



**North Central
Camera Club
Council**

News Bulletin

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The N4C Bulletin is the official publication of the North Central Camera Club Council, which serves camera clubs in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

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President's Message:

The English language has a number of idioms along the lines of, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Even though lemonade can get tiresome when served day after day, there is wisdom in the idiom. Given that we've had all our plans and routines disrupted by the pandemic, there are opportunities that we might pursue, photographically, that we might not have pursued in more normal times.

Photographing the same subject as the seasons progress is one such idea, which you might be able to do in your yard or nearby park. Whether it's flowers, trees, or nesting birds, making a photographic record of the season's progress can be interesting and rewarding.

Now is a good time to learn a new technique, such as focus stacking or long exposure photography. Focus stacking with macro is an approach particularly suited to local gardens. And I recently saw a piece on "long exposure" photography without the use of expensive filters (<http://www.verdantvista.scot/tut9>). The basic idea is to take several photos, each a few seconds in duration, and then combine them in computer. It is a technique that also works well for night skies.

Incorporating camera motion is another set of techniques worth exploring. You can, for instance, pan with a moving object (e.g., bicycle, car, running animal) or pan along strong lines in a static scene (e.g., trees, buildings). A related technique is zooming while the shutter is open. In any event, these are techniques that, with imagination, you can explore near home and without additional equipment.



I saw a description of an interesting technique that allows you to take moving objects out of a group of photos, which could be useful, for instance, at a crowded tourist site. May have to wait to use that one ... The point is, though, that there a lot of things to explore in our photography that can provide interest and amusement even while we avoid crowds and maintain social distance. Stay safe!

Mark Gromko, N4C President

Something Different! By Ryno W. Olson

For normal photography, the most interesting light occurs in the morning and evening. What can you do the rest of the day? Cloudy or overcast skies give an even light which is ideal for photographing flowers and other outdoor scenes. However, there will be times when you have to contend with bright sun and harsh shadows. One option we as photographers have is to capture infrared light as opposed to visible light.

Infrared photography produces images quite unlike typical photographs. Infrared images can create a “wow factor.” The tonality differs greatly from that of visible light. The world simply takes on a whole new style, adding an element of mystery, creating a desire to explore the familiar from an entirely unique and extraordinary perspective.



There are two ways to digitally shoot infrared, either by using a normal DSLR with a Hoya R72 filter (or equivalent) or by using a camera specifically converted to just capture infrared. There are pros and cons to both methods. If

you go for the unconverted DSLR & filter route, you will find that the use of a tripod is essential. All modern cameras are fitted with an infrared blocking filter. By using an external R72 filter you are effectively blocking visible light, so that only infrared light is passed through to the sensor. As the factory-fitted filter within the camera is designed to block infrared light, the time required for exposure is greatly increased. The advantage is that you still have a camera that can be used for other purposes.

Conversely, a converted camera (which has had the infrared blocking filter replaced with a visible light blocking filter) can be used handheld, as the exposure times are similar to visible light. However, it can no longer be used for shooting visible light.

If you decide to convert a camera for IR photography, you can choose the type of IR filter you want to have, and your choice will depend on the infrared look you want in your photos.

If you're unfamiliar with the various choices, the best way to decide would be to check out the examples of IR photographs that you'll find at camera conversion company websites.

You can choose a filter that will only give you monochrome or a filter which will give you monochrome or color.



Is there an older digital camera in a closet or on a shelf? Thinking of upgrading your current model? Convert a camera to infrared and tell some different stories.

There is no avoiding the fact that infrared light focuses at a different wavelength to visible light. As the AF system of your DSLR has been calibrated to focus via visible light, you will find that your infrared images are slightly out of focus. There are two possible ways to handle this problem. If your converted camera has live view, you can

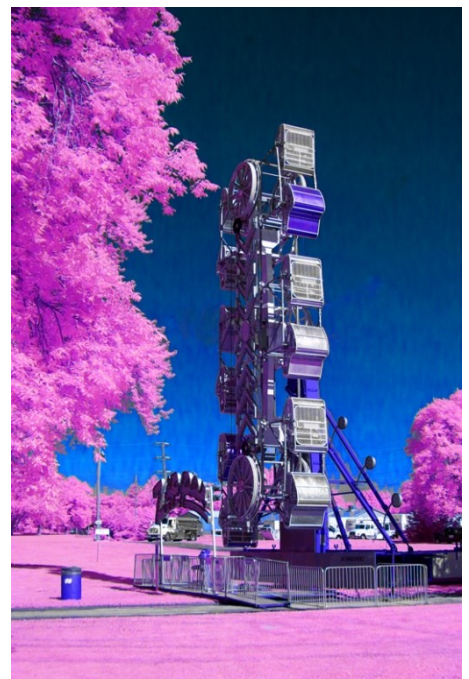
focus using that. If you send a lens with your camera when it is converted, the lens can be calibrated to infrared light. You can then use your auto focus function. This will only work with this lens, however.

These images will need some post processing. The websites of the companies which convert the cameras are a good place to start. There is much more information available now than there was ten years ago when I started shooting infrared.

There is a learning curve associated with shooting infrared and you may wonder what the actual attraction is of photographing it. In many ways, infrared photography is unlike any other genre of popular photography. While I have seen examples of people shooting portraits and wildlife using infrared light, there is no denying that landscapes are the classic subject for infrared photography. There has been a sudden surge in people shooting infrared in (false) color. This is unquestionably due to the infrared capabilities of digital cameras – color infrared film has not been manufactured for years and even then it did not allow you to achieve the false color look of glowing white trees against a blue backdrop of a clear summer sky.

Infrared surrounds us every single day of the year but we cannot see it. However, with a little bit of foresight and preparation we can photograph it, and choosing to embark on an infrared photography journey that opens up a new world of photographic opportunities.

Ryno W. Olson ofarms@hughes.net
Great River Camera Club



N4C May (2020) Contest Results

I have a favor to ask. I have all the judging clubs lined up for the 2020–21 season except for Digital Altered Reality. I still need a club to judge this category in September 2020. Could you put something in the June bulletin asking for help with that month? They can contact me at duglas50@cableone.net. Doug Conrad, Vice President of N4C

N4C May (2020-05) Contest Results

Digital Altered Reality

1st Painted Bird Remix - Marilyn Victor, Women's Color
2nd The Big Dunk Radial Blur - John Larson, Shutterbug
3rd Black-Crowned Night Heron - Don Specht, Western Wisconsin
HM Between Two Worlds - Mike Barker, Omaha
HM Finally Summer - Nancy Heather Brown, Des Moines
HM In the Shadows of the Blossoms - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
HM Ben and Friends - Sondra Barry, Wichita Area
HM Emperor's Temple - Don Otis, Omaha
HM Kauai Falls - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha

81 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Iowa City Camera Club. Chair: Alyssa Azhari.
Judges: Mark Gromko, Bob Rude, Madhu Singh. Comments: Judging Method-1.

Digital B&W

1st Flamboyant Tulip - Martha Farwell, Great River
2nd Ready to Rumble - Sondra Barry, Wichita Area
3rd Backlit Mum - Pat Boudreau, North Metro
HM The Herder - Johnny Brian, Iowa City
HM Best Friends - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Staircase - Laura Davies, North Metro
HM Double Helix Doubled - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
HM Geometric Shadows - Annie Greiner, Sioux City
HM Flood Stage Series 7 - Steve Simmer, Saint Paul
HM Eggs in Bowl with Cassia - Peggy Boike, Saint Paul

98 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Des Moines Camera Club. Chair: Diane Darnielle.
Judges: Dwight Tomes, Diane Lowry, Deb Shoning. Comments: Lots of very nice entries. Judging Method-1.

Digital Journalism

1st Top Club Level Women's Rugby - Twin Cities - Bob Hosker, North Metro
2nd I Hear Them Coming - Peggy Volden, Fargo-Moorhead
3rd VSP in Riot Gear - Mitch Keller, Sioux City
HM Puttin the Biscuit in the Basket - Shane Abbitt, Des Moines
HM Attempting to Holding for 8 Seconds - Roxanne Westman, Fargo-Moorhead
HM The Thunderbirds Precision Flying 2019 Fargo Airshow - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Buttermaker's Daughter- Living History - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
HM Rabbi's at a Mt Olive Tomb Near Palestinian E. Jerusalem - John Kugler, Omaha
HM Crashed Ice Comes to St. Paul - Roy Hakala, Saint Paul

87 entries from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Minnesota Valley Photography Club. Chair: Rich Roberts.
Judges: Bob Tourdot, Joy Kamano, Craig Peterson. Comments: Judging Method-2.

Digital Nature

1st Long Tongue Bat - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
2nd Tricolored Heron - Roger Williams, North Metro
3rd Caracara - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
HM Elephant Sunrise - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
HM First Light Flight - Eric Williamson, Des Moines
HM Tricolored Heron with Catch - Don Specht, Western Wisconsin
HM On the Look Out - Markus Erk, Black Hills
HM Meadowlark - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
HM Little Bit Fishy - Michael Greiner, Sioux City
HM Splish, Splash, I Was Takin' a Bath - Melissa Anderson, Western Wisconsin
HM String Lake Milky Way - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin

90 entries from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Wichita Area Camera Club. Chair: Dwight Corrin.
Judges: Jim Boots, Garry Brownlee, Patricia Konyha. Comments: Judging Method-2.

Digital Pictorial

1st So at Home on the Range - Deb Zimmerman, Black Hills
2nd Frosty Flower - Rick Graves, Minnesota Valley
3rd Grandma's Favorite - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin
HM Know When to Hold 'Em - Candy Erk Manthey, Black Hills
HM Autumn Waters - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Tram 12 to Moniz - Dorothy Sansom, Omaha
HM Imagining Nyhavn Past, Denmark - Cindy Carlsson, Saint Paul
HM Egg - Betty Bryan, Western Wisconsin
HM The Yawn - Dale Rehder, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Marjorie's Reflecting Pool - David Gonzalez, Saint Paul

92 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: North Metro Photo Club. Chair: Pat Boudreau.
Judges: Kathy Wall, LuAnn Thatcher, Pat Miller. Comments: We used Meet.Jet.si to conference together 5 people. It worked well and wasn't particularly difficult to use. Would recommend for other groups to use.

Digital Travel

1st Last Light at Swift Current Lake MT - John Rystad, Minnesota Valley
2nd Under the Big Dipper AZ - Mark Gromko, Iowa City
3rd Piazza Navaronna Rome, Italy - Tom Arnhold, Topeka
HM Starry, Starry Night - Glacier National Park, MT - Melissa Anderson, Western Wisconsin
HM Arches National Park with Milky Way UT - John Foty, North Metro
HM Keeping an Eye on Cathedral Valley, Utah - John Calvin, Fargo-Moorhead
HM Death Valley National Park, CA - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
HM Between Buda and Pest - Hungary - Allen Kurth, Omaha
HM Sunny Day in Machu Picchu, Peru - Marv Vikla, Saint Paul
HM Fairyland Canyon, Utah - Mark Gromko, Iowa City

95 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Dubuque Camera Club. Chair: Cara Pusateri.
Judges: Ken Kiss, Stephonie Schmitz, Jim Durrant. Comments: Judging Method-1

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Competition Notes:

The 2020-2021 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@cableone.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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Upcoming Events:

N4C Fall Convention 2021 – Hosted by Duluth Superior Camera Club
N4C Fall Convention 2022 – Hosted by Wichita Camera Club

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