



NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL, INCORPORATED

Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition Information for Judges

Introduction

Congratulations. You have been selected to judge one of the NECCC Electronic Photograph (digital slide) interclub competitions. You play a very important role in the conduct of these competitions and we thank you for taking the time to perform this important function.

There are two categories of competition, pictorial (open) and nature:

- The **pictorial** category is an *open* competition. That means that all subject types as well as many different techniques (both in camera and computer manipulation) may be represented. Scoring one type of subject (for example nature) higher than others or failing to give credit to one type of photograph, for example creative photographs, because you don't personally shoot or care for such photographs does a disservice to the competitors. You should judge entries for overall photographic impact, not the amount of manipulation required to achieve the effect.
- The **nature** category follows the *new* PSA nature definition (which now allows the use of digital techniques such as HDR as long as the results look natural) and you must be sure all photographs adhere to that definition. Photographs which don't adhere to the new PSA nature definition (for example cultivated plants or visible "hand of man") should be scored very low.
- Each category contains two classes, A and B, which are judged *separately*. Thus, there will be four separate competitions.

The Scoring System

Each judge should use a voting range of 3 to 9. ***You are encouraged to use the range of available scores***, though most of you won't feel comfortable giving a 3 or 4 since these photographs are each club's best work; however, **4 would be an appropriate score for photographs in the nature category that do not meet the criteria for a nature subject**. The following use of the scoring system is suggested:

- Award 5 points for photographs that are **below average** for the class being judged. For each class it is appropriate to give a number of 5's since **some photographs will be below average** (this is not Lake Wobegone where all the children are above average).
- Award a 6 to photographs that are **average** for the class being judged.
- Award a 7 or 8 to photographs **above the class average**.
- Award a 9 to the two or three photographs that are the best in each class being judged.

Please evaluate the entries **relative to the class** being judged rather than against some external standard. It is important that the scores be distributed as widely as possible over the range from 15 (three 5's) to 27 (three 9's) to minimize ties.

In scoring a photograph that you recognize as being from your own club, you must make every attempt to be as objective as possible. It is assumed that all judges possess a very high degree of personal integrity and will make every attempt to be as objective as possible. However, if you feel that your objectivity is compromised for any reason, you should disqualify yourself from scoring that photograph. If you honestly feels that a truly objective evaluation is impossible, then you should score the photograph as a *one*, and the overall score will be corrected by multiplying the sum of the other two judges' scores by 1.5, and any one-half (0.5) point value will be rounded up to the next higher whole number.

Other Comments

1. The host club has been instructed to give you a run through of **at least one round of photographs** so that you can judge the level of the class being judged. If you don't get a significant run through you may have trouble evaluating the range of the class. Please insist on an extended run through.
2. After the first run through be sure the club **carefully refocuses the projector**. The internal parts of electronic projectors become quite hot which, in some models, causes the focus to drift very slightly as they warm up. Refocusing the projector after it is well warmed up compensates for this problem.
3. When you view the title slides for each class be sure you can see the 1-pixel wide yellow line around the image. If the line is missing on one side insist that the projector be adjusted. Some competitors put a stroke around their images and if it is missing on one side that could negatively affect your opinion of the image.
4. Ties are not broken, but if there is a tie for first place in any class you will be asked to choose one of the first place images for publication in the *NECCC Bulletin*. This designation will not change the scores received and all first place winners will receive ribbons; it only determines which photograph will be published to represent the competition in the *NECCC Bulletin*. You may use the likelihood of good reproduction in black and white as one of your criteria for deciding.

Again, thank you for taking the time to judge this interclub competition.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact the NECCC Electronic Photograph Competition Co-directors (e-mail preferred):

William Barnett, 66 Jasmine Circle, Milford, CT 06461-1788. (203) 877-1639. NECCC@optonline.net.

Cindy Gosselin, 4 Catalpa Court, Avon, CT 06001. (860) 507-6277. cgosselin@sbcglobal.net