



The Sioux Projector

The Official Newsletter of the Sioux Falls Camera Club

<http://www.geocities.com/sfcameraclub>

In This Issue

The "Prez Sez!"

Page 2

SFCC Contest Results

Page 3

Stuff For Sale!

Page 4

Quote of the Month

Page 4

Give It Your Best Shot!

Page 5

N4C Results

Page 6

Coming Events

Page 6

Composition "How To"

Page 7

"Pix Within a Pix"

Page 8

Create a "FotoTrek"

Page 8

February 2006 Edition **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!** *Monthly Meeting Schedule*

Tuesday, February 7:

The Sioux Falls Camera Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Kenny Anderson Community Center, at Ann Sullivan Elementary School, 3701 East 3rd Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Marty DeWitt will be sharing an informative program about "**Our National Parks**", and will offer some tips on shooting wildlife and scenic landscapes in these awesome locations.

The February subjects are "**My Idea of Fine Art**" and "**Nature.**" All members are encouraged to take part in our friendly competition, as well as the fun of being a judge. Both are great learning experiences!

Robert Tebben will bring a "**Gadget,**" and **Val Goering** will be providing the refreshments, so bring your appetite!

Tuesday, February 21:

The SFCC will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Kenny Anderson Community Center.

The Print and Slide Committee will present the results of the monthly competition, and we may have some results presented for the monthly N4C challenge, as well.

Greg Honermann will provide a "**Gadget of the Month.**"

Ken and Marilyn Starckenburg will be tempting your taste buds with Marilyn's culinary treats.

Sioux Falls Camera Club 2005-2006



Officers and Board Members

President:	Ron Balthazor	605-371-1607
Vice President:	Greg Honermann	507-283-3625
Secretary – Treasurer:	Val Goering	605-335-3834
3 Yr.:	(1 yr. remain) Lori Fisher	605-371-1454
3 Yr.:	(2 yr. remain) Steve Thompson	605-528-3675
3 Yr.:	(3 yr. remain) Ken Eckert	605-332-0657
1 Yr.:	Jeff Gillespie	605-371-3026

Chairpersons

Programs:	Don Rensberger	605-361-2708
Prints & Slides:	Larry Sroufe	605-361-6078
	Robert Tebben	605-743-2044
Newsletter Editor:	Marty DeWitt	605-594-8198
Club Historian:	Ken Starkenburg	605-338-0209
Hospitality:	Sandy Tebben	605-743-2044
Promotions:	Tim Breikreutz	605-428-5740
N4C:	Bob Wulf	507-376-6393
Points & Awards	Jim Stone	605-339-0187
Sioux Empire Fair	Bill Leshovsky	605-728-4140

Feel free to contact the board members or chairpersons concerning Camera Club business.

Dues

<i>Individual Dues:</i>	\$18.00
<i>Family Dues:</i>	\$27.00

Please pay Val Goering, Secretary-Treasurer, at the meetings.

The Sioux Falls Camera Club meets at 7:30 P.M., the first and third Tuesdays, September through May, in the Kenny Anderson Community Center, at Ann Sullivan Elementary School, 3701 E 3rd Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

The Sioux Projector

The Sioux Projector is a monthly publication, (except for July and August), of the Sioux Falls Camera Club, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Newsletter Deadline is the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Marty DeWitt at martydewitt@hotmail.com.

THE PREZ SEZ!

By Ron Balthazor, SFCC President

Recently, I received a letter from the folks at the Washington Pavilion's Kirby Science Discovery Center. They are inviting the SFCC to participate in the second annual **Community Science Celebration** to be held on Saturday, April 1 (no joke), from 1 - 3 p.m. Several members willingly volunteered to serve the club's exhibit last year for the First Community Science Celebration. I'll be seeking members interested in continuing our involvement for this year.

The opportunity to share our passion for photography, distribute information about the SFCC and network with other community-based organizations is attractive. Those who participated last year may have the strongest opinion about the Celebration.

The letter initially created a question in my mind. It is probably the same question that occurred to many around 1830, soon after the birth of photography itself. No doubt there was a backlash from artists who created paintings, drawings, lithographs, etchings, engravings, etc. Machines just can't create art. It must be science. However, the photographer may have insisted that, like a painter with his pigments, chemicals were measured and mixed in order to create an image. It must be art.

News that Nikon will be terminating its interest in film cameras adds one more dimension to defining the 'digital age' of photography. Does this mean, without our chemical manipulation, that art has become science? I don't intend to answer that question. I do have my own feelings about the issue. To me photography is an art. The images I create or stumble upon are meant to please the eye. They are not designed to test any hypothesis. The images I create are meant to tell a story. They are not designed to prove any scientific principle.

I can hardly imagine the number of scientists as well as optical, chemical, mechanical, software and hardware engineers that consider photography their business. What now puts a digital camera in our humble hands has probably more to do with science today than it ever did. Man! Would I like to get a picture of all of them.... with, of course, a red canoe in the foreground for color!

JANUARY 2006 Contest Results

The January subjects were *“Lifestyles”* and *“Nature”*
Judges were *Jim and Dorothy Stone, Don Rensberger, and Carol Schuurmans*

Color Prints: 22 Entries

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1st. | “Sunrise at the Arch” | Robert Tebben |
| 2nd. | “A Good Side to the Badlands” | Marty DeWitt |
| 3rd. | “Uh-oh” | Laurie Brenneman |
| H.M. | “Dragon Fly” | Robert Tebben |
| H.M. | “Sunday Cantor” | Ron Balthazor |
| H.M. | “Big Sky at Fort Thompson” | Keith Anderson |
| H.M. | “Peek-a-Boo” | Robert Tebben |

Black & White Prints: 16 Entries

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1st. | “Too Centered” | Ron Balthazor |
| 2nd. | “Snow Fence” | Ron Balthazor |
| 3rd. | “Built in 1883” | Sandy Tebben |
| H.M. | “Ornery Old Coot” | Ron Balthazor |
| H.M. | “Goin’ With The Flow” | Marty DeWitt |
| H.M. | “Who Got The Ball?” | Laurie Brenneman |

Color Slides: 13 Entries

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1st. | “A Familiar Face!” | Marty DeWitt |
| 2nd. | “Fruit Medley” | Greg Honermann |
| 3rd. | “How Things Used To Be” | Marty DeWitt |
| H.M. | “Landscape” | Ron Balthazor |
| H.M. | “Prairie Sky” | Greg Honermann |
| H.M. | “Before the Roundup” | Ken Starkenburg |

Great Job EVERYONE! Check out the listing of future themes AND get those CAMERAS clicking! Just for fun, let's HAVE EVERYONE submit some SNAPSHOTS in February!



Saint Mary Lake, Glacier NP

Subjects to Come

February - My Idea of Fine Art

March - Kids and Pets

April - Visual Rhythms

May - Best of the Year (Spring Show)

Nature is also a monthly assignment for every month. The monthly competition permits three (3) entries in each division: Black and White Prints, Color Prints, Color Slides, and Snapshots. The monthly assignments should be the majority of entries.



Split Rock Creek, Palisades

“No matter how slow the film, Spirit always stands still long enough for the photographer It has chosen.”

Minor White

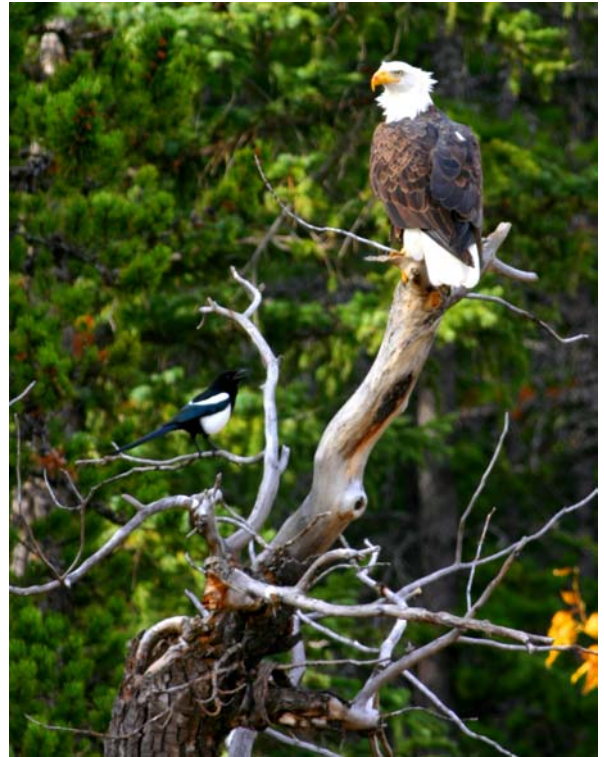
Stuff For Sale or FREE!

NOTE: This wonderful opportunity comes from Ray Loftesness, so if anyone is interested, give him a call!

"I am in the process of cleaning out my basement, trying to make room for the eventual construction of my own HO scale railroad layout. I have some darkroom equipment that I would like to dispose of, and if any of the Camera Club's members are interested, I would give a lot of it to them at no cost.

I have two stainless steel developing tanks with 35mm reels, three dark room trays for developer, stop bath and fixer, an electric timer, a couple safe lights, an electric print dryer, some chemistry which has never been opened (I don't know what the shelf life is for an unopened bag of Kodak D-76 developer for example, but what I have is a good many years old.), and other items too numerous to mention.

Any club member who might be interested in seeing what I have is welcome to call me at (605)-334-5907. Thank you!"



The Eagle and the Magpie

Quote of the Month

"This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls."

John Muir

How appropriate that this month's quote should come from a man who many feel is the father of the National Park System. John Muir is credited with having a great vision and the drive to see that a number of our country's most unique natural resources. His efforts helped save these areas now known as Yosemite, Sequoia and King's Canyons National Parks, and his great deeds for preservation go far beyond that.

Therefore, to commemorate the wonderful efforts of the likes of John Muir, President Teddy Roosevelt, Stephen Mather and other noted environmentalists, **Marty DeWitt** will be presenting a program entitled "**Your National Parks, from A to Z.**" The program will be presented at the regular club meeting on Tuesday, February 7th. Join Marty as he and Cathy trek from one end of the country to the other in search of great images and experiences. From Acadia National Park in Maine, to Zion National Park in Utah (and a whole lot more in between!) they will share photographs and stories of their journeys to America's National Parks.

Give it Your Best Shot!

By Marty DeWitt, SFCC Editor

This past weekend, imagine my excitement when I picked up my Sunday *Argus Leader* and saw the front page of the Sunday Life section with its large photographs and title “*Fading Art?*” by *Jay Kirschenmann*. WOW! An article about photography! In the *Argus Leader*, of all places!

Then imagine my surprise, and I must admit, my disappointment, to see that nowhere was the Sioux Falls Camera Club even mentioned.

Now, I suppose it would be natural to sit back and blame the reporter for not doing a very good job researching his topic. However, if we did, we would be very wrong. I did find it interesting that nearly all of the photographers mentioned were unknown to me. One exception was former SFCC member Marilyn Zimmerman. The other was Paul Horsted, who I’ve known for many years. However, the rest were new names and faces, and obviously very passionate about their craft.

What I also found of particular interest, was the assertion in the article that local photography instructors, both on the college and high school levels, are turning away prospective students in droves. It was also encouraging that many students and photographers are staying true to their roots and keeping the old ways of film negatives, and a “soup in the darkroom” approach to their art form alive.

However, what I found disheartening was that we, as a camera club, have somehow failed to make ourselves known. This would have been an awesome opportunity to get some valuable exposure (sorry, no pun intended) for our organization. It certainly could have been a great recruiting effort, as well. However, one must look beyond the obvious opportunity to “whine,” and strategize on what we can do to fix this apparent anonymity we are experiencing.

I guess the real question is two-fold. First, how do we, as a camera club, become more widely recognizable? How do we become so obvious in our existence that someone is bound to mention us when the topic of photography comes up? In this regard, I can think of several club members who could have added greatly to the article, and whose works could be equally inspiring to readers. So, how do we become the “go-to” folks when an idea like this comes up?

The second, and perhaps more important question, is what can we do to become a more viable and dynamic organization that attracts interest from a wide spectrum of ages? If there are that many prospective students interested in learning our craft, and they can’t get into local classes, how can we become a good alternative for their interest and energy?

A couple obvious suggestions come to mind. I believe we should approach the individuals mentioned in the article (including Mr. Kirschenmann) and personally invite them to our gatherings. I also believe some of them should probably be invited as potential programs. I also think the teachers should be contacted and given our brochure and asked to spread the word to any student or other person interested in photography. Those are the quick and easy things to do.

Now, for the hard part! We need to take a good hard look at what we as a camera club offer in the way of “value” to folks interested in photography. What kinds of programs and presenters might attract, and sustain, the interest of younger and emerging photographers? What types of activities might they be interested in? Should we be offering instructional workshops on different topics at different times during the week/year? How do we balance the film and digital realms so no one is slighted? How do we get more people to participate in our monthly photo challenges?

It’s too easy to ask the questions. It’s a whole other matter to come up with the answers. I challenge each and every club member to devote some serious “think-time” to these questions. I also encourage you to think “outside the box” for solutions. Steve Thompson made a good start when he recently suggested a photo “team” scavenger hunt. We have, on several occasions, offered photo outings to area parks. There are no doubt many other neat ideas out there just waiting to surface.

Perhaps another possibility would be to rethink our monthly competition. Have we become more focused on the “winning” and less on the “learning?” How can we make that time spent more meaningful and educational? Do we need to create some more categories, so that the digital “compilations” don’t go up against the “straight” images (now don’t get yer knickers in a knot, folks...I’m just trying to spark some discussion...). Maybe we need to do away with the scoring all together. Then we can spend some quality time learning how to constructively critique our own work, as well as that of others, based on the techniques and sound principles of our trade.

Yes, I admit that I have been offended by some of the baseless comments made by judges. I have no doubt missed opportunities, as well, to help someone else learn by making insightful comments as a judge myself. How can we all become comfortable with giving and receiving ideas and criticism? That may be the toughest question of all...

Well, I’m running out of space, but I think you get the idea. I expect some great discussions to come! In the meantime...Happy Shooting! And ...**TALK ABOUT THE SFCC!**

N4C Contest Results January, 2006

Once again, SFCC had a great showing in the regional competitions! Following are the awards reported by N4C:

Class B - B&W Pictorial Prints

HM – “Remaining Mum” 43 pts
By Ron Balthazor

HM – “Soft Thoughts” 40 pts
By Carol Schuurmans

Class B - Color Prints

1st Place – “Pine Marten” 45 pts
By Marty DeWitt

2nd Place – “View of the Falls” 44 pts
By Ron Balthazor

Class B - Nature Prints

HM – “Fall is Here” 41 pts
By Sandy Tebben

Contemporary/Creative Prints

1st Place – “Flower in Metal” 43 pts
By Robert Tebben

HM – “Lost in Thought” 40 pts
By Ron Balthazor

Photo Travel Slides

1st Place – “Contemplation” 44 pts
By Marty DeWitt

Great Job Folks!!



Coming Events

Argus Leader Photo Contest

Categories for Color and B&W

Can enter one image (print) in each category
Images to be taken/submitted by amateurs only

Must be at least 5X7 in size

Must be received by February 17th

Prize is \$50 photo-finishing certificate

Entries will not be returned

Send Entries to:

Argus Leader Photo Contest

200 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57117.

Springbrook Mini-Convention

April 28-30, 2006

At Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Center, Iowa

For a weekend of programs, field trips, workshops, biking, great food and photography. More details to follow when available.

50th Anniversary N4C Convention

September 15-17, 2006

Hosted by the Sioux City Camera Club. Tours will include the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve, examples of Prairie Style architecture, and a rare railroad roundhouse. Other sessions on portraiture, painting with light, wildlife and nature photography, and much more! Check out www.sccamerclub.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

A "Baker's Dozen" Guide to Good Composition

So much of an image's visual impact results from the way the subject or subjects are arranged within the field of view. We each have different opinions, different interpretations and vastly different likes and dislikes when it comes to viewing a photograph. Following is a collection of 13 simple ideas to consider as you gaze into your viewfinder in search of that winning shot!

1 - Check the "Edges" – Be sure to make sure you view the entire frame within your viewfinder. Make sure there aren't stray branches, power lines or other visual clutter sneaking into your image from the edges. Be sure that you aren't inadvertently cutting off something you want in the image.

2 - Beware the "Bullseye" – Don't become so focused on your subject that you plant it dead center in the frame. "Too centered" is a common complaint by judges, and is really easy to fix.

3 - Live the "Rule of Thirds" – We've heard of this concept many times, yet we often fail to put it to good use. Simply put, divide your viewfinder into three equal parts, both horizontally and vertically, and place your main subject of interest where those imaginary lines intersect. Your compositions will improve dramatically.

4 - "Give me space, man!" – Give your subject, especially if it is motion, room to move "into", rather than out of your image. Let your subject guide the viewer into the picture.

5 - "No center of interest" – How often have we heard that comment from judges? Make sure your subject stands out clearly from the background. Also remember that the eye tends to go to the brightest part of the picture. If that is not the intended subject, try a different focal length or position.

6 - "Prepare for Impact!" – If you have a colorful or visually interesting subject, get in close. Filling the frame can often improve your photo by removing other clutter and competing elements.

7 - "Tippecanoe, and a red one, too!" – We can often improve a distant landscape by creative placement of a contrastingly colorful element. You know, the kids with the red sweater walking down the country road, or the red canoe on the beautiful mountain lake... Not only do these elements add to the visual interest, they also add a sense of scale, so the viewer will have a better feel for the scene.

8 - You can be odd, if you want" – Often times, when arranging subject elements, an odd number creates a more pleasing presentation. If your subject is just plain "odd"...well... good luck!

9 - "What goes up...." – If your subject is tall and narrow, try a vertical format. If it is wide or spread out, or a subject in motion, perhaps the horizontal format would be best. Try to match your framing to the shape of your subject.

10 - "How low can you go?" – Explore different angles of view, especially with scenes that are commonly photographed. Lower angles can dramatically improve an image.

11 - "Oh, don't be so shallow!" – Use depth of field to your advantage. If the background is cluttered, open up your lens to throw it out of focus. If the foreground and background are both great elements, stop down to bring it all into focus.

12 - "Lead on!" – Make good use of existing curved line or elements to lead your viewer into the picture, and on to the intended subject. An "S" curve works especially well, and can be a road, a stream, a distant valley, a fence, footprints or a trail through the woods. AND FINALLY.....

13 - SHOOT, SHOOT, and SHOOT some more!!! – Practice makes perfect!



Glacier Melt, Mount Rainier NP

Design Your Own "FotoTrek"

You don't have to travel great distances to get great images and hone your technical skills (although it is more fun that way...). Why not try creating your own mini "FotoTrek" by giving yourself an assignment. We've tried to help by suggesting monthly subjects, but you can get as creative as you wish.

I've tried to do so during my travels. Last fall my goal was to experiment with slow shutter speeds and waterfalls. Next summer my goal is to focus on macro images. But sometimes I'll just take off and hike, without a goal in mind, and let nature take its course, so to speak. The real value is in just getting out, getting some fresh air, and exploring the many images just waiting to be captured.

Looking for the "Picture Within A Picture"

Back in March of 2003, I came across and article in *Popular Photography* magazine that featured the work of photographer Jack Dykinga, a Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist, celebrated landscape photographer and environmental activist. The premise of the article was based on Dykinga's fundamental rule of photography, which is "shoot enough to make sure you've really got it."

That article, and the photos that accompanied it, inspired me to add another dimension to my photo treks. Now, when I set up for a shot, I will look for smaller pictures within the overall scene that tell a different part of the story. This may involve trying a different lens, changing to a vertical format, adding some fill flash or reflector, changing shutter speeds or depth of field, or moving slightly left or right. Each new image, although part of the same scene, takes on new meaning for the viewer. It also gives you a few more chances at finding that "money shot" when you get them back home.

Try it next time you tackle a shot.

Coming Soon!

We are working on a fun activity for club members, which will be unveiled to you in the March newsletter.

During the SFCC Photo Scavenger Hunt, club members will be teamed up with people of varying interests and abilities. Each team will be given a list of specific photo subjects. The team, as a team, will then embark on a journey to capture their interpretations of those subjects with their cameras. The team will then submit an assortment of their best images to be compiled into an educational program for the first meeting in May.

This sounds like an awesome activity (Thanx Steve!), and I hope everyone gets involved.

More to Come!