

NECCC
Inter-club Print of the Year Competition
May 23, 2018
Arthur Vaughan, HonNEC

The NECCC Interclub Print of the Year competition for the 2017-2018 season was held on the evening of May 23rd at the Merrimack Valley Camera Club, 72 Church St, North Andover, MA. Of a total of 50 prints eligible for entry into the competition, 42 were submitted by their makers, a turnout of 84%. This is the fifth consecutive year that a level of better than 80% of print returns has been reached. In the past, when the Print of the Year Competition was held at the NECCC Conference, print submissions ran as low as 15%, with an average of 30% of eligible prints being returned for entry. Judges for this competition were Maureen Mathieson, MNEC, (a last minute volunteer standing in for a judge who was unexpectedly unable to attend), Todd Mathieson, MNEC, and Rajasekar Alamanda.

Todd and Maureen Mathieson are both past Presidents of the Assabet Valley Camera Club, and presently serve as Vice-Presidents and co-chairs of the NECCC Special Projects Division.

Rajasekar Alamanda is an award-winning light painting photographer, primarily focusing on automobiles and portraits. His work has been exhibited in the US and internationally. A member of PSA, his article "Light Painting... High Quality Car Photography on a Budget" appears in the May 2018 edition of the PSA Journal.

Unlike with the fall, winter, and spring interclub print competitions, class "A" and "B" monochrome were judged separately. Scoring was done using a five to ten points per judge scale, (15-30 total points possible). Each division's prints were previewed completely before judging began. As is usual in a competition where the prints submitted were already winners during the season, quality was very high, resulting in some tough decisions having to be made to arrive at "the best of the best". There were two-way tie top scores in black & white class "A" (28 pts), and class "B" (27 pts), so arriving at a Print of the Year in those divisions required "splitting a pair" of outstanding prints. In the Color division one print received 30 points, snagging the top award. The scoring range in B&W class A was 20 to 28 pts, in class B, 20-27 pts, and in Color, 20 to 30 pts. Second place (runner-up) awards were assigned for those prints that might possibly have won Print of the Year if the top award winner in each division had not been entered.

Print of the Year 2017-2018:

B&W class A, 28 pts: "Potter's Hands", by John Ward, Cape Cod Viewfinders

B&W class B, 27 pts: "Jazz Player", by Pat Benham, Greater Bridgeport Camera Club

Color, 30 pts: "Water Dance", by Lesley Mattuchio, Greater Lynn Photographic Association

Runner-up class A:

2nd place, 28 pts: "Osprey with Catch", by Roy Haddock, Merrimack Valley Camera Club

Runner-up class B:

2nd place, 27 pts: "Sage Old Owl", by Jim Santerre, Greater Bridgeport Camera Club

Runner-up Color:

2nd place, 29 pts: "Bald Eagle, Sitka, Alaska", by Doug Bilinski, Flagpole Photographers

2nd place, 29 pts: "Bridge Over the River Tay", by Roy Haddock, Merrimack Valley Camera Club

2nd place, 29 pts: "Lunar Eclipse", by Cindy Gosselin, Charter Oak Photographic Society

2nd place, 29 pts: "Sunrise, Acadia", by Karl Zuzarte, Photographic Society of Rhode Island

The Print of the Year in each division will become part of the "Best of the NECCC" Print Program for the 2018-2019 season, and will be displayed in the print room at the NECCC conference along with the winning prints from the 2018 Conference Print Competition. Award plaques for Print of the year will be presented at the conference awards ceremony to be held on Sunday morning, July 15, in the Campus Center, room 917.