

RULES OF COMPETITION

November 2009

Section 1. Program Calendar & Registration

Calendar: Competitions are held at every monthly club meeting from January through November. At each of these meetings there will be an “Assigned” subject, an “Open” category, and a “Creative” category.

Registration: **Entries for competition must be logged in at the registrar’s table before the start of the meeting.** Entries must be presented with proper identification as outlined in Section 2D below. The registrar keeps a tally of points accumulated by members, as outlined in Section 6 below. CCC members may view the tally at any time.

Section 2. Competition: Classes and Categories

A. Classes

- 1) Class A: advanced intermediate or advanced photographers
- 2) Class B: novice or early intermediate photographers.

When a person joins the club, he or she, in consultation with the executive committee, will be assigned to either class A or class B, depending on the member’s level of experience as a photographer. The executive committee reserves the right to promote a member from class B to class A if the committee feels that person is misplaced.

Class B is best viewed as a stepping stone, not a permanent classification. At any time during the year a club member who would like the additional challenge may request to be moved from class B to class A. Members who change designations during the year will carry their accumulated point total with them.

The Class B member who has earned the highest number of points in the monthly competitions by the end of the year will automatically be moved into Class A. Those who have earned the 2nd and 3rd most points will be asked to move up at their discretion.

Each month there will be a class A and a class B competition in each of the three categories listed below.

B. Categories

1) Assigned

A subject is assigned for each month, January through November. *Members may submit either monochrome or color prints for any subject.* Monochrome entries are limited to black and white and sepia. Photoshop or other image-editing software may be used to make corrections to the original capture in accordance with the limitations listed below.

2) *Open*

This category is for both color and monochrome prints on any subject. Photoshop or other image-editing programs may be used to make corrections to the original capture in accordance with the limitations listed below.

3) *Creative*

This category is for any image that the photographer creates as an artistic interpretation by *significantly altering the original look and feel of a subject. These alterations of reality include those made with image-editing software OR with the camera.* This category also is for any image created through the use of a flatbed scanner or photocopier.

One purpose of this category is to foster a more artistic form of creativity than is normally used in capturing an image. Another is to encourage members to explore non-traditional or unfamiliar forms of photographic expression.

Any type of manipulation or alteration of images is acceptable in this category. If you have created an image using any of the methods listed below that would disqualify it from the Assigned or Open categories, the image should be entered in the Creative category.

4) *Digital Challenge:*

Those who take the Digital Challenge must photograph a number of assigned topics within a given time frame. See the CCC website, www.c-villecameraclub.org, for information on rules, subjects, and submission requirements.

C. Photo-Editing: Scope and Limitations

Overview

In the past, when everyone was capturing images on film, only those who shot black and white negatives and developed and printed them in a darkroom had any opportunity to fine-tune the final appearance of their photos. Those who shot color negatives or slides simply sent their film off for developing and had to accept what came back as the final result. Now, thanks to digital photography, all photographers have a wide range of control over their final output, thanks to the powerful image-editing software now available.

While some photographers choose to limit the changes they make to their images, or lack the skills for making changes, at the other end of the spectrum are those who are not only skilled in making changes but also impose few limits on themselves.

The club, therefore, has adopted a set of guidelines that limit the kinds of alterations that can be made in the Assigned and Open categories, as well as in most Digital Challenge assignments.

Limiting the range of image editing accomplishes at least two objectives:

- It emphasizes the quality of the initial capture and enables members with less advanced skills in photo editing to compete. (Members who use more advanced editing techniques to achieve artistic effects are free to enter these images in the Creative category.)
- It assists our judges by presenting them with more homogeneous groups of images to evaluate.

Allowed Image Corrections and Adjustments to Assigned and Open Prints and Digital Challenge Entries

- white balance
- color (temperature and tint)
- exposure/brightness
- contrast
- saturation (may also be called vibrance)
- sharpening (may also be called clarity)
- dodge and burn
- cropping and resizing
- rotation (as long as it is applied to the entire image rather than to particular elements in the image)
- conversion to black and white or sepia
- transform and free transform*
- blurring distracting elements*
- cloning, spot healing, healing brush, or patch tools*
- use of electronic filters*
- stitching of multiple images to form a panorama
- combining images of various exposures to capture the full dynamic range of the subject (may be called High Dynamic Range [HDR])
- depth of field extension (e.g., Helicon Focus)

*Items with an asterisk may be used only if they do not alter the main subject or a significant part of the subject. For example,

- You may use a clone tool to remove a distracting element (e.g., a piece of litter, a reflection, or a spectral highlight), but you may not remove or alter a major component of the main subject. *As a general rule, you may remove those items that*
 1. *you would have removed but could not remove or avoid at the time of capture*
 2. *you would have removed or avoided if you had noticed them at that time.*

You may use electronic filters and other tools that do not result in what a judge would likely consider to be an “artistic interpretation” of a subject. For example, you may use a blur filter to soften distracting elements in an image, but you may not use a blur filter to create an ethereal mood or a special effect that wasn’t part of the original subject. Judges will be expected to take into consideration any apparent overuse of allowed

enhancements, such as color saturation or color balance. *Images that have been overly manipulated or adjusted may, at the discretion of the judge, be disqualified.*

Disallowed Corrections, Adjustments, and Techniques for Assigned and Open Print and Digital Challenge Entries:

1. Composite images, made either by combining elements from other images or by duplicating elements within the same image (including background and sky replacement and the Orton effect, but excluding panoramas and HDR)
2. Movement, enlargement, or reduction of elements within an image
3. Uses of the cloning tools and filters that go beyond those permitted above. This includes filters that create ethereal moods (such as blur filters), distort forms and alter texture, or create unrealistic color effects (including infrared).
4. Use of the camera to create abstract, artistic interpretations of the subject, such as the use of lens zoom or camera motion during exposure. (Panning a moving subject and using a slow shutter speed to blur a fast-moving subject are allowed.)
5. Use of a flatbed scanner or photocopier to produce an image. All such images must be entered in the Creative category.

Regardless of the limits imposed, we all must keep in mind *that the use of editing tools is a matter of trust and reflects the honesty and integrity of the photographer.*

D. Presentation of entries

All prints submitted for competition must be suitably matted for display. (Many judges prefer white or off-white mats in competitions.) Excluding mat size, prints may range from approximately 5" x 7" through 10" x 15". Mats should not exceed 16" X 20". Prints must not be framed, and no writing on the viewing side of the mat is allowed.

The print should be marked as follows on the **top left** of the back of the mat or mount board:

Name of photographer
Category and class (example: Open A; Assigned B)
Title of photograph
Arrow pointing to top of photograph

Prints that have been incorrectly labeled by the photographer will be judged as they are submitted. *Audience members are not allowed to speak to the judge while photos are being discussed.*

Section 3. Assistance in Preparing Entries

While the image entered must be entirely the work of the member submitting it, calling on the guidance of other members is strongly encouraged in the spirit of the club's stated purposes (see Preamble).

Section 4. Entry Requirements for Assigned, Open, and Creative Prints

A. Only members in good standing (yearly dues paid by the day of the March meeting) may enter club competitions. New members must attend at least one meeting *as a member* before entering a competition.

B. We encourage everyone to log in their entries at the registrar's table at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting. Those who find it impossible to arrive in time to meet this deadline will have until the time the meeting is called to order.

C. Number of Entries: A total of three prints may be entered into each monthly competition, ***so long as at least one is entered in the Assigned category.*** (The maximum that can be entered in any one category is two.) If prints are entered only in the Open or Creative categories, a total of only two prints is allowed.

D. Time Limit: Photographs submitted in the Assigned category must have been taken by the club member within ***12 months of the time of submission.*** There is no time limit for photographs entered in either the Open or Creative categories.

E. Entry by Absent Member: If a member is unable to attend a meeting, another member may submit and register entries on that person's behalf. However, we encourage members to be in attendance so they can learn from the judge's comments and be available to answer questions about their entries.

F. Re-Entry Limitation: A photograph that has received an award may not be entered in another monthly competition except as a significantly altered image, either greatly cropped or entered in the Creative category. A photograph that has not won an award may be re-submitted on another date without limitation, other than the Assigned topic and Digital Challenge time limits.

Section 5 Monthly Awards

Judges will award prizes in A and B classes for Assigned, Open, and Creative prints. Points earned will accumulate toward annual scores. The competition chairperson will keep year-to-date records of competition results and will make them available for inspection at each meeting.

A category must have at least *three* entries and at least *two* participants for a prize to be awarded. In categories with fewer than that number, the images will be critiqued by the judge and will receive a point for having entered, but no awards will be made.

First, second, third, and honorable mention awards will be made when a category has 12 or more entries. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded when a category has 6-11 entries. If a category has four to five entries, only the first and second prizes will be awarded. Only the first prize will be awarded to a category with three entries.

Section 6 Point System

For each entry in the Open and Creative categories

- 1 point

For each entry in the Assigned category

- 2 points

In addition

- 2 points for honorable mention (12 or more entries)
- 3 points for third place (6-11 entries)
- 4 points for second place (4-5 entries)
- 5 points for first place (3 entries)

Section 7 Members Serving As Judges

Members serving as judges are not permitted to enter the competition they are judging. For member judges to remain competitive for the Photographer of the Year Award, they will be awarded five points for each evening that they judge instead of entering the competition. A CCC member may not act as a judge more than once in any calendar year.

Section 8 Gallery Exhibits:

Each month, members may bring a maximum of three prints in either category:

A. *Critiqued Images:* Photos in this category will be displayed in the light box for comments and critiques from members and the judge. They will not be awarded a prize, but they may be entered in any future monthly competition. The photographer may or may not identify himself or herself to the judge.

B. *Members' Gallery:* These photos will be displayed to represent a photographer's work but will not be critiqued. This category includes photos taken by groups on a club sponsored trip, images from a photography workshop, member vacations, etc. The name of the photographer should be on the front of each print.

Section 9 Annual Competition and Awards

An end of the year competition will be held in December in lieu of a regular monthly competition. A single judge or a panel of judges will judge the competition.

Only those members who have entered at least three monthly competitions during the same year are eligible for this competition. All entries must be submitted in the same format as they were in the monthly competitions.

The following awards will be given:

A. Outstanding Image of the Year Awards: One award will be given in the each of the following categories: *Best Color Print, Best Monochrome Print, Best Creative Print, and Best Digital Challenge Entry.*

There will be one class, including both class A and B photographers. A member may enter one each of a monochrome print, color print, Creative print, and Digital Challenge image. (The Digital Challenge images should be e-mailed or delivered as a digital image ahead of time to a person designated to compile them for the judge).

B. Best of Show Award: This award is for the best among the three prints (not including the Digital Challenge entry) chosen in the Outstanding Image of the Year competition.

C. Rothman Photographer of the Year Award: In memory of Howard Rothman, one of the founding members of CCC, this award is presented to the class A photographer who has accumulated the highest number of points throughout the year.

D. Class B Photographer of the Year Award: This award is presented to the class B photographer accumulating the highest number of points throughout the year.

E. Shyan Award: This award, in memory of Ted and Rita Shyan, founding members of CCC, is open only to class B photographers. The photographer enters three prints that must have been taken in the current year. Color or monochrome prints may be submitted.

Photographs submitted may include those previously exhibited at camera club competitions, *but this is not required.* However, if photos are entered for both the Shyan Award and the Best of Show Award, separate copies must be entered in each category.