

Crystal Lake Camera Club Newsletter

Serving Crystal Lake and surrounding communities since 1980

January, 2014

Year 2013-2014, Issue 5

[CLCC Website Link](#)

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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

With the wink of an eye and a nod of the head, Christmas passes us by. But, awaiting the New Year, a touch of party-time hangs in the air. Maybe the holiday decorations are still in place. So, why not celebrate on? Then again, where did all the time go? Seems like there should be some usable months left in the old year. There's stuff to be finished. Leftovers still cling on that old to-do list. Is it really January, 2014 already?

What's the difference if we didn't get everything swept away? The calendar page flipped. This is a new beginning - a time for visions of the months ahead and making resolutions. What might a photographer's resolutions look like? Here are a few to try on for size.

Resolve – I will take charge of my editing software.

It matters little whether you are new to post-processing or an old-timer to those editing suites. Learn what power you possess through your fingertips. Consider this - when you sit down at the computer with your favorite images, discover something new. Try out a different way to blend, or adjust highlights and shadows, or combine and merge multiple images. One new process a week, means 52 new tricks in your tool bag by the end of the year.

Resolve – I will study my favorite photographers.

Do the works of certain photographers excite you? Is it their use of composition, subject matter, viewing angles, or creative enhancements? Take the time to examine what makes them geniuses. Select from their ideas and experiment. Don't just copy, but turn ideas into your own style using your own brand of creativity.

Resolve – I will display my work for people to see.

Everyone enjoys recognition, but what to do with all those bunches of images? Some you print while plenty sit hidden on your hard drive. If you haven't already done so, submit photos to competitions. Or, how about looking into magazine



Cary, IL March, 2009

RB

Continued on Page 2 (see **Presidents**)

Local Businesses to Display CLCC Photographs

Let's face it – it's great to have people complement our work, and maybe even generate a discussion about the meaning of expression. The opportunity to demonstrate what photography means to you tickles the showman in each of us. Now, any club member is eligible to bask in this glory by submitting prints for the club displays.

We currently have five (and working on a sixth) locations asking us "When can you set up exhibits?"

- Nelson's Jewelry (Crystal Lake),
- Nature Center at Lippold Park (Crystal lake),
- Cary Chiropractic (Cary),
- Illinois State Bank on Pyott Road (Lake in the Hills),
- American Express Financial (downtown Crystal Lake),
- Cary Library (Cary) - yet to be finalized.

The problem is – **We need member prints.** Our plan is to display five or six prints per venue and rotate them through a different venue each month, meaning a given print will take about a half a year to rotate through all locations, It

Continued on Page 4 (see **Local Display**)

MEMBER FOCUS

Congratulations to the following winners (listed in alphabetical order) at the CLCC December meeting competition:

Lyle Anderson:

“Point Lobos View” - Large Color - **CLCC Photo of the Month**
“Busch Mansion Stairway” - DPI - Award
“Pioneer Farm Kitchen” - Large Color - Award
“Seagull Sanctuary” - Small Color - Honorable Mention

Jeff Chemelewski:

“Clouds Over Bryce” - Large Monochrome - Award
“Among the Clouds” - Large Monochrome” - Honorable Mention
“Early Snow at Cedar Breaks” - Large Color - Honorable Mention
- **CACCA Award**

Tom Hughes:

“The Bass Player Look” - Small Color - Award
“Lonely Horse and Carriage Ride” - Small Monochrome - Award
- **CACCA Award**
“Woodstock Fantasy Celebration” - Large Color - Honorable Mention
“Real Bikers” - Large Color - Honorable Mention
“Tea in the Parlor” - Large Monochrome - Honorable Mention
“Kenosha Lighthouse at Dusk” - Small Color - Honorable Mention
“Fuchsia Orchids” - Small Color - Honorable Mention

David Jilek:

“Savanna” - DPI - Honorable Mention

Deb Kirschner:

“Bee’s Lunch” - DPI - Honorable Mention

Norm Kopp:

“Friends” - Small Color” - Award
“Valley of Fire” - DPI - Honorable Mention
“Waiting for Mom” - DPI - Honorable Mention
“Stained Glass 2” - Large Color - Honorable Mention
“Country Church 2” - Small Monochrome - Honorable Mention

Al Popp:

“Backyard Song Sparrow” - DPI - Award

Mariela Ryan:

“City of Science” - Large Color - Honorable Mention
- **CACCA Honorable Mention**

Roger Willingham:

“Battle’s End” - DPI - Award

A sampling of the above photographs is shown on page 3. All available winning photographs will be uploaded to the CLCC website. ◇

CLCC member *Laura Kohlbrand*, owner of Lark Studios, in conjunction with McHenry County College is presenting a showing of the photographic work of the students of Andrew Doak’s Digital Photography 3 class at MCC. These works are the students’ final projects and Andrew felt it would be a good experience for them to display their projects outside of the school. Laura has graciously offered them space in her studio for this purpose. The studio is located at 835 S. Virginia Road, Unit A in Crystal Lake and is open from noon until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday (closed December 24, 25 & 31 and January 1 & 15). Laura invites you to support MCC and their students by dropping in for a look at this exhibition. You can reach her by phone at (779)-220-4257 if you have questions or would like make an appointment outside normal studio hours. The exhibit runs through January 31. ◇

Presidents, (continued from Page 1)

markets for potential publication. Or, explore hosting your own exhibit in local galleries or stores. How about giving some over to club displays. Don’t be afraid. You will never know of the possibilities unless you try.

Resolve – I will learn new techniques.

Ever say “WOW”, when looking at a great photo and wonder how the photographer ever created it? Take some time this year to investigate. Play around with exposure settings, lighting angles, speedlights or strobes, shutter speeds, and funky photo settings. Read and study how-to books and articles from the thousands available. Pull together those bits of information that speak to you, then head out and see what you can accomplish. If it doesn’t work, try something else. Surprise yourself with what you can do.

Resolve – I will set personal goals.

Select several workshops or seminars to attend. Create things like photo books – improve your printing – sign up for excursions – take a class through the local college – visit some galleries – work up a personal project like photographing sporting events, or flowers, or still-lives. Focus on a reachable goal or two, and shoot the works. Enjoy the satisfaction in seeing your growth as a photographer.

Resolve – I will learn about my equipment.

Do you understand the potential power of the gear in your own kit bag? What if it’s worth \$500 or \$10,000? It doesn’t matter. All you need is to understand the workings of what you already own. Explore the capabilities. How does it perform in various settings? Take some time and discover what types of subject matter will best show off your camera’s potential, then create those great images.

Resolve – I will learn a new style of photography.

Do you always shoot landscapes? Take a week or two and maybe try some portraits. Or, check out macro, or video. Play with motion freeze, or night scenes. The subject matter isn’t important. What is important is that you have expanded your thinking by exploring the different possibilities that abound. Try something new and help yourself grow as an artist.

Resolve – I will teach someone else how to take photos.

What better way to advance photography than to teach someone? Find satisfaction by working with a friend, or your children, or a grandchild. Anyone interested in a camera looks for someone to help them along the learning curve. Don’t force yourself on them – volunteer when asked. Help them to discover the exciting aspects of the hobby. You benefit too, for the best way to learn is to teach. Even if it’s only answering a few questions, you may never know what your help meant to them.

Now it’s your turn. See what resolutions you can think up and go for it.

Did you take our January “show and tell” photo challenge? Capturing those winter scenes – or how I spent my holidays. Bring along three or four of those cold weather JPG images (or, any cold or hot weather photos) on a thumb drive to project and share with everyone at the January club meeting. This isn’t a competition or critique; it’s just a chance to show off those pictures that interest you. A chance to say, “Hey, I had fun making this image, because ...” Hope to see you all at the meeting!

Al & Chuck

DECEMBER COMPETITION WINNERS *



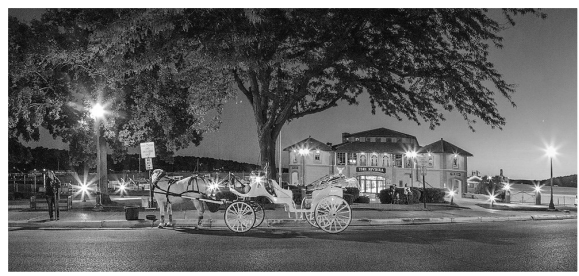
"Backyard Song Sparrow" - Al Popp



"Point Lobos View" - Lyle Anderson



"Friends" - Norm Kopp



"Lonely Horse and Carriage Ride" - Tom Hughes



"Battle's End" - Roger Willingham



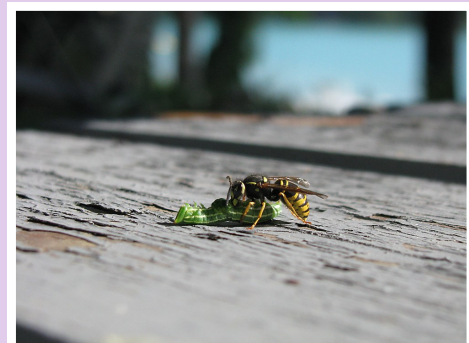
"Early Snow at Cedar Breaks" - Jeff Chemelewski



"Savanna" - David Jilek

"City of Science" - Mariela Ryan - Image not available

** All images are uncropped, and have been sized to fit on a single page such that all have the same printed area while each retains its original aspect ratio.—Ed*



"Bee's Lunch" - Deb Kirschner

THE FRINGE OF STILL PHOTOGRAPHY *

“What’s in (or not in) an Image”

Rich Bickham

According to PhotoNotes.org (Dictionary of Film and Digital Photography), “Still Photography” is defined as “Photography which yields individual *static images*, as opposed to motion picture photography, which yields movies”, while the Merriam Webster online dictionary defines it as being “Used to describe an ordinary photograph that *does not show movement* as compared to a movie.”

In practice, the definition is often extended to include an element of perceived motion in an image (such as a fast moving car or a night shot of vehicles moving on a heavily traveled highway) through use of slow shutter speeds on the order of seconds to a few hours. The use of 24 hour exposures can capture celestial objects which are seen in the finished image to trace circular paths across the sky due to the earth’s axial rotation. All are examples of varying the time over which a subject is exposed.

German photographer Michael Wesley (1963 -) is pushing the envelope of long exposure photography, creating unique equipment such as pinhole cameras with tiny apertures (f 1120), and using extremely long exposure times (up to several years) to create images that are ethereal in nature but portray a reality that often goes unseen or is forgotten. For such long exposures, the longer an object remains stationary in the field of view, the clearer the object stands out in the finished image, while the shorter the object remains in the field of view, the fainter the object appears. Of course typical exposure times make such distinctions unnoticeable. Extremely long exposures however can capture a scene that changes in both time and space that would be nearly impossible to achieve in real time,

or an image that captures a sense of historical change over the time of exposure.

Wesley’s image on the left is a 26 month exposure made during 1997-1999 of Potsdamer Platz (Potsdam Square) in Berlin (situated over a part of the infamous Berlin Wall, and also site of the 1990 Roger Waters charity concert “The Wall”). Note the faint images of various temporary construction booms, and of buildings now torn down to make way for new buildings (one of

which dominates the center of the image in ghost-like fashion). The image shown on the below right is an 18 month exposure of the *Palast der Republik* (Palace of the Republic) made during 2006-2008 in what was formerly East Berlin. The large plaza is normally populated by crowds of people but because of their transitory nature they don’t show up in the exposure, thus providing a unique view of an apparently empty plaza which could rarely (if ever) be captured in real time – the arcs in the sky show the daily paths of the sun made over the one and a half year exposure time.

Michael Wesley is currently pushing his technology to be capable of exposure times of 40 to 50 years, fully aware that he will probably not live to see the results! Interested readers can do a Google search on Michael Wesley Photography for numerous sites with examples of his work and more information. ♦

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

JIM PIERCE TO SPEAK AT CLCC JANUARY MEETING

Al Popp

Jim Pierce, an award-winning photographer and owner of Downtown Pro Photo on Virginia St., in Crystal Lake, has a special “Being Crazy with Images” presentation for our January club meeting.

Jim has snapped photos for over 30 years and holds his Master of Photography ranking in both the Professional Photographers of America and the American Society of Professional Photographers. “I can take some images, add some textures, couple some layers, blend some others, modify, and build a final image completely different from the original. I’ll show you examples of how much fun it is when you think outside the box. Believe me, these are all simple methods and you can use any of them when creating your own images.”



Banshee - Jim Pierce



Dream Catcher - Jim Pierce

Sit back and relax as Jim demonstrates his how-to techniques. Let the door swing open to your hidden talents. Go home and experiment with what you’ve seen and heard. Who knows what exciting possibilities lurk in your imagination? ♦

TIP OF THE MONTH

From: Rich Bickham

As a novice photographer (which I still am) with a new digital SLR my wife bought for me on Christmas (a Nikon D5000) I took the one day Digital 101 class at the Chicago Photography Academy a few years ago. One of the first things the instructor said was that if I always use my camera in full “AUTO” mode I am ignoring 95% of the features/capability of the camera, and my wife wasted our money on an expensive camera and should have bought a “point and shoot” model or a cell phone instead. He made me shoot in Aperture Priority mode for the class, which of course forced me to deal more with other camera adjustments.

While I still use “AUTO” for important shots for which I have near-zero time to prepare, I have done most of my shooting in AP mode and have found the following tips from the class useful for capturing shots for which I have a little more time to think about. For all you other novices out there like me, give these a try:

- To avoid blur due to camera shake, be sure your shutter speed is always greater than the focal length of your lens.
- “Sunny 16 Rule”: In sunny environments with the aperture set to f16, if the shutter speed is set the same as the ISO you should get a properly exposed picture. ♦

Local Display (continued from Page 1)

also means we will need on the order of 25 to 36 prints all together. To date we have received ten, with promises of a couple of more from each of three members - about half as many as will be needed). Do you have one or two photos you sense people will enjoy viewing? Maybe they appeared in competition – or maybe not. Did you enjoy taking them? How about sharing them with the community? Now, you have an opportunity and the stage is yours.

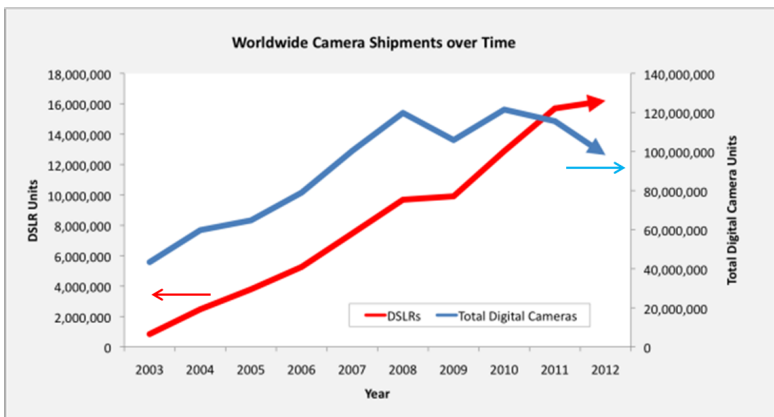
Contact Chuck Rasmussen for instructions at (815)-459-3340 or email chuckr@camira.com. Don’t let this opportunity slip away. ♦

FROM THE EDITOR

This month's newsletter introduces a "Reader Feedback" column which will also appear in future issues as material becomes available. As editor of the club's newsletter over my short tenure (four issues) I have tried to deliver to our members each month a product that is attractive, informative and interesting. The very limited feedback received to-date has been all positive (as the inaugural column on the right shows) which suggests I have been successful so far. While positive feedback is always welcome I would most like to hear from members who have issues with newsletter content (or lack thereof), and constructive suggestions for change. All serious suggestions pertaining to either addition or deletion of newsletter subject matter, general comments on past columns or features, and the pointing out of factual errors will be considered for publication in the column. Contributors must identify themselves, but will be given the option of remaining anonymous to the newsletter distribution list at large (meaning they will be shown as anonymous in the column if they so request at the time of submission).

A publication that contains contributions from only the same few people month after month risks becoming boring, dull and repetitive. All club members can help to prevent such a fate by occasionally contributing an item of interest. I welcome and look forward to your input, which should be sent to richbickham@comcast.net before each month's newsletter input deadline, which is always shown in the Calendar of Coming Events on the last page of each issue. With your help, together we can put our newsletter on a path of continuous improvement.

Rich Bickham



Source: PetaPixel.com - extracted from CIPA data (cellphones not included)



READER FEEDBACK

October Newsletter

Great job. This is what we envisioned for the CLCC newsletter, one that has meaningful content and puts an awesome face on our club to the outside world. Brings us into the 21st century. It's easy to read and the links work. Imagine this will help find contributors wanting to provide an article or two.

Chuck Rasmussen & Al Popp

November Newsletter

Great layout and a terrific communication for CLCC and the outside world.

Al Popp

December Newsletter

Though some may not feel all that great about putting various media in our newsletter ["The Fringe of Still Photography"], it is important to many members and potential members. Why not a little controversy? Keep these columns going for a while, regardless. Helps everyone become active and work through their opinions. We are promoting a multi-faceted club open to all types, forms, and genres of photography. The more variety the better chance we have for club growth. Our newsletter will go a long way toward enticing people to find out about CLCC.

Al Popp

Another great newsletter ... I think ours is the best one around.

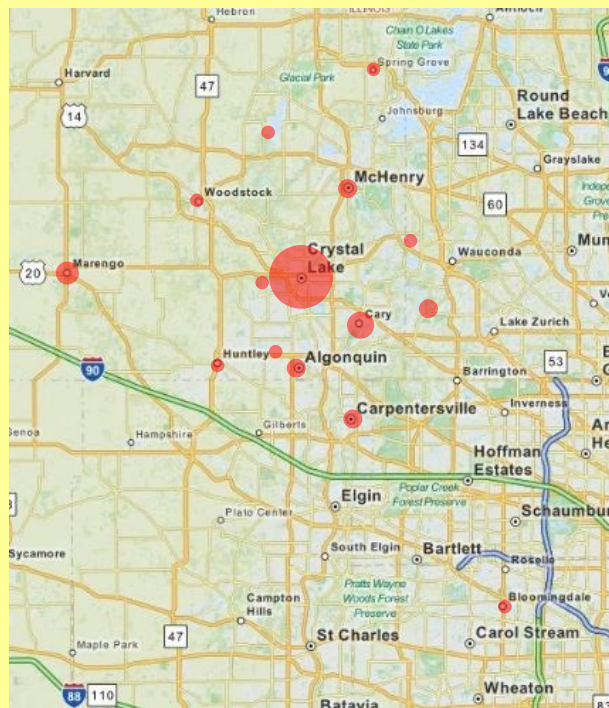
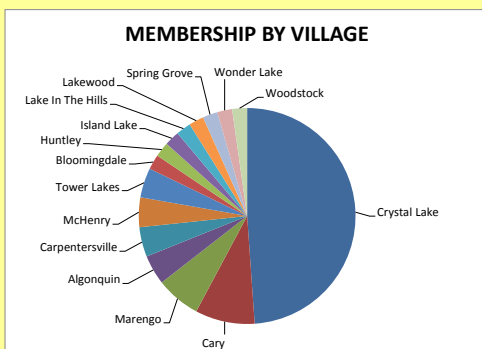
Sandy Wittman

CLUB MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Rich Bickham

All CLCC members should have received the club Membership Directory via email in late November. It includes contact information for all members with dues paid through August, 2014 as of the mailing date. Shown below is a breakout of member home villages. Not surprisingly, Crystal Lake is home to the largest fraction of club members (nearly half). The remainder are primarily from surrounding, nearby communities but several come from as far as Bloomingdale, Spring Grove and Marengo. The map of our club's surrounding area at the right includes an overlay of member density - the size (area) of each red circle is approximately proportional to the number of members residing within the circle. ♦

Village	Members	%
Crystal Lake	22	48.9%
Cary	4	8.9%
Marengo	3	6.7%
Algonquin	2	4.4%
Carpentersville	2	4.4%
McHenry	2	4.4%
Tower Lakes	2	4.4%
Bloomingdale	1	2.2%
Huntley	1	2.2%
Island Lake	1	2.2%
Lake In The Hills	1	2.2%
Lakewood	1	2.2%
Spring Grove	1	2.2%
Wonder Lake	1	2.2%
Woodstock	1	2.2%
Total:	45	



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - January, 2014

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
January 7	6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank 611 S. Main St., CL Community Room	"Drop in Early" Mentoring	1
January 7	7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank 611 S. Main St., CL Community Room	January CLCC Meeting Donuts and coffee are provided.	1
January 11	8:30 a.m.	Colonial Café 5689 Northwest Hwy., CL	Saturday Morning PhotoBug Breakfast Meeting	2
January 21			Deadline for February Newsletter inputs	3
January 28			Target date for February Newsletter email distribution	
January 31	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Lark Studios 835 S. Virginia Road, Unit A, CL	Last day of MCC Digital Photography Students Exhibition	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, 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 on the second Saturday of each month.
- 3) Email to richbickham@comcast.net .
- 4) Mondays through Saturdays - closed December 31 & January 1 & 15.

NEXT MONTH

February, 2014 Events:

- February 4, 2014 - CLCC Monthly Meeting and competition @ Home State Bank, CL
- February 8, 2014 - PhotoBug Breakfast @ Colonial Café, CL

ENDING ON A HUMOROUS NOTE



When noted author *Jack London* had his portrait made by the noted San Francisco photographer *Arnold Genthe*, London began the encounter with effusive praise for the photographic art of his friend and fellow Bohemian Genthe. "You must have a wonderful camera. It must be the best camera in the world. You must show me your camera." Genthe then used his standard studio camera to make what has since become a classic picture of Jack London. When the sitting was finished Genthe could not contain himself, saying "I have read your books, Jack, and I think they are important works of art. You must have a wonderful typewriter." ♦

Mr. London could not appreciate how fortunate he was that his typewriter was unable to talk back to him. - Ed

