appropriate grounds.

This is an opportunity for those members who rarely or never compete in club competitions to see one of their photographs printed in the newsletter. ◇

HELP WANTED – ALL PAGES !

The club is looking for someone to volunteer to be assistant editor of the CLCC newsletter. The duties would include assisting in preparation of the monthly issues, and taking over editor responsibilities should current editor Rich Bickham be unable to perform editor duties in any given month(s). Rich will provide training and guidance. General qualifications include:

- A keen and sincere desire to learn and perform the above stated duties.
- Computer skills including familiarity with the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel and PowerPoint), web searching, a photo editing software tool, and a willingness to learn Microsoft Publisher.
- Creativity
- Attention to detail
- Access to a computer system
- Proficiency in the English language and grammar skills.

Interested individuals should contact Rich at richbickham@comcast.net . ◇

FROM THE EDITOR

richbickham@comcast.net

Remember that list of eight New Year resolutions in the January, 2014 CLCC newsletter Presidents' Column that *Al & Chuck* wrote? Hopefully some of you have picked up their challenge and adopted one or more of them, but there are no doubt a few of us who for whatever reason have not. Well there's two of those resolutions that do not require that much work. One is **"I will display my work for people to see."** All you have to do is look through the pages of this newsletter issue to find multiple opportunities to do just that:

Page 1: "CLCC Displays at Local Businesses" - Just submit a few photos to *Chuck* for consideration and let him do the rest to get them into the public eye.

Page 2: "You be the Judge - Informal Summer Critiques" - Bring a few photos to these meetings and display them to other members for their comments.

Page 3: "Member Focus" - Enter the club competitions, and if you are a winner, at least one of your winning images will appear in this section of the newsletter.

Page 4: "Help Wanted - Front Page" - Send in a seasonal photo or two to the editor (that's me) and you might see it on the front page of a future newsletter.

Page 5: "Heads up on May Show & Tell" - Bring in a few jpg images for on-screen projection & optional discussion during our Show & Tell sessions.

There you go - five easy ways to comply with one resolution for the year. And, if you set a goal to try one or more of the above and carry through you will also have fulfilled the second resolution - **"I will set personal goals."** ◇

HEADS UP ON MAY SHOW & TELL

Just like the line in the old song **"I never promised you a rose garden,"** May is the perfect month for flower pictures. Of course these photos can be of any bloomin' thing, not just roses. Or if you like, any photos you wish to share. This is your chance to show other club members the work you enjoy creating. The Show and Tell rules are simple. This is not a competition or critique, and you need not comment on your photos - **ONLY** if you feel moved. Come on and join the fun. Bring a few jpg images to the May meeting on a flash drive and see them projected on the big screen. *Al Popp* ◇

Calumet, from Page 2

to grant Calumet a 90 day window to restructure their debt load. There were unsubstantiated rumors of executive and upper level mismanagement which led to the collapse of the business."

Lion, Helix, and now Calumet - it seems the day of big camera stores is over. ◇

ASK AN EXPERT

Don't forget to take advantage of our "Ask an Expert" program. All you have to do is submit your queries to the newsletter editor (richbickham@comcast.net) with the subject line "CLCC PHOTO QUESTION" prior to the newsletter input deadline which is two weeks prior to each monthly meeting. The club will contact an experienced member capable of answering the question or addressing the problem and have him/her personally respond to the submitting member. Both question or problem, and answer will be printed in the newsletter as space permits. ◇

THANK YOU JIM PIERCE

Chuck Rasmussen

Last month *Jim Pierce* from Downtown Photo in Crystal Lake gave an incredible presentation using Photoshop to create a multi-blended and multi-layered photograph for our members. It was a rather sophisticated and detailed presentation of some of the advanced techniques of Photoshop. Jim's ability to take such an intricate subject and present it in his unique style gave all who watched a good understanding of what can really be accomplished using this amazing software tool. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Jim for taking the time and effort to give us an extraordinary, informative evening. ◇

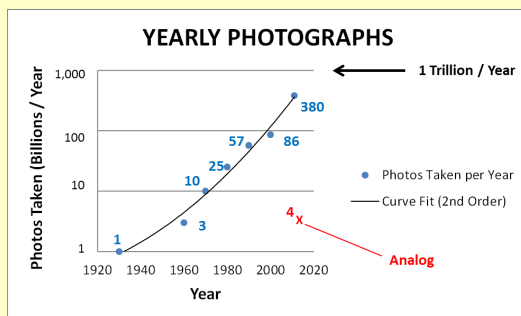
Photography is more than a medium for factual communication of ideas. It is a creative art.

Ansel Adams

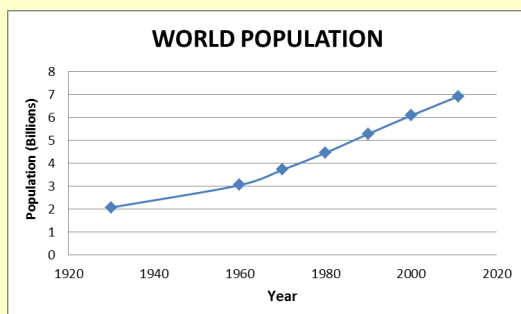
Photography doesn't teach you to express your emotions; it teaches you how to see.

Berenice Abbott

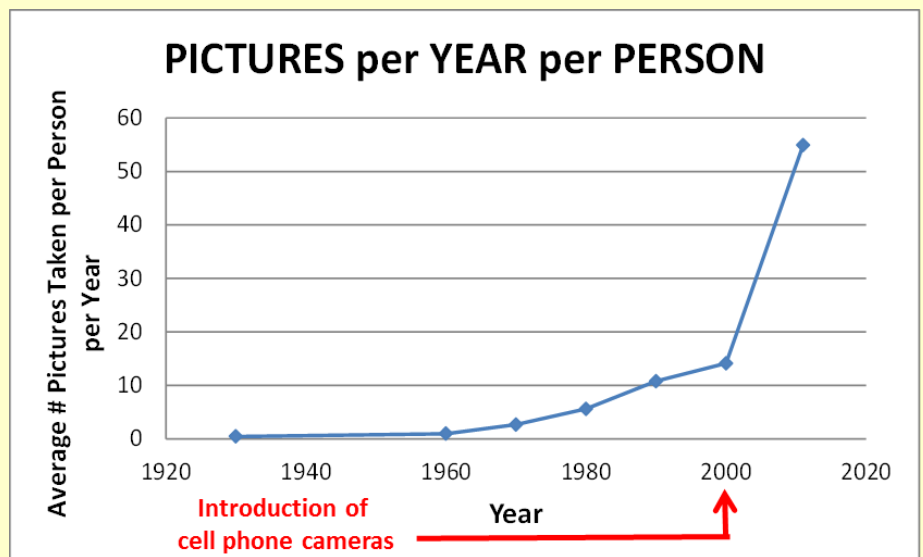
STATISTICS AND CHARTS



Source: <http://blog.1000memories.com> - Note logarithmic scale.



Source: <http://www.worldpopulationstatistics.com>



Combining the two charts on the left by dividing the data in the top left chart by the data in the bottom left chart, we can construct the above chart, which clearly shows the impact of camera phone technology. - Ed

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - April & May, 2014

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
April 1, 2014	6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank 611 S. Main St. CL Community Room	"Drop in Early" Mentoring	1
April 1, 2014	7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank 611 S. Main St.. CL Community Room	CLCC meeting and competition. Donuts and coffee from County Donuts in Crystal Lake are provided by club member <i>Larry Swanson</i> .	1
April 12, 2014	8:30 a.m.	Colonial Café 5689 Northwest Hwy. CL	Saturday morning PhotoBug Breakfast meeting	2
April 22, 2014			Deadline for May Newsletter inputs	3
April 29, 2014			Target date for May newsletter email distribution	
May 6, 2014	7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank CL	Year-end competition ; Show & Tell topic "I didn't promise you a rose garden."	1
May 10, 2014	8:30 a.m.	Colonial Café CL	Saturday morning PhotoBug Breakfast meeting	2

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, plus good food, and fun. Who knows, you may take home some great tips and ideas that help you capture better pictures. Don't dress up – it's all informal. It's a great way to get to know the club members on a more personal level too. This event is held at 8:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month.
- 3) Email to richbickham@comcast.net.

TENTATIVE FUTURE PLANS

Have an idea for future workshops or club events? Email or phone us with your suggestions. We welcome everyone's input when considering future meetings or events and would love hearing about what presentations would interest our members. Right now, we have the following on our list of possibilities:

Short seminar on mounting photographic prints for competition

Presentation on basic understanding of f/Stop and/or shutter speed

Saturday studio lighting seminar at Lark Creative Studios

YOUR SUGGESTIONS HERE

Presentation on speed light use

HUMOROUS HUMOR



If you don't 'get' the above left cartoon, then you should BACK-UP to Page 4 and read this issue's "The Fringe of Still Photography" column. - Ed