

Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club

Member Handbook

2008-2009



Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club

Dear Member:

I would like to formally welcome you to the Manassas Warrenton Camera Club (MWCC). We hope to satisfy your desire to improve your photography as well as meet new people who also have an interest in photography.

The club year runs from September through May with the awards banquet in June. The usual schedule is the first Thursday night each month is for programs and the third Thursday night for competitions. Along the way we will offer workshops, field trips, and our annual club assignment. We are also members of the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs (NOVACC). The NOVACC is a collection of camera clubs in Northern Virginia that cross advertise their events each year. As a member of MWCC you are welcome to attend events that look interesting to you at any of the other clubs.

On MWCC meeting nights, the doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. On program nights, there will be a 30-minute business meeting and then we will present an expert in a particular field of photography. This presentation will last for about an hour with opportunity to ask as many questions as you like. This is where we learn the latest in photography as well as stretch our photographic horizons.

Competitions are for both digital projected images and prints. Entrees must be submitted by 7:30 p.m. The meeting starts with a business session lasting approximately 15 minutes. Then the competition begins. There are three classes such as: color prints, black and white prints, and digital projected images. Within each class there are three divisions of competition: novice, intermediate, and advanced. Please read the Rules of Competition for all the details. The idea is not only to win a ribbon or score the highest points, but also to listen to the judge's critique for helpful hints toward improvement.

We will have periodic field trips and local area workshops. Both activities offer opportunities to improve skills, work on competition themes and the club assignment, and to just have fun. Workshops are presentations from expert photographers that include assignments for the participants. The results of the assignments will be critiqued as part of the workshop. Attendance in these workshops is limited, therefore early registration is recommended

The Board of Directors suggests a club project early in the year. The subject of the club project may be a specific item, a method, an area whereby we go as a group or individually, etc. We will present our results at the program meeting in May.

You will receive an email announcement each month regarding the monthly newsletter, "The Proof Sheet". The newsletter is available on our website (www.mwcc-photo.org). It will keep you up to date with club activities, current scores, and other interesting articles. We look forward to having you participate in MWCC. Our members are our vital resource. We hope you

learn something each time you come to the club. We hope you meet new friends to help make your membership more enjoyable.

A Members Handbook, which follows this letter, provides information about how the club operates and its benefits.

I thank you for joining the Manassas Warrenton Camera Club. I look forward to meeting you and seeing your photography in one of our forums. I believe the club will meet your expectations for your continued growth in photography.

Sincerely,
The President

General Information

Meetings: First and Third Thursday every month, September thru May. MWCC is an open club and visitors are welcome. There are two Members Nights held sometime during the summer months (details found on our webpage).

Meeting Place: Meetings are held in Old Town Manassas at:
Manassas City Hall
9027 Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110
Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

Directions to Manassas City Hall:

Route 66 Manassas Exit (South) onto Route 234 (Sudley Road) to right on Grant Avenue, left on Center Street (Route 28 North), stay in right lane, to right into City Hall parking lot.

Internet: MWCC has a web site and it can be found at: <http://www.mwcc-photo.org>
Send email to: president@mwcc-photo.org

Weather Policy:

In the event of bad weather, the MWCC will follow the Prince William County School closing schedule. If PW County Schools are closed on the day of a meeting night, we will not meet that night. The PW County Information Line is (703) 791-2776, then press 3 for school closing information. Missed program nights will be cancelled; competitions will be rescheduled.

Programs

Of the two monthly meetings, one is set-aside especially for programs. Each program is arranged to provide an educational input to a specific form of photography. The program is often arranged to coincide with an upcoming competition. Program topics cover a broad spectrum of the vast field of photography.

Photography, over the years, has seen considerable changes. It is still changing as can be seen by the introduction of digital photography. Whether we as individuals have the desire to change with the technological changes is in part up to each individual. Be aware though, in some cases we do not have a choice. The evolution of the camera, film, and developing process forces us to conform.

The varied information covers topics for the novice through the advanced photographer. The individual(s) putting on the program is knowledgeable in the specific topic. He or she may be a professional, like a manufacturer's representative, a portraiture photographer, a renowned speaker or educator, a photographer from another club, or even from within our own club. When the individual is selected, it is because of his or her ability to convey a message about a subject we, as photographers, can learn from.

Some of the past topics have been on subjects such as travel tips, use of filters, potential photographic sites, and composition. One program is usually set-aside for a "Club Project". The assignment is designed to stretch and challenge all photographers. It may be a place, a concept, a technique, or a thing. You may chose to work alone, or as a group throughout the year. Each individual then brings in his or her results for viewing by the membership at the assigned meeting. This is one of the more educational and interesting meetings.

In general, the best array of programs is when a selection of topics is made where the most members have an interest and will benefit from. This is the intent of the club. Any member can suggest a program topic. Tell the individual in charge of programs what you would like to have. While it is preferable to do so early in the club year, you can do it anytime. Just remember, you may not get your request immediately but if you do not let your desires known you probably will never get them.

Competition

Competition is one of the main activities of the MWCC and is considered an ideal tool for improving one's photographic skills. The competition includes both digital projected images and prints, and participation is limited to active members of MWCC (dues paid in full for the club year). This is a friendly competition with the judging performed by knowledgeable individuals, usually from outside the club. These individuals are selected for their background in the field of photography and their ability to provide feedback to the entrants.

Nine monthly competitions are held from September through May. Each competition has a specific category or theme. Each competition has three (3) classes and within each class there are three (3) divisions. The classes are color prints, black and white prints, and digital projected image. Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced make up the divisions. Included in this handbook is a set of the Competition Rules, along with the class, division, and theme definitions. At the end of the club year, a competition is held for all photographs awarded ribbons or high digital projection scores (7, 8, 9) during the club year. Top 10 Awards are presented in June, in conjunction with the Awards banquet.

In each monthly competition the judge will critique the entries. This provides a wonderful opportunity for learning ways to improve one's techniques. For convenience, the monthly competition requires only a few simple steps on your part. First, familiarize yourself with the competition rules. Second, on the third Thursday of each club month bring your print entries to the club meeting. The door opens at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM. When you arrive, find the sign-in form for the division and class you are entering. The sign-in folders are usually on a long table against the wall or in the front of the room. Fill in your name and entry title. Place your photograph next to the sign-in folder. Included in this handbook are comments describing how to label your prints for competition. Digital projected image submissions will follow the Digital Projection Guidelines found on our web site. Third, meet new people, old friends, talk photography, or just sit down and relax. When the judging begins, watch and listen to the critique. This is where we all can learn something. Please keep in mind that during the judging there is no talking. After the evening's activities are over, collect your photographs and start preparing for the next competition. If at any time you find you need help, ask anyone. They will point you in the right direction. It's that easy.

In May, any prints that were awarded a ribbon during the club year are eligible for the End of Year Competition. They will be collected, judged, and returned at the Awards Banquet. Digital projected images that received points of 7, 8, or 9 will automatically be submitted unless the photographer chooses to withdrawal the image from the End of Year Competition. At the awards banquet, a Photographer of the Year in each division and class is recognized. The Top Ten photographs, prints and digital projected images of the year, are also recognized.

Remember, participating in the competitions is learning. Where else can you get someone to provide helpful information about your individual photographs for free. Enclosed in this handbook is a section titled "Merit Prints-Most Important Elements". Use these techniques to aid in improving your skills. Bring your work to the next competition. We'll see you there. And last but not least, if you need more information or still need help, ask the Vice-President of Competition. He or she will gladly help.

Good luck!

Field Trips

Field trips are an excellent way to find new and varying material for photographing. As used by our camera club, a field trip is a group of photographers traveling together with the intent of photographing subjects found at a specific location. The location may be small in subject, such as a specific church, or large in subject, such as a countryside looking for old barns.

Planning for field trips is done ahead of time with the intent of attracting the maximum number of participants. Usually, scheduling is on a weekend day although mid-week and evening trips are possible. Individuals meet at a prearranged location and travel together to the selected site. A full day is usually required. Occasionally an overnight stay may be necessary. Plans for meals and other sundry items must also be considered. Although most individuals on any given field trip consist of members of our club, there may also be members from other camera clubs. Through the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs and each club's newsletter, field trip information is published and members of other clubs are welcome to attend.

Field trips bring together photographers with a wide range of expertise. This allows the sharing of ideas and techniques, the opportunity for more experienced photographers to share their expertise with those less experienced, and the less experienced to ask questions and be shown actual examples using their own equipment. It also provides a chance for socializing. Socializing is paramount in gaining knowledge from the trip. The more interaction of the participants, the more knowledge shared. In other words, a field trip is more than just taking photographs. It is a learning experience. It should also be a fun trip. The more you enjoy yourself, the more likely you will be to expand your knowledge level.

Each field trip has a leader whose responsibility is to plan and coordinate the trip. If questions arise during the trip or you have a suggestion, talk to the Field Trip Coordinator. If a field trip is scheduled and you are interested but not sure what to expect, talk to the coordinator.

For individuals to have an enjoyable and successful trip they must know the details of the trip and plan accordingly. In addition to trip information, you should also be prepared photographically. This means having extra batteries, various lenses, weather protection for yourself and equipment (yes, you can photograph in the rain if you are prepared), plenty of film or digital storage, and a will to have a successful trip. Multiple field trips will be planned. You should be selective in which ones you go on. Generally speaking, more is better, but if you go on a trip where the emphasis is on an area of photography in which you have little or no desire it may be discouraging on your part. This is not meant to discourage anyone from participating in field trips, but rather to assure that the most knowledge and enjoyment is obtained from your effort.

The Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs has published a manual on field trips titled "Field Trip Guide Book". This book is quite extensive in providing information on field trip planning and possible destinations. The book is available for a nominal fee. To inquire about this book contact the Field Trip Coordinator.

Workshops

An important function within the club's activities is the workshop. Workshops are where a knowledgeable individual(s) provides information and/or instructions about a specific topic within the photographic field.

A workshop may be a lecture with demonstration, using slides or hardware, or may include actual hands-on activities. Workshops vary in detail and duration. Some workshops may last for an hour or two while others may last for a week or more. Most workshops for our club are of shorter duration lasting for several hours during a weekday evening or on a weekend. Multiple club workshops are generally several days in length.

Workshops include a broad spectrum of topics. Examples include but are not limited to; Achieving Sharpness, Useful Accessories, Black Light, Composition, Print Matting, Filters, Metering, Portraiture, Digital Imaging, Darkroom, and Beginning Photography. The topic for a specific workshop is often determined by the desires of the membership. To input your idea for a specific topic talk to the individual in charge of developing the workshops. Generally, there is a limit to the number of participants for a given workshop. This is so each individual is given adequate time to actively participate. Sign-up sheets are used to determine the number of individuals who express interest in a planned workshop. When the number of individuals exceeds those that can be handled, multiple workshops may be held. In this case, placement of individuals may be selective.

Workshops may be held within the club or with other camera clubs. Other camera clubs also hold workshops. These events are usually publicized and generally made available on a "space available status". Workshop locations may be at the club's meeting place, an individual's home, or an educational facility.

Workshops provide numerous opportunities to improve one's skills. They provide the chance to see how to perform a technique, ask questions, have your own work critiqued, see the work of others, or to talk to other photographers about their work. Workshops held with members from other clubs are particularly helpful since there are individuals present from various photographic backgrounds. Often a completely different approach to a given technique is brought out. Generally speaking, workshops where actual participation and homework assignments are required are the most beneficial.

Participation in the workshops is a benefit of belonging to the camera club. When you attend a workshop you should be prepared to fully take part in the activities. This not only benefits you but also provides others the opportunity to see your work and provide a basis for discussion. Workshop discussions should include instructions in addition to questions on areas that are not understood. An important thing to remember, critiquing is important to understanding how to improve your photography competition skills. A critique session should be viewed as a positive experience where both the positive features and those areas where improvement could be made are brought to the forefront.

If you think you would like to participate in a workshop you should be aware that it may seem overwhelming, particularly if it is your first experience. Do not be dismayed. As you become accustomed to the experience you will become more at ease and gain more from the experience. There will be photographers with different levels of expertise. This will actually be to your benefit. One of the benefits is that you will learn from your fellow members.

Officers

The Manassas Warrenton Camera Club is a well-defined organization with individuals assigned responsibilities for its everyday duties. All well run organizations must have individuals who are dedicated to the responsibility of maintaining the established goals and direction that has been set forth.

These individuals are elected by the membership at the end of each club year for the upcoming year. Volunteers are solicited for each position prior to the election. Each position has specific responsibilities that require various time and effort. Being an officer of the club provides added benefits. It provides the opportunity to participate in laying out the club plans for the future; working with photographers from outside the club; and seeing the benefits of your work evolve throughout the year.

Each member should consider what they, as individuals, could give back to the club. Experience in a position is not a requirement. Many members have, in the past, volunteered for specific positions without prior experience and performed admirably. If you would like to participate as an officer of the club and have a specific position in mind, but need more information, talk to the individual presently holding that office. Performing these tasks can be rewarding, educational and sometimes entertaining. Near the end of each year, a nominating committee is formed to find new officers for the upcoming year. If you decide you would like to participate in the club as an officer let any member of the committee know.

The following is a partial listing of each position's responsibility:

- 1. President:** Coordinates all activities; oversees all administrative meetings; leads all business meetings.
- 2. 1st Vice President:** Assists the president in his duties; takes over the president's responsibilities in case the office of the president is vacated.
- 3. 2nd Vice President – Programs:** Coordinates the monthly Program Meetings; establishes the program subjects; obtains speakers and or demonstrations as necessary; works with the competition and workshop individuals to provide a continuity of subject matter.
- 4. 3rd Vice President – Competition:** Coordinates the monthly competitions and year-end competition; obtains judges for all competitions; establishes the monthly competition subjects; assembles individuals to assist in the competitions; maintains documentation associated with the competitions; obtains competition ribbons and plaques; provides the editor with the results from each competition.
- 5. Treasurer:** Maintains the club's finances, including those of MWCC Seminars; provides new members with receipts for membership dues; coordinates, with the secretary, the periodic raffling of items as fundraisers.
- 6. Secretary:** Maintains the minutes of all administrative meetings; maintains the membership roster; provides email addresses to the 1st VP; provides each member with a membership application form; maintains miscellaneous information provided for memberships use such as the Members Handbook and the Judges Handbook; and provides name tags for each member.

- 7. Editor:** Prepares and maintains the monthly newsletter; maintains results of the monthly competitions.
- 8. Publicity:** Maintains the club's brochure, arranges exhibits of our club work, gets press recognition, and provides informational notices to various news organizations.
- 9. Webmaster:** Develops and maintains the club's website. Coordinates with the editor for posting the newsletter and notifies the 1st VP when the information is available.
- 10. Field Trips:** Coordinates periodic field trips; works with programs, competition and workshop individuals to provide photographic opportunities where practical.
- 11. Workshops:** Coordinates workshop efforts; obtains individuals to provide various demonstrations and projects for the membership to participate in, and works with competition and program individuals to provide a continuity of subject matter.
- 12. Representative - Prince William Council of the Arts:** Maintains a contact with the Arts Council, thereby promoting the benefits of the camera club.
- 13. Public Relations:** Recommends and oversees possible community outreach activities, such as providing classes to local schools having a photography course, and coordinating the activities related to MWCC sponsored Seminars.

Rules of Competition

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of competitions within the Manassas Warrenton Camera Club (MWCC) is to improve the photographic skills of the members and to allow them to display their creative work.

1.2 The Club's competition year is comprised of a series of monthly competitions starting in September and ending in May.

1.3 A Competition Committee will be formed to assist the Vice President for Competitions. The Committee's duties are to assist the Vice President in running the monthly competitions and carrying out all other matters as outlined in the Rules of Competition. The Vice President for Competitions serves as Chairperson of the Competition Committee.

1.4 All amendments to the Rules of Competition will be presented and implemented in accordance with the MWCC Bylaws and Constitution.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Competitors must be members of the Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club in good standing.

2.2 While no age restriction for the entries is applicable, photographers are encouraged to enter photographs that are indicative of their current work. The Competition Committee may establish special competitions for which the age restrictions are modified.

2.3 A print that has won first, second, or third place once or an honorable mention award twice may never be resubmitted in another MWCC monthly competition. A digital projected image that has received a score of 7, 8 or 9 may never be resubmitted in another MWCC monthly competition.

2.4 Anyone who receives an award of 7-8-9 will have their image placed in our webpage Gallery to recognize their achievement. These images can only compete again in the End of Year competition. Anyone who receives a 4-5-6 will be permitted to re-submit their image in another competition where the images fits the theme. Anyone receiving less than 4 will not be permitted to submit the image in any upcoming competition. Anyone who receives a score of 1 because the judge said it "did not meet the theme or spirit of the themed competition" may petition the VP of Competition to have the entry removed from the submission list. This must be done by the end of the evening of the same competition night once the digital competition judging has been concluded.

2.5 It is the competitor's responsibility to bring all questionable entries to the attention of the Vice-President of Competitions PRIOR to the start of the competition. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the applicable entry.

3. Competition

3.1 A competition will be held every month from September through May in each class. Competitions are generally held on the third Thursday of every month with the exception of December, when they are held on the first Thursday of the month.

3.2 Competitions canceled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled.

3.3 Competition subjects will be established prior to the start of the competition year. Subject definitions will be published in the first newsletter of each Club year and be available at club meetings.

3.4 A maximum of two (2) images may be entered by each competitor in each class. A maximum of four (4) images may be entered in a single competition evening. This number may be reduced for a specific competition at the discretion of the Vice-President for Competitions.

3.5 Entries will not be accepted after the cut off time established by the Vice President of Competitions. This time will be determined prior to the beginning of the competition year and included in the monthly newsletters.

3.6 Competitions will be divided into the following three (3) divisions, each of which includes three (3) classes for the entry of images (see section 3.8 below). Members entering competition for the first time are encouraged to consult with the Vice-President of Competition, or other club officer, to aide in determining which division is applicable to their entry.

3.6.1 Novice - Any individual new to photography who is learning basic photographic principles and concepts such as metering, composition, mastering the camera's manual operation.

3.6.2 Intermediate - Any individual who has competed in the Novice Division the previous year or who has mastered the basic photographic skills and is at a skill level above that expected of a novice.

3.6.3 Advanced - Any individual who has been named Photographer of the Year at the Intermediate Level or who has demonstrated photographic skills that consistently maintain an exemplar quality.

3.7 An individual can be promoted under the following conditions:

3.7.1 An individual who has competed in the Novice Division is automatically advanced to the Intermediate Division upon being named as Photographer of the Year in one or more classes. The competition committee will review the work of all other novices and in conjunction with the novice determine if the novice shall be promoted to the intermediate class or remain in the novice class for another year.

3.7.2 An individual named Photographer of the Year in the Intermediate Division classes is automatically promoted to the Advanced Division effective the following year.

3.7.3 Any individual may voluntarily move up a division level at any time within the club year; however, once the move has been made, the individual cannot move back down a level without an appeal to and approval by the Competition Committee. In the event of a mid-year self promotion (or voluntary promotion), an individual may retain one-half (1/2) of their points earned prior to the promotion. Said points are not to exceed the points earned by the highest scorer in the next higher division to which the transfer culminates.

3.7.4 The Competition Committee may determine, at any time within the club year, that the quality of an individual's work supports promoting that individual to the next higher division level. If such promotion occurs, one-half (1/2) of the points earned while competing in the lower division shall be carried to the next higher division. Said points are not to exceed the points earned by the highest scorer in the division to which the transfer culminates. No such promotion shall occur after the fifth competition of the year.

3.8 Images will be entered into the following classes within each of the three divisions:

3.8.1 Color Prints - All color and monochromatic prints, including those printed by the photographer or a commercial lab.

3.8.2 Black and White Prints - All black and white prints, including those printed by the photographer or a commercial lab.

3.8.3 Color and Black and White Digital Projection. Note: Images may be originally captured on film or by digital camera.

4. Image Format

4.1 Digital Projection Images – Size format and file size must conform to current requirements. All digital projection images must be submitted in advance by the due date for each competition published in the club newsletter.

4.2 Prints - The longest edge of the visible portion of the image must be between 6 inches and 16 inches, except for the longest edge of a Polaroid transfer which may be less than 6 inches. Additionally, Panoramic prints are permitted. In the case of panoramic prints, the matted dimensions shall not exceed 12 inches on the shortest side and 40 inches on the longest side. All prints must be mounted on a backing at least 1/16 inch thick to ensure that the photograph is adequately supported and protected. Over mats may be used without color restrictions. Mounts and mats shall not exceed 20 inches along the longest side. Prints may not be framed. No multiple print images are allowed. Prints shall have the maker's name and print title on the back with an arrow indicating the top of the print.

5. Awards

5.1 Monthly Awards

5.1.1 Prints: In every monthly competition, ribbons will be awarded in print classes as follows:

1-4 entries 1st place only
5-8 entries 1st and 2nd places

9-12 entries 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places
13-16 entries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 1 honorable mention
17-20 entries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 2 honorable mentions
21-24 entries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 3 honorable mentions
25-28 entries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4 honorable mentions
29-32 entries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5 honorable mentions
33-36 entries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6 honorable mentions
37 and more entries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7 honorable mentions

In addition to ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mentions, competitors will receive points for each entry as follows:

1st place 10 points
2nd place 8 points
3rd place 6 points
Honorable Mention 4 points
Entry not receiving an award 1 point

5.1.2 Digital Projection Awards: In every monthly competition, points will be award for each image as follows:

1 POINT: Use this score to disqualify an image. An image may be disqualified if it clearly infringes on another artist's copyright or if it is submitted for a category competition and the judge feels that it clearly does not fit.

2 POINTS: The image shows serious technical defects: gross under or over exposure, very poor focus or significant (and clearly unintended) camera movement, or similar problems.

3 POINTS: The image either has significant technical defects, serious shortcomings in image content, or some combination of these problems. Because most of the photographers who compete in our competitions have at least some photographic experience, we hope that this score and lower scores are rarely awarded.

4 POINTS: The image does not have significant technical defects or serious shortcomings in image content. However, it may have minor technical defects, and the content (composition, lighting, etc) is not well handled.

5 POINTS: The image is acceptable in most respects but does not create any significant interest.

6 POINTS: The image is reasonably solid, creating at least a little interest. Technical aspects and image content all competently handled. This is generally the average score for competitions.

7 POINTS: The image is very strong. Handling is a notch above competent, and the image rewards contemplation.

8 POINTS: The image is exceptional; unique and worthy of special recognition. You should feel excited about the image.

9 POINTS: The image is of the very highest quality; equal to the best you have seen. You feel that it should win a medal in major competition. This score is awarded only rarely in MWCC competitions.

5.2 End of Year Awards:

5.2.1 Photographer of The Year - At the end of the competition year, the Club will recognize the Photographer of The Year in each class. These awards will be made to the competitors with the highest point totals in each class during the competition year. Points are not transferable between classes. In addition, to be eligible for Photographer of the Year, the competitor must have entered at least five of the monthly competitions within a given class.

5.2.2 The Top Ten Prints, Top Ten Digital Projected Images, Print of the Year, and Digital Projected Image of the Year will be selected after the end of the competition year. All images that win an award during the year may be submitted for consideration, and there will not be any division distinctions for these awards. Judging will be conducted by a judge(s) who has not participated in any of the current year's monthly competitions. The Vice President for Competitions is responsible for selecting the judge(s).

5.2.3 The Competition Committee may recognize other photographers from time to time based upon the merit, quality, and consistency of their photographic work.

6. Judging

6.1 Selection of Judges: Judges will be selected from within the Club, other area camera clubs, local professional photographers, and photo-educators based upon their knowledge and skill as photographers and their experience critiquing others' work. For special subject competitions, an effort will be made to find a judge with a background in the subject to be judged. The Vice President for Competitions is responsible for selecting judges.

6.2 Judging Criteria: Judges will judge all images based upon the emotional impact of the image and the ability of the photographer to execute the theme. While cropping and composition affect the overall impact of the image, the use of "text book" composition is not an item of judging but is considered as part of the overall impact of the image.

6.3 Print Quality: The Club encourages each photographer to make the best quality image possible, including the production of the highest quality prints to be entered into competition. The print quality will not be a separate item of judging; however, it will be considered as part of the overall impact of the photograph.

6.4 Judge's Discretion: The judge may remove from competition any image that is believed to be in poor taste or that does not meet the requirements of a special subject competition.

How to Label Your Digital Image Files

Details will be published each year in the newsletter and posted on the webpage under "digital projection guidelines".

Competition Category Definitions

Unless otherwise defined for a specific competition these definitions shall be used.

Abstract: Blends of color, texture, shape, form, and light to create a design-patterned image.

Architecture: Buildings, interiors, ruins, bridges, statues, sculptures, monuments, memorials, or anything where manmade structures are the principal interest.

Close-up: Images that result from the use of close-up lenses, or macro lenses, where the magnification of the subject exceeds that obtained with a standard lens at a minimum focusing distance.

Earthscape: An expressive portrayal of a landscape or waterscape, not necessarily a literal recording of a scene but rather expresses the photographer's personal vision or emotion. An Earthscape does not show the hand of man.

Junk, Tools & Machinery: Images of materials, tools, or machinery that are old, discarded, or junk.

Macro: Images taken at a very close range with the use of a specially designed lens, extension tubes, diopters, etc., where the magnification exceeds that of a standard lens at minimum focusing distance.

Montage: An image created outside the camera by layering two or more separately captured images (e.g. placing two or more frames of slide film in one slide mount, printing two or more negatives over top of each other on the same piece of paper, or layering two or more images in a digital darkroom).

Multiple Exposure: An image created in the camera by placing more than one exposure on a single frame (e.g. one film frame or one digital image).

Nature: Images that illustrate the natural features of land, sea, or sky, or that reveal certain natural phenomena such as cloud formations, precipitation, frost, fire, etc., but do not show the hand of man.

Open: Any subject including those listed herein.

Photojournalism: Storytelling pictures where the activity itself is the center of interest.

Portraiture: An individual, or group of individuals, where the subject rather than the activity is the main interest.

Plants and Flowers: Images where plants and flowers are the principal interest.

Reflections: Images reproduced on a reflective surface such as clouds on water, or structures on window glass.

Rhythm & Symmetry: The image contains reoccurring patterns and/or images with corresponding size, form, and arrangements of parts on opposite sides of a plane, line, or point.

Shadows: Darkness cast upon a surface by a body, human, animal, or structure, intercepting the light rays.

Still Life: Small inanimate objects such as fruit, flowers, glassware, structures, etc., as the center of interest.

Transportation: An image showing the process of moving an object from one place to another and/or the equipment necessary to do so.

Wide Angle: An image which was produced with a 35mm lens or wider and exploiting the properties of the wide angle lens including different angles of view and perspective rather than just including more of the scene in the image.

Wind, Water, Earth & Fire: The image must contain at least two of the four elements: a visual portrayal of the flow of air, water in the form of a solid or liquid, some form of soil, dirt, rock or sand, and some representation of fire (the actual fire, the glow from a fire, smoke, etc.).

Merit Prints - Most Important Elements

Judging photography is a subjective act, with personal preferences supported by a Judge's knowledge. Attempting to discern a particular judge's personal preferences is futile. It is possible, however, to codify the standards judges use to formulate their opinions. The photographic Exhibit Committee established the 12 critical elements of a merit-quality photograph. These elements are endorsed by the committee for use by International Print Competition judges. In order of importance these elements, with brief definitions, are:

1. Impact: Invokes a first-impression opinion from a judge. It is the aspect of the photograph that holds a judge's attention and commands him to look further. Impact stands at the top of this list because of its umbrella coverage; many other elements have the opportunity to create impact.

2. Creativity: Photographer's invention and design skills at work. It is the element that transfers imagination and feeling from the creator to the viewer, lifting the photograph into the realm of art.

3. Style: Distinguishes one photo from another in a manner that is real, not contrived. It expresses a photographer's individuality.

4. Composition: Divides a photograph into a successful arrangement of subject matter. It creates a harmonious rhythm in the photograph through symmetry and repetition.

5. Print Presentation: Addresses the choices made in cropping, matting, and mounting that enhance a photograph. It dares a photographer to be different in either a dynamic or traditional format.

6. Color Balance: Weighs the use of complementary colors (dark against light, strong against weak) and how these are incorporated into the subject matter of the photograph.

7. Center of Interest: Leads the viewer's eyes through a photograph without unnecessary distraction. It identifies a dominant component that gives strength and definition to a photograph. The center of interest should always be the focal point of, and supported by, secondary objects.

8. Lighting: Illuminates the characteristics, mood and statement of the subject matter. The correct quality of light stems from proper exposure.

9. Subject Matter: Is the appropriateness of the subject for the total interpretation of the photograph.

10. Print Quality: Comprises the levels of contrast, color, lighting, angles, and other elements that make a statement for the photo.

11. Technique: Is the foundation of photography which intermingles with a photographer's knowledge of art principles. It takes abstract ideas and makes them concrete.

12. Storytelling: Achieves the photo's narrative purpose. It builds an emotional response that challenges a viewer's imagination.

Reprinted from "Professional Photographer," January 1992.

Constitution

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be known as the Manassas Warrenton Camera Club and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Club.

Article II - Purpose

A. The purpose of this Club is:

1. to promote the art of photography in the community; to institute and promote such educational, and other programs as will foster public awareness of photography;
2. to develop the skills of the members through hands-on experience and educational opportunities;
3. and, to educate members in the technical and other aspect of photography and related industries through informative and educational programs.

B. The Club shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in any of its policies or programs.

C. The Club shall be empowered to receive gifts, devises, or bequests designated therefore, and to acquire property by purchase or lease, and to incur such obligations as may be necessary or convenient to carry out its objectives on a nonprofit basis.

D. The Club is not operated for profit, and no part of its income will inure to the benefit of any individual member, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section A.

E. The Club is formed within the meaning of Section 501(c)3 as an organization described in section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue code.

Article III - Membership

A. Membership

1. Any person interested in photography may become a member immediately upon completion of a membership form and payment of annual dues. Student memberships are available to any person under 18 years of age. Members living at the same address and receiving only one newsletter are eligible for family membership.

2. A paid receipt shall be provided as proof of membership.

3. Membership grants the individual the right to hold office, to vote in elections, receive a newsletter subscription via electronic means, and participate in competitions and/or exhibits. Members may request a hardcopy version of the newsletter for an additional charge to cover the added expense..

Article IV - Governing Authority

A. The following officers shall be elected in accordance with Article V of this constitution to be the executive Board and shall govern the Club:

President
1st Vice-President
2nd Vice-President for Programs
3rd Vice-President for Competition
Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor

B. The terms of office shall be one (1) year or until their successors are elected and qualified. The President and 1st Vice-President are limited to two (2) consecutive terms. Upon separation from office, an officer shall immediately turn over to his/her successor, or other properly designated official, all books, money, and other effects of the Club in his/her possession.

C. Committees.

1. The responsibilities of the committees shall be determined by the President and subject to approval by the Executive Board.
2. The committee chairmanship shall be determined by the President and subject to approval by the Executive Board.
3. The committee chairpersons shall prepare periodic reports of committee activities for presentation to the Executive Board and/or to the general membership at regular Club meetings.

Article V - Elections

A. An election of officers for the Executive Board shall be held once a year.

B. Vacancies in the Club shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

C. Vacancy of the President shall be filled by the advancement of the 1st Vice-President.

Article VI- Quorum

A. A quorum of the membership for the purpose of conducting Club business shall consist of not less than one-third (1/3) of members in good standing.

B. One half (1/2) of the voting members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII-Amendments

A. This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Club by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting.

B. The amendment must have been introduced to the membership at a regular meeting of the Club not less than one month prior to the vote at a regular meeting of the Club.

C. Due notice must have been given to all members in good standing through the newsletter or by a special notice through the mail.

Article VIII - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be July 1 to June 30.

Article IX - Dissolution

Upon dissolution, the Executive Board shall dispose of all assets to organizations operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes as shall qualify at the time as exempt organizations under guidelines of the IRS code (501(c)3).

Bylaws

Article I - Membership

- A. Types of membership:
 - 1. ***Individual***: Any person interested in photography;
 - 2. ***Family***: Members of the immediate family;
 - 3. ***Student***: A full time school student or college student with appropriate documentation.
- B. Each member joining or renewing July 1 through January 31 will pay full membership dues.
- C. Dues will be one-half (1/2) of a full year membership for each new membership after February 1 of each year.
- D. Each member will receive a copy of the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules of Competition, a receipt a membership card, a name tag and have access to an electronic copy of the newsletter for the remaining months of the fiscal year

Article II - Meetings

- A. Regular meetings of the Club will be held as decided by the membership.
- B. Special meetings may be scheduled as needed by the members.
- C. Executive Board meetings shall be called by the President.
- D. All Executive Board meetings shall be open to all Club members.
- E. All official meetings of the Club may, at the discretion of the presiding officer, shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Article III - Board Procedure

- A. The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected positions: President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President for Programs, 3rd Vice-President for Competition, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor.
- B. Any elected officer present at the board meeting shall have one vote.
- C. A member of the board may not hold more than one elected position with the Club.

Article IV – Elections

- A. There shall be a Nominating Committee with a chairman appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Board.
- B. The Committee shall accept nominations from the floor and conduct the elections.

Article V - Election Procedures

- A. The elected officers shall serve a one-year term from July 1 to June 30.
- B. The Nominating Committee may re-nominate a person to serve in the same capacity for an addition term, except the President and 1st Vice President may not hold the office for more than two consecutive years.
- C. The names of the officers under consideration for the following year shall be presented at the April meetings and in the May newsletter.
- D. Elections will be held at the first meeting in May. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the election meeting.
- E. The officers will be elected by a majority of those members present.

Article VI - Minutes

- A. The Executive Board minutes shall be available at all Club meetings.
- B. Copies of all minutes shall be forwarded to the President and Treasurer within ten (10) days of the board meeting.

Article VII - Treasury

- A. The Treasurer shall maintain a running balance in appropriate budget categories.
- B. Updates of the financial status of the club will be available at meetings and copies will be available quarterly.
- C. The Treasurer shall close the books one week following the end of the fiscal year for an audit.
- D. Authorized signatures on bank accounts shall be the Treasurer, the President and the 1st Vice-President. Two signatures are required on all checks.

Article VIII - Budget

- A. A budget committee chaired by the Treasurer elect, and to include the outgoing Treasurer, shall meet before July 1 to draw up the next year's proposed budget for the Club.
- B. The budget shall be approved by the incoming Executive Board and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of at least a quorum of members not later than the end of September.
- C. Expenditures in excess of \$100 per item must be identified in a separate line item in the budget.
- D. Expenditures greater than \$100 not identified in the initial budget for the fiscal year must be approved by a majority vote of at least a quorum of members present at any official regular club meeting.

Article IX - Audit

- A. The President-elect shall immediately appoint a three (3) member audit committee of Club members, not to include any affected treasurer. This committee shall audit the books.
- B. The audit is to be completed within thirty (30) days following the close of the fiscal year.
- C. A report shall be made to the membership through the newsletter.

Article X - Amendments

- A. The bylaws may be amended by a majority of the general membership voting at a Club meeting.
- B. Notice of the proposed change shall be presented in the newsletter before the vote of the general membership.

Amendments to the Constitution of the Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club

No substantial part of the activities of the Manassas Warrenton Camera Club shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Manassas Warrenton Camera Club shall not participate in or intervene in, including the publishing or distribution of statements, any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.