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Organized for the mutual
advancement and enjoyment of
photography .



**Wishing everyone Happy Holidays
and Best Wishes for a
Happy and Prosperous New Year!**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ROMAN KURYWCZAK

Greetings and welcome to the new NJFCC!

On behalf of new officers, the trustees, and myself I want to thank you for taking this first step in changing the direction of the NJFCC. Some dramatic changes will be implemented immediately. The January meeting will be conducted via email electronically!

I want to emphasize to all the delegates, presidents, and members of the NJFCC, that our mission statement and way of doing business isn't changing just the logistics of how/where we conduct our meetings. **Voting on NJFCC business is still the responsibility of the delegates.** During the first week of each month I will be sending out an email (in Word) to all the delegates with an agenda and reports from the chairpersons as per our usual meetings. What is changing is that you won't have to physically have to attend the meeting and will have two weeks to respond to the agenda items including voting on NJFCC business. This method will allow *every club* a chance to participate in NJFCC decisions and direction without having to spend valuable time driving countless hours in some cases. Life is busy for all of us and it seemed to be the biggest hurdle in getting volunteers for committees or even a quorum for participation.

I have served as president of Camera Naturalist Photo Club for 5 years, a delegate more than I can remember for Cam Nats, Vailsburg CC, as well as Cranford Millburn CC. I was Photorama chair for 5 years or so, plus other countless board positions over my almost 30 years as a member of a club and realize how things have changed; yet certain aspects have remained a chore. Driving to a federation meeting has always been tedious and time consuming. After a brief discussion with a few of the trustees, the solution for having virtual meetings was born. A few arm twists and favors called in allow me to have a full slate of hard working officer volunteers whom I trust and should put the NJFCC back on track for the foreseeable future. It's time we thought a bit differently and I am asking you all for your help.

What is changing?

Meetings will all now be electronic with a firm two-week response window (maybe a presidents night or summer meeting with delegates and presidents at a location TBD?). **Please make sure your delegate contact information is current.**

The delivery of prints for NJFCC competitions needs to be coordinated with clubs and the chair people (we are working on a temporary solution so all suggestions are welcomed).

In order to further strengthen the NJFCC, I'm requesting that Club delegates volunteer for a committee. All these meetings will be coordinated by the chairperson and conducted electronically, via phone, or even in person. Members of any NJFCC club can also volunteer to be part of these committees. A list of the committees will be provided shortly.

As per the constitution, I will be appointing chairpersons to oversee specific events. They include competition (Nature, Pictorial, and Print), Photorama, Honors Committee (three individuals), Website, Cable Release, and others as necessary with leads reporting to me (a week or so before I send out the agenda) for inclusion of their report into the electronic monthly meeting. I will be providing contact information for all chairpersons so hopefully we get more involvement as per #3 above.

What isn't changing?

Meetings are still monthly with delegates voting on all NJFCC business.

Our mission statement to promote photography remains unchanged.

Trustees obligations remain unchanged.

Board obligations remain unchanged.

Chairpersons' responsibility remains unchanged.

I'm confident these changes will strengthen the NJFCC now and for the future. There will be bumps in the road I'm sure but I have surrounded myself with a board and executive committee with years and years of dedication to both camera clubs and the federation.

While I may travel around the world frequently, I am always in email contact: rkurywczak@gmail.com or cell phone: 908-591-3321, so don't hesitate to drop me a line with a question or idea...but be warned...I may just volunteer you.

Roman

ON UPCOMING PRINT COMPETITIONS

Beginning in Jan of 2018 the NJFCC is changing how we conduct meetings. No more long drives for everyone as we are transitioning to electronic meetings but this poses some logistical problems as far as delivering prints for competitions. Eric Mayer: ericmayer@concentric.net or 1 (917) 817-3802 is the lead NJFCC print chair and has reached out to all clubs to participate in the upcoming competitions. Here is what he writes:

I would like to invite your club to join this years print competition. We are attempting to develop systems so that any club that wishes to participate can. In order to achieve our goal we need to hear from you if you are having a problem with getting your entries to the print chairman.

We can only develop solutions if we know your needs. Hope to see your club at the next print competition, which is scheduled for February.

Eric

Because of this change in meeting locations, I have asked the board of trustees to approve a temporary shipping stipend of up to \$60 for the next two competitions mostly for the clubs who need the funds in order to participate. I would respectfully ask the clubs who could coordinate a drop off and pick up delivery to the print chair or who have the club budget to cover shipping costs to refrain from asking for this temporary giveback. The board and trustees are looking for ways to continue with the print competitions and ask that any one in the central NJ area who would be willing to help coordinate delivery or drop off of prints to contact Eric immediately.

The goal of this administration is to bring more participation from member clubs back to the NJFCC. Offsetting some of the shipping cost for the smaller member clubs is a good start and all you need is to contact the treasurer, Virginia Kolstad: vkolstad@msn.com , for reimbursement.

Thank you,
Roman Kurywczak
President NJFCC

NJFCC CITATION AWARD

To all who may not be aware, the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs has a Citation award. This is the highest commendation your Federation can bestow on those who have advanced photography in the state of New Jersey through their demonstrated proficiency and widespread service to other individuals and clubs.

Each year, the Honors Committee solicits recommendations for candidates worthy of this recognition. There are many within the Federation clubs who have gone above and beyond in giving to others and advancing the art and science of photography.

Note that this is not an award for club members who limit their services and training only within their home clubs...but for members who reach out and share their skills with the photographic community at large.

So, look around for such people and nominate them! The form is available on the NJFCC website at: <http://www.njfcc.org/Data/AdditionalDocuments/edfff9c7-2d6b-41a9-a13f-357f99553a89.pdf>. NOTE, you must cut-and-paste this link.

The deadline for submission has not been determined yet, but that shouldn't prevent everyone from beginning the process. The date (sometime in March or April) will be announced as soon as it is determined.

Note that, in addition to a Proposer, we need completed form(s) from at least one Endorser. If you have any questions about completing the documents, contact Vicki DeVico (cmishvicki@aol.com or 732-809-1668).

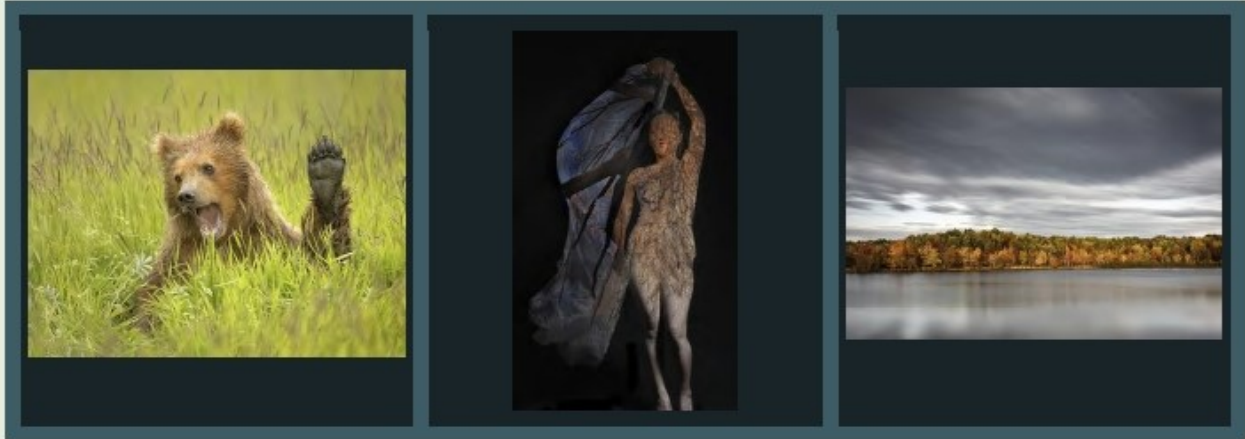
Vicki DeVico, NJFC

IT'S TIME TO SUBMIT IMAGES TO THE 2019 RIDGEWOOD INTERNATIONAL

The Ridgewood Camera Club is proud to announce that we are now accepting entries for the 2019 Ridgewood International, a PSA-recognized event. The International, which is celebrating its 36th consecutive year, is open to all photographers - you do not need to be a PSA member to enter. The closing date is March 13, 2019 and the judging will be held on March 23rd.

The International offers the opportunity for you to exhibit your work with other photographers from around the world - last year's participants represented 26 countries. Images are scored by a three-judge panel and can earn "acceptances" that may translate to Star Ratings and other PSA distinctions. The annual Who's Who in Photography compiles a list of accepted images from International Exhibitions around the world.

For complete information, including submission rules, fees, and to access the Entry Form, please visit www.ridgewoodcameraclub.net and navigate to International Exhibition on the left. Our email address is ridgewoodinternational@gmail.com.



Amazing Images

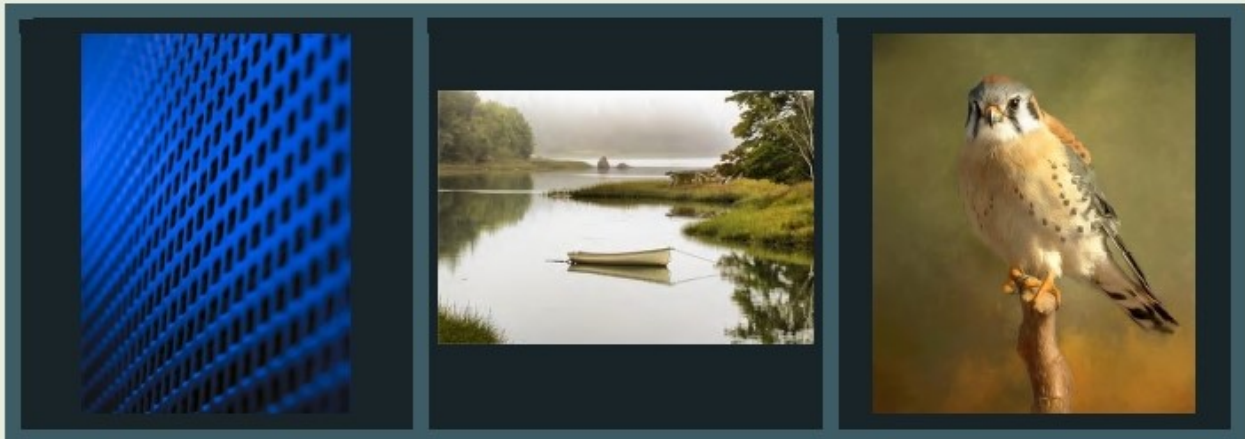
by the

New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs

January 3 to 30, 2019

Monmouth County Library - Headquarters

125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726



HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

by Rick Berger

Member: HUB Camera Club

Livingston Camera Club

All of us like some things that are low...low prices, low cholesterol, low car payments. Now right here, for the first time ever, a list of ways you can get lower scores in a camera club competition!

First, enter an overly saturated faux HDR shot of a landscape or building. You know, that's the one where the leaves on the trees are DayGlo lime green and the lake is the crayon color Cerulean Blue. Or how about the shot of the old barn whose sides look like they'd been splashed with gallons of Campbell's Tomato Soup? If you're lucky, the judge may call it "an interesting approach," adding, "if you like that kind of stuff." I've submitted these types of images and watched my score head downhill faster than an Olympic skier.

Another score-lowering method is to submit a shot of a flower whose stem heads off to Neverland via the upper right corner of the frame. You'll surely hear the judge comment, "Well, the flower looks great, but the stem leads the eye directly out of the picture."

Here's one that can't miss. I call it "Regional Overkill." It's when those who live in a particular region of the country consistently enter images of the same scene or subject from their area, only to realize (during the competition) that fourteen other people have entered similar (or even worse; the exact same) shots. For instance, one camera club I belong to is in Florida. It's located just minutes from three spectacular wetland preserves. Any judge in the area has seen gazillions of shots of birds that inhabit these wetlands, from the best images to the worst. My personal rule is to never submit a shot of a Great Blue Heron in any competition in Florida, unless, of course, I really want to lower my chances for a really good score.

Here's another sure-fire method of being awarded a losing score. All you have to do is submit a picture that's slightly out of focus. It's as simple as that! You'll surely hear the judge say, "It's a little *soft*." If you're going to enter one of these babies make sure it's as blurry as (fill in the blank!) Go all the way and ensure that it's clearly out of focus. There'll be no doubt that your image was not the result of your poor eyesight or a lens that should be sent out for repair, but rather, an artistic endeavor to create a certain mood or evoke an emotion (perhaps dizziness!)

Want to really be at the bottom of the leader list? Enter a photo whose borders take precedence over the image itself. I'm not referring to some thin black or white stroke you've applied to separate the image from the screen it's projected onto during a competition. I'm talking about those hideous barn wood slats surrounding an otherwise nice image. Or those delicate, yet overbearing white borders reminiscent of the edge of that doily your grandma had on her nightstand. Surround your photo with one of these and you're sure to receive some "constructive criticism" from the judge (not to mention a score one point lower thanks to your border enhancement.)

Here's one of my favorites. Be sure, in at least one competition a year, to enter a perspective shot depicting columns on some European museum or cathedral receding into the distance. I'm fairly certain that anyone who judges frequently hasn't seen one of these pictures since at least last Tuesday's competition.

I certainly can't skip mentioning one of a photographer's most treasured computer techniques...sharpening. This technique can definitely increase your chances for obtaining a lower score. Just take a shot that you've sharpened, then (just to make sure) sharpened a little more, then, just for good luck, added a little more sharpening. Oh the fun you'll have hearing the judge exclaim, "It looks a bit over-sharpened to me." And while we're in the sharpening mode, one last thought. You know your shot of the bird or animal whose feathers or fur you just love because they're so sharp and detailed? Want a lower score?...Make sure the focus on the eye is slightly off. That'll guarantee your demise. A judge may applaud your efforts to capture every detail in that plumage, but if the eye is not tack sharp, your score won't be either!

So there you have it, just a few sure-fire methods to help you obtain lower scores in a camera club competition. Want to get higher scores? Just do the opposite of what I've suggested here. It's worked for me and I think it'll w

**WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT NJFCC MEMBER CLUBS in
January 2019?**

Club	Location	Date	Topic	Judge or Speaker
Camera Naturalist	Somerset Env. Ctr. Shabos, Chester, NJ Somerset Env. Ctr.	1/10 1/12 1/24	Competition: B&W and Art in nature Holiday Luncheon Program: Confessions of a Nature Photographer	Phil Echo 'Phil Witt
Cranbury "Digital"	Cranbury Methodist Church	1/23	Competition: Book, Movie, Song Title	
Cranford/Millburn	Cranford Comm. Ctr. Millburn: Bauer Ctr.	1/14 1/28	Presentation: Workflow Process Competition: Water [No Waterfalls]	Anthony Bianciella Phil Echo
Essex Photo	Caldwell United Methodist Church	1/3 1/24	Program: Night Photography Competition: Nature and Pictorial [PIs]	Michael Ver Sprill Al Brown
4 Seasons@Manalapan	FSM Clubhouse	TBA	TBA	
Gateway	Sacred Heart School Staten Island, NY	TBA	TBA	
Hillcrest	Pilgrim Presby. Ch. Phillipsburg 11/27	1/14 1/21	Competition: Shadows [PI and Prints] Presentation: Flash Photography	Diane Dugan Arik Gorban
HUB	Mountain Lakes Library	1/28	Competition: Open [PI] Pre-Mtg. How TO Make Great Prints	Brien Szabo G. Palmiotto, H. Crosthwaite
Hunterdon	Hunterdon Co. Ed. Services Comm.	1/8	Program: A Deeper Dive into Photographic techniques	Mitch Speert
Livingston	Livingston Comm. Senior Center	1/14 1/28	Competition #3: Open Program #3 Street Photography	Phil Echo Arik Gorban
Metedeconk Lakes	Jackson.	TBA	TBA	
Monmouth	Colt's Neck Reformed Church	1/10	Presentation: Before and After Merit Judging: Street Photography	Arik Gorban Rich Lewis
Monroe	Monroe Township Comm. Center	1/2 1/16	Competition: Technology Workshop	
Morris Photocolor	Morristown Town Hall, Room 304 Senior Ctr. Room	1/8 1/23	Competition: Architecture, Macro Program: How to Edit on a Smartphone	Sergio Burani
Ocean County	Eagle Ridge CC Lakewood	1/7 1/14 1/21 1/28	Competition: Color Pictorial [PIs] Competition: Repeating Patterns Program: Photographing the Pine Lands Competition: B&W Pictorial [PIs]	Brien Szabo Rich Lewis Nick Palmieri
Photographers of Sussex Co.	Admin. Bldg., Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta.	TBA	TBA	
Photographic Society of Vineland	Newfield Senior CTR Newfield	TBA	TBA	

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT NJFCC MEMBER CLUBS in January 2019

Club	Location	Date	Topic	Judge or Speaker
Pocono	NCC Monroe Tannersville	TBA	TBA	
Princeton	D&R Greenway Land Trust Princeton	TBA	TBA	
Raritan Photographic Society	American Legion Hall - Milltown	1/10 1/24	Tutorial: Basics of Photography Critique: Basics of Photography	Pat Carroll Three Members
Ridgewood	Franklin Lakes Meth. Church	1/2 1/9 1/16 1/23 1/30	Executive Committee Movie: Salt of the Earth Theme Competition #2: Tools/Machines Pictorial Competition #3: Open Nature Competition #3	Member Discussion Paul Michael Kane Phil Echo Dave Mills
River Pointe	RP Clubhouse Manchester	TBA	TBA	
Rockland	Clarkstown Comm. Ctr New City, NY	1/3 1/10 1/24	Evaluation: Minimalism/Simplicity Members exhibition and Social Evaluation: Pictorial #2	Joseph Squillante B. Socor, L. Henderson Walter Kimmel
Somerset County	Manville Library	1/8 1/22	Presentation: Black and White Competition: Landscape	Nick Palmieri Dave Des Rochers
Sparta	Sparta Amb. Squad	1/9 1/23	Presentation: Photographing People Critique: Photographing People	Doug Bates TBA
Staten Island	Snug Harbor Culture Ctr.		No Meeting	
Stone Bridge	SB Clubhouse Monroe	TBA	TBA	
Teaneck	Rodda Rec Ctr Teaneck	1/8 1/15 1/22 1/29	Competition: Pictorial [PIs] Program: Create Fine Art Photos from Urban Exploration Studio Night: Table Top Board Meeting	Beth Starr Lisa Cuchara
Tri - County	Nutley Library	TBA	TBA	
Vailsburg	Bailey Civic Ctr.	TBA	TBA	