

**Cape Cod Viewfinders Camera Club
Competition Rules
2009 - 2010**

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1. Competition Schedule

- Competitions will be held once a month, except December, during the Competition Year which runs from September through April.
- An Annual Competition will be held in May to select the Images of the Year. (See Section 13.)

2. Who May Compete

- Only members who have paid the club's annual dues may enter a competition.

3. Competition Formats and Categories

- Competitions will include two Formats: Projected Images and Prints.
- Within Projected Images, there will be three Categories: Open, Nature, and, on a rotating basis, Creative, Photojournalism, and Portraiture.
- Within Prints, there will be three Categories: Open, Nature, and, on a rotating basis, Black & White, Photojournalism, and Portraiture.
- See Section 14 for definitions of each term.

4. Competition Classes

- In each Competition Format and Category, there will be three classes:
B: Beginners
A: Advanced
M: Masters
- The purpose of the Classes is to facilitate fair competition among members with similar skill levels.
- A new member will be placed in Class B except as follows:
 - If the new member is coming from another camera club, s/he will be placed in a Competition Class equal to that in which s/he competed as a member of the other club.
 - The new member will automatically be placed in Class M if s/he:
 - Has a Star rating or higher with PSA, or
 - Regularly sells her/his photographs, or
 - Is a professional photographer
 - If the new member does not meet the above requirements, s/he may request placement in either Class A or Class M by submitting a body of work of up to 10 images to the Competition Advancement Committee who will review the work and determine the appropriate Class for the new member.
- After initial determination, a change in Class will only occur at the beginning of the next Competition Year as determined by the Competition Advancement Committee appointed by the club's President. (See Section 8.)

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5. Judges

- There will be a single outside judge for each competition.
- Preference will be given to those listed in the NECCC and PSA rosters of approved judges. If one is not available, a local photographer, photojournalist, or other non-club member knowledgeable in the field of photography may be asked to judge.
- An instruction sheet detailing the club's Competition Formats, Categories, and Classes, as well as the club's scoring range and competition awards, will be sent to each judge at least one week prior to their scheduled appearance.
- If a judge fails to appear on competition night, three club members appointed by the President will judge the entries.

6. Scoring

- The judge will award points to each entry in the competition.
- The scoring range will be 5 to 15 points.

7. Competition Awards

- For Classes B and A, for each Competition Format and Category, the following awards will be given:
 - 1st Place when there are three or more entries
 - 2nd Place when there are four or more entries
 - 3rd Place when there are six or more entries
 - Honorable Mentions for every two entries above 6.
- For Class M, for each Competition Format and Category, the following awards will be given:
 - 1st Place when there are three or more entries
 - 2nd Place when there are four or more entries
 - 3rd Place when there are six or more entries
 - Honorable Mentions for every three entries above 7.
- For all Classes, when there are fewer than three entries in a given Competition Format and Category, the entrants will be given the choice of withdrawing their entries until a future competition, or, for Class B and A entrants, being moved into the next higher Class for that particular Category for the night's competition.

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8. Advancement to a Higher Competition Class

- At the end of each Competition Year, members may be advanced to a higher Competition Class at the determination of the Competition Advancement Committee as appointed by the club's President. Advancement will be based in part on the total number of Competition Points and Ribbon Points scored during the Competition Year.

Ribbon Points are cumulative throughout the year and are awarded as follows:

1st Place: 8 points

2nd Place: 5 points

3rd Place: 3 points

HM: 2 points

(No points are awarded for entering.)

- A member shall be considered for promotion from Class B to Class A if s/he accumulates 50 or more Ribbon Points during the Competition Year. A member shall be considered for promotion from Class A to Class M if s/he accumulates 75 or more Ribbon Points during the Competition Year.
- The Competition Advancement Committee also may take into consideration the quality of the member's work relative to the other competitors, and any other factor that affects placement within that Competition Class. The Competition Advancement Committee may, at their discretion, review up to 10 images of a particular candidate's work submitted during the current Competition Year.
- The Competition Advancement Committee will review the rules for advancement each year to evaluate for accuracy and fairness the number of members and the actual scores obtained.

9. Number of Entries

- Each competing member may enter up to three images in each Competition Format (Projected Images and Prints), with no more than two in any one Competition Category.

10. Ineligible Entries

- Entries which have won Honorable Mention or better in previous competitions of this club during the current or any prior Competition Year, regardless of the Format (i.e. projected image, print, or slide) or Category.
- Entries that are similar to previous winners by the same competitor. (Similar means that the two could be mistaken for each other.)
- Entries must not contain the use of any photography or artwork that is not the original work of the competitor. This includes clip-art of any kind, or any artwork (e.g. digital manipulation, airbrushing, coloring, etc.) performed on either the projected image, original slide, or print by anyone other than the competitor.
- Entries that do not follow the specific preparation for projected images or prints. (See Sections 11 and 12.)

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11. Projected Image Preparation and Submission

- Images must be forwarded to the Competition Committee by email to capecodviewfinders@gmail.com. The deadline for submission is one week before the competition.
- Images must be in JPEG (.jpg or .jpeg) format
- Images must be oriented properly with the vertical dimension oriented vertically.
- Images must be resized or cropped to a height not to exceed 768 pixels, a width not to exceed 1024 pixels, and a resolution not to exceed 72 - 100 PPI (pixels per inch). The club's projector is set for a maximum resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels.
- **It is recommended that the image be converted to sRGB color space for optimal projection.**
- Image File Name: images must use the following naming convention:

Image_Title-Category-FirstinitialLastname.jpg

Use an Underscore (_) instead of spaces between words in the Image Title;

Use a Dash (-) between the Image Title and the Category, and a Dash (-) between the Category and the maker's name;

For the Category, use "C" for Creative, "N" for Nature, "O" for Open, "PJ" for Photojournalism, and "P" for Portraiture.

For example, an image called "Great View" to be entered in the Open Category by John Doe would be named Great_View-O-JDoe.jpg

- Titles are Important! They identify the subject or provide the maker's unique view of it. They enable tracking through various competitions and proper reporting of winners. They may be repeated by adding a number that will serve to identify individual images. Example: Frosty Morning #4 would be entered as Frosty_Morning#4-O-JDoe.jpg.

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12. Print Preparation and Submission

- Prints must be entered by 6:45 PM on the night of the competition.
- Prints must be mounted. Mats must be no smaller than 8" x 10", and no larger than 16" x 20". There is no minimum print size.
- Prints must not be framed nor covered with glass nor have any hanging devices on the back.
- Prints must be labeled on the back in the lower right-hand corner with the Title, the Entrant's Name and Competition Class, and the date of the competition. The club's gummed label is advisable for this purpose. In addition, a Competition Label must be filled out and handed in with the print. These labels also contain the Title, the Entrant's Name and Competition Class, and the Competition Category.
- Titles are Important! They identify the subject or provide the maker's unique view of it. They enable tracking through various competitions and proper reporting of winners. They may be repeated by adding a number that will serve to identify individual images. Example: Frosty Morning #4.
- Permitted Practices: The following practices are permitted in the 1999 NECCC Interclub and Conference Print competitions and have been adopted by the club:
 - ▶ Toning, either complete or selective, of prints using chemically reactive toners or non-reactive dyes, subject to monochrome restrictions noted below under Prohibited Practices.
 - ▶ Spotting of prints, where spotting is understood to serve the purpose of removing the small blemishes caused by dust or other minor imperfections in the negative or on the print.
 - ▶ Collages/paste-ups of the original photography by the maker, emulsion transfers and manipulations, hand coloring with transparent oils or dyes.
 - ▶ Commercially made prints, either photochemical or photoelectric, wherein the only manipulation performed by the non-entrant printer is in the nature of burning/dodging and color/contrast adjustment and their electronic equivalents.
 - ▶ Any other form of manipulation of the print or the negative by the entrant (burning/dodging, masking, printing through texture screens, digital enhancement, combining of images, etc.) not expressly prohibited above is considered acceptable.
- Prohibited Practices: The following practices are prohibited in the 1999 NECCC Interclub and Conference Print competitions and have been adopted by the club:
 - ▶ In Monochrome only: the use of more than a single color in toning, dyeing, or painting (e.g. airbrushing), either completely or selectively, of the print.
 - ▶ Complete opaquing of the print surface, such that the final result is virtually indistinguishable from a freehand drawing/painting (e.g. portraits done in heavy oils)

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13. Images of the Year Qualifications

- To be eligible to participate in the Images of the Year Competition, the projected image or print must have won Honorable Mention or better during the current Competition Year.
- Up to four projected images and up to four prints may be submitted.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards will be given in each Competition Format.

14. Definitions

- **Black and White:** a black and white projected image or print may contain one additional color in one tone.
- **Creative:** a projected image or print and all its elements that have been taken by the entrant and significantly modified by the entrant either in camera, in scanner, electronically or graphically, while keeping the photographic content predominant. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer, as with drawing or painting programs, but must have the initial source object or source image external to the input device.
- **Open:** a projected image or print, manipulated or not, at any level of reality, on any subject, in color or black and white. It is required that Nature images be entered in the Nature print and projected competition categories and not in the Open categories unless they have been manipulated or modified outside of the enhancements allowed by the Nature definition (see below) in which case the title of the print or projected image must include the words “modified”. (For example, Dragonfly_on_Leaf_Modified.) Natural landscapes and seascapes may be entered in either Open or Nature.
- **Nature:** (NECCC and PSA rules) 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 fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining a high technical quality. Human elements (“The Hand of Man”) shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible. 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. No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural.

All images must be considered “Digital Realism”, where a photographer may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image to make it more closely represent the original scene photographed but does not change the truth of the original nature story. Cropping and horizontal flipping

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(equivalent to reversing a slide) are acceptable modifications. Removing spots due to dust on your sensors is allowed. Removing rounded slide mount corners on scanned images is allowed. Adding elements to your images, removing pictorial elements from your image other than by cropping, combining separate images or rearranging and/or cloning and/or copying elements in your image are not acceptable and can lead to disqualification of your image in the competition. Since HDR techniques and Helicon Focus techniques are techniques that enhance the presentation without changing the pictorial content, they are now considered allowable techniques. Please note that all adjustments must still look natural. Just because a technique is legitimate does not guarantee the image it was used on will get a good score.

Note:

Pictorial quality is not the same as technical quality. Technical quality is still an important criterion for evaluation and judging of images.

Titles will be read during judging so try to make the titles descriptive and stay away from cute titles unless they are also descriptive. Try to identify your subject. The title "Micronesian Kingfisher" in Nature images sounds a lot better than "Orange & Blue Bird".

Images are not required to meet the requirements of the PSA definition of Wildlife. Zoo shots and Game Farm shots are eligible provided the artificial habitat is not apparent in the image. Since titles will be read, do not advertise the fact that something was taken at a zoo or other controlled situation as part of the title.

- **Photojournalism:** Photojournalism consists of story-telling pictures with a high degree of spontaneity, such as those found in the mass media and periodicals. It may include documentary, advertising, spot news, human interest, and portrayal of a way of life. Any form of photographic manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement is not allowed. Cropping and flipping is allowed. Removing spots due to dust is allowed. Adding elements to the image, removing elements other than by cropping, combining separate images (including HDR and Double Processing of RAW files), or rearranging and/or cloning and/or cropping elements in the image are not acceptable.
- **Portraiture:** Subjects must be human, whether taken indoors or outdoors. Character revelation is the essence of a good portrait; hence the exact recording of physical details becomes secondary. For the purpose of competition, a portrait may include more than one person, but not so many that individuality is lost.