

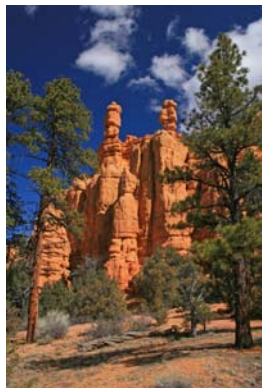


The Sioux Projector

The Official Newsletter of the Sioux Falls Camera Club

<http://www.siouxfallscameraclub.com>

In This Issue



The “NEW Prez Sez!”

Page 2

Judging Results

Page 3

2008-09 Themes

Page 3

Sioux Empire Fair

Page 3

N4C Digital Results

Page 4

“PUG” Preview

Page 4

September 2008 Edition

It's a Brand New Season!

******NOTE MEETING LOCATION CHANGE******

The Sioux Falls Camera Club will now be meeting at the Oak View Public Library, located at 3700 East Third Street, which is just north of our former meeting place at the Kenny Anderson Community Center.

Meetings will start at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 2nd

Eric Merrill and Amy Vander Vorste will give an update on changes to come for the 2008-2009 SFCC year. *Eric* will also provide more info on the N4C digital competitions for the year. *Ken Starkenburg* will then give a refresher course on how to make great photos for competitions, with an emphasis on composition. Then, *Ron Balthazor* will give a presentation on how to calibrate your monitor for accurate color (featuring the Spyder System).

Amy Vander Vorste will be providing the tasty treats.

Tuesday, September 16th

This will be the first of the new group critique sessions. Each member will be invited to bring one image to share for an evening of sharing and learning. More details to come!

Sarah Lynde will provide refreshments.

Sioux Falls Camera Club 2008-2009



Officers and Board Members for 2008-2009

President (Interim):	Roger Rose	605-271-3226
Vice President:	Sandy Tebben	605-743-2044
Secretary – Treasurer:	Linda Rensberger	605-361-2708
3 Yr.:	(1 yr. remain) Eric Merrill	605-339-3075
3 Yr.:	(2 yr. remain) Don Rensberger	605-361-2708
3 Yr.:	(3 yr. remain) Sarah Lynde	605-641-1413
1 Yr.:	Roger Rose	605-271-3226

Chairpersons

Programs:	Steve Thompson	605-528-3675
SFCC Prints & Slides:	Roger Rose	605-271-3226
	Robert Tebben	605-743-2044
Newsletter Editor:	Marty DeWitt	605-594-8198
Club Historian:	Ken Starkenburg	605-338-0209
Hospitality:	VACANT	
Promotions/Website:	Amy Vander Vorste	605-366-2213
	Sarah Lynde	605-641-1413
N4C Entries:	Ron Balthazor	605-371-1607
N4C Digital:	Eric Merrill	605-339-0187
Points & Awards:	Jim Stone	605-339-0187
Sioux Empire Fair:	Roger Rose	605-271-3226

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

Dues

Individuals: \$18.00 Family: \$27.00

Please pay Linda Rensberger, Secretary-Treasurer

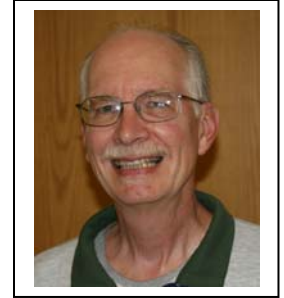
The Sioux Falls Camera Club meets at 7:00 P.M., the first and third Tuesdays, September through May, at the Oak View Library, 3700 E 3rd Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

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 editor Marty DeWitt at martydewitt@hotmail.com.

THE NEW/OLD/NEW PREZ SEZ!



I'm back! Just when you thought you had gotten rid of me, you find out I'm back for more as club president. Amy decided to step aside as president and take over the management of the club's website. Tim Breikreutz recently resigned as our website administrator because of his busy schedule. His efforts over the past years are notable and were instrumental in providing the club an outstanding presence on the internet. We thank him for his dedication for so many years and wish him the best in the future.

Our website is essential for continued membership growth and also as our principle communications tool. We are fortunate to have a member like Amy who has the computer skills to take over this task and the creativity to take our website to the next level. Thank you, Amy! Thanks also go to Sarah Lynde, who has agreed to assist Amy and act as the website backup when needed.

Something happened at the August 12th board meeting that still amazes me. As you know this was a special board meeting held principally to discuss eliminating the slide category from our monthly competition. Robert Tebben had also requested the board consider adding a competition category for "contemporary-creative" entries. This category would be for images that are digitally modified through the addition of elements from multiple photographs and/or software generated enhancements.

Following a lengthy discussion, several key points emerged. First, only about one-third of the club membership routinely participates in the monthly competition, even though club members provide more time and effort to this activity than any other. Many members don't participate because they believe their photography can't compete successfully. Other members find the expense of matting and mounting 2-6 prints each month more than what they want to spend.

Second, we had considerable difficulty last year finding four members to assist in the monthly judging. Often we ended up using three judges or relying on the judging coordinators to fill in.

Third, the club has access to competition through N4C and other venues, like the Sioux Empire Fair and various internet photography sites. All of these alternative venues are more advantageous in many respects than our monthly club competition. With so

many other photo competition avenues available, is it necessary we expend so much energy in conducting a club competition on a monthly basis?

The group unanimously concluded we should try something else. So, for the first three months of the new season the club's monthly competition has been suspended. Instead, the third Tuesday of each month will be devoted exclusively to an open forum during which club members will be asked to present one new photograph to the group for discussion. Members will be asked to provide constructive comments regarding the photograph's strengths and weaknesses, and suggest ways to improve or enhance the photograph's overall appeal. With this process we should learn how to create better images, and at the same time provide sound advice on how to enhance the competitiveness of each individual photograph presented. We will discuss this exciting change more at our September 2nd meeting. See you there!

Roger Rose, Interim President (IP)

PS: If you know of a member who secretly desires to be president but is too shy to come forward, please let me know.



New SFCC Website!

Amy has been working on the website and is now ready to add links to members' websites. If you'd like a link to your site, send Amy an email with your website URL. If you'd like to see the updated camera club website, you can see it at: <http://www.siouxfallscameraclub.com/>

Amy is also open to ideas of what else we can do with the site. (She hopes to start looking into galleries if there's enough interest) Please let her know of your great ideas!

"Monthly Themes for 2008-2009

September - Summer Time Fun
October - Halloween
November - In Motion
December - Inspiration
January - Candle light
February - Love & Romance
March - Spring
April - Wet Stuff
May - Anything Goes

NEWS from the Sioux Empire Fair!

The Sioux Empire Fair SFCC Photography Exposition was held August 5-10, and THANK to all the folks who participated and assisted with the event. This year there were 31 participants with 178 entries. A total of \$480 in prize money was awarded. Chad Phillips, owner of Great Plains Photography and former SFCC member Greg Honermann did the judging.

The following six club members participated: Ron Balthazor, Don Rensberger, Linda Rensberger, Roger Rose, Ken Starckenburg, and Robert Tebben.

Club members won \$250 (over half) of the prize money. Club members won 4 first place ribbons, 4 second place ribbons, 5 third place ribbons, and 9 honorable mention ribbons. In addition Ron Balthazar won the "Visitor's Choice" rosette for his photograph titled "Water Balloons."

Congratulations to all club members who participated and assisted in making this year's Photography Exposition a huge success.

N4C Competition Guidelines

(Ron Balthazor offers the following information pertaining to how folks should continue to submit images for the monthly N4C judging.)

Although we won't be having monthly judging, members can still submit images to N4C for their monthly competition. Before he sends in images for any category, he's going to hold onto entries until he has the maximum number for submission. That should save the club money on postage while not significantly decreasing our chances at being competitive.

What Ron needs are photos that would qualify for the following categories:

Photo-Travel Prints

Nature Prints (Black and White OR Color)

Photojournalism Prints

Contemporary/Creative Prints

Color Prints (Pictorial)

If the prints could be brought to the first meeting in September, Ron will have time to mail them in for that month's N4C competition. Members may also freely submit to Ron any images they would like to see compete in N4C for at least the next three months. He'll fill the categories with submitted materials and hold in reserve any extra prints for subsequent monthly competition. Only one image per photographer per category is allowed each month--September-May.



N4C Digital Results

We received word that since the following entries from SFCC were winners in the Digital Slide Contests this past year, they will be sent on to the Minnesota Valley Photo Club for the "Best of N4C" judging. The results will be announced at the 2008 N4C Convention.

"Zebra Zone" by Lori Fisher

"St. Peter's Basilica" by Ron Balthazor

"Buck's Road House" by Ron Balthazor

"Fony Fotos" Exposed!

Eric Merrill passed on this tidbit. Seems folks are real concerned about how the digital age has led to a proliferation of less-than-honest images. According to this website, it's been going on for quite some time. Check it out!

<http://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/farid/research/digitaltampering/>

N4C Fall Convention

Everyone should have received the information about the upcoming N4C Convention to be held September 25-28 at the Airport Hilton in Bloomington, Minnesota. The Minnesota Valley Photo Club has been very busy planning a great selection of programs and tours. Contact Marty for more information and registration forms.



“PUG” SNEAK PREVIEWthe SEQUEL!

Here are the Photoshop User's Group tips from the June 10th gathering. We had a good first session with a wide range of Photoshop experience. One person even brought a problem photo in just to see what could be done. Keep your eyes and ears open for news of future sessions!

Roger's Tip: Combining 2 Photos

- Open your images. (It's a good idea to dupe them before manipulating the original files. To do this in Photoshop Go to Image->Duplicate)
- Ensure they are the same size and resolution
- Pick 1 to be "front stage" (top layer). Click and drag it into the other image. Now you should have 2 layers.
- Add a mask. (In the layers palette, click the button that has a square with a circle in it.)
 - Note on masks for those new to them. White areas on the mask will allow the current layer to show. Black areas hide that area and allow layers underneath to show.)
- On the mask (in the layers palette, there's a white box next to the picture of your top layer)
- Select a brush in the brush tool with a big, soft, low opacity (low flow is nice too) tip and set your color to black
- Paint the areas on the mask that you want to lower layer to show through. (You'll see the effect as you go.)
- If you need to "erase" areas you painted in black on the mask, use white to repaint. You may need to change the brush size.

Amy's Tip: Snitching Lightroom Templates to work in Photoshop's Camera Raw

Before I had Lightroom, I liked to look at Matt Kloskowski's photo presets at Lightroom Killer Tips (<http://www.lightroomkillertips.com/>), because he's always looking into the latest looks for photos

and advertising layouts.

So, out of curiosity, I downloaded one of his Lightroom preset files (.lrtemplate extension on the file) and viewed it as a text file. I was in luck, because you can view the contents of the file and match most of the settings there with settings in Camera Raw.

Even better, you can save these settings. Just go to the pop out menu in Camera Raw (on the far right) and choose save settings. This will save the settings in a "sidecar" file with an .xmp extension. Save these .xmp files in a folder so you can easily access them later.



HOMESTEADER DAY HARVEST FESTIVAL

If you're looking for a great opportunity to see history come alive, and a better chance to capture some great photos of pioneer life and times, then plan a trip out to the Beaver Creek Nature Area southeast of Brandon. The event takes place on Sunday, September 7th, and runs from 1-4 p.m.

Activities will include Civil War and cowboy re-enactors, pioneer farming and horse team demonstrations, candle and rope-making, SD Old Time Fiddlers music, rose-maling, chair caning, Dutch-oven cooking, pioneer games, spinning and weaving, and much, much more! And the best thing about it.... IT'S FREE!!!

Take Your Best Shot!

By Marty DeWitt, SFCC Editor



So, where did summer go? Usually I find myself praying for the first major snow storm about the middle of August, but before I could even start my “white rain dance”, here it is Labor Day Weekend already! And, wouldn’t you know it, with it also came the frightening realization that I had a newsletter to do...

As I sat down at the keyboard, I really didn’t have a clue what I was going to include in this issue. I quickly rounded up the many emails I acquired over the last several weeks, and soon realized that your SFCC leadership has been extremely busy. Thanks to them, things are taking shape for an exciting new season for the club. There have been some dramatic changes, and some more subtle “adjustments”. But all their work has been done with one goal in mind - namely to make the SFCC experience beneficial to area photographers, of all ages and all abilities.

A pretty lofty goal, if you ask me, but hey, if you don’t aim high, all you do is kick up dust...

So, my thanks go out to Amy, Steve, Roger, Ron and all the folks that helped them over the summer to get ready for another year for SFCC! And a special thanx for making my job of filling these pages a bit easier this month. That brings me to a special request for all. I would greatly appreciate any and all help in making sure our club membership is best served with this newsletter. Please send me any items you think may be of interest. Do you have any great tips or gadgets that make your life easier? Did you have a picture published somewhere? Do you know about a new photo exhibit, photo contest, swap meet or educational class taking place? Maybe you have some photo equipment you’d like to sell or trade. I’d also like to begin featuring member photos in the newsletter. Almost anything is fair game, so let me know your ideas.

I didn’t get many shooting opportunities this summer. However, one special moment occurred while relaxing at a friend’s cabin north of Garretson. We heard some commotion in the oak trees behind the cabin, and saw a hen turkey coming in to roost. I had my camera and 400mm lens, so I started shooting. Her head was obstructed by leaves, so I started clucking to get her to look my way. Imagine my surprise when three little heads appeared from under her wings! It was something I had never seen before, and a great “Kodak” moment! (See image above left).

We also had a photo opportunity a couple weeks ago at Palisades. Our old historic bridge celebrated its 100th birthday this year, so we threw a party. One activity was to get 100 people on the bridge for a picture. We ended up with 106, and fun was had by all. When asked by several people how much weight the bridge would hold, I simply smiled and said “we don’t know yet!”

If you haven’t seen it yet, find a copy of the June/July issue of Sioux Falls Woman magazine. There is a very nice feature about our very own Lori Fisher. It showcases several of her remarkable images. For more info about Lori’s work, check out her site at www.myspace.com/lorifisher1.

Steve Thompson has been out and about with his new Nikon digital camera. He was one of the fortunate few to photograph a group of burrowing owls that decided settle in an old badger hole in an alfalfa field just northeast of Sioux Falls. It is very rare to have them nesting this far east, and it sure caught the attention of the birding community.

So, it just goes to show you...keep your camera at the ready at all times, and keep your eyes and ears open for your next incredible shot. Hope to see you all at the September meetings!

Remember- Happy “Clickers” Take Better Pictures!

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!!!