

IN FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Rockford Photo Club

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May 2011



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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 1 - Chicago Photo Safari - see inside

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

Thursday, May 12 - 7 PM - Program. Digital manipulations explained by Paul Mueller. There are many reasons for altering a picture, and darkroom methods of accomplishing many of them have been around since the beginning of photography. The computer has opened up new vistas in what is possible, and many people, including Paul, have made it into a creative medium as powerful as film.

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. From the Photo Safari, and **Before and After, Digitally Speaking**. Bring your favorite altered images, plus the original that you started from. Be prepared to explain what you did, how you did it, and most important *why* you did it.

Future Programs (will be updated as I know more)

July 14 - Steven Servantez on Bird Photography

July 28 - Display - Horses and Birds

Aug 11 - Second Chance Contest - for anyone who did NOT win an award in a 2010 contest.

Aug 25 - Display

Sept 8 - Program

Sept 22 - Brian Hampton new date

Oct 13 - Program

Oct 27 - Display

Nov 10 - 4 Seasons (shoot the same place 4 times)

Thursday, Jun 9 - 6 PM - Committee meeting at the Art Museum. All club members are welcome.

Thursday, Jun 9 - 7 PM - Program. 'Three-Ring Circus'. We'll break up into 3 smaller groups for mini-workshops on: (1) Getting Started in digital photography, Moderator to be announced, (2) Mounting and Matting, by Ron Bott, and (3) Macro Photography with.

Tuesday - June 21 - 7 PM - Pixel Meeting at Jerome Jones's, 798 Ivy Oaks Dr, Caledonia (from 173, between Belvidere Rd & Caledonia Rd, turn South onto Ivy Oaks).

A good thing to bring along is a jump drive.

Thursday - June 23 - 6 PM (note earlier time) - Outdoor Shoot - Horses, owned by Kim Smejas Horizon View Farm, 1974 North River Road, Oregon, IL. There are about 14 horses, some Arabians, and a trainer who will work with us to pose the horses. There will also be some (four-footed) babies and/or youngsters. And a wagon that we can photograph or ride in, or both.

And if that isn't enough, a shelter where we can rest, or eat, or whatever. We may want to bring some 'snacks' to share, or order some pizza, after the shoot, when the light starts to go.

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!!

The new 'webmasters' will soon be accepting images for posting in the new Gallery, so start gathering a few together. We don't yet know how many, but 5 or 6 should be safe to start. Email them to Rose, Connie, Jerome, or Kandie.



Twelve of us went to Milwaukee IN THE SNOW on March 26. We went to the Domes, and to the Art Museum, and to the Haggerty Museum where we saw an exhibit of photography that was, to say the least, a little out of the ordinary. The title of the exhibit is **“The Truth is Not in the Mirror. Photography and a Constructed Identity”** Here is a link, and a couple of comments by the artists.

Link to the exhibit: http://www.marquette.edu/haggerty/exhibit_2011_01_photo_portraits.shtml

Rose is working on the new website, and several of the rest of us are struggling to learn how to add material to it. Temporarily, you can access it at rockfordphotoclub.typepad.com Watch us as we struggle with Pages, Postings and Photo Albums. Today, I learned to Edit a Post!

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.

Janice Collins still has some **HP photo paper for sale**, in assorted sizes. To see what is left, call her at 815-979-0569.

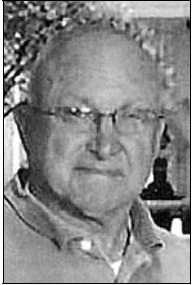
Policy on Meeting Cancellation due to inclement weather. If the Museum is open, the meeting goes on, but please be very careful driving

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.

Graham Miller, Australian, b. 1966
 "I guess the reason people have such a hard time with the constructed image is that for them it somehow feels like cheating. They still believe that because the image so closely resembles reality that somehow it must also be 'true.' For me photography is much like writing-in the sense that you can approach writing about a subject or photographing it as fiction or non-fiction. Both are equally valid, and both are able to speak of the human experience in a moving and profound way. It does puzzle me when people go on about it. It just doesn't feel the right approach for me to work in a traditional photojournalistic sense."

David Hockney, English, b. 1937
 "To say that 'what we see' is more important than 'how we see it' is to think that 'how' has been settled and fixed. When you realize this is not the case, you realize the 'how' often affects 'what' we see."





Meet

Gene Grochowski

- 1- How long have you belonged to this camera club and do you belong to another one as well? Three months and No.
- 2- Was there a particular event or moment that got you interested in photography? The loss of vision in my left eye.
- 3- What was your first camera? Minolta.
What do you shoot now? Pentax.
- 4- What club events would you like to see happen more? Group trips.
- 5- What has been your personal "best moment" at camera club - and why? It's in the future.
- 6- Are you shooting digital and do you also belong to Pixel People? Digital and No.
- 7- What photography magazines do you subscribe to - and which are your favorite(s)? None.
- 8- Is there a photo book (digital photography, Photoshop or other) that you would recommend and why? Photoshop.
- 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.) (At three months in the club, Gene hasn't had much time for commenting on this one.)
- 10) If you could make one suggestion to the new members of our club, what would it be? Enjoy!



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., May 17, 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.**

TECHNOLOGY ... by Kandie Bott

It seems it catches up with all of us at some time – and not always in a great way.

Someone I know said he was upset about VHS... or rather, that DVD's had now replaced them. It made me think about the hundreds of VHS's we had (and have) – we have everything from my "chick flicks" to the many Ski Broncs shows as well as photography programs we'd taped with our video camera. I would just stick a tape in and hit PLAY – and voila! I had an hour plus of entertainment. Now I have to put one remote on something, change to another remote, scroll down to... and I still (sadly) do not know how to play our DVD's!

Still, while all this changeover was taking place, medicine was developing new drugs, organ transplants were making history, and artificial knees and hips were being perfected. Thank heavens for technology!!

Photography, too, moved into a new era. Film cameras were, all of a sudden it seemed, obsolete, or nearly. Darkrooms began disappearing while computers began gaining both speed and space. Technology moved on. Software was born to handle digital prints and newer, more powerful software replaced it. Yup, Photoshop and Lightroom, to name a couple, became a part of our newest technology (and Photoshop is now 20 years old!). And, for those of you who long for the old film days, sorry, as they say, "it's history", or mostly.

We all can get lost in technology, especially as we grow older and our needs change or don't need to change. I am, personally, lost by the smart phones. Oh, yes, I have one, although mine is becoming obsolete, but if I wanted to, I could enable blue tooth and the Internet on it. I just don't want to pay \$40 more each month to see or read something on a very teeny screen that I can more comfortably read on my 22" flat screen monitor.

And here's the question – do we have a choice? Yes, of course, we can decide if we personally want to use a particular technology – or not.

But do we have the right to limit others use of it?

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY
GENE
GROCHOWSKI



The new website is up and active, but by no means a polished product yet.

It is making progress in that direction.

Skyward Promotions is working on a 'Banner' (or 'Logo'?) for the top of the pages.

Several volunteers are happily becoming frustrated trying to learn what they can, and cannot, put on the pages, and how to do it.

We are all becoming proofreaders, catching typos in each other's posts.

In fact, now may be the most entertaining time for you to check it out, and watch the progress from having five pages of the same thing done different ways, to a finished product -without typos.

Rose assures us that we can't 'break it' beyond her ability to fix it when we give up.

(Strangely, that's the same assurance I give to people who are taking home from here their very first computer.)

Jerome has been setting up Saturday outings to interesting locales, which have been very well-attended. In fact, the one to Milwaukee required two vans.

I have been along on both of them, and it has snowed on both occasions. If I don't go to the Crane Foundation (birds are not my thing), and it doesn't snow - in the middle of May, I'm sure I will be blamed for the other snow - which happened in March and April.

At the Madison Zoo, in April but with a temperature of around 40 degrees and snow falling, the polar bear was having a wonderful day, but most of the other animals were indoors. Sulking.

So we moved on to the Capitol, where the protesters were still in full voice and blocking good shots of the Farmer's Market.

From there we moved on to Olbrech Gardens, and since it was still snowing I elected to take pictures of it through the windows. There's no rule that says I can only use the windows in my house, right?

Just for fun, here is a photo of the Madison snow against a window, shot through another window....
Of course.



From The Chairman

WHY DO WE TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS?

To many of us, the act of taking a photograph is a calming, meditative experience. When we want to relax, or to get away from everything and everybody, many of us grab our cameras and go take photographs. Often the feedback from seeing the print, especially with film, is secondary, and even disappointing.

Garry Winogrand, a well-known mid-20th century street photographer who died at age 56, reportedly left 12,000 rolls of film, more than 400,000 photos, which he never developed or printed.

Vivian Maier, a mid-20th century professional nanny and amateur street photographer, took more than 100,000 photographs in her life. Yet she printed relatively few of them and never exhibited until an exhibit was mounted after her death at the Chicago Cultural Center.

A photographer friend of mine confided that he had to take photos, because it is what keeps him sane.

Vivian, Gary and my friend photographed for reasons other than recording their own personal history, getting recognition for their work, or even seeing the prints.

I photograph because it calms me, and like my friend, it helps keep me sane. It also reminds me of my own travel through life, and keeps my memories honest.

Why do you take photographs?

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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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.