

Cape Cod Viewfinders Camera Club
Competition Rules
2011 - 2012

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1. Competition Schedule

- Regular Competitions will be held once a month, except December, during the Competition Year which runs from September through April.
- Two themed competitions will be held during the Competition Year. The dates and specific themes will be announced well in advance of the competitions.
- 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. Regular Competition Formats and Categories

- Competitions will include two Formats: Projected Images and Prints.
- Within Projected Images, there will be three Categories: Open, Nature, and an additional category selected from the following: Black & White, Creative, Photojournalism, and Portraiture.
- Within Prints, there will be three Categories: Open, Nature, and an additional category selected from the following: 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.
- For the regular competitions, preference will be given to those judges 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.
- For **themed** competitions, a local professional photographer **typically** will be used.
- 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 all Classes, for each Competition Format and Category, the number of awards to be given will equal half the number of entries (rounded down).
- For Classes B and A, when there are fewer than **five** entries in a given Competition Format and Category, the entries will be moved into the next higher Class for that particular Category for the night's competition.
- For Class M, when there are fewer than **five** entries in a given Competition Format and Category, the competitor will be notified and given the opportunity to change the Category, if appropriate, or save it for a future competition.

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 is based in part on the total number of entries submitted per individual and the average point score earned by the member.**

Number of Images Required:

Assuming nine competitions during the year (7 regular and 2 themed) with three images per competition, the maximum number of images each member may enter would be 27. To be considered for advancement, the member must have entered 19 images during the current Competition Year. That represents a 70% participation level. (70% of 27 = 19.)

The 19 required images may be split between prints and projected images, or
The 19 required images may be only prints or only projected images.

The 70% required participation level will be maintained each year even though the number of competitions (and hence the maximum number of images) may vary.

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Average Point Scores Required:

Average point scores are determined by dividing the member's current year's total points by the number of images entered in each Competition Format (prints or projected images).

In addition to the required number of images, to be considered for advancement the member must have achieved the following average point scores:

A 12 point average in one Competition Format to advance from B to A.

A 13 point average in one Competition Format to advance from A to M.

Averages of 11.5 and 12.5 will be rounded up to 12 and 13, respectively.

Committee Review:

The Competition Advancement Committee may also 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 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 a combined total of three images across the Print and Projected Image formats, with no more than two in any one Competition Category *within a format*.

10. Ineligible Entries

- Entries which have won 3rd Place 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 which have won Honorable Mention in any prior Competition Year, regardless of Format 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. If an email confirming receipt of the submitted images by the Competition Committee has not been received by the Sunday evening prior to the competition, the submitting member should send an email to capecodviewfinders@gmail.com alerting them of the issue.
- 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 **and** a width not to exceed 1024 pixels. 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:

“B” for Black & White

“C” for Creative

“N” for Nature

“O” for Open

“PJ” for Photojournalism

“P” for Portraiture

“T1” and “T2” for Themed Competitions. (T1 and T2 will be defined when the themes are announced.)

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. **Titles may be no longer than 35 characters, including spaces. Once an image has been named, the Title should not be changed for future exhibits and competitions within and outside the club.**

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12. Print Preparation and Submission

- The titles of prints to be entered and the category name must be emailed to the Competition Committee at ccvfprints@gmail.com. The deadline for submission of this information is one week before the competition. If an email confirming receipt of the title and category information by the Competition Committee has not been received by the Sunday evening prior to the competition, the submitting member should send an email to ccvfprints@gmail.com alerting them of the issue.
- The actual prints must be **logged in** 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", except for panoramas which may be up to 36" x 16". There is no minimum print size.
- Prints must not be framed nor covered with glass nor have any hanging devices on the back. The mat must be in good condition and holding the print firmly. **The Competition Committee reserves the right to reject any prints in poor condition.**
- 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. **Titles may be no longer than 35 characters, including spaces. Once an image has been named, the Title should not be changed for future exhibits and competitions within and outside the club.**
- 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:

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- ▶ 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)

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 in either the regular or the two **themed** competitions.
- 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 (Projected Images and Prints).

14. Definitions

- **Black & White:** a black & white projected image or print may contain one additional color in one tone.
- **Creative:** “Creative” is Altered Reality. More specifically, the image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of the three. High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are not considered “Altered Reality”. The original image must be made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or captured digitally. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Original images must be altered by the maker. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the maker may be incorporated if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. Non-creative images are not eligible. Any subject matter is acceptable as long as the Altered Reality Guidelines are apparent.
- **Open:** a projected image or print, manipulated or not, at any level of reality, in color or black & white. Natural landscapes and seascapes may be entered in either Open or Nature. NATURE subject images will be allowed in Open – IF – the hand of man is evident, if cultivated or hybrid plants are shown, if obvious set arrangements are evident, or if modifications or manipulations have been made beyond the acceptable standard set by PSA (see Nature definition). By the inclusion of Nature subject images in OPEN, acknowledgment is understood that, beyond the club level, the image is eligible for OPEN Competitions, and not NATURE competitions.
- **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

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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 (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

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Double Processing of RAW files), or rearranging and/or cloning and/or **copying** 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.