



Collins Photo Club

March 2002 Newsletter

Next Meeting:
Program:

March 21 5:00 p.m. at Main Plant Cafeteria
Boundary Waters Slide Show by Gary Hamer

Club Website:

<http://rweb.cacd.rockwell.com/data/clubs/photo/>
(at present, website is not accessible from outside Rockwell)

Inside this Issue:

- *From the President*
- *From the Editor*
- *Volunteer Alert*
- *February Meeting Minutes*
- *Member's Photo Biographies*
- *Tips on Entering Photo contests*
- *List of Members*

From the Editor

With the annual contest coming up next month, we thought it would be a good idea to include some tips on entering photo contests. The first article was written by one of the judges for the Iowa State Fair's photo contest. The second contains some comments from our last year's contest. Both contain lots of good pointers that should be helpful.

The contest entry form is found in this newsletter, it is very similar to last year's, except the subject of the Theme category is now Sports. There is still nearly two months before the contest – plenty of time to go out and shoot some new subjects.

I would also like to get your opinion on the newsletter. What types of things would you like to see included? How-to articles? Web links? Contests?

Gary Hamer – Newsletter Editor

From the President

The February meeting was an interesting tour of the Photo Pro “back room”. Those that attended got to see the latest in digital print making from slide, negative, electronic file, or scanned print. It is very impressive. And the best news was that the new machine that makes this all possible also gives you better prints at a cheaper price. Those of you that missed this will have to stop in at Photo Pro to see for yourselves.

Gary Hamer has stepped forward to help with this year's photo contest. A big round of applause for him and the other volunteers that make this club work.

I'm still promoting the idea of member photo-biographies in the newsletter. Our members are the club's best resource, so it's good to know where their photographic interests lie. So, send your brief bio to the newsletter editor soon.

With the Annual Photo Contest, soon at hand, it's time to start thinking about getting your photo prints ready for the contest. If you haven't entered before, give it a try. Ask a more experienced member for help or suggestions. Take advantage of a “no-pressure” contest to learn about matting, mounting and the whims of judges.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Doug Dams

FY02 CPC President

Volunteer Alert

Annual Contest Committee members: Gary Hamer, Rick Nelson, Dave Detwiler

Membership Guide The existing guide needs to be updated. Contact: Doug Dams x51929 or Ron Meyer x50069

Darkroom Clean-up Several tasks including cleanup/ chemical inventory and environmental procedures. Contact Kathy Rutherford x54113

One Shot Contest Need a couple of people to organize this contest which is held in October. Contact: Doug Dams x51929 or Ron Meyer x50069

Slide Shows/ Meeting Programs Are you willing to give a slide show or program as part of one of our meetings? Contact: Ron Meyer x50069

Meeting Minutes – February 21

No business meeting was held because our meeting was at Photo Pro.

Photo Bio – none submitted

Club Officers

President	Doug Dams	x51929
Vice President	Ron Meyer	x50069
Secretary/Historian	Dave Detwiler	x59545
Treas./ Membership	Kathy Rutherford	x54113
Equip. Checkout	Rick Nelson	x52864
Exhibit Director	Darlene Ealy	x57323
Newsletter	Gary Hamer	x59551

Some Comments on Judging Results

By Bill Schaefer - 1998 Iowa State Fair

Editors note: This was written for the Iowa State Fair contest, but most of the suggestions will apply to our contest as well.

The overall quality of most of the photos entered was good to excellent and we three judges were pleased to be able to select hundreds for showing at the Iowa State Fair. These high quality photos are a pleasure to look at and caused us to murmur in awe, to smile or giggle, or to come back for a long second look and to wish we ourselves had taken them. The power and quality of these photos speak for themselves and are self-evident.

I'd like to say a few words here about the photos that almost made it, or that made the show but could have been prize winners *if only* they had paid attention to the following points:

Cropping

The biggest drawback many otherwise very excellent photos had was lack of creative cropping. Photo paper comes in rectangular sizes such as 8x10, 11x14, etc. Most entries were submitted in the same shape as the original paper, yet to have cropped the bottom, the top, or to change the height or width would have improved 90% of the photos.

Lack of Sharp Focus

Many photos have excellent subject matter and composition. They invite the eye to come closer, to linger over details. Often the eye is disappointed by the lack of sharp focus in the area of the photo that matters the most. Some photos need to be needle sharp overall, others only need to be sharp in the area of the main subject, such as the eyes on a close-up photo of a face. Photographers should consider using a tripod or beanbag, or setting the camera on a steady surface. Also, use a faster shutter speed, even if it means sacrificing depth of field.

Color Printing

Learn what too much green, magenta, and purple looks like in a color print. Photo processing labs vary and most will redo a print at no charge if you know what it should look like. Green faces, blue snow, and pink grass just won't cut it, and often a simple tweaking of the color printing filters will produce a vastly improved print. Complain or take your business elsewhere. Most color negatives, if exposed with enough light, have all the correct color needed to make good prints. Was it Ansel Adams who said that a negative is like a musical score; it can be played a thousand ways. Learn how to play it right.

Black & White Prints

The key words here are *contrast* and *detail* in the highlights and dark areas of the print. Contrast usually has to be raised to get a print out of the overall muddy gray range of tones. Then hot white areas need to be darkened so details show or so that "hot" white areas don't distract the eye to look at them instead of at the main subject in a photo. Finally, some shadows may have to be lightened if they hold details for appreciating the composition or subject of the print.

Composition

The biggest way to improve most prints that include an important horizon or dominant vertical line is to get that strong line out of the middle of the print. On a horizon try to place it 1/3rd of the way from the top or bottom or sides of the photo. On a strong vertical line move it to the left or right of the center of the photo. Last, don't always put the main subject dead smack in the middle of the print. Move the subject slightly out of the middle and often you may just move that print into the winner's circle.

Mats, Overmats & Mounting

The key idea here is that *less is more*. If you have a very good photo, it doesn't need the competition of bright mats or overmats, some that include lace, gold borders, scrolled cutouts, circles or ovals, or oddly cut and shaped overmats. When it comes to mats, overmats, frames, and borders, *keep it simple*. It's more elegant and focuses the attention on the photo. There are exceptions to these guidelines, but only break the rules when you are sure it will enhance the overall impact of the photo. Ninety-nine percent of the mat and mount tricks that are used actually take away from the intended impact of the photo. White

borders or mats are always in style, as is black or gray along with simple light pastel colors or very narrow line accent colors against one of the above colors.

Judge's Comments on CPC 2001 Annual Contest Photos

As a reminder, here are a few comments from the judge (Jim Slosiarek from the Gazette). Even though they sometimes refer to specific photos, much of the info is still useful.

Humor Category: Judge was looking for juxtaposition (two or more things side by side) in the photos. Picture should not make fun of or humiliate the subject. Should be a picture that makes you smile or laugh.
- He wanted to see irony and facial expressions.

People: Street Sweeper - Nice soft lighting. "The tongue sticking out on the girl did it for me."
- Girl in Field - Nice senior type portrait. Recommended taking photo earlier or later in day to get "golden" light. Suggested bouncing light into the face to remove shadows from the eyes.
- For photographs with people, he said newspaper photographers are always looking to capture the moment, facial expressions.
- For some people pictures he suggested earlier in the day or later in the day for a more flattering light and/ or using a reflector to reflect some light into the subjects eyes and fill harsh shadows.

Special Effects: Kernals Stadium - Reminded him of a Norman Rockwell painting.
Flowers - Nice composition which led eye from front to back of picture. Nice lighting.
- He liked the painterly photography of Rick Nelson's special effects shots.

Animals: Cardinal - Nice catchlight in bird's eye. Blown out background leads eye right to the bird.
- Fish: Judge felt the picture was rather humorous in that the fish appear to be gasping for breath.

Scenics: Waterfalls - Nice time exposure to soften the water over the falls. Color of the leaves in background and rocks in foreground provide nice contrast in picture.
- Lighthouse - Nice bold colors and geometric shapes to the photo.

Black and White: General comment was that most of the pictures in this category could have been printed "harder" to provide more contrast.
- For black & white photographs he wanted to see more black and less gray.
- Children on Porch - Picture captures a special moment in time. Capturing the "moment" is what newspaper photography is all about.
- Geese - Nice silhouette of bird in foreground. Nice "depth" to the picture.
- Parking Ramp - Nice effect of light streaks twisting through the picture.

General Comments: He observed that many of the photos would have been improved by cropping out distracting or unnecessary elements - remember cropping can also be done after the photo is printed - sometimes an 8x12 print will look better when cut down to 7x9 for example.

- He also mentioned early morning and late afternoon light being a more pleasing, warmer, less harsh light.

Photo Club members can receive the following discounts and specials at Photo Pro, 153 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids. Note these specials are not valid with any other offer.

- Film Processing 20%
- Mats 20%
- Darkroom Chemicals 20%
- Photographic Paper 10%
- Film Cost +15%

• **Mote Brothers Custom Framing**

Photo Club members can receive the following discount at Mote Brothers Custom Framing, 701 Third Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. To receive your 25% off list price discount you must present your Collins Photo Club membership card

• **Linn Photo**

(Show your membership card)
15% off PROCESSING
10% off FILM, PAPER, & CHEMISTRY.

Mushroom Hunters

What does this have to do with photography? Absolutely nothing. But when I was checking out a website by a nationally know morel expert, I found that you should always use a mesh bag when collecting mushrooms. This allows spores to be released back into the forest for future mushrooms, also your mushrooms will stay fresher. Here is the link to the website: <http://morelheaven.com/>

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Wildlife and Nature in Art Show is coming. We are again looking for volunteers to help in all areas, hospitality, ticket sales, security, information booth, and cashiering. If anyone is interested, they can call me – Jan Kittrell at 854-7459.

About the show: Saturday to Sunday, March 23-24: Collins Plaza Hotel, Cedar Rapids

This annual art show and sale features regional artists who specialize in showcasing nature--through photography, paintings, pottery, woodworking, jewelry and more. Original wildlife art, limited edition prints and other select items and trips will be on display.

The show is Saturday, from 10a.m.-7p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The cost is \$3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children 5-12 years, and under 5 years old is free

Change of Address

Please notify the Newsletter Editor of any change of address.

Contact Gary Hamer at 295-9551, email to gghamer@collins.rockwell.com, or mail to M.S. 137-154. *Thanks!*

Wildlife and Nature in Art Show and Sale

The Kirkwood Student Wetlands and the

Collins Photo Club - 2002 Annual Photo Contest

Deadline: April 18 meeting at 5:00p.m. Main Plant Cafeteria (no photos can be accepted after 5:10)
The contest will be judged at the meeting.

Categories

People & Portraits

- Individuals or groups. Does not include crowd scenes or photos where a person is not the subject.

Nature & Animals

- Wildlife, zoo animals, pets, insects, and fauna that does not qualify as scenic.

Scenic & Travel

- Landscapes, architecture, gatherings of people that do not qualify under the People category.

Black & White

- Black & White only, any subject.

Special Effects

- Your chance to experiment with an alternative process. Computer manipulation, hand-tinting, darkroom effects (solarizing, screen textures, etc), special lenses or filters (macro, fish-eye, etc.)

Theme: Sports

- Amateur or professional, organized or unorganized sports

Rules

1. Only Collins Photo Club members in good standing (2002 dues paid) may enter the contest. Each entry must be the original work of the member.
2. Prints previously entered in Collins Photo Club contest(s) are not eligible.
3. Members may not submit entries in categories where the work would be considered professional. A professional is defined as earning more than \$1000 in the previous year from the photographs.
4. All entries must be prints, and mounted to a rigid board (foam core or equivalent). Prints may be any size up to and including 11 x 14 inches.
5. Prints may be matted if desired – the matte selection will be considered in judging the print.
6. The same image cannot be entered in multiple categories.
7. Entries must be assigned to one of the categories by the photographer. Appropriateness to category will be considered as part of the judging.
8. The number of entries is limited to two per category and six entries total per member.
9. Questions regarding the rules or categories may be directed to a committee member.
10. Nudes are not eligible.
11. Black & White photos may be entered into any category

Public Display

To be included in the public display, an entry must be mounted to be 5x7, 8x10, 8x12, or 11x14 to fit the Club's display frames. They should be made available to the club for approximately two months following the contest for public display. By entering, entrants agree to allow the Club to use images of entries for promoting the Club in either Club literature or on the Club's web site.

Prizes

1st place \$30, 2nd place \$20, 3rd place \$10 – prizes (gift certificates) awarded for each category.
Best of Show will also receive a \$10 prize
Prize-winners and Honorable Mentions will also receive engraved plates.

How to Enter

Bring your prints to the April 18 meeting at 5:00 p.m. (no photos can be accepted after 5:10). If you are unable to bring them yourself, contact a member of the committee:

Gary Hamer x8378 bldg 137
Dave Detwiler x9545 bldg. 137
Rick Nelson x2864 bldg. 137
or Vice Pres. Ron Meyer x0069 bldg. 108
or President Doug Dams x1929 bldg. 153

Each entry must be identified on the back with the following information:

Category: _____
Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Title (optional): _____

Category: _____
Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Title (optional): _____

Category: _____
Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Title (optional): _____

Category: _____
Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Title (optional): _____

Category: _____
Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Title (optional): _____

Category: _____
Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Title (optional): _____

--

Collins Photo Club Membership – March 2002

#	Last name	First name	Mail stop	Phone	Status
1	Aschbrenner	Randy	109-134	x5885	employee
2	Beer	Regine	137-108	x4984	employee
3	Bjorseth	Bruce		(319)393-6820	retiree
4	Boland	Pat	124-314	x4817	employee
5	Bortz	Mark	108-206	x4860	employee
6	Bortz	Mary			spouse
7	Dams	Doug	153-250	x1929	employee
8	DeKlotz	Ken		(319)922-2058	retiree
9	Detwiler	Dave	137-117	x9545	employee
10	Dewitz	Cathy	139-140	x0683	employee
11	Ealy	Darlene	108-103	X7323	employee
12	Franzen	Clair	105-152	X3725	employee
13	Hamer	Gary	137-154	x9551	employee
14	Hindman	Evan	105-191	x5239	employee
15	Hiratzka	T. Doug	108-206	x0268	employee
16	Hoeger	Doug	108-136	x4911	employee
17	Kittrell	R.L.		(319)854-7459	Retiree
18	Kittrell	Janet		(319)854-7459	Retiree
19	Lang	Christy	108-237	x7254	employee
20	Marzen	Vince	106-191	x5525	employee
21	Meyer	Ron R	108-205	x0069	employee
22	Mishler	Rich	110-101		employee
23	Nelson	Rick E	137-108	x2864	employee
24	Paeth	Bill		(319)396-6470	Retiree
25	Rand	Tim	108-207	x0059	employee
26	Rand	Jennifer			spouse
27	Rutherford	Kathy	137-108	x4113	employee
28	Shelton	Lori	110-101	X4343	employee
29	Slincy	James	109-191	x4229	employee
30	Slincy	Sharon L. Beckley-		(319)378-8930	spouse
31	Tichy	SuAnn	109-206	x2421	employee
32	Weber	Linda	106-114	x3955	employee
33	West	James B	108-102	x8433	employee
34	Wilcox	Sherri	108-136	x3556	employee
35	Wild	Pam			spouse
36	Zelle	Jim	124-313	X6798	employee
37	Zelle	Pam			spouse
38	Zook	Lance	124-210	x0508	employee

Please let me know if you see any errors or if something needs to be updated.

Thanks – Gary Hamer x9551