



THE NEWS BULLETIN

THE NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL

Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends

Volume XLIII Number 7

Visit us on the Web: www.N4C.us

March 2008

April 25, 26, and 27 Springbrook

Springbrook Camp-In is less than a month away! Don't forget to mail your registration forms with payment before the deadline. A form is included with this N4C Bulletin. A form also can be downloaded from the N4C web site. www.N4C.us Further Springbrook weekend information can be found there, including directions to Springbrook State Park.

Some of the programs being given at Springbrook this year include, "**Glimpses of Japan**" by Hope & Gerry Solomons; "**Cuba**" by Linda Jameson & Jean McDonough; "**Mountain Lion Myth**" by Ron Andrews of the DNR; "**Photography for the Joy of It**" by Jo Eland; "**How to Make a Photo Essay**" by Ken Johnson. **Techniques for Photographing Incense Vapors** will be demonstrated by Gerry Bonsack. You will have the opportunity to practice what Gerry has taught you. Bob Rude will have some items arranged, and various other items available for you to arrange, for **still-life photos**. The **2008 photo essay** entries also will be shown for your enjoyment during this weekend.

Don't miss this chance to have a weekend of fun with your N4C friends!

Coming Events

Plan Now to Participate!

Election of N4C 2008-2009 Officers

Ballots Due to N4C Secretary April 19

N4C Bulletin Contest—April 20

Springbrook Mini-Convention—April 25-27

Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center, Iowa

2008 N4C Convention—September 25-28

Bloomington, Minnesota

N4C President's Message

Hello Everyone!

Spring is just around the corner, and that means Springbrook is coming up. For those who have not attended before, I'd highly recommend you think about attending. It's a fun weekend of photography, from programs, workshops, good food, etc. for a reasonable cost. There is a lot in the park to photograph – a small lake, a stream flowing through the park, wildlife. Nice trails to hike. I usually get up early and either hike the trails, check out the lake or stream or drive around the area looking for old barns and abandoned houses to photograph. There's even some of us who stay up too late playing cards.

My camera club recently had a critique night. We shared our photo essays and photographs with each other. For most of us working on photo essays, this was the 2nd time we had shown our essays to the club. We took the comments and critiques from the 1st time and improved (hopefully!) them. We also shared new photographs. I had some new contemporary photographs to show and was a little surprised at what people liked and didn't care for much. I enjoy these meetings and would recommend your club trying it. Sometimes we don't share our photographs except for what we enter in the competitions.

You know what makes me feel old? In "Popular Photography" magazine each month they have the cover and what was in the issue 25 and 50 years ago. I feel old because, I have the 25 year old issues down in my basement. I usually remember the cover also and maybe what was inside it.

All for now and see you at Springbrook,

Bob Rude
N4C President



N4C News Notes

2008 N4C Convention

The Minnesota Valley Photography Club hopes everyone marks their calendar for the 2008 N4C Convention, **September 25-28**, to be held at the Airport Hilton in **Bloomington, Minnesota**.

Plan to spend some extra time to take advantage of the numerous exciting opportunities in the area.

Bev Kiecker on behalf of **Pat Perez**
Publicity for N4C 2008 Convention

Bragging Rights

Bragging rights were claimed by **Debbie Kippen** and **Carol Madison** of the North Metro Photography Club in February. Bragging rights is the club's way of acknowledging the accomplishments or members who have sold a print, won an award, or had something published in the past month. —**North Metro Photography Club**

Springbrook Mini-Convention

Springbrook State Park
Near Guthrie Center, Iowa
April 25-27



N4C Forms on the Web

Most of the frequently used N4C forms are now available on the web. The contest entry forms, judges report, club information, request for supplies, and others will make your job easier. They can be filled out on your computer and printed. Check them out at <http://n4c.us/Supplies-Forms.htm>.

It is important to send information about your club for the coming year to the editor of the N4C Handbook & Directory so it will be included in the new edition and on the web.

—**Ken Johnson**, Webmaster

All PSA Camera Clubs, Chapters, and Councils

Entries are now being accepted for the **2008 International Newsletter Contest**, sponsored by the PSA Camera Club Committee.

The deadline for entries is: **June 1, 2008**
A printed or electronic version of one regular issue of your newsletter may be entered.

Go the PSA website (<http://www.psa-photo.org>) and click on "Competitions" for details. For questions or to have an entry form and rules mailed to you, e-mail Margaret Sprott: dick_margaret@verizon.net

Please forward this message to your newsletter editor.* Also, encourage your editor to enter this contest (or do it for them if they are too modest). It is a good way to get helpful hints on how to improve your newsletter, it's fun, and it is a chance to get recognition for your club.

If your newsletter editor does not already belong to the **on-line PhotoEditors group**, encourage him/her to join. This group currently has 176 members and is a valuable resource for information about publishing newsletters, discussing mutual problems, sharing articles, getting advice about computer hardware and software issues, and receiving the latest news and tips about the newsletter contest.

To join the PhotoEditors Yahoo group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PhotoEditors>.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at dick_margaret@verizon.net and I will get back to you promptly. I have a spam blocker so be sure to respond to any message you get about this so that your message will get through.

—Margaret Sprott, Director of the PSA
International Newsletter Contest Chair



N4C Contest Results

2X2 PICTORIAL SLIDES

Report not received yet

2X2 NATURE SLIDES

- 1st- "Screech Owl" 42
Robert W. Nelson, St Paul
- 2nd- "Ice Sunset" 42
Eleanor Schueller, Dubuque
- 3rd- "Sunset Through the Trees" 42
Gerry Solomons, Iowa City
- HM- "Secrets" 41
Julie Habel, Dubuque
- HM- "Two Cheetahs" 40
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- HM- "Glowing Saguaro" 40
Ty Smith, Mitchell

There were 52 slides entered by 13 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux City Camera Club. The judges were Bob Gillespie, Bill Cullenward, and Dawn Mikkelson. The judging committee chair was Randy D. Williams.

Two glass mounted slides were submitted. They fit in the slide tray and were judged. Submissions from one club arrived two days after deadline. My zip code was incorrect on the label. We had not judged yet and they were included in the competition.

BLACK AND WHITE PICTORIAL LARGE

- 1st- "Tassle" 43
Bruce Bernstein,
Fargo-Moorhead
- 2ND- "Winter Beauty" 41
Jack Bristow, Sioux City
- 3rd- "Chapel at Rheinstein Castle" 38
Ramon Magee, Wyandotte
- HM- "Spring in the Badlands" 37
Richard Southwick,
Heart O'Lakes
- HM- "Dallas Divie-Colorado" 36
Gary Renier, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM- "Orchis" 36
Joy Coffey, Fargo-Moorhead

There were 28 prints entered by 7 clubs. The judging club was the Iowa City Camera Club. The judges were Bob Rude, Randy Moyer, and Cecil Organ. The

judging committee chair was Larry Luebbert.

Some very good images. **Some club packaging is hard to work with.**

BLACK AND WHITE PICTORIAL SMALL

- 1st- "Fred" 42
Ryno W. Olson, Great River
- 2nd- "Vermont Mountainside" 37
Jim Zurales, Minnesota Valley
- 3rd- "Horn Solo" 36
Shela Glick, Des Moines
- HM- "Gone in Search of Sun" 36
Maxine Saul, Minnesota Valley
- HM- "Spring Break-up" 36
Ken Aker, Duluth-Superior
- HM- "Steps to White House" 35
Ed Lower, Color Shooters

There were 25 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the Iowa City Camera Club. See above.

NATURE PRINTS LARGE

- 1st- "Acacia Trees at Sunset" 42
Valerie Christensen, Sioux City
- 2nd- "Alert Fawn" 40
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 3rd- "Just Pink" 38
Jack Gustison, Shutterbug
- HM- "El Capitan" 38
Bob Gillespie, Sioux City
- HM- "Pelican Races" 36
Ed Siems, Central Iowa
- HM- "Eating Moose" 35
Danny Barker, Central Iowa

There were 23 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the Iowa City Camera Club. The judges were Wilford Yoder, Jo Eland, and Delores Meister. The judging committee chair was Larry Luebbert.

A lot of good images.

NATURE PRINTS SMALL

- 1st- "Wanna Neck?" 41
Jim Zurales, Minnesota Valley
- 2nd- "Perry Creek Frost" 39
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- 3rd- "Just Posing" 39
Maxine Saul, Minnesota Valley

- HM- "Foggy and Quiet" 39
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM- "Frozen Creek" 38
Mike Walsh, Sioux City
- HM- "Western Salsify" 37
Scott Bricker, Sioux City

There were 25 prints entered by 6 clubs. The judging club was the Iowa City Camera Club. See above.

Great images. Watch for over saturation and highlight blocking over sharpening.

2 1/4 SLIDES

- 1st- "Our National Bird" 44
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- 2nd- "Highway 12 Barn" 42
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- 3rd- "911 Healing Fields" 37
Larry Crabb, Sioux City
- HM- "Early Settlers" 35
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- HM- "Morning Light" 34
Larry Luebbert, Iowa City
- HM- "After the Storm" 32
Larry Crabb, Sioux City

There were 23 slides entered by 5 clubs. The judging club was the Central Iowa Camera Club. The judges were Ed Siems, Teresa Voukoun, and Jim Davis. The judging committee chair was Jim Svec.

Not too many 2 1/4 slides anymore!

COLOR PRINTS LARGE

- 1st- "Gardens Produce" 38
Danny Barker, Central Iowa
- 2nd- "Bushes at Maroon Lake" 37
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- 3rd- "Water Carvings" 37
Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
- HM- "Rock at the Point" 36
Connie Lower, Color Shooters
- HM- "Full Moon at Bryce Canyon" 36
Gary Renier, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM- "Winder Wonderland" 36
Steve Peterman, Sioux City

There were 31 prints entered by 7 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux Falls Camera Club. The judges were Ken Starkenburg, Robert Tebben, and Sandy Tebben. The judging committee chair was Ron Balthazor.

COLOR PRINTS SMALL

- 1st- "Sainte-Chapella Paris" 38
Chuck Ruzicka,

- Fargo-Moorhead
- 2nd- "St. Croix Reflections" 38
Jim Zurales, Minnesota Valley
- 3rd- "Taking Flight" 37
Kevin Smith, Sioux City
- HM- "Mt. Shuksan" 36
Mary Curtis, Color Shooters
- HM- "Tree Scape" 37
Ron Nicolls, Sioux City
- HM- "Medora's guardian" 36
Dan Francis, Fargo-Moorhead

There were 38 prints entered by 9 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux Falls Camera Club. See above.

CONTEMPORARY/ CREATIVE PRINTS

- 1st- "Swan Song" 45
Bruce Bernstein, Fargo-Moorhead
- 2nd- "Roses" 44
Jim Coffey, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd- "A Moment in Time" 43
Don Fromis, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM- "Arizona" 37
Joe Kubala, Duluth-Superior
- HM- "Brownsville NE Church" 36
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM- "Tree Through Rain Drops" 36
Jeff Travis, Des Moines

There were 50 prints entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the North Metro Photo Club. The judges were Pauline Nystrom, Jerry Warzaha, and Fran Warzaha. The judging committee chair was Grace Anderson Schrunck.

There were so few "knock your socks off" prints. I can only imagine as to the work that went into each print and the results were not very rewarding. Must take time and learning.

CONTEMPORARY/ CREATIVE SLIDES

- 1st- "Bob's Truck" 45
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 2nd- "Psychedelic Room" 43
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- 3rd- "3 Boats" 42
Dave Schulte, St. Paul
- HM- "Ice Festival" 41
Jean McDonough,
Women's Color
- HM- "St. Paul Nightlines" 38
Morris Gildemeister, St. Paul
- HM- "Orange Dahlia" 38
Jo Eland, Iowa City

N4C Contest Results

There were 34 slides entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the North Metro Photo Club. See above.

I thought the number of slides was pretty good. I hope the slide people don't give up despite the "heat" put on them to join the digital ranks. I think there is room for everyone.

PHOTOJOURNALISM PRINTS

- 1st- "We're Not Jumping Off That Cliff" 12
Jo Eland, Iowa City
- 2nd- "Hog Wild" 12
Kevin Smith, Sioux City
- 3rd- "Clowns to the Rescue" 12
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM- "Bad Situation" 11
Scott Thomson, Duluth-Superior
- HM- "Goal or No Goal?" 11
Joseph Kubala, Duluth-Superior
- HM- "Jam Up at Corner 3" 11
Chuck Peterson, Sioux City

There were 26 prints entered by 7 clubs. The judging club was the Heart O'Lakes Camera Club. The judges were Glen Merz, Richard Southwick, and David Waring. The judging committee chair was Jerry Swendsrud.

PHOTOJOURNALISM SLIDES

- 1st- "Balloon Parade" 14
Connie Lower, Color Shooters
- 2nd- "School Afire" 11
Rhuben Aga, St. Paul
- 3rd- "Cowboy & Lariat" 11
Jean McDonough, Women's Color
- HM- "The Cabbage Patch II" 11
Jan Huibregtse, Women's Color
- HM- "Spurring Out Chute" 10
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM- "Sky Diver" 10
Thelma Beers, Women's Color

There were 33 slides entered by 9 clubs. The judging club was the Heart O'Lakes Camera Club. See above.

PHOTO-TRAVEL PRINTS

Report not received yet

PHOTO-TRAVEL SLIDES

Report not received yet

DIGITAL NATURE SLIDES

- 1st- "Swans Landing" 42
Duane Wraalstad, North Metro
- 2nd- "Hello" 41
Linda Jameson, Women's Photo
- 3rd- "Cicada Molt on Lichen" 38
Steven Greer, Topeka
- HM- "Tongue of the Flicker" 38
Dwight Tomes, Des Moines
- HM- "Fawn" 38
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM- "Busy Spider" 37
Gene Schwope, St. Paul

There were 80 slides entered by 18 clubs. The judging club was the Mitchell Camera Club. The judges were Mike Earkey, Al Sheldon, and Cheryl Keefe. The judging committee chair was Peder Schoenfeld.

Many impressive images again. However, many have the hand of man in the photos, resulting in lower scores.

DIGITAL PICTORIAL SLIDES

- 1st- "Temple Elder" 43
Gerry Solomons, Iowa City
- 2nd- "Northern Hawk Owl" 42
Duane Wraalstad, North Metro
- 3rd- "St. Peters Basilica" 41
Ron Balthazor, Sioux Falls
- HM- "Niagra" 37
Ron Tigges, Dubuque
- HM- "Retired" 37
Jeff Maanum, St. Paul
- HM- "RedStallion" 36
Pattie LaVance, St. Paul

There were 78 slides entered by 17 clubs. The judging club was the Lincoln Camera Club. The judges were Glen Emswiler, Ken Plank, and Rick Stetina. The judging committee chair was Darlene Duvall.

The judges enjoyed the challenge.

It's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular
—Andy Rooney

N4C Contest Results

DIGITAL PICTORIAL SLIDES

- 1st- "Morning Fog on Basswood Lake" 45 Duane Wraalstad, North Metro
- 2nd- "Farm House No More" 45
Ryan Stuntz, Dubuque
- 3rd- Milkweed Seed Pod" 44
Cecil Organ, Iowa City
- HM- "Zebra Zone" 43
Lori Fisher, Sioux Falls
- HM- "Snowed In" 43
Cara Pusateri, Dubuque
- HM- "Little Wonder" 41
Mike Bell, La Crosse

There were 114 slides entered by 21 clubs. The judging club was the Linn Area Camera Club. The judges were Rita Hampton, Gene Duprey, and Rick Young. The judging committee chair was Bob Lancaster.

Being kind is more important than being right
—Andy Rooney

DIGITAL PICTORIAL PRINTS

- 1st- "Trillium" 44
Paul Stowman, Heart O'Lakes
- 2nd- "Cedar Waxwing" 44
Mike Earley, La Crosse
- 3rd- "Water-Strider Bug" 43
Ken Johnson, Des Moines
- HM- "Sumac" 43
Jim Duncan, St. Paul
- HM- "Eagle Attack" 43
Ryan Stuntz, Dubuque
- HM- "Monument Valley Sunrise" 43
Terry Kruse, Des Moines

There were 105 prints entered by 20 clubs. The judging club was the Minnesota Valley Photography Club. The judges were Beverly Kiecker, John LaMere, and Becky Bergman. The judging committee chair was Bill Gillbertson.

Lots of discussion on what constituted nature. Better definition needed. Several stellar images were not thought to be nature as they showed the hand of man, were man-created flower variety, or were domesticated (the Koi image was outstanding but very controversial). Many images appeared to be not of the best jpeg compression ratio—they contained visible artifacts.

—N4C Bulletin Contest—

It's time to enter your club's Bulletin in the annual contest. Your club should pick your best bulletin of the year and send it in by **April 20th**. One entry per club.

The quality of the Bulletins has gone up with the use of email and addition of images. Looking forward to many entries. Send them to:

**Ed Siems
1351 Prairie Ave.
Marshalltown, IA 50158**

See N4C Directory and Handbook J-10
for more info

April N4C Judging Clubs

2x2 Pictorial Slides

Topeka CC
%Phil Gilman
5032 SW 22nd Park
Topeka, KS 66614

2x2 Nature Slides

Kaposia Kamera Club
%JoAnn Kuntemeier
386 Schletty Lane
W. St. Paul, MN 55118

Black & White Pictorial Large & Small Nature Prints

Large & Small
Color Shooters CC
%Ed Lower
2603 E Lombard St
Davenport, IA 52803

2 1/4x2 1/4 Slides

Upper Missouri CC
%Earle Dodd
610 3rd Avenue E
Williston, ND 58801

Color Prints

Large & Small
Wichita CC
%Gary Brownlee
103 Jeanette Drive
Mulvane, KS 67110

Photo Essay

Des Moines CC
PO Box 8364
Des Moines, IA 50301

Contemporary/ Creative Prints & Slides

St. Paul CC
%Pat Schwope
9385 Parkside Dr
Woodbury, MN 55125

Photo-Travel Prints & Slides

Fort Dodge Area CC
%Gloria Johnston
2100 S Edgewood
Webster City, IA 50595

Photojournalism Prints & Slides

Des Moines CC
%Rick McCubbin
Box 8364
Des Moines, IA 50301

Digital Nature Slides

Albert Lea Lens & Shutter
%Jim Wendel
1714 Lakewood Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Digital Pictorial Slides

%Jim Svec
Box 952
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Springbrook April 25, 26, and 27

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Delores Meister continues from Page 1:

On the Springbrook State Park web site, there is a notice that work is being done on the water lines in the park. Over the phone, they have told us the contractor must complete the work by May 1st. They are positive it will be completed at the conservation education complex before our weekend. They expect it to be completed at the campground also by that time, but right now, they can't guarantee it.

We were told that camping will be allowed without water if the work is not finished by the time we need to use the campground. Updates on the progress of the work will be put on their web site, or people may call them at

Judging is to be performed before the 25th of the month with submissions immediately returned to the entering club.

Contest results are to be Postmarked by the 26th of the month so they can be printed in the N4C Bulletin

The Importance of Judging Correctly & Constructively

Hello, out there in N4C land!

I am writing this because I have received more than a few comments on the judgments this year. I don't know whether some people are still prejudiced against digital or are just not paying attention to the judging rules.

We are supposed to judge on three criteria: **technique, composition and interest**. I have seen images this year with scores in the 20s that were technically correct with good composition. It looks like they were judged using the "I don't like it" method. Some of the comments are "nice image," "good shot," and "I like it," but then have a score of 24. If the score is that low, there should be a comment on why it was scored low, not "good shot."

We have some of our older members along with new members who are just getting active in digital and doing very good work. They have entered N4C contests and have a very nice image come back with a 19 on it with no comment. I have seen several instances of this and the scores are unexplainable. I read all the comments that come back on our club images and find many lacking in any substance.

We are a learning club and I hate to see member's images cut down just because somebody thinks they digitally manipulated something that makes it less of an image. While "over manipulated," "over saturated," and "over sharpened" have their merit as comments, I feel that these are becoming catch phrases used indiscriminately.

I think the majority of digital printers are like me; I use digital for its ease of printing and lower cost. I would rather spend my time taking images, not "creating" them on the computer. There are those who spend many hours manipulating a single image and that's OK, but just because you do digital doesn't mean you should be scored down.

In closing, I ask the judging clubs to **read the judging rules and definitions each time you judge a contest**. Follow the judging criteria: technique, composition and interest. I just ask you to judge with open minds and opened eyes.

Comments are welcome.

Ed Siems
Director 1
et@mycns.net

This letter is from a member of the Mitchell Camera Club

Letter to the Editor:

I am writing in regard to Ed Siems' article in the February bulletin. I also think the judging this year is awful.

Our club (Mitchell) does not use 1's in our judging. I personally think it is an insult to the photographer. How can an image be given a 5,4,1 in the same category? I think that low scores should have reasons why they were judged so. We don't learn anything by getting "Atta-Boy's"!!!

Now for the digital era. Enter the digital categories and keep out of the slide categories. Slide category slides are supposed to be shot on slide film. There are no pixels in slide film!!

Do you really think it's fair to Photoshop a digital image and then have a copy slide made of it? If this type of thing is allowable, then the rules committee needs to change the intent of the slide category.

It would be nice if the technique (if not completely straight) used to produce an image was stated on the entry form. That would eliminate the guess work of how it was produced, thus giving others the opportunity to try the technique.

Share your knowledge!! You're not re-inventing the wheel!! Somebody has already done the technique. After all, where do you think Photoshop, Lightroom, etc. came from?

Regards,
Ty Smith.

KODAK Ten Top Tips

1. Get down on their level
2. Use a plain background
3. Use flash outdoors
4. Move in close
5. Take some vertical pictures
6. Lock the focus
7. Move it from the middle
8. Know your flash's range
9. Watch the light
10. Be a picture director

