



The North Central Camera Club Council

News Bulletin

"Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends"

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WWW.N4C.US

SUMMER (May), 2012

President's Message

Greetings lovers of the lens,

Reminder: Register by August 16th for the N4C Convention in Des Moines. That will get you a discount on your registration – The convention is September 6-7-8, 2012. The registration form is in this issue, and on the website along with a schedule of events.

Many clubs have just elected new officers. When I was asked recently for ideas for revitalizing a club I thought that might be a good topic for my message this month as officers look forward to a fresh new year this fall. It is troubling to learn that some clubs are losing members while others are growing. It does require active leadership to keep clubs healthy. I've always felt as a leader it is necessary to be positive and upbeat. When key members get down-in-the-dumps it will be difficult to attract and retain members.

That said.. from my experience in a smaller Central Iowa Club and now the larger Des Moines Club, in addition to interesting meetings, they have social networks that are strong. They both have friends/groups that get together outside of regular meetings. Maybe it's just a party to show some photos, or a photo shoot. Occasions to involve new members. However Des Moines meets on three Tuesdays each month so there is more frequent opportunity to get to know each other. A program one week, digital contest the next and a print contest the third week. It keeps everyone thinking "photography" nearly all month. And we have regular photo shoots. The LaCrosse Club does a lot of volunteer photo shoots for community events and gives the photos to the organizations for their publicity. Display photos at a nursing home - maybe a local cafe. Have a display at the county fair. Find ways to get publicity for your programs. Have flyers available about your club and find places to display them. Organize a class for beginning photographers - a session on cameras, a session of Photoshop Elements, etc. There is always a need to teach the fundamentals and you will attract some folks who will then join the club. Involve your members in the N4C contests. If you are not, you really need to have programs about digital photography. I think the clubs having the most problems are failing to keep up with the latest trends in photography.

Meetings: Communication is key - Publicize, newsletter, or just simple emails. Keep a current email list. Start on time, interesting program, have some refreshments – encourage questions and a time to visit, and end on time. Have some photo assignments based on member choices and hold regular club contests. This is necessary to keep your members out shooting and sharing their work with each other and learning from each other how to improve. After the judging, have the winners or each one tell about how they shot the image, equipment, experiences, difficulties, etc. I put the digital winners on the N4C web each month. You might possibly use those at a meeting - critique them and discuss what made each a winner, and how they could be improved. Have members present short programs on a piece of equipment, software, etc. One club calls them "Round Robin Tutorials" - just 5 minute presentations - helps members get to know each other.

N4C is a network of clubs. How about visiting another club? There are links to most of our clubs on the N4C web. Check those web sites to see what they are doing. I think you'll find a lot of ideas. Come to the N4C Convention and be inquisitive.

Photography for most of us is a hobby. You've just got to keep it fun. Your members want that personal satisfaction by learning and sharing their accomplishments. And they will like the friendships that develop. To all members – remember what mamma said: "You get out of it what you put into it."

I hope this gives your membership a few ideas. Good luck as you plan the coming year. Your desire to make improvements is what it will take to move in that direction.

Enjoy photography whether or not it is yours.

Ken Johnson

PRESS RELEASE

Francis Kingsbury, FPSA Reaches PSA Membership Milestone

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) recognizes long-time members when they have reached a significant anniversary of membership in the Society. **Francis Kingsbury, FPSA**, has reached the **60 Year** Membership Milestone. Francis received a Milestone Certificate, suitable for framing and signed by the President of PSA, in appreciation of his long-time support of the Society. Formal announcement was made on the PSA website.

PSA is a worldwide organization of both amateur and professional photographers with membership in 70 countries. More information about PSA, its activities, benefits, and membership opportunities, is available on the Society's website www.psa-photo.org.

Attention, Former Color Slide Shooters

Before the days of digital, did you used to shoot color slides?

If so, you probably have boxes or pages of slides which you have not yet entered in N4C, somewhere in your house.

Now that we are into the months of June, July, and August, when there is little camera club activity, it would be the perfect time for you to go through your slides, and pick out 8 of them to give to your club's N4C Slide Representative to send in for you during the coming N4C competition year.

Starting in September, N4C will have one "Open" 2 x 2 film slide contest each month. "Open" means no more categories -- anything goes.

The clubs which have volunteered to undertake the challenge of judging "Open" slides for the coming year are: St. Paul, Cedar Rapids, Color Shooters, Fort Dodge, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Kaposia, and Anamosa.

We would very much like to see an increase in the number of slide entries. We know slides are still out there, in a closet, in a drawer, in the basement, in a spare room....

Just because the majority of us are shooting digital now does not mean that slides need to be forgotten! This is a perfect opportunity to sort through your slides and find interesting entries.

If you have any questions, do feel free to ask: photopeople01@aol.com

Pat Schwope
N4C "Open" Slide Chairman

Nominate Someone Today - N4C Service Award

A reminder to start thinking about the N4C Service Award. It has been 3 years since we have given an N4C Service Award. I know there are candidates who would be good nominees for the N4C Service Award.

1. The service Award is presented to a candidate for his or her outstanding contribution of service to N4C along with service to their own camera club and photographic services to their local community.
2. Any person, who is a member of a camera club in good standing with the Council, may act as a proposer for a candidate(s).
3. The candidate must also be a member of a club in good standing with the Council.

For more information go to: Section D -1 Awards and Recognitions Service Award Requirements in the N4C Directory.

Applications are available from the Committee Chair or the Supply Chair.

For more information contact

Wilford Yoder - weyoder820@msn.com Chair of the Service Awards Committee

Mailing address - Wilford Yoder, 820 Talwrn Ct., Iowa City, IA 52246

The Service Awards Committee is comprised of: Gloria Johnston, Steve Thompson and Wilford Yoder.

Wilford Yoder

Springbrook – Another Video

I invite everyone to watch the new video on the web <http://n4c.us/meetings.htm> by Carole Kropscot. This show covers Springbrook 2012. It shows the Springbrook State Park conference center facilities and if you have never been to a Springbrook weekend it will give you an inkling of what it is like. Those who attended may see themselves. Carole Kropscot, APSA, is very active in PSA and a member of the Digital Dimensions Camera Club among others in the Kansas City area. She also attended our N4C Convention in Topeka as a guest. You will find a very nice collage about Topeka on her PSA webpage

<http://www.psa-newmember.org/psa-regions/regions/reg06.html>.

Considering the N4C Convention? See Ultimate Guide to Des Moines:

If I find how to get a hard-copy, Ill let you know. This great guide to Des Moines just came with my newspaper, the *Des Moines Register*. A lot of great things to see. The magazine is online:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/section/ultimate-guide&template=photolanding>

Ken Johnson

DOWNTOWN PLACES and FRIENDLY PLACES
2012 N4C CONVENTION
DES MOINES, IOWA SEPT 6-8

What are the chances? The chances that you will create the image that sticks in your imagination, that you have in many different places in your home, on multiple hard drives, that you talk about with your N4C friends, that makes you smile inside and out. Although this magic can't be planned, your DMCC hosts for the 2012 convention invite you to come early, stay late, and take advantage of the locations, guides and comradery (yes, I know that spell check says it isn't a word!) to increase your odds for an image to remember.



Just this last week a curious ant literally walked into the image (above right) at the moment the shutter

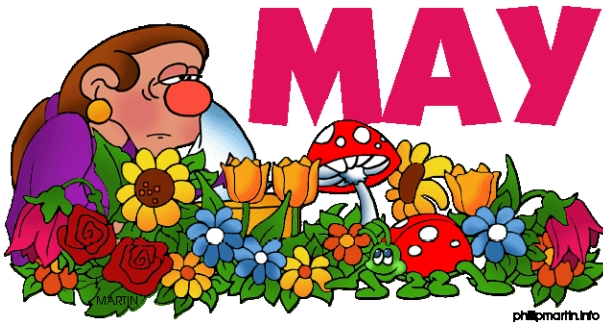
opened. Not planned, but the components were ready and waiting. The magic of our personal photography is that unique combination of content and the memories that flash before us long after the experience. Those special images go that small step further to evoke elements beyond what we see and feel. Special location, favorite lens, friends, sounds, smells, light—all of the above!



Corn is Growing;
Wind is Blowing;
Cool, Warm, no Hot;
Sun, Clouds, all in a Day;
Fun, Play, Nap, Action;
Make Your Plans;
Des Moines in September;
Red Carpet Just for You;



We can never plan the 'moment to remember' but your friends in Des Moines will do all they can to have you at a place and time that become one of your 'special moments'.
The Sore Loser.



Contest Results

2 x 2 Nature Slides

1st Cynthia Moth - Connie Lower, Color Shooters
 2nd Leopard Frog - Ronald Wiskus, Dubuque
 3rd Wolf - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
 HM Scarlet Tanager - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
 HM Lake Moraine - John Chadima, Cedar Rapids
 HM Bison Butting Heads - Delores Meister, Iowa City
 20 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: St. Paul Camera Club. Chair: Pat Schwope. Judges: Morris Gildemeister, Herb Gustafson, Gene Schwope. Comments: We used the TCI judging technique which Cedar Rapids uses, and it was very effective and quicker than the T-1-2-3, C-1-2-3, I-1-2-3 system we have always used. The top 4 slides were 1 point apart.

2 x 2 Pictorial Slides

1st Bison South, Mormon Barn - Ed Lower, Color Shooters
 2nd Evening Light at Bryce Canyon - Ty Smith, Mitchell
 3rd Grand Marais Sunset #6 - Morris Gildemeister, Saint Paul
 HM Orchid - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
 HM Civil War Remains - Jim Kost, Mitchell
 HM Pink Rhododendron - Jim Duncan, Saint Paul
 36 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: Shutterbug Camera Club. Chair: John Larson. Judges: Shirley White, Jack Gustison, Michelle Hall. Comments: Some of the slides had noticeable dust/dirt on them.

B & W Pictorial

1st Bridalveil Falls after Light Snowfall - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
 2nd Water Feature Chris Larson Park - Steve Paulson, Sioux City
 3rd Capitol Fisheye - Jo Eland, Iowa City
 HM Fall at Mt. Stream - Ed Lower, Color Shooters
 HM Timeless Architecture - Paul Grillo, Des Moines
 HM Concentration - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
 35 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: Central Iowa Camera Club. Chair: Jim Svec. Judges: Brenda Doyle, Teresa Vokoun, Ed Siems.

Color Prints

1st Yosemite Three Brothers Mirrored - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
 2nd White-Throated Sparrow - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
 3rd Maui Sunset - Greg Hogle, Topeka
 HM Spring at the Fjords - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
 HM Bobcat Stare - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
 HM Here's a Buck - Filler Up - Paul Grillo, Des Moines
 46 entries from 11 clubs. Judging Club: Mitchell Camera Club. Chair: Jim Kost. Judges: Dean Randall, Bob Podhardsky, Betsy Petersen. Comments: Many nature and creative photos. Most were done well.

Creative Prints

1st Magical Mystery Owl - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
 2nd Gerba Daisy - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
 3rd Smiling Cowboy - Bob Rude, Iowa City
 HM The Punchbowl In Oil - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
 HM Twilight Zone Train - Paul Grillo, Des Moines
 HM Celestial Question - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
 27 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth-Superior Camera Club. Chair: Joseph Kubala. Judges: Joni Tazell, Bob Lahti, Scott Thomson. Comments: High quality prints throughout competition. Many interesting and varied techniques represented.

Digital Nature

1st Owl, Great Horned 200 - Sarah Bissell, Shutterbug
 2nd 2 Pasque - Sue Olson, Minnesota Valley
 3rd Stormy Evening North Shore O'ahu - Peter Frey-mark, Des Moines
 HM whooping crane - Bob Sparks, Fargo-Moorhead
 HM Ride The Wind - Terry Clark, Iowa City
 HM bald-eagle-fish - Al Sheldon, La Crosse Area
 HM Yellow-Warbler - Toni Paisley, La Crosse Area
 HM Hippos - Diane Pederson, North Metro Photo Club
 HM Lioness - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
 HM Hypos Fighting - Jean McDonough, Women's Color
 HM Colorado Seasons - Elaine Allen, Women's Color
 106 entries from 20 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Scott Udey. Judges: Sonja Hogle, Charles Dugan, Marilyn Cozad. Comments: Lots of good photos.



Contest Results continued

Digital Pictorial

1st Mammoth Dunes of Death Valley - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
2nd La Femme Mystique - Jerry Ranch, Des Moines
3rd Leaf in Dew - Doug Nelson, Saint Paul
HM Pacific at Cannon Beach - Connie Lower, Color Shooters
HM Days Gone By - Joe Kubala, Duluth-Superior
HM Three Sailors - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
HM American Lotus - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
HM My Pal - Sue Dilcher, North Metro Photo Club
HM Beached Boat - Diane Pederson, North Metro
HM The Juggler - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
HM Moroc Doorway - Herb Gustafson, Saint Paul
107 entries from 20 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux Falls Camera Club. Chair: Steve Thompson. Judges: Dave Graham, Joyce Vander Lugt, Karl Vander Lugt. Comments: Nice variety. Several images soft or lacking focus. Several images had blown highlights.

Nature Prints

1st Cat Fight - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
2nd Tufted Titmouse - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
3rd Horseshoe Canyon - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
HM Elk Cow with Nursing Calf - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
HM Portal to the Soul - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
HM White Flight - Sonja Hoglund, Topeka
38 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: Central Iowa Camera Club. Chair: Jim Svec. Judges: Jim Davis, Bill Williamson, Wilbur Hutchens.

Photo-Travel Prints

1st Yosemite Falls 7542 - Jo Eland, Iowa City
2nd Minneapolis at Night - Shane Abbitt, Des Moines
3rd Spring in St. Louis - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
HM Curious Woman at Hemis Gompa-India - John Schilling, La Crosse
HM Capture the Moment - Shanghai Expo, 2010 - Ed Lorson, Iowa City
HM Barnafoss Fall, Iceland - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
29 entries from 10 clubs. Judging Club: Women's Color Photo Club. Chair: Linda Rutherford. Judges: Carol Madison, Judy Lathrop, Laura Davies. Comments: Some really good stuff.

Photo-Travel Slides

1st Lower Fox Creek - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
2nd Mt Moran & Lake - Ed Lower, Color Shooters
3rd Michigan Still Life - Gene Schwope, Saint Paul
24 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Women's Color Photo Club. Chair: Linda Rutherford. Judges: Carol Madison, Kathy Wall, Laura Davies.

PJ Prints

1st Only Ducks Enjoy the Foggy Flood - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
2nd Wrong Way Out - Jamie Hauer, Albert Lea Lens & Shutter
3rd Night Prairie Burn - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
HM Another One Bites the Dust - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
HM A Push Down Low - Scott Thomson, Duluth-Superior
HM It's Gone - Bob Gillespie, Sioux City
37 entries from 11 clubs. Judging Club: Wichita Area Camera Club. Chair: Jim Boots. Judges: Don Tan, Neil Marcus, Sondra Berry.

PJ Projected Images

1st Out At Second - Ron Balthazor, Sioux Falls
2nd All in a Twist - Shane Abbitt, Des Moines
3rd The Price of Celebrity - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
HM Bull Fighter Clowns to the Rescue - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
HM Bird Banding Program for N4C - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
HM DeConstructing Government - John Anderson, Minnesota Valley
HM TakeOff - Shannon Voges, Sioux Falls
HM Ooh's and Aah's for Street Performer - Judy Lathrop, Women's Color
77 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Wichita Area Camera Club. Chair: Jim Boots. Judges: Rick Hester, PK Mattingly, Bruce Ward.

Projected Creative

1st Electric Mayhem - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
2nd Wisconsin Point Light - Joe Kubala, Duluth-Superior
3rd Hub - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
HM Broken Hearts - Jamie Lund, Duluth-Superior
HM Restoration - Rick Graves, Minnesota Valley
HM Three Lights - Marian Beach, North Metro
HM Plum Creek Road IR - Bob Gillespie, Sioux City
HM Poster Lily - Maddie Stocking, Saint Paul
HM Split Down the Middle - Sondra Barry, Wichita Area
86 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines Camera Club. Chair: Diane Darnielle. Judges: Jerry Ranch, Dwight Tomes, Mike Larsen. Comments: Very close competition between the top 15 images. Some excellent creative images. Judges commented more than once the image and the technique used fit very well together on the top scoring images.

Contest Update for 2012-2013

The revised N4C contest rules are available for download from the web.

Go to page <http://n4c.us/competition.htm> and click on the Blue button.

The contest lineup for next year requires 80 monthly judgments in addition to the annual contests.

A few of the more significant changes are listed below. There will be six all digital image categories.

 Inter-club contests will be held each month, except June, July, August, and December.

Competition will be in the following categories:

- a. Digital Pictorial
- b. Digital Nature
- c. Digital Creative
- d. Digital Travel
- e. Digital Journalism
- f. Digital Black & White (November & March only)
- g. 2 x 2 Slides
- h. Color Prints
- i. Nature Prints: Black & White or Color
- j. Black & White Pictorial Prints
- k. Creative Prints
- l. Travel Prints
- m. Journalism Prints
- n. Photo Essay Annual Contest will be held in April
- o. Panorama Print Annual Contest will be held at the Springbrook mini-convention.
- p. Camera Club Bulletin (Communications) Annual Competition

Several changes affecting contest names to simplify and clarify them were approved at Springbrook – The word “slides” will be reserved for 2 x 2 Slides. Digital contests will, in general, be called “Digital Image” contests. Since all our contests involve photos, the word “photo” seemed redundant and now they will be simply ‘Travel’ and ‘Journalism’ digital and print contests.

The following rules for slides were approved. Note that slides made from digital files are no longer eligible in this contest now open to all subject matter.

Rules for 2 x 2 Slides

1. A 2 x 2 slide is a film transparency in a 2" x 2" slide mount to be viewed by projection on a screen.
2. Slides are made from a photographic film transparency exposed within a film camera or copies of such film. Slides made from digital files are not eligible.
3. Slides may be composed to suit the maker's wishes by cropping within the 2 x 2 slide-mount format.
4. All entries are judged as a single open category. Pictorial, nature, travel, journalism, creative, and other photographs are competing against each other.

Journalism entries may now include “sequences” in both digital and print contests. “Journalism means simply the telling of a story by the use of a picture, or a sequence of related separate pictures arranged for presentation as a single entry.”

A special **Digital B&W contest** this year, hosted by the Des Moines Club received 90 entries from 23 clubs. With this popularity, two Digital B&W contests will be sponsored next season - one in November by the Iowa City club and another in March by the Des Moines club.

Ken Johnson

Is The Use of HDR Restricted?

Is HDR allowed in Nature, Journalism, and Travel photography contests?

HDR (High Dynamic Range) is not a technique addressed in N4C rules to state whether or not it is allowed. I can give my opinion, however the contest judges have the liberty to make their own interpretations of the published rules so my opinion here is not the gospel word.

HDR sometimes gets a bad rap. I view it as a general name for many methods giving a fuller range between the lightest and darkest areas of an image - the dynamic range. This can be done subtly and look very natural. It can also be abused to the point being considered more of a creative effect. It can be accomplished in a number of ways by blending multiple exposures, and it is being done internally by some of the newer cameras. What I'm trying to say is that it is very difficult to put limits on what HDR is or is not - how much is allowed and how much is not. Similarly, we can't put specific limits to other techniques such as sharpening, vibrance, contrast, split-ND filters, etc.

Our rules pretty well steer clear of specific techniques and focus more on the image as presented. I think it should be kept that way. That is not to say that Journalism, Nature, and Travel are wide open to anything and everything. John Larson has been recommending some changes for these categories - I think to be in line with PSA. This may be discussed at the Convention membership meeting.

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Basic Digital Guidelines (Journalism, Nature, and Travel categories)

No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, combined or changed in any way that affects the integrity of the image content. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be added or applied, and any sharpening must appear natural. Image adjustments allowed are as follows: 1) Exposure adjustment. 2) White balance/color correction. 3) Adjust highlight and shadow detail. 4) Adjust contrast. 5) Adjust saturation. 6) Dust spot removal. 7) Noise removal. 8) Flare removal. 9) Cropping. 10) Sizing. 11) Straightening. All adjustments must look natural to be successful.

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I can go along with these allowable adjustments. They address the appearance of the resulting image and not any specific techniques. The most important statement in my opinion is the last sentence - "All adjustments must look natural to be successful." For example, being allowed to "Adjust highlight and shadow detail" lets me dodge & burn, use Photoshop levels & curves, adjust shadows & highlights sliders, and use HDR as long as the result looks natural.

What is your viewpoint? Is your thinking much different?

Ken Johnson

P a n o r a m a P r i n t s – Winner Gallery

The Panorama Print contest was held at Springbrook. You can see them in all their detail in the Winner Gallery http://n4c.us/panorama_print_2012.htm.

Click the thumbnails for a better view and zoom in for detail. Click the "Up" link to see all the winner galleries. Because of their size, the pano prints are not be displayed at N4C Conventions.

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N4C is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America.

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