



NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL, INCORPORATED

Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition

Please read the following rules and regulations carefully. It is important to follow the rules so that your entries are not disqualified and to make the Competition Director's job and that of the host clubs as smooth as possible. **Note that there have been a number of additions and changes since the 2007-2008 season so be sure to read this document carefully.**

General Rules

1. The Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition is open to all New England Camera Club Council Member Clubs in good standing (dues must be paid).
2. There are **two categories of competition**, Pictorial (open) and Nature. Each club may enter four photographs in Pictorial and/or four photographs in Nature in each of three competitions for a total of 12 in each category during the competition year.
3. Each photograph in each category of a single competition must be by a different maker. Also, an individual may compete from only one club in each category. In the event that two photographs from one maker are entered in the same category of a single competition, the club having the maker's permission retains the score and the other score is nullified. A maker may be represented once in each category (from the same or different clubs), however clubs are urged to include the work of as many members as possible in each competition.
4. Each club must submit the following information to the Director **by e-mail** to NECCC@optonline.net **before October 15:**
 - o club name,
 - o categories being entered (pictorial, nature, or both),
 - o contact person,
 - o contact person's address,
 - o contact person's phone number (including area code), and
 - o contact person's e-mail address. Note that a second e-mail address of another club officer may be included if the club wishes to have an additional person to receive all communications.

It is important that the contact person be comfortable using e-mail as **all communication** of information and results will occur using this channel. Regular mail will **only** be used to send award ribbons to the clubs.

5. Each club must **also** send a paper copy of the above e-mail and a check for \$5.00 for each category (\$10 if entering both categories) **payable to "NECCC"** to the Competition Director: William Barnett, 66 Jasmine Circle, Milford, CT 06461-1788. This fee covers all three competitions for the year.
6. All photographs must have a title. The title along with the club name and maker's name must be contained in the image file name (details below).
7. Electronic photographs will not be returned.
8. By entering these competitions you give NECCC permission to reproduce your photographs in connection with the activities and publicity of the Council including display on the NECCC Internet site. You also give

NECCC permission to use your photographs in competitions that the Council enters such as the PSA Council Challenge. The copyright, however, remains with the photographer and the photographer will receive credit when his/her photograph is used.

9. Once a photograph has been entered into an NECCC Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition (**either** pictorial or nature), **it may never be entered again** regardless of score or award received. Note that entering a photograph into the pictorial category means it may never be entered in the nature category; also, a photograph entered in the nature category may never be entered in the pictorial category. However, photographs that have been entered into other categories of NECCC interclub competition (slides or prints) are eligible for entry into the electronic competition, again regardless of score or award that may have been received in the other competition.
10. **No make-ups** will be allowed in this competition. Make-ups are inherently unfair because different groups of judges tend to achieve different average scores that could help (or hurt) a club submitting a make-up.
11. Capture of all photographs as well as any manipulation **must be performed by the competitor**.

Pictorial (Open) Category Restrictions

Keep in mind that NECCC-sponsored pictorial competitions are intended for **photographers**, not Photoshop (or other editing program) illustrators. We recognize, however, that part of the attraction and fun of digital photography is the ability to alter the pictures captured by the camera, but the emphasis should be on displaying your photographs to best advantage either naturally or after manipulation (even extensive manipulation) for creative effects.

12. The Pictorial category is **open**. That means that all subject types as well as a variety of different techniques (both in camera and computer manipulation) may be entered. However, remember that we have a diverse membership so please be sure that all photographs are in good taste.
13. The major part of each image must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition. Once captured or scanned, photographs may be modified using digital image editing programs. A scanner may also be used as a camera to capture photographs of objects placed on the scanner glass.
14. Entries may display a realistic rendition of the subject(s) or be creative, having been manipulated using film techniques before scanning or using a digital image editing program. The judges will be asked to judge the photographs for **overall photographic quality and interest**, not the amount of manipulation required to achieve the effect
15. Composite photographs are acceptable in the pictorial category as long as **all** elements included are the entering photographer's own work. Commercial clip art, parts of commercial photographic collections, or the work of another photographer may **not** be included. Artwork or computer graphics created by the photographer may be incorporated as long as the **photographic content predominates**.

Keep in mind that adding elements such as clouds, moons, frames, or fractals generated by image editing programs, plug-ins, or other software is considered the same as using commercial clip art and, thus, is not allowed. However clouds, frames, or moons photographed or drawn by the photographer may be combined with other photographs.

We recognize that the line between your own digital art and clip art is a gray one in many cases. A good rule to follow is that anything that **changes** an element **you** drew or photographed is allowed, but any action that **adds** an element other than from one of your own photographs, drawings, or digital art probably is not. Note that adding a mat or frame using the image editors drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed.

Nature Category Restrictions

16. All photographs must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition.
17. Nature photographs must follow the PSA definition of nature: “Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. **No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be applied. Any sharpening must appear natural.**”

Preparing Images for Entry

18. Photographs must be entered as JPEG images with the .jpg extension **via e-mail** to NECCC@optonline.net. The subject line of the e-mail should be “Photos for NECCC Interclub Competition” so that it isn’t mistaken for junk e-mail. Images will not be accepted on CDs or other media. Before submitting the e-mail **carefully** proof read the titles as mistakes will appear in the competition reports or on the labels attached to the ribbons awarded to winning photographs.
19. It is strongly suggested that all photographs be converted to the sRGB color space. That color space most closely approximates the capability of monitors and projectors to display color and usually results in the best presentation of your image.
20. Photographs will be projected using a projector having 1024 pixels in the horizontal direction and 768 pixels in the vertical direction. **Photographs must fit within those dimensions.**

Unless your photograph’s proportions are in the exact ratio of 4 to 3, one of these dimensions will be less than the maximum. For example, if you have a vertical photograph, the height will be 768 pixels, but the width will be significantly less than 1024 pixels. A square photograph will be 768 pixels by 768 pixels under these rules. Smaller photographs are acceptable.
21. It is suggested (though not a requirement) that entries be saved with the proper amount of compression so that the **file size does not exceed 350 KB**. If saving from Photoshop, a quality setting of between 7 and 9 is usually sufficient to produce a high quality file. Keeping the file size below 350 KB makes e-mailing and handling easier. Note that for many PSA competitions this is a requirement.
22. In order to provide all of the information needed to identify and track the photographs, and to allow the use of automated tools, image files **must** be named using four information fields separated by dollar signs (\$): code field, club name, makers name (last name, first name), and title as follows:

X#\$ClubName\$LastName, FirstName\$Title.jpg

During previous seasons there were a few problems in file naming. In most cases the Director was able to fix the problems to expedite the competition. However, it would make things easier if the person submitting the photographs for a club would be **more careful** and **more consistent** in naming. Please read the following hints on how to properly format the file name.

- o The **code field** identifies the category and order of projection.

- ◆ “X” is the category, either “P” for the pictorial category or “N” for the nature. This letter must be present even if a club is entering only one category.
- ◆ # will always be 1, 2, 3, or 4 to designate the round in which the photograph should be judged. The photographs will be sorted so that all first round photographs are judged, then all second round photographs, etc. It is important that this number be included.
- o The **”ClubName”** should be a shortened version of the full club name, but sufficiently long so that members of other clubs will recognize it and know who they are competing against. For the 34 clubs that competed during the 2007-2008 season, the **names should be entered as shown in the following table**. Additional clubs that enter will be assigned a name by the director that they should use consistently.

Assabet Valley	Greater Lynn	Portland
Berkshire Museum	Housatonic	Quinebaug Valley
Boston	Manchester	Seacoast
Boston West	Merrimack Valley	Seven Hills
Bridgeport	Milford	Simsbury
Candlewood	Monadnock	South Eastern CT
Cape Cod Viewfinders	Nashoba Valley	Springfield
Central NE	New Britain	Stony Brook
Charter Oak	New Haven	Upper Valley
Eastern Maine	Northern RI	Wallingford
Fall River	Photo Society of RI	Windham
Gateway		

- o The **maker’s name** should be entered in the format “LastName, FirstName” and should be entered with proper capitalization. Use “Barnett”, not “barnett” or “BARNETT”. Be consistent in use of the first name. Don’t use ‘Jim’ one month and “James” another. Part of the directors check is to merge the current score sheet with a compilation of previous score sheets which is sorted by maker’s name to be sure a photograph entered previously is not being entered a second time. If different first names are used, this becomes more difficult. Also, be sure to list the last name first.
- o The **title** should be entered with proper capitalization and with spaces between words. A correct title might be “Polar Bear With Cubs”. Do not enter it as: “polar bear with cubs”, “PolarBearWithCubs”, “POLAR BEAR WITH CUBS”, or “Polar-Bear-With-Cubs”. Be sure all words are spelled correctly. The way you enter the title in the file name is the way it will appear on the competition report sent to each club and on ribbons awarded to the winning photographers.

An example file name formatted correctly is

P3\$New Haven\$Jones, Bill\$Red Skier.jpg

This is the third New Haven Camera Club pictorial entry for Bill Jones entitled *Red Skier*.

It is **very important** to adhere to this naming convention so that the Competition Director can use automated tools to prepare score sheets and keep records. The dollar signs (“\$”) are recognized as a field separation character by Excel. Be sure that all fields are in the correct order and that you don’t omit any dollar signs.

When you submit your entry by e-mail you should indicate how many image files are attached and include the file name(s) in the body of the e-mail message. Certain combinations of computer type and e-mail system may truncate the file names and, if file names are in the body of the e-mail, the Competition Director can easily fix the problem by copying and pasting the correct name to the file. **Do not zip your files** as that doesn’t save much space (JPEGs are already highly compressed) and increases the work of the Competition

Director. You may send four or eight image files in a single e-mail or divide them among 2, 4 or 8 e-mails. If sending files in separate e-mails please send them at roughly the same time so that they all arrive together in the NECCC mail box.

Awards

- Approximately 20-25% of the entries in each category of each competition will receive first, second, third, or HM ribbons.
- Clubs will receive first, second, or third place ribbons in each category based on the sum of their 4 scores. A trophy will be awarded to the club having the highest cumulative score in each category for the three competitions at the end of the season.
- First, second, and third place photographs in each category of each competition will be eligible to compete for an award in the “Electronic Pictorial Photograph of the Year” or “Electronic Nature Photograph of the Year” competition. Eligible entries will be sent to a judge outside of New England for judging.

Note that if there is a 2-way tie for first place there will be no second place. In the case of a 3-way tie for first place there will be no second or third place. Likewise, if there is a 2-way tie for second place, there will be no third place. This applies to both individual and club standings.

Competitions for 2008-2009

The months and host clubs for each competition of the 2008-2009 season have been determined. Participating clubs will receive a reminder e-mail in plenty of time to submit entries for each competition assuming they meet the October 15, 2008, registration date.

Fall Competition: The first NECCC Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition of the 2008-09 season will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, hosted by the Springfield Photographic Society. The location will be Reeds Landing, 807 Wilbraham Rd., Springfield, MA (<http://www.reedslanding.com/directions.html>). The competition will begin at 7:30 p.m. **The closing date for receipt of entries will be Monday, October 27, 2008.**

Winter Competition: The second NECCC Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition of the 2008-09 season will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, hosted by the Southeast Connecticut Camera Club. The location will be the Jordan Fire House on Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT. The competition will begin at 7:00 p.m. **The closing date for receipt of entries will be Friday, January 23, 2008.**

Spring Competition: The third NECCC Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition of the 2008-09 season will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, hosted by the Cape Cod Viewfinders. The location will be the Brooks Free Library (Harwich Library), 739 Main St. (Rt. 39), Harwich, MA 02645. The competition will begin at 7:15 p.m. **The closing date for receipt of entries will be Monday, March 16, 2009.**

No entry form is required to enter individual competitions. Simply send your four or eight image files by e-mail to NECCC@optonline.net before the closing date. The information in the file name substitutes for an entry form. Results will be returned to the club's contact person by e-mail as soon as possible after the competition has been judged. Remember that **no make ups are permitted** so be sure to send your entries well before each closing date so that if there are any problems they can be resolved in a timely fashion.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact the NECCC Electronic Photograph Competition Director (e-mail preferred): William Barnett, 66 Jasmine Circle, Milford, CT 06461-1788. (203) 877-1639. NECCC@optonline.net.