



The North Central Camera Club Council

News Bulletin

"Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends"

Volume 47 No. 6

WWW.N4C.US

January, 2012

January President's Message

Greetings, lovers of the lens,

It is time to put our Springbrook mini-convention, April 27-29, on your calendar. Gerald Bonsack has many interesting programs planned for this year. Members are finding out how much fun it is, and because of the record turnout last year, we have reserved the entire facility for this year, giving us more dorm rooms and the entire dining hall. Check out the video history of Springbrook http://youtube/j_X1DQGZR-M. Following Springbrook, our next gathering will be the Annual N4C Convention in Des Moines, September 6-9.

Through the years I've been impressed with the continuity of N4C: Outstanding leadership, cooperation of clubs to judge, and participation by members. As the calendar year rolls over, we begin planning the next contest season -- 2012-2013. Contest Chairs are working to set up judging clubs and the nominating committee is working on a slate of officers for next year. Every club will receive a ballot – please vote on officers for the coming year. Steve Thompson, Convention Planning coordinator is asking for convention hosts for 2013 and beyond – As a club fund raiser, did you know that host clubs receive 75% of profits from hosting a convention? Please continue to offer your support as that is how the Council thrives.

I suppose being a retired engineer has something to do with measuring things. Maybe these will give you a greater perspective of N4C. The friendships and camaraderie however can't be quantified.

- 41 Member Camera Clubs
- 2,019 Individual Members (recorded member numbers)
- 84 Contests during the year
- 5,851 Contest Entries in 2010-2011 (25% more than 5 years ago)

Tell us about some of your club programs. I think back to all the Christmas promotions and it seemed like there were a lot of cameras being advertised. No question there is a whole new generation of would-be-photographers. I hear the number of point-n-shoot models are in decline and overtaken by cameras-in-phones. I encourage clubs to continue to teach the fundamentals of photography – how to shoot in manual mode and take complete control. We also can't neglect the steps from memory cards to computer and to print. If new members come hoping for help, don't let them down. Those with experience can mentor the beginners. Be aware (not beware) of new trends and encourage all to enjoy photography. Please take time to share your club's program ideas with the rest of us. Editor Sharla Glick edit@n4c.us loves to receive new material – the kind of news you can use.

Enjoy photography, whether or not it is yours.

Ken Johnson

The N4C Photo Essay Contest

Telling Your Story
Deadline: March 31, 2012

A picture is worth a thousand words—but what if your picture(s) are asking for some music and words to complete the story! The N4C photo essay is your chance to combine your photography, your choice of music, and if you wish, narration, to tell your friends about your favorite place for photography, illustrate a 'how to', or just to have fun. The subject matter is completely open, you can mix and match the old and new, and use as much creativity and imagination as you can find (or borrow from those who have done this before!).

Note that the maximum length is 6 minutes.

Telling **your** story will require images, lots of images, so it's a good time to see if you have what you need to complete the story. The sound component can be music that complements the visual portion or narration or a combination of the two, as you see fit. One example you've seen from N4C was the 'promo' for the 2010 convention in Lacrosse and the promo for the convention in Topeka this fall. Now you've got the picture, as we say.

Here's the best guidance for producing an essay: use any software you want to put your essay together, but make sure that it can be exported to a standard DVD [not blueray] format. Software and playback are more challenging now that the reliable standard, Windows XP, has two operating system upgrades on the PC side (Vista and Windows 7). "Rendering" a slide show to DVD format is the most challenging technical issue! Pro Show Gold or Producer (Photodex) are favorites of PC users, while those with Mac's favor iMovie 06, iMovie 08, iMovie 09, Keynote, iPHOTO, or Lightroom (six different programs). If you have Adobe Lightroom (PC or MAC), the MP4 file type can be converted to DVD format. DVD playback on PC's has been problematic, especially with different versions of Vista. Test yours on the home TV, any Mac, or a Windows XP operating system on a PC. The end result should play on all computers and on your home DVD player. If you have any questions about software, conversion to DVD format, or other topics, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at d.tomes@me.com, or call me at (515) 986 3913.

Here's what you need to know about the judging. The three areas that are judged are (1) overall impression, (2) photography, and (3) commentary and sound track. The overall impression includes interest, originality, mood and impact, while the photography stresses the familiar categories of technical quality, composition, variety, and absence of distractions. The commentary and sound track are judged on their style, appropriateness, and combination of music, narration, and sound effects. One additional factor for the slide essay is how all the components flow together to tell the story—visually, sound, and 'smoothness'.

Dwight Tomes, N4C slide essay chair, d.tomes@me.com ; Send to: Dwight Tomes, 7883 NW 103rd Ln., Grimes IA 50111

Welcome Central Kansas Photography Club!!

We are very happy to welcome the Central Kansas Photography Club to N4C. They are located, as their name implies, right in the heart of Kansas. Meetings are at the CPI Annex in Great Bend, Kansas, on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.

We look forward to seeing some of their work in future contests. I've browsed some of their member web galleries and found some beautiful photos. In fact their Treasurer, Karol Erikson, in the *Popular Photography* "December Photo Challenge", got two of her photos in the final 19 out of a field of 919 entries. You can check those out at: <http://www.poppphoto.com/gallery/19-fantastic-photos-ruins?cmpid=enews010512>. Congratulations, Karole! If other N4C members have such notable awards, let our N4C Editor know (edit@n4c.us).

Ken Johnson

April 27, 28, & 29, 2012

N4C SPRINGBROOK CAMP-IN REGISTRATION

Springbrook State Park
Near Guthrie Center, Iowa

Mark your calendar NOW to attend.

Complete the registration form and send it along with your check NOW.

DEADLINE DATE for arrival of your registration is Wednesday, April 18.

NO registration will be accepted after the deadline date of April 18.

PLEASE – This means that you have to mail your registration BEFORE April 18.

A confirmation email will be sent out to you upon the receipt of your money and registration.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: N4C - SPRINGBROOK CAMP – IN

Return Registration & check to:	Delores Meister 421 Pleasant View Dr. Solon, IA 52333	Questions? phone: 319-624-2516 email: LDKlikmeister@aol.com
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Please PRINT

Name(s): _____ Day Phone: () _____ - _____

Address: _____ Eve. Phone: () _____ - _____

City-State-Zip: _____

e-mail address: _____

Member of _____ Camera Club in N4C

	Number of people	Total cost
Package #1: Dorm Room Use @ \$93 per person <i>(Includes: Meals & lodging in dorms. Bring your own soap & toiletries)</i>	_____	\$_____
Package #2: Day Use @ \$78 per person <i>(Includes: Meals & day use learning center. Not use of dorm room)</i>	_____	\$_____
Grand Total		\$_____

Springbrook Update and Summary

Instead of tabletop still life displays for you to shoot, this year we will have tables of “15 Minute Experts” to answer your questions. In random order, we will have Lynda Richards to answer your question on Portraits; A.J. Winter will have a raft of information about the State Parks in Iowa, so ask him where to go to photograph this flower or that animal. Got a Mac Slide Show question, ask Dwight Tomes; for PC’s, Ken Johnson will be there. John Larson will help you polish your judging skills; while Ed Lower will help you expand stereo to your digital camera. Bob Rude will help twist your mind and image for creative competition; while Jo Eland fields questions on the Mac front. You may be creating a floral photograph inspired by the directions and tips of Diane Darnielle. Think that “Infra-Red” may be worth a try? Well ask Dave Gates. Shirley and Doyle Gates will guide you through tricks and techniques for people and event photography; while I will offer pointers on how to get really close – macros and micros for your camera.

Another afternoon session which will be repeated twice will be A.J. Winter and “Bird Capturing and Banding”, also allowing for some great bird portraits; and Dave Graham’s “DIY to Patent Pending” talk. For those who heard Dave last year, you know he’ll keep you entertained and educated. A.J.’s suggestion of bird banding may get you involved with a similar project back home.

Ed and Teresa will give a program on ‘Iceland’; Linda Rutherford will share ideas on ‘Burning & Dodging’; John Larson will expand on ‘Judging’; then we will have the invite to Des Moines; as well as the ‘Slide Es-says’ and Board Meeting. Hope and Jerry Solomons will cover ‘Travel Photography’. More topics to follow, so mark your calendars for April 27 – 29 and send in your registration!

Jerry Bonsack

Adobe Upgrade Policy Revised

Adobe has announced a special offer allowing CS4 and CS3 users to upgrade to Creative Suite 6, when it is released. Adobe upset many CS4 and CS3 users when it announced earlier that it was changing its upgrade policy so that only owners of the most recent versions would be entitled to discounted upgrade pricing. Although it has not formally gone back on this policy, the offer will provide an upgrade route for CS3 and CS4 users until December 31st, 2012. Users of individual packages will also benefit from the offer. In other words, Adobe will effectively be restoring their longstanding “three versions back” upgrade policy *through* the launch of CS6, until the end of this year... (CS5 was released in April 2010)

<http://www.adobe.com/products/creativesuite/faq/upgrade-policy.html>

Adobe Lightroom 4 BETA is now available (<http://labs.adobe.com/technologies/lightroom4/>). Since the BETA is set to expire March 31st, 2012, you can expect the full release before then. I might add that for Windows users it will require Intel Pentium 4 or AMD Athlon 64 processor, and Microsoft Windows Vista with Service Pack 2 or Windows 7 with Service Pack 1. It will not be compatible with Windows XP. For the Mac Users: Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support and Mac OS X v10.6.8 or v10.7. Since Lightroom 4 has these requirements, it seems probable that Photoshop CS6 will also have these system requirements. New versions of Photoshop Elements typically are released in September.

*** ATTENTION MAC CONTEST CHAIRS ***

In an effort to save postage, please have your supply order for the 2012-13 contest year to me either by mail or email no later than April 7th so I can fulfill your orders and have them packaged for delivery at Springbrook. Please note if your order needs to be mailed if no one in your club is attending Springbrook. Thank you in advance for your help, so I can get these orders ready in a timely manner.

Teresa Vokoun
Supply Chair
1351 Prairie Avenue
Marshalltown IA 50158
et@mycns.net
641-485-0626

News For All Former Film Slide Shooters !

Beginning in September 2012, all current N4C film slide categories will be eliminated, and only one monthly contest for all 2 x 2 film slides will be held.

The topic of this contest will be "Open." A maximum of eight (8) slides from each club in any category may be entered each month.

What a fantastic opportunity this is for all former slide shooters!

Starting now, I would encourage all former slide shooters to take some time to go through your slides -- be they in boxes in the basement, in slide files, in plastic pages in a filing cabinet or in a three-ring binder -- and select eight (8) slides which scored high in your club competitions but which were not previously entered in N4C.

Give those slides to your club's N4C Slide Representative, so your entries can be represented in all eight of the monthly contests beginning in September.

We ALL have to have AT LEAST eight (8) really good slides that we can give to our N4C Representative to send in to represent our club in an "Open" competition! This is our chance to make use of the slides we have taken which are still good.

The number of entries in the new "Open" 2 x 2 film slide category will be assessed at Springbrook in 2013. If those of us who still believe in slides do not take advantage of this new opportunity, the year 2012-2013 may very well be the end of N4C slide competition.

Pat Schwope
N4C "Open" 2 x 2 Film Slide Chairman

JUDGING CLUB CHANGES

March - Digital Pictorial Slides:

Wichita Area Camera Club
Jim Boots c/o Douglas Photographic Imaging
2300 E Douglas
Wichita, KS 67214
jimboots@sbcglobal.net
316-665-1381

May - Creative Prints

Duluth-Superior Camera Club
Joseph K. Kubala
1306 Cumming Ave
Superior, WI 54880-1718
fotoejo@aol.com
715-392-3382

May - Photojournalism Prints & Projected Images:

Wichita Area Camera Club
Jim Boots c/o Douglas Photographic Imaging
2300 E Douglas
Wichita, KS 67214
jimboots@sbcglobal.net
316-665-1381



What in the World is Happening to Photography?

I ran across some new technology recently which might demonstrate what we may see more of in the future.

The Lytro "Light Field" Camera captures light rays in a different manner than conventional cameras. It records color, intensity, and direction. With Lytro's software it allows the user to refocus the image, change the image's perspective, and even view the photo as a 3D image on a 3D HDTV. <http://www.lytro.com/>

This video provides an excellent demonstration: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1ycRKQqswI>

There are some cautions before you order one, in these articles:

http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-20125910-1/lytro-camera-5-things-to-know-before-you-buy/ http://www.pcworld.com/article/242217/lytro_cameras_on_sale_now_what_you_need_to_know.html

If that doesn't stimulate your imagination, how about a Throwable Panoramic Ball Camera. <http://jonaspfeil.de/ballcamera> (Watch the video)

The camera is thrown into the air and captures an image at the highest point of flight - when it is hardly moving. The camera takes full spherical panoramas, requires no preparation and images are taken instantaneously. The camera uses 36 fixed-focus 2 megapixel mobile phone camera modules. The ball contains an accelerometer which measures launch acceleration. Integration lets it predict rise time to the highest point, where it triggers the exposure. After catching the ball camera, pictures are downloaded using USB and automatically shown in their spherical panoramic viewer. It may be a few years before we see this German camera for sale.



Coming back to earth now, there are the iPhone accessory lenses. These are on the market now and there is a variety, from fish-eyes to telephotos and of course tripods. You can do the research on those.

Puzzled? What to do with Photos?

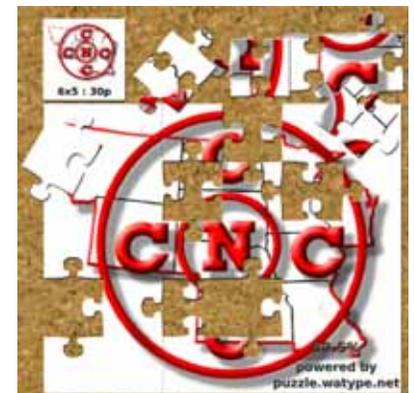
From www.komando.com

There are many ways of taking, editing and sharing your photos. You can also find ways to have fun with them. Jigsaw Lite allows you to create intricate jigsaw puzzles using any photo you choose. It is free. Just drag and drop the image file to the Jigsaw Lite window. The program generates a puzzle you can reassemble right on your desktop. It's fun and surprisingly addictive.

Note that Jigsaw Lite requires Adobe Air. If you don't already have Air installed, you can find a link further down the Jigsaw Lite download page.

The download may be found at puzzle.watype.net.

I made a puzzle from the N4C logo and am trying to put it back together -- Just about got the job done. It takes every piece and every club to make the North Central Camera Club Council complete.



Ken Johnson

The Fundamentals: Shutter Speed – Aperture – ISO

The relationship of shutter speed, aperture (or f-stop) and ISO are important to understand. Using them correctly controls depth of field, noise & sharpness, and ability to hand hold the camera and still get sharp images. I won't attempt to cover all those topics in this article, but rather present a chart to show how the three camera settings relate.

f-stops	1.4	2	2.8	4	5.6	8	11	16	22	32	ISO	6400	3200	1600	800	400	200	100
Equivalent Shutter Speeds	1'	2'	4'	8'	16'	32'					Equivalent ISO	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'	16'	32'
	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'	16'	32'					15"	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'	16'
	15"	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'	16'	32'				8"	15"	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'
	8"	15"	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'	16'	32'			4"	8"	15"	30"	1'	2'	4'
	4"	8"	15"	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'	16'	32'		2"	4"	8"	15"	30"	1'	2'
	2"	4"	8"	15"	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'	16'		1"	2"	4"	8"	15"	30"	1'
	1"	2"	4"	8"	15"	30"	1'	2'	4'	8'		2	1"	2"	4"	8"	15"	30"
	2	1"	2"	4"	8"	15"	30"	1'	2'	4'		4	2	1"	2"	4"	8"	15"
	4	2	1"	2"	4"	8"	15"	30"	1'	2'		8	4	2	1"	2"	4"	8"
	8	4	2	1"	2"	4"	8"	15"	30"	1'		15	8	4	2	1"	2"	4"
	15	8	4	2	1"	2"	4"	8"	15"	30"		30	15	8	4	2	1"	2"
	30	15	8	4	2	1"	2"	4"	8"	15"		60	30	15	8	4	2	1"
	60	30	15	8	4	2	1"	2"	4"	8"		125	60	30	15	8	4	2
	125	60	30	15	8	4	2	1"	2"	4"		250	125	60	30	15	8	4
	250	125	60	30	15	8	4	2	1"	2"		500	250	125	60	30	15	8
	500	250	125	60	30	15	8	4	2	1"		1000	500	250	125	60	30	15
	1000	500	250	125	60	30	15	8	4	2		2000	1000	500	250	125	60	30
	2000	1000	500	250	125	60	30	15	8	4		4000	2000	1000	500	250	125	60
	4000	2000	1000	500	250	125	60	30	15	8		8000	4000	2000	1000	500	250	125
	8000	4000	2000	1000	500	250	125	60	30	15			8000	4000	2000	1000	500	250
	8000	4000	2000	1000	500	250	125	60	30			8000	4000	2000	1000	500		
		8000	4000	2000	1000	500	250	125	60				8000	4000	2000	1000		
			8000	4000	2000	1000	500	250	125					8000	4000	2000	1000	

Consider the example of the “Sunny 16” rule. That was important to know before the age of meters in cameras and still applies today. For a sunny day, a good exposure would be f/16 aperture at a shutter speed of 1 over the ISO. So for ISO 100 that would be 1/125 of a second (closest to 1/100).

Now, let's suppose you need a faster shutter speed -- 1/1000 to stop action? Find f-16 and 125 on the chart and move to the left to 1000 and see that you would need to change the f-stop from f-16 to f-4 still at ISO 100 to get an equivalent exposure for that sunny day. Or using the equivalent ISO's you could still shoot 1/1000 at f-16 by selecting ISO 800.

Another use of this chart is to help with quick test exposures at night. Find the desired exposure at ISO 6400 by some trial shots. For example, it might be 15 seconds (15"). This ISO would likely have some digital noise issues, so you might choose to shoot at ISO 400, which would require a 4 minute (4') exposure. You might further choose a larger aperture to reduce that time. Get to know how these interact, and take command of your camera.

By the way, if you are shooting the moon in the night sky, it becomes the “Moony 11” rule. f/11 at 1/ISO. After all you are seeing the sun shining onto the moon.

Ken Johnson

Special N4C Black & White Digital Image Contest

Diane Darnielle

The Des Moines Camera Club (DMCC) is sponsoring a Special Black & White Digital Image Contest in **March 2012**. Currently some N4C members enter Black & White images in the various Digital Contests and will continue to do so. However, several N4C members have inquired about having a Digital Image Contest of just Black & White images. According to the N4C rules, a camera club may sponsor a special contest once in a year, so DMCC is volunteering to do so.



The rules for the Black & White Digital Contest are:



- Black & White Photography is also called monochrome. The resulting image is limited to monochromatic hues or shades of gray, although filters may be applied to give a hue or tint. Any digital program or method may be used to produce the final image - including a traditional black & white look or sepia or split toning (duo-toning) and infra-red. No fraction of the image shall be given a special color treatment.

- Any subject
- File size of 500KB maximum
- Longest side 1,024 pixels maximum
- File name should look like this example: 01,DE014,DB,Great Landscape.jpg (note we will use the code **DB** for this special black & white contest)
- 8 images per club

DMCC will be securing outside judges for the Black & White Digital Image Contest, so our club may also compete.

The points awarded in this contest will be used in determining Photographer of the Year, Small Club of the Year, and Large Club of the Year.

Images will be sent to: dldarnie@aol.com by March 15th – N4C Representatives, please follow the directions that Ken Johnson sends out each month on submitting digital entries.



I will be reporting at Springbrook the number of entries and the number of clubs which enter. Also, if any N4C members have comments, please send them to me at dldarnie@aol.com with an Email Subject Title: N4C Black & White Contest Comment.

The Following Have Not Paid Dues for the 2011-12 Club Year

Ames, Minot, North Shore

JANUARY



Contest Results

2 x 2 Nature Slides

- 1st North Shore Birches - Herb Gustafson, Saint Paul
 2nd Rocky Mt. Stream - Jim Duncan, Saint Paul
 3rd East Africa Crowned Crane - Phyllis Kedl, Saint Paul
 HM Three Peaks - Fran Kingsbury, Sioux City
 HM Flamingo - Johnell Kolve, Saint Paul
 HM Winter Shadows at Pond's Edge - Pat Schwope, Saint Paul

34 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: Fort Dodge Camera Club. Chair: Gloria Johnston. Judges: Bob Wood, Gary Winch, Jon Thrans. Comments: This contest is where the photographer's technique shows up. How spoiled we are with digital. Judges commented several times how easy it would have been to fix something had it been done digitally.

2 x 2 Pictorial Slides

- 1st Sunrise Beach - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
 2nd Tight View on Petals - Steve Paulson, Sioux City
 3rd Water Weeds - Jim Duncan, Saint Paul
 HM Harbor Reflections - Herb Gustafson, Saint Paul
 HM Chief - Fran Kingsbury, Sioux City
 HM Flowers at Dead - Connie Lower, Color Shooters
 31 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: Cedar Rapids Camera Club. Chair: Sandra Kotowske. Judges: Susan K Stepanek, John Chadima, SuAnn Tichy.

B & W Pictorial

- 1st Friendly Fire - Tom Ling, Duluth/Superior
 2nd Des Moines Skyline - Shane Abbitt, Des Moines
 3rd Winter in Yosemite Valley - Ed Lower, Color Shooters
 HM Cool Beans - Jason Mrachina, Des Moines
 HM 007 - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
 HM Monarch - Jim Svec, Central Iowa
 67 entries from 12 clubs. Judging Club: Kaposia Camera Club. Chair: JoAnn Kuntemeier. Judges: Jeanie Yee, Jane Kemp, Marie Kuntemeier.

Color Prints

- 1st Corn Duster in Action - Mark George, Central Iowa
 2nd Wagner Falls - Mike Landwehr, Des Moines
 3rd Bear Lake - Don Jackson, Topeka
 HM Garden Spider - Ryno W Olson, Great River
 HM These Boots Are Made for Riding - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
 HM Norskedalen Wash House - Ken Johnson, Des

Moines

- HM Northern Cardinal - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
 HM Doe Ray Me - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
 80 entries from 13 clubs. Judging Club: Huron Area Camera Club. Chair: Bunny Gilbert. Judges: Jim Schmidt, Darlene Kutzler, Mark Gubbins. Comments: With so many good entries people need to re-submit for 2nd chance at ribbons.

Creative Prints

- 1st Our Heros - Meg Klink, Central Iowa
 2nd Old Cap Staircase - Jo Eland, Iowa City
 3rd Amaryllis - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
 HM Down Under - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
 HM Dueling Dragonflies - Donald Granholm, Duluth-Superior
 HM Curvy Door - Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
 22 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Steve Paulson. Judges: Curt Stoever, John Anderson, Dawn Mikkelson.

Digital Nature

- 1st Three Tigers Looking - Jean McDonough, Women's Color
 2nd Reddish Egret - SuAnn Tichy, Cedar Rapids
 3rd Wolf on Watch - Shirley Gates, La Crosse
 HM Fawn - Linda Rutherford, Women's Color
 HM Watching the Show - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
 HM Seagull - Jim Boots, Wichita Area
 HM Dragon Fly - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
 HM Eagle in Clouds - Sue Olson, Minnesota Valley
 HM Hi Beautiful - Delores Meister, Iowa City
 HM Hanging Around - Bob Rude, Iowa City
 HM Fawn - Kristi Olson, La Crosse
 HM Little Red Fox - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
 114 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: Saint Paul Camera Club. Chair: Gene Schwope. Judges: Morris Gildemeister, Herb Gustafson, Doug Nelson. Comments: Overall, the judges thought the quality of this Salon was very good. They were happy to have been asked to judge. There were a few images that looked "worked on" or not Natural. The judges assumed it was too much Photoshop or HDR treatment.

Digital Pictorial

- 1st Coral Hairstreak - Al Sheldon, La Crosse
 2nd Sod Home in Iceland - Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
 3rd Long Strike - Brian Rauvola, Duluth-Superior
 HM Camels in Desert Landscape - Jean McDonough, Women's Color
 HM Trout River - Don Jackson, Topeka
 HM 2087 Whirlpool Stream - David Perez, Minnesota Valley
 HM Bobcat - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
 HM Quiet Moment - Jamie Lund, Duluth-Superior
 HM View from the Tobacco Shed - Debbie Abraham, La Crosse
 HM Grasshopper - Cecil Organ, Iowa City
 HM Autumn Blaze Barn - Brian Voges, Sioux Falls
 HM Fresh Snow in the Mountains - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
 HM Silky Water - Jim Levitt, Saint Paul
 121 entries from 23 clubs. Judging Club: RV Digital Camera Club. Chair: George Bebout. Judges: Viola Bebout, Steve White, Kittie Massie. Comments: We do not think that the general quality of these images is up to N4C's usual standards.

Nature Prints

- 1st Laughing Gulls - Mike Landwehr, Des Moines
 2nd Twisted Bristlecone Pine - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
 3rd Rooster and Hen Pheasant - Mark George, Central Iowa
 HM Backyard Deer - Jack Bristow, Sioux City
 HM Christine Falls - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
 HM Frost - Craig Gander, Des Moines
 66 entries from 12 clubs. Judging Club: Kaposia Camera Club. Chair: JoAnn Kuntemeier. Judges: Jeannie Yee, Jane Kemp, Marie Kuntemeier. Comments: Too many prints to have time for comments.

Photo-Travel Prints

- 1st The Pier at Sunset Naples, FL - Mike Landwehr, Des Moines
 2nd Bath-Time, India - Jo Eland, Iowa City
 3rd Virgin River Vista - Zion NP - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
 HM Highland Cattle on the Moors of Scotland - Marcy Wilfon, Des Moines
 HM Dutch Canal Bridge - Holland - Ed Lower, Color Shooters
 HM Two Monks - China - John Schilling, La Crosse
 HM Spiral Staircase - Vat. City - Catherine Logue, Des Moines
 29 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: Central Iowa Camera Club. Chair: Central Iowa. Judges: Danny Barker, Mark George, Ed Siems. Comments: Many outstanding prints, had 4 HM.

Photo-Travel Slides

- 1st Alone - Yellowstone NP - Larry Luebbert, Iowa City
 2nd Barefoot Climber, Vietnam - Rhuben Aga, Saint Paul
 3rd Cormorant Fisherman-China - Gerry Solomons, Iowa City
 HM Colorado Stream - Rocky Mtn NP - Bob Rude, Iowa City
 HM Weathered Sandstone, Ariz - John Chadima, Cedar Rapids
 25 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Central Iowa

Camera Club. Chair: Jim Svec Judges: Diane Barber, Jim Davis, Ed Siems. Comments: The slides were not as good as the prints, we did get a few low scores.

PJ Prints

- 1st Controlling the Collapse - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
 2nd Some Like it Hot - Greg Hoglund, Topeka
 3rd Kayak Rodeo #168 - John Larson, Shutterbug
 HM Knee Dragger - Daryl Hurley, Topeka
 HM Checkers Anyone - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
 HM Time for a Drink - Greg Hoglund, Topeka
 38 entries from 10 clubs. Judging Club: Women's Color Photo Club. Chair: Linda Rutherford. Judges: Kathy Wall, Duane Wraalstad, Judith Barat. Comments: Really hard decisions, both merits also scored 14s.

PJ Projected Images

- 1st Fully Involved - Ron Nicolls, Sioux City
 2nd Sunset Roper - Shannon Voges, Sioux Falls
 3rd Backlit Beargrease - John Anderson, Minnesota Valley
 HM John Larson - John Larson, Shutterbug
 HM Bubble Chasing - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
 HM Horse in Front of Satellites - Larry Swistoski, Saint Paul
 HM Winning by a Tongue - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
 HM Moment of Truth - Scott Thomson, Duluth-Superior
 HM Dog Day Afternoon - Roxanne Westman, Fargo-Moorhead
 HM Navy's Blue Angels - John Gustafson, Fargo-Moorhead
 95 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Women's Color Photo Club. Chair: Linda Rutherford. Judges: Kathy Wall, Duane Wraalstad, Judith Barat. Comments: Many strong images. Contest included 4 film slides – none of which scored high enough to place among winners.

Digital Creative

- 1st Lightning in a Trumpet - Bob Rude, Iowa City
 2nd Really, Only One Candlepower - Bill Williamson, Central Iowa
 3rd Flower Ball - Dean Johnson, Fargo-Moorhead
 HM Dueling Dragonflies - Joni Tauzell, Duluth-Superior
 HM Three Skiffs 3 - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
 HM Exotic Butterfly - Linda Rutherford, Women's Color
 HM Take Off - Paul Amicucci, Fargo-Moorhead
 HM Flat Earth - Roger Rose, Sioux Falls
 HM Cezanne Lotus - PK Mattingly, Wichita
 HM Owl Noir - John Anderson, Minnesota Valley
 92 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: La Crosse Area Camera Club. Chair: Gerald Bonsack. Judges: Marti Sullivan, Toni Pasiley, Jackie Rand. Comments: Some of the images were very creative and interesting to judge, while others were close to reality. Some of the manipulations used would make a great pre-meeting program for our club (a couple of 15 minute experts will be on hand at Springbrook for you to ask)

The Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs (TCACCC)

SPRING BREAK SEMINAR 2012

When: Saturday-Sunday, March 24-25, 2012

Where: Chippewa Middle School, 5000 Hodgson Road, North Oaks, MN 55126

Cost: Until March 1, 2012

-- \$70 both days; \$40 Saturday Only; \$45 Sunday Only

After March 1, 2012

-- \$80 both days; \$50 Saturday Only; \$55 Sunday Only

The Saturday program is an all-day seminar with several speakers. The speakers include our keynote speaker Rod Planck (Rod Planck Photography), Lewis Kemper (Canon Explorer of Light), Mike Moates (sponsored by Tamron), and John Gregor (Coldsnap Photography).

The Sunday program will be an afternoon Nature Photography Workshop presented by Rod Planck. More information and registration forms available at: <http://www.cameracouncil.org/>

PRESS RELEASE

John F. Larson, Jr., APSA Receives Prestigious PSA Distinction

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is pleased to announce that **John F. Larson, Jr., APSA, EPSA** has been awarded the **Excellence Distinction (EPSA)** in recognition of his photographic achievement record in PSA recognized International Exhibitions of photography. To qualify for the Excellence Distinction, 700 or more acceptances are required. The award Certificate will be presented at the 2012 PSA International Conference in San Francisco, California, USA. The award includes an invitation to submit a sample of work to the EPSA Gallery on the PSA web site.

PSA is a worldwide organization of both amateur and professional photographers, with membership in 70 countries. Visit the PSA web site at www.psa-photo.org to view the Distinction Galleries and to learn more about PSA, its activities, and the benefits of membership.

Club Bulletin Contest

The annual Club Bulletin Contest deadline is April 15. N4C clubs are urged to enter one bulletin from the current competition season. The entry should be representative of the club's best newsletter work. Judges will be looking at quality of the content, style, neatness, methods, and reproduction quality. Awards will be announced at the N4C Convention, and points will accrue toward the Club of the Year Award.

Mail a printed copy by April 15 to:

Scott Udey
829 SW Orleans Street
Topeka, KS 66606

2X2 Slide Contests

Beginning in September 2012 for 2x2 Film Slides, there will be a single "Open" contest rather than several with specific themes or categories. The changes being made in the contest line-up for the 2012-2013 season were summarized in the November 2011 N4C Bulletin. Last month's Letter to the Editor raised questions about why several slide contests were being consolidated into a single contest. There are no doubt other very dedicated film shooters with similar questions. I would like to recall some of the related discussions and evolution that took place over the past few years. It was not a hasty decision.

Pat Schwope is one of those avid slide shooters, and will be the Contest Chair for the 2x2 Open Film Slide contest beginning in September 2012. Rally around her group of enthusiasts for slides and remain active in this contest.

Each year as digital cameras became more prevalent, there were requests to open more contests to digital entries. The N4C Board felt that the total number of contests was already at a comfortable maximum. Not wanting to replace or eliminate 2x2 slide contests, the first change approved 4/24/2009 was to open the Photojournalism contest to both slides and digital; making it a "Photojournalism Projected" category. There were also comments from judges around this time that many entries were old slides (based on the mounts and condition of the film), and many newer slides appeared to be originally digital shots converted to transparencies. This would be difficult to quantify or rule out. There was also a downward trend of 2x2 slide entries. The following year, 2009-2010, the number of Photojournalism 2x2 entries dropped drastically.

At the 4/23/2010 Board meeting, the Creative Projected category for both 2x2 and digital entries was approved. It was more obvious in this category that many of the winning 2x2 slide entries had come from digital origin. In the following year, again the number of 2x2 Creative entries dropped dramatically.

Requests were received to open a Photo-Travel category for digital entries. When the topic of Photo-Travel digital was discussed at Springbrook 2011, we considered what had happened to Photojournalism and Creative, and assumed the same would happen to 2x2 Photo-Travel slides if they were combined in a

projected category. Another trend was taking place, with many clubs no longer using their 2x2 slide projectors. So there were a limited number of clubs that would judge both digital and 2x2 slides, necessary with a "Projected" category.

A motion was made to create an "Open 2x2 slide contest" so it would not restrict the subject or theme of the contest. In other words, it would allow slides that in the past had been categorized as Creative, Photojournalism, Photo-Travel, Nature, and Pictorial. This would then allow simplifying Photojournalism, Creative, and Photo-Travel to purely digital, which is what they seemed to naturally become anyway. Admittedly it was a big step, however, it seemed to be the ultimate future which would preserve 2x2 slide contests.

The changes were approved at the April 29, 2011 Board meeting on a vote of 9 for and 1 against. However as a compromise, it was decided to wait another year and not make the change effective until the 2012-2013 season.

After trying these changes, we might want to consider other alternatives. Not that it has any bearing on N4C; however, PSA has discontinued all 2x2 slide contests.

Ty Smith in his letter to the editor is correct; there are still a relatively healthy number of slides being entered. I began keeping records with the 2006-2007 season. In that season, we had 1,899 2x2 entries, and they were 41% of all entries. At that time, the Pictorial and Nature Slide contests were running 65 to 70 entries per month in each contest. In 2010-2011, there were 990 2x2 entries - 16% of all entries; prints were 30%; and digital were 52%.

I might add that discussions taking place at Convention Board meetings often come up for final action at Springbrook because those meetings precede changes to the N4C Handbook and Directory to be ready for release prior to the following contest season. Springbrook Board meetings are well attended, and many clubs are represented.

Ken Johnson
1/21/2011

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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N4C is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America.

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