

Competition Manual for 2016-2017

Competition night at the Park West Camera Club is the first Monday evening of each month from October to May, some holidays excepted. Separate competitions are held on each of these nights for prints and projected digital images.

- Up to four entries taken by the member may be submitted each month. This may include up to two prints and up to two projected digital images.
- The inclusion of clip art, textures, web images, etc., is not permitted as part of an image unless created by the member.
- Prints may be commercially printed but the creative work must be the member's.
- All paper-based entries must be mounted on a rigid backing. The print category includes all digital, traditional, and alternative techniques. 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 material is not permitted.
- In the case of projected digital images, the photographer must have done all the work to complete the image. 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 Digital Images for Projection below.

For each of the competitions the following procedures apply:

- A preview of all entries (projected digital images will be projected, prints will be held up for viewing), each for about 5 seconds
- A second showing will proceed at a slower pace, allowing the judge to critique each image individually. This critique may include comments about subject matter, composition, exposure, etc.
- 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 that 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 that are clearly superior and will be awarded "Honors."
- There is no limit to the number of "A" images that 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 Image-of-the-Month" and one image to be "Projected Digital Image-of-the-Month."

General Rules

- All print entries must be submitted to the Competition Committee at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting which is usually 7 pm. The Competition Committee will be ready to accept your entries at about 6:15 pm. Projected digital images must be submitted at least one week prior to the night of the competition.
- Projected digital images must be submitted by e-mail (pwcccompetition@yahoo.com).
- All entries must be marked for proper identification and orientation — see Preparing Entries (Print and Digital) below.
- All entries must have a descriptive title for identification purposes. Remember, with 100 or more entries in any given month, things get confusing, especially in the dark.

Scoring

- Photographs entered in monthly competitions receive points. Points are awarded as follows:
 - 2 points “C” images
 - 4 points “B” images
 - 8 points “A” images
 - 10 points “A with Honors” images
 - 12 points “Print/Projected Digital Image-of-the-Month”
- At the end of the season, points are tallied and awards are given for first, second, and third places in each category (prints and projected digital images)

Reentry

- Only prints or projected digital images which failed to win an “A” may be re-entered in any subsequent monthly competition, and only into the same category in which it was originally entered.
- Any print or projected digital image reentered into a monthly competition will receive 50% of the points as listed above.
- Any image which to all intents and purposes duplicates a previously entered image shall be considered a reentry.
- Images may be entered into the other competition category in subsequent competition years without penalty (Prints as PDIs, PDIs as Prints).

Year-End Competition

- On the first Monday of June the Club will hold the Year-End Competition. Only unaltered entries from the past year’s monthly competitions (October through May) may be entered in the Year-End Competition. Each member may submit up to four images in each category (prints and projected digital images). One winner and four runners-up will be awarded in each category.

Preparing Print Entries for Club Competitions

- Photographs must be securely mounted. Improperly mounted prints will be disqualified.
- Photographs must not be framed or covered by glass, plastic, Saran Wrap, etc.
- Photographs must not be signed, titled, or dated on the front of the print, mount, or mat.
- The information below must be printed clearly on the top center of the back of the mount, using either the club's label or yours. Labels must be securely mounted to your print or your print will be disqualified.
- As part of your print submission, please submit a digital file of your print to Helen Pine for inclusion in the monthly Print Slide Show. Reformat the file just as you would for a PDI file (see below) and email it to Helen Pine at pwccny@aol.com.

Sample label for the back of prints



The label is a red rectangular box with a white border. On the left side, it contains the text "PWCC Print Competition 2016-2017 Season" in white and blue. In the center, there is a blue square with the word "TOP" in white, flanked by four white arrows pointing upwards. On the right side, there is a white rectangular box labeled "Print #".

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

This image is a *re-entry*.

↙ To remove label, lift here

Preparing Digital Images for Projection (PDIs)

Start with a high-resolution original image. Make sure your monitor is calibrated to a known color space (sRGB, AdobeRGB(1998), etc.).

- Use your favorite imaging program (Photoshop, Elements, Lightroom, Picture Window Pro, etc.) to prepare your original electronic image to look good on your monitor.
- 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.
- 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).
- Resize the image (In Photoshop, click Image>Image Size).
- Make sure that the “Resample Image” and the “Constrain Proportions” boxes are checked. Set the Resolution to 72 pixels per inch first. Resize the image by typing 1400 for the Pixel Dimensions Width for a horizontal image, or use 1050 for the Pixel Dimensions Height if the image is vertical. Make sure that the width does not exceed 1400 pixels and that the height does not exceed 1050 pixels. Then click OK.
- Convert the image to sRGB color space (In Photoshop, click Edit>Convert to Profile>sRGB IEC61966-2.1).
- Sharpen the image at this stage. For Photoshop's Unsharp Mask filter, Amount = 150%, Radius = 0.4, and Threshold = 2 are recommended settings.
- 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_MonthYear (of Competition) _DescriptiveTitle.jpg
 For example, type in the filename: PineC_Jan16_BirdOnBranch.jpg
- For other uses:
 LastNameFirstInitial_ImageNumber.jpg
 For example, type in the filename: PineC_01.jpg
- Choose a moderate level of compression for the jpeg, typically 6-9 in Photoshop, to keep the total compressed file size below a megabyte.
- Save the image to the desktop or into a folder for projected images.

Digital Image Submission

For Competitions

- Prepare your images according to the procedures indicated in Preparing Digital Images for Projection.
- E-mail your images as attachments to the PWCC Competition Committee at pwcccompetition@yahoo.com (use one e-mail for both images). Please note the three consecutive “c”s in the address.
- Images must be e-mailed to the Competition Committee at least one 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.
- Some e-mail programs, like Apple's Mail, ask you to “size” your images. You must select “Actual Size” — not Small, Medium, or Large. For other mail programs, select “Print Quality” if that's an option, not “Email Quality”.
- To get a confirmation that your images were received and are correct, send an e-mail request to hfklein@mindspring.com.
- Images that are not prepared according to the procedures indicated in Preparing Digital Images for Projection will not be accepted.

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

- Prepare your images according to the procedures indicated in Preparing Digital Images for Projection.
- Burn your images onto a CD or copy them onto a flash drive/thumb drive.
- 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 before the start of the meeting/event.

Early Entry of Images

Arrangements can be made for the early submission of prints and digital images. Please contact one of the competition committee chairs or another knowledgeable member of the club.