



The North Central Camera Club Council

News Bulletin

"Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends"

Volume 47 No. 5

WWW.N4C.US

December, 2011

President's Message

Greetings lovers of the lens,

In my earlier messages, I wrote about how we view our photography and that of others. As we turn the calendar to a new year, I would like to focus on joining together as clubs. As individual members we are drawn together through our local camera or photo club. This is where the bonds form around our interest in photography which is a great equalizer for a social group. As with most activities, we get out of our club what we put into it.

Certainly the strength of each of the member camera or photo clubs is important to N4C. However that is inherently up to the members and leadership of each club.

N4C was established in 1955 as a Council of clubs – an umbrella-like organization to unite clubs as a way of exchanging ideas and accomplishments in a broader manner than possible within individual clubs. Communication was key from its inception with News Bulletins such as this carrying those messages. The internet has been a great boon to everyone. Contests, annual conventions, and Springbrook outings are equally important. While club competition is an important aspect of my club meetings, so is N4C competition where each club has the potential of entering over 100 photos each month – adding to the possible awards and recognition of club members.

I especially want to recognize and thank the N4C Contacts in each of the clubs. They are vital to the lines of communication both ways between N4C and your club in a liaison role. In turn they are the tie between N4C and other club members. As important as N4C Contacts are, there has not been written recognition of them with guidelines in the N4C organizational structure. See the separate article with a proposed addition to the N4C Handbook covering N4C Contacts. Clubs are organized in a variety of ways. In some clubs, there is one N4C Contact who handles entries in all the N4C contest categories and also acts as the judging chair when their club judges N4C contests. Other clubs involve more of their members as responsible for separate aspects. So these proposed guidelines are the basics which should help all clubs, especially new ones, understand how we operate. I welcome your comments before this wording is discussed at Springbrook.

Encourage club officers to look at other N4C Member Club websites for creative ways to improve your club and for program topic ideas http://n4c.us/camera_clubs.htm. Use this N4C Newsletter to tell others what your club is doing – send articles to Sharla at edit@n4c.us. For example, I always enjoy reading Walt Fluegel's contributions. Yes Walt, "self improvement" should be our aim. What we learn from each other loads us with new tools and ideas. Our photography probably does gravitate to a personal style, but I hope we never lose our desire to play and experiment – to try new things.

Enjoy photography whether or not it is yours.

Ken Johnson

Draft of proposed addition to the N4C Handbook Officer Duties Section:

N4C Contact

The **N4C Contact** is a position in each of the N4C member clubs. This position is a camera club officer and not an N4C officer. This person provides a vital liaison role between the Club and N4C with some key responsibilities at both levels.

Guidelines:

1. Receive copies of the *N4C Handbook* and the *N4C Directory* updated each September for the coming year, and become familiar with them. These are in electronic form and should be made available within the club to officers and members.
2. Receive communications from the N4C and respond accordingly. Follow up on those that are forwarded to other club officers to make sure they are answered. Receive copies of all communication between the club and N4C.
3. Forward information of general interest to club members – For example, email of general interest; and forward N4C News Bulletins or keep the Bulletin Publisher email list up to date.
4. Maintain a club list of N4C Member Numbers to be used for entering N4C contests. This could be done jointly with the club Secretary or Treasurer.
5. Receive requests from N4C Contest Chairs to judge monthly N4C contests. Coordinate with club officers to approve schedules and respond to requests.
6. The Club President will receive the ballot for election of N4C officers from the N4C Secretary. Oversee voting by the club and return the completed ballot to the N4C Secretary.
7. Send updated club information and club officer lists for the coming year to the N4C Directory Editor by June 1.
8. Serve as the delegate at Conventions to vote on behalf of the club – unless the camera club appoints another officer or member to do this.
9. Make sure N4C dues are paid in a timely manner.

DRAFT 12-19-11 Ken Johnson

*****ATTENTION N4C CONTEST CHAIRS*****

In an effort to save postage, please have your supply order for the 2012-13 contest year to me either by mail or email no later than April 7th so I can fulfill your orders and have them packaged for delivery at Springbrook. Please note if your order needs to be mailed if no one in your club is attending Springbrook.

Thank you in advance for your help so I can get these orders ready in a timely manner.

Teresa Vokoun
 Supply Chair
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 641-485-0626

From Around N4C

Lincoln Camera Club's Christmas Dinner Speaker

Submitted by Donna Gustafson, Lincoln CC

Photographer and author, Bill Ganzel spoke at the Lincoln Camera Club's annual Christmas dinner. He spoke about his book, *Dust Bowl Descent*, published in 1984. In this book he matched images from the Great Depression taken by Farm Security Administration photographers with contemporary photographs and oral history interviews with some of the same people.

In his engaging presentation, Bill described how he obtained copies of the photos from the Library of Congress and how he found some of the people who had been photographed and interviewed them.

Invitation to SPRINGbrook!

Greetings All in N4C Land,

As I sit here watching the trace of snow melt and enjoying the extra long Holiday Break (4 Holidays, 4 weekend days & 3 days of vacation) I think of the next long weekend – Easter, a whole 96 days away and 19 days later is SPRINGBROOK!!!

The Panel of "Experts" are already lined up, so instead of the normal Saturday afternoon workshops, you'll have the opportunity to rotate from table to table and ask your questions. Also we have a tentative speaker coming from Tamron to talk on selecting the correct lens and may be a few sample lenses to try. Final approval is pending Tamron's 2012 Budget.

Again we will have a DNR Speaker, along with 5 or 6 other speakers, speaking on subjects requested or offers put forth in last years survey, the slide essays, PSA Council Challenge Awards and the invitation to the Des Moines Camera Club's fall N4C convention.

Please mark your calendar for SPRINGBROOK 2012, April 27 through the 29, for education, good food and "Where Names become Faces and Face Become Friends". Watch for more information and the registration information in future newsletters.

Gerald A. Bonsack

START PLANNING NOW!! - PHOTOESSAYS

It's time to start thinking about the annual N4C Photoessay Contest! Gather your images, choose your theme and music. Rules and entry instructions/deadline to follow in the next issue.

Letters to the Editor

This is an open letter to the N4C council members. (*In response to article "2 x 2 Slide Contests" in the November 2011 issue. Ed. Note*) I would like to know why you would end slide contests. Do the clubs entering the slide contests not pay the same dues as digital? Why wouldn't you send a poll to all of the clubs regarding this issue? I know that you're going to say that declining numbers is the reason. Let's take a look at the Nov. 2011 entries:

Nat. Slides = 30 Entries - 10 Clubs
 Pic. Slides = 35 Entries - 10 Clubs
 Travel Slides = 21 Entries - 8 Clubs

The 10 clubs are probably 20% or so of the clubs in N4C. With this amount of entries judging is a LOT better. More time can be taken to actually look at the images rather than assembly line judging of 100+ images, which takes lots of time and equates to not fair viewing of those 100+ images. Hint: The fewer images generates better comments for improvement not generic comments (ie bald sky - centered - etc.) if any at all.

Now let's take a look at prints:

Travel - 35 entries - 9 clubs
 PJ - 38 entries - 9 clubs
 Creative - 31 entries - 7 clubs
 B&W - 43 entries - 10 clubs
 Nat. - 53 entries - 11 clubs

Only nature prints had more clubs entering (by one) than the slide categories. Does this mean prints will be the next on the chopping block?

If you want this to be a digital only club say so.

Last year I had suggested that travel slides and journalism slides should be combined thus avoiding Photo-shop images, but for some unknown reason that article did not make the bulletin. Jeez I wonder why!!

CC Ken Johnson, Gerald Bonsack, Diane Darnielle, Pat Schwope, Sharla Glick

Ty Smith, Mitchel CC (This is my personal opinion)

I am wintering in Texas. Reply to: Ty Smith 6733 Grand Canal Ct. San Angelo, Texas 76904

Editor's Note:

SPECIFICALLY addressing items as a "Letter To The Editor", and preferably submitting a typed or emailed copy, will dramatically increase the chance that the item will be included in the Bulletin. The editor receives a great deal of mail as "CC copies" that aren't necessarily intended for publication.

Replies (intended for publication) to this letter may also be sent to edit@n4c.us or pres@n4c.us.

Special N4C Black & White Digital Image Contest

Diane Darnielle

The Des Moines Camera Club (DMCC) is sponsoring a Special Black & White Digital Image Contest in **March 2012**. Currently some N4C members enter Black & White images in the various Digital Contests and will continue to do so. However, several N4C members have inquired about having a Digital Image Contest of just Black & White images. According to the N4C rules a camera club may sponsor a special contest once in a year, so DMCC is volunteering to do so.



The rules for the Black & White Digital Contest are:

- Black & White Photography is also called monochrome. The resulting image is limited to monochromatic hues or shades of gray, although filters may be applied to give a hue or tint. Any digital program or method may be used to produce the final image - including a traditional black & white look or sepia or split toning (duo-toning) and infra-red. No fraction of the image shall be given a special color treatment.

- Any subject
- File size of 500KB maximum
- Longest side 1,024 pixels maximum
- File name should like this example: 01,DE014,DB,Great Landscape.jpg (note we will use the code **DB** for this special black & white contest)
- 8 images per club

DMCC will be securing outside judges for the Black & White Digital Image Contest, so our club may also compete.

The points awarded in this contest will be used in determining Photographer of the Year, Small Club of the Year, and Large Club of the Year.

Images will be sent to: dldarnie@aol.com by March 15th – N4C Representatives please follow the directions that Ken Johnson sends out each month on submitting digital entries.



I will be reporting at Springbrook the number of entries and the number of clubs who enter. Also, if any N4C members have comments please send them to me at dldarnie@aol.com with an Email Subject Title: N4C Black & White Contest Comment.

The Following Have Not Paid Dues for the 2011-12 Club Year

Ames, Minot, North Shore

The Rest of the Story.....

In case you were wondering, the old tyme photographer pictured on the merit award certificate comes from way back, a short time after N4C was born. The photo with this article shows the old guy with baggy pants under the black cloth peering at the ground glass of his view camera and holding the birdie for the excitement of the subject. Said metal sculpture is attached to the light pole in the back yard of Fran and Vernice Kingsbury in Ponca NE, the birthplace of N4C. Let's hear the story of the birth of Mr. Merit Award from our co-founder Francis Kingsbury.

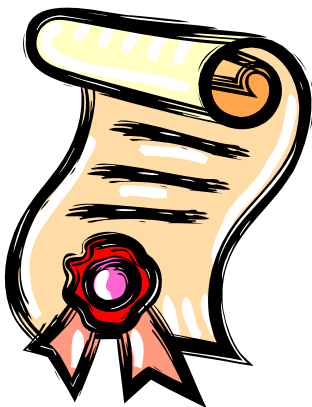


"Shortly after the organization of the monthly contests for prints and color slides (two categories, one page of rules) and after a few months of contests, co-founder Dr, Robert M Cochran wrote me (slow mail) expressing his idea of more recognition for meritorious efforts in the print and slide entries. His idea was some sort of paper certificate that could be attached to the back of the print or enshrined in some manner by the slide maker. Not having one ounce of artistic ability, I wrote back (slow mail) that it was his idea he could run with it. A short time later he wrote back (slow mail) and included a sketch of the old photographer done by a graphic artist in Omaha for free!!!! For free was perhaps the most significant part since N4C had very limited financial resources n those days. We concurred on the rendition and so Mr. Merit Award was born. Since then thousands of merit award certificates have encouraged many N4C members in their quest of become better photographers."

The reference to "slow mail" in this article was not without purpose. In these days of instant communication back and forth, you have no idea what it was like to wait seven to ten days for an answer or opinion on some decision before proceeding on to develop an idea or plan. Then too, there was the onion skin copy of the letter to be filed away for future reference if need be. But look what resulted from the efforts of many.

More than 50 years later we are still meeting new faces and making new friends.

Fraancis A. Kingsbury FPSA
Co-Founder.



PSA Distinctions for Two N4C Members

As noted under the EPSA recipients in the upcoming PSA Journal's January issue for the ROPA distinctions/Recognition of Photographic Achievement, are two N4C members: Herb Gustafson, Hon. PSA/St. Paul(MN) CC and John Larson, Jr., APSA/ Shutterbugs CC/ Iowa. This Society distinction is accorded to members who attain a minimum of 700 acceptances in PSA international exhibitions.

Submitted by Herb Gustafson

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