



COMPETITION RULES 2008-2009

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Click on any Table of Contents line to go to that topic)

ALL MEDIA	2
1. Categories of Competition	2
2. Description of Categories	3
3. Classes	5
4. Grace Period.....	5
5. Regular Competition Awards.....	6
6. Make up Entries	6
7. Annual Awards.....	7
8. Image of the Year Competition	7
B&W & COLOR PRINT COMPETITIONS	9
1. Print Categories	9
2. Restrictions	9
3. Submitting Prints	9
4. Print Size.....	10
5. Preparing Prints for Competition	10
SLIDE COMPETITIONS	12
1. Slide Categories.....	12
2. Slide Classes.....	12
3. Slide Mounting	12
4. Slide Labeling.....	12
DIGITAL COMPETITIONS	14
1. Digital Categories	14
2. Digital Classes	14
3. Naming Digital Images.....	14
4. Guidelines.....	15
COMPETITION AWARD CHART	17

COMPETITION RULES

ALL MEDIA

Competitions are only open to members in good standing of the Stony Brook Camera Club. All images must be entirely the submitting member's own work except as noted in the Print rules. An official Stony Brook entry card must accompany each slide or print entered. No entry cards are required for on line digital image entries. To facilitate the ease of running competition meetings, members should acquire and fill out entry cards & print labels in advance. Cards & labels may not be available on all competition nights but can be downloaded from the Stony Brook website: <http://www.stonybrookcc.com>.

Members should understand all rules before entering images into competition. (See individual category rules for specific guidelines and restrictions). Entering images on the same night that one joins the club (and pays their dues) is not recommended or allowed, unless the new member is aware of the rules and their images and entry cards are properly prepared.

1. Categories of Competition

There are competitions in three separate media, each with one or more categories:

a. Digital

- i. Class B General
- ii. Class B Nature
- iii. Class A General
- iv. Class A Nature
- v. Creative

b. Slides

- i. Class B General
- ii. Class B Nature

(Former Slide Class B and Slide Class A have been consolidated into a single Class B after participants were moved up to Class AA)

iii. **Class A General**

iv. **Class A Nature**

(Former Slide Class AA has been renamed Slide Class A and includes those moved up from former Classes B and A)

v. **Creative**

c. **Prints**

i. **Class B Color Prints**

ii. **Class A Color Prints**

iii. **Black & White Prints**

d. A member may submit two entries each in all categories held on a given competition meeting, subject to class limits. There shall be four competition nights for each media category & class, a total of eight images per category per club year (September through June).

e. Images that meet the criteria for the special categories shall not be entered in the General category. The Competition Committee has the authority of moving a General entry to the appropriate category or of disqualifying the entry.

2. **Description of Categories**

a. **General**

i. Any image can be entered unless a category exists for the subject matter in the image. It is required that nature images be entered in the Nature slide and digital competition categories, that creative slides be entered in the Creative slide competition category and that creative digital images be entered in the Creative digital competition category.

ii. Images of nature subjects that have been manipulated or modified outside of the enhancements allowed by the nature definition below may be entered in General competition provided the maker indicates on the entry card or in the file name that it is a manipulated image.

iii. Natural landscapes and seascapes may be entered in either General or Nature.

b. Nature

- i. The definition of “Nature” is taken from PSA (Photographic Society of America) and reads as follows:

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation, manual or digital, that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

- ii. This is further enhanced due to digital images with the following restrictions:

Makers may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image but that does not change the truth of the original nature story. Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide) are acceptable modifications. Addition of picture elements, removal of picture elements other than by cropping, combining picture elements from separate images, rearranging picture elements or cloning picture elements are not acceptable.

- iii. Wild botanical subjects and non-domestic zoology subjects meeting these definitions must be entered in this category or they will be disqualified as out of category. Natural landscapes and seascapes may be entered in either Nature or General categories.

c. Creative

This category is designed to show the skill and imagination of the photographer. Images in this category will be judged on their imagination, creativity, uniqueness as well the skill used in image editing where applicable. Imagination and creativity shall be valued higher than computer editing skills. All major elements in the image must have originated with film or digital images and can not be produced by using graphic objects. Use of multiple exposures and/or multiple layers of film is acceptable. Use of digital editing and manipulation is acceptable.

3. Classes

Where a category has separate classes:

- a. A new member shall compete in Class B unless that member has competed in the highest class at another club. If a new member competed in another club with three or more skill levels but was not at the highest skill level, the placement of the new member shall be based on a portfolio of images submitted by the new member.
- b. Existing members shall compete in Class B for a given media if they have never competed in that media at the club before unless evaluation by the Competition Committee determines the member belongs in the higher class.
- c. New members without experience in other clubs may request competing in a higher class by submitting a portfolio of their work for evaluation by the Competition Committee.
- d. A member's class in one media does not affect that member's class in another media. When a member is advanced in class in one media that member is not automatically advanced in the other media.
 - i. Members in Class B or Class A for Slides shall be in that class for both the General and the Nature categories.
 - ii. Members in Class B or Class A for Digital Images shall be in that class for both the General and the Nature categories.

4. Grace Period

Existing members are given one month grace for payment of dues. All dues must be paid on or before the second competition of the season. If dues are received after the second competition no scores for competitions held before the payment of dues shall count toward the annual standing for that class and category of competition and no images earning ribbons in those competitions shall be eligible for the Annual Image of the Year Competition.

5. Regular Competition Awards

Ribbon awards are presented at each competition in accordance with the Competition Award Table at the end of these rules.

- a. Any image earning a ribbon can not be entered in any regular club competition in the future, regardless of the media or category.
- b. Any image earning a ribbon in any regular club competition may be reentered in a creative category or print category if modified to change it into a creative representation. Cropping alone, even though it does change the composition, shall not be considered a creative technique.
- c. Annual awards are presented in each category based on the total cumulative score during the regular competition season.
- d. Images not awarded ribbons in a regular monthly competition may be reentered at any time.

6. Make up Entries

- a. New members who are eligible to compete in the second competition of the season shall be allowed to make up the first competition of the season. New members joining after the second competition shall only be allowed to make up one competition held prior to them becoming a member.
- b. Members shall be allowed to make up one night's competition during the club competition season.
 - i. The make-up shall apply to all slide and print categories and classes offered on the night of the missed competition.
 - ii. Where possible, only one make-up print or slide is allowed each competition night, so it will take two competition nights to makeup the one missed. An exception would be if the missed competition is the second to the last competition for a category before the end of the year, then 2 make-up images may be entered on the night of the last competition.
 - iii. If the maker puts only one image into competition on a given night, no makeup is allowed for the second image that night.
 - iv. Makers may have their prepared slide or print images entered by proxy by another member if they can't attend a competition.
 - v. The member's entry card must clearly indicate an entry is submitted as a make-up.

- c. Make ups shall not be allowed for digital competitions subject to 6a above. Submitting the entries on line makes it unnecessary for someone to be at the competition in person to submit the entries.
- d. Make ups shall not be allowed for digital or slide entries in the Nature category that are disqualified by the judge.

7. Annual Awards

- a. Awards shall be presented at the Annual Banquet to those members receiving the highest cumulative scores in each category. They shall be 1st, 2nd and 3rd, with members receiving the same total score receiving the same award. The number of places awarded may be reduced depending on the number of members participating in the category.
- b. The member with the highest cumulative season score in a category shall be advanced to the next class for the following year's competitions. The advancement shall apply to both categories in Slides and/or Digital
 - i. Advancement in slides shall not require advancement in digital and prints.
 - ii. Advancement in digital shall not require advancement in slides and prints.
 - iii. Advancement in prints shall not require advancement in digital or slides.
- c. Additional members may be advanced to higher classes at the discretion of the Competition Committee based on their performance in competitions during the current competition season.

8. Image of the Year Competition

- a. Any image receiving a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award ribbon during a regular competition shall be eligible for the Annual Image of the Year Competition for the Category the image received the award.
- b. Make-up entries shall not be eligible for ribbons on the night of the make-up; however any make-up entry receiving the same score as an image receiving a 1st, 2nd or 3rd on the night of the make up shall be eligible for the Annual Image of the Year Competition. Any such make-up image can not be entered in any regular club competition in the future, regardless of the media or category, subject to 5b above.
- c. A list of all images eligible for the Annual Image of the Year Competition shall be posted on the Club Website and updated after each competition.

[Click Here to Return to Table of Contents](#)

- d. **Entries submitted for the Image of the Year competition must be the same as used in the regular competition. Entries that have been modified in accordance with judge's comments shall not be allowed.**
- e. **Entry Cards are not required for images being submitted for the Image of the Year Competition.**

B&W & COLOR PRINT COMPETITIONS

1. Print Categories

There are three categories for prints.

a. Black & White Prints

- i. Toned prints (shades of another color other than black) are allowed in Black & White.**
- ii. Selective coloring, either by computer or hand coloring, of one or more area of an otherwise Black & White print with a single additional color shall be allowed in the Black & White category.**
- iii. Selective coloring, either by computer or hand coloring, of one or more area of an otherwise Black & White with more than one additional color shall not be allowed in the Black & White category. They must be entered as Color prints.**
- iv. Selective coloring, either by computer or hand coloring, of one or more area of an otherwise Toned print shall not be allowed in the Black & White category. They must be entered as Color prints.**

b. Color Prints Class B

c. Color Prints Class A

(See General Rules for more information)

2. Restrictions

Print Competitions have no subject matter restrictions.

- a. Commercially made Color prints are allowed.**
- b. Commercially made Black & White prints are allowed.**
- c. All mounting must be by the maker.**
- d. No differentiation is made between prints produced in a chemical darkroom or produced by computer printout.**

3. Submitting Prints

If space permits on competition meetings, there will be two piles for each category. Place one of your prints (face up) on top of each pile with entry form. The two piles will then be combined and everyone's entries will be separate so both prints by the same maker are not judged together, one after another.

4. Print Size

- a. Prints may be in the portrait (vertical) or landscape (horizontal) format.
- b. Prints shall be at least 8x10 inches excluding any mat.
- c. For non-panel prints, the maximum outer dimensions are 16x20 inches, including the mat. 11x14 prints or any print smaller than 16x20 inches may be placed in a 16x20 mat, 16x20 prints must be un-matted.
- d. "Panel" prints (color and black & white) are allowed, with the horizontal length (including mat) up to 36 inches, and the vertical height up to 16 inches. For the safety of all prints, "panel" color prints and prints with total dimensions smaller than 11x14 will be shown first or last, not mixed in with conventionally sized prints. The maker assumes all responsibility for panel prints not being lit evenly due to their over-size.

5. Preparing Prints for Competition

- a. The backing of each print must be a flat, single sheet of cardboard, mat board, or foam-core, and be of the same dimensions as the front of the print.
 - i. If old backings are reused all old print labels and information must be obliterated so there is no confusion.
 - ii. All adhesive residue from old labels that could be transferred to the fronts of other prints stacked with the print shall be completely removed.
- b. Prints may be matted or unmated. If matted, the mat is considered part of the image presentation so quality and appropriateness of matting can effect a print's score.
- c. All mats should be attached to the backing on all 4 sides. No hanging materials or frames are allowed.
- d. An official Stony Brook print label must be attached to the back top left of each print, in the same orientation as the print will be viewed.
 - i. Members shall enter the COMPETITION DATE on the print label.
 - ii. It is recommended that members take a supply of labels at the beginning of the competition season so they can be applied to the prints and filled out in advance of the actual competition.

- iii. Labels may not always be available on competition night, but can be downloaded from the Stony Brook website, <http://www.stonybrookcc.com>.
 - iv. Members shall print downloaded print labels on adhesive backed labels such as the Avery or Staples 2”x 4” shipping labels. Labels taped to the back of the print are not allowed.
- e. The following information must be on the back top center of each print, either directly on the backing or on a label applied to the backing:
- i. **MAKER’S NAME** (and address preferred, but not required)
 - ii. **TITLE** of the print (each print must be titled – the phrase “UNTITLED” is not considered a title.) Untitled prints shall not be eligible for the Image of the Year Competition regardless of any awards received.
 - iii. **CLASS** of Competition
- f. The maker’s name and/or the title of the print shall not appear on the front of the print or on the mat. Such prints shall be subject to disqualification with no make-up allowed.

6. Entry Cards

Each print must be accompanied by a properly filled-in Entry Card when submitted for competition.

- a. Entry Cards may not always be available on competition night, but can be downloaded and printed from the Stony Brook website, <http://www.stonybrookcc.com>.
- b. It is recommended that members take a supply of Entry Cards at the beginning of the competition season so they can be filled out in advance of the actual competition.

7. Prints not prepared as noted above will not be allowed into competition.

SLIDE COMPETITIONS

1. Slide Categories

There are three categories for slide competition:

- a. General
- b. Nature
- c. Creative

(See General Rules for more information)

2. Slide Classes

a. There are two classes in General and Nature for slide competition:

- i. Class B General
- ii. Class A General
- iii. Class B Nature
- iv. Class A Nature

b. There are no classes in Creative for slide competition.

3. Slide Mounting

- a. All slides must be in 35mm slide mounts.
- b. Glass slide mounts are encouraged but are not required.
- c. Cropping with Gepe mounts (or equivalent) is allowed.
- d. It is recommended slides be cleaned before submitting, especially on the inside of any glass mounted slides. Dirt can seriously hurt a slide's score.

4. Slide Labeling

Slides must be labeled with the following:

- a. **MAKER'S NAME** (and address preferred, but not required)
- b. **TITLE** of slide (each slide must be titled-the word **UNTITLED** is not considered a title). Untitled slides shall not be eligible for the image of the Year competition regardless of any awards received.

- c. A prominent THUMB SPOT in the lower left hand corner when the image is viewed by hand in its proper orientation. Slides improperly thumb spotted will be judged as thumb spotted.
- d. Any labels attached to the slide mount must be secure and not extend beyond the slide mount's border. Any slide with labels that cause slides to jam in the projector may be disqualified.

5. Entry Cards

Each slide must be accompanied by a properly filled-in Entry Card when submitted for competition.

- a. Entry Cards may not always be available on competition night, but can be downloaded from the Stony Brook website, <http://www.stonybrookcc.com>.
- b. It is recommended that members take a supply of Entry Cards at the beginning of the competition season so they can be filled out in advance of the actual competition.

6. Slides not prepared as noted above will not be allowed into competition.

DIGITAL COMPETITIONS

1. Digital Categories

There are three categories for digital competitions.

- a. General
- b. Nature
- c. Creative

2. Digital Classes

There are 2 classes for digital competition in General and Nature

- a. Class A General
- b. Class B General
- c. Class A Nature
- d. Class B Nature

3. Naming Digital Images

- a. All images submitted in digital competitions must be named in accordance with the conventions contained on the Stony Brook Camera Club website at the time of the competition.
 - i. The membership will be notified by email when there is a change in the convention.
 - ii. It is the member's responsibility to go to the site to learn what the changes are when such notification is received.
- b. The person receiving digital entries will notify members whose image do not follow the specified requirements, i.e.:
 - i. Naming convention and/or
 - ii. Image pixel dimensions and/or
 - iii. Image category
- c. It is not the responsibility of the person receiving digital entries to make the actual corrections.

4. Guidelines

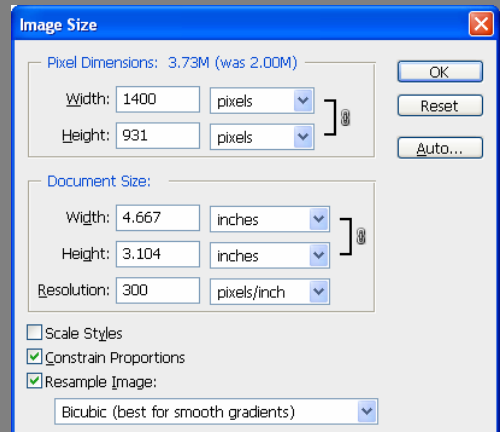
- a. Images must be submitted as JPG files. It is recommended you save the files at the maximum quality setting.
- b. All image files used in competitions must be named in accordance with the naming convention. Do not use the default name assigned by your camera. Note that the images may be shown in alphabetical order due to the software display program on the night of the competition.
 - i. When saving you image with the proper file name using your editing software do not put in the .jpg as part of the file name. The editing software adds the extension. Files with names ending in jpg.jpg can cause the competition software to function improperly.
 - ii. When renaming an image file already saved include the .jpg as part of the new file name.
 - iii. Double check the names on the attachments on your email submittal before pressing the send button. If you see a title ending in .jpg.jpg do not click on Send Message before correcting the file name.
- c. Images can only be submitted on line unless special prior arrangements have been made with the Digital Competition Chair.
- d. Images for projection should be in sRGB color space for snappiest color. This is the normal color space for PC users. MAC users should convert their images to sRGB. Do not convert your master images to sRGB.
 - i. The projector is set for 1400 x 1050 pixels, so it is to your advantage to reduce your image to these dimensions rather than let the projector do it for you. Your image dimensions should be within these numbers but does not necessarily need to match this ratio.
 - ii. Horizontal mode is when the width of image has more pixels than the height. Vertical mode is when the height of the image has more pixels than the width.
 - (1) If your image is to be projected in horizontal (landscape) mode then use Image Size (or whatever command your editing software uses for image sizing) to set the image width to 1400 pixels and let the computer set the image height.

[Click Here to Return to Table of Contents](#)

- (2) If the image is to be shown as a vertical then use Image Size to set the image height to 1050 pixels and let the computer set the image width.
- (3) Note: when you change the image dimensions you should constrain the image proportions if you do not want distortion. Unless you crop, the normal correct 35mm proportions for a horizontal image will be 1400 pixels wide x 933 pixels high.

Photoshop Image Size

- (a) Width →
- (b) Height →
- (c) Resolution →
- (d) Constrain Proportions →



- (4) Unless you crop, the normal correct 35mm proportions for a vertical image will be 700 pixels wide x 1050 pixels high.
- (5) There is no restriction on the image resolution (ppi) on images submitted for projection.

- iii. It is recommended you size the image after making all other adjustments, including any cropping, but before you do final sharpening. A frequent mistake is sizing your image to 1400 x 933 then rotating it into a vertical without changing the image size. 933 x 1400 is not the same as 1400 x 933 as far a digital projector is concerned.
- iv. You may use smaller image sizes but you are placing yourself at a competitive disadvantage if you do so.
- v. Images that exceed one or more of these dimensions, even by a single pixel, is the major cause for computer problems occurring during competitions.
- e. The maker's name and/or the title of the image shall not appear in the viewing area of the image. Such images shall be subject to disqualification with no make-up allowed.

5. Digital images not prepared as noted above will not be allowed into competition.

COMPETITION AWARD CHART

ALL CLASSES, MEDIA AND CATEGORIES				
LESS THAN 3 IMAGES IN CATEGORY	No Awards – Judge for points toward annual standing only			
4 or 5 IMAGES IN CATEGORY	1 st Place awarded to image(s) with highest score, no ties broken, no 2nd or 3rd awarded			
6 or 7 IMAGES IN CATEGORY	One 1 st awarded to highest scoring image and one or more 2 nd awarded to second highest scoring images, no 3rd awarded Two or more 1 st awarded to highest scoring images, no 2nd or 3rd awarded			
MORE THAN 7 IMAGES IN CATEGORY				
HIGHEST SCORE	1 st Place awarded to single image with highest score ...	1 st Place awarded to two images with highest score ...	1 st Place awarded to three or more images with highest score ...	1 st Place awarded to single image with highest score ...
SECOND HIGHEST SCORE	... and 2 nd Place awarded to single image with second highest score and 2 nd Place awarded to one or more images with second highest score and no 2nd Place awarded and 2 nd Place awarded to two or more images with second highest score ...
THIRD HIGHEST SCORE	... and 3 rd Place awarded to one or more images with third highest score	... and no 3rd Place awarded	... and no 3rd Place awarded	... and no 3rd Place awarded