



The Sioux Projector

The Official Newsletter of the Sioux Falls Camera Club

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

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May 2006 Edition "Spring Has Sprung" Edition Monthly Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, May 2

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.

Toby Wellenstien is providing a copy of the video "Chased by the Light", a National Geographic documentary of a 90-day photo project by photographer Jim Brandenburg. See more info on page 7.

The May subjects are "*Anything Goes!*" and "*Nature.*" Bring your best winners from this last year, or wow us with something new!

Carol Schuurmans will hopefully remember to bring a "*Gadget of the Week*" and *Greg Honermann* will be providing the refreshments, so bring your appetites!

Tuesday, May 16 Our Annual SPRING BANQUET!

The SFCC will meet at the Sunnycrest United Methodist Church at 4801 West 41st Street (just west of the Days Inn). The banquet will start promptly at 6:30 pm.

May judging and N4C awards will be announced, and we will see the results of the 2006 SFCC Scavenger Hunt. Teams need to be ready to briefly discuss their images.

REMINDER! Cost for the banquet is \$9.00 per person. Please pay Val Goering or Sandy Tebben in advance.

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 Breitreutz	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 SEZI!

By Ron Balthazor, SFCC President

With only a couple more meetings in our regular calendar year, I feel it is important to thank all those members whose hard work makes the SFCC the success that it is. I'd like to send a special salute to Greg Honermann (vice president), Val Goering (treasurer), and Lori Fisher, Steve Thompson, Ken Eckert, and Jeff Gillespie (board members.) Special recognition is sent to Don Rensberger for his scheduling of our education programs; Robert Tebben and Larry Sroufe for their excellent handling of our monthly judging; Marty DeWitt for giving the SFCC its newsletter backbone; Bob Wulf and Steve Thompson for their superb management of the N4C submissions and judging; Sandy Tebben for successfully keeping-up the calorie count with contributions to hospitality; Tim Breitreutz for updating our website; Jim Stone for tracking all of our points and refusing to take any bribes; Ken Starkenburg who guarantees history will not repeat itself; and Bill Leshovsky for his stalwart handling of the Empire Fair's photography contest.

In addition I want to also thank all those members who stepped forward each month to assist with the judging of our monthly photo contest and N4C competitions. Although a little pressure was at times required (Hey, I was just kidding about my mob connections.) there was always a full panel of judges. Thank you to all the members who also so graciously contributed to those gastronomically delightful snacks and drinks.

When I think about how many people contribute to the success of our meetings each month I am truly humbled. It makes me look back on my own contributions with some regret. One major goal that I set for myself never materialized. I had hoped to find accommodations that would make us feel as comfortable as we do in the Kenny Anderson Community Center but with the addition of some storage space. Secure storage would eliminate the need to haul our equipment to and from each session—a real burden for those who manage our submissions and judging.

continued.....

Now that a nominating committee has been formed I can only express the hope that my successor will accomplish more and bring a fresh perspective to the SFCC. I would also hope that the willingness of members to participate would continue. Our club is small but the level of participation is quite large. It is evident that the Club's achievements are directly related to the contributions of all members.

Happy Shooting! *Ron Balthazor, President*

“Landscape photography is the supreme test of the photographer – and often the supreme disappointment.”
Ansel Adams

NAC Contest Results

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

February, 2006

Class B - B&W Pictorial Prints

1st Place – “Snow Fence” 40 pts
By Ron Balthazor

HM – “Lest We Not Forget” 40 pts
By Marty DeWitt

Class B - Nature Prints

3rd Place – “Sunrise at the Arch” 42 pts
By Robert Tebben

HM – “A Good Side to the Badlands” 39 pts
By Marty DeWitt

Contemporary/Creative Prints

HM – “Summer Light” 37 pts
By Carol Schuurmans

Photojournalism Prints

2st Place – “Determination” 13 pts
By Ron Balthazor

In The News!

SFCC photographers who have had their work recently published

Keith Anderson had the cover shot of a male goldfinch on the March/April SD *Conservation Digest* magazine.

Marty DeWitt had several images published in the Southeast SD Tourism Association's *Off the Beaten Path* and SD Tourism's 2006-2007 *Vacation Guide*.

If you have had anything published, let us know so we can brag a bit!

Photojournalism Slides

2st Place – “Race to the Top” 13 pts
By Robert Tebben

March, 2006

Class B - B&W Pictorial Prints

2nd Place – “Morning Tea” 43 pts
By Ron Balthazor

HM – “Spanish Torch” 40 pts
By Robert Tebben

Class B - Color Prints

2nd Place – “The Back Door” 44 pts
By Ron Balthazor

HM – “Shur-Fine” 41 pts
By Lori Fisher

Photojournalism Slides

3rd Place – “How Things Used To Be” 13 pts
By Marty DeWitt

“You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.”
Mark Twain

April 2006 Contest Results

The April subjects were *“Visual Rhythms”* and *“Nature”*
Judges were *Ron Balthazor, Randy Hoppe, Ken Eckert and Marty DeWitt*

Color Prints: 24 Entries

1st.	“White Sands Yucca”	Marty DeWitt
2nd.	“Graceful Descent”	Marty DeWitt
3rd.	“Golf Ball on Steroids”	Eric Merrill
H.M.	“Just Hangin’ Around”	Keith Anderson
H.M.	“Out of Uniform”	Ron Balthazor
H.M.	“Beautiful Music”	Lori Fisher
H.M.	“Hanauma Bay”	Sandy Tebben

Black & White Prints: 13 Entries

1st.	“The Lady’s Room is Upstairs”	Ron Balthazor
2nd.	“Eiffel Tower”	Sandy Tebben
3rd.	“Looking to a Solid Future”	Carol Schuurmans
H.M.	“Designed by Nature”	Ken Eckert
H.M.	“Eyes of Steel”	Carol Schuurmans
H.M.	“Palm Sunny”	Eric Merrill

Color Slides: 10 Entries

1st.	“Niagara Rainbow”	Marty DeWitt
2nd.	“South Dakota Shopping”	Ron Balthazor
3rd.	“Endless Remembrance”	Ron Balthazor
H.M.	“Desert Solitaire”	Marty DeWitt
H.M.	“Fitting In”	Ron Balthazor
H.M.	“Tamarack Transitions”	Marty DeWitt
H.M.	“Nikon Classic”	Ken Starckenburg

Snap Shots:

1st.	“Abe”	Jim Stone
2nd.	“What Are You Looking For?”	Jim Stone
3rd.	“Sioux Falls”	Jim Stone

Special Note

Beginning in May, all 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be asked to share information about their entries. Please discuss why you took the image, how you did it, and what you feel are the image’s strongest attributes.

Subjects to Come

May - Best of the Year (Spring Show)

Pick out your best images of the year, even if entered before!

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.



Palisades Cardinal

Take Your Best Shot!

By Marty DeWitt, SFCC Editor



I just came in after what I felt was a pretty incredible morning. Nearly fifty people ventured out on a beautiful Saturday morning at Palisades with the hope of learning a little bit more about photography. There were all age groups represented, all skill levels and a wide spectrum of equipment. Cameras ranged from the simplest point and shoot film cameras to some pretty fancy digital wonders. But when all was said and done, it was a great couple hours for getting to know some new “foto-friends”, seeing some of the marvels of nature, and hopefully learning a few new tips and tricks about outdoor photography. And the most exciting part, for me anyway, was the large number of “new” photographers, both young and old, who joined in.

My special thanx go out to SFCC members Steve Thompson, Ken Starkenburg, Laurie Lindemann and Eric Merrill for tagging along to share their talents and time. We were also honored to have Chad Coppess, the head photographer for the South Dakota Department of Tourism, join us for the day. It was very difficult with such a large group to offer much individualized attention, but I know each of us spent time answering questions, sharing our lenses and helping others learn more about our craft.

When all was said and done, we photographed blooming Bloodroot and Dutchman’s Breeches, shot scenic vistas of Split Rock Creek and the Sioux quartzite rock formations, photographed toddlers playing in the dandelions, and were even able to photograph a Canada goose on her nest. A pretty good day if I do say so myself!

This day was especially fun because of the young kids. Even Eric’s daughter Johanna was there with her new camera, and it was obvious that she shares her dad’s love for photography. Several other teenagers and college students even pushed aside their “embarrassment” and the risk of being seen with us “old folks” and had a great time. And, again, if they even learned just one new thing, then it was all worth it!

That’s what our club should be about. I am hopeful that by handing out copies of our newsletter, and talking up SFCC we might see a couple new folks check us out. I’m also hoping that the handout I prepared of 13 tips for taking good pictures might get referred to time again and help these folks (and even us!) strive to do better. And there’s no better place than right in the middle of the “Great Outdoors” to make it happen!

There will be some discussions coming in SFCC about looking for some new and creative ways to attract new members, and keep the interest of the veteran members. It is always very difficult to come up with new and innovative programs each month. One answer might be to plan more of these types of “foto-treks” or field trips. Another may be to take a fresh look at our monthly competitions. I question, as do some others, whether we are getting any real educational value out of the “numbers” game. Maybe there’s a better way to make our collective review of images less “competition” and more “useful education”.

So, here’s the deal. There are a few of us who have been struggling with these issues. We want to make SFCC a rewarding experience for all. To do so, we really need to hear from the membership. Please spend some time thinking about what SFCC means to you, and how it could better meet your needs. Then be ready to jump into the discussion and help us make this an organization you find both enjoyable and beneficial.

*“Sometimes I do get to places just when God’s ready to have somebody click the shutter.”
Ansel Adams”*

The Fine Print – The opinions expressed in “Take Your Best Shot” are those of the SFCC *Sioux Projector* editor, and not often (but occasionally I get lucky) those of the SFCC and its awesome photographers. Corrections, rebuttals, and certainly kind words are graciously invited but, depending on my mood, may or may not be published in future issues. Got a better idea? Think I’m all wet? Bring it on!!!

Arts in the Parks *(Reminder)*

The Sioux Falls Camera Club has an opportunity to show off our collective talents, share our wealth of photographic knowledge, help other folks learn more about how to take better pictures, enjoy a little fresh air, and maybe even learn more about our artistic hobby through the eyes of other artists.

Sound like a good time? Well, it can be if you are part of the fun!

Palisades State Park and the South Dakota Plein Air Artists are hosting the first ever “Palisades Plein Air Paintout” during the state parks Spring Open House Weekend May 19-21.

Artists from throughout the Midwest will descend on Palisades to partake in a weekend of “on location” painting. Artists will use watercolors, acrylics and oils to capture the many beautiful scenes of the park, and time will be scheduled during the weekend so that the public might observe the artists in action.

An artists’ social and catered dinner will take place at 7 pm Saturday evening.

The SFCC has been invited to participate in the event, and add photography to the weekend artistic offerings. Photographers are being asked to bring their equipment, set up at various locations in the park and share their hobby with others.

Park entrance fees are waived for the open house weekend. Tickets for the catered Saturday meal are \$9/person.

Interested? Contact Marty DeWitt for info and to sign up for the meal. We need a final headcount for the meal at the May 2nd meeting.



Chad Coppess and Photo Walkers

Coming Events

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!

“Photography as an art, fits comfortably in the tradition of Art because it is another means of expressing the human soul...Thought of in this way, photography – your photography and my photography – is a noble thing. It is our response to Mozart, our rejoinder to Dante, our echo to Billie Holiday, our reply to every artist who has proceeded us, photographer or not. It is far too easy for us to forget this as we click away and debate the vagaries of technology or the fickleness of the market.”

Words by Brooks Jensen, quoted in “Lenswork”
Oct/Nov 2004



A MESSAGE from Bob Wulf

"I would like to remind everyone who has placed either 1st, 2nd or 3rd and or received an 'Honorable Mention' award in the past year for any slides or prints entered in N4C to bring those winners to the banquet in May. I would like to submit them for the annual N4C convention which takes place in September, 2006. I need to submit them by the end of June in order for them to qualify for the annual competition."

May Program Highlights

Tuesday, May 2

At the regular SFCC Meeting
(from SFCC member Toby Wellenstein)

The DVD "*Chased by the Light*" is from a book with the same title. Jim Brandenburg grew up in Luverne, MN and I was living there when he was starting his career in photography. I could see by his work that he would do well. This was a self-assigned project to shoot one photo, one frame, one shot a day for 90 days, rather than taking many shots and editing for the good ones. Just one shot a day.

The DVD goes into some detail on how he accomplished the project. The National Geographic Society published the project in their magazine and noted it was the only story using 90 photos and was the only story using only three rolls of film.

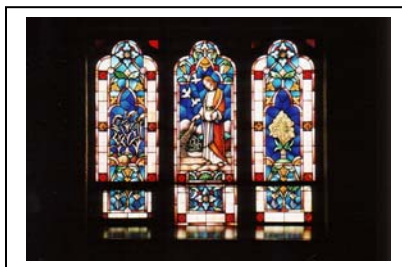
You can go to his web site at www.jimbrandenburg.com and find more information about the project and the photographer. You may also wish to visit the Brandenburg Gallery in downtown Luverne. It's worth the trip!

Thanks!

Bob Wulf

Your N4C contact person.

A SCAVENGER HUNT SNEAK PREVIEW!



***See the rest at the May 16th
SFCC Banquet!***

And the BEAT GOES ON!!!

It ISN'T ALL O's AND I's - By Ron Balthazor

I remember when I first dealt with computers decades ago. They seemed simple at the time but offered the promise of great things to come. When I thought I had a handle on the subject I even wrote a program that would help me categorize my beer can collection alphabetically. Yes. I saw the power of computing.

Later Apple offered a model for home use. With the help of my 2, 4, and 11 year-old sons—it was decided to purchase the latest technology despite the fact that it contained no hard drive. Booting-up from a slow, large, floppy disk did not seem inconvenient considering how it would facilitate our skill at “pong.”

It didn't seem long after that a computer became as standard an instrument on my office desk as a stapler. Although they never seemed to rebound from a pounding like my staplers, they did appear to gradually make my professional life easier. Computing power seemed to grow exponentially. The only concern I had was that the growth in the computer industry seemed to be quickly passing my ability to learn and adapt.

As technology quickly rises around me I'm beginning to feel like I can no longer keep my head above the rising tide. That's probably an understatement. I think the Library of Congress has opened a new wing the size of Rhode Island with computer manuals and books I've never read.

Now that I'm trying to apply my regressive knowledge base to photography I think it is important to realize how much I appreciate the art of photography. No, it is not what I can do to photography with a computer but how a computer may assist in creating an image. Considering my life experiences it seems like a logical thing to do. However, I do not appreciate any less the images created with a more non-computer approach. In fact, I fear that my learning may always be impaired because I did not grow-up with more traditional techniques. If there is anything I can do within the SFCC, it would be to encourage those members who can to promote these skills and their wisdom in non-digital photography. Maybe it will take digital education programs to recruit and retain new SFCC members but it will be the club's ability to provide a traditional experience that will inspire.

And my very first "Letter to the Editor!"

“In regards to what we allow as B&W vs. color. I say who cares? We're not that picky about what we enter each month in terms of the theme. Why should we care if a black and white print has color?”

If we wanted to make sure like pictures compete against like pictures, do that based on theme. Nature shots are judged among themselves. Same with portraits, same with contemporary, and same with our theme-of-the-month prints. Color vs. black and white seems like a very arbitrary dividing point. It would be easier to compare a B&W portrait with a color portrait than it would a color "visual rhythm" with a nature shot with a contemporary portrait.

If I were in charge, I'd consider doing away with judging altogether. Does the fact that a photo scored 33 make it any better than one that scored 32? What exactly does that mean? If we as a club care about education, then why is the judging conducted away from the main meetings? Hardly anybody other than the helpers and the judges attend those. Let's just have open critique sessions. Everybody is allowed to bring 3 prints or slides total, and we'll spend an entire meeting each month talking about what we like and how we'd improve them.

I really don't understand how the whole point system helps any of us create better photos. And if we don't have a point system, then it doesn't really matter if somebody's black and white photo is toned or if it's really a lowly saturated color photo in disguise.

Just something I've been thinking about"..... Sincerely, Eric Merrill

Thanx Eric! How 'bout it everybody? What do you think? BE ready to share your thoughts at upcoming meetings!