

METRO CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION RULES

All members are encouraged to enter competition. Competition is important to all members because it:

- (a) promotes individual participation in Club functions,
- (b) gives recognition to the work of each member,
- (c) accumulates points for Annual Awards, and
- (d) contributes to improving photographic skills of all members.
- (e) Enhances the reputation of the Club.

ENTRIES

1. Members may enter no more than **FOUR (4) entries in PDI and FIVE (5) in PRINT and SLIDE categories in any monthly competition for a total of twenty (20) per year. Entries in excess of 20 in any category will receive no credit in club competition, but may be entered in subsequent competition.**
2. Categories are: (1) Black & White Print, (2) Color Print, (3) Color Slide and (4) PDI Black & White (5) PDI Color
3. Prints are to measure no smaller than 8" X 10" and no larger than 16"x 20", and must be on a **MOUNT** no smaller than 8"x10" and no larger than 20"x24". The print entry must be accompanied with two properly completed entry slips, one of which will be attached to the back of the print near the top to form a pocket and the second entry slip placed inside the pocket.
4. Slide mounts are to measure 2"x 2" and must be properly marked as follows; place a dot in the lower left-hand corner of the mount as the slide is correctly viewed. Then turn the slide upside down. (The dot is now in the top right corner of the mount.). Print the title to the left of the dot. Print your class (A, AA OR AAA) and the date right side of the mount and your name at the bottom. Only one properly completed entry slip is required for slides.
5. All entries are to be properly marked and submitted, with Entry Slip(s) (shown on page 23) to the Competition Committee no later than 7:15 pm on competition night.

METRO CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION						
<input type="checkbox"/>	SLIDE	CLASS		SCORE	PICTURE NO.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	B & W PRINT	A	AA			A AA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COLOR PRINT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
PLEASE PRINT	Enter Title					
	TITLE OF PICTURE					
	SHUTTERBUG		JOE			
	(LAST)		YOUR NAME	(FIRST)		
1/25/2010			FINAL RANK			
ENTRY DATE			FINAL RANK			

6. A particular image may be entered only once in Club competition. A print made from a slide cannot be entered into competition if the slide is, or has been entered into competition. Conversely, if the print has been entered into competition, then the slide or digital image from which it was made may not be entered.
7. The Executive Board will make final determination of eligibility of an entry.
8. All entries are assigned an entry number and this number and title are recorded for reference in Club records.
9. Entries are identified to judges and spectators by their entry number and/or title only. The entrant's name shall not appear visibly to the judges.
10. A member must be in attendance at the meeting to place entries in competition.
11. Captions or titles must not appear within the photo or on the mount,
12. All entries in Black & White Print, Color Print and Color Slide competitions ***MUST*** be pre-entered by using the on-line form on the **COMPETITION** page of the Metro Camera Club website, at: http://www.metrocameraclub.org/pre_entry.html. If a member does not have access to the internet, pre-entry information may be given to the assigned pre-entry coordinator or Competition Chairman by telephone or other means. All pre-entry data ***MUST*** be submitted by 12:00PM (midnight) of the Friday preceding the competition. Entries

must be entered in the appropriate categories (Black & White Print, Color Print and Color Slide) in the following format;

CLASS,TITLE,LAST NAME,FIRST NAME

For example:

A,MY FAVORITE PICTURE,LASTNAME,FIRSTNAME

NOTE: ALL DATA FIELDS MUST BE IN UPPER CASE AND SEPARATED BY COMMAS!

DO NOT PLACE SPACES AFTER THE COMMAS!

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of the eligibility of an image to be entered in the Club's competition is the sole responsibility of the Competition committee. In the event the committee determines and rules that an image is not eligible or suitable for consideration in competition, the club member submitting the entry shall be notified immediately and the image removed from competition at that time. The club member may seek relief from the ruling by submitting an appeal in writing to the Club President. The Club President shall take the appeal before the executive board at their next meeting for consideration. The club member may attend the meeting to present views on the image. A simple majority of the executive board members present and voting will be sufficient to render a decision on the image. The decision of the executive board is final.

Digital Images

"Digital Image" is defined as an image taken with a digital camera or converted to digital format by scanners or other means. Pictures produced from digital images by inkjet and laser printers, by image recorders or otherwise derived from a digital image shall

be considered a digital image. Digital images may be entered as Color Prints, Monochrome Prints or Color Slides.

Digital Image Adjustments

Members are encouraged to create their photographs in camera through careful composition and exposure control, and to minimize software enhancement. Elements may not be added to a photograph; however, minor deletions are permitted such as removing a piece of trash, hot pixels or dust spots. Correction of keystone and merged images such as panoramas, double exposures, and HDRs (High Dynamic Range) are permitted. Adjustments in saturation, contrast, sharpening, color balance, cropping, dodging, burning, toning, etc. are permitted at the discretion of the photographer. Toned B&W photographs will compete in the B&W category; photographs containing one or more color elements will compete in the color category. Members are reminded that paying close attention to composition and exposure minimizes the degree of post-processing needed to express their artistic vision.

I. PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGES

Projected Digital Images (PDI) are traditional photographic images with only minimal manipulation such as dodging, burning, lightening, darkening, changing contrast and sharpening - basically the type of image enhancement you can do in a traditional analog darkroom. Color images converted to Black & White are permitted. Computer operations such as adding or removing objects, modifying selected areas, or otherwise affecting the truthful presentation of the subject are not permitted. Images should look as if they came right out of the camera with very little enhancement. The same image cannot be entered in more than one class.

II. PDI Image Preparation

1. Dimensions:

Images may be submitted in any size. The PDI competition coordinator will re-size all images to 768 pixels on the longer dimension.

2. Color Space:

Images should be saved with the sRGB color space for best projection on the club's digital projector.

3. File Type:

All images should be saved as JPEG images, which is the file extension ".jpg".

NOTE: NO OTHER FILE TYPES WILL BE ACCEPTED!

4. File Naming:

File naming will be important to get your file in the proper competition and category.

NOTE: ALL DATA FIELDS MUST BE IN *UPPER CASE* AND SEPARATED BY COMMAS!

DO NOT PLACE SPACES AFTER THE COMMAS!

Below is the format for file naming:

BW/COLOR,CLASS,IMAGE TITLE,LASTNAME,FIRST NAME.jpg

For a COLOR image in class "A" it would be:

C,A,MY GREAT PICTURE,LAST NAME,FIRST NAME.JPG

For a BLACK & WHITE image in class "A" it would be:

B,A,MY FAVORITE IMAGE,LAST NAME,FIRST NAME.JPG

5. Submission:

Images to be submitted via email by midnight of the Friday before a Monday competition to:

digitalcomp@metrocameraclub.org

**No more than five images per PDI
category may be submitted**

CLASS – Members compete with others of similar class based on a point system:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Class</u>
000-100	A
101-300	AA
301-UP	AAA

All new competitors start in Class A. These class levels apply to black and white prints, color prints, color slides and PDI separately. A member may be class AA in slides, and class A in prints, etc.

Competition in each category (black and white prints, color prints, color slides and PDI) will be judged and scored without regard to the skill of entrant. Winners, however, will be recognized in each class and category. Members remain in the class (determined by their point standing at the start of the year) for the entire year.

The accumulated points earned during the year make them eligible for promotion at the START of the next year (not when their points reach a value that would put them in the next class).

Should a member leave the club and return to active membership at a later date, the member may return to the class in each category that they had when they left the club.

They will resume their point standings from the value they attained when they left. The competition chairperson will help determine what those values were from their records.

SCORING

Three judges score each entry on the basis of overall effect while giving consideration to: (A) *interest* (B) *composition and artistic aspects* (C) *photographic techniques*. Each judge may rate the entry from 1 to 5 points. An entry could have a score as low as 3 or as high as 15 points when the three judges' scores are combined. Judges' scores are totaled and announced by a member of the Competition committee.

JUDGING

Judging and scoring of competition entries is an integral part of the Club program. Judging prints and slides is in itself a learning experience and is the responsibility of every member.

No judges – no competition.

The competition chair will choose judges from the members present. Judges may not judge their own work or that of a family member. Judges who have prior knowledge of another member's entry should be impartial in fairness to other competitors.

CLUB AWARDS

- A. **ANNUAL AWARDS** – Members compete for annual awards in the class in which they began the year. To be eligible for annual awards, a member must have entered into competition during the competition year a minimum of 12 Slides, or 12 Black & White Prints, or 12 Color Prints. The competition year is January through November. Annual awards will be determined by an average of the highest 12 scores of the member's 12 Slides, and/or 12 Black & White Prints, and/or 12 Color Prints and/or 12 PDI Images. The awards will be plaques for the first, second and third highest scores with provisions for ties in any of the classes.

B. JACK VAUGHN MEMORIAL AWARD

A special competition may be held to select the “Slide of the Year”, “Color Print of the Year”, and “Black and White Print of the Year”. Entries must have been entered in competition within the current year and submitted without change, enhancement, reprinting, or remitting. The original title used in competition must be maintained. The Executive Board will determine any other criteria for this competition, and details announced in the Contact Sheet. Up to **THREE** (3) entries per category may be submitted.

C. CHARLES CAMERON MEMORIAL AWARD

The award will be presented to a club member whose activities demonstrate unselfish and outstanding work, which promotes the activities and goals of the Metro Camera Club. The award may be given only once to a member.

Judging Criteria

Photographs shall be judged based on the criteria listed below. Judges must have a thorough understanding of these judging principals and be able to apply them within the very limited time available to view each photograph. When deciding a score, judges must avoid increasing or decreasing the score merely because they do or do not personally care for the subject of the photograph.

- A. SUBJECT.** Is the subject of the photograph apparent or is it lost in a sea of background? Is your eye drawn to the subject or are you asking "why was this picture taken?" The photo is lacking if the subject has to be explained.
- B. FOCUS.** Is the photograph appropriately focused? Sometimes an out of focus shot is what the photographer is trying to do (such as showing

movement or blurring all but the main subject), but generally the main subject should be in focus even if the surrounding area is not. Does the selected depth of field work well for the image. Would it look better with a narrower or wider depth of field?

- C. **COMPOSITION.** Is there an appropriate feeling of balance in the photograph? Is the picture too heavy on one side or the other? Are there extraneous areas or "clutter" in the photo that are not adding to the overall effect? Is it free from merging lines and distracting light? Does your eye move easily around the image from subject to secondary subjects in a visual path or are there elements that cause your eye to make abrupt stops? Would following the "Rule of Thirds" improve it?
- D. **IMPACT.** Does the photo have freshness, spontaneity and originality? Are there interesting elements, such as perspective, dramatic angles, leading lines, colors, textures, shapes, light, etc? Does the shot stand out from the ordinary?
- E. **LIGHTING.** Lighting is perhaps the most important element in a photograph. Has the direction and the quality of the light helped or hindered? Is the exposure correct or are there over exposed highlights or areas so dark you can't make out details that should be visible?
- F. **MOOD.** Are there identifiable elements in the photograph that set a mood? What mood does the photograph evoke? How does the shot makes you feel? Considering the photograph on both a technical and emotional level is valid.