



Park West Camera Club

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Competition Manual

Competition Rules

The first Monday evening each month (with the exception of holidays)—from October through May—is competition night at the Park West Camera club.

Separate competitions are held on each of these nights for prints, slides and projected digital images.

- In the case of prints the photographer must have done all of the work to complete the print. All paper-based entries must be mounted on a rigid backing. The print category encompasses all alternative and traditional techniques. Most of the image must be based on a photograph or photographs taken by the member. Matting of prints is permitted, but framing or covering with glass, plastic, or other similar materials is not permitted.
- In the case of slides, the photographer must have made the original exposure on film and made any additional changes (cropping, manipulation, etc.) without the use of a computer or other electronic and/or digital equipment. All slides (color or B&W) must be presented in 2"x 2" cardboard, plastic or thin-glass mounts.
- In the case of projected digital images, the photographer must have done all the work to complete the image. Most of the image must be based on a photograph or photographs taken by the member. All projected digital images must be presented in proper format as outlined in *Preparing a Digital Image for Projection*.

For each of the competitions there will be the following procedures:

- A preview of all entries (slides and projected digital images will be projected automatically, prints will be held up for viewing) each for about 5 seconds.
- A second showing will proceed at a much slower pace, allowing the judge to critique each image individually. This critique may include comments about subject matter, composition, exposure, etc.,—whatever comes to the judge's mind. This critique should be limited to approximately 30 seconds to 1 minute per image.

- At the conclusion of each critique, the judge will award a rating of A, B, or C to each image, as follows:
 - A a better-than-average photograph
 - B an average photograph
 - C a below-average photograph, one needing more work
 (There is no limit to the number of images which receive any of the scores; there is no *curve* on which the photographs must be rated.)
- When all the images have been critiqued and rated, the judge will review all the “A” images to select those which are clearly superior and will be awarded “**Honors.**” (There is no limit to the number of “A” images which may receive “**Honors**”—some of them, all of them, or none of them.)
- Finally, from those images awarded “**Honors,**” the judge will select one image to be “**Print/Slide/Projected Digital Image-of-the-Month.**”

General Rules

- All print and slide entries must be submitted to the Competition Committee at least 15 minutes before the start of the competition. Since the competitions are scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm, all entries must be submitted by 6:45 pm. The Competition Committee will be ready to accept your entries at about 6:15 pm. Projected digital images must be submitted at least 1 week prior to the night of the competition. Projected digital images must be submitted by e-mail (pwcccompetition@yahoo.com). In addition, you may submit your entries up to several weeks before the actual competition night—see the page *Early Entry*.
- All entries must be marked for proper identification and orientation—see the page *Preparing Entries*.
- All entries must have a **descriptive** title for identification purposes. Remember, with close to 100 entries in any given month, things get confusing, especially in the dark.

Scoring

Photographs entered in monthly competitions receive points. At the end of the season, points are tallied, and awards are given for first, second, and third places.

Points are awarded as follows:

2 points	“C” images
4 points	“B” images
8 points	“A” images
10 points	“Honors” images
12 points	“Print/Slide/Projected Digital Image-of-the-Month”

Reentry

Only slides, prints, or projected digital images which failed to win an “A” may be re-entered in any subsequent monthly competition.

Any slide, print or projected digital image reentered into a monthly competition will receive 50% of the points as listed above.

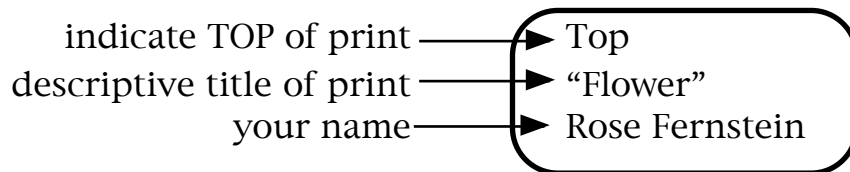
Images which to all intents and purposes duplicate a previously entered image shall be considered reentries.

Images may be entered into one of the other competition categories in subsequent competition years without penalty.

Preparing Entries for Club Competitions

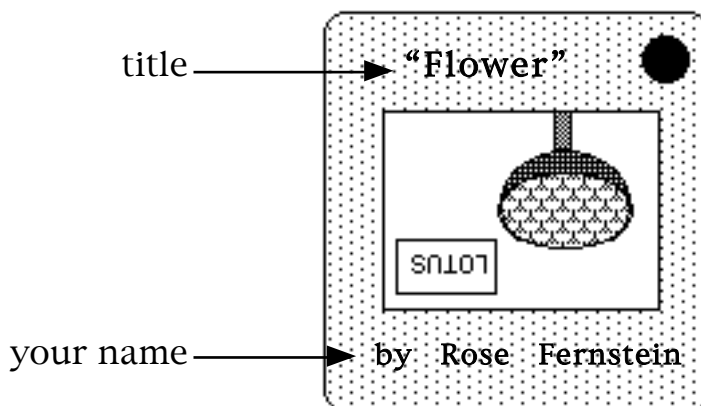
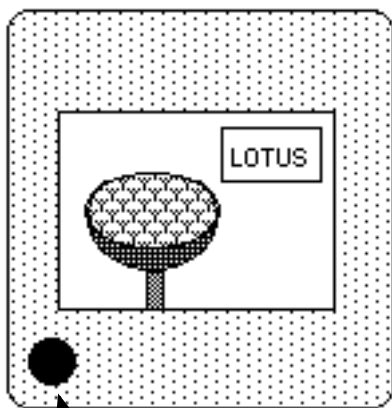
Prints

- photographs must be securely mounted
- photographs may not be framed nor covered by glass, plastic, Saran, etc.
- photographs may not be signed, titled, nor dated on the front of the print, mount, or mat
- the following information must be **printed clearly** on the back/top of the mount:



Slides

- slides must be mounted in a 2”x2” cardboard, plastic, or thin-glass mount
- follow these steps for marking and labeling
 1. position slide right-side-up with any words readable
 2. place a marker (tape, ink, peel-and-stick dot, etc.) in the lower left-hand corner
 3. rotate the slide so the marker is now in the upper right-hand corner
 4. write the descriptive title and your name directly on the mount or on an adhesive label



Preparing a Digital Image for Projection

1. Start with a high resolution original image. Make sure your monitor is calibrated to some known colorspace (sRGB, AdobeRGB(1998), etc.). Use your favorite imaging program (Photoshop, Elements, Picture Window Pro, etc.) to prepare your original electronic image to look good on your monitor.
2. Create a duplicate of your original image (In Photoshop, click on Image>Duplicate). Close your original image for safekeeping and use the copy for the following steps.
3. If your image is in 16 bit mode (16 bits per color channel), change it to 8 bits (In Photoshop, click Image>Mode>Convert to 8 Bits/Channel).
4. Resize the image (In Photoshop, click Image>ImageSize).
5. Make sure that the “Resample Image” and the “Constrain Proportions” boxes are checked. Set the Resolution to 72 pixels per inch. Resize the image by typing 1,024 for the Pixel Dimensions Width for a horizontal image OR use 768 for the Pixel Dimensions Height if the image is a vertical. Make sure that the width does not exceed 1024 pixels AND that the height does not exceed 768 pixels. Then click OK.
6. Convert the image to sRGB color space (In Photoshop, click Edit>ConvertToProfile).
7. Sharpen the image at this stage. For Photoshop's Unsharp Mask filter, I suggest Amount = 150%, Radius = 0.4 and Threshold = 2.
8. Save your image as a jpeg/in the .jpg format using the “Save As” command. Type in a new file name for the image using either of the following formats:

for competition— LastNameFirstInitial_Compensation_Title.jpg

For example, I would type in the filename: PineC_Jan06_BirdOnBranch.jpg

for other uses— LastNameFirstInitial_Title.jpg

For example, I would type in the filename: PineC_BirdOnBranch.jpg

Choose a moderate level of compression for the jpeg, typically 6-9 in Photoshop to keep the total compressed file size below 1 MegaByte.

Save the image to the desktop or into a folder you've created for projected images.

Digital Image Submission

For Competitions

1. Prepare your images according to the procedures indicated in *Preparing a Digital Image for Projection*.
2. E-mail your images as attachments to the PWCC Competition Committee at pwcccompetition@yahoo.com (use a separate e-mail for each image) [note the 3 consecutive 'c's in the address]
3. Images must be e-mailed to the Competition Committee at least one (1) week prior to the competition night (this is usually, but not always, the business meeting). Please be sure that your images arrive before midnight on the scheduled delivery day. Late arrivals will not be accepted into the competition.

Images that are not prepared according to the procedures indicated in *Preparing a Digital Image for Projection at PWCC* will not be accepted.

For Portfolio Nights, Theme Nights, etc. (but not competitions)

1. Prepare your images according to the procedures indicated in *Preparing a Digital Image for Projection*.
2. Burn your images onto a CD or drag them onto a flash drive/thumb drive.
3. Bring the CD/flash drive/thumb drive to the meeting or event at which it is to be viewed. Be sure to arrive at least 30 minutes (1/2 hour) before the start of the meeting/event.

Early Entry of Images

1. Follow the directions for marking...
 - prints — name, descriptive title, and TOP of print indicator
 - slides — name, descriptive title, and orientation dot
 - projected digital images —
 LastNameFirstInitial_Compensation_DescriptiveTitle.jpg
2. Fill out an entry slip for your slides.
3. Give your prints or slides (along with the entry slip, if slides) to a member of the Competition Committee at the Club meeting prior to the competition. Or, place your prints or slides in the large blue plastic portfolio in the Soho Photo office with a note saying what monthly competition they are for. If you are unable to attend the competition, your submissions will be returned to the blue portfolio at the end of competition night. For projected digital images, e-mail your files at any time prior to 1 week before the competition.

Please note: If your prints or slides are left in the blue plastic portfolio at Soho Photo, we can assume no responsibility for the safety (from loss, theft, damage, etc.) of your images either before, during, or after the competition night.