

Welcome to the Poly Photo Camera Club. Here are some rules and tips about entering the competition. Complete official rules can be found in section XII of the club bylaws.

#### OVERVIEW

- 1) Competitions are held on the first Saturday of each month, January through November. We don't meet in December. Our meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. Entries must be submitted by 8:00 pm the night prior. Poly competitions use digital images only. Members who photograph on film must have the film scanned to a digital file in order to enter competition.
- 2) Two separate competitions are held. You may enter images even if you are unable to attend the competition meeting. No prizes are awarded.
  - a. The **open competition** is open to any subject or technique as long as it is based on a photograph and not purely an illustration. You may enter two digital images each month. Each image must have a title which will be announced during the competition.
  - b. In the **project competition**, each entry must pertain to the subject chosen for the month. For example, if the subject is "Solitude", your image must be your interpretation of solitude. You may enter only one project image each month. You can give your entry a title, but it will not be announced during the competition. Titles of the winning images will be posted on the Poly website. The goal of the project competition is to get members to create new photographs. All project entries must be new work **created no earlier than October of the previous year.** October is the month where we determine the project subjects for the following year. You may enter one project image each month.

#### JUDGING

- 3) The **project** entries will be judged first. Judges do not comment on the project images. Images are not scored, but the judge will determine two winners: first and second place.
- 4) During the **open** competition, as each image is projected the title will be announced by the scorekeeper, the judge will comment on the image, and finally the judge will give the image a score.
- 5) After all the images have been scored, the judge will choose a first-, second- and third-place winner from the highest scoring images..

#### SCORING

- 6) Each open-competition image will receive a score of 5 to 9 points with 9 being best. Images receiving scores of 7 or higher are considered "accepted". Accepted images are eligible to win the month's competition and can be entered in our year-end competition. Images that are not accepted can be improved and re-entered in a future monthly competition.
- 7) There are 11 competition months per year. The total score from your two lowest-scoring months will be dropped and your total score for the year will be the total of the remaining 9 months. If you have submitted images to fewer than 9 monthly competitions, your score will be the total of your scores for the months entered.

## HOW TO ENTER

- 8) Entries must be attached to an email (attach all three images to a single email) and sent to [polyentries@yahoo.com](mailto:polyentries@yahoo.com) no later than **8 p.m. the night before** the competition.
- 9) Our computer uses Windows. Please be sure to send your images as attachments to your email. Mac users need to be aware that the default behavior of the Mac email software is to *embed* images into the body of email. These we cannot use.
- 10) File names:
- The file name of each image must include the title, the word “by”, and your name in the following specific format. If the image and maker cannot be identified, it will be rejected from competition. Here’s the required format: *Title of Slide by First Lastname.jpg*. For example: *Big Horn by Alan Haynes.jpg*.
  - Project entries must begin with the word “PROJECT”. If you decide to give your image a title, place it after the word “PROJECT” such as *PROJECT Water Drops by Alan Haynes.jpg*. If your project image does not have a title, just use “PROJECT” as your title in the filename like this: *PROJECT by Alan Haynes.jpg*. Although the title of the project image will not be announced during competition, it may be used when the winning project entries are posted on our website or in the year-end competition.
- 11) File format:
- Images MUST be in JPEG format. We cannot accept TIF or PSD files.
  - As of March, 2015, our new projector has a maximum resolution of 1920 by 1080 at 72 pixels per inch, so there is no advantage to entering a file any larger than that. If the image is too small, our projection software will enlarge it causing softening of the image. For horizontal images, make the image 1920 pixels on its longest side and let the shorter side be adjusted to whatever size necessary to maintain the proper aspect ratio. For vertical images, make the longest side 1080 pixels. Images slightly larger than this – such as 2000 x 1500 – are fine, but do not submit images at their original in-camera resolution as these will be too large.
  - When converting to JPEG, use *maximum* quality (minimum compression). If done correctly, your file will be less than three megabytes in size.
  - For accurate projected color, be sure your images use the sRGB color space (not “Adobe 1998”). Convert them to sRGB if necessary.

## WHAT TO ENTER

For ideas on the kinds of images that do well in competition, look at the winners posted on our website at [www.polyphotoclub.com](http://www.polyphotoclub.com). Since we use a variety of judges and judging is very subjective, you never know what will do well. After you’ve been to several competitions, you’ll have a good idea what the judges are looking for. So, enter what you like and have fun.