

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 **December 2008**

Judging Event

**International NorthStar Circuit of Nature
Photography
December 6
8:30 – 1:30 and
1:30 – 3:30**

**Mounds View Community Center
5394 Edgewood Drive
Mounds View, MN 55112**

Come for the day or for a few hours – help if you can or just watch. You will see some great images. Club members assist with announcing scores, recording scores, focusing the slide projector, running the equipment, etc. Supporting these types of events results in a fair amount of funds that goes into the Club treasury.

Directions – from County Road 10. There is a Walgreens on the corner of Edgewood Drive (two blocks east of Long Lake Road and approximately ½ mile west of I-35W) and CR 10. Go North on Edgewood Drive a short distance – the Community Center is across the street from the Mounds View City Hall.

Food provided:

Orange juice and a breakfast sweet in the morning. Lunch – sandwiches, chips, carrots diet drinks, coffee pot for coffee/sugar – need cream? Bring your own.

This is one of the six sections of the NorthStar Circuit of Nature Photography and will be held in combination with the TCACCC section of the competition.

Yankee Swap

Time again for the ‘funnest’ program of the year – the Yankee Swap. We all participate in the swap. Here is how it works:

- Bring a wrapped, unmarked gift of no particular value. The gift can be photo related or not – your choice.
 - The wrapping can be as ‘normal’ or creative as you want – grocery bags and comic pages are often used as well as traditional wrapping paper.
- Put your gift on the designated table when arrive.
- After the monthly competition and a short break, we will draw numbers, draw gifts, and ‘exchange’ gifts (which really amounts to taking something you prefer from someone else and giving that person something you can live without).

It’s all for fun and is a hoot! You won’t believe the stuff that shows up during the swap (some really good and some, well, not so good)

For refreshments – bring a sample of your Holiday baking or some other tasty morsel to share with the group.

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CALENDAR

- Dec 18
Regular meeting – 7:00 pm at St. Philips
Category: Movement
Program: Yankee Swap
- Jan 15
Regular meeting – 7:00 pm at St. Philips
Category: Downtown
- Jan 29
Fifth Thursday meeting – 7:00 pm at St. Philips
Category: Prints – open

Competitions & Contests

- Jan 6, 2009
2009 Minneapolis-St. Paul Print Circuit entries due.

See www.cameracouncil.org for more information

Upcoming Events

- Thru Jan 10
IFP Minnesota Member Photo Show. 2446 University Ave W. in St. Paul.
- Dec 14
Como Conservatory Holiday Show Camera Event. Tripods welcome – 8:00 – 10:00 am. Fee: \$5.00.
- Thru Dec 21
Holidazzle Parades – 6:30pm, Thursday – Sunday evenings. Nicollet Mall between 4th and 12th. Food shelf donations accepted.
- Thru Jan 18
India: Public Places, Private Spaces-Contemporary Photography and Video Art. Minneapolis Institute of Arts.
- 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.
- Apr 24-26, 2009
N4C Springbrook Mini-Conference in Guthrie, Iowa.

**Deadline date for next newsletter:
December 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

President's Corner SAVING THE CHEETAH POPULATION

By Jean McDonough

I had an interesting experience in Namibia this summer photographing three cheetahs running around a baseball field chasing after red-dyed cloths simulating red meat tied to a lure—cheetahs automatically respond to movement. When the cheetahs caught a cloth, the volunteers were ready to give them a small piece of donkey meat from a very loooong stick!! The motivation for this activity is for the cheetahs to get their needed exercise.

At this research center, an innovative program that provides guard dogs to livestock farmers at a modest cost may be helping to save wild cheetahs in Namibia.

The almost two decade-old effort is the brainchild of Laurie Marker. Quitting a job she held for 16 years studying and breeding captive cheetahs at an Oregon wild-animal park, the U.S. biologist moved to Namibia in 1990 to help prevent livestock losses that spurred ranchers to shoot and kill hundreds of cheetahs each year.

Namibia is home to an estimated 3,000 cheetahs, the most of any country. The figure represents one-fourth of the estimated 12,000 cheetahs left in the world.

Laurie Marker created the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), a nonprofit research and education center, veterinary clinic, and farm. They breed Anatolia shepherds and about 25 are placed on farms each year. Farmers have reported zero loss of livestock and high satisfaction with their dogs' performance. The dogs learn to defend the goats, sheep, and cattle if they sense danger lurking and instinctively challenge predators and scare them off with their loud, booming bark. Predators include not only cheetahs but also jackals, lynx, leopards, and baboons that would harm the farmers' animals.

Another great experience at this center was hearing the cheetahs' purr—one of the most soothing sounds one could imagine.

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Happy Holidays!

Goo Goo Inspiration

By Walt Fluegel

What drives a person, or what is the motivation for someone to take up the camera and snap pictures? Could it be the desire and thrill of handling a camera, the creative aspects, looking for something new, the historian or record keeper in us, the social aspects of being with other photographers, the profit motive if we sell a photo, or other things? Or is it all of the above?

A new baby arrives in a home and mom just has to have a photo or two, or three, or a dozen of the tyke. Out comes a point and shoot camera. Snap, snap, and more snaps as baby grows, friends admire mom aesthetic touch, and they want mom to snap photos of their children, and on and on, until mom begins to accept payment for her efforts to please her friends. Start a business? A business starts. Dad watches baby on weekends while mom snaps other infants. Now what? Birthday parties, play get-togethers, and other gatherings need photos as word spreads and mom passes around business cards and has a web site. Now what? One digital camera is the work horse for this small business, but mom sees green and wants independence from her day job. She eyes better equipment. She knows she is a good photographer.

Professionals charge \$50 or more for an 8 X 10 inch glossy photo. Mom is charging \$10 to her friends and their friends, so is that enough for mom to have a successful business? This is the hard part for mom to decide because mom wants more than just snaps from her point and shoot and requires a digital SLR. Mom also needs better lighting than a flash, different props and locations, different lenses for her SLR, and the expenses pile up especially if she is on the internet. Mom no longer has a day job, and this new business can get mighty draining on dad's wallet unless mom begins to up the price per photo. Will she lose her friends and their cash? Will she also do weddings?

But is mom a business person at heart? Does mom really understand the business aspects of being a professional photographer? What started out as being in love with a sleeping, or gurgling, or wide-eyed cherub in a crib and having a camera handy became a small business. It is now up to many other factors for mom and dad on an adventure they may not have planned for. What was the motivation, a cute baby picture, the releasing of hidden artistic talent, profit motive, ... what?
Click!

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.)

As I write this, I am feeling stuffed to the gills. Several times a year, the division I work for at the National Park has pot luck parties. I think the food gets better with every one I attend. Unfortunately, I tend to over eat at these affairs and today was one of those occasions. A week ago the Park held an awards banquet with the best turkey I have had in a long time. I ate too much there too! At the awards ceremony I was awarded the Presidents Service Award so I have another thing to hang on the wall. In two weeks I will be starting a new project at the Park. I, along with another coworker, will start scanning and organizing all of the thousands of slides that have been taken over the years at the Park. It is a huge job but I am looking forward to seeing all the eruption pictures as well as seeing how things have changed over the years in the Park. A little bit of trivia, Volcano's National Park is 5th of all the national parks in the number of film permits it issues.

Things have quieted down a little as the flow of tourists has been reduced by about 18% from last year. I still see a lot of tourists from Europe and Canada with a few Minnesotans thrown in for good measure. That situation may be short lived as there are two new airlines flying to the Big Island beginning next month.

The rainy season is approaching and we are starting to see more overcast and drizzly days. The National Weather Service is keeping up their record, almost always wrong in their predictions. If they say it is going to be sunny, I tell everybody to expect rain and I am more right than wrong.

I entered some of my clocks I make in the woodshop in the Woodworkers Show at Wailoa Center in Hilo last month and was fortunate enough to sell one of the more expensive ones. That made me quite happy as it was one of only a handful of items that sold at the show.

Time is rapidly approaching for our edition of the Yankee Swap and I haven't got a clue what I am going to get for it yet. I better get inspired pretty quick.

The kittens are still a joy to watch playing in the morning. One of the adult cats that used to run

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away as soon as it saw me has changed her mind and now sits at my feet at mealtime and meows very loudly until she gets her food. She even allows me to pet her which I never thought would happen. When I get home from work, she is there to greet me every night. I guess she made up her mind that I am not such a bad guy after all.

That's about it from the 50th State.

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Cool Weather Photo Ops

Holidazzle Parades –

The glittering lights of the 17th annual Holidazzle parades in downtown Minneapolis make for good watching as well as 'photo-ing.' Bundle up and head for Nicollet Mall between 12th and 4th streets on Thursdays through Sundays until December 21. Or purchase a spot (\$9 per person) in the heated enclosure and enjoy hot cocoa and cider while you watch. Information: www.holidazzle.com

St. Paul Winter Carnival –

The 'coolest celebration on earth' runs January 22 – February 1. The eleven-day event includes both a day and a night parade, ice carving contest and much more. Check their website for more information: www.winter-carnival.com

Canadian Pacific Holiday Train –

This is an annual event to benefit local food shelves. The train is decorated with lights, there is music, and of course, they are hoping to collect a fair amount of money and non-perishable food to benefit the less fortunate.

This year the train arrives at the Shoreham Yards at 28th and Cenetral Ave. NE on Friday, December 12 – at approximately 9:30.

Como Conservatory Holiday Show –

Starting December 6, more than 1,000 poinsettias in hues from pink to red surround six Cafesjian carousel horses in the sunken garden.

The camera event is December 14 when tripods are welcome from 8:00 – 10:00 am. Fee: \$5.00.

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What's Happening Around Here

by Grace E. Anderson Schrunk

After reading Carol Madison's (our beloved editor) column about storing your digital images, the old shoe box method almost seems like the perfect set up. To all you digital people, I'm sure the storage method does make sense but I wonder how many photos will wind up in that never-never land, never to be seen by anyone again.

At one time I did a lot of writing on a word processor. I stored some things on a disk, but I mostly printed up everything that I wrote, for which I am thankful. My son brought out my computer almost 9 years ago and the word processor, along with the discs I had planned on using again, all went the way of the dodo bird.

I just got a taste of technology. Recently my VHS recorder quit working, and I went shopping for a unit to replace it. That type of recorder has not been made for at least four years. I bought a combo player, mind you, I didn't need the DVD player as I already have one, but you do not have a choice, it is either the combo or nothing.

I took out the manual, put all the plugs in their proper places and turned it on. No dice. I called JVS and Best Buy and to make a long story short, my TV is not new enough to work with the combo player. I love to record certain programs, so now it is either forget about recording or buy a new TV.

A big orange and some fresh pine boughs and "Silent Night" are all I need, and some cookies, or course. They are the strings that when I pull on them I pull up the complete glittering storybook Christmases of my childhood. Garrison Keillor. Keillor is one of my literary heroes, so anything he says, I believe.

We all have our favorite memories of Christmas when we were young. One of my memories is of the big pine tree in the front yard of a couple who would light it up with the big colored bulbs during the holiday season on the road on the way to the small town of Stanchfield. He and his wife never did have any children. He did this back in the years of 1945-1948. He passed away in 1949 and the tree was never lit up again. We did not have electricity yet, so this beautiful sight was a real novelty.

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Oh, how I love the outdoor lights. I love to go out and see them, plus, I like to have them in my own yard. In order for me to do the big job, I have to think about it in August, plan it out in September and get them up either the end of October or the first of November before it rains, snows or gets too cold to complete the task. I don't do it every year, but this year I dragged out EVERYTHING that I have collected over the years and it is out in my yard, all lit up.

If any of you are in the area of 113th and highway 65, come down 113th a half mile and see my lights for yourself. If I am home, the coffee pot is on. I hope I do it again next year, by then I should have forgotten the big job of taking them down and putting everything away for another season.

As usual, when I am out putting up the lights, I think of Mr. Hughes and all the joy he brought not only to me, but I'm sure everyone else who got to see his special tree. Which leads me to think, how our actions, either good or bad, can leave an impression that sometimes does last for a lifetime.

I received some bits of advice from a friend on the internet. You just never know when someone will walk up to you and ask for some useless information such as:

- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- A gold fish has a memory span of three seconds.(Some days that's about what my memory span is.)
- A snail can sleep for three years.(I know some people that could do this too.)
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.(I know some people like this also.)
- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- If the population of China walked past you. 8 abreast, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
- The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

Now, go forth and have a happy and a prosperous New Year and probably learn something new in the digital world during 2009.

Digital Infrared Photography

By Jeff Morgan

The dreamy, fantasy world of Infrared: all those bright white fluffy clouds; jet black skies and water; and the vegetation so light, bright and spring like. It is almost like being on an alien planet during a magnificent spring day – radiant, airy, a serene dreamscape! But what is infrared? What we see as red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet are different wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation called the visible spectrum. Infrared is just above red, but well before heat and beyond the range of human vision.

Photographing with light that one cannot see is a challenge. What can be seen starts at about 400 nm (nm= one billionth of a meter); the short end (violet) of the spectrum and goes up through the rainbow to about 700 nm on the long end (red). This is just about where infrared starts and goes right up through and beyond one millimeter.

Years ago a photographer could use infrared film to record this electro-magnetic radiation, but it never was an easy task. The camera had to be loaded in complete darkness and the film processed in the same way. Even the plastic developing tank would leak infrared! It was a very difficult film to use because one had no way to really measure the exposure. Composing through a filter that lets no visible light through is challenging! It could also be a nightmare to print with, given its tendency to be very high contrast and its completely variable exposure. However the appeal is the glimpse into magical, invisible otherworldly environment where green grass and foliage is bright white and skies are jet black. It is either loved or hated; this author loves it.

Most of the past challenges have not been overcome with the digital tools. While infrared should be as easy as capturing a normal raw image on a digital camera, it turns out that digital sensors are very sensitive to infrared (beyond red), so much so that the manufacturers of digital cameras fit a "hot mirror" or "cut-off" filter to remove these frequencies. Cleaning the sensor of a modern digital SLR, one is not really cleaning the sensor but the filter that blocks infrared light: the low-pass anti aliasing and infrared filter is in a sandwich located directly in front of the CMOS digital sensor, when you clean the sensor of a digital camera you are really cleaning this filter.

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Some older compact digital cameras are very good at infrared photography, but a #89B/R72 filter for the front of the lens is needed to block all visible light. Simply do a Google search for more information on this method. It is really easy to capture these magic images with unreal tones, capturing light invisible to the human eye!

To maximize the quality of infrared photography, there are now quite a few companies that will convert your old digital camera for a modest fee by removing the infrared-blocking filter and replacing it with a visible-light-blocking filter. This is often a good option for the “old” unused digital camera body, after up-grading to a new camera. On the other hand, one can often pick up a great deal on the used market for a Canon Rebel/20D/30D or a Nikon D100/D70 etc., and these make excellent infrared cameras when converted. However, these modifications normally leave the camera in a state where color photography is no longer an option. There are basically two choices to the conversion process:

- Remove the infrared filter and replace it with a visible-light –blocking filter in the same location (#89B/R72 or 87 series).

Advantages: View through the camera as normal (no filter on lens), and everything normal.

Autofocus and auto-exposure work well, and there is no need to buy filters for the lenses. By removing the anti aliasing filter there is a much improved sharpness to the image.

Disadvantage: The camera cannot be used for normal color photography. Usually there is not enough in-formation left in the raw file to allow you to do “false color” infrared photography (see later). Another downside is occasional moiré patterns!

- Remove the infrared filter and replace it with clear optical glass.

Advantages: By fitting an infrared cut filter on the lens, normal color photography is possible. By putting a filter that removes visible light on the end of the lens, infrared images can be taken. By experimenting with other filters, really good “false color” infrared photographs can be obtained.

Disadvantage: A photographer cannot see to compose infrared photographs. Autofocus may be difficult or not work at all. It is necessary to buy quite ex-pensive filters for all your lenses.



For these reasons the first option is most appealing. It is great to use all lenses and easily see and focus the image. Studying the image on the LCD after capture will reveal the red color tone of the image, but this is the only clue that an infrared camera is being used. It is that easy. The histogram displays the exposure data and allows use of exposure compensation.

One of the big advantages of infrared photography is that it opens up the middle of the day for good photography since the best time to shoot is when the sun is shining. Being a really keen landscape photographer means that the best time to go out for conventional shooting is from pre-dawn to about one hour after dawn. Normally this author would then put the camera down for the day, but this is exactly the time when the infrared options are just starting to pick up. Often the harsher the light, the better the infrared. This means enjoyable photography all day long: even noon works well!

Once the camera has been converted there are a few things to know about using infrared:

1. Greens, the chlorophyll in leaves, grass, and vegetation reflect enormous amounts of infrared light, and result in ghostly white foliage.
2. The “blue” in skies and reflected in the water goes very dark, so if possible go out when there are white puffy clouds as the contrast is simply amazing.
3. It is great at cutting through haze and bringing back contrast.
4. Infrared is an effective technique when photographing nudes or doing portraits. It produces light, milky, smooth skin tones, removes most skin blemishes like acne, and gives hair a nice, silky tone. Soft front lighting works best to minimize veins showing through.
5. A good source of infrared light is required. Bright sun, electronic flash and even some streetlights work well, so nighttime infrared can be attempted.
6. Set the camera to raw capture, select manual white-balance turned down to the lowest setting, which is normally 2000 degrees Kelvin. Watch the histogram and overexposure warnings. Expose to the right of the histogram, but don’t burn the highlights.
7. Shooting HDR in infrared is great.

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Unfortunately, the situation is not all good news for infrared photographers and converted cameras since there are two flies in the ointment:

Focusing differences – Infrared light does not quite focus in the same place as visible light. Depending on the conversion (calibration of focus sensor), the lens used may not be chromatically corrected for infrared light. Also, the ratio of infrared light to visible light on the day varies, meaning that focus can be a little hit and miss. Hyper-focal focusing can work really well.

Hot Spot – Some of the good multi-coatings (like Super-Spectra Coating) used on high quality lenses and even lens materials like, fluorite and low-dispersion glass used today have an effect that lightens a circle in the center of the image, resulting in a “hot spot.” Aperture can have a large impact on this, and opening up to f/5.6 or sometimes stopping right down, may remove the effect of this hot spot in the center of the image.

The best bet is to get out there and play (I mean practice!). After all, it is impossible to do any other serious photography in this harsh light. Go wild and experiment in a new universe and reenergize photography. It’s fun.

There are important differences in the workflow processing infrared raw images compared to normal color raw images. This author is using **Adobe CS3 and Adobe Bridge**, but other software editing programs would be similar. It is not the objective of this article to detail the entire workflow, just to point out the differences. Process the raw infrared image in exactly the same way as any other color image except for the changes noted below.

View the image in Adobe Bridge (it should look red to mauve to brown in color); double click on it to go into Camera Raw. Select the White Balance Eyedropper from the top left menu bar and then click this tool (on a PC or just click on a Mac) on some foliage that should be white. This will set the white balance and will remove most of the strong colorcast. Apart from setting white balance this way, process the image as one would normally and then open it in Photoshop.

Now an important decision must be made: choose between a monochrome image or one that has some color tinting left in it.

The new “Image > Adjustments > Black & White” tool is really a great improvement in CS3. With the Black and White dialog box open, click in the sky and drag to darken it. Then click on the foliage and drag the other way to lighten it. Adjust the black and white tones around the image until it looks great in monochrome.

Some photographers like to utilize the false colors that are left in the image. A favorite trick that works really well on some pictures is to put blue in the sky. In processing these photographs try and keep some red tone in the sky when adjusting the white balance back in the raw converter. The trick now is to convert the red color to a nice blue and this is done in the Channel Mixer. Simply swap the content of the red and blue layers of the image. Go to “Image > Adjustments > Channel Mixer”.

Notice that in the second box down ‘Output Channel’ is set to Red, and that the Red slider below it is set to 100%. Set the Red slider to 0% and then tab down and set the Blue slider to 100%, which moves the blue data into the red channel.

Go back up and change the ‘Output Channel’ to Blue (notice blue slider is set to 100%). Set the Red slider to 100% and the Blue slider to 0%, thereby moving the red data into the blue channel. Then click “OK” and the sky should be bluish. While this may not be a perfect blue, it is then easy to change by selecting “Image > Adjustments > Hue/Saturation” and slide the “Hue” slider until satisfied with the color. Most infrared images benefit from some burning and dodging and a slight vignette.

For more fun, try shooting HDR infrared images. This opens up many new possibilities. There are also infrared panoramas, so there are many ways to use infrared creatively for impact. Apart from the cost of the conversion, infrared is now easy and within the capabilities of most digital shooters without major inconvenience or technical challenges. What a change from infrared film! Give this photographic world of surreal tonality a try.

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Notes:

- Jeff had a camera converted to infrared by: <http://www.lifepixel.com/affiliate/idevaffiliate.php?id=273>
- Jeff’s website is: www.elmstudio.com

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Judging Exchange with Hilo Photo Club

George Jensen, a member of both the Hilo Photo Club (in Hawaii) and North Metro Photo Club, is working with Duane and Becky on an image judging exchange. The plan is to send the North Metro January images (both Open and category: Downtown) to George by January 2nd. The Hilo club will judge our images and send back the results so we can see them at our January 15th meeting. North Metro will receive the Hilo images, judge them, and return the results to George for presentation at a Hilo meeting. We tried this for the first time last year and it worked well enough that we're doing it again.

Be aware that the submission date for the January digital images is January 1st (not the usual 5th of the month).

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Plug-Ins

Periodically photographers will talk about how they use plug-ins to further enhance their photos. There are a number of Photoshop-compatible plugins available for download on the internet – many free and some at some cost. Many work in both the Windows and the Mac environment – but check to make sure what is covered.

Plug-ins cover a wide-range of techniques including: filters, sharpeners, light control, borders, black and white conversion, dynamic range compressor, exposure correction, white balance correction, and many, many more.

A few websites to check:

www.Niksoftware.com
www.xero-graphics.co.uk
www.Powerretouche.com
www.Photo-plugins.com

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No man has the right to dictate what other men should perceive, create or produce, but all should be encouraged to reveal themselves, their perceptions and emotions, and to build confidence in the creative spirit.

— **Ansel Adams**

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

Images are judged with a maximum of 45 points.

Points

September 2008

Nature -

44 Paper Kite – Sue Dilcher – **Merit**

26 Trees & Stream
38 Seagulls
34 Pitcher Plant
34 Prairie Chicken
30 Eagle

Pictorial -

38 Tucson Rope – Carol Madison – **Merit**

34 Oriental Lily
34 Snow on snow
31 Swim Meet
29 Cottage in Ashford
35 Tulips

Contemporary -

37 Pleated Gear – Walt Fluegel – **HM**

31 Worthington Landmark
28 Female Cyclists
33 Minneapolis
33 Petunia pair
28 Bridge

October 2008

Nature -

35 Turtle – Jay Karai – **Merit**

31 Desert weed
29 Buffalo
30 Our best side
27 Black Eyed Susans

Pictorial -

40 Paris – Michelle Lindstedt – **HM**
38 Japanese Garden – Jay Karai – **Merit**

29 Hanging Pot
34 Pink Lily
28 One tree
32 Ocean

Contemporary -

33 Street Lamp
34 Lotuses
31 Mama Wilson
32 Flower Bed

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November 2008 Competition Results

Digital Judge: Jeff Morgan

Points

Category: Open

Category: Vintage

Results and winning images were not received for publication.

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Preserving Printed Images

(more information gleaned from a recent seminar)
By Carol Madison

Many of us print our digital images and either put them in an album or shoebox, or frame them and hang them on the wall. A few things I made note of at a recent seminar: Print processes differ widely in their longevity and need to be considered when printing or having images printed by an outside source. Both the type of ink used (pigment or dye-based) as well as the paper the image is printed on affect the lifespan of a print which ranges from six months to 250 years.

Ink-Jet printers can use either pigment or dye-based inks so take that into consideration when selecting a home printer which you plan to use for making photographic prints. Pigment inks last longer – from 60-250 years; while dye-based inks fade quickly – from six months to five years. Exposure to light has a devastating affect on dye-based inks.



Using quality paper also helps the longevity of prints. The Wilhelm Imaging Research tests papers and inks show the average lifespan of three paper manufacturers as:

- Konica papers average 17 years
- Kodak papers average 21 years
- Fuji papers average 41 years

Check the Wilhelm website for a comprehensive list on longevity of print materials:

www.wilhelm-research.com

When selecting a printer it is wise to not skimp on the cost of materials, e.g., the printer, ink, and paper. Keep in mind also that most after-market inks and papers designed for the home user fade in a very short period of time.

If you have your prints printed by an outside source, ask them what type of ink and which paper they use. A cheap print can be a waste of money if quality materials are not used. The last time I had a bunch of 4x6 prints made by an outside source they faded in less than six months and they were properly stored. And, this was from a reputable store. They did reprint them and so far they are holding up – but I'll never go back to them. The help didn't know anything about the equipment they used – just how to crank out the prints. Dye-based ink? Or, mal-adjusted equipment – Who knows?

Storage is also a key factor. Cold, dry, dark storage will preserve prints much longer than those exposed to moisture and light.

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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 Warzеха 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

President	Jean McDonough	(763) 574-1450
Vice President	Duane Wraalstad	(763) 755-5247
Treasurer	Fran Warzеха	(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

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