



The North Central Camera Club Council News Bulletin

"Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends"

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<http://n4c.us>

November 2010



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Clown Studio at the La Crosse
N4C Convention, September 2010

President's Message.....

Hello, on this windy October night. Looks like our Indian summer is over, it sure was nice while it lasted. It wasn't a good year for fall color in our part of the state, very drab colors if any at all.

We were visiting with the O'Rileys from the Des Moines Camera Club last weekend and ended up on the subject of displaying prints to be judged. I always print my images to be judged on a light box and we were wondering how many clubs used light boxes. It would be a good idea to have all judging clubs using them to set a standard we could all depend on. The cost to build one is under \$25 and would be a good tool for club and/or N4C judgments. The light provided by the box really makes images pop and come to life. If anyone is interested in building a light box, I would share the plan if you would email me at et@mycns.net.

On the subject of judging, we were comparing ways to judge a image. It has been suggested that interest/impact of the image be judged first. This seems logical as your first impression is the impact the image portrays to you. After you score the impact, you can then look at the image closer to add your composition score, how the image is arranged. Is your eye leading into the image to the main subject, are there distracting things that take away, or are there items cropped off that distract from the image? There are the rules of composition, the rule of thirds, and not centering the subject, which I look as more of suggestions because they can be broken and still present a pleasing image. Finally, the technique is judged. This should be the easiest part, as you have studied the image thoroughly by this time. Is the image sharp? Is the color correct? You also look for over-sharpening, cloning errors, and obvious computer errors. I was taught to judge starting with a 5 and subtracting for errors I find. As a judge, you must discipline yourself to judge the image on its merits in each category: not, I like it, I like it, and I like it. We are supposed to learn from our contests. Nothing is more irritating than have a image scored with 3's and a comment of "nice image". If you are giving it 3's, attempt to comment on the "why" you judged the image as average. Our clubs have all grown in the digital age, and we should be mentoring our new members on judging. Our club critiques images at least once a year, and some of our judges will pull an image at a contest and explain what they like about it. This is something our new members appreciate and can learn from.

With the shorter days and colder weather, Mother Nature is preparing our native wildlife for winter. You can take advantage of this to get more images of them as they spend more time moving during the daylight hours. I am preparing my winter blinds to photograph pheasants, song birds, and deer. If you have your blinds prepared now and the weather turns bad, you will be ready to shoot some great images.

Hope you all have a safe and great day of Thanksgiving!!

Ed Siems

Yes, Virginia, the camera settings do make a difference!

Digital cameras, from point and shoots to digital SLRs, have many settings--many of which are hidden unless you've bothered to read the manual (sorry guys!) or take some time pushing the buttons until you're familiar with the settings. If you have the largest and highest quality image available on your camera, you're just doing the most obvious. I'm using the Canon EOS 5D MKII for these comments. If you shoot RAW, the settings won't change what you see on the computer screen--only the data from the camera is used for YOUR computer software to interpret. JPG captures from the camera will use the in-camera settings. There's more, a lot more.

Settings are explained in detail in the 'owners manual--hard copy or the pdf'. User-defined settings allow adjusting the in-camera sharpness, contrast, saturation, and color tone processing used for the jpg image file. I also discovered that Canon blocks copying from their PDF of the setting illustrations without a password. Only Mr. or Ms. Canon has that password, and certainly not the Sore Loser. This web site also explains the settings: <http://www.dpreview.com/reviews/CanonEOS5DMarkII/page2.asp>. There are similar articles about practically any camera model on the planet. The Picture styles are Standard, Portrait, Landscape, Neutral, Faithful, Monochrome, User def. 1, User def. 2, User def. 3. Each choice yields a .jpg with subtle differences in sharpness, contrast, saturation, and color tone, with the largest difference in settings for sharpness. For example, on a scale of 0 to 7 for sharpness, standard is set to 3, landscape to 4, and portrait to 2. The instruction manual mentions that the portrait setting works best for women and children, but remains silent about what might be best for boys and men.

I've made custom settings for Landscape, Portrait, and Monochrome. Here are my biases: I choose the upper end of sharpness compared to default for all three categories. For landscape a slightly higher setting for saturation suits me. For B & W (or Monochrome) I increased sharpness and contrast and no filter or toning. I like to think of this as my "TRI X" setting [if I were using a developer that has these characteristics and very fine grain!].

Standard.....Landscape.....Portrait..... SL landscape



Monochrome standard settings are on the left and what I would classify as the "the tri x" version on the right.



More 'details' to consider as the dark time of year approaches!

The Sore Loser



Contest Results.....

Color Prints

- 1st Lava Heron - Mike Landwehr, Des Moines
- 2nd Island at Two Jack Lake - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
- 3rd Venus Mine - Jo Eland, Iowa City
- HM Falls at Yankee Bay - Chuck Peterson, Sioux City
- HM The Clown Look - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM Last Rays of the Sun - Tom Ling, Duluth-Superior.

Judging Club: Cheyenne. Chair: Judy Berkley.
Judges: Cathy McMikle, Cal Truax, Joe Eddins.
Comments: Great opportunity to view and discuss the merits of the photos. We learned a lot. Excellent group of photos. A couple were oversaturated and had some digital noise.

Black & White Pictorial

- 1st Vdara, Las Vegas - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
- 2nd Sierra Arch - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
Dakota City Courthouse - Robert Gillespie, Sioux City
- 3rd City
- HM Wizard's Lore - Bruce Bernstein, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM American Lotus - Herb Proudfit, Iowa City
- HM I Ship - Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City

Judging Club: Duluth Superior. Chair: Joseph Kubala. Judges: Ken Aker, Scott Thomson, Doug Granholm. 42 prints from 8 clubs. Comments: Judges enjoyed the variety of subject matter. Many excellent entries. Very Close competition.

Creative Slides

- 1st Lights - Connie Lower, Color Shooters
- 2nd Lantern and Box - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- 3rd A Hot Corn Still - Ty Smith, Mitchell
- HM Disjointed Rose - Pat Schwope, St. Paul
- HM Seven Gulls - Morris Gildemeister, St. Paul
- HM Foggy Morning - Jim Duncan, St. Paul

19 slides from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka.
Judges: Greg Hogleund, Dave Navarro, Verla Herschell. Chair: Scott Udey.

Creative Prints

- 1st PFFLLTT - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
Honeysuckle Blossom - Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
- 2nd Iowa
- 3rd Future Vision - Jim Kost, Mitchell
- HM Glazed Daylilly - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
- HM Bond Falls - Diane Darnielle, Des Moines
- HM Flying Free - Mike Landwehr, Des Moines

32 prints from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka.
Judges: Greg Hogleund, Dave Navarro, Verla Herschell. Chair: Scott Udey.

Nature Prints

- 1st Sally Lightfoot Crab - Mike Landwehr, Des Moines
- 2nd Red Fox in Snow - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- 3rd Somber Cat - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
Falls in Yellowstone Canyon - JoAnne Kuntemeier,
- HM Kaposia
- HM Jewel - Robert Gillespie, Sioux City
- HM Badland Reflections - Steve Paulson, Sioux City

42 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth Superior. Chair: Joseph Kubala. Judges: Ken Aker, Scott Thomson, Doug Granholm. Comments: Many excellent entries. Hard to determine top prints. Some over-sharpening of prints.

Photojournalism Prints

- 1st Bring in the Beans - Ed Siems, Central Iowa
- 2nd Best Fire in Ages - Chuck Peterson, Sioux City
- 3rd Last Race of the Day - Scott Bricker, Sioux City
Youth Auctions First Club Lamb - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
- HM Moines
- HM Big Brother Helps - Fran Kingsbury, Sioux City
- HM Moment of Silence - Scott Bricker, Sioux City

31 prints from 7 clubs. Judging Club: Great River.
Judges: Martha Farwell, Hal Woods, Jack Gustison.
Chair: Ryno W Olson. Comments: Great bunch of prints. Some judges wished that there was a standardized size.

Projected Photojournalism

- Under the Cornfields of Iowa - Scott Dankoff, Des Moines
- 1st Moines
- 2nd Lion Safari - Linda Rutherford, Women's Color
- 3rd Harvest Time in Iowa - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
Biker Flying High in Clouds - Jean McDonough, Women's Color
- HM Pioneer Cemetery Restoration - William Connelius, Muddy River
- HM Muddy River
- HM Winter Fun - Phyllis Kedl, Saint Paul
- 80 images from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Great River. Judges: Martha Farwell, Hal Woods, Jack Gustison. Chair: Ryno W Olson. Comments: This was a great bunch of images. Some did not fit the category and might have done better in another contest.

Digital Creative

- 1st Sweet Chariot - Ron Balthazor, Sioux Falls
Something Wicked This Way Comes - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
- 2nd Des Moines
- 3rd Genesis - Jerry Ranch, Des Moines
Colored Signs From the Past - John Larson, Shutterbug
- HM bug
- HM Eureka Mansion at Night - Gene Schwoppe, St. Paul
- HM Sunset Road - Paul Amicucci, Fargo-Moorhead
- 66 images from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka. Judges: Greg Hogle, Dave Navarro, Verla Herschell. Chair: Scott Udey.

Photo Travel Prints

- 1st Three Arch Rocks, OR - Terry Kruse, Des Moines
Root River Bicycle Path, Lanesboro MN. - John Eisterhold, Albert Lea
- 2nd hold, Albert Lea
- 3rd Days End, Caribou Falls, Cn. - Bev Oyer, Albert Lea
- HM Amish Farm Country - Wilford Yoder, Iowa City
- HM St. Louis City Garden - Dustin Petersen, Albert Lea
- HM Oregon Coast View - Connie Lower, Color Shooters
- Judging Club: Central Iowa. Chair: Jim Svec. Judges: Diane Barker, Danny Barker, Jim Davis. 24 prints from 8 clubs.

Nature Slides

- 1st Red Fox - John Chadima, Cedar Rapids
- 2nd Peekaboo X3 - Morris Gildemeister, St. Paul
- 3rd Platte Sunrise - Randall Williams, Sioux City
- HM Mountain Stream - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- HM Coon - Vernice Kingsbury, Sioux City
- HM Zebra Longwing - Robert Gillespie, Sioux City
- Judging Club: Dubuque. Chair: Cara Pusateri. Judges: Ron Wiskus, Fred Vaughn, Lois Pancratz. 32 Slides from 9 clubs.

Photo Travel Slides

- 1st Zion Footbridge - Delores Meister, Iowa City
- 2nd Fishing Boat Coming in (WA.) - Pat Schwoppe, St. Paul
Main Dining Room S.Fran. - Chuck Peterson, Sioux City
- 3rd City
- HM Rialto Beach Sunset CA. - Randall Williams, Sioux City
- HM Byodo in Temple Hawaii - JoAnn Kuntemeier, Kaposia
- HM Mono Lake, CA. - John Chadima, Cedar Rapids
- Judging Club: Central Iowa. Chair: Jim Svec. Judges: Diane Barker, Teresa Vokoun, Ed Siems. 26 slides from 8 clubs.

Digital Nature

- 1st Twins - Fran Kingsbury, Sioux City
- 2nd Soft Landing - Mark George, Central Iowa
Large Flowered Bellwort - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- 3rd Superior
- HM Who You - Nick Monsoor, LaCrosse
- HM Prairie Liatris Visitor - Teresa Vokoun, Central Iowa
- HM Egret at Work - John Zoerb, LaCrosse
- 82 images from 18 clubs. Judging Club: Omaha. Chair: Mel Mann. Judges: Brian Alspaugh, Rich Fiddelke, Tim White.

Digital Pictorial

- 1st So Hungry, Must Eat - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
- 2nd Follow the Leader - Al Sheldon, LaCrosse
- 3rd Colors - Jim Wright, Des Moines
- HM The Window to Delicate - Ken Johnson, Des Moines
- HM A Smile in Each Drop - Robert McGrath, MN Valley
- HM St. Rose Arches - John Zoerb, LaCrosse
- 103 images from 20 clubs. Judging Club: Albert Lea. Chair: Jim Wendel. Judges: Mitch Peterson, John Eisterhold, Darcy Sime. Comments: Liked the way this is judged. Had about 3 that were over 500KB but well under 600KB. A number of entrants did not have an N4C number listed.

Pictorial Slides

- 1st Stranded - Kathy Bury, St. Paul
- 2nd Mt. Shuksun & Lake - Ed Lower, Color Shooters
- 3rd Yellow Door II - Herb Gustafson, St. Paul
- HM The 4th - Roger Gillespie, Sioux City
- HM Framed Ruins - JoAnn Kuntemeier, Kaposia
- HM World in a Drop - Larry Luebbert, Iowa City

Judging Club: Fargo Moorhead. Chair: Bruce Bernstein. Judges: Chuck Ruzika, Larry Heilman, Paul Amicucci. 38 slides from 10 clubs.

WHY I COULD NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT MY CAMERA

(Submitted by Jean McDonough, reprinted from November, 2010 Women's Color Photo Club News and Views)

Several years ago a member of one of the four camera clubs to which I belong, mentioned that she just returned from spending a week in the Seattle area, and I asked if she took a lot of pictures. She replied, "I did not take my camera with me." My eyes doubled in size. I thought that I could never do that. I even have my camera handy in my house; otherwise, I would have missed a raccoon in my back yard carrying two babies up a tree with an open top several years ago. Last summer, I looked out on my town house patio and spotted a red tailed hawk sitting on the electrical box. I ran for my camera and slowly opened the patio door and got 3 images before the hawk flew away. Serendipity is the word used for this experience.

For me, each photo outing is a unique adventure, exploring new techniques, new subject matter, and new locales. I think I have photography on my mind at all times. Reading photo magazines and books, visiting galleries, and viewing images at camera clubs has enhanced my photo skills. With the advent of "digital," "photoshop," "elements," "lightroom," (the list is endless) it has become more challenging to keep up.

There is always something to photograph and learn about the digital world. Of course, experience has taught me that we have to look for the interplay of light and shadow, shapes and forms, color, contrast, texture, lines, and patterns. Sometimes you just need to sit, put the camera aside, and absorb the land and life around you; smell the flowers and the pines. Listen to the birds. Watch the animal's movements and behavior. Watch people, their movements and interactions with their surroundings or other people; the beauty around us is infinite.

On a recent trip not long ago, after a full day of sight seeing, three of us decided to walk downtown from our hotel to basically go souvenir hunting and find a restaurant for dinner. I was the only one carrying a camera, and we ran into a man walking on the sidewalk with the biggest Merino sheep I have ever seen. I had my flash on, found a youngster about 3 years old, and told the little tyke to pet the sheep. It was a great moment for me. Without my camera, I would have missed the experience.

One afternoon while driving in Richfield, I came upon a car upside down in the intersection. I was able to grab my camera and shoot several shots while waiting for the green light. The action just happened to be on the driver's side. The policemen and medical attendants surrounding the auto added to the drama. No more "if only" regrets for leaving the camera at home. I am still bewildered how that car got in that position on a city street.

When I return from a trip, someone is bound to comment: "Please tell me you did not take your camera with you." Everyone laughs.

The cover of this issue was created by Ken Johnson

Fun With Word Clouds

The cover project began with a fun website that generates "word clouds" from a story or a group of words:

<http://www.wordle.net/>.

I wanted to incorporate a number of N4C key words. After some experimentation I discovered the "Advanced" mode where I could set the font size and keep phrases together. The word list was made on a separate document and copied into Wordle which let me refine it and try different variations.

The idea was inspired by this website; <http://www.msjphotography.com/> See Workbench 248. I attended a workshop with Mark Johnson and have followed his Photoshop tips for several years. I used the techniques in this workbench to knock out the background and overlay it on a photo taken at the N4C Convention in La Crosse.

A Photographer's Cure for GAS

Now that I have your attention, before I tell you what this story is about, I want to put a plug in for our Springbrook get together next spring, April 29-May1, 2011. Make sure you reserve this weekend. I've got a very full schedule of programs planned. One of them is DIYUOPA "Do-It-Yourself Usually Overpriced Photo Accessories" presented by David Graham of our Sioux Falls Club. I'm just sure many of us have GAS which is short for "Gear Acquisition Syndrome." So David is going to give us some relief. I can't take credit for originating this thought. If you need something to get you by until Springbrook, check out this website <http://larryscheapshots.com/> and search for the word 'gas'. In addition, you'll find a lot more cheap ideas for photo gear. Larry Becker became quite popular on the D-townTV website <http://kelbytv.com/downtv/> that I also find has a lot of great general photography tips on cameras, lenses, lighting, etc. – Ken Johnson

TOPEKA is THE Place to be September 9-11, 2011

Topeka will be the site of the 55th Annual N4C Convention and you can view the Topeka Camera Club invitation here: <http://n4c.us/meetings.htm>. Watch the great slide show invitation from our hosts, the Topeka Camera Club.

Ken Johnson



What's BUGGING YOU?



This month I heard from MANY people about the new labels that are being sent to ALL judging clubs to be used with the award ribbons. There are apparently quite a few clubs that STILL aren't using them. PLEASE use the stickers provided to allow information to be recorded on the ribbons with NO STAPLES that can (and DO) damage prints. Anyone who does not have these stickers and would like some, can request them from the supply chair by submitting the request form on the N4C website.



Thank You



Is something BUGGING you - drop me a note at edit@n4c.us ! - Editor



These clubs still have not paid their 2010-2011 year club dues:

Still not paid are:

Ames

TCI Premier

Wichita Amateur

Wyandotte

Please remit your dues to Treasurer Lynda Richards.

Thank You!

N4C Convention 2010 - A "First Timer" Perspective

(first published in *Huron Area Image Maker*)

Well, I do have to say everyone missed a great convention! Even though it was my first one, I really enjoyed it. It was nice to put a face with the names we come across in our N4C news bulletin and in the photo competitions. Both of the boat rides were relaxing and exciting at the same time, since that is something we don't get to do around here, at least not on a river-boat. We saw the big barges that transport down the Mississippi, boat houses, an eagle eating a fish up in a tree, the trestle bridge that turns sideways for large boats to pass, cranes, egrets, and just a lot of beautiful scenery.

We took a bus on Friday to The Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe, which is nestled in the side of a hill outside of La Crosse . It was a bit of a walk to get up to the church: I didn't get any pictures inside because I took my time getting up there, so Mass was going on by then, but I did go inside and look around. It was beautiful, with the marble floors and the hand-painted ceilings and murals on the wall. There were flower gardens on the grounds, a little waterfall, and a few statues along the walking path. They also had what they called the votive candle room, where there were 800+ blue votive candles in a pyramid to the ceiling, surrounded by stained glass windows. It was kind of difficult to get pictures in there, with all the people in the different types of light shining through there, but I did get a few. We ate lunch there at their restaurant, it was delicious. They are also known for their bakery with their homemade breads and sweets, we got a cookie with our lunch, but the pieces of cake they had in their case looked like they would feed about four people.

After the shrine we were hurried to get from there to Norskadalen, which is like an old Norwegian family farm, which is kind of set up in a circle so you could see what was going on all over the farm no matter what building you were in. We didn't get to see the whole video about the place because they wanted us to have time to wander around the farm and look in all the buildings and take pictures. When we arrived back at the hotel they had a few people from the Raptor rescue program, with an owl and a hawk that they were showing that they rehabilitated.

Saturday we went to a few different speakers. One was an aerial and landscape photographer, and one was from Canon. He showed us many travel photos of his from all around the world, which were very interesting to see. But my favorite speaker was the one that was from La Crosse, she owns her own photo studio, was mostly self taught, and in her photographs she uses many different art techniques. She photographs mainly children, but also seniors and families. She also takes portraits of people that have scars, illnesses, and cancer, such as breast cancer. She photographs them in a very tasteful way, and all of her photos were outstanding. The stories that she told about the different situations she has photographed brought a tear to about everyone in the room, especially ME. She was a wonderful speaker as well as Photographer. I think a good time was had by all, as well as excellent food. La Crosse did a outstanding job on their convention, maybe next year more of us can make it to Topeka, KS.



Member News and Achievements

Mike Landwehr is not only a member of the Des Moines Camera Club, but winters in Florida where he is a member of the Naples Camera Club. The Florida Camera Club Council (similar to the North Central Camera Club Council) will be holding their annual convention in a couple of weeks. It is no surprise to us that Mike is being recognized for one of his images. One of his images has been selected **Picture of the Year!**



Hibiscus Splendor - Mike Landwehr

N4C Photographers win awards in annual *Silos and Smokestacks* contest.....

N4C photographers did well in the 2010 Silos and Smokestacks Natural Heritage Area photography contest.

Top honors go to Terry Kruse from Des Moines for his Best In Show winning entry *Sunset At Our State Fair*, which was also the winning entry in the Festivals and Fairs category.

Larry Mendenhall, also of Des Moines, took first place Honors in the Farmscapes category with *Summer Storm*.

Other N4C winners included:

Bob Rude, Iowa City, 3rd place - Heritage Area Sights
Christian Ewoldt, Des Moines, Honorable Mention (2) - Heritage Area Sights and Festivals and Fairs
Sharla Glick, Des Moines, Honorable Mention - Farmscapes

See all of the winners and look for details of next year's contest at <http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/>

If you know of anyone we missed, drop me a line at edit@n4c.us.



Sunset at Our State Fair - Terry Kruse

A Meditation for Photographers

Thank you for the gift of photography;

Thank you for the gift of three's, of the flowing S, of the joy of watching a print appear in developer, of seeing an image appear on a computer screen, but most of all for the gift of seeing where others can't.

Thanks for the gift of seeing new things, and of revisiting old places with new eyes, and most of all, for the second chance to capture the essence of place, of time, of God's wonderful light.

Thanks for the gift of technology, of silver on film and paper, of lenses wide and long, of cameras big and small, of pixels and mega-pixels, of ASA's low and high, and the freedom to choose for our own creativity.

Thanks for the gift to learn, to try a new lens, to try a different view, to visit a favorite spot one more time, to adapt to both the new and the old, and to enjoy where reason doesn't always rule.

Thanks for the gift to teach, to help others to see what most don't, to take a vision from mind to reality, to give to the next generation the gift we were given.

Thanks for the gift of community, to share what we've learned, to listen to new ideas, to share how to learn, to share how we see, and to share how we translate our vision to reality.

First given to the Des Moines Camera Club Christmas Banquet, December 2005

Dwight T. Tomes



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