



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C July 2025 News Bulletin

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N4C Members,

As president of this N4C Camera Club Council, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the energy, creativity, and camaraderie you bring to our group. Growth happens when we step outside our comfort zones, and there's no better place to do that than among friends who share your passion.

Please don't hesitate to share ideas for future meetings or activities – this club belongs to all of us, and your voice matters. This newsletter is for all our clubs. Let us know what you are doing to stay engaged and send notes or full articles to Carl Hardy. We would love to share ideas.

Summer judging for our best of 2024-2025 N4C has begun. For those who have asked, there will be no comments on end of the year judging of images. We will be having an awards presentation as soon as we can get it all done!

Click that shutter!

Jennifer

Jennifer L Tigges, President N4C 2024-2025

563-590-9868 call or text

563-583-7128 voice only

Dubuque Camera Club



Bulletin Editor

1st Place Digital Images are still included in the N4C Bulletins. The N4C website <http://www.n4c.us> presents all the monthly Digital winners on page 1.

NOTE: There are no summer competitions. The N4C Best of 2024-2025 Digital Images and Prints are currently being judged. Since there is NO N4C Convention for 2025, a ZOOM Meeting will be held to show the N4C Best of 2024-2025 entries and winners. WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ZOOM MEETING. And the winners will also be shown in the September 2025 N4C Bulletin.

FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FROM N4C CLUBS WEBSITES. SHOWING THE BEST OF THE BEST EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES. (1) AN ARTICLE ON PHOTOJOURNALISM THROUGH STREET PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARL HARDY (2) BLACK HILLS SHOOTOUT Photos & Text by Teresa Hofer (3) WHY DON'T I GET SHARP PHOTOS Taken from Photography West NEWS

****The Educational LINKS ARE AT THE END OF THIS BULLETIN. (Best of the Best links)**

With the **N4C Photo Essay Contest** entry August 25, 2025; go to this link for an article on how to create a Photo Essay.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iOx5_ZCz0VNOKxtOX1opoqj0JeWcCkJy/view

N4C Photo Essay Contest entries were down in number in 2024 and this article is being referenced to encourage more N4C members to enter the Photo Essay Contest in 2025.

The winners from 2024 will be asked to submit a new entry for 2025; the non-winners will have option to enter a new video or the one they entered in 2024 as is or revised. And of course new entries from N4C members will be encouraged and accepted.

Rules for Photo Essay Annual Competition (2025)

1. A photo essay is a series of projectable images accompanied by music and/or a narrative which tell an integrated story presented in a pleasing and understandable manner. The deadline for receipt of entries is August 25, 2025.
2. The essays are first shown at a ZOOM meeting to be announced following the judging of all N4C 2025 Best of Digital Images and Prints.
3. Members may submit one entry per year with a maximum number of member entries per club of 8 as in other digital contests (see #10 for point accrual.) Essays submitted in past years that were not chosen as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM in a previous contest can be reedited and resubmitted. In addition, a club may also submit one club entry in which one or more members may work collaboratively on an essay. Customarily, the club president or other club officer submits a club entry. Club entries **are not** awarded points toward the Club of the Year Award.
4. The minimum number of images shall be twenty (20). There is not a limit on the maximum number of images, but the program time shall not exceed six (6) minutes. *Hint: the majority of winning entries in*

the past few years have been between 4-5 minutes. Only still images (not Video Clips) can be used to compose the Photo Essay. The “Ken Burns” effect is permitted on individual images. The images must be the work of the entrant(s)

5. The photo essay contest incorporates a sound track along with imagery that can consist of music, narration or any combination of the two. The source of sound files can be (a) self-recorded sound made at the same approximate time as images were made, (b) narration/music recorded specifically for the essay either by the author (or local individuals who collaborate with the author of the essay), (c) royalty **pre-paid** music (source must be provided), or (d) pre-recorded music that is now royalty free (eg. royalty expired) or which has permission from copyright owner. Note that the photo-essay should identify the source of the sound/music/narration. *Note that the maker or club entering the contest should not be identified in the electronic file of the essay. Author identification should be in the form accompanying the essay or via e-mail to the contest chair for photo essays.*
6. **Standard N4C naming will be used with the photo essay contest—with the file name used for the .mp4 entry submitted via Dropbox to d.tomes@me.com . Normally a link to the author’s dropbox account sent to this e-mail address is the easiest way to retrieve the essay. A USB memory stick may be used to send an entry by mail to the contest chair (See Dwight Tomes address below). Although the file name is sufficient for entering the contest, e-mail communication with the maker’s name, e-mail address, and telephone number is helpful if technical assistance is desired. The photo essay chair will confirm receipt of the photo essay via e-mail within 1-2 days.**
7. Entries can be created in any software, but the entry must be entered as a “universal” file format such as .mp4 or .mov, playable on all computers. The entrant(s) may have non-professional, unpaid assistance in converting the entry to the standard format of .mp4 or .mov as needed. The .mp4 file format is preferred. The entrant’s photo essay should be sent to the Contest Chair in the specified file type via Dropbox (see above). The Photo-Essay Chair will assemble all entries for judging (see # 9), for showing at the Spring Mini-convention, and at the Fall Convention.
8. There shall be three judges (consistent with other N4C contests) for this contest who may be from either multiple individual clubs or hosted by a specific judging club. The contest chair will show the essays in person or via zoom depending on the choice of the three judges for the contest (either from one or multiple clubs). The judges of the contest will not be able to submit entries to the contest the year they are judging. Judges who are not members of any affiliated club in N4C may be used provided that they have sufficient experience in judging photography contests similar to those in N4C and are willing to complete the necessary forms and provide feedback to contest entrants.
9. All the following must be considered by the judges: (a.) Quality of the photography, (b.) Soundtrack Quality (music and narrative if included) and (c) Impact, interest, and integration of sound and images. The correlation with TCI for scoring is as follows: a. T technique, emphasis primarily on the image quality of the photography used throughout the essay; b. Soundtrack may include both voice and approved music such as copyright free, provided in software license paid (see below); c. Integration of imagery and sound in a pleasing manner.
10. The contest chair will attempt to conduct the judging at a time and place where interested individuals may attend in addition to the judges. Judges will be asked to view the essays and prepare their scores for TCI and submit to the judging chair in advance of a group meeting of all judges and the judging chair. This last step may be in person or via Zoom. The judges are asked to comment on essays for the benefit of the other judges and/or attending audience. It is suggested that the judges’ comments be made available to those entrants and the public who were unable to attend the judging. The photo essay chair will provide a computer other means to present the essays for judging and record the results of the judges.

11. By tradition, all entries are shown at the Spring mini-convention meeting in late April/ early May (*If the Spring mini-convention cannot be held, the entries will be shown at the Fall Convention.) Essays will be judged in advance of the fall convention. The winners will be announced at the fall convention after essays are shown. The first, second, third place and HM winners will also be presented at the Fall convention during one of the banquets.
12. Clubs will accrue points toward the Club of the Year Award as follows:
First – 8 points, Second – 6 points, Third – 4 points, Honorable Mention – 2 points

Dwight Tomes, the Contest Chair for the Photo Essay HAS BEEN SET FOR AUGUST 25th, 2025

Photo Essay Contest Chair

Dwight T. Tomes
7883 NW 103rd Ln.
Johnston, IA 50131
d.tomes@me.com

Club Communications (Website & Club Bulletins)

Information on **Website and Club Bulletin contests** has been emailed to all N4C Website Webmasters and N4C Bulletin Editors. If you are an N4C Webmaster or an N4C Bulletin Editor **THANKS FOR ENTERING THESE CONTESTS. IF YOU HAVEN'T ENTERED YET THE DEADLINE FOR BOTH IS AUGUST 1ST. PLEASE ENTER.**

THANKS,

Contest Chair

Carl Hardy
torchenterprises72@gmail.com

Information on **Photojournalism Story** contests HAS BEEN EMAILED to all N4C Contacts to pass onto members.

NOTE: Last year the number of entries for the Photojournalism Story were down.

In 2023, there were 10 entries in this contest and it was judged and well received at the N4C Spring Convention in Indianola, Iowa. **This contest is a good way to connect journalistic images in a story format with captions describing each image.** Awards are presented and constructive critiques. N4C Members, please consider entering this contest.

Rules for Video Story Contest

1. A video story is a series of projectable video clips accompanied by music and/or a narrative which tell an integrated story presented in a pleasing and understandable manner. The story or event should be recorded with a moving camera or the Movie-function setting of your SLR camera. Your movie should be filmed at a high-quality frame rate.
2. **The deadline for receipt of entries by the contest chair is August 15th,** with judging conducted in August. Members may submit one entry per year with a maximum number of member entries per club of 8, as in other digital contests (see #10 for point accrual.) In addition, a club may also submit one club entry in which one or more members may work collaboratively on an essay. Customarily, the club president or other club officer submits a club entry.

3. The minimum frame rate shall be (24fps) frames per second (fps), with no maximum fps. The program time shall not exceed six (6) minutes.
4. **Hint: the majority of winning slide essay entries in the past few years have been between 4-5 minutes.** Still images can be used occasionally for titles, segways, time lapse, stop action, credits or other story – telling effects. All standard video effects can be used. The video project must be the work of the entrant(s), with no commercial clips allowed. The video essay should contain the source of the soundtrack but must not identify the maker or club entering the contest.
5. Standard N4C naming will be used with the video story contest – with the file name used for the .mp4 entry submitted. A USB memory stick or DVD may be used to send an entry by mail to the contest chair Carl Hardy@ 3236 Maplewood Street Sioux City, Iowa 51104. Must include file name, entrant's name for entering the contest, e- mail communication with the maker's name, e-mail address, and telephone number, if technical assistance is desired. The video story chair will confirm receipt of the video essay via e-mail. NOTE: A youtube video may be presented in this contest. Just email Carl Hardy the link to your youtube video.

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE REMARABLE PROFILE AND IMAGES FROM N4C DIRECTOR 5 AND 6 KATHLEEN WOLLEAT.

Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends!

Carl Hardy, N4C Bulletin Editor



Meet a N4C Board Member

Kathleen Wolleat, Photographer & Author, Superior, WI
Director 6 (2024-2025)
Director 5 (2025-2026)

The art of photography has helped introduce me to some very interesting people. I once encountered Hollywood actress (and Cloquet native) Jessica Lange, while taking photos in the Brule River State Forest in Wisconsin. On another occasion, I was capturing images for Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield, WI. Here, I met superstar musician Lyle Lovett. When not on stage, he is also a photographer! We had a great conversation about photography and what camera gear we both use.

I took up photography over 20 years ago by taking a community education class. The instructor recommended I join the Duluth-Superior Camera Club. Joining the club was the best thing for honing my skill. If I hadn't done that, I wouldn't have had mentors to guide me along the way. I served as President and I'm currently the Membership Chair, but I wear many different hats to help our club.

I retired from the world of work in 2019 and found a new niche by freelance writing for several magazines – Lake Superior Magazine, Lake Country Journal, and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. Of course, I have photos to go along with my stories. I was recently featured along with my ship photography in the North Star Port magazine. I am also a contributing photographer for a local organization, Destination Duluth. I'm honored to have my photography displayed at the Douglas County Human Services Building in Superior, and the Hawthorne Suites in Canal Park, Duluth.

My favorite thing to photograph is nature, which covers a lot of subjects - Lake Superior with all its dramatic moods and color, landscapes, rivers, waterfalls, birds, and last – but certainly not least – aurora! The aurora is the only thing that will keep me awake past 10 PM. That is no joke!

I received the Photographic Society of America's "Best of the Best Creative" award for my submission, "I Found the Light." It was a very special honor in many ways. I created the piece in memory of my brother, who died unexpectedly. Receiving this award gave me solace that he was at rest and at peace.

My tips for other budding photographers: Do not compare yourself to others - your growth is your own, learn from others and, of course, join a local camera club. Capture what speaks to you, whether it's nature, people, or places. Your personal perspective is what will set your photos apart from others.

Photography has given me an outlet to express what interests me and to share it with others. I hope to inspire people to get outdoors to explore new places, look more closely and notice the little things in life, and renew themselves in nature.

Kathleen Wolleat, Photographer & Author, Superior, WI
Website: <https://kathleenwolleatphotography.smugmug.com>
Email: kawolleat@gmail.com
Social: <https://www.facebook.com/kathleen.wolleat/>









PHOTOJOURNALISM THROUGH STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

by Carl Hardy

"The use of principles of Street Photography is essential in Photojournalism--The telling of the story through the visual medium to tie with the written word," **expresses Carl Hardy when speaking of Photojournalism.**

Street Photography -As Photojournalism

"Street Photography can be photojournalism as long as it conveys a message of life, the moods, smells, and color of the event or happening it is trying to report."

"Street Photography can be an image with strangers photographed as long as the image has a message that is felt by the photographer."

"Although the image can usually be stronger if the photographer is able to learn more about the stranger." **Quotes from Carl Hardy**



This photo was taken by Micheal Greiner. It could have been used for a human interest story.



I was granted permission to take this photograph and I interviewed the man playing the harp. The story behind this photo is the man was playing to gain funds to send his daughter to college. It would have been used for a newspaper human interest story. **Carl Hardy, journalist.**

In order to obtain a good **photojournalism** photograph there are "must have" features as a photographer but also as an editor:

Visual Impact

Content/story (especially important)

Composition;

Energy/Tension

Author Strength

Photojournalism--

"Must have" Features--VISUAL IMPACT

VISUAL IMPACT

Without visual impact the **Photojournalism image** will be forgot soon. It must have snap. Make sure you have your camera set to obtain the best quality, focus, and be creative and tell the story. Due to the nature of **Photojournalism** there is no time to use any advancement software.

Photojournalism—CONTENT/STORY

CONTENT/STORY

The **Photojournalism picture** must have a main focus on the street in finding the story and be able to properly document it. **Street Photography can be used as story telling medium for journalism media coverage.**

Photojournalism—COMPOSITION

COMPOSITION

While composition is somewhat harder to achieve than in other genres since it can many times be a spur of the moment shot it can be achieved by taking a look at the situation beforehand and moving to the most advantageous angle or area. This is particularly important in Photojournalism photos. You want to get as close to the action to be used in a media story.



ENERGY/TENSION

Energy and tension is fundamental in public places depending upon the situation presented by the scene. **Street photography is part of the Photojournalism's genre.**

"To be a good street photographers it requires good composition; his storytelling skill and the know how about, recognizing that decisive moment and capturing the energy to be showed in the still image. Otherwise, we will have a weak (dead) picture," stated Alex Coghe, the author of the book The Street Photographer Guide.

PHOTOJOURNALIST STRENGTH IN HIMSELF

This is the choice made by the photographer to compose the image. The photographer chooses a courageous decision to compose the image showing something different and make the shot personal.

It is essential that the photographer has a wide knowledge of life and as many experiences as possible. **Photographers who have lived a full life many times are the best Photojournalists.**

Watching for the right moment to take that shot to tell the story is essential.



SKILLS REQUIRED

"Street Photography requires skills of knowledge, historical and aesthetics and an eye for the unseen and seen. The eye is a gift. And not everyone has that gift", as seen by Carl Hardy.

I feel the best Photographers have that gift and can add Street Photography to **their experiences and incorporate these skills into telling a story through Photojournalism to tie with the written story.**



BLACK HILLS PHOTO SHOOTOUT

Face-to-face time with other photographers and models makes all the difference.
Photos & Text by Teresa Hofer

This year I attended one day of the Black Hills Photo Shootout. I had attended previously during the pandemic when sessions were visual. What a difference it makes when photographers can get together face-to-face! One of the sessions entitled Native Nature was led by Chad Coppess (formerly SD Department of tourism, now South Dakota Magazine). In a breathtaking setting at the Circle View Ranch along the White River indigenous models Michelle, Chris Estes and Simon Washee performed dance rituals in authentic regalia.

The photo opportunities continued for almost three hours and happened as fast as you could click the shutter. Many thanks to Jay Grammon Photography for sponsoring this annual event which I highly recommend. Mark your calendars for next year's sessions: Friday, September 22 through Sunday, September 24th, 2024.

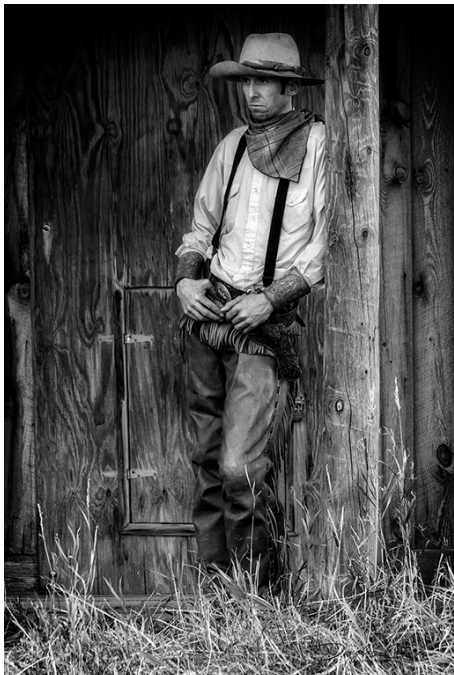




BLACK HILLS PHOTO SHOOTOUT

Continued with Doug Conrad

These are photos taken at the Black Hills Photo Shootout. Doug, a member of the Sioux City Camera Club has attended this Shootout for many years. "I find that this event gives me a great photography opportunity in a beautiful area in the Black Hills. This event shows the rich history of the area", said Doug.





Taken from Photography West NEWS

WHY DON'T I GET SHARP PHOTOS?

You take your photo and find your picture is not as Tack Sharp as you wanted. Maybe the camera just kept going back and forth with Autofocus and did not even let you take your picture. If your photos are not as sharp as you would like them to be, it is usually either because of Motion or Focus. We will start with Motion because that is more likely to be the cause when using newer cameras.

MOTION CAUSES

Tripod not used. If a Tripod is not used, the old rule of thumb is that you need to have the shutter speed at $1/x$ where x is the mm of the lens. So, if the lens is 100 mm, the minimum shutter speed should be $1/100$. If the lens is 400 mm, the minimum shutter speed should be $1/400$ and the minimum hand-held shutter speed should be $1/60$. The vibration reduction control should be on. Check your shutter speed (which will change automatically when using Aperture Priority).

The problem encountered is likely operator error. The hand-holdable shutter speed is really different from person to person. It depends on the operator's hand steadiness, as well as the type of camera and its stabilization features. Using a crop sensor camera will increase the effect of motion.

Tripod used. If you are using a Tripod, have the vibration reduction control off. The reason is that the camera will make adjustments that affect movement. It will not know the camera is stable on a Tripod and will use its routine procedure to counteract what it thinks is a hand-held camera.

Moving Objects

Is it windy out there? Are leaves on the bushes waving? Then they will have motion blur. If the movement is slight, you might be able to fix it by increasing the shutter speed.

Another Kind of Moving Object, You! Many new photographers will push the shutter release button and push down the whole camera slightly. Gently squeeze the button, don't hammer it to take the shot quickly.

FOCUS CAUSES

Understand your camera. Go through your menu in focusing for specific camera information.

Depth of Field. Are you too close? Is it that only one small distance is in focus? Behind and before that point is out of focus. Then it might be Depth of Field. Things that will affect Depth of Field are (in the order of the most effect to the least) the Distance to the focus point, the lens mm, and the Aperture setting. You can step back, lower the lens mm, change the f-stop number.

Lack of contrast

Usually in the sky or at night. If your focus point is on a plain sky without much contrast, the lens will just zoom in and out without focusing. That's the signal that you need to move your focus point to a place with contrast. The same goes for shooting at night. On a dark night you may need to put your camera on autofocus, put lights on and push the release button halfway, then put the camera back on Manual and not Autofocus. That way you can get the camera focused on the light and then switch to Manual Focus in the dark after turning the light off again.

Lesser Focus Causes

Problem with lens. Sometimes the lens needs to be recalibrated. This requires you to take it in somewhere to see if it is working correctly.

Autofocus vs. Manual. In some cameras/lenses, both the lens and cameras have a choice for Autofocus or Manual Focus. Both the lens and camera need to be on Autofocus for it to work.

Lens is Dirty

This one sound obvious, but if your lens isn't clean, or if there is condensation or precipitation on the lens, it will show up on the photo.

GO TO THIS LINK FOR AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION ON WEATHER PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE IOWA STORM CHASING NETWORK, FROM THE DES MOINES CAMERA CLUB WEBSITE.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5606220ee4b0b215acc3e6f3/t/59d778b751a584743e90d0b4/1507293476201/Willard+Sharp-weather+and+astro+10-3-17.pdf>

GO TO THIS LINK FOR AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION ON STORAGE BACKUP AND “THE CLOUD” FROM THE WESTERN WISCONSIN WEBSITE.

<https://wiphotoclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Storage-Backup-and-The-Cloud.pdf>

GO TO THIS LINK FOR AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION ON DON TREDINNICK’S PHOTOGRAPHERS PLAYGROUND FROM THE MINNESOTA VALLEY PHOTOGRAPH CLUB WEBSITE.

<https://minnesotavalleyphotoclub.org/events/photographers-playground/>
and click on www.frozenhiker.com



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“Where Names Become Faces and Faces Become Friends”