

**Dead line is April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Send in your registration now!**

**MAY 4,5 & 6, 2018 N4C MINI SPRING CONVENTION**

**at Saint Thomas More Center in near Panora, Iowa.**

Everyone always used to say Spring brook, and understood what we were talking about. With the close of Springbrook we now changed the name to N4C Mini Spring Convention or just spring convention for short. Be thinking about a great photo weekend that you can get the best food, great dorm facilities, time with others who have the same enthusiasm as you do about sharing and learning more about photography for little as \$113 for the whole weekend. That includes food, information, fun and a place to stay.

**Willard Sharp: Friday evening**



On Friday night we have some great information and entertainment planned. Willard Sharp, from Madrid, Ia is a storm chaser and an awesome astrophotography who loves to show everyone how easy it is to get out and shoot. Milky Way has just started coming out and Willard shoots all year long. We will hear his presentation then we can hopefully get out and shoot some star trails before the moon comes out around 10: 30.



**Ty Smedes: Saturday Morning**



As an icon of the north-country, the Loon has created magic for all who have enjoyed his antics and that magical “*call of the wild*”. Join Urbandale Iowa writer/photographer Ty Smedes as he lectures about the life history of the Loon, and shares many stunning images. Ty has made many trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of northern Minnesota, where he has



captured iconic images of a female loon, on the nest, with youngsters riding on her back, and even the male feeding the young, as they rest there. Ty will share many anecdotes and will show how a nature photographer pre-visualizes and plans a wilderness photography trip. Join us for an exciting and educational presentation!

**Saturday:** We have great speakers on judging: John Larson and Dwight Tomes & Mark Gromko. Both have great learning tools, making it easier to understand judging. Sometimes I think we take too long in judging, when we are not sure of ourselves or we get over picky on the critiquing.



**Paul Grillo** has a presentation:

**“Thinking and Presenting Your Photography Artistically”**

-Drones with Ken



DuPu.

Ken has some great photos to show and will share all kinds kinds of information about his drones





DON'T MISS THIS AND MORE!

Jerry Ranch is the featured speaker on Saturday evening. Here is "Teaser #2" from Jerry about his inspiring presentation.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheNorthCentralCamaClubCouncil.n4c/posts/1675832772501039>

### Gerry Bonsack: Saturday Evening

Gerry Bonsack always has some great fun ideas to shoot. He has gone above and beyond with his light painting toys. He has been working since last convention. We will be light painting Saturday night with all of his toys. Old and New. Check out some of his websites he has set up. Jerry Bonsack has some great new toys to play with for light painting.

Check out some of his y-tube videos:<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=light+painting+-+Gerry+Bonsack&&view=detail&mid=97D608C9A90261E0C24C97D608C9A90261E0C24C&&FORM=VDRVRV>, Jerry has been working on these since 2017 mini spring convention. If the weather doesn't cooperate we can actually do these inside the building. So Plan on fun with the camera!



Plan to attend today, don't wait, fill out your registration today. **Last day to register is April 23.** Great people, great food, great place to stay and LOTS of fun

As you see we have all kinds of things to see and learn about. If you come early or plan to stay later in the area we have great things to see around the area too. Great photo ops. The Guthrie County Historical Village is located on a beautiful 4-acre complex on the southwest side of [Panora](#), Iowa, just a few blocks away from the scenic [Middle Raccoon River](#), historic [Lenon Mill Park](#), and the [Raccoon River Valley Trail](#). The Village features twelve buildings, a Milwaukee caboose, numerous exhibits, and thousands of artifacts that explore the history of [Guthrie County](#) from 1850 to the early-20th Century.



There is plenty of camping in the area too. You all know the Springbrook area, then there is the Lennon Mill Camping area located near the old mill. No mill, but the sound of waterfalls would be a great way to fall asleep. Nations Bridge Park is located south of Panora located next to the river. Great walking trails and if you love to see plenty of spring wildflowers this is the place. There are lots of great things to see. The Panora Area is one of those great places to take photos, you just have to seek them out. If you're interested in some of these let me know and I would be glad to give you more information since I am from this area.

The Historical Village is one of my favorite places.

**See you at the N4C Spring Mini Convention**



**May 4,5 &6, 2018 Panora, Iowa Deadline to register April 23rd**

**Don't forget Panoramic Prints are due this weekend too!!**



# May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> N4C MINI SPRING CONVENTION

I hope everyone is planning to attend a great weekend in *Panora, IA* on the first weekend of May 2018. It's a great weekend to spend with fellow photo enthusiasts.



Where else can you spend a weekend for \$113, that includes food, lodging and lots of great information and fun????  
These are some photos of St. Thomas Moore Center



## Great Food, Fun and Photo Time!!



I have some great things planned.



Night and Astrophotography on Friday night with Willard Sharp. (See Feb. newsletter) Saturday Night, Jerry Bonsack has some great new toys to play with for light painting.

Check out some of his y-tube videos: <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=light+painting+-+Gerry+Bonsack&&view=detail&mid=97D608C9A90261E0C24C97D608C9A90261E0C24C&&FORM=VDRVRV>, Jerry has been working on these since 2017 mini spring convention. If the weather doesn't cooperate we can actually do these inside the building. So Plan on fun with the camera!

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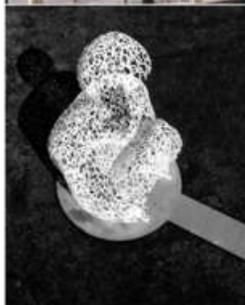


Paul Grillo has a presentation:  
***"Thinking and Presenting Your Photography Artistically"***



Ty Smeades will bring us some great photos of the ***"The Great Outdoors"***. (See Feb. Newsletter)

***"It Only Takes A Moment"***, is an essay on developing a personal artistic style. Jerry Ranch will present a technical and artistic retrospective on his approach to landscape photography, with emphasis on his recent experience at the Grand Canyon and Death Valley, Saturday evening.



Saturday afternoon -Drones with Ken DuPu. Ken has some great photos to show and all kinds of information about his drone.

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As you see we have all kinds of things to see and learn about. If you come early or plan to stay later in the area we have great things to see around the area too.Great photo ops.The Guthrie County Historical Village is located on a beautiful 4-acre complex on the southwest side of [Panora](#), Iowa, just a few blocks away from the scenic [Middle Raccoon River](#), historic [Lenon Mill Park](#), and the [Raccoon River Valley Trail](#). The Village features twelve buildings, a Milwaukee caboose, numerous exhibits, and thousands of artifacts that explore the history of [Guthrie County](#) from 1850 to the early-20th Century.



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I hope this has given you some interest in attending the 2018 N4C Spring Mini Convention.All kinds of things to do and learn. Especially visiting with all of our N4C friends we haven't seen for quite awhile. Its time to get out and have some fun this spring. Winter is over in just a short time. As it is snowing and blowing plan for a great time in Panora, Iowa at the St. Thomas Moore Center. Fill out your registration NOW!!  
Debbie Bates, coordinator, you can reach me at [flowerslave@hotmail.com](mailto:flowerslave@hotmail.com).

**Mark your calendars for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of May,  
May 4, 5 & 6, 2018 N4C Mini Spring Convention at Saint Thomas More Center in Panora, Iowa.**

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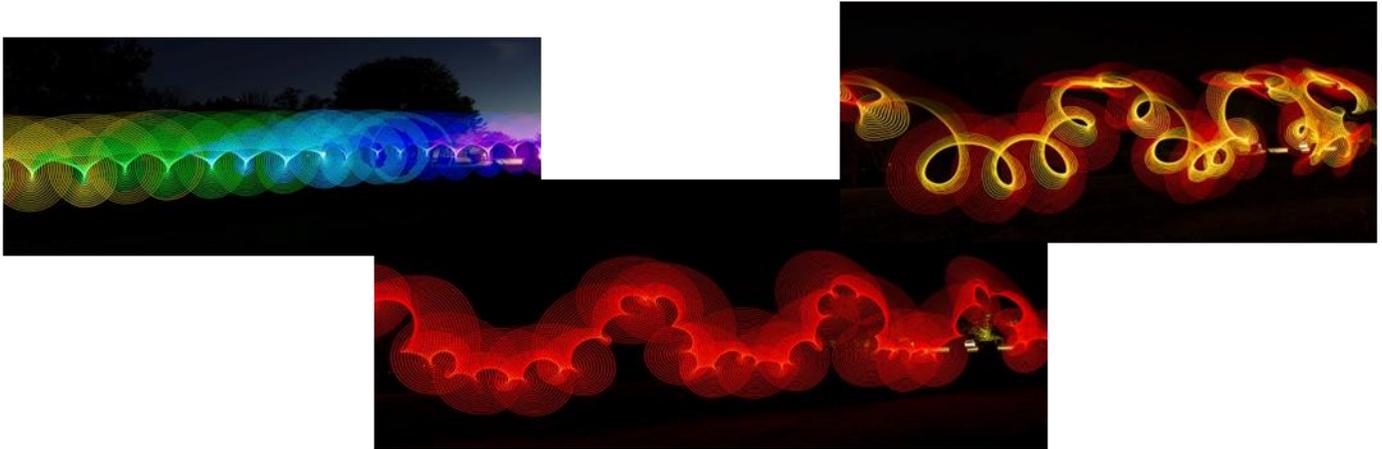
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Check out the agenda we have lots of great participating photography planned and it will be after dark both Friday and Saturday. Great information: Judging information, (Will get you thinking), Drones Photos and more ( plan your questions now, Ken will answer all he can and if weather permitting fly, a little.

Jerry Ranch will be the Saturday evening speaker. He has recently returned from a trip to the Grand Canyon and area around. BUT this won't be just a normal trip to the Grand Canyon.

I will have more information in the upcoming months for the N4C Mini Spring Convention and if you come early or stay late great places to shoot around the area too.

Set your calendar now to attend. Registration forms are in this newsletter too. This is a great weekend to enjoy.

**See you at the N4C Spring Mini Convention May 4 ,5 & 6, 2018**

*Dellie Bates*



# N4C MINI-CONVENTION May 4-6, 2018 DON'T MISS THIS AND MORE!

## Jerry Ranch is the featured speaker presenting "It Only Takes A Moment" on Saturday evening May 5

Jerry has given us a series of "teasers" about his inspiring presentation - challenging us to think about our photography in new ways.

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**Teaser #1:** I believe there would be broad consensus that the unique feature of photography is the capability to **capture a moment in time**. We use it to freeze important events in our lives, from weddings, to family portraits, to vacation remembrances. Even studio work, which may be staged, is freezing a moment in time. And those images we capture are not merely the rote snapping, randomly, of the events before us. No. We compose, frame, expose, etc - we imprint that photograph with our interpretation of that reality before us. The art is the moment, then, isn't it? The physical reality and our interpretation of that reality - that's the art of photography. So then I ask you, why do you post process? Are you not confident of your interpretation of reality and so you must alter that reality with post-processing?

Thought provoking I hope.

Two take home messages from my presentation -

"No, you don't need to shoot RAW"

"No, you don't need Photoshop" (in a generic sense)

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**Teaser #2: Rules.** Not fond of rules am I. I've been a non-conformist my entire life - in everything I do. I'm on board with social order and the law, of course, but "Live Free or Die" is something I can get behind.

Conformity in art is a bad thing. The conformist in art will be forgotten, but, for example, the non-conforming presidential portrait of Barack Obama will be long remembered. Non-conformists change the world - good or bad, in science, art, religion, politics - everything.

Conformity in art is a self-imposed constraint. We have biases, and of course, there are those pesky Rules of Photography. Rules like "...the eye ALWAYS goes to the light...". Always? Really?



Solitude

In "Solitude", for example, one's eye goes to the dark - the Great Blue Heron out there on the right. Well that rule is shot. Examining the histogram for this image, you'll easily see that it is dramatically

shifted to the right. We are often advised to expose to the right or to the left or use the zone system as a guide. I prefer to "expose for composition".



Histogram for "Solitude"

Light and dark play important roles in art. The balanced arrangement of light and dark in an image is crucial to a pleasing aesthetic. I met Rick Sammon at an N4C convention several years ago, and one of his pithy aphorisms, "Light illuminates, shadows define", has been with me since. Amen.

The interplay and arrangement of light and not-light (the yin and yang of art) defines the subject, the composition, tension, movement - it's everything about art. Some artists create in contours - they paint the object. Other artists compose with value - they paint shadow and light - the object doesn't exist on its own, it exists because of shadow and light. For example, place an object on a white table, and illuminate it with very bright light - so bright the object will seemingly disappear. Why? It is the shadow that gives us the impression of an object.

Turn your images upside down to appreciate the arrangement of light and shadow without the contaminating influence of a recognized object. Squint your eyes when viewing a scene to blur object distinction, yet see light and not-light (defocusing the camera does a similar thing).

Why is a strong value structure an important component of aesthetically pleasing images? (I'm talking light values here, not morals or ethics). For me, it's all about shadows. Shadows are the skeleton upon which the mind hangs reality.

We can discuss that on May 5. Hint: Google NOTAN

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### Teaser #3: "Let it Be"

In this final installment of teasers, I announce a radical assertion.

**To develop as an artist, I had to unlearn photography.**

I had to leave behind the technical trappings of photography as a primary driver.

Let's do some self-examination ...

Exercise #1: A facilitator at a photography conference, with no warning, asks seated attendees to switch cameras with their neighbor without knowing the brand/model or their neighbor. The order is to go forth and make pictures. Doubtless, some of you may be reluctant to hand your camera over to a stranger, but put that aside for a moment. What is your reaction - "...this will be fun..."; or "...I don't know how to operate an unfamiliar camera...". Which are you? What are you tied to - the experience or technology?

Exercise #2: A "safer" version of Example #1. Several years ago, I facilitated a judging workshop at the DMCC for new members (but everybody attends). To encourage the budding artist photographers to see (the offer was extended to all), I secured a supply of Kodak point and shoot disposable film cameras. The order was to go shoot, and to tell a story with either a single or group of images. The participants were on an equal technical footing, and they had no concerns about camera operation - just point and shoot, develop the prints, no post-processing, let's see what you did. There was some good work. I believe this is a valuable teaching tool, and photography clubs ought to be encouraging this non-judged activity frequently (either disposable film, or Instax/Polaroid types). Interestingly, I had left-over cameras. Some folks were unwilling to participate. Why is that? I often hear, "...you can't take a good photograph without a good camera...". I run away from those folks as fast as I can.

Exercise #3: Purposely take what you consider to be a bad picture. No, I don't want you to muck up a capture in post. Just take a properly exposed image, that in your mind, is bad. Can you find it in your photographic being to purposely snap the shutter to make a bad image? Do you have to think about making a "bad" image? If you can make that "bad" image, then, let us place our "bad" images on a table (print it quick at Costco, or the like; no mounting, matting, or framing), and have a look at

them. I am certain that what YOU consider to be a “bad” image, someone else will find intriguing. So that begs the question ... what exactly IS a bad image?

Exercise #4: This last suggestion is a thought exercise. In this era, we introduce photography to newbies by tossing them into the deep end of the figurative technical pool - shutter speed, sync speed, back button focus, drag the shutter, rear curtain, aperture, ISO, bracketing, blown highlights, DOF, panning - on and on. We have it backwards. Many of you started photography as a child, with film, when a relative gave you a Brownie or similar point-and-shoot camera. You wore the thing out, no doubt. You might have been limited by parents who paid for the film and processing. I’ll bet you didn’t read a book on photography, nor did you concern yourself with any technical aspect. It was a magic box. Point, shoot, magic happened. You waited for your version of the world to return in the pre-paid mailer. I think, largely, we’ve lost that magic. My suggestion - put the DSLR into P mode (tell ‘em it means professional), and just go take pictures. The technical stuff will follow.

All these exercises point to developing style. Style, in part, is how you see the world. I know that you do not take pictures to display technical skills - you’ve told me that. You make pictures to fix permanently the fleeting emotional tie you have to the world. What I find interesting is that while art is characterized by large historic “art movements” (Canada’s volumes and Gombrich’s monograph below are excellent resources for that aspect) – Abstract Realism, Impressionism, Cubism, and the like - with photography we tend not to focus on styles so much (not that there are well-defined photography movements anyway; in some ways photographic movements have piggybacked to fine art movements like Realism, Surrealism and Dadaism), but more on use and subject material. And so we have commercial, landscape, wildlife, PJ, etc - all of which are essentially Realism. Can’t we use the camera to see the world in other ways?

As Casey Stengel says, "You can observe a lot if you just look around"

Here is a list of books and monographs that have influenced me the most in order of importance. These are largely not photography books. Frankly, those are boring. These texts are investigations into the workings of the artists mind and eye.

“Art and Fear” by Bayles and Orland (Ted Orland was an assistant to Ansel Adams)

“The Shape of Content” by Ben Shah

“Steal Like an Artist” by Austin Kleon

“The View from the Studio Door” by Ted Orland

"Metropolitan Seminars in Art" by John Canada (long time art critic for NY Times-deceased. These are 12 thin volumes that address art movements, composition, etc. I enjoy them because Canada’s approach is very analytical, written like the critic and art historian he was. There is no touchy-feeley stuff here. I picked up the volumes on eBay - used of course - inexpensively)

“The Story of Art” by Gombrich (an amazing history – it all about perspective)

“Tao of Photography” by Gross and Shapiro

“Unlearning to Draw” by P. Jenny

“Composition: Understanding Line, Notan and Color” by Arthur Wesley Dow (Georgia O’Keeffe was his student)

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**Meet Jerry Ranch**  
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Jerry Ranch is a Chicago native, born in 1949. In 1972, he graduated DePaul University with a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry, with a minor in Physics. In 1979, he was conferred with a Ph. D. in Genetics from Iowa State University. After a post-doctoral research appointment at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), Jerry held research scientist positions in the plant biotechnology industry until 2013. He is a retired Senior Scientist from Pioneer Hi-Bred.

When Jerry was an undergraduate student, beginning in 1967, he used photography primarily as a tool in biological illustration, and for pleasure in street, landscape, and wildlife photography. His initial exposure to photography was from a fraternity brother who was a freelance photojournalist for the Chicago Sun-Times. In graduate school, he used medium format film to capture images

photomicroscopically. Throughout his career as a research scientist, he used photography to document experimental results.

In 2005, Jerry began to develop his personal approach to photography as art. Several of Jerry's photograph's appear in the print media. Since 2009, his images have garnered many awards at the Iowa State Fair Photography Salon, including two Best of Show entries. His photography has been curated nationally in gallery exhibitions. He is a member of the Des Moines Camera Club, and he has facilitated teaching of photographic technique and art in various venues.

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# N4C Mini – Spring Convention May4-5-6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Saint Thomas More Center, near Panora, Iowa

<https://stmcenter.com/directions-to-stmc>

## Tentative Agenda

Friday: 3:00 Check-in  
4:00 Welcome- Bob Lahti  
4:15 Board Meeting  
6:00 Dinner  
7:00 Larry/Delores-STMC information  
7:10 PSA Presentation by Gene Schwope  
8:00 Willard Sharp "Storm Chasing and Astrophotography".  
9:00 Popcorn

Depending on weather those wanting to participate; Willard Sharp will be setup for star trails or some light painting after the meeting.

Saturday: Dubuque Camera club will have information available about Fall convention.

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Ed Larson: "One Score or None Judging Criteria"  
10:00 Break  
10:15 Ty Smedes –The Great Outdoors  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Dwight Tomes – TCI  
2:00 Paul Grillo  
2:00 Panoramic Print Judging  
3:15 Break  
3:30 Ken DePu "Drones"  
6:00 Dinner  
7:00 Panoramic Winners  
7:15 Jerry Ranch - "It Only takes a Moment"  
9:00 Popcorn

~~Play time with Jerry Bonsack Light Painting. Jerry has come up with some great new toys for everyone to play with. Plan on staying after dark!~~

Sunday

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Dubuque Camera Club presents the 2018 Fall Convention September 14-15, 2018  
9:30 Photo Essays  
11:30 Lunch

Revision date: March 7, 2018 by Debbie Bates

May 4, 5, & 6, 2018

# N4C SPRING MINI-CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Saint Thomas More Center

<https://stmcenter.com/directions-to-stmc>

Near Panora, Iowa

Mark your calendar NOW to attend.

Complete the registration form and send it along with your check NOW.

DEADLINE DATE for arrival of your registration is Monday, April 23.

NO registration will be accepted after the deadline date of April 23.

PLEASE – This means that you have to mail your registration BEFORE April 18.

NO REFUNDS AFTER April 26.

A confirmation email will be sent out to you upon the receipt of your money and registration.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: N4C SPRING MINI-CONVENTION

Return Registration & check to:

Delores Meister  
421 Pleasant View Dr.  
Solon, IA 52333

Questions?

phone: 319-624-2516

email: [LDKlikmeister@aol.com](mailto:LDKlikmeister@aol.com)

Please PRINT

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Camera Club in N4C

**THIS YEAR: Note the location - NO bed linens or towels provided. Where else can you enjoy photo programs, meet friends, eat 6 meals all for \$98 and then room two nights for an additional \$15?!**

	Number of people	Total cost
Package #1: Dorm Room Use @ \$113 per person (Includes: Meals & lodging in dorms – 9 beds per room. <b>Bring your own BEDDING, TOWELS, soap ,toiletries, etc.)</b>	_____	\$ _____
Package #2: Day Use @ \$98 per person (Includes: Meals & day use learning center. <b>Not use of dorm room)</b>	_____	\$ _____
	Grand Total	\$ _____