



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 PSA nature definition (which 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 PSA nature definition (for example cultivated plants or visible "hand of man") **should be scored low** (a score of 4 is suggested), **but not disqualified**.
- 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 is 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 feel 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 level 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. Please note that **titles may not be read** (in either category) until after a photograph is scored. In these competitions titles are used only to identify the images for record keeping purposes.
4. In the nature category if there are images that do not qualify under the PSA nature definition (hand of man, for example) please give them a score of 4 for each judge (total of 12). Do not disqualify the entries. Many of these photographers have limited experience with PSA nature rules and a low score is sufficient to remind them to become more familiar with those rules without discouraging them too much.
5. 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 (in both classes) put a stroke around their images to separate them from the background and if it is missing on one side that could negatively affect your opinion of the image.
6. Ties are not broken.

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, 5003 Ashlar Village, Wallingford, CT 06492. (203) 774-7524. [Interclub.NECCC@gmail.com](mailto:Interclub.NECCC@gmail.com)  
Cindy Gosselin, 801 Highcroft Place, Weatogue, CT 06089. (860) 413-2130. [cgosselin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgosselin@sbcglobal.net)