

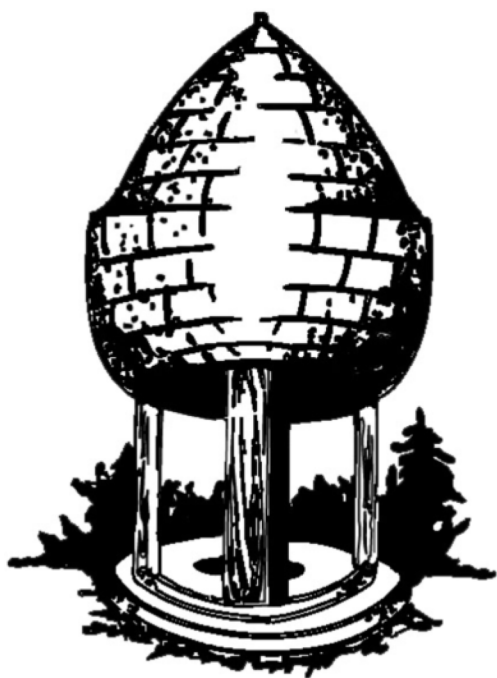
# Silver Spring Camera Club

## *Member Handbook*

### 2016-2017

Founded 1950

[www.scccphotography.org](http://www.scccphotography.org)



#### Table of Contents

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Welcome                                       | Page 2  |
| SSCC Overview                                 | Page 3  |
| Calendar 2016-2017                            | Page 6  |
| Meeting Location                              | Page 8  |
| Officers and Committee Chairs                 | Page 9  |
| Member Monthly Workflow                       | Page 10 |
| Cable Release                                 | Page 11 |
| SSCC and Social Media                         | Page 13 |
| Competition Topics for 2016-2017              | Page 15 |
| Digital Entry Specifications                  | Page 17 |
| "Why Compete?"                                | Page 18 |
| "A Common Sense Guide to Photo Competition"   | Page 19 |
| "Novice and Advanced: Two Different Meanings" | Page 22 |
| Exporting from Lightroom                      | Page 23 |
| Exporting from Photoshop                      | Page 24 |
| Competition Rules                             | Page 25 |
| Rules Guru FAQs                               | Page 32 |
| SSCC Constitution and By-Laws                 | Page 35 |

## **Welcome to the Silver Spring Camera Club!**

This *Handbook* is the primary resource for new and existing members to learn about and review many aspects of the Club. We have a long and proud history, since 1950, serving the Silver Spring photographic community with comradery, education and skill improvement. We are happy to have you as members continuing this tradition.

As this *Handbook* will explain, we offer a great deal of rewards as a benefit of membership. As usual we'll have a great lineup of interesting speakers and well qualified competition judges. New this year we will have Seminar Night that will offer education, discussion of photographic topics and hands on workshops. Check the schedule each month to see what's on the program! Also new we will have monthly meetings of the Board of Directors. These meetings are a great chance for all members to see the behind the scenes operations and have a voice in the direction of the Club.

Connecting with the Club and its members is easier than ever before. We have active Facebook and Twitter accounts, you can find us on Meetup and we have a Google group forum and a Flickr page to share your best images. Of course the best way to connect is to attend one of our meetings! And don't forget we meet monthly for a field trip to try out all the new things you learn at the meetings.

This *Handbook* should answer many of your questions and serve as a resource throughout the year.

Michael Koren  
President

[president@ssccphotography.org](mailto:president@ssccphotography.org)

# SILVER SPRING CAMERA CLUB

## KEY INFORMATION

The **Silver Spring Camera Club** comprises a diverse group of individuals passionately dedicated to the pursuit of photographic excellence. We believe the best method of understanding the art of photography is through education and the sharing of ideas. For over 60 years SSCC has maintained a high standard of integrity and quality. Our reputation as the friendliest club in the metropolitan area is the basis of our success. We welcome new members of all ages and skill levels who share our interest in photography.

### Meetings

The club meets on the first four Thursday nights of each month from September through May of each year. All regular meetings are held at Silver Spring United Methodist Church, 8900 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. An annual banquet is held at a local venue in mid-June.

### Speaker Meetings

Guest Speaker Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month from 7:30-9:30 p.m. A speaker, usually a professional photographer, will deliver an illustrated talk on some aspect of photography.

### Competitions

Competitions are held on the second Thursday of each month from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Depending on the number of images to be judged, competitions may end later. Images may be entered in Advanced or Novice classes, in categories of print or projected digital images.

### Seminar Night

The third Thursday meetings will be a mixture of "hands on" workshops in photo techniques conducted by visiting experts or advanced SSCC members and an open discussion among members about photographic topics. Meetings are held from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

### Board Meeting

The fourth Thursday of each month will be a Board Meeting. The agenda will be circulated before the meeting, and all members are welcome to come and contribute. As with the other meetings, we begin at 7:30 p.m.

### Field Trips

One field trip is held every month on a Saturday during the club year. Most trips are to sites in and around the Washington, DC, area, although we occasionally visit locations in Baltimore, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Please check the *Cable Release* or the SSCC website (<http://www.scccphotography.org/>) or contact the Field Trip chairperson for more information.

### History

The Silver Spring Camera Club began in the fall of 1950 when about 50 people attended an open meeting for anyone interested in forming a Camera Club. The stated purpose of the Club was "to provide an opportunity for people with a mutual interest in photography to

share their experiences and common knowledge." The charter membership was about 60. Twenty-one years later in 1971 the membership stood at 150, and new applicants were placed on a waiting list.

Over the years the Club had held its regular meetings in a camera store, various community center clubrooms, a recreation center, a high school, and several libraries. It usually had two meetings a month. Up until 1975, there were only two categories for the competitions: color slides and monochrome prints. In 1976, four print meetings included a color print competition. By 1983, every print competition included color prints for both novice and advanced classes. The slide competitions have remained basically the same, except that the number of allowed slide entries was reduced from three to two in 1982 due to the large number of entries. In 2008 the slide category was changed to digital projected. The Club recently reviewed its competition rules, and beginning in 2014-15, there are two categories for each competition: digital projected image and prints. Members can enter up to two images (monochrome or color) in each category.

The original "workshops" consisted of short 15-minute presentations given by members at the beginning of each main meeting "to provide an exchange of information and first-hand experience on photographic techniques and materials." (The name was changed to "short-shorts" in 1970; and then to "mini-workshops.") In the mid-1960s "study groups" met monthly, first for color slides and later for monochrome prints. These were joined by the New Directions Workshop in 1981, and a few years later by the Composition and Presentation Workshop. Also in the 1980s, there was a View Camera Group, a Creative Workshop, and two one-year workshops on the Fine Print and Retouching. In the 1990s, we added a workshop on Computer Imaging.

From the very beginning, SSCC was a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA). This provided an opportunity for members to exhibit their work in the Print and Slide Circuits in the U.S. and around the world. Through the years, SSCC has arranged exhibits of members' work in a variety of locations throughout the Washington, DC area. Club members have also participated in the competitions sponsored by Greater Washington Council of Camera Clubs and the Council of Maryland Camera Clubs.

The Club's newsletter, the *Cable Release*, began publication in October 1961 as a mimeographed newsletter with hand-drawn illustrations, which was mailed to members for 4¢. Later issues contained black-and-white photographs, and two 1979 issues feature front-page color Xerox reproductions from slides. The *Cable Release* has earned several awards from the Photographic Society of America for its quality and service to members. The first mention of the use of a computer was by editor Art Drucker, who used his trusty Commodore from 1984 to 1987. Over the years, the *Cable Release* has provided club news, photo-related articles, and members' opinions on a variety of topics. The archive of past newsletters, which is in the care of our club historian, chronicles the history of a dynamic organization that, with the active input of its members, has been constantly evolving for more than half a century. There is an index of articles from the past several years as part of the *Member Handbook*.

## **PSA**

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is a worldwide organization for anyone interested in photography. The society includes casual shutterbugs, serious amateurs, and professional photographers.

Founded in 1934, PSA has members in over 70 countries. Individual, Club, and Council memberships offer a wide variety of services and activities: a monthly magazine; online photo galleries, image evaluation, study groups, and courses; competitions; an annual conference; recognition; and discounts on photography related products and services.

The Silver Spring Camera Club has been a member Club of the PSA since the club was founded in 1950. For information regarding the benefits of a PSA individual membership and for PSA sponsored activities, please contact our Club PSA Representative, Loretta Argrett, or visit [www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org).

## SSCC CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY

First Thursday: Speaker Night, 7:30 p.m.  
Second Thursday: Competition Night, 7:30 p.m.  
Third Thursday: Seminar Night, 7:30 p.m.  
Fourth Thursday: Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: Field Trip on day to be announced

*Cable Release* submission deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> of the month!

June 2017, date TBA: Year-End Banquet

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| September 1  | Speaker Night              |
| September 8  | Competition Night – Open   |
| September 15 | Seminar Night              |
| September 22 | Board Meeting              |
| October 6    | Speaker Night              |
| October 13   | Competition Night – Nature |
| October 20   | Seminar Night              |
| October 27   | Board Meeting              |
| November 3   | Speaker Night              |
| November 10  | Competition Night – Open   |
| November 17  | Seminar Night              |
| November 24  | Thanksgiving – no meeting  |
| December 1   | Speaker Night              |
| December 8   | Competition Night          |
| December 15  | Seminar Night              |
| December 22  | Board Meeting              |
| January 5    | Speaker Night              |
| January 12   | Competition Night – Open   |
| January 19   | Seminar Night              |
| January 26   | Board Meeting              |
| February 2   | Speaker Night              |
| February 9   | Competition Night          |
| February 16  | Seminar Night              |
| February 23  | Board Meeting              |
| March 2      | Speaker Night              |
| March 9      | Competition Night – Open   |
| March 16     | Seminar Night              |

|          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| March 23 | Board Meeting                     |
| April 6  | Speaker Night                     |
| April 13 | Maundy Thursday – no meeting      |
| April 20 | Competition Night                 |
| April 27 | Seminar Night                     |
| May 4    | Speaker Night                     |
| May 11   | Competition Night – Black & White |
| May 18   | Seminar Night                     |
| May 25   | Board Meeting                     |

## SILVER SPRING CAMERA CLUB

### MEETING LOCATION

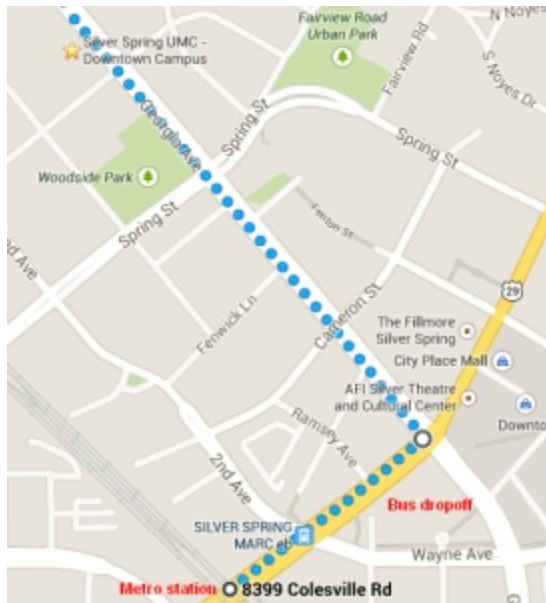
**Silver Spring United Methodist Church**  
**8900 Georgia Ave.**

**We meet in the Fellowship Hall. It is under the main sanctuary, so look for the directional signs and the steps down to the Hall.**

#### **Directions:**

**From the I-495 Beltway**, take Exit 31 – Georgia Ave (MD-97), south toward Silver Spring. The church is 1 mile south on the right. Turn right onto Ballard St. and then into the parking lot. Watch for speed cameras on Georgia Avenue.

**From Washington, D.C.**, take Georgia Ave north, through downtown Silver Spring. The church is half a mile north of the intersection between Colesville Rd. (MD-29) and Georgia Ave. Turn left onto Ballard St. and then into the parking lot.



Walking map from buses and Metro

**From the Metro:** Take the red line to Silver Spring station. Use the north exit to exit the station. Walk north along Colesville Rd., toward the AFI Movie Theater and the tall Discovery Channel building (though they will be on the other side of Colesville Rd.). When you reach Georgia Ave, turn left and walk north along Georgia (there will be trees in the median of the road) 0.5 miles until you reach the church on the left.

**From Buses:** Most buses deposit at or near the Discovery Channel building. Make your way north along Colesville Rd. or Georgia Ave. until you reach their intersection. Then walk north on Georgia (there will be trees in the median of the road) 0.5 miles until you reach the church on the left.



## **SILVER SPRING CAMERA CLUB**

### **2016-17 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### Officers:

President - Michael Koren ([president@ssccphotography.org](mailto:president@ssccphotography.org))

Vice President – Stephanie Banks

Secretary – Catherine Honigsberg

Directors – Bob Catlett

David Blass

open

Treasurer – Bruce Schaefer

#### Committee Chair:

Membership – Renee Schaefer ([membership@ssccphotography.org](mailto:membership@ssccphotography.org))

Competition – Larry Gold ([competition@ssccphotography.org](mailto:competition@ssccphotography.org))

Programs – open

Field Trip – Phil Boyer and Andrew Rein

Education – Michael Koren

Open Forum – Dave Powell

Workshop – Gene Luttenberg

PSA Rep – Loretta Argrett

Historian – Norm Bernache

Cable Release Editor – Dennis Freeman ([cablereleaseeditor@ssccphotography.org](mailto:cablereleaseeditor@ssccphotography.org))

Web Master – Dan Siskin ([web@ssccphotography.org](mailto:web@ssccphotography.org))

# MONTHLY MEMBER WORKFLOW

Dave Mullen

## Beginning of the Month

- If you are planning to enter competition, finish working on 2 photographs to submit for Digital Competition. Mat or mount 2 photographs for the Print Competition.

## First Thursday

- Attend the Speaker's Night to gain inspiration and learn how a professional approaches photography.
- Submit Digital Competition Entries by the midnight deadline.

## Second Thursday

- Arrive early to sign in and turn in matted Print Competition Entries. (Use the template provided on the SSCC website.)
- Listen to comments by the Judge about your photographs, and about others' photographs, to learn how to see and develop work more critically.

## Third Thursday

- Based on the topic, come with questions to be answered, equipment to be used, or a few prints to discuss with fellow members.

## Fourth Thursday

- Read the agenda and come to the Board Meeting prepared to offer views on how to make the Club the best it can be. Please note that only Board members (officers and committee chairs) can vote.

## Saturday Field Trip

- Be sure that you know the meeting time and place, which is announced in the *Cable Release* and at Thursday night meetings.
- Check out the venue on a website to see what shooting opportunities might present themselves.
- Seek out other members who shoot similar equipment to ask questions and get tips on lenses, flash, etc.

## End of the Month

- See *Beginning of Month!*

## **CABLE RELEASE**

SSCC publishes a monthly newsletter, the Cable Release, from September to May each year. This award-winning publication keeps members informed about Club events, offers member-written articles about a variety of photography-related topics, and includes news about seminars, workshops, and exhibits to further members' photographic education. Each Cable Release issue also features winners from the previous month's photo competition – both projected and printed entries. The Photographic Society of America awarded the Cable Release second place (tie) for large club newsletters in 2013-2014 and even the newsletter-of-the-year in previous rounds of competition.

Last year, the Cable Release moved to a landscape format to better accommodate the computer and tablet screens that most members are using. Computers offer other advantages as well, and to take advantage of them the Cable Release has changed again to become a web-based newsletter. We will no longer publish a PDF version, although we will maintain an archive of the prior newsletters.

This new format has a number of significant advantages over the previous hardcopy-emulating format when read with a digital device. One of these is much more efficient browsing, more selectivity in finding what you want to read, and picking the order of when you want to read it.

You will open the month's Cable Release on a high-level page that provides key events, dates, and topics at a glance. Information that rarely changes, such as the membership application, SSCC Officers and Chairs, and Competition Guidelines, are moving out of the newsletter and into the main website for the club (and this Handbook). What remains in the Cable Release is new material, results of the prior month's competitions, and other items befitting a "newsletter." You will see introductory paragraphs on the primary page leading into full articles on their own page, and these are opened with an easy mouse click. You can quickly navigate to topics of interest without paging and re-paging through a serial magazine format.

Another big advantage is that we have removed the size constraint for articles (for the most part). While we still want to keep each article concise and readable in a few minutes, we can now include galleries of pictures for an article rather than just a few selected photographs. We will be doing both, depending on the subject. Think about this freedom when contemplating submitting a multi-image equipment review or tips and techniques, for example.

The newsletter can only be as good as the articles and information submitted by the Club members. In a recent survey, one of the things that people asked for was more equipment reviews. Please consider offering short reviews of your own equipment. This could be a new lens or an old favorite that might still be available on eBay or other used equipment venues. Consider your preferences in camera types as well. Many people wonder about the value of micro 4/3 cameras versus full-frame DSLRs, for example. People are also looking for photo tips and techniques, so please send me any that you might have. The web-based Cable Release is an opportunity to share your thoughts in a flexible format with illustrative examples.

If you've attended photo workshops, seminars, or classes that others could also be interested in, please send me a short review. I'm not necessarily looking for an article. It can be a paragraph – please include a web address or equivalent for the organization involved so that the members know where to pursue it further. Let's focus just on the positive experiences that you'd recommend to others.

All members have the opportunity to submit pieces for the Cable Release for publication. If you want to submit something, please help me get it into the CR by following these guidelines:

- a. Please proofread your submission carefully.
- b. Keep the formatting to a minimum, as I will have to reformat everything to post online. (I have a couple of header fonts, one text font, plus bold, italics, and underline available – that's all)
- c. If you want to use pictures and have them appear in a defined order and place, use brackets and identifying labels in the text to indicate their location. I can also include a larger group of photos as a gallery. Also, please provide short captions for them in you want captions – you can put these inside the brackets in quotes to associate them with the photo. You can do something similar for a gallery list – indicate Gallery in the text.
- d. Keep the file size for pictures below 500 kb.

I look forward to another great year for the Cable Release, and I am eager to get your contributions!

As this is my first year as Cable Release editor and this is our first move to a web-based platform, I welcome all feedback and critiques.

Your editor,

Dennis Freeman

## SILVER SPRING CAMERA CLUB AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Connecting with the Club and its members is easier than ever before. We have active Facebook and Twitter accounts, you can find us on Meetup and we have a Google group forum and a Flickr page to share your best images. Of course the best way to connect is to attend one of our meetings! But, between our weekly gatherings here are all the different ways to connect to SSCC online when you're not at a meeting.

### Google Groups

We use Google Groups as an online forum to ask questions, post comments, announce photographic opportunities and a bunch of other things. Joining is easy but you must be a member of the Club.

To sign up email Dan Siskin at [web@ssccphotography.org](mailto:web@ssccphotography.org) with your name and email address. Dan will then send you an invite via email to join the group. It's also easy to adjust your settings so can get a daily digest of posts or you can choose to get each post as they come in. Join today and start participating!

### Flickr

We will be using Flickr as the online area for SSCC members to post images into the SSCC Flickr group. Everyone in the world, as well as all members of the club will be able to view the images as well as have the opportunity to leave comments. However, only SSCC members will have the ability to upload images to the group image pool. This is an opportunity for all members to share images with the world, get feedback and have a discussion about your pictures.

Joining is easy. There are two steps necessary to join Silver Spring Camera Club Images group and some guidelines for using Flickr. First, you must have a Flickr account. Joining is free and easy to do. After creating an account, you will post images to your Photostream. This is the bucket where all your images are stored. From this bucket, images can be associated groups. Some or all of your images can be associated with the Silver Spring Camera Club Images group.

The second thing to do is find the group. The name of the group is Silver Spring Camera Club Images. From your main Flickr page look for a link to Groups (top of the screen) and search for the name. Once you find the group, join by clicking the appropriate button. Once you are a member of the group you can begin sharing photos.

Here are some guidelines for posting images and things to keep in mind about Flickr. Images will display in the group pool in the order posted, not taken. You can set your privacy controls so that Flickr has some restrictions on downloading images. Carefully read the section about Privacy & Permissions when setting up your account. Flickr offers the ability to "tag" images. This helps the Flickr search engine find your photos in a search. Tags can be any word(s) you want and you can apply as many tags as you want to an image.

### Flickr Summary

- Become familiar with Flickr policies
- Join Flickr ([www.Flickr.com](http://www.Flickr.com))
- Join Silver Spring Camera Club Images Group ([http://www.flickr.com/groups/sscc\\_picture\\_a\\_day](http://www.flickr.com/groups/sscc_picture_a_day))
- Tag images

- Upload at 768 x 578 or similar resolution
- Visit the group as often as possible and post comments to other's photos.

The rules of the group are simple: You must be a member of SSCC, and you can upload 10 images per week.

HAVE FUN!

### **Meetup**

Meetup is an online social media tool that fosters genuine connections with Meetup members while enhancing the visibility of SSCC in the community.

We joined Meetup to help advertise the many exciting activities we offer and encourage more members to join the club and participate. More sharing of knowledge and experiences will help everyone grow as photographers and make membership in the Silver Spring Camera Club more worthwhile than ever before.

Meetup is not just a social media platform similar to Facebook or Twitter. Meetup really fosters face to face meetings rather than exclusively online “friends” and “followers.”

Go to: <http://www.meetup.com/Silver-Spring-Camera-Club/>

The advantages of joining the Meetup group are reminder emails about meetings, finding and staying in contact with other members, a place to post and enjoy looking at others photos from field trips and finally, the possibility of finding other Meetup groups that may interest you with different topics than photography. Take a look around and join the fun.

### **Facebook**

The world's most popular social network is the best way to keep up with the latest photography news and Club business by following us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Silver-Spring-Camera-Club-147660948590014/>).

### **Twitter**

Tweets are short and sweet notes about photography and Club business. Follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ssccphoto>) and get the news immediately.

## **2016-2017 SSCC COMPETITION TOPIC DEFINITIONS**

### **Open**

In “Open” competitions, free rein is given to the choices the photographer makes in the creation of the submitted image. Images of any and all subjects or themes, created using any photographic or post-processing methods or techniques, are acceptable. The images are evaluated based upon the judge’s general assessment of their creativity, emotional and/or intellectual impact, aesthetic beauty, uniqueness of subject, and technical skill. The judge need not assign any specific weight to any single attribute of the image.

### **Nature Photography**

Acceptable entries are photographs that portray various aspects of natural plant and animal life; that illustrate the natural features of land, sea, and sky; or that reveal natural phenomena. No image in this competition may show human intervention. Domestic plants (e.g., in a botanical garden) or animals (including zoo animals) may be included as long as they do not show any human intervention (e.g., collars or ear tags, gates, walls, paths, signage).

### **Macro Photography (excluding floral)**

In the past, “macro” photographs were ordinarily defined as those created from an image on the camera’s sensor plane that was equal to life size or greater. Rather than using this traditional technical definition, however, for purposes of the competition:

The term “Macro Photography” contemplates images made from close-up range, in which the subject of the photograph is very small or is a very small detail of a larger object. For this competition, however, images of the flowering portions of a plant, tree, or shrub are not acceptable. Images of non-flowering portions of a plant, tree or shrub are acceptable, and images containing objects that sit on or are near a flower are acceptable, as long as the object and not the flower constitutes the primary subject of the image.

### **Street Photography**

The term “Street Photography” contemplates images that show un-posed, unmediated, chance encounters and random incidents within [public places](#). Street photography does not require the presence of a street or even an urban environment. Though people usually feature directly, street photography might be void of people and can be of an object or environment where the image projects a decidedly human character in facsimile or aesthetic.

### **Event Photography**

The term “Event Photography” contemplates images made of some aspect of a private or public gathering, whether scheduled or spontaneous, and that contain some contextual reference, explicit or implicit, to the event at which they are made. “Events” are broadly defined to include, as examples only: religious and secular life events such as weddings, bat and bar mitzvahs, baptisms and graduations; organizational fundraisers and functions; public festivals and celebrations; civic demonstrations and protests; concerts; and sports competitions.

## **Monochrome Photography**

The term “Monochrome Photography” contemplates images that use only a single color, including the full array of shades of that color. So, for example, black and white photos, with black as the single color and its multiple shades of gray, are monochrome. Other single colors and their shades are equally acceptable. Under this definition, a sepia tone photo is acceptable, but a sepia tone photo containing a red umbrella would not qualify as a monochrome. Any subject matter is acceptable. In addition, a photo is acceptable if was originally taken as a color image, as long as the image presented for the competition has been rendered into monochrome.



## DIGITAL PROJECTION SUBMISSIONS

The requirements for submitting images for digital projection are:

### Submission Deadline

Midnight 1-week before competition (SSCC's Speaker meeting night)

Send submissions to [SSCCphotography@yahoo.com](mailto:SSCCphotography@yahoo.com)

Images (per member per competition): maximum of 2

File Format: JPEG

File Size: 1000 KB (max)

File Name: **Class ~Maker's Name~Image Title.jpg**

Example: Advanced~Tom Jones~Washington Landscape.jpg

- The tilde "~" character separates the 3 subfields of the file name.
- **Class** – "Novice" or "Advanced" (capitalization not required)
- **Maker's Name** – spaces allowed
- Please use the same name throughout the year to aid record keeping.
- **Image Title** – spaces allowed
- DO NOT embed commas (,) or tilde (~) in any of the File Name subfields.

The "**File Name**" requirements are very important for running the competition. Please be careful when entering this information. Nonconforming filenames make it very difficult to track your entry. Use a tilde (~), NOT a dash (-) to separate the subfields (**Class~Maker's Name~Image Title**) of the filename. The Competition Chair will not make changes to the filenames after submission, so please check them carefully before submitting.

The computer and software will automatically rescale your image for projection, but if you want to exert full control over how the image is displayed, you should consider resizing and sharpening the image yourself so that the short edge is approximately 1200 pixels or the long edge is approximately 1600 pixels. Please see the *Member Handbook* for tutorials on how to resize images in Lightroom or Photoshop.

The maximum file size of **1000 KB** is to limit the demands on computer memory and speed the presentation.

The computer we use for competition night will automatically add black bars at the side of the photo based on the photo's aspect ratio. If for artistic reasons you wish your image to be presented at a size smaller than full screen, then you must size your image and position it within a 1600 pixels wide x 1200 pixels high **black** background image (canvas size in Photoshop).

Questions: Larry Gold at [SSCCcompetitions@aol.com](mailto:SSCCcompetitions@aol.com)

## WHY COMPETE? A VISUAL MEDITATION

DAVE MULLEN

Every Sunday the Washington Post Magazine has a visual puzzle in which the reader is invited to examine two photographs and find the 12 differences between the two. Much like reading our children "Where's Waldo?" books, this exercise in visual acuity can be fun, or frustrating. I now invite you to find the differences between the two photographs in this article.

Study them hard, and see if you can find the differences. Having a tough time?

Well, the two judges who looked at this photograph had no trouble distinguishing between them... the photograph on the left was tossed during the first round of competition, while the photograph on the right won a first place ribbon. The difference? The person looking at the photograph.

All this is by way of encouraging every SSCC photographer to enter competitions and not to get discouraged. This is far from my only image to be battered by one judge, only to be admired by another. Your own reaction to photographs in the *Cable Release* newsletters will tell you all you need to know... "I like that one, I don't think much of this one."

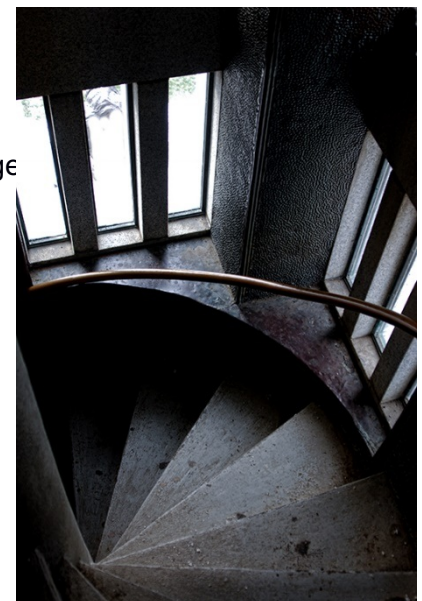
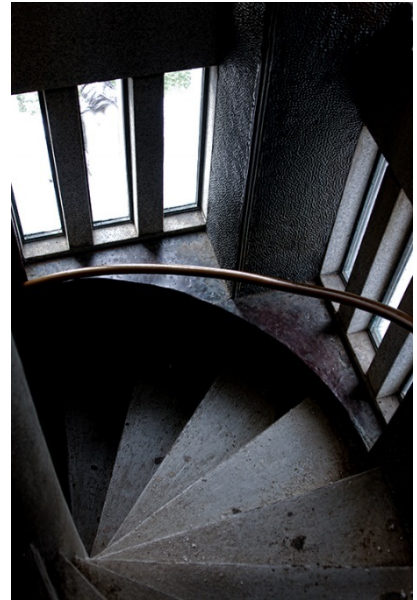
Our friends and relatives always *love* our work. The value for me in competition is not in the winning of ribbons but in the feedback from judges.

Yes, we may need a thick skin some months, but listen to the judge and consider her or his comments.

These are not pronouncements from the Gods on high, but are the reaction of a fresh set of eyes upon our work. The comments by a judge may cause us to tweak or completely reinterpret our photograph, or we may decide that we don't think much of what the judge had to say but like the photograph just the way it is. In either case, our eyes will have become a bit more discriminating and thoughtful in both the shooting and processing of our work.

I always leave Competition Nights having thought more carefully about my work, whether or not I have a ribbon to show for my efforts.

Isn't that one of the reasons we joined SSCC?



## A Common Sense Guide to Photo Competition

PSA Journal, May, 1991 by Marty Feins

*Why* do we enter photographs in competitions? Are we looking for awards, recognition and the excitement of being a winner? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you are missing the whole purpose as to why your club sets up competitions and judging.

The purpose of a competition is primarily to see if your photography is improving, to learn how the judge thinks you can improve your particular photograph and to observe and learn from the comments he or she gives fellow photographers in the competition. Remember, a competition is primarily a learning experience.

Good photography is not too hard to achieve, great photography, however, takes a lot more effort. If you want to be a great photographer, you must ask yourself, “Am I willing to really work at it and learn how to take better pictures?” If your answer is “yes” then there is no better time to start learning how to take a better picture than right now. You should understand something very important, when you submit a photograph to a judging: you are saying to the judge essentially, “this is my best; I can do no better.” Is this a truism, though? It is not if you honestly believe it can be improved. Yes, it is nice to win awards and to gain recognition for your work, but is it not nicer to improve?

When your print is critiqued, try to remake, crop, tint or redo your photograph in the style suggested by the judge. After you have accomplished this compare both photographs and see if you have had a learning experience. If you have, then competition is for you. It is not even necessary to wait for a judging competition. Aren't there already members in your own club whom you respect for their knowledge and ability? Take advantage of their wisdom. You would be surprised how quickly they would offer you help and guidance and gladly share their skills.

Here are some things to look for in your photographic entries. First of all show ***Impact***. Grab the viewer's attention, stop him, make him go “ah” and make every effort to avoid distracting elements which are in front, to the side, or behind the main subject.

Next, use ***Creativity***. Make the viewer think and make him wonder how you achieved your photographic image. Remember, photography is a recognized art, be an artist, Use Artistic Ability. Show good use of balance, composition, color, cropping, and logical use of space. Use the full scale of

the film to achieve the proper contrast. If you send your prints to a commercial lab, use a good one; one which will crop and give your print the color effect you want. Make the lab technician redo your print until it is done the way you would like it if you were printing it. Poor print quality from a lab is no excuse to a judge. It will cost you points.

Know your picture's ***Center of Interest***. Find an eye catching point, then lead the viewer's eye throughout the picture, hold his attention and exclude any lines that might lead the viewer's eye out of the photograph.

***Lighting***, whether natural or manmade, should look realistic. Avoid the snapshot camera flash look. Make light work for you. Use reflectors. Even a handheld newspaper can fill-in shadow details.

Know and make good use of State of the Art ***Techniques***. Tools like the montage, sandwich, dyes or pencil or whatever other skills you have mastered can greatly improve your picture. However, use these techniques discreetly. Use them only if they help the photograph, not just to show you know how to do them. Also make the viewer wonder how you achieved your photo image.

Your choice of ***Subject Matter*** should be appealing, arouse emotion and set a mood. Your subject should be shown to its greatest advantage, with nothing to disconcert the feeling you want. Your picture should also Make A Statement. It should tell a story, give a message or make the viewer think propaganda .

Last, but not least: ***Presentation***. Use proper mounting, clean cut masks, and the proper type of mounting board. Use step-off mounting on prints, judicious use of spotting and print correction, clean boards and so on. Use good judgment and be proud of what you do by your efforts. Everything you do poorly in presentation of your work will cost you points. A great photograph presented carelessly will cost you. Remember photography is a recognized art, be an artist.

When photographing for assignment competitions study the competition's idea thoroughly. In photographing People Portraits if the subject is a portrait (a person), they should be either pleasant to look at (photogenic) or unusually interesting (character study). If the subject is of an active sport, the subject must be doing his or her sport activity. When photographing Animals, use nice looking healthy animals, (creatures, bugs, etc.), but have them doing more than just looking at the camera. As for capturing Abstracts on film, use strong designs, patterns, textures, have a definite point of interest and keep the viewer's eyes into the photograph.

All of the above, however, should just be considered suggestions. Use *your* imagination, look and listen, but most of all work at it and make your next entry a “10.”

## **“NOVICE” & “ADVANCED”: TWO DIFFERENT MEANINGS**

Participants in SSCC competitions enter at either the novice or advanced level. However, each of these level designations carries two unrelated meanings.

“Novice” means a person who is relatively new to photography or who may be relatively inexperienced with certain kinds of photography equipment. But within SSCC, “novice” also means a member who has only earned up to 36 points cumulatively in the monthly members’ competitions. Such a person may already have considerable experience in photography, but perhaps he or she doesn’t enter competitions often enough to earn points at a faster rate.

New and even existing members whose experience and ability would make them feel comfortable competing at the advanced level are encouraged to do so. Just speak to the competition chairman to have your name placed on the advanced roster. Remember, though, once you move up and compete at the advanced level, you can’t go back to novice!

The “advanced” designation likewise has two meanings. It can represent a member who has earned 37 or more points in either the projected or prints competitions. But it can also be a member, regardless of points, who might be a retired pro or who has long experience as a serious amateur.

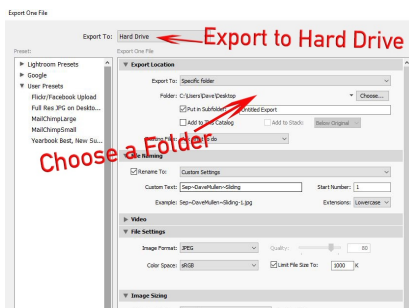
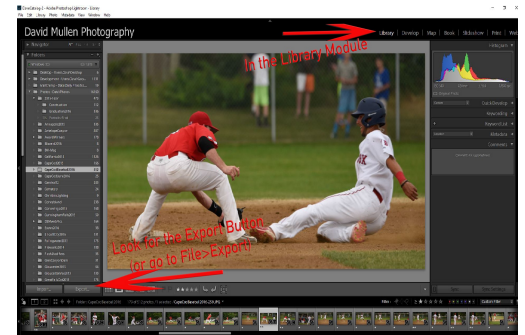
New members, joining SSCC for the first time, may want to talk to the competition chairman to determine the right level for them to enter competitions.

The bottom line here is that both levels have a range of proficiencies. The ribbons and points shouldn’t be the central focus of competitions. What really matters is the enjoyment of doing photography, of learning and improving, and of sharing these experiences in a community of like-minded folks.

# Using Lightroom to Export Images for Digital Competition

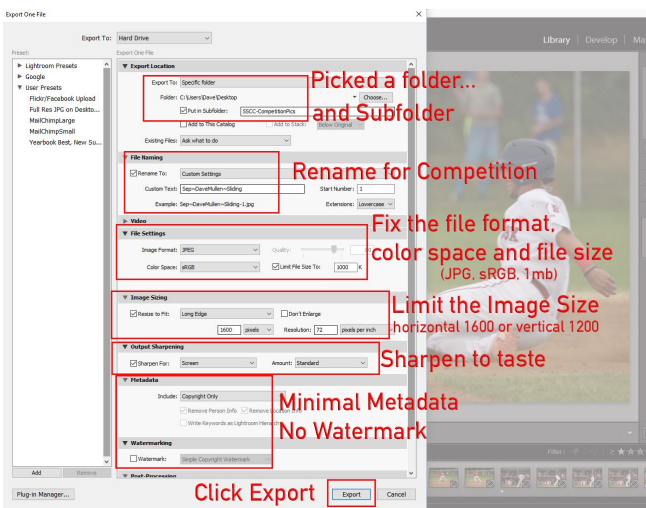
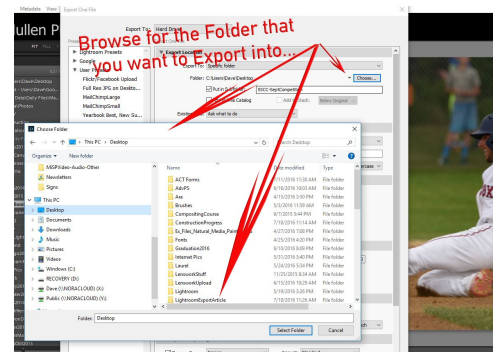
Dave Mullen

In the “Library” module of Lightroom, choose a photo and click on the “Export” button in the lower left section of the screen.



In the Export Dialogue Box, choose “Export to Hard Drive” and choose the folder into which you wish to export your photograph.

You may have to Browse around a bit to find the folder into which you wish to export, or you may create a new folder, depending on your personal Digital Asset Management strategy.



Lots to do here! You’ve picked the folder, and maybe created a subfolder.

You’ve renamed for competition as per the specs for Digital Competition. (Class~Name~Title)

You’ve fixed the format (JPG), the color space (sRGB), and the file size (1,000 KB).

And you’ve sized the photograph according to the specs (1600 pixels maximum width if landscape orientation, 1200 pixels maximum height if portrait

orientation). While we often work at and print at 300 pixels per inch, 72 pixels per inch is all that computer screens and projectors show, so having a higher resolution just increases JPG compression and wastes space.

Then the final touches... sharpening, metadata, etc.

Click on Export. Find the file in the folder into which you exported, attach it to an email with the subject line as per the specs, and send it to [ssccphotography@yahoo.com](mailto:ssccphotography@yahoo.com).

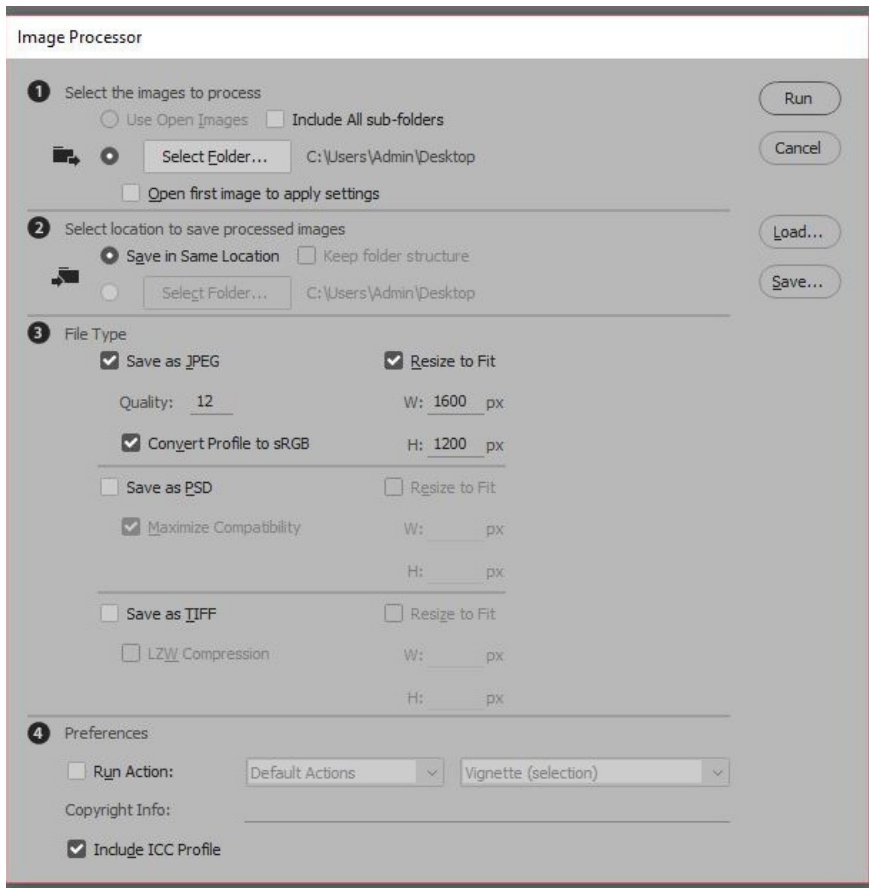
## SIZING IMAGES FOR DIGITAL COMPETITION IN PHOTOSHOP CS3

### JIM ROGERS

This Photoshop CS3 procedure will create properly sized copies in JPG format, with the correct color profile, to meet SSCC's digital competition specifications. **Copies** will be created for all images processed, thus the **original** image format (PSD, TIF, or JPG) does not matter.

After you've finished all modifications/manipulations in Photoshop, proceed as follows:

- A. **Place ALL** competition files to be resized in a separate folder – file type (psd, jpg, tiff) doesn't matter.
- B. Click "**File**" in Photoshop menu (upper left) and Select "**Scripts**" and then "**Image Processor.**"
- C. In the **Image Processor** drop-down menu, under the four sections:
  1. Click "Select Folder" and choose your competition files folder;
  2. Select a location for your processed images or select "Save in Same Location\*" button;
  3. In "File Type" – Select all three check boxes:



- i. **Save as JPEG** and choose a Quality (e.g. 12);
- ii. **Convert Profile to sRGB**; and
- iii. **Resize to Fit**: and key in W=1600, H=1200

#### 4. Select: **Include ICC Profile**

\* "Save in Same Location" creates a folder (named JPG) in the folder containing the images being processed.

Be sure that in "File Type" you've set, JPEG, Quality, sRGB, W=1600, H=1200

I *always* put all the images to be sized into the same folder and select "Save in Same Location". This creates a folder (named JPG) in the folder containing the images being processed, making organization much easier.



# **SILVER SPRING CAMERA CLUB**

## **OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES AND AWARDS**

(Revised August 2015)

### **I. GENERAL**

1. A competition is defined as a judging of photographs of a particular category made by entrants competing at a particular level at the regularly scheduled SSCC meeting for this purpose.
2. Entrants must be members in good standing of SSCC, meaning that, in accordance with the bylaws, annual dues must be paid before participating in any competition.
3. The Competition Chairman (or person acting in his / her stead) is responsible for the administration of these rules and may disqualify and remove any entry not conforming to these rules.
4. It is also the duty of the Competition Chairman to:
  - a. instruct the judge(s) in the definitions of subjects and/or techniques; and to
  - b. instruct the judge(s) to reject any entry not conforming to an announced subject and/or techniques.
5. Entries for competition must be initially created with light sensitive devices such as film or digital camera, as well as scanned film, enlarger, copier, or flatbed scanner, etc. Images that were not created with a light sensitive device are not photographs and are not permitted. To encourage creativity and exploration of new technologies, there is no restriction on the amount or type of computer or darkroom manipulation performed by the entrant on an image.
6. SSCC assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright and is not responsible for any loss of or damage to any images submitted. By virtue of submitting an entry, the entrant certifies the work as not infringing on anyone else's copyright. With the permission of the photographer, SSCC may reproduce, in printed or electronic form, all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and/or display in media related to the promotion of the club and to effectively operate and promote its competitions.

### **II. CATEGORIES**

1. There are two categories of competition: (1) Prints and (2) Projected Images. Each includes monochrome and color images.
2. Entries in all categories must have been created by the entrant.

### **III. LEVELS**

1. Each category of competition (Prints and Projected Images) has two levels: Novice and Advanced.
2. A member's level standing in one category has no bearing on that member's standing in any other category.
3. A member may begin competing at either level of any category and may voluntarily move to the next higher level at any time. However, a member who has entered images at a higher level may not thereafter enter at a lower level. It is the member's responsibility to insure that his/her entries are properly recorded and entered into the correct competition level.

4. Whenever there are insufficient entries to hold a Novice competition, a Novice member may choose to enter images in the Advanced level competition for that competition without affecting his/her status at the Novice level. Any points awarded to the Novice member in that higher level competition will be tallied as Novice level points.
5. Point scores are recorded and tallied by the Competition Chairman and SSCC Historian. A Novice entrant who has accumulated 36 points in a given category over any period in SSCC monthly competitions must immediately move to the Advanced level.
6. After receiving the SSCC Master of Photography Award, a member must thereafter compete in the Advanced level in all categories. The move to the Advanced level becomes effective in the club year following the year in which the 300 points total is achieved.

#### IV. PREPARATION OF COMPETITION ENTRIES

1. For prints (at Novice and Advanced levels), printing must be done by, or under the direction of, the entrant. For film, initial processing of negatives or alternative media may be done by the entrant or a commercial imaging service. All subsequent custom techniques, including image retouching or manipulation, must be done by the entrant.
2. For projected images, any image editing or manipulation of digital images must be done by the entrant. Images captured on film may be processed and scanned by a commercial lab. Any further steps in the production of an entry must be done under the direction of the entrant.
3. Print entries must be securely attached to either a board or a clean mat, preferably both, so that prints do not come loose. The purpose of this requirement is to effectively present the print, to provide rigidity when on display during the competition, and not to harm the prints above or below it in a stack. Prints must be of a size acceptable for the club's print viewing box (approx. 24" high); total print area may not exceed 16" x 20". A sequence of related prints, mounted on one board, will be considered as a single entry. For both levels, the combined picture area of this sequence may not exceed 16" x 20". Framing is prohibited. There are to be no hooks, substances, or protruding objects on the mount board that might scratch, mar, or otherwise damage other entries.
4. On the back of the print, the following information must be legibly included: The entrant's name and level, the title of the image, the date of the competition in which the image is being entered, and an arrow indicating the top of the print. SSCC will provide a label template so that all members can supply the required information on the back of prints in a consistent way.
5. Digital images must conform to the technical specifications provided by the Competition Chairman and published in the *Cable Release* as well as in the Members' Handbook and on the SSCC web site.

#### V. MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

1. **Competition schedule:** Projected Image (both color and monochrome) and Print (both color and monochrome) competitions are to be held each month during a regular club meeting, September through May, as decided by the Board of Directors, except that one month may be designated for other purposes.

2. ***Number of entries that may be submitted:*** The maximum number of entries a member may submit in each category is two.
3. ***Minimum number of entries to hold a competition:*** To conduct a Novice competition, there must be at least four entries by at least three entrants. To conduct an Advanced competition, there must be a minimum of nine entries.
4. ***Log-in procedure for prints at competition meetings:*** Prior to the competition, each entrant must ensure that his/her name and the title of each of their print entries are recorded in the appropriate competition registers as maintained by the Competition Chairman. Proper submission of digital images generates automatic registration. An Advanced level image entered into a lower level will be disqualified.
5. ***Log-in time for prints at competition meeting:*** All prints must be logged in no later than five minutes before the starting time of the meeting. If a member is unavoidably delayed, his prints may be included in the competition at the discretion of the Competition Chairman.
6. ***Number of times one image may be entered in competitions:*** One image may be entered in competitions no more than three times total, across all categories, across all years of membership.
7. ***Re-entering a winning image in another category:*** No entry that has won an award in an SSCC monthly competition may be re-entered in another category.
8. ***What constitutes a repeat image:*** Repeat images are identical or nearly identical images. (For example, with the photographer standing in one place, pictures of the same subject may be nearly identical though they will have different file or frame numbers. A previously submitted image can be transformed by cropping, rotating, etc. as to make it a different image.)
9. ***Identifying repeat images:*** Each photographer is required to check his / her entries for repeat images, whether identical or nearly identical. However, it is up to the Competition Chairman, in conjunction with the SSCC Historian, to identify images submitted more than three times.
10. ***Consequences of submitting repeat images:*** On the first occurrence of a member submitting an entry more than three times, the entrant is given a warning. Any subsequent submission of the image results in the loss of all points earned by that image.
11. ***Awards:*** Ribbons are presented in each competition based on the total number of entries in each level. Awards are valued as:
  - 1st Place - 6 points
  - 2nd Place - 4 points
  - 3rd Place - 2 points
  - HM (Honorable Mention)- 1 point
12. ***Number of awards given per number of entries:***
  - 4-5 entries: only 1st place
  - 6-8 entries: 1st & 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - 9-11 entries: 1st, 2nd, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place
  - 12 -14 entries: 1 HM
  - 15 – 24 entries: 2HM
  - 25 – 34 entries: 3 HM

- 35 – 44 entries: 4 HM
- 45 – 54 entries: 5 HM

The number of HMs awarded in each category is based on 10% of the total entries in each category rounded up from odd multiples of five. No HMs are awarded in competitions with fewer than 12 entries, no 3rd place with fewer than 9 entries, and no 2nd place with fewer than 6 entries.

13. ***Competition topics:*** The Board of Directors may assign not more than three of the monthly competitions to a defined subject and/or technique. The October competition is always on the topic of Nature. The May competition is always devoted exclusively to black and white / monochrome images in both the print and projected categories. All other competitions are open to all subject areas and photographic techniques (i.e., open topic). Assigned topic competitions for the following club year are determined at a Board Meeting in April and announced in the May Cable Release.
14. ***Annual Nature competition:*** The topic for all October competitions (i.e., Projected Images and Prints) must always be Nature for all levels and in all categories and held on the same meeting night. The Joyce Bayley Award is presented to the “Best of Show” as determined by the Judge. Entries must conform to the SSCC definition of the Nature topic.
15. ***Rescheduling competitions:*** If a competition is not held, for any reason, it may be rescheduled at the discretion of the President.

## **VI. BODY OF WORK COMPETITION**

1. The Board of Directors may assign not more than one projection and one print competition each year as a Body of Work competition. For these competitions, there are no level distinctions. Sets of images (intended to tell a story, make a statement, or support a theme) are presented to the Judge as a group. Individual images that have won in prior monthly or inter-club competitions are eligible for inclusion as part of a set, but no image that has been entered in a prior Body of Work competition is eligible. Entry of an image into this competition as part of a set has no bearing on its eligibility for entry into monthly or inter-club competitions. Makers must assign titles to each set entered, not to each individual image.
2. To conduct a Body of Work competition, there must be at least four entries by at least three entrants. No HMs are awarded in competitions with fewer than 12 entries, no 3<sup>rd</sup> place with fewer than nine entries, and no 2<sup>nd</sup> place with fewer than six entries.
3. **Print Competition:** Each member may enter up to two sets consisting of 3 to 5 images in the Print Body of Work competition. Images must be individually mounted. However, multiple images mounted on one board are allowed and are considered a single image.
4. **Projected Image Competition:** Each member may enter up to two sets, each consisting of 3 or 4 images in the Projected Image Body of Work competition.

## **VII. YEAR-END COMPETITIONS**

1. Each member may enter a maximum of five images per category in the Year-End competition.
2. Year-end competitions have the same rules as monthly competitions with respect to categories and levels.

3. All entries in Year-End competitions must have been entered in a monthly competition or as an SSCC entry in an inter-club competition during the preceding nine months.
4. No points are awarded.
5. A member who has entered in both the Novice and Advanced level of a category during the preceding year may elect to enter either the Novice or the Advanced level (but not both) for the Year-End competition. If the member enters the Advanced level, he or she may submit any entry previously entered regardless of level. However, if he or she enters the Novice level, he or she may submit only entries previously entered in the Novice level.
6. Recognition, but not ribbons or points, is determined on the following basis: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and a variable number of HM's equal to 10% of the total entries in that competition, rounded up from odd multiples of five.
7. The Len Tuchin Award is presented to the creator of the image that, in the opinion of the Judge of the Year-End competition, is considered to be the "Best of Show."

### **VIII. PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

1. For each level within each competition category, a Photographer of the Year award is presented at the year-end banquet.
2. The awards are determined on the basis of all points earned during the club year just ended. A Photographer of the Year award may not be presented in a level/category if no member has earned at least a total of 15 points in that level/category.
3. Point totals are calculated as follows:

- a. Novice level –

All points earned in SSCC monthly competitions in that club year, plus all points earned as an SSCC entrant in Board-approved inter-club competitions in equivalent categories, any level.

- b. Advanced level –

All points earned in SSCC for the Advanced level in that club year plus all points earned as an SSCC entrant in Board-approved inter-club competitions in equivalent categories, any level.

- c. If a member moves from the novice level to advanced during a club year

All points earned at the Advanced level and one half of all points earned in the novice level of the same category in that club year, plus all points earned in Board-approved inter-club competitions in equivalent categories, any level. Such a member may be considered only for an advanced photographer of the year award.

4. In the event of a tie for a Photographer of the Year, the winners are determined as follows:
  - First tie-breaker : the most 1st place awards
  - Second tie-breaker: the most 2nd place awards
  - Third tie-breaker: the most 3rd place awards

- Fourth tie breaker: the most honorable mention awards
  - If a tie remains, there are co-winners.
5. Inter-Club awards earn points toward an SSCC Photographer of the Year award as follows:
    - 1st place – 7 points
    - 2nd place – 5 points
    - 3rd place – 3 points
    - HM – 2 points
  6. In any competition where the HM awards exceed 10% of the total competition entries, an HM only earns one point. Entries accepted for club representation in competitions in which SSCC conducts preliminary qualification judging receive one acceptance point each. Acceptance points are separate from, and in addition to, any points that may be earned in the inter-club competition.

## **IX. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS ON BASIS OF POINTS EARNED**

- 1 ***SSCC Star Merit Award:*** For each 35 points scored in monthly club and inter-club competitions, total accumulation in all levels and categories over any period of time while a member in good standing of SSCC, a member is awarded a Star Merit Award. Stars are awarded up to a maximum of five (for a 175 point accumulation).
- 2 ***SSCC Master of Photography Award:*** Upon accumulating 200 total points in the SSCC Star Award System, an SSCC member is awarded an SSCC Master of Photography plaque.
- 3 ***SSCC Grand Master of Photography Award:*** Upon accumulating 400 total points in the SSCC Star Award System, a member is awarded the SSCC Grand Master of Photography plaque.
- 4 ***SSCC Hall of Fame Award:*** Upon accumulating 800 total points in the SSCC Star Award System, a member is awarded the SSCC Hall of Fame plaque.
- 5 The Competition Chairman and/or the Historian must maintain records necessary for the administration of Photographic Excellence awards.

## **X. SERVICE AWARD**

7. A Service Award may be awarded to the SSCC member who the Executive Council determines has made outstanding contributions to further the interests of the Club and its membership. The Executive Council makes this determination by secret ballot no earlier than May 1st of the award year. The member must receive a majority of the votes cast; if no majority is reached, there may be up to two additional ballots in an effort to achieve one. If no majority is reached after the third ballot, there is no award for that year.
8. "SSCC Comp Rules" (07/00)
9. Revised (04/02)
10. Revised (04/03)
11. Revised (09/2004)
12. Revised (04/2007)
13. Revised (08/08)
14. Revised (08/09)

15. Revised (08/14)
16. Revised (08/15)



## Frequently Asked Questions About the Rules

Members are invited to email any questions about the rules to the *Cable Release* editor ([cablereleaseeditor@ssccphotography.org](mailto:cablereleaseeditor@ssccphotography.org)) who will forward them to the “Rules Guy.” Questions and answers appear in the newsletter for the edification of all members. Here are some questions that were asked recently.

*Dear Rules Guru,*

*I took this lovely snapshot at the zoo. I showed it to one of my fellow club members and I told him I'd like it to be more dramatic and in black and white. He opened it in Photoshop and came up with the second version, of which I approve. Can I enter this photo in an SSCC competition?*

*New Member*

**Dear New Member,**

**Please have your friend contact Michael Koren about volunteering to teach Photoshop techniques at a future Seminar Night. I'm sure many club members would be interested in learning how the changes were made.**

**However, the new version *cannot* be entered in an SSCC competition.**

**"Silver Spring Camera Club Competition Rules and Awards" clearly state, "Any image retouching or manipulation of digital images must be done by the entrant." That includes images shot on film and later scanned.**

**Rules Guru**

=====

*Dear Rules Guru,*

*I'm a new member of the club and really enjoy the speakers and competitions. I can't resist commenting aloud (sometimes, to no one in particular) in reaction to funny, unusual or particularly outstanding images. To me, that seems like a normal/natural reaction. Long-time members, even club officers, comment sometimes. What can we do to stop whoever the "old grouch" is who frequently tries to "shhh" everyone? He/she even does that after the judge asks a question. Why can't we simply enjoy the photography without being hassled to keep quiet?*

*Rowdy*

**Dear Rowdy,**

**That is an understandable question from someone unfamiliar with the etiquette of photo contests. Even the most conscientious judges are human and, therefore, vulnerable to outside influences, no matter how subtle. The club's goal is to eliminate as many "outside" stimuli, both physical (sight and sound) and psychological, as possible. That's why we aren't allowed to even answer a judge's questions.**

**That even means that a competitor should refrain from discussing ALL his/her entries with the judge until ALL CATEGORIES of judging are completed. Experienced photographers (i.e. judges) can often see subtle similarities/traits in other photographers' work; sometimes in very different images. That subtle, subconscious influence might tilt the "level playing field."**



**Sometimes, even “old grouches” have valid intentions!**  
**The Rules Guru**

=====

*Dear Rules Guru,*

*All this talk about how many times a print has been entered into competition, whether it has won, how many points I've earned, etc. is bewildering. My memory isn't what it used to be. I simply can't remember all that stuff.*

*Where are my glasses?*

**Dear Glasses,**

**Nobody's memory is what it used to be, especially the Rules Guru's! That's why record keeping is important. Your records don't need to be elaborate; a simple list in a notebook, a Word document, a spreadsheet, whatever . . . anything that works for you.**

**If you need a summary of your previous entries, contact Norm Bernache, the club Historian. He maintains a database of all competition entries. He will provide your data as a report or, if you prefer, in a spreadsheet format.**

**I should also point out that experienced photographers need not wait until 36 points have been earned in a category before moving up to Advanced. In fact, they are encouraged to voluntarily move to Advanced, in the spirit of fair competition.**

**Rules Guru**

(Editor's Note: As a champion of the Attention Deficit crowd, I find it useful to mark the month and award on the back of my prints, and to likewise rename my digital files, on those rare occasions when they receive an award.)

=====

*Dear Rules Guru's Buddy,*

*I keep hearing about the “rules,” but I've never seen them. Who has them and how can I see them for myself?*

*Doubting Thomas*

**Dear Tom,**

**You can, and should, see the rules for yourself. If every member took twenty minutes to familiarize themselves with the competition rules then there would be far less frustration on Competition Night. The rules are available to all members, and to the general public, on the club website: [ssccphotography.org](http://ssccphotography.org).**

**So what's in these rules that I should know?**

**You should know, or at least be familiar with, everything in the rules. For example, one question that often comes up is who can manipulate and print an image. The rules are pretty clear about this...**

Section I. General... Item 5... Images may be altered, either electronically or otherwise, by the maker and artwork or computer graphics created by the maker may be incorporated, if the photographic content predominates.

And in Section II. Categories, Item 3... Initial film processing of negatives, slides, or alternative media may be done by the entrant or a commercial imaging service. All subsequent custom techniques, including image retouching or manipulation, must be done by the entrant.

Pretty clear, isn't it? The entrant must have done all the work on the photograph prior to it being printed. You can't have someone else "touch it up" when they print it, as that clearly violates the rules, which state that all manipulation and retouching must be done by the entrant.

## SSCC CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Adopted May 7, 1992

### Article I – NAME

The name of the Club shall be Silver Spring Camera Club, hereinafter referred to as the Club.

### Article III – CLUB EMBLEM

Section 1. The Club emblem shall be an acorn whose design follows that of the Springhouse at the original Silver Spring.

### Article – III PURPOSE

The Club is a non-profit organization. Its purpose is to encourage members to increase their knowledge, skills and enjoyment of photography by holding meetings, classes, lectures and demonstrations of the various phases of photography; and conducting photographic competitions, workshops and other photography related activities.

### Article IV – MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all persons, except that membership shall be denied to applicants whose association with the Club could jeopardize the well being of the membership or integrity of the Club as determined by the Board.

### Article V – OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Club shall be as follows:

- A. President – shall be the presiding officer at official Club meetings and direct the affairs of the Club.
- B. Vice-President – shall stand in for the President as required and carry out such responsibilities as the President directs.
- C. Secretary – shall record minutes of Board meetings and process Club correspondence as required by the President and/or Vice President
- D. Treasurer – shall maintain the financial records of the Club, chair the Finance Committee and maintain the Master Roster of paid up members.

### Article VI – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1. The Executive Council shall consist of the Officers and Directors of the Club.

Section 2. There shall be three Directors serving 2-year terms. A Director cannot concurrently serve as a Chair or Officer. In the event of a Director vacancy, the successor Director shall serve out the remainder of the vacated term.

Section 3. If a matter arises which requires a decision before the Board of Directors can be assembled for a meeting, the President may poll the members of the Executive Council and act in accordance with the majority opinion of the Council. The President shall make an effort to contact all members of the Council, but if some are not available, the opinions of no less than five shall be included in the poll. The decision and the results of the poll shall be reported at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

### Article VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, shall consist of the Executive Council and the chairpersons of the various committees.

Section 2. Committee chairpersons shall have a full vote in Board business. No person shall have more than one vote by reason of multiple concurrent positions on the Board. Alternate chairpersons shall be entitled to vote only when the primary chairperson is not present.

Section 3. The Board shall have authority to fill vacancies in its membership, except that the Vice-President shall succeed to the Presidency in the event of a vacancy in that office.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Board to supervise the affairs of the Club, coordinate the activities of the various committees, and approve expenditure of Club funds.

Section 5. The Board shall decide the day and hour of its meetings. Regular Board meetings shall be scheduled sufficiently in advance to allow at least 2 weeks notification to the membership.

Section 6. The President, or three members of the Board including at least one member of the Executive Council, may call a special meeting of the Board of at least 1 week in advance of the meeting.

Section 7. All Board meetings shall be open to the general membership. Members not on the Board may speak before the Board, but shall not have a vote in its business.

Section 8. Minutes of Board meetings shall be recorded by the Recording Secretary, or a member of the Club designated as an alternate. Highlights of the minutes shall be published in the Cable Release at the earliest opportunity.

Section 9. The Board may adopt such rules and regulations for its activities as are necessary so long as they are not contrary to this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 10. To override the decision of the Board on a specific question, a petition signed by 15 members in good standing and presented to the President shall bring the question before the general membership at the next regular Club meeting. Approval by two-thirds of the members present at the meeting, including written proxies, shall be required to override the Board.

## Article VIII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Club meetings of the general membership shall be the first and third Thursday of each month, September through May. Exceptions may be made as determined necessary by the Executive Council.

Section 2. Conduct of business requiring a vote at Board and regular Club meetings shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

## Article IX – QUORUM

Section 1. A quorum for the transaction of business requiring a vote at a regular club meeting shall be one-third of the membership in good standing. The presence of a quorum may be deemed by the two members of the Executive Council.

Section 2. A quorum of the Board shall be five, one of whom must be an Officer and one of whom must be a Director.

## Article X – OFFICIAL PUBLICATION & WEB SITE

Section 1. The official publication of the Club shall be a newsletter, named the Cable Release. The Cable Release shall contain all notifications of Club business as required by this Constitution and By-Laws, plus any other Club-related items of interest to the membership.

Section 2. The Cable Release shall be distributed to all members in good standing on a regular basis during the Club year, plus special issues as deemed necessary by the Executive Council.

Section 3. The membership shall have the right to submit and have published in the Cable Release, items of Club-related interest, including qualified opinion, as long as the items are not derogatory, derisive, or otherwise contrary to the well-being of the Club. The editor of the Cable Release shall be required to obtain concurrence of the Executive Council prior to rejection of any submission as unfit for publication.

Section 4. The official Internet Web site for the Club (SSCCPhotography.org) shall be noted in all official Club announcements, recruitment fliers, and each issue of the Club's official publication. The Club Web site will contain the following categories of information: Club History, By-Laws, Competition Rules and Monthly Winners, Current and Past Club Newsletters, Calendar of Club Events, Gallery of Member Photographs, Club Member Equipment for Sale, and Links to Other Sites. The President, along with Executive Council concurrence, shall clear all additional content and proposed categories. The Webmaster shall update/revise the site's content, organization, access rights, and design as requested by the Executive Council representative(s).

#### Article XI -FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Club shall begin July 1 of each year and extend through the following June 30.

#### Article XII – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Membership dues shall be established by the Board. Dues shall be due and payable by the first regular Club meeting of each fiscal year.

Section 2. Any change in dues shall become effective at the beginning of the fiscal year following the Board action to effect a change. Final action shall not be taken by the Board except at a Board meeting for which the general membership has had at least 30 days prior notification. Interested members may speak on the proposed change prior to the vote at such an announced meeting. New dues and their effective date shall be published in the Cable Release issued immediately after adoption and immediately prior to the first regular Club meeting of the fiscal year.

Section 3. Members who have not paid their dues by October 31st of the current fiscal year shall be dropped from membership. Such members may be reinstated upon full payment of current fiscal year dues.

Section 4. Special assessments must be approved by 2/3 of the full Board of Directors, and must be announced to the general membership in the Cable Release prior to the date of any such assessment.

#### Article XIV – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Special Committees: The President may establish special committees as required. Special committees shall continue to function until the service for which they were appointed is completed, or until discharged by the President. Their appointments shall not extend beyond the close of the fiscal year in which appointed.

##### A. Nominations and Elections Committee:

(1) This committee shall present a slate of candidates for Club Officers and Director(s) at the regular Club meetings in April. Following presentation of the slate, the committee shall solicit and accept nominations from the floor. Neither the slate nor floor nominations need a second; however, each candidate must state a willingness to serve.

(2) The committee shall conduct elections during the first regular Club meeting in May.

Section 2. Standing Committees: The President, with the approval of the Board, shall, when necessary,

establish the following committees and appoint their respective chairpersons. The tenure of these committees shall coincide with the Club fiscal year.

A. Speaker and Judges Program Committee: Shall recruit, schedule, and submit a biography for each program speaker and competition judge.

B. Education Program Committee: Shall plan and present monthly educational meetings.

C. Finance Committee: The Treasurer shall be Chairperson. Other members shall include the Vice-President, a Director, plus at least one other Board member as appointed by the President. This committee shall prepare a proposed budget to be submitted to the President prior to the first regular Club meeting of the fiscal year. This committee shall cause an audit of the Treasurer's books of accounts after the close of the fiscal year and present it for approval by the President. It shall be the duty of the Finance committee to oversee all expenditures, making certain that such expenditures do not exceed budget allocations. No budget allocation shall be exceeded without approval by the Executive Council.

D. Competition Committee: The Competition Secretary shall be Chairperson. This committee shall be responsible for:

- (1) Conducting all intra-club competitions.
- (2) Maintaining records of all inner- and inter-club competitions, including a list of members competing, entries, awards, and scoring, as outlined in the S.S.C.C. Rules of Competition and Awards.
- (3) Developing rules of competition and presenting them to the Board for approval. Any change in the rules shall become effective at the beginning of the fiscal year following the Board action to effect such a change. The new rules and their effective date shall be published in the Cable Release issued immediately prior to the first regular Club meeting of the fiscal year.
- (4) Determining eligibility of entries and briefing visiting judges on S.S.C.C. competition and judging criteria.
- (5) Forwarding the results of all competitions and names of all members that move from the novice to the advanced class to the Cable Release editor for publication and to the Archives Committee.

E. Field Trip Committee: This committee shall arrange, announce, and take charge of all Club field trips and related outings.

F. Membership Committee: This committee shall be responsible for new member recruitment program, welcoming new members, and assuring that they are thoroughly indoctrinated in Club activities and procedures. This shall include printed handouts, introductions to committee chairpersons, and, if necessary, arranging for another member to serve as "host" to the new member.

G. Workshop Committees: May be formed for slides, monochrome prints, color prints or other subjects. Chairpersons shall be appointed for each committee formed. Chairperson shall establish and announce dates and locations of workshops, plan and present programs, and arrange for speakers as required.

H. Publication Committee: The Cable Release editor shall be chairperson. This committee is responsible for the editing, publication, and distribution of the Cable Release plus other publicity of Club activities as necessary.

I. Refreshments Committee: This committee shall procure, prepare and serve refreshments at regular Club meetings.

J. Exhibits Committee: This committee shall make arrangements and be responsible for Club exhibits.

K. Special Interest Groups: Critique groups, special workshops and other similar sub-organizations may be formed within the Club to provide forums for the pursuit of specialized, technical, and aesthetic aspects of photography at the discretion of the Board. Participation in such groups shall be open to all members. Such groups shall have full and equal status as Club committees, and their chairpersons shall be voting members of the Board.

L. Archives Committee: The Chairperson shall serve as the Club Historian and maintain chronological files of correspondence, Cable Releases, and other documents pertaining to Club Activities.

#### Article XV – INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Officers shall be installed at the Year End Banquet and shall assume office on July 1.

#### Article XVI – AFFILIATION

Section 1. The Club may affiliate with such photographic, artistic, recreational, or educational organizations as the Board may deem beneficial to the Club.

Section 2. Representatives of the Club to outside organizations, as authorized by Section 1 of this Article, and as designated by the President, shall have committee chairperson status and be a voting member of the Board.

#### Article XVII – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of members present at a regular Club meeting, including written proxies. Amendments may be proposed by any Club member. A proposed amendment may not be voted on at the meeting in which it is proposed, but shall be voted on after publication in the Cable Release and not later than the second regular Club meeting following such publication.

#### Article XVIII – INCORPORATION

At the discretion of the Board, the Club may be incorporated.

#### Article XIX – DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

No part of the net earnings of the Club shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to, its members, officers, directors, or other private persons, except that the Club shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation.

#### Article XX -Effective Date

This Constitution and By-Laws of the Silver Spring Camera Club, as set forth in the preceding Articles I through XIX, supersede and entirely replace all prior versions and amendments thereof. The effective date of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be xxx, 2007.