

# ***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.).