



Stratford Camera Club
Handbook
2011/2012

Objectives

To encourage members in their photographic endeavours and provide instruction and opportunities to improve their skills through club competitions, outings, and guest speakers.. We encourage social interaction within the club and with other camera clubs. We will make use of our affiliation with the Canadian Association of Photographic Arts (CAPA) and the Southwestern Ontario Photographers Association (SWOPA) to broaden our objectives and opportunities.

Constitution

The Stratford Camera Club operates under the guidelines of the Constitution established in 1999.

Membership

Members should have an interest in all aspects of photography, from the basics to the art of photography, and craft of making an image. Members are encouraged to participate in all competitions, outings, and meetings, as well as taking an active role in the running of the Stratford Camera Club.

Dues

Per Season as follows:

- Single \$40.00
- Family \$75.00
- Student \$15.00

Membership dues are subject to change upon review.

Meetings

Meetings are held twice per month from September to May for all members.

The general meeting is convened on the first Tuesday of the month at Gallery Stratford, 54 Romeo St. Doors open at 7:00 and the meeting starts at 7:30.

The second meeting, a workshop or workshop outing is held on the third Tuesday of the month. Times and locations of workshops vary, please check the program for scheduled times and locations.

Competitions and Exhibitions

The Stratford Camera Club holds three in-club competitions each year as well as a print competition. These competitions are judged by qualified members of the Stratford Camera Club or qualified members from another camera club. See the program for deadlines and theme topics.

In each round of competition as well as the February Print competition there are four categories:

- ◆ **General** – An image of any recognizable subject matter, and may include portraits, man made objects, buildings and cultivated flora, with minor adjustments to levels, cropping, dodging and burning, hue and saturation.
- ◆ **Creative** – An image that is heavily manipulated or may not be recognizable as the original subject. The emphasis is on originality.
- ◆ **Nature** – Untamed animals or plants in their natural habitat, geology and phenomena not produced by man. An accurate record of a subject and natural environment are most important. The CAPA definition is used as the criteria for judging this category.
- ◆ **Theme** – Subjects are announced at the beginning of each season for each round of competition and the print competition. Emphasis is on an original interpretation of the theme.

Submissions can be:

- **Prints** from digital files, or film, and must be accompanied by an entry form preferably electronic. Print submissions must be no smaller than 5" X 7" or 35 square inches, or larger than 16" X 20" and securely mounted to a stiff backing measuring 16" X 20". The backing should be white 4 ply illustration board or foam core. Prints may also be fixed to the back of a window matt backed by foam core or 4 ply illustration board. Window matting is recommended and may be white or black. Only one print per mount or matt will be accepted. Prints must be identified on the back top left hand corner and firmly affixed with the category, title of the image, photographer's name, and competition entered, as well as an arrow indicating the top of the image.
- **Digital Images for Projection** may be submitted as email attachments or on a cd or thumbdrive. All images must be accompanied by an electronic entry form correctly filled out. Entries without an entry form will not be judged. Images on cds or thumb drives must have one competition per folder that indicates the competition entered. They must be resized to 1024 pixels on the width for horizontal images and 768 on the height for vertical images and oriented correctly. The naming convention for digital files is - Category (G,N,C,T) for general, nature, creative, theme, please use capitals - Title – photographer's initials.jpeg. The file name would look like: G-sunflower-ar.jpeg or N-owl-db.jpeg or C-spots-mb.jpeg. Please use hyphens between the category, title and photographer's initials and keep the titles as short as possible. The naming convention for other competitions vary slightly. For Scavenger Hunt images please use the number of each theme instead of the letter for categories: ie 1-old signs-ar.jpeg or 2-bridges-ar.jpeg etc.
- Members may enter up to 10 images in each round of Stratford Camera Club competitions. The images may be all prints or digital files for projection and entered in only one, some or all of the categories. Images may be entered in one club competition only but may be also be entered in outside competitions or exhibitions.

February Print Competitions

This competition has the same four categories as the 3 rounds of SCC competitions, general, nature, creative, and theme. Each member may enter up to 6 images with an entry fee of \$2.00 per print. Images must be matted and mounted in accordance with the print submissions in the three rounds of SCC competitions. Outside judges are utilized to judge this competition and may comment on entries. Images must be new work, within 2 years, and can not be work submitted in previous competitions. Selected prints will be displayed at the annual Kaleidoscope in March.

Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is an exhibition open to the public held in March of each year. There is one showing in the afternoon of the third Sunday and displays the work of members on various subjects as digital projections in essay form with a musical accompaniment. Essays must include a title image giving credit to musicians and photographer. As well as the prints displayed from the February competition members are encouraged to participate as it is vital to the success of this exhibition. Donations are solicited and this exhibition has become our chief fund raiser that enables us to develop more and better programs and maintain equipment.

Grand Valley Image Battle

Is a friendly competition with other clubs in Southwestern Ontario. Each club submits images selected from it's members work that are judged on a points system. This competition is hosted by a rotating roster of member clubs. Submissions for the Stratford Camera Club may be images entered in previous club

competitions or new work. Images may be prints or digital files for projection and clearly identified, sized, and matted in accordance with club rules. Images will be selected at a designated meeting by a panel of club members.

Stag and Swan

Is a friendly competition with the Highland Glen Camera Club from Kitchener. Images from members work are selected and judged on a points system. The club with the most total points wins the trophy.

Scavenger Hunt

To provide some summertime inspiration, 24 subjects are selected and members are encouraged to bring their best interpretation of each subject to the December meeting. Images must be captured between April and October. Another showing happens in the spring with the Maitland Valley Camera Club. who has the same subjects. Each club alternates hosting this event and selecting the 24 subjects for the next year's challenge.

Judging

Judging for all competitions is much the same. Images are viewed by three judges with each category judged separately. Each judge gives of score of 1 to 10 for each image. The scores for each image from each judge are added to give a total score for each image from 3 to 30. In-club competitions will have the highest scored image receive a first with the next highest score receiving a second and so on for third place and honourable mention. Images with the same scores may both receive first place or second etc. Each first place image from each category including the February Print competition is displayed at the Awards night and the top image from each category is chosen by popular vote as well as an overall winner.

Judging Guidelines: The basis for the points system

Light and Exposure

0=inappropriately over or under exposed

1=use of light is adequate and appropriate with some tolerance for exposure range

2=use of light and exposure well handled and absolutely correct with no obvious lighting problems

3=light and exposure have been used effectively, beyond mere recording and the exposure may be deliberately unusual but correct, the image shows skill in the use of light direction, character, and colour.

Sharpness

0=the subject is not sharp or as sharp as required in subject areas

1=the subject area is sharp with blurred areas an enhancement not a fault

Composition and Designated

0=composition is careless with significant distractions and the design is not apparent or not satisfactory

1=composition and design are satisfactory with distractions possibly apparent but not dominate

2=composition and design are without fault with no distractions

3=the organization of elements is critical to the success of the image and composition and design are both with out fault.

Mood Impact and Subject Matter

0=the image has little emotional appeal and fails to communicate an objective

1=the image initiates some emotional response or recognition of the makers perceived objective

2=the subject conveys a sense of place or an event and is accurately rendered with an automatic emotional response

3=the image is powerful and evokes an immediate emotional response which is strong and lasting and subject matter is well selected and portrayed

CAPA Nature Definition

Nature photographs depict untamed animals and uncultivated plants in their natural habitat. Geology and phenomena not produced by man are also considered suitable subjects. An accurate record of a subject and natural environment is the prime factor in judging a nature photograph. Every effort should be made to use the highest level of artistic skill in interpreting the subject and its environment. Unacceptable are: images of cultivated plants, formal flower arrangements, domestic or caged animals, mounted specimens, or man and his specialized environment. Also unacceptable are nature photographs with an interpretive or pictorial treatment, these should be submitted in the general category. Digitally manipulated photographs are not acceptable. Scientific names are recommended in the title but common names will be accepted. Include the "wild" for a flower that may also be cultivated such as Morning Glory. Please avoid using titles such as "little green plant" or "white flower"; "Bald Eagle" is better than "Eagle" which is better than "Bird in Tree".

CAPA

CAPA competitions are divided into Club and individual competitions. The Stratford Camera Club enters selected member images in club competitions and encourages its members to join CAPA and enter their work in individual competitions. Detailed entry forms and a list of competitions and their criteria can be found on the CAPA website at www.capacanada.ca. Information can also be found on a pullout insert in the summer issue of Canadian Camera Magazine, which is included with a CAPA membership.