



THE NEWS BULLETIN

THE NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL

Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends!

Volume XL Number 4

December 2004

N4C PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone I hope that you have had a wonderful, enjoyable holiday season. I know that many of us have made New Year's resolutions and we hope we keep them. I have one more to add to your list. How about doing a photo essay for this year's contest in April?

The first year I joined the Des Moines Camera Club we judged the Photo Essay Contest. I thought to myself these are fun and I would like to do one someday. It only took me eight years to get it done! I have always enjoyed the various photo essays presented at Springbrook and admired the people who took the time to put them together. So last year I invited Wilford Yoder, Iowa City Camera Club and N4C 1st Vice President, to make a presentation to DMCC on how to do a photo essay. It was very informative and we caught the bug. We even made the photo essays our club program last April.

Last year there were 9 photo essays, a record number. We want to increase that. Dwight Tomes, new N4C Slide Essay Chair, is also a member of DMCC. I asked Dwight to put write a piece on Photo Essays.

Diane Darnielle, N4C President

Tell Your Story: The N4C Photo Essay

A picture is worth a thousand words-but what if your story needs a few more words! 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 or 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!).

Now's the time to consider what your story will be and start getting your slides, negatives, or digital images together or to take that extra image or two that will round out what you need. It wouldn't be a bad idea to start thinking about the music that will be your ideal accompaniment for your story. The technology has changed in the past two to three years. For example, last year all the entries were 'built' with digital technology compared with the previous combination of 35mm slides and a cassette tape player. Most entries use scanned slides or negatives to convert film-based images to digital format. There are only a few "rules" which will be posted on the Des Moines Camera Club web site www.dmcameraclub.com in early January.

Briefly, the digital format is strongly preferred, and the only limitation on choice of software is that it be capable of running on all platforms (PC and Mac for example) and on older computers as well as the newest and fastest. You'll also need to include the 'player' software so that the judging club will be able to view and judge your work. Some of the programs that will work include Quick Time (and any software that uses the QT format), Windows Media Player, PowerPoint, and Scansoft.

Here's what you need to know about the judging. The three areas 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'. More details for the entry forms, judging forms, and information for the judging club will be posted on the Des Moines Camera Club web site in early January. Give it a try and get going!

Dwight Tomes, incoming N4C slide essay chair,
Mail to: d.tomes@mac.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



N4C NEWS NOTES

JANUARY - ADDRESS CORRECTION

For 2 1/4 Slides Judging in January Bob Wulf of the Sioux Falls CC writes: You have my address as P O Box 76 and it should be P O Box 56. Please make correction in your *N4C Handbook*.

from Lincoln CC BULLETIN:-

Lincoln Camera Club President Dennis Gaibler writes: "It seems to me that photography is a lot about 'vision' and 'inspiration.'

"If I can't get out and actually participate, the next best thing for me is to get a book from the library or grab one of my old magazines and read about photography, I can always learn more and apply my knowledge when I get the chance. Sometimes when you reread a magazine article, you will discover something you missed the first time around. You might discover a subject or destination to put on your "to-do list." I usually regain a sense of inspiration about photography that will keep me going till the weather clears.

"OR, You can set up a small area in your home and create a 'mini studio' to photograph small items and try creative lighting effects. You might try a string of Christmas lights in a textured glass bowl for example. If you have a digital camera, you can manipulate the white balance to get different colors than what you actually see. Use mirrors or mylar and see what kind of reflections will appear. You'll be surprised at how creative this type of exercise can be."

from La Crosse Area CC GROUNDGLASS:-

A tip from Joe Shapiro: "It may be of interest to those using inkjet printers. According to *Consumer Reports* there is something called a chip resetter that allows 11-40% more ink to be used from the cartridges. I bought one for about \$13, including shipping, and it is now allowing me to print from cartridges recently said by my computer to be empty! How long this will continue remains to be seen, but it does work, and \$12 is pretty cheap compared to new cartridges. They can be found by searching for 'Epson chip resetter.'"

from Grand Island CC A DIFFERENT ANGLE”:

Daryl Christ brought to the club some interesting DVDs on movie-created special effects. They saw clips from "James Bond," "Pirates of the Caribbean," Gollum from "Lord of the Rings," and many other recent movies.

from Central Iowa CC SHARP FOCUS:-

The Central Iowa Art Association has invited Ken Johnson to hang an exhibit of over 75 prints, spanning the last 10 years of his hobby, during the month of January in the Fisher Community Center Auditorium. A reception on Sunday, January 9, will mark the opening of the exhibit.

There are varying viewpoints about whether photography is art. However, Ken finds in photographic competition that the rules of composition are very similar to those of artwork. Both photography and art are non-verbal forms of communication. Both are trying to capture lines, shapes, patterns, geometry, color, and textures by making effective use of bold, and at other times, delicate lighting. Sometimes images raise questions in our minds or they extend a personal vision.

Photography forces someone to see something they may have looked at many times but have never seen before. A good photograph should speak for itself and the viewer should be able to appreciate why the photograph was taken. At times they are meant simply as documentary records.

You may preview the exhibit at:

www.ioweb.com.marshalltown/photoalbum.htm

FOR SALE: 16 inch Kreonite RA-4 Processor also an 8 foot darkroom sink. For info contact Steve Paulson from Sioux City Camera Club at: F65JEE@aol.com



N4C NEWS NOTES

from Sioux Falls CC PROJECTOR:-

Photo Tip of the Month

How to take better pictures of people

Long gone are the days when pictures of people were static, void of action and interaction, and most likely plagued by distracting backgrounds and squinty eyes. Here are a few tips on how to make the most of your people photos, regardless of age or location. The most important thing to strive for is uniqueness. So, climb out of the box of traditional approaches, and develop your own style!

Experiment with different focal length lenses.

Typically, better results can be achieved with longer focal length lenses. Mid range telephotos like 85mm to 105mm, or zooms including those focal lengths enable you to close in a bit more on your subject, without crowding them.

Watch the background! All too often, an otherwise attractive portrait is ruined by what's happening in the background. Be ever conscious of the "stuff" behind your subject, as well as what's going on in the four corners of your viewfinder. Use a narrower depth of field to throw a distracting background out of focus and further isolate your subject.

You DON'T have to have the sun at your back! Quite the contrary, varying your subject's relationship to the primary light source, whether it be natural light or flash, will produce better results. Diffused light through a window can soften and flatter your subject. Use of a reflective surface can also fill in shadow areas for better exposure.

Let kids be kids! Don't try too hard to pose kids. Stand back and let them interact with one another and look for candid moments to capture. Get your lens down to their level. Be watchful, and ever at the ready to capture those precious moments!

Watch the flash! If you must use flash, be mindful of the dreaded "Red-Eye" effect. It is more pronounced in young children with blue eyes, so consider alternated lighting, or get your flash off the camera. Or do what the digital dudes do...just take it out on the computer!

from Ames CC LEADING LINES:-

Ames Camera Club members were treated to an evening packed with information and tips from Red Varnum, a popular photography instructor who completed his training at the Naval School of Photography.

Red encouraged people to take LOTS of photos, whether they are amateurs or professionals. He believes that amateurs, those who shoot photos for a hobby, are capable of shooting extraordinary photos, just like the "professionals," those who shoot photos for a living. It's a matter of quantity of photos you shoot. The more you shoot, the more likely you'll get a "blue-ribbon photo."

Once you start taking lots of pictures you might want to have some software to help you organize them. Red has found a program that works well called *Thumbsplus*. It comes in a standard and professional version.

His website www.redvarnum.com has a link to the *Thumbsplus* website. The software works to help you organize photos and modify images, using some basic functions (much easier to learn than some more complicated and expensive software). Mr. Varnum encouraged people to get started with a digital camera if they don't already have one. He encouraged small portable ones that you can carry anywhere. A 2-3 megapixel camera is satisfactory for most applications. Also, **practice, practice, practice** with your camera so you can literally "point and shoot" to catch those moments that happen quickly and are difficult to capture when you're fumbling with your camera.

The Missing September 2002, Photojournalism Slides and Prints Have Finally Been Returned.
A Complete Listing of Winners is Not Available. The Following Have Been Identified.

PHOTOJOURNALISM SLIDES:

- 1st – Round Up #1, Jean McDonough, Women's Color.
- 2nd– Landmark Disaster, Jane Heinecke, Duluth Sup.
- 3rd – We're Just A Huffin And A Puffin,
John Robinson, Duluth Superior CC.
- HM– Airborne Skater, Paul Moore, St. Paul CC.

PHOTOJOURNALISM PRINTS:

- 1st– Fire At 324 Main, Chuck Peterson, Sioux City.
- 3rd– Inferno Interior, Ron Nicolls, Sioux City CC.
- HM– Oops, Larry Crabb, Sioux City CC.



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.

N4C is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America.

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N4C MEMBERS ACTIVE IN PSA SALONS

Entry forms for the following three Twin Cities PSA International Exhibitions may be obtained by clicking on "Salons & Contests" at: www.cameracouncil.org

The 2005 Minneapolis-St. Paul Print Circuit is a 6 Show, 5 Division Exhibition Circuit – **Closing Date January 10, 2005** – 134 Medals. Vijay Karai, North Metro Photo Club, is the General Chairman. Minnesota Valley Photography Club and North Metro Photo Club will be two of the six host clubs. Francis Kingsbury, FPSA, Sioux City Camera Club, will be one of the Judges.

2005 Minnesota Botany International Exhibition of Photography -- **Closing Date February 5, 2005** - 16 Medals
Florence Scholljegerdes, Women's Color Photo Club, will be one of the Judges.

The 2005 Seventy-Third Annual Minneapolis - St. Paul International Exhibition of Photography -- **Closing Date February 13, 2005** -- 19 Medals will be awarded.

Gene Schwope, FPSA, and Pat Schwope, St. Paul Camera Club, are the Color Slide Chairmen. Morris Gildemeister and Herb Gustafson, Hon. PSA, St. Paul Camera Club, will be two of the Judges.

More Photo Gear For Sale!

From the Estate of Long Time N4C Members
Harold and Dolores Hawkins.

Alpa Reflex 9d with case.

Rolleicord f3.5 w/case.
Excellent Condition.

Vivitar f4.5 75-200 Zoom for
Pentax K Mount.

Olympus IS-DSX w/ EO 30-180
Zoom and 2X Converter.

Alpa Lenses:

Schneider Certagon f2.8, 35mm.
Kern-Macro Switar f1.8, 50mm.
Schneider Tele-Xenar f3.5, 90mm.
Rectaflex Angenieux f3.5, 135mm.
All lenses include lens hood and case.

Alpa Dual-Trac Bellows with Four
Extension Tubes.

For Information Contact: Herb Gustafson 651-426-8017