PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA (PSA)

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is a worldwide organization for anyone with an interest in photography. Founded in 1934, the Society is for casual shutterbugs, serious amateurs, and professional photographers.

PSA has members in over 80 countries. Individual and photo organization memberships offer a wide variety of services and activities: a monthly journal; online photo galleries; image evaluation; study groups; courses; competitions; an annual conference; opportunities for recognition of photographic achievement and service; and discounts on photography-related products and services.

Benefits of club membership:

• Access to the Members' Only Club/Council Services area.
• Club Judging Services to assist photo organizations in finding qualified and willing judges for photo competitions.
• Exposure to potential new club members through listing on the PSA Photo Organization webpage.
• Competitions and Interclub contests for PSA-member Photo Organizations encouraging involvement and enhancing photographic skill and artistry.

Benefits of Individual Membership include:

• Access to a full range of programs and services geared toward furthering the art and science of photography. (Programs and Services linked to Member Benefits page)
• A world-class, monthly PSA Journal publication delivered in print or interactive, mobile format.
• Members' Only discounts on photography-related products, excursions and services.
• Customized photography education, mentoring and critiquing services to enhance photographic skill and artistry.
• A worldwide community where like-minded individuals can share and encourage photographic growth and creativity.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON COMPETITIONS

Individual awards are given to approximately 10% of the digital images for each competition. Another 10% may receive Honorable Mention recognition. Some divisions conduct end-of-year competitions for anyone who has received a high award to determine the best of the best. These competitions are basis for producing photographic programs complete with music, which may be used for informational and promotional purposes.
The following are the three divisions that Coastal Carolina Camera Club presently enters and a description of what that division requires:

**PID (PROJECTED IMAGE DIVISION) OPEN**

**CCCC Coordinator:** Jim Griffith

**Four Rounds:** November 1; January 1; March 1; May 1

**DEFINITION:** The photographs will be digital only (traditional film images scanned into digital format or direct from digital cameras), and will meet PSA’s general requirements for photographs entered into exhibitions. (The photographic work must be the maker’s, commercial clip art is not allowed, etc.) The category is General, and includes Alterations.

**YOU SHOULD ENTER YOUR BEST PHOTO ON ANY SUBJECT FOR THIS COMPETITION.**

**NATURE DIVISION**

**CCCC Coordinator:** Dave Kilgore

**Three rounds:** October 15, January 15, April 15

**Nature Photography Definition and Requirements**

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
A photographer may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image. No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed. Images used in Nature Photography competitions may be divided in two classes: Nature and Wildlife. Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Images entered in Wildlife sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species. Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections of Exhibitions.
Please note that “pictorial quality” is not the same as technical quality. Technical quality is still an important criteria for evaluation and judging of images.

Images are not required to meet the requirements of the PSA Definition of Wildlife. Zoo shots and Game Farm shots are eligible provided the artificial habitat is not apparent in the image. Since titles will be read, I recommend you do not advertise the fact something was taken at a zoo or other controlled situation as part of the title. For informational purposes only, here is the revised Wildlife Definition:

“Authentic wildlife is defined as one or more organisms, living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Therefore landscapes, photographs of zoo animals, game farm animals, or any living subject taken under controlled conditions are **not** eligible for Wildlife competitions.”

The revisions here were more of a clarification nature and not a change in what was allowed or not allowed in Wildlife categories.

**PID CREATIVE (ALTERED REALITY)**

**CCCC Coordinator: Carmen Daughtry**

Three Rounds: January 10; March 10 and May 10

The PSA definition of Creative is “ALTERED REALITY”. The image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of the three. High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without any further changes are not considered “altered reality”.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Original image must be made by entrant on photographic emulsion or captured digitally. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Original images must be altered by the maker; artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated. Images may not be constructed entirely with a computer. Image’s core content must be identifiable. Non-creative images are not eligible for this competition. Any subject matter is acceptable as long as the Altered Reality guidelines are apparent.