



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C September 2024 News Bulletin

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As I write what will likely be my second-to-last newsletter as President, I reflect on the privilege it's been to serve this incredible organization. From arborists to xylophone players – and everyone in between – we are a unique group of like-minded individuals, bound by our shared passion and commitment.

Over the past 10-15 years (8-9 of which I've served on the board), I've had the pleasure of meeting amazing folks from every walk of life. I've made lifelong friends, shared countless handshakes (and too many hugs for my liking – just ask my wife), and enjoyed some great conversations, beers, homemade wine, and especially Ed's homemade jelly (which my kids devoured, by the way – hint, hint, Ed).

With Fall approaching, it's time for camera clubs to start back up and, of course, the best tradition of all: our Fall Convention. As many of you know, we made the difficult decision last spring to indefinitely suspend the Spring Mini due to low attendance. That makes this Fall Convention our only chance to gather together this year. While some may argue that the success of a convention hinges on field trips or speakers, I believe it's *you* – the members – who make or break it.

What truly matters is that we're all in the same place, connecting with old friends, meeting new ones, and having a great time.

This year's convention, hosted in Sioux City, is especially convenient due to its central location and proximity to major interstates. For those unfamiliar, Sioux City is home to a statue of War Eagle (Wambdi Okicize), a great Dakota leader who dedicated his life to peace. As a child, I used to look forward to seeing this statue on road trips between Minnesota and Oklahoma, but it wasn't until later that I appreciated the significance of

War Eagle's legacy. As an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, I've spent a lot of time studying the histories of Indigenous peoples, and War Eagle's story is truly inspiring. I encourage you to learn more about him if you get the chance.

We've had a slight change in leadership this year. Dwight Corwin, who was next in line for President, has made the tough decision to step down from the board due to health issues, and we wish him all the best. This leaves two board positions – Director 5 and Director 6 – that need to be filled. If you're interested, I'm looking for nominations or volunteers. And don't worry – you don't need a PhD in astrophysical quantum mechanics! Just bring your enthusiasm and say, "Ya, you betcha, I can do it!" as Drago Nemec did when I recruited him. (For the record, Drago's exact words were, "No speaka Englishaa," and now he's poised to become Director 2, pending election!)

With less than 30 days until the Fall Convention, I hope to see you all there. Though, as some of you know, I'm currently on injured reserve after what I like to call my ill-fated attempt at qualifying for the Olympic ladder-diving team. Unfortunately, I didn't earn enough points because I didn't break any bones, but I did manage to potentially tear the meniscus in my right knee, the quadriceps tendon in my left knee, and give myself a nice concussion. So, while I'm still planning to attend, my field trips may consist of sitting on a couch with an ice pack!

See you all soon,

Paul Hagen

Fargo Moorhead Camera Club

President North Central Camera Club Council

N4C President 2023-2024 season

Photos are from the latest **Wacipi (powwow)** in **Fargo** this spring of my kids and the two older adults are a set of twins,

The gal in the Peach Jingle Dress doing the Potatoe dance with her twin sister is Amber a past member of the FM Camera Club and long-time friend.

The Purple Jingle Dress Dancer is Jocelyn who is 8 years old and the girl in the Yellow Jingle Dress is Havanna who is 6 years old.





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

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

Here is the 2024 N4C Convention website page. Click on the link. It will take you to the website developed by Sioux City Camera Club webmaster Doug Conrad. There you will be able to see all that is planned for the Convention and register by clicking on Registration tab or use the Register now item at the bottom of page 1.

There are tabs throughout the website to explain The Event Schedule, Field Trips and Programs, Program Presenters, Registration, and Contact.

www.2024n4convention.com

[Registration is still open through September 20, 2024.](#)

The Sioux City Camera Club's Convention Committees have developed details of the 2024 N4C Convention, "Think, Imagine, 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)

N4C Digital (& Print) Contacts,

If I should contact someone different, please let me know.

IF YOUR CLUB ENTERS PRINTS, SEE BELOW FOR WHERE TO SEND ENTRIES.

FOR DIGITAL ENTRIES, they must be received by 5:00 pm September 15, however make every effort to send them by the 13th to allow time for confirmation.

- Judging may begin on the 16th - make sure you receive confirmation that entries were received.

The cutoff time will be 5:00pm on the 15th giving the judging chair time to organize them for judging starting on the 16th. The point is.... don't wait until the last minute. There have been problems with occasionally missing entries when they are not received until late in the night on the 15th.

The 2023-2024 rules are on the N4C web at <http://n4c.us/competition.htm> by clicking the blue "N4C Contest Rules" button. Copy attached. Refer to those until the new N4C Handbook is available.

The N4C Directory is available by email from Carl Hardy and his email is torchenterprises72@gmail.com The Handbook contains the contest rules and other general N4C Info. The Directory contains the list of judging clubs for all the contests along with contact info for all the affiliated clubs. The Handbook is available for download from the web <http://n4c.us/Supplies-Forms.htm> page.

There are six Digital Image Contests each month - (see the definitions of each category in the Rules):

Altered Reality (DA)

Black & White (DB)

Journalism (DJ)

Nature (DN)

Pictorial (DP)

Travel (DT)

Maximum of 8 entries per club per contest, not more than one from a member in each contest

Do not enter versions of the same image in multiple contests. For example, do not enter both a color and B&W version in the same month. Likewise, don't enter both Digital & print versions. If both win, one will be withdrawn. The rule is: "Any entry which receives a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM award in a monthly competition may not be re-entered in the same year or later years, in the same or any other category, regardless of variations or changes made."

Please check your entries before sending them on for judging. Look for three things:

1. File size 750KB max. (A requirement this year)
2. Longest side 1,920 pixels max.
3. File name should look like this example: 01,DE028,DP,Beautiful Sunset.jpg

Content of the Email Message when you send the entries:

- a. Subject Line of the Email should say "N4C Contest Entries from _(your)_ Camera Club".
- b. Specify which monthly contest and how many images are attached to the Email.
- c. List the Member Numbers and corresponding member names to ensure that the Judging Club has that information.
- d. Give the Club Name and your full name.
- e. Attach the image files

ASK THE JUDGING CLUB IF YOU DO NOT GET A RECEIVED CONFIRMATION BACK FROM THEM

Please send me updated member lists when you have added Member Numbers. I'm glad to see new members participating in N4C contests. Naturally I need to get them registered so they are properly identified for the judging clubs. For new members, that really should be done a month in advance of entering.

(Entries must be received by 5:00 pm September 15, however make every effort to send them by the 13th to allow time for confirmation.

- Judging may begin on the 16th - make sure you receive confirmation that entries were received)

If you have any trouble reaching these judging clubs, let Ken Johnson know as soon as possible.

September Digital Image Judging Clubs:

ALTERED REALITY Digital "DA" (Digital Altered Reality) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number

Lincoln Camera Club

Oscar Sarafian

1218 S. 6th Street

Lincoln, NE 68502

402-450-1141

osarafian@hotmail.com

BLACK & WHITE Digital "DB" (Digital B&W) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

**Des Moines Camera Club
Janie Lawson
1381 NW 122nd St.
Clive, IA 50325
515-778-7277
DMCC.N4C.Digital@gmail.com**

JOURNALISM Digital "DJ" (Digital Journalism) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

**Dubuque Camera Club
Cara Pusateri
3420 Saint Catherine Rd.
Bellevue, IA 52031
563-542-0380
cpusateri5@aol.com**

NATURE Digital "DN" (Digital Nature) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

**Wichita Area Camera Club
Dwight Corrin
1201 W. River Blvd. Apt. 108
Wichita, KS 67203
316-207-6581
wacc.n4c.rep@gmail.com**

PICTORIAL Digital "DP" (Digital Pictorial) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

**Western Wisconsin Photo Club
Terry Butler
1620 Wexford Way
Woodbury, MN 55125-7502
612-270-1653
n4ccontest@wiphotoclub.com**

TRAVEL Digital "DT" (Digital Travel) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

Be sure to include the STATE or COUNTRY of the image in the title.

**Shutterbug Camera Club
John F. Larson, Jr.
609 Stoneledge Rd.
State College, PA 16803
319-671-1568
jflarson114@gmail.com**

SEND NEW MEMBER NUMBERS AND NAMES TO KEN JOHNSON

N4C Supplies & Forms - on the web.

Entry forms, Reports and more. Make your job easier - Check it out.

<http://n4c.us/Supplies-Forms.htm>

A club will normally have up to 8 entries for a contest. A typical image file name list might look like:

(USE YOUR CLUB NAME AND MEMBER NUMBER INSTEAD OF DA044 - zero "0" 44 not a letter "O")

(USE DA, DB, DJ, DN, DP, or DT for the Contest Code - This example is for the Digital Nature Contest)

(Notice commas separating the data in the file names) 01,DA044,DN,Deer.jpg

03,DA022,DN,Grand Arch.jpg

04,DA033,DN,Teton Reflection.jpg

05,DA037,DN,White Water.jpg

06,DA002,DN,Shadows.jpg

07,DA025,DN,Horsetail Falls.jpg

08,DA018,DN,Soaring Eagle.jpg

Members should submit entries with filenames like the above except for the sequence numbers. The club N4C Rep will rename the files to include the sequence numbers. The club N4C Rep may want to keep things simple for the club members and handle ALL the file naming - how this is done is left to the club. The sequence numbers will determine the sequencing of the image in the judging line-up. All the contest entries will be sorted in alpha-numeric sequence by filename so this will mix up club entries for judging. The 01's from all the clubs will be judged first and the 08's at the end.

Encourage your members to explore the N4C website where they will find a lot of photography to study, and photography links with an unlimited number of tutorials and educational videos to learn from. <http://n4c.us/>

PRINT ENTRIES - JUDGING CLUBS FOR September

Print contest rules are in the attached N4C Contest Rules.

Each of the following three clubs are judging two of the monthly contests:

Entries must be received by these clubs by September 15.

Send both Nature Prints and Black & White Prints to:

Kuntemeier Kamera Club

JoAnn Kuntemeier

536 Cedar Court

Taylors Falls, MN 55084

651-465-6827

joakun@midco.net

Send both Pictorial Color Prints and Altered Reality Prints to:
Sioux City Camera Club
Carl Hardy
3236 Maplewood St.
Sioux City, IA 51104
712-281-3345
torchenterprises72@gmail.com

Send both Travel Prints and Journalism Prints to:
Duluth-Superior Camera Club
Deb Carroll
7 Royalton Road
Superior, WI 54880
218-340-5740
dphotops@gmail.com

Ken Johnson web@n4c.us,
A Digital Contest Chair
Enjoy photography whether or not it is yours!

NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL
N4C DUES NOTICE

August 1, 2024 - 2025

Dear Member Club:

Please notice new Dues rate!

According to the N4C bylaws in the Handbook and Directory, all club membership dues are **DUE SEPTEMBER 1**. Dues are figured at the **NEW rate of \$2.00 per club member**, with **no minimum or maximum per club**. The number of members for calculating dues will be based on the club membership as of the previous May (2024). New clubs will calculate their current membership.

Dues shall run from one calendar year, **renewal date being the first of September** each year.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP AS OF LAST MAY: _____ MEMBERS

X \$2.00 each = TOTAL \$ _____

CLUB NAME: _____ Check # _____

Person sending payment: _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Please remit this amount to the N4C Treasurer, Lynda Richards, 4236 228th Ave., Hartford, IA 50118-8019. **Keep top half of this copy for your records.**

Adapted from:

Tips for Urban Landscape

Photography

Reprinted from Duluth Superior Bulletin Imagemaker

Written by Peter Dam

The first thing most beginners get to photograph is the urban landscape around them. It's easily accessible, generous in terms of subject matters, and fair in terms of gear. Furthermore, the urban landscape is full of stories waiting for someone to capture them. You can find endless ways to portray a city. For that reason and many others, many photographers fall in love with urban landscape photography and never grow apart from it. But what makes urban landscape photography such a beloved photographic genre, and how can you master it?

What is Urban Landscape Photography?

Urban landscape photography is a photographic genre that uses a town or city as its subject. From popular metropolis to vibrant cities to silent little towns, the urban landscape provides many insights into human civilization. It focuses on groups of people rather than on individuals and celebrates the achievements of mankind: architecture, art, social life, commerce, and so on.

Where Can You Capture Urban Landscape Photos?

The most common vantage points for urban landscape photography are historical city centers, popular squares or boulevards, and, of course, points that provide wide cityscape views. However, you can find more intimate and less crowded places that offer a glimpse into the city's history or lifestyle. You may consider taking photos near a flower market at dawn, walking along a river that crosses the city, or getting lost in an art or café district. Give yourself a moment to take in the atmosphere and feel its vibrations. Urban landscape photography is not just about photographing beautiful or interesting places, but also about telling stories.

Explore the Full Range of Subject Matters

Urban landscape photography provides the obvious subjects, such as buildings, bridges, streets, cars, and people. It also provides less obvious subjects, such as architectural details, trees and flowers, foods and drinks, shop windows, restaurants, and so on. You can find meaningful neon signs and billboards, animals and tiny insects, and exquisite murals and graffiti.

At the same time, you have conceptual subjects to take your photography to the next level. You may choose to focus on social issues and contrasts or choose to document a particular activity or location.

Focus on Storytelling

In most urban environments you'll find landmarks, buildings and architectural details, cobbled streets, parks and gardens, bridges, and squarest rush hour. However, all these can be photographed by anyone. Why should your photos be special?

What differentiates your photos from those of other photographers is the story you tell. You need a narrative that goes beyond the visual aspects. Try to embed in your urban landscape photographs a little bit of history, psychology, and color theory, a temporal element, and a concept. Aim to take meaningful photos rather than just beautiful ones.



Photo by Meduana on Unsplash

Find the Meaning of Wanderlust

If walking around the city without any purpose or direction is not your natural inclination, you may struggle to capture its essence. Even the best camera and most masterful technique won't help you here. You can't look at a place only through your lens and hope to take authentic pictures. They will be beautiful but empty. Seek out the power of wanderlust, adopt the mindset of an explorer, and the meditative experience of taking in the city atmosphere to open your vision. Urban landscape photography is a popular genre.

Thus, you need a real passion and dedication to take unique photographs and create an authentic style. Invest as much time and energy in learning photography techniques and composition as you do in walking around and taking in the moods of a place. Know its history and lifestyle before pressing the shutter release. Look for an intimate encounter with the city.

Peter Dam

Peter Dam is a professional nature photographer who loves to explore everything from the tiny world of macro photography to the vast landscape photography.

More Essentials but Underused Camera Features

Taken from Lens & Shutter News Albert Lea Photography Club

Histogram

Think of the histogram as a visual cheat-sheet for photographing bright tones. To render a subject as true white, you want the data on the right-hand side to be as close to the edge of the graph (histogram) as possible.

This will indicate a crisp exposure rather than a muddy, grey appearance. As you change the exposure to let in more light, the histogram will inch towards the right.

Keep adjusting your settings until it's literally just a hair from the outer wall. You are now maximizing all the wonderful dynamic range of which your cameras capable. Once the data collides with the right-hand wall of the histogram, you've technically overexposed part of your scene. This means there is no detail in the highlights, but rather a hotspot that is impossible to recover, even with sophisticated software. While this data is valuable, it doesn't tell you exactly where the trouble spot is in your scene. This is where the "highlight alert" becomes a helpful aid.

Live View

If you've ever struggled to achieve autofocus at night, or desire more accuracy for macro work, Live View will be your new favorite mode. With it, you can zoom in on a tiny portion of a subject at 5x and 10x magnification.

This extreme close-up gives you the ability to carefully micro-focus on whatever is most important in your scene. Just note, the enlarged view on your LCD is not representative of your lens' effective focal length. Upon pressing the shutter, the entire scene will still be captured in sharp detail. You'll be amazed at the level of precision possible. For the ultimate in control, use this with manual focus and a sturdy tripod.

Live View is not only useful for focus, but composition as well. For example, if your DSLR lacks a tilt or swivel screen, shooting from ground level can be a real challenge. With a live image on the LCD however, there's no need to crane your neck for viewfinder access. The same idea can be applied to those crowded situations when you must raise the camera over your head. Instead of shooting blind, you can use Live View to better compose the shot.



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.

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"Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends"