

SECTION IX. COMPETITION

1. Overview. Because competition is considered a valuable tool for members to improve their skills, Directors should call for several meetings each year to include competition among members. Scores should be accumulated during the competition year so year-end winners can be recognized.

2. Media Categories. Images may be entered for digital projection or for display as prints. All images should be the member's own work. All projected images will be digital, no matter which division they are entered in. Images originally captured on film may be entered if they are converted to digital. Images captured at any time may be entered, but current efforts are encouraged.

3. Special Categories may be assigned by Division Directors. An assigned category may be just for fun, it may be planned to encourage members to try a new and different technique, it may be assigned to take advantage of a special season like fall colors or Christmas lights, it may be assigned to stimulate creativity and have fun.

4. End of Year Competition. Each Division has an Annual Competition at year's end. Members may only enter images that have been entered in regular competition during the year. 2 Images may be entered in each category. Evaluators should award honors to about fifteen percent of the entries and select one Image of the Year, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mentions respectively for each Category in each Division: General Open, General Creative, Nature, Landscape, Travel, Travel Sequence and (Prints when they resume).

SECTION X DIVISION COMPETITION RULES

Guidelines for all Digital Competition Entries

1. Image Resolution

1920 x 1200 pixels at 100 dpi.

sRGB Color Space

JPEG file format (.jpg)

Width not to exceed 1920 pixels

Height not to exceed 1200 pixels.

Members submitting images that are NOT formatted in this way will be rejected. If in this process you do not meet the deadline, then your image(s) will not be included in the competition.

2. File Name

With Photo Entry you only need to put the title of your image.

Please use spaces, correct spelling* and capital letters where needed.

DO NOT USE ALL CAPS. No dashes or other symbols.

HINT * Forgotten how to exactly spell a location? Google it!

3. Submitting Files for Competition

Your images are loaded onto the *photentry.uk* web site. (<https://sierracameraclubsac.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PhotoEntry-User-Instructions-1.pdf>)

The deadlines and instructions for each competition are e-mailed to members from the Division Directors. Allow a few extra days just in case you have made a mistake. The Director will work with you to resolve problems. **No changes will be accepted after the deadline.**

4. Number of Images Each category accepts 2 entries. General Open, General Creative, Nature, Landscape, and Travel. A Travel Sequence consists of 4-7 images. See the Travel Page for more information.

5. Problems. Your entries go directly to the photoentry company. The directors can see your entries and will contact you if there are any problems, as long as it is before the deadline.

6. Make-ups are allowed. Makeups can be entered in any competition during the year (except the first) as long as the number of entries for any one competition does not exceed 4 and the total entries for the year in any single Division/Category does not exceed 8. Both limits are automatically enforced by PhotoEntry.

Nature Division

SECTION XI INDIVIDUAL DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

General Division

1. Categories

The General Division contains two Categories:
Open and Creative (Altered Reality)

2. Definitions

The Open Category. There are no limitations on subject matter or techniques used for image capture or post processing. The images can be color or monochrome. Evaluation will be based primarily on pictorial content with the only restriction being that subject matter should not be offensive to the average adult audience.

The Creative (Altered Reality) Category. Of course we want you to be creative in all aspects of your photography. Including “Altered Reality” in the category title is meant to convey the spirit of the PSA definition as follows:

The PSA definition of Creative is “Altered Reality.” The image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of these three. Creative images are often montages (a blending or composite of multiple images). High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are NOT considered “altered reality.” The original image must be made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or captured digitally. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Original images must be altered by the maker; artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated, if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. It is necessary that the image’s core content be identifiable. Non-creative images are not eligible for this competition. Any subject matter is acceptable as long as the Altered Reality guidelines are followed. The use of third party images such as clip art are not allowed.

You must decide which Category is appropriate for each of your images. Please realize that the Division Director can disqualify an image if it is obvious that it does not meet the criteria of the category, such as a portrait in the Creative (Altered Reality) Category. Even if the Director allows the image, it may be a close call, and the judge can also disqualify an image.

1. Categories

The Nature Division contains two Categories:
Nature and Landscape

2. Definitions

The Nature Category. Nature photography is restricted to the use of photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story-telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Although species don’t have to be identified in the image title, importance is placed on correctly identifying the species depicted, incorrectly identified species may count against your overall score. Feel free to reach out to club members if you need help in identifying species. Avoid using overly clever or vague titles while still properly conveying the nature story

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including 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 grayscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed .

Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. The environment that the species is adapted to may be present in the photo so long as the subject is that of the wild species. For instance, crops or fields may appear in photos depicting birds which inhabit or use this land as part of their habitat. It is up to the judge’s discretion to determine if the human environment plays too large a role in an image. The judge will evaluate the image based on content. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. All images of horses will be considered ineligible.

Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. Images of insects on any plant regardless of whether the plant is native, hybridized or from another area will be considered eligible as long as the insect is the primary subject rather than the plant. Honeybees are eligible.

Nature Continued

Landscape

The Landscape Category. These images depict an expanse of scenery. The subject is the scenery and not individual elements of the scene. These images include but are not limited to landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, outdoor scenic, sunsets, farms, etc. Close ups of objects, people or wildlife should not be the primary subject.

No techniques that add, relocate, or replace, pictorial elements are permitted. Removal of unnatural intrusions such as airplane contrails, signs, or vehicles are allowed. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking, image stitching and dodging/burning. Artificial lighting and flash are also permitted. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grayscale monochrome.

Travel Division

1. Categories

The Travel Division contains two Categories: Travel Singles and Travel Sequences.

2. Definitions

The Travel Singles Category follows PSA guidelines. Images should depict a time and portray a land, a people, or a culture in a natural state. Images are not limited to other lands or countries; they may include domestic content. They should not contain ultra close-ups that lose their identity, studio-type model pictures, or manipulation. High Dynamic Range (HDR) may be used to improve exposure to show what the human eye saw but using it for creative effects or manipulation and not allowed. **Staged set-up shots are not allowed.**

Titles are part of the story and will be read during judging. Keep them short. They should be serious and accurate descriptions of the subject.

The Travel Sequences Category consist of four to seven travel images that portray a travel experience. (including the title image.)

The title image should include a descriptive title and will be judged. If the competitor does not want to use a digital image as the Title Image, a blank page with text may be submitted, and will not be judged. Regardless of the Title manner (image or not), only seven images maximum per sequence can be submitted.

Judging evaluation considers continuity and story impact. **Staged set-up shots are not allowed.** When submitting images the labels are the same as other digital entries. Last Name First Name Title. PLUS at the **end** of the label the images need to be numbered exactly as below. This is how your images stay together and in order.

Use lower and upper case and spaces between words.
No dashes, commas or slashes.

Smith Jan Tahoe Sunrise 01.jpg (sequence title)
Smith Jan Tahoe Sunrise 02.jpg
Smith Jan Tahoe Sunrise 03.jpg
Smith Jan Tahoe Sunrise 04.jpg
Smith Jan Tahoe Sunrise 05.jpg
Smith Jan Tahoe Sunrise 06.jpg
Smith Jan Tahoe Sunrise 07.jpg

HINT: Copy and paste the name labels from the title image. This avoids typing errors. If the titles are not exactly the same except for the last number, or they will not stay together.

Print Division

Print Meetings Will Resume when we re-start in Person Meetings.

- 1. Categories** The Print Division contains three Categories:
Monochrome: Black and white or in varying tones of only one color.
Color: Two or more colors including monochrome with spot color.
Creative: Must begin with your photograph. The image can then be manipulated to create an altered reality image.

2. Definitions

The Print Division is “open” with no subject categories. Evaluation will be based primarily on pictorial content with the only restriction being that subject matter should not be offensive to the average adult audience.

Prints should be the owner’s work. They may be printed by an outside source. The images can be printed on any paper, fabric, wood or metal substrate. They should be no larger than 18 inches by 24 inches, including the mount or mat. The actual image should be a minimum of 5x5 or 5x7. Prints may be matted, but they should not be framed.

Prints should be identified with a label on the reverse side in the upper left-hand corner containing the title, the maker’s name, the print category and the date of the competition.

The Print Division may include competitions, work-shops and other presentations. Competitors should enter two prints for each Category that they wish to participate in.

A digital jpeg must be submitted to the Director prior to the Pint Competition.	
Image Resolution 1920 x 1200 pixels at 100 dpi.	
sRGB Color Space	
JPEG file format (.jpg)	
Width not to exceed 1920 pixels	Print Division Codes CO = color CR = creative MO= monochrome
Height not to exceed 1200 pixels.	

SECTION X. EVALUATION AND SCORING

- 1. Evaluation** will consist of a discussion of each entry explaining the strong points of the image and what might have been done to make the image stronger. When evaluation is for competition the comments should end with the assigning of a numerical score.
- 2. Evaluators** should be accomplished photographers, preferably from outside the Club membership. If an evaluator is a Club member, he/she should not be competing in the Division being evaluated. An evaluator should evaluate only once in a Division competition during a calendar year. Evaluation may be done by one or by three evaluators. The Division Director will instruct the evaluators on the Club’s methods of evaluation, and members should not comment during evaluation. Annual evaluators should not have judged for the Division during the year.
- 3. Scoring.** In the monthly competitions, evaluators will assign a score of 8 to 12 points to each entry after they have discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the entry.

Judge Scoring Criteria

- 12 points:** image has no flaws in technique or composition. .
- 11 points:** image has one minor flaw in technique or composition, but not both.
- 10 points:** image has minor flaws in both technique and composition, or a significant flaw in either technique or composition. .
- 9 points:** image has one or more serious flaws in either technique or composition.
- 8 points:** image has serious flaws in both technique and composition

Note: Flaws in technique could include errors in focus, depth of field or exposure.

4. Honors. A score of twelve points will be considered an “Honor.” Evaluators should be asked to assign Honors to approximately ten per cent of the entries. Makers should be acknowledged and asked to discuss their entries after judging.

An entry that has received an Honor may not be re-entered another division except for prints.

5. Image of the Month. After all entries in a Division are evaluated, the evaluator should be asked to pick a favorite from among the entries receiving Honors, (12 points). An “Image of the Month” should be selected from each Division: General, Nature, Travel, Travel Sequence, Color Print, Monochrome Print and Creative Print. The Division Director will add one point to the “Image of the Month” score, for a total of 13 points.

6. Accumulated Scores. At the end of the competition year, competitors' scores will be added for a total of all of the year's competitions. Competitors with high year-end total scores in each Division will receive trophies and certificates of recognition at an Awards Party.

SECTION XI. RECOGNITION

1. Recognition. After a competition at a Division Meeting, competitors receiving honors should be recognized. At the end of a competition year, the Club will hold an Awards Party where competitors with the highest year-end score totals and winners of the annual competition will be recognized.

a. Division Meeting Winners. After competitions at Division Meetings, members who received honors can be recognized with a certificate or a ribbon and asked to discuss their honor-receiving images.

b. Cumulative Score Awards. In all Classes and Categories with seven or more competitors, there will be three awards; with three to seven competitors, there will be two awards. First-place winners will receive a Sierra Camera Club perpetual trophy and a Certificate of Recognition. Other winners will each receive a Certificate of Recognition. If there is a tie for first place, all tied winners' names will be engraved on the trophy, and they will share it for the year. Trophies will be returned at the end of the year.

c. End of Year Competition. Members may enter 2 images that have been entered in competition during the year. Winning entries in the Competition will be shown at the Awards Presentation Dinner. Awards will be presented for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mentions in each Category for all divisions.