



North Central Camera Club Council

N4C September
2026
Newsletter
Volume 68 No.9

N4C Bulletin is the official publication of the North Central Camera Club Council which serves camera clubs in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota,

How did it get to be September? As the outgoing President I will be sticking around, but in a different capacity. I will be your N4C treasurer coming soon. We owe a great bit of gratitude to the dedication of Lynda Richards the outtreasurer.

going

I have been honored to basically co-president with Tim Zeltinger over the last year or two. Tim's dedication to photography and his people skills are unmatched. It has been an honor to work beside him and the entire N4C board.

We can't wait to see everyone in October in Medora. Registrations are still accepted up until September 4. Don't delay.

[http://www.2026 N4C Convention](http://www.2026N4CConvention.com)

This link will take you directly to the website for Fall Convention Registration

All my best—Jennifer Tigges, past President N4C 2024-2026
New Treasurer 2026-2028

New President Minute—Tim



If I could set a wish list for N4C as we head into the new year—especially as momentum builds toward the 2026 N4C Convention in Medora this October—Here is what I'd love to see us capture and create together:

1. Sharp Lenses & Bigger Horizons

*** Mastering the Badlands Light:** With Medora on the horizon, my top hope is that every photographer in the council gets inspired to experiment with light—whether that's chasing golden hour across the North Dakota badlands or capturing the raw action of western life.

***Expanding Creative Comfort Zones:** I'd love to see members try at least one genre or technique outside their usual go-to—whether that's fast-paced action shots, deep-focus landscape work, or fine-art storytelling.

***Genuine Community Connections:** The best part of any convention or club season isn't just the gear or the ribbons—it's the late-night image reviews, the shared tips over coffee, and the camaraderie of people who share the exact same passion.

****Inspiration Over Competition:** While photo judging and monthly competitions push us to refine our eye, the ultimate goal for the coming year should be personal growth. I hope to see seasoned photographers mentoring newer members, and newcomers bringing fresh energy and perspectives to the council.

CONTINUED

***Showcasing the Best of the North Central Region:** N4C brings together an incredible range of talent across multiple states. I'm eager to see our collective work highlighted, celebrated, and shared broadly.

· Here's to filling memory cards, pushing artistic boundaries, and making the 2026 season—and the Medora convention—one for the books!



Thank you for supporting our convention in Medora this coming fall. It has been eye-opening for me that is for sure. Let us know how you are traveling to the convention, with who and the things you see on the way. Not everyone sees things the same way so write up a line or 2 and share it with us on FB.

[.http://www. 2026 N4C Convention](http://www.2026N4CConvention.com)

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Thursday Night Photo Shoot

There is an overwhelming number of people looking for the night class on Thursday.

There are 40 people who signed up and would like to split these up into 3-4 groups at different locations. There are so many places inside the park and at that time of night may work the best. With some wanting light painting and other milky way (a little late in the season) or star trails. I can handle one group but would like to get help from the others. I would love to do star trails with one exposure of an hour long. If you prefer to star trails that you stack, we will have to be in 2 different locations. The hour-long star trial requires complete darkness, no phones on etc. Hour long shots are very sensitive and do not require any light painting as such.



Gerald B is bringing or can bring light sticks. Is there a chance you would like to lead a group of 10 or so? Since so many people light paint differently maybe we can do a team meeting prior to, so everyone is on the same page.

I would like to see someone lead each group and run it. I have seen in the past that if one person is not on the same page it can be frustrating for everyone.

Please bring a heavy jacket, gloves, head lamp, a trigger (corded trigger for the hour long shot) cordless ones and voltmeters sometimes fail. Make sure all batteries are charged. Also, if you are not use to shooting in the dark familiarize yourself with your camera settings, bulb mode, IS off, AF off, Also a f2.8 lens or faster if you have one and a sturdy tripod.

if you have any questions, please email me of call 701-720-3008

Also please don't reply to all as it can be hard to keep track of emails that way.

see you for 6 weeks or so.

Thanks



More notes on Night Shoot Thursday



What can go wrong on 1 hour exposures. Moisture is a big factor. Hand warmers wrapped around the barrel of the lens. Helps with condensation on the lens. Light is your enemy on these long exposures. Little tea lights are used to illuminate the inside of a cab. In the case of the Ford truck even a hint of the Aurora can be seen. The lights in the background are around 4-5 miles away and are yard lights. In the case of the house tea lights are used to light up the inside. So faint it is hard to see them with the naked eye. Cool fall night killed this shot because of moisture on the lens.

Milky Way all under the ND skies during a workshop
Big Coulee church with the ambient light from a farm just to the south 100 yards.

30 sec/ 6400/2.8

30/4000/2.8

The Ecklund home located on the edge of the Bakken oil formation and north of a town of 1500 shows the light pol-



The Brimsmade elevator was taken the same night as Big Coulee



many different ways to light

<http://www.2026N4CConvention.com>

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Fall Convention Notes

The 2026 N4C Convention will take place in Medora, ND on October 8-10, 2026. Some of the field trips we have planned are:

Native American dancers

Cowboys riding and roping and more at the Bar X Ranch

Classic cars

Camera for Kids (Cameras in the hands of our Children)

Light painting

Ukrainian Dancers

Wild Bill Cody and others

BMX riders

Newly added off camera flash Setup

As we are getting ready for the N4C convention in Medora this year I am looking forward to seeing all that have made the plans. There are a few clubs that have not had any registrations and that's ok everyone has things going on. We are planning some of the most amazing photo opportunities for you. Native dancers start it off some have said I have been to celebrations before. For those coming this is more of a personal connection with the dancers. Being able to speak to them one on one and photographing them with a backdrop like no other. Then comes the Ukrainian dancers, colorful and energetic. We are also doing more personal shots for these dancers. Since they have been out of sight for a while this is our opportunity to help them with photos for their organization. I would like to see if some are willing to share with them for this purpose. I have never photographed these dancers but only have heard of their excitement to be present with us during our convention. We continue with Carol Polich, Adam Papin speaking along with Carl Wegener with camera for kids.

As I have been putting labels on some of the prints for the "Best of the Best" and Jennifer and the crew from the Dubuque Camera Club labeling the photos that they judged. I have had the opportunity to look at each photo. We all should be proud of the photographers that are in the N4C. Weather you have images in the Best of the Best are not. You each have your own personality when you snap that shutter. From portrait shots, nature and some of the most exciting and beautiful landscapes one has ever seen. Thank you for being part of this group of people and pat yourself on the back. I know it would be hard for me to pick a winner for any category.

As we get into the last weeks before we see each other. A reminder that the registration deadline is coming soon. September 4th

BUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Before we meet, I am asking for digital files of some of the past conventions. So, if you have a couple (2-3) I would like to print a few off. So, if you are willing to share email me a printable file. If you can, title them when and where would be helpful.

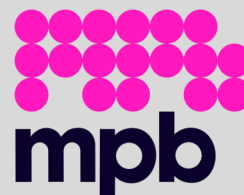
n4c.convention@gmail.com Thanks Tim Zeltinger

We have an amazing sponsor for the convention and Camera For Kids Seminar. We also need donated DSLR bodies or kits for the program. So bring us your old gear If your are able. Ater youth attendees complete two classes, they get to keep a camera to use to further their photographic art.

Get a quote on your used equipment just gathering dust today.

Elevate Your Photography with MPB. Whether you want to buy or sell, MPB offers the most competitive prices among US resellers. Shop MPB-approved used gear and save up to 40% or sell to MPB to maximize your payout. Used Camera gear from MPB is affordable, reliable and sustainable. Every item is thoroughly tested and graded by product specialists and comes with a free warranty. Spend less and get more. Explore used Canon, Nikon, Sony, Fui models, and more.

CLICK ON LOGO TO GO DIRECTLY TO mpb



**We are looking for a club to hold the 2027 Fall Convention. Got a great area?
Don't know where to start? Reach out to Tim Zeltinger at
701-720-3008 or bring it to our attention at the convention in Medora.**

We have laid the framework to easily duplicate many of the pieces of this year's convention as headstart for you. We will be creating convention planning committee to assist the host club with planning the future conventions.



It is with sadness that I inform you that Scott Udey past N4C president and longtime member of the Topeka Camera Club recently lost his wife of 23 years (Willa Wilson). I am attaching a link to her obituary. Some of you probably remember her as she attended several Spring Conventions and also a few of the fall conventions.

<https://www.penwellgabeltopeka.com/obituaries/willa-wilson>

Sorry I did not get this notice out to you sooner.

Scott's e-mail is scottbudey@earthlink.net.

Greg Hoglund
President Topeka Camera Club



Thank you to the following clubs for sending in their dues:

ALBERT LEA LENS & SHUTTER CC	DULUTH/SUPERIOR CC	HURON AREA CC
IMAGES BY SAM	IOWA CITY CC	KUNTEMIER CC
MINNESOTA VALLEY CC		
MITCHELL CC	OMAHA CC	WESTERN WISCONSIN CC
		DES MOINES CC

**NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL
N4C DUES NOTICE**

August 1, 2026 -2027

Dear Member Club:

Please notice new Dues rate!

According to the N4C bylaws in the Handbook and Directory, all club membership dues are **DUE SEPTEMBER 1**. Dues are figured at the **NEW rate of \$2.00 per club member**, with **no minimum or maximum per club**. The number of members for calculating dues will be based on the club membership as of the previous May (2026) New clubs will calculate their current membership.

Dues shall run from one calendar year, **renewal date being the first of September** each year.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP AS OF LAST MAY: _____ **MEMBERS**
X \$2.00 each = TOTAL \$ _____

CLUB NAME: _____ Check # _____
Person sending payment: _____
Address _____ Zip _____
Email Address _____ Phone _____

Please remit this amount to the N4C Treasurer, Jennifer Tigges,
4927 Wild Flower Drive, Dubuque, IA 52002, 563-583-7128
Keep the top half for your records

-----Cut Here -----

**NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL
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Where to send entries for September Contest 2026-2027

Digital Altered Reality Dubuque Camera Club Cara Pusateri 3420 Saint Catherine Rd. Bellevue, IA 52031 563-542-0380 cpusateri5@aol.com	Digital Travel Shutterbug Camera Club John F. Larson, Jr. 300 Lions Hill Road, Apt. W206 State College, PA 16803 319-671-1568 jflarson114@gmail.com
Digital Black & White Des Moines Camera Club Janie Lawson 1381 NW 122nd St. Clive, IA 50325 515-778-7277 DMCC.N4C.Digital@gmail.com	Pictorial(Color)Prints & Altered Reality Prints Central Iowa Camera Club Ed Siems 1251 Prairie Avenue Marshalltown, IA 50158 641-751-4386 ed_siems@yahoo.com
Digital Journalism Duluth-Superior Camera Club Joni Tauzell 2012 N. 26th St. Superior, WI 54880 218-341-6055 Jonit58@gmail.com 	Black & White Pictorial Prints & Nature Prints Topeka Camera Club Greg Hoglund 2230 SW Kingsrow Road Topeka, KS 66614 785-633-2384 greg.hoglund@sbcglobal.net
Digital Nature Omaha Camera Club Nikki McDonald 802 E. Cary St. Papillion, NE 68046 402-592-9555 OmahaN4C@cox.net	Travel Prints & Journalism Prints Sioux City Camera Club Carl Hardy 3236 Maplewood St. Sioux City, IA 51104 712-281-3345 torchenterprises72@gmail.com
Digital Pictorial Lincoln Camera Club Oscar Sarafian osarafian@hotmail.com 1218 S. 6th Street Lincoln, NE 68502 402-450-1141	Have you sent your club information to Carl Hardy at torchenterprises72@gmail.com Club information forms can be found in supplies and forms at N4C.us

Please review competition Notes!

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

IF YOUR CLUB ENTERS PRINTS, SEE the Previos Page FOR WHERE TO SEND ENTRIES.

FOR DIGITAL ENTRIES, they must be received by 5:00 pm Sept 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. (New Directory for 2026-2027 is not out yet)

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

Altered Reality (DA) Black & White (DB)

Journalism (DJ) Nature (DN)

Pictorial (DP) Travel (DT)

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

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

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

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

Content of the Email Message when you send the entries:

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEND NEW MEMBER NUMBERS AND NAMES TO KEN JOHNSON

N4C Supplies & Forms - on the web.

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

A club will normally have up to 8 entries for a contest. A typical image file name list might look like:
(USE YOUR CLUB NAME AND MEMBER NUMBER INSTEAD OF DA044 - zero "0" 44 not a letter "O")
(USE DA, DB, DJ, DN, DP, or DT for the Contest Code - This example is for the Digital Nature Contest)
(Notice commas separating the data in the file names) 01,DA044,DN,Deer.jpg

03,DA022,DN,Grand Arch.jpg

04,DA033,DN,Teton Reflection.jpg

05,DA037,DN,White Water.jpg

06,DA002,DN,Shadows.jpg

07,DA025,DN,Horsetail Falls.jpg

08,DA018,DN,Soaring Eagle.jpg

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

When submitting print entries please supply your N4C print contact person with a digital image of your entry. We will be posting the digital image of your placing photo in the newsletter. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, HM. These are then used for the "Best of the Best" Year end video.

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.

Maximum Number of Entries:

Prints: The maximum number of prints which may be submitted by a small club is eight (8), and sixteen (16) by a large club in any one print category; one (1) entry per member. See the exception allowing double entries in the Judging Club Rules" Section. A small club is one with 29 or fewer members. Large club is one with 30 or more members.

A person belonging to more than one (1) N4C club MUST consistently enter from the same club throughout the contest year.

For Prints the competing club must complete the N4C Official Entry Blank with the maker's complete name, Member Number, and work title (**including the location in the title for Travel entries**). Entries are to be numbered and the numbers should correspond to those shown on the N4C Official Entry Blank. Failure to complete these forms properly and legibly denies the maker his or her proper award points. Difficulties arise when one month the name is recorded as R. Smith, the second month Robert Smith, and the third month Rhonda Smith appears from the same club. Please take these responsibilities seriously to assure proper credit.

Entries may be submitted more than once, provided the entry has not been awarded a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM award in a monthly competition in the same year or later years, in the same or any other category. An entry that has received such an award may not be entered again in any inter-club N4C contest. Merit awards are eligible for re-submission.

It is the responsibility of the sending club to pack print entries in a type of container, which can be used for the return of the entries following the contest. The entering club must provide and enclose postage STAMPS for the return of print entries and forms appropriate labels, envelopes, packaging, etc. must be included.

More notes on Print Entries

Entries must reach the judging club on or before the 15th of the month in which the contest is held. Judging is to be performed before the 25th of the month.

Entering clubs will obtain an inventory of ribbons and merit awards from the N4C Supply Officer in sufficient quantity needed for the following contest season. The awards would be labeled and distributed by the entering club's N4C print Contact to their winning club members when contest results naming the award recipients are received from the judging club.

Judging Software for Prints:

Print entries can be used with the judging software with the same as digital entries in the judging format. Change out your print label to read, 01, SP001.PN, BLUE BIRD... which would be Print Nature. It would be the same for PB—print black & white, PA for Print Altered Reality, PJ—Print Journalism, etc. Take out the D for digital and replace with P for print.

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Thank you for all the clubs that will be attending the convention and have signed up already. Albert Lea, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fargo-Moorhead, Iowa City, Kuntemier, La Crosse, Lincoln, Minnesota Valley, Minot, Omaha, Sioux City, Southwest Iowa Shutterbugs, Topeka, Western Wisconsin, Wichita, and Women's Photo Club. This is a reminder to reach out to your friends and club members personally and let them know you would like them to join you. Please forward this newsletter. Jennifer Tigges can assist in getting you into the same sessions if needed Reach out to her at 563-590-9868 call or text.

Registration closes for the 2026 N4C Convention Roguh Rider Rendezvous on Sept 4th!

We have to have our meal count in by then for the Friday and Saturday banquets. Find all the information on the website <https://www.n4cconvention.com/>.

Any questions about the newsletter or if you have information for the newsletter contact Debbie Bates at edit@N4C.com

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