

“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.

Published Monthly. Annual subscription rate is \$10 for 10 issues. N4C is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America. N4C Bulletin Staff Editor/Publisher: Debbie Bates: edit@n4c.us, E-Publisher: Gene Schwope: photopeople01@aol.com

President’s Message:

St. Pete and Lucifer were sitting among the clouds up by the Pearly Gates. Although they started out conversing amiably, things soon turned argumentative. They disagreed as to who had the better photographers among their number. Before their argument got out of hand, they decided to settle their disagreement by having a photography contest. St. Pete reacted to this decision with a smile of confidence. I think he even rubbed his hands in a gesture of expectation of winning.

“What are you so smug about?” asked Lucifer.

“Everyone knows that Heaven has the best photographers,” came the reply.

At this, Lucifer relaxed, knowing he now had the better of the argument.

“Yes,” he said. “But I have all the judges.”

I told this story at the spring convention years ago. It strikes a chord with me because, as with many aspects of life, we are on both sides of this divide: We are photographers and we are judges of photography. Our membership in our local clubs and in N4C is evidence of our sincerity and commitment to photography – as makers of images and as judges of same.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to all who participate, in either or both capacities. In particular, though, I want to thank those who run the competitions and those who judge them. We all owe a debt of gratitude to our fellow club members who make our competitions possible. Even though you may occasionally disagree with a judge’s decision, please thank a judge today!

Mark Gromko, N4C President





**The Sioux City Camera Club
is pleased to host the
2020 N4C Convention September 10 - 12, 2020.**

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Sioux City Camera Club has no plans, at this time, to cancel the September 2020 N4C Convention. We are hopeful that things will be back to normal by then and everyone will be ready to regroup, **in a big way**, come September. Most programs and field trips are already lined up, with only a few yet to be finalized. A website is in the works, and we hope to have the registration online soon.

Here's a small sample of some of the programs and field trips we have planned:



Walsh Railroad Museum, led by Doug Conrad

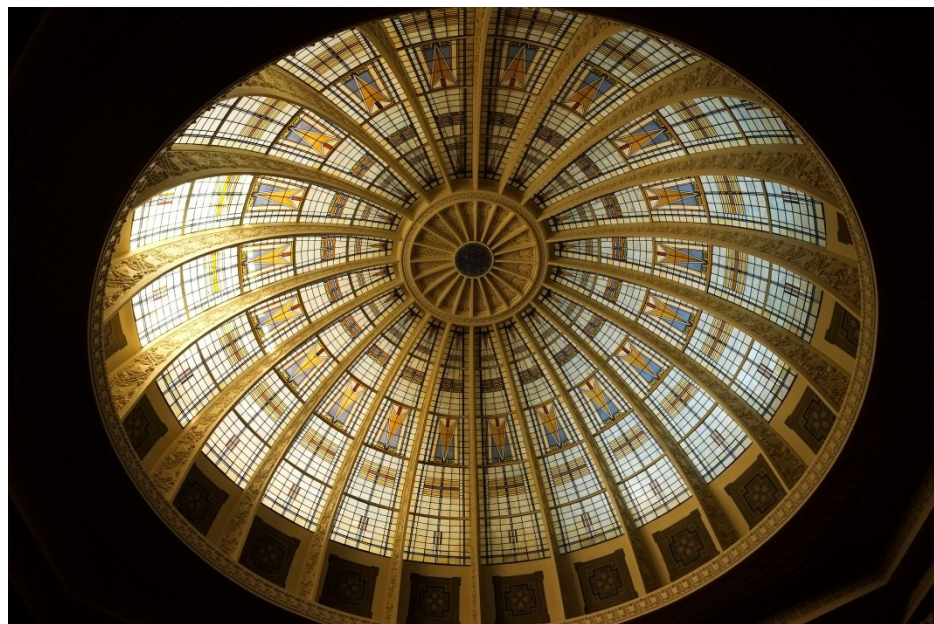
Fine Art Photography by Bonnie Fleming, Flash Photography by Jerry Mennenga, Backyard Bird Photography by Michael Greiner, Shooting and Editing Video by Mark Volkers, Panorama Photography by Mitch Keller and many more. Stay tuned for further updates and announcements.



Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, led by Jerry Mennenga,



Broken Kettle Grasslands, led by Michael Greiner



Woodbury County Courthouse, led by Mike Walsh

Education in the art and science of photography is the prime purpose for the conference, as well as to promote fellowship among members and provide a pleasant gathering place to greet old friends and make new ones. This is your conference! Make it what you want. Make it about you. Think, Imagine, Create in Siouxland. That's our mantra!

First time at an N4C conference? Well it's all about our photography community. We are one big family. Everyone here loves photography and wants what's best for our passion. It's about growing as an artist, and being around like-minded people who share the same love and devotion you do.

If you are looking to become a better photographer and want to improve your photography skills, then come and enjoy a setting where you can network with peers and work side-by-side with some of the most knowledgeable photographers in our region.

The beautiful Hilton Garden Inn Sioux City Riverfront at 1132 Larson Park Road, will be the host site and headquarters for all convention activities. It's located right on the Mighty Missouri River where you can enjoy leisurely photo walks on a paved riverfront walking/biking trail or visit neighboring attractions such as the Anderson Dance Pavilion, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and the Sergeant Floyd Riverboat Museum. A block of rooms have been reserved at a preferred rate for all N4C Convention guests. Planning your stay here will provide you with a more enjoyable and convenient experience, and will be beneficial to the Sioux City Camera Club and N4C Convention. To book your stay, call now at 712-255-4200 or make your reservation online.



Registration for this event is coming soon. The convention committees are working diligently, wrapping up the slate of events that will include 7 field trips, 11 program sessions, and 2 keynote speakers. So stay tuned and save the date for September 10 - 12, 2020. The Sioux City Camera Club is looking forward to seeing everyone there.



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faces and faces
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www.siouxcitycameraclub.com



N4C and PSA A Partnership in Photography

Bulletin Editor Debbie Bates has asked me, as the PSA Representative for N4C, to write a few words about PSA, and some of the opportunities it offers to N4C members.

PSA was formed in 1934, when a group called the Associated Camera Clubs of America changed its name to the Photographic Society of America. The idea was to offer membership and activities, not just to Clubs, but also to Individuals, and Camera Councils. PSA became very popular and grew at a rapid pace. In 1956, when N4C was organized, one of the first things they did was join PSA.

Today, PSA is the largest photographic organization in the world. With thousands of members in over 80 countries, strong membership growth in China and surrounding Asian countries, and a new partnership with the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP), the Society is truly worldwide, and a positive voice for amateur photography.

I don't have an exact count, but just about every club in N4C has members who belong to PSA, and in addition, many of the clubs are members. I know of at least two N4C clubs that are Charter Members of PSA.

Whenever someone tells me that they want to expand their photography, compete in new and different competitions, look for photographic challenges, or learn about another aspect of photography, I always recommend PSA membership. With its different Divisions, such as Pictorial Prints, Nature, and Photo

Journalism, as well as all of the activities for Clubs, Councils and Chapters, PSA is a never-ending menu of instruction, competition, and events, that will appeal to just about every photographer.

Another unique feature of PSA is the monthly *PSA Journal* magazine. I like the *Journal* because the stories and articles are written by the members of the Society, and not by professional writers. When the writer of a story talks about equipment or software, they actually own and use what they are writing about. The *PSA Journal* comes as a glossy, full color magazine, or a new cost-saving digital download.

One PSA competition that N4C members should be familiar with is the PSA Council's Challenge. Every year, I choose the best Color, Monochrome, and Nature images from our N4C year-end competition, and send them to PSA to compete with other Camera Councils from around the World.

The 2019 Council's Challenge top images would have been announced at this year's Spring Mini-Convention, except that the Covid-19 virus disrupted all of our schedules. We did not win as a Council, but N4C had four members who won special Honorable Mention Certificates. Here are the four special winners.....

Shane Abbitt – Des Moines CC, “Not His Best Day”, Color Category.

Sheldon Farwell – Great River CC, “Train in the Rockies”, Color Category.

Gordon Court – Fargo-Moorehead CC, “Phillips Tips”, Monochrome.

Celine Hartwig – Iowa City CC, “Snowy Day in the Park”, Monochrome.

Usually, I present Certificates at the Spring Mini-Convention. This year I will mail the Certificates directly to the winners.

One thing everyone thinks of when talking about PSA, are the International Exhibitions of Photography. Actually, PSA only runs one Exhibition a year, in conjunction with its annual PSA Fall Conference. However, PSA does authorize, or approve, of other Exhibitions that adhere to PSA Standards. Approved Exhibitions are allowed to award PSA Medals to the best images.

There are hundreds of these Exhibitions, all over the world. They are sponsored by Camera Clubs, Councils, Chapters, States, Individuals, Federations, and even Governments. Entering is very easy for digital photographers. Payments and images are sent, in a flash, by email. Over time, successful exhibitors earn PSA Stars, which can grow into personal honors and distinctions.

Entering International Exhibitions will give you a look into what amateur photographers all over the world are doing with photography. The images made by individuals in Asia, the Middle East, or Europe, may be different from what you see in N4C. Or, maybe the images are not that different!

Keep in mind that through your camera club you already belong to a wonderful photographic organization called N4C. I am not referencing PSA as something to replace N4C in your life, but as a possible way to expand your photographic world. If you have been shooting for a while, and have terabytes of photos in storage, PSA could be a new avenue to reuse and rework those images.

If you have questions about PSA, please write to me. Also, talk to members of your club who belong to PSA. Find out why they are a PSA member, and if they think you would enjoy being a member. You might be surprised.

Gene Schwope, Hon. PSA, PPSA
PSA Representative to N4C
photopeople01@aol.com

2020-2021 Ballot Report:

This report would have been presented on April 24, 2020, if we would have been at the N4C Spring Mini-Convention in Wesley Woods.

Lacking that, I thought it next-best to let everyone know the results of the 2020-2021 N4C Ballot.

38 ballots were sent to club Presidents on March 1, 2020, with the request that ballots be returned to me no later than Saturday, April 18, 2020.

Only 25 ballots from club Presidents were received. All were unanimous for the slate presented. There were no write-in votes.

The newly-elected Officers and Directors will take office on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at the Sioux City N4C Convention.

Pat Schwope, N4C Secretary

- President.....Mark H. Gromko, 72 White Oak Place, Iowa City, IA 53345 (Iowa City)
- 1st Vice President.....Doug Conrad, 2319 Indian Hills Drive, Sioux City, IA 51104 (Sioux City)
- 2nd Vice President....Greg Hogle, 2230 Southwest Kingsrow Road, Topeka, KS 66614 (Topeka)
- Secretary.....Pat Schwope, 9385 Parkside Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125 (Saint Paul)
- Treasurer.....Lynda Richards, 4236 228th Avenue, Hartford, IA 50118 (Image Makers)
- Director #1.....Paul Hagen, 3916 Third Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560 (Fargo-Moorhead)
- Director #2.....Dwight Corrin, 1201 West River Boulevard, #B108, Wichita, KS 67203 (Wichita)
- Director #3.....Jennifer Tigges, 4927 Wild Flower Drive, Dubuque, IA 52002 (Dubuque)
- Director #4.....Tim Zeltinger, 104 Oakley, Glenburn, ND 58740 (Minot)
- Director #5.....Paul J. Grillo, 406 Nicklaus Drive, Parkersburg, IA 50665 (Des Moines)
- Director #6.....Sonja Hogle, 2230 Southwest Kingsrow Road, Topeka, KS 66614 (Topeka)

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

Lists of September through April winners are being emailed to each club. You will receive another list including the May winners as soon as those can be compiled. Check this list for accuracy as it will be used to announce the final awards. Begin collecting the winner PRINTS from your members now.

First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention winners in all categories of the 2019-2020 monthly contests are eligible to be judged in the Annual Best of N4C Contest. Merit award winners are NOT eligible.

Sioux City Camera Club is hosting the 2020 N4C Convention in Sioux City, Iowa. The Sioux Falls Camera Club is assisting by coordinating all the judging for the Best of N4C, and has established the deadline for Prints.

Entries must be received by 5:00 PM Wednesday, July 1, 2020 if hand delivered, or postmarked not later than June 25, 2020 if mailed.

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

IMPORTANT: All prints MUST BE MOUNTED (on a stiff backing) for this annual contest. For loose prints they must be mounted on a stiff backing for year- end display at the Convention. Secure the loose print to the stiff backing by either double sided tape-across the top edge of the print or hinge them along the top edge so the original print tag can be seen.

The winning PRINT entries (NO DIGITAL images) are to be mailed to:

N4C Entries
C/O HAROLD'S PHOTO
912 West 41st Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Contact Ken Johnson at email address web@n4c.us, 515-822-8126, if someone in your Club has not seen a list by May 8, and you 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, September 12th 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; Diane Darnielle, dldarnie@aol.com

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New Normal on Judging Digital Contest:

Not being able to meet together for judging digital competitions necessitates some changes. Though print competitions have been canceled, N4C plans to maintain the digital competitions. I am pleasantly surprised that most clubs scheduled to judge in April & May have managed to find a method of their own. Some already use DropBox, SmugMug, Zoom, and other photo sharing and conferencing applications. Nine out of the twelve clubs judging in April & May have their method of judging. I am pretty sure the other three will be okay when I hear from them.

Many Camera Clubs are now judging photo competitions on-line, from home on their own monitors. Regardless of the method, a means for judges to communicate scores and comments to the Judging Chair is needed. I have tried to make that easier.

An Alternate Version of the N4C Judging Software has been sent to the April & May judging clubs. Briefly, there are new simplified spreadsheets for each judge to use for scoring and making comments – no macros – just the basics. When the Judging Chair receives the Judges spreadsheets, compiling the scoring by ‘copy and paste’ onto the new alternate ENTRIES spreadsheet has been simplified.

When it comes to supporting the N4C member clubs I am sensitive to ease of use and cost. Larger clubs and those with members having Zoom & SmugMug licenses can take advantage of applications with more features.

Many methods of judging are being shared in this issue of the N4C News Bulletin. I hope you will discover ways to improve and streamline judging within your club.

I congratulate all of you that have worked out methods for judges to view competition entries from home and keep our N4C digital competitions active. The March results show that interest and entry numbers are running high. Thank you for judging. It is wonderful we can stay active in this way when you realize all the other events that have had to be canceled as a result of the pandemic.

Ken Johnson

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N4C April (2020) Contest Results

Digital Altered Reality

1st Journey into the Lens - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
2nd Looking Glass Clockworks - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
3rd Mystery in the Cemetery - Bob Rude, Iowa City
HM Rhythm of the Falling Rain - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
HM Alone with His Memories - Diana Borash, Iowa City
HM The Eclipse of Polaris - John Foty, North Metro
HM Waterlily Bud - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
HM Spike - Bob Rude, Iowa City
HM Musical Hands - Tom Birrenbach, Saint Paul

94 entries from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Omaha Camera Club. Chair: Nikki McDonald.

Judges: Stephen (Mike) Barker, Donna Gustafson, Terry Turner.

Comments: While there were outstanding entries and others that showed promise, too often it seemed that the maker simply applied a texture or filter preset, giving little attention to preparing the photo or to considering whether the application would enhance it. Judges used Method 2 and commented on 100% of the entries. Judging Method-2.

Digital B&W

1st Token of Hope - Marilyn Victor, Women’s Color
2nd Let's Talk Horse Sense - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
3rd Sun and Warmth in 20 - Deb Zimmerman, Black Hills
HM Chobe River Baboon - Suzy Adams, Black Hills
HM Fireworks Bouquet Over Mississippi River - Robert Felderman, Dubuque
HM Base Station River - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines

HM Portland Head Light at Sunrise - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
HM Shadowlands - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
HM Canoe - Sarah Becker, Des Moines
HM Desert Bighorn Sheep - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
HM Possum - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead
106 entries from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Saint Paul Camera Club. Chair: Gene Schwope.
Judges: Morris Gildemeister, Karen Leonard, Herb Gustafson.
Comments: In addition to judging the images, our judges had the added treat of being able to judge from home, on their computers. The judges agreed that this was a challenging competition with many good images. Judging Method-1.

Digital Journalism

1st Flash Flood at AlmanzorACE - Kevin Corrigan, Minnesota Valley
2nd Visiting Grandma during Coronavirus Lock-down - Markus Erk, Black Hills
3rd Junior Brown - Steve Pacholl, North Metro
HM Wheelchair Softball Player Rundown Between Home and - Bob Hosker, North Metro
HM Goodnight - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
HM The Maasai-Elder and Warrior -Africa - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
HM On the Down Turn - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
HM Chess on Place du Terte - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
HM One on One Instruction - Larry Headley, Omaha

84 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club. Chair: Bruce Bernstein.
Judges: Sharon Watson, John Calvin, Bob Sparks.
Comments: Judging Method-3 (5 point).

Digital Nature

1st Here I am to Save the Day - Allen Kurth, Omaha
2nd Heron at Pickerel Lake - Ken Epstein, Saint Paul
3rd Fishing Hole - Eric Williamson, Des Moines
HM Columbine in Bloom - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
HM Black Neck Stilt - Don Bock, Western Wisconsin
HM Big Bird Small Catch - Melissa Anderson, Western Wisconsin
HM You Coming - Deb Zimmerman, Black Hills
HM Osprey - Dale Rehder, Fargo-Moorhead
HM American Avocet - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
HM Woodie - Patty Foster, Des Moines

103 entries from 19 clubs. Judging Club: La Crosse Area Camera Club. Chair: Cyndy Thorn.
Judges: Terry Zalewski, Bob Herman, Brian Narveson.
Comments: Really great group of photos. The judging was so close on so many images. Judging Method-2.

Digital Pictorial

1st Grand Canyon at River Level - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
2nd Radiantly Soft - John Foty, North Metro
3rd Clean Idea - Nancy Heather Brown, Des Moines
HM Red Riding Hood among the Reds of Autumn - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
HM Garden Gem - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin

- HM Calm Waters - Johnny Brian, Iowa City
- HM Deer Drinking - Mike Barker, Omaha
- HM Sunrise from Breidamerkurokull Glacier - Valarie Anderson, Saint Paul
- HM Earth Patterns - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
- HM Asian Horses - Ken Epstein, Saint Paul

100 entries from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Black Hills Photography Club. Chair: Dan Ray.
 Judges: Markus Erk, Candy Erk Matheny, Tara Burian.
 Comments: Judging Method-1.

Digital Travel

- 1st Swabachers Landing, WY - Gail Birrenbach, Saint Paul
- 2nd Downtown Seattle at Dusk, WA - Angela Hoffman, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd Lake Louis-Alberta, CA - Peggy Volden, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Monument Valley, Arizona USA - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
- HM Oh the Stories I Would Tell (Notice the Glow Bracelet - John Foty, North Metro
- HM Salmon Glacier in Alaska - Barry Mullin, Saint Paul
- HM Swiss Valley Evening, Switzerland - Nancy Heather Brown, Des Moines
- HM Pienza Vineyard - Beverley Kiecker, Minnesota Valley
- HM Ringling Bridge, Florida - Don Bock, Western Wisconsin

100 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Shutterbug Camera Club. Chair: John Larson.
 Judges: Jack Gustison, Shirley White, Michelle Hall.
 Comments: The judges had a very enjoyable task. There were 11 images with the same score, and only four of them could be awarded an HM. A very nice batch of images at the top level of the scores. Several images did not really fit the Photo Travel category. Judging Method-2.

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Competition Notes:

The 2019-2020 rules are on the N4C web at <http://n4c.us/competition.htm> by clicking the blue "N4C Contest Rules" button.

The N4C Directory is available by email from Carl Hardy and his email is torchenterprises@cablone.net. 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.

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RULES FOR CAMERA CLUB COMMUNICATION ANNUAL COMPETITION

1. N4C will run two separate Communication Contests. One for Bulletins and Newsletters, and one for Web Sites. This **annual competition will only be conducted in August.** The contests will be run by Carl Hardy, newly appointed Club Communications Contest Chair. Doug Conrad has been appointed as a Club Communications Contest Vice Chair.

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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 Drive
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

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A Note on Reimbursement Expenses.

There are times in life when our best efforts to be efficient and timely are entirely laughable; especially when we get to laugh at ourselves!. Right?

Food for thought: When it comes to mailing in receipts for reimbursement, efficiency may carry a cost. For instance, if you have three or four small expenses and you mail them in separately as they occur, two-way postage on that process adds up! **Better to save up your receipts and mail them in "bulk."**

But for larger amounts, please do not hesitate to submit as needed for payment, including receipts & N4C Request for Payment Form.

**Thank you for your consideration,
N4C Treasurer Lynda Richard**

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May N4C PRINT JUDGING CANCELED

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Upcoming Events:

N4C Fall Convention 2021 – Hosted by Duluth Superior Camera Club

N4C Fall Convention 2022 – Hosted by Wichita Camera Club

