



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C April 2026
Newsletter
Volume 68 No.82
www.n4c.us
edit@n4c.us

President Minute Message:

We all miss the in-person spring mini-convention as a way to connect and learn with fellow members. It will be worth the wait to connect October 8-11 at the Rough Rider Rendezvous Fall Convention.

In the meantime, we will have our semi-annual board meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2026 6-8pm via Zoom. We invite you and your entire club to join this meeting. If you have a topic that you would like included in the agenda, please email Jennifer at n4ccameraclub@gmail.com

Topic: N4C Spring 2026 Board Meeting
Time: Apr 16, 2026 06:00 PM Central Time
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82693915681?pwd=VxLAmUclBESpTVuLpLyJGFtsx9WokZ.1>



Agenda will be emailed closer to the meeting. Fall board meeting minutes

We are accepting nominations for the 2026-2027 N4C Board of Directors for positions of Directors 5 and 6. Also nominations for board Secretary and Treasurer.

To nominate yourself or another N4C member in good standing please email Jennifer at n4ccameraclub@gmail.com. If you think someone would make a good fit, please let me know and I can reach out to them directly to discuss duties.

Thank you for all the time and talent the current board has shown over the last year.

Jennifer L Tigges, President N4C 2024-2025
563-590-9868 call or text
Dubuque Camera Club



SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE

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

Convention Notes from Zoom Meetings

I just want those to know that a group of us 6-12 have been diligently working on the convention in Medora this fall. We have come a long way but still have things to go over. Motels have been locked in; we have around 50 of them set aside. There is a new motel being built and we have around 20 saved there as well.

The itinerary is close to being done and this convention is going to be a lot of fun with multiple field trips planned. Today, N4C is a diverse group of photographers – beginner to pro, owners of art and photography galleries, as well as businesses. Personally, I have been a member of this group for seven years and I'm excited to lead this diverse group by becoming the President for 2026-2027.

The 2026 N4C Convention will take place in Medora, ND on October 8-11, 2026. Some of the field trips we have planned are:

- Native American dancers
- Cowboys riding and roping
- Classic cars
- Camera for Kids (Cameras in the hands of our Children)
- Light painting
- Night sky photography against the backdrop of North Dakota's landscape
- Ukrainian Dancers
- Wild Bill Cody and others
- BMX riders



In addition, we will offer educational presentations and speakers for all genres of photography. Most of the speakers are from North Dakota, but we are truly excited to have Carol Polich as keynote speaker from Bozmen, MT. Her passion has been with African wildlife and landscapes as a nature photographer. Her photography has received awards from National Geographic (Napel), and includes awards from Germany, Uk and South Africa. Writing several books on nature, Yellowstone as well as Bryce Canyon.

I am confident that this will be one of the largest photography conventions in North Dakota, and with your support, it will be a great success. I hope that this event will mark the beginning of N4C conventions in North Dakota, attracting photographers and speakers to highlight our home state.

All of this plus the new Presidential Library, TRNP, Cowboy hall of fame. Although some of the field trips will have limits on people we are trying our best so that everyone gets a shot at it. Please keep that in mind. I help do workshops across the state and found out that if you get to many people in one area things just don't work. So early registration and setting up your field So if you know of anyone wanting or possibly thinking of one of your images this is the chance to promote the N4C and yourself as well as others.

N4C Fall Convention notes;

trips is very important. I would also like to know if any of the clubs have Zoom meetings and starting in May throughout the summer I would like to visit with as many clubs as possible. I have Duluth and Fargo already scheduled. Attached is a letter going out to sponsors in the next week. Along with a sponsorship form to fill out.

So let me explain the sponsorship a little.

We will sell these sponsorships for \$650 allowing them to get a 16x20 metal print of any photo taken during the convention. Allowing the N4C around \$500 revenue from this promotion for future conventions. These photos will come from the members attending. You will have your logo on one side and the sponsor has his logo on the other. For every 10 images you supply your name will be entered into a drawing for a 16x20 metal print also. Along with that all names are given to the sponsor along with contact info. Any additional images they may want they contact you directly and you make the sale. Thus giving you the opportunity to sell images at a price you set. There have been several of these sponsorships sold already. With this opportunity comes the possibility of your trip being paid for. Note that all images that are used for the sponsorship program will be used only for the promotion and that all rights will be retained by the photographer.

We are checking into camping in the area for those who like to camp. It will depend a lot on the weather at that time of year for water connections.

We have a block of 40 rooms at one hotel, 10 at another and a new hotel is opening up. Remember this a tourist area and hotels will run \$180 and up. Banquet speaker will be awesome. We are next to the Teddy Roosevelt National Park. Did you know Teddy Roosevelt was an avid photographer too.

As the year is in full swing so are the plans for the upcoming convention. Planning zoom meetings are every month now and if you are interested, please reach out. We are narrowing stuff down and will be releasing info soon. Lot of things planned and this is going to be an amazing time.

I would like to hook up with clubs that meet via zoom to give a bit more info and answer questions that you might have. I would also like to put this out there that the committee putting this convention together wants to help any club to do the convention in 2027. By putting this info out now gives clubs better chances to acquire money from local chambers. I personally would love to see something in the Minneapolis area. I have even gotten names of local church camps that could handle a large group. With all that goes on in the cities I think it would be a great time. Can't wait to see everyone this fall

Please sent Tim Zeltinger, minotccn4c@gmail.com an email with any questions you may have about the convention.

Registration may be posted in the May newsletter and their will be a website with all the information too. [http://www.2026 N4C Convention](http://www.2026N4CConvention.com)

Next zoom meeting will be Monday evening April 27th 6:30 pm.



2026 N4C Convention

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



Editor Notes: Contact Deb at edit@n4c

I did a boo boo last month and moved up a image, when the previous one was disqualified. My error. Here is Ken Johnsons explanation for those who were wondering.

On March 1st while the complete list of results was being prepared, another N4C member called to my attention that the 2nd Place DB winning entry was a B&W variation of a Color Pictorial Print image winner in 2023. I confirmed that was indeed the case and for that violation of the rules, I notified the entrant and withdrew the 2nd place award. All the other awards had been made to the entrants. Therefore the contest was not rejudged and that is in accordance to the rules.

The Award Winning list is correct and there was not 2nd Place Award. The DB Web Gallery was corrected. The image of the Bulbs that Carl included receive 3rd Place.

The error is with the images and titles in the News Bulletin. They were apparently moved up to fill the gap without attention to the complete list of Awards.

Ken Johnson



Have you registered for the 2026 Spring Break

—Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs



Spring Break 2026 will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026,
at Chippewa Middle School, 5000 Hodgson Rd Connection, St Paul,
MN 55126.

You can expect a full day of learning that includes a box lunch, opportunities to visit with local vendors, door prizes, shooting opportunities, meeting with friends, old and new, and more, including the results of the 2026 Interclub Competition. **Bring your camera:** Demonstration/practice areas will be set up to provide opportunities for photography. The University of Minnesota Raptors will be outdoors during the lunch period. There will also be a portrait photography studio with strobes, flashes, reflec-



Jay Lohner past member of Des Moines Camera Club passed away from brain cancer on February 1, 2026. Jay was an avid photographer, starting his own business, Jay D. Lohner Photography. Jay enjoyed entering competitions with his peers, vying with some amazing visual arts. He accepted his talents with humility and grace, always of the opinion he could do better, experiment more.

He was great in always willing to help a fellow photographer to learn more. I remember meeting him at several conentions willing to help.

Check out the great article on the Dubuque Camera Club on the N4C Facebook page



Dubuque Camera Club garners awards, builds connections in photography community

[BY THOMAS GLEASON thomas.gleason@thmedia.com](mailto:thomas.gleason@thmedia.com)

- Mar 15, 2026 Updated Mar 17, 2026

Lady’s Slipper Sojourn: A Journey of Photography and Friendship

Peanut butter sandwich, camera, batteries, tripod—ready to go! I’m off the meet up with my photographer friends who are also members of the Duluth-Superior Camera Club.

Every year, we travel to Chippewa National Forest to photograph the Showy Lady’s Slipper, Minnesota’s State Flower, whose name means “queen” in Latin.

It’s a tradition we all look forward to—spending the day together, searching for orchids, and enjoying the countryside.

Most of the time I anticipate making random stops during our drive and welcome them. It’s not unusual for someone to excitedly point out the window and say, “Look at that! Can we stop?” I pull over safely, step out, and let them click away to their photographer’s content.



Lady Slippers and Friendship (continued)

After what seems to be an eternity, we spot a glimpse of the distinctive slipper-shaped flower along the roadside. Luck is with us as there is a place to park safely off the road. We gather our camera gear and carefully approach the plant being very careful not to damage it, or its delicate surroundings. I feel giddy, like a kid in a candy store, eager to capture every sweet moment! For the first time everyone is quiet while carefully moving around and capturing these elegant “ladies.” After all, there will be ample opportunity on the trip home to discuss the photos and what inspired each of us on our journey.

When photographing any type of flower, it's important to consider a few factors. Pay attention to the lighting, as early morning or late afternoon provides natural soft light that enhances the colors and details of the petals. My personal preference is to use a shallow depth of field to create a pleasing background blur, which isolates the flower and draws attention to its beauty. Experiment with different angles and perspectives to capture unique and striking compositions.

In many of my photos, I prefer to use my 90mm macro lens with a wide-open aperture. This gives me the bokeh (blurred background) that I love by focusing on one point and softly blurring the rest giving the flower significance. Shallow depth of field is achieved by shooting photographs with a low f-number, or f-stop — from 1.4 to about 5.6 — to let in more light. Using a shallow depth of field is an effective method to highlight a subject. It directs the viewer's attention to the important part of the image. By focusing on one point and softly blurring the rest of the composition, significance can be added to the photograph especially flowers.

Although carrying a tripod can be cumbersome, it improves my photos significantly by not holding my camera and possibly getting an out of focus photo due to hand, or body movement. In addition, it helps me slow down to carefully study the composition and not hurry. When I see a particular scene, I take a few photos and try to step back and look at things from different perspectives. I guess you could call this “working the scene,” allowing time to look and think how the photo could be more interesting.

As my mentor, Bob Lahti, said, “This trip to the Grand Rapids area is memorable to say the least. Perhaps finding more about your fellow camera club members is more rewarding than the photography itself. And, speaking of memorable, the best advice I can give to you is to stop taking photographs for a few minutes, sit down close to a clump of “ladies” and soak in the beauty. It will be more than worth it.”

I always feel a great sense of gratification for this trip, my friendships and the experience. It's a moment of connection with nature that's hard to put into words and I am hopeful that I have done that for you.

Kathleen Wolleat



N4C SERVICE AWARD AND FOUNDERS AWARD NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year to consider members for an N4C Service award or a Founders Award. It has been some time since anyone has been nominated for either award. You will find an excerpt below of the requirements for nominations for each of these awards. After receiving the nominations, the award committee will review and vote on who should receive the award for this year. The awards will be presented at the Fall Convention. It has been a few years since anyone has been nominated. The full information on this process is in the Directory as well as the list of those that have received the awards in years past.

The deadline for nominations will be July 1st, 2026. Please give thought to someone in your club or someone else in N4C who you feel fits the requirements for nomination.

The nomination forms for both awards are found on the N4C Website under the Supplies & forms section. Please send completed nomination forms to me at greg.hoglund@sbcglobal.net.

Greg Hoglund

Chair Founders and Service Award Committee Service Award Requirements

1. The service Award is presented to a candidate for his or her outstanding contribution of service to N4C along with service to their own camera club and photographic services to their local community.
2. Any person, who is a member of a camera club in good standing with the Council, may act as a proposer for a candidate(s).
3. The candidate must also be a member of a club in good standing with the Council.
4. The proper application can be completed as a PDF file or a copy of the original completed application file, with or without the knowledge of the candidate.
5. Applications are available from the Chair of the Supply Chair.
6. Deadline for all applications will be three months prior to the date of the annual convention.
7. The chair of the Service Awards Committee will accept completed applications by mail or e-mailed PDF files.

Founders Award Requirements

1. The Founders Award shall be the highest award given by the Council.
2. The award shall be given only for services to the Council above and beyond the call of duty.
3. The award need not be given annually but should be reserved for candidates who have worked tirelessly in the interest of the Council for several years.
4. The members are past presidents, each serving a term on this committee immediately following their retirement from the presidency.
5. After the death of all founders, the committee shall be composed of five past presidents, who shall elect the committee chair each year.
6. Any member of the Council shall be permitted to submit the name of one person for consideration for the Founders Award. Applications for nomination of a candidate may be secured from the Supply chair.
7. The name of consideration must be submitted to the chair of the committee at least three months before the annual convention.

Print Winners for March 2026

11 Altered Reality Prints



1st Place

Altered Reality Print

TULIP & BUBBLES

Deb Shoning

Des Moines CC



**2nd Place Altered Reality
Print -**

BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Doug Conrad

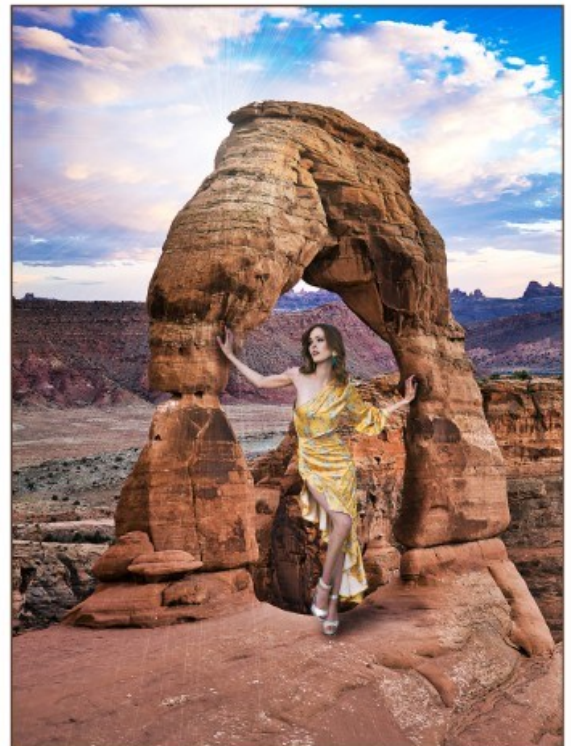
Sioux City CC

3rd Place Altered Reality Print

MONUMENTAL BEAUTY SERIES

DELICATE ARCH

Stephonie Schmitz Dubuque CC



Print Winners for MARCH 2026

37 Pictorial Prints



**1st Place
Pictorial Print**

***MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWER
SUNSET***
**Eric Williamson
Des Moines CC**

2nd Place Pictorial Prints
SHOWING OFF
Terri Dermody
Des Moines CC



3rd Place Pictorial Prints –
MILKY WAY AT JOSHUA TREE

Janie Lawson
Des Moines CC



1st Place Print Travel

WEIGHT OF LIGHT

Ed Hohestein

Sioux City CC



2nd Place Print Travel

ULYSSES S GRANT

Doug Conrad—Sioux City CC

3rd Place Print Travel

GOLDEN SILENCE

Henry Matthiessen II

Dubuque CC





1st Place – Jouranlism
Prints
SMOKE BETWEEN
THOUGHT
Doug Conrad
Sioux City CC

2nd Place
HOW CAN YOU QUIT TODAY
Gordon Rath
Dubuque CC



3rd Place
Print Journalism
BIN BUSTER
Dean Randall
Mitchell CC

Print Winners for MARCH 2026

30 Black & White Print



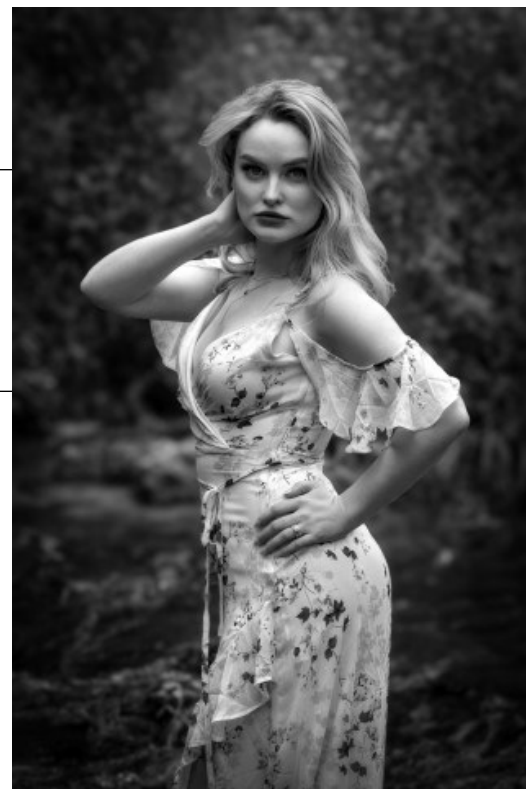
**1st Place Black & White
Print**

JANUARY 1938

Ed Hohenstein

Sioux City CC

**2nd Place Black & White Print
ECHOS OF DESIRE
Doug Conrad Sioux City CC**



**3rd Place Black & White Print
BUTTERCHURN
Robert Lahti
Duluth/Superior CC**



1st Place Nature Prints
HUMMINGBIRD MOTH NO2
Doug Conrad
Sioux City CC



2nd Place Nature Prints
SUNRISE AT HOLLOW ROCK,
MN
Tim Zeltinger
Minot CC

3rd Place Nature Prints
GREAT GRAY GETTING SOME
SUN
Janie Lawson
Des Moines CC



Honorable Mention for Prints

MARCH 2026 BUILD UP THE PRINTS!

37 PRINTS IN THE PICTORIAL CATEGORY THIS MONTH—Congratulations!!

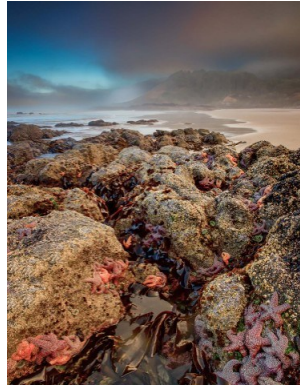


Honorable Mention
Pictorial
WINDMILL IN WINTER
Jim Harvey Des Moines CC

Honorable Mention
Pictorial Print
Moulton Barn
Denis Hirschman
Sioux City CC



Honorable Mention
Travel Print
HYDE MILL
Martha Farwell Great
River CC



Honorable Mention Pictorial
SOMEWHERE ACROSS THE SEA
Jerry Ranch—Des Moines CC



Honorable Mention
RED HEADED WOOD PECKER
Kevin Smith Sioux City CC



Honorable Mention
YEARLING
Doug Conrad Sioux city CC



Honorable Mention
Black & White
JAGGED ROCKIES
Stephonie Schmitz



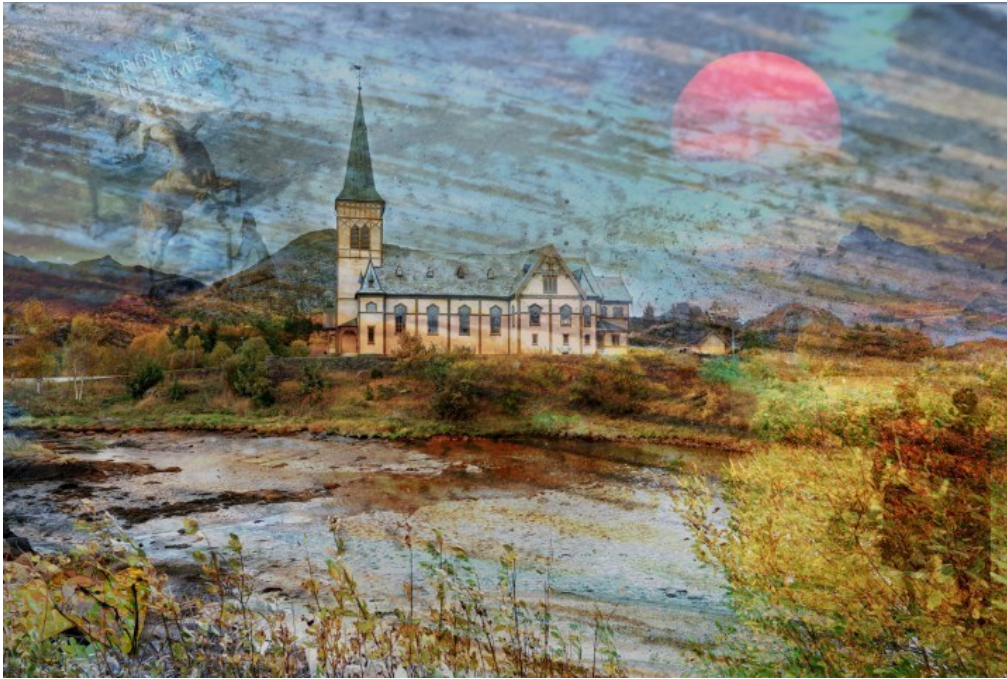
Honorable Mention
CATCH OF THE DAY
Jim Harvey
Des Moines CC

Honorable Mention Nature
SOVEREIGNS OF THE NEST
Ryno W Olson
Great River CC



Honorable Mention
WINDOW INTO DEATH VALLEY
Henry Matthiessen II
Dubuque CC





1st Place –
Digital Altered Reality
CAPTURED IN TIME
Diane Sisko
Western Wisconsin

2nd Place Digital
Altered Reality
OUT ON A DRIVE IN THE
COUNTRY
Bob Rude Iowa City CC



3rd Place Digital Altered
Reality
BABY WE WERE BORN
TO RUN
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
Mick Richards
Minnesota Valley PC

1st Place Digital Nature
WHITE PELAGONE
Edgar Evans
Wichita Area CC



2nd Place Digital Nature
MY BEST SIDE
Phillip Wonder Omaha CC



3rd Place Digital Nature
MOM FEEDING HER BABY
Cathy Richardson
La Crosse Area CC





1ST PLACE
PICTORIAL
MAGICAL SKIES
Betty Bryan
Western Wisconsin PC

2nd Place Pictorial

PHOTO HOBBIES

Connie Wedemeier

Iowa City CC



3rd Place Pictorial

CHEERIO

Marth Farwell

Great River CC





**1ST PLACE DIGITAL
JOURNALISM
*A MOMENT OF TOTAL
CONCENTRATION***

**Allen Kurth
Omaha CC**



2nd Place Digital Journalism

***F-22 RAPTOR READY FOR
TAKE OFF***

Sharon Watson

Fargo-Moorhead CC

3rd Place Digital Journalism

MCLAREN BLUR

Daryl Metzger

Des Moines CC

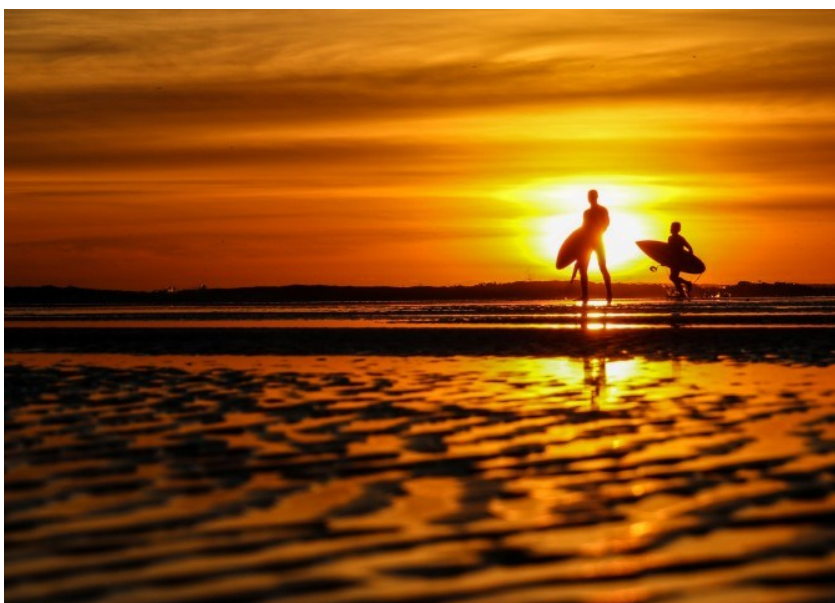




1ST PLACE DIGITAL TRAVEL
RED SAILS IN DISKO BAY GREENLAND
Christine Garbe
Minnesota Valley PC



2nd Place Digital Travel *STEPTOE BUTTE WASHINGTON* Mark Ye St. Paul CC



3rd Place Digital Travel
FATHERS DAY SAN DIEGO CA
OCEAN BEACH
Donny Stephens
Dubuque CC



1ST PLACE DIGITAL
BLACK & WHITE
SOLO SWAN PREENING
Ken Epstein
Saint Paul CC

2nd Place Digital Black & White

COWBOY

Diane Lowry

Des Moines CC



3rd Place Digital Black & White

BEFORE THE BREAK

Elliott Lindgren

Saint Paul CC



N4C March (2026-03) Contest Results

Altered Reality Prints

- 1st Tulips & Bubbles - Deb Shoning, Des Moines
 - 2nd Baltimore Oriole - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
 - 3rd Monumental Beauty Series ~ Delicate Arch - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
- 11 entries from 5 clubs. Judging Club: Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs. Chair: Kim Walter.
Judges: Deb Bates, Annette Pingree, Linda Freeman.

B & W Pictorial Prints

- 1st January 1938 - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City
- 2nd Echo's of Desire - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
- 3rd Butterchurn - Robert Lahti, Duluth-Superior
- HM Yearling - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
- HM Jagged Rockies - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
- HM Window into Death Valley - Henry Matthiessen II, Dubuque

30 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Iowa City Camera Club. Chair: Larry Luebbert. Judges: Jamie Brown, Randy Moyer, Mark Gromko. Comments: A number of nice images over a great range of subjects. Jamie Brown is a local photographer, collector and user of vintage film cameras, Randy Moyer and Mark Gromko are both members of ICCA.

Digital Altered Reality

- 1st Captured in Time - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
- 2nd Out on a Drive in the Country - Bob Rude, Iowa City
- 3rd Baby We Were Born to Run - Bruce Springsteen - Mick Richards, Minnesota Valley
- HM Dancing in the Ether - Margaret West, Omaha
- HM Bird - Kathy Landsinger, La Crosse Area
- HM Scaredy Cat - Larry Syverud, Saint Paul

56 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: Fargo-Moorhead Camera Club. Chair: Bruce Bernstein.
Judges: Sharon Watson, Gordon Court, Jeff Westgard.

Digital B&W

- 1st Solo Swan Preening - Ken Epstein, Saint Paul
- 2nd Cowboy - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
- 3rd Before the Break - Elliott Lindgren, Saint Paul
- HM Safe - Peg Gilbert, Sioux City
- HM Mystery Ship - David Wheaton, Saint Paul
- HM Emilie Sleeping - Annette Van Lengerich, Women's
- HM Rainy Daise - Nancy Heather Brown, Des Moines
- HM Sapsucker in B&W - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Continuity - Deb Shoning, Des Moines

86 entries from 15 clubs. Judging Club: La Crosse Area Camera Club. Chair: Cyndy Thorn .
Judges: Kathy Landsinger, Sue Retzlaff, Terry Zaleski.

N4C March (2026-03) Contest Results

Digital Journalism

- 1st A Moment of Total Concentration - Allen Kurth, Omaha
- 2nd F-22 Raptor Ready for Take Off. - Sharon Watson, Fargo-Moorhead
- 3rd McLaren BLUR - Daryl Metzger, Des Moines
- HM I Have Four Arms - John Larson, Shutterbug
- HM A Moment of Becoming - Citizenship Ceremony - Nikki McDonald, Omaha
- HM Lifetime of Memories - Connie Wedemeier, Iowa City
- HM The Thrill of Victory - Chuck Stowe, Des Moines

67 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Wichita Area Camera Club. Chair: Dwight Corrin. Judges: Randy Ficken, David Gray, Brenda Heard. Comments: The entries in photojournalism need captions. Too many entries have very short captions, just a few words.

Digital Nature

- 1st White Pelagone - Edgar Evans, Wichita Area
- 2nd My Best Side - Phillip Wonder, Omaha
- 3rd Mom Feeding Her Baby - Cathy Richardson, La Crosse Area
- HM Bad Hair Day - Roger Nebergall, Des Moines
- HM Monarch Beauty - Peg Gilbert, Sioux City
- HM Black and Yellow Mud Dauber (Sceliphron caementarium) - David Gray, Wichita Area
- HM Foxy on snowy day - Kim Walter, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
- HM Grizzly Strip Search - Mike Hanson, La Crosse Area
- HM Cormorant Capturing Needlefish - Marianne Diericks, Western Wisconsin
- HM Brown Headed Parrot - Terry Butler, Western Wisconsin

93 entries from 17 clubs. Judging Club: Minnesota Valley Photography Club. Chair: Phil Davies. Judges: Jerry Klumper, Henry May, Patti Deters.

Digital Pictorial

- 1st Magical Skies - Betty Bryan, Western Wisconsin
- 2nd Photo Hobbies - Connie Wedemeier, Iowa City
- 3rd Cheerio - Martha Farwell, Great River
- HM Red Eyed Tree Frog - Kim Walter, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs
- HM Forgotten Adobe under Utah Skies - Margaret West, Omaha
- HM Milky Way - Peggy Volden, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Valentine's Day morning - Anita Schneider, Saint Paul
- HM Sparrow in a Tree at Sunrise - Gordon Court, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Pretty Bird-Bohemian Waxwing - Susan Anderson, Fargo-Moorhead
- HM Sandhill Cranes at Sunrise - Allen Kurth, Omaha

100 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Topeka Camera Club. Chair: Greg Hoglund. Judges: Sonja Hoglund, Tom Arnold, Bob Wright. Comments: Great Photos 100 images from 16 clubs made judging difficult and it was difficult to come up with comments for all of the images.

Digital Travel

- 1st Red Sails in Disko Bay Greenland - Christine Garbe, Minnesota Valley
- 2nd Steptoe Butte Washington - Marc Ye, Saint Paul
- 3rd Fathers Day San Diego CA OceanBeach - Donny Stephens, Dubuque
- HM Saguaro National Park AZ - Diane Lowry, Des Moines
- HM Palouse Farms 4 Washington - Nikki McDonald, Omaha

N4C March (2026-03) Contest Results

HM Self Service Race Track Moapa Valley NV - Deb Teller, Omaha
HM Thailand Temple - Diane Sisko, Western Wisconsin
HM Fairyland Point at Sunrise Utah - Stephonie Schmitz, Dubuque
HM Rain Storm at Theodore Roosevelt NP South Dakota - Ken Cheung, Minnesota Valley
89 entries from 16 clubs. Judging Club: Duluth-Superior Camera Club. Chair: Lucy Kragness.
Judges: Brian Rauvola, Joni Tauszell, Amber Nichols.

Journalism Prints

1st Smoke Between Thought - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
2nd How You Can Quit today - Gordon Rath, Dubuque
3rd Bin Buster - Dean Randall, Mitchell

19 entries from 9 clubs. Judging Club: St Paul Camera Club. Chair: Terry Butler. Judges: Marv Vikla, Mar Ye, Gene Schwope. Comments: An excellent group of Journalism Prints, even though the numbers were low. Good composition, technique, and interest.

Nature Prints

1st Hummingbird Moth No. 2 - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
3rd Sunrise at Hollow Rock, Mn - Tim Zeltinger, Minot
HM Great Gray Getting Some Sun - Janie Lawson, Des Moines
HM Catch of the Day - Jim Harvey, Des Moines
HM Red Headed Wood Pecker - Kevin Smith, Sioux City
HM Sovereigns of the Nest - Ryno W Olson, Great River

36 entries from 8 clubs. Judging Club: Iowa City Camera Club. Chair: Larry Luebbert. Judges: Jamie Brown, Randy Moyer, Mark Gromko. Comments: A number of nice macro images, one entry had a very obvious "hand of man" as main part of image and was disqualified by two of the judges, but still was commented and scored for effort. Jamie Brown is a local photographer, collector and user of vintage film cameras, Randy Moyer and Mark Gromko are both members of ICCA.

Pictorial Prints (Color)

1st Mountain Wildflower Sunset - Eric Williamson, Des Moines
2nd Showing Off - Terri Dermody, Des Moines
3rd Milky Way at Joshua Tree - Janie Lawson, Des Moines
HM Moulton Barn - Denis Hirschman, Sioux City
HM Windmill in Winter - Jim Harvey, Des Moines
HM Somewhere Across the Sea - Jerry Ranch, Des Moines

37 entries from 6 clubs. Judging Club: Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs. Chair: Kim Walter. Judges: Deb Bates, Annette Pingree, Linda Freeman. Comments: Good variety of photos.

Travel Prints

1st The Weight of Light - Ed Hohenstein, Sioux City
2nd Ulysses S Grant - Doug Conrad, Sioux City
3rd Golden Silence - Henry Matthiessen II, Dubuque
HM Hyde Mill - Martha Farwell, Great River

HM Homer, Homer, Nebraska - Carey Anderson, Sioux City (added last minute, did not have time to contact for image)

23 entries from 10 clubs. Judging Club: St Paul Camera Club. Chair: Terry Butler. Judges: Marv Vikla, Mar Ye, Gene Schwope. Comments: An excellent group of Travel Prints. Good composition, technique, and interest. Hard to pick winners.

FOR DIGITAL ENTRIES, they must be received by 5:00 pm April 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 torcenterprises72@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.

April Digital Image Judging Clubs:

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

Shutterbug Camera Club

John F. Larson, Jr.

300 Lions Hill Road, Apt. W206

State College, PA 16803

319-671-1568

jflarson114@gmail.com

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

Saint Paul Camera Club

Terry Butler

1620 Wexford Way

Woodbury, MN 55125

612-270-1653

terrymjbutler@gmail.com

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

Great River Camera Club

Peggy Schmelzer

31600 166th Ave W

Illinois City, IL 61259

309-791-2550

schmelzerp@gmail.com

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

Lincoln Camera Club

Oscar Sarafian

1218 S. 6th Street

Lincoln, NE 68502

402-450-1141

osarafian@hotmail.com

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

Dubuque Camera Club

Cara Pusateri

3420 Saint Catherine Rd.

Bellevue, IA 52031

563-542-0380

cpusateri5@aol.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.

Women's Photography Club

Linda Rutherford

1419 Riverside Dr

River Falls, WI 54022

715-426-9297

lruther1@comcast.net

SEND NEW MEMBER NUMBERS AND NAMES TO KEN JOHNSON

PRINT ENTRIES - JUDGING CLUBS FOR April 2026

Entries must be received by these clubs by April 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 PRINT CONTEST TO:

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

Send both Pictorial Color Prints and Altered Reality Prints to:

Albert Lea Lens & Shutter
Photography Club
Linda Eisterhold
50123 – 262nd St
Austin, MN 55912
507-396-3531
lkjaeister@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
torchcenterprises72@gmail.com

Ken Johnson web@n4c.us,
A Digital Contest Chair

Enjoy photography whether or not it is yours!

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.

Also when a contest has more than 30 entries I will be showing the Honorable Mention images. Lets get all of the PRINT contest over 40 images each month. Digital is easy, lets get our print count back up!!!!!!

Proposed UPDATED 2026 Photo Essay Annual Competition rules:

A photo essay is a sequence of still images, paired with music, narration, or both, that tells a clear, unified story in an engaging way.

Each member may submit **one entry per year**, and each club may submit up to **8 entries**. Entries that did not previously place **1st, 2nd, 3rd, or Honorable Mention** may be **re-edited and resubmitted**.

Each essay must contain at least **20 images**. There is **no maximum number of images**, but the total runtime cannot exceed **6 minutes**. Winning entries are often around **4–5 minutes**. Only **still images** are allowed—**video clips are not permitted**—though the **Ken Burns effect** is allowed. All images must be the entrant's own work.

A soundtrack is required and may include **music, narration, or both**. Acceptable audio sources include:

- *sounds recorded by the entrant around the same time the images were made,
 - *narration or music recorded specifically for the essay by the entrant or local collaborators,
 - *royalty-paid music with source provided,
- royalty-free or copyright-permitted pre-recorded music.

The source of all sound, music, or narration must be identified. The electronic file itself must **not identify the maker or club**; author identification is handled separately through the entry form and **N4C member number**.

Entries must follow **standard N4C naming conventions**, using the member number and file name. Files should be submitted as **.mp4 or .mov**, with **.mp4 preferred**. Delivery is typically by **Dropbox link emailed to d.tomes@icloud.com**. A USB drive may also be mailed if the contest chair is informed in advance. The chair will confirm receipt by email within **1–2 days**.

Entries may be created in any software, and unpaid non-professional help is allowed for converting the file into the required universal format.

There will be **three judges**, similar to other N4C contests. Judges may come from multiple clubs or a host club, but they **cannot enter the contest in the year they judge**. Experienced non-N4C judges may also be used.

Judging will consider three main factors:

- **quality of the photography,**
- **quality of the soundtrack,**
- **overall impact and integration of sound and images.**

Judges will score essays using **TCI-related criteria**:

- **T** = technique, mainly image quality,
- soundtrack quality,
- integration of imagery and sound.

Judging takes place during summer, and winners are announced at the **fall convention**.

For **Club of the Year** points:

- **1st place:** 8 points
- **2nd place:** 6 points

3rd place: 4 points

Honorable Mention: 2 points



Contests

*CHECK THEM OUT IN THE
HANDBOOK*

OR www.n4c.us

Rules for Photojournalism Story Contest

The intent of the Photojournalism Story Contest is (to present a quality image with a caption which explains the subject of the image in the Photojournalism tradition).

1. An annual Photojournalism Story Contest,. Five images, digital with up to 30 words per image for a caption and no music allowed.

2. The deadline for the Photojournalism Contest is August 1, 2026, and are to be emailed to Carl Hardy @ torchenterprises72@gmail.com.

3. Images are subject to the same constraints as digital images and marked as such; ex. 01 (Sequence),Entrants Club Number,PS,Name of Image.jpg.

4. Captions should be submitted in Microsoft Word or as a .pdf file with the (Sequence #) and Title of the Entry for each image.

5. Only minimal digital editing is allowed. In the interest of credibility, photographs that misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters may be added or applied.

6. Photojournalism Story Contest will be scored in these two categories: 1) Caption, how well does the caption describe the action in the image, between two (2) and (5) points. 2) Image, the quality of the image: Technique, Composition, Interest (the same as Digital Images) with one score between two (2) and five (5) points for each (Technique, Composition, Interest). The total score for each submitted photograph will range from eight (8) to 20) points.

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 by the contest chair is August 1, 2026, 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 You Tube video.

Consider Sending to someone who might help with donations for the Fall Conventions.

Thank you for considering a donation to help support the 2026 North Central Camera Club Council (N4C) Fall Convention – “N4C Roughrider Rendezvous 2026.” As a valued partner through your sponsorship or donation, you can showcase your brand and support a community-driven organization.

N4C was founded 70 years ago and today it consists of thirty-seven camera clubs located in seven Midwest states. Our moto is, “Where names become faces and faces become friends,” coined by Francis Kingsbury over 65 years ago and reflects our strong camaraderie.

Today, N4C is a diverse group of photographers – beginner to pro, owners of art and photography galleries, as well as businesses. Personally, I have been a member of this group for seven years and I’m excited to lead this diverse group by becoming the President for 2026-2027.

The 2026 N4C Convention will take place in Medora, ND on October 8-11, 2026. Some of the field trips we have planned are:

- Native American dancers
- Cowboys riding and roping
- Classic cars
- Camera for Kids (Cameras in the hands of our Children)
- Light painting
- Night sky photography against the backdrop of North Dakota’s landscape
- Ukrainian Dancers
- Wild Bill Cody and others
- BMX riders

In addition, we will offer educational presentations and speakers for all genres of photography. Most of the speakers are from North Dakota, but we are truly excited to have Carol Polich as keynote speaker from Bozmen, MT. Her passion has been with African wildlife and landscapes as a nature photographer. Her photography has received awards from National Geographic (Napel), and includes awards from Germany, Uk and South Africa. Writing several books on nature, Yellowstone as well as Bryce Canyon.

I am confident that this will be one of the largest photography conventions in North Dakota, and with your support, it will be a great success. I hope that this event will mark the beginning of N4C conventions in North Dakota, attracting photographers and speakers to highlight our home state.

Let’s discuss how we can work together to create a win-win partnership. Thank you once again for your time and support for the “N4C Roughrider Rendezvous 2026”.

We have put together several packages for advertising that may interest you. The Silver package would allow you to acquire a 1-16x20 metal print of any artist from photos taken while at the convention. This print will include the artist Watermark along with a logo from your business on the other side. You will pick amongst the images taken. Along with that if you wish to purchase more art, cards, business cards from any of the images you will be given all the artists contact info and contact direct them direct. If you are interested in some of the photographer’s photography, you may look up winning images from the past at n4c.us under competition. These are some top photographers from 11 states, and this should be the largest photography convention in ND. So, welcome them as they come and take photos of our beautiful state and the badlands of ND.

We are expecting 150+ members and their families. Meals for members are on their own except one banquet meal on Friday. We will notify those coming of the availability for business open to serve those while staying in Medora.

Any questions please call or email me.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Tim Zeltinger, Vice President, N4C
Glenburn, North Dakota 58740
701-720-3008
minotccn4c@gmail.com

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



Rough Rider
Rendezvous
Medora ND
October 8th-11th



**North Central
Camera Club
Council**

www.N4C.us a Non Profit Organization

N4C Convention Advertising Options

Please fill out the form completely:

Name: _____ Business: _____

Address: _____ Phone number: _____

Ads are to be printed in black and white.

Check all that apply:

[Full Page/Gold \\$650 \(w4.5" X h7.5"\)](#)

Full Page/Silver \$500 (w4.5" X h7.5")

½ page - \$275 (4.5w" X 3.5"h)

¼ page - \$150 (2.25w" X 3.5"h)

Speaker or Meal Sponsor ships 1-\$500 2 or more \$750 (only 3 sponsors per event)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Full page Gold 16x20 Metal or Canvas print (**Artist logo on one side and Sponsors logo on opposite side**) from artist submissions from event of your choice, Full page ads. Tabletop pop up (on tables throughout convention), Name on N4C convention merchandise sold during convention. [Recognition on convention web site. Will have contact information to artists supplying images if additional images are warranted.](#)

Full Page/Silver Full page ad, [Tabletop pop up](#) (on tables throughout convention) Name on N4C convention merchandise sold during convention. Recognition on convention web site.

½ page and ¼ page adds Name on N4C convention merchandise sold during convention. Recognition on convention web site.

Speaker or Meal Sponsorships Company Banner posted in room and announced during the meal also available

Contact:

Tim Zeltinger, Vice President, N4C
Glenburn, North Dakota 58740
701-720-3008
minotccn4c@gmail.com