



The North Central Camera Club Council News Bulletin

"Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends"

Volume 51 No. 2

WWW.N4C.US

November, 2015

President's Message

Greetings and Welcome to November,

It's hard for me to believe that it is November as it seems we just finished September but the leaves are falling off of the trees signaling the inevitable snowfall to come. The end of fall always makes me sad because of the loss of color more than anything else and it will be several months before we see the colors of spring. I learned long ago not to whine about it but the thought of winter photography makes me cold even thinking about it. I remember commenting on a wonderful winter eagle photo by long time member Wilford Yoder and asked him how he could tolerate the cold. His response was "you sit in the car with your warmest clothes on, the heater running full blast and the window down." My hats off to all of you who brave the cold and capture those amazing winter images.

Speaking of amazing images I would encourage all of you to visit the N4C Website (<http://www.n4c.us/>), look at the winning images from September and October and be prepared to be blown away. You can always learn by looking at the images but this time I was particularly struck by the quality of the winners in each category. It says a lot about our members but I also think the images make a great case for how instructive digital photography can be. In the film days we would take photos, wait for the processing and then realize what we thought was a terrific shot was not what we envisioned. In the digital age you take the photo, look at it and if it doesn't meet your satisfaction you take another one which makes digital photography such an amazing learning tool.

Of course we also have to admit doing the "processing" on our computers has raised its own set of challenges ranging everything from what program to use to how many memory cards should you have and how much hard drive storage do you really need? Answer: Probably more than you have with respect to memory cards and hard drive space!

And as long as I'm talking about computers don't forget to have everything backed up all the time which in itself is a challenge. My house machine is backed up on a RAID array (lots of big hard drives that "talk" to each other) every hour and I also have a copy of the photos I value the most at my office. The only thing you can guarantee about technology is that it will fail and it is a "when" question rather than an "if."

For those of you who still find this computer "stuff" a foreign language, but may need some back up drives, you can pick up some really inexpensive hard drives for not too much money. Last week I bought a 3 terra byte portable hard drive for \$139 at Best Buy, which is quite a bargain.

It also makes me quite happy to see judging clubs writing comments for the entries. There is no question that it takes a lot of time to do it but the membership sure benefits. Larry Headley made some good comments about judging and I'll leave it to you to see what they are under October results.

First Vice-President Linda Rutherford tells me that no one has contacted her who wants to be a member of a study group. If you're interested in being part of a group that will carefully critique your images she is the one to contact.
(Lruther1@comcast.net)

That's about it for this month and I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Jo

Buying a Drone?

During the Omaha Convention several people asked about my drone so I thought since many of you might be considering purchasing one I thought I'd share my considerations when I bought mine.

My drone is a DJI Phantom II Plus (<http://www.dji.com/>). What you need to fly 1) the drone which is about 24 inches square, 2) the controller with 2 joysticks and an antenna booster and 3) your smartphone (either iPhone or Android) works. You create a network between your cellphone and your drone which lets you see what the camera on the drone is seeing, tells you how high up the drone is and how far away it is, the angle of the camera and where the nose of the drone is because winds often move the way it is going when you are flying it. The drone will take either still photos or video!

Prior to flying the drone you set the gyros because they hold the drone steady when it flies which is essential. By setting the gyros the drone knows where you are standing in case the drone loses your signal from your cell phone it will return to you and land! (I was flying in winter and flew up to 700 feet and got the message from the drone on my cell phone that it had lost my signal and was coming to me and landed!) If you are flying your drone and there isn't enough battery power for the drone to come back to you the drone will turn itself around and come and land at your feet. If you happen to run into a tree and crash it the drone will send out a GPS signal so you can find it. Many other models of drones do not have these features.

I've had mine as high as 1,000 feet vertical and around 800 feet horizontal but the online folks say they have easily flown 1,500 horizontal feet from the controller. I find that I like to be able to see the drone so I haven't ventured further horizontal.

This drone can also download Google Maps, set waypoints on that Google map and the drone will fly them and return to you. If you want it to fly a route and the drone won't have enough battery power to fly it - it won't fly. Battery life is about 20-25 minutes on a battery and is less in cold weather. The online forums suggest that you buy more than one battery and I agree.

And of course when there is a new technology there will be folks who do dumb things like the drunk person who flew his at the White House and those who fly near airports. It is built into the software of the DJI drones that they will not fly near major airports and monuments. (instead they just land themselves near the airport).

I've done a little commercial work with mine and of course continue to take drone (and still) photos for the Friends of Lake Darling. But I have to admit I own it because it's fun! It is my intention to bring the drone back to Springbrook so those who come can also see it fly.

- Jo Eland



OCTOBER



Contest Results

B & W Pictorial Prints

- 1st St. James Church - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- 2nd Peacock Feather PF-35 - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- 3rd White Pocket - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- HM Daisy - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM Old Buick - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
- HM Battle of Nerves - Paul Grillo, Des Moines

15 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Fargo Moorhead. Chair: Bruce Bernstein. Judges: Sharon Watson, Larry Heilmann, Chuck Rizicka.

Color Prints

- 1st Spring Circus - Kelli Griffith, Duluth-Superior
- 2nd The Fins - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- 3rd Superb Starling - Ryno W Olson, Great River
- HM Brilliant fer-da-lauce - Anne S Olson, Great River
- HM Butterfly - Sandra Kotowske, Cedar Rapids
- HM Badlands Reflection - Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM Autumn Leaves - Bob Rude, Iowa City

42 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: Central Iowa. Chair: Jim Svec. Judges: Ed Siems, Mary Giese, David Giese. Comments: Nice selection of prints.

Creative Prints

- 1st Creative Passion Flower - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- 2nd Evening Sky - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 3rd Fried Chicken - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM Blue Water Lily - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM Flutterfly - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
- HM Northern Lights Steer Trail - Debbie Carroll, Duluth-Superior

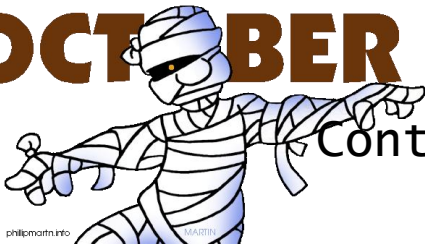
28 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Cedar Rapids. Chair: Sandy Kotouske. Judges: Susan Stepanek, SuAnn Tichy, John Chadima. Comments: A few images did not meet 8X10 inch minimum image size.

Digital B&W

- 1st Tetons - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 2nd American Queen - Carol Jacobson, Minnesota Valley
- 3rd Hafner 600 - Paul Schoenfeld, La Crosse Area
- HM Pampas Grass - Bill Williamson, Central Iowa
- HM Workplace Boots WH - Walt Huffaker, Central Iowa
- HM The News - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
- HM Pitcher - Betsy Petersen, Sioux Falls
- HM Knickerbocker Gears - Rick Graves, Minnesota Valley
- HM Butters - Cindy Anderson, North Metro
- HM Nubble Light - SuAnn Tichy, Cedar Rapids
- HM Beautiful Ayah - Nor Azhari, Iowa City

106 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Jerry Weiershauser, Carol Blair, Carl Hardy. Comments: Overall the images presented were of high quality. The majority were well exposed and sharp technically. We did however have some images with a little too much pixelation and some focus issues. The composition for the most part was good. Some of the photos could have been cropped tighter to improve the center of interest. There was a lot of interest in this group of digital images.

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Contest Results

Digital Creative

- 1st Space the Final Frontier - 2 - Kristy Johnson, Minnesota Valley
- 2nd Fall-Dance - Drago Nemeč, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd Patriotic Faces - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin
- HM Coming In - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
- HM Ship in a Bottle - Bill Williamson, Central Iowa
- HM Dells Mill - Peder Schoenfeld, La Crosse Area
- HM Eclipse Progression - Al Kiecker, Minnesota Valley
- HM Trick or Treat - Larry Headley, Omaha
- HM Flowers Under Glass - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
- HM On the Waterfront - Jean McDonough, North Metro

96 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Greg Høglund. Judges: Larry Wilson, Pam Carmichael, Don Thun. Comments: Lots of great creative images made it hard on the judges.

Digital Journalism

- 1st Hold On - Willie Gorham, Western Wisconsin
- 2nd Running the Edge - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd One Length Win - Paul Bellinger, Omaha
- HM Ready to Run - Greg Punelli, Des Moines
- HM Set Me Free - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
- HM Bareback Rodeo - Doug Heimstead, North Metro
- HM Bulls Eye - Karen Galley, Sioux Falls
- HM Playing Hard - Bill Irish, Saint Paul
- HM Fall Fishing Forecast - Technicolor - Lori Moilanen, Western Wisconsin

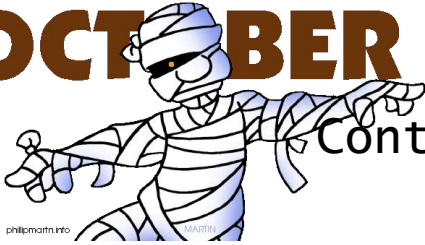
89 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: Iowa City Camera Club. Chair: Wilford Yoder. Judges: Bob Rude, Herb Proudfit, Mark Gromko. Comments: Had a nice variety of DJ images. The top nine stood out from the rest. The judges did rejudging on the top nine to agree on the order of the winners. Had one club submitted a day late. We didn't have the judging started yet so included them in our October judging.

Digital Nature

- 1st Fly in the Eye - Greg Punelli, Des Moines
- 2nd Bald Faced Hornet - David Brown, Des Moines
- 3rd Timber Wolf on the Kettle River - Doug Heimstead, North Metro
- HM Go Ahead I Got Your Back - Dale Rehder, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Dahlia Pair - Carol Jacobson, Minnesota Valley
- HM Barn Owl - Jerry Weiershauser, Sioux City
- HM Foxy - Karen Galley, Sioux Falls
- HM Sea Otter Catches Octopus - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
- HM Milky Way at Lake Ahquabi - Nor Azhari, Iowa City
- HM Indecision at Red Rock - Marlys Sullivan, La Crosse Area
- HM Life Lesson - Larry Syverud, Saint Paul
- HM Feeding the Youngster - Marge Springett, Western Wisconsin

121 entries from 23 clubs. Judging Club: Black Hills Photography Club. Chair: Jacqueline Rinehart. Judges: Codi Munsch, Deb Zimmerman, Candy Erk Manthey.

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Contest Results

Digital Pictorial

- 1st Storm Over Salt Wash - Larry Fundell, La Crosse Area
- 2nd Rainbow Over 110th Street - Lori Moilanen, Western Wisconsin
- 3rd Staircase View - Morris Gildemeister, Saint Paul
- HM Pella Girl - Mark George, Central Iowa
- HM Burntside Lake April 16 2015 - Beverley Kiecker, Minnesota Valley
- HM Setting Sun Aerostar Fly By - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
- HM Mystic Falls - Scott Dankoff, Des Moines
- HM Mealtime - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM White Pocket 34 - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- HM Tetons Milky Way - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin
- HM Bucyrus Erie Steam Shovel - Doug Heimstead, North Metro
- HM Say Your Prayers - Doug Conrad, Sioux City

122 entries from 22 clubs. Judging Club: Omaha Camera Club. Chair: Larry Headley. Judges: Dhruva Chakravarti, Don Cross, Steve Schwiesow. Comments: A difficult category to judge, as there were so many outstanding entries. Awards were earned by 14 different clubs. WRT comments, the Omaha Camera Club feels strongly about the need for judge's comments, and have taken the time to comment on each entry. Regardless of the photographer's skill and experience, how else does a photographer learn what other's see (or don't see) in their images? We sincerely hope that other clubs will return the favor and comment on all of our entries. Thanks.

Digital Travel

- 1st Reverence Before the Shrine-Namsan Park South Korea - Lori Moilanen, Western Wisconsin
- 2nd Spinnin' at Multnomah Falls, OR - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
- 3rd Horseshoe Bend Page, AZ - Greg Hogle, Topeka
- HM Omaha Park at Night - Linda Rutherford, Women's Color
- HM Ephraim Wisconsin - Sarah Becker, Des Moines
- HM Naknek Lake Katmai National Park, AK - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- HM Jetty Park Ft. Pierce Fla. - Crave Hines, Iowa City
- HM Taos Church Taos NM - Marge Springett, Western Wisconsin
- HM Iceland Vik Church in Landscape - Jean McDonough, North Metro
- HM The Mittens Monument Valley UT - Sonja Hogle, Topeka

90 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: Minnesota Valley Photography Club. Chair: Andrew Zumbach. Judges: Andrew Zumbach, Ken Chung, Al Kiecker.

Journalism Prints

- 1st Brief Ride - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- 2nd Hey, Let's Go - Roxanne Westman, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd Target Down - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
- HM Daddy's Home - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
- HM Plunging Ahead - Delores Meister, Iowa City
- HM Fire in the Rear - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City

18 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines. Chair: Paul Grillo. Judges: Richard Wacha, Paul Grillo, Jeff Oakely. Comments: The top three winners were some type of rodeo shots. Sure would like to see more variation in the future.



Contest Results

Travel Prints

- 1st Kapeubrukqat Sunset Luzern Switerland - Dorothea Jurgenson, Central Iowa
 - 2nd Lighthouse in Duluth Harbor - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
 - 3rd Blue Ice - Duluth, MN - Kelli Griffith, Duluth-Superior
 - HM Juneau Alaska Inside Passage - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
 - HM Holy Shrine, Greta NE - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
 - HM Under the Teal Lift Bridge - Diane Fonger, Duluth-Superior
- 23 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines. Chair: Paul Grillo. Judges: Paul Grillo, Richard Wacha, Shane Ab-bitt. Comments: Liked that travel had both nearby and distant locales.

Notes From Your Editor



Last month we shared the formation of the new N4C Facebook page - you can find it here if you haven't had a chance to check it out yet:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheNorthCentralCameraClubCouncil.n4c>

It is appropriate that we make the jump to social media, because that's really what N4C is about: the ability to socialize with other photographers to share knowledge, images and a lot of fun memories too.

Ken Johnson has recently shared some links on the Facebook page to some great interactive websites including a depth of field simulator (<http://dofsimulator.net/en/>) and an interactive exposure tool (<http://www.exposuretool.com/>). These are both fabulous resources for the relatively new photographer, to brush up on your skills, as well as great tools if you are trying to explain camera settings and controls to others. I know a lot of us enjoy teaching and sharing our craft with others, be sure to check these out!

I'd love to hear from some of you with ideas and content for future bulletins. Maybe you could conduct a short interview with one of your fellow club members who you feel captures especially innovative images or has an interesting job, family history etcetera? Did you attend a photo workshop, tour or seminar that you'd like to share/review/recommend for others? Anything you've spent a lot of time researching for purchase or use that might be of interest to fellow N4C members? Maybe there are some photo exhibits or events in your area that would be of interest to people looking to make a short trip, or you'd like to share your club meeting details for members from other clubs that might be interested in a visit?

Another idea I've had, which would be great for February, is publishing a short interview with a few images (or autobio if you would like to submit your own!) with couples in N4C that enjoy photography together. Don't limit your thinking to traditional "couples" - it could be best friends, father/mother and son/daughter or maybe you are working to share photography with your grandkids?

Hope this finds you all well, and that you have a very happy Thanksgiving!!

Sharla Glick
-Editor

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WANTED:

Your photos, stories, hints and tips for the 2015-16 N4C News Bulletin. Please send them to Editor Sharla Glick - edit@n4c.us

Let us know what's going on in your neck of the woods!

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