



ROBERSON

PHOTO

CLUB

HANDBOOK

Sept. 2009

WELCOME . . .

As a member of the Roberson Photo Club www.rpcphoto.org you are joining the ranks of a long list of avid photographic amateurs to help you develop your talents and style. As an educational and competitive association we are just as eager to learn from you.

Membership is acquired by yearly dues to the Roberson Museum and Science Center. Applications for membership are available at the meetings or at the information desk in the Roberson Museum.

The photo club was founded by Don and Betty Burgess in 1958 as a means of communicating ideas between local photo amateurs. We honor the Burgess's each year through a special competition. Members consider this to be the most prestigious and valued annual award.

Your first step as a member should be to acquire a copy of the RPC calendar of events which is available at our meetings and on the RPC website. Meetings, competitions, and closed board subjects are noted as well as any special events.

MEETINGS:

RPC meets from September through May

Salon Class meeting – 2nd Friday of the month

Gallery Class meeting- 4th Friday of the month

Check your calendar for exact dates as meetings may be otherwise scheduled to avoid conflicts with holidays and /or special events. Cancellations will be posted on the club web site and if possible on the local television stations. Please make sure the Board of Directors has a current phone number and/or e-mail address in order to reach you in a timely manner.

Images for competitions can be prints or projected images (slides or digital files) as defined in the competition guidelines for a specific meeting night. Prints and slides must be submitted before 7:15 PM in order to allow time for sorting and recording all of the competition submissions. Digital file submissions must be submitted by logging on the club's digital submission web portal at: <http://rpcphoto.org/portal/login.php> no later than 7:00 PM the day before the scheduled competition.

Competition will begin after all work is sorted and recorded. While the recorders are preparing for the competition, announcements, news of upcoming events, awards and an update of meeting schedules will be presented.

If you cannot attend or must be late to a competition: send your work with another member, put your work in a sealed envelope marked "photo club". After the competition your work will be kept in the photo club closet and available at the next meeting, or a member may take them for you.

You are encouraged to attend all meetings.

CLASS DIVISIONS:

Unless you have shown a degree of accomplishment outside the club, you will begin competition in the G (Gallery) class. Degrees of accomplishment shall be on appeal to the Board with at least 12 pieces of work for review and your class placement will be at the discretion of the Board. At the end of the year those with the highest points may be promoted to the S (Salon) class provided they have participated consistently throughout the year and their work has shown to be of a high quality.

Highest scoring G (Gallery) class members may be promoted to S (Salon) class. Class promotions are decided by the Board. Class promotion may be refused by the member for one year. There is no demotion of class by lower scoring members although new members who begin in Salon class may be reassigned after one year if it is determined their work is not at the Salon class level.

COMPETITION:

You are encouraged to compete in both prints and projected image (slide and digital files) competitions. Each image must have been taken by the person entering it and must have been shot within the LAST 5 years. "The one who clicks the shutter is the one who took the picture." You are expected to plan and execute your own work. Nudity is not permitted.

(G) Gallery Class: In Open Board competitions, G (Gallery) class members may submit up to three (3) images in each category (*3 prints and 3 projected images*)

(S) Salon Class: In Open Board competitions, S Salon class members may submit up to two (2) images in each category (*2 prints and 2 projected images*)

Closed Board Both classes may submit up to two (2) images total in Closed Board and other special competitions. All prints, all projected images or a mix of both

BASIC CRITERIA USED IN JUDGEING:

Your work will be judged by a panel of 3 judges. Each judge will render a score between 1 and 9, 9 signifying outstanding work. Possible scores range from 3 to 27. Judges will score the images based on how the image fits the following criteria:

1. Competition criteria – i.e. (image meets closed board subject)
2. Interest -
3. Technique -
4. Impact -
5. Presentation -

RPC SCORING/AWARD PLACEMENT:

- If there are 2 images tied for 1st place, then no 2nd place would be awarded the next lower work(s) would be 3rd place. Honors would be given for images 1 point less than the 3rd place.
- If there is only one 1st place image and 2 or more images tied for 2nd place, there will be no 3rd place. Honors will be given for images scoring 1 point less than 2nd place.
- If there is only one 1st place image, one 2nd place image, any number of images tied for 3rd place, honors will be given for images scoring 1 point less than the 3rd place.
- In each case, honors will only be given for images scoring 1 point less than the next higher place.

Note: If there are a large number of images, the Board reserves the right to determine which images will be critiqued.

Scores are recorded and tallied for year-end awards in each class. All honors or better are eligible for slide/print End of Year competition. Check your calendar for submission dates for this competition.

After competitions, if time allows, work will be critiqued by the judges. Members look upon this critiquing as a means of learning how to improve upon their own techniques. Winners of the competition will be announced at the end of each division competition.

Refreshments are provided by members during each competition. A sign up sheet to help and a nominal donation is requested.

This is a casual time for discussion, competition winners often welcome the chance to reveal their successful secrets.

PRINTS:

The outer dimensions of any mat or mounting backer may not be smaller than **8x10** and may not exceed **20x20** inches. The print image may not be any smaller than **5x7** inches or any larger than 20x20 inches. There is no distinction between horizontal or vertical format. All prints must be **matted or mounted** with a solid backing to facilitate handling. Flush mounting is acceptable. *No frames, glass, metal hangers or wires are allowed.*

The title may appear anywhere on the front of the photo or mat but is not a requirement. Your name cannot appear anywhere on the front. You **MUST** print both the title and your name and current class status on the upper left hand corner on the **BACK** of the mat in such a manner that both title and print are right side up for viewing. Prints may be black and white, toned, colored, or any combination which you may creatively evolve. No distinction is made for judging purposes, unless it is a B&W competition. Prints may be commercially prepared and printed.

PROJECTED IMAGES (Slides):

All slides for competition must be 35mm and properly thumb spotted and titled as follows:

1. Orient slide so you are viewing it as it should appear on the screen (right side up)
2. The thumb spot is an obvious circle or X placed in the lower left hand corner while holding the slide as in #1 (a black quick dry marker works well)
3. Rotate the slide so the thumb spot now appears in the upper right hand corner

4. Print the title across the top
5. Print your name on the slide
6. For aesthetic quality, you may want your slide shown reversed, backwards, or upside down; the thumb spot assures your slide will be shown just as you would like it to be.

PROJECTED IMAGES (Digital files):

All digital image files will be submitted for competition using the RPC digital submission web portal at: <http://rpcphoto.org/portal/login.php> no later than 7:00 PM the day before the scheduled competition.

1. It is recommended that you check your computer monitor settings and verify that it is displaying images in SRGB color space. The club also has a monitor calibrator that can be loaned to members to check and calibrate their monitors.
2. All images for submission can be no larger than 768 pixels in height and 1024 pixels in width. File size cannot exceed 2 mega pixels. Re-sizing guidelines for various photo programs are available on request.
3. Sign on to the club's web portal at: <http://rpcphoto.org/portal/login.php> and create a log on ID and password. There are instructions on the web site to guide you through the submission process.

CLOSED BOARD:

A 'Closed Board' competition is one in which all of your work for competition must pertain to selected topics, as identified on your RPC calendar. The purpose of closed boards is to motivate members to shoot actively, by assignment, rather than to select old favorites. All closed board submissions may be prints or projected images (slides or digital files). A total of 2 submissions total may be submitted by Gallery and Salon members. Submissions can be a mix of any of accepted image types (prints or projected images) or all of one type but the maximum is 2 submissions per member.

Topics are selected:

1. To encourage each member to concentrate on a type of photography or use a technique typical for the general level

2. To expand member's concepts in photography the topics are loosely defined. However, work not fitting the topic by all stretches of the imagination will be disqualified at the discretion of the judges, and will not receive a score. Should all work be disqualified, no attendance point will be awarded. One of the officers in charge at the meeting must make any final disqualification decisions.

We look forward to the challenges imposed by the closed boards and hope you will too. In the spring we invite suggestions for topics to be used in the following year's calendar.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Education – periodically a program is provided for additional enlightenment by both members and nonmembers. This may include lectures, demonstrations, or studio work.

Teach-In – in the spring, RPC presents a full day symposium on photography attracting photographers from many miles away. Noted photographers are brought in, for a fee, to educate and entertain us.

Other Events:

Black & white print competition

Weekend photo excursions, field trips

Special assigned topic photo day (scavenger hunt)

Gatherings at member's homes

Dinner meetings at local restaurants

LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR:

All 'End of the Year', 'Burgess' and 'Buran / Millett' competition submissions are due at this meeting. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** No adjustments may be made to 'End of Year' submissions and must be presented as judged during the years competitions.

AWARDS:

Total points & average awards - Yearly awards recognize achievement by the top 3 members within each class division in prints and projected images (slides & digital), based upon total points and average points received during the competition year. Should a tie occur, the higher award will be presented to the member with the greater number of place and honor points.

Print / Projected images End of Year Competition – a separate competition is held at the end of the year before the annual dinner. This is a closed judging session, with 3 judges, 2 recorders, 2 print passers, and a projectionist. At least one participant must be a board officer. Work qualifying for the competition must have scored honors or better during the season's competitions. Work will be judged by class (Gallery and Salon). No adjustments may be made to 'End of Year' submissions and must be presented as judged during the years competitions.

Burgess Award Competition – a separate competition in honor of our founders, Don and Betty Burgess, both a projected image (slide & digital) and print competition. Three (3) pieces each may be submitted for prints and projected images. There is no class division, all work submitted is judged together. Work which has been submitted in previous competitions and work not previously submitted qualifies for this competition. Note: Work submitted for End of Year competition may not be submitted within the same year as Burgess or Buran / Millett entries

Buran /Millett Award Competition – a separate competition award named for Joe Buran, founder of the Owego Camera Club and long time members of the Roberson Photo Club Jesse & Virginia Millett. Both Joe Buran and Jesse & Virginia Millett were noted for having people as the center point of their images. In keeping with this theme images submitted for this award must have people as the main point of interest. The character, uniqueness and personality of the person in the image should be evident. Three (3) pieces may be submitted (projected images and prints), no class division, all work submitted is judged together. Work which has been submitted in previous competitions and work not previously submitted qualifies for this competition. Note: Work submitted for End of Year competition may not be submitted within the same year as Burgess or Buran / Millett entries

Service Recognition – awards presented by the club President for service provided by members during the current year.

How the camera club survives:

Working Members – volunteering during the competition year

- 1. Refreshment Chairperson – coordinates refreshments for meetings provided by members**
- 2. Recorders – 2 members to record the submissions for competition, record and tally scores, announce titles for the judges**
- 3. Projectionist – provide projection of digital and slide images**
- 4. Web Master – create and maintain the club's web site**
- 5. Digital submission coordinator – manages the club's digital submission web portal and coordinates digital submission competition**
- 6. Print Handlers – 2 members to pass the prints through the light box, white cotton gloves must be worn when handling prints**
- 7. Judge Chairperson – member obtaining judges for competitions/events, maintains a current list of judges available**
- 8. Awards Chairperson – tallies competition results, provides award cards for regular competitions**
- 9. Hospitality Chairperson – greets and welcomes new members, guests, and judges; maintains membership list**

All members are encouraged to train in these positions and assist during competitions and special events.

Board Members – the Board of Directors is elected by the present board after nominations are accepted from the general membership.

Board meetings are held once a month on the 1st Thursday. The board may meet all year round. All members are welcome at board meetings to express ideas but will not have voting power. The function of the board is to administer the workings of the club, arrange events, and handle financial matters. The board will be comprised of 12 or more members.

President – chairs the board meetings, interfaces with the director of Roberson Museum and Science center

1st Vice President – conducts Salon competitions, updates members on events of the club

2nd Vice President – conducts Gallery competitions, assists the 1st Vice President keeping the members informed of events

Secretary – records the minutes of board meetings, provides copies of the board meetings minutes to the board members, handles general correspondence

Treasurer – tracks expenses and income, reports financial status at the board meetings

CONCLUSION...

It is every member's responsibility to follow club rules and volunteer to help with the club's functions. We hope this handbook will help you along the way to keep the club in high standard. Please ask if there is something you feel we have left out or needs clarifying. Your suggestions are always welcome.

We are happy to have you with us and look forward to finding out what you can teach us about photography. We each have our own characteristic way of viewing the world around us. Each new member gives us another eye into our world.

The RPC website, www.rpcphoto.org , is maintained as a tool for all members and those interested in photography. Schedules of meetings, special events, links to other photography sites, photography vendors, professional photography organizations, seminars, etc. are available on the website. Please use this useful tool to keep up to date in club activities as well as current photography information.

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