

FEBRUARY, 2026

Crystal Lake Camera Club

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



Zebra

Monochrome Image by Gail Schulz (Shown at the January 13 Meeting)
Read Gail's comments on Page 2

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IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING

The Monochrome images below, on the right and on the cover are by Gail Schulz.

Gail said -

"The fence post is covered with hoar frost. The pond is a glacial tiered pond. Both are taken in Yellowstone. The zebra (cover) is in Botswana - an unusual male away from the herd."



Tiered Glacial Pond



Fence Post Hoar Frost

The Color images below, and on the right are by Trevor Sova.

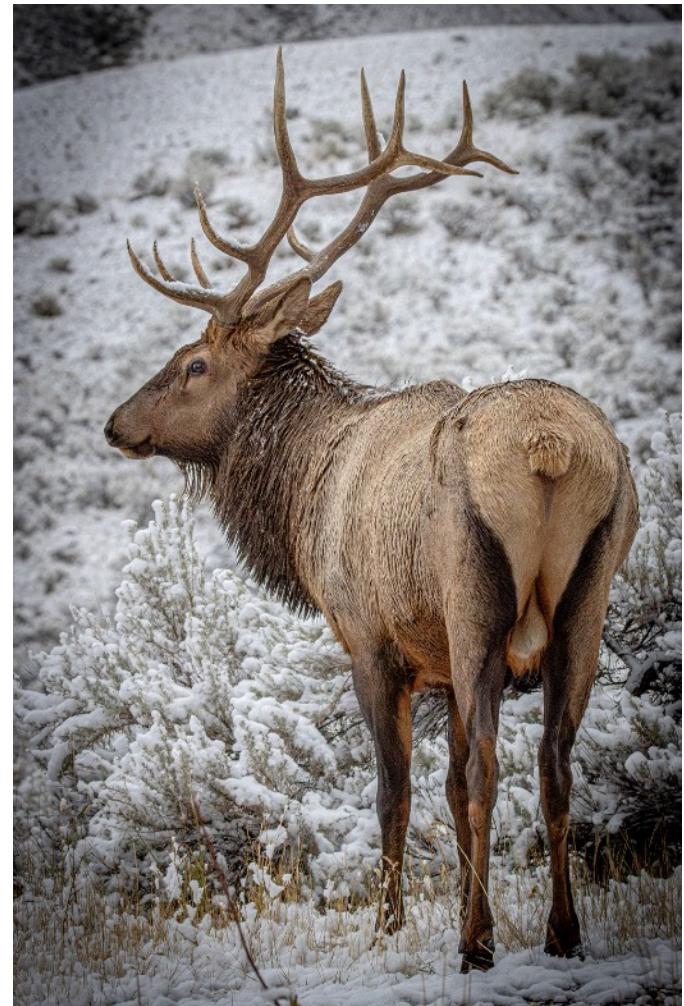
Trevor said -

"The elk was taken at sunrise right outside my tent after a long night of snowing. There were a couple more elk in the area and it was hard to get a good pose. They were very loud the couple days we were there."

The antelope is my favorite and was taken in the late afternoon while driving to the next campsite, out the window of our car. I liked the snow on the back, the pose, and the evergreens in the background."



Pronghorn - Yellowstone



Elk - Yellowstone

IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING

The Monochrome images below, and on the right are by Trevor Sova.

Trevor said -

"The Egret was taken at the Fox River Forest Preserve, the picture did not have many colors in it so I decided to do black and white. I liked how the stump in the background radiated out from the center of the picture, and how the contrast of the bird made it stand out.

The others were taken in Yellowstone in early October. The Tour Bus and the Raven were taken in color and then edited for this month's theme."



Egret

The Color image on the right is by Karl-Heinz Gabbe.



Yellowstone Tour Bus



Raven - Yellowstone



IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING

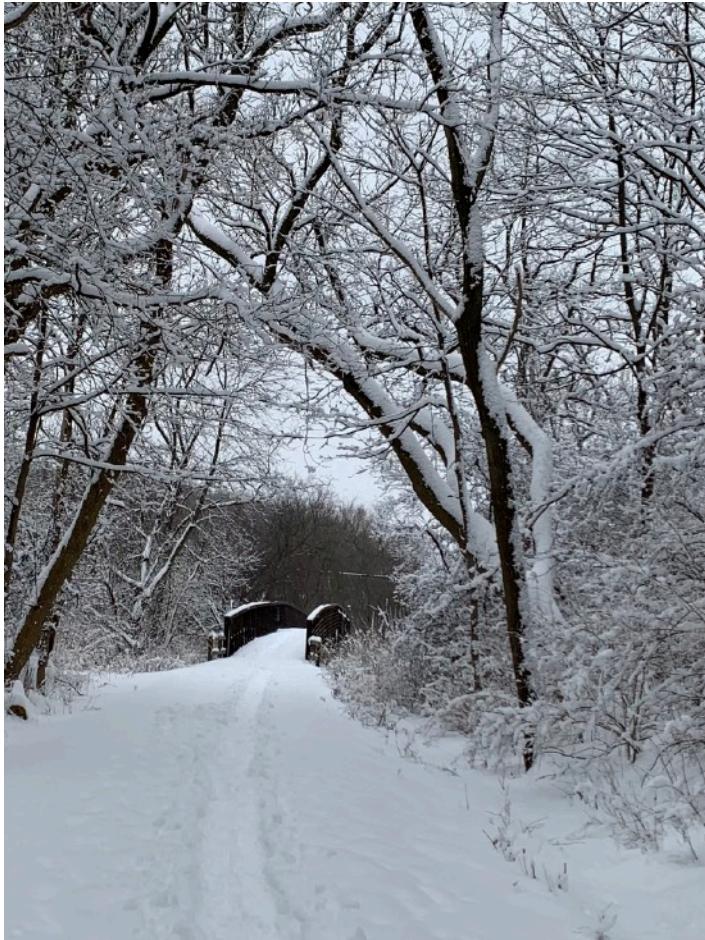


Snowscape



Robin in the Snow

The Color images, above and right, are by Doug Frey.



Snowy Bridge



Revolutionary War Tombstone

The two images above are by Linda Hopp.

Linda said - The *Snowy Bridge*, is actually color, but looks black and white. I cropped and flipped to make it read more smoothly from left to right. The *Revolutionary War Tombstone* that was taken in black and white.

IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING



Shoveling All Day



Christmas Tree Lane



Snowy Sidewalk



Tacos & Snow

The images on this page are by Royal Pitchford.

Royal said -

"The idea for this series of photos is that we've had winter celebrations and holidays for thousands of years, and they help us get through the cold dark days of winter. All images taken in downtown Crystal Lake on December 1 and 3, 2025:

- *Christmas Tree Lane* features dozens of trees, with a small sign to identify the local organizations and businesses that decorated them.
- *Shoveling All Day* - We had one of the largest snowfalls that we've had for quite a while, which kept people shoveling and plowing for several days.
- *Snowy Sidewalk* - It was snowing as I took this shot. I processed it as black and white, which seemed to me to emphasize the cold and snow.
- *Tacos & Snow* - The taco restaurant's tropical look and snow-covered patio tables provided a nice contrast with the winter weather."

IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING



The Monochrome snowscapes on this page are by Jeff Chemelewski.



IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING



The Monochrome Images on this page are by Scott Larsen.

Scott said (clockwise from above, left) -

- *Reykjavik's Icon* - Shot with Samsung Galaxy S23. Converted to black and white using ON1 Photo Raw. One of Iceland's best known landmarks, Hallgrímskirkja is Protestant Lutheran church completed in 1986. It's the second tallest building in the country at 244'.
- *Wood Sculpture* - Handheld with a Nikon D90 in 2016 when I was just beginning my photographic journey. This wood carving serves as a holder for CDs and provided a nice prop. Settings: f/5.6, SS 1/320 and ISO 1000. Recently converted to B&W.
- *Winter's Late Afternoon* - Shot from my bedroom window in late afternoon. Taken with a Nikon Z8 and Nikkor 24-70mm lens (@30mm). Star effect for sun accomplished by stopping down the aperture to f/22, SS 1/125 and ISO 320.
- *Zebra Monochrome* - Taken in Botswana in 2021 with a Nikon D500 and 200-500mm lens (@480mm). ISO 100, SS 1/250 and f/9 aperture. Converted to B&W using ON1 Photo Raw.
- *Crossing Longmeadow Bridge* - Taken with my Samsung Phone of my wife and two dogs crossing over Longmeadow Parkway. I was attracted by the symmetry and various patterns of the structure while making sure of their positioning.



IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING



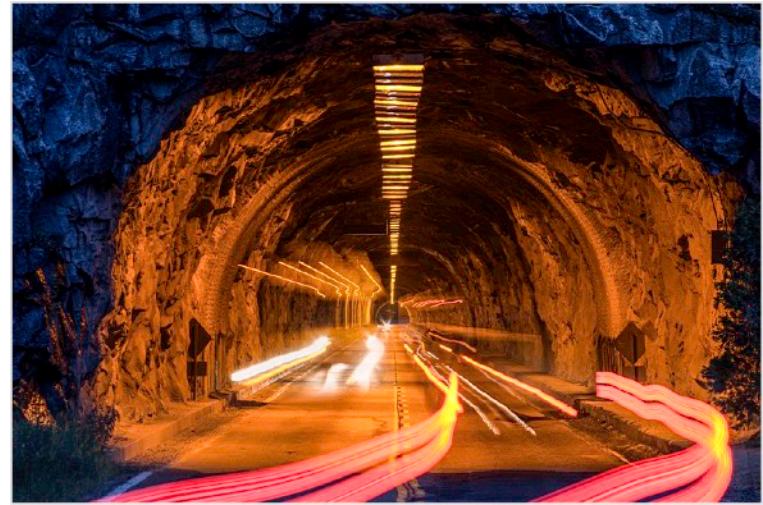
Road America



Times Square



Texture



Yosemite

Canon EOS Digital Rebel
 28.0-200.0 mm
 155 mm
 ISO 100
 f/14
 10.00 sec
 Manual



Light

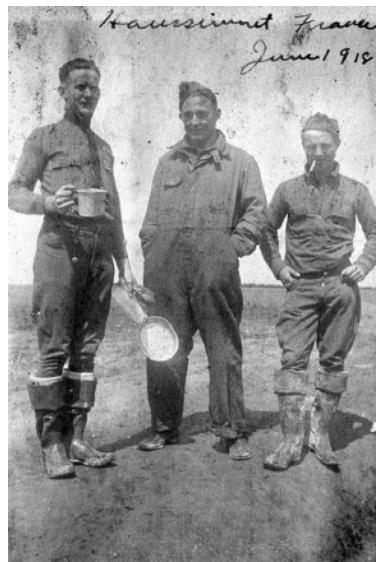
The images on this page are by
Steven Hillmann.

Steven said -

"The Black and White photos were intended to study Light, Shadow and Texture. Both were taken in natural lighting situations.

The race car, and the two night shots illustrate motion. I used the panning technique on the race car. This blurred the background, but kept the car in sharp focus. In the night scenes long exposures allowed moving objects to be blurred and darker objects moving through the frame to effectively disappear."

IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING



The images on this page were shared by
Lynda Christopher.

Lynda said (clockwise from upper left)-
"These 6 historic B&W pictures are from an original
WWI photo album that I have. The album is full of
pictures of the 8th Balloon Company from when it
leaves New York Harbor in 1914 to when it returns to
Newport News, VA in 1919."

The first photo is Lt. Ross. Written on the photo it says "Lt Ross - Killed in fall when parachute burnt. Sept 12, 1918. St. Mihiel Drive."

On the first day of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, September 26, 1918, Lt. Cleo Ross and fellow balloon officer, Lt. Hudnut had been called into action again. They had been up observing since before the sun came up. Today would be the 8th Balloon Division's ultimate challenge. The infantry pressed through the trenches below and over the top to rapidly attack Montfaucon. In the sky above were thirteen observation balloons spread out along the front.

At 2 p.m., Lt. Ross and Hudnut reported increased enemy traffic on the road to Nantillois. At that point, a German Fokker D-7 pursuit plane dropped upon them and shot incendiary rounds into the balloon which started to burn.

Ross delayed parachuting to insure Hudnut had not been snagged by the basket or its cable.

Hudnut parachuted clear and he watched as Ross jumped. His parachute opened, but the balloon was falling faster than Ross. The slowly burning mass caught Lt. Ross' parachute on fire as the balloon fell onto it and then a thousand feet to the ground. Thanks to Lt. Ross' valor, Hudnut made a safe landing. Twenty-two-year-old Lt. Cleo J. Ross of Titusville, Pa., was the only member of the A.E.F. Balloon Corps to die in aerial combat. The bloody Meuse-Argonne Offensive, claimed over 26,000 American lives, but forced the Germans to the Armistice table on November 11.

The next photo is of six soldiers holding on to various instruments.



The next photo is of three soldiers just hanging out before chow time.

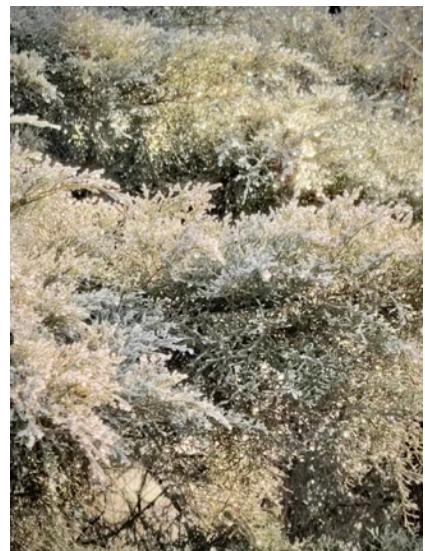
The next photo is a soldier wearing a gas mask.

The next photo was taken while they were launching a balloon.

The final photo shows a wrecked village on the front line.



IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING



The snow images on this page are by
Judy Jorgensen.

Judy said -

"The snow and ice patterns (top left and center) were from the windshield of my car in the mornings. I took them with my phone, as usual, because I thought they were interesting.

The bush (top right) was in my yard sitting in the sun and totally covered in ice. It was lovely. It did take a couple of shots to catch as much sun reflection as possible.

The coyote (above) was just for fun. He was so big and healthy looking. Might actually be a cross with a wolf as a farmer neighbor says we have around here. We watch for them because of the kennel and our dog. He was just between a kennel yard fence and a tree line. Not too close but close enough.

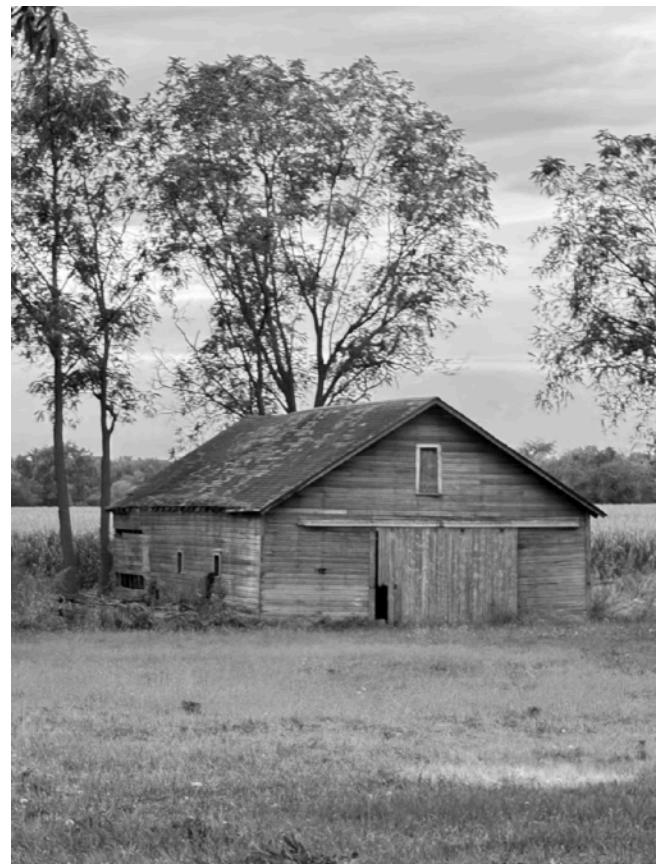
The "snow mountains" (left center and left) are in front of our house in Gulliver, Michigan. I saw them when looking for snow photos and thought they would be interesting to show. The Lake Michigan water level is just below the black rock line in the foreground. The "mountains" are a build up of ice and snow from the waves coming in. They get so high that the horizon is not longer visible. They are very dangerous to climb on because they can drop off on the water side in an instant under someone's weight. No hope of calling for help. The first one is sunrise and I was standing on the deck about 5-10 feet high. The second one is cropped and the gray above is sky not water."



IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING



Old Silo



Shed

The Monochrome images on this page and two on the next are by Judy Jorgensen.

Judy said -

“These are all local images around McHenry County that I just changed to black and white. I was trying to see what I did and did not like in black and white because it has never been a favorite of mine. I was pleased with each of them so then I was hoping to have a discussion on contrast and tonal range.

I have been taking photos of these places for years because they do change. Buildings disappear, age well or not so, etc. And, then, they disappear.

It saddens me to see “progress”. So, old silos are still standing when the cattle and machinery have been sold off, the family is gone, the house has fallen. It still marks our local history, what was, where. Now we have developed safer ways to take down the silos, and they, too, are disappearing.

The third photo (right) is a place I have photographed since the mid 80s located just



Farmstead

IMAGES FROM THE JANUARY 13 MEETING

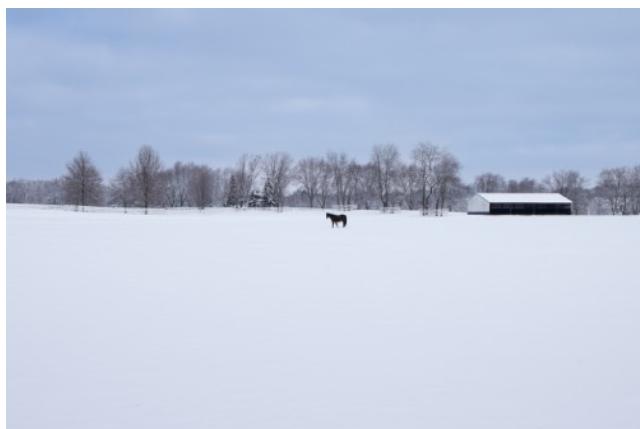
(Judy's comments, continued)

west of Rt 47 on the south side of Pleasant Valley. It has fallen into total disrepair in the last few years. All the road construction on 47 is an indication of major changes. I was really surprised with the photos I took that day.

The pond is on the east side of Haligus just south of what is now called Lakewood Road. The water was still, the sun right, and the reflections interesting.



BEFORE & AFTER PAIRS FROM JANUARY 13



Hill 'n Dale Farm - Before



Hill 'n Dale Farm - After

The *Before & After* pair above of the Hill 'n Dale Farm, and the three pairs on the next page are by Doug Frey.

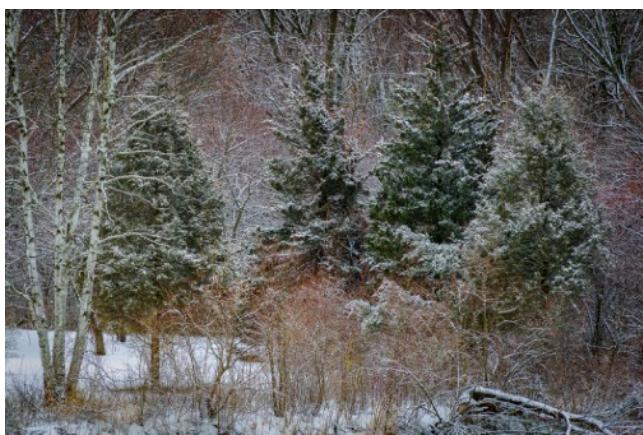
BEFORE & AFTER PAIRS FROM JANUARY 13



Chicago Street Courier - Before



Chicago Street Courier - After



Spruce, Pleasant Valley - Before



Spruce, Pleasant Valley - After



Pleasant Valley Landscape - Before



Pleasant Valley Landscape - After

The *Before & After* pairs on this page are by Doug Frey.

Doug said -
"Just trying to compare color to B & W."

BEFORE & AFTER PAIRS FROM JANUARY 13



Abandoned House - Before



Abandoned House - After



Baby - Before

The Before & After pair of the abandoned house and the baby are by Linda Hopp.

Linda said - "The baby, which was originally color, but I always imagined the yarn textures would pop more in B&W. The abandoned house, I knew before I snapped the photo that I would like better in B&W."

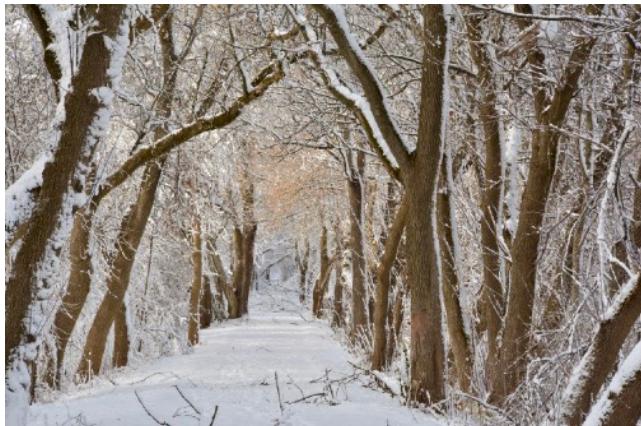


Baby - After



After

This Before & After pair, and the three on the next page are by Karl Gabbey.

BEFORE & AFTER PAIRS FROM JANUARY 13

Prairie Path - Before



Prairie Path - After



Before



After



Before



After

The *Before & After* pairs on this page are by
Karl Gabbe.

THE FUTURE OF CLCC

Notes from the January 13 Meeting ~

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

There were 16 members at the meeting this month. The meeting began at 7PM. We are reminded that it is time to pay the \$25 annual dues. You can give cash or a check to Gail. There were many participants in *Show & Tell* and *Before & After*, with considerable lively discussions about the images shared.

Show & Tell - The topic was **Snow** and **Black & White** (referencing the December presentation).

- Doug Frey: photos showing snow
- Gail Schulz: hoar frost and a frozen pond, and a zebra from Botswana
- Jeff Chemelewiski: photos of snowscapes
- Judy Jorgensen: frost patterns, snow and ice
- Karl Gabby: snowscapes
- Linda Hopp: snowy bridge, Revolutionary War tombstone
- Lynda Christopher: WW1 photos
- Royal Pitchford: snow day images in downtown Crystal Lake
- Scott Larsen: B & W images
- Steve Hillmann: light, texture, motion images
- Trevor Sova: B & W and color images from his recent Yellowstone trip

Before & After -

- Doug Frey: several color to B & W conversions
- Karl Gabby: four color to B & W conversions
- Linda Hopp: two color to B & W conversions

A REMINDER: **Show & Tell** and **Before & After** run more smoothly if images are sent to Doug before the meeting instead of on flash drives given to him at the meeting. He would like them a few days before the meeting so he can prepare the presentation. See page 20 for more information.

The March meeting challenge: Photograph your full first name letters as found naturally in nature, architecture, roadways, etc. No manipulation allowed. *Before & After* can be a better example of a letter found after the first one. This will include discussions of gear, settings, locations, etc. used.

Take a moment to contribute to the Facebook **Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat** page (see page 20).

The **Landscape and Nature Photography** small group is meeting regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Doug Frey's home (see page 21).

Have an idea for an outing? If you have an idea or plan and want company, let Doug Frey know.

The **CLCC Breakfast Meeting** is the *last* Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted due to holidays, etc.) at Buttered Toast by Home Depot on Randall Road, Algonquin. All are welcome (see page 20). The next breakfast meeting is Saturday, February 28.

Become an ACTIVE CLCC member - your presence, your contributions, your participation is what will elevate the club experience for everyone. Most everything that happens in the club is by volunteers, that is, members choosing to participate because they *love photography*. CLCC needs you!

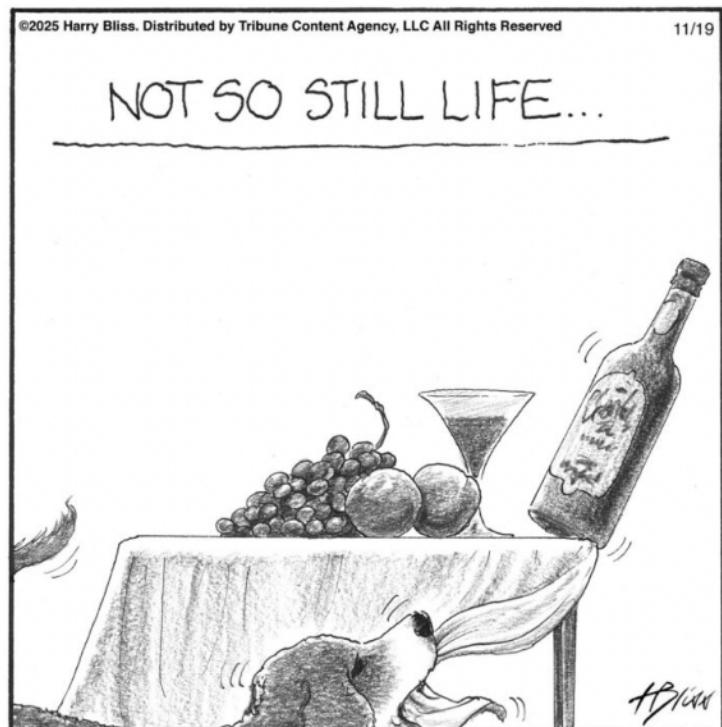
PORTRAIT PHOTO TIPS

Submitted by Peter Pelke, captured from the internet. These ideas can apply to any photo as well.

- **Framing & Proximity:** A tighter frame draws the viewer in, fostering intimacy, while a wider frame creates distance, encouraging observation, both overt or secret.
- **Depth of Field Control:** Shallow depth of field isolates the subject for closeness; deep depth of field includes context for a more distant view.
- **Subject Gaze & Body Language:** Direct eye contact connects intimately, whereas an averted gaze creates distance, inviting the viewer to think.
- **Perspective & Camera Angle:** Shooting from above or below can alter the relational dynamic to the subject, increasing or reducing emotional distance, while eye-level maintains connection.
- **Quality of Light:** Soft, diffused light reduces distance, creating warmth, while hard, high-contrast light often increases it, enhancing drama.
- **Color Palette:** Warm and harmonious colours can invite intimacy, while cool or highly contrasting colors might create a sense of detachment.
- **Solitude vs. Connection:** A solitary figure often emphasizes isolation, increasing distance, whereas groups or interactions reduce it, fostering engagement.

IT'S TIME TO PAY CLCC DUES FOR 2026

Dues are \$25.00 for the year. Please give check or cash to treasurer Gail Schulz when you attend your next CLCC Meeting



THE PRACTICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TIFF AND JPEG

Submitted by Bill Tell

JPEG (JPG): Best for everyday sharing, email, texting, web, social media

- Key characteristics
 - Lossy compression – file size is reduced by discarding some image data
 - Much smaller file size
 - Widely supported on all devices and platforms
 - Can show compression artifacts if saved repeatedly
- Pros
 - Fast to send and download
 - Ideal for casual viewing
 - Uses far less storage
- Cons
 - Loses some image quality
 - Not ideal for heavy editing or archiving
 - Each resave slightly degrades quality

TIFF (TIF): Best for professional photography, printing, archiving, editing

- Key characteristics
 - Lossless (or no) compression
 - Preserves all image data
 - Very large file size
 - Supports higher color depth (8-bit, 16-bit, sometimes 32-bit)
- Pros
 - Maximum image quality
 - Excellent for printing and long-term storage
 - No quality loss when resaving
- Cons
 - Large files—slow to send
 - Not email-friendly
 - Some apps/devices won't open TIFF easily

Side-by-Side Summary

Features	JPEG	TIFF
File Size	Small	Very Large
Image Quality	Good (but “lossy”)	Excellent (lossless)
Editing Tolerance	Poor	Excellent
Best for Sending	✓ Yes	✗ No
Printing	⚠ Limited	✓ Ideal

The Practical Differences Between TIFF and JPEG (continued)

Which should you send?

- Email, texting, social media → JPEG
- Professional printing or archiving → TIFF
- Photo editing workflow → Edit in TIFF, send final in JPEG
- Simple rule: *TIFF is for keeping; JPEG is for sending*

Recommended Export Settings (especially if you're using Lightroom or Photoshop)

Best JPEG Export Settings (for sending, email, web) - Use this when sharing photos with others

- **Lightroom Classic**
 - File Type: JPEG
 - Quality: 80–85 (sweet spot: excellent quality, small size)
 - Color Space: sRGB
 - Resolution: 72 or 96 ppi (doesn't affect screen quality, just metadata)
 - Resize:
 - Long edge: 2048 px (email/web safe)
 - Or 3000–4000 px if detail matters
 - Sharpening: Sharpen for Screen → Standard
 -  This produces clean images that send fast and look great everywhere.
- **Photoshop (Save As / Export)**
 - Format: JPEG
 - Quality: 10–11 (out of 12)
 - Convert to sRGB: YES
 - Embed Color Profile: YES

Best TIFF Export Settings (for printing or archiving) - Use this when quality matters more than size

- **Lightroom Classic**
 - File Type: TIFF
 - Compression: LZW (lossless — reduces size safely)
 - Bit Depth: 16-bit
 - Color Space: Adobe RGB (or ProPhoto RGB if editing further)
 - Resolution: 300 ppi
 - Resize:  Don't resize
 -  Ideal for labs, fine-art prints, and long-term storage

Recommended Workflow (Most Pros Use This)

1. Shoot RAW
2. Edit in RAW / TIFF
3. Archive master as TIFF
4. Export JPEG for sending
Edit big, send small

Quick Decision Guide

-  Emailing photos → JPEG
-  Texting photos → JPEG
-  Printing large → TIFF
-  Long-term storage → TIFF
-  Heavy editing → TIFF

CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings start at 7PM and are at the Algonquin Township Building, 3702 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake, in **Meeting Room 2**. Enter at the back of the building.

February 10 *Image Theme: Street Photography*
Presentation by JoAnn Randall: *Street Photography*
Show & Tell; Before & After

March 10 *Image Theme: Photograph your first name from found shapes*
Show & Tell; Before & After

April 14 *Image Theme: Photos from workshop experiences;*
JoAnn Randall will lead a discussion of Photo Workshops
Show & Tell; Before & After

May 12 *Image Theme: Choose a renowned photographer, and imitate their style*
Show & Tell; Before & After

Show & Tell and Before & After have provided some lively, informative conversations for CLCC attendees. Great suggestions for outings and club offerings have come from these activities.

For Show & Tell: submit 3-4 JPG images to Doug Frey (doug.frey@me.com) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date. You can also bring them on a flash drive, but submitting them earlier is preferred, and helps the presentation go more smoothly.

For Before & After: submit *pairs of JPG images* to Doug Frey (doug.frey@me.com) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date, or bring the images on a flash drive (submitting them earlier is preferred, and helps the presentation go more smoothly). The pairs would include the image as it came out of the camera and the image after post-processing. Be prepared to tell (and perhaps even show) the changes that were made.

Join the **Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat** on FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/446897199179146> or scan this QR Code:

This is a closed group, so only members have access. Request membership through the page. Then, post your favorite images, join in the discussions, share information about photo outings, speakers, contests, etc.

Only group members will see your posts.



Last Saturday Morning Breakfast Meeting – Everyone invited!

Please join your CLCC friends for the casual breakfast meeting on the last Saturday of the month. Lively discussions, good food! This month's will be on **Saturday, February 28, 2026**, 8:30 AM at

Buttered Toast Restaurant, 2520 Bunker Hill Dr, Algonquin.

Next month's breakfast meeting will be March 28.

LANDSCAPE & NATURE SMALL GROUP

When: Third Wednesday each month, 7PM

Where: 711 Glacier Parkway, Algonquin

RSVP: doug.Frey@me.com

This small group meets in Doug Frey's home on the Third Wednesday of the month, 7PM. There are wide ranging discussions from beginning landscape photography, to post-processing, prime locations, both near and far, everything in between, and sometimes beyond! Photos are shared and comments made. It is a very friendly group.

Meetings are casual and relaxed. Any related discussion topics can be brought up. It is a great community learning experience. Let Doug know that you are interested! See him at a club meeting, or send him an email at the address above.

DISPLAY YOUR IMAGES AT AROMA

Aroma Coffee & Wine, 77 E Woodstock St, Crystal Lake, IL 60014, aromacoffeeandwine.com

Russ King shared that *Aroma* is putting photos on their walls, and that he has several pictures hung until the end of January. The owner is Dawn Kincaid, and will likely be looking for more after the current display is taken down.



GALLERIES, STORIES, VIDEOS AND INSPIRATION ON THE WEB

(Click any bold-face heading, or underlined text, to follow the link)

The 2026 Nature's Colors Photo Contest

Now in its sixth year, Outdoor Photographer's 2026 Nature's Colors Photo Contest is your opportunity to share your most unique, successful images of Nature's Colors for a chance to have your work recognized and win other great prizes.

Illustrious: The Best High School Basketball Gyms in Illinois

Vincent Johnson is 51 years old and still going to high school — or many high schools as he works as a successful freelance photographer. His photo book is a tour through many high school basketball courts, recently constructed or very historic. Johnson said of his journey around the state: "...I can see and feel that these gyms are places of pride in most communities and neighborhoods." You can see a preview of the book [HERE](#).

A Mind-Blowing Aerial Shot Of Iceland Reveals Nature's Art At Its Best

This aerial photograph blurs the line between fine art and documentary photography, and it has taken top honors in AAP Magazine's international competition.

Top Of The Shots! The Top 10 Songs Written About Photography And Cameras

*Harry Styles released a new single: *Aperture*. Rather than F stops, depth of field and bokeh, it's about letting love and light into your life, apparently — just as camera lets in light. This inspired Amateur Photographer Magazine to compile a list of their top 10 photography-related songs.*

Why Bad Photos Matter More Than You Think

How can taking a bad photograph possibly help you get better or feel creative again?

Photographer Abby Ferguson is a firm believer in the importance of bad photographs. Creating bad work is essential for any creative, and photographers are no exception.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOUR IMAGES!

4th FRIDAYS ART EVENT AT THE DOLE

401 Country Club Rd
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-347-8535

The next 4th Friday Art Event: **February 27, 2026**

Submission Deadline: Sunday, February 15, 2026, by midnight

Non-refundable submission fee: \$40 for up to 5 pieces submitted

Cash Awards - \$450 total:

- 5 Honorable Mentions: \$50 cash each
- 4th Fridays Team Choice: \$50 cash each
- Kim Holz Memorial Award: \$50 cash
- Nancy Merkling Choice: \$50 cash
- People's Choice Award: \$50 cash



Click here for the **PROSPECTUS** for the Photo-Only Exhibit.

Click here for the **SUBMISSION APPLICATION**

*Note: Photos may also be submitted to the Mixed Art Exhibit, especially if the photo is larger than the requirements for the Photo-Only Exhibit. Click here for the **Mixed Art Prospectus**.*

IMAGE THEMES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

FEBRUARY THEME: STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

What are your experiences with Street Photography? What examples do you have? JoAnn Randall will have a presentation on this topic.

To help you plan ahead, these are the Image Themes for the next several months:

February 10 Street Photography

March 10 Photograph the letters of your first name as found naturally in nature, architecture, roadways, etc. No manipulation allowed.

April 14 Photo Workshop Experiences; JoAnn Randall

Please submit your images to Doug Frey on the Sunday before the club meeting. *Show & Tell* and *Before & After* run more smoothly if Doug can prepare the presentation. See page 20 for more information.

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

President	Judy Jorgensen
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Gail Schulz
Board Member	Rich Bickham

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](mailto:Steven.Szalaj@mac.com), at szjsings@mac.com.

Please make your submission by the 22nd of the month.

Helpful Resources - New links added!

Contribute to this page! If you have resources that you find useful, please share that link with me. Include a short summary of what can be found in the link. The reference can be a video, web page, PDF, or any other format that has an online link. Send your contributions to szjsings@mac.com by the 20th of each month.

~SJS, Newsletter Editor

Profoto Tutorials, submitted by Kevin Getty:

Tips and Tricks

<https://profoto.com/us/tips>

A terrific collection to help photographers of any level.

Photographic Composition Webinar, submitted by Scott Larsen:

The Art of Photography: Crafting Compelling Compositions

tinyurl.com/5ak88xt6

Natural Habitat Adventures posts a weekly webinar. This hour-long video is very helpful.

Photographers you may be interested in viewing, contributed by Judy Jorgensen:

Dan Anderson

danielandersonphotography.com/

Beautiful color landscapes and seascapes with striking composition from America, Norway, Faroe Islands, Scotland, Patagonia, Ireland, Antarctica, Europe, Iceland, etc. If you love black and white, check out his American West, Europe, Antarctica, and Greek islands black and white images of land, sea, and architecture.

Ed Callaert

edcallaert.photoshelter.com/

This nature photographer travels extensively along the west coastal and mountain states as well as upper to mid east coast United States. His gallery is full of colorful landscapes and seascapes with interesting composition techniques you may want to try.

Willard Clay

willardclay.photoshelter.com/

This landscape and bird photographer has a vast collection in his gallery by states and a stunning collection under birds. He also teaches at Mayslake in the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Enjoy, study, and try.

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Bill Batalden:

APS (AUTHORIZED PHOTO SERVICE)

8125 River Dr # 100

Morton Grove, IL 60053

repair@authorizedphotoservice.com

(800) 406-2046

Bill said: "I recently had my camera & lens repaired at APS authorized camera repair. I felt the work was good and the price reasonable. They give an estimate, which you have to approve, before proceeding with the work. When I spoke with the owner, he said he could offer a 'Club' rate."

Helpful Resources (continued)

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Sandy Wittman:

ROYAL CAMERA SERVICE, INC.

1134 E Lake Street
Hanover Park, IL
(630) 372-6150

Sandy said: "I had my Canon 7D Mark II repaired there this fall. They did an excellent job in about 10 days. The price was very reasonable. I found them to be knowledgeable and professional."

Resource for infrared photography, contributed by Peter Pelke

LIFE PIXEL Infrared Camera Conversions

<https://www.lifepixel.com/>
(866) 610-1710

Resource for purchasing, selling, trading and repairing used camera equipment

KEH

<https://www.keh.com/>
(800) 342-5534

"The original curator and reseller of rare and quality camera gear, KEH has always envisioned a better way to support the passion and profession of photography. We're proud to be the camera community's choice for gear that goes further. Field-tested. Expert-graded. Sustainable. Exchangeable. KEH-approved."

YouTube Channels by specific photographers

These were contributed by Doug Frey:

Nigel Danson - <https://www.youtube.com/@NigelDanson>
Adam Gibbs - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyKBQGE7OOsWeQIPWqVSzw>
fototripper (Gavin Hardcastle) - <https://www.youtube.com/@fototripper>
Simon D'Entremont - https://www.youtube.com/@simon_dentremont
Mark Denney - <https://www.youtube.com/@MarkDenneyPhoto>
Thomas Heaton - <https://www.youtube.com/@ThomasHeatonPhoto>
Ian Worth - https://www.youtube.com/@ian_worth/

A great collection of "how-to" videos:

Providence Photography DFW

<https://www.youtube.com/@providencephotographydfw>

Photoshop Elements+: The Secret to Removing Impossible Backgrounds!**Take Better Photos Episode 3 - ISO and Exposure** (click the title)

Video shared by Bill Tell. Bill said: "In my experience, this video is essential for anyone who wants a deeper, more complete understanding of exposure and is ready to move to the next level."

Capturing the Perfect Holiday Tablescape Just in Time for Thanksgiving! (click the title)

Shared by Peter Pelke - an in-depth article that covers lighting, angles, composition, techniques, gear, and much more.

*Helpful Resources (continued)***Adobe Lightroom Classic - Tips and Tricks for a better workflow**

Shared by Bill Tell - *“I’ve been watching a lot of YouTube videos on Lightroom Classic, and this is by far the best one yet. It’s packed with solid tips you can apply to virtually any LRC workflow and settings. Incredibly helpful. It will make your post-processing much easier.”*

What Makes Great Photos Great

Shared by Bill Tell - *“This video is very good at explaining what makes a photo great as opposed to a snapshot. A snapshot can be technically very good but a great photo conveys emotion that makes one like to look at it.”*

The Orchid Show at Chicago Botanic Garden

February 7 – March 22, 2026, Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rewind to the ‘60s and ‘70s at the Orchid Show: ***Feelin’ Groovy*** - where 10,000 vibrant orchids are the hottest thing since bell bottoms. Floor-to-ceiling sunbeams made of cascading orchids light up the room in living color. Lose yourself in a 10-foot lava lamp aglow with colorful blooms, then hit the road as a flower-filled Volkswagen Beetle carries you through a Route 66 daydream. The experience is pure good vibes.

Members: \$12

Nonmembers \$16

Special Photographer’s hours: \$18/\$21

More Information at chicagobotanic.org/orchid

**Photo Op At the Morton Arboretum**
Vivid Creatures

An exhibition of giant, colorful sculptures as tall as trees - through Spring 2027

Guests of all ages can delight in an oversized deer, snail, squirrel, dragonfly, and sandhill crane—all native to northern Illinois—depicted in brightly decorated larger-than-life artworks up to 24 feet tall. The sculptures will be placed among the tree collections and natural areas of The Morton Arboretum.



The five sculptures were created exclusively by **Fez BeGaetz and Heather BeGaetz** of Portland, Oregon. Go **behind the build** and read about the inspiration and creative process behind the sculptures.



Vivid Creatures is free and is included with general admission to the Arboretum. Members always get in free and can visit any time without purchasing general admission. **More at mortonarb.org**

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL 6X6 PROJECT ART AUCTION AND FUNDRAISER

Raue Center's **6x6 PROJECT** fundraiser and online art auction & exhibition celebrates its seventh year of supporting arts with Art! All proceeds benefit Raue Center's fine arts education programs, [Mission Imagination \(MI\)](#) and [Raue Center School For The Arts](#) (RCSA), which has been enriching the lives of over 20,000 kids a year in the local community since 2001.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate by creating original works of art, in a variety of mediums, on 6x6" canvases. Since the inaugural event in 2019, 6x6 Project has raised over **\$112,000** for MI and RCSA with canvases coming from around the nation!

Create a mini-masterpiece and support the arts in your community!

Several of our CLCC members have participated in this event. It is a good way to get your images seen by a public that loves art, and you are supporting an arts venue right here in McHenry County. Entering is easy! Complete instructions are at the [6x6 PROJECT WEBSITE](#).

Purchase one or two 6" X 6" canvases from the project partners (listed on the website and below) for a \$5 donation per canvas. They are available now through May 1, 2026. You must use these official canvases. Mount or print an image on the canvas and drop your artwork off by **May 15, 2026**. All artwork submitted to the **6x6 PROJECT** will be available for viewing and bidding online at [Auctria.com](#) beginning **June 13, 2026**. Artists and the public are invited to our reception on **June 27, 2026**. All canvases will be displayed at the reception - bidding will continue through the end of the reception.

[Click here for the Artist Call \(Information about entering\)](#)

[Click here for Information about the Reception and Awards](#)

Project Partners - You can get the required canvases at these places:

Abalabix Books – 30 N. Williams St Unit A, Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 893-6653
Creative Arts, Inc. – 400 Highland Avenue | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 219-9243
Reprographics – 26 Crystal Lake Plaza | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 477-1018
Piano Trends – 35 Berkshire Drive | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 477-4266
MainStreet Arts Center – 20 E Main St, Lake Zurich, IL | (847) 550-0016
Material Things – 103 E. Van Buren | Woodstock, IL | (815) 575-9710
Raue Center For The Arts – 26 N. Williams St | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 356-9212



SUPPORT THE ARTS WITH ART!