

New England Shutterbugs Competitions

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COMPETITIONS WITHIN NEW ENGLAND SHUTTERBUGS

NE Shutterbugs holds their Photographic competitions on the second Tuesday of October, November, January, February, March, and April of each camera club year.

These competitions have two distinct formats - ELECTRONIC SLIDES and PRINTS.

ELECTRONIC SLIDES

The electronic slides competition has four categories; Pictorial, Nature, Black & White and OTHER where OTHER is either a Digital Technique or an Assigned Subject. Each of these categories will be subject to the rules of the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) with the exceptions listed under PRINTS.

Definitions for PICTORIAL and NATURE are presented here as copied from the NECCC web site.

PICTORIAL (Open) Class

Keep in mind that (NECCC-sponsored) pictorial competitions are intended for photographers, not Photoshop (or other editing program) illustrators. We recognize, however, that part of the attraction and fun of digital photography is the ability to alter the pictures captured by the camera, but the emphasis should be on displaying your photographs to best advantage either naturally or after manipulation (even extensive manipulation) for creative effects.

1. The Pictorial class is open. That means that all subject types as well as a variety of different techniques (both in camera and computer manipulation) may be entered. However, remember that we have a diverse membership so please be sure that all photographs are in good taste.
2. The major part of each image must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Slides or negatives may be

scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition. Once captured or scanned, photographs may be modified using digital image editing programs. A scanner may also be used as a camera to capture photographs of objects placed on the scanner glass.

3. Entries may display a realistic rendition of the subject(s) or be creative, having been manipulated using film techniques before scanning or using a digital image editing program. The judges will be asked to judge the photographs for overall photographic quality and interest, not the amount of manipulation required to achieve the effect
4. Composite photographs are acceptable in the pictorial class as long as all elements included are the entering photographer's own work. Commercial clip art, parts of commercial photographic collections, or the work of another photographer may not be included. Artwork or computer graphics created by the photographer may be incorporated as long as the photographic content predominates.

Keep in mind that adding elements such as clouds, moons, frames, or fractals generated by image editing programs, plug-ins, or other software is considered the same as using commercial clip art and, thus, is not allowed. However clouds, frames, or moons photographed or drawn by the photographer may be combined with other photographs.

We recognize that the line between your own digital art and clip art is a gray one in many cases. A good rule to follow is that anything that changes an element you drew or photographed is allowed, but any action that adds an element other than from one of your own photographs, drawings, or digital art probably is not.

Note that adding a mat or frame using the image editors drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed.

NATURE Class

1. All photographs must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Digital Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition.

2. Nature photographs must follow the PSA definition of nature: “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 that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
3. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. 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.”

BLACK AND WHITE

This category was added to the slide competition beginning with the 2012/2013 season. This addition enables members to enter black and white images as electronic slides and/or as matted prints. Note however, a member may not enter the same black and white image in both the electronic slide and the matted prints categories. The rules governing Black & White slides are the same as for Black & White prints (see below).

Digital Technique and Assigned Subject Classes

The Digital Technique class is meant to be a learning tool for members so that the use of the computer becomes an integral part of their photographic experience and also serves as a means of improving or expressing an artistic rendition of the final image. The assigned subject category offers the opportunity for members to expand their interests into areas they normally do not participate in. At the yearly planning meeting, which is held after the last scheduled meeting of the camera club year, the Digital Technique and/or assigned subjects will be

announced and assigned to specific competition dates for the following camera club season.

PRINTS

The prints competition has three categories; Open Color, Black and White and Creative Digital. In contradiction with NECCC competition rules for prints, NES members may enter prints of any size in all print categories except Black and White. In NES print competitions, Black and White matted prints must not exceed a size of 16" X 20". Members should keep in mind that size limitations often exist for competitions outside of our club. Prints must be matted or mounted on foam board or mounting board. Framed pictures are not allowed in the Open Color and Black and White categories.

Open Color

These prints are subject to the same rules and restrictions as the pictorial category in the electronic slides competition. Some manipulation is allowed including computer generated filters, replacing the sky, and other compositing of images as may have been done in the past with film.

Black and White

Manipulation is allowed as specified in the open color prints category. One other color other than black or white is allowed in a black and white print. Sepia is also allowed as a Black and White Print.

Creative Digital

In this category you are allowed to show any photographic technique that you like. It may be presented, for example, on glass, paper, cloth, canvas, etc. Panoramic pictures are also often shown in this category although they are also allowed in the open color category. Use of Photoshop or other editing computer programs is often what makes this category unique. It is often referred to as the "anything goes" category!

COMPETITIONS OUTSIDE OF NEW ENGLAND SHUTTERBUGS

During the camera club year there are competitions that we as a club enter and that are sponsored by organizations outside of NE Shutterbugs. These include:

NECCC (New England Camera Club Council)
The Glennie Nature Salon
The Lynn International
The Paul Carlson Print competition
PSA (Photographic Society of America)

For each of these competitions NE Shutterbugs has a chairperson responsible for promoting and seeing that we as a club enter these competitions as club interest dictates. Refer to the chairperson positions for further information on these competitions. Further, there are web sites dedicated to these competitions that you may refer to for further information.

How to process your photographs for the Digital Slides Format

1. First you open your photograph in your editor. Secondly you make sure that your profile is sRGB and not RGB. The color rendition on the screen will be best if the color profile of the image is sRGB. Oftentimes photographs are assigned RGB by the camera settings. Here are instructions for Photoshop Elements and Photoshop CS to insure it is sRGB:
 - a. Elements
Image -> Convert Color Profile -> Convert to sRGB
 - b. Photoshop 6 or 7
Image -> Mode -> Convert to profile
 - c. Edit -> Convert to profile -> make sure that sRGB is in the profile box.
Select from drop down menu!
2. Size the image. For the image to be properly projected onto the screen it has to be within certain size parameters. The maximum width of any image should not exceed **1024** pixels and the maximum height of any image should not exceed **768** pixels.
 - a. Elements
Image -> Resize -> Image size Make sure that the "resample image" block is checked. Note where you have "Pixel dimensions". If you have a horizontal picture, enter 1024 for the pixel width value. If due to this change the Height value goes above 768 then simply change the height pixels value to 768 and ignore the width. If you have a

vertical picture then change the height value to 768. If due to this change the width value goes above 1024 then set the width value to 1024 and ignore the height. In no case should the width be greater than 1024 nor the height greater than 768.

b. Photoshop

Image -> Image size Follow the same procedure as for Elements.

3. Resolution: set to 240. When saving as a .JPG file use quality = 12.
4. Your image is almost ready to be submitted. First you have to provide a file name for the picture that will allow our competition projectionist to identify you as the photographer and to provide a title for the image.
5. The naming convention is as follows:
Photo Title \$ First Name _ Last Name \$ Class (B, A, or M) . JPG
Example: Brute the wonder dog\$Mary_Jones\$A.jpg
6. To submit your image for the competition simply send it to NESHUTTERBUGS@Gmail.com with the CATEGORY specified in the subject line.

A Word about the NATURE competition

The nature competition is one that many folks have a problem with. You **MUST** check your photographs very carefully to insure that there is no “sign of man” in a nature photograph. Common “signs of man” include:

Telephone lines or poles

Mowed grass

Bird houses

Roads

Walking trails (an animal trail is allowed but may be misinterpreted by the judge(s) as a man-made trail!)

Flowers that are not wild

Animals that are not wild

Is not considered to be a “nature” image

A nature photograph that is found to be invalid because of the above will receive a “token” score of 9 points out of a possible 30 points.

Final advice:

If in doubt ask one of the club members

Scoring

The competitions are scored by the judge(s) on the basis of 1 – 30 points where 30 points is a perfect score. The judging will take into account: composition, subject as it relates to the category, interest, the “WOW” factor and more. Some things that will reduce a score include; grey skies, flat mid-day lighting, not enough breathing room in front of an animal, poor composition, bulls-eye framing, violation of the rule-of-thirds, objects seeming to come out of the heads of people or animals, badly handled high contrast lighting situations and poor focus.

CLASS

All camera clubs are made up of individuals whose experience levels vary greatly. We have everything from beginner “point-and-shooter” photographers to professional level folks who are considered “masters” of their trade. In our competitions it would not be considered “fair” for a beginning photographer to compete directly with a person whose work shows that they are in the “professional” category. Thus we have 3 levels of photographic expertise to compete in. Beginners are designated as “Class B”, Advanced as “Class A” and those who have clearly shown mastery in photographic skills fall into the “Master’s Class” category. Each member must decide where they feel that their experience puts them within these three categories. If you are not sure which category you are best suited for then it is suggested that you contact one of the club’s “Master” Class members for help in making that decision.

At the start of each camera club year members are asked to specify what “class” they would like to compete in during the coming year. Members, if they so wish, may specify a separate class for each of; Pictorial, Nature, Open Color, and Black and White. There are no “class” distinctions in any of the other competition

categories. Members should keep in mind that Pictorial, Black and White, and Nature are categories in the Electronic Slide part of our competition and Open Color and Black and White are categories in the Print competition. Once a class is chosen, the member must remain in that class for the whole year. To reiterate, the choice of a class is up to the member and should be based upon an assessment of their photography ability. The available classes are “B”, “A” and “M” (for masters) in that order going from beginner to fully accomplished.

SPECIAL SUBMISSIONS

Every once in a while we have a “special program” or other need to send pictures in to our web master. For example our “macro magic” program or pictures for our web site. The e-mail address to use for these situations is: neshutterbugs@Gmail.com with the category specified in the SUBJECT line.

OWNERSHIP OF PHOTOGRAPHS

All images presented for display under the auspices of the New England Shutterbugs Camera Club shall have been taken by the person representing the photograph as their own. If they wish, NES Members may have someone else print, mat and/or Frame their photographs for them. However, the photograph and any modifications made during post processing must be solely the work of the person submitting the photograph for display. One exception to this rule is the print category “Creative Digital”. The executive board has agreed that as long as a member uses their own photograph as the starting “basis” for their final image that it is acceptable to use, for example, an overlaid image that may or may not have been created by the NES member. This is in keeping with the “anything goes” policy of this segment of our competitions and is meant to further foster innovative results using Photoshop techniques such as graphic arts, filters, etc. which might employ the addition of graphic design features that were not created by the member.

ENTERING IMAGES MORE THAN ONCE

An image may only be entered into competition one time with one exception. If a member enters an image and that image is disqualified because it does not meet the requirements of the category it was entered in, the member may enter that same image one more time at a later competition and in a category for which the image does meet the category requirements.