

THE NEWS BULLETIN

THE NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL

Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends

Volume XLI Number 3

November 2005

from Ames Camera Club *LEADING LINES*

Digital Camera Tips

by Tom Scott, President

In October Bill Huegenrich presented to the Ames Camera club tips on getting better pictures from a digital camera.

Often it's hard to spot a lack of detail in highlights or shadows on the camera's display, so look at the histogram. Blown out highlights show up as a spike on the right; featureless shadows, as a spike on the left. In photo editing, multiple steps can lead to a "picket fence" histogram, which implies abrupt transitions between brightness levels. To avoid that, don't compress to JPEG until the last step, and don't expand levels.

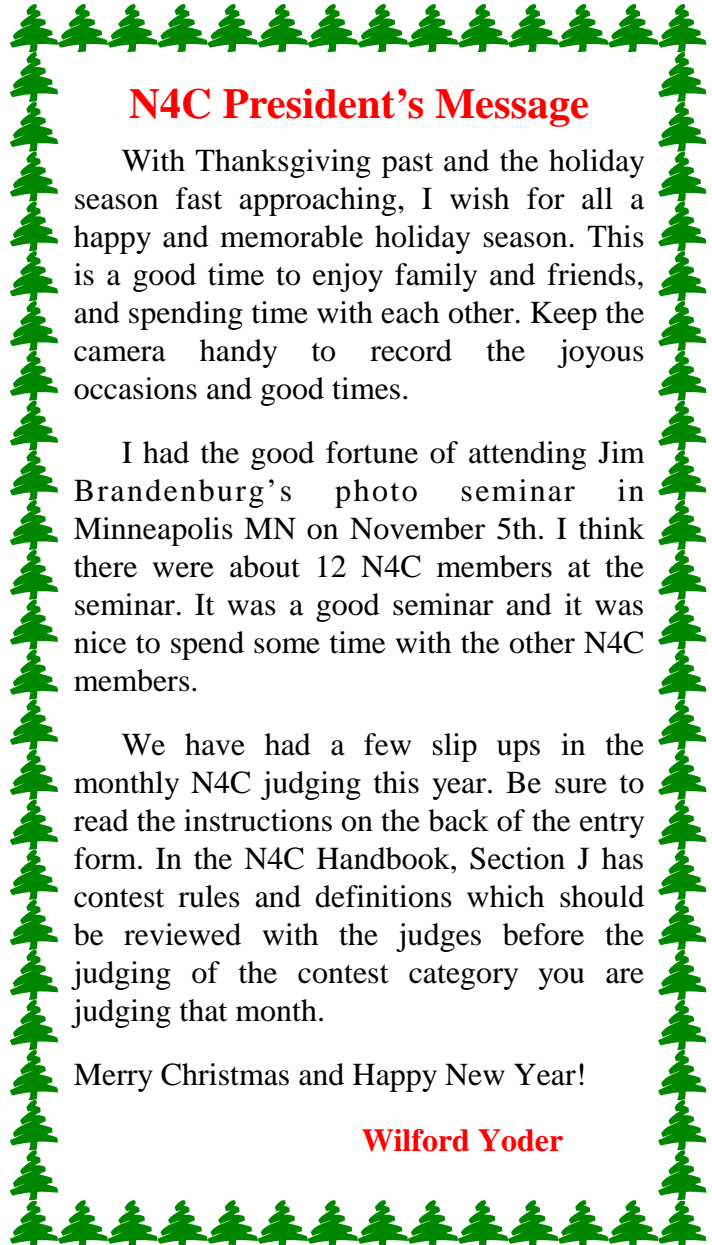
Camera sensors produce image data with 12 or 14 bits per RGB channel. In-camera JPEG maps it into 8 bits, corrects white balance, and does lousy compression. Keeping the image in RAW, a 16 bit file format preserves all the information recorded by the sensor and gives a sharper picture, but you may have to correct the color in PhotoShop.

Digital noise is random but the image isn't, so taking two identical pictures and overlaying them reduces the noise.

Digital cameras, like slide film, record a light range of only 5 or 6 stops. Bill's photo of a church interior showed no detail in bright stained glass windows (overexposed) or in pews far from the windows (underexposed). The solution is to take two pictures, one exposed for the windows, the other for the dark area, and combine them in PhotoShop. Bill did this by first turning one photo into a mask. Instructions for that can be found on the internet.

Converting color to black and white by using grayscale doesn't always give good results, because it doesn't mimic the spectral response of black and white film. The image may look better in black and white if red is increased and blue and green decreased before conversion. That can be done in PhotoShop or by special software for the purpose.

Avoiding unnecessary expense, Bill uses PhotoShop Elements 2.0 plus free software. He demonstrated RAW Shooters Essentials 2005 (RAW conversion program), Noiseware Community Edition (the Community Edition is free), Earthbound Light (effects for PhotoShop Elements that give you the channel mixer, layer mask, and curves).



N4C President's Message

With Thanksgiving past and the holiday season fast approaching, I wish for all a happy and memorable holiday season. This is a good time to enjoy family and friends, and spending time with each other. Keep the camera handy to record the joyous occasions and good times.

I had the good fortune of attending Jim Brandenburg's photo seminar in Minneapolis MN on November 5th. I think there were about 12 N4C members at the seminar. It was a good seminar and it was nice to spend some time with the other N4C members.

We have had a few slip ups in the monthly N4C judging this year. Be sure to read the instructions on the back of the entry form. In the N4C Handbook, Section J has contest rules and definitions which should be reviewed with the judges before the judging of the contest category you are judging that month.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Wilford Yoder

**Photography is more than a medium
for factual communication of ideas. It is a
creative art.**

Ansel Adams



N4C NEWS NOTES

Sunken Garden Field Trip

Members of the Lincoln Camera Club braved the chilly day to photograph the flowers and ornamental grasses at the city's Sunken Gardens. **Donna Gustafson** said she didn't realize that she could find so much to shoot in a dead garden.

Pink flowers still cascaded over walls. Black-eyed Susans and Coneflowers still looked perky. Pink and yellow water lilies still floated on the ponds. The miniature waterfalls gave an opportunity to practice long exposures of running water.

A goldfish leaped out of the water in one of the ponds. **Clark Springman** and **Jim** rushed over with their cameras in case the fish repeated its acrobatic maneuver.

The fish did not oblige them.

—*LCC Bulletin*

Photos Selected

Donna Glasgow had her photo selected for the cover of the 2006 *Minnesota Weatherguide* calendar sponsored by Channel 11. **Lance Nelson** had three of his photos selected for other pages of the calendar.

—*North Metro Photo News*

Bus Trip

Grace Schrunk went on a 4,000 plus mile bus trip to Whitefish, Montana, and then on up to Glacier Park and Lake Louise. She had never been there before and the scenery was spectacular. The bus driver would stop here and there so people could take pictures. Grace told him that it was almost pointless to stop because around every bend on either side of the road it was just gorgeous, and they would never get home at that rate. The saddest part of the trip was the guided tour through Moose Jaw in Canada. The town, once bigger than Calgary, looks almost like a ghost town. They were there on a Sunday and did not see any people out and about and everything looked so run down. But, they did have a Wal-Mart—there were people at the big box store. Moose Jaw is the childhood home of orphan Art Linkletter.

—*North Metro Photo News*

NEW

N4C Handbook & Directory 2005-2006

\$10.00 per printed copy

\$3.00. on CD

FREE if e-mailed

Contact Mary Jane for further information or
to place an order.
641-488-2798 or
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A Life's Goal

In April **Lynda Richards** of the Des Moines Camera Club completed a life's goal: visiting all 50 states completing the task with a trip to South Carolina. Upon entering the state her group pulled off to the welcome center and enjoyed a glass of wine...at 9:00 a.m. in the morning! It was awesome. She was with five great friends who've traveled together previously.

They also visited Asheville, NC and the Biltmore Mansion; Charleston, SC, Ocracoke (of pirate fame) and Kill Devil Hills - Kitty Hawk and the Wright Museum on the Outer Banks, a stop at Williamsburg and the Natural Bridge in VA. We traveled 3364 miles in 10 days. The first and last being the longest and most pushed!

F-M Camera Club

The Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club web site is now up and running. It can be accessed at fargomoorhead-cameraclub.org.

The N4C reps for the Fargo - Moorhead Camera Club are **Jim and Joy Coffey**, 2814 N 9 1/2 St., Fargo, ND 58102.

“Oh my goodness gracious, what you can buy off the Internet in terms of overhead photography. A trained ape can know an awful lot of what is going on in this world, just by punching on his mouse, for a relatively modest cost.”

—Donald Rumsfeld

“Light makes photography. Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above all, know light. Know it for all you are worth, and you will know the key to photography.”

—George Eastman



N4C Contest Results

PICTORIAL SLIDES

- 1st - "Summer Storm" 44
Greg Honermann, Sioux Falls
- 2nd - "Green Gold" 43
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd - "Yesteryear" 43
Jack Gustison, Shutterbug
- HM - "Color of Fall" 42
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM - "A Glow" 42
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM - "My Sleep Number is 1000" 41
Steve Kobs, St. Paul

There were 73 slides entered by 16 clubs. The judging club was the Central Iowa Camera Club. The judges were Ed Siems, Jim Davis, and Mark George. The judging committee chairman was Jim Svec.

Assortment of good quality slides.

NATURE SLIDES

Report not received yet

BLACK AND WHITE PICTORIAL PRINTS CLASS A

- 1st - "Labor for the Harvest" 44
Ramon Magee, Wyandotte Co.
- 2nd - "Little Porker" 35
Jim Svec, Central Iowa
- 3rd - "Wine Tasting" 33
Bob Rasmus, Sioux City
- HM - "White Rose" 33
Rena Southwick, Heart O'Lakes
- HM - "Courthouse Framed" 33
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM - "Ledges" 33
Brad Rieckhoff, Sioux City

There were 29 prints entered by 9 clubs. The judging club was the Mitchell Camera Club. The judges were Ty Smith, Bob Podhradsky, and Linda Benson Miller. The judging committee chairman was Dean Randall.

BLACK AND WHITE PICTORIAL PRINTS CLASS B

- 1st - "Plaka Church" 37
Ron Balthazor, Sioux Falls
- 2nd - "Spanish Serenity" 36
Jerry Schmidt, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd - "Tijuana Taxi" 35

- Jeana Paulson, Sioux City
- HM - "The Young Lady" 34
Carol Schurrmans, Sioux Falls
- HM - "A Pool of Water" 33
Marv Brown, Minnesota Valley
- HM - "Buggy Ride" 33
Mark George, Central Iowa

There were 19 prints entered by 9 clubs. The judging club was the Mitchell Camera Club. See above.

NATURE PRINTS CLASS A

- 1st - "Sniffing the Air" 39
Larry Luebbert, Iowa City
- 2nd - "Red-tailed Hawk" 39
LeRoy Ullrich, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd - "Not a Bed of Roses" 38
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM - "The Web" 38
Gwen Chandler, Wyandotte Co.
- HM - "Columbine" 38
Steve Litwiller, Iowa City
- HM - "Monarchs in Migration" 37
Ann Pederson, Heart O'Lakes

There were 27 prints entered by 7 clubs. The judging club was the Mitchell Camera Club. The judges were Jerry Metcalf, Lowell Stanley, and Jim Kost. The judging committee chairman was Dean Randall.

NATURE PRINTS CLASS B

- 1st - "Twin Springs" 39
Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 2nd - "Hungry Mouths" 39
Connie Wahlstrom, Sioux City
- 3rd - "October Magic" 39
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM - "Lake Martin Sunset" 38
Robert Tebben, Sioux Falls
- HM - "Yawning Lioness" 37
Barb Russell, Des Moines
- HM - "Ring Billed Gull" 36
Mike Landwehr, Des Moines

There were 31 prints entered by 10 clubs. The judging club was the Mitchell Camera Club. See above.

Comments from the Judges in the Mitchell Camera Club: -

We had a lot of fun and discussion doing the judging.

The biggest **problem** was the information on the back of the prints, or rather the lack of information. Most often the name of the club was missing or there were just initials. It slows down the packaging when we have to look up a club or try to figure out what the WCC or ICC is supposed to mean.

The next **problem** encountered was which class the print was in. Even if it was there, which class it was was hard to find many times. Remember—the first line of info on the back of the print should be the title with the class designation to its immediate right. Below this then should be your name and club info.

The last **problem** was the handwriting of the person filling out your entry forms. In some cases we had to check the back of the print to verify the entry form! You should have a third party check your handwriting to see if they can read it.

You might also note when you get your entry form back that all the little boxes for the scores are filled in; not like some clubs that don't see fit to tell us how they arrived at a total score.

2 1/4 SLIDES

- 1st - "Duluth Harbor at Night" 38
Randy Libersky, St. Paul
- 2nd - "Gooseberry Falls" 36
Kevin Nobity, Des Moines
- 3rd - "Autumn in New England" 36
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- HM - "Fall in East Park" 33

Ed Siems, Central Iowa

- HM - "Minnesota Fall Color" 34
Gene Schwoppe, St. Paul
- HM - "Bald Sunset" 36
A.C. Houghlum, Fargo-Moorhead

There were 14 slides entered by 6 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux City Camera Club. The judges were Steve Paulson, Mike Dunlap, and Jack Bristow. The judging committee chairman was Chuck Peterson.

Small entry disappointing but quality very good. One club's entries arrived without list, but judged anyway

COLOR PRINTS CLASS A

- 1st - "I Was Just Wrapping" 40
Chuck Peterson, Sioux City
- 2nd - "Teo by Two" 39
Jim Coffey, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd - "Ready, Set, Go" 38
Fran Kingsbury, Sioux City
- HM - "Crowded Swimmers" 38
Robert Murphy, Lynn Area
- HM - "Buck in the Beans" 37
Dwight Tomes, Des Moines
- HM - "Warner Island" 37
Lori Podhrasky, Mitchell

There were 27 prints entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the Heart O'Lakes Camera Club. The judges were Judy Brown, Sethrena Stigen, and Glen Merz. The judging committee chairman was Ann Pederson.

COLOR PRINTS CLASS B

- 1st - "People of Verona" 39
Laurie Brenneman, Sioux Falls
- 2nd - "New Friends" 38
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 3rd - "Watching History Land" 37
Tim Breitkratz, Sioux Falls
- HM - "The Jazz Continues"
Ron Schluter, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM - "The Fiddler" 34
Allen Costain, Lidgerwood
- HM - "Timmy Are You Down There" 36
Whitney Podhaskey, Mitchell

There were 62 prints entered by 15 clubs. The judging club was the Heart O'Lakes Camera Club. See above.

"Photography deals exquisitely with appearances, but nothing is what it appears to be."

—Duane Michals

NOV

N4C Contest Results

CONTEMPORARY/ CREATIVE SLIDES

- 1st - "Lady in the Lake" 40
Jim Duncan, St. Paul
- 2nd - "Pretty Peppers" 39
Dick Gagne', LaCrosse
- 3rd - "Rockets Over the City" 37
Paul W. Moore, St. Paul
- HM - "Lunar Landscape" 36
Greg Honermann, Sioux Falls
- HM - "Going to the Ball" 35
Jean McDonough, Women's Color
- HM - "Trans America" 35
Herb Gustafson, St. Paul

There were 51 slides entered by 12 clubs. The judging club was the Iowa City Camera Club. The judges were Bob Rude, Delores Meister, and Wilford Yoder. The judging committee chairman was Larry Luebbert.

Good images, tough competition. Several clubs with double entries made for many slides. Some packages were hard to open without damage. Others are getting pretty beat up.

CONTEMPORARY/ CREATIVE PRINTS

- 1st - "Blue Eyes" 40
Carol Schuumans, Sioux Falls
- 2nd - "City with Pizzazz" 39
Lynda Richards, Des Moines
- 3rd - "Jars" 38
Dick Gagne', LaCrosse
- HM - "Jiggle Balloons" 37
John Larson, Shutterbug
- HM - "Denali" 35
Jack Bristow, Sioux City
- HM - "Pride" 35
Bob Podhradsky, Mitchell

There were 29 prints entered by 9 clubs. The judging club was the Iowa City Camera Club. See above.

Some nice prints, some that were more pictorial.

PHOTOJOURNALISM SLIDES

- 1st - "Curious Friends" 14
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- 2nd - "Action!" 13
Thelma Beers, Women's Color
- 3rd - "No Hands" 13
Randall Williams, Sioux City
- HM - "House on Fire" 13
Jim Duncan, St. Paul
- HM - "Elevator Fire" 13
Ron Nicolls, Sioux City
- HM - "Chair Caning" 12
Janice Templin, Kaposia

There were 47 slides entered by 15 clubs. The judging club was the Cheyenne Camera Club. The judges were Edwin Carlson, Tom Shaffer, and Joe Eddins. The judging committee chairman was Judy Berkley.

We learned a lot about PJ. All members present contributed to the comments. Ties were broken by discussion. Some photos were really good PJ. Some photos fit better in other categories.

PHOTOJOURNALISM PRINTS

- 1st - "Hosing Her Down" 15
Ron Nicolls, Sioux City
- 2nd - "An Eye Out for the Pin" 14
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- 3rd - "Must Stay Focused" 14
Kevin Nabit, Des Moines
- HM - "Three Heads are Better Than One" 14
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM - "Savage Kayaker" 13
John Larson Jr., Shutterbug
- HM - "Only the Chimney Stands" 12
Richard Southwick, Heart O'Lakes

There were 38 prints entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the Cheyenne Camera Club. See above.

PHOTO TRAVEL SLIDES

- 1st - "Days End" 42
Hope Solomons, Iowa City
- 2nd - "The Pope" 41
Thelma Beers, Women's Color
- 3rd - "River of Blue" 40
Terry Sposito, Women's Color
- HM - "Climbing Double Arch" 40
Marty DeWitt, Sioux Falls
- HM - "Sydney Opera House" 39
Dave Foerster, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM - "Nights Warnng" 39
Jack Gustisonm Sutterbug

There were 62 slides entered by 18 clubs. The judging club was the Color Shooters Camera Club. The judges were Connie Lower, Dorothy Stevenson and Martha Gaulrapp. The judging committee chairman was Ed Lower.

The Photo Travel slides took our judges to many locations around the world. A very small number of entries did not indicate where the picture was taken and on Photo Travel it is important to indicate location. A few entries were sunset or sunrise pictures so general you could not determine where they were taken for the picture.

PHOTO TRAVEL PRINTS

- 1st - "Lone Cypress" 43
Jim Coffey, Fargo-Moorhead
- 2nd - "Carmel Mission" 42
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd - "Bodie Wagon" 41
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM - "Keisergracht Canal" 41
Steve Litwiller, Iowa City
- HM - "Gothic tower Landmark" 38
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM - "Yellow Boat in Bosphorus" 37
Victoria Herring, Des Moines

There were 29 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the Color Shooters Camera Club. See above.

The Photo Travel prints covered a wide range of areas of travel from close to home to distant areas. Two of the prints did not fit the Photo Travel category. A few prints had backgrounds that were distracting which took away from the subject the photographer was trying to portray.

STEREO SLIDES

- 1st - "Framed Presidents" 40
Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City
- 2nd - "Thunderbird" 39
Dean Randall, Sioux City
- 3rd - "Wheel Rake #1" 35
Dean Randall, Sioux City
- HM - "Nice View" 34
Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City
- HM - "Red Cactus #1" 34
Don Raker, Des Moines
- HM - "Pickups at Car Show" 3
Dean Randall, Mitchell
- HM - "The Corps of Discovery" 33
Dean Randall, Mitchell

There were 28 slides entered by 3 clubs. The judging club was the Color Shooters Camera Club. The judges were Connie Lower, Dorothy Stevenson, and Martha Gaulrapp. The judging committee chairman was Ed Lower.

The judges had a nice mix of stereo subjects to view. Some of the pictures were really colorful. In a few instances the subject of the picture was so far away from where the photographer was, thus little or no stereo effect.

N4C Judging Clubs for January

2x2 Pictorial Slides Cheyenne CC

2x2 Nature Slides Change To:

Heart O'Lakes CC
% Jerry Swendsrud
111 Andrew Drive
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Black & White Pictorial Class A & B

Nature Prints Class A & B Des Moines CC

2 1/4 Slides Central Iowa CC

Color Prints Class A & B Fargo-Moorhead CC

Contemporary/Creative Prints & Slides Kaposia KC

Photojournalism Prints & Slides Sioux Falls CC

Photo Travel Prints & Slides Sioux City CC

Happiness keeps You Sweet,

Trials keep You Strong,

Sorrows keep You Human,

Failures keep You Humble,

Success keeps You Glowing,

But Only God keeps You
Going!

from Huron Area Photography Club *IMAGE MAKER*:-

Photographing the Christmas Tree

Set up your tree in a well-lit corner of the room near a window, deck it out with tree lights and baubles. The decorations will sparkle, use a starburst filter to make the most of them.

Mount the camera on a tripod, switch off the flash. This way your camera will rely on the colorful tree lights, room lights, and available sunlight, instead. The result will be far more atmospheric than a shot of the tree overpowered by flash. If your camera has a bulb setting, use ISO 100 film and a cable release to take the picture. Time the exposure, keeping the shutter button down for two to ten seconds, depending on how much light there is. As a rule of thumb, try two seconds for a well-lit room in daytime with room lights; four to ten seconds at dusk without room lights, just fairy lights.

If your camera does not have a “B” setting, load up with a faster film speed (such as ISO 200 or 400) and take the shot in the same way—using a tripod. To be on the safe side, switch the flash off for one shot, but back on (to “fill-in” mode) for the next. With the first exposure the camera will automatically select its slowest shutter speed (that is, its longest exposure setting) and even if the results do come out a little bit on the dark side, the second (fill in flash) shot will still retain some of the original ambiance.

If you want to isolate the smaller details of Christmas (like the ornaments or some of the gifts) remember that your camera has a minimum focusing distance of around two feet. If you get too close, the item will be out of focus unless you have a macro lens. Don't risk an out of focus picture frame, step back and accept the fact that the subject does not fill the frame. You can always crop the image selectively and enlarge it as you want it later.



Cold Conditions

Carrying and handling a tripod with naked metal legs in subfreezing temperatures is at best uncomfortable and at worst a liability.

The solution is to insulate the tripod's legs, which also helps to cushion its weight when carrying it over the shoulder. Ready made Tri-Pads are a solution. The leg pads are made of an inner foam pipe strip with a black water-resistant cover secured by Velcro.

You can also make your own padded covers by using foam tubes slit lengthwise (like those used by plumbers to insulate water pipes). The covers can be secured with waterproof tape.

Elasticized wrist bands placed on the focusing ring of your lens will insulate it from the severe cold (making handling more comfortable) and also will provide a better grip for focusing the lens manually.

Lithium batteries operate better in cold weather.

Make a camera coat for your camera out of double acrylic fleece and put a pocket in it over the battery compartment where you can put a small chemical hand warmer to keep the battery warm.

—Huron Area Photography Club *IMAGE MAKER*

from Mtichell Camera Club :*PHOTOGRAM*

Things to do with Old Film Canisters Portable Aroma-therapy

Fill empty canister (within 1/2 inch from top) with Epsom Salts. Add a teaspoon of essential oil and label each canister with the appropriate fragrance name. Peppermint works extremely well for headaches. Lavender helps to relax those stressed out feelings. Or, your spouse's favorite perfume/after-shave can give you that “at home” feeling when you are traveling alone. There are numerous books and web-sites on Aroma-therapy that can help you experiment with different fragrances.

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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A Few Tips for Winter Photography

- 1) There seems to be too many gray skies during the winter. Use a graduated filter to color the sky while leaving the foreground natural.
- 2) When photographing wildlife in snow, the best way to reduce contrast is to use a fill flash.
- 3) Get prepared the night before and have everything at your fingertips. You become slower in cold weather and it is much harder to do the simplest movement with layers of clothing and gloves.
- 4) The sunlight during the early morning and late afternoon offers unique photography opportunities due to the reflections and colors. Get an early start and you will be rewarded.
- 5) Look for the contrasting lines

and objects that appear when the snow does not completely cover the landscape. Place yourself in multiple positions to find the most dynamic photograph. Don't forget to add some color to the photograph as it will create a dramatic effect with the white snow.

6) Night photography can be accomplished from the light of the moon. The landscape lights up under the light of the moon and the reflection of the snow.

7) To reduce some sky in the photograph, position yourself at a higher location and look down.

8) Look for the birds. If it is snowing, use a slow shutter speed for the snow to add an interesting effect. Keep in mind, though, that it is a hard combination of wildlife and a slow shutter speed.

from an article by *Philip Tulin*

