



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C June 2024 News Bulletin

Volume 60 No. 64 www.n4c.us



Well, June is here. That means most of us have taken our annual summer photo club sabbatical. We have had a good year across N4C land and made some satisfactory progress in moving things to the future. As my last few months of Presidency end, I am thankful that I had the opportunity to serve as the N4C president this year.

I am also thankful for all the past and future presidents who have held this position and will hold this position for many years to come.

We are coming up quickly to the fall convention in Nebraska and I want to make sure you all have had a chance to sign up. I do ask one thing of everyone though as the summer goes on. Make sure you plan to try and attend a convention over the next couple of years and see for yourself all the fun we have getting together.

A lot of challenging work goes into putting on a great convention full of speakers and field trips. Some of these photo opportunities become winning images later in competition. I heard from a member who was at the spring mini and taking pictures of the flying lunch setup and he won a first-place entry in the print competition. Congrats to Dwight Tomes on his award-winning fun capture of our lunch.

I would also like to ask that all N4C contacts please forward this to your members. Many members never see the newsletter if they are not being sent it by the N4C contact for each club as that is the only person in each club to receive the newsletter. To expand upon that I would like to ask that Each N4C contact supply a list of all active members in your club so that in the future the N4C board and newsletter folks can send this directly to members via email. We will also be using the information to conduct a couple polls regarding future activities within N4C.

Please get this information into N4C as soon as possible. You can send this information to the president@n4c.com . Rest assured we will not be spamming the membership for any reason. They will receive emails regarding the conventions, emergency changes and some poll questions.

Happy Trails to everyone and hope to see everyone in October at the Fall Convention. Also Still looking for a club to take on the Fall convention in 2025. Please Raise your hand if you are interested. Here are the steps to be a host club:

- 1.) Secure a Venue of some sort. This can be anything an event can held in, Church, Hotel, VFW, Park, Etc. Just need a hotel close by or on site for folks to stay at
- 2.) Get all the images put together for judging.
 - A.) This can be a combination of clubs as well.
- 3.) Line up some local talent to host some speaking sessions.
- 4.) Set up some local field trips to show off your home area.
- 5.) Put together a banquet.
- 6.) Promote the Event to your entire area and the rest of N4C.

Paul Hagen
Fargo Moorhead Camera Club
N4C President 2023-2024 season



**Think, Imagine, Create
In Siouxland**

2024 N4C Convention Oct. 3 - 5

2024 N4C Fall Convention "Think, Image, Create in Siouxland"

October 3-5, 2024, Ponca State Park, Ponca, Nebraska

NOTE: Carl Hardy Co-Chairman of the Convention is repeating this article on the 2024 N4C Convention, October 3-5.

Please see: [Booking.com Hotels & Vacation Rentals](https://www.booking.com)

Bookings.com is one of the highest rated online hotels booking sites.

Please use it to book hotels in the Siouxland area for your accommodations for the 2024 N4C Fall Convention in Ponca State Park. Click on the link.

<https://www.booking.com>

A full schedule of Field Trips and Programs as well as registration information will be presented in a Special Edition N4C Summer Bulletin. The Sioux City Convention Committee promise you a cost-effective Convention. Come one Come All!

The Sioux City Camera Club's Convention Committees are working on the details of the 2024 N4C Convention, " Think, Image, Create in Siouxland". Ponca State Park the headquarters of the convention provides a unique opportunity to photograph a public recreation area located on the banks of the Missouri River four miles (6.4 km) north of [Ponca, Nebraska](#), in the northeastern corner of the state.

Ponca State Park's approximately 2,100 acres are situated among high bluffs and steep, forested hills adjacent to the [National Recreational River](#).

The Park is noted for its biodiversity Eastern woodland flowers. The wild plum and gooseberry thickets were also noted by the Lewis & Clark Expedition who passed these bluffs with their Corps of Discovery in the summer of 1804. Forested ravines and hillsides contain many unique trees.

White-tailed deer and wild turkey are commonly seen. Coyotes, and red-grey foxes and bobcats are often spotted. This area is also known for the concentrations of waterfowl that congregate during the spring and fall migrations. The barred owl is a vocal resident, and wintering bald eagles are often sighted.



Welcome Center at Ponca State Park (Headquarters for the 2024 N4C Fall Convention)



Campsites and 10 Tentrr sites (see below) are still available for renting for your 2024 N4C Convention. Click on this website link to rent your campsite.

<https://nebraskastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/ponca-sp/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NE&parkId=230143>

Cabins currently are all booked many by N4C members. The Sioux City Camera Club organizers will list alternate accommodations in the Special Edition of the N4C Summer Bulletin. A hotel you can check out is the Oak Trail Inn in Ponca, Nebraska. https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g45780-d23734943-Reviews-Oak_Trail_Inn-Ponca_Nebraska.html

Booking.com Hotels & Vacation Rentals

Bookings.com is one of the highest rated online hotels booking sites. Please use it to book hotels in the Siouxland area for your accommodations for the 2024 N4C Fall Convention in Ponca State Park.

<https://www.booking.com>

Ponca State Park also offers several lodging options, including 10 Tentrr sites. Tentrr's fully equipped, ready-to-go campsites include spacious canvas safari tents and a comfortable bed for a good night's sleep, Adirondack chairs for optimal stargazing and a fire pit to keep you warm. <https://www.booking.com/hotel/us/tentrr-state-park-site-nebraska-ponca-state-park-river-vista-i-double-camp.html>

Ponca State Park also offers the Turkey Ridge Campground. Requires no reservation, first come first serve. According to Tom Schoening, Co-Chairman of the Convention there should be plenty of room for campers in October.

<https://www.campendium.com/turkey-ridge-campground-nebraska>

Ponca also offers Electric Plus, Electric and Basic camping. Campgrounds include modern restrooms, showers, picnic tables, fire pits, nearby water spigots (not hookups), a dump and fill station and playground <https://outdoornebraska.gov/location/ponca/>

A full schedule of Field Trips and Programs as well as registration information will be presented in a Special Edition N4C Summer Bulletin. The Sioux City Convention Committee promise you a cost-effective Convention. Come one Come All!



Due to low entry numbers both the Photo Essay Annual Competition and the Photojournalism Story contests were not judged at the Mini-Spring Convention. Deadlines for these two contests have been extended and results will be presented at the 2024 N4C Annual Fall Convention. The Rules for the Video Essay-Story Contest are also listed.

As per Dwight Tomes, Contest Chair for Photo Essay Annual Competition and Carl Hardy, Contest Chair for the Photojournalism Story Contest. Carl Hardy is also the Chair for the Video Essay-Story Contest.

Photo Essay Annual Competition (2024)

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. **The deadline for receipt of entries is August 1st, the winners will be announced at the 2024 Fall N4C Convention.**
2. The essays are first shown at the spring convention while judging is completed in advance of the fall convention. 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.) Essays submitted in past years that were not chosen as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM in a previous contest can be reedited and resubmitted. In addition, a club may also submit one club entry in which one or more 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: most 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@me.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 within 1-2 days.
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 the Spring Mini-convention, and at the Fall Convention.
7. There shall be three judges (consistent with other N4C contests) for this contest who may be from either multiple individual clubs or hosted by a specific judging club. The contest chair will show the essays in person or via zoom depending on the choice of the three judges for the contest

(either from one or multiple clubs). The judges of the contest 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 if they have sufficient experience in judging photography contests like 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. The correlation with TCI for scoring is as follows: a. T technique, emphasis primarily on the image quality of the photography used throughout the essay, b. Soundtrack may include both voice and approved music such as copyright free, provided in software license paid (see below), c. Integration of imagery and sound in a pleasing manner.
9. The contest chair will attempt to conduct the judging at a time and place where interested individuals may attend in addition to the judges. Judges will be asked to view the essays and prepare their scores for TCI and submit to the judging chair in advance of a group meeting of all judges and the judging chair. This last step may be in person or via Zoom. The judges are asked to comment on essays for the benefit of the other judges and/or attending 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 other means to present the essays for judging and record the results of the judges.
10. By tradition, all entries are shown at the Spring mini-convention meeting in late April/ early May (*If the Spring mini-convention cannot be held, the entries will be shown at the Fall Convention.) Essays will be judged in advance of the fall convention. The winners will be announced at the fall convention after essays are shown. The first, second, third place and HM winners will also 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.

Rules for Photojournalism Story Contest

1. The intent of the Photojournalism Story Contest is (to present a quality image with a caption which explains the subject of the image in the Photojournalism tradition). **NOTE: The subject of the images can tell one story with a caption for each or individual subjects for each image with a caption for each.**
2. An annual Photojournalism Story Contest winners will be announced at the N4C Fall National Convention. Five images, digital with up to 30 words per image for a caption and no music allowed.
3. **The deadline for the Photojournalism Contest is August 1st and are to be emailed to Carl Hardy @ torchenterprises72@gmail.com.**
4. Images are subject to the same constraints as digital images and marked as such; ex. 01. (Sequence), Entrants Club Number,PS,Name of Image.jpg.
5. Captions should be submitted in Microsoft Word or as a .pdf file with the (Sequence #) and Title of the Entry for each image.
6. Only minimal digital editing is allowed. In the interest of credibility, photographs that misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, or combined. 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 may be added or applied.
7. Photojournalism Story Contest will be scored in these two categories: 1) Caption, how well does the captions describe the action in the image, between two (2) and (5) points. 2) Image, the quality of the image: Technique, Composition, Interest (the same as Digital Images) with one score between two (2) and five (5) points for each (Technique, Composition, Interest). The total score for each submitted photograph will range from eight (8) to 20) points.

Rules for Video Essay-Story Contest

1. A video essay-story 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. The story or event should be recorded with a moving camera or the Movie-function setting of your SLR camera. Your movie should be filmed at a high-quality frame rate.
2. **The deadline for receipt of entries by the contest chair is July 15th, with judging conducted in August.** 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 more members may work collaboratively on an essay. Customarily, the club president or other club officer submits a club entry.
3. The minimum frame rate shall be 30 (30) frames per second (fps), with no maximum fps. The program time shall not exceed six (6) minutes.
4. **Hint: The majority of winning slide essay entries in the past few years have been between 4-5 minutes.** Still images can be used occasionally for titles, segways, time lapse, stop action, credits or other story - telling effects. All standard video effects can be used. The video project must be the work of the entrant(s), with no commercial clips allowed. The video essay should contain the source of the soundtrack but must not identify the maker or club entering the contest.
5. 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 or DVD may be used to send an entry by mail to the contest chair Carl Hardy@ 3236 Maplewood Street Sioux City, Iowa 51104. 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.

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Best of the N4C Winners Roundup for the Sioux City, IA Fall Convention

First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention winners in all categories of the 2023-24 monthly contests are eligible to be judged in the Annual Best of N4C Contest. Merit award winners are NOT eligible.

A list of all winners through May has been sent to clubs so they can round-up PRINTS. Contact Ken Johnson if you have not received this list.

Sioux City Camera Club is hosting the 2024 N4C Convention October 3-5, 2024 to be held at Ponca State Park, Ponca, NE. The Omaha Camera Club is handling the judging of Prints and Digital for the Convention.

Entries must be received by 5:00 PM Monday, July 8, 2024, if hand delivered, or **postmarked no later than June 29, 2024, if mailed.**

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

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

(NO DIGITAL images and NO PANORAMA PRINTS)

The eligible PRINT entries are to be mailed to:

Omaha Camera Club
Nikki McDonald
802 East Cary St.
Papillion, NE 68046
OmahaN4C@cox.net
402-637-2095

Contact Ken Johnson at email address web@n4c.us, 515-822-8126 if someone in your Club has not seen a list and think you should have eligible entries.

All prints received for this annual contest will be displayed in a convention salon for those attending the convention.

Awards for the Best of the Best will be announced and presented at the N4C Convention banquet on Saturday, October 5, 2024, along with

Photographer of the Year, Clubs of the Year, and other awards.

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 terrymjbutler@gmail.com

N4C May (2024-05) Contest Results

Digital Altered Reality

- 1st Soft Side of a Wild Stallion - Teresa Hofer, Black Hills
- 2nd Eyes on the Landing Zone - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
- 3rd CP Rail Final Spike tour - Tim Zeltinger, Minot
- HM Massive Tree Silhouette at Sunrise Moon Blue Hour Under Waning Moon – Bob Felderman, Dubuque
- HM Freezing Moments In Time - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
- HM Surrounded by Fire and Water - Betty Nordstrom, Minot
- HM Dance Like Nobody's Watching - Allen Kurth, Omaha
- HM A Mouth Full - Melissa Anderson, Western Wisconsin

62 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Wichita Area Camera Club. Chair: Dwight Corrin.

Judges: Randy Ficken, Greg Perez, Barry Gaston. Comments: The judging chair wrote to the club submitting the entry which was disqualified. No response.

Digital B&W

- 1st Ranunculus Flower - Marilyn Lamoreux, Women's Color
- 2nd Lady-Slipper-Orchid - Sheldon Farwell, Great River
- 3rd My Favorite Perch - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Bear Portrait - Jan Waterhouse, Iowa City
- HM Bridge over Silver Water - Marty Barker, Omaha
- HM Bye Bye Blackbird - Allen Kurth, Omaha
- HM Farmer 2 - Margaret West, Omaha
- HM Trees, Versailles, France - Chap Achen, Western Wisconsin
- HM Schoolhouse - Pat McLean, Women's Color

82 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque Camera Club. Chair: Cara Pusateri. Judges: Bob Felderman, Greg Nauman, Susanne Wright.

Digital Journalism

1st HeeHaw! - Linda Rutherford, Women's Color
2nd StormChasing - Mike Magda, Black Hills
3rd The Abject Poverty of Maasai Children - Jennifer Novack Haar, Omaha
HM Colorful Exit - Allen Kurth, Omaha
HM Will He Make it - Peggy Boike, Saint Paul
HM Veterans Day - Roy Hakala, Saint Paul
HM Never Too Old to Rock and Roll - Fred Sobottka, Western Wisconsin
70 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines Camera Club. Chair: Janie Lawson. Judges: Bob Young, Peter Freymark, Larry Mendenhall.

Digital Nature

1st Green Hermit - Martha Farwell, Great River
2nd White-breasted Nuthatch - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
3rd Artist Point - Steve Fleagle, Iowa City
HM Humming the Pink Flowers - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Western Tanager - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Sharing - Melissa Anderson, Western Wisconsin
HM Picking Flowers - Betty Bryan, Western Wisconsin
HM Great Egret - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
HM Heres looking at you - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
88 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Minnesota Valley Photography Club. Chair: Daniel Vande Vusse. Judges: Karen Kelm, Andrew Zumbach, Tami Phillippi.

Digital Pictorial

1st Iceland Icebergs - John Corey, Minnesota Valley
2nd Doubles - Martha Farwell, Great River
3rd Tiny Bubbles All Around Me - Melissa Anderson, Western Wisconsin
HM Pink Tulip - Candy Erk Manthey, Black Hills
HM Winter Night - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
HM Airshow Performer Britt Lincoln at the Paynesville Airshow 2023 - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Together - Anna Frissell, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Jellyfish - Ryno W Olson, Great River
HM Aurora Stacks - David Abernathy, Minot
HM Four Monkeys - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
HM Hawks Fighting - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
104 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Saint Paul Camera Club. Chair: Terry Butler. Judges: Toy Hakala, Paul Rogne, Marv Vikla. Comments: Judges all thought there were so many really great images and because of that difficult to judge..

Digital Travel

1st Magenta Twilight St Paul's Urban Glow,MN - Elliott Lindgren, Saint Paul
2nd Cloudy-Golden-Gate,California - Martha Farwell, Great River
3rd Mountain-Stream,Zion, Utah - Sheldon Farwell, Great River
HM Mt.Shuksan_WA (1) - Larry Luebbert, Iowa City
HM Bali Indonesia Temple Sunrise - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
HM It's Lonely Out Here-Chicago, ILL - Rick Russell, Omaha
HM Cherry Blossoms Washington DC - Paul Rogne, Saint Paul
HM Gamla Stan Stockholm Sweden - Cindy Carlsson, Saint Paul
HM San Diego Silhouette, California - David Wheaton, Saint Paul
88 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Western Wisconsin Photo Club. Chair: Terry Butler. Judges: Chap Achen, Melissa Anderson, Diane Sisko.

Altered Reality Prints

1st Very Fast Food - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines

2nd Alien Emerging - Ty Smith, Mitchell

3rd In The Weeds - Todd Johnson, Minot

11 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Greg Hogle. Judges: Daryl Hurley, Don Thun, Bob Wright. Comments: Concerned on the small number of entries. Only 11 entries from 5 clubs. Due to this per the calculator there were no Honorable Mentions.

B & W Pictorial Prints

1st Dew Leaf Acadia - James Durrant, Dubuque

2nd The Marten's Stealth - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines

3rd Three Kids - Tim Ollendick, Dubuque

HM Submission to the Light - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque

HM Sophia - Tim Zeltinger, Minot

17 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Jerry Weiershauser, Nick Masuen, Carl Hardy. Comments: An outstanding group of Black & White Prints with striking black and white tones. Excellent composition and subject matter. Liked the variety of images.

Journalism Prints

1st The Beads Story - Crystal Johnson, Minot

2nd Run Boy, Run! - Ron Tigges, Dubuque

3rd A Brief Ride - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior

HM Pre-Dawn Burner Test - Todd Johnson, Minot

16 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Jerry Weiershauser, Nick Masuen, Carl Hardy. Comments: The winning Photojournalism Prints were very well developed showing the story of the intended area. The images were well composed, extremely sharp. The other prints also showed a strong story line and the judging was very difficult.

Nature Prints

1st Snail Crossing - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque

2nd Underwater World of Moorea - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque

3rd Harrs's Hawk - Patty Foster, Des Moines

HM Lavendar Variant Red Fox Kit - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines

HM Together - Anna Frissell, Fargo-Moorhead

HM Heron at Rest - Todd Johnson, Minot

23 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Jerry Weiershauser, Nick Masuen, Carl Hardy. Comments: An outstanding group of Nature Print images. Striking colors, strong composition, and a wide variety of Nature subjects. Hard to judge with so many outstanding prints.

Pictorial Prints (Color)

1st Frosty Morning - Carey Anderson, Sioux City

2nd Wood Stork Rookery San Blas Mexico - Tim Zeltinger, Minot

3rd Milky Way over the Bungalows of Meorea - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque

HM Pano Study of Downtown Galena, IL - Henry Matthiessen II, Dubuque

HM Naniboujou Lodge - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior

HM Columbine - Jack Bristow, Sioux City

26 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Greg Hogle. Judges: Daryl Hurley, Don Thun, Bob Wright. Comments: Only 26 entries from 8 clubs. Several good photos.

Travel Prints

1st Iconic Overwater Bungalows Mororea of French Polynesia - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque

2nd Pot O' Gold Downtown Galena, IL - Henry Matthiessen II, Dubuque

3rd Jordon Pond Acadia, NP ME - Karen Durrant, Dubuque

HM Canyonlands National Park Utah - Todd Johnson, Minot

16 entries from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Jerry Weiershauser, Nick Masuen, Carl Hardy. Comments: The winning Travel Prints were very well developed showing the uniqueness of the areas. The images were colorful, well composed, extremely sharp. The other prints also showed uniqueness and the judging was very difficult.

Artificial Intelligence Committee Formed

A committee of Tim Zeltinger, Carl Hardy and Stephonie Schmidt was assigned to present suggestions as to how to proceed with **Artificial Intelligence** which is becoming more and more an active part of photography.

Here are suggestions from that committee:

I think we should have one category for AI that allows any image to be entered if it comprises every part of it to be from the maker's camera.

With I think we also must recognize imagination. Another category would be great but with the judges being hard to get now we are asking for more. I think we should have one year-end photo image entry that allows us to do anything we want as long as part of the image was taken by the maker. Similar to the photo essay category and make this a digital entry where each image is judged by every club. The makers club must abstain from judging that image. This could be done in March or April with the results compiled and awarded at the year-end banquet. This would allow members to go all out one time and show their stuff yet allow every club to compete on the same level with the monthly A/R category.

Tim Zeltinger

Director 1

I think maybe the way to tackle this AI issue is to add another category like DAI. The rules would remain like Altered Reality with one exception. The image maker would start with his own image and be able to add other items which are not of his own making. That way it would not interfere with the DA (Digital Altered Reality) category but simply add another new creative relevant category.

Carl Hardy

Director 2

I do like the idea of keeping our Altered Reality how it is, with all elements being created by the maker (besides what is acceptable in the rules: brushes, filters, etc).

I also think that AI isn't going anywhere, and it does provide another outlet to be creative and do the things some may not have had the skills to pull off (but this is also why I think Altered Reality needs to stay as is because it showcases the skills of the maker). I think having a separate category for this is ideal and allows others to tap into a world that will be intertwined deeply in the world of Photography (as it is already proving to do so).

Tim's idea of having this as an annual contest is great! He brings up very valid points as to complicating judging and trying to muddy the waters of what we already have existing. I think adding the annual contest for this category is easily manageable and allows us to grow and progress as a camera club entity. We can get into more details on what this would entail... rules, guidelines, etc, but I think this is a great pathway to incorporate AI and the makers' imagination.

So basically, keeping Altered Reality as is showcases the maker's skills, having the annual AI category would allow makers to showcase their imagination.

Stephonie A Schmitz

Director 5

Majority Combined Thoughts

It looks like the majority of the committee feel we should keep the Altered Reality (AR) contest as it is and have an Annual Contest for the **AI category** to start with to see what the interest is.

Compiled thoughts by Carl Hardy

Digital Altered Reality

1st Soft Side of a Wild Stallion - Teresa Hofer, Black Hills



Digital B&W

1st Ranunculus Flower - Marilyn Lamoreux, Women's Color



Digital Journalism

1st HeeHaw! - Linda Rutherford, Women's Color



Digital Nature

1st Green Hermit - Martha Farwell, Great River



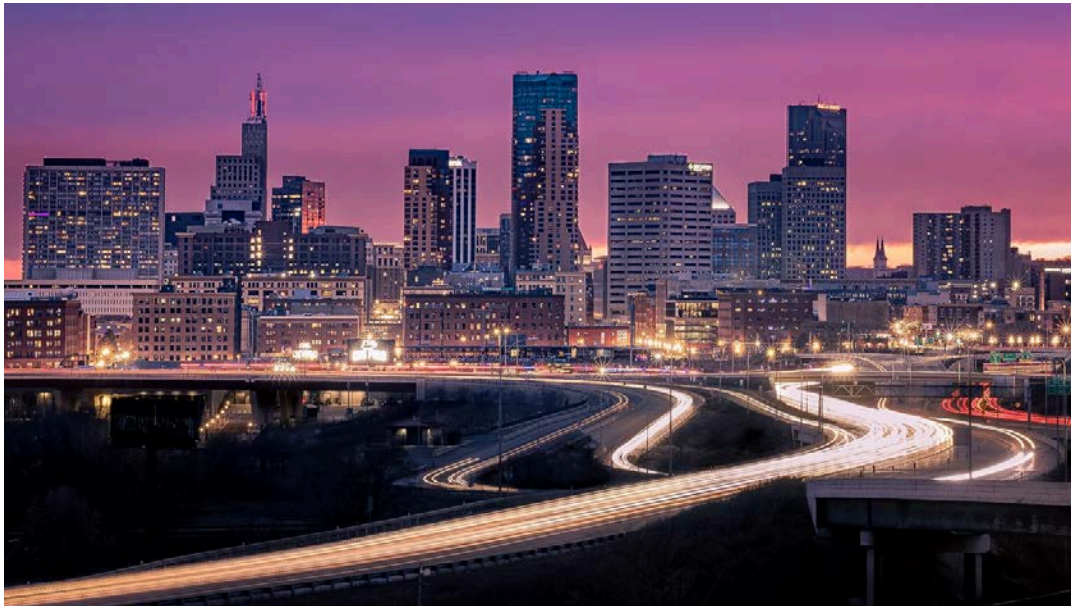
Digital Pictorial

1st Iceland Icebergs - John Corey, Minnesota Valley



Digital Travel

1st Magenta Twilight St Paul's Urban Glow,MN - Elliott Lindgren,
Saint Paul



Nature Prints

1st Snail Crossing - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque



Black & White Prints

1st Dew Leaf Acadia - James Durrant, Dubuque



Travel Prints

1st Iconic Overwater Bungalows Mororea of French Polynesia -
Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque



Pictorial (Color) Prints

1st Frosty Morning - Carey Anderson, Sioux City



Altered Reality Prints

1st Very Fast Food - Dwight Tomes, Des Moines

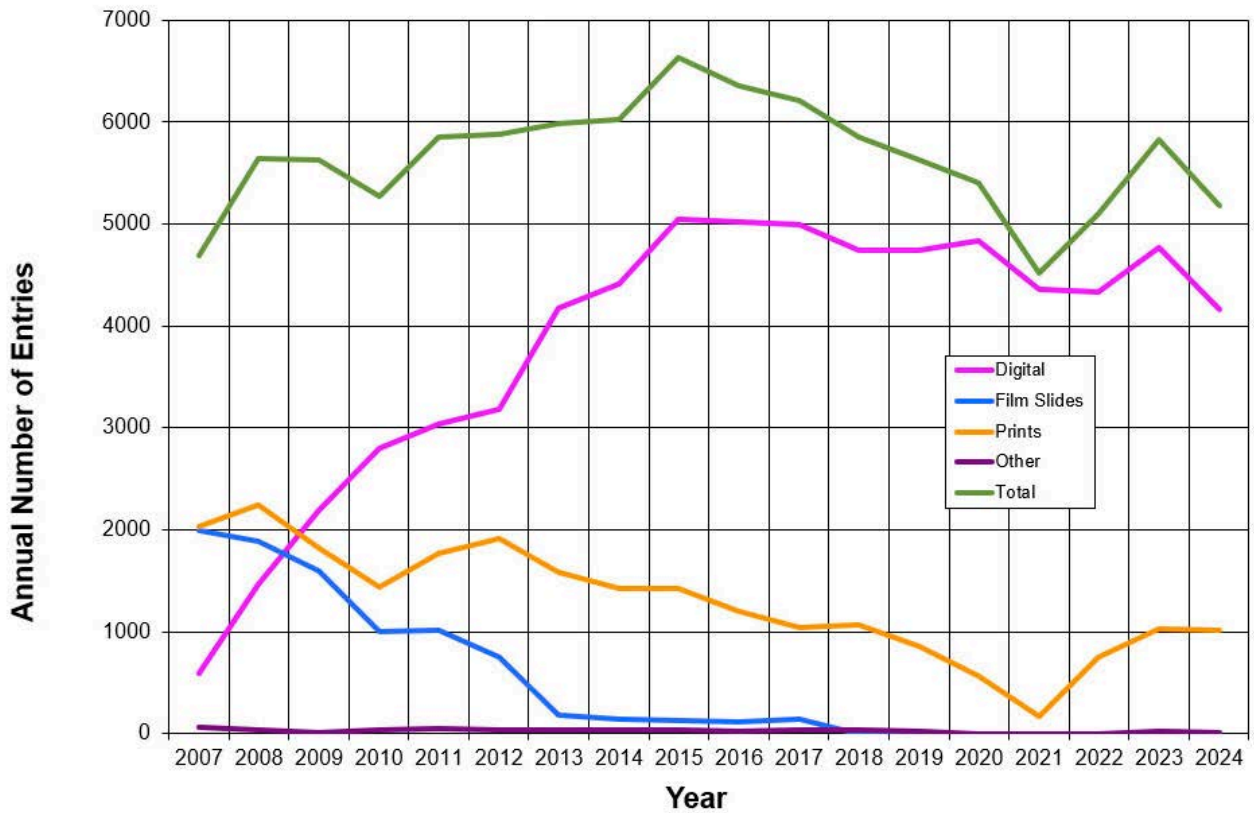


Journalism Prints

1st The Beads Story - Crystal Johnson, Minot



N4C Contest Trends



2023-2024 N4C Contest Participation																		
Contest	Sept		Oct		Nov		Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Year Total	Compared to 2022-23
	Entries	Clubs	Entries	Clubs	Entries	Clubs	Entries	Clubs	Entries	Clubs	Entries	Clubs	Entries	Clubs	Entries	Clubs		
Journalism Story																	0	-100.0%
BW Pictorial Print	13	7	24	11	26	8	33	7	30	9	18	5	19	6	17	7	180	-4.8%
Nature Print	11	7	27	11	28	8	29	7	27	9	23	6	22	7	23	7	190	-4.5%
Color Print	16	5	30	10	38	9	19	6	44	11	26	7	40	10	26	8	239	9.1%
Travel Prints	0	0	22	7	24	6	27	7	21	8	19	7	31	9	16	7	160	-8.6%
Altered Reality Prints	7	3	17	9	15	7	7	5	18	7	11	7	13	8	11	7	99	-18.2%
Journalism Prints	0	0	30	10	14	6	30	7	21	8	11	6	23	8	16	7	145	10.7%
Digital Journalism	45	132	84	16	72	18	56	14	84	17	44	19	70	18	70	16	525	-18.9%
Digital Travel	71	15	83	18	90	17	99	18	98	17	102	18	91	18	88	17	722	-10.5%
Digital Pictorial	84	16	115	18	101	19	106	18	115	18	102	17	102	17	104	17	829	-8.6%
Digital Nature	81	16	101	17	100	18	118	18	117	17	106	17	101	17	88	16	812	-10.3%
Digital Altered Reality	52	12	59	16	60	16	67	18	73	16	89	16	57	14	62	15	499	-21.0%
Digital B&W	78	15	69	13	116	19	106	18	109	17	101	18	116	18	82	17	777	-11.3%
Photo Essay																	0	-100.0%
Panorama Prints													8	2			8	33.3%
Club Communications																	0	#DIV/0!
2023-2024 Totals	458		661		684		697		757		632		693		603		5185	-11.1%
2022-2023 Totals	684		717		714		775		764		730		740		708		5832	
2021-2022 Totals	544		601		664		650		701		687		667		584		5098	
2020-2021 Totals	518		589		668		573		543		523		559		549		4522	
2019-2020 Totals	632		689		766		764		696		733		577		543		5400	
2018-2019 Totals	545		766		729		797		711		766		693		618		5625	
2017-2018 Totals	601		740		788		745		730		699		803		742		5848	
2016-2017 Totals	736		794		757		839		785		741		853		708		6213	
2015-2016 Totals	693		770		893		822		777		877		808		721		6361	
2014-2015 Totals	737		884		777		872		868		911		817		772		6638	
2013-2014 Totals	621		731		943		796		673		781		753		725		6023	
2012-2013 Totals	599		754		837		798		748		872		763		620		5991	
2011-2012 Totals	565		716		775		814		743		817		787		668		5885	
2010-2011 Totals	586		671		828		765		795		750		829		631		5855	
2009-2010 Totals	524		634		722		679		683		679		720		621		5262	
2008-2009 Totals	613		755		737		783		741		707		697		595		5628	
2007-2008 Totals	568		702		783		683		772		678		843		607		5636	
2006-2007 Totals	370		554		625		674		630		633		659		542		4687	
Year to Date Summary	Entries	%																
	Digital	4164	80.3%															
	2x2 Slides	0	0.0%															
	Prints	1013	19.5%															
	Other	8	0.2%															
	Total	5185																

Compiled from N4C Newsletter by Ken Johnson

Click on this link and you will see an excellent YouTube program on Untraced Astrophotography Western Wisconsin Photograph Club by Bryan Leonard. Please listen. NOTE: The 2024 N4C Fall Convention has an Evening Field Trip with the Omaha Astronomical Society Program, Stargazing and Shooting Night Photography with Tom Schoening.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxRyVB13qdM>



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“Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends”