

# Rules of Competition



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- Advancement in the knowledge and practice of the science and art of photography;
- Contributions to the progress of photography.

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## ARTICLE VII - RULES OF COMPETITION

Note: This document is part of the Marin Photography Club's By-Laws. It is identified as "Article VII – Rules of Competition" within those By-Laws.

#### A. PREAMBLE

The Marin Photography Club (MPC) subscribes to the Ethics Statement of the Photography Society of America. Consistent with that ethics statement and the MPC Rules of Competition, all entrants and all images submitted for competition will follow the guidelines below:

All images and elements within those images submitted for competition in all categories in both Print and Projected competitions must originate as photographic images made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally, except as specifically noted below.

As permitted in certain category definitions (see below), any graphic elements not of photographic origin must be a minor component of the image.

In the Digital Art Alternate category only, the entrant photographer may include elements not of his/her own making.

Entrant photographers may create borders digitally using Photoshop or similar programs to define the edges of their work, but may not add borders created entirely through apps or by other artists.

As permitted in certain category definitions (see below) entrant photographers may utilize filters to create a texture where the elements of that texture already exist within that image or within another image created by the maker. A texture adding new elements created entirely with an app or by another artist is not permitted.

Digital manipulation is permitted only in those competition categories designated below in these rules.

By virtue of submitting an entry, the entrant photographer certifies that

(1) the submitted image(s) is/are his/her own work, and that



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- (2) the submitted image(s) has/have only been manipulated as permitted in the individual category definitions of these rules.

#### **B. COMPETITION OVERVIEW**

MPC has monthly competitions for print and projected images. There is an annual competition at the end of the calendar year. With the exception of the annual competition members must be present to win.

Marin Photography Club is a member of the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C). N4C is the umbrella organization for at least a dozen San Francisco Bay Area camera clubs. Images winning at the local MPC competitions for print and projected competitions (except for winners in Alternate Categories) will be sent to the monthly N4C competition unless the image owner stipulates otherwise. Images that win at the N4C competition are automatically entered into the N4C annual competition unless the image owner stipulates otherwise. Members do not need to be present to win an N4C competition.

MPC members accumulate points at both the local level and N4C level.

All competition categories will have members assigned to the levels defined for that category, either Basic and Advanced; or Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters, and Life Masters.

The members with the most point totals in their category and level at the end of the year may be promoted to the next level for the following year. The number of people promoted will be determined by the MPC Executive Board at the end of the year's competition.

Modifications to the MPC Rules of Competition may be made and published by the MPC Executive Board in accordance with the general desires of the membership.



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## **COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES**

## A. CATEGORY (DIVISION) DEFINITIONS

## 1. PICTORIAL COLOR (P)

- a. The category Pictorial Color category differs between Projected and Print competitions.
  - a. In Projected competitions, either color or monochrome images may be entered.
  - b. In Print competitions, only color images may be entered.

    Monochrome images may only be entered in the Monochrome category (section 2 below).
- b. Pictorial photography is the use of the photographic medium as an art form. The emphasis is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence. Images in the Pictorial Color division are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography. Pictorial images may be manipulated in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera in a manner consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.
- c. Titles for Pictorial images will be read at monthly competitions to help members better understand images in this category, but titles should not be considered when judging the images.
- d. Printed and Projected Color Pictorial Images:

There are four Pictorial Color Projected competition levels: B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters

There are four Pictorial Color Print competition levels: B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters

Pictorial Color Print entry labeling (in upper left corner): P/B, P/I, P/A, P/M.

## 2. PICTORIAL MONOCHROME (M)

a. A monochrome image refers to an image in black and white

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(grayscale), but also includes images made of tones of a single color. Monochrome prints are defined as one color and the color of the paper; they may be toned, but not multiple toned.

For example, sepia images which display tones from light tan to dark brown, and cyanotype images ("blueprints") are also monochrome.

- b. Pictorial photography is the use of the photographic medium as an art form. The emphasis is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence. Images in the Pictorial Monochrome division are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography. Pictorial images may be manipulated in the darkroom, on the computer or in the camera in a manner consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.
- c. Titles for Pictorial images will be read at monthly competitions to help members better understand images in this category, but titles should not be considered when judging the images.
- d. Printed and Projected Monochrome Pictorial Images:

There are four Pictorial Monochrome Projected competition levels: B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters

There are four Pictorial Monochrome Print competition levels: B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters

Pictorial Monochrome Print entry labeling (in upper left corner): M/B, M/I, M/A, M/M.

# 3. NATURE (N)

a. The Nature category (division) is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history except anthropology and archeology in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject matter and certify its honest presentation. The informative and nature story telling value of the photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality, while maintaining high technical quality.



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Images entered in the Nature category (division) can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant (still alive, not extinct) organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

However, photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible. Also human elements shall not be present in the image and are ineligible except: *in situations where wild animals have been tagged with scientific bands, tags or radio collars; in situations where nature subjects* (e.g. barn owls, storks, eagles etc.) have adapted to an environment modified by humans, and these human elements are an integral part of the nature story; or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves.

## b. Things that ARE Nature Photographs:

- Any wild creature that represents a nature story photographed in the wild or in a natural park setting. No evidence of a zoo-like setting may be visible in the photograph.
- All natural events such as storms, eclipses, lightning, etc.
- Rocks and minerals or any natural geological formations.
- Any wild flower, moss, or any other non-cultivated living plants.
- Any natural scene that incorporates one or more of the above categories for the purpose of telling a nature story.

#### What is **NOT** Nature:

- Pictures of dogs, cats, canaries, horses, cows, or any other domestic or farm animal or bird.
- Cultivated flowers, plants or trees (roses, daffodils, etc.)
- Any plant, even if found in the wild that has been altered in some way by man.
- c. Any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement is not permitted. This includes techniques that add,



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relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping. Infrared images (either direct-captures or derivations), are not permitted and are ineligible.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitching is allowed to complete the natural image. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome.

d. Sequences in Nature are permitted and should show a chronology of events or tell a story.

A Print Nature Sequence consists of a series of two or more related images and must have all images printed on the same sheet of paper, or matted in the same mat (composite of multiple-images-in-one). Competitors submitting a Print Nature Sequence should enter a single title which applies to the Sequence as a whole.

A Projected Nature Sequence may have a series of up to four images, which count collectively as a single image, and unlike print sequences, in projected images, no composite of multiple-images-inone are allowed. Projected Nature Sequences and the images in a sequence should be titled as shown in item "c. Sequence Titles" under "2. Digital Projected Images" within this document.

- e. In Nature competition the title should be factual and descriptive and will be read when showing the image. Scientific names are encouraged but are not required. All Nature images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.
- f. Printed and Projected Nature Images:

There are four Nature Projected competition levels: B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters



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There are two Nature Print competition levels: B = Basic, A = Advanced

Nature Print entry labeling (in upper left corner): N/B or N/A.

g. Sub-Division: Authentic Wildlife (W)

Authentic Wildlife applies to Projected Nature Images ONLY.

N4C has adopted the following definition for Authentic Wildlife:

Authentic Wildlife is defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions, are not eligible. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species.

## 4. TRAVEL (T)

- a. A Photo Travel image must express the feeling of a time and place, and portray a land, its distinctive features or culture in its natural state. There are no geographical limitations. Close-up pictures of people or objects must include distinguishable environment.
- b. Techniques that add to, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping are not permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Conversion to monochrome is allowed.
- c. The title should give the location and complement the travel story, and will be read when showing the image. All Travel images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.
- d. Printed and Projected Travel Images:



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There are four Travel Projected competition levels: B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters

There are two Travel Print competition levels: B = Basic, A = Advanced

Travel Print entry labeling (in upper left corner): T/B or T/A.

## 5. JOURNALISM (J)

- a. Journalism entries shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be pictorial considered over quality. In the interest credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation of the image, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Journalism competition. The primary concern is to make story-telling and/or newsworthy photographs.
- b. Sequences in Journalism are permitted and should show a chronology of events or tell a story.

A Print Journalism Sequence consists of a series of two or more related images and must have all images printed on the same sheet of paper, or matted in the same mat (composite of multiple-images-in-one). Competitors submitting a Print Journalism Sequence should enter a single title which applies to the Sequence as a whole.

A Projected Journalism Sequence may have a series of up to four images, which count collectively as a single image, and unlike print sequences, no composite of multiple-images-in-one are allowed. Projected Journalism Sequences and the images in a sequence should be titled as shown in item "c. Sequence Titles" under "2. Digital Projected Images" within this document.

c. Techniques that add to, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping are not permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Conversion to monochrome



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is allowed.

- d. In competition the title is read when showing the image. Good titles are important and should add to the photo-story. All Journalism images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.
- e. Printed and Projected Journalism Images:

There are four Journalism Projected competition levels: B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters

There are two Journalism Print competition levels: B = Basic, A = Advanced

Journalism Print entry labeling (in upper left corner): J/B or J/A

# 6. CREATIVE (C)

a. Creative photography is producing an image through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought including the altering of reality. No image should be eliminated from competition simply because it looks realistic, provided it shows originality of concept.

Creative images may include modifications in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera, as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subject matter or lighting, or any other presentation that begins with the maker's photograph or a collection of photographs.

All Creative images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.

- b. Titles for Creative images will be read at monthly competitions to help members better understand images in this category, but titles should not be considered when judging the images.
- c. Printed and Projected Creative Images:



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There are four Creative Projected competition levels:

B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters

There are two Creative Print competition levels: B = Basic, A = Advanced

Creative Print entry labeling (in upper left corner): C/B or C/A

## 7. ALTERNATE CATEGORY (A)

- a. An alternate category of competition may be added to Print and Projected competition. Competition chairs will communicate the theme and definitions to the members prior to the competitions.
- b. Titles for Alternate images will be read at monthly competitions to help members better understand images in this category, but titles should not be considered when judging the images..
- c. Winning images in alternate competitions are not submitted to N4C.
- d. Printed and Projected Alternate Category Images:

There are four Alternate Projected competition levels: B = Basic, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced, M = Masters

There are two Alternate Print competition levels: B = Basic, A = Advanced.

Alternate Print entry labeling (in upper left corner): A/B or A/A.



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#### **B. LABELING AND SUBMISSION OF IMAGES**

- a. Prior to the deadline set by the Print and Projected Chairs members must submit their images to the competition website. See the MPC competition website for specific guidelines.
- b. All entries will be reviewed by the Print and Projected committee chairs and President to determine eligibility of the entry in a category. If an entry is disqualified the entrant will receive a notification that the image was disqualified and why. The image will be eligible to be reentered in the appropriate category at a future competition.
- c. Projected Images and the front of Prints submitted for competition must be free of any maker identifying information that would be seen during the competition. This includes copyright information, watermarks, logos, maker's name, image title, or date.
- d. The title of any entry must be 200 characters or less. The following characters are not allowed in the title:

< (less than) > (greater than) " (double quote) " (asterisk)
/ (forward slash) \ (backslash) \$ (question mark) : (colon)
~ (tilde) | (vertical bar)

#### 1. PRINTS

a. The name of the member, the print's title, the competition category and level, the date of competition, and "Marin Photography Club" must appear on the back of the print on a sticker placed on the upper left hand corner of the back of the print. The abbreviations for category and level must be placed prominently on the sticker Makers must enter prints at their appropriate highest levels. Illegible and mislabeled images are subject to disqualification.

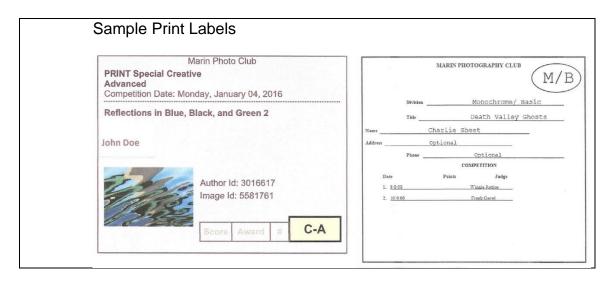
It's best to print labels from the MPC Competition Website. When you submit an image to a competition, click on the "Print Labels for Print



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Submissions" button to begin the print process. You may also create your own printed label.

The diagram below shows a sample print label printed from the website, and a sample custom-made print label.



Note: N4C and MPC require that print labels be filled in by a printer (machine).

- b. For MPC competitions, in all MPC print categories, the print must be mounted and the minimum size of the mat is 11" x 14", and the maximum size of the mat is 24" x 24". Note that the minimum size of a square mat is therefore 14" x 14"
- c. The print shall be mounted on 2-ply or 4-ply mount board or foam core board. It may not exceed 5/16" in thickness.
- d. The print itself may be any size as long as it fits on the mat.
- e. **Note** that the maximum size differs between MPC and N4C competitions. The N4C print maximum mat size is 16" x 20", which is smaller than our MPC maximum.
- f. Any MPC winning print will qualify for competition at N4C provided it complies with N4C rules (including its maximum size), otherwise it will not be entered in N4C competition.
- g. Any submission that contains elements that could damage other prints may be rejected by the Print Chair. Examples include hooks, wires, exposed adhesives or other sticky substances.
- h. Entered prints may not be enclosed in an envelope.



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- i. Any photographic process may make color prints. Hand-colored prints are considered to be color prints.
- j. Use of a commercial lab for printing is permitted.
- k. All prints must be claimed at the end of the competition, otherwise the images may be disposed.

#### 2. DIGITAL PROJECTED IMAGES

- Category (Division), level, image title, and maker name shall be included with electronic submissions in the format designated by the competition website. (See the MPC website for specific guidelines for Projected Competition)
- b. All projected images should be appropriately sized to a maximum of 1920 pixels horizontal and a maximum of 1200 pixels vertical. (This is taken care of automatically by the ICM system if the file size is less than 4 MB.) The resolution should be ignored sRGB is the recommended color profile, but if another is used, it will be automatically converted to sRGB by the ICM system. The image should be saved in the .jpg format. Specifying the Maximum JPEG quality is recommended.
- c. Sequence Titles. Sequence entries for nature or journalism projected images should be titled as shown below:
  - 1) The sequence needs an overall Sequence Title which names the sequence.
  - 2) There may be 2 to 4 images in a sequence. Each image in the sequence should have a title in the format:
    - <Overall Sequence Title>[<Number of Sequence (1-4) >]<If
      desired, a SubTitle for the image>
  - 3) For example, a 4-image sequence named "Holi festival" has been submitted using these titles which fit the format:
    - a) Sequence Title Holi festival
    - b) First Image Title Holi festival [1] Gathering Color



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- c) Second Image Title Holi festival [2] Throwing Colors
- d) Third Image Title Holi festival [3] Getting Splashed
- e) Fourth Image Title Holi festival [4] Joy of the Day



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#### C. COMPETITION RULES

1. Competition Levels

Members compete in one of four levels

Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters

Members start in the basic level and each year the best of the level (as determined solely by the number of points earned) may be promoted to the next level. Except for the Masters and Advanced levels, members are not demoted and there are not any limits on the number of members competing in each level.

The Life Master title was created in 2011 to move those master photographers who have achieved a consistent high level of work at the Master Level (5 out of 6 years) and contributed to the club's success by volunteering. Life masters are not to be counted in the calculation of the maximum number of members allowed in Masters.

Before Life Masters was created there was little movement in the master level taking place, which resulted in frustrating skilled & top point photographers not able to reach the masters level. This change allows Life Masters to not be counted in the percentage of masters and other qualified photographers to move into the master's category.

#### Life Masters

To earn the right to be a Life Master one needs to complete two requirements.

- Major volunteering to assist MPC to be the best it can be. Examples:
  - Board member one year or more,
  - Chairperson to a big committee
  - Committee member- based on years or number of committees
- 2. Competing at the master level for 5 of 6 years.

#### Reward to be a Life Master

- One will always stay a Life Master
- One may leave the club and return as a Life Master.

#### **Masters and Advanced**

The number of Masters is generally limited to 12% of the club's competing membership. To further our balance of competition levels, provide opportunity for members to advance to Masters, and reward those members who participate in competitions during the year, Masters and Advanced members must enter competitions per the schedule below to remain or advance in competition level. Those not meeting these minimum requirements over the course of a year will be relegated to the competition level below.



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Entries per year	Competition	Category
3 times	Print:	Color Pictorial, Monochrome
2 times	Projected:	Color Pictorial
2 times	Print:	Journalism, Nature, Travel, Creative, Alternate
2 times	Projected:	Journalism, Nature, Travel, Creative, Monochrome
1 time	Projected	Alternate

- 2. Competent and impartial judge-commentators or judging panel shall be used for each monthly competition.
- 3. The awarding of First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mentions is entirely at the discretion of the judge. Judges may disqualify entries that don't meet category/division definitions.
- 4. Due to the large number of participants in some categories, if there are at least eight (8) entries in a level's category, the judge <u>may</u> elect to award a 4<sup>th</sup> place. If there are at least ten (10) entries in a level's category, the judge <u>may</u> elect to also award a 5<sup>th</sup> place. The judge may also elect to award Honorable Mentions.

# of Entries	Awards					
	Mandatory					
1	1 <sup>st</sup>					
2	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd				
3	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>			
4	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>			HM
5	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>			HM(s)
6	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>			HM(s)
7	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>			HM(s)
8	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>		HM(s)
9	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>		HM(s)
10	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	HM(s)
11	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	HM(s)
12 or more	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	HM(s)



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- 5. Points shall be cumulative toward awards and standing for the year. Records shall be available for inspection by any member. Points from MPC competition will include any points awarded at N4C in compatible categories. Points shall be recorded on the following basis:

MPC Points	N4C Points
IVII C I UIIIIS	1140 1 01113

9 points for First;
7 points for Second;
6 points for Third,
5 points for Third,
5 points for Fourth
2 points for Fifth
1 point for HM

1 point additional for Best of Show 0 points for "did not Place"

1 point for all entries.

- 6. For Print competition the **maximum number of entries** entered each month will be 4 images with no more than 1 image in each category. The Print Chair may make changes to this based on special competitions.
- 7. For Projected competition the **maximum number of entries** entered each month is 2 with only 1 allowed per category. The Projected Chair may make changes to this based on special competitions.
- 8. To encourage creativity, the number of times an image can be submitted to club competition is limited. An MPC **member may submit an image a maximum of two times** regardless of division (print or Projected), color/monochrome status or cropping.
  - 8.1. If a photo receives a first in Projected competition it is retired from Projected competition except for the annual competition. It may still be entered into print competition.
  - 8.2. If a photo receives a first in print competition it is retired from print competition except for the annual competition. It may still be entered into Projected competition.
  - 8.3. A photo is retired from MPC competition if it places in N4C.
  - 8.4. Examples:



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- 8.4.1. An image submitted once as a projected image and once as a print may not be submitted again in any format.
- 8.4.2. An image submitted twice as a print may not be submitted for projected competition.
- 8.4.3. An image entered as Pictorial color and then as monochrome may not be submitted again; etc.
- In December, Marin Photography Club holds its President's Choice competition. Each year, the President announces the topic for this competition, which replaces all competitions for that month. The President will judge the entries, and winners are not sent to N4C.
- 10. Any print entered in any competition sponsored by the club shall be entered exclusively at the risk of the exhibitor and neither the club nor any of its officers or representatives shall be under any liability whatsoever for damage to or loss of any such print while in their custody.
- 11. Members must be present when winners are announced to place in MPC Print or Projected Image competitions. Members need not be present to place in annual or N4C competitions, or to win the MPC image of the night.
- 12. Competition schedule will be published in the Focal Plane and the MPC website.

## **ANNUAL COMPETITION**

Marin Photography Club holds an annual competition with images submitted - for judging, and awards presented at the Annual Banquet.

- 1. The Executive Board shall determine the rules governing submissions and awards for the annual competition.
- 2. At the close of the competition year, appropriate awards shall be presented to those members who have achieved the highest total scores for their respective groups, and to those who place in the annual competition in each group, as well as those winning awards for "Print of the Year" and "Projected Image of the Year". The Executive Board shall determine the design and cost of these awards. Appropriate



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awards shall be presented to members placing in the annual competition. If, in the opinion of the Executive Board, there is not sufficient competition in any group, the award system for that group may be altered for that year.

- 3. Special awards which are presented at the Annual Dinner include:
  - 3.1. New Member Most Points Projected Award for the most points in projected images by a beginning photographer in his/her first full or partial calendar year as a club member.
  - 3.2. New Member Most Points Print Award for the most points in prints by a photographer in his/her first full or partial calendar year as a club member.
  - 3.3. **Print of the Year Award** for the best print of the year.
  - 3.4. Projected Image of the Year Award for the best projected image of the year.
  - 3.5. <u>Outstanding Service Award</u> for outstanding service to the Marin Photography Club.
  - 3.6. <u>Outstanding Service Award Projected</u> for service in the area of Projected Photography.
  - 3.7. Outstanding Service Award Print for service in the area of Print Photography.
  - 3.8. Most Points Projected Award for most points in projected competitions.
  - 3.9. **Most Points Print Award** for most points in print competitions.
  - 3.10. **Top Shot Award** for most total prints.