



The North Central Camera Club Council News Bulletin

"Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends"

Volume 46 No. 5

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December, 2010

President's Message.....

Hello! I hope everybody had a nice Thanksgiving with family and friends. How can it be Christmas time already? It seems like the leaves were turning just a week or two ago, and now the snow is flying. My pheasant blind is set up and food put out. Mark George and I gave the blind a new layer of insulation, paneling and a shelf to set bean bags on, now all we need is some birds to come in.

Our digital contests continue to grow in size as the postage rates go up. It has been suggested that we add a new digital photo travel contest next year. It seems we are expanding our contests every year and the entry numbers keep going up. We can do this if our clubs continue to volunteer to judge our many contests. Diane will be sending out a survey form for next years judging, followed by the contest chairs request to judge forms. Please fill them out and return them as soon as you can. We also need somebody to step up and take the contest chair position for the B&W/Nature category. This consists of finding judging clubs and sending out the judging supplies to the judging club each contest month.

As Christmas approaches, I want to give thanks for all our special N4C friends. We are so blessed to have such a large group of friends who share the special gift of photography with each other. Our own club has grown over the last several years with many new friends. It is very interesting to see what the new members bring to the contests. I enjoy sharing things with them that I have learned and seem to always gain some new idea from the sharing. On that note, I want to wish everybody a most joyous Christmas with friends and family. Have a safe and prosperous New Year!

Ed



Photography for Décor and Where to Buy Equipment

A friend asked Jayne and I to pick some photographs for her to frame for her kitchen with the only stipulation that she favored red, and if possible the background should be dark. I thought this was an interesting 'assignment' and looked through my favorite (including Jayne's) for the past year. Although this wouldn't have been done without an excuse, it was a wonderful retrospective of what had caught our attention during the year. The choices are shown below.

A choice based on context - where you want it to go - is a lot different than looking through the last image set I've taken which is what I'd do if I were preparing for a photo contest. Refreshing!



At least two of these images I would consider to have major flaws for contests. The bracket fungus would surely lack the impact needed for our contests while the unusual orchid suffers from a lack of focus on the rear of the flower.

The relative age of the photos was interesting. The orchid was captured in Hawaii with my first digital SLR about 10 years ago. The bracket fungus at Nations Green in Guthrie County IA just after a Springbrook conference three years ago and the Gerba from last year's local club photo shoot.

Since it is just before Christmas and the season of commerce is at its peak buying some photography equipment is on everyone's list or should I say dream list. My major sources are a local camera store,

mail order, and E-bay. Tripods, tripod heads, reflectors, equipment I want to see and touch and special opportunity used items always point me to my local full service camera store—in my case Christian Photo in Des Moines or Wolfe's Camera store if you live in Topeka for example. Absolutely no substitute for looking, feeling, and trying a tripod with your very own camera and the heaviest lens you own. I've gotten more lenses than I'd care to admit that are favorites just because they were there when I happened to be in the store. Long live impulse buying!

I also buy from mail order firms—and from a previous newsletter my favorites are:

<http://wbhunt.com/special/> <http://www.bhphotovideo.com/>

Surprisingly I have also been very satisfied with Ebay for some items---I bought a 500MM Canon F4 lens that I kept for four years and then sold on Ebay for more than I paid for it! I then bought a 400mm lens I REALLY wanted—again on Ebay!!

Oh, and now that I think of it have you started working on your **photo essay**? Christmas is the best time to look through your images and get an idea in mind. Springbrook is just around the corner you know.

"Enjoy the Holiday Season, pick up the equipment and software you've been wanting, and most of all enjoy your loved ones!!"

The Sore Loser.

Clown Salon at the N4C Convention in La Crosse

The cover of the N4C Bulletin last month featured a photo of one of the clowns during a photo shoot held at the N4C convention hosted by the La Crosse Camera Club in September. It is just one example of the fun members have by attending Council gatherings. The clowns are members of the Coulee Clown Club and were generous in letting us watch as they put on their make-up and transformed themselves into their clown characters. There were many photos taken. Since our slogan is "Where names become faces and faces become friends" it is only appropriate to put names to these faces. Some of you have sent photos to the Coulee Clown Club. If you have photos to share, send them to "Hugs" at nathugs@charter.net. (Photos by Ken Johnson except where noted)

Rich Snowberg



I started my clowning career in 1975. I have performed for birthday parties, festivals, fairs, holiday celebrations, in parks, in stage shows, in parades, hospitals, and nursing homes. My clowning has taken me throughout Wisconsin, as well as to Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, North Dakota, Missouri, Maryland, Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, California, Washington, as well as Canada, Puerto Rico, Scotland, England, New Zealand, Sweden, Japan, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Besides performing I have directed the largest and longest clown training program in the world-Clown Camp®. We hosted programs mainly in La Crosse, but also in at least two dozen locations throughout the US and Canada. I have written six books on clowning, and over 200 published articles on the subject. I have been the president of the World Clown Association on 3 different occasions, and was inducted into the International Clown Hall of Fame in 1999.

I am a retired associate professor from the Univ. of Wisc-La Crosse, where I served as a teacher and administrator for 25+ years.

Barbara Fisher - aka "Hugs"

Clowning is people related...making people of all ages feel good, even if for a moment. I guess I'm a people person (Requirement #1 and most important).

I am a transplant from New Jersey to Wisconsin. I guess clowning has always been there, but I decided to come out when Rich Snowberg held a class on clowning at the UW-La Crosse in 1980. The result of that was the formation of the Coulee Clown Club...something to do with our special new found knowledge...and eager to try to do so.

Clown Character #1 was "Thumper", a white face clown. Several years later "Hugs" came as an Auguste. I attended conventions, round-ups, camps, etc. to learn magic, walk-arounds, paradability, skits, balloon sculptures, face painting, birthday parties, hospital visits, nursing home residents, etc. I have passed along my knowledge of clowning in some classes at a local college.

My main job was in education, retiring in 2005, and the simple magic tricks in my bag have made substituting go a little easier in school. Clowning is my avocation. I am surprised when people come up to me and say, "You were at my birthday party...and these are my kids, can you do theirs?" What a privilege!!

Whenever and wherever I can, I try to make that particular event a pleasant one for that person (any age) or group of persons. If I succeed in that, I can guarantee that as a clown, and as a person, I get repaid many times over. What can be better than that?



Donna Bateman



I, Donna Bateman started clowning in 1978 as a dental hygienist for a dental fair. That's where the name Scrubbie comes from, as in tooth brush. Did some clowning on my own then in Oregon and back in MN, WI until I joined the Coulee Clown Club in the 80's.

Linda Clark

Daughter, Sister, Mother, Wife ,Grandmother, Insurance Claims Clerk and Clown. Those are my titles. I am the mother of 2 beautiful daughters. I have one 11 year old Grandson.

I married Todd Clark 8/21/2010. He made me the happiest wife in the world. I work full time for Franciscan Skemp Medical Center in the Claims Dept. I have worked there 28 years.

For enjoyment I clown. Mostly volunteer. I started as Twinkle in May of 1997. In 2003 I created Ms. Will B. Silly for an International clown trip. I attended clown camp from 1998-2010, either volunteering or participating. The last year was in Singapore. I have made friends with clowns all over the world. One of the many joys of being a clown. The best part of clowning is making people happy, whether in make up or not.

I mostly do face painting, Balloon sculptures and easy magic for birthday parties, picnics, banquets, fun raisers or parades. I have done 2 benefits for "Locks of Love" by cutting my hair and donating it (while in my clown character) and raised money for the oncology department at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare. Each year, I take at least one trip to a clown convention. I hope to clown forever.



Shari Runde



Shari, a former nurse, has perfected the art of balloon sculpture in the La Crosse area. Her sculptures range from simple creations to themes of all kinds, to cars and trucks, to wearable clothes, and walkable parade props.

Shari's involvement began on a trip to Scotland in 2003. When she is "Hope", a white faced clown, she has a single tear drop, Perrot mime' face, light purple outfit, black skull cap, and black slippers. This is a take off a doll her mother had given her. The road to success has been a hard one...Clown Camp©, books and videos, challenges and dares, etc. Hope's philosophy...There is Always Hope. Shari astounds others with her creations and brings smiles from all.

(Photo courtesy of Coulee Clown Club)



An example of Shari's Balloon Art

Dave Kucharezyk and His Three Children



Dave, whose clown name is "Yooper" has been clowning for the past 14 years. He and his wife traveled to Scotland to participate in a clown summit in 2003.

Their nine year old daughter Kasi is called 'Princess Ice Cream'. She has been clowning from age 3 doing parades.



(Photo by Lynda Richards)

Their son, Shane, is 'Crash' with Shari Rundle's race car balloon art.



Daughter Erin Kucharezyk is age 6.



What's bugging me----- N4C Monthly Awards

Submitted by Jean McDonough -- mcd30@msn.com
Women!s Color Photo Club

After receiving the North Central News Bulletin, I noted the October N4C Contest Results information and decided it is time for me to make a public outcry instead of quietly fuming to only a few people at the N4C affiliated camera clubs to which I belong.

Category and number of entries:

Creative prints: 32 Photojournalism prints: 31

B & W Pictorial prints: 42 Nature prints: 42

Photo Travel prints: 24

Creative slides: 19 Photojournalism slides: 26

Pictorial slides: 38 Nature slides: 32

Digital Creative: 66 Digital Photojournalism: 80

Digital Nature: 82 Digital Pictorial: 103

Regardless of the number of entries in each of the categories, awards are given to the top 3 entries plus 3 honorable mentions. If the N4C digital entries are from 66 to 103 and the slide entries are from 19 to 38 entries and the same number of awards are given, can anyone explain to me how this system is fair and equitable? Having done something for many years is not a justification for continuing this practice and should be open to change. To be fair and equitable, a percentage like ten percent of the total entries should be given awards. At least this would be a new beginning.



Contest Results.....

Black & White Pictorial

- 1st Stone Blocks - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 2nd Grinin' - Mark Hayes, Central Iowa
Mission at Salinas Pueblo - Bruce Bernstein, Fargo
- 3rd -Moorhead
- HM Portland Head in B&W - Mike Walsh, Sioux City
- HM Split Rock W.P.A. Falls - Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM Mono Lake CA - Ken Aker, Duluth Superior

Judging Club: Des Moines. 42 prints from 9 clubs. Chair: Terry Kruse. Judges: Dwight Tomes, Jim Stepp, Christian Ewoldt. Comments: Good range of subjects, overall good technique and interesting content.

Creative Slides

- 1st Glowing Vase & Flowers - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 2nd Many Balls, Few Bars - Delores Meister, Iowa City
- 3rd Colorful Dots & Spikes - Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- HM Glow & Sew - Connie Lower, Color Shooters
- HM Barn Study - Herb Gustafson, St. Paul
- HM Helmet Cam - Ty Smith, Mitchell

19 slides from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque. Chair: Elanor Schueller. Judges: Nick Lucy, Ron Tigges, Fred Vaughn.

Creative Prints

- 1st Great Balls of Fire - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
Yamhill Barn & Wheatfield - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
- 2nd Moines
- 3rd Holding Fins - Sharla Glick, Des Moines
- HM Heron Lift Off - Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
- HM Getting to the Point - Shane Abbitt, Des Moines
- HM Maine Fall Color - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines

29 prints from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque. Judges: Ron Tigges, Cara Pusateri, Fred Vaughn. Chair: Elanor Schueller

Nature Prints

- 1st Roosters - Mark George, Central Iowa
- 2nd Hilltop Fall Color - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- 3rd River Foam Pattern - Ken Aker, Duluth-Superior
- HM Love, Heron Style - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
From Canyon to Mountains - Delores Meister, Iowa City
- HM City
- HM Blooming Prairie - Ed Siems, Central Iowa

43 prints from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines. Chair: Terry Kruse. Judges: Diane Darnielle, Rick McCubbin, Chris Boeke. Comments: Overall a nice variety of decent photos with a few standouts. Several entries were given low scores for not following the rules for the nature category.

Photojournalism Prints

- 1st Fluid Motion - Scott Thomson, Duluth-Superior
- 2nd Hosing It Down - Steve Paulson, Sioux City
1 Destroyed, 1 Harmed, 1 Left Alone - Mark George,
- 3rd Central Iowa
- HM Barrel Racer - Lowell Stanley, Mitchell
- HM Hawk Touchdown - Bob Rasmus, Sioux City
- HM Downwind Protection - Delores Meister, Iowa City
24 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Shutterbug. Chair: John Larson. Judges: Shirley White, Trish Ditsworth, Sarah Bissell.

Projected Photojournalism

- 1st Out of the Chute - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 2nd Run For Your Life - Aneta Goska, Iowa City
- 3rd Caught - Ron Nicolls, Sioux City
- HM Elavator Burn - Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM Hold On - Sharla Glick, Des Moines
- HM Formation - Geoffrey Barr, Fargo-Moorhead
77 entries from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Shutterbug. Chair: John Larson. Judges: Shirley White, Trish Ditsworth, Sarah Bissell. Comments: There were a number of excellent images and the judges had to work hard to break a number of ties. There were also three or four images that looked as if they had been set up for the purpose of the picture. This is not allowed in PJ and the images probably should have been disqualified.

2 1/4 Slides

- 1st Aspen - Robert Gillespie, Sioux City
 - 2nd Tree on Rim - Steve Paulson, Sioux City
 - 3rd Ruins - Larry Crabb, Sioux City
 - HM Badlands Morning Light - Larry Crabb, Sioux City
 - HM Golden Tree - Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City
 - HM Mammoth Hot Springs - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
 - HM Red Ridge - Randall Williams, Sioux City
 - HM Fertile Mill - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
 - HM Fall At Yellowstone - Larry Luebbert, Iowa City
- 32 slides from 3 clubs. Judging Club: Color Shooters. Chair: Ed Lower. Judges: Mary Curtis, Dorothy Stevenson, Connie Lower. Comments: The 2 1/4 slides were good, and the judges were glad that they had a sizeable number of slides to evaluate.

Color Prints

- 1st Table Top Tulips - Dawn Mikkelson, Sioux City
 - Sunrise Color on Shore at Splitrock - Linda Dunlap,
 - 2nd Duluth-Superior
 - 3rd Glade Mill - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
 - HM High Country Beauty - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
 - HM Old Capitol Stairwell - Jo Eland, Iowa City
 - HM Cloud Beauty - Denise Christian, Central Iowa
- 61 prints from 12 clubs. Judging Club: Great River. Chair: Ryno W Olson. Judges: David Lohrman, David Chesling, Anne Olson. Comments: Great group of images. It would be great if the member number were on both the print and the entry blank.

Digital Pictorial

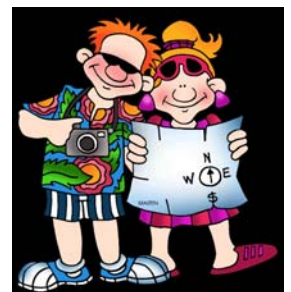
- 1st Carriage & Rider - Jim Wendel, Albert Lea
 - 2nd Wintery Morning - Mitch Pederson, Albert Lea
 - 3rd Winter Walk - Bruce Bernstein, Fargo-Moorhead
 - HM Retired - Randall Williams, Sioux City
 - Chickenhouse in Winter - Linda Eisterhold, Albert Lea
 - HM Lea
 - HM In A Fog - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
- 132 images from 32 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth-Superior. Chair: Joseph Kubala. Judges: Scott Thomson, Doug Granholm, Diane Fonger. Comments: A very significant number of entries this month ... possibly the largest in a digital category to date? A wide variety of subject matter was entered. Interestingly, several winter images seemed to rise to the top of the judges list. A very easy contest to organize ... all clubs submitted entries using the N4C standards for digital competition.

Photo Travel Prints

- 1st Reflections, Bodie CA - Sharla Glick, Des Moines
 - 2nd A Work of Art - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
 - 3rd Shigu Town - Jo Eland, Iowa City
 - HM Long's Peak Storm - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
 - HM Dead Horse Point - Christine O'Riley, Des Moines
 - HM Red Barn - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- Judging Club: Color Shooters. 30 Prints from 8 clubs. Chair: Ed Lower. Judges: Jay Brooks, Albert Doyle, Connie Lower. Comments: A very good group of photo travel prints. A few prints had been enhanced, however they truly illustrated the photo travel story well.

Photo Travel Slides

- 1st Grand Canyon - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
 - 2nd MA Harbor - Johnell Kolve, St. Paul
 - 3rd Luxor - JoAnn Kuntemeier, Kaposia
 - HM Pacific Coast - Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
 - HM Rough Loc Falls - Ty Smith, Mitchell
 - HM The Way to Sugar Loaf - Robert Olson, St. Paul
- Judging Club: Color Shooters. 30 Slides from 8 clubs. Chair: Ed Lower. Judges: Jay Brooks, Albert Doyle, Connie Lower. Comments: N4C people really travel, some interesting pictures. Two people had images of the same subject: as a slide and as a print.



Digital Nature

- 1st Sunset Rays at White Sands - Phyllis Kedl, St. Paul
 - 2nd Melting Pot - Aneta Goska, Iowa City
 - Elephant & Baby Grazing - Jean McDonough,
 - 3rd Women's Color
 - HM Still Before Dawn - Bill Schwartz, Sioux City
 - HM Portrait of a Mandarin - Christine O'Riley, Des Moines
 - HM Moraine Valley - Shane Abbitt, Des Moines
- Judging Club: Muddy River. 125 entries from 25 clubs. Chair: Cecil Johnson. Judges: Alicia Cichon, Marilyn Barnes, Ken Kester.

Digital Creative

- 1st Winter Wonderland - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
- 2nd Tree Row - Paul Amicucci, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd Fetch - Ron Balthazor, Sioux Falls
- HM Old Cap 1735 - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- HM Lantern - Ron Nicolls, Sioux City
- HM East Fifth and Locust - Jerry Ranch, Des Moines

102 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque. Chair: Elanor Schueller. Judges: Nick Lucy, Ron Tigges, Fred Vaughn. Comments: Great group of entries! A nice variety of effects,



Pictorial Slides

- 1st Cylmais Core Reflected - Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- 2nd Burmese Fisherman - Hope Solomons, Iowa City
- 3rd Driftwood in the Sand - Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
- HM Early to Rise - Phyllis Kedl, St. Paul
- HM Bird of Paradise - Regina Kowtowske, Cedar Rapids
- HM Afternoon Shower - Chuck Peterson, Sioux City

Judging Club: Fort Dodge Area. 41 slides from 10 clubs. Chair: Gloria Johnston. Judges: Bob Wood, Regina Smith, Wendy Karageorge. Comments: We have three new members who sat in on the judging and

Nature Slides

- 1st Milkweed - Larry Luebbert, Iowa City
- 2nd Mr. Tortoise - Morris Gildemeister, St. Paul
- 3rd Red Maple - Hope Solomons, Iowa City
- HM Ladybug on Fireweed - John Chadima, Cedar Rapids
- HM Snow on Joshua Tree - Connie Lower, Color Shooters

41 slides from 10 clubs. Judging Club: Women's Color. Chair: Jean McDonough, Judges: Duane Wraalstad, Carol Madison, Lance Nelson.

Contest Changes.....

March Creative - Slides and Prints

Duluth - Superior Camera Club
Deb Carroll
7 Royalton Road
Superior, Wisconsin 54880

March Creative - Digital Images

Duluth - Superior Camera Club
Joseph Kubala
1306 Cumming Avenue
Superior, Wisconsin 54880
fotoejo@aol.com

April Black & White Pictorial & Nature Prints

Address Correction:

Change 119 West Elk, to
119 West Elm.

(Everything else is correct)

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.

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