

General Rules

1. Entrants must be active members who are current on their dues.
2. Salons will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, October through May. The year end best-of-the-best awards banquet will be held on the first Tuesday in June.
3. Entry deadlines will be provided to members via emails from the print and digital chairs prior to each salon.
4. Original exposures and all post-processing must be made by the entrant.
5. Entries will be awarded from five to 10 points. Scores of "five" are reserved for photographs submitted out-of-category. The judge need not use the entire range of possible scores.
6. Entries receiving a score of eight points or higher are designated as award winners. SPCC asks digital salon judges to designate 30% to 35% of the total images as 8, 9 or 10 point images. Print salon judges may judge on an absolute scale if there are not sufficient entries to justify the use of percentages.
7. All award-winning images will be eligible for year-end awards. They may not be re-entered in any future salon. Conversions from color to monochrome or vice versa will be considered the same image.
8. Images that fail to win awards may be re-entered in future competition years but may not be re-entered during the same competition year in either the same or in a different category.
9. The identity of the judge shall not be disclosed to the membership until the start of each salon.
10. Each entry shall be labeled with the club member's identification number (SN####), rather than with the maker's name, so as to ensure anonymity. For additional guidelines on the labeling of images, refer to the print and digital rules below.
11. Competitions will be divided into digital topic, digital open, color print and monochrome print. Therefore, members may submit two *digital* images (one in that month's topic category and one open as to topic) *and* two print images (one color and one mono). Monochrome prints may be black and white or they may be black and white with one additional tone - e.g., sepia.
12. All award-winning images from salons conducted from October through May will be entered automatically in the year-end Best of the Best competition and presented at the awards banquet on the first Tuesday in June.

Rules for Digital Competition

1. Each digital salon will consist of two parts: Topic and Open. Members may enter one image in each category. Monthly topics and their definitions are set forth below under the heading "Digital Salon Topics & Descriptions".
2. Separate scores will be kept for each competition (topic and open), and awards for high scores will be presented at the annual awards dinner in June.
3. It is suggested that digital images be submitted in sRGB color space.
4. Images must be a maximum of 1920 pixels on the long side.
5. Maximum file size for an image is 1 MB.
6. Images must be submitted in .jpg or .jpeg format.
7. Digital images must be received by the digital chair as an email attachment. The submission deadline will be included in the invitation to the salon. Alternatively, digital images may be placed on flash drives and delivered to the digital chair at prior salons.
8. Images must be named with the title, the member's ID (SN####), and the date of the salon as year-month. For example, Lonesome Tree-SN####-25-01. Note: Do NOT use any hyphens within the title itself.
9. Entrants may not place any marks on the image, including their name or any watermarks.
10. Award-winning images will be kept by the digital chair for submission to the year-end competition, after which the chair will erase the files from their computer.
11. Winning images will be posted on the club's website.
12. Neither the club's digital projector nor the laptop computer may be loaned to members.

Rules for Digital Manipulation

SPCC recognizes that the truth or authenticity of images in certain topic categories is important to their value as photographic art. Accordingly, SPCC allows the use of all digital editing programs and techniques in all categories EXCEPT those in which the truth or authenticity of the image is essential to its value.

Topic definitions in digital salons will indicate which topics are considered suitable for full digital manipulation and which are suitable for only limited digital manipulation. Only *limited* manipulation is permitted for the topics of *nature and photojournalism, where the authenticity of the image is essential*.

ACCEPTABLE digital adjustments for the *Nature and Photojournalism* categories include the following:

- Monochrome conversions
- Color corrections
- Contrast adjustments
- Cropping
- Dodging and Burning
- Dust spot removal
- Exposure adjustments
- Flare reduction
- Flipping or reversing an image
- HDR as long as it is not obvious
- Highlight and shadow detail recovery
- Noise reduction
- Resizing
- Saturation adjustments
- Sharpening as long as it appears natural
- Straightening or leveling
- White balance corrections

The following adjustments are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** for images falling in the categories of nature and photojournalism:

Any technique that adds, deletes, rearranges, combines, relocates or replaces picture elements in the final image.

Note: If you have any questions regarding the rules or restrictions, please contact the Competition Vice President.

DIGITAL SALON TOPICS & DESCRIPTIONS

Digital Open	Salon Dates	Digital Category	Category descriptions
Open-color or monochrome	October 7, 2025 Entries due September 16, 2025	Construction or building	Find something being built or assembled and show us something about its progress.
Open-color or monochrome	November 4, 2025 Entries due October 21, 2025	Panorama	Panoramas have an aspect ratio of 2:1 or larger. The resultant image must be at least twice as wide as it is high; or make it a vertical panorama that is at least twice as high as it is wide.
<u>Open- monochrome only</u>	December 2, 2025 Entries due Nov. 18, 2025	Open	“Open” is your opportunity to share what you like to photograph and any processing you enjoy. Anything goes, so long as the base image is a photograph and not AI-generated.
Open-color or monochrome	January 6, 2026 Entries due Dec. 16, 2025	Moods or emotions	Create an image that projects a mood or emotion upon the viewer. The image may include people and/or animals or not, so long as it has the desired effect.
Open-color or monochrome	February 3, 2026 Entries due Jan. 20, 2026	Macro photography	Macro photography is extreme close-up photography of very small subjects in which the image appears to have been life size or larger on the sensor.
Open-color or monochrome	March 3, 2026 Entries due Feb. 17, 2026	Tabletop or still life	Pose your static subject for maximum artistic effect.
Open-color or monochrome	April 7, 2026 Entries due March 17, 2026	Monochrome	The resulting image is limited to monochromatic hues or shades of gray, although filters may be applied to give the image a hue or tint. No part of the image shall be given a special color treatment.
Open-color or monochrome	May 5, 2026 Entries due April 21, 2026	Travel	Travel photography documents an area’s landscape, people, culture, customs, and/or history.
Annual banquet & award night	June 2, 2026 (Tentative!!!)	N/A	Details to be announced.

Rules for Print Competition

1. All print salons will be open as to topic. Prints must be unmounted, unmatted, and only one layer of print paper thick. Entrants may PRINT a mat and/or frame around their image if they wish. Maximum print size is 11"x14" and minimum print size is 8"x10".
2. Prints may be displayed in a view box that covers about a quarter-inch of the top margin, so you may want to leave a margin around each print to avoid having any part of the image itself covered.
3. Awards, stickers and labels left on the prints from previous competitions or uses must be covered. On the *back* of each print, entrants should put the title of the image, their club membership number, and the salon date (year followed by month), with hyphens between these three notations, e.g., Title-SN####-25-01. Entrants should also use an arrow or the word "TOP" to indicate the image's orientation. The entrant's name may not show up anywhere on the front or back of the print.
4. Members may submit one color print and one mono print to each salon.
5. To submit prints, they may be brought to a previous salon or mailed to the print chair, whose address will be included in the email invitation to each month's salon. Prints should be mailed in plenty of time to reach the chair by each month's deadline, which will also be stated in the invitation. Prints should be placed in a manila envelope sandwiched between stiffeners and the words "Do Not Bend" should be printed on the front *and* the back of the envelope. Be sure to use first class postage.
6. Award-winning prints will be kept until the end of the competition season for judging in the year-end awards salon. If a member does not want a print entered in further competition, it may be picked up at the end of the salon in which it was entered.
7. Entrants must submit a digital copy of every print to the print chair via email, so that it can be shown at the salon. As with digital salon entries, the digital file must be no longer than 1920 pixels on its long side and must be no more than 1 MB in size. Like its corresponding print, it should be labeled with the title, the maker's club number, and the date of the salon, e.g., Title-SN####-year-month.