



Omaha Camera Club Member Handbook

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Welcome

Welcome

The Omaha Camera Club (OCC) was founded in 1925 and is an informal association of individuals who enjoy taking and making photographic images. The Club, through mutual fellowship and formal and informal educational experiences, strives to encourage both excellence and a greater appreciation and enjoyment of this activity we call photography.

The Club provides an informal, friendly, and supportive environment for photographers at all levels of experience and with interests in all types of photographic imagery. The Club offers a means for members to develop and improve their photographic skills, to share ideas and knowledge, and to promote an interest in photography throughout the community through exhibitions and public events.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Omaha Camera Club is to explore the connection between the eye, the camera, and the spirit by fostering the growth of artistic vision and technical knowledge.

Quick Start:



Q: Where and When Do We Meet?

A: We generally meet on the first and third Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing & Allied Health located at 720 N 87th St, Omaha NE. *Due to the current COVID epidemic we have suspended our physical gatherings and are meeting via Zoom. If you are a paid member then you will receive an invitation to our meetings either the day before or day of the meeting. If you are not a member and would like to attend as a guest to check us out, send an email to Ed Bastedo at ebastedo@me.com*

Q: What is the club's focus?

A: Our club is focused on education and social activities. Our education is furthered by program presentations by outside guests and by our own members along with internal competition with member feedback. Social activities include photography focused gatherings and social events.

Q: What are the benefits of being a member?

A: Membership will provide you with all notices of club programs, meeting and invitations to our social gatherings. You will be able to submit photographs for critical feedback from our members and be eligible to compete in photography contests within our club and at the regional level through North Central Camera Club Council (N4C).

Q: How much does it cost to be a member?

A: Dues for 2021 are \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a family and \$10 for students age 23 and younger.

Q: How do I join?

A: Complete your application and payment on our website: <https://www.omahacameraclub.net>



Q: Who do I contact if I have more questions?

A: Send an email to the president Don Otis at ocboard@gmail.com

The Following is the more detailed information:

Meetings

Our club meets on the first and third Tuesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm January through May and September through November. We meet the first Tuesdays only in June, July, August and December. We meet at Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing and Allied Health located at 720 N. 87th St, Omaha NE. *Due to the current COVID epidemic we have suspended our physical gatherings and are meeting via Zoom. You will receive an invitation prior to each of our meetings that will allow you to log in.*

Our current meeting format:

- The First Tuesday of the Month: We hold a short business meeting with announcements, then club chairs reporting any updates, review any old business and open up for new business. Following this we will have an informational or educational program which may be short or long followed by “Show & Tell” (see below).
- The Third Tuesday of the Month: Announcements are made along with any new information from our chairs. Following this we conduct our club’s Competition Reveal where we share the submissions and recognize the winners of each category (see below).

Facebook Page:

Our club has a [Facebook](#) page which while it is visible to the public, only members are allowed to post on it. The first time you access the web page you will be asked to provide your name so your membership status can be verified and then an invitation will be sent to you to join. After joining, you will have access to post comments.

The site is used by our members to share photographs, provide information about photo opportunities and solicit information from fellow members. We will also post reminders of upcoming events or deadlines for competition.

Show & Tell Guidelines & Tips for Optimal & Efficient Showing:

Q. What is Show & Tell?

A. “Show and Tell” is an opportunity to share some of your personal photographs with fellow members. It may be of a recent trip you took, an event you attended, a special project you are working on or just some family pictures of a celebration.

Photos can be shown by the member with or without the request for feedback/critique. It is an opportunity for members to invite feedback and discussion of their photos towards a goal of improvement.

Q. How many photos should I submit?

A. Generally up to 8, but only 3 or 4 if you would like specific feedback regarding them. Remember that we do have some time constraints and other members will want to share their photos during our meeting.

Q. How should I submit photos?

A. For Zoom Meetings: Submit photos to Ed Bastedo at ebastedo@gmail.com

A. For Physical Meetings: Place your photos on a thumb drive and bring it to the meeting. It helps if it has your name on it in case the projectionist has problems or questions. Best is to keep one thumb drive just for Show and Tell and keep no other files on it. (If you use a Mac, your thumb drive must be formatted as “FAT32.”)

Q. How do I make the folder easy to find?

A. Put your photos in a folder on the root of the thumb drive, not nested in another folder. Name the folder using the date of the Show and Tell and whatever info you think helpful. For example: for a September 2019 Show & Tell, member Mark Anderson might label his thumb drive one of the following:

- MarkASnT201909
- Show and Tell September 2019
- My Photos 092019



(Photos will be shown alphabetically by folder name, so if you want to go first, start your folder name with “aaaaa” or something. If you want to go last, try “zzzzzz.” No guarantees.)

Q. What should I name my photos?

A. Filenames don’t matter at all, unless you want your photos to be shown in a particular order. In that case, name your files alphanumerically in the order you would like them to be seen.

Examples:

- • 01, 02, 03, etc.
- • a, b, c, d, etc.

Q. What file type should I use?

A. JPG is highly preferred. If you’re concerned about data loss, try PNG.

Q. Does file size matter?

A. No, but maximum 1920 pixels on the long side is good. Smaller may not display well on the screen.

Q. What if I want to do something different from the above?

A. Go for it. Your participation is most important.

Q. I just take pictures and all this geek stuff confuses me. What should I do?

A. If you are confused you can reach out through our Facebook page, or send an email to the membership or contact our projectionist Ed Bastedo at ebastedo@me.com

Please don't confuse these guidelines with the N4C or Club competition rules!

Competition

Our members challenge themselves by submitting photographs to compete against other members on both a local and regional basis. Our local club competition events are held most months as described below. Additionally, our club is a member of the North Central Camera Club Council (N4C), an association of 37 clubs in an 11-state area. Like our club, N4C holds competition events most months and a full description is provided below.

Omaha Camera Club Competition Rules



Our club holds digital contests in the months of January, February, March, May, September and November. We hold print contests in the months of April and October.

Club photo categories are:

- Altered Reality
- Homework (a different subject each month)
- Photojournalism
- Nature
- Pictorial
- Travel

Digital Image Submission Guidelines:

Before you enter please read the Description of Contest Categories (below) to confirm eligibility. With the exception of Homework, our categories mirror the N4C categories. You can look at past entries at our OCC Smugmug site (<https://occ.smugmug.com>) and winners of N4C at (http://n4c.us/Winner_Galleries.htm).

- File sizing, maximum 1920 pixels/side, and <= 750 KB overall file size
- sRGB color space
- Entry Deadline: 1st of the Month.
- Number of Entries: 2 per category with a maximum of 6 overall.
- Reveal Night: 2nd meeting of the month (3rd Tuesday).
- All entries must be the work of the entering photographer.
- If you have questions, contact Allen Kurth at aekurth@yahoo.com
- **All digital entries should be submitted to: occdigitalcontest@gmail.com**

Resizing Photos:

If you have questions on how to resize your photo in order to submit for competition, you might refer to one of the following videos: (Note: some of the videos are a bit dated but they can give you an idea of the process).

- Exporting from Lightroom CC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqk6Qbb6F-E&feature=youtu.be>
- Lightroom Export Presets: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMB1Nbopqwo&feature=youtu.be>
- Exporting from Photoshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEqmSIIYtp4&feature=youtu.be>

How to label digital entries for the OCC competition

This is an example of a correctly named contest image.

NE001,DP,Beautiful Sunset.jpg

The image title has **three sections** separated by commas followed by the file type (.jpg)

In the example, the **first section** begins with “**NE001**”,DP,Beautiful Sunset.jpg

This is your personal N4C member number. You are assigned this number when you join the club. If you do not know your number, refer to your name in the club roster or contact N4C representative Nikki McDonald nmcdonald@cox.net.



“Beautiful Sunset”

The **second section** of the example is NE001, **“DP”**,Beautiful Sunset.jpg The “DP” in the example shows that you entered the image in the Pictorial category of the contest.

Our Categories are:

- DA = the Digital Altered Reality contest category
- DH = the Digital Homework contest category
- DJ = the Photojournalism contest category
- DN = the Digital Nature contest category
- DP = the Digital Pictorial contest category
- DT = the Digital Travel contest category

The **third section** of the example is NE001,DP, **“Beautiful Sunset”**.jpg The **“Beautiful Sunset”** is your image title. Spaces are only allowed within the title. Note: For Travel category, the name needs to include the state or nation where the picture was taken.

Lastly, when you save your image in a .jpg format, your computer will automatically insert the .jpg notation at the end of your image label, i.e. NE001,DP,Beautiful Sunset.**.jpg**

When all the images are ready, prepare an email that includes your name and the month of the competition. Attach the images individually. The file sizes are small so you don’t need to compress them into a zip file. If you are using an Apple PC – please attach rather than embedding the images.

- Send your OCC contest entries to occdigitalcontest@gmail.com by the first day of the contest month.

Print Submission Guidelines:

Print competition shall be held twice per year, spring & fall (generally April and October).

- Maximum of six (6) entries per member with no more than two entries in any one category. Maximum could be reduced to five or four depending on number of participants.
- All prints must be on paper, mounted on foam core, mat board or cardboard or matted with a backing.



- Complete a Data Entry Sheet which lists all of your print entries. A copy may be obtained from our website Membership> How To> Revised Print Label Sheet and a copy is attached at the end of this document.
- Complete an OCC Print Label and place it on the back upper left corner of your mounted print. This will ensure that it will be presented properly for judging and display. A copy may be obtained from our website (<https://www.omahacameraclub.net>) Membership> How To> Revised Print Label Sheet. A copy is also attached at the end of this document.
- Entries may be submitted in a clear bag BUT they will be removed from this bag for judging; bags should be clearly labeled with the photographer's name so they can be returned to him or her.
- Minimum size is 8" x 12" and Maximum of 16" x 20" including mat board.
- No frames
- No prints on metal
- No prints on acrylic
- No e-mounts.
- Do not display your name or print title on the front of your entry.
- If you have questions, contact (*This position is pending*).

Description of Contest Categories

The following subject category definitions are presented as a guide to persons entering the monthly contests so that all entries may be judged fairly and equally. To some extent, their interpretation is subjective, and all judges have some personal biases. It is our intent to minimize these differences. These definitions are as clear and precise as we are able to state them, though it is not possible to cover all eventualities and answer all questions. Generally, those entries that conform most closely to the subject definitions have the greatest chance of success in the contests.

What is Altered Reality Photography (DA)?

Altered Reality photography is an opportunity for those who dare to explore the experimental and creative forms of photographic expression. These will include, but not be limited to derived images, ultra-high contrast, black light, bas-relief, solarization, multi-images, trick lenses and filters, and other ways to alter the image to produce a new abstract effect. Just about anything goes. The important thing is the result, not the means to create it. This area of photography bridges between photographic realism and creative art. It is very difficult to judge and there are literally no rules to follow. Generally, concentration on form and color rather than detail in the image will help you succeed.

What is Homework (DH)?

The Homework category refers to the monthly subjects determined by the OCC members during the business meeting each November. Subjects are selected for 12 months at a time and allow members a minimum of 12 months to capture. For example, during our November 2020 meeting, we selected twelve (12) subjects to be taken after January 1st 2021 for submission during the year 2022.

Our current Homework selections are:

Homework		
Month	2021	2022
	Pictures taken after 1/1/20	Pictures taken after 1/1/21
January	Vintage	Panorama
February	Macro	Water
March	Landscape	Motion
April	Pattern (in nature)	Weather
May	Reflections	Trees
June		
July		
August		
September	Flowers	Night Photography
October	Black & White	Street Photography
November	Children (prints)	Wings
December		

What is Journalism Photography (DJ)?

Journalism Photography or Photojournalism means simply the telling of a story by the use of a picture, or a sequence of related separate pictures arranged for presentation as a single entry. The type of photograph that one sees in the newspaper or magazines that depicts some event or activity is what is meant. The caption is important, but the best journalistic photographs tell their own stories and don't always need a caption. A good picture is, after all, worth more than a thousand words. An element of human interest is important and virtually essential for pictures to succeed in competition. Interest is paramount, but good composition and technique will often make the difference that decides the winners.

What is Nature Photography (DN)?

- No photograph is worth the distress or injury to any wild creature.
- Nature photography is simply the recording of our natural world by some photographic means. Included are all branches of nature except Archeology and Anthropology.
- The hand of man shall not be present in any nature entry except where wild birds or animals have invaded man's world such as fence posts and other man-made objects freely adapted for use by wild creatures.
- Banding or tagging on nature subjects is acceptable. Photographs at bird feeders are not acceptable if any part of a man-made feeder is shown in the photograph.
- Photographs taken in zoos, animal farms or game farms are acceptable as long as the setting remains natural and the hand of man is not visible.
- Cultivated plants, domestic animals and pets are not acceptable and should be entered in other categories.



Special note for Nature Images and Journalism Images

The only digital editing that can be allowed must fit with the N4C definition for acceptable Journalism or Nature images. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, combined or changed in any way that affects the integrity of the image content. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be added or applied, and any sharpening must appear natural.

What is Pictorial Photography (DP)?

In Pictorial photography we are concerned with the artistic quality of the presentation of the subject rather than with the subject itself. Literally, all subjects qualify, but since “Interest” accounts for one-third of the score, subjects that catch the viewer’s eye will have an advantage. The judges will be seeking answers to the question, “Did the photographer simply record the subject, or did he/she through the photographic process enhance the viewer’s interest in the subject?” Pictorialism may be accomplished by meticulous photographic technique, proper presentation, careful composition, or most likely all of these factors.

What is Travel Photography (DT)?

Travel implies going to some place other than one’s customary environment, and photo-travel photography suggests the photographic depiction of that new environment or the means used to get there. There is no definition of how far away that environment must be to qualify as “travel” or how different that new environment must be. However, the judges will generally award prizes to those photographs that depict more exotic and unfamiliar places, even though such places are “home” to someone. Good photographic technique and particularly the ability to convey the feeling and flavor of the place visited will help you be a winner. Try to emphasize the character that makes the place unique from other places. Be sure to state the state or nation in the title where the picture was taken.



Judging

How Digital Judging is Conducted:

- Judges will be assigned at the discretion of the Chairperson. There will normally be three judges for the digital contests.
 - Judges are sent an email with judging instructions, score sheets and links to the images so they may review the selections in their homes.
- Each judge will score an image based upon Technique, Interest/Impact and Composition (TIC).
 - **Technique:** Focus, lighting, color rendition, exposure, print quality.
 - **Interest:** Originality, imagination, interpretation, subject, impact, mood, humor, etc.
 - **Composition:** Arrangement of all elements within the picture area so the subject matter is presented as a harmonious, well- balanced photograph.
- Each judge will have a total of ten points maximum to give each image. Judges determine if the image follows the category rules – if it doesn't they award the image a score of 1. If one of the images in the group belongs to the person judging, they need to score the image as 0 and indicate that it is their image.
 - Guidelines: For the one score (2 –10 points) methods the following scoring guideline would be used:
 - 2,3 or 4 image weaker than most entries.
 - 5 or 6 marginally acceptable image.
 - 7 good acceptable image.
 - 8 very good image, close contender for an award.
 - 9 -10 worthy of consideration of a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award.



(Note: Ideally at least one-third of the entries will be scored 7 to 10. To reduce the need for a tie-breaking, scores should be spread across the full range, preferably with less than one-third scored below 5).

- As soon as judging is complete the judges return the score sheets to the chairperson. The results are tallied. In cases where a judge had an image in the category, the scores of the other two judges are added together and divided by two. The result is the score used for the image. For example, suppose the scores were 0, 6 and 8. Six and eight would be added together (14) and divided by two = (7) This would make the image scores 7, 6 and 8 for a total score of 21. The chairperson will use the scores to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.
- If there are ties for any of the awards, the chairperson will ask each of the judges to rank the images that tied. (If one of these images happens to belong to one of the judges – the judge will still need to rank the images.)
- The results are then forwarded to the Digital Competition Chair – Allen Kurth.

- The contest results are shown during the second meeting of the month.
- You can view all the images and results at our SmugMug site - <https://occ.smugmug.com/>
- You can help your fellow members by adding constructive comments to their images in the SmugMug site. You will need to be logged in to make comments. You can use your Facebook login here or your personal SmugMug login.

Print Judging: (Note: This section is under review)

- Judging and critiquing for print competitions will be performed by all club members in attendance for one of the print competitions, and by one outside judge at the other competition.
- If a judge determines that an entry does not satisfy the category, they will give the entry a score and place a “DQ” next to the score. If two or more judges place a “DQ” beside their score, the entry will be removed from competition by the chairperson. The chairperson will notify the maker that the entry has been disqualified and the maker may enter the image in another competition at a later date.
- Print judging criteria will be determined by the print chairman at the time of competition.



N4C Competition

N4C was established in 1955 and the Omaha Camera Club was a founding member. Our club hosted the first convention which was held at the Joslyn Museum. N4C competition is competition among 37 clubs in a 11-state area. While their rules for submission are close to our club's, you should refer to the council's specific guidelines at http://n4c.us/N4C_Contest_Rules_2020-2021.pdf The major difference between N4C competition and our club's is that N4C has a "Black & White" category where we have substituted a "Homework" category.



Normally each member may submit one entry per category with a maximum of six entries per member AND a club quota of eight maximum within a category. When our club is asked to judge a category for N4C (e.g. Nature), then we are not allowed to submit entries for that category that month. This is made up in the following month when our club is allowed to double our Nature entries. When we have more entries from members than are allowed, we will have a runoff within the club to determine which will be submitted to N4C.

All entries for N4C should be submitted to Nikki McDonald at [<omahan4c@cox.net>](mailto:omahan4c@cox.net) and are due by the first of the month.

While N4C hosts both digital and print competition, our club currently only participates in the digital competition.

PSA (Photographic Society of America)

Our club is an affiliate of Photographic Society of America of which the Omaha Camera Club was a charter member. The Photographic Society of America (PSA), founded in 1934, is a world-wide organization providing abundant resources for photographers, from the novice to the professional. PSA offers on-line learning, webinars, study groups, competitions, mentors and consultants. Membership is in over 80 countries, 5,000 members, 460 Camera Clubs and 12 Chapters across the United States.



You need to join PSA as an individual in order to access their member services. Please go to <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?home> for more information.

OCC Print Competition Data Entry Sheet (Please Print)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

- Maximum six (6) prints may be entered
- No more than two (2) prints per category
- Since it may be necessary to limit the total number of entries, please prioritize your print entries:

Category

Print Title

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| A | Altered Reality |
| H | Homework (formerly assigned) |
| J | Journalism |
| N | Nature |
| P | Pictorial |
| T | Travel (location required) |

Print Labels

(Labels are to be placed in the upper left corner of your print)

OCC Print Labels	OCC Print Labels
Title: _____	Title: _____
Photographer _____	Photographer _____
Month/Year: _____	Month/Year: _____
Category:	Category:
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered Reality
<input type="checkbox"/> Homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature
<input type="checkbox"/> Pictorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Pictorial
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel
OCC Print Labels	OCC Print Labels
Title: _____	Title: _____
Photographer _____	Photographer _____
Month/Year: _____	Month/Year: _____
Category:	Category:
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered Reality
<input type="checkbox"/> Homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature
<input type="checkbox"/> Pictorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Pictorial
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel
OCC Print Labels	OCC Print Labels
Title: _____	Title: _____
Photographer _____	Photographer _____
Month/Year: _____	Month/Year: _____
Category:	Category:
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered Reality
<input type="checkbox"/> Homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature
<input type="checkbox"/> Pictorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Pictorial
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel