Park West Camera Club
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Competition Manual for 2014-2015

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 and projected digital images.

- Up to four (4) entries taken by the member may be submitted each month. This may include up to two (2) prints and/or up to two (2) projected digital images.
- In the case of prints and digital images, the inclusion of clip art, textures, web images or the like, are not permitted as part of an image unless they were created by the member.
- In the case of prints, prints may be commercially printed, but all creative work must be done by the member. All paper-based entries must be mounted on a rigid backing. The print category includes all digital, traditional, and alternative techniques. All 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 projected digital images, the photographer must have done all the work to complete the image. All 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 Digital Images for Projection***, page 4.

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

- 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. This critique will be limited to under 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 may 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/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, 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 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 ***Early Entry of Images***, page 6.
- All entries must be marked for proper identification and orientation — see ***Preparing Entries (Print and Digital)***, page 3 and page 4.
- 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.
- 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

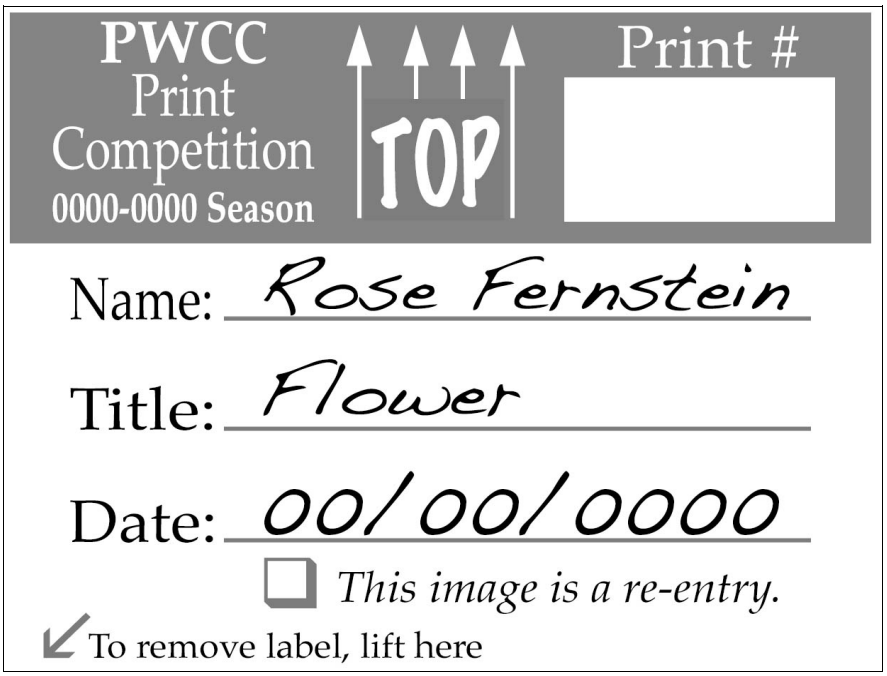
- Only prints, or projected digital images which failed to win an "A" may be re-entered in any subsequent monthly competition, and only into the same category in which it was originally entered.
- Any print or projected digital image reentered into a monthly competition will receive 50% of the points 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.

Year-End Competition

- On the first Monday of June the Club will hold the Year-End Competition. Only *unaltered* entries from this past year's monthly competitions (October through May) may be entered in the Year-End Competition. Each member may submit up to four (4) images in each category (prints and projected digital images). One (1) winner and four (4) runners-up will be awarded in each category.

Preparing Print Entries for Club Competitions

1. Photographs must be securely mounted. Improperly mounted prints will be disqualified.
2. Photographs must not be framed nor covered by glass, plastic, Saran Wrap, etc.
3. Photographs must not be signed, titled, nor dated on the front of the print, mount, or mat.
4. The information below must be printed clearly on the back/top/center 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.
5. As part of your print submission, please submit a digital file of your print to Helen Pine for inclusion in the monthly Print Slideshow. Reformat the file just as you would for a PDI file and email it to Helen Pine at pwccny@aol.com.



Sample label for the back of prints

Preparing Digital Images for Projection (PDIs)

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 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.
6. Convert the image to sRGB color space
   (In Photoshop, click Edit>Convert to Profile>sRGB IEC61966-2.1).
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_MonthYear (of Competition) _DescriptiveTitle.jpg
   For example, type in the filename: ***PineC_Jan15_BirdOnBranch***.jpg

   For other uses —
   LastNameFirstInitial_ImageNumber.jpg
   For example, type in the filename: ***PineC_01***.jpg
9. 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 Digital Images for Projection***, page 4.
2. E-mail your images as attachments to the PWCC Competition Committee at <pwcccompetition@yahoo.com> (use ***one*** e-mail for both images) [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.
4. Some e-mail programs, like Apple's Mail, ask you to "size" your images. You ***must*** select "Actual Size" — not Small, Medium, nor Large. For other mail programs, select "Print Quality" if that's an option, NOT "Email Quality".
5. To get a confirmation that your image(s) were received, and are correct, send an e-mail request to <hfklein@mindspring.com> [Note — you must take the initiative if you want confirmation.]

Images that are not prepared according to the procedures indicated in ***Preparing Digital Images for Projection***, page 4, 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 Digital Images for Projection***, page 4.
2. Burn your images onto a CD or copy 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 (½ hour) before*** the start of the meeting/event.

Early Entry of Images

1. Follow the directions for marking…

   Prints (see page 4) —
   Name, Descriptive Title, Date, and TOP of the print indicator

   Projected Digital Images (see page 5) —
   LastNameFirstInitial_MonthYear(of Competition)_DescriptiveTitle.jpg

2. Give your prints to a member of the Competition Committee at the Club meeting prior to the competition. Or, place your prints in the Club's large black portfolio case in the Soho Photo office along 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 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 are left in the 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.

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