

North Metro Photo Club

'Serving photographic enthusiasts of the North Metro suburbs in the Twin Cities area.'



North Metro Photo News – newsletter of North Metro Photo Club

October 2008

A number of housekeeping issues:

Time for N4C Entries –

The N4C Competitions run September through May (except December). See the North Metro Photo Club Member Handbook for detailed instructions and images – one pictorial, one nature, and new this year contemporary (see page 6 for definitions). Send images to Duane at duanewraalstad@gmail.com by the 5th of the month.

Dues were due –

North Metro Photo Club dues are due in May. Traditionally, those not paid by September 30th will be dropped from the roster and will no longer be eligible for competitions. Dues should be mailed to Treasurer Fran Warzaha, 7124 – 88th Av. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55445. Annual dues are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family.

Fifth Thursday –

There is Fifth Thursday Print Competition in October – on the 30th. Bring your entries to the **October 16th** meeting or deliver to Fran or Grace before the 16th.

Also, it is your chance to show off some of your work – not necessarily competition stuff, but what you like to do or a travelogue. Put together a 10-minute slide, CD, or DVD show and bring it to the meeting. Let Becky know if you need a slide projector, digital projector or laptop and she will bring the equipment so you can show your program.

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Welcome Visitors and New Members

The last several months we have seen an influx of visitors – and many of them have become new members.

For the new members, we hope you are enjoying the Club. Some of you have started entering the monthly competitions – as evidenced by a number of images in the accepted range.

If you are not yet comfortable entering the monthly competitions, you are not required to do so. However, if you have questions about how it works, just ask Jean or Duane or any number of long-term members. The competitions are just one of the ways we learn to improve our photography.

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CALENDAR

- Oct 16
Regular meeting – 7:00 pm at St. Philips
Category: Hand(s)
- Oct 30
Fifth Thursday – 7:00 pm at St. Philips
Category: Prints (color and monochrome)
Also, member 10-minute programs – let Duane know if you have something so the equipment is available.
- Oct 11
2008 Minnesota Botony International circuit entries due.
- Oct 28
2008 Northstar Nature Circuit entries due.
- Jan 6, 2009
2009 Minneapolis-St. Paul Print Circuit entries due.
- See www.cameracouncil.org for more information

Competitions & Contests

Upcoming Events

- Thru Oct 25
'Pieces of Italy' – black and white images of people and places in Italy by Howard M Christopherson. Icebox Gallery, 1500 NE Jackson Street.
- Sept 19 – Nov 8
Exhibit of lush large-scale print by Josh Quiigley and Karolina Karlic radiate a sensuality revealing everyday lives longing for meaning. IFP at 2446 University Ave W, in St. Paul.
- Online Resource
Minneapolis Institute of Arts (artsmia.org) Featured in this program is a selection of more than 4,300 photographs from the Museum's permanent collection, representing the work of more than 500 photographers.
- Apr 4, 2009
TCACCC Spring Break and InterClub Competition Awards. Tartan Park, Lake Elmo. More information should be available around the first of the year.

**Deadline date for next newsletter:
October 30**

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E-Mail Address for Submitting Digital Images

Please use the following e-mail address for submitting digital images:

northmetrophotoclub@hotmail.com

Becky will send an e-mail receipt that your images were received.

President's Corner Jean McDonough

THE PRICE OF FLYING Submitted by Jean McDonough

Several of us attended the PSA Conference in Portland, Oregon in September and signs were posted at the terminal reminding us that \$15 would be charged for one piece of checked luggage. There have been many articles written informing the public of the impending charges by the airlines.

Attendant: Welcome aboard Ala Carte Airlines, sir.
Passenger: I would love to have a pillow and a blanket in case it gets cool.
Attendant: That will cost you \$10, sir.
Passenger: What?
Attendant: The material used in these items blocks pesky critters like dust mites and mold spores. For \$10 more you can buy a "Snooze Kit" that includes an eyeshade and ear plugs. Anything else, sir?
Passenger: Yes. It's stuffy in here, and my overhead fan doesn't seem to work. Can you fix it?
Attendant: Your overhead fan is not broken, sir. Just insert two quarters into the overhead coin slot for the first five minutes.
Passenger: The airline is charging me for cabin air?
Attendant: Of course not, sir. Stagnant cabin air is provided free of charge. It's the circulating air that costs 50 cents.
Passenger: I don't have any quarters. Can you make change for a dollar?
Attendant: Certainly, sir! Here you go!
Passenger: But you've given me only three quarters for my dollar.
Attendant: Yes, there's a change-making fee of 25 cents.
Passenger: For cryin' out loud. All I have left is a lousy quarter? Whatever will I do with it?
Attendant: Hang onto it. You'll need it later for the lavatory.

There could be more, of course. They could charge \$15 extra for the bulkhead seat which has more leg room and it is the beginning of the drink cart run. There could be a \$2 surcharge for the seat belt and \$2 for the tray to place your artery-clogging/cholesterol surging snacks they sell on the airline. For \$3 you can buy .05 ounces of M & M's or .07 ounces of Twizzlers. Perhaps there could be a \$10 discount for sitting in the back row which is next to the lavatories. No wonder we older folks long for the "good old days" of traveling.

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Digital Forensics: Amateur Astrophotography

By Walt Fluegel

As I picked up an old recycled *Sky and Telescope* magazine I had a flashback to my youth. My first experience with seeing wonderful photos of planets, nebula and comets was in a *National Geographic* magazine and at the Hayden Planetarium. Then I clicked fast forward to what I was browsing as I saw better, more detailed, photos sent by the Hubble space telescope. The S&T magazine contained the equivalent of what one finds in photo magazines. Among other things there were letters to the editor, articles on all sorts of issues, some political, some scientific, a How-to, equipment evaluations and abundant advertisements. The big difference is that astronomy for the hobbyist requires an understanding of how to “see and capture” light from the dark sky while folks like us want to “see and capture” with light on earth. They, and we, do as much as possible to capture - light “correctly” and get an image that is as true as possible to the real thing.

To get a better understanding of what these folks do photographically I went to their web page skyandtelescope.com and explored articles in their astrophotography section. It was amazing. Both digital and film cameras were used, and various computer programs and processes were described. Many terms were familiar such as *Adobe Photoshop*, 16-bit mode vs. 8-bit mode, TIFF, layers, filters, sharpening, focal length, resolution, etc. There are however, unique things to astrophotography that would be foreign to us.

There are people who specialize in mostly photos of the northern lights, or the planets, the moon, or nebula, and they seem no different from people who shoot flowers or trees. Then there are the generalists who want to do it all and spare no expense to go to distant places, or to get the latest gadget or get the latest computer program or to stay up at night and wait for the right time to get their image. In this latter case it's no different from anyone who waits in a damp and hot blind to snap a duck's image.

Once the astros capture their images they have to process them, and their task is a bit different and yet somewhat the same as ours. Things they ponder: How do they keep the camera on a moving target? We pan, they have various ways of tracking. They want sharp images, so do we, but how do they do it?

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There is so little starlight that the digital sensors capture, so how are exposures done? One way is to click hundreds of times to avoid the long exposures that would cause noise on the sensor. But then, that would mean layering the hundreds of frames and is this manually possible?

There is so much to tell, but I cannot do that in this column. Here are some title examples that should give you more insight into what these folks are interested in: *Deep Sky Photography Made Easy. Night! Camera! Action. Going Deep with a DSLR. How to Process Planetary Images. Photographing the Aurora. Tips for Imaging a Partial Solar Eclipse.* There were many more.

My early youth sojourn with *National Geographic* magazines and the Planetarium stimulated my interest in astronomy. Understanding what is in the cosmos and advances in image capture since my youth have greatly improved. The NG at earlier times also stimulated me in the direction of becoming a biologist, who now gets vicarious pleasure by visiting outer space through photographs made by the Hubble space telescope and amateur astronomers.

Have fun and remember where you stored the woolies from last winter.

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News from Hawaii

By George Jensen

(Our long-standing member with the longest commute – he stays active in the club via e-mail and digital imaging.)

No article from George this month – the early deadline for submitting articles threw us all out of sync. Should be back on track in November.

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In my mind's eye, I visualize how a particular... sight and feeling will appear on a print. If it excites me, there is a good chance it will make a good photograph. It is an intuitive sense, an ability that comes from a lot of practice.

– Ansel Adams

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Raw Image Format

From Wikipedia

One of the terms we need to learn when entering the digital realm is the raw image format. Wikipedia is often a good source for getting answers, and here is what it has to say about raw image format:

“A raw image file contains minimally processed data from the image sensor of a digital camera or image scanner. Raw files are so named because they are not yet processed and ready to be used with a bitmap graphics editor or printed. Normally, the image will be processed by a raw converter in a wide-gamut internal color space where precise adjustments can be made before conversion to an RGB file format such as TIFF or JPEG for storage, printing, or further manipulation. These images are often described as "RAW image files" (note capitalization) based on the erroneous belief that they represent a single file format, and thus deserve a common filename extension, .RAW. In fact there are dozens if not hundreds of raw image formats in use by different models of digital cameras.

“Raw image files are sometimes called digital negatives, as they fulfill the same role as film negatives in traditional chemical photography: That is, the negative is not directly usable as an image, but has all of the information needed to create an image. In addition to raw files from cameras, raw data from film scanners can also be referred to as digital negatives. Likewise, the process of converting a raw image file into a viewable format is sometimes called developing a raw image, by analogy with the film development.

“Like a photographic negative, a digital negative may have a wider dynamic range or color gamut than the eventual final image format. The selection of the final choice of image rendering is part of the process of white balancing and color grading.”

Whew!! Now doesn't that make it all clear? One thing not mentioned above is that raw images take up a lot more space on a media card.

The ability to make white balance and color corrections in the raw file before taking it into your image processor (Photoshop or whatever) is important to many photographers. But we should remember why we are taking the images and what we plan to do with them. For many the added features of raw don't matter – jpeg provides everything they need without the added processing.

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What's Happening Around Here

by Grace E. Anderson Schrunk

I have seen the light. I am finally coming around to the digital era in a small way. I can use my digital point and shoot Kodak and get prints made so I can enter N4C's monthly competitions.

I mentioned last month about having posters made at Office Max for \$5.99. I went back and had a couple of 11 by 14 prints made for \$2.69 each. They turned out very nice.

I had taken a series of photos at the Blaine Festival, a couple of weeks ago, and some of them are suitable for the photo journalism competition for N4C. They made it exactly 8 by 12, which I need for the N4C contest, for \$1.29. It is nice to know that I can compete with prints.

Now, here is the sticky part. It cost me \$3.68 to send my two prints, (you are allowed only two prints per person) to the judging site. That does not include the cost of the two 8 by 12 brown envelopes. That pays for the postage for each envelope so you will get your prints back. I do not plan to submit a bill to the club for the privilege of competing. It would amount to about \$32 for the eight months of entries plus a significant amount of postage, if any of my prints win, for them to be sent to be judged for the September Convention for 2009.

I made a few copies of the names and addresses of the judging clubs from the N4C book for the 2008-2009 year which I plan on giving to those who would like to compete with prints and do not compete any other way as of yet. I can also send, via email, the complete 113 page book of information to anyone who would like to compete in the print categories.

Photo Journalism has always been my favorite classification of photography and I have no idea why. It probably goes back to when I was in my teens and I went to the local theater to see a movie. I preferred to see the documentary, which was in black and white and it was always about what was going on in the rest of the world.

It will be a challenge for me to go out and find a couple of photo ops every month to fit the photo journalism category but I'm sure I will come up with something interesting. I called West Photo and they wanted \$10 to make a picture from a slide, so that

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route is out. I asked at Office Max if they could scan a slide and the answer I got was, "What is a slide?"

I hope some club members will take advantage of N4C and enter their prints in the large print and small print in both color and black and white, contemporary/creative and photo travel. In some of the camera clubs, a person is responsible for each category so it is not so much work for one person.

The best way to send the pictures is in a black mailing box, which of course brings up the cost of postage quite a bit, but the photos are the safest, mailed that way. The clerk at the post office said, "They no longer use the -do not bend- sticker any more."

I am looking forward to a fun year in photography now that I have joined the ranks in competition and who knows, maybe I will purchase an SLR, and a new computer plus all the digital gadgets that go along with it.

I should drive down Highway 65 more often than I do, if only to read the sign out in front of a printing business. The latest bit of wisdom is "A pessimist is only an optimist with experience."

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Editors Note: North Metro Photo Club currently competes in the N4C digital competitions in three categories: Realistic, Nature, and Contemporary/ Creative – see page 6. Duane Wraalstad is the coordinator for digital entries. See the North Metro Handbook for more information. Those with slides can have one of the designated 'slide scanners' scan their slides for digital entry – for both North Metro and N4C competitions. The Club decided not to enter N4C print competitions because of the cost and coordination.

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Minneapolis Photographic Studio and Gallery Cooperative

This new organization held its grand opening and open house on Saturday, September 13. It is located at 2400 North 2nd Street in Minneapolis – just across the river from the recently closed Minnesota Center for Photography (MCP).

Does it replace the MCP? They are a cooperative and thus are structured differently than MCP. And, as you will note – the costs are higher.



There are at least three membership levels. The 'MPC Member' level (\$10/month with 12-month reoccurring charge and a 200-member maximum) includes free admission to talks, presentations, exhibit receptions and other planned social events as well as 10% discounts on educational programs.

The 'Working Photographer Member' level (\$25/month with 12-month reoccurring charge and a 100-member maximum) is designed for working members. They have the same privileges as the first level plus access to the new lounge for networking as well as regularly scheduled meetings and workshops.

'Minneapolis Photo Coop Members' are the member photographers of the Photo Center and have all Photo Center and Working Photographer privileges, plus private studios, lounge and offices. All for just \$225/month with 6-month reoccurring charge and a 30-member maximum.

Their website is listed as: www.mplsphotocoop.com (the editor was unable to access the site to check it out further).

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Minnesota Center for Media Arts (IFP)

This organization is celebrating its 20th year. The mission of IFP Minnesota Center for Media Arts is to advance a vibrant and diverse community of independent film and media artists through education, funding, networking and opportunities for showcasing their work. They are located at 2446 University Avenue West, Suite 100, in St. Paul just East of Hwy 280 on University.

IFP provides a full-range of classes and workshops as well as providing its members 46 hours per week of facility access, including b/w photographic darkrooms, video editing/digital imaging suites, and classrooms. Members can also rent a wide array of equipment. They regularly have classes in digital photography for the neophyte to the experienced photographer.

There are eight membership levels in IFP ranging from \$55 - \$190. Check their website for more information: www.ifpmn.org

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N4C: Digital entry categories for North Metro members

We have gained a number of new members who may be interested in the N4C competitions. The three categories that North Metro participates in are listed below (see www.n4c.us/competition):

Pictorial Photography

In pictorial photography we are concerned with the artistic quality of the presentation of the subject rather than with the subject itself. Literally, all subjects qualify, but since "Interest" accounts for one-third of the score, subjects that catch the viewer's eye will have an advantage. The judges will be seeking answers to the question, "Did the photographer simply record the subject, or did he/she through the photographic process enhance the viewer's interest in the subject?" Pictorialism may be accomplished by meticulous photographic technique, proper presentation, careful composition, or most likely all of these factors.

Nature Photography

- No photograph is worth the distress or injury to any wild creature.
- Nature photography is simply the recording of our natural world by some photographic means. Included are all branches of nature except Archeology and Anthropology.
- The hand of man shall not be present in any nature entry except where wild birds or animals have invaded mans world such as fence posts and other man made objects freely adapted for use by wild creatures.
- Banding or tagging on nature subjects is acceptable. Photographs at bird feeders are not acceptable if any part of a man made feeder is shown in the photograph.
- Photographs taken in zoos, animal farms or game farms are acceptable as long as the setting remains natural and the hand of man is not visible.
- Cultivated plants, domestic animals and pets are not acceptable and should be entered in other categories.

Contemporary/Creative Photography

Contemporary/Creative photography is an opportunity for those who dare to explore the experimental and creative forms of photographic



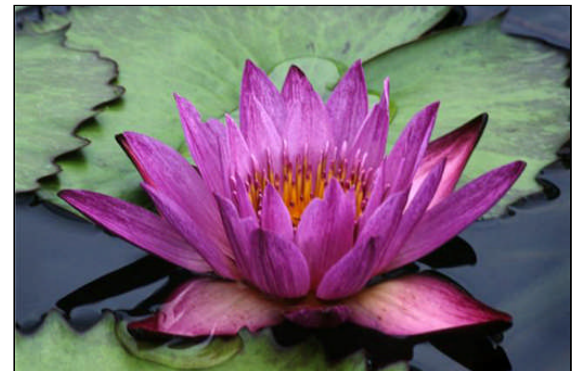
expression. These will include, but not be limited to derived images, ultra-high contrast, black light, bas-relief, solarization, multi-images, trick lenses and filters, and other ways to alter the image to produce a new abstract effect. Just about anything goes. The important thing is the result, not the means to create it. This area of photography bridges between photographic realism and creative art. It is very difficult to judge and there are literally no rules to follow. Generally concentration on form and color rather than detail in the image will help you succeed.

Image Size – The longest side is to be no more than 1024 pixels. Keep the file size to no more than 500 KB. (This is a minor change from last year's requirements. The North Metro Handbooks will be revised later this year to reflect the change.)

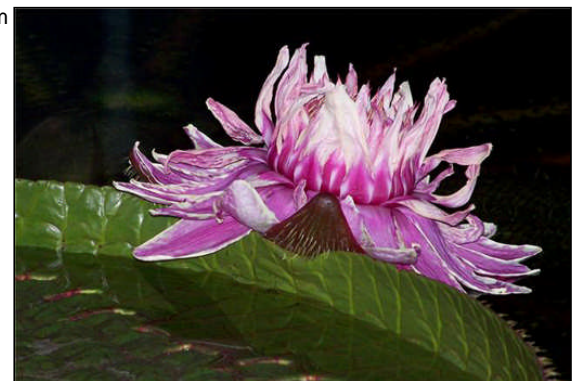
Send N4C digital images (one pictorial, one nature, and new this year - contemporary) to Duane at duanewraalstad@gmail.com by the 5th of the month (September through November and January through May).

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Pink Lily 2



Platter Bloom



September 2008 Competition Results

Judge: Richard Kain

Points

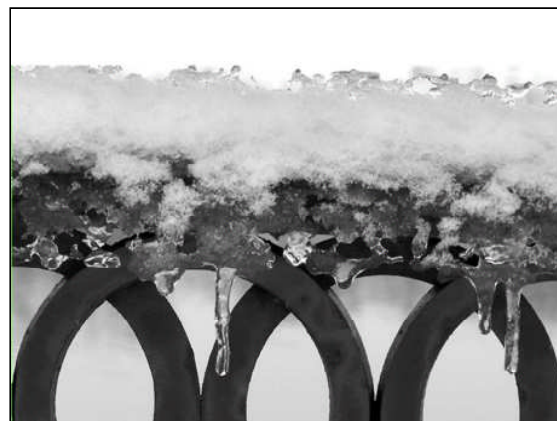
Category: Open

- 15 Pink Lily 2 – Rachel Cain
- 15 Platter Bloom – Teresa Sposito
- 14 Flower – Carlos Nazareth
- 14 Perfect Lily – Molly Rhoe
- 13 Standing Mama Chipmunk – Walt Fluegel
- 13 Bicycle Racers – Duane Wraalstad
- 13 Three Waterfalls – Duane Wraalstad
- 13 Coast Guard Station – Kurt Nordenstrom
- 12 Friends – Carlos Nazareth
- 12 Colorful Parking Ramp – Carol Madison
- 12 Cottage in Ashford, WA – Jay Karai
- 12 Japanese Garden – Jay Karai

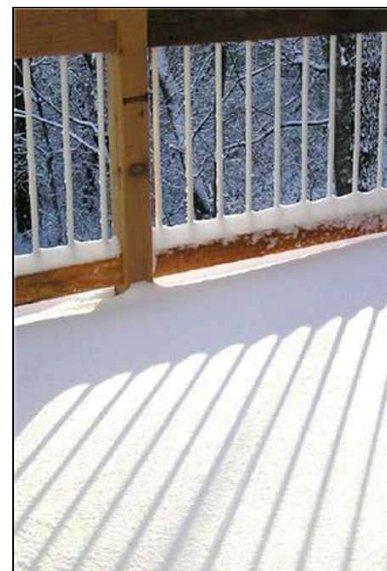
Category: Snow

- 15 Snow Topped Edge – Teresa Sposito
- 15 Shadows on the Snow – Marion Beach
- 14 First Snowfall – Walt Flugel
- 14 Cardinal on A Snowy Branch – Kathy Wall
- 13 Guardrails in Ice – Carol Madison
- 13 Almost 9 Inches Overnight – Walt Fluegel
- 13 Winter at Shingle Creek – Tim Oien
- 12 Conservatory in winter – Carol Madison
- 12 A Snowy Scene – Jean McDonough
- 12 Bison in Snow Scene – Jean McDonough
- 12 Picnic Tables in Winter – Don Natwick
- 12 Ducks on Snowy Creek – Tim Oien
- 12 Wind Swept – Sue Dilcher
- 12 Husky – Danielle Lindstedt
- 12 French Alps – Kurt Nordenstrom

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Snow
Topped
Edge



Shadows on the Snow

NMPC N4C Competition Results:

(Complete list included in monthly bulletin and winners posted at www.N4C.us)

Nothing to report.



TCACCC

North Metro Photo Club Information

Affiliated with: Twin City Area Council of Camera Clubs (TCACCC) – www.cameracouncil.org
 North Central Council of Camera Clubs (N4C) – www.N4C.us
 Photographic Society of America (PSA) – www.psa-photo.org

Where: St. Philips Lutheran Church, 6180 NE Hwy. 65, Fridley, MN.

When: 7:00 pm – third Thursday August thru May. (No June or July meeting, although a member often hosts a picnic/potluck.) Club also meets the fifth Thursday of each month that has five Thursdays.

Membership: Individual \$20.00 Family \$30.00
 Call Fran Warzeha for membership information (763) 425-7090

Newsletter:

To receive the newsletter, call or e-mail Carol Madison at 763-781-2083, or carmadison@msn.com.

Website: www.northmetrophotoclub.org

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|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| President | Jean McDonough | (763) 574-1450 |
| Vice President | Duane Wraalstad | (763) 755-5247 |
| Treasurer | Fran Warzeha | (763) 425-7090 |
| Secretary | Grace Schrunk | (763) 755-0575 |
| Projected Images | Becky Janssen | (763) 425-9615 |
| Prints | Kathy Wall | (651) 426-6331 |
| N4C Coordinator | Grace Schrunk | (763) 755-0575 |
| N4C Digital | Duane Wraalstad | (763) 755-5247 |
| TCACCC Delegate | Jean McDonough | (763) 574-1450 |
| Refreshments | Missy Mehner | (763) 427-8169 |
| Webmaster | Jay Karai | (763) 757-6300 |
| Newsletter Editor | Carol Madison | (763) 781-2083 |



North Metro Photo Club Competition Categories

Projected Image (Digital/Slide) Competition Categories

2008-2009 Season

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| August | Prints |
| September | Snow |
| October | Hand(s) |
| November | Vintage |
| December | Movement |
| January | Downtown |
| February | Backlit subject |
| March | Birds |
| April | An event |
| May | Year-End Banquet |

2009-2010 Season

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| August | Prints |
| September | Nature |
| October | Food |
| November | Photojournalism |
| December | Creative Expression |
| January | Waterscape |
| February | Doors / Windows |
| March | People at Work |
| April | Fences |
| May | Year-End Banquet |

Fifth Thursdays – Print competition / member 'slide' shows

Instructions

See North Metro Photo Club Member Handbook for detailed instructions. (The Handbook is on the website under Articles.)

Submitting Images

Projected Image (Slide / Digital) Competitions – Images (digital and scanned slides) should be submitted by the 5th of the month to: northmetrophotoclub@hotmail.com.

Print Competitions – Send / deliver prints to Kathy Wall (the print chair) or Grace Schrunk by the 5th of the month in August or those months with a Fifth Thursday meeting.

N4C Digital Competition Submissions

Send N4C digital images (one pictorial, one nature, and new this year - contemporary) to Duane at duanewraalstad@gmail.com by the 5th of the month (September through November and January through May). See North Metro Photo Club Member Handbook for detailed instructions.

NorthMetroPhotoNews

4021 Benjamin Pl. N.E.
Columbia Heights, MN 55421