

Camera Club of Boca Raton

Evaluator's Information Sheet

First, we would like to thank you for accepting our invitation to evaluate entries in a monthly competition. We look forward to your comments.

For those who have evaluated our work before, this is a reminder as well as an update on some changes we have made. **For new evaluators**, this aims to inform you of the various aspects of our competitions.

Member Groups

Participants are divided among three groups based on their levels of experience, both in camera club membership as well as photographic know-how:

- * **Level 1**, the least experienced in camera club membership and/or photographic skills.
- * **Level 2**, more advanced photographers who have belonged to this or other camera clubs and/or have a fair amount of familiarity photographing.
- * **Level 3**, the most experienced group, having been camera club members for a while and have demonstrated a certain amount of know-how in the photographic arena.

We would like to see our guest evaluators score easiest on Level 1 entries, knowing these were taken by photographers with less experience. Scoring can be tougher on Level 3 entries, because these members have the most experience and, to put it bluntly, "should know better."

Subject Categories

Members may enter three prints **OR** three projected photos in any combination (all three in one category or one in each category, etc.):

- * **Open/General**: Any subject (except altered reality or obviously manipulated work). These are evaluated separately within each experience level.
- * **Assigned Subject**: As with most clubs offering this category, photos entered here must comply with the subject assigned for that month, constituting the majority (over 50%) of the image or the primary theme. These also are evaluated separately within each experience level.
- * **Altered Reality or Creative Edit**: To qualify for this category, any subject is eligible but entries must obviously deviate from reality in some way, clearly manipulated either in the camera or computer. Entrants in this subject category come from all three experience levels intermixed. The sequence of presentation for your evaluation is:
Level 1 Assigned then Open
Level 2 Assigned then Open
Level 3 Assigned then Open
Altered Reality or Creative Edit (regardless of Level)

Over.../

Critiquing Versus Scoring

While scores are meaningful, we view competitions as learning experiences: What you say in your review is most important. We wish to remind the evaluator that people are entering images they consider to be their best work at the moment and for the category; being a somewhat sensitive area, it is always best to find positives about the image before voicing problems. While true for everyone, this would probably be most evident among the less experienced photographers/club members in Level 1. Please be as specific as you can, avoiding generalities such as "I like it" or "This is nice," considering all the aspects of the photograph: subject, composition, and technical characteristics such as exposure, sharpness, clarity of colors or range of whites and blacks, etc. Because guests and relative newcomers to the world of clubs may not be so familiar with terminology, it will be an added bonus if you briefly explain such terms or processes (examples include burn and dodge; negative space; and rule of thirds). Thank you for these considerations.

Our Scoring Guide

We use a four point scoring system, spanning from a high of 9 to a low of 6. Please try to use the full scale, especially because the range is so limited:

- * A "9" constitutes an excellent/outstanding picture, which needs very little, if any, improvement. Here, for teaching purposes, please comment on the aspects that make this picture especially strong.
- * An "8" represents a good picture, subject, composition, exposure, etc. but needs some minor corrections, like cropping or sharpening. This corresponds to a school grade of "B."
- * A "7" is an average or ok picture which needs corrections and/or more impact. We consider it the equivalent of a school grade of "C."
- * A "6" would be assigned to a seriously flawed image, severely out of focus, extremely poor exposure, an unappealing subject, badly cropped, muddy color, etc. This would equal a school grade of "D."

Each submission should be rated on its own merits—we do not do run-throughs! Please also try to assign scores consistent with the critiquing. In other words, it is confusing if an evaluation is strongly favorable but the score is lower.

Because we consider competitions a learning process, we are hoping you are willing to answer possible member questions regarding your comments on the pictures immediately after you score them. This is not intended to challenge your critique, but rather to enlighten members, especially those less experienced in clubs, when they do not understand something. Our president will ask you if you are willing before the evaluation begins. Feel free to decline if you are not comfortable with this aspect of our evaluation process.

Again, many thanks for helping us all improve our photographic skills!

Please note our website link: www.bocaratoncameraclub.org