



# THE NEWS BULLETIN

THE NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL

*Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends*

Volume XLI Number 5

January 2006

## Special Series of Articles From the N4C Scrapbook

George Bebout, N4C Historian, has compiled a series of articles from the Scrapbook. The first, about the founders of N4C, is included in this issue. Most of the info was gotten from bulletin articles starting in 1956.

Read and enjoy and become more familiar with the North Central Camera Club Council.

—George Bebout

[bybau@earthlink.net](mailto:bybau@earthlink.net)

### N4C President's Message

I had the good fortune of being on the fine art series at Iowa Mennonite School of which I'm an alumnus. I gave a program Friday evening, January 13, and had 45 photos on display thru the week-end until Sunday afternoon, January 15. It was well attended and it was fun to meet old friends and new people.

The contest chairs are in the process of contacting clubs for judging the monthly contests for next year. If your club enters any of the categories they are asking you to judge, you should be willing to judge it. Help out the contest chairs and give very serious consideration to accepting a judging request. Try it, you may like it.

How are those photo essays coming? Due date is April 15th. It will be here before you know it.

Keep those cameras clicking.

Wilford Yoder

### Charter Member Passes

Willard Winford

Willard Winford, second President of N4C, died December 29, 2005, at the age of 98. Winford served as President of the Council in 1957 following Dr. Robert M. Cochran's two terms as founding president. He was honored as life member by the Sioux City Camera Club after having a membership of more than 50 years in the club. He worked for the Sioux City Tribune and the Sioux City Journal as composing room foreman, retiring in 1972.

Willard was a color slide enthusiast and he and his wife Mildred of nearly 75 years traveled extensively in the US for his award winning slides. His favorite technique was to give Kodachrome 10, his favorite film, a slight underexposure to produce the saturated colors he liked. He also made use of a polarizing filter, with and without underexposure, for more dramatic results. Although scenic and landscapes were his favorite subject matter, he also liked table tops and still life and his home was the scene of many Sunday afternoon photo sessions ending with a club potluck feast.

Nearly half of those present at the funeral were members of the SCCC and three members served as pallbearers. At Winford's request, one of the floral decorations had the numbers 30 displayed among the flowers. If you are a journalist, you know that 30 means the end of the article. And so this obituary ends with -30-

**2006 N4C Convention  
September 15, 16, 17  
Sioux City, Iowa**



## N4C NEWS NOTES

### Spring Break 2006

Spring Break 2006 will be held March 31/April 1 at Tartan Park in Lake Elmo, MN. Workshops will include nature, digital, and other topics, including a portrait workshop run by SPCC's **Randy Libersky**. Minnesota Wildlife Connection will bring animals to photograph. For updated info check the TCACCC website [www.cameracouncil.org](http://www.cameracouncil.org).

### Springbrook Changes

**Case Hegeman** is NOT going to be taking care of Springbrook - **Mary Jane Charlton** will be in charge again. When the snow melts and spring arrives, plan on attending the N4C mini-convention campout held at Springbrook State Park in Iowa, located near Guthrie Center.

### Slides to Digital

**Peder Schoenfeld**, president of the La Crosse CC, has found an item on the net called an Opteka slide copier that you screw onto the front of your lens [with the proper adapter], insert a slide, compose, and shoot. Peder found that he could edit slides in Photoshop also.

"My project was to photograph all the old family slides and convert them to digital. It was hilarious to see some of the things from back in the 60's and 70's."  
—LaCrosse CC *Ground Glass*

### Central Iowa Camera Club

Please contact

**Tom Knight**

Tom has several items for sale. Examples

Backdrop Screen

Camera Stands and more

Phone 641-752-0957

Tom wants to sell to

Camera Club Members,

### PSA Bulletin Contest

*Formerly called the International Bulletin Contest*

Camera Club, Council and Chapter Newsletters: Your Entries into the PSA Newsletter Contest will be accepted from April 1 – June 1, 2006. They will be judged in June and awards will be presented at the annual conference.

Contest Details can be found on the PSA Website, <http://www.psa-photo.org/cccibc04.htm> or email [elenuzza@aol.com](mailto:elenuzza@aol.com) for a complete contest package.

Contest entries will be accepted by Elena McTighe, 117 New York Blvd., Sea Girt, NJ 08750.

"If you are an editor of your camera club's newsletter, I encourage you to submit your publication in the 2006 PSA contest. Why? Not just because of the recognition in the PSA Journal - which is very nice of course; but because the feedback you will receive from the judges is worth it's weight in gold ! Suggestions, ideas, and assistance with punctuation and layout has proven to be extremely beneficial, not only in publishing my camera club newsletter, but in my everyday writing skills at home and at work." States Award winning Editor, Ann Ullery, of the Chasmo Camera Club in Florida.

Join Our PhotoEditors Email Group. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PhotoEditors/> to join

*"THE YOUNG MAN KNOWS THE RULES,  
BUT THE OLD MAN KNOWS THE EXCEPTIONS"  
—Oliver Wendell Holmes*

### Eastern Sierras Trip

**Ty Smedes** is going to lead another Eastern Sierras trip during the fall of 2006. He has a full write-up (with a few photos) on his website, [http://www.smedesphoto.com/eastern-sierras\\_tour.htm](http://www.smedesphoto.com/eastern-sierras_tour.htm).

This past fall **SuAnn Tichy**, **Jean Kotowske**, **Burlene Banks**, and **Ed Lower** toured with Ty.

They had a great time! Ty C. Smedes

[www.smedesphoto.com](http://www.smedesphoto.com)

Ty Smedes Nature Photography  
4732 72nd Street, Urbandale Iowa 50322-1148  
phone: 515-270-9086



# N4C Contest Results

**PICTORIAL SLIDES**

- 1st - "3 Poppies" 40  
Dottie Lillestrand, Women's Color
- 2nd - "Portrait #20" 39  
Jim Duncan, St. Paul
- 3rd - "Coming In" 38  
Delores Meister, Iowa City
- HM - "Lupine" 37  
Barb Russell, Des Moines
- HM - "Mountain Falls" 36  
Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM - "Mabry Mill" 36  
Fred Vaughn, Dubuque

There were 65 slides entered by 15 clubs. The judging club was the Cheyenne Camera Club. The judges were Don Lovato Edwin Carlson, and Cathy McMikle. The judging committee chairman was Judy Berkley.

Good group of quality slides. All club members present participated and contributed to comments. We used the opportunity to have a critique discussion and learning session for the club.

**NATURE SLIDES**

- 1st - "Owl on Log" 41  
Jim Duncan, St. Paul
- 2nd - "Lilypads & Pink Flowers" 38  
Michele Burkstrand, Women's Color
- 3rd - "Raccoons" 38  
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM - "Resting After Work" 38  
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM - "Yellow Argiope" 37  
Tom Farrell, St. Paul
- HM - "Natural Beauty" 38  
Gene Schwoppe, St. Paul

There were 65 slides entered by 14 clubs. The judging club was the Heart O'Lakes Camera Club. The judges were Tom Smith, Richard Southwick, and Glen Merz. The judging committee chairman was Jerry Swendsrud.

Excellent entries over all. Disqualified one because of toomuch evidence of man - not a nature slide.

**BLACK AND WHITE PICTORIAL PRINTS**

- CLASS A**
- 1st - "Tower Falls" 45  
Brad Rieckhoff, Sioux City
  - 2nd - "Evan" 45  
Howard Hintor, Jr, Iowa City
  - 3rd - "The Parlor" 44  
Ron Nicolls, Sioux City
  - HM "Clearing Storm" 42  
Larry Luebbert, Iowa City
  - HM - "Boy's Night Out" 42  
Lori Podhradsky, Mitchell
  - HM - "An Irish Barn Circa 1700s" 40  
Ramon Magee, Wyandotte Co.

There were 27 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the Des Moines Camera Club. The judges were Dwight Tomes, Kevin Nebity, and Susan Sinclair. The judging committee chairman was Diane Darnielle.

The winners were superior! See Nature B for other comments.

**BLACK AND WHITE PICTORIAL PRINTS**

- CLASS B**
- 1st - "Old Mansion" 44  
Bob Rude, Iowa City
  - 2nd - "Oh My" 44  
Connie Wahlstrom, Sioux City
  - 3rd - "Abandoned Farmhouse" 44  
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
  - HM - "Remaing Mum" 43  
Ron Balthazor, Sioux Falls
  - HM - "Soft Thoughts" 40  
Carol Schnurmans, Sioux Falls
  - HM - "Left to Rot" 40  
Scott Thomson, Duluth-Superior

There were 21 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the Des Moines Camera Club. See above.

The winners were superior! See Nature B for other comments.

**NATURE PRINTS CLASS A**

- 1st - "All Prime and Proper" 43  
Nancy Ullrich, Duluth-Superior
- 2nd - "Evil Eye" 43  
Bob Podhradsky, Mitchell
- 3rd - "To God Be the Glory" 42  
Brenda Litwiller, Iowa City
- HM - "Badlands Rabbit" 42  
Bob Podhradsky, Mitchell

- HM - "White Paper Kite" 42  
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM - "Along Came a Spider" 41  
Chuck Peterson, Sioux City

There were 29 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the Des Moines Camera Club. See above.

The winners were superior! See Nature B for other comments.

**NATURE PRINTS**

- CLASS B**
- 1st - "Rooster" 45  
Mark George, Central Iowa
  - 2nd - "Storm Brewing in the Rockies" 45  
Ty Smith, Mitchell
  - 3rd - "Walnut Season" 43  
Jim Kost, Mitchell
  - HM - "Contentment - W-" 42  
Maxine Saul, Minnesota Valley
  - HM - "Tree Frog" 42  
Ken Aker, Duluth-Superior
  - HM - "Fall is Here" 41  
Sandy Tebben, Sioux Falls

There were 34 prints entered by 10 clubs. The judging club was the Des Moines Camera Club. See above.

The winners were superior. Not all clubs correctly record name, address, club name in the upper left. It makes it difficult to correctly get returns done.

**2 1/4 SLIDES**

- 1st - "Teton View" 40  
Chuck Peterson, Sioux City
- 2nd - "One Room School" 37  
Robert Gillespie, Sioux City
- 3rd - "Camped Out" 37  
Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City
- HM - "Silent City" 34  
Randy Williams, Sioux City
- HM - "Covered Bridge" 34  
Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City
- HM - "Minnesota Waterfall" 33  
Kevin Nabity, Des Moines

There were 24 slides entered by 5 clubs. The judging club was the Central Iowa Camera Club. The judges were Jim Davis, Teresa Vokoun, and Danny Barker. The judging committee chairman was Jim Svec

**COLOR PRINTS CLASS A**

- 1st - "Cardinal in Window" 44  
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- 2nd - "Hansome" 40  
Chuck Peterson, Sioux City
- 3rd - "Violin Still Life" 36  
Randy Moyer, Iowa City

- HM - "Tender Moment" 35  
Nancy Ullrich, Duluth-Superior
- HM - "Julia Butterfly" 34  
Richard Southwick, Heart O'Lakes
- HM - "Robins Barichello Turn #10" 33  
Al Kiecker, Minnesota Valley

There were 30 prints entered by 9 clubs. The judging club was the Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club. The judges were Loren Osle, Gary Renier, and Joey Osle. The judging committee chairman was David F. Foerster.

**COLOR PRINTS**

- CLASS B**
- 1st - "Pine Martin" 45  
Marty DeWitt, Sioux Falls
  - 2nd - "View of the Falls" 44  
Ron Balthazar, Sioux Falls
  - 3rd - "Navajo Pots #4" 43  
John Anderson, Sioux City
  - HM - "King of the Jungle" 38  
Connie Wahlstrom Sioux City
  - HM - "Arch and Altar" 36  
Carl Hardy, Sioux City
  - HM - "Music and a Rose" 36  
Bob Rude, Iowa City

There were 41 prints entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club. See above.

Many of the Class B prints would have done very well up against Class A.

—continued on next page

**Not all clubs correctly record name, address, club name in the upper left. It makes it difficult to correctly get returns done.**



**N4C  
Contest  
Results**

**CONTEMPORARY/  
CREATIVE SLIDES**

- 1st - "Jeweled Hummer" 43  
Linda Jameson, Women's Color
- 2nd - "Peace" 42  
Jan Huibregtse, Women's Color
- 3rd - "Colorful Butterfly & Slinky" 42  
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- HM - "Oregon Lighthouse" 41  
Jim Duncan, St. Paul
- HM - "Christmas House Zoom" 41  
Pat Schwoppe, St. Paul
- HM - "Spin Off #2" 40  
Dottie Lillestrand, Women's Color

There were 40 slides entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the Kaposia Kamera Club. The judges were Jane Kemp, Stephanie Nelson, and Jeanie Yee. The judging committee chairman was JoAnn Kuntemeier.

**CONTEMPORARY/  
CREATIVE PRINTS**

- 1st - "Flower in Metal" 43  
Robert Tebben, Sioux Falls
- 2nd - "Swirling Leaves #2" 42  
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- 3rd - "Colored Glasses" 43  
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM - "Lost in Thought" 40  
Ron Balthazor, Sioux Falls
- HM - "Old Doorway" 41  
Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM - "Fire Breathing Wolf" 40  
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City

There were 38 prints entered by clubs. The judging club was the Kaposia Kamera Club. See above.

**PHOTOJOURNALISM  
PRINTS**

- 1st - "100 Year Old Elevator Burns" 14  
Robert Gillespie, Sioux City
- 2nd - "Let's Dance" 13  
Jemme Paulson, Sioux City
- 3rd - "Blocking the Shot" 12  
John F. Larson, Jr., Shutterbug
- HM - "Six Second Ride" 11  
Connie Wahlstrom, Sioux City
- HM - "Going Town" 11  
Barb Russell, Des Moines
- HM - "Doing the Can-Can" 11  
Dean Randall, Mitchell

There were 34 prints entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux Falls Camera Club. The judges were Ron Balthazor, Ken Starkenburg, and Laurie Brennehan. The judging committee chairman was Bob Wulf.

**PHOTOJOURNALISM  
SLIDES**

- 1st - "Battling the Blaze" 14  
Ron Nicolls, Sioux City
- 2nd - "Not Ready for Santa" 13  
Chuck Peterson, Sioux City
- 3rd - "Flipped Out" 12  
Randall D. William, Sioux City
- HM - "All Wet" 11  
Delores Meister, Iowa City
- HM - "Bull Riding Mishaps" 12  
Michele Burkstrand,  
Women's Color
- HM - "Determined Pitcher" 12  
John F. Larson, Jr. Shutterbug

There were 43 slides entered by 13 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux Falls Camera Club. See above.

**PHOTO TRAVEL  
SLIDES**

- 1st - "Contemplation" 44  
Marty DeWitt, Sioux Falls
- 2nd - "Dead Horse Canyon" 42  
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd - "Call to Pray" 37  
Hope Soloman, Iowa City
- HM - "Padung Woman" 37  
Gerry Soloman, Iowa City
- HM - "Winter at Bryce" 36  
Jack Gustison, Shutterbug
- HM - "Como Park Conservatory" 34  
Richard Southwick, Heart  
O'Lakes

There were 51 slides entered by 14 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux City Camera Club. The judges were Chuck Peterson, Chuck Johnson, and Randall Williams. The judging committee chairman was Jack Bristow.

Lots of great slides. Some difficult decisions for the judges.

**PHOTO TRAVEL  
PRINTS**

- 1st - "Fireworks at the Arch" 41  
Mark George, Central Iowa
- 2nd - "Cabin Along Illinois River" 38  
Ed Siems, Iowa City
- 3rd - "Death Valley After Spring Rains" 38  
Theresa Vokun, Central Iowa
- HM - "Sorrento Hotel Seattle" 35  
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM - "Midday Motos" 35  
David Chung, Linn Area
- Photo  
HM - "Boston Shadows" 37  
Robert Murphy, Linn Area
- Photo

There were 32 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux City Camera Club. See above.

Lots of excellent prints from highly varied locations.

**N4C Judging Clubs  
for February**

**2x2 Pictorial Slides**  
Fort Dodge Area CC

**2x2 Nature Slides**  
Kaposia KC

**Black & White Pictorial  
Class A & B  
Nature Prints  
Class A & B**  
Iowa City CC

**2 1/4 Slides**  
OmahaCC

**Color Prints  
Class A & B**  
Sioux City CC

**Contemporary/Creative  
Prints & Slides**  
Sioux City CC

**Photojournalism  
Prints & Slides**  
Iowa City CC

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**  
Wilford Yoder  
820 Talwrn Ct.  
Iowa City, IA 52246

**Photo Travel  
Prints & Slides**  
Minot CC

**CHANGE FOR  
2X2 NATURE SLIDES**

**APRIL**  
Women's Color  
Jan Huibregtse  
123 9th Ave N  
Hopkins, MN 55343

**MAY**  
St. Paul Camera Club  
Pat Schwoppe  
9385 Parkside Dr  
Woodbury, MN 55125

**All Slides and Prints are to be labeled correctly (see N4C Handbook J—3 #27 & #29) or they may be disqualified**

Sometimes I do get to places just when God's ready to have somebody click the shutter.  
~Ansel Adams

No place is boring, if you've had a good night's sleep and have a pocket full of unexposed film.  
~Robert Adams, *Darkroom & Creative Camera*

The photographic image... is a message without a code.  
Roland Barthes



## **“From The N4C Scrapbook”**

By George Bebout N4C Historian

As we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary I think it only appropriate that take a look back at some of the people that made it all happen, first we will present the Councils three founders.

Robert Cochran, President

I am Robert M. Cochran, MD, of Omaha, Nebraska. I am 45 years old come May and am a surgeon engaged in practice here in Omaha. On the side, medically speaking, I am on the teaching staff on the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, teaching surgery And anatomy to medical students and am also a lecturer on surgery to the nurses.

I am married and have two children, Bobby, aged 11 and Elizabeth Ann, aged 4. Wilma and I had one of those nurse/medical student romances that the story books tell about, and have been married since a blizzardy day on Jan 1, 1942.

I was in the army during 1942-46 serving with the infantry, saw action in Europe with the combat infantry, and came home as the Division Surgeon of the outfit. Back into training after discharge from the army and into practice on my own in 1948 and as a solo in 1949.

At that time I was on my way to become the hottest rock surgeon in the middle west, but an accident changes all that. One Thursday afternoon in May 1951 I was making a call about 2:00 pm and that was the last thing that I knew until I woke up about 7:00 pm looking into the face of a brain surgeon in the County receiving ward. I asked him what was up and he smiled and said he was trying to make up his mind whether or not to operate on me. And imagine, the girl driving the car that rolled me was a patient of mine. Think how shocked she was when they told her that she could not have me fix her up because I was over there on the next litter.

Well, that changed my ideas about all work and no play, so I naturally turned to photographic endeavor because I decided that you would be a long time dead and that nowadays one must play as one lived. I joined the Lens & Shutter Club of Omaha and have been president of that organization for two terms. I have also been the print chairman and this year have been the program chairman.

Started playing the salons in 1953, did no salon photography in 1954 but during that year promoted a Centennial exhibition of about 700 photographs depicting the history of Omaha. Did little in the salons in 1955 and practically none in 1956, but intend to get back into the swing again. I am almost a two star exhibitor in pictorial and lack one or two from a one star in Nature

Am a member of PSA, British Royal Photographic Society, Photographic Society of South Africa, Physicians Art Association, and Biological Photographers Association. Equipment, ? Well I am primarily a 35mm cameraist using a Leica with all the lenses and



gadgets that go with it. Do own, and swear that I will learn to use, a 4x5 Speed Graphic. Honestly, though, I am afraid I will always have a first love for the Leica

Recently I have been involved, along with the pleasures of getting the N4C started and well nourished, am exploring the Portfolios and the Portfolian Clubs. As a member of 5 portfolios, two star, one pictorial, one miniature, and one international. I am secretary of the miniature Portfolio.

Died Aug 3, 2002

Francis A. Kingsbury Vice President.

Speaking is your Vice President, Francis Kingsbury, living in Ponca Nebraska, fourth or fifth oldest town in the state. I live so far northeast in Nebraska that with a good wind I can throw a feather into either the state of South Dakota or Iowa. Our town named after the Ponca Indians, will be 100 years old in June.

I am the cashier in the Bank of Dixon County, celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this June.

I married the college sweetheart and have three children, Jim 11, John 8 and Cynthia 1 ½.

I struggled thru most of the war as personnel manager of sales clerks in the officers clothing store in Paris. Supervising 200 French sales people daily for nearly 18 months was quite a responsibility only to be relieved by the gay night life Paris. Just as they say, "Gay Paree"

My serious interest in photography started when I joined the Sioux City Camera Club in 1949 I joined PSA in 1951 and am at present time Area Representative for Northeast Nebraska and northwest Iowa..

I have a modest record in the color division recently qualified for the one star rating in nature slides lacking only a few acceptances.

Very recently I started a little activity with print exhibiting and have been awarded the Nature Division Silver Medal. The same print has just received the Pictorial Division portfolio medal after being accepted At the current Philadelphia Exhibit.

For my color work I have a Practica II with a supply of accessories. I use the new Rollicord V for my black & white work, Plus X film, Fines L developer, and am a firm believer in Varigram paper as the most practical paper on the market.

The most pleasant and rewarding experience of my photographic activities has been the organization of this Council to a point where it will play an important part in the plans of the member Clubs.

E.Curtis Lugg, Secretary



First of all, I am 53 years old, married to a wonderful girl, have one daughter 16, and one cat, 6. A pharmacist for the past 25 years, I am, and have been since 1945 employed at the Sioux Falls Clinic Pharmacy.

My interest on photography has covered a long time, with several periods of inactivity. My first recollections of the art was crawling into a closet with my father while he developed glass plates, using an Eastman red candle safe light. Printing was by daylight on POP, or at night using some of the new "gaslight" papers, exposure being made by having the printing frame near the kitchen light, development in MQ. I have an album of prints made on POP, gold toned for permanence, made about 1905.

Although I did my own developing and printing , when there was any to do, for a number of years, it was not until the late 30's that I got at all serious. Membership in the local club followed, the participation was minor until 1945. PSA membership started the following year, with one portfolio, which has since increased to four. Appointment as District Representative came in 1951, and distributor of Salon Instruction sets in '52. Although I make a lot of prints and take some color, I have not as yet persuaded any salon judges to hang my efforts.

It was in connection with correspondence for the Salon Instruction Sets that I became convinced that some kind of organization was needed among the clubs of the area. I found there were several others who felt the same way, and it was out of our united efforts that our Council was born.

Of all my activities, I feel the work of the Council has been the most interesting and rewarding. It has been a pleasure to meet and know so many wonderful people.

I only hope the Council goes on for many years. It has already proved it's worth, and there is so much more it can do for clubs and individuals.

Died 1957



from the *North Metro Photo News*: -

## Digital Dialogue by Vijay Karai

Is it Digital print or slide, or just plain old film? As photographers we ought to ask these questions.

Some people say these are just mediums and why should we consider them as long as there is a good image to be seen and appreciated. This is a good argument for a layman looking at an image in a magazine or advertisement.

But for us, serious amateurs, the medium plays a big role in how we perceive these images. For example, if we see a sea of zebras, which doesn't happen in the savannas of south or east Africa, we'll wonder how the image was created, what tricks of Photoshop were used, etc. If this image were to be presented in a Nature Division, it will be an outright disqualification. But in a Color Slide Division where manipulation is not only allowed, but encouraged, this image might do very well.

So asking this question about the medium gives us a context to view the image. It is a basic question which builds our curiosity about the image. Beyond this initial level of context, does it really matter how the image was created?

I think we ought to ask ourselves if the image is artistic, if it creates a sense of appreciation of the beauty of life, of things that exist around us. Does the visual give an insight into the photographer's vision or view point, is the composition pleasing, is the image captured tastefully? Etcetera, cetera, cetera....

from the Huron Area Photograph Club *Image Maker*-

## Tripods: Equipment We Need, But Love to Hate

Tripods are important for photographers to achieve top quality images. For wildlife, macro, and scenic work, a tripod makes possible the stability for achieving sharp focus images.

How do you get a tripod of the proper size? When fully extended, the tripod with camera mounted should come to eye-level with the center column seated. (Eye level is about five inches less than your height.) The manufacturer's specifications for tripod height do not include the tripod head which gives about a five-inch boost, nor the position of the camera's viewfinder which adds a further three inches or more.

The lower the tripod can be set up the better. Some tripods drop right to ground level when fully spread if the center column is removed. This may be beneficial for macro specialists, but for general nature work this is not advisable.

A long center column is valuable in landscape work to bring the camera up to eye-level when you are working on a steep slope or perhaps atop a boulder with the tripod set up below you. It's valuable in wildlife shooting to raise the camera position a few inches to avoid a foreground interference such as a twig or leaf. The best center columns

are ones that are shorter (eight to nine inches) or ones that can be removed and mounted horizontally on the tripod legs.

What do you look for in a tripod head? A compact, fast-working ball-and-socket head with panning capabilities is best for nature photography. The head should have comfortable knobs for both locking the head and setting the ball's base tension. When locked down, the head should not creep in response to the camera's weight, even when using a heavy lens.

There are good ballheads on the market in several price ranges. Large and heavy telephoto lenses need a sturdy head. Some photographers recommend gimball-type heads which provide quick, sure, fingertip control of aiming, tracking, and panning. One of the heads is manufactured by Wimberley. Here are two sizes. ([www.tripodhead.com](http://www.tripodhead.com)).

### Light or Heavy?

Heavy tripods give a sense of security when you want incredible stability for your 600mm lens, but are you comfortable lugging them along on a ten mile hike?

According to noted wildlife photographer, Tim Fitzharris, both amateurs and professionals get more keepers in the bag and have more fun doing it when they err on the side of lightness. Fitzharris said that he changes positions in response to the animal's behavior for better magnification, lighting, background, foreground, or subject view.

A tiresome exercise even with a light outfit. "I usually collapse the tripod and spread the legs a little wider for more stability so that I can shoot from a kneeling position," says Fitzharris. This position allows a desirable near eye-level view of most species. When set low, the tripod is less conspicuous, stronger than at full-extension, and it is also out of the wind.

For most landscape and macro subjects, a big sturdy tripod provides no practical advantage over a small one, except under windy conditions.

The lightest tripods have legs made of carbon fiber which is stiffer and absorbs vibration better than metal. Carbon fiber tripods are more expensive than their metal counterparts, but it is an investment that most photographers find worthwhile. Tripod maximum support should exceed the weight of your heaviest camera/lens combination by 5 or 6 pounds.

from the La Crosse CC *Ground Glass*:-

## Winter Photography

- Put your camera in a plastic bag when it's been out in the cold before bringing it into a warm house. The warm humid air will condense in the cold camera.
- Keep your batteries warm by keeping your extra set under your coat or other warm place. Cold batteries don't work as well.
- Cameras will try to make snow 18% grey so you'll need to overexpose it slightly to compensate.
- The clear north sky will give you a good meter reading.



*The N4C Bulletin* is the official publication of the North Central Camera Club Council which serves camera clubs in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

N4C is affiliated with the **Photographic Society of America**.

#### N4C OFFICERS

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The N4C Bulletin is published monthly except for June and July. Annual subscription rate is \$10 for 10 issues.

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## 2006 N4C Convention

The **Sioux City** Camera Club invites you to attend the N4C Convention on **September 15, 16, and 17, 2006**. Mark your calendar and don't miss the Golden Anniversary of the first convention.

The field trip should spark your creative imagination. Stops include the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve, the largest example of Prairie Style architecture on the planet, and one of the few remaining railroad roundhouses.

Programs include portraiture, framing, painting with light, wildlife photography, and more. Don't miss this **Special 50th Convention**. Meet old friends and make new ones, learn something new, and take a few great pictures.

Read the N4C Bulletin or go to [www.sccameraclub.org](http://www.sccameraclub.org) for more info and registration materials

What's The Best Kept Secret In N4C?

## SpringBrook Mini-Convention

This weekend has it all; programs, field trips workshops, biking, great food and photography.

What a great time to be had with your friends and fellow N4C'ers. Contact Mary Jane Charlton for details and set aside April 28-29-30, 2006.

Did I mention great food???