LPC Competition Rules – Updated for 2008-2009 Season

PURPOSE
Competitions are held to:
Encourage members to participate in photographic competition,
Provide education opportunities for improvement, and
Reward members' photographic achievements.

COMPETITION YEAR
The competition year begins with the entries submitted and judged after September and ends with the entries submitted and judged at the May competition, and also includes the year-end competition in June.

LEVELS AND ADVANCEMENT
B (Beginners) Minimally experienced photographer I (Intermediate) Moderately experienced photographer A (Advanced) Very experienced photographer

1   Members who accumulate 50 points within the competition year will require advancement to the next higher level (note this may occur mid-year).
2   At any time during the competition year after participation in two competitions by new members, the Contest Coordinator can assign individuals to a higher level if their results are clearly not in line with the level in which they are competing. Additionally, and at any time, if a member has not accumulated 50 points during the competition year, but both the member and the Contest Coordinator agree that the member should be more appropriately competing at a higher level, the member may be assigned to that higher level.
3   New members may start at any level they feel comfortable competing at.

CATEGORIES
1   Prints - Color
2   Prints – Black & White (Monochrome)
3   Computer Manipulated

The number of categories can be expanded if justified by member interests.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
1   There is a maximum of 6 entries for any one competition. No more than two (2) entries may be in one category. All entries must be at the same level (B, I or A) for anyone month's competition.
2   Entries must be received by 7:00 PM on the day of the competition.
3   All images must have been taken by and owned exclusively by the member.
4   Only paid members may submit entries for competitions.
5   An entry is ineligible if it has previously won a ribbon in an LPC competition.
6   Eligibility of an image- the Contest Coordinator (or the President in the case of disputes regarding the competition Contest Coordinator's entries) or the judge reserves the right to eliminate any entry, which does not follow the rules, does not conform to the competition theme or is deemed inappropriate. Images entered must have general appeal and must not be objectionable to the general membership. Nude images are not suited for the family-oriented nature of the club's membership.
7   The entry roster must be filled out and signed for all entries. (Roster available at club meetings)
8   Print Requirements - Prints may be made commercially or by the photographer. Maximum Mat and Print size is 11x14in. Prints must be at least 4 inches and at most 14 inches on a side (that is, photos may be as small as 4x4 inches or as large as 11x14 inches or anywhere in between, i.e.… a 4x14 panorama). Mats are required as a back mat (mounted) and are optional as a front mat. At least 1/4in. boarders are preferred but not required on mounted prints. Mats must be single rectangular, black, white, or gray (but not double-matted). Prints must be clearly labeled on the back with the photographer's name, level and category. This may be done with a sticker, post it note, or by printing legibly on the back of the mat. Prints may not be framed or placed in a poly bag. Prints may be signed, but the signature must be covered prior to judging.

POINTS AND RIBBONS
A minimum of three images must be entered in any individual combination of level and category for that level and category to be judged separately. If there are less than three entrants, they will be grouped with another level in

that same category. If there are still an insufficient number of entries, then that category will be grouped with another category. PLACE POINTS are awarded to the monthly competition entries. The chart below shows the ribbons and points that are awarded.

Points Awarded For Ribbon Placings:

Number of entries	1	2	3	HM
3	3			
4-5	4	2		
6-7	6	4	2	
8-9	8	6	4	2
10+	10	8	6	4*

* Additional Honorable Mentions may be awarded so that the total number of ribbons awarded is 1/2 of the entries (rounding down).
Print of Month ---- 10 Additional Points

JUDGING

1   The Contest Coordinator will select the judge(s). Judges will not be selected from LPC.
2   If the judge does not show up for the competition, a substitute judge will be selected by the Contest Coordinator. The substitute judge shall be someone who is not exhibiting in the contest categories they are judging. This may necessitate selection of multiple judges.
3   The judge(s) will be given the name and description of the competition theme and can disqualify any entry that does not in his/her opinion, satisfy the requirements.
4   Judging will be based on three (3) elements, each of which will have equal weight. They are: **INTEREST** – Defined as the impact, the appeal, and the significance of the subject, and the way it is presented by the photographer. **COMPOSITION** – The arrangement of the image's objects to show what the photographer wants you to see. It is the organization of the visual elements, such as lines, shapes, framing and perspective. **TECHNIQUE** – Employs the mechanics of photography. The photographer's use of depth of field, focus, exposure control and flash to express his/her perspective.
5   The Print of the Month winners will be selected from among the first place winners for that competition month.
6   In June, the Print of the Month and first place winners from previous months that year will compete for Print of the Year. (As in the past few years, this rule had been altered to allow mass entries from all members according to regular competition rules to promote as much participation as possible.)

AWARDS

1   Photographer-of-the-Year award to the member with the most points during competition year. Eligibility for this award requires entry in a minimum of three competitions.
2   Print-of-the-year selected from all Prints of the Month and 1st place winners during the competition year or from any eligible print as determined by a majority of club members prior to the competition. (See item 6 above)
3   Competition year-end awards will be made at a club social function during June.

COMPUTER MANIPULATION RULE CLARIFICATION

1   All entries in the Computer Manipulation Category must include elements taken only by the member, with either a traditional film or digital camera, (i.e. All components within the image must have been the work of the submitter. Scanning in of third party artwork is not allowed.)
2   All Computer Manipulations must be the work of the submitter.
3   Elements of the image, which have been enhanced beyond what is capable in a traditional darkroom or using traditional on-camera methods, will qualify the image for the Computer Manipulation Category. This means that elements that have been digitally added, erased or cloned in to any degree, qualify the image for Computer Manipulation status, except for the simple stitching together of several photos, such as to create a panoramic print.

Examples of changes that do NOT disqualify an image from the standard print and slide categories are as follows:

a. Routine color adjustments (note changing something from pink to blue is not "routine").
b. Dust removal
c. Cropping
d. Desaturation (changing an image from color to black and white)
e. Routine brightness and contrast adjustments.
f. Burning and Dodging.
g. Mimicking a traditional on-camera filter.
h. Simple stitching together two or more photos, such as to create a panoramic image.

Examples of changes that DO disqualify an image from the standard print and slide categories, and that must be entered as Computer Manipulated are as follows:

a. Cloning (i.e., copying one flower into many)
b. Merging two images (even though it can be argued this can be accomplished also with traditional methods), except as described in (h) above.
c. Erasing elements of a photograph
d. Copying part of one image into another
e. Use of creative digital filters (i.e., watercolor, charcoal pencil, and other Photoshop or similar filters)
f. Significant color, brightness or contrast adjustments (tree taken at noon changed to look like tree was taken at midnight).