



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C October 2025 News Bulletin

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N4C Members,

Wake up its Fall! Cool temps are on the horizon. I personally cannot wait until the first freeze, and the bugs start to die. They love my skin. Perfect time to hit the trails or city and find something new to shoot. Try something out of your comfort zone. Try a new category to shoot for or brush up with some online tutorials for the digital darkroom. Days will be getting shorter all too soon.

A few notes about N4C and meetings we have had:

- Duplicates have become a real problem. We hate to remove winners when the images have been submitted before. Club chair and members - KEEP TRACK OF YOUR SUBMISSIONS. NO DUPLICATES. I try to never use all capitols but there is such urgency in this. Club Presidents, please review submissions with your clubs and club chairs please review the rules. We can all strive to make it an even playing field for all.
- We conducted an online yearly board meeting in September:
 1. Our finances are in good shape
 2. 2026 Convention planning is moving forward-Oct 9-11
 3. Discussion of various competition questions
 4. AR and other categories - you must judge the image on its merits and assume the Ethics of the photographer. Afterward, it can be brought up to clarify that the image is of the maker.
 5. Subcommittee to look at new judging software
 6. End of year awards are still in the works, no date set yet.
 7. Spring Board Meeting, April 16 at 6pm tentatively set

- Dues- as a reminder dues are up in September and only half of the clubs have paid. Please use the online form and your numbers from May of 2025 to calculate dues and send them in as soon as possible to avoid loss of any winning competition points. <https://n4c.us/Supplies-Forms/N4CDuesNotice.pdf>

As always, please call, text or email me directly with any questions or concerns 563-590-9868 or n4ccameraclub@gmail.com

Jennifer L Tigges, President N4C 2024-2025

563-590-9868 call or text

563-583-7128 voice only

Dubuque Camera Club



Bulletin Editor

1st Place Digital Images are still included in the N4C Bulletins. The N4C website <http://www.n4c.us> presents all the monthly Digital winners on page 1.

All Print winners are shown in this Bulletin each month.

NOTE: There are no summer competitions. The N4C Best of 2024-2025 Digital Images and Prints are currently being judged. Since there is NO N4C Convention for 2025, a ZOOM Meeting will be held to show the N4C Best of 2024-2025 entries and winners. WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ZOOM MEETING. And the winners will also be shown in the N4C Bulletin as soon as the results are presented in the ZOOM MEETING.

FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FROM N4C CLUBS WEBSITES. SHOWING THE BEST OF THE BEST EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES. (1) AN ARTICLE ON Exposure 101: Aperture, Shutter Speed, ISO

****The Educational LINKS ARE AT THE END OF THIS BULLETIN.**

Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends!

Carl Hardy, N4C Bulletin Editor

N4C September (2025-09) Contest Results

Digital Altered Reality

1st Colorful Dew Drops - Allen Kurth, Omaha
2nd Bridge - Jackie Feil, Fargo-Moorhead
3rd Looking For a Friend - Bob Rude, Iowa City
HM Tears and Tragedy - Diana Borash, Iowa City
HM Behind and in Front of the Lens - Tim Zeltinger, Minot
HM Bridge Over the Pond - Sue Retzlaff, La Crosse Area
51 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque Camera Club. Chair: Cara Pusateri. Judges: Tim Tindle, Kevin McTague, Ken Kiss.

Digital B&W

1st Walking Through the Tunnel - Mitch Keller, Sioux City
2nd Oyster Mushroom Closeup - Tom Arnhold, Topeka
3rd Saint Paul's Cathedral - Jackie Feil, Fargo-Moorhead
HM A Nod to Audrey - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
HM Mama and Baby Elephants - Andrea Pellerito, Dubuque
HM Ice Hoofing - Peggy Volden, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Barred Owl - Anna Frissell, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Senior Year - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
78 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines Camera Club. Chair: Janie Lawson. Judges: Jackie Stoken, Patty Foster, Sarah Becker.

Digital Journalism

1st Color Me Terrified - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
2nd Junior Rodeo - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
HM Ahead of the Storm - Tim Zeltinger, Minot
HM 8 Seconds from Victory - Allen Kurth, Omaha
HM Making Sure It's Good and Tight - David Gonzalez, Saint Paul
HM Folk Dancers - Dennis Kroll, Western Wisconsin
HM Melissa and Mark Hortman lie in state at MN Capitol Rotunda - Judy Lathrop, Women's
59 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth-Superior Camera Club. Chair: Lucy Kragness. Judges: Joni Tauzell, Amber Nichols, Brian Rauvola. Comments: 3rd Place was disqualified as a previous award winner too late to rejudge.

Digital Nature

1st Great Grey Owl on the Hunt - Doug Long, Fargo-Moorhead
2nd Flying into the Wind - Marge Springett, Western Wisconsin
3rd Lion's Mane - Ken Epstein, Saint Paul
HM Canada Eagle IV - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
HM Take Off - Martha Farwell, Great River
HM A Little Sunlight got Through the Fog - Bob Rude, Iowa City
HM One in Every Bunch - Tim Zeltinger, Minot
HM A Gathering of Monarchs - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
HM Golden Tanager - Mariann Cyr, Western Wisconsin
86 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Omaha Camera Club. Chair: Nikki McDonald. Judges: Allen Kurth, Joel Hauschild, Randall Sullivan. Comments: We enjoyed judging and were impressed by the number of excellent entries. Judges did note that impact is reduced when file size is noticeably smaller than maximum allowable. They also noticed problems on otherwise very good entries, cautioning entrants to pay close attention to issues that may arise from sharpening and/or denoise software.

Digital Pictorial

1st Hello There! - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin
2nd Creating Fire - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
3rd The perfect citrus slice - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
HM Model,Want_to_Be_Cheyenne_Col - Bob Felderman, Dubuque

HM Night Chapel - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
 HM Wife of Dracula - Diana Borash, Iowa City
 HM Room Service - Crystal Johnson, Minot
 HM In the Lagoon - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
 HM Cactus Flower and Five Buds - Peggy Boike, Saint Paul
 HM Monarchs at Blazing Star - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
 85 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Lincoln Camera Club. Chair: Oscar Sarafian. Judges: Jim Kinkennon, Gail Hollarbush, Bernadette Korslund.

Digital Travel

1st The Pier, Lofoten, Norway - Margaret West, Omaha
 2nd Evening at the Fair Yuma, AZ - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
 3rd Cabin near Estes Park CO - Jeff Westgard, Fargo-Moorhead
 HM Pinch Me - Moorea French Polynesia - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
 HM Grand Portage MN Hollow Rock Formation in Winter - Paul Hagen, Fargo-Moorhead
 HM Ninepipes National Wildlife Refuge Charlo MT - Peggy Volden, Fargo-Moorhead
 HM Close Encounters Devils Tower WY - Mick Richards, Minnesota Valley
 HM Tucson AZ, - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
 HM Temple of Athena Nike, Athens - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
 86 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Shutterbug Camera Club. Chair: John F. Larson, Jr.. Judges: Michelle Hall, Sarah Hall, Shirley White.

Altered Reality Prints

1st Cosmic Fantasy - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines
 2nd Free to Imagine - Gordon Rath, Dubuque
 3rd Sr Donatus Church - Ryno W Olson, Great River
 8 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: St Paul Camera Club. Chair: Terry Buter. Judges: Karen Leonard, Gene Schwope, Steve Simmer. Comments: There was a nice variety of creative techniques.

B & W Pictorial Prints

1st Bursting Forth - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
 2nd Tingley School House - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
 3rd Backyard Rabbit - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
 HM All Alone - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
 HM Fat Cardinal- Gary Gilbert
 21 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Greg Hoglund. Judges: Sonja Hoglund, Bob Wright, Scott Udey. Comments: Good group of photos. Some of the photos have been submitted multiple times and are showing wear from shipping and handling.

Journalism Prints

1st Grace in Motion - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
 2nd Tourists, Traditions and Time - Gordon Rath, Dubuque
 3rd Wicked Awesome House Fire - Bob Felderman, Dubuque
 10 entries from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Shane Monahan, Corey Anderson, Carl Hardy. While the number of entries was small the quality of the Journalism Prints were outstanding; telling the story with quality images (technique, composition, and interest).

Nature Prints

1st Zoom - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
 2nd Hummingbird - Gary Gilbert, Sioux City
 3rd Blue Heron - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
 HM Oriole - Kevin Smith, Sioux City
 HM Heron - Carey Anderson, Sioux City
 23 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Greg Hoglund. Judges: Scott Udey, Bob Wright, Sonja Hoglund. Comments: Lots of great images. There were several ties and wish we could have given a third HM.

Pictorial Prints (Color)

1st Mounted Shoot - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs

2nd Anemone in Bloom - Deb Shoning, Des Moines

3rd Lemons - Carey Anderson, Sioux City

HM Ben Morton Point Sunset GSMNP - Ron Tigges, Dubuque

HM Grandfathers Memory - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines

21 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: St Paul Camera Club. Chair: Terry Buter. Judges: Karen Leonard, Gene Schwoppe, Steve Simmer. Comments: There was a very nice variety of quality images.

Travel Prints

1st Lower Falls Yellowstone NP, WY - Karen Durrant, Dubuque

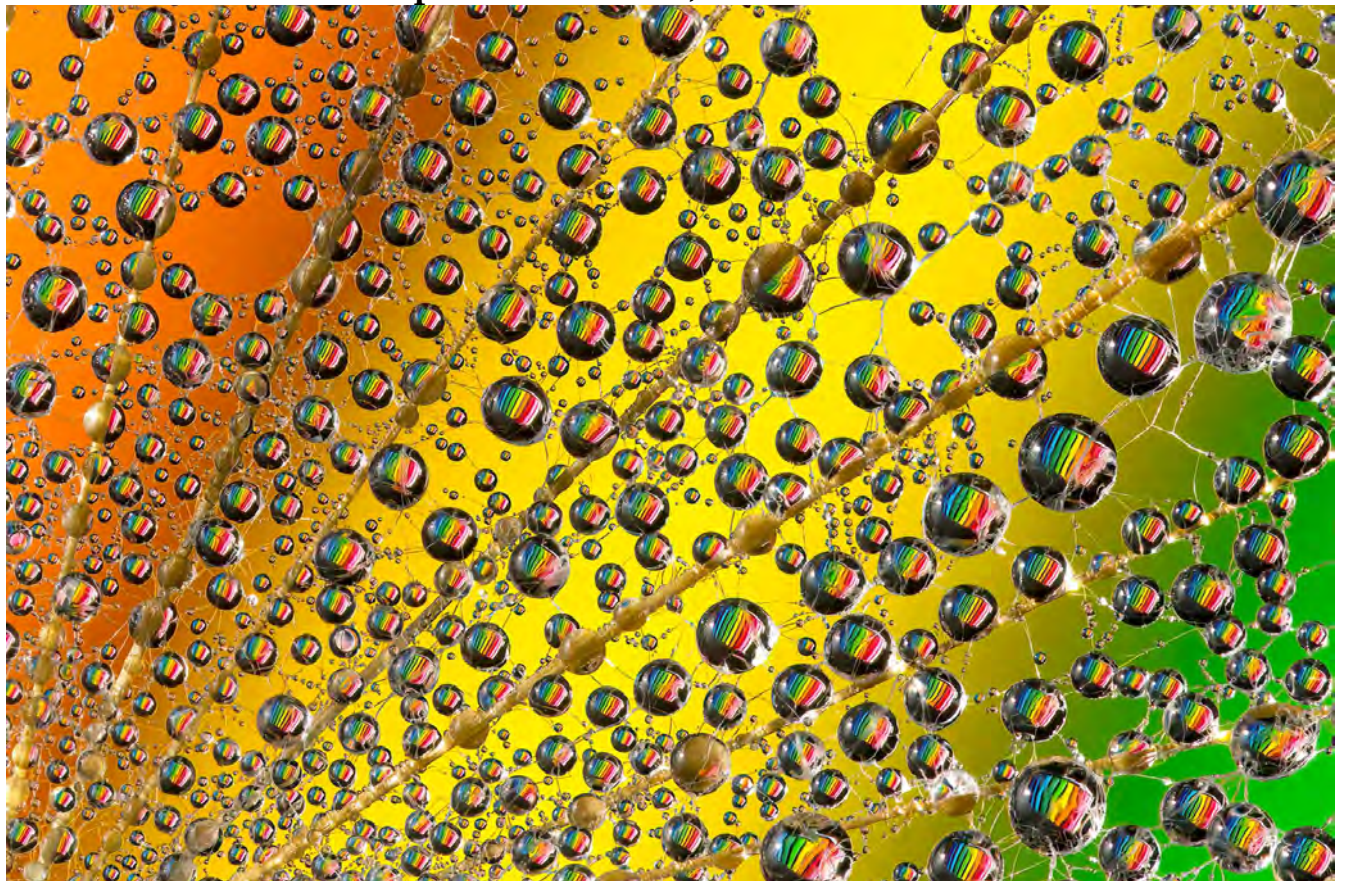
2nd Somewhere in the Driftless--IL - Henry Matthiessen III, Dubuque

3rd City Center Motor Lodge, UT - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior

11 entries from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Shane Monahan, Corey Anderson, Carl Hardy. Although the number of entries was low the quality of the prints was excellent. All of the 11 entries were well done. It was hard to pick winners. The entries presented unique insight into the areas showcased.

Digital Altered Reality

1st Colorful Dew Drops - Allen Kurth, Omaha



Digital Black & White

1st Walking Through the Tunnel - Mitch Keller, Sioux City



Digital Journalism

1st Color Me Terrified - Nikki McDonald, Omaha



Digital Nature

1st Great Grey Owl on the Hunt - Doug Long, Fargo-Moorhead



Digital Pictorial

1st Hello There! - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin



Digital Travel

1st The Pier, Lofoten, Norway - Margaret West, Omaha



Altered Reality Prints

1st Cosmic Fantasy - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines



2nd Free to Imagine - Gordon Rath, Dubuque



3rd Sr Donatus Church - Ryno W Olson, Great River



B & W Pictorial Prints

1st Bursting Forth - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior



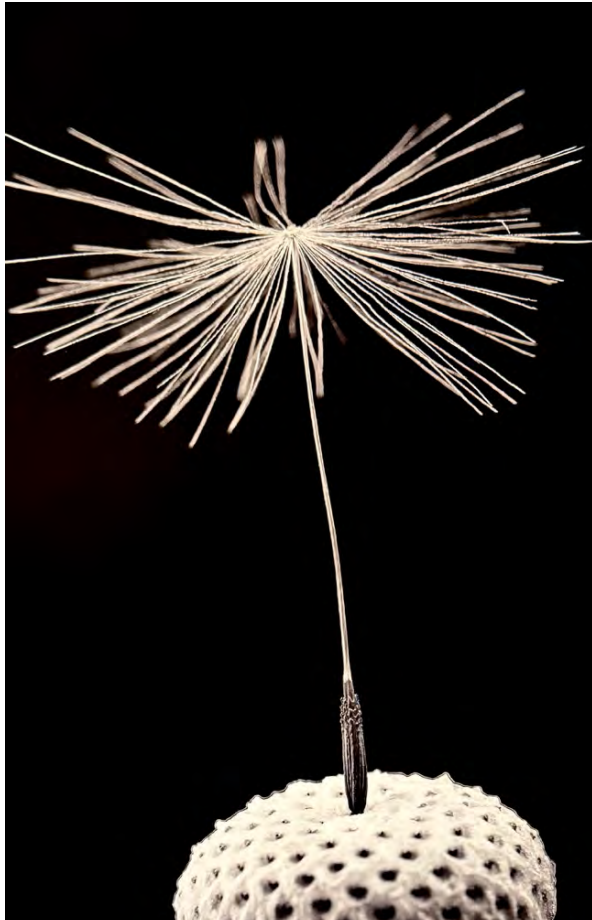
2nd Tingley School House - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs



3rd Backyard Rabbit - Deb Shoning, Des Moines



HM All Alone - Ron Tigges, Dubuque



HM Fat Cardinal- Gary Gilbert



Journalism Prints

1st Grace in Motion - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque



2nd Tourists, Traditions and Time - Gordon Rath, Dubuque



3rd Wicked Awesome House Fire - Bob Felderman, Dubuque



Nature Prints

1st Zoom - Deb Shoning, Des Moines



2nd Hummingbird - Gary Gilbert, Sioux City



3rd Blue Heron - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs



HM Oriole - Kevin Smith, Sioux City



HM Heron - Carey Anderson, Sioux City



Pictorial Prints (Color)

1st Mounted Shoot - Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs



2nd Anemone in Bloom - Deb Shoning, Des Moines



3rd Lemons - Carey Anderson, Sioux City



HM Ben Morton Point Sunset GSMNP - Ron Tigges, Dubuque



Travel Prints

1st Lower Falls Yellowstone NP, WY - Karen Durrant, Dubuque



2nd Somewhere in the Driftness--IL - Henry Matthiessen III, Dubuque



3rd City Center Motor Lodge, UT - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior



N4C Photo Contests: The way to win IS TO PLAY.

By Ken Johnson

Why Judging Makes You a Better Photographer

September marks the start of a brand-new season of N4C contests, running through next May! One of the biggest benefits of being part of an N4C-affiliated club is the opportunity to enter (and judge!) these monthly competitions. You will discover locations you'll want to visit.

Here's why judging photos – and having your own judged – will make you a better photographer:

1. Having Your Photos Judged Helps You Grow

Think of it this way: you love your own photo, but others may see something you missed. Judges provide fresh perspectives and honest feedback. Don't worry about ribbons – think of it as free coaching from peers who share your passion.

One person may swoon over your sunrise, another may prefer your moody fog shot. That's the beauty of it. Photography is subjective. The feedback you receive isn't about winning or losing; it's about learning what works and why.

Plus, contests give you a reason to share your work regularly, which keeps you shooting, editing, and improving.

2. Judging Trains Your Eye

When you sit down to judge, you're exposed to dozens of images from hobbyists like you. You learn to ask: *Why does this photo work? What could make it stronger?* That process sharpens your skills for your own photography.

You're training your photographer's eye. You're forced to ask: *What makes this one more powerful than that one?* It's like eating at 20 different restaurants in one night – you quickly figure out what you like, what you don't, and why the garnish matters.

Judging makes you sharper, more observant, and (bonus!) less likely to keep 500 “almost identical” shots of the same waterfall.

3. Don't Take It Personally

Photography is subjective. Sometimes the eagle-in-flight loses to a rusty doorknob. It happens. The key is to learn, laugh, and keep shooting. (Besides, barns and doorknobs need love too.)

Not everyone will pick your photo as the “best.” That's okay! Judges are human (most of them, anyway). One may love leading lines; another may go crazy for bright colors. If your masterpiece doesn't take home a ribbon, it doesn't mean it's not great – it just means you've added another viewpoint to your understanding of photography.

Quick Tips for First-Time Judges

When you volunteer to judge an N4C contest, remember: you're not looking for *perfection* – you're looking for balance. Each image is scored on three main criteria:

1. Technique

- Sharp focus, good lighting, natural color, proper exposure
- For prints: overall print quality counts too

2. Composition

- Are the elements arranged in a pleasing way?
- Is the subject clear and well-framed?
- Does the photo feel balanced?

3. Interest

- Originality, imagination, and storytelling
- Does the subject grab you?
- Is there impact, mood, or maybe even a touch of humor?

Photos are scored by three judges. Don't stress – just be honest, thoughtful, and fair. Remember, your feedback helps others grow, and you'll sharpen your own skills along the way!

4. Making Judging Easier

Each month, one club volunteers to judge entries from other clubs. It's peer-to-peer learning at its finest. A few tips to keep it smooth:

- Three judges to balance out personal tastes.
- Score consistently on composition, impact, and technical skill.
- Share *why* a photo stands out – members learn from your words.
- **Remember it's educational.** No cash prizes here – just learning, growth, and maybe a nice certificate to hang next to your fridge magnets.

In the End...

N4C contests aren't about winning or losing. They're about learning, improving, and connecting with other photographers. By entering – and volunteering to judge – you'll grow your skills and keep your club strong.

So the next time your club needs judges, don't hide behind your tripod. Don't just enter – consider raising your hand to judge. Who knows? The next time you're out shooting, you might find yourself saying, *"Ah, now that's a photo with impact!"*

All the Details

Check out these web links to learn more about N4C Competition:

<https://n4c.us/competition.htm>

https://n4c.us/N4C_Contest_Rules_2025-2026_v8-1-25.pdf

https://n4c.us/Videos/Judging_N4C_by_Mark-Gromko_2.0.mp4

Study the photos of past award winners in each of the categories of Altered Reality, Nature, Pictorial, Journalism, Travel, and Black & White. There are contests each month for both Digital and Print entries.

https://n4c.us/Winner_Galleries.htm

Expand Your Photography Skills

By Ken Johnson, N4C Webmaster

https://n4c.us/photography_links

If you use Photoshop or Lightroom, you know the recently added capabilities are astounding. There is FREE HELP for you to discover the many new features that will help add new life to your photos. It is actually much easier than ever. Watch and learn how other photographers transform average photos into outstanding ones.

There are very outstanding experts making video tutorials to teach you. They are better than workshops and seminars because you can learn and replay them at your own pace. My list of favorites has grown into the extensive list I've posted on the N4C photography links web page https://n4c.us/photography_links. Find several to show for Camera Club programs.

Many of the links are YouTube video libraries where you can scroll through subjects of interest. Learning a new photography skill is an alternative to what's on TV these days.



This massive page of links to hundreds of video tutorials will teach you how to use the latest features of Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, and Camera Raw. It also includes links about the basics of photography, such as the exposure triangle and camera settings, and the history of photography.

Explore the presenters and topics. Many links are to YouTube channels where the instructors continually add new videos. If you find a source that you really like, subscribe to it, and you will receive email notifications of their new videos.

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Subscribe to N4C on Facebook so you get the latest news.

It is the best way to get and download the monthly N4C Bulletin as soon as it is published. You can always get the latest and past issues at <https://n4c.us/news>



This is the first news of the monthly N4C Digital Contest award winners. They are all for viewing at https://n4c.us/Winner_Galleries

EXPOSURE 101: Aperture, Shutter Speed and Iso

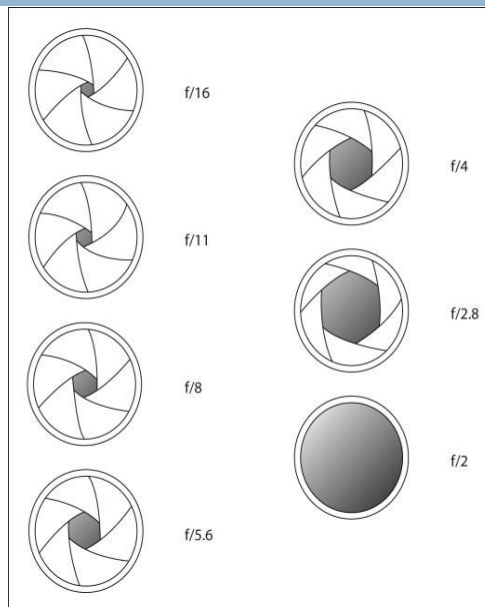
Western Wisconsin Photography Club March 7, 2012

Photography is about capturing light.

Aperture, shutter and ISO affect the light the camera sees.

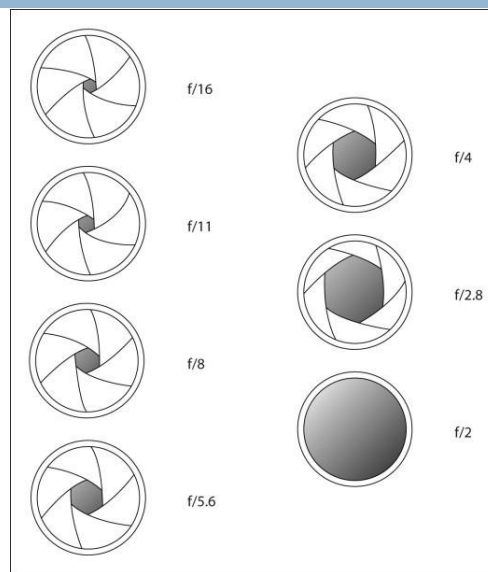
APERTURE

- Aperture is the size of the opening between the lens and the film or sensor.
- Aperture is measured in f-stops.
- F-stop measurement is inverse to the opening size.
- Small openings have large f-stop number.
- Large openings have small f-stop number.



APERTURE

**One full f-stop change
exposes the film or
sensor to double (or
half) the light**



SHUTTER SPEED

- Shutter speed is the length of time the film or sensor is exposed to light.
- It is how long the camera's "eye" is open.
- It is measured usually in fractions of a second.
- Shutter speed is the length of time the film or sensor is exposed to light.
- It is how long the camera's "eye" is open.
- It is measured usually in fractions of a second.
 - ☐ Fast shutter speeds expose the film or sensor to less light.
 - ☐ Slow shutter speeds expose the film or sensor to more light.

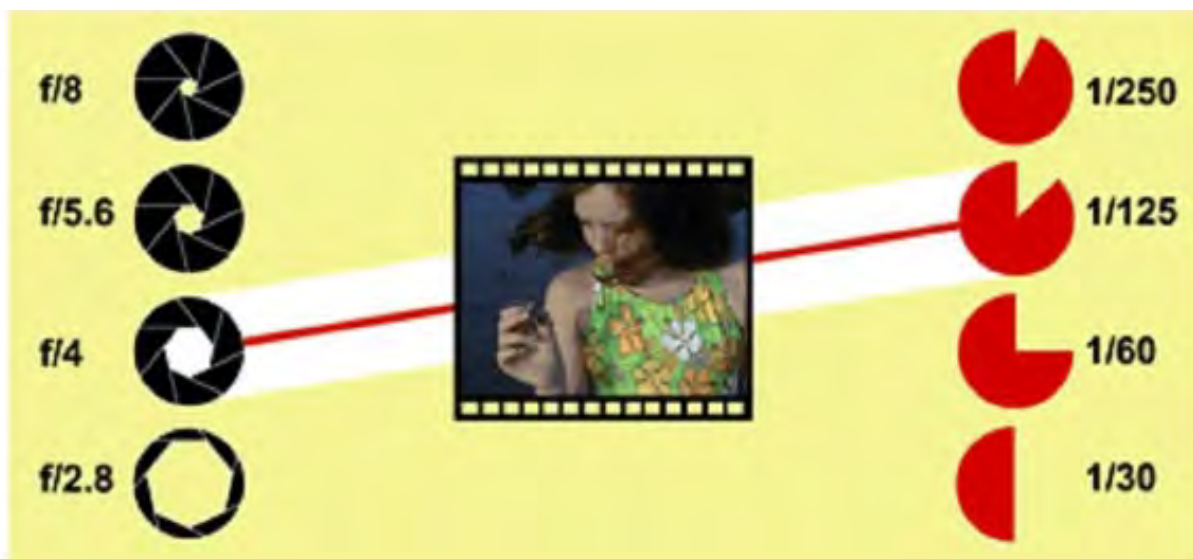
- **Standard shutter speeds:**

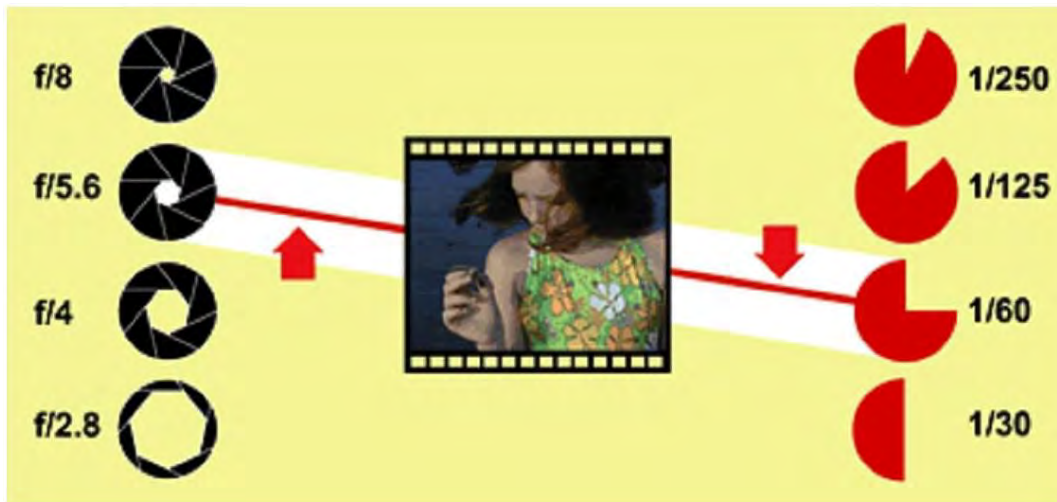
- ☐ 1/1000 s
- ☐ 1/500 s
- ☐ 1/250 s
- ☐ 1/125 s
- ☐ 1/60 s
- ☐ 1/30 s
- ☐ 1/15 s
- ☐ 1/8 s
- ☐ 1/4 s
- ☐ 1/2 s
- ☐ 1 s

**One shutter step
exposes the film or
sensor to double (or
half) the light**

Aperture and Shutter Speed Striking the Right Balance

- The correct exposure of light balances aperture and shutter speed.
- See-saw analogy - where one end rises, the opposite end falls by an equal amount.





ISO

- International Standards Organization.
- Uniform measurement system for sensitivity of digital camera sensors.
- Similar to film speed.
- Low ISO means sensor is less sensitive to light.
- High ISO means sensor is more sensitive to light.

- Standard ISO speeds:

- ☐ 100
- ☐ 200
- ☐ 400
- ☐ 800
- ☐ 1600
- ☐ 3200
- ☐ 6400

Full step change in ISO doubles (or halves) the sensitivity of the sensor.

Equivalent to step change in the shutter speed or the aperture.

Effects of Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO besides regulating amount of light

- **Shutter Speed: Controls the depiction of motion in the image.**
 - ☐ Fast shutter speed freezes the motion of the subject.
 - ☐ Slow shutter speed blurs the motion.
- **Shutter Speed: Controls the depiction of motion in the image.**
 - ☐ Fast shutter speed freezes the motion of the subject.
 - ☐ Slow shutter speed blurs the motion.
- **www.photonhead.com/simcam**
- **www.camerasim.com/camera-simulator**

GO TO THIS LINK FOR AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION ON “THE HISTOGRAM” FROM THE WESTERN WISCONSIN WEBSITE.

<https://wiphotoclub.com/The%20Histogram.pdf>

GO TO THIS LINK FOR AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION GHOST PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE MINNESOTA VALLEY PHOTOGRAPH CLUB WEBSITE.

https://minnesotavalleyphotoclub.org/wp-content/uploads/mvpc-web-assets/resources/shooting/techniques/ghosting_presentation_handout_julie_ackerman.pdf



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“Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends”