



# **THE NEWS BULLETIN**

**THE NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL**

*Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends*

Volume XLIII Number 3

Visit Us On The Web: [www.N4C.us](http://www.N4C.us)

November 2007

## **N4C President's Message**

Did everyone get out and shoot some fall colors? I actually did get out several times. For some reason, most years I don't get out before the leaves fall off the trees. I was with my son on a Boy Scout campout and was able to spend 2-3 hours out walking the trails. Who knows if I got any winners, but I had a great time (except for the sore feet I had for days!).

Earlier in the fall I had an area around a pond in a nearby county park all picked out to go photograph the fall colors. Can you guess which area of the park lost its leaves first? Oh well, there's always next year.

I thought I'd mention some items that the N4C board talked about at the fall meeting. These will be discussed at the next board meeting at Springbrook 2008.

A. Having a central organization (person or committee?) that helps find judging clubs.

B. Getting more clubs to judge. Especially those who enter, but don't judge.

C. Adding and/or dropping N4C contests.

D. Revamping the rules in all categories, starting with nature. The new nature rules proposal is elsewhere in this issue. Keep in mind that it's still being fine-tuned.

Has everyone checked out N4C's web site lately? Ken Johnson has done a great job on it. Each month he puts a link to the winning monthly digital contest images.

A special welcome to our newest N4C member club, The Muddy River Camera Club, of Clinton, Iowa.

All for now,  
**Bob Rude**  
N4C President

## **Ray Andrews**

(April 30, 1927 - Nov 16, 2007)

Long-time member of N4C and  
the Des Moines Camera Club

See page 5

## **Welcome Muddy River Camera Club Clinton, Iowa**

Welcome to N4C! We are glad to have you with us, and hope that your club will participate in and enjoy all that N4C has to offer.

Copies of the current N4C Handbook and Directory may be obtained free of charge via e-mail from Mary Jane Charlton, Editor, at: [<uff\\_da@netins.net>](mailto:uff_da@netins.net) Or, a CD for \$3 or a printed copy for \$10 may be ordered from Mary Jane.

Members are encouraged to attend Springbrook, our mini-convention which is always held the last weekend in April every year at Springbrook State Park in Guthrie Center, Iowa (April 25, 26, and 27, 2008), as well as the 2008 N4C Convention, which will be hosted by the Minnesota Valley Photography Club at the Holiday Inn in Burnsville, Minnesota, September 25, 26, 27, and 28, 2008.

N4C's motto is: "Where Names Become Faces, And Faces Become Friends." There is no better way for that to occur than for us to meet each other and get to know each other.

President for the new club is **William Cornelius**. Other officers are **Ronald Blatchley**, **Anni Johnson**, and **Patricia Bird**.

The Muddy River Camera Club [www.muddyrivercc.org](http://www.muddyrivercc.org) meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Lyons Depot in Clinton.



## N4C News Notes

**The N4C Handbook and Directory** will be sent to N4C members free of charge via e-mail from Mary Jane Charlton [uff\\_da@netins.net](mailto:uff_da@netins.net)

Or a person can purchase a CD from Mary Jane for \$3, or a completely printed copy for \$10.

### Congratulations

**Scott Eipperle** of the Central Iowa Camera Club, has a picture in the semi-final round on picture.com. He is competing with 114 other participants for \$1,000 and a possible grand prize of \$10,000. The photo is "Old Farm Wagon."

—**CICC Sharp Focus**

### Get New Members

The Lincoln Camera Club will again be having their membership contest. Each person referred to join the club will earn a point for that member. At the end of the year the person with the most points will be awarded a free membership for the upcoming year. The prospective member must show who referred them on their membership application.

"Go out and find those people with an interest in photography, and make the camera club bigger and better for years to come...and WIN a free membership for yourself."

—**LCC Bulletin**

### Photo Essays

Now's the time to begin thinking about your photo essay, including collecting images, sound bites and choosing a topic for April's annual N4C Essay Contest.

If you're a PC user, check the special offer for ProShow Gold. Read about features here: <http://www.photodex.com/products/proshowgold>. N4C has a limited-time special price (\$56) for the on-line download. Details are on the N4C website "News" page <http://n4c.us/news.htm>.

—from **Dwight Tomes**, Photo Essay Chair

### Please Pay N4C Dues

Lynda Richards, N4C Treasurer, says the following clubs, have not paid their dues as of November 3rd.

Anamosa	Mitchell
Central Iowa	Omaha
Fargo-Moorhead	Topeka
Ft. Dodge	Upper Missouri
Huron Area	Wichita Amateur
Linn Area	Wyandotte
Maxwell	(owes \$4 more)

### Lunar Lunacy

**Dennis Zabel** of the Lincoln Camera Club says, "We're going into the winter months with shorter days. Many people find it difficult to find time for daylight photography because of other daytime activities. Now, there's an answer: Take images by moonlight with your digital camera.

"Digital cameras allow incredible flexibility for nighttime photos. Many cameras, especially digital SLR's, include an extra processing step called long exposure noise reduction, found in the custom functions. It improves results for night shooting."

Zabel continues by saying a logical sequence that will help improve success during your lunar wonderings includes: Mark the calendar, Scout the area, Use a tripod, Focus Manually, Initial exposure settings, White balance, Special Function settings, and Use the histogram.

—**LCC Bulletin**

### Sunset Colors

**Mark Gubbins** of the Huron Area Photography Club has peered out the west end of his work plant and has been teased by the awesome sunsets that we have had lately. On occasion he has been amazed at the color of the sun and the incredible underglow on the clouds. "Talk about almost bringing a tear to a photographer's eye," while he has to work later with the end of daylight savings time and can't be outside to capture sunsets in a photo.

—**HAPC Image Maker**



# N4C Contest Results

## 2x2 PICTORIAL SLIDES

- 1st- "Babbling Brook" 44  
Jerry Swendsrud, Heart O'Lakes
- 2nd- "Snow at Tunnel View" 44  
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- 3rd- "The Kiss" 42  
Jack Gustison, Shutterbug
- HM- "Hummingbird & Red Flower" 42  
Jean McDonough, Women's Color
- HM- "Fresh Strawberries" 39  
Julie Habel, Dubuque
- HM- "Cigar Smoker" 39  
Morris Gildemeister, St. Paul

There were 61 slides entered by 13 clubs. The judging club was the Central Iowa Camera Club. The judges were Jim Davis, Barb Knight, and Ed Siems. The judging committee chair was Jim Svec.

Great assortment of slides, lots of different subjects!

## 2X2 NATURE SLIDES

- 1st- "Waiting for Lunch" 42  
Jack Gustison, Shutterbug
- 2nd- "Sandstone Glow" 41  
John Chadima, Cedar Rapids
- 3rd- "Bobcat Kittens" 40  
SuAnn Tichy, Cedar Rapids
- HM- "Spider" 40  
Gene Schwoppe, St. Paul
- HM- "Fall at the Dunes" 39  
Morris Gildemeister, St. Paul
- HM- "River in Winter" 39  
A.C. Houglum, Fargo-Moorhead

There were 62 slides entered by 14 clubs. The judging club was the Color Shooters Camera Club. The judges were Mary Curtis, Dorothy Stevenson, and Connie Lower. The judging committee chair was Ed Lower.

The judges really had a variety of nature images to evaluate this month. Four of the images the judges felt **did not meet the definition of nature**, two showed the hand of man, and two were of cultivated flowers. All the images that received Merit Awards were very good

## BLACK AND WHITE

### PICTORIAL LARGE

- 1st- "Milkweed Seeds" 42  
Christine O'Riley, Des Moines
- 2nd- "Old Bodie Church" 41  
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- 3rd- "Boats Reflection" 39  
Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City
- HM- "1880 Doctors Desk" 38  
Jim Kost, Mitchell
- HM- "Yosemite Falls" 37  
Michael O'Riley, Des Moines

There were 30 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the La Crosse Area Camera Club. The judges were Mike Bell, Mary Ann Roesler, and Louise Randall-Winger. The judging committee chair was Peder Schoenfeld.

Lots of good stuff!

## BLACK AND WHITE

### PICTORIAL SMALL

- 1st- "Chairs" 42  
Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 2nd- "Violin Strings" 41  
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- 3rd- "Yesterday's faucet" 38  
Scott Bricker, Sioux City
- HM- "Warehouse" 37  
Barb Russell, Des Moines
- HM- "Untitled Snow Scene" 37  
Wm. Cullenward, Sioux City

There were 22 prints entered by 7 clubs. The judging club was the La Crosse Area Camera Club. See above.

Kudos to Sioux City for strong showing!

## NATURE PRINTS

### LARGE

- 1st- "Sandhill Cranes in Evening Light" 44  
Christine O'Riley, Des Moines
- 2nd- "Great Grey—Hunting" 43  
Mike O'Riley, Des Moines
- 3rd- "Reflections-Teton Morning" 42  
L. Lubbert, Iowa City
- HM- "Weasel" 41  
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines

- HM- "Brown Pelican Landing" 41  
Mike Landwehr, Des Moines
- HM- "Look at me Sweetie" 41  
Jack Bristow, Sioux City
- HM- "Fall at the Falls" 41  
Jack Gustison, Shutterbug

There were 28 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the La Crosse Area Camera Club. See above.

Congrats to Des Moines—all 4 entries took HM or above. **Again, some entries have the hand of man evident.**

## NATURE PRINTS

### SMALL

- 1st- "Evening at the Rookery" 40  
Lowell Stanley, Mitchell
- 2nd- "Taking a Drink" 39  
Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 3rd- "Mt. Burgess" 38  
Mitch Voehl, MN Valley
- HM- "Big Guy" 37  
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM- "Impala Males Sparing" 36  
Mary Curtis, Color Shooters

There were 32 prints entered by 10 clubs. The judging club was the La Crosse Area Camera Club. See above.

## 2 1/4 SLIDES

- 1st- "Grand Vista" 44  
Larry Lubbert, Iowa City
- 2nd- "Split Rock View" 43  
Gene Schwoppe, St. Paul
- 3rd- "Portland Head Light" 43  
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- HM- "Badlands VU" 41  
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- HM- "Glacier Country" 41  
Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
- HM- "Storm" 40  
Gary Renier, Fargo-Moorhead

There were 22 slides entered by 7 clubs. The judging club was the Des Moines Camera Club. The judges were Loren Brown, Mike Larson, and Kevin Nabity. The judging committee chair was Larry W. Milroy.

**THERE IS  
SO MUCH  
FOR WHICH  
TO BE  
THANKFUL**

## COLOR PRINTS

### LARGE

- 1st- "Headlight Close-Up" 45  
Jim Coffey, Fargo-Moorhead
- 2nd- "Cowboy Sunset" 44  
Christine O'Riley, Des Moines
- 3rd- "Clouds & Snow at Yosemite Valley" 44  
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- HM- "Plum Picker" 44  
Maxine Saul, MN Valley
- HM- "Grasslands Sunset" 44  
Jo Eland, Iowa City
- HM- "Porcelain on Glass" 43  
Kathy Hodges, MN Valley

There were 44 prints entered by 10 clubs. The judging club was the Lens and Shutter Photo Club. The judges were Rachelle Flichman, Bernadine Peterson, and Dorothy Schulz. The judging committee chair was John Eisterhold.

Judges found picking winners was difficult because pictures were so great.

Two pictures were disqualified because print stickers indicated they were one of the top six winners previously. **If print information was in upper left corner it would be a lot easier to co-ordinate judging.**

## COLOR PRINTS

### SMALL

- 1st- "Old House" 45  
Lori Podheadskey, Mitchell
- 2nd- "The Marshal!" 44  
Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 3rd- "El Dorado (City of Gold)" 43  
Don Ellers, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM- "Mountain Bluebird" 43  
Delores Meister, Iowa City
- HM- "Fall Harvest" 43  
Jim Svec, Central Iowa
- HM- "End of the Line" 42  
Jim Hollander, Sioux City

There were 48 prints entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the Lens and Shutter Photo Club. See above.

Overall, pictures were beautiful. **Some were disqualified because they did not meet the size requirements.** We did not disqualify those who had the print information in the wrong location. We will disqualify them if we judge again.



### CONTEMPORARY/ CREATIVE PRINTS

- 1st- "Flower Swirl" 41  
Lori Podhradsky, Mitchell
- 2nd- "A Watchful Eye" 40  
Jim Kost, Mitchell
- 3rd- "Don't Pick the Toad Stool" 39  
Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM- "Golden Swan" 38  
Dick Gagne, La Crosse
- HM- "Colorful Buggy Ride" 38  
Connie Lower, Color Shooters
- HM- "Memories of Yesterday—  
Grassland" 38  
Jo Eland, Iowa City

There were 42 prints entered by 10 clubs. The judging club was the Kaposia Kamera Club. The judges were Morris Gildemeister, Bunny Grolla, and Nancy Haas. The judging committee chair was JoAnn Kunte-meier.

### CONTEMPORARY/ CREATIVE SLIDES

- 1st- "Firewater" 41  
Dick Gagne, La Crosse
- 2nd- "Gourds" 36  
Jo Eland, Iowa City
- 3rd- "Red & White" 34  
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM- "Orange and Gold" 33  
Jim Duncan, St. Paul
- HM- "The Pain of Frozen Rain" 30  
Esther Drew, Iowa City
- HM- "German Houses" 33  
Florence Scholljegerdes,  
Women's Color

There were 29 slides entered by 9 clubs. The judging club was the Kaposia Kamera Club. The judges were Bunny Grolla, Nancy Haas, and Mary Jane Melnick. The judging committee chair was JoAnn Kunte-meier.

### PHOTOJOURNALISM PRINTS

- 1st- "Oh!!! That Feels Good" 15  
Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 2nd- "Center of Attention" 14  
Scott Thomson, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd- "Get Your Dukes Up" 14  
Mike O'Riley, Des Moines
- HM- "Daddy's Home" 14  
Ed Siems, Central Iowa
- HM- "Ballet de La Fontaine" 12

- Scott Bricker, Sioux City
- HM- "Public Support" 12  
Ken Aker, Duluth-Superior

There were 34 prints entered by 8 clubs. The judging club was the Huron Area Photo Club. The judges were Mark Gubbins, Lowell Stanley, and Darlene Kutzler. The judging committee chair was Bunny Gilbert.

### PHOTOJOURNALISM SLIDES

- 1st- "Calf Roping" 14  
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 2nd- "We Have Lift Off" 14  
Delores Meister, Iowa City
- 3rd- "Time to Harvest" 12  
Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City
- HM- "Masai Dancing" 12  
Jean McDonough, Women's Color
- HM- "Confederates Fire" 12  
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- HM- "Interpreting the Wall" 12  
Pat Schwope, St. Paul

There were 41 slides entered by 11 clubs. The judging club was the Huron Area Photo Club. See above.

### PHOTO-TRAVEL PRINTS

- 1st- "Solitude at Moose Pass-  
Alaska" 43  
Christine O'Riley, Des Moines
- 2nd- "Dawn at Badlands Peak" 39  
Steve Paulson, Sioux City
- 3rd- "Malign Lake Rd" 39  
Ed Siems, Central Iowa
- HM- "San Jose Mission" 39  
JoAnn Kunte-meier, Kaposia
- HM- "Dawn in Grasslands  
Nat'l Park" 38  
Jo Eland, Iowa City
- HM- "Church in Puerto Rico" 38  
Jim Walstrom, Sioux City

There were 32 prints entered by 10 clubs. The judging club was the Heart O'Lakes Camera Club. The judges were Bob Minge, Richard Southwick, and Glen Merz. The judging committee chair was Ann Pederson.

A nice group of prints. Some need remounting. The winners stood out.

### PHOTO-TRAVEL SLIDES

- 1st- "Teton National Park,  
Wyoming" 40  
John Charima, Cedar Rapids

- 2nd- "South Bound Buffalo at  
Teton, Wyoming" 39  
Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- 3rd- "Autumn on the Snake  
River" 39  
Delores Meister, Iowa City
- HM- "Grand Marais Sunset #2" 37  
Morris Gildemeister, St. Paul
- HM- "White House Ruin, AZ" 37  
Janice Templin, Kaposia
- HM- "Bass Harbor Light" 36  
Jack Gustison, Shutterbug

There were 45 slides entered by 13 clubs. The judging club was the Heart O'Lakes Camera Club. See above.

Overall a nice group of slides. Some familiar places, done well.

### DIGITAL NATURE SLIDES

- 1st- "Eye on the Catch" 45  
Mike O'Riley, Des Moines
- 2nd- "Leopard Kill 4Q" 45  
Linda Jameson, Women's  
Color
- 3rd- "White Sands Pattern" 42  
Dave Schulte, St. Paul
- HM- "California Chuk" 41  
George Bebout, RV Digital
- HM- "BW Egret with Twig  
on Nest" 41  
David Perez, Minn Valley
- HM- "Fond of My Fown" 40  
Jay Karai, North Metro

There were 96 slides entered by 20 clubs. The judging club was the Iowa City Camera Club. The judges were Cecil Organ, Gerry Solomons, and Wilford Yoder. The judging committee chair was Jo Eland.

Lots of excellent entries. 3 were not digital nature—hand of man. About 15 entries had title and punctuation that needed to be changed. Judges have lots of comments for all entrants.

### STEREO SLIDES

- 1st- "Don't Move" 34  
Don Raker, Des Moines
- 2nd- "Scottsdale Festival" 33  
Don Raker, Des Moines
- 3rd- "Boogen Villa" 32  
Don Raker, Des Moines

There were 8 slides entered by 1 club. The judging club was the Color Shooters Camera Club. The judges were Mary Curtis, Dorothy Stevenson, and Connie Lower. The judging chair was Ed Lower.

### DIGITAL PICTORIAL SLIDES

- 1st- "Sunrise Over Pyramid Lake" 38  
Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
- 2nd- "Spring Storm Over  
Mt. Morain" 35  
Christine O'Riley, Des Moines
- 3rd- "Bodie Shell Station" 35  
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM- "Surprise" 3  
Maxine Saul, MN Valley
- HM- "Fall Cabin Scene" 35  
Jim Wendel, Lens & Shutter
- HM- "Columbine Wagon Wheel" 34  
Bob Olson, Upper Missouri

There were 107 slides entered by 20 clubs. The judging club was the Sioux City Camera Club. The judges were Roger VonKlompberg, Jack Bristo, and James Hollander. The judging committee chair was Steve Paulson.

We had a lot of really nice slides covering a wide range of subject matter.



**N4C  
Contest  
Results**

### DIGITAL PICTORIAL SLIDES

- 1st- "Hard Left" 40  
Frank Mazzocco, St. Paul
- 2nd- "Glade Creek Grist Mill" 38  
Peder Schoenfeld, La Crosse
- 3rd- "Hiding the Sun" 37  
Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior
- HM- "Aerial Lift Bride" 36  
David Kohne, Duluth-Superior
- HM- "Child 3" 36  
David Perez, Minnesota Valley
- HM- "Bolivian Market" 36  
Maxine Saul, Minnesota Valley

There were 89 slides entered by 20 clubs. The judging club was the Topeka Camera Club. The judges were Phil Gilman, Greg Hogle, and Daryl Hurley. The judging committee chair was Scott Udey.

**No Monthly  
N4C Contests  
For The Month Of  
December**

**Check your  
N4C Handbook  
for addresses of  
the January  
competitions.**



**COLOR PRINTS****LARGE**

- 1st- "Dark Sky Race" 45  
Loren Brown, Des Moines  
2nd- "Como Park House" 44  
Chuck Peterson, Sioux City  
3rd- "Colorado Columbines" 44  
Diane Darnielle, Des Moines  
HM- "Bleeding Hearts" 42  
Wilford Yoder, Iowa City  
HM- "Snow at Yosemite Valley" 41  
Ed Lower, Color Shooters  
HM- "Beginning to Open" 41  
Christine O'Riley, Des Moines

There were 27 prints entered by 7 clubs. The judging club was the Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club. The judges were Jim Coffey, Joy Coffey, and Doug Long. The judging committee chair was Bruce Bernstein.

Many excellent prints. A number of them should be entered again.

**COLOR PRINTS****SMALL**

- 1st- "Cute Hat" 55  
Lynda Richards, Des Moines  
2nd- "God's Coloring Book" 43  
Ladona Tornabene, Duluth-Superior  
3rd- "Life is Just a Bowl  
of Cherries" 41  
Roger Rose, Sioux Falls  
HM- "Tree Swallow" 41  
Delores Meister, Iowa City  
HM- "Alaska Glacier" 41  
Ed Kaufman, Mitchell  
HM- "Butterfly #2" 39  
Jack Gustison, Shutterbug

There were 46 prints entered by 12 clubs. The judging club was the Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club. See above.

A large number of prints, with many nice photos. Quite a few had mats that were bright or dark in color. In most cases this detracted from the print and did not help.

***They walk among us!***

While looking at a house, my brother asked the real estate agent which direction was north because, he explained, he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning. She asked, "Does the sun rise in the north?" When my brother explained that the sun rises in the east, and has for some time, she shook her head and said, "Oh I don't keep up with that kind of stuff."

**Ray Andrews—reflections and meditation  
about a great human being**

Ray Andrews left us this last week, with wonderful memories and a wealth of knowledge, humor, and stories. Ray spent his 80 years well, as he had his time in the Army in WWII, met Simone while in France, and retired as a US Postal Service Employee. He enjoyed his family and his photography over a long and fruitful career. His passion was photography, and his mentor as a photographer was Ansel Adams (who did speak at an N4C convention many years ago!). Ray's gift as a teacher of fine art black and white photography was as well known as his photography. His lectures to our club and to N4C conventions on composition were almost poetic—no wasted words, just the poetry of what worked and what didn't in a composition.

Ray also enjoyed hosting trips to various locations on either coast, to the Smokies, and to local sites for all the N4C conventions that the Des Moines Camera Club hosted in living memory. Whether it was the bridges of Madison County, Yosemite, or any other location Ray had the gift of economy of motion—where others walked miles to get a photo, Ray could walk a few yards and come back with the definitive work of art. Ray also knew how to find the restaurant with the best pie in any town in Iowa, just as surely as he knew where the best location for an image would be. Never fail!

Ray also was a frequent judge in photo competitions for our club and others—several times this year, as a matter of fact. He could judge digital, slides, prints, contemporary—anything that came along with fairness, and according to his advice that 'each image should stand on its own merits'. He was one of the rare judges who wasn't afraid to give a '5' for good technique when he saw it and a '2' or '3' for interest or composition for the same image if that was what he thought was right. At times there was some hidden humor in judging contests such as the time that Ray, who only had good sight in one eye, and Don Ziska, who also only has sight in one eye, judged a 3D photo contest. I'm told that there were no complaints, although one wonders what they saw!

Ray taught many of the photographers in our Des Moines Camera Club. There were many hours in the darkroom, in which he gave freely of his knowledge of the intricacies of producing the Fine Art Print. He also shared a number of his experiences and stories and the occasional joke. He was also patient with students and always felt that students learned as much from their mistakes as their masterpieces. That said, he was also honest in his appraisal of his student's work, and in giving advice to fellow photographers.

Ray was one of those rare individuals who was able and willing to give to those he met with equal measures of humor and wisdom. He enjoyed life to the fullest, endured the pain when he needed to, and looked for the best pie he could find at other times. A salute and smile to those things you left with us, Ray!

Dwight Tomes  
President, Des Moines Camera Club

From Huron Area Photography Club *Image Maker*:-

## HOT TRAVEL TIPS

If you plan any travel over the holidays, here are some tips for keeping your gear safe.

1) Keep a list of all your equipment, including serial numbers. This helps in case you get separated from gear you need to check.

2) Make your checked luggage look as inconspicuous as possible. Cool-looking stickers that say "Handle With Care—Photographic Equipment" only serve to alert potential thieves.

3) Make sure your checked luggage is clearly marked with your name, address, and phone number—at home and at your destination. Know the brand, color, and dimensions of your luggage in case you need to file a report.

4) Use TSA locks when you can. They can be opened by security personnel and not would-be thieves.

5) Use a photographer's vest to carry pieces of equipment that won't fit in your carry-on bag.

6) Some photographers use FedEx to transport their gear to destinations. On the upside, FedEx has a good delivery record. On the downside, you better know who will sign for your gear and where it will be stored.

7) Business class and first class seats come at a hefty price, but they also come with a greater baggage allowance and more room in the cabin.

8) When on the ground, if you need to leave gear in the hotel room while you are out, close the curtains, turn on the TV so that it easily can be heard, and place the "do not clean/disturb" sign on the door. It is better to have nobody go into your room, and make the bed yourself.

For more resources, check out the following web sites:

U.S. Dept. of Transportatin (carry-on allowances) [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

Transport Canada Baggage Regulations: [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

Pelican: [www.pelican.com](http://www.pelican.com)

Tamrac: [www.tamrac.com](http://www.tamrac.com)

Think Tank Photo: [www.thinktankphoto.com](http://www.thinktankphoto.com)

## Taking Better Portrait Photographs

Lighting and composition are the two most important aspects of portrait photography, in my opinion. There is little point in having a fantastic family composition if the sun is in people's eyes, or 3 out of the 5 subjects are in the shade. Conversely, if you have a fantastic lighting set-up, at sunset for example, but you are too far away from your subject, then the shot is useless. So my main hints for taking better photos are:

1. Get in close enough. This is the mistake most amateurs make when taking their pictures. Have a look at your subject and see how much of the image you could do without. If you are taking a photo of your child, then make sure the focus is on your child and not the greenhouse to the left of him. You'll be surprised just how much this simple rule will improve your photo taking.

2. Look where the light source is. If you are outside, always be aware where the sun is. Funnily enough we actually have very good weather for photography in that it is overcast most of the time. This means that a photographer does not have to worry about which direction the light is coming from, as you get a lovely diffused light through the clouds most of the time. If the sun is out though, you don't want your subject to be squinting into the light. Conversely, if the light is behind your subject, then you may have problems unless you can manually alter the settings on your camera, so try to avoid this unless you know what you're doing.

3. Be ready. The best shots are usually when your camera is tucked away in your bag, so have it to hand and set to one of the automated modes to allow you to quickly take a snap without fiddling too much.

4. Props are always good. People, especially children, don't like having to pose for photos as this is a very unnatural thing to do. Therefore, you need a distraction to help you take the best photos. Get children to climb a tree or jump in the air. Give them a competition like a race, and watch their faces when they come running up to the finish line.

**DRAFT -  
Updated Nature rules and definitions.**

Committee; Chairman,  
**George Bebout**, Parliamentarian Aide.  
**Robert Rude, Ed Siems, Teresa Vokoun**

**Parliamentarian Aide**

The Aide's duties will be to interpret the contest rules and act as a mediator when questions arise.

The aide will also make changes in the rules or add new rules that would require the approval of the Board of Directors.

The aide could also be called upon to interpret the By-Laws and suggest changes, which would be subject to the approval of the Board and general membership.

The rules allow the PA to make changes or add new rules with the approval of the BOD without approval of the General Membership, also there is no requirement for the PA to form a committee but I prefer to work that way as it presents more than one opinion. We also solicited opinions from others whose primary interest is Nature Photography.

The committee decided to start fresh with these proposed changes rather than try and modify the current definitions in Section J of the judging rules. By changing the format the other sections of the definitions will also have to change. We also considered the advisability of a separate Wildlife Category but decided that it was not practical at this time.

With the advent of digital imaging and sophisticated software it makes rule making very difficult. We want everyone to have a level playing field without a lot of rules to follow and we also do not want to make rules that would be impossible to enforce so our first consideration was to keep it simple.

Some may feel that Digital users have an unfair advantage with the ability to correct or modify their images after exposure. This ability does not come easy requiring a considerable amount of time and effort to accomplish.

**PROPOSAL**

**N4C General Ethics.**

Cameras, digital or film, or electronic devices such as computers do not have ethics, only people have ethics.

Can photography then be trusted? It never could be, you can only trust the photographer.

Photography is a combination of art and technology and one cannot exist without the other. We use this technology to capture photographic images of our natural world. The camera is limited by its technology as to what it can capture and it can only interpret reality within those limits. Every photo whether film or digital is an interpretation of the light and shadows as seen by the camera and as they do not always see things the same way people do, we must either accept what the camera can see or modify the results either before or after the exposure. Altering the reality of the image by such modification is not acceptable.

As the natural wild world continues to shrink it becomes more important than ever to record what's left as it is, unaltered by the hand of man.

**N4C Nature Contest Rules**

1. No photograph is worth the distress or injury to any wild creature.
2. Nature photography is simply the recording of our natural world by some photographic means. Included are all branches of nature except Archeology and Anthropology.
3. The hand of man shall not be present in any nature entry except where wild birds or animals have invaded mans world such as fence posts and other man made objects commonly used by wild creatures, or where the hand of man enhances the story being told. (The Barn Owl principle)
4. Banding, or tagging on nature subjects is acceptable. Photographs at bird feeders are not acceptable if any part of a man made feeder is shown in the photograph.
5. Restrained or caged animals are not acceptable in N4C nature contests, all nature subjects must be free to come and go without any restrictions. Photographs taken in zoos, animal farms or game farms are acceptable as long as the setting remains natural and the hand of man is not visible.
6. Cultivated plants, domestic animals and pets are not acceptable and should be entered in other categories.

**Digital ADJUSTMENTS Guidelines**

PSA and many other photographic organizations have stopped using the term "Manipulate" and replaced it with "Adjustment" which is more descriptive of what is being done. To manipulate something suggests that something wrong is being done.

1. The use of filters on the camera to correct color balance or exposure are acceptable as is the correction of these variables in the computer.
2. Removing dust spots, sensor dust or other minor unwanted elements such as power lines, vapor trails or tree branches are acceptable as long as it is not detectable.
3. Adding, moving or combining elements or altering the reality of the subject by any digital or manual means is not acceptable.

Proposed acceptable adjustments for Nature competition are as follows.

Cropping	Resizing
Color correction	Straightening
Overall brightness correction	Flipping or reversing the image
White balance correction	Contrast control
Flare reduction or removal	Noise reduction
Saturation	Sharpening, must look natural.
Recovering shadow detail	
Disturbing elements in the frame may be corrected but not removed.	

**George Bebout**,  
Parliamentarian Aide.  
hairman Nature Rules Committee

*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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## A Great Price On A New Kodak Slide Projector

Ed Siems writes to tell us that he has a different idea for Christmas gifts. Ed has picked up a quantity of brand new, Kodak Ektagraphic slide projectors complete with lens and remote control. Here are the specs:

**Kodak Ektagraphic AMT  
1.4 inch Wide Angle Lens  
Remote Control  
Kodak Slide Tray**

This model is selling new today on Amazon for over \$400. Ed has a better deal...

**\$100 Plus Shipping**

For more information contact Ed Siems at:  
641-751-4386 or [et@mycns.net](mailto:et@mycns.net)



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From the  
Staff of the  
N4C Bulletin

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Jim Coffey  
Gene Schwope