

# IN FOCUS . . . . .

*The Newsletter of the Rockford Photo Club*

Volume XXXX, Issue Number 4

April 2011



The objectives of the Rockford Photo Club shall be to improve our photography, and to appreciate photography as an art form.

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Apr 14 - 6 PM** - Back on schedule, with luck. Committee meeting at the Art Museum. All club members are welcome.

**Thursday, Apr 14 - 7 PM** - Program on Astral Photography by Jeff Carpenter. Jeff will talk about what equipment he uses, and what techniques are necessary for this rather unusual type of photography. I understand that computer enhancement is often a big part of it. Not to change what is actually there, but to make it properly visible. 'Enhancement' is not the same as 'manipulation', exactly.

(Note: Lockwood Park has a small observatory that is open to the public most 2nd and 4th Saturday evenings, starting around 7 PM. Free.)

**Tuesday - Apr 19 - 7 PM** - Pixel Meeting at Paul Mueller's, 3244 Lookout Dr (going South on 20th St, second left turn South of Samuelson Rd). A good thing to bring along is a jump drive.

**Thursday, Apr 28 - 7 PM** - Display. Subject "Smoke and Fire". Lots of latitude here for 'manipulation'. Or Fun With Fire..... Nothing like a good excuse to play new games.

**We promised** at least one of our churches from the tour that we would send them some of our pictures. If you have some, please email or hand them to Julie so she can make up a CD for them. Thanks!!

**Future Programs** (will be updated as soon as I know the additions)  
Jun 23 - Outdoor Shoot. Horses and Foals at a farm  
Aug 11 - Second Chance Contest - for anyone who did NOT win an award in a 2010 contest. This may be a 4th contest, or not, depending on feedback.  
Nov 10 - 4 Seasons (shoot the same place 4 times)

**Thursday, May 12 - 6 PM** - Committee meeting at the Art Museum. All club members are welcome.

**Thursday, May 12 - 7 PM** - Program. To be announced. Due to the absence of a number of Committee members, and changes of regular meeting locales, and waiting for Jerome's survey results and discussion of those, Committee meetings have been short and missing. Look for a schedule soon to cover the rest of the year.

**Tuesday - May 17 - 7 PM** - Pixel Meeting at Paul Mueller's, 3244 Lookout Dr (going South on 20th St, second left turn South of Samuelson Rd). A good thing to bring along is a jump drive.

**Thursday, May 26 - 7 PM** - Display. Subject to be announced.

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**We now have a volunteer** to help Jason with the website, since he has been so busy with his job and his new daughter.

Rose Hoffa is currently working on a new look for it, and we are intending, at the next Committee meeting, to connect to the internet and look at the project-in-progress. All club members are welcome at Committee Meetings.....

**Thinking about a winter or spring vacation in photogenic Door County?** Scenery there is beautiful in the winter, as well as in the summer. New Club member Gene Grochowski brings us an offer from Bailey's Harbor Yacht Club, of 15% off the regular off-season rates from November through May. To check available rooms & rates, and get this discount, call 1-800-927-2492, or email at bhy-cresort@dcwis, and tell them you belong to Rockford Photo Club.

**Dues are due** every January, and are used throughout the year for club expenses such as the use of our meeting room, insurance, newsletters, and other things that come up from time to time. Dues are \$30/year for one person, or \$40 for a family membership. If you have not yet paid, please bring to a meeting or mail to our new Treasurer:

**Kathleen Ryan**  
**129 N London Ave**  
**Rockford IL 61107**

If you have paid, all of us thank you.  
This month is your last warning.....

**Jim Franklin** has some software for sale that he bought, and then received better as Christmas gifts. He has Adobe Photoshop Elements 8, and Corel Paintshop Pro Ultimate Photo X2 both still in the original boxes, unopened. Call him at 815-623-2626 between 6 and 10 PM to discuss the price.

**Heads Up** - your home state (if you live in Illinois) is after more of your money. From WGN radio, an accountant explaining her interpretation of IL's new approach to collecting use tax.

**Audio of the program:** <http://www.wgnradio.com/shows/overnight/wgn-am-illinois-use-tax-and-how-it-affects-you,0,1074165.mp3file>

**General explanation:** <http://www.revenue.state.il.us/Individuals/Illinois-Use-Tax.htm>

**Specific expl:** <http://www.revenue.state.il.us/Individuals/Amnesty-FAQs-Use-Tax.htm>

**Local Dept of Revenue phone # 815-987-5210**  
Decide for yourself.....

**I have a LOT of HP Photo paper** that I can no longer use because I no longer have an HP printer. I have sold a great deal of it, in smaller lots. To see what is left, call Janice at 815-979-0569.

**Policy on Meeting Cancellation** due to inclement weather. If the Museum is open, the meeting goes on, but please be very careful driving

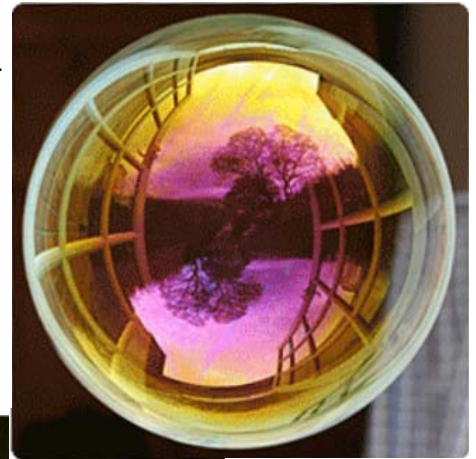
**For all club-meeting displays**, prints, slides, and digital images are allowed, usually 4 or 6. Prints must be mounted on something stiff, and must be at least 5x7" (or 35 square inches). **Prints for contests** (maximum of 4) must have a border or mat. Images that have won previously in a club contest are not eligible for another club contest. Contest entries are limited to club members, but anyone may participate in displays.

**from Les Morgan: Seth Lightcap** is an extreme sports photographer for "Adventure Sports" magazine and is the son of friends of mine. He was in Japan doing a shoot when he was caught in the avalanche which preceded the earthquake that has devastated Japan. He suffered a crushed pelvis and currently is still in the hospital. His family is urgently working to bring him back to the US as the threat of radiation from nuclear plant leaks spreads.

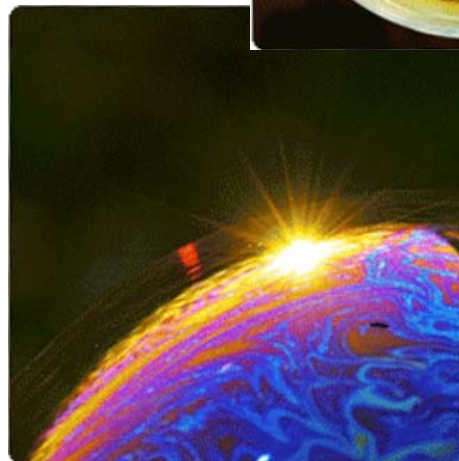
I have provided a link to some of Seth's articles and photography in "Adventure Magazine" below. I also plan to get in touch with him via email to see if I can help him get through recovery. If anyone is interested in Seth's situation and possibly discussing with him his passion for extreme photography, email me at [chessrme@aol.com](mailto:chessrme@aol.com)

from the web,  
sent by: Sue Martinetti: **Shooting Bubbles**

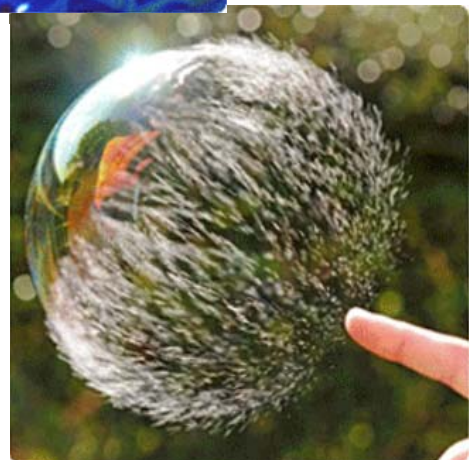
tips: Shoot on a non windy day, This was shot at f/5, 1/400, ISO 400 with zoom lens at 70mm.



Make your bubble look like a planet. Use a macro or close-up lens. Focus where the sun reflects off the surface, capture the bubble against a shadow.



Capture the pop  
Tips: Fast shutterspeed – around 1/500, use rapid fire shoot settings, take lots of photos. (These are real - not Photoshop.)





## Meet

# Jeff Carpenter

- 1- **How long have you belonged to this camera club and do you belong to another one as well?** About four or five years.
- 2- **Was there a particular event or moment that got you interested in photography?** Discovering that I could capture moments in time was fascinating.
- 3- **What was your first camera?** Mamiya-Sekor SLR but the first one I used was an ancient box Brownie from the 1920's!  
**What do you shoot now?** Pentax Kx.
- 4- **What club events would you like to see happen more?** Photo shoots, whether in house or somewhere else.
- 5- **What has been your personal "best moment" at camera club - and why?** Being asked for advice or information tells me that the decades I have been a photographer are valued.
- 6- **Are you shooting digital and do you also belong to Pixel People?** I shoot digital but I do not often attend Pixel People meetings due to the distance since I live in Roscoe.
- 7- **What photography magazines do you subscribe to - and which are your favorite(s)?** I subscribe to Popular Photographer. It's a bit shallow, but the subscriptions are reasonable.
- 8- **Is there a photo book (digital photography, Photoshop or other) that you would recommend and why?** I have no specific favorite photography book. I have read many over the years that offer some wisdom and good advice.
- 9- **What Display or Contest did you most enjoy? And do you have any suggestion for a topic for a future one? (Don't be afraid to think "outside of the box" here.)** I enjoy displays that have unusual subjects that force us to think outside the box.
- 10) **If you could make one suggestion to the new members of our club, what would it be?** It should not be about the toys. Cameras are just tools. When your skills reach the limits of the tool that you have, then you should look into a better tool, but don't expect the better tool to automatically make you a better photographer.



## Pixel People

SHARING INFORMATION  
ABOUT  
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

### NEXT PIXEL PEOPLE MEETING

**All those interested in digital photography are welcome!** The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Tues., April 19, at the home of Paul Mueller, 3244 Lookout Dr., Rockford. Travel south on 20th St. Take the second street to the left (east) after crossing Samuelson Road. **Bring digital problems, prints, digims (digital images) to project, equipment problems or new equipment you want to show.**

### The Art of Astrophotography ... by Jeff Carpenter

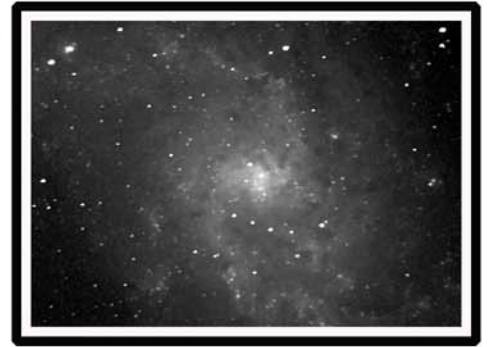
So, what is astrophotography? If you have ever taken a picture of a colorful sunset with the sun hugging the horizon, you have taken an astro photo. If you have ever taken a picture of the moon rising behind a mountain/tree/building, you have taken an astro photo. In general terms, astrophotography means pictures of celestial objects. OK, how do I do this intentionally?

Of course, sun and moon pictures qualify, but that can mean anything from a wide angle scenic view to a very tight view taken through a telescope. For entry level astrophotography, the basics require a camera and a tripod. Find a place with a dark sky (away from city lights and light pollution), put the camera on the tripod, aim it toward the sky, and open the shutter for 15 to 30 seconds. The lens should be focused at infinity (of course), the aperture set to f/4 or f/5.6, and the ISO at about 400 or 800. There, you have photographed stars! Leave the shutter open for several minutes (with ISO at about 200) and the stars will appear as trails thanks to the earth's rotation. This technique is also used to photograph the aurora borealis with a wide angle lens.

That's great for wide angle shots, but how about close-ups? This gets a LOT more complicated and expensive, thanks to the earth's rotation. The sun and the moon are bright enough for short exposures with modest telephoto lenses (WARNING – You must use special solar filters to reduce the sun's light to a safe level before engaging in solar photography!!!). Getting close-up pictures of stars and planets requires a telescope that is a big, big step up from the ubiquitous discount store junk scopes. Think of this as a very, very serious telephoto lens mounted on an incredibly precise panning tripod (a specialized astronomical telescope mount that can counteract the earth's rotation precisely). You can also add special astronomical cameras and computers and monitors and...

Don't let this put you off. Start simple and see what happens. Don't be afraid to experiment and HAVE FUN!

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
**JEFF**  
CARPENTER



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**Winners of the Charles Beffa B/W Print Contest are:**

1st - Paul Mueller  
 2nd - Al Westman  
 3rd - Paul Mueller  
 Honorable Mention:  
 Dave Donahue  
 Jerome Jones  
 Dick Morris  
 Paul Mueller  
 All winners will be on the website - eventually.  
 To our Judges, Bob Cholke and Tom Clabaugh, a big Thank You!



First Place - Paul Mueller



# From The Chairman

What is art, and who decides when anything qualifies as art. Ultimately, everyone decides for themselves, and everyone is right. Art is a very democratic concept.

My personal take on the definition of art is that any image or idea that moves you, shows you a different way of seeing, or makes you think, is art. It makes no difference whether it is a painting, sculpture, sketch, poem, song or photograph.

Not all photographs are art, just like not all paintings, or sketches, or songs are art, but photography is an art form. As such it must be held to the same rules as all other art, which is to say, there are no rules.

A super realistic painting can be art, but few ask whether it represents reality, nor would they be disappointed if the answer was that the scene was a modification of reality, or a combination of scenes.

An impressionist painter is not asked whether the colors in the hay stack are the real colors. Only in photography is the question asked with some regularity, "Is that the way it really was, or did you Photoshop it".

Some photos should be truthful because their intent is to document an event or action, but we should get over the idea that all photographs should be truthful. I know that some club members feel differently, and I would like to hear their side. E-mail me with your thoughts at [jerome@youngbloodjones.com](mailto:jerome@youngbloodjones.com). I may use your comments in future articles, so if you do not want your name used say so in the e-mail.

Jerome Jones



Second Place - Al Westman



Third Place - Paul Mueller

**From Dave Donahue:** If you have slides or negatives or prints you would like scanned at a reasonable price, check out [scancafe.com](http://scancafe.com).

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## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### **Rockford Photo Club Operating Committee:**

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**Vice Chairman: Julie Thompson - 815-742-0315 (julienona21@yahoo.com)**

**Secretary: Jennifer Mahan - 815-608-9165 (gottaluvme127@yahoo.com)**

**Treasurer: Kathleen Ryan - 815-394-4818 (k\_ryan@att.net)**

**Kandie Bott - 815-623-9656 (1rkbott@charter.net)**

**Jeff Carpenter - 815-623-6918 (JCLCJCBC@charter.net)**

**Connie Youngs - 815-395-1436 (connie6121@juno.com)**

**Webmaster: Jason Rotello - 815-621-5860 (jason@jrotello.com)**

**2nd Webmaster: Rose Hoffa - 815-815/531-1816 (rshoffa@gmail.com)**

**Newsletter Editor: Connie Youngs - 815-395-1436 (connie6121@juno.com)**

**For a current member list**, send me an email (connie6121@juno.com) and I will send it to you. I can send an RTF (generic document file) or PDF (Adobe Acrobat file).

The following club members have volunteered to provide free one-on-one training for people interested in basic digital photography and/or computer image processing: Paul Crittenden (964-8252), Paul Mueller (874-6790), Dave Sbragia (234-2514), Al Westman (399-2584), and Connie Youngs (395-1436).

The Rockford Photo Club generally holds its meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month starting at 7 PM. We are currently (since the big remodeling project) meeting in a basement room of the Riverfront Museum Park Building (the former Sears Building), 711 North Main St. in Rockford. During the summer months, the time and place may change. Contact a committee member for more information.