

Quad Cities Photography Club

Competition Rules

Revision date: 3/31/18

Purpose:

QCPC hosts photographic competition within its membership. The goal of the competition is to develop and improve personal photographic skills through technical and artistic feedback.

General Competition Information:

Club members in good standing can enter images in monthly competition. Club Competitions include print and digitally projected images, acceptable means of capture include film or digital camera, scanner, mobile device or drone. All competition images **MUST** be photographed and processed/edited by the submitting club member. The elements of any submitted photo such as Lighting, Composition & Posing should be primarily created by the image maker when and where ever possible (exceptions are made for situations where the existing lighting and posing are beyond the image makers control). Prints for print competition may be printed by someone other than the submitting member.

Eligibility of Similar Images:

In the hopes of furthering member's photographic skills and techniques it is strongly suggested that each member submit a variety of images and subjects.

Categories:

Nature - N

Scape - S (for example: Land, Sea, City, Rock, Night)

Pictorial - P

Altered Reality - AR

Mystery - X

Explanation of Categories

Nature Category:

Nature photography is simply the recording of our natural world by some photographic means. The hand of man shall not be present in any nature images. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story, the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including natural looking HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Scape: (Land, Sea, City....)

The emphasis for the scape category is to show the beauty of land, street, city, sea, rock, night....scapes. The images in this category should be a view that depicts the environment. HDR, focus stacking, panoramic, cloning, and image blending techniques as long as they appear realistic and natural are acceptable in this category. Natural looking infrared, monochrome, vignettes are allowed.

Pictorial:

The emphasis for this category is on creating an image with great impact while maintaining a natural quality. The subject matter of this category includes any pictorial images with the exception ofScape images (see Scape category). Images submitted for this category can be from a single exposure or from multiple exposures blended together to create a seamless image. Examples would be HDR, image stacking for depth of field, panoramas, etc. Combining of two images is allowed as long as it appears realistic. There are no restrictions for image enhancement as long as the image maintains a realistic looking appearance. Infrared, monochrome, borders and vignettes are allowed.

Altered Reality Category:

The emphasis for this category is on creativity without any restriction on manipulating the original image or images. This category should reflect something not found in reality. Any creatively altered image may be entered as long as the source image or images have been captured by the image maker using a film, digital camera, mobile device, scanner or drone. Finally, non-photographic elements (including but not limited to textures, paint brushes) may be added to images in this category as long as they are a minimal portion of the entire image. The entries in this category should show evidence of the photographer's creativity and should be unique, and out of the ordinary. The entries may depict the maker's interpretation of any subject or style.

Mystery Category:

This class is available for the Digital Competition ONLY. The specific subject for this competition category will be different every month and will be announced at the previous month's QCPC club meeting and will be judged using the same criteria as all other categories. The mystery category is intended to get everyone thinking a little out of the box. The image **must be** captured after the meeting where subject is announced until submission date for the next month competition.

Club Competitions:

Annual Digital Competition:

Scores from the monthly digital competitions will accumulate throughout the year with recognition being given for the highest accumulated scores.

Print Competition:

Each print night will be an all-inclusive competition meaning recognition will be given each print night with no end-of-the-year awards being given. Each member will be allowed to enter up to 3 prints in the

competition. There will be **four categories in which prints may be entered: Nature, Pictorial, Scape, and Altered Reality**. A member may enter their prints all in one category or split them as desired between the 4 categories. Judging will proceed as usual with recognition being given for the all of the prints with top 3 scores in each category each night.

Theme contest:

Each calendar year 2 special themes will be chosen by club members. Images submitted for this contest must have been taken within the calendar year time frame. The club **members in attendance** will participate in judging these competitions **at the January meeting** of the next **calendar** year.

Digital “Photo of the Year contest”:

Images submitted for the Photo of the Year contest must be taken within the current club year. At the first club meeting of the year (September) the “Photo of the Year” will be awarded. A first, second and third place will be awarded in each of the **4 categories, Nature, Pictorial, Scape, and Altered Reality** with the 4 first place images becoming the Photo of the Year in each category. This image will also become the official images representing the club for the following club year. Judging of this contest will be handled “outside the club”.

External Competitions:

Central IL Camera Club Association (CICCA) hosts two annual competitions (called “Salons”). The fall Salon is a club level competition where QCPC competes as a club against other CICCA clubs. The Spring Salon is an individual level competition where members compete against other CICCA club members. All QCPC members who have paid their dues are eligible to enter CICCA competitions (an entry fee is required from each member to submit images in the spring individual salon). Rules and specific entry requirements will be communicated prior to each CICCA event.

Challenge between QCPC, PCC (Peoria Camera Club), and KR (Kodaroamers in Bloomington). This competition is a yearly competition there are 2 challenging clubs and the 3rd is a hosting club. Challenging clubs and hosting club will rotate from year to year. This is a digital Theme based competition where the theme will be selected by and the images will be submitted to, the hosting club. Each club may submit up to 50 digital images. Theme, sizing, naming and submission date requirements will be determined by the hosting club.

George W. Glennie Memorial Nature Salon is a prestigious world wide nature competition. It is a club competition that is held every year. Each club can only submit ten images with no more than two from any one member. For more information: <http://www.mvcameraclub.org/competitions/interclub/glennie/>

Requirements for QCPC Digital Image Competition

A member may enter a ***total of 3 digital images for each monthly competition***. These may be all in one category or split between categories

Sizing Digital Images & Color Space Requirements:

Sizing:

A vertical image needs to be resized to **1050 pixels High (vertical)**. Keep “aspect ratio” checked and let the software decide the width. A horizontal image needs to be resized to **1400 pixels WIDE (horizontal)**. A square image should not be taller than 1050 pixels in height. Keep “aspect ratio” checked and let software decide the width. **AT NO TIME SHOULD IMAGES SUBMITTED FOR CLUB COMPETITION OR EXHIBITION EXCEED 1400 PIXELS WIDE OR 1050 PIXELS HIGH.** If your images are not sized properly they will be submitted into competition as is. Images **larger** than 1400 pixels wide OR 1050 pixels tall will be cropped automatically by the projection software to these dimensions or bleed over the edge of the screen when projected. Images **smaller** than 1400 pixels wide OR 1050 pixels tall will not project to the full size of the screen. (If you are a new member and you are unsure how to resize your images please use our mentor system to learn how to resize your images.)

Rename and save the file with the Category, your competition number and sequential letter.jpg. Do not put your name on the image, just your competition number and category. **Use N for Nature, P for Pictorial, S for Scape, AR for Altered Reality and X for Mystery.** (See page 1 & 2 for category explanation)

FOR EXAMPLE: if your “competition number” is 0008 and you are showing a **Nature Image** you should label it as follows: **“N 0008 A.jpg”**. If you have a 2nd **Nature image** it would be numbered **“N 0008 B.jpg”**, and a 3rd **Nature image** as **“N 0008 C.jpg”**.

If you have 1 **Nature image** and 2 **Pictorials** they would be numbered as follows:

N 0008 A.jpg, P 0008 B.jpg, and P 0008 C.jpg .

If you show 3 images you will always have one labeled **A**, one **B**, and one **C**. If you show 2 images, you will have an **A** and a **B**.

You may **request a comment** on all 3 of your digital image you have submitted for competition. Add the word **“COMMENTS”** after the label on your image. For example: **“P 0008 C COMMENTS.jpg”**.

If you do not enter the competition, you may submit **up to 3** digital images for comments only. Label as above, but add the words **“COMMENTS ONLY”**. No score will be given. For example:

“P 0008 COMMENTS ONLY.jpg”.

Color Space:

All Digital Images shall be submitted in the sRGB IEC61966-2.1 Color space. If the image is not in the correct color space it may not appear to be accurate color when projected on the screen.

It is the responsibility of the image maker to make sure the Size & Color Space are **CORRECT** before submitting their images. If you do not know how to do these processes please access a mentor from the club mentor list to learn the process.

Image Submission:

Digital images must be submitted via e-mail to qcpcimage@gmail.com by the due date (which will be prior to pre-judging and announced by email). All digital images will be retained on the club computer for the duration of the club year.

Requirements for QCPC Print Competition

Prints require a sticker with **the category, competition #, your name and sequential #** on the back in the **upper right-hand corner as you are looking at the back of the print**. Print your competition number then your name followed by the category. Use N for Nature, P for Pictorial, S for Scape and AR for Altered Reality. (See page 1 & 2 for category explanation)

A correctly printed label for a **nature print** would look like this:

N 1438 John Doe A

A member entering 3 prints may ask for comments on **all three** of the print images. Simply add the word "COMMENTS" to each label. Following is a correct example:

N 1438 John Doe A COMMENTS

Any member who **does not** enter the print competition may submit **up to 3 prints** for comments only. Add the words "COMMENTS ONLY" to the label. No score will be given.

Example follows:

N 1438 John Doe Comments Only

Requests for comments **MUST** be marked **before** the prints are shown.

A firm backing on prints is required and matting of some kind is permissible. Prints should **not** be framed or covered with glass or plastic for showing. Metal prints and Canvas Wraps are acceptable if they are unframed. The image maker should be aware damage could occur, due to the thickness and stack ability. Entering canvas and metal prints is at the image makers own risk. We will make every effort to make sure all prints are handled with care however, accidents do happen.

Mats: Plain mats are allowable in all categories. Creative matting may be used in the Pictorial and Altered Reality categories only.

Special Note: B&W images may be entered in any of the above categories, provided that the B&W image meets all other requirements of the category. **Infrared images** may be entered in the Pictorial, Altered-Reality and the Scape categories. Images with borders may be entered in any of the categories except Nature.

Other Club Competition Considerations:

A member may show an image in the digital competition one evening and the same image as a print during a print competition on another evening.

Digital and Print entries may be reentered into club competition one additional time at a later date only if the entry received a score of 20 or below. Entries receiving a score higher than 20 may not be reentered in club competition. When print and digital competition are held on the same night the same image ***MAY NOT*** be entered into both competitions, the image may be entered on a different print or digital night.

Except for annual themed competitions, annual Photo of the Year competition, and monthly mystery category there are no time restrictions on when a submitted photograph was taken.