



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C JUNE 2026
Newsletter
Volume 68 No.06
www.n4c.us
edit@n4c.us

President Minute Message:

As spring is awakening, it reminds us that we need to use the power of observation and connection in our photography. We need to head out doors with our cameras, even if it's only in our backyard. I hope that clubs are making some extra plans this summer to get together, socially with some shared experiences. Our club really likes it when we just meet up somewhere be a park, a winery, or someplace architectural in our community. We need to inspire one another. Don't forget to push past your Normal boundaries. If you normally shoot, medium to tight experiment with some landscapes this summer. While some of us can afford to go someplace outside of the country, others can enjoy a few hours as a staycation. Look around your neighborhood. There's always a photograph, waiting to be taken.



Three generations
enjoying the study of the
driftless region.

As we work on end of year judging, and then the tallying of the results for the best of 2025-2026, we are getting excited to announce more details of the fall convention. If you have any questions or just want to chat about the convention, please reach out to Tim Zeltinger or myself. Happy summer!

Jennifer L Tigges, President

Check out the information on FB -Rough Riders Rendezvous

NEW BOARD FOR THE 2026-2027 N4C YEAR

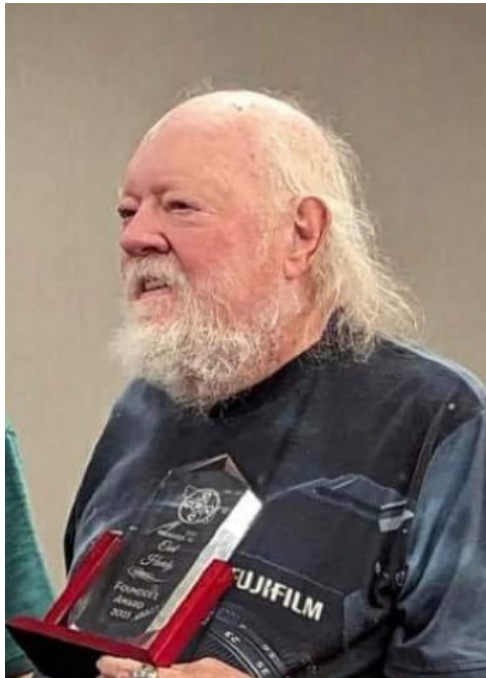
Club members voted via Google Form to accept the following board members for 2026-2027. The following members will begin their duties at the Fall Convention and the term will be for two years. The next vote for board members will be in 2028.

Tim Zeltinger, President
Carl Hardy, 1st Vice President
Stephonie Schmitz, 2nd Vice President
Andrea Pellerito, Secretary
Jennifer Tigges, Treasurer
Randy Moyer, Director 1
Adam Papin, Director 2
Ronald Tigges, Director 3

Jennifer L Tigges, President N4C 2025-2026
563-590-9868 call or text
Dubuque Camera Club



Tim Zeltinger, President



**Carl Hardy,
1st Vice President**



**Stephonie Schmitz,
2nd Vice President**

Best of the N4C Winners Roundup for the 2026 Annual Best of the Best Contest

First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention winners in all categories of the 2025-2026 monthly contests are eligible to be judged in the Annual Best of N4C Contest.

Merit award winners are NOT eligible.

A list of winners September through May is being sent around June 8 to clubs so they can round up PRINTS.

Check this list of all entries for accuracy, as it will be used to announce the final awards.

[Minot Camera Club is hosting the 2026 N4C Convention, October 8-11, 2026 to be held in Medora, North Dakota, as the "Rough Rider Rendezvous".](#)

Awards for the Best of the Best will be announced and presented at the N4C Convention banquet on Saturday, October 10, 2026, along with Photographer of the Year, Clubs of the Year, and other awards.

For the Annual Best of N4C Contests: Digital Altered Reality by Lincoln; Digital Pictorial by Iowa City; Digital Black & White by Wichita; Digital Journalism by Sioux City; Digital Nature by Women's Photo; Digital Travel by Minot.

Eligible **DIGITAL entries (Gray Background)** have been saved each month and **do NOT need to be sent**. Photo Essays are not to be sent.

PRINT Entries must be received by 5:00 PM Monday, July 13, 2026

All prints must be unmounted. No Mats or stiff backing allowed.

Altered Reality Prints & Travel Prints

Stephonie Schmitz
info@saodzynz.com
563-564-9093
2740 Pleasant View Dr
Dubuque, IA 52001

Black & White Prints & Nature Prints

Nikki McDonald
OmahaN4C@cox.net
402-592-9555
802 E. Cary St.
Papillion, NE 68046

Journalism Prints

Oscar Sarafian
osarafian@hotmail.com
402-450-1141
1218 S. 6th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

Pictorial (Color) Prints

Larry Luebbert
lhuebbert@gmail.com
319-621-3277
3269 Rochester Ave

Contact Ken Johnson at web@n4c.us or 515-822-8126 if someone in your Club has not seen the list and thinks you should have eligible entries.

Thanks to all the entrants, clubs, judges, and contest chairs.

Let one of us know if any corrections need to be made

Ken Johnson kandsjohnson@mchsi.com

Terry Butler terrymibutler@gmail.com



Fall Convention Notes

I just want those to know that a group of us 6-12 have been diligently working on the convention in Medora this fall. We have come a long way but still have things to go over. Motels have been locked in; we have around 70 of them set aside. The itinerary is close to being done and this convention is going to be a lot

of fun with multiple field trips planned. Today, N4C is a diverse group of photographers – beginner to pro, owners of art and photography galleries, as well as businesses.

The 2026 N4C Convention will take place in Medora, ND on October 8-11, 2026. Some of the field trips we have planned are:

SAVE THE DATE

- Native American dancers**
- Cowboys riding and roping and more at the Bar X Ranch**
- Classic cars**
- Camera for Kids (Cameras in the hands of our Children)**
- Light painting**
- Night sky photography against the backdrop of North Dakota's landscape**
- Ukrainian Dancers**
- Wild Bill Cody and others**
- BMX riders**
- Newly added off camera flash Setup**

Keynote Speaker for Friday night:

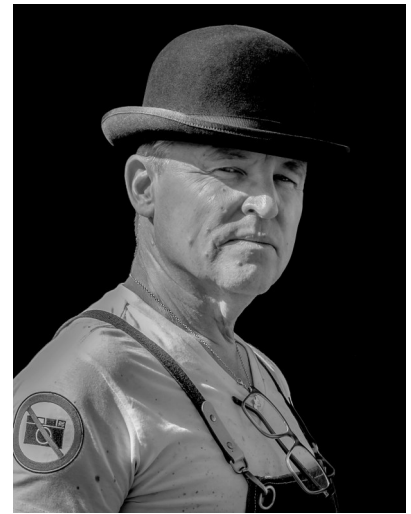
Carol Polich, living in Bozeman, Montana, has been photographing and publishing her nature and travel stories for over 30 years. As you scroll through her website and photo galleries, get to know Carol through her observational artistic eye with interesting comments on each intro page. From solo photographic travels to publishing both overseas and in the USA, teaching photo classes and giving workshops and lectures, she has gained an international following. Explore her website at <https://wildnaturetrails.com> and you'll understand why.



Saturday Night Keynote Speaker:

Shane Balkowitsch has been a practitioner of Frederick Scott Archer's 1851 Wet Plate Photography process for over a decade.

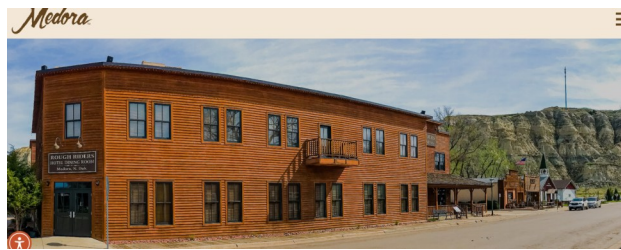
Shane's life's work is titled "Northern Plains Native Americans: A Modern Wet Plate Perspective". Using the wet plate process, this project is a journey to capture 1000 present day Native Americans on glass plates at his Bismarck, North Dakota, natural light studio.



Among the 110 international collections that have archived his work are the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, the University of Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum and the Royal Photographic Society of the United Kingdom.

Shane does not own, nor has ever used, a digital camera.

www.nostalgicglasswetplatestudio.com



The Medora Chamber of Commerce, along with our members, is thrilled to welcome you to Medora this October for your upcoming conference. There's something truly special about this place in the fall: the crisp air, the golden hues

across the Badlands, and the quiet beauty that seems to unfold around every corner.

We're excited for you to experience it all firsthand and to share the unique character of our community. From sweeping landscapes to the small, authentic moments that make Medora what it is, we hope you'll find endless inspiration to capture and reveal through your photography.

Our local businesses look forward to hosting you and making your time here both memorable and meaningful. We can't wait to see how you interpret the spirit of Medora through your lens and to welcome you to our town. **Please visit MedoraChamber.org or DiscoverMedora.com for more information.** Camping is also available too.

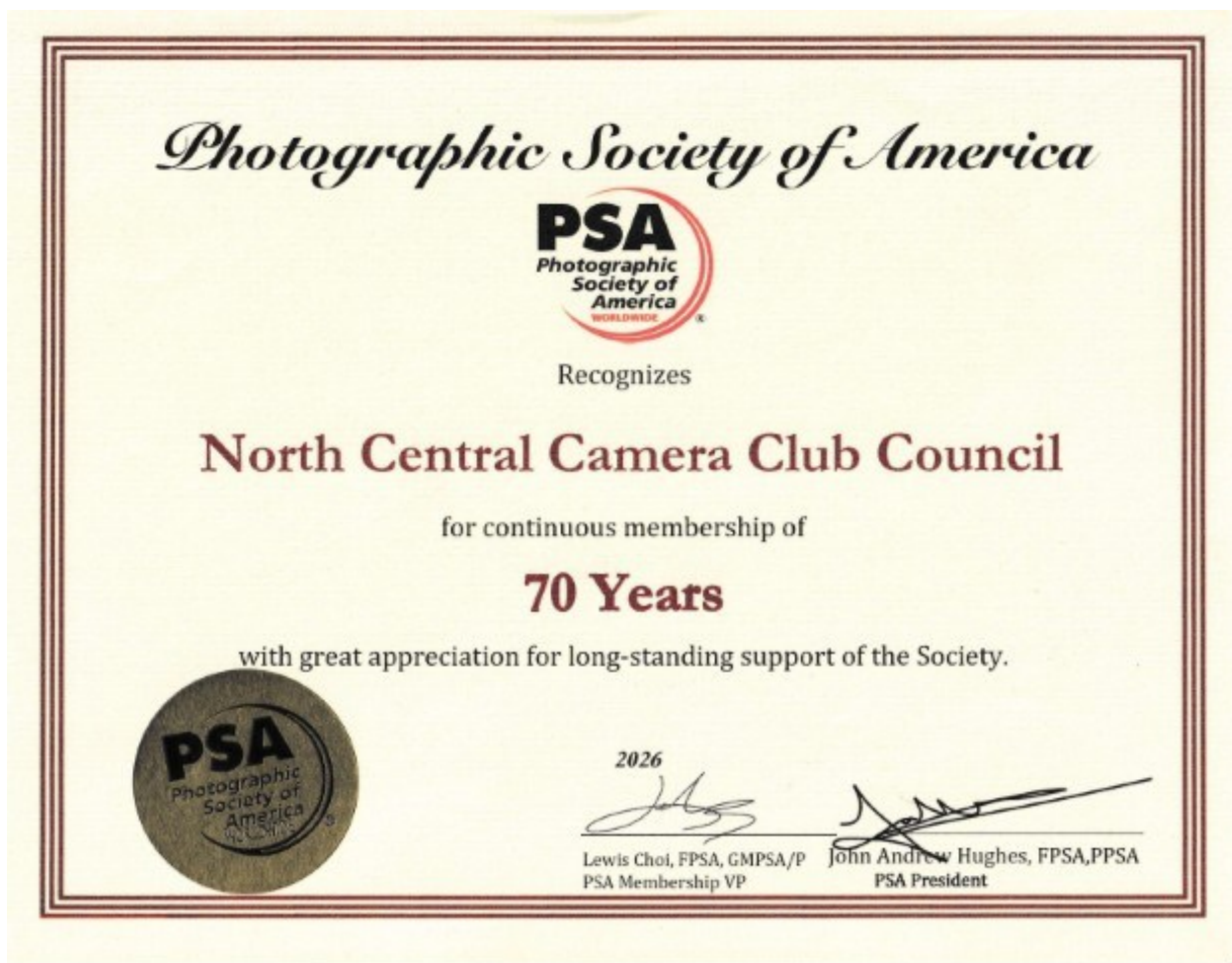
Please sent Tim Zeltinger, minotccn4c@gmail.com an email with any questions you may have about the convention.

Registration may be posted as soon as we have budget completed in the newsletter and their will be a website with all the information too. [http://www.2026N4C Convention](http://www.2026N4CConvention)

Just a reminder as we take a break from contest for the summer: In September please make a note of things to watch for when you send and receive print contest entries:

1. Make sure entries are entered correctly to your software. (Judges reports have gotten quite a few incorrect spellings of titles and receiptents.)
2. The entries are sent back as they have been received. No tape or scratches on prints.
3. Do Not tape ribbons or merits to the entries.
4. Contest start on 15th, and must be completed, judges reports submitted by the 25th.
5. Enjoy the summer break and get lots of photos.

Check out the information on FB -Rough Riders Rendezvous





If you have an old cameras or camera cords or accessories and would like to help put them to use. Bring them to Medora for our Camera class for kids.

Carl Wagner is the Founder "Recycle your Camera "For Kids". Give your old camera new life! They accept all photo equipment working or not. Nonworking gear will be used for parts with accessories being married to working models.

How to Donate Photo equipment for kids: Search www.Urban Ventures/Cameras.

651-

439-0999

How to Donate Photo Equipment for Kids

Search:
www.Urban Ventures/Cameras

Click on:
Give Your Old Camera New Life!
We accept all photo equipment working or not.
Nonworking gear will be used for parts with accessories being married to working models



Questions or Need More Information?

Contact:
Carl Wegener
Founder
Recycle Your Camera "For Kids"

Carl@RecycleYourCamera.com
651-439-0999 (Landline)
651-333-0930 (Cell)

Contact Carl Wegener for local pickup



Recycle Your Camera "For Kids"
In partnership with
Urban Ventures



Check out the information on FB -Rough Riders Rendezvous

Print Winners for May 2026

9 Altered Reality Prints

1st Place

Altered Reality Print

Bella Eleazer

Peg Gilbert

Sioux City CC



2nd Place Altered Reality Print -

Yellow Flowers on a Fence

Ryno Olson

Great River CC

3rd Place Altered Reality Print

Little Labbu Littler Cousin

Gordon Rath

Dubuque CC





1st Place
Pictorial Print
The Curator of Ghosts
Stephonie Schmitz
Dubuque CC

2nd Place Pictorial Prints
Brown Eyes
Ryno Olson
Great River CC



3rd Place Pictorial Prints –
Colorful Boats in Winter Harbor
James Durrant
Dubuque CC

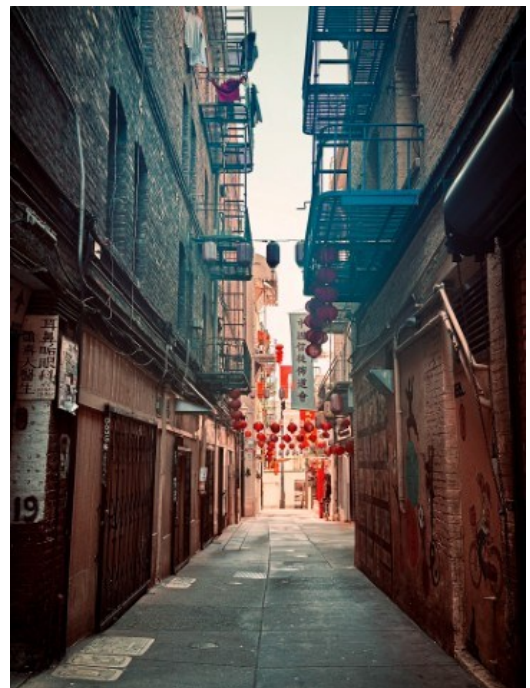


1st Place Print Travel
French Port Marseille, France
Gary Gilbert
Sioux City CC



2nd Place Print Travel
Duluth Entry in Fog
Robert Lahti
Duluth/Superior

3rd Place Print Travel
Ross Alley San Francisco, CA
Ella Monahan
Sioux City CC



Print Winners for May 2026

10 Print Journalism



1st Place – Journalism Prints
Old School Room in Homer, Nebraska
Carl Hardy
Sioux City CC

2nd Place Journalism Prints
Forging on at Living History Farms
Jim Harvey
Des Moines CC



3rd Place
Print Journalism
Helping Grandpa
Tim Zeltinger
Minot CC

Print Winners for May 2026

23 Black & White Print



1st Place Black & White Print

What Remains

Diane Lowry

Des Moines CC



2nd Place Black & White Print

Glamor in New York

Stephonie Schmitz

Dubuque CC

**3rd Place Black & White
Print**
Surrounded by Ice Pancakes
James Durrant
Dubuque CC



1st Place Nature Prints
Short-Eared Owl 2
Kevin McTague
Dubuque CC



2nd Place Nature Prints
Elk in the Tundra at dusk
Stephonie Schmitz
Dubuque CC

3rd Place Nature Prints
Yellow Ladyslipper
Robert Lahti
Duluth/Superior CC



Check out the information on
FB -Rough Riders Rendezvous



1st Place –
Digital Altered Reality
Penetrating Eyes
Tom Arnhold
Topeka CC

2nd Place Digital Altered Reality
Out in the Country
Bob Rude
Iowa city CC



3rd Place Digital Altered Reality
Pickle Plant
Jackie Feil
Fargo-Moorhead CC





1st Place Digital Nature
Short-Ear Owl 3
Kevin McTague
Dubuque CC

2nd Place Digital Nature
Taking Off
Terri Dermody
Des Moines CC



3rd Place Digital Nature
Mid-Air Duel
Allen Kurth
Omaha CC



1ST PLACE PICTORIAL
Costa Rican Hummers
Marianne Diericks
Western Wisconsin PC



2nd Place Pictorial
Retro Beauty
Stephonie Schmitz
Dubuque CC



3rd Place Pictorial
Chain Bridge and Circle Light Trails
Mitch Keller
Sioux City CC





1ST PLACE DIGITAL JOURNALISM
Another One Hit the Dust
Allen Kurth
Omaha CC

2nd Place Digital Journalism
Can't Catch Me
Kevin Millard
La Crosse Area CC



3rd Place Digital Journalism
Merrit One Arm Dig
Phillip Wonder
Omaha CC

1ST PLACE DIGITAL TRAVEL

***Chain Bridge & Hungarian
Parliament (Hungary)***

**Mitch Keller
Sioux City CC**



2nd Place Digital Travel

Vietnam Bay Temple, Vietnam

**Diane Sisko
Western Wisconsin PC**



3rd Place Digital Travel

Pump House, Jardine MT

**Joseph Schufman
Western Wisconsin PC**

**Check out the information on
FB -Rough Riders Rendezvous**



**1ST PLACE DIGITAL
BLACK & WHITE
BEFORE THE BREAK
Elliott Lindgren
Saint Paul CC**

**2nd Place Digital Black & White
Lloyds Building Long Exposure
Mitch Keller
Sioux City CC**



**3rd Place Digital Black & White
Dandy Lion
Jim Walters
Duluth /Superior CC**

N4C MAY (2026-05) Contest Results

Digital Altered Reality

- 1st Penetrating Eyes - Tom Arnhold, Topeka
- 2nd Out in the Country - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 3rd Pickle Plant - Jackie Feil, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Happy Dog - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
- HM Tear Up the Town - Anna Frissell, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Refraction of Light-1 - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
- HM Their_Names_Still_Stand - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City

43 entries from 11 clubs. Judging Club: La Crosse Area Camera Club. Chair: Cyndy Thorn. Judges: Bob Hermann, Brian Narvason, Cyndy Thorn.

Digital B&W

- 1st Before the Break - Elliott Lindgren, Saint Paul
- 2nd Lloyds Building Long Exposure - Mitch Keller, Sioux City
- 3rd Dandy Lion - Jim Walters, Duluth-Superior
- HM Little Cloud - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
- HM Not Bad! - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
- HM Anchored_In_The_Moment - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City
- HM Ten Below Zero - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City
- HM SacredWater - Anita Schneider, Saint Paul
- HM Parrot Tulip BW2 - Jacqueline Evans, Wichita Area

81 entries from 14 clubs. Judging Club: Western Wisconsin Photo Club. Chair: Terry Butler. Judges: Chap Achen, Steve Plocher, Ken Wolter. Comments: There was a great range in subjects represented and many very competitive images.

Digital Journalism

- 1st Another One Hit the Dust - Allen Kurth, Omaha
- 2nd Can't Catch Me, - Kevin Millard, La Crosse Area
- 3rd Merrit One Arm Dig - Phillip Wonder, Omaha
- HM In the Zone America 250th Chalk the Walk artist Mathew Havran - Donny Stephens, Dubuque
- HM 16 Pounds of Intensity - Bruce Crum, Des Moines
- HM Bronco riders at the rodeo. Glad that's not me - Wendelin Guentner, Iowa City

60 entries from 12 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Greg Hoglund. Judges: Bob Wright, Sonja Hotlund, Don Thun. Comments: Lots of good photos.



HM— Print Nature
Let There be Peace—Ken Johnson
Des Moines CC

N4C MAY (2026-05) Contest Results

Digital Nature

- 1st Short-Eared Owl 3 - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
- 2nd Taking Off - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
- 3rd Mid-air Duel - Allen Kurth, Omaha
- HM Roseate Spoonbill Stick Marsh-1 - James Durrant, Dubuque
- HM Mrs Who the Burrowing Owl - Donny Stephens, Dubuque
- HM Dragonfly on the grass - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
- HM Getting-cleaned-up - Kelly Matrquardt, La Crosse Area
- HM Green_Heron_and_Dragon_Fly - Doug Conrad, Sioux City

76 entries from 13 clubs. Judging Club: Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club. Chair: Bruce Bernstein. Judges: Sharon Watson, John Calvin, Gordon Court.

Digital Pictorial

- 1st Costa Rican Hummers - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
- 2nd Retro Beauty - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
- 3rd Chain Bridge and Circle Light Trails - Mitch Keller, Sioux City
- HM Lady Justice enjoys the full moon rise - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
- HM Aurora - Jim Walters, Duluth-Superior
- HM Saint Stephen Monastery-Meteora-Greece - David Clardy, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Bright Ideas - Connie Wedemeier, Iowa City
- HM Searching for Hope, - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
- HM River Tree - Mike Chrun, Western Wisconsin

83 entries from 14 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines Camera Club. Chair: Janie Lawson. Judges: Patty Foster, Lindha Steffen, Terry Holdren.

Digital Travel

- 1st Chain Bridge and Hungarian Parliament (Hungary) - Mitch Keller, Sioux City
- 2nd Vietnam Bay Temple, Vietnam - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
- 3rd Pump House, Jardine MT - Joseph Schufman, Western Wisconsin
- HM A Lovely Day at Maplewood State Park MN - Sharold Hipfner, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Arizona wild-wild-west - Kelly Matrquardt, La Crosse Area
- HM The Bunkhouse at Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, NM - Edgar Evans, Wichita Area
- HM Sunsetting Scenic Byway to Moab UT - Peggy Volden, Fargo-Moorhead

67 entries from 14 clubs. Judging Club: Omaha Camera Club. Chair: Nikki McDonald. Judges: Chris Amberg, Mike Barker, Margaret West. Comments: Judges enjoyed traveling vicariously to so many different places in the world. Their job was not easy, but it was a pleasure. We would remind entrants that it is important to proof titles for errors (whether typos or spelling).



B & HM Print—It's Never too late to Mend—Henry Matthiessen III
Dubuque CC



B & W HM Print—
Black Mouth Dancer
Tim Zeltinger Minot CC

N4C MAY (2026-05) Contest Results

Altered Reality Prints

- 1st Bella Eleazer - Peg Gilbert, Sioux City
- 2nd Yellow Flowers on a Fence - Ryno W Olson, Great River
- 3rd Little Labubu Littler Cousin - Gordon Rath, Dubuque

9 entries from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Minot CC. Chair: Tim Zeltinger. Judges: Adam Papin, Todd Johnson, Crystal Johnson. Comments: Some great talent putting these together in such a tuff category. Thanks everyone for entering.

B & W Pictorial Prints

- 1st What Remains - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
- 2nd Glamour in New York - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
- 3rd Surrounded by Ice Pancakes - James Durrant, Dubuque
- HM It's Never Too Late to Mend - Henry Matthiessen III, Dubuque
- HM Black Mouth Dancer - Tim Zeltinger, Minot



HM—Pictorial Print—Purple Iris
Ken Johnson—Des Moines CC

23 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Nick Masuen, Shane Monahan, Carl Hardy. Comments: These Black & White Prints were so excellent the judging was very difficult. Excellent technique, composition, and the interest made the difference. A wide variety of excellent subjects.

Journalism Prints

- 1st Old School Room in Homer, Nebraska - Carl Hardy, Sioux City
- 2nd Forging on at Living History Farms, Des Moines, IA - Jim Harvey, Des Moines
- 3rd Helping Grandpa - Tim Zeltinger, Minot

10 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque Camera Club. Chair: Stephonie Schmitz. Judges: Bob Felderman, Henry Matthiessen III, Tom Lobacz.

Nature Prints

- 1st Short -Eared Owl 2 - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
- 2nd Elk in Tundra at Dusk - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
- 3rd Yellow Ladyslipper - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- HM Let There Be Peace - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
- HM Life in the Garden - Deb Shoning, Des Moines



HM—Pictorial Print—Give Me a Sign
Carey Anderson—Sioux City CC

25 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Nick Masuen, Shane Monahan, Carl Hardy. Comments: These Nature Prints were so excellent the judging was very difficult. Excellent technique, composition, and the interest made the difference. A wide variety of nature subjects.

N4C MAY (2026-05) Contest Results



HM—Travel Print—
Norway Lutheran Church
—Tim Zeltiinger Minot CC

Pictorial Prints (Color)

- 1st The Curator of Ghosts - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
- 2nd Brown Eyes - Ryno W Olson, Great River
- 3rd Colorful Boats in the Winter Harbor - James Durrant, Dubuque
- HM Purple Iris - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
- HM Wild Horses - Janie Lawson, Des Moines
- HM Give me a Sign - Carey Anderson, Sioux City

32 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Minot CC. Chair: Tim Zeltiinger. Judges: Todd Johnson, Crystal Johnson, Adam Papin. Comments: Some awesome images this time around to end the year with the top 12 images were all so close and the 20 others knocking on the door. Each photographer is one step away from the next level. Judging photos seems to be.

Travel Prints

- 1st French Port Marseille, France - Gary Gilbert, Sioux City
- 2nd Duluth Entry in Fog - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd Ross Alley San Francisco, CA - Ella Monahan, Sioux City
- HM Norway Lutheran Church Norwhich ND - Tim Zeltiinger, Minot

Ken Johnson web@n4c.us,
A Digital Contest Chair

Enjoy photography whether or not it is yours!



HM Pictorial Print— Wild Horses—Janie Lawson, Des Moines CC

**Any questions about the newsletter or if you have information for the newsletter contact
Debbie Bates at edit@N4C.com**

N4C Contacts and N4C Presidents,

Due to the low number of entries submitted as of May 15th deadline; I am extending the deadline to June 15th for entries in these contests:

Photojournalism Story Contest
Video Story Contest

Please pass this email which has the rules for these contests onto your members. Hoping to have more entries by the June 15th deadline.

Thanks,
Carl Hardy

N4C CONTACTS:

Have you sent your updated Board members information to Carl Hardy for the directory?

Please go to the N4C.us website, Supplies & forms, Club information. Fill out the form and send to Carl Hardy for the directory.

September comes fast and all the information should be sent to Carl by end of June, not September.

Retiring N4C contacts please remember to teach your replacement contest information.

Plan to Attend

the N4C Fall Convention in Medora!!

Facebook page -Rough Riders Rendezvous



Any questions about the newsletter or if you have information for the newsletter contact Debbie Bates at edit@N4C.com