

## COMPETITION

The purpose of the Houston Photochrome Club Intra club monthly competition is to encourage member participation in club activities and in the process enhance their overall knowledge of and skill in photography. It is an effective learning tool.

### WHEN ARE THEY HELD

Competitions are held monthly at the general meeting, the second Thursday of the month, unless a program or workshop can only be held at that time due to the presenter's schedule. Watch the newsletter for changes.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All members are eligible to submit images for competition.

### COMPETITION RULES

All competition entries must be the work of the entrant and must originate as photographs (images captured by light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally. All images modified digitally or included in digitally constructed composites must be the original work of the entrant.

By submitting an image with his or her name on it, the photographer certifies that the work is his or her own and grants permission to use the work for Houston Photochrome Club purposes to include Inter Club competitions, display on the HPC website and inclusion in the Reflex News.

A model release form is recommended when photographing people that you may want to use in print media or competition. Sample forms may be found on the internet...Google "model release form for photographers." It's a good idea to carry one with you for unexpected shots.

A member may submit a maximum of three color (3) images in the following two categories and a maximum of one (1) monochrome image.

If three color images are entered then one of them **must** be entered in the assigned category. Only one image may be entered in the assigned category. The images which are not entered in assigned categories may be entered in the Open category.

A single monochrome image per month may be entered regardless of the number of color images entered.

The Categories are:

**Assigned (AS)**

**Open (O)**

**Monochrome (M)**

### **IMAGE USE LIMITATION**

Once an image has been entered in any category of a Houston Photochrome Club regular monthly competition, that same image or a like "in camera" image, or a reproduction duplicate image, may not be reentered in any category of a Houston Photochrome Club regular monthly competition regardless of the title.

Any photo taken at the same time or at the same place will be eligible providing it clearly exhibits a different pose, angle of view, or other distinctly different approach to the subject image

### **AWARDS**

#### **Photographer of the Year**

All points earned in the regular monthly competitions will be used to determine the winner of the Photographer of the Year Award which will now include Monochrome (formerly Black& White). The highest Average score determines the winner. \* The average will be determined by the total points accumulated during the competition year, divided by the total number of images entered.

\*To be eligible for the Photographer of the Year Award a member must submit a minimum of 36 of the possible 48 entries, for the year. Tie scores will be decided by the most assigned categories fulfilled during the year.

#### **Image of the Year Awards**

There will be Image of the Year awards for Assigned, Open and Black & White. Awards will consist of 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, and two Honorable Mentions in each category. **Judging for End of the Year awards will be done by qualified judges who are not members of the Houston Photochrome Club.**

#### **Image of the Year Submission**

End of the Year entries must be selected from your list of eligible images from monthly competitions January thru December of the competition . Title and month originally submitted will be sent to the Competition Image Manager, who maintains the images submitted for the year. Submissions are limited to 3 images each from category, Assigned, Open and Black and White.

## **CATEGORY DEFINITIONS**

### **Assigned**

Images for the Assigned category must fit the subject for that month and be taken within 12 months, prior to competition meeting for that assignment.

### **Open**

Images which do not fit in the other two categories should be entered in this category. Any subject is permitted with the exception of nudes.

### **Monochrome**

Monochrome images are digital images that are all one hue, i.e., black & white, sepia etc. All black and white images will be entered in this category.

## **SIZING & LABELING DIGITAL IMAGES FOR COMPETITION**

### **Image Size**

Image size may be any size or shape that does not exceed 1280 pixels horizontally and 800 pixels vertically.

### **File Type and Size**

The size of the JPEG image is not to exceed 1MB.

(See above for pixel size.)

Color space must be sRGB or Adobe RGB (1998). Resolution setting of 300ppi is recommended.

## **File Names**

The image file should be named using the following form:

Category\_Image Title\_Submitter's Name.

Files lacking this information or not named following this form, may be omitted from competition.

Example of proper form:

O\_Skimmer in Flight\_BrownJ.jpg

## **Categories**

O= Open

AS=Assigned

M= Black& White

**DO NOT** use first names only, nicknames or initials for identification. Images not easily identified by makers name will be disqualified.

The image title must be limited to **35** characters including spaces.

**It is important that the guidelines for naming files be followed when submitting images for the monthly competitions.**

## **Challenges**

Any club member may challenge a competition entry within three days following that competition. A club member may telephone or send a challenge by email to the Competition Committee Chair or committee member within three days of a competition meeting. Club officers, committee chairs, outside judges, GSCCC or PSA also may challenge a competition entry at any time. A challenge is a request for a review and ruling by the club authorities as to the entry's conformation with the rules and procedures of such an entry.

**Authorities in this case shall include club officers, intra club and interclub committee members, and any specific others they may wish to include for technical assistance. They may request a copy of the original RAW, TIFF or JPEG image taken by the camera. Failure to provide a requested original file will automatically disqualify the challenged image. The results of the review will be reported back to the maker within two weeks, after which the maker may accept or appeal their findings in accordance with club competition rules. The identity of challenger(s) will not be disclosed beyond the review authority members.**

### **Posting of Images on Web Site**

Digital images posted on the club's website will be credited to its maker and will carry a copyright notice and /or copyright symbol.

All club members are encouraged to embed their copyright information in camera at the time the image is taken. Your camera's Set Up menu may provide this through a Copyright or Image

Comment feature.

## **JUDGING and SCORING**

### **JUDGES**

Three judges, usually club members, are appointed by the Intra club Competition Chairman and are notified in advance of the meeting. Judges are normally selected from those members who regularly participate in the monthly competition.

### **JUDGING**

Judging of digital images will be done by projecting images on a screen with an electronic projector at a resolution of 1024 x 768 and with a laptop PC using a digital slide show program chosen by the club. Background to the image will be black.

## SCORING

**Our club uses a 27-point scoring system. Each of the three judges awards a score ranging from 1-9 points on each image. The three judges scores are then totaled which gives the image a combined score ranging from 3-27 points. If an image made by one of the judges appears on the screen, that judge immediately disqualifies himself by giving it a score of 0. The remaining two judges' scores are then averaged and this average is used as the score from the disqualified judge.**

**Titles will be read while the image is being judged, however, the makers name will not be read until after the image has been scored. All scores are recorded for use in End of the Year Award competition.**

Points earned in all categories will count toward determining group placement in End of the Year Award competition.

The judge is instructed to score images on these three basic elements: **interest, technique and composition**. Of the three, interest is the most important and more weight is to be given to interest than to technique or composition.

**Interest** is that quality which captures the attention of the viewer. It can be achieved through any combination of the following factors:

1. Impact --- Does it immediately "grab" your attention?
2. Appeal --- Does it have something to say?
3. Drama --- Is it dynamic? Does it have character rather than being just a "record shot"?

**Technique** is concerned with mechanics. It can refer to pure technical perfection in an image or to intended special effects.

1. Sharpness - Is the picture sharp? If it is not sharp, did the photographer

intentionally blur or soften for a special effect?

Was the effect achieved?

2. Exposure - Is the image underexposed or overexposed?  
If it is either, was it done for a reason?
3. Presentation - Does the vertical or horizontal format of the picture fit the subject?
4. Cropping - Was the image properly cropped if necessary to remove distracting or uninteresting elements?

**Composition is the arrangement of subject matter in an effective or pleasing manner. Good composition literally makes you see what the photographer intends you to see. The following are factors in good composition:**

1. Emphasis - Does the picture have one central subject to which all else is subordinate?  
  
It may have more than one point of interest, but only one main theme. Simplicity of arrangement is the key.
2. Balance - Do lines and masses pleasantly lead the eye to the subject?  
  
Do colors harmonize?
3. Color - Color can be a factor in composition. It can be used to convey a mood or impression, to strengthen the message, or to impress the viewer with a particular sensation.

## **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING**

An image that creates emotion, passion, and a lasting impact is much better than one lacking the former but is technically perfect, well composed and in perfect focus and with great color. Images with impact and emotion that might break the standard technical and compositional rules might be better images than those that meet 100 % of the normal rules. What the image communicates is more important than the image's content or technical aspects. Static and predictable images rarely become contest winners.

Judging, by definition, is a subjective process with a strong emotional component that involves some objective criteria. That is why we use three judges at each competition.

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES**

The club uses a 27 point scoring system whereby each of the three judges gives the image a score ranging from 1 to 9. The three scores are added together to get the final score. If one of the judges' images appears on the screen, that judge will enter a score of zero. The scores from the remaining two judges will then be averaged and that average will be used as the third score in determining the final score.