



# North Central Camera Club Council

N4C January 2026 News Bulletin

Volume 62 No. 80

## Awards Show Reminder—January 5th, 2026



## World Premiere! N4C Awards presentation video will go LIVE January 5th at Noon.

Available anytime after noon on the 5th

Start the show from the graphic above or <https://bit.ly/48yWogB>

It may also be viewed from the N4C website <https://n4c.us/>

Check <https://n4c.us/> for the latest information  
and web galleries to follow shortly after the show.

You are encouraged to set up a time during a club meeting or a separate special awards event for your club members. Physical awards will be shipped to your club contact after January 5th. Your club will receive certificates, medals, and larger awards directly for club presentations to the award winners.

## President Jennifer's Notes:

**Congratulations** on all the winners of the 2024-2025 awards presentation. Please take photos of your club members and their awards and send them to us to share. We would love to see their shining faces. Remember "Where names become faces, and faces become friends".

January is for cleaning and organizing. Time to delete old files and run backups of others. Please remember to keep a note, spreadsheet, file folder or something to organize your submissions! We are still getting duplicates and it is so sad to take those points back from winners who have won before. We want to see your new work that is newly submitted.



*Jennifer L Tigges, President N4C*  
563-590-9868      *N4C.us*

## New/Old Newsletter Editor—Debbie Bates



Hello Everyone, I am the new editor of the N4C newsletter. For those who don't know me, I am past N4C president (2018) and previous newsletter editor before Carl Hardy. I needed a break after my husband passed away and now feel ready to get back into my photography and participating in N4C.

Carl did an excellent job of taking care of the newsletter. I really like how he has added the print winners to winner images of our monthly contest. That will continue as before, the difference is the winning images are due by the end of the month. The newsletter will not be held for the images. If you have a winning print image I will need them ASAP. Contest are to be done by the 25th of the month and you will email me as you send to Ken Johnson and Terri Butler the final contest results.

I would enjoy anyone sending me articles for the newsletter or any club activities.

As you see farther into the newsletter. I have included information on the Minot Camera Club. I will be "stealing" things from your facebook pages to be included in the newsletter so other clubs can see what is happening. Hopefully several will "steal" some of the great ideas and use in their clubs.

The most thing I can see in all of our clubs is membership needs to grow. Please email or (print) the newsletter to your members. Contests are a great way to learn and show off your work. Seeing others images is a great way to learn. My biggest thing is "how did they do that." I like to learn new things and see new places.

Our 2026 Fall convention coming up in Medora, North Dakota is going to be a great! Great photo ops and great country to see. I will be putting a lot more information of the fall convention in the coming months. Make sure to start planning to attend now.



# Save the Date



Photo by Tim Zeltinger

## Welcome to the 2026 N4C Convention "Capture the Spirit of the West" Oct. 8-11, 2026, Medora, North Dakota

Welcome back from the holidays how everyone has a great season. We have been diligently working on the convention for 2026. Medora ND, native American dancers, Ukrainian dancers, Cowboys, horses at TRNP. And so many other things. We're are moving along with speakers and classes. So come prepared to have the time of your life. 2 days of fun and photography in an area that National Geographic stated as being in the top 10 to visit. The presidential library cowboy hall of fame and so much more. Stay tuned for dates when registration and motel bookings will be released. We also have a put together a sponsorship program for donors and photographers to share there work and possibly sell some of there art work. I want to thank Jennifer for hosting our zoom meetings and if anyone ever wants to join in and listen in on the progress please let me know at [minotccn4c@gmail.com](mailto:minotccn4c@gmail.com). I would also like to ask clubs that have zoom meetings or are capable of zoom meetings to let me know. So I can connect with each club to give you progress updates as the year goes on. thanks

Tim Zeltinger, N4C Vice President



Photo by Tim Zeltinger



Photo by Tim Zeltinger



Audin Rhodes/MDN The Minot Camera Club won the Small Club of the Year award. In the back row from left are Tim Zeltinger, Cory Hansen, Nikki Paulsen, Richard Debertin, Kathryn Debertin and Todd Johnson. In the front row from left are David Abernathey, Betty Nordstrom, Cheryl Lesmeister, Carol Crowdus and Crystal Johnson.

The Minot Camera Club recently was presented with the Small Club of the Year award from the North Central Camera Club Council (N4C) for the club's **2023-2024** season.

"This is the first time that Minot has won the award," said Tim Zeltinger, one of the contact liaisons between the N4C and Minot Camera Club.

The Small Club of the Year award is presented to clubs with fewer than 20 paying members. There are 41 clubs across the seven states in the N4C, and 13 of those are small clubs.

To win the award, small clubs must have the highest number of points at the end of the year.

These points are obtained during the monthly competitions in which photo submissions are judged by the N4C. First place, second place, third place and honorable mentions all receive different point values. The monthly competition season runs from September through May.

"In previous years, we had probably about 20 entries per year," Zeltinger said. "This year I pushed and there were 232 prints submitted for the year end judging and over 400 digital images."

Throughout the year, those 632 total images were judged, tallying up points for the club as a whole.

"We knocked it out of the ballpark," Zeltinger said.

The N4C contest categories the Minot Camera Club enters submissions for each month are altered reality, pictorial, nature, travel, journalism and black and white.

Editor note: If you get a chance go to FB and look through their activities. They have a club contest almost every month. They have photo shoots and interesting activities. Keep up the great job Minot. Minot is also one of the hosting clubs for the fall convention.



## Meet Ken Johnson – N4C Webmaster

Happy New Year, friends. Photography is such a great hobby with the incentive to travel and slow down to capture the beauty of nature, and to preserve family memories. The exploding evolution of camera functionality and post-processing is fascinating.

I find in photography that the pleasing elements of composition are very similar to those of artwork. Both are trying to capture lines, shapes, patterns, geometry, color, and textures by making effective use of bold, and at other times delicate, lighting. They might impart feelings such as awe, wonder, amusement, and compassion. Photography forces us to see something we may have looked at many times but have never seen before. Judging in N4C has taught me how to judge and what to look for as I compose my own photos in the viewfinder while shooting. Unlike slides, I now shoot a little wider and plan for post-processing flexibility. I love not being limited by 36 shots to the roll and the long wait for results and processing time and cost.



Being a member of the Des Moines Camera Club for 20 years has been enjoyable. Before moving to Ankeny, IA, I was a 14-year member of the Central Iowa Camera Club in Marshalltown, IA. That totals 34 years and great experiences as a member of N4C. I miss the annual Conventions and Spring meetings, but still enjoy seeing the great photography I see from so many of you –Such outstanding talent we have in N4C!

In my retirement as a mechanical engineer, I became fascinated with all aspects of digital photography after shooting film for many years. I enjoy helping others with our hobby. In my career as a registered professional engineer, I was involved in product development, documentation, patents, quality assurance, nuclear product qualification, product liability, export controls, business systems, and project management. With computers, I worked closely with information technology. Now, for newer members, here is a bit of nostalgia about a few of my N4C contributions.

My data management and computer skills worked out well with digital photography and establishing the needed N4C record-keeping. I set up the first N4C digital contest in 2006 with the concept of running the whole contest electronically without needing a pencil to write anything. We now have around 5,000 contest entries during the year, and 80% are digital. The filenames used for entries, combined with spreadsheet functionality, have made record-keeping efficient. N4C member numbers for past and current members have grown to over 4,600. One spreadsheet application handles all the individual contest scoring and creates the judges' report. Data from each judge's report is copied to another master spreadsheet record of all award winners and their points for the season. This master spreadsheet creates the monthly report for the News Bulletin and the lists for each club at the end of the season for the print roundup and digital entries for the Best of N4C contest. Tables show running point totals for each member and club. Image files and judging report data go into my Adobe Lightroom, which generates the web gallery files to upload for the N4C website.

I have been the N4C Webmaster (<https://n4c.us/>) since 2007. All the Digital [Winner Galleries](#), since the first one in September 2006, are in the web galleries. Archives of all the N4C News Bulletins back to 2003 are available from the web [news archive](#) to read and download. A collection of educational photography tutorials is on the “[Photography Links](#)” page. And I post notices of new web content and N4C News Bulletins on the N4C Facebook page ( <https://www.facebook.com/N4C.us> ). You should subscribe to receive those notices.

Ken Johnson, Webmaster continued:

I was fascinated back in 2003 with Photoshop features of drop shadows and embossing of text.

The N4C Logo update was a fun project created for the first PDF version of the *N4C Handbook and Directory* cover for Mary Jane Charlton, the new editor at the time. It could then be emailed to our growing membership.



#### Awards:

- N4C Service Award 2006
- Judging Chair for 1st N4C Digital Contest, September 2006
- First Place and Best of Show, Photo Contest, Ankeny Art Center 2006

N4C Webmaster <https://n4c.us/> since 2007

- N4C Founders Award 2007
- N4C President 2011
- Master Class Photographer of the Year, Des Moines Camera Club 2012
- N4C Photographer of the Year, 2013
- Superintendent's Merit Award for Photographic Excellence, Iowa State Fair Photography Salon 2013
- Master Class Photographer of the Year, Des Moines Camera Club 2013
- N4C Photographer of the Year, 2014

**N4C.us is the website for N4C.**

Take time to check it out. So much as been added.

Information galore! Photography tutorials!

Contacts! Archived past years!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR. FIRST, SOME NEWS. Deb Bates is returning as *N4C News Bulletin* editor in January.** Our thanks to Carl Hardy, for his excellent work as editor while Deb took a break. Monday, January 5th is the Premiere showing and announcement of the **2025 Best of N4C**

If I should contact someone different, please let me know.

**IF YOUR CLUB ENTERS PRINTS, SEE BELOW FOR WHERE TO SEND ENTRIES.**

FOR DIGITAL ENTRIES, they must be received by 5:00 pm January 15, however make every effort to send them by the 13th to allow time for confirmation.

- Judging may begin on the 16th - make sure you receive confirmation that entries were received.

The cutoff time will be 5:00 p.m. on the 15th, giving the judging chair time to organize the entries for judging starting on the 16th. The point is, don't wait until the last minute. There have been problems with occasionally missing entries when they were not received until late in the night on the 15th.

The 2025-2026 rules are on the N4C web at <http://n4c.us/competition.htm> by clicking the blue "N4C Contest Rules" button. A copy of the rules is attached.

The N4C Directory is available by email from Carl Hardy and his email is [torchenterprises72@gmail.com](mailto:torchenterprises72@gmail.com) The Handbook contains the contest rules and other general N4C Info. The Directory contains the list of judging clubs for all the contests along with contact info for all the affiliated clubs. The Handbook is available for download from the web <http://n4c.us/Supplies-Forms.htm> page.

There are six Digital Image Contests each month - (see the definitions of each category in the Rules):

- Altered Reality (DA)
- Black & White (DB)
- Journalism (DJ)
- Nature (DN)
- Pictorial (DP)
- Travel (DT)

Maximum of 8 entries per club per contest, not more than one from a member in each contest

**Do not enter versions of the same image in multiple contests.** For example, do not enter both a color and B&W version in the same month. Likewise, don't enter both Digital & print versions. If both win, one will be withdrawn. The rule is: "Any entry which receives a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM award in a monthly competition may not be re-entered in the same year or later years, in the same or any other category, regardless of variations or changes made."

Please check your entries before sending them on for judging. Look for three things:

1. File size 750KB max. (A requirement this year)
2. **Longest side 1,920 pixels max.**
3. File name should look like this example: 01,DE028,DP,Beautiful Sunset.jpg

Content of the Email Message when you send the entries:

- a. Subject Line of the Email should say "N4C Contest Entries from \_(your)\_ Camera Club".
- b. Specify which monthly contest and how many images are attached to the Email.
- c. List the Member Numbers and corresponding member names to ensure that the Judging Club has that information.
- d. Give the Club Name and your full name.
- e. Attach the image files

**ASK THE JUDGING CLUB IF YOU DO NOT GET A RECEIVED CONFIRMATION BACK FROM THEM**

Please send me updated member lists when you have added Member Numbers. I'm glad to see new members participating in N4C contests. Naturally, I need to register them so they are properly identified for the judging clubs. For new members, that really should be done a month before entering.

(Entries must be received by 5:00 pm January 15, however, **make every effort to send them by the 13th to allow time for confirmation.**

- Judging may begin on the 16th - make sure you receive confirmation that entries were received.

If you have any trouble reaching these judging clubs, let Ken Johnson know as soon as possible.

## January Digital Image Judging Clubs:

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**ALTERED REALITY** Digital "DA" (Digital Altered Reality) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number

Minnesota Valley Photo Club

Phil Davies

1140 Edgumbe Rd.,

St. Paul, MN 55105

651 307-8529

[n4c-entries-to-mvpc@googlegroups.com](mailto:n4c-entries-to-mvpc@googlegroups.com)

**BLACK & WHITE** Digital "DB" (Digital B&W) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

Omaha Camera Club

Nikki McDonald

802 E. Cary St.

Papillion, NE 68046

402-592-9555

[OmahaN4C@cox.net](mailto:OmahaN4C@cox.net)

**JOURNALISM** Digital "DJ" (Digital Journalism) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

Women's Photography Club

Linda Rutherford

1419 Riverside Dr

River Falls, WI 54022

715-426-9297

[lruther1@comcast.net](mailto:lruther1@comcast.net)

**NATURE** Digital "DN" (Digital Nature) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

SW Shutterbug Camera Club

Kim Walter

1559 210th Street

Corning, IA. 50841

712-621-1862

[shutterbugsN4C@gmail.com](mailto:shutterbugsN4C@gmail.com)

**PICTORIAL** (Color) Digital "DP" (Digital Pictorial) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

Iowa City Camera Club

Bob Rude.

609 6th Ave

Coralville IA. 52241

319-331-7195

[rudebob1@gmail.com](mailto:rudebob1@gmail.com)

**TRAVEL** Digital "DT" (Digital Travel) is the contest ID that goes after the Member Number:

**Be sure to include the STATE or COUNTRY of the image in the title.**

Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club

Bruce Bernstein

1505 – 8th St S

Fargo, ND 58103

701-235-5945

[brucepamfargo@yahoo.com](mailto:brucepamfargo@yahoo.com)

Encourage your members to explore the N4C website where they will find a lot of photography to study, and photography links with an unlimited number of tutorials and educational videos to learn from.

<http://n4c.us/>



## **SEND NEW MEMBER NUMBERS AND NAMES TO KEN JOHNSON**

N4C Supplies & Forms - on the web.

Entry forms, Reports and more. Make your job easier - Check it out. <http://n4c.us/Supplies-Forms.htm>

A club will normally have up to 8 entries for a contest. A typical image file name list might look like:

(USE YOUR CLUB NAME AND MEMBER NUMBER INSTEAD OF DA044 - zero "0" 44 not a letter "O")

(USE DA, DB, DJ, DN, DP, or DT for the Contest Code - This example is for the Digital Nature Contest)

(Notice commas separating the data in the file names) 01,DA044,DN,Deer.jpg

03,DA022,DN,Grand Arch.jpg

04,DA033,DN,Teton Reflection.jpg

05,DA037,DN,White Water.jpg

06,DA002,DN,Shadows.jpg

07,DA025,DN,Horsetail Falls.jpg

08,DA018,DN,Soaring Eagle.jpg

Members should submit entries with filenames similar to the above except for the sequence numbers. The club N4C Rep will rename the files to include the sequence numbers. The club N4C Rep may want to keep things simple for the club members and handle ALL the file naming - how this is done is left to the club. The sequence numbers will determine the sequencing of the image in the judging line-up. All the contest entries will be sorted in alpha-numeric sequence by filename so this will mix up club entries for judging. The 01's from all the clubs will be judged first and the 08's at the end.

## **PRINT ENTRIES - JUDGING CLUBS FOR January**

Print contest rules are in the attached N4C Contest Rules.

Entries must be received by these clubs by January 15.

**Because of experienced delays in mail and shipping, other clubs recommend that you also send an email to these judging clubs to expect your entries. Ideally, Give them your tracking number.**

### **Send both Nature Prints and Black & White to:**

Minot Camera Club

City of Glenburn

C/O Tim Zeltinger

PO Box 97

Glenburn ND 58740 [minotccn4c@gmail.com](mailto:minotccn4c@gmail.com)

### **Send both Pictorial Color Prints and Altered Reality Prints to:**

Pictorial (Color) Prints & Altered Reality Prints

Duluth-Superior Camera Club

Deb Carroll

7 Royalton Road

Superior, WI 54880

218-340-5740 [dphotops@gmail.com](mailto:dphotops@gmail.com)

### **Send both Travel Prints and Journalism Prints to:**

Sioux City Camera Club

Carl Hardy

3236 Maplewood St.

Sioux City, IA 51104

712-281-3345 [torchenterprises72@gmail.com](mailto:torchenterprises72@gmail.com)

Ken Johnson [web@n4c.us](mailto:web@n4c.us),

A Digital Contest Chair

Enjoy photography whether or not it is yours!



**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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**N4C Bulletin Staff Editor/publisher: Debbie Bates; [edit@n4c.us](mailto:edit@n4c.us)**

This newsletter is being sent to all N4C presidents  
and N4C representatives.

**Please forward on to all your  
members.**

Let's keep your members informed.

If you would like me to send to your members directly,  
I need emails. I'm willing to do the work, I just need  
the information.

Send to [edit@n4c.us](mailto:edit@n4c.us)