

Marin Photography Club

Documents

Section II: Rules of Competition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

❖ General Information	3
❖ Categories of Competition	3
❖ Category Definitions	5
❖ Labeling and Submission of Images	8
○ Sample Print Label	9
❖ Competition Rules	10
❖ Annual Competition	12
❖ N4C	13
❖ Foto-Clave	14
❖ Deed of Honorary Membership	14
❖ 2009 Competition Schedule	16

ARTICLE VII -RULES OF COMPETITION

The Marin Photography Club will follow the guidelines suggested by N4C in print and digital categories and competition rules.

- All print and projected image submissions must be of photographic origin utilizing film or digital image capture.
- As permitted in certain categories (see below), any graphic elements not of photographic origin must be a minor component of the image.
- All graphic, digital and photographic components must be generated by the entrant and not be the product of other individuals or sources.
- Digital manipulation is permitted only in those categories designated below.

Other rules and competitions not covered by N4C will be determined by the Executive Board and published as part of the club's "Competition Rules and Guidelines."

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

I. CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION

A. PRINT DIVISION

1. MONOCHROME PICTORIAL (black, or any single tone)

<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
<i>Basic</i>	<i>MO/B</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>MO/I</i>
<i>Advanced</i>	<i>MO/A</i>
<i>Masters</i>	<i>MO/M</i>

2. COLOR PICTORIAL (Any color print)

<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
<i>Basic</i>	<i>CO/B</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>CO/I</i>
<i>Advanced</i>	<i>CO/A</i>
<i>Masters</i>	<i>CO/M</i>

3. SPECIAL PRINTS (Can be Monochrome or Color)

2 Levels – Basic (B) & Advanced (A)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Designation</u>
<i>Nature</i>	<i>N/B or A</i>
<i>Travel</i>	<i>T/B or A</i>
<i>Journalism</i>	<i>J/B or A</i>
<i>Creative</i>	<i>C/B or A</i>
<i>*Sequence</i>	<i>S/B or A</i>

***Marin Photo Club differs from N4C (one level for N4C in Sequence)**

4. ALTERNATE Non-N4C PRINTS
Topics set by MPC Board
2 Levels – Basic (B) & Advanced (A)

B. PROJECTED IMAGE DIVISION

1. PICTORIAL

<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
<i>Basic</i>	<i>P-B</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>P-I</i>
<i>Advanced</i>	<i>P-A</i>
<i>Masters</i>	<i>P-M</i>

2. NATURE

<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
<i>Basic</i>	<i>*N-B</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>N-I</i>
<i>Advanced</i>	<i>N-A</i>
<i>Masters</i>	<i>N-M</i>

* Digital – substitute “W” for “N” for authentic wildlife

3. PHOTO-TRAVEL

<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
<i>Basic</i>	<i>T-B</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>T-I</i>
<i>Advanced</i>	<i>T-A</i>
<i>Masters</i>	<i>T-M</i>

4. PHOTO-JOURNALISM

<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
<i>Basic</i>	<i>J-B</i>

<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>J-I</i>
<i>Advanced</i>	<i>J-A</i>
<i>Masters</i>	<i>J-M</i>

5. CREATIVE

<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
<i>Basic</i>	<i>C-B</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>C-I</i>
<i>Advanced</i>	<i>C-A</i>
<i>Masters</i>	<i>C-M</i>

II. CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

PICTORIAL

Pictorial photography is the use of the photographic medium as an art form. The emphasis is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence. Images in the Pictorial Division are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography. Pictorial images may be manipulated in the darkroom, on the computer or in the camera in a manner consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions. The title is not read when showing the image.

NATURE

The Nature Photography Division 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 matter and certify as to its honest presentation. The story-telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Sequences of not more than four (4) images are permitted in the Nature category in projected image competition only.

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 (any plant or animal that has its appearance changed by breeding and selection by man), mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

In Nature competition the title is read when showing the image. The title should be factual and descriptive and will be read as shown. Scientific names are recommended but not required.

No manipulation or modification of Nature images is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the

scene. No special effect filters can be applied. Any sharpening must appear natural. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. Horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing the image) is an acceptable modification. All Nature images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.

Authentic Wildlife (W): Authentic Wildlife is defined as one or more organisms in the animal kingdom living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Therefore, photographs of zoo or game farm animals are not eligible. (This will be judged in the Nature Projected Image Division only.)

Things that **ARE** Nature Photographs:

- Any wild creature that represents a nature story photographed in the wild or in a natural park setting. No evidence of a zoo-like setting may be visible in the photograph.
- All natural events such as storms, eclipses, lightning, etc.
- Rocks and minerals or any natural geological formations.
- Any wild flower, moss, or any other non-cultivated living plants.
- Any natural scene that incorporates one or more of the above categories for the purpose of telling a nature story.

What is **NOT** Nature:

- Pictures of dogs, cats, canaries, horses, cows, or any other domestic or farm animal or bird.
- Cultivated flowers, plants or trees (roses, daffodils, etc.)
- Any plant, even if found in the wild that has been altered in some way by man.

Nature Titles:

- Should be factual and descriptive.
- Listing location where image was made is advised.
- Inclusion of the Latin or scientific name of the subject is desirable but not required.

TRAVEL

A Travel picture must express the feeling of a time and place, portray a land, its people or a culture in its natural state, and has no geographic limitations. Ultra close-ups which lose their identity, studio-type model shots, or photographic manipulations which misrepresent the true situation or alter the content of the image are

unacceptable in Travel competition. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be applied. Any sharpening must appear natural. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. In Travel competition the title is read when showing the image. The title should give the location and complement the travel story. All Travel images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.

JOURNALISM

Journalism entries shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. Sequences of not more than four (4) images are permitted in the Journalism category in projected image competition only. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, photographs, which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation of the image, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Journalism competition. The primary concern is to make story-telling and/or newsworthy photographs. In competition the title is read when showing the image. Good titles are important and should add to the photo-story. No manipulation or modification of Journalism images is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be applied. Any sharpening must appear natural. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. All Journalism images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.

CREATIVE

Creative photography is producing an image through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought including the altering of reality. No image should be eliminated from competition simply because it looks realistic, provided it shows originality of concept. Creative images may include modifications in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera, as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subject matter or lighting, or any other presentation that begins with the maker's photograph or collection of photographs. Creative images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions. In Creative image competition the title is read when showing the image.

SEQUENCE

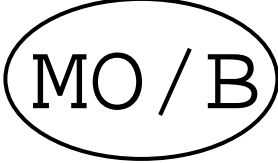
A sequence consists of two or more related images on one mount, printed separately on the same sheet of paper or overlapping as in a multiple exposure or panorama. Sequences will be judged in prints only. All Sequence prints must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.

III. LABELING AND SUBMISSION OF IMAGES

A. PRINTS (See Diagram Below)

1. The name of the member, the print's title, the competition category and level and "Marin Photography Club" must appear on the back of the print on a sticker placed on the upper left hand corner of the back of the print. The date of the MPC competition and the presiding judge should be filled in. Member's phone number and address may be included. The *abbreviations for category and level must be placed in the upper right hand corner of the sticker and circled*. Makers must enter prints at their appropriate highest levels. Illegible and mislabeled images are subject to disqualification.
2. In all print categories, the minimum size (including mat) is 11" x 14", the maximum image size (including mat) is 16" X 20" and shall be mounted on 2 ply or 4 ply mount board or foam core board not exceeding ¼".
3. Any submission that contains elements that could damage other prints may be rejected by the Print Chair. Examples include hooks, wires, exposed adhesives or other sticky substances.
3. Monochrome prints are defined as one color and the color of the paper; they may be toned, but not multiple toned.
4. Any photographic process may make color prints. Hand-colored prints are considered to be color prints.
5. Use of a commercial lab for printing is permitted.
6. Prior to the deadline set by the Print Committee, members must submit by email their name, the title, category, and level for each print they plan to enter for competition. The form or format followed for this submission shall be that described by the Print Committee. On the night of competition the members should file their prints in the appropriate print bin sections.
7. Print competition is held the first Tuesday of each month (January through November.)

Sample Print Label

MARIN PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB			
Division	_____ Monochrome/ Basic _____		
Title	_____ Death Valley Ghosts _____		
Name	_____ Charlie Sheet _____		
Address	_____ Optional _____		
Phone	_____ Optional _____		
COMPETITION			
Date	Points	Judge	
1. 8/8/08	_____	Winnie Justice	_____
2. 10/9/08	_____	Frank Gavel	_____

B. Digital Projected Images

1. Category, level, image title, and maker name shall be included with electronic submissions in the format designated by the Digital Manager. (See the MPC website for specific guidelines for Digital Competition (www.marinphotoclub.org)).
2. Images must be submitted electronically by the deadline set by the Digital Manager.
3. Digital competition is held the last Tuesday of the month

(January through November.)

IV. COMPETITION RULES

- A. A new member shall be placed in the basic (beginner) level of a division except that an advanced worker may be placed in a higher classification as determined by the Executive Board. Classification of new members may be adjusted at mid-year as deemed appropriate by the Board. Promotion to higher groups for all other members shall be made annually at the end of the competition year, on the basis of the quantity and quality of work entered in the past year. The Executive Board shall determine all classifications. The Executive Board nominates members for advancement, but the member so nominated may decline. Once a member advances he/she is not eligible to go back to a lower level of competition except for Masters who may go back to Advanced. The Masters category shall be comprised of no more than 10% of the membership.
- B. Competent and impartial judge-commentators or judging panel shall be used for each monthly competition.
- C. The awarding of First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mentions is entirely at the discretion of the judge.
- D. Points shall be recorded by each Division Chairman on the following basis: five points for First; four points for Second; three points for Third, two points for Honorable Mention, and one point for all other entries. Points shall be cumulative toward awards and standing for the year. Records shall be available for inspection by any member. An extra point is earned for **Print or Digital Image of the Month**. Points are also earned for N4C competition: Five points for First place, Four points for Second, Three points for Third, Two points for Fourth, One point for Fifth, and one half point for Honorable Mention
- E. Print Pictorial Color and B&W images placing First, Second and Third and Nature, Travel, Journalism, and Creative prints judged First and Second shall be entered into N4C competition for the relevant period. Sequence prints judged First in the Basic and Advanced levels shall be entered into N4C competition for the relevant period. Projected images in the first three places in Pictorial, Nature, Travel, Journalism and Creative shall be entered into council interclub competition for the relevant period.
- F. One image may be entered in each pictorial print category - B & W and COLOR; and one image may be submitted for each special

print category as scheduled in the competition calendar: Nature, Sequence, Creative, Travel, and Journalism. A **maximum of four prints** may be entered each month including November. For Digital competition one image may be submitted for pictorial and one for each of the scheduled specialty categories for a **maximum of three digital entries** per meeting including October.

- G. To encourage creativity, the number of times an image can be submitted to club competition is limited. An MPC **member may submit an image a maximum of two times** regardless of division (print or digital), color/monochrome status or cropping (*effective July 1, 2008*).

Examples:

- An image submitted once as a digital and once as a print may not be submitted again in any format.
- An image submitted twice as a print may not be submitted for digital.
- An image entered as Pictorial color and then as monochrome may not be submitted again; etc.

Once an image goes to N4C competition and *places*, it is permanently retired from all divisions and categories. These limitations do not apply to the MPC or N4C Annual Competitions. The December President's Theme competition does not count toward the submittal limit.

- H. Prints submitted to one of the alternate non-N4C categories will not go on to N4C competition. The first place winner will be eligible to compete for Print of the Night and makers will receive points toward level advancement as they do in the other categories. Submission of an image to an alternate category will count as one of the two opportunities to submit the image to MPC competitions (see above.) At the Annual Banquet an award will be presented to the maker with the most points in alternate categories.
- I. In December, Marin Photography Club holds its President's Choice competition. At the beginning of each year, the new President announces the topic for this competition, which replaces the Pictorial competition for that month. No special print or "non-pictorial"

categories will be judged during the December competition. Images from this competition are not sent to N4C and no points are awarded to members. Images entered in the President's Choice competition are exempt from Competition Rule IV-H and may be re-entered in subsequent monthly competitions subject to the provision of that rule.

- J. ***Any print entered in any competition sponsored by the club or N4C shall be entered exclusively at the risk of the exhibitor and neither the club nor any of its officers or representatives shall be under any liability whatsoever for damage to or loss of any such print while in their custody.***
- K. **Members must be present during the judging to enter prints or digital images into competition. (rev. 9-17-02)**

V. ANNUAL COMPETITION

Marin Photography Club holds an annual competition with images submitted by the Feb. meeting for judging, and awards presented at the Annual Banquet (usually in late February).

- A. A maximum of one-third of all entries submitted in each digital division and color or monochrome print division, and one-half of all entries for specialty print categories, by a member during the year should be eligible for our annual competition. In the event a member has entered less than three images in any one division level during the year, the member may enter one image in the annual competition if the image received recognition (1st through HM) at an N4C competition during the year. The Executive Board shall determine the rules governing the annual competition and awards each year.
- B. At the close of the competition year, appropriate awards shall be presented to those members who have achieved the highest total scores for their respective groups, and to those who place in the annual competition in each group, as well as those winning awards for "Print of the Year" and "Projected Image of the Year". The Executive Board shall determine the design and cost of these awards. Appropriate ribbon or medal awards shall be presented to members placing in the annual competition. If, in the opinion of the Executive Board, there is not sufficient competition in any group, the award system for that group may be altered for that year.
- C. Special, named awards which are presented at the Annual Dinner

include: 1) Bob Erickson Award for the most points in projected images by a beginning photographer in his/her first full or partial calendar year as a club member; 2) Bert Hersch Award for the most points in prints by an amateur photographer in his/her first full or partial calendar year as a club member; 3) Dr. Bill Eastman Award for the best print of the year; 4) Leigh Abell Award for outstanding service to the Marin Photography Club, 5) Lin & Maryke Hines Award for Projected Image of the Year, and 6) Norm Johnson Digital Award.

VI. N4C - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUBS (www.n4c.org)

Marin Photography Club joins with about 12 other camera clubs in the Bay Area to make up the N4C, which has monthly competitions in all categories. In Projected Images the top three winners for each level in Pictorial, Nature, Photo Travel, Photo Journalism and Creative in our club competition are sent to N4C to compete against the winners from other clubs. In prints, the top three winners for each level in Color and Monochrome and the top two winners for each level in Creative, Travel, Journalism and Nature categories are sent to N4C to compete against winners from other clubs. Only the first place winners of each level in the Sequence Print competition will advance to N4C competition. N4C winners receive awards and additional points to add to their scores. Prints and projected images that have been entered in N4C competition and placed (first through HM) are retired from our club's monthly competition

N4C holds an annual competition each year in December. A member may enter any print or digital image that has placed **in N4C competition** during the year. In January, a banquet is held to announce and show winners from this competition.

VII. FOTO-CLAVE

Marin Photography Club also competes in FOTO-CLAVE competition, which is open to members of four camera club councils in Northern and Central California, including N4C. Beginning in 2009 FOTO-CLAVE will occur annually. Eight divisions are available with no class distinction. Members may submit any number of projected images or prints in any or all FOTO-CLAVE competition divisions. All entries must be the work of the member except the mounting of prints. Entries are submitted in August; winners are announced and shown at a three-day convention in early November.

ARTICLE VIII. DEED OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

A. Criteria for Selection:

- 1) Non-member of Marin Photography Club at the time of the award.
- 2) Performance of outstanding service to Marin Photography Club for at least two years, showing strong interest in Marin Photography Club and a popular following amongst the members, i.e.,
 - (a) A particularly constructive and instructive judge;
 - (b) A photography seminar/class teacher who has successfully offered Marin Photography Club members custom instruction;
 - (c) Any other person who has facilitated the advancement or pleasure of Marin Photography Club members.

B. Any Marin Photography Club member in good standing may make nomination for this honor to the President or any member of the Executive Board. Election will be by the majority vote of the Executive Board at the last meeting of the outgoing board, and be kept secret until the Annual Awards dinner.

C. In case no suitable nominee is presented to the board, or a majority decision cannot be reached, no award shall be made that year.

D. Honorary membership shall entitle the winner to receive the Focal Plane and attend meetings, club events, and the Annual Awards dinner. Honorary members shall not be entitled to compete in monthly competitions or vote in elections unless they ultimately decide to join the club as a paid regular member.

E. Honorary Membership Award shall be a suitably engraved and framed certificate detailing the year, honoree's name, and the outstanding service rendered to the Marin Photography Club. The secretary shall also issue a membership card inscribed with the name, year, and Honorary Membership.

F. Presentation of the award shall be at the Annual Awards dinner and presented with the appropriate ceremony by the Immediate Past President, whose Executive Board selected the honoree. The current year's honoree and his/her spouse shall be guests (club paid) of Marin Photography Club at the Annual Awards dinner. At the Immediate Past President's discretion, the honoree may also be

invited to judge the annual competition.

- G. The list of Honorary Members shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Board to determine if the honoree's interest still merits a special membership.

2009 MPC COMPETITION SCHEDULE

PRINTS		<i>Total Prints permitted for competition entry is 4 (including November)</i>											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov*	Dec	
Pictorial Mono	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2PT	
Pictorial Color	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Nature	1			1			1			1			
Sequence				1						1			
Creative		1			1			1			1		
Travel		1			1			1			1		
Journalism			1			1			1		1		
Other	Portrait		Macro			Architec- ture	Motion		Field Trips				

DIGITAL		<i>Total Digital Images permitted for competition entry is 3 (including Oct)</i>											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct*	Nov	Dec	
Pictorial	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Creative	1		1		1		1		1	1			
Nature	1		1		1		1		1	1			
Travel		1		1		1		1		1	1		
Journalism		1		1		1		1		1	1		

* Must choose which categories to enter to stay within entry limit
 PT = President's Theme

Schedule is subject to change. Refer to monthly Focal Plane for definitive categories for the next month.