



MEMPHIS CAMERA CLUB

MEMBERS HANDBOOK

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Introduction

The Memphis Camera Club exists to educate the membership and the public in better photography and enjoying its pursuit. The club is comprised of over one hundred people who love photography. Most members are hobbyists, along with a growing number pursuing a career in photography. The Memphis Camera Club has been “in focus for over 60 years”.

The club’s activities include:

- educational programs
- member competitions
- field trips
- exhibits of members’ work
- a venue for sharing an interest in photography

MCC meets twice monthly, for a competition in slide and print photography, and for an educational program and business meeting. Attendance is open to anyone interested.

WHERE: Longinotti Auditorium, St. Francis Hospital, Park Ave., Memphis, TN

WHEN: 7:00 p.m., 1st Thursday, Competition
7:00 p.m., 3rd Thursday, Program and Business Meeting (Except December)

Annual Dues:

- Renewals: \$30 per individual, or \$40 per Dual
- New members: \$35 per individual, or \$45 per Dual
- The Club year runs from December to January
- Renewals are due and payable in December and are delinquent after January 31
- New member dues are Prorated
- Renewing members are not eligible for the discount

Newsletter: “DEVELOPMENTS” is published monthly and is sent to all members in good standing. This newsletter outlines the monthly programs, speakers, notices, and special events of interest. The monthly photo competition winners are reported. Regular features and occasional columns of educational interest are included. “Developments” is published the week following monthly competition.

Associated Activities: Digital Class

- 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Longinotti Auditorium

Carl Nilson’s and Tom Furlotte’s Class for Enthusiastic Photographers

- 4th Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Longinotti Auditorium

Officers, Board Members, and Committees

Executive Committee (makes up the 7 Member MCC Board)

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director
- Director
- Competition

Committee Chairpersons

- Exhibition/CBU Permanent Collection
- Field Trip
- Keepsakes
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Nominating
- Program
- Social

Monthly Competition

Any member in good standing (dues paid) may present images for competition. These may be in the form of prints, slides or digitally acquired, projected images. Each category of image (print, slide or digital projection) will be judged separately for monthly and year-end competitions. A maximum of 4 (four) entries will be allowed per member per month with three exceptions. If a photograph was judged as being in the wrong category one month it may be re-entered in the correct category in addition to the usual four entries in the following month. There will be a special "assigned" category certain months. The category will be based on a certain topic and a fifth image may be entered for this category during the assigned month. It may be in the form of a print, slide or digitally projected image and there will be a single winner for this category. The third exception to the 4-5 images per month will be for judges who may not enter images for the month when they judge. They may "make-up" these images during other months when they may enter one to four extra images. These will be totaled at the end of the year so that all members have the same maximum number of images for the year.

An image may be entered in competition only once. This includes duplicates shot in camera and exposure brackets of the same image. A different image shot of the same location or subject that is similar to (but not identical) may be entered. This image must show substantial change such as a changed camera position, different lens or filter effect. There is no age limit on images submitted for competition (with the exception of assigned subjects). Images created as a result of someone else setting up the lighting, props, etc. (as in a workshop environment) may NOT be submitted. Competition's purpose is to judge your work and not an image "created" by someone else.

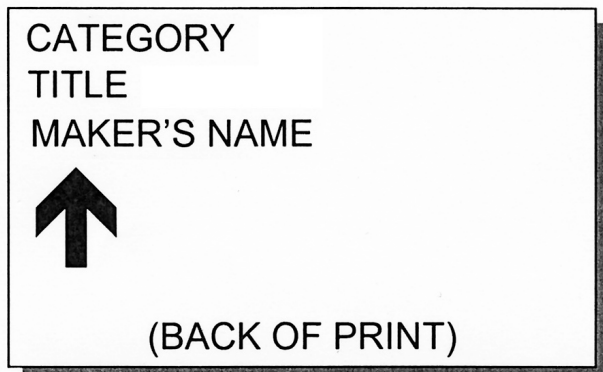
PRINT STANDARDS FOR COMPETITION

- Prints in any size may be entered, but the maker should be aware that inappropriate sizing for the subject matter may have a negative effect on the score.
- Prints must be securely mounted for handling.
- Prints cannot be framed.
- Matted prints are acceptable if the mats are securely attached.
- Cover your name if it appears on the front of the photograph.
- The photographer will be penalized for:
 - Poor print quality
 - Untidy mounting
 - Inappropriate mats
 - Poor retouching and artwork
 - Obvious spotting
 - Sloppy workmanship of any kind.

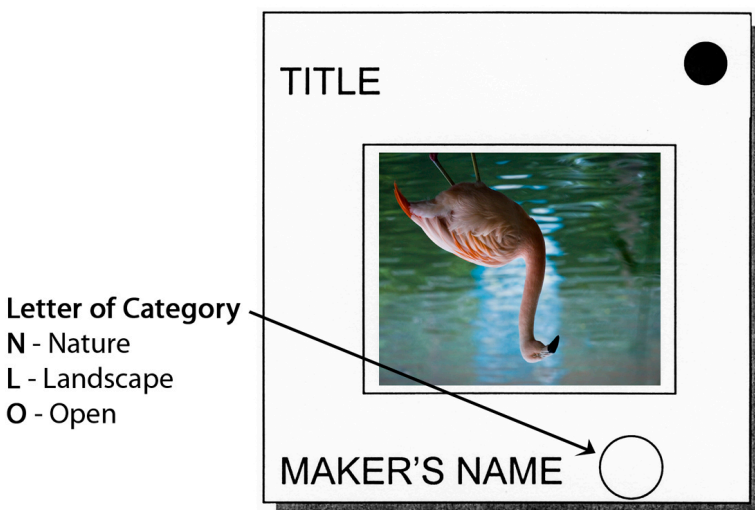
Labeling Entries for Competition

Maximum 5 word titles

Prints must be labeled on the back of the mount with the category, the title, name of the maker, and an arrow indicating the top of the image. This labeling may be written on the backing of the print, or on a sheet of paper attached to the back of the print.



Slides must be labeled on the front of the mount with the name of the maker, the title, and a dot in the lower left corner (when held with image viewed correctly). This information should be PRINTED, for easy reading by those preparing the slide trays and scoring sheets.



Digital projection images will be a JPG image not more than 1024 pixels wide and not more than 768 pixels tall in the sRGB color space. When your image is ready, e-mail the JPG images in an attachment to the the digital image coordinator. The images must be received by the Saturday prior to competition to be included. The title of the e-mail should read: 1. Title of your first image 2. Title of your second image and followed by your name underneath. You will receive a reply e-mail with the title "Received".

Competition Categories

The Camera Club attempts to offer the categories that offer the greatest number of our members to compete. By defining the types of photos that fall into each category, similar subjects are kept together so that each may be held to similar stands for judging. The 3 (three) slide and 7 (seven) print categories are explained below. The digital projection category will initially have only one category for all images. This may change in the future as the popularity and maturity of the category evolve.

An image will be challenged and not be judged if two judges deem it improperly entered in a category. The image may be reentered the following competition in the proper category. The Chairperson of the Competition Committee is the final arbiter of challenged images.

SLIDE CATEGORIES The three categories for slide competition are as follows.

NATURE A slide that shows anything in the natural universe. Wild animals and wilderness images should not show human influence, including:

- Man-made objects, buildings and roads
- Footprints
- Tire tracks
- Bottles, cans, wrappers
- Power lines and utility poles
- Unrestrained wildlife shown in its natural habitat is acceptable, e.g. a bird on a fence post.

SCENIC / LANDSCAPE A slide that shows a landscape, seascape or cityscape, including buildings, fields, roads, or other man-made objects. If people are included, they should not be a dominant element in the picture.

- A picture of a forest is scenic.
- A picture of a tree is nature.
- A picture of the bark is macro.

OPEN Any slide that does not fall into any of the other categories. The only restriction is that images must not qualify in another category. Images that could qualify include still life, humor, action such as sports or people at work, animals visibly in captivity, and pets.

DIGITAL PROJECTION There is only one category for digital, it is open.

PRINT CATEGORIES The seven print categories are defined as follows: Prints may be traditionally produced or computer-printed.

BLACK AND WHITE A black and white print. Toned images and infrared images would fall in this category. This category EXCLUDES candid people or portraits.

COLOR NATURE A color print that shows anything in the natural universe. Wild animals and wilderness images should not show human influence, including:

- Man-made objects, buildings and roads
- Footprints
- Tire tracks
- Bottles, cans, wrappers
- Power lines and utility poles
- Unrestrained wildlife shown in its natural habitat is acceptable, e.g. a bird on a fence post.

CANDID PEOPLE An image where a person(s) is the dominant element, however, the subject is informal.

COLOR SCENIC / LANDSCAPE A print that shows a landscape, seascape or cityscape, including buildings, fields, roads, or other man-made objects. If people are included, they should not be a dominant element in the picture.

- A picture of a forest is scenic.
- A picture of a tree is nature.
- A picture of the bark is macro.

OPEN Any print that does not fall into any of the other categories. The only restriction is that images must not qualify in another category. Images that could qualify include still life, humor, action such as sports or people at work, animals visibly in captivity, and pets.

PORTRAIT A print of a person or group of people usually showing the faces. This category includes prints in color or black and white. This category will be judged for proper portrait characteristics such as portrait lighting, posing, and the person as the primary center of interest.

CREATIVE/MANIPULATED A print, color or black and white, that has been enhanced beyond ordinary processing and printing. Computer manipulation includes utilizing software to alter an image as to original content by the addition or deletion of elements. Computer enhancement must be conceived by the image-maker.

ASSIGNED SUBJECTS May be a slide or print. Periodically the Club has assigned subjects, involving a particular subject matter or theme. Assigned subjects are to be new works, made during the current year. The purpose of the assigned subject is to encourage members to improve and challenge their skills by producing new work, often in a new theme or style or format different from the member's normal output.

CRITIQUE Integral with Competition is critiquing the images. On Competition night, images from each of the categories will be critiqued after judging. During critique, judges will comment on the quality of the image and may suggest improvements.

This educational aspect of the competition is one of the Club's primary functions.

On Competition nights, the Competition Chairperson, or ranking Board member, will select images for critique as time allows. The judges will critique each image immediately following the announcement of the maker's score. The judge will provide their evaluation of the image in addition to the score they provided for each image.

Minimum Judging Criteria by Category

The rules of good art apply in photography, and are the basis of competition judging. Good photographs rate high in impact, creativity, style, composition, print presentation, color balance, center of interest, lighting, subject matter, print quality, technique and storytelling.

In every category, judges consider these three items:

Subject Interest Composition Technique

Within each category, there are standards to evaluate success, four examples explained below.

NATURE

Subject Interest	Composition	Technique
Fresh subject material is a plus	Is the subject dominant in the frame?	Does use of light create mood?
Is the concept worthwhile?	Does the Background merge with the subject, or conflict for attention?	Is the subject sharp?
Is the vision fresh?	Is the horizon properly placed and level?	
	Are the proportions proper?	Is the depth of field proper?

SCENIC / LANDSCAPE

Subject Interest	Composition	Technique
Can you tell what prompted the photographer to make this picture?	Was space used to advantage?	Always proper exposure
Can you tell what the subject is?	Good use of framing	Use of proper lens
Is there some unusual aspect to the picture?	Good horizon placement	Use of light
Is the picture visually interesting?	Leading lines	Everything sharp far and near (Hyper-focal)
	Good balance	Use of filter

PORTRAITS

Subject Interest	Composition	Technique
Attractive and natural pose	Enough of body included in frame?	Proper use of light
Activity of interest	Good use of space within frame	Fill flash or reflectors
Clothing proper (non-distracting)	Vertical or horizontal framing	Background control
Personality evident	Subject doesn't merge with background	Eyes in focus
Human interest		Skin color and texture

CREATIVE The nature of the subject may not be readily apparent. Design elements such as color harmony, pattern, repetition, eye flow, visual interest and lighting are the basis for scoring this category.

Subject Interest	Composition	Technique
What is the subject?	Does subject placement demonstrate control by maker?	Is the technique used apparent?
Is the subject visually interesting?	Composition might not follow formal guidelines. Is the composition visually interesting?	Does the manipulation used enhance or improve the photo?
Leading lines		Is the exposure proper to render the image viewable without hindering eye flow and visual interest?
Sense of mood		Does the technique "make" the picture?
Induce feelings?		Is a hand-colored image good before coloring?
		Does the use of color complement the image?

Three judges score on a scale of 9-3 for possible maximum score of 27.

Total Score	Definition	Individual Score
26 - 27	Superior	9
23 - 25	Excellent	8
20 - 22	Very Good	7
17 - 19	Good	6
14 - 16	Needs Work	5
9 - 13	Poor	4 - 3

Scoring Definitions

Superior

26-27

A photo that has interpreted the subject as well as could be expected using techniques to the limits of photography. Dynamic lighting, precise exposure, careful focus and depth control, extra creativity in subject matter and / or interpretation. No glaring flaws, but does not have to be “perfect”. These are the images you wish you had taken.

Excellent

23-25

A photo that has precise exposure and composition with tight control exhibited. Exhibits care in lighting, subject placement, timing, and technique. Minor flaws only.

Very Good

20-22

A photo that shows selection of composition and point of view with good exposure control and focus. Can have minor flaws.

Good

17-19

A photo that has the basics of exposure and composition but lacks anything outstanding. Anyone could have taken this picture – a record shot.

Needs Work

14-16

A photo that lacks care in a major technique, such as exposure or focus but otherwise would be good.

Poor

9-13

A photo that has severe flaws in the basics of exposure, lighting control, focus or composition.

Judging Procedures for Monthly Competition

1. A panel of three judges and one alternate, comprised of members in good standing who have completed the approved training, will judge all photographs for a given competition, and will critique the selected categories. The alternate judge scores only when called upon by another judge who feels it would be inappropriate for him/her to judge a particular image.
2. The judges may “challenge” an image, prior to scoring, if they consider it to be in the wrong category. The challenge will stand only if agreed upon by two judges. The challenged image will be eligible for re-entry in the proper category in the month immediately following.

3. The judges may also “challenge” any entry, before scoring, which they decide does not meet the criteria for entry. The challenge will stand only if agreed upon by two judges. The challenged entry will be eligible for re-entry only when the entry criteria are met.
4. Scoring will automatically be “challenged” if there is a difference of three points between scores of any judges. Each judge will announce his/her score followed by a critique. There will be a re-score by the judges after the critique, and the final score will stand.
5. In the event of a judging or classification conflict, the decision of the Chairman of the Competition Committee will stand as final.
6. The chairman of the Competition Committee will assign judges and alternate for each competition on a rotating basis.
7. Judges will not see any work entered until judging begins. Previewing of prints or slides will not be done.
8. There must be no comment or discussion, implied or spoken, before an image has been judged and its score announced, except in the case of a “challenge” as defined above. Discussion among the judges is encouraged to obtain a consensus regarding challenges.
9. The title of the image will be read prior to the scoring. The maker’s name will be announced for high scoring images category winners only.
10. Scoring totals are maintained for each member who submits entries in competition. Annual totals are the basis for eligibility for year-end awards, along with judging by experts outside the club.

General Guides to Competition

Come prepared

When you arrive for competition, you should already have your entries selected and labeled. The people logging in the prints and slides are not there to select your entries for you. Don’t slow everyone else by not being prepared.

Come early

Logging in all the entries takes time. Arrive early enough to have sufficient time for the paperwork to be completed. You are not the only one entering and everyone’s work must be logged in.

Advice is available

You may ask the Chairman of the Competition committee for advice on categories to enter. Please refrain from seeking general advice from members who may be judging that night. If you need advice, please come early enough to allow for the extra time needed.

Annual Competition and Awards

A year-end photographic competition is held in January. The competition year runs from December through November. Entries eligible for year-end awards are all images judged in that years' monthly competition which received a certain minimum score. The minimum scores are selected to allow the top 20-25% of the total entries to be eligible. The minimum scores may vary each year. The Competition Committee will determine each year's minimum eligible scores in October, and will announce them at the October business meeting. The Competition Committee will notify members of their eligible entries judged December through October. Entries judged during November competition and receiving the minimum score are also eligible. Members will submit any or all their eligible entries as specified at the November competition meeting.

Judges from outside the Club will select winners in each of the print, slide and digital projection categories. The judges may also select photos of special merit. Winners will be announced at the annual awards banquet.

Awards are:

Print of the Year

Slide of the Year

Digital Projected Image of the Year