

CONTEST RULES of the ARUNDEL CAMERA CLUB

FOUNDED 1957

CONTEST RULES REVISIONS & ADDITIONS: 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1995, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2024

PURPOSE:

This document contains the Contest Rules of the Arundel Camera Club, here and after for the purpose of this document to be known as the Club. These Contest Rules are meant to guide the Club Officers and Members in the running of all Club competitions. This document is not complete without the accompanying Club Constitution and Club By-Laws and in the event of a conflict between this document and the Club Constitution, the Constitution will prevail.

In the event there is any dispute, question, or clarification needed, regarding any of the policies set forth in this document, the Contest Chair's application of these policies will be final.

CHAPTER 1

Qualification

1. Participant Qualification

1. Member must be in Good Standing to participate.
2. Participants are divided into two (2) classes: Novice and Unlimited.
3. New Members in Good Standing who have not yet earned sufficient points must submit photographs to the Novice class.
4. Experienced photographers may request a waiver to this requirement from the Contest Chair.
5. If a member is promoted from Novice to Unlimited via waiver and enters four (4) or more monthly contest in the Unlimited class without earning at least one (1) Honorable Mention, the member may petition the Contest Chair to return to Novice class.

2. Image Qualification

1. An image consists of three (3) elements: Subject, Composition and Treatment.
 - a. Subject: The topic, focus or "idea" of an image. For the purposes of Club Contests the subject is often defined by the Theme of the Monthly Contest.

- i. A list of Monthly Themes will be distributed to the Membership at the start of each year. This list will also be posted on the Club website.
 - ii. A list of unacceptable subjects/themes will be distributed to the Membership at the start of each year. This list will also be posted on the Club website.
 - iii. Any image found by the Contest Chair to be in violation of the Unacceptable Subject List will be disqualified from Monthly Competition.
 - b. Composition: The arrangement of “things” in the image, i.e.: its elements, subjects, objects, etc., and how they are arranged in the image. How an image is cropped is also a compositional element.
 - c. Treatment: How a photograph is post-processed. This includes but is not limited to, toning, coloring, posterization, solarization, sandwiching, etc.
2. An Image is deemed a different image if either the Composition or Treatment is changed greatly.
 - a. A negative printed conventionally and then printed as a solarization results in the two final prints being considered as different images.
 - b. Making a color print, a monochrome print, and a digital image of the similar crop of the same RAW shall not be considered as having made three different images.
 - c. Making a sepia print, selenium print and a cyanotype of the same crop of a black and white image shall not be considered as having made three different images.
 - d. Images which are minor variations on an image shall not be considered different
 3. Images made by any recognized photographic process will be acceptable. Recognized process includes, but are not limited to, chemical prints, ink and/or dye-based prints, collage, montage, toning, multiple exposure, and the like.
 4. Monochrome: An image will be deemed Monochrome if:
 - a. The image is composed of any single color.
 - b. The image appears to be composed of any single color to the human eye.
 - c. The image has shades of one color varying from very light (white) to very dark (black).
 - d. Images which are toned (sepia selenium, cyanotype, etc.) are considered monochrome so long as only one tone is used.
 5. Color: An image will be deemed to be Color if:
 - a. The image is composed of more than one color.
 - b. The image is split or multi-toned (various shades of two or more colors), or greyscale with an added accent color.
 6. Images that have been computer manipulated by the participant are eligible for competition.

7. 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.
8. All subsequent work (printing, mounting/matting, etc.) may be performed by someone other than the participant, so long as they do not manipulate the image.
9. 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.
10. An image may be entered into a maximum of four (4) Monthly Contests through the course of its competitive lifetime.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Images that are awarded an Honorable Mention are eligible for future contests until the either are awarded a placement ribbon or surpass that maximum entry limit.

3. *Entry Qualification*

1. Printed Images:
 - a. Prints must be mounted on a stiff material such as a standard print mounting board. The board may be of any color desired by the contestant but may not exceed a size of 20" in its longest dimension. Formal matting with backing board is encouraged.
 - b. The back of the mounting board must be labeled with the contestant's name, image title, category, class, the contest date (month/year) and an arrow denoting the top of the image.
 - c. Prints mounted or printed on glass, metal, acrylic, wood, or received framed (with or without glass) will not be accepted.
 - d. Submittal
 - i) Images must be physically submitted to the Contest Committee.
 - ii) They may be submitted by either the participant or the participant's chosen representative.
 - e. Deadline
 - i) Images are required to be submitted prior to the start of the Contest.
 - ii) Once judging has started images will not be accepted.
 - f. Retrieval
 - i) During retrieval ALL images are to be handled with the utmost care.
 - ii) Images are not to be retrieved until the very end of the entire night's judging, unless special permission has been given by the Contest Chair.
 - iii) Images should be retrieved by participant, or their chosen representative.

2. Digital Images:
 - a. Images submitted as Digital may be of any color combination from full color to monochrome.
 - b. Formatting –
 - iv) Images are to be sized 2048 pixels on the longest side (2048 x ??? or ??? x 2048).
 - v) Images are to be saved in the sRGB color space.
 - vi) Images are required to be saved as jpegs.
 - vii) Images are to be saved at a quality setting of around 80% (8 out of 10, 80 out of 100, etc.).
 - c. Naming - Files should be named according to the following convention:
 - i) A class identifier, 'n' for novice or 'u' for unlimited, should precede the filename and be followed by an underscore.
 - ii) The image name should appear next. For multi-word titles it is helpful to either capitalize the first letter of each word or separate each word with an underscore.
 - iii) An underscore and the contestant's initials should follow the title.
 - iv) Naming Examples:
 - a. u_BridgeOnTheRiverKwai_cb.jpg
 - b. u_bridge_on_the_river_kwai_cb.jpg
 - c. n_thisisveryhardtoread_cb.jpg (*not acceptable*)
 - d. n_some have trouble with this_cb.jpg (*not acceptable*)
 - d. Submittal – Images must be submitted via uploading through the Member's section of the Club's website.
 - e. Deadline
 - i) Images must be uploaded no later than the deadline set forth by the Contest Chair.
 - ii) All Images received by the deadline will be entered into the contest.
 - iii) Images received after the deadline will not be included in the contest.

CHAPTER 2

Contest Operations

1. Monthly Contest

1. Contests are divided into three (3) categories: Monochrome Prints, Color Prints, and Digital Imagery.
2. A Category requires a minimum of nine (9) images within a class to hold a full contest. In the event a class has less than nine (9) images a Mini Contest will be held for that category.

3. Mini Contest requires:
 - a. A minimum of five (5) images from three (3) participants.
 - b. Only 2nd and 3rd Place Ribbons and points will be awarded.
4. If the Novice class has fewer than five (5) images, or less than three (3) participants:
 - a. The images will be moved into the Unlimited class unless the participant declines the move in person at the contest.
 - b. All points awarded as a result of such a move will be awarded based upon the participant's current Novice standing.
5. If the Unlimited class has fewer than five (5) images or, less than three (3) participants:
 - a. There will be no Contest in that class for that Category.
 - b. The judge will be instructed by the Contest Chair to give critique only.

2. *End of Year Contest*

1. Any photograph which has won 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th place in a monthly contest is eligible to be entered in the year-end judging of that program year in the class in which it was originally entered, regardless of the contestant's current class standing.
2. Reprinting of an eligible image is not allowed in the End of Year Contest. It is the responsibility of the maker to ensure the preserved original image in its original mounting/matting is returned to the Contest Chair by the date designated for the End of Year judging.
3. The End of Year Contest will be held offsite and is not open to general attendance by Club Members.
4. Three (3) outside judges will be used to adjudicate the End of Year Contest.
5. Voting will be done electronically using the Club voting box, or a similar voting system.

3. *Club Event's Contest*

1. The Club Events Contest will be held before the end of the Contest/Fiscal year.
2. Every Member-in-good-standing may submit one (1) color and one (1) monochrome digital image from each club event they attended during the club year.
3. All submitted images shall be judged regardless of the number of submissions.
4. Club events include any field trip, the Christmas party, tabletop night, portrait night, fundraiser, Club Picnic, and last year's club banquet.

5. Listed local events to count for the club events contests include, but are not limited to:

- Fourth of July
- Maryland Renaissance Festival
- Barnstormers
- Easton Steam Show (Tuckahoe)

CHAPTER 3

Promotion and Awards

1. *Monthly Contest Ribbons, Points, and Promotion*

1. Monthly Ribbons are awarded as follows:

- a. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and Honorable Mentions
- b. The number of Honorable Mentions will be 10% of the total entries in a class for that month. For example: 24 Novice Color Prints yields 6 ribbons: 1st thru 4th, and 2 Honorable.
- c. No Honorable Mention Ribbons will be awarded in a class containing less than twelve (12) images. This includes Mini-Competitions.

2. Tricolor Ribbons: When all three of a participant's entries within a class win a ribbon, the participant is awarded a special red, white, and blue ribbon.

3. Promotion Points: Each ribbon awarded, (except for the Tricolor) earns the participant promotion points as follows:

1st place	8 points
2nd place	6 points
3rd place	4 points
4th place	2 points
Honorable Mention	1 point

4. Promotion: Club Members are promoted from Novice to Unlimited after accruing fifty (50) points in a given category.

5. Certificates: A Member that has been promoted to Unlimited, in any category, will continue to accrue points towards the following Certificates:

50 points	Bronze Certificate
100 points	Silver Certificate
150 points	Gold Certificate
200 points	Platinum Certificate
250 points	Master's Certificate

6. Grand Master: Club Members who have earned a Master's Certificate in each of the three (3) categories (Monochrome Prints, Color Prints, *and* Digital Imagery) will be recognized with a Grand Master's Certificate.

2. *End-of-Year Contest Awards*

1. Each Category (Monochrome Print, Color Print, and Digital Imagery) will have a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and Honorable Mention awarded for each class: Novice and Unlimited.
2. The Photograph of the Year Award will be chosen from among all of the Year End Contest 1st Place winners.
3. The member accruing the highest total points for the Contest Year in a category (Monochrome Prints, Color Prints, Digital Imagery) will receive the following Awards:

Frederick R. Kelly Award	Unlimited Photographer of the Year Award
	Novice Photographer of the Year Award
Margaret H. Bevan Award	Unlimited Monochrome Prints Photographer of the Year
	Novice Monochrome Prints Photographer of the Year
John R. Boykin Award	Unlimited Color Prints Photographer of the Year
	Novice Color Prints Photographer of the Year
Howard Penn Award	Unlimited Digital Photographer of the Year
	Novice Digital Photographer of the Year

4. The End of Year Awards will be awarded at the Club Annual Banquet.
5. Points are not awarded for this competition.

3. *Club Events Contest Award*

1. Two (2) "Best of Show" images are awarded a free paid membership for the following Contest year: one (1) Novice and one (1) Unlimited.
2. Points are not awarded for this competition.