



North Central Camera Club Council

News Bulletin

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December 2019

“Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends”

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.

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N4C Bulletin Staff Editor/Publisher: Debbie Bates -- edit@n4c.us, E-Publisher: Gene Schwope -- photopeople01@aol.com

President's Message: Mark Gromko

The N4C provides a variety of opportunities for its members to enjoy and advance their photography. The largest group of opportunities is in the monthly and annual competitions, of which there is an impressive variety. I have learned a great deal from participating in the competitions, both as submitter and as judge, and I hope the same is true for you.



However, in reflecting on my own experience and talking with others, I note a possible downside to our emphasis on competition. Most obviously, not all worthy photos can win an award, and it can be discouraging to have a genuinely fine photo not be recognized with a ribbon. A second, less obvious consequence of picking winners is a tendency to look for faults in photos. In our need to find differences among excellent photos, we look for things that might distract us, or for small failures of technique, or the possibility that a different crop might improve the composition, and so on. These are all legitimate aspects of competition and judging, to be sure. My point is merely to point out the difference between asking what detracts from a photo versus seeing and enjoying the strengths of a photo.



As the holiday season approaches, my photography wish for you is to enjoy your photographs. Remember to see what works in your images, what “sparks joy” when you view your photos, and what sharing your photos means to your friends and your family.

Thank you for sharing your photos with all of us, through the N4C competitions, so that we can enjoy and share in your experiences, your vision, and your creativity.

Mark Gromko

President N4C



N4C Service Award

Winter is fast closing in and it is once again time to consider recognizing individuals that have gone above and beyond to serve the Council. All members are encouraged to consider nominating someone you feel has demonstrated extraordinary effort to the Council for a Service Award. Awards will be presented at the Convention in Sioux City. Page D-1 of the current directory lists the requirements. To make it convenient the N4C web site has the proper form you can fill out and mail to me or send via e-mail at this link. <http://www.n4c.us/Supplies-Forms/SERVICEA.PDF>

Completed forms may be sent to:
Steve Thompson
26118 Canary Dr.
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Or they can be sent as a PDF file via e-mail. Be sure to send it to the address in this article. There was a typo in the Directory if sent there it will not reach me.

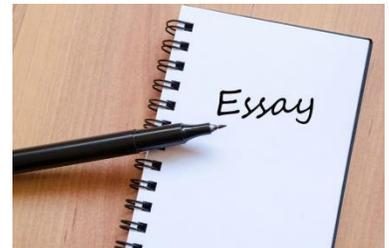
Correct email address
sathomps@unitelsd.com

Deadline for nomination shall be June 15, 2020.



Friends,

The holidays are a great time to begin work on your 2020 photo essay entry. There have been significant changes to the photo essay rules to avoid use of copyrighted and/or trademarked content. However, there's no need for panic since there are many ways to find and get the music content you need. You'll find this information on the photo essay rules document in a footnote that lists software (both free and for purchase) that have a large number of music tracks that are included as well other web locations for royalty paid or royalty free music. These resources will help you find other sources if you don't locate what you need right away. Best of all you can likely come up with ways to self-record sound or narration to complement your imagery!



Besides, you know where to call, message or e-mail if you have questions: [Dwight Tomes, \(515\) 240-6633, or d.tomes@me.com](mailto:Dwight.Tomes@me.com) .

Rules for Photo Essay Annual Competition

1. A photo essay is a series of projectable images accompanied by music and/or a narrative which tell an integrated story presented in a pleasing and understandable manner.
2. The deadline for receipt of entries by the contest chair is March 31st with judging conducted in April. Members may submit one entry per year with a maximum number of member entries per club of 8 as in other digital contests (see #10 for point accrual.) In addition a club may also submit one club entry in which one or members may work collaboratively on an essay. Customarily, the club president or other club officer submits a club entry. Club entries are not awarded points toward the Club of the Year Award.

3. The minimum number of images shall be twenty (20). There is not a limit on the maximum number of images, but the program time shall not exceed six (6) minutes. Hint: the majority of winning entries in the past few years have been between 4-5 minutes. Only still images (not Video Clips) can be used to compose the Photo Essay. The “Ken Burns” effect is permitted on individual images. The images must be the work of the entrant(s)
4. The photo essay contest incorporates a sound track along with imagery that can consist of music, narration or any combination of the two. The source of sound files can be (a) self-recorded sound made at the same approximate time as images were made, (b) narration/music recorded specifically for the essay either by the author (or local individuals who collaborate with the author of the essay), (c) royalty pre-paid music (source must be provided), or (d) pre-recorded music that is now royalty free (eg. royalty expired) or which has permission from copyright owner*. Note that the photo-essay should identify the source of the sound/music/narration. Note that the maker or club entering the contest should not be identified in the electronic file of the essay. Author identification should be in the form accompanying the essay or via e-mail to the contest chair for photo essays.
5. Standard N4C naming will be used with the photo essay contest—with the file name used for the .mp4 entry submitted via [Dropbox to d.tomes@icloud.com](mailto:d.tomes@icloud.com) . Normally a link to the author’s *dropbox* account sent to this e-mail address is the easiest way to retrieve the essay. A USB memory stick may be used to send an entry by mail to the contest chair (Please inform the contest chair!) Although the file name is sufficient for entering the contest, e-mail communication with the maker’s name, e-mail address, and telephone number is helpful if technical assistance is desired. The photo essay chair will confirm receipt of the photo essay via e-mail.
6. Entries can be created in any software, but the entry must be entered as a “universal” file format such as .mp4 or .mov, playable on all computers. The entrant(s) may have non-professional, unpaid assistance in converting the entry to the standard format of .mp4 or .mov as needed. The .mp4 file format is preferred. The entrant’s photo-essay should be sent to the Contest Chair in the specified file type via Dropbox (see above). The Photo-Essay Chair will assemble all entries for judging (see # 9), for showing at Mini Spring Convention, and at the Fall Convention.
7. The judging club will provide three judges (consistent with other N4C contests) for this contest. Normally the judging club will not be able to submit entries to the contest the year they are judging. Judges who are not members of any affiliated club in N4C may be used provided that they have sufficient experience in judging photography contests similar to those in N4C and are willing to complete the necessary forms and provide feedback to contest entrants.
8. All the following must be considered by the judges: (a.) Quality of the photography, (b.) Soundtrack Quality (music and narrative if included) and (c) Impact, interest, and integration of sound and images.
9. The club that hosts the essay competition is encouraged to conduct the judging at a time and place where interested individuals may attend. The judges must comment on the entries for the benefit of the audience. It is suggested that the judges’ comments be made available to those entrants and the public who were unable to attend the judging. The photo essay chair will provide a computer, projector and other supplies to present the essays for judging and record the results of the essay judging for the host club.
10. By tradition, all entries are shown at the Spring mini-convention meeting in April/May. The winners will be announced at Mini-Spring Convention after essays are shown. The first, second, third place and HM winners will be presented at the Fall convention during one of the banquets.
11. Clubs will accrue points toward the Club of the Year Award as follows: First – 8 points, Second – 6 points, Third – 4 points, Honorable Mention – 2 points

*additional information royalty free music:

· These slide show software programs have royalty free music that can be used: Filmora, Photostory Deluxe, Movavi Slideshow Maker, ProShow Gold, CyberLink MediaShow, iMovie (Mac), FotoMagico (Mac) · Web sites for ‘free’ slideshow makers: <https://whatphotographygear.com/photo-editor/best-slideshow-makers.html> · Potential royalty free loops—not tested extensively: <https://www.looperman.com/loops> · <http://carlcheo.com/make-free-photo-slideshow-online-with-music>

Rules for Video Essay Contest

For more information contact Carl Hardy - torchenterprises@cableone.net

A video essay is a series of projectable video clips accompanied by music and/or a narrative which tell an integrated story presented in a pleasing and understandable manner.

2. The deadline for receipt of entries by the contest chair is March 31st with judging conducted in April. Members may submit one entry per year with a maximum number of member entries per club of 8 as in other digital contests (see #10 for point accrual.) In addition, a club may also submit one club entry in which one or members may work collaboratively on an essay. Customarily, the club president or other club officer submits a club entry. Club entries are not awarded points toward the Club of the Year Award.

3. The minimum frame rate shall be four (4) frames per second (fps), with no maximum fps. The program time shall not exceed six (6) minutes. Hint: the majority of winning slide essay entries in the past few years have been between 4-5 minutes. Still images can be used for time lapse or stop-action, but must meet the 4 fps rule. Any and all CG Effects can be used. The video clips must be the work of the entrant(s), with no commercial clips allowed. The video essay should contain the source of the sound track, but must not identify the maker or club entering the contest.

4. Standard N4C naming will be used with the video essay contest—with the file name used for the .mp4 entry submitted. A USB memory stick may be used to send an entry by mail to the contest chair Carl Hardy - torchenterprises@cableone.net. Must include file name, entrant’s name for entering the contest, e-mail communication with the maker’s name, e-mail address, and telephone number, if technical assistance is desired. The video essay chair will confirm receipt of the video essay via e-mail.

5. Entries can be created using any software, but the entry must be entered as a “universal” file format such as .mp4 or .mov, playable on all computers, with a format size of 4K or less. The entrant(s) may have non-professional, unpaid assistance in converting the entry to the standard format of .mp4 or .mov as needed. The .mp4 file format is preferred. The entrant’s video essay should be sent to the Contest Chair Carl Hardy - torchenterprises@cableone.net. The Video Essay Chair will assemble all entries for judging (see # 9), for showing at Spring Mini-Convention, and at the Fall Convention.

6. The judging club will provide three judges (consistent with other N4C contests) for this contest. Normally the judging club will not be able to submit entries to the contest the year they are judging. Judges who are not members of any affiliated club in N4C may be used provided that they have sufficient experience in judging videography contests similar to those in N4C and are willing to complete the necessary forms and provide feedback to contest entrants.

7. All the following must be considered by the judges: (a.) Quality of the videography, (b.) Soundtrack Quality (music and narrative if included) and (c) Impact, interest, and integration of sound and images.

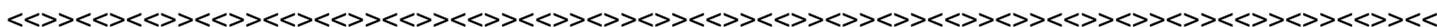
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Carl Hardy, Sioux City is the chair of the Video Competition. Carl Hardy- torchenterprises@cableone.net



Joe Countryman



After a battle with cancer Joe Countryman, age 45, passed away Thursday afternoon (Nov. 28) surrounded by loved ones. The family will hold a private memorial now and a celebration of life for family and friends next year. The family greatly appreciates the outpouring of love and support.

Joe, Des Moines Camera Club member was a well know photographer in the Central Iowa area who was passionate about his photography and a mentor to many aspiring photographers. Joe photographed portraits, sports, and landscapes. You can visit his gallery at <https://www.countrymanphoto.net/>.

Quote from Joe

'Have you ever experienced a love for something so intense that it wakes you up at night? And you can't stop thinking about it, so you just have to get out of bed and do it? Photography is that for me. Since realizing my passion for photography, I have become an entirely different person. I have found my purpose and I see the world in a whole new light. A light that makes me want to capture it and share it with you.'

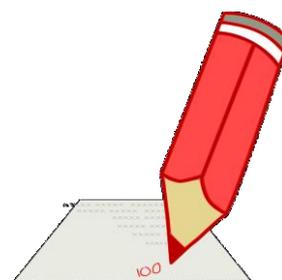


Corrections:

The wrong winner was recognized in the recent N4C bulletin for Nature Prints October 2019.

As noted below Mitch Keller was the winning photographer from Sioux City. Somehow Anne Greiner was listed.

Nature Prints October 2019 1st Place Mitch Keller "Ready for Closeup".



Would love to hear from all of our clubs' activities. Please send articles to:

Debbie Bates: edit@n4c.us

SAVE THE DATE!



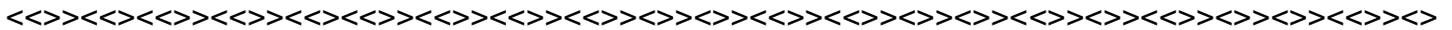
Saturday, March 21st, 2020, will be the date for the Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs' 34th Annual **Spring Break**, at a brand new location: Spring Lake Park High School.

It will be very convenient for travel from Iowa and Minnesota, since I-35 goes practically all the way there.

Details on programs and speakers will follow. Save the date, and stay tuned!

Upcoming Events:

- Mini Spring Convention at Wesley Woods – April 24 - 26th 2020
- N4C Fall Convention 2020 – Hosted by Sioux City and Sioux Falls Camera Club
- N4C Fall Convention 2021 – Hosted by Duluth-Superior Camera Club
- N4C Fall Convention 2022 – Hosted by Wichita Camera Club



*Happy 10th Anniversary
Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
Camera Club*



NOVEMBER



N4C Contest Winners

N4C November (2019-11) Contest Results

B & W Pictorial Prints

- 1st Left Behind - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
 - 2nd B-29 Flight Engineer Dashboard - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
 - 3rd Climb the Great Wall - Mitch Keller, Sioux City
 - HM Foggy Morning - Linda Eisterhold, Albert Lea Lens & Shutter
 - HM Gladious - Michael Walsh, Sioux City
 - HM Spring Morning - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- 25 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth-Superior Camera Club.
 Chair: Douglas Granholm.
 Judges: Robert Lahti, Mike Miller, Kathleen Wolleat. Comments: Judging-Method 1

Digital Altered Reality

- 1st Night of the Black Wolf - Melissa Anderson, Western Wisconsin
- 2nd Yellow Butterfly - Tom Arnhold, Topeka
- 3rd Grooming Spoonbill Painted - Don Specht, Western Wisconsin
- HM Black Sky - Mike Barker, Omaha
- HM Capitol Aerial - David Schmidt, Lincoln
- HM American Eagle in the Fireworks - Julia Ackerman, Minnesota Valley
- HM Double Hibiscus - Pat Chiconis, Western Wisconsin
- HM Orchid Swirl - Donna Turner, Omaha
- HM Painted Wings - Debbie Ivy, La Crosse Area
- HM Dylan - Don Loseke, Omaha

96 entries from 21 clubs. Judging Club: Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs.

Chair: Debbie Bates. Judges: Brenda Strauss, Walter Fengler, Linda Buxton.

Comments: Good variety of techniques and ideas. Comments were given to those below 30. Judging-Method 1.

Digital B&W

- 1st Daffodil Backlit - Peggy Boike, Saint Paul
- 2nd Going Going Gone - John Foty, North Metro
- 3rd North American B-25J Miss Mitchell on a Night Raid - John Gustafson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Portrait #2 - Richard Birger, Saint Paul
- HM Quiet Village - Allen Kurth, Omaha
- HM Broadwing Portrait - Marge Springett, Western Wisconsin
- HM Dark Hedges, Northern Ireland - Sheldon Farwell, Great River
- HM Lilly - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
- HM Cowboy Camp - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
- HM Forest Light - Marty Barker, Omaha
- HM True Cowpoke - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
- HM Sideways Stare - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM Grandpa Doesn't Live Here Anymore - Dan Ray, Black Hills

123 entries from 24 clubs. Judging Club: Minnesota Valley Photography Club.

Chair: Rich Roberts. Judges: Norman Crouch, Daniel Vande Vusse, Roy Larson. Comments: Judging-Method 1.

Digital Journalism

- 1st Bucking Hard - Shane Abbitt, Des Moines
- 2nd Last Barrel Before the Finish Line - Allen Kurth, Omaha
- 3rd Let the Chips Fly - Brian Stockton, Des Moines
- HM The Start - Tom Schendel, North Metro
- HM Brendon Sage 32521 Leads at the Start of the 2019 - John Gustafson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Tricks at Skate Park - Sheldon Farwell, Great River
- HM Last Barrel - Steve Thompson, Sioux Falls
- HM Determined Cowboy - Marty Barker, Omaha
- HM Well Managed Chaos - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
- HM Flying High - Brenda Stauss, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs

93 entries from 20 clubs. Judging Club: Wichita Area Camera Club.

Chair: Dwight Corrin. Judges: Garry Brownlee, Jim Boots, Patricia Konyha. Comments: Judging-Method 2.

Digital Nature

- 1st Great Blue Heron with Nesting Material - Don Specht, Western Wisconsin
- 2nd Three of a Kind Western Grebe - Dale Rehder, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd My Turn - Martha Farwell, Great River
- HM Green Heron Fishing - Roger Williams, North Metro
- HM Just Another Bump in the Road - Melissa Anderson, Western Wisconsin
- HM Territorial Display near the Nest Site - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Red Riding Hood among the Reds of Autumn - Deb Zimmerman, Black Hills
- HM Learning to Fish - Eric Williamson, Des Moines
- HM Lake MacBride Sunrise - Steve Fleagle, Iowa City
- HM Young Bald Eagle - Tom Arnhold, Topeka

HM Fragrant Buffet - Kristie Burns, Des Moines

110 entries from 23 clubs. Judging Club: Omaha Camera Club.

Chair: Nikolyn McDonald. Judges: Eva Lovas, Mike Barker, Larry Headley.

Comments: OCC commented on 100% of the entries. Judges agreed that there were so many high quality images it was difficult to pick winners. We almost wish for two "nature" categories, wildlife and other. Finally, we would remind entrants to be mindful of "hand of man" and that cultivated flowers belong in Pictorial. Judging-Method 2.

Digital Pictorial

1st Morning Dew Collectors - Deb Zimmerman, Black Hills

2nd Soap Bubbles - Lia Huemoeller, North Metro

3rd Hay Bales with Milky Way - Mark Gromko, Iowa City

HM Eagle with Transmitter - David Skoog, La Crosse Area

HM Santa Fe Clay - Sandy Jorgenson, Sioux Falls

HM Memories are Forever - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead

HM Yellow Rumped Warbler - Al Sheldon, La Crosse Area

HM Pair of Photobombing Flies - Jason Ponfil, Minnesota Valley

HM End of the Growing Season (1) - Allen Kurth, Omaha

HM Street Patio - Jose Santos, Minnesota Valley

HM Golden Dunes (1) - Don Loseke, Omaha

HM Daydreaming Emu - Pat Chiconis, Western Wisconsin

HM Reaching for the Stars - Brad Eide, Fargo-Moorhead

123 entries from 24 clubs. Judging Club: Saint Paul Camera Club.

Chair: Gene Schwope. Judges: Herb Gustafson, MorrisGildemeister, Jim Lindsay.

Comments: Judging-Method 1.

Digital Travel

1st The Langdale Valley_England - Brad Eide, Fargo-Moorhead

2nd Chateau de Chanonceau, Loire Valley, France - Jose Santos, Minnesota Valley

3rd Petty Harbor, Newfoundland - Diane Lowry, Des Moines

HM Giza Pyramids, Egypt - Kristel Saxton, Iowa City

HM The Great One - Alaska - Eric Williamson, Des Moines

HM Shanghai Sunset - China - Mitch Keller, Sioux City

HM Bryce Canyon Dawn - Utah - Dan Ray, Black Hills

HM Dusk at Green River Overlook Utah - Angela Hoffman, Fargo-Moorhead

HM Arrival by Riverboat - Dubuque, IA - Andreas Exner, Dubuque

HM South Haven Light at Sunset - Michigan - Nikki McDonald, Omaha

HM Mesa Arch, UT - Wayne Wellan, Saint Paul

104 entries from 20 clubs. Judging Club: Western Wisconsin Photo Club.

Chair: Terry Butler. Judges: Marianne Diericks, Don Bock, Richard Hudson.

Comments: Judging-Method 2.

Journalism Prints

1st Up Hill Grind - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City

2nd Learning the Ropes - John Woodward, Duluth-Superior

3rd Formidable Spike - Mark Gromko, Iowa City

HM Calf Roping - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines

HM Artist Prep DSM Art Fair - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines

HM Chilly Pumpkins - Larry Luebbert, Iowa City

13 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club

Chair: Sonja Hogleund Judges: Donald Martin, Greg Hogleund, Bob Wright

Comments: Very Few Images, Not as many quality images to judge.

Nature Prints

- 1st Foxes - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 2nd Bison Bull - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
- 3rd President Hoover Rapids - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- HM Chickadee in Autumn - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
- HM Pensive - Kristie Burns, Des Moines
- HM Perfect Landing - Terri Dermody, Des Moines

24 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth-Superior Camera Club. Chair: Douglas Granholm. Judges: Robert Lahti, Mike Miller, Kathleen Wolleat. Comments: Judging-Method 1

Pictorial Prints (Color)

- 1st Looking Over Your Shoulder - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
- 2nd Pretty in Pink - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 3rd Train Street, Hanoi, Vietnam - Mitch Keller, Sioux City
- HM Greater Prairie Chicken - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
- HM Bird on a Wire - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
- HM Morning Iris - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines

42 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Minot Camera Club

Chair: Tim Zeiting. Judges: Cory Hansen, Erich Linser, Richard Debertin

Comments: Even though it is not required, a nice presentation of the photo sure would benefit the photo. Some of the mats were dirty.

Travel Prints

- 1st Fishing Village Maine - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 2nd Overnight Snow at Bryce Canyon - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- 3rd Torres del Plaine, Chili - Elaine Sagers, Des Moines
- HM Forgotten Promises Ellis Island NY - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
- HM Hogback Covered Bridge Madison County IA - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM The Twig House MPLS MN - Joann Kunte-meier, Kunte-meier Kamera Club

13 entries from 4 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club.

Chair: Sonja Hogleund Judges: Donald Martin, Don Jackson, Bob Wright

Comments: Several very good prints. Some were good photos but we had a hard time feeling the time place or emphasis on the location that makes the place unique.

A Note from the Editor: Debbie Bates

N4C Representatives:

Several clubs have different folks for different contests, please make sure to share amongst yourselves the directory and handbooks. A lot of information has been changed in the handbooks this last year and judging software online (updated monthly). Please make sure you are using the most up to date information when judging. Please make sure you have sent Ken Johnson and Gene Schwoppe the most up to date member information too.

We have a lot of new judging chairs, its always nice to help them out on their first judging contest. The N4C representatives have a lot on their plate to help their clubs and N4C for good communication. The online software has a lot of great information for both prints and digital. If you need help, please let us know. Thank you for all the work you do!!

