CAMERA CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND COMPETITIONS

(For 2012/2013 season)

Photographic competition is a mainstay for members of the Camera Club of Central New England. Monthly competitions are held in several fields - monochrome prints, color prints, and electronic photos (digital slides). There are different classes and categories within each of these fields, which will be explained below. All print and electronic photo competitions are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, October thru April, except December.

Prints for competition, must be turned in on the competition night. Electronic Photos (Digital Slides) must be uploaded to the Photoclub Services Web Site and the information for your prints must also be entered there. Page 4 has the link to the site. The deadline is shown on the site when you log in to submit your digital images and prints. It is usually at 11:30 pm on the Tuesday before the competition. No notice will be sent out. It is up to you to check the site for the deadline. Prints and Digital Images will not be accepted after the deadline, In fact, no information on the competition will be available after the deadline. It is not required, but you may also submit a digital image of your print when you register it for the competition.

First place winners will be announced after each category is judged.

Prints/electronic photos will be judged by at least one qualified judge who will give each a total score of 9 to 30 points.

A photograph shown in competition may not be shown again or in any other category competition during a competition season, Oct. to May. Variations of the same subject (near duplicates, or the same image manipulated) are considered to be the same photograph for eligibility in competition.

If the photograph places 1st, 2nd or 3rd, it may not be shown again in club competition.

The Rules Arbitration Committee is responsible for determining if a protested photograph meets the competition rules and on assigned subjects, conforms with the assignment. A club member or a committee member may protest a competition entry to the committee, but only during the initial runthrough of photos, not as they are being judged. The Committee will review this request and inform the Competition Chairperson and the owner of the photograph if it is disqualified. Decisions by the committee may be appealed to the Executive Committee who have the option to deny the appeal without a hearing. All deliberations will be done in a closed committee meeting immediately.

Rationale for a disqualification will be provided privately to the maker of the photograph.

The club membership may be divided into three classifications for print and electronic photo competitions; Masters, Class A, and Class B. A member may choose, prior to the first competition of the year, the class in which he or she chooses to participate, and must remain in that class for the entire year. The Masters Class must have at least five (5) members in it for reasonable competition, if not, they will compete in Class A.

Digital Assigned Technique and Assigned Subject Categories will be one class competitions. A maker may submit up to two images in each of the Assigned Subject categories each month. Only the higher scoring photo in each assigned subject will be used in cumulative scoring tabulation if a maker submits two photographs in any Assigned Subject category.

Members who are professional photographers should choose to be in the Masters Class in their area of expertise.

The Club will compete in the NECCC Electronic Photo Competition for Nature & Pictorial. The Digital Photography Chairperson will select the photos for these competitions from those entered in the club's monthly competitions.

Competition Definitions & Rules

Electronic Photos (Digital Slides)

- There will be four categories of electronic photos; **pictorial, nature, assigned subject** and **Assigned Digital Technique**

- Digital Slides in pictorial & nature must meet the NECCC Eligibility Requirements for Electronic Photos. Electronic Photos will be projected using a digital projector

- **Pictorial-** This category is an open color subject matter See NECCC Rules for Electronic Photos at: **"www.neccc.org/New_Guide_Elec_Image_Comp.htm",** click on **Rules and Regulations".** Rules are listed under heading **"Pictorial (Open) Class Restrictions".** Visit above link for more info.

- **Nature** — This category is for Nature Photography. See NECCC Rules for Electronic Photos at **"www.neccc.org/New_Guide_Elec_Image_Comp.htm",** click on " **Rules and Regulations".** Rules are listed under heading **"Nature Class Restrictions".** Visit above link for more info.

- **Assigned subject** — A maker may submit up to two images in each of the 2 assigned subjects. The assigned subject electronic photo may or may not relate to the inter-club multi-screen competition. The reasoning for assigned subjects is to challenge our members to take pictures of subjects that they might not normally attempt and thus expand their horizons in new directions. Members may or may not elect to enter the assigned subject category. The rules for assigned subjects include those for pictorial, and in addition, they must have been taken after the April 1st before the last multiscreen meeting.

- **Digital Technique** — During the year there will be six (6) competitions where the digital images must follow rules given by our digital chair person. The only other rule in this latter category is that one has to begin the process with a photograph taken by the member submitting the electronic photo. The object of this competition is to provide a category for those who can do basic image processing with Photoshop or other image processors and want to learn advanced image processing techniques. All image processing must be done by the member submitting the electronic photo. The Judge(s) will be instructed to consider the assignment as a major portion of the competition score.

Prints:

- Print categories include; **Open Color, Black & White, and Creative Digital prints.** Prints may be any size that the maker can print. Matted prints larger than 16x20 are currently not allowed in inter club competitions, mailing box size. Prints must be matted and/or mounted on a foam board or mounting board. Framed and unmounted prints are not allowed in **Open Color and B&W categories.** All mounting and framing techniques are appropriate for Creative Digital Prints.

- **Open Color** prints are subject to the same manipulation rules as the Digital Slides discussed above. Manipulation is allowed within limits. Computer filters (similar to camera filters) are allowed as well as changing the sky and compositing of images much the same as is done with film images.

- **Black and White** prints can be manipulated the same as the open color prints. Note that one additional color may be present in a black and white print. For example you could have a black and white picture containing a pail and the pail could be Blue!

- **Creative Digital (Show & Tell)** prints - During the year there will be six (6) open creative expressions competitions. The only rule in this latter category is that one has to begin the process with a photograph taken by the member submitting the print, but from that point on anything goes! Print media may be canvas, cloth, or any other media or material. Panoramic Photos will be entered in this category. The object of this competition is to provide a competition for those who are very good or experts using Photoshop and/or other image processors.

Processing for Electronic Photo (Digital Slide) Competition

1. Calibrate Monitor, use Adobe Gamma for PCs or buy a Huey, $69. (If monitor is not calibrated photo colors may be different than what you see on your monitor when projected during competition)

2. Open Photo in Photoshop

3. If image's profile is not sRGB, convert it to sRGB or assign to sRGB if it has none.

    (1) Photoshop 6 or 7

    - Image->Mode->Convert to Profile or Assign Profile

    (2) Photoshop CS

    - Edit->Convert to Profile or Assign Profile

4. Do your image processing

5. Under Photoshop Preferences, Set Image Interpolation in General Menu to Bicubic or Bicubic Sharper if CS

6. Size image (see presentation on sizing for more information)

    (1) Set Width to a maximum of "1024" pixels

    (2) Set Height to maximum of "768" pixels

    (3) Digital projection is 1024 pixels wide by 768 pixels high

7. Sharpen Picture

    (1) Unsharpen Mask if not CS

    (2) Smart Sharpen if CS

8. Use Save As Cmd to save your picture

    (1) Name the file: Title.jpg for example: "running wild"

    (2) Format set to "JPEG"

    (3) "Embed Color Profile" box checked

    (4) On second pop up screen

        • Set Quality to "Maximum"

        • Set Baseline to "Standard"

        • Hit "OK"

9. Upload photo to the photo club services web site:
   http://3124991.photoclubservices.com/

10. Instructions for creating an account and uploading your photos are on our web site: http://www.ccocne.org. Hover your mouse over "Competition Guidelines" and choose either "How To Create Acccount" or "How To Upload Photos", from the popup menu.

Nature Class Restrictions (NECCC Electronic Photos)

(copied from the NECCC website)

1. All photographs must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Digital Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition.

2. Nature photographs must follow the PSA definition of nature: "Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

3. No elements may be moved, **cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. 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 applied. Any sharpening must appear natural."**

Pictorial (Open) Class Restrictions (NECCC Electronic Photos)

(copied from the NECCC website)

Keep in mind that NECCC-sponsored pictorial competitions are intended for photographers, not Photoshop (or other editing program) illustrators. We recognize, however, that part of the attraction and fun of digital photography is the ability to alter the pictures captured by the camera, but the emphasis should be on displaying your photographs to best advantage either naturally or after manipulation (even extensive manipulation) for creative effects.

1. The Pictorial class is **open.** That means that all subject types as well as a variety of different techniques (both in camera and computer manipulation) may be entered. However, remember that we have a diverse membership so please be sire that all photographs are in good taste.

2. The major part of each image must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition. Once captured or scanned, photographs may be modified using digital image editing programs. A scanner may also be used as a camera to capture photographs of objects placed on the scanner glass.

3. Entries may display a realistic rendition of the subject(s) or be creative, having been manipulated using film techniques before scanning or using a digital image editing program. The judges will be asked to judge the photographs for overall photographic quality and interest, not the amount of manipulation required to achieve the effect

4. Composite photographs are acceptable in the pictorial class as long as all elements included are the entering photographer's own work. Commercial clip art, parts of commercial photographic collections, or the work of another photographer may not be included. Artwork or computer graphics created by the photographer may be incorporated as long as the photographic content predominates.

Keep in mind that adding elements such as clouds, moons, frames, or fractals generated by image editing programs, plug-ins, or other software is considered the same as using commercial clip art and, thus, is not allowed. However clouds, frames, or moons photographed or drawn by the photographer may be combined with other photographs.

We recognize that the line between your own digital art and clip art is a gray one in many cases. A good rule to follow is that anything that changes an element you drew or photographed is allowed, but any action that adds an element other than from of one of your own photographs, drawings, or digital art probably is not.

Note that adding a mat or frame using the image editors drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Each member's cumulative scores are tallied up throughout the year. At the end of the year during the Annual Awards Banquet, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons are given in each class for the member with the highest cumulative score for each category of competition. If a member submitting photos does not wish their scores to be included in the cumulative scoring, the member must notifiy the competition chair.