

InFocus



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Welcome New Club Officers and Board of Directors.

Officers

President: Brandon Stokes

Vice President: Steve Alvey

Secretary: Sandy Molck

Treasurer: Goerganne Higgins

Board of Govenors

Past President: Rex Termain

Print Chairman: Reney Budz

DPI Chairman: Dan Abert

Theme Competition Winner

Congratulations to Steve Alvey for winning our theme competition of "Your favorite place."

Using his Canon Rebel XT with an 18-55 lens at 18mm, Steve set his ISO to 100 and f/stop to 3.5 and exposing for 1/40th of a second to capture a great image of Camel Rock at Garden of the God's State Park in Southern Illinois.

Steve's favorite place stems from his and Brandon's 13 years of going to the Superman Celebration and ever since they have stopped by this beautiful park. The hills, scenery and landscape are what make this place hold a special place in me.

The Garden of the God's State Park is located in Southern Illinois and has a number of amenities including a campsite and



walking trails to enjoy. There are always a number of photographic opportunities when visiting Garden of the Gods including birding and most importantly the beautiful rock formations.

I would urge anyone who has not been to this area of Illinois to take some time out and visit this beautiful creation. You will find yourself getting

lost taking in all the scenery. From atop of the formations, you can take in an evening sunset and really reflect on a very gorgeous part of our home state.

Again congrats to Steve and for a sharing great image. Congrats goes out to Jimmy for taking second place and Georgeanne for taking 3rd place.

Digital Judging System

During the November 22nd meeting the new Digital Judging system was tested, and we are glad to report it functioned great! We are very excited to use this new technology and see

where it will lead the club into the future. We ran two trial competitions which turned out perfectly when voting just as we would have with the old score box.

If the system continues to

work for DPI, we can also score our print competition using the same system.

Thanks for all who submitted images for us to practice on, and a big thanks to the judges! Nice Job!!

The Kankakee Area Camera Club is a proud member of the
Community Arts Council of Kankakee County
Photographic Society of America
Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association.



"A great photograph is one that fully expresses what one feels, in the deepest sense, about what is being photographed."
~ [Ansel Adams](#)

Message from the President.

Much of the success of the camera club comes from its members. Whether it's bringing in refreshments, signing up for door duty, or just simply helping answer someone's question they have about their camera or picture they just took. When we look at the grand scheme of things, it really takes a bunch of people to make this club successful. I want to

thank everyone who helps out the club in any way. It's your support and volunteerism that keeps this club moving forward.

Please don't be hesitant in suggesting on how you think our camera club can continue to improve. It takes many minds to keep this club going, and I want to make sure everyone has a voice in suggesting any changes they would like to see, or suggestions

on how the camera club can continue to grow.

If anyone thinks they might want to know how they can help or contribute more to our camera club, please contact one of the officers or board members and they will be able to help point you in the right direction. So let's continue to do what we do best, make great images, and help your fellow photographer grow.

Regular Competition + Nature: Nov 12th, 2014

The next meeting in November is a regular competition plus nature. These nights typically bring in a lot of prints, so be sure to have your prints labeled and ready for competition.

For DPI entries, remember to have them in the appropriate Drop Box folder the Sunday prior to that meeting.

Anyone entering the

nature classes, remember there can be no hand of man depicted anywhere in your image. If you are unsure, please ask a senior member to double check so that maybe that image might be able to be entered into a color pictorial category so you can still compete with the image.

Competition has been strong in the last few

competitions lately and that's a good thing. That means the club must be doing something right because everyone is entering a lot of great images.

We wish everyone the best of luck to all of the image makers, and hope to see some new faces getting into the honorable mention, awards and print of the months!

If you would like to submit or contribute to the Kankakee Area Camera Club newsletter, please email Brandon Stokes at bstokes0618@gmail.com. Also if you have any suggestions or would like to provide any feedback, please fill us in on what we are doing right and what we can improve on.

Upcoming Events.

Don't forget the camera club is in the beginning stages of planning an outing to Chicago in the near future. Reney's husband has graciously offered a van to the club to help us get from one point to the next.

Last year was great, he took us to a number of locations, and without having to worry about parking or taking cabs to the next location was awesome. If you are interested in tagging along for this year's trip, please let Reney know so that we

can have an approximate headcount of all who is going. The van can fit up to approximately 12 people with everyone's gear in tow.

A date will set in stone in one of the upcoming meetings.

Learning About Light

Submitted by Janet Schleeter

Without light there would be no photography. Learning to read light and use your camera settings to get the desired result is the key to becoming a good photographer. There are 4 basics I would like to cover:

ISO – the sensitivity of your camera’s sensor to light. This used to be referred to as film speed.

Aperture – The amount of light that enters your lens. This would be your f-stop.

Shutter Speed – How long the light falls on the camera’s sensor.

White Balance – The quality of light. This boils down to the “temperature” of the light.

For this article, we will cover the ISO. ISO stands for International Standards Organization. As the name suggests, this is an international organization that sets uniform standards for various measurements. This assures the consumer that if you set your Nikon camera to 100 ISO, your friend can set his Canon camera to 100 ISO, and you will have comparable exposure when shooting under the same conditions. If you’re used to use film, you were generally advised to use the lowest ISO available

to get a sharp, clear image. This was usually 100 or 200 speed. If you knew you were going to be shooting in a dim light situation, you might buy 400 or 800 speed film, but you were cautioned that you would lose sharpness and pick up grain in your photos. 1600? Forget about getting a competition quality enlargement! The same guideline is basically true with digital, though we now call grain “noise”.

When using film, you were stuck with using the same ISO for the whole roll of film. We have a great advantage with digital in that we can change the ISO for every image. The lower ISO settings such as 100-200 will give you the least noise in an image and can successfully be used in a bright light situation. However, these lower settings will mean that your shutter speed may be slower, so if you want a faster shutter speed to stop action, you may want to raise the ISO. (We’ll get into the interaction of shutter speed and aperture next time.) At these ISO’s, noise in your image should not be a problem. While in film days a 400 or 800 speed film would show obvious grain problems, this is not true with today’s high end

DSLR (digital single lens reflex) cameras. Camera manufacturers are constantly improving the image quality at higher ISO speeds. You can now shoot 1600 or 3200 ISO with minimal issues with noise. Using photo software such as Adobe Elements, Lightroom, or Photoshop will help you minimize what noise is in the image.

Most of today’s digital cameras have a setting for “Auto” ISO. I have experimented with this a bit, and it can be useful in certain circumstances. If, for example, you know you need to stop action (use a fast shutter speed) but you don’t have great light, go ahead and set the shutter speed to the speed you will need, set the ISO to Auto, and the camera will figure out what ISO it needs to get a decent exposure.

The ISO setting alone will not necessarily get you the image you want. It must be used in conjunction with aperture and shutter speed to get the desired depth of field/sharpness you desire. The key is to PLAN EACH SHOT. One of the best ways to do this is to shoot on the manual setting of your camera. It may be cumbersome at first, but you WILL learn.

“Photography has nothing to do with cameras.” ~Lucas Gentry



Photo Hanging at the Metro Center

Have six months gone by already? That's how long the photos have been on display at the Metro Bus Center in Bourbonnais (also where camera club holds its meetings). It was time (27 Oct 2014) to change out the photos that have been on display for the last 6 months. The photos are changed out approximately every six months and "new" photos are then put on display. People who have business or just visit the Metro Center can view these photos free of charge during normal business hours (8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday thru Friday). Members should tell their friends & family to stop out at the Metro Bus Center and view the display of photos.

Members who helped with the hanging (of photos, not people) were: Janet Schleeter, LaVerne & Pat Guenette, Sharlene Parr, John Workman, Jimmy Carter, Reney Budz & Steve Alvey. Thanks to Bonnie Knight for making the photo display tags.

There are also winning photos displayed from our recent regular competition hanging on the wall located between the meeting room and the exit door (we use after meetings). These photos will be changed out according to our competitions dates.

We encourage all members to participate in the next display in about 6 months. It's fun and rewarding to display for others to view. The photos can also be labeled for sale if the photographer so desires

-- Submitted by Steve Alvey

Photo Tip of the Month – Use a Tripod!

Probably one of the most important tools in any photographer's bag of tricks involves a tripod. A tripod has many uses that will help improve any photographer's images.

Have you ever been on a walk and you come across a breathtaking image, you take a handheld picture of the scene only to have it come out blurry? The tripod helps stabilize your camera therefore reducing camera shake you may get while hand holding your camera.

One of the best examples to help better understand

why using a tripod is better than hand holding your camera is photographing a nice landscape at dusk. Most photographers like to use an ISO setting best fitted for the scene which usually is 200 and below to avoid digital noise. Though with newer DSLR's noise is becoming less of a problem. Using a low ISO means the camera's sensor will need an additional amount of time to record the light within the scene you're photographing. In order to avoid camera shake and obtain the sharpest

image possible, mount your camera on a sturdy tripod to ensure the camera doesn't move and begin making exposures.

There are several different types and models of tripods to choose from. You want to make sure you choose a sturdy enough tripod to fit your needs. Newer technology has led to lighter weight carbon fiber tripods which do not weigh as much.

-Brandon Stokes



We're on the Web!

www.kankakeecameraclub.info

