

SPRINGFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



RULES FOR COMPETITION

(Revised: February 9, 2006)



GENERAL

The following are the rules for Monthly and End of the Year competitions.

All members in good standing are eligible to enter all slide and print competitions each month. Any ambiguities in these rules will be resolved by Club Officers. Members should not hesitate to ask any officer or experienced member for help with the details of competition.

The purpose of competition is to provide a vehicle to promote and teach good photography. The intent is not to be overly critical of members work, but to instruct all members about photographic techniques and the selection of their own best work for submission to any competition.

SPS in general, follows the guidelines and standards set by the Photographic Society of America and the New England Camera Club Council for all photographic works. SPS will continue to submit member's works to PSA and NECCC inter-club competitions if there is sufficient interest from our membership. These submissions will be selected from the highest scoring prints and slides in the monthly Club competitions. Selection of any work for this purpose should be considered an honor. Entry by an individual in the monthly Club competitions implies a willingness to have his or her work selected to represent SPS in a PSA or NECCC inter-club competition.

Should any individual not wish to have their work submitted outside of an SPS competition, notify the appropriate VP (*prints or slides*) and your wishes will be honored.

COMPETITION DATES

All Club competitions will be held on the first meeting of each month.

The one exception will be the first meeting of the year in September. Historically the first meeting of the year is always a program. Should any changes to the schedule during the year be necessary because of programming requirements, notification will appear in the *EXPOSURES*.

DEFINITIONS

- * DIVISION... The venue in which a member competes; slide or print.
- * CLASS... The group in which a member competes - as defined by the level of competence listed below.
- * CATEGORY... A competition based upon an assigned theme or subject.
- * NATURE... A competition based on the PSA definition of nature images.
- * CONTEMPORARY... A competition based on the definition found below.

Definitions Within Divisions

Pictorial Slide Division:

Class **AA**... Advanced workers and/or anyone who has won top place in class **A** or has had **TEN** (10) or more acceptances in PSA recognized exhibitions..

Class **A**... Intermediate workers and/or anyone who has won top place in class **B**.

Class **B**... Novices and/or anyone who does not qualify for either class **AA** or **A**.

Print Division: is an open competition. All entries are judged on the same level.

Large Color Prints:

All entries into this division, either Conventional or Digital, can now be produced by the maker in a home darkroom **OR** commercially printed by an outside lab. They can be produced utilizing conventional (chemical) photographic methods or digitally.

Regarding digital prints: **ALL** digital manipulations and/or enhancements **MUST** be done by the maker. If the digital file is output (printed) by a service bureau or an outside lab, the service bureau or outside lab must print the file exactly as given to them by the original photographer. No corrections or enhancements can be made to the file by the 2nd party (lab).

The print size applicable to all entries into this division is as follows. The minimum allowable print size will be **11 inches by 14 inches or 154 square inches**. The maximum allowable print size is **16 inches by 20 inches including** the mount. All prints must be mounted on mat board. The prints can be flush mounted or matted but the dimensions of the print/mat combination is not to exceed 16 inches x 20 inches.

Large Black & White Prints:

All entries into this division must adhere to, and conform to the same rules which govern Large Color Prints. (See preceding paragraph).

Small Color and Small Black & White Prints:

SMALL Color and SMALL Black & White Prints will be governed by the same rules pertaining to Large Color Prints and Large Black & White Prints regarding their production.

The minimum allowable print size shall be **5 inches by 7 inches** and the maximum allowable print size shall be **8 inches by 12 inches or 96 square inches**. Small Prints must also be mounted. They can be matted if so desired and the dimensions of the mount/mat combination cannot exceed 16 inches by 20 inches.

Contemporary Prints: (Color or Black and White)

Prints may be either commercially made or self-made by the exhibitor. Print sizes may range from a minimum of **5 inches** by **7 inches** to a maximum of **11 inches** by **14 inches** or **154 square inches** and must be mounted. Matting is optional.

The maximum dimensions of the print/mat combination is not to exceed 16 inches by 20 inches. The prints may be hand colored, digitally produced or manipulated, and/or any other form of photographic manipulation provided that all work is done by the entrant. An image satisfies the contemporary definition either based on its production techniques or the contemporary nature of the image itself.

The square inch rule was added to accommodate those makers printing digitally because of the non- photo standard paper sizes available in the digital realm. Plus, the rule will allow makers, both conventional and digital, extra creativity by the use of "panel" or "panoramic" print formats. If the length times the width of the image equals 155 square inches or larger (up to 320 square inches), the entry must be placed into the Large Print category. If the length times the width of the image equals 96 square inches or smaller, it will be considered a Small print and it must be entered accordingly.

Rule concerning ALL images entered into exhibition at *The Springfield Photographic Society*

All images, both conventional and digital, submitted for exhibition must have been originally taken by the entrant. Copying and/or scanning another person's work, digitally altering and manipulating that work and then exhibiting that work as your own does not count and will not be allowed.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Slides

- * Each member may enter up to three (3) slides [maximum of one each in *Pictorial, Nature, and Contemporary*] into each monthly competition.
- * Slides must be mounted. 2x2 cardboard mounts are acceptable. Glass mounts are recommended as long as the mount fits the EKTAGRAPHIC™ tray used by the Club projection system.
- * All slide entries must have a **title**, the **maker's name** and a **projection (thumb) spot** in the lower left hand corner of the mount when the slide is viewed correctly.
- * The original image must be made by the exhibitor. Regarding slides submitted into the Contemporary category; Digital enhancement or modification to the original must be done by the exhibitor. However, slides submitted for Nature Competition cannot be manipulated in any way. Photographing the two dimensional photographic or art work of another person for competition is prohibited.
- * Processing of the film may be by an outside (commercial) lab.
- * No time requirement. (*Period during which image must be made*).
- * Any slide not adhering to the rules may be disqualified by the Vice-president of Slides or by his or her agent.

Pictorial Slide Competition

There are no limitations on the type of slide or the nature of the subject of the image. All general rules of competition apply to this competition.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, cont'd

Nature Slide Competition

Nature slides will be judged in a single category without regard to class standing in pictorial competitions. Slides submitted for competition in Nature cannot be entered in the Pictorial Competition; nor can a slide submitted for Pictorial Competition be put into competition in Nature. Acceptable Nature slides are to be restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history except anthropology and archeology. **Human elements (“hand of man”) shall not be present, and any form of photographic manipulation (derivations and/or computer enhancement) which alters the truth of the photographic statement are ineligible.** Descriptive titles are recommended. Images entered into the Nature Division will be governed by the following description as set forth by the Photographic Society of America.

“**Nature Photography** is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, 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.”

The Use of Digital Cameras, Computers and Color Printers in Nature Photography as defined by The Royal Photographic Society (Great Britain) and pretty well accepted by the PSA.

- *The images forming a submission for Nature Associateship or Fellowship must convey the truth of what the author saw at the time of taking. Whether produced in a conventional darkroom or via a computer, any manipulation of the image must be confined to the removal of minor blemishes or distractions.*

The final image must have been produced from a single negative, transparency or digital recording and must not be a combination of images. No section of a single image is to be duplicated and then incorporated into the final image. -

Prints or transparencies produced via a computer or color printer are eligible, provided the above criteria have been met.

Contemporary Slide Competition

In general the placement of a slide in this area of competition will be based on a subjective determination as to whether the image is of a “contemporary” nature. If there is a question, the final decision is the responsibility of the Vice-president of Slides. If not permitted in this competition, the slide may be entered into the Pictorial Competition. Contemporary slides may be achieved via computer enhancement, diazochrome, montaging, or any other form of manipulation. However, manipulation is not a requirement. For example, non-manipulated glassware setups could be regarded as contemporary. But if the slide is manipulated, the manipulation (computer or otherwise) must be done by the exhibitor. Slides entered in the Contemporary Competition may not be entered in another division (e.g. Pictorial).

Prints - Color, Black & White

- * All prints must be mounted and/or matted.
- * Any entry mounted in a FRAME (glass or glassless) will not be accepted into competition.
- * **The back of the print shall bear the title, the maker's name, and an arrow indicating the TOP of the print.**
- * No entry may display a name or any other identifying mark on the front of the print or mat.
- * Prints will be an open competition. There will be no class distinctions. All members may enter one print in any one or all of the five competing areas.
- * There is no dedicated Nature category in the Print division. Images of Nature subjects will be entered into the appropriate venue, i.e.: Large/Small Color or Large/Small Black & White.
- * Any print not adhering to the rules may be disqualified by the Vice-president of Prints or his or her agent.

CATEGORY COMPETITIONS:

This venue was originated as a means to stimulate the entrants imagination and to allow the entrant to hone their photographic skills by creating an image that visually represented an assigned theme or particular subject. All images had to be new work and created AFTER the subject list was distributed at the Year-End banquet in May. Even though the rules have now been relaxed so as to allow members to “dig” into their archives and submit into competition, images taken in past years, members are still encouraged to create new work which represents the assigned subjects each year.

An entry into this venue, in a given month, can be either a **slide** OR a **print** but not both. Once an image has been entered into this venue, the image **MUST** be retired and cannot be used again at a future date. If the image was entered originally as a slide, it cannot then be made into a print and entered at a later date into the print section.

A category subject can be captured digitally BUT it must be presented “true to life”. The original image cannot be manipulated to represent what it is not.

ie: If the theme/subject is *Moonlight*, then the image must be photographed by Moonlight. Taking the image at noon and then “Photo Shopping” it into Moonlight is not good form and will not be allowed.

If the image that is entered into the category venue is a print, the following guidelines **must** be followed.

Prints entered into this division can be either conventional or digital and they can be produced commercially or self made by the entrant. The print cannot be smaller than **5 inches** by **7 inches** or larger than **11 inches** by **14 inches** or 154 square inches, and must be mounted. Matting is optional.

The allowable maximum mount/mat size is 16 inches by 20 inches.

Images entered into this venue will be judged not only on their esthetic and technical qualities, but most importantly

How well does the image being presented portray the required subject/theme.

CLASS SELECTION

Placing oneself in a competition class using the class definitions stated earlier is strictly on the honor system.

This applies to the Pictorial Slide Division only.

Any new member or first time competitor who feels that they have misjudged their ability may, on a one-time only basis, voluntarily elect to change his or her class.

Exception: Any member who finishes at the top in their respective class or who has received 10 or more acceptances in PSA recognized exhibitions will be automatically moved up and may not return to a lower class.

DELIVERY OF ENTRIES

All slide and print entries are to be submitted at the meeting on the competition night. Whenever a member expects to be absent he/she may arrange to have his/her entry submitted by another member. Alternatively, if neither of these options are available to you, you can personally deliver them to the appropriate VP (prints or slides) before the judging night.

No entries will be accepted after the judging begins.

MAKE-UPS

If a competition was missed, makeup submissions may be entered for competition at a later date. No more than one missed competition may be made up on any future competition night. Make ups are eligible for ribbon awards on the same basis as regular competition images. They are also eligible for end of the year awards on the same basis.

In the case of Category entries, the makeup must be made the month following the specified category. A person must be absent from a meeting in order to enter a category image as a makeup.

PREPARATION OF ENTRY FORMS

A separate entry form must be **completely** and **accurately** filled out by the member for each image that is submitted for exhibition on a particular date. Put your name, date of the exhibition and a title on the form. Be certain to check **only** the appropriate boxes that pertain to the image being submitted. The only venue that class designation applies to is Pictorial Slides. For example: An image being exhibited in any other division, i.e.: Nature, Contemporary, Prints, etc., cannot also be checked off as a class "A" Pictorial.

RESPONSIBILITY

Reasonable care will be given to all entries. However, SPS can assume no responsibility for loss or damage. All works sent to various outside competitions, i.e.: NECCC Inter Club competitions, etc., will also be handled with care while they are in the possession of SPS. However, SPS cannot be held responsible for any damage incurred to the images while in the possession of other parties.

DUPLICATION OF ENTRIES

Any slide or print winning a ribbon in any SPS club competition may **not** be re-entered into any other SPS club competition except for the End of the Year.

Non-winning slides or prints may be entered in another year.

An entry bearing a marked similarity to a previous winning entry submitted by the same member is not permitted regardless of the title.

JUDGES and JUDGING

The appropriate vice-presidents will develop a slate of qualified judges for slides and prints.

A panel of four judges will be selected from this list by the vice-president to judge the entries submitted for competition. Each judge will score an entry on a scale of 1 to 10 points. The lowest score will be dropped thereby allowing a maximum top score of 30 points. A judge may **not** score his/her own work, that of their spouse or related person or any person residing in the same residence. In that case the total score will be based on the scores of the other three judges. The judging panel will be made up, whenever possible, of one outside judge, two experienced judges, and one novice judge.

AWARDS

On our competition meeting night, all entries will be exhibited, judged, and commentary given on selected images, provided that a commentator is available, and awards, if appropriate, will be announced. The "Honor Award" system is used. Awards are given based solely on the score that the image receives, regardless of the scores and awards of other entrants.

| SLIDES | Honorable Mention | Honor Award |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Pictorial:</u> | | |
| Class AA | 25 | 26 |
| Class A | 24 | 25 |
| Class B | 23 | 24 |
| Nature | 25 | 26 |
| Contemporary | 25 | 26 |
| | | |
| PRINTS | Honorable Mention | Honor Award |
| Large Color | 25 | 26 |
| Large B&W | 25 | 26 |
| Small Color | 24 | 25 |
| Small B&W | 24 | 25 |
| Contemporary | 25 | 26 |
| | | |
| CATEGORY (Slide or Print) | | |
| Category | 25 | 26 |

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Judged Awards:

End of the year judging for awards to be selected are: *Overall Slide of the Year, Class AA Slide of the Year, Class A Slide of the Year, Class B Slide of the Year, Nature Slide of the Year, and Contemporary Slide of the Year.* End of the year print awards include *Large Color Print of the Year, Small Color Print of the Year, Large Black & White Print of the Year, Small Black & White Print of the Year, and the Greg Czarnecki Award* for the best Contemporary Print.

Note that there is no end-of-the-year judging for Slide of the Year in the Category Competition but an award will be given to those who accumulate the highest total of points in this venue and who meet the requirements set forth for this competition. Also, a person must have participated in eight of the nine monthly competitions.

The only restriction is that your chosen image(s) must have been entered into the appropriate competition at some point during the current year. The entries must be submitted to the appropriate vice-president before the date specified. **A maximum of four images may be submitted in each venue in which the member competed during the current season.**

Awards based on cumulative scores from yearlong competition.

First, second, and third place awards will be given for cumulative scores in all areas of competition.

The number of awards actually given out will depend on the number of eligible participants in a given venue. To be eligible for any end-of-the-year cumulative score awards a person must have participated in eight of the nine applicable monthly competitions.

Any award can be withdrawn if the respective Vice President (Slides or Prints) determines that there were insufficient entries to justify presenting an award in that particular division.

Notes: