



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C February
2026

Newsletter

Volume 67 No.81

www.n4c.us

edit@n4c.us

President Minute Message:



Recently, a fellow club photographer invited my husband and me to photograph at a nearby wildlife management area. It was a great reminder of the value of sharing information within our club—whether it's a new location to explore or a technique worth trying. We learn and improve when we teach one another, and that spirit of sharing is what makes a photography club special. I encourage everyone to share their knowledge in person, on social media, or through our newsletter.

I didn't come away with photos from this outing—grandma duties called, and my 2-year-old preferred to stay in the car and enjoy snacks. So, here's my "car photo" of two club members photographing short-eared owls at sunset.

Jennifer L Tigges, President N4C 2024-2025

563-590-9868 call or text



**SAVE THE
DATE**

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



Get ready for an unforgettable photography adventure in the heart of the West! Join us at the Rough Rider Rendezvous—the 2026 North Central Camera Club Association (N4C) Camera Club Convention—where scenic grandeur meets photographic inspiration.

Photos by Tim Zeltinger

**Looking for Volunteers who would
like to help at the convention:**

We need people to help coordinate the field trips. We are looking for a couple of people to help with the native dancers and the Ukrainian dancers besides the Cowboys & Bar X. They would make sure people come and go on time so that everyone could photograph on the different shifts.

Any volunteers would be appreciate to help out registration, set up and teardown too.

Please sent Tim Zeltinger, minotccn4c@gmail.com an email with any questions and If you would like to volunteer sent Deb Bates an email flow-erslave@hotmail.com or edit@n4c.us so she can add you to the volunteer list.

Two volunteers I have now are Gordon Court at the Bar X and Paul Hagen, with the hill country.



Fargo Moorhead Camera Club

November 20, 2025 ·

Tonight, will be our first Outing of the year disguised as a Educational night. The topic Cold Weather Photography. So instead of sitting in a nice warm building thinking of ways to take photos in the cold, tonight meet up with us at 7pm outside on the north side of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Fargo as we have a short discussion about outdoor nighttime techniques and staying warm, then join us on a photo walk through downtown Fargo.

Paul Hagen owner of paulhagencreative and longtime member of FM Camera club will be your host.

Paul will have some light painting toys along with if anyone wants to experiment. Including the “Pixel Stick”. (No longer available for purchase, purchase anywhere but do a google search for one and be amazed)



Photo by Doug Long

Items to bring:

Hat, gloves, jacket, something to take photos with. Tripod if you have a Digital Camera and a Remote trigger if you own one.

Also recommend boots, hand warmers, fingerless mittens and a pair of liners with capacitive touch. (Able to control phone/camera with gloves on) you'll thank me later.

Wear Layers to stay warm. Keep your car cool so your camera gear is cool to keep your lens from gathering moisture.

When we are done, we will conclude Atomic Coffee for a hot drink and wrap up discussion for anyone interested.

This is all about going out and having a fun time, so zero pressure to make your best photo, it's about having fun, meeting people and making new friends and learning something new.

There will be a scavenger hunt for items or themes to locate and photograph. I will create a category and contest after the fact, and a prize will be awarded.



Photo by Julie Olson

Check out Fargo Moorhead Cameral Club on Facebook,. They have all kinds of info for you

Editor Notes: Contact Deb Bates at edit@n4c.us



Deb Bates and Kim Walter from the Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs receive their awards from Best of the Best 2024-2025. Deb received 1st Place in Travel Prints. Kim received Honorable Mention for her Panoramic photo.

We want to see your photo of those who received their awards for the *BEST Of The BEST*. Send to

edit@n4c.us.



With this job, you get to meet a lot of people.

Hope you don't mind Ty Smith, Mitchell CC but I would like to recognize you for being a unique photographer. Ty is one of those old fashion photographers that still uses the dark room. Yes the dark room. He does not own a computer. All of his images are created by his own hands. In this day and age, he is our own Ansel Adams. He develops and prints his images.

When I worked in a photo lab, I loved when I developed and printed film images. Even those who brought me old negatives. It always made you feel like you really have a creative streak.

My hat is off to you Ty for a super job taking, developing, and using the old way of being creative. Take time when you see some of Ty's work come through the contests.

N4C board has had one of the directors resign. They are looking for someone who would be interested in joining the board. If interested please contact President Jennifer. Information is in the hand book.



1st Place Altered Reality Print - Horses **Patty Foster, Des Moines CC**



2nd Place Altered Reality Print - Along for the Ride
– **Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque CC**

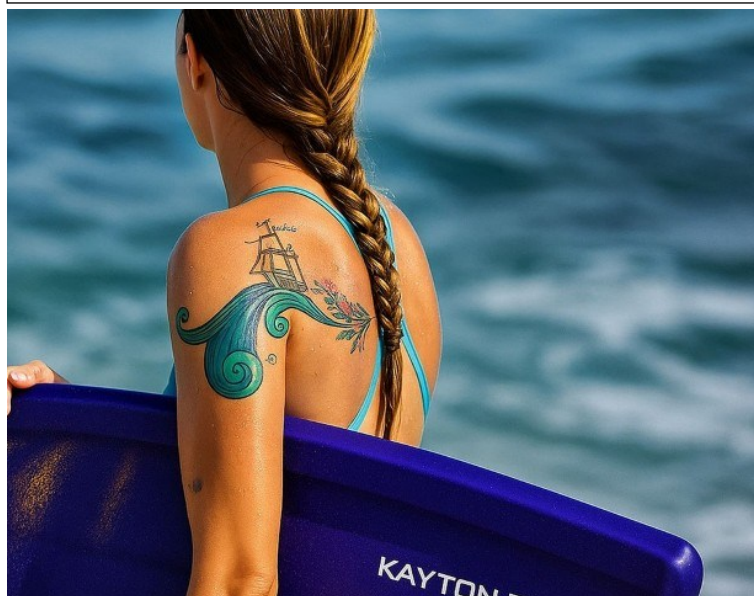


3rd Place Altered Reality Print
Knot Head, Tye Smith, Mitchell CC

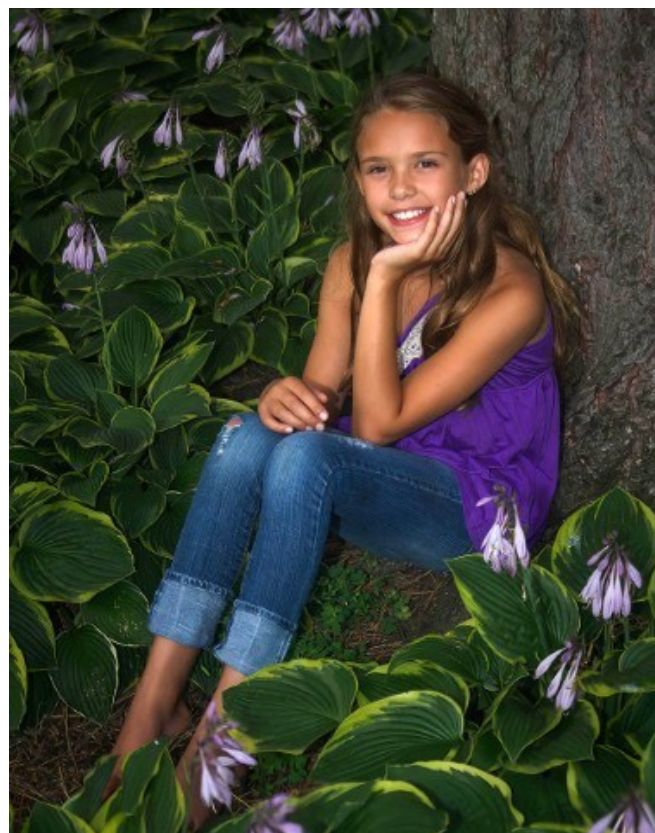


1st Place – Pictorial Print- A Berry Merry Christmas – Deb Shoning, Des Moines CC

2nd Place Pictorial Prints -Looking for Waves
Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City CC



3rd Place Pictorial Prints – Girl in the Garden,
Ryno Olson Great River CC





1st Place Print Travel -Blue Angel Performance – Bob Lahti, Duluth Superior CC



**2nd Place Print Travel – Vista Views
of South coyote buttes – UT
Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque CC**



**3rd Place Print Travel – Cris's in Havana
Terri Dermody, Des Moines CC**



1st Place – Journalism Prints – Breakaway – Bob Lahti, Duluth Superior



**2nd Place Journalism Prints –
Threading the Needle
Stephonie Schmitz – Dubuque CC**

**3rd Place Print Journalism
Dancing at Dia de los Muertos – Stephanie Nelson, Des Moines CC**



Print Winners for January 2026

Black & White Print



1st Place Black & White Print

Field Sparrow in BW

Deb Shoning, Des Moines CC

**2nd Place Black & White Print– *Downbound*
Bob Lahti, Duluth- Superior CC**



**3rd Place Black & White Print
Mushroom Tree – Stephanie Nelson
Des Moines CC**



Print Winners for January 2026

Nature Prints



1st Place Nature Prints
Young Baboon on the Move
Terri Dermody, Des Moines CC

Print Contest Entrants:

Please turn in a digital form of your print to your N4C contact each time you enter each month. From now on we will be trying to get all the print winners included in the newsletter each month. The newsletter goes out closest to the 1st of each month. I put the finishing touches on it the 25th-1st. So if your contact has the digital image, there will not be a chance of getting it missed when contacted as soon as we know the winners.

2nd Place Nature Prints
Song Sparrow on Branch Deb Shoning,
Des Moines CC



3rd Place Nature Prints
Close Up of Vulture
Ryno Olson, Great River CC



1st Place – Digital Altered Reality
Reading Can Change Your Prospective
Mike Barker, Omaha CC



2nd Place Digital Altered Reality – Afro rosa
Joel Hauschild, Omaha CC

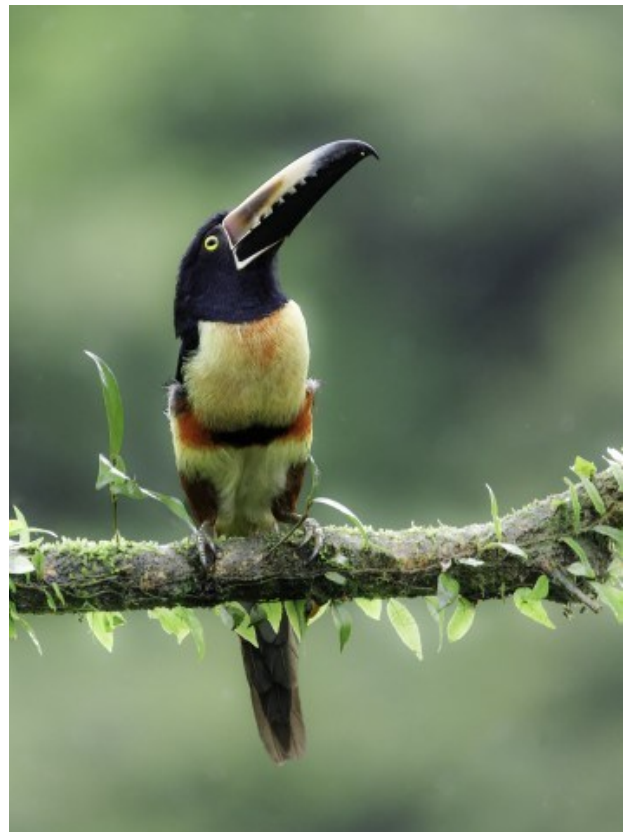


3rd Place Digital Altered Reality
Grin of the Abyss
Nikki McDonald, Omaha CC



1st Place Digital Nature
Boreal Owl
Paul Kammen, Minnesota
Valley PC

2nd Place Digital Nature
Great Grey In Winter
Deb Shoning, Des Moines CC



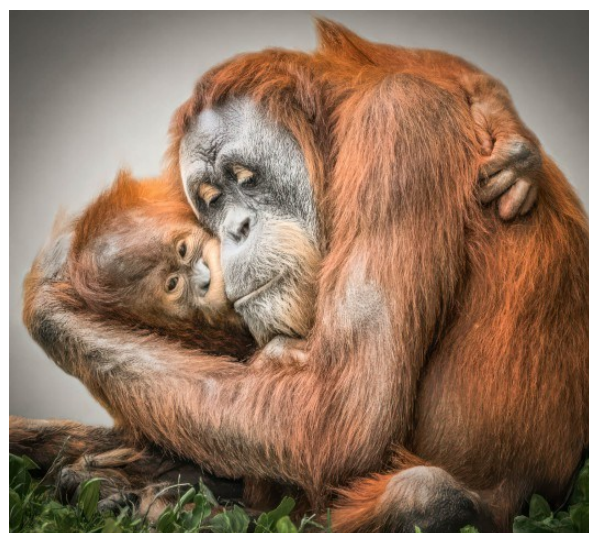
3rd Place Digital Nature
It Looks Like Rain Is Coming
Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin PC



1ST PLACE PICTORIAL

Driving the Loess Hills—Iowa

Nikki McDonald Omaha CC



3rd Place Pictorial— *Loving Embrace*

Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin PC



2nd Place Pictorial

Tornadic Supercell in ND

Jackie Feil

Fargo-Moorhead CC



1ST PLACE DIGITAL JOURNALISM *Roundup Gets Underway In Montana*
Diana Borash, Iowa City CC



2nd Place Digital Journalism

Loons win MLS game 1

Karen Leonard, Saint Paul CC

3rd Place Digital Journalism

KILL!

Philip Wonder, Omaha CC





1ST PLACE DIGITAL TRAVEL **Moonrise Over New York City—Elliott Lindgren, Saint Paul**



2nd Place Digital Travel

*Cologne Cathedral and Hohenzollern
Bridge Germany*

Fred Sobottka, Western Wisconsin PC

3rd Place Digital Travel

Lofoten Norway

Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin PC





1ST PLACE DIGITAL

BLACK & WHITE

By the Window

**Deb Shoning, Des Moines
CC**

2nd Place Digital Black & white

Marley

Betty Bryan

Western Wisconsin PC



3rd Place Digital Black & White

Swan Takeoff

Marge Springett

Western Wisconsin PC



N4C January 2026 Contest Results

Digital Altered Reality

- 1st Reading Can Change Your Perspective - Mike Barker, Omaha
- 2nd Afro Rosa - Joel Hauschild, Omaha
- 3rd Grin of the Abyss - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
- HM Mr Electric Blue - Kevin McTague, Dubuque
- HM Alaska Wolf Moon - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Snowflake Serenade - Connie Wedemeier, Iowa City
- HM Three Callas - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin

65 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Minnesota Valley Photography Club. Chair: Phil Davies.
Judges: Rick Graves, Jerry Klumper, Gene Weigel.

Digital B&W

- 1st By the Window - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
- 2nd Marley - Betty Bryan, Western Wisconsin
- 3rd Swan Takeoff - Marge Springett, Western Wisconsin
- HM Supermodel - Brenda Heard, Wichita Area
- HM Jeweled Web - Kathleen Wolleat, Duluth-Superior
- HM Elegance of Nature - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City
- HM Accipiter - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Late-Night Screentime - Melissa King, Dubuque
- HM Rollag Sawmill at Sunrise - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead

87 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Omaha Camera Club. Chair: Nikki McDonald.

Judges: Donna Gray, Marty Barker, Mike Barker. Comments: Many excellent photos and a wide variety of subjects made this grouping a pleasure to judge and the task was not easy. Judges would frequently have preferred more tonal range (too many images were "flat").

Digital Journalism

- 1st Round Up Gets Under Way In Montana - Diana Borash, Iowa City
- 2nd Loons win MLS game 1 - Karen Leonard, Saint Paul
- 3rd KILL! - Phillip Wonder, Omaha
- HM The Perfect Jump - Sonja Hoglund, Topeka
- HM Buffalo Roundup Custer State Park, South Dakota - Deb Teller, Omaha
- HM Doing the Butterfly Stroke - Peggy Boike, Saint Paul
- HM BMX flip in the warehouse district - Ron Tigges, Dubuque
- HM Wide Turn at Rothsay Rodeo - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead

72 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Women's Photography Club. Chair: Linda Rutherford.
Judges: Terri Sposito, Marilyn Lamareaux, Bev Hawkins.

Digital Nature

- 1st Boreal Owl - Paul Kammen, Minnesota Valley
- 2nd Great Grey in winter - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
- 3rd It looks like rain is coming - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin

N4C January 2026 Contest Results (Continued)

HM Coming in - Martha Farwell, Great River
HM Wood duck lunch - Marge Springett, Western Wisconsin
HM Rubbing rights - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
HM Moose Falls Yellowstone - Greg Hoglund, Topeka
HM Nothing but a trickle - John Corey, Minnesota Valley

94 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs. Chair: Kim Walter.

Judges: Kim Walter, Debbie Bates, Annette Pingree. Comments: SO MANY GREAT PICTURES!!!.

Digital Pictorial

1st Driving the Loess Hills - Iowa - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
2nd Tornadic Supercell in ND - Jackie Feil, Fargo-Moorhead
3rd Loving Embrace - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
HM Natures Umbrella - Janie Lawson, Des Moines
HM Concussion - Jacqueline Evans, Wichita Area
HM Aurora at Superior entry - Jim Walters, Duluth-Superior
HM Devil Track Lake Sunset - Mariann Cyr, Western Wisconsin
HM Peaceful Morning - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
HM African Sunrise - Kenya - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
HM Store Keeper.jpeg - Marty Welter, Omaha
HM Spirit Tree Under the Milky Way - Paul Kammen, Minnesota Valley

102 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Iowa City Camera Club. Chair: Bob Rude.

Judges: Randy Moyer, Larry Luebbert, Connie Wedemeier. Comments: A fun group to judge. Great array of aurora images. Lot's of high & close scores.

Digital Travel

1st Moonrise Over New York City - Elliott Lindgren, Saint Paul
2nd Cologne Cathedral and Hohenzollern Bridge Germany - Fred Sobottka, Western Wisconsin
3rd Lofoten Norway - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
HM Hunting Partners in Kyrgyzstan - Cindy Carlsson, Saint Paul
HM Pinnacle Point Sunset Wall SD - Mick Richards, Minnesota Valley
HM Autumn_In_Wisconsin - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City
HM Sand Patterns under a Stormy Sky, Lofoten Norway - Margaret West, Omaha
HM High Falls,Grand-Portage,MN - Martha Farwell, Great River
HM Tanyard Creek Falls Bella Vista AR - Dave Carter, Wichita Area

85 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club. Chair: Bruce Bernstein.

Judges: Sharon Watson, John Calvin, Gordon Court.

Altered Reality Prints

1st Horses - Patty Foster, Des Moines
2nd Along for the Ride - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
3rd Knot Head - Ty Smith, Mitchell

N4C January 2026 Contest Results (continued)

12 entries from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth-Superior Camera Club. Chair: Deb Carroll.

Judges: Laurie McShane, Nancy Lindberg, Robert Lahti. Comments: There was quite a variety of approaches to altered reality; interesting creativity. Sometimes it was difficult to tell what was altered.

B & W Pictorial Prints

1st Field Sparrow in BW - Deb Shoning, Des Moines

2nd Downbound - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior

3rd Mushroom Tree - Stephanie Nelson, Des Moines

HM Abandoned - Patty Foster, Des Moines

HM Read my Mind - Doug Conrad, Sioux City

21 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Minot CC. Chair: Tim Zeltinger.

Judges: Adam Papin, Richard Debertin, Tony Meiers. Comments: Some amazing Black and Whites. One however we didn't see as a true black and white since there were blue and red tones. We did score this however and gave suggestions. Also still some are not putting all the info on the back of the print.

Name of Print, Member name and number, contest entering, Thanks again for entering and tweek the pictures a bit and re-enter them. These are all very good shots. PLEASE REMBER TO SEND ALL PLACING PICTURES TO DEB FOR THE NEWS LETTER.

Journalism Prints

1st Breakaway - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior

2nd Threading the Needle - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque

3rd Dancing at Dia de los Mueertos - Stephanie Nelson, Des Moines

13 entries from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Elle Monahan, Shane Monahan, Carl Hardy. Comments: Excellent Journalism Prints even with the small number. A good assortment of journalism topics with excellent technique, composition, and interest.

Nature Prints

1st Young Baboon on the move - Terri Dermody, Des Moines

2nd Song Sparrow on a Branch - Deb Shoning, Des Moines

3rd Vulture Close Up - Ryno W Olson, Great River

HM Soaking Wet - Janie Lawson, Des Moines

19 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Minot CC. Chair: Tim Zeltinger. Judges: Adam Papin, Richard Debertin, Tony Meiers. Comments: So Many Great photos from every club. Most just had little fixes tht need looked at and those Non Placing photos if you can fix them please do and resubmit. We have so many talented photographers in our clubs. Keep up the excellent work. PLEASE REMBER TO SEND ALL PLACING PICTURES TO DEB FOR THE NEWS LETTER.

Pictorial Prints (Color)

1st A Berry Merry Christmas - Deb Shoning, Des Moines

2nd Looking for the Waves - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City

3rd Girl in Garden - Ryno W Olson, Great River

N4C January 2026 Contest Results (continued)

HM Young Hummer - Janie Lawson, Des Moines
 HM Reflections on the District - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
 HM Sydney Showing Love - Bob Felderman, Dubuque

34 entries from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth-Superior Camera Club. Chair: Deb Carroll. Judges: Laurie McShane, Nancy Lindberg, Robert Lahti. Comments: There was a great range of subject matter. The results generated some spirited discussion.

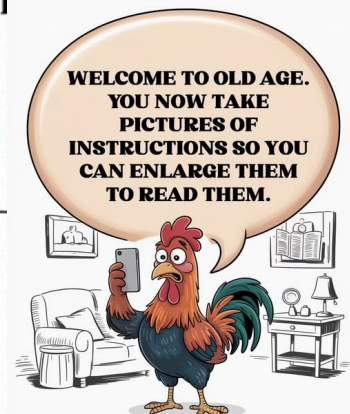
Travel Prints

1st Blue Angel Performance - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
 2nd Vista Views of South Coyote Buttes-UT - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
 3rd Cris'n in Havana - Terri Dermody, Des Moines

15 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Sioux City Camera Club. Chair: Carl Hardy. Judges: Elle Monahan, Shane Monahan, Carl Hardy. Comments: An excellent group of Travel Prints even though the numbers were low. Good composition, technique, and interest. A diverse travel destination. Hard to pick winners.

February 2026 Judging Clubs

Digital Altered Reality Western Wisconsin Photo Club Terry Butler 1620 Wexford Way Woodbury, MN 55125 612-270-1653 n4ccontest@wiphotoclub.com	Digital Travel Dubuque Camera Club Cara Pusateri 3420 Saint Catherine Rd. Bellevue, IA 52031 563-542-0380 cpusateri5@aol.com
Digital Black & White Shutterbug Camera Club John F. Larson, Jr. 300 Lions Hill Road, Apt. W206 State College, PA 16803 319-671-1568 jflarson114@gmail.com	Pictorial (Color) Prints & Altered Reality Prints Des Moines Camera Club Janie Lawson 1381 NW 122nd St. Clive, IA 50325 515-778-7277 DMCC.N4C.Digital@gmail.com
Digital Journalism Lincoln Camera Club Oscar Sarafian 1218 S. 6th Street Lincoln, NE 68502 402-450-1141 osarafian@hotmail.com	Black & White Pictorial Prints & Nature Prints Sioux City Camera Club Carl Hardy 3236 Maplewood St. Sioux City, IA 51104 712-281-3345 torchenterprises72@gmail.com
Digital Nature Wichita Area Camera Club Dwight Corrin 1201 W. River Blvd. Apt. 108 Wichita, KS 67203 316-207-6581 wacc.n4c.rep@gmail.com	Travel Prints & Journalism I Iowa City Camera Club Larry Luebbert 3269 Rochester Ave Iowa City, IA 52245 319-621-3277 lhuebbert@gmail.com
Digital Pictorial Omaha Camera Club Nikki McDonald 802 E. Cary St. Papillion, NE 68046 402-592-9555 OmahaN4C@cox.net	



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. 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.

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

PRINT REMINDER:

Prints **MUST** show the title, category of the print, Member Number, the maker's name, and camera club on the back of the mount in the upper left corner. Example below

**Caddo Lake, Karnack, Tx, USA, TRAVEL
SP001, Debbie Bates, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs CC**

Reason for the upper left hand corner is how it will be displayed

Contests

Have you ever thought of entering some of the other contest that N4C has:

1. **Photo Essay Annual Contest** will be held in April (March deadline)
2. **Digital Panorama Annual contest** will be held in May
3. **Camera Club Communication Annual Competition** in April
4. **Bulletin/Newsletter Annual contest** will be held in August
5. **Club Website Annual Contest** will be held in August
6. **Photojournalism Story Annual Contest** will be held in April
7. **Video Story Annual Contest** will be held in August (July deadline)

CHECK IT OUT IN THE HANDBOOK OR AT THE N4C WEBSITE

UNDER COMPETITIONS!!

**Looking for items from your camera club
to place in newsletter. Email to**

edit@n4c.us