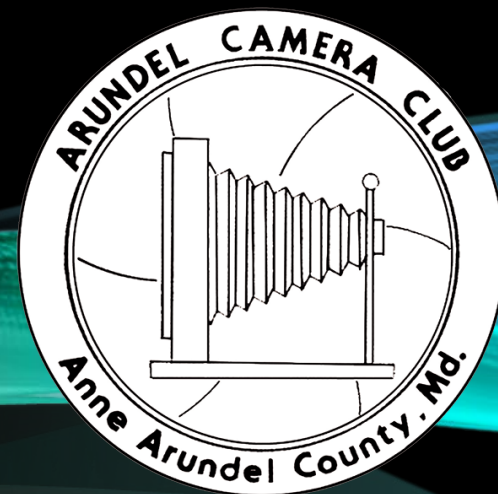


ARUNDEL CAMERA CLUB

How to get the most out of critiques and competitions



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF COMPETITIONS

- Monthly Digital Contests
- Monthly Print Contests
- Planning for Contests
 - Selecting and Tracking Contest Images
 - Preparing Digital Images for Submission
 - Preparing Prints for Submission
- What do you make of it all?





CONTEST ENTRIES

- An image may be entered into a maximum of four (4) Monthly Contests through the course of its competitive lifetime.
 - An image that has been awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th place is ineligible for any other monthly contest. This includes images entered into different categories in the same month or same night.
 - Images that are awarded an Honorable Mention are eligible for future contests until they are awarded a placement ribbon or surpass that maximum entry limit.



MONTHLY DIGITAL CONTESTS

- Separate contests: Novice and Unlimited photographers
- 3 images per photographer
- Can be color or monochrome
- File size: 2048 pixels on the longest side
- File Naming: n or u_Image_Title_Initials.jpg
 - For example:
 - u_bridge_on_the_river_kwai_cb.jpg
 - N_Beautiful Flower_mt.jpg
- Submit digital files via our Club website portal
<https://arundelcameraclub.org/competition/digital-contests/user-gallery/>



MONTHLY PRINT CONTESTS

- Separate contests: Novice and Unlimited photographers
- 3 monochrome images and 3 color images per photographer
- Prints must be matted and labeled
- Label back of print with title, novice or unlimited, color or monochrome, photographer, date
- You can download labels from the website at <https://arundelcameraclub.org/print-competition-labels/>

MONOCHROME PRINTS

- An image will be deemed Monochrome if:
 - The image is composed of any single color.
 - The image appears to be composed of any single color to the human eye.
 - The image has shades of one color varying from very light (white) to very dark (black).
 - Images which are toned (sepia selenium, cyanotype, etc.) are considered monochrome so long as only one tone is used.
 - Prints displaying more than one color must be entered as color prints.
 - In the event of a dispute the Contest Chairman's application of this rule will be final.

COLOR PRINTS

- An image will be deemed to be Color if:
 - The image is composed of more than one color.
 - The image is split or multi-toned (various shades of two or more colors), or greyscale with an added accent color
 - In the event of a dispute the Contest Chairman's application of this rule will be final.

MATTE YOUR PRINTS



Matte photo with
matte board as if
you were going to
frame it.

Also put a backing
board on it to
protect your photo
and the photos of
other photographers
in the stack.

MONTHLY PRINT CONTESTS: PREPARING PRINTS

Print + matte no larger than 20" on one side

EXAMPLES:

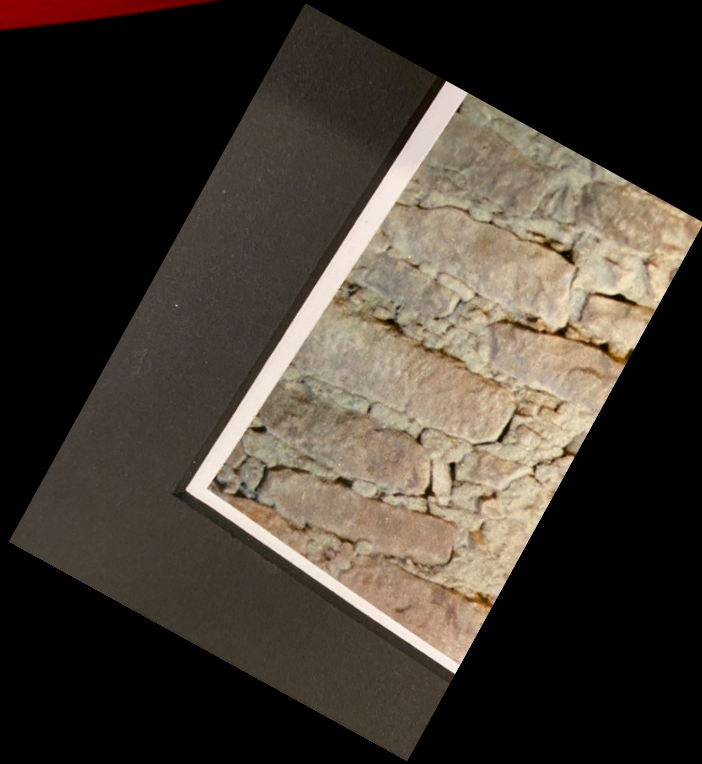


TAKE CARE WITH YOUR MATTES

Make sure the photo is straight and taped in place.

Back the photo and matte with a matte board to protect your photo and the photos of other members.

Make sure the photo is straight with no white borders showing.





ANNUAL AND LIFETIME POINTS

- Points:
 - 1st=**8** points, 2nd=**6** points, 3rd=**4** points, 4th= **2** points, HM=**1** point
- Points from any monthly contest image wins contribute to the end-of-year points award competitions AND your lifetime total of points.
- Plaques will be awarded at the end of year banquet for novice and unlimited photographers with the most points.





PROMOTIONS & CERTIFICATES

- When you accumulate 50pts in a category (e.g., color prints, monochrome prints, digital), you are promoted from novice to unlimited in that category
- Unlimited photographers are awarded certificates for every 50 additional points earned
 - Bronze (50), Silver (100), Gold (150), Platinum (200), Master (250)



PLAGIARISM

- All elements of the entered image, i.e.: the original exposure (or exposures in the case of a composite/montage image), the original negatives, positives, textures, and/or digital media must be the creation of the authored participant.
- It is unethical, constitutes plagiarism, and violates copyright law to simply copy an image (even in another medium) that was made by someone else.
- This includes the use of images generated by artificial intelligence (AI) that was trained using other artists' work.
- Images determined to be copies of another's artist's work, or to have used another's work, will be disqualified.

PLANNING

- Start thinking about themes ahead of time.
- Establish a work calendar so you can submit photos on time.

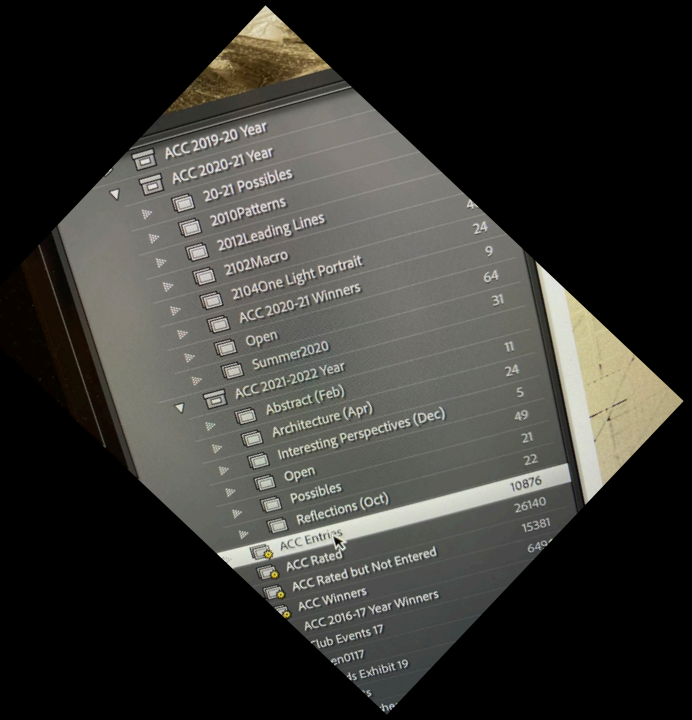
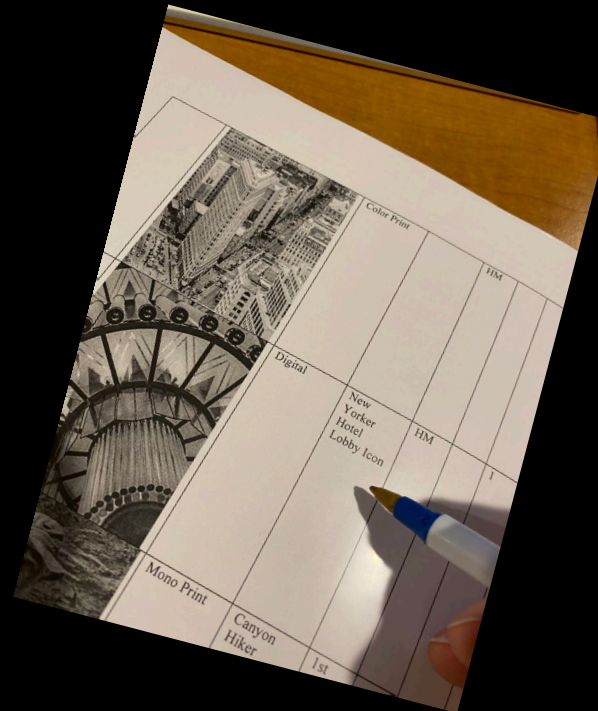
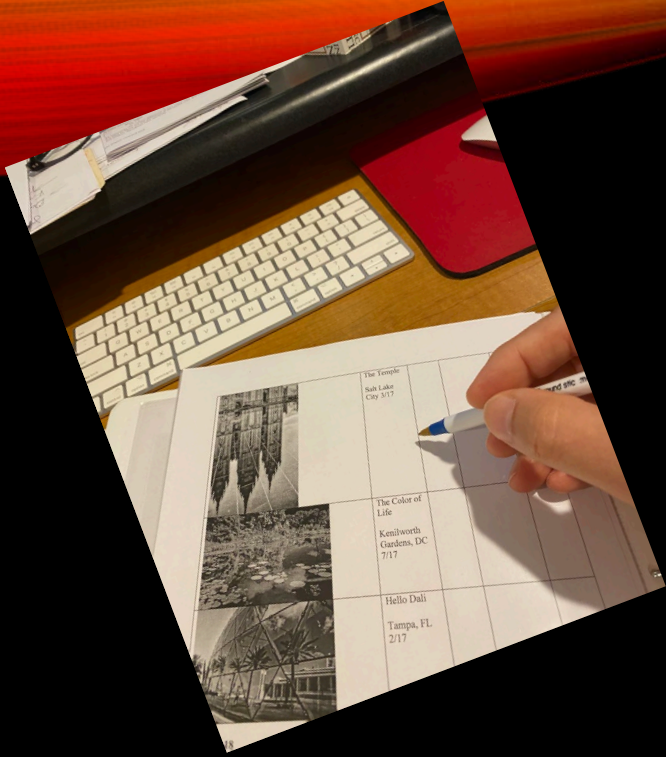


PLANNING AND TRACKING

Be sure to also track your winning photos and points.

Plan and track the photos you submit each year.

Create folders in Lightroom to hold photos you are thinking about for contests.



PROCESSING FOR COMPETITION

- Crop
- Remove Distractions
- Clean up tool marks, noise, and edits
- Size and format file properly
- Don't over sharpen / watch out for halos
- You can use single images or composited images
 - You cannot use any image you did not take (e.g., stock, textures, skies, AI generated, etc.)



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- If the modification is of the creator's content or uses the creator's content it is permissible
 - Examples: Adobe Content Aware Fill
- Anything generated from a library that the creator didn't shoot or creates new content is not permissible
 - Examples: Text to Image, Adobe Firefly, Midjourney, DALL-E, Stock Images
- The final image generated must be in the spirit of traditional photography.

SUGGESTIONS

- Try out photos on others first—photographers, friends, or family. See what catches their eye and what doesn't. (Don't just ask people who will say they like it.)
- Lay the images on the dining room table or on your phone and look at them now and again.
- Pay attention to the rules of thirds and leading lines, but don't feel you absolutely have to abide by them.
- Don't forget: In the end, it's **your** photo. If you believe in your photo, then submit it!

SUGGESTIONS

Enlarge the image on your desktop to look for missed details

- flaws that detract from impact
 - Tool marks
 - Halos around sharp edges
 - Out-of-focus eyes
 - Noise
 - Distracting objects that need to be removed
- details that help to enhance the impact of the photo

SUGGESTIONS

Pay attention to the rules of thirds and leading lines, but don't feel you absolutely have to abide by them.





LOOK FOR

IMPACT

Does it make you say **WOW!!!** ?



SUGGESTIONS

**In the end, it's your photo.
If you believe in your photo, then submit it!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ArundelCameraClub.org

contests@Arundelcameraclub.org