

2011-2012 CHARTER OAK PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL IMAGES

The following rules apply to all images submitted for Club competitions. The categorization of an image as *Traditional or Creative* will be in accordance with, and in the spirit of, the following rules.

1. All images, whether Traditional or Creative must be of photographic origin, that is, created or derived from an image or images created optically by the maker using a camera. Although a maker may seek guidance and advice about processing an image from others, the actual post-processing of an image must be done exclusively by the maker. Images may be printed by another individual or entity, provided that no additional post-processing occurs during the printing process. If an image has been created using specialized lighting, props or other setups, the lighting, props or setups must be the work of the maker. It is the intent of this rule to limit the addition of material elements not created photographically, such as objects created by a computer program. However, the use of computer image editing filters and certain plug-ins to alter the appearance of an image of photographic origin may be permissible in the Creative Image category.

2. *Traditional Images* must be an honest photographic depiction of observed reality, without material alteration of the truth of the photographic statement. Subject to the foregoing principle, Traditional Images may be optimized, either locally (targeted at a specific part of the image, using selections or masks) or globally (affecting entire image), in the darkroom or using computer imaging software, by techniques such as, *but not necessarily limited to*, the following:

- a) Tonal (Brightness and Contrast) Optimization, either local or global
- b) Color Optimization (but not replacement), either local or global
- c) Saturation Optimization, either local or global.
- d) Highlight and Shadow Detail Optimization
- e) Sharpening, either local or global
- f) Red-Eye Reduction
- g) Flipping (Reversing) an entire image
- h) Cropping
- i) Perspective Correction (De-Skewing)
- j) Use of Noise Reduction Software
- k) Blending or Stitching Multiple Exposures (Same Scene at Same Time) to extend dynamic range, to extend depth of field or to create panoramas,
- l) Minor touch-ups (not exceeding 10% of image surface) using a blur filter or tools such as a clone stamp or healing brush, and
- m) A simple, computer created line border around an image.

3. *Creative Images* are images or composites of images that originally were photographic (i.e., produced optically by a camera), but which have been changed in a way that materially alters observed reality for creative effect. Examples of appropriate

techniques for creating Creative Images include, *but are not limited to*:

- a) Inserting photographically created shapes or forms that were not part of the original scene
- b) Blurring or softening more than 10% of the image surface to make objects appear out of focus or in motion
- c) Material alteration or replacement of colors, e.g., turning gray skies blue; altering the texture or hue of one or more elements of the original scene, etc.
- d) Application of computer “artistic” filters to distort the photographic depiction of reality
- e) Removal of significant forms or shapes (exceeding 10% of image surface) that were part of the original scene
- f) An elaborate computer created frame or border, and
- g) Computer created elements that are not intended to reflect reality and that merely enhance the optically produced primary subject or subjects, e.g., the use of a plug-in such as Flaming Pear that creates a water-like reflection of the primary subject. The optically produced primary subject or subjects should predominate.

4. *Monochrome Images.*

- a) *Monochrome Prints* must be either black and white or sepia, without additional color. *Prints* using monochromatic tones other than black and white or sepia, and *prints* using any additional color must be entered in the Creative print category
- b) *Monochrome Digital Images* are *not* limited to black and white or sepia and may be of any single monochromatic tone.

5. *Specified Topic Images.* Specified topics encourage the photographer to learn new skills and techniques. Specified topics apply only to digital image competitions, and *not* to print competitions. Specified Topic Images must be Traditional and *the Specified Topic must be predominant in the image.*

Competition Month	Specified Topic
October	Nature (PSA rules apply; see Appendix)
November	Repeating Patterns
January	Textures
February	Portraits
March	Silhouettes
April	Circles
May	Night-time

6. *Duplicate and Same Subject Images.*

- a) *Duplicate Images.* Except in the case of monochrome and color versions of the same image, once an image has been entered in a Charter Oak competition, the image may not be re-entered *in the same format* in any other Charter Oak competition, except for the pertinent Image of the Year judging. Any image *may* be re-entered *in a different format* in a *subsequent year*. In addition, a monochrome or color version of an image that was previously entered in one version may be entered in the other version in the same format in a subsequent (but not the same)

year. For example, a monochrome print version may be entered in one year and a color print version may be entered in a different year.

b) *Same Subject Images*. The Club encourages members to photograph different subjects. Therefore, any image, in any format, of the same subject as an image previously submitted *in the same year* by the same member is not permitted. For purposes of this rule, “*same subject*” means a substantially *similar composition of the same photographic element(s)*. A substantially different composition of the same photographic element(s) may be submitted by that member in any format at any time, provided it otherwise complies with these rules.

7. *Make-Up Images*. Make-up images are permitted, but must be submitted in the monthly competition immediately following the competition being made-up. Make-up images will receive scores, but will not be eligible for ribbons. Make-up images should be labeled as make-up and identified as to category.

8. *Judging*. A judge may not score the work of his/her spouse or related person, or any person of the same residence. Judges may be asked to comment and to offer constructive suggestions for the improvement of images, either by the maker, by noting the request at the time of submission of the image for competition, or by anyone (including the maker) present at the competition. Makers should limit their advance requests for comment to one image per competition month.

9. *Groups*. Each member competing in digital imaging is assigned for all categories of digital imaging into one of three groups: a) *Masters*, for those members who have attained a high degree of photographic skill, b) *Salon*, for other members with limited or no competition experience who wish to compete in Salon; or c) Group A, for members with limited or no competition experience who seek an evaluation of their images without competing directly with other members, and who elect to be placed in Group A. All digital images will be judged according to their respective category without identifying the group of the maker, but ribbons will be awarded by group for Masters and Salon. Group A will be judged as a single, open category and neither monthly ribbons nor year-end awards will be given in Group A, nor will scores be tabulated through the year. The top scorer(s) in the *Salon* Group will be promoted to the *Masters* Group as of the following year.

10. *Monthly Awards*. Ribbons are awarded in each Category, and, in the case of digital images, for each Category for the Masters and Salon Groups. Blue Ribbons are awarded for First Place in each Category provided an image has received at least 21 points. Ties for First Place will not be broken, and each maker receiving the high score will be awarded a Blue Ribbon. Red Honorable Mention Ribbons will be awarded to the second highest scoring image and ties, provided the images have received at least 21 points and there are at least 5 total images in the Category being judged.

11. *Wildlife and Open Images*. Because of concerns about the dominance in club competitions of images of non-domestic animals such as birds and other wild animals (“Wildlife”), in digital imaging competitions, images of Wildlife are judged separately from all other images. Images other than Wildlife will be judged in the “Open” category.

12. *Because it is not possible for the Club to police compliance with these rules, compliance depends upon the integrity of the individual makers.*

PRINT COMPETITION RULES

1. All members will compete on an equal basis, i.e., not in Groups. Each member may enter one print per category in each of the three categories: Traditional Color, Creative, and/or Monochrome.
2. Prints must be mounted, and the mount board shall not exceed 16x20 inches (the cases used for interclub competition will not accept larger sizes).
3. Framed prints will not be accepted.
4. Using labels furnished by the Club, the back of each print shall bear: Print title, maker's name, category for which the print is entered, an indication as to whether the print is a make-up, and any advance request for "comment" from the judges. The maker shall also indicate the UP direction of the print.
5. Fully hand colored prints will be entered in the *Creative* category.
6. No entry may display a name or any other identifying mark on the front.
7. The Print Chairperson may disqualify any print not complying with these rules.
8. All prints must be submitted before 7:00 pm on the night of competition . Absent members may arrange to have their work submitted by another member for judging.
8. Monthly Awards for Prints will be in accordance with the Rules Applicable to All Images.
9. Annual Awards for Prints. At the Annual Awards Banquet, the member(s) with the highest aggregate scores for the year's monthly competitions in each Category, Traditional Color, Creative and Monochrome, will be presented with an award. The number of awards given out in each category is determined by the number of participants that have submitted one print per month in that category. Ties will not be broken for annual awards.
 - 1 to 5 members eligible - 2 Awards
 - 6 or more members eligible - 3 Awards
10. Print of The Year Awards. There will be one Traditional Color Print of the Year, one Creative Print of the Year and one Monochrome Print of the Year. Any member who has entered any of the monthly competitions in any category may enter a maximum of seven prints from among those entered by the member during the year, regardless of score.

DIGITAL IMAGING COMPETITION RULES

1. A digital image is defined as a computer file containing an image of photographic origin. Digital Images will be judged in five categories: *Wildlife (a Traditional image in which any non-domestic animal, in any setting, predominates, including mammals, birds, reptiles or fish,)*, *Open (a Traditional image in which non-domestic animals do not predominate)*, *Specified Topic*, *Monochrome* and *Creative*. These categories are described in the Rules Applicable to All Images.

2. Each member may enter not more than three digital images (total) each month in any combination of categories. Each category will be judged and scored separately. The member's two highest scores each month will be counted towards the End of the Year Awards. See Year-End Awards for further information.
3. Digital images which do not CLEARLY meet the category requirements stated for each contest will be declared ineligible. An image previously declared ineligible, because out of category, may be resubmitted, provided it meets the requirements of the other category's rules. If a maker's image is declared ineligible for any reason, the maker may submit a makeup for that image the following month.
4. There are multiple ways to submit images for competition: use the Club's ePrint Upload software, by email to submissions@charteroakphoto.com, or you can copy your photographs to CD and give or send to the Digital Image Chairman or his/her designated assistant by the due date. In all cases, all images for competition must be submitted no later than SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the competition. If you use email for submission your subject line should be "images for competition" so that it isn't mistaken for junk e-mail.
5. As often as may be practical, the projector and computer being used for competition shall be calibrated to assure optimal display under the lighting conditions for competition. If digital calibration equipment is not available, calibration may be accomplished visually by using a standard "memory color" target image, such as PDITarget.jpg.
6. Digital Image Preparation:
 - a. Convert files to the sRGB color space if not already in that space or convert to Gray Gamma 2.2 if submitting an un-tinted monochrome photograph.
 - b. Images will be projected using a projector having 1024 pixels in the horizontal direction and 768 pixels in the vertical direction. Images must fit within those dimensions (See example).
 - c. Unless your image'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 image, the height will be 768 pixels, but the width will be significantly less than 1024 pixels. A square image will be 768 pixels by 768 pixels under these rules. Smaller images are acceptable. This means that a horizontal image will normally be 1024 pixels wide and may be as tall as 768 pixels. If the image is not 768 pixels tall it will be projected with black bars above and below the image. A vertical image will normally be 768 pixels tall, but will be less than 1024 pixels wide and it will be projected with black bars on the two sides.
 - d. IMPORTANT: THE COMMITTEE STAFF WILL NOT MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENTS OR CHANGES TO THE NAMING, SIZE OR OTHER QUALITIES OF IMAGES SUBMITTED FOR COMPETITION. Your image will be projected exactly as submitted. It is the responsibility of the maker to submit an image in proper form.. Images must be submitted as JPEG photographs with the .jpg extension.

7.

7. Digital Image Naming and Other Submission Information:

If you **do not use** the Club's ePrintUpload software, you **must** name your image files as follows. Failure to do so will result in the images being rejected for the competition.

Image Title (dashes between words)+\$+Last Name+\$+First Initial+\$+Category+\$+M (for Makeup if needed – blank if not)+.jpg.

Example #1 – I submit an image titled "Acadia Sunrise" for Open for the current month. The file name would be:

Acadia-Sunrise\$Freschner\$R\$Open.jpg

Example #2 – I submit an image titled "Darn Birds" for Wildlife as a make-up for the previous month. The file name would be

Darn-Birds\$Freschner\$R\$Wildlife\$M.jpg

If you **do use** the Club's ePrintUpload software, you must name your image files as follows. Failure to do so may result in termination of your permission to submit via the software.

Image Title (dashes between words)+.jpg.

Example #1 – I submit an image titled "Acadia Sunrise" for Open for the current month. The file name would be:

Acadia-Sunrise.jpg

Example #2 – I submit an image titled "Darn Birds" for Wildlife as a make-up for the previous month. The file name would be:

Darn-Birds.jpg

8. *Suggested Preparation Workflow:* In order to be sure you have done all the steps necessary for submission, it is suggested that you follow the following procedures.

- a.. Edit your photograph in your favorite image editing program such as Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, or Paint Show Pro. When editing is completed, save the master in the native format for your editing program. Make a copy in jpeg format for submission in the competition
- b. Convert the jpeg image to the sRGB color space if it isn't already in that color space. This color space most closely matches that of the projector being used to project the photographs.
- c. Size each jpeg image so that it is no wider than 1024 pixels and no taller than 768 pixels.
- d. Save the jpeg image using the file naming convention described in these rules.
- e Submit all images for Monday competition no later than SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION by any of the methods for submission listed in #4 above.

9. *Annual Awards for Digital Images.* At the Annual Awards Banquet, the member(s) with the Highest Scores in each Group will be presented with an award. The number of awards given out for each group is determined by the number of participants in the group that have submitted at least 2 images for each month. Ties will not be broken for annual awards.

1 to 5 members eligible - 2 Awards

6 or more members eligible -3 Awards

10. *Digital Images of the Year Awards:* Digital image of the year will be presented in the Wildlife, Open, Creative, and Monochrome categories.

a. *Wildlife Digital Image:* Up to five (5) images entered during the regular digital image competition year, may be designated by the maker for Wildlife Digital Image of the Year consideration. Images need not be ribbon winners.

b. *Open Digital Image:* Up to five (5) images entered during the regular digital image competition year, may be designated by the maker for Open Digital Image of the Year consideration. Images need not be ribbon winners

c. *Creative Digital Image:* : Up to five (5) images entered during the regular digital image competition year, may be designated by the maker for Creative Digital Image of the Year consideration. Images need not be ribbon winners.

d. *Monochrome Digital Image:* Up to five (5) images entered during the regular digital image competition year, may be designated by the maker for Monochrome Digital Image of the Year consideration. Images need not be ribbon winners.

e. *Art Rich Nature Award:* Given by Arline Rich in memory of her husband. Any nature digital image receiving a score of 23 points or more in any monthly competition during the competition year will be considered for this award.

f. *Jane H. Sibley Photo Travel Award:* This competition is open to all members whether they have entered images during the season or not. Judging is limited to two images per member, and they must have been taken 50 miles or more from Hartford.

11.. *Retention of Digital Images.* For the purpose of making Digital Images available to be designated for Year End Awards, the Digital Imaging Chairman will retain images submitted during the competition year. Unless the maker specifies otherwise, the images may also be submitted for interclub competition and/or placed on the Club web site.

APPENDIX A

IMAGE PROTECTION POLICY

As part of the routine operation of Charter Oak, members submit their images to the Club in print or digital format for competitions, both at the Club and the inter-club level, as well as for display to the public, both physically and on the world wide web. Images submitted to the Club typically contain a copyright that belongs to the maker of the image. It is the responsibility of the maker to protect his or her copyright. It is also the responsibility of the maker to obtain any necessary permissions or releases from third parties, e.g. subjects or property owners, before submitting an image to the Club for any form of public display. . Unless the maker specifies otherwise, images may be retained by the Club for further use or display, such as the Club web site, inter-club competitions or public exhibitions. Images submitted in digital format, because of the ease with which they may be copied or transmitted and because they may be displayed to millions of people on the Club web site, require particular attention, not only to the rights of the maker, but also to the rights of any subjects.

APPENDIX B

PSA NATURE RULES



What is Nature Photography?

All images used in recognized PSA Nature Division competitions must meet the PSA Nature Definition of Nature Photography as follows:

"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, manual or digital, that alters the truth of the photographic statement."

All images used in recognized PSA Nature Division competitions for Wildlife images must meet the additional PSA Definition for Nature Wildlife Photography as follows:

"Authentic Wildlife is defined as one or more organisms living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat." Therefore, photographs of zoo animals or photographs of game farm animals regardless of the game farm's use of wildlife terminology are not considered wildlife images

All digital images used in PSA Nature Division approved competitions or for competitions or for competitions governed by PSA Nature Division rules must be considered "Digital Realism".

"Makers may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image that could have been done at the time the image was taken but that does not change the truth of the original nature story. Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide) are acceptable modifications. Addition of elements, removal of elements other than by cropping, combining elements from separate images, rearranging elements or cloning elements are not acceptable."