

# 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**

**November 2008**

## Preserving Your Digital Images

By Carol Madison

I attended a seminar about preserving your images recently and here are a few notes:

Preserving your digital images doesn't just happen – you need to be diligent about both your camera technique and your storage technique.

Good camera technique means you shoot images, download them onto a storage device, back them up, and then reformat your media card. Media cards are not long-term storage devices. Actually, it is recommended that you reformat them as soon as you have downloaded and backed up your images. Media cards can and will fail at the most inopportune time.

There are a number of storage techniques. The hard drive on your computer is one of the most stable storage devices. But, as with all digital media can and will fail with time – hard drives have an average seven-year lifespan. So, it is critical that you have a secondary (and even a tertiary) back up plan. A separate external hard drive works well and most computers today can be programmed to do automatic back ups on a regular set schedule. Seagate and Western Digital make quality external drives and can be purchased for less than \$200 for a 1-terabyte drive and less than \$100 for a 500-gigabyte drive.

CD discs and DVD discs are also options and are relatively inexpensive. However, these should be considered for short-term storage only since their lifespan is approximate 3-7 years. Rewriteable discs have an even shorter lifespan.

For large-volume users there is another option which is a RAID system or Drobo-type device.



This option costs about \$1,000 and is outside the average photographer's budget. If interested, check the following website:

[www.drobo.com/products/index](http://www.drobo.com/products/index)

Another thing to keep in mind is to have a storage device (thus, the tertiary level of storage) off-site. Keep an external storage device at work, your kid's house, or in your safety deposit box, so if – heaven forbid – your home burns or blows away – you have your images safely stored in another place.

Preserving or 'archiving' digital images isn't just a one-time shot. Technology changes – remember the floppy disk or the 3 ½ -inch hard disk? Both became obsolete through technology changes. You must continuously up-grade your storage media and devices as these changes occur – and they will.

So, if you haven't yet, it is time to look into backing up and preserving your images. The Library of Congress has a website on digital preservation which may also be worth looking at:

[www.digitalpreservation.gov](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov)

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## CALENDAR

Nov 20  
Regular meeting – 7:00 pm at St. Philips  
Category: Vintage

Dec 18  
Regular meeting – 7:00 pm at St. Philips  
Category: Movement  
Program: Yankee Swap

### Competitions & Contests

Jan 6, 2009  
2009 Minneapolis-St. Paul Print Circuit entries due.  
  
See [www.cameracouncil.org](http://www.cameracouncil.org) for more information

### Upcoming Events

Thru Nov 8  
Exhibit of lush large-scale print by Josh Quigley and Karolina Karlic radiate a sensuality revealing everyday lives longing for meaning. IFP at 2446 University Ave W, in St. Paul.

Nov 22 – 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 Jan 18  
India: Public Places, Private Spaces-Contemporary Photography and Video Art. Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Online Resource  
Minneapolis Institute of Arts ([artsmia.org](http://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.

**Deadline date for next newsletter:  
November 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](mailto:northmetrophotoclub@hotmail.com)

Becky will send an e-mail receipt that your images were received.

## President's Corner A Harrowing Experience at Yosemite National Park

By Jean McDonough

Linda Jameson from Women's Color Photo Club and I flew to Reno October 4, 2008 joining four others that we have met through N4C activities. In fact, Ty Smedes from Iowa organized the week-long trip of the Eastern Sierras for the six of us. After renting our vehicles, we were on our way to Lee Vining to photograph the tufu's at Mono Lake, the ghost town of Bodie, June Lake and Lundy Lake environs for two days.

Our next destination was driving to Yosemite Valley with its awe-inspiring towering granite walls, cascading waterfalls, and beautiful meadows. Whenever you see the black and white photographs of Ansel Adams, you see many images of Yosemite.

While photographing reflections in and around the Valley, we saw fire trucks, ambulances, and dust billowing around the granite walls. After checking in to our cabins located at Curry Village, we found out that there was a small rockslide behind our cabins earlier in the afternoon. The following morning at 6:50 a.m. three of us were walking to the dining hall for breakfast and stopped to look up to see where yesterday's rockslide occurred. Suddenly, while still looking at yesterday's rock slide starting point, we hear a loud cracking and rocks started falling straight down in our direction. There were lots of young children probably from ages 10 and up running while their leaders were yelling to them to run, run, run, and don't stop. The noise was deafening and we were running to find something like a meadow where the rocks would stop moving. Kathy Prowant stumbled while running, and was nursing a bloody nose when we found her. Her glasses were intact but the pressure of the glasses on her face left her with two shiners around her eyes.

Linda Jameson, who is a nurse, offered her assistance at the triage and she accompanied a 10-year old boy to the medical clinic where he was treated for a minor head injury after being struck in the head by flying rock shrapnel. After seeing the blood coming from his head wound, she had to convince him he was not going to die. While waiting for Linda to return, we were told that no one would be allowed back into their cabins. I saw the cautionary yellow tape but I was wondering if it was

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possible for me to get to my cabin without getting caught; after all, my photo equipment was inside. I walked a block to the right of the tape, walked by huge boulders that had probably fallen centuries ago and meandered to my cabin and retrieved my camera bag. Donna Gustafson and Cindy Murray had already retrieved their camera equipment. Bears are a problem in the Park so we were advised to empty the interior of the vehicles in the evening so when the bears wandered by and looked in, they would not see something that looked like food. They have videos at check-in showing bears breaking and entering the vehicles.

We had to check out of our cabins and find another place to stay outside the Park. We received a refund and left minus our luggage. Now the red tape marked "danger" was next to the yellow tape and anyone entering the red tape area would receive a stiff fine. Three of us had camera gear so we found areas to photograph.

The next morning we returned and filled out forms describing items left in our rooms and the park ranger would empty one cabin at a time using a golf cart. While waiting for our luggage for over three hours, we were all standing around and we listened to horror stories. One man, awaked by the terrible sound, instinctively grabbed the bed sheet or he would have been standing buck naked in the parking lot. He said a park ranger gave him money to buy some clothes and shoes.

Telling the Park Rangers that medications were still in the cabins did not work—"go to the clinic," was their response. Tons of news media arrived holding microphones, sticking them in our faces, hoping to get some stories. Geologists arrived in helicopters assessing the wall of rock. One park ranger said that 1,800 dishwashers falling would equal the rock slide the second day. At least 15 cabins were totally destroyed. The fact that no one was killed was a miracle.

After leaving Yosemite, we drove south to Bishop and photographed Mt. Whitney at sunrise and Bristol Cone Pines in the afternoon. The snow storm that fell on the Sierra Mountains two days after leaving Yosemite Park created a great backdrop with the yellow-colored aspens in the foreground.

Our mission as a group is to put our best 10 images on a CD and revisit the Eastern Sierra area visually at N4C's Springbrook conference to be held near Guthrie, Iowa, the last weekend in April 2009.

## Clean It Up?

By Walt Fluegel

We are looking at a TV crime solving program. We see a chief detective behind a computer whiz who is asked to zoom in on a car hidden in the shadows. They are examining a surveillance tape. With a few key strokes, we see a dimly-lit, smudgy license plate. The smudge is very pixilated. Can he clear it up, please? A few more key strokes and the fuzzy pixilated image begin to dance around. Lo and behold the license numbers become crystal clear. The story progresses, the crime must be solved.

But wait a minute! Hold it right there! Are we looking into future image technology? Or is it wishful thinking glossed over to give us the thrill of crime fighting? The latter I'm afraid. Why? Well here goes an explanation that might be "wrong" or incorrect in terms of understanding pixels, resolution, and sharpness, but I am going to give it a try. (However, I still like to watch an occasional program.)

First of all the camera has limits. Was it borrowed from a military space satellite which can see parking lot lines? Or is it an ordinary wide angle video camera using regular video tape? The tape has limits too, and the wider the field of view recorded the less detail the tape can record. If one zooms to maximum and pixels are seen, that's it (period!). The pixel is the defining unit any computer can work with. If many pixels do not make a defined pattern such as a number, no amount of "sharpening" is going to define a pattern. A pattern to be seen or sharpened must have differences in color, or grayness different from other pixels in the neighborhood. If all the pixels look alike, there is no pattern to sharpen or resolve.

The old adage still holds true: garbage in, garbage out. In our own experience, we try to sharpen images by manipulating or changing colors and increasing differences sometimes pixel by pixel. It's laborious. But in the real life crime fighting scene the computer whiz dares not put pixels where there were none before. He can only work with what has been recorded.

If you are one to watch crime detection stories on TV, have heart. At least we might be looking into the future, not for more crime, but better camera/computer technology. The writers of these stories have an imagination which can spur

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engineers to actually make better gadgets. Let's see now, when will that program air? Get the pop corn ready!

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## 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.)*

Sorry I missed getting the column in last month but I got the email from Carol asking me to send the column right away at the same time I got the newsletter so the steel trap of a mind I have figured it was probably too late.

The membership of the Hilo Photo Club is very excited about the judging that will be done with each others competitions in January. For the Hilo club, this will be the first competition to be held in several years and we are looking forward to it. I am also slowly pushing to have more competitions in the future.

The volcano has been exhibiting some strange behavior in the last few weeks. Last week, the vent at Halemaumau belched out flames and ash and then produced an audible growl that lasted for about four hours. It has made noises in the past but not so loud and long. Everybody keeps hoping it will start fountaining. If it does, I will most likely get stuck directing traffic for 8 to 10 hours a day as we will be overrun by visitors. They say that the number of people coming to the park is down but you can't convince me of that with the number of people I handle there every day.

One of the female cats living at my house gave birth a few weeks ago so I now have five new little balls of fur running around the place. Three are orange and look like their mother, one is black with a hint of orange (I call it "Blackie"), and one is pure white with the bluest eyes you will ever see. I call her "Snowball". You will never find a cuter batch anywhere.

Our stretch of nice weather is continuing but the winter months are not far away when we are likely to get "Kona" winds that blow the vog produced by the volcano into the inhabited areas of the island. For most of the winter months last year, we only had one vent to put up with. This winter we have two. Double trouble.

That's the news from Hawaii.

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## Help Wanted International NorthStar Circuit of Nature Photography Judging Event December 6 Save this date!!

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.

North Metro participates in two international Judgings each year. Club members are asked to volunteer to assist with judging, recording scores, running the equipment, etc. Supporting these events results in a fair amount of funds that goes into the Club treasury.

Details about where the event will be held, the time, and number of volunteers needed will be discussed at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting as well as be noted in the December newsletter.

(The other judging event is the print circuit in January – more on that later.)

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## What's Happening Around Here

by Grace E. Anderson Schrunk

I had the pleasure of attending the N4C Convention when it was held in Bloomington at the Hilton Hotel the last weekend in September. All the rooms were conveniently located in one area so all the exhibits and the classes were easy to find.

I did not go to any of the extra field trips, but the digital slide show put on by Nevada Wier was most interesting. She is a 56 year old woman who looks and moves like she is 36; very energetic and a most interesting person. I asked her, "How did you get your unusual first name."

She replied, "My given name is Peggy Colleen, which was the name I always went by. When I went to get my passport when I was in my 20's, the name Nevada was the third name on my birth certificate. My Dad passed away when I was four years old, but he is the one I can thank for the unusual name. It was the name of a former girlfriend and he wanted it on the certificate, according to my Mom."

National Geographic paid for her expedition down the Blue Nile which had never been done before. It

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took two years of planning and preparation for the trip and the pictures she showed were spectacular. She prefers to photograph in countries around the world where no one really wants to go because of the problems getting there and the primitive living conditions. She was going back to Burma in a couple of weeks to live among the natives and photograph them again.

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I would like to pose a question to the members. Are the two categories taking too long to judge? The business meetings are short, so that is not the problem. I don't think it is fair to the judge, who usually has a program to share with us after the break, to look out and see all the empty chairs as he or she is getting ready for their show – sometimes over half of the members leave. Many of our club members have jobs to go to the next day and need to leave.

Usually the person we have to do the judging is a very learned person who has valuable information that we all could use, but because of the usually 9pm starting time and sometimes later, the room almost clears out.

We are a very social group. We like to visit with other members, talk to the new members and try to do club affairs during the break time. All too soon, the president has to tell us that it is time to reconvene.

The reason the two category system was started goes back to when there were probably 20 members or so and it was felt the open category was needed so there would be more opportunity to have the other work of members judged.

I'm sure there are many of us that did not get to visit with everyone we wanted to and really don't want to go back and sit down after sitting for quite a bit more than an hour of viewing photos. If we have a judge who likes to evaluate a photo even more, it gets even later. No fault of the judge, they are only trying to be helpful to the maker of what is up on the screen.

I think each member should think about this and eventually vote on a proposal that we either have just an assigned category OR, put only one entry in each category. That would give us time to visit (at least 30 minutes or more), give the judge a room full of members to show his presentation and everyone can go home at a reasonable time.

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## PHOTO OPS –

In March **birds** is the category. In the event you don't have bird images in your files yet - here are a few ideas for capturing images of some majestic birds –

### Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory

The Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, located in Duluth, Minnesota, provides some of North America's best autumn hawk watching. A seasonal average of over 94,000 raptors and 20 different species migrates past Hawk Ridge from mid-August through November. The number of birds peaks in September, but a fair number are still there through November.

#### What makes a good day (for birds) at Hawk Ridge?

Birds and the weather are both unpredictable, but here are a few tips for predicting the flight – northwest or west winds are best, and the more in a row, the better. North and southwest winds are okay. South, southeast, and east winds are not good. The day before or a couple of days after a strong front usually produces more birds. The flight essentially shuts down in the rain, and if they move in fog, we can't see them!

More about the migration, directions, trail maps, and more can be found at:

[www.hawkridge.org](http://www.hawkridge.org)

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### National Eagle Center

The Mississippi River at Wabasha is a favorite over-wintering area for hundreds of bald eagles, as well as home to countless year-round resident eagles.

Enjoy and photo the beauty of this great raptor by visiting the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota just a short drive from the Twin Cities.

The river deck is open 24/7 for eagle observation, and the center is open Daily 10am - 5pm.

Meet live education eagles in a cage-free viewing area, ask the staff about eagles, take in an eagle feeding program, and shoot all the photos you like.

More about the Center, eagle, and other migratory fowl can be found at:

[www.nationaleaglecenter.org](http://www.nationaleaglecenter.org)

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## Monticello Swans

The Monticello Chamber of Commerce website reports the swans are out building nests, and should return the end of November.

The Chamber of Commerce has adopted the city's Mississippi Drive Park and will continue updating the park for ease of viewing and photography opportunities. Signage, fencing and some tree and scrub brush trimming will make your viewing more enjoyable. The highest swan count last season was 1600 Trumpeters in one viewing.

The park is seldom used in the summer months, but becomes quite a busy spot as Trumpeter Swan viewing peaks during the months of mid-November through the end of February. A resident on Mississippi Drive feeds the swans daily from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. with nearly 1,200 pounds of cracked corn fed each day. The best viewing times occur when the swans are feeding.

The Chamber reminds photographers and viewers that the swans are very shy. They recognize the park as a place where strangers are present, but see it as a safety zone. However, they are easily spooked when someone leaves the confines of the park itself to venture on neighborhood properties or down to the riverbank itself for viewing or photography which is not allowed. The woman who feeds the swans is the only 'safe' person that the swans recognize. THANK YOU for observing the privacy of these beautiful birds. We consider it an honor to have them on our riverfront and we want to respect both the volunteer efforts of the Monticello resident as well as the trumpeter swans.

More on the swans, directions, a photo contest, etc., can be found at:

[www.monticellochamber.com](http://www.monticellochamber.com)

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And, if venturing out to Duluth, Wabasha, or Monticello doesn't fit into your agenda, don't forget your own backyard, local parks and open areas which always seem to have something flying around. We'll see what you come up with in March.

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## National Eagle Center Annual Photo Contest

Photos for the NEC 2010 calendar will be chosen by a panel of judges from the photos entered in this contest.

- Categories:
1. Eagle
  2. River
  3. Flyway
  4. Human Connection

There will be two levels: Amateur/professional, and youth level. An individual may enter a total of five photographs in any of the above mission themes for the National Eagle Center. The youth level is only for anyone 16 and younger to enter photos in any of the four categories.

The negative, slide, or digital images should be printed (not computer manipulated) in color or black and white. The image must be at least 8X10" and mounted on foam coreboard (matted or unmatted) with no frames for easy displaying on a wall. Photographs must be taken in Minnesota or Wisconsin. The judges will look at the technical quality, composition, representation of the category, and intrinsic beauty of each photograph.

Photos will be accepted between **January 2, 2009 and February 15, 2009.**

Mail or hand deliver entries to Photo Contest, National Eagle Center, P.O. Box 242, 50 Pembroke, Wabasha, MN 55981

Mailed entries must be received by **February 15, 2009**, to be included in the judging.

For further information call the National Eagle Center at 651-565-4989.

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*Millions of men have lived to fight, build palaces and boundaries, shape destinies and societies; but the compelling force of all times has been the force of originality and creation profoundly affecting the roots of human spirit.*

– Ansel Adams

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# October 2008 Competition Results

Digital Judge: Mike Prokosch

Print Judge: Cynthia Fluery

Points

**Category: Open**

- 15 Metro Center – Tim Oien
- 14 Hidden River – Duane Wraalstad
- 13 Sisters – Michelle Lindstedt
- 13 Lone Tree – Sue Dilcher
- 13 Elephant Family of Three – Jean McDonough
- 12 Butterfly and Coneflower – Fran Warzeha
- 12 Trinity Church – Michelle Lindstedt
- 12 July 4<sup>th</sup> – Molly Rhoe
- 12 Palm Leaves – Duane Wraalstad
- 12 Delicate Pink Flower – Jean McDonough
- 12 SNP Sun Shield – Carol Madison

**Category: Hand(s)**

- 14 Piano Hands – Tim Oien
- 14 Hands 1 – Carlos Nazareth
- 13 Billy's Hands – Sue Dilcher
- 13 Reaching – Dennis Hoyne
- 12 New Life – Michelle Lindstedt
- 12 My Hands Are So Tiny – Sue Dilcher
- 12 Knockout Punch – Tim Oien
- 12 Four Generations – Janet Hanson
- 12 See No Evil – Walt Fluegel

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Points

**Category: Color**

- 15 T Roosevelt's Cabin – Jean McDonough
- 14 North Shore Water Falls – Duane Wraalstad
- 12 Sun-Kissed Morning Glories – Marian Beach
- 12 Stained Glass Window – Marian Beach
- 12 Copper Harbor Lighthouse – Duane Wraalstad
- 12 Freeze Dried Hummingbird – Shirley Bebensee

**Category: Monochrome**



- 15 Egg and Basket – Rachel Cain
- 13 Old Truck – Shirley Bebensee
- 13 Daisy – Kathy Wall
- 12 Wagon Wheel – Shirley Bebensee
- 12 Winter – Duane Wraalstad

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

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Nothing to report.

## North Metro Photo Club Information

Affiliated with: Twin City Area Council of Camera Clubs (TCACCC) – [www.cameracouncil.org](http://www.cameracouncil.org)  
 North Central Council of Camera Clubs (N4C) – [www.N4C.us](http://www.N4C.us)  
 Photographic Society of America (PSA) – [www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)

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**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 Warzeha 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](mailto:carmadison@msn.com).

**Website:** [www.northmetrophotoclub.org](http://www.northmetrophotoclub.org)

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|--|---|--|
| President<br>Vice President<br>Treasurer<br>Secretary<br><br>Projected Images<br>Prints<br>N4C Coordinator<br>N4C Digital<br>TCACCC Delegate<br>Refreshments<br>Webmaster<br>Newsletter Editor | Jean McDonough<br>Duane Wraalstad<br>Fran Warzeha<br>Grace Schrunk<br><br>Becky Janssen<br>Kathy Wall<br>Grace Schrunk<br>Duane Wraalstad<br>Jean McDonough<br>Missy Mehner<br>Jay Karai<br>Carol Madison | (763) 574-1450<br>(763) 755-5247<br>(763) 425-7090<br>(763) 755-0575<br><br>(763) 425-9615<br>(651) 426-6331<br>(763) 755-0575<br>(763) 755-5247<br>(763) 574-1450<br>(763) 427-8169<br>(763) 757-6300<br>(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 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to: [northmetrophotoclub@hotmail.com](mailto:northmetrophotoclub@hotmail.com).

**Print Competitions** – Send / deliver prints to Kathy Wall (the print chair) or Grace Schrunk by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month in August or those months with a Fifth Thursday meeting.

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## N4C Digital Competition Submissions

Send N4C digital images (one pictorial, one nature, and new this year - contemporary) to Duane at [duanewraalstad@gmail.com](mailto:duanewraalstad@gmail.com) by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month (September through November and January through May). See North Metro Photo Club Member Handbook for detailed instructions.

### **NorthMetroPhotoNews**

4021 Benjamin Pl. N.E.  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421