



Central Iowa Camera Club
Sharp Focus

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA
NORTH CENTRAL CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL MEMBER

Volume 35
Issue 7
February
2011

March 3rd
bring us a picture to work on!

Do You Need a Critique?

In the interest of full disclosure, I make many more mediocre and bad captures than good ones. I'm usually fairly successful at culling out at least the bad captures. Cheryl, my wife, can be counted on to at least help determine what of the remaining images have some interest. Sometimes we disagree. Based upon my scores at the club contests she is more right than wrong when our opinions differ. I know.....

Over the last couple of years the club board has struggled with how to provide image critiques for the club membership. Scores from the club contests don't give much info on how to improve your images. Last year we tried to provide comments during one of the contests, but that ended up being a long night. During last November's meeting, Ed Siems demonstrated some editing techniques that were well received by the members present. The program for the club meeting on March 3rd will be a "Critique in Motion". Club members are asked to bring a couple of images on a **thumb** drive and Ed and other members will help to edit to make your good images great ones. Bring what you think is a good image as well as one you may be struggling with in your editing software. **Raw** files are best but **full size JPEGs** will work to a limited degree. Should be a good educational opportunity for all.

Thanks to the club member's help at the February meeting the club contest schedule for 2011-12 has been set. I'm really looking forward to both an interesting and challenging lineup. You now have plenty of advanced notice to start planning/making your captures. Topics are as follows:

- * October - Open
- * December - Nature
- * February - Blue (you picked it!)
- * April - Night
- * May - Water
- * June - Open

The board is still developing the program schedule for next year. We had some good input from the club and are working to provide programs that are both interesting and educational for all. More to come.

A look ahead to the next club contest to be held in April. The topic is Churches. Lots of subject matter here both old and new. If you haven't made your captures yet you better get busy as I know a couple of members have some images ready to go.

Well it certainly looks like spring is just around the corner. The groundhog did not see his shadow so spring is only six weeks away. Of course if he'd seen his shadow we would of had six more weeks of winter. Yes I don't see much difference either. I guess it's a good excuse for some people without much else to do in a town in Pennsylvania with a name that no one can spell, get up early one morning in early February, put on funny hats, drink a toast, make some goofy proclamation and torment a rodent. But I was able to get in a long walk with our dogs this evening after work. The long range forecast shows that is getting to be a regular possibility now. Not so only a week ago. That means bug-shooting weather is not too far away!

Mark Hayes



Dick is our club librarian and has been holding the books and VCR tapes on educational materials pertaining to photography. These items have been in the library for many years for club members to use and some are relevant for today but most are outdated. He will be bringing these items to the next two meetings and you are welcome to take whatever you would like. Those that you don't want will be pitched. Dick has suggested that we go digital for educational material. The link below is for the N4C and has much photographic educational information. He will also come up with other educational sites, like YouTube and other web sites that will be helpful.

http://www.n4c.us/photography_links.htm



These are some of the links that I like, not photo related, but links that pertain to older, long in the tooth members (if we have teeth left).



<http://objflicks.com/decadeofthe1940s.html>



<http://oldfortyfives.com/DYRT.htm>



<http://oldfortyfives.com/CarsWeDrove.htm>



<http://objflicks.com/TakeMeBackToTheSixties.htm>



<http://oldfortyfives.com/theseventies.html>



<http://oldfortyfives.com/WhenLifewasInBlack&White.htm>

Creative CICC Winners Febuary

| Name | Date 2011 Feb | Contest | Category | Level | Score | Award | Title |
|------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| Ed Siems | | Creative | Color print | Adv. | 14 | 1st | Green barn |
| Ed Siems | | | | Adv. | 13 | 2nd | Two moons have I |
| Teresa Vokoun | | | | Adv. | 12 | 3rd | Blanket flower |
| Brenda Doyle | | | | Int. | 13 | 1st | Father time |
| Sheryl Rutledge | | | | Int. | 12 | 2nd | Block it |
| Denise Christian | | | | Int. | 12 | 3rd | Deep in thought |
| | | | B/W print | | | | |
| Teresa Vokoun | | | | Adv. | 15 | 1st | Old dairy barn |
| Jim Davis | | | | Adv. | 12 | 2nd | Stone schoolhouse |
| Ed Siems | | | | Adv. | 12 | 3rd | Frilly frost |
| Brenda Doyle | | | | Int. | 13 | 1st | The "eyes" have it |
| Denise Christian | | | | Int. | 12 | 2nd | Sweet tooth |
| Denise Christian | | | | Int. | 11 | 3rd | Big sister |
| | | | Digital slide | | | | |
| Ed Siems | | | | Adv. | 14 | 1st | Wind mill |
| Teresa Vokoun | | | | Adv. | 13 | 2nd | Old Desoto |
| Meg Klink | | | | Adv. | 13 | 3rd | Colored glass |
| Sheryl Rutledge | | | | Int. | 11 | 1st | News for grandma |
| Denise Christian | | | | Int. | 10 | 2nd | Dirt not needed |
| Dori Jurgenson | | | | Int. | 10 | 3rd | Sea rose |

Digital Pictorial Slide 3rd Ed Siems



2x2 Slide 2nd
Ed Siems



January N4C Contest Winning Photos CICC Members

Photo Travel
Slide H.M. Ed Siems



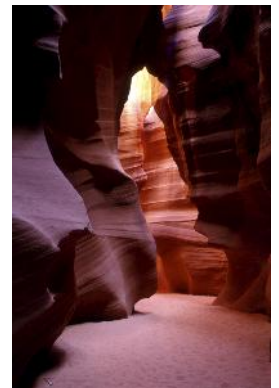
Nature Slide
H.M. Ed Siems



Creative Print 2nd
Teresa Vokoun



2x2 Slide H.M.
Teresa Vokoun



Moose Peterson: How to Photograph Winter Landscapes



© Moose Peterson

Nevada City, Montana, D3X, AF-S NIKKOR 24mm f/1.4G ED, 1/1500 second, f/1.4, ISO 200, aperture priority, Matrix metering.

When Moose Peterson starts talking about photographing winter landscapes, you tend to pay attention. In fact, if you're like us, you take notes. As a renowned nature and wildlife photographer, Moose brings experience and expertise to the subject. He also brings an appreciation of the beauty of the winter world and a realization of its challenges. Because we were taking notes, we can share his tips with you.

White Out

What was once the bane of winter photos is now past tense. You guessed it: blue or gray snow. Here's what used to happen: the camera's meter would read the vast white world as a vast overexposure, and to compensate the camera's auto exposure system would set faster shutter speeds or smaller apertures; either would effectively cut down the amount of light reaching the film or the sensor. Simply, the meter didn't know that all that white was what you really wanted. Moose remembers those days, and how he'd use +1/3 or +2/3 or more exposure compensation to let in more light and bring white back to white. These days it's pretty much a non-issue. "With any D-SLR, I go with Matrix metering and aperture-priority exposure and that's it, I don't dial in any exposure compensation." And if some of the snow gets blown out—that is, overexposed—it's no problem. "White snow doesn't need to have a whole lot of detail for your mind to know its snow. In the majority of photos you'll take, you don't need to see the individual crystals of the snow." In addition, it's also likely that the shadow areas of the scene will be filled in by all the light bouncing off the snow. "You won't have a lot of shadow area to deal with," Moose says, "and neither will your meter. The exposure range is mostly in the highlight area." Things might be different when the sun's not out. "On an overcast or cloudy day, you might get a blue cast to the snow. I don't mind that so much at all—it helps suggest just how cold the scene is. What's the color of cold, after all? Blue." But if you want the snow to whiten up, an exposure compensation of +1/3 or +2/3 should do the trick. Take a photo, check the LCD, adjust as needed. Also, keep in mind that when you're shooting in snow, chances are you're not just photographing the snow. There's a person, a tree, an animal, a house...maybe a snowman. "And, once again, the snow in the scene acts like a giant fill card and bounces light around, and bounced light will be softer and more flattering for your picture.

Color

Winter will almost always provide its share of color—you just have to seek it out. Sometimes chasing the light will do the trick. The Nevada City barn, for example, showed its true colors because Moose was on the scene in the early hours of the morning. (And when you catch the light, check its direction. "Look for side lighting,". "It'll give you more definition in your subject because the shadows are revealing texture and detail.") camera's color control to vivid and changed the auto white balance to the A3 setting to warm up the picture." (The camera's warming range runs from A1 to A6; there's also a cooling range, from B1 to B6. As you might expect, the A range adds an amber tone to the image; the B range, a blue tone.) "What you're doing is fine tuning the photo" In effect, you're warming up or cooling down the winter landscape." How much fine tuning will suit the scene you're shooting? That's up to your taste and judgment; take a picture at any setting and check the results.

He also reminds us that the colder the air, the better the color. "Cold air is clearer," he says, "and there are often ice crystals in the air that cause light to diffract; you get really brilliant, pretty-picture colors. So you want to be photographing at sunrise and sunset—the coldest parts of the day."

Photodex ProShow N4C Discount on Software for Creating Slideshows

Photodex has provided 20% N4C discount coupons for their products and upgrades. This includes ProShow Gold - normally \$79.99 would be \$64 or Producer normally \$269.95 would be \$215.96 www.photodex.com . If you already own these and wish to upgrade, check the Photodex website under the “Store” menu for upgrades and loyalty program. This software runs only with a Windows operating system.

A coupon is attached to this message giving the details for obtaining the discount.

I recommend downloading the fully functional software from the website and trying it before you purchase. Look for an excellent eBook style (pdf) manual under the support menu. When you purchase the key for the software, the demo banner will be removed from shows. Be sure to backup the downloaded software with the key information to a CD so you could install it again if you ever change computers.

There will be workshops at the next Springbrook and N4C Convention where this software will be demonstrated. Many N4C members have used it to make photo essays for the N4C contests. Information about the N4C Photo Essay contest was in the January *N4C News Bulletin* (<http://n4c.us/Bulletins/N4C%20Bulletin%202011-01.pdf>). Deadline for those entries is March 31.

This information will be in the *N4C Bulletin* - I am providing the coupon with this email which you can forward to your members so they will not need to contact me unless they have questions. I am instructed not to put the coupon on the web for the general public so the actual coupon will not be in the *Bulletin*. The N4C website is <http://n4c.us> and Ken's email is web@n4c.us.

Full details for Springbrook (April 29-May 1) are at this link: <http://n4c.us/SpringbrookProgram2011a.pdf> Hope to see you there.

Ken Johnson
N4C First Vice President

Central Iowa Camera Club members -The 20% N4C **coupon** expires

November 5, 2011. If needed I will send the code for the 20% off to CICC

members only! Jim Svec <mailto:jlsvec@gmail.com>

Central Iowa Camera Club 2010-2011 Board of Directors

President

Mark Hayes 641-485-3622

Vice-President

Danny Barker 641-752-5989

Secretary-Treasurer

Teresa Vokoun 641-485-0626

Recording Secretary

Caralee Hutchens

Sharp Focus Editor

Jim Svec

N4C Representative

Jim Svec 641-752-5265

Contests

Jim Davis

Photographer - Duane Freese

Field Trips - Ed Siems

Education Coordinator

Danny Barker

Yearly Awards

Jim Davis

Librarian - Dick Eberhart

Webmaster - Jim Svec

webmastercicc@centraliowacameraclub.com

Statement of Purpose

The Central Iowa Camera Club exists to promote the understanding and practice of photography in Central Iowa. Membership is open to persons without regard to their photographic knowledge, experience, sex, age, race, or creed.

Meetings are held at Fisher Community Center at 7:00 p.m., the first Thursday of the month - September through June. Programs are planned to be of interest to beginning through advanced photographers and to those who enjoy viewing the photographic art.

Dues are \$10.00 student, \$20.00 single, \$27.00 family, and are due the first meeting in September.

Deadline

Sharp Focus articles are due to the Editor no later than **10th of every month!**

CICC ON THE WEB

Web Address

<http://centraliowacameraclub.com>



2010-2011

Contest Schedule

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| October | Open |
| December | Nature |
| February | Creative |
| April | Churches |
| June | Agriculture |

Technique
Focus, Lighting, color rendition, exposure, print quality, mounting.

Composition
Arrangement of all elements within the picture area so that the subject matter is presented as a harmonious well balanced photograph.

Interest
Originality, imagination interpretation, subject, impact, mood, humor, etc.

N4C NEWS BULLETIN

To receive the N4C News Bulletin
email jlsvec@gmail.com

Need Help With Photoshop?

If any of you have questions,
please send me an email kandsjohnson@mchsi.com.

I will research your question
and write an article about it in the next issue.

Ken Johnson

N4C Handbook & N4C Directory 2010-2011

Available free in PDF format and can be read by Acrobat Reader

On a CD for \$3.00

On a 3.5 Diskette for \$3.00

Request the copies sent to you via email and it is **Free!**

OR

Printed copies for N4C Handbook \$7.00

N4C Directory \$8.00

Contact Mary Jane for further information or to place an order.
n4chandbook@centraliowacameraclub.com or 641-488-2798