



The Focal Point

Official Newsletter of the **Linn Area Photo Club**

March 2010 Vol. 7, No. 3
<http://www.linnareaphotoclub.org>

A Word from the President

I can feel spring in the air. The two foot long icicles are no longer hanging from my roof, the snow is now a lovely shade of grey and the brown grass is starting to show through the snow! However, there are some opportunities to take pictures outdoors... fog on the river, ice crystals on some of the trees/bushes early in the morning, some occasional bright orange sunrises, etc. OK... maybe not a lot of opportunities... but we always have the indoor photo ops! Hence the **RED BALL** photo contest for next month. If you have not gotten your red ball, pick one up at this month's meeting, and put those creative skills to work.

The State Fair submissions are also approaching very fast, so check out those categories at www.iowastatefair.org and start selecting, printing and mounting those photos. Since the beginning of the year a lot of our activities at the Club help you in those regards. For example: 1) Mounting and Matting workshops at Kyles, 2) B&W photo contest for January, 3) Architectural photo shoot next month in Mt Vernon, 4) May photo contest on Architecture, 5) January meeting topic "Photoshop Basics: Selection Tools", 6) June photo contest theme of the Iowa Family Farm, 6) this month's presentation on "Printers & Printing" to name a few.

Hopefully you are taking advantage of these opportunities to prepare yourself for the State Fair or just to improve your photo skills.

I look forward to seeing all of you at this month's meeting! Photo Pro will be our guest, and they are going to educate us in "Printers & Printing". The plan is to help you understand the printing process if you take your image to a photo printer like Photo Pro, so you can get back the photo you imagined. They will hopefully answer questions on; print paper options (glossy, matte, fine art, metallic), the format of your image (jpg, psd, tiff, etc.) that works best, color profiles, adjustments they make prior to printing, turnaround time, print size options, etc. They are also going to talk about in home printing options if you want to try that approach.

The photo contest is "Transportation". So get out those photos of planes, trains, autos, trucks, bikes, boats, spacecraft, horse & buggies, subways, roller skates, etc. Mount and mat them if you can making your photos jump off the table. The photo contest rules can be found at the bottom of each month newsletter.

See you on March 14th.

Rick Young
President – LAPC

Linn Area Photo Club is sponsored by:





© Rick Anderson – 1st Place



© Steve Thompson – 2nd Place



© Rick Young – 3rd Place

February Meeting Recap

Regular Meeting – February 21, 2010
Monthly Contest Theme: The Holidays

What a great turnout! The size of the crowds, and the level of participation, that we are getting for our meetings is nothing short of spectacular.

Jim Slarek from The Gazette gave a presentation of photos he took during a canoe and kayak trip down the Cedar River in late 2008 documenting the results of the June 2008 flood.

Ken Boardrow and Missy Wilder did a tag-team Member Showcase.

The contest theme was “The Holidays” and the winning results are to your left. First Place was won by Rick Anderson... whose photo made me hungry. Steve Thompson took 2nd Place with an ornament photo. And our President Rick Young rounded out the Top Three with an outdoor shot that reminded us exactly why we were inside

We were saddened to learn of the passing of club member Betty Johnston. She will be missed, and we extend our best thoughts and wishes to her family and friends.

Members of the Executive Committee met early to judge an N4C print photo contest. There were some very nice shots in the submitted entries, but... LAPC would match up very well with any of those other clubs.

Linn Area Photo Club is sponsored by:



March Meeting
Regular Meeting – March 14, 2010
Monthly Photo Contest Theme: Transportation

Dave Johnston from PhotoPro will graciously be the guest speaker at our club this month. Dave is pretty much an annual visitor and is always friendly and entertaining and informative. He usually brings a whole bunch of Canon and Nikon cameras and lenses, not to mention other brands, along with little odds and ends that are designed to help us photographers produce better results and drain our bank accounts simultaneously. I know Dave likes seeing me in the audience because I almost invariably end up in his store not too long afterward.

Linn Area Photo Club is sponsored by:



Our Vice-President Bob Lancaster will be our Member Showcase presenter this month, and our monthly contest theme is “Transportation”

Yet Again... the *Red Ball*

April Photo Contest: **Red Ball**. Now through the April 1st, **Red Balls** are available for you to pick up at a monthly Club meeting or by calling Rick Young (in Mt Vernon @ 319-360-0060), Bob Lancaster (in Marion @ 319-550-1232 or Cherie Flint (in Hiawatha @ 319-981-9965) and picking up your **Red Ball** or balls* from them. The photo contest rules are pretty simple...

- 1) be creative and use the **Red Ball(s)** in your photograph with any type of photo... people, pets, landscape, flower, water, etc.
- 2) the **Red Ball(s)** can be photographed separately and incorporated into a photograph
- 3) the **Red Ball(s)** should be obvious in you photograph
- 4) Judging is April 11th

*If your creative idea involves the need for more than one red ball, you can pick up and incorporate up to three red balls for your use in your photo.

Contest Winner Reminder

Just a quick reminder that winning photos from our monthly contest should be e-mailed to newsletter@linnareaphotoclub.org by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. Images should be e-mailed in jpg format. If you could include your place and name in the image file name... i.e. **2nd – Jane Smith.jpg**... it would be a big help. Thanks.

Upcoming Events

**Canon Explorer's of Light
Seminar & Photo Workshops
Saturday, May 1, 2010 – Seminar
Sunday, May 2, 2010 – Photo Workshops**

If Linn Area Photo Club has a "Big Event"... if anything can be bigger than our Annual November Photo Contest, of course... then our Annual *Canon Explorer's of Light* Seminars and associated workshops are it. This year we will be entertained and educated by world renowned photographer Lewis Kemper. The seminar will be split into two sessions on Saturday, May 1, 2010, and there will be two hands-on photography workshops... one for advanced photographers, and one for beginning photographers... on Sunday May 2, 2010. The seminar is free and will be held at Wickiup. There will be a catered box lunch available for \$8. The Sunday workshops are \$45 each. Space is limited, so reserve your spots today. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Lancaster, vice-president@linnareaphotoclub.org



Lewis Kemper

Seminar Topics will include:

- Getting the Most from Your Digital Camera
- Raw processing
- Correcting Exposure
- Correcting Color

Registration:

Registration is now open to the public. As of the writing of this newsletter the Advanced Workshop has already filled, and there are still open spots for the Saturday Seminar and the Sunday Beginner Workshop. There is a lot of excitement over both the seminar and workshops, and the workshops in particular will be worth every cent. If there's anything you want to learn, this is the place to be.

Sponsors:

In addition to sponsoring and hosting by Linn Area Photo Club, the seminar is also sponsored by Porter's Camera and PhotoPro. Linn Area Photo Club would like to thank these two local businesses for not only helping sponsor this event, but also for their continued support of Linn Area Photo Club throughout its existence.

How To...

Flower Photography

By Russell Burden

April showers have come and gone. Left in their wake are little islands of germinating seeds ready to erupt in a floral fantasy. As more and more buds open, petals sing out to be exposed again and again. Being a favorite subject of many photographers, the season has begun for you to go out and capture your own prize winners.

PLAY WITH THE LIGHT: Too much contrast makes it difficult to get a good picture. This is true when sunny conditions exist. To narrow the contrast range, use fill-flash or a reflector to add light to the shadow areas. An alternative is to use a diffuser to soften the light. Any type of translucent white material works fine. Collapsible disks that fit in a camera bag are marketed for such purposes.



© Ken Boardrow



© Rick Young

BELLY SHOTS: Many floral subjects are best shot from eye level. This means getting down on your knees or belly to become more intimate with every flower you photograph. Getting down low will offer new opportunities with regards to the look of the background. Try to juxtapose the flower against a blue sky. With yellow, red or orange specimens, the color contrast can be dramatic. When offsetting your subject against a natural background, be aware of your aperture as it has a tremendous impact on the final outcome of the image. Apertures of $f4$ and $f5.6$ yield less depth of field than $f16$ or $f22$. An in-focus and busy background will compete for attention with the main subject. Having the flower stand out against an out-of-focus background is ideal. Shoot with the lens wide open to attain this. Another great effect is to place like-colored petals of the flower you're photographing directly in front of your lens to create a wash of color in the foreground.

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2010 – by Cherie Flint



© Lynn Reihman

President, Rick Young opened the February meeting by introducing the guest speaker, Jim Slarek from The Gazette. Jim presented the club with a compelling photo essay of his journey down the Cedar River by canoe or kayak after the flood of 2008.

After the presentation, Rick made several announcements in regards to club business.

There were several slots open for Kyle's Matting and framing workshop that was held on February 23, 2010. Members that

attended the workshops on Feb. 16th and 18th thought that it was very informative.

Club member, Betty Johnston past way January 31, 2010. She will be greatly missed.

Upcoming Meetings:

- March 14th-Presented by Photo Pro on photo processing and printers.
- April 11th - The meeting will be at the old school in Mt. Vernon. After the meeting, club members are welcome to participate in the photographing Architecture around Mt. Vernon.
- May 1st-Canon's Explorer's of Light Seminar starting at 9:30 AM at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. Registration is available online to club members. The seminar is free. The club will provide a catered lunch for \$8.00 per person. Membership can register and make payment online at <http://www.linnareaphotoclub.org>
- May 2nd-hands on photography workshops with Lewis Kemper. Morning sunrise session for advanced photographers, Time and location are to be determined. Afternoon workshop for beginners will start at 1:00 PM at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. The workshops are \$45.00 each. Register and pay online at <http://www.linnareaphotoclub.org>

Linn Area Photo Club
is sponsored by:



Meeting Minutes *(Continued)*

Upcoming Monthly Contests Topic:

- March: Transportation
- April: The red ball contest. Red Balls are available at monthly meetings or you can contact, Rick Young in Mt. Vernon at 319-360-0060, Bob Lancaster in Marion at 319-550-1232 or Cherie Flint in Hiawatha at 319-981-9965 to make arrangements to pick up your red balls.
- May: Architecture

Upcoming Monthly Photographer Showcase:

- March: Bob Lancaster
- April: Rae Lowenberg

Additional announcements:

- Linn Area Club Hats are available for order. Please see Bob Lancaster if you are interested in ordering one.
- Robert Capana will be in the area for a possible photo walk. Possible dates are May 15th, June 19th or July 17. More information will be coming in the future.
- 2009 Annual Contest winners will be on display at Barnes and Noble during the month of March.
- The club would like to have as many annual and monthly contest winners photographs on display for the Canon Explorer's of Light seminar.

The February Theme contest was The Holidays. The winners were as follows:

- 3rd Place: Rick Young
- 2nd Place: Steve Thompson
- 1st Place-Rick Anderson

During the January meeting a committee was formed to review the annual photo contest rules and categories. The floor was opened up for suggestions to the committee. Members would like to have the categories more specifically defined . Add "Anything goes" as a possible category.

We had 40 members present at the February meeting. The total membership count as of 2-21-10 is 62 members. The membership fees are \$25.00 for anybody that signs up after February's meeting.

→ **Check out the Linn Area Photo Club Website** ←

→ <http://www.linnareaphotoclub.org> ←

Contest Rules

Monthly Contest Rules

1. Competitors must be members of the Linn Area Photo Club and must have paid their dues.
2. Entries must be in print form. There will be one (1) category, which will be published in advance. Entries may be either color or black-and-white.
3. Three (3) winning entries will be selected. Only the 1st Place winner will receive a prize.
4. Each entry must be the original work of the competitor and must have been taken within the previous two (2) years, and cannot have been a prior contest winner.
5. Each competitor may submit up to two (2) photos in each monthly contest.
6. Minimum print size is 5x7 inches. Maximum print size is 11x14 inches.
7. All prints must be no larger than 11x14 inches. Prints may be mounted and matted, but it is not a requirement. Maximum 11x14 inch size includes matting, if applicable. Prints must **not** be framed.
8. All prints must have competitor's name and image title clearly printed on the back of the mount in the bottom right corner with a prominent arrow indicating the "up" orientation.
9. Members must be present to enter.
10. Nude photos are not eligible.

Note: The Annual Contest rules are under revision and updated rules will be published in future newsletters once they become finalized.

2010 Meeting & Event Schedule

- Sunday, March 14 – Contest Theme: "The Little Red Ball"
- Sunday, April 11 – Contest Theme: "The Little *Red Ball*" – Photo Shoot
- Saturday/Sunday, May 1-2 – Canon Explorer's of Light Seminar & Workshops
- Sunday, May 16 – Contest Theme: Architecture
- Sunday, June 13 – Contest Theme: Iowa Family Farm
- Sunday, July 11 – Contest Theme: Macro
- Sunday, August 8 – Contest Theme: People/Portraits – Club Picnic
- Sunday, September 12 – Photo Shoot
- Sunday, September ?? – Contest Theme: Insects/Birds
- Sunday, October 10 – Contest Theme: Fall Colors – Photo Shoot
- Sunday, November 14 – Annual LAPC Photo Contest
- Sunday, December 13 – Holiday Photo Shoot



<http://www.linnareaphotoclub.org>

The Focal Point

March 2010

About the Linn Area Photo Club

The Linn Area Photo Club was established in November 2003 in order to bring together individuals in the greater Linn County, Iowa, area who are interested in acquiring and developing an appreciation of the art and techniques of photography. Dues are \$20 for renewals and \$25 for new memberships. Monthly meetings are normally held at 1:30pm the second Sunday of the month at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center in Toddville. (See Calendar of Events for details) Club membership is open to photographers of all skill levels. Members participate in a variety of educational programs, field trips and photo shoots. There is an informal monthly theme contest and an annual club contest that drew over 90 entries in its first year. Members range from beginners to professionals and use both digital and traditional photographic technology. LAPC is a great place to meet and learn from other photo enthusiasts.

Contact Information

Linn Area Photo Club
PO Box 676, Marion, IA 52302

Website: www.linnareaphotoclub.org - E-mail: membership@linnareaphotoclub.org

2010 LAPC Elected Officers

Office	Name	Telephone	E-Mail
President	Rick Young	(319) 360-0060	president@linnareaphotoclub.org
Vice-President	Bob Lancaster	(319) 550-1232	vice-president@linnareaphotoclub.org
Secretary	Cherie Flint	(319) 981-9965	secretary@linnareaphotoclub.org
Treasurer	David Byrnes	(319) 363-4780	treasurer@linnareaphotoclub.org

2009 LAPC Appointed Officers and Committees

Office	Name	Telephone	E-Mail
Activities	David Byrnes Barb Plotz	(319) 363-4780	activities@linnareaphotoclub.org
Membership	David Byrnes Kris Hoeger	(319) 363-4780 (319) 373-7866	membership@linnareaphotoclub.org
Newsletter	Ken Boardrow	(319) 447-4247	newsletter@linnareaphotoclub.org
Public Relations	Ken Boardrow	(319) 447-4247	public-relations@linnareaphotoclub.org
PSA/N4C Rep.	Bob Lancaster	(319) 550-1232	psa@linnareaphotoclub.org
Webmaster	Bob Randklev		webmaster@linnareaphotoclub.org
Programs & Photo Competitions	Rick Young Ann Jorgensen Ken Boardrow		

Exhibits & Outside Photo Competitions Bob Lancaster
Karla McMurrin

Deadline for submissions to **The Focal Point** is the 25th of each month for the next month's newsletter. **The Focal Point** will be published on approximately the 1st day of each month.

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