

JULY-AUGUST, 2022

Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980
crystallakecameraclub.com



Carina Nebula

James Web Space Telescope

From the first JWST images published by NASA

[Read the NASA description of this image](#)

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LOOKING AHEAD - CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

CLCC meetings are always on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Competitions are always at the February, April, October and December meetings.

August 2, 2022	This meeting will again be online, due to the repair work taking place at Home State Bank. There will be a <i>Show and Tell</i> , but also a discussion of CLCC going forward. For more specific meeting information, the Zoom link and login, see <i>The Future of CLCC</i> below.
September 6, 2022	TBA
October 4, 2022	Competition

The Future of CLCC

Notes and News from June-July, 2022

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

On June 7 we met again in-person at Home State Bank, and were inspired by Joe Norton sharing photos, stories and techniques from his recent Wildlife Photography Safari. We also shared a wonderful Show And Tell presentation and discussion.

Our July 5 meeting was cancelled due to flooding at Home State Bank.

The August 2 meeting will be online due to the repair work at Home State Bank. There will be a *Show and Tell*. Email JPG images to Rich Bickham (richbickham@comcast.net) no later than Monday, August 1. Here is the Zoom link & login, it opens at 6:45 PM; meeting begins at 7PM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89894042635?pwd=Vk1BQ3ptd0NEYkVkNHN4Y0R2VmxZUT09>

Meeting ID: 898 9404 2635

Passcode: 093476

The August 2 meeting will also include an important discussion, and your input is valuable and needed. We will be discussing the needs of CLCC going forward. Are you enthusiastic about CLCC? Have you benefitted from club participation? How can we grow and strengthen CLCC? It has been a very trying few years, having to struggle through the pandemic, the untimely passing of our president, Grace Moline, the flooding at Home State Bank, and other issues. CLCC needs to be on firm ground again, and we need to help all the

If you have yet to pay your 2022 dues, please mail a \$25 check to our new CLCC Post Office Box:
 Crystal Lake Camera Club
 PO Box 2193
 Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2193

Do you have an experience, a technique or and expertise you can share with CLCC? Send your suggestions to **Judy Jorgensen** (jjorgensen43@gmail.com), or any board member. Your contributions make our club experience richer!

IMAGES FROM THE 2022 AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

For more about the awards, see the link on [page 8](#).



Grand Prize: White-tailed Kites
by Amateur Photographer Jack Zhi (taken in Costa Mesa, CA)



Fisher Prize: Northern Shoveler
By Professional Photographer Steve Jessmore
(taken in Muskegon County, Michigan)

IMAGES FROM THE 2022 AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

For more about the awards, see the link on [page 8](#).



Amateur Award Winner: Western Grebe
by Amateur Photographer Peter Shen
(taken at Calero Reservoir, San Jose, California)



LOOK WHO VISITED AT THE JUNE MEETING!

It was a pleasant surprise to see the former CLCC co-president **Chuck Rasmussen**, visiting Crystal Lake from his home in Arizona. Chuck and his co-president, **Al Popp**, were presidents for at least six years, and really helped the club grow in size and offerings. Look over the [newsletter archives on the CLCC website](#), and see all the things that were happening.

Here, Al and Chuck are pictured at their “usual” post-meeting visit to Around-The Clock in Crystal Lake.



Photo Trek 2023 Opportunity: Greater Prairie Chickens

Submitted by Joe Norton

Where: **Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Newton, Illinois**

Date: April 04, 2023 – Tuesday - One Blind (for up to 6 participants)

Date: April 11, 2023 – Tuesday - One Blind (for up to 6 participants)

Date: April 12, 2023 – Wednesday - One Blind (for up to 6 participants)

Background: I had the opportunity to participate in this photo opportunity with Illinois Audubon this past April. I was quite taken with viewing these Greater Prairie Chickens and being able to photograph them during their courting rituals. See example images. They are quite colorful, fun to watch and photograph, and even captured “visiting” Northern Harrier(s).



Renting of Blinds: The Prairie Ridge State Natural Area in Newton, IL is not open to the public. Many of the tracts of land are interspersed with private land. The Greater Prairie Chicken and their “lex” at Prairie Ridge SNA has been focus of research to protect and assist in the regeneration of the Illinois Greater Prairie Chicken population. The viewing blinds are used primarily for research purposes. However, with coordination provided by the Illinois Audubon, these blinds are made available for a nominal rental fee for viewing by birders and photographers over three weeks each year during Prairie Chicken courting and mating season. The only place with parking and walking access is Illinois Audubon Society’s Robert Ridgway Grassland Nature Preserve. There is a parking lot and a mowed trail that takes you out into the prairie and around the wetland.



Fees for the renting of the blind go directly to the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Greater Prairie Chicken Research Program.

What you can expect: The blinds have room for up to six photographers, with seating on bench seats. There are two rows of viewing ports in these wooden blinds. One row at seated height, and one row at standing height. These viewing ports are not overly large. They will not accommodate sticking a large prime lens, such as a 600mm or 400mm prime lens thru them. They are large enough for 200mm-600mm lens, or a 150mm to 600mm lens and smaller lens. I was able to project my 200mm-600mm lens thru the viewing ports, and actually “bench rest” my lens on the viewing port, so tripods and mono pods were not needed. There is no room in the blinds to set up tripods, so leave them home.

(Photo Trek 2023, *concluded*)

The blinds are situated to be directly facing the “lex”, with the sunrise at our backs. With good sunrise light the photography is outstanding. I did not need to attach a lens hood to my lens.

You can expect the temperatures to be in the 30s to 50's.

An important thing to bring is **WATERPROOF** boots. The walk to the lex is very muddy and there will be standing water. You do not want to sit for 3 hours with wet, muddy, feet.

I and others who participated this past April stayed overnight at the Cobblestone Inn, Hwy 33 & Gregory Dr, Newton IL 62448, due to the early morning start to get to the blinds and settle in before sunrise.

Newton, IL is about a two-hour drive from Decatur, IL where I live, and about a 5-hour drive from the Crystal Lake area. Another reason to drive to arrive the night before to get a good night's rest for an early morning start.

On the morning of the trip to the blinds, everyone meets at the Cobblestone Inn, Hwy 33 & Gregory Dr, Newton IL 62448 by NO LATER THAN 4:30 a.m. We will leave shortly thereafter, caravanning to the parking lot where we will park and then walk to the blinds. We must be in the blinds and settled before sunrise. Limit your intake of liquids in the morning as we will be in the blinds until approximately 9:00 a.m. (you can delay check-out of your hotel until after the trip if it suits your itinerary). There will be some snacks available for you to take with you to the blinds (sorry, no coffee)

Scheduling: You will notice that I have reserved a blind for April 4th, and the 11th and 12th in 2023. I have commitments to participate from 7 people so far. These participants have opted to visit the Greater Prairie Chicken blinds for one morning, on one day, or two mornings a week apart, or two mornings on consecutive days.

Fees: The blind fee, i.e. donation to the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area is \$300.00 for the blind, per day, for up to six viewers / photographers. It is not required that every seat in the blind be used by a photographer. Viewers along with photographers are welcome. The cost for the blind will be shared equally by the participants for that day. So, if six participants schedule for a blind day, then the cost per participant will be \$50.00.

Note: I will be participating on each of the three blind days scheduled.

Contact Information: Anyone interested in participating in this opportunity in April 2023 to photograph Greater Prairie Chickens at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area can contact Joe Norton at:

Joe Norton
joenorton@joenorton.com
630-715-1094



TWO IN-PERSON OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW YOUR ART

4th FRIDAYS AT STARLINE

300 W. Front Street

Harvard IL 60033

815-943-4805

4th Friday Event: August 26, 2022

Submission Deadline: Monday, August 15 at 11:59 PM

Fee to Enter: \$25 for 3 Pieces

<https://www.starlinefactoryartists.com/4th-fridays/4th-fridays-call-for-art>

The optional theme for August is “Nautical.” Themes are not required for participation or awards.

Awards available for the juried show include:

- Best of Show (Art or Photography) \$50 Cash Prize and Starline Medal
- 1st Place for Art (any Artwork but photography) \$25 Starline Gift Card and Starline Medal
- 1st Place for Photography (any photography) \$25 Starline Gift Card and Starline Medal
- People’s Choice (Art or Photography) \$25 Starline Gift Card and Starline Medal
- Judge’s Option Honorable Mention (Art or Photography) \$20 Starline Gift Card

Click here for the **SUBMISSION APPLICATION**

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**



4th FRIDAYS ART EVENT AT THE DOLE

401 Country Club Rd

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815-347-8535

Remaining Dates for 2022: August 26, September 23, October 28

Submission Deadline for the August 26 Event: Sunday, August 14 by midnight

Non-refundable submission fee: \$50 for up to 5 pieces

<https://nancymerkling.com/4th-fridays/4th-fridays-at-the-dole/>

Cash Awards:

- Best of Show: \$100 cash, a Featured Artist Solo Show in a 4th Fridays 2022 or 2023 event.
- Nancy Merkling Choice: \$50 cash
- 4th Fridays Team Choice: \$50 cash
- 3 Honorable Mentions: \$50 cash each
- People’s Choice Award: \$50 cash

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

CLCC member **Teresa Baber** is selling the photo equipment listed in [this PDF posted on DropBox](#). This is her original list, so some items may have been sold. Equipment listed includes digital and film cameras, lenses, camera bags, light meter, etc. Contact Teresa via email at tmbaber@gmail.com, or call 815-355-1608 and leave a message. Calls will automatically be sent to voicemail; Teresa will return your call.

GALLERIES AND STORIES ON THE WEB

2022 Audubon Photography Awards

A fledgling raptor learning to hunt. Grouse aiming to impress. Two grebes vying for a meal. The gallery gives all the metadata and the story behind each image.

First Images From the James Webb Space Telescope

These five images from the world's largest and most powerful space telescope demonstrate Webb at its full power, ready to begin its mission to unfold the infrared universe.

His job is to actually really stare at octopus, seahorse & jellyfish

David Liittschwager, a photographer for National Geographic, spent 12 years photographing octopuses, seahorses and jellyfish at more than 28 locations around the globe with his portable 500-pound photo studio. Liittschwager shares his story and a selection of images.

Unsplash

The internet's source of freely-usable images. Powered by creators everywhere.

How 'America the Beautiful' was born

To gather inspiration for her patriotic poem, scholar and social activist Katharine Lee Bates traveled the U.S. Her words tell the American story, told with beautiful National Geographic images.

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

Vice Presidents	<u>Rich Bickham</u> <u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	<u>Royal Pitchford</u>
Treasurer	<u>Gail Schulz</u>

YOUR IDEAS MATTER!

Do you have a story, images, trip, post-processing technique, event, etc. that would be good for Camera Club members to know about? Your submissions will make this newsletter valuable! Write it up, and send it to [Steven Szalaj](#), **Newsletter Editor** at the email address in the club directory. **Please make your submission by the 15th of the month.**

CLCC SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Newsletter Editor	<u>Steven Szalaj</u>	Publicity	OPEN
Webmaster	Sandy Wittman	Competition Chairman	Rich Bickham
CACCA Delegate 1	Lance Lagoni	Competition Assistant	John Williams
CACCA Delegate 2	OPEN	Competition Assistant	Ernie Hagenow
Education	Peter Pelke II	Small Groups	Maureen Harris
Advisor	David Jilek	Outings	Andy Gruber
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