



The North Central Camera Club Council News Bulletin

"Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends"

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Dear Friends of N4C,

We're off and running with our monthly contest, hopefully a race, for those Targets I have set for us.

I would like to share some information on how we did in September; add three words to Target 2, with an explanation; and make some suggestions on how we might do a better job shooting for Target 2.

Target 2: Do your best as a club to comment on every contest entry.

There were six digital contests in September, a total of 588 entries, with 364, or 62%, having some kind of comment. I think we can do better, but it is going to take some extra work for our judging clubs to move us from Beginning to Developing, Proficient, or Exemplary. There are a few of those education terms just sneaking into the conversation. Let's add three words to Target 2 and talk about the value of this addition. Target 2: Do your best as a club to **make a constructive** comment on every contest entry.

You know the saying, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." I don't believe this is the best approach, if we are trying to help someone improve; you have to point out what's wrong, and offer a possible solution. In my 17 years of attending Topeka Camera Club meetings, I have seen a lot of frustrated photographers, myself included, puzzled by scores with no comments. The score is not enough, especially if you as a judge, hand out a **two**, or even a **one**. It's okay, as a judge, to state the obvious, because the photographers whose photos you are judging, may not even have noticed what you thought obvious; those photographers are apt to repeat that error, if you don't tell them how it could be improved. Be constructive, because you've already given someone's photo a score, now back up your decision with a reason. It might make you uncomfortable, but the great thing about our contest is that the contestant isn't sitting in the room.

Here are three suggestions on how we might do better at Target 2.

1. Get familiar with the N4C judging comments sheet, or create your own constructive comments sheet. The N4C comments get straight to the point, without sometimes being wordy and confusing. They also can be entered into the judging program very quickly by code or number. The most frustrating thing next to no comments is getting comments that leave photographers wondering what the judges meant. To help us get familiar with these N4C comments, Ken Johnson created an easier way to access and print them out. The comments are now a separate PDF file in the Contest Judging program folder. I have included them in a second attachment with this month's bulletin and also copied them, at the bottom of this message.
2. There is a lot of flexibility in how the judging contest can be run. Topeka Camera Club has the three judges score the contest entries, and then we go back through them and judges add comments, sometimes with the help of others in the audience. I used to be a stickler for getting just the judges comments, but sometimes they get stuck, and a comment from the audience can help get things going again. If we don't get bogged down with everyone trying to comment, the session moves along quite well.
3. Copied directly from the N4C October 2008 Bulletin is Jo Eland's judging work flow write-up. (PS: I love copy and paste. There is no way I would have typed all of this.)

(Continued on page 2)

Judging Workflow for Digital Entries—One Example

At the N4C convention, Jo Eland shared what the Iowa City club does to improve and streamline the judging of digital entries. It was suggested by others that many clubs might find this helpful. It is equitable to entrants, and reduces the overall time that it takes to judge the entries when the judges gather for final critique. Jo was kind enough to write these procedures up for us—maybe your club will find this helpful.

Before the Meeting

- 1) All entries come in to digital contest chair.
- 2) Images are uploaded to digital chair's "Smug Mug" site (accounts available at smugmug.com)
- 3) PASSWORD PROTECTED gallery is created on the site.
- 4) The three judges are given the address and password and sent an Excel spreadsheet.
- 5) Each judge takes as much time as they need—in their own home—to carefully evaluate each entry and make notes.

At the Meeting

- 1) We use Adobe Bridge, and with judges sitting in the front of the room, view the images 4 at a time in a four-image full screen slide show. It is helpful to see them on a large screen and also rules out individual color differences in member's monitors.
- 2) Each of the four images is then sorted by judges into one of three folders as potential "Best", "Maybe" or "No."
- 3) Judges continue to look at four images at a time until done.
- 4) Then judges look at "Maybe" and "Best" images to see if they are content with their choices. At this time, they also critique out loud for the benefit of all present. Final decisions are made.
- 5) Judges also have time to go through the "Maybes" to help other club members understand why these images are not the "Best"

At a recent club meeting, it took a little over 1.5 hours to evaluate and make comments on 62 digital contemporary images.

Submitted by Jo Eland—Iowa City

Many of you know I have changed jobs and moved from teaching digital photography and graphic design to teaching middle school art and word processing. The change has been a refreshing challenge, as I'm learning to deal with this new age group, after 17 years with high school students. One of the things I find myself doing a lot of is teaching students the Golden Rule, "Treat others as you would have them treat you." I believe it's a good guide for N4C members, as well. Now go out and shoot for those Targets!

Sincerely,
Scott Udey

PS: If you have other ideas on how N4C can reach the Targets, or if your club has any other unique, successful, energizing activities, please share them with me, and I will try to pass them forward in a future bulletin. Thank You.

N4C Contests - Coded Comments for use in Judging Software

TECHNIQUE:

- 11 OXP Over exposed
- 12 UXP Under exposed
- 13 SHP Image is very sharp.
- 14 CFP Main subject is in sharp focus.
- 15 SFT Image is soft.
- 16 SFP One or more areas are not in focus.
- 17 CMT Camera movement
- 18 OST Over-saturated.
- 19 NST Needs more saturation.
- 20 GSP Great separation of background and subject

COMPOSITION:

- 31 CCI Clear center of interest.
- 32 EUC Effective use of a center of interest.
- 33 CIF Center of interest is nicely framed
- 34 LCI Lacks a center of interest.
- 35 CCF Use more of the edge subject to frame center of interest
- 36 N+3 Good use of the rule of thirds.
- 37 N-3 Consider moving the subject closer to one of the third points.
- 38 NUC Needs more effective use of the elements of composition.
- 39 GLL Great use of leading lines.
- 40 NLL Image needs a leading line to pull you into the picture.
- 41 MRG Merger between subject and surroundings
- 42 BCP Background complements the primary subject.
- 43 BDP Background distracts from the primary

subject.

- 44 CPV Consider cropping vertical and re-submitting
- 45 CPH Consider cropping horizontal and re-submitting

INTEREST:

- 61 HII High impact and a interest to the viewer.
 - 62 TLI Technically sound but lacking in interest to the majority of
- Use either Number or Letter for a Comment Code

OCTOBER



Monthly Contest Results

B & W Pictorial Prints

- 1st Yosemite - El Capitan View - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
- 2nd Train 8022 - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- 3rd Row Your Boat - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM Medora Barn - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM Back to Rollag - Drago Nemeec, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Honey Moon - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior

31 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Great River. Chair: Ryno Olson. Judges: Sharon Snyder, Martha Farwell, Sheldon Farwell. Comments: This was a group of well done prints.

Color Prints

- 1st Northern Gannets - Mike Landwehr, Des Moines
- 2nd Left Turn - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
- 3rd Barn Owl - Randy Moyer, Iowa City
- HM Train 8072 - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- HM Lavender Harvest - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
- HM Pelican with Fern - Ryno W Olson, Great River

46 entries from 10 clubs. Judging Club: Hugoton Area. Chair: Judy Hickert. Judges: LeAnn Akins, Kelvin Heitmann, Clyde Lighty. Comments: Enjoyed the opportunity to see so many great photos.

Creative Prints

- 1st Out of this World - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 2nd Dutch Shoes - Paul Grillo, Des Moines
- 3rd Quiet Sunset - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
- HM Aspen Vortex - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
- HM Bikes for Sale - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM Pink Rose - Bob Rude, Iowa City

21 entries from 3 clubs. Judging Club: Fargo Moorhead. Chair: Bruce Bernsein. Judges: Drago Nemeec, Roxanne Westman, Gordon Court.

Digital B&W

- 1st P51 and B25 - Richard Southwick, Heart O'Lakes
- 2nd Farewell Embrace - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
- 3rd Ominous Morning - Gene Schwoppe, Saint Paul
- HM This Old Barn - Bill Williamson, Central Iowa
- HM Old Truck 5057 - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- HM Cool and Calm - Terry Clark, Iowa City
- HM Saint Isaacs Dome with Dove - Maxine Saul, Minnesota Valley
- HM Meeker Ranch View - Dan Ray, Black Hills
- HM Grand Tetons - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM Ranch Hand - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
- HM Enjoying the Ride, Mono - Sue Olson, Minnesota Valley

105 entries from 19 clubs. Judging Club: Shutterbug Camera Club. Chair: John F. Larson, Jr.. Judges: Shirley White, Sarah Bissell, Trish Ditsworth.

October Contest Results Continued

Digital Creative

- 1st Prison Break - Dan Francis, Fargo-Moorhead
- 2nd Now, how do I get out of here! - Bill Williamson, Central Iowa
- 3rd Sax Blues - Tom Arnhold, Topeka
- HM Admiralty Head Lighthouse - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM 25 or 6 to 4 - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- HM Expect Prince - Drago Nemec, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Twizzling new Mississippi River - Jean McDonough, North Metro
- HM Lucky Joe - Paul Bellinger, Omaha
- HM 2014 - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Early Morning Light - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM Stem Winder - Doug Heimstead, North Metro

105 entries from 20 clubs. Judging Club: Women's Color Photo Club. Chair: Linda Rutherford. Judges: Judith Barat, Marilyn Victor, Annette VanLengerich. Comments: Many great images. Lots of ties. Also many images that split the judges. Quite a challenge.

Digital Journalism

- 1st Gotcha - Joe Kubala, Duluth-Superior
- 2nd Lightening Strike to Propane Tank Leaves Small Ray of Hope - Jean Aamodt, Wichita Area
- 3rd Cave Travelers - Kristy Johnson, Minnesota Valley
- HM Determination - Jim Lindsay, Saint Paul
- HM Color Vibe Run - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
- HM WWII Re-enactors on a Break - Linda Rutherford, Women's Color
- HM Thunderbirds Mirror Manuver - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
- HM Strength of Purpose - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM Crowd Pleaser - Paul Bellinger, Omaha

88 entries from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs. Chair: Brenda Strauss. Judges: Debra Loudon, Sheila Sutton, Walter Fengler.

Digital Nature

- 1st Wolf Puppy - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
- 2nd Hummingbird - Bill Williamson, Central Iowa
- 3rd I Feel Pretty - John Schilling, La Crosse Area
- HM Him & Her - Patricia Anderson, Shutterbug
- HM Face to Face - Bob Muschewske, Saint Paul
- HM Hygienist's Delight - Larry Syverud, Saint Paul
- HM Blk-Crowned Night Heron - Gary Renier, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Lexi and Mercedes 0981 - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- HM Scratch Where it Itches - Garry Brandenburg, Central Iowa
- HM Good Parenting - Jonathan Dyess, Duluth-Superior
- HM Laetiporus Sulphureus - Herb Gustafson, Saint Paul
- HM Grizzly in Color - Sheldon Farwell, Great River
- HM Texas Lily - Kelli Griffith, Duluth-Superior

126 entries from 23 clubs. Judging Club: North Metro Photo Club. Chair: Debbie Kippen. Judges: Rachel Cain, Roger Williams, Jean McDonough.

Travel Prints

- 1st Street in Pienza Italy - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- 2nd Morning in the Tetons, Grand Teton NP Wyoming - Darcy Sime, Albert Lea Lens & Shutter
- 3rd St. Louis Night Sky, St. Louis, MO - Greg Hogle, Topeka
- HM Texas Lilly - Kelli Griffith, Duluth-Superior
- HM Old Manning Bridge Whitman CO, USA - Delores Meister, Iowa City
- HM Double Arch Juniper, Utah - Mark Gromko, Iowa City

41 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Huron Area. Chair: Jackson Peterson. Judges: Donna Palmlund, Mark Gubbins, Darlene Kutzler. Comments: Good quality!

October Contest Results Continued

Digital Pictorial

- 1st Family on the Move - Bob Lundquist, Saint Paul
- 2nd Home of the Universe - Dan Francis, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd Portland Head - Jack Gustison, Shutterbug
- HM Peak of Harvest - Paul Grillo, Des Moines
- HM Cripple Creek Railroad - Brian Narveson, La Crosse Area
- HM Glorious Permaquid Morning - Jean Aamodt, Wichita Area
- HM Mississippi Celebration - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
- HM Perfect Catch - Joe Kubala, Duluth-Superior
- HM Shades of Red - Martha Farwell, Great River
- HM Sunrise with Clouds - Randall Williams, Sioux City
- HM Balloons, Balloons, and More Balloons - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM Futball Flyer - Shane Abbitt, Des Moines
- HM Sylan Lake - Gary Bartel, Sioux Falls

138 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: Cedar Rapids Camera Club. Chair: Sandra Kotowske. Judges: John Chadma, Susan Stepanek, SuAnn Tichy. Comments: Many of the emails did not include a list of member names submitting images. A few files were very small. A few images were labeled incorrectly.

Digital Travel

- 1st Jasper, Alberta 3730 - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- 2nd Oregon Trail, Scottsbluff Nat'l Monument - Larry Headley, Omaha
- 3rd Merrick Butte - Don Loseke, Omaha
- HM Geyser Stream in Northern Lights Geyser, Iceland - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- HM Pancakes for Breakfast - Debbie Abraham, La Crosse Area
- HM Garden of the Gods - Pat Schwope, Saint Paul
- HM Lower Falls of the Yellowstone - Martha Farwell, Great River
- HM Canyon Tourists, Arizona - Jerry Ranch, Des Moines
- HM Oak Creek View - Arizona - Morris Gildemeister, Saint Paul
- HM Mt. Moran Fall Reflection - Gary Fagan, Dubuque
- HM Waterfowl Lake - Alberta, Canada - Stephanie Coffman, Des Moines
- HM Tuscan Farmhouse - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM Na Pali Coast - Paul Schoenfeld, La Crosse Area
- HM Gunfight in Deadwood SD - Bob Crowe, Wichita Area

110 entries from 22 clubs. Judging Club: Lidgerwood Camera Club. Chair: Sharon Frolek. Judges: Allan Costain, Daniel Frolek, Ruth Novotny. Comments: Judging for the first time was simple once we figured it out with Ken's help. Great Pictures and fun to critique others work. Hope we were not too hard on anybody. Our judges consisted of a commercial artist who also has been involved in photography for some time, another club member who travels a lot and who has been involved in photography for many years and another member who has taken pictures for many years and learned a little about critiquing others photos.

Journalism Prints

- 1st Heeler is Next - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- 2nd "Home" - Kathleen Wolleat, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd Flying Sky High - Greg Hogle, Topeka
- HM Old Texaco Station - SuAnn Tichy, Cedar Rapids
- HM 16 Miles to Go - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM "You're Gonna Drop Me" - Jo Eland, Iowa City

34 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Huron Area. Chair: Jackson Peterson. Judges: Donna Palmlund, Mark Gubbins, Darlene Kutzler. Comments: We enjoyed seeing the variety of good photos.

Nature Prints

- 1st Mother and Children - Michael Walsh, Sioux City
- 2nd Winter Rations - Kelli Griffith, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd Greater Prairie Chicken - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
- HM I'm too Big, This isn't going to Work - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- HM Waterfall Stream - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM Big Bull Elk - Mark George, Central Iowa

39 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Great River. Chair: Ryno Olson. Judges: Sharon Snyder, Martha Farwell, Sheldon Farwell. Comments: This was an excellent set of images.

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