CHATHAM CAMERA CLUB

PHOTO CHALLENGE STANDARDS, GUIDELINES and PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

This Handbook has been established to keep club members apprised of the Chatham Camera Club Standards, Guidelines and Procedures with regards to Digital Challenges.

Every effort has been made to make this Handbook as clear as possible; however, changes to the information are inevitable.

Digital Challenges are the best way to improve your photography and take it to the next level as you compete with your fellow members in a friendly atmosphere. You are encouraged to enter each challenge.

GUIDELINES:

Every Member is eligible to submit entries to the Digital Challenges. Reason for choosing to participate in club challenges is purely for the enjoyment of photography, knowledge and fair competition with club peers.

We rely on the honour system and the integrity of the member to know and adhere to the rules.

The following guidelines apply to all challenge entries:

*It is desirable that entries reflect **recent work.** It is understood that there are situations that will not allow this. In this case, it is also desirable to continue to promote inclusiveness.*

- *Images submitted **may not** be the same as, or substantially similar to, another image submitted to a CCC challenge in the current year or any previous year's theme/categories. An image rotated, flipped, re-formatted or converted to monochrome will be **deemed substantially the same image.** Serially captured images with only small variations are considered to be **substantially the same image**.*
- *If an image is made from a workshop, the entrant must have complete control over lighting, models, positioning plus total control over camera settings. An exception would be stage or performance lighting.*
- *All entries, the original image and all elements, including digital manipulation and post processing must be the work of the entrant.*
- *Any images or source material used to create your image **MUST** be your own.*
- Images that are created totally electronically with no photographic origin are prohibited from competition entry.
- *Inspirational ideas can be found on the web but should not be duplicated. The image should be substantially different.*

- *The submitted image will not contain any watermarks or identification of the entrant.*
- Subject matter must be predominately tastefully or will be disqualified. It is understood that this is subjective so when in doubt check with Challenge Manager prior to submission. Send inquire to ccc.picsubmissions@gmail.com
- ***The honour system will apply in regard to members' compliance of the rules for Challenges****. CCC reserve the right to request a maker's proof of authenticity in whole or in part. At his/her sole discretion, the Challenge Manager reserves the right to remove any images.*
- *The Challenge Manager will pre-screen images for appropriateness to the challenge.*
- The decisions about an image entry will be made by the Challenge Manager and will be final.

POST PROCESSING

The following Post-Processing Categories were developed to assist you in what will be acceptable editing for a particular Challenge Theme.

The acceptable post-processing category and any special additions will be noted along with the Challenge Theme.

Adherence to the stated editing category is the maker's responsibility.

RESTRICTIVE Editing:

Restrictive editing typically pertains to Nature and Photojournalistic Photography Categories

The following image editing techniques are allowed:

- Cropping.
- Adjustments that enhance the image without changing the content of the original scene, including:
  - exposure (globally and selectively),
  - color balance
  - contrast
  - dodging and burning,
  - sharpening (globally and selectively),
  - noise reduction,
  - conversion to greyscale monochrome (with no color added),
  - Straightening and resizing.
- Editing that removes small elements that were not part of the original scene (such as spots caused by dust on a digital sensor or scratches on a scanned image).
- High dynamic range (HDR) techniques - because the pictorial content of the individual images and the combined image is the same.
- Focus stacking of images - because although this involves the combining of several images the pictorial content is not being changed.
- Adjustments that compensate for lens deficiencies such as distortion, chromatic aberration and lens flare - because they do not change the pictorial content.

The overriding requirement for any of the allowed adjustments is that the results must appear natural to the viewer (the maker is not the viewer – the viewer is the judge!) Judges should not give high sores to images in which the allowed adjustments are excessive.

The following image editing techniques are **NOT allowed in Restrictive Editing:**

- Any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- Cloning.
- Blurring the background to obscure elements in the original scene.
- Darkening the background to remove elements in the original scene.
- Adding a vignette not originally produced by the camera.
- Adding textures or artistic filters.
- Replacing image elements (such as the sky).
- Combining images by stitching.

Techniques that Add, Relocate, Clone, Replace, or Remove pictorial elements except by cropping ARE NOT PERMITTED

Some challenges may have special rules that will be clearly stated beforehand.

The following post processing procedures are acceptable in the "open editing" category.

OPEN EDITING
The goal is to have all adjustments appear natural.
White balance/color adjustments. B/W conversion
Tone, exposure, contrast, highlight and shadow detail adjustment
Adjustment to white/black points. Use of curves adjustment
Image enhancement using clarity, de-haze, texture sliders
Balancing of image saturation/vibration
Dodging/Burning to adjust exposure of light/dark/tonal ranges in image
Sharpening, Noise reduction
Perspective Correction/Straightening to adjust the vertical or horizontal distortion in an image
Vignette and use of vignette options/radial filters/gradient filters
Spot Removal: Repair of faults such as dust, lint, scratches, sensor spots
Limited Clone/heal to remove **small distractions** such as hydro lines, signposts trash
Cropping to change image boundaries
Flipping/rotating to change orientation
Pin-line borders, Digital Mats, Digital Frames
Use of presets.
Basic Editing programs that allow masking for local basic adjustments, within their programs such as Lightroom, and Camera Raw.
NOTE: This list may not be all inclusive. There are many "basic" editing options available in a variety of software products.
The main goal of OPEN editing is that:
TECHNIQUES THAT ADD, RELOCATE, REPLACE ELEMENTS or DRASTICALLY ALTER an image ARE NOT PERMITTED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THE CHALLENGE DETAILS

SPECIAL EDITING TECHNIQUES:

The following techniques will be acceptable in post processing **ONLY WHEN SPECIFICALLY STATED in the Challenge Descriptions.**

- Multiple exposures - in camera or with editing software
- Sky replacement - all components of the image must have been taken by you
- Infrared images
- Combining multiple images and elements in a final image - all components must have been taken by you
- Adding a texture - all components must have been taken and/or created by you
- Artwork or computer graphics generated by entrant provided **original photographic content predominates.**

Exposures taken at the same location at the same time as a continuous sequence – seconds or minutes apart:
- HDR Merger for exposure control - in camera or with editing software
- Panorama stitching - in camera or with editing software
- Focus stacking - in camera or with editing software

ANYTHING GOES EDITING:

The following post processing procedures are acceptable in the "ANYTHING GOES editing" category.

- All different: In-camera, On-camera and Post Processing techniques can be used.
- This **includes all SPECIAL EDITING TECHIQUES**
- In this category you may ADD, RELOCATE, and REPLACE ELEMENTS or DRAMATICALLY ALTER an image provided that you are the originator of all of the elements in your image. Ie. Creating a fantasy image.

The entrant must have taken/processed all components of the final images.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTERING OUR PHOTO CHALLENGES

Digital files are entered online at: **ccc.picsubmissions@gmail.com**

You may enter **2 images to each challenge**.

IMAGE SIZE. To ensure that the image can be displayed on the club's projector, images may be no larger than the following maximum dimensions:

Horizontal Dimensions: no greater than 1400 pixels across

Vertical Dimensions: no greater than 1050 pixels tall

File Type: **PERFERABLY   jpg**   although **jpeg** will be accepted

Compression: 10 compression in Photoshop/Elements

                                         83% compression in **Lightroom**

                                         90% in **FastStone**

TIP: Set your VERTICAL dimension to 1050 and let the Horizontal dimension calculate automatically.

RENAMING YOUR FILE FOR SUBMISSION:

FirstLastname – Theme #

Example:

JohnSmith - Reflections1

JohnSmith - Reflections2

Submitted images must not contain any watermarks nor the name of the photographer embedded in the image.

Deadline for submissions is 10pm Saturday, ten days prior to the Challenge date at which the results are given. This is to allow for file preparation for judging. Also, it will allow a couple of days for a re-submission if there is an issue with an image that is being entered. There can be no extension to this deadline unless otherwise stated.

Send your submissions to **ccc.picsubmissions@gmail.com**

A brief reply will be forwarded stating that the images have been received.

CHALLENGE LEVELS

Four skill levels allow members to compete with peers of similar skills and experience.

NOVICE (N): all new members will automatically be assigned to the Novice Level unless they are able to provide evidence of competition experience and skill within another club.

INTERMEDIATE (I): This level consists of members who have been promoted from the Novice Level

ADVANCED (A): This level consists of members who have been promoted from Intermediate Level.

SALON (S): This level consists of members who have been promoted from the Advanced Level.

Images entered in Chatham CC challenges by members of the Intermediate, Advanced and Salon Groups will be judged together.

Images entered by members of the Novice group will be judged separately. In addition, the Novice group will continue to enter separate competition/challenges that the other three groups have undertaken previously, thus enhancing the mentoring process.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERS FROM GROUP TO GROUP

In order for member(s) to be transferred from Group to Group, the member must have competed in all Challenges during the current season to advance. As with all things, an exception may be considered if it is deemed that a member has spent many years within the same category and/or there is reason to consider an adjustment.

The Challenge Manager (and assistant(s), if applicable) may suggest to the Executive which members, if any, should be transferred from the Novice group to the Intermediate group and/or from the Intermediate group to the Advanced Group. Upon approval by the Executive, these transfer(s) will be implemented for the subsequent season(s).

The Challenge Manager (and assistant(s), if applicable) OR the Executive may suggest to the Salon Group and Executive which members, if any, should be transferred to the Salon Group. Upon approval by both the Executive and the Salon Group, these transfer(s) will be implemented for the subsequent season(s).

Members of the Salon Group may suggest the transfer of a member(s) to the Salon Group. Upon approval by both the Salon Group and the Executive, these transfer(s) will be implemented for the subsequent season(s).

When a recommendation of a move into a next level category is put forward, AND the said member has less than 3 years within their category, the member will have the option to defer that move for a period of 1 year. The deferred member will automatically be moved to the next level the following year. If the member being recommended for a move has been in a continuous category for 4 years or more, no deferral will be allowed.

END OF SEASON CERTIFICATES

ONE certificate will be presented for "Photo of the Year".

Members who have submitted less than 6 images into the current year's challenges will not qualify for "Photo of the Year"

Photo of the year images are chosen from the *top scoring images from the current season's challenges.

*The Actual number of images considered will be determined by the number of images that have achieved a top score and can be adjusted if too few or too many qualify.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Highest Cumulative Score Certificates in each of the Salon, Advanced, Intermediate and Novice groups (a total of twelve certificates, three within each group) will be awarded at End of Year Meeting.

Honourable Mention Certificates will be presented to members of the Novice group who have scored *22 points or more for an image entered in competition

Honourable Mention Certificates will be presented to members of the Intermediate and Advanced groups who have scored *23 points or more for an image entered in competition.

Honourable Mention certificates will be presented to members of the Salon group who have scored *24 points or more for an image entered in a competition.

*The actual numerical score required for an honourable mention certificate can be adjusted if too few or too many scores qualify; however, it should remain easiest for a member of the Novice group to attain such a certificate and hardest for a member of the Salon group.

JUDGING

For each challenge there will be 3 judges selected. Judges will score each image from 5 points to 10 points in ½ point increments. Those scores will be totaled for a final score out of 30.

The final score from each challenge will accumulate and become the year end final total score for the season.

Judges award their scoring based on key elements such as story-telling value, pictorial quality, creative vision, the degree that the image is within the Scope of the Theme, composition, technique and subject matter.

Strong emphasis on the creative message, quality of execution, innovation, appropriateness to the challenge theme and WOW factor are desired elements.

The judges follow criteria laid out by the Canadian Association for Photographic Arts (CAPA).

Scoring **guideline suggestions** with descriptions are as shown below. Points can be awarded in ½ point increments.

5   Fair, possibly with major faults

6   Good, displays average technical qualities and average impact

7-8   Excellent, image is above average in technical qualities and impact

9   Exceptionally good – very high technical qualities and high impact

10   Demonstrates the "wow" factor – outstanding impact and technical aspects

Definitions of "Excellent" and Exceptionally Good" are left to the evaluator.

The scores produced by the judges are final and without appeal.

2022-2023 Season CHALLENGES
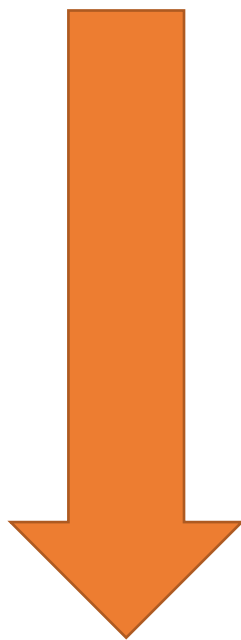
NOVICE – OCTOBER 2022 CHALLENGE

NOVICE only: **Photographer's Choice**
BLACK and WHITE

- Any genre of photography is acceptable.

- Image must be in Black and White and the gray shades in-between

- **Anything goes Post Processing including all special techniques** listed in guidelines handbook.

- **All components of the image must have been taken and processed by the challenge candidate.**

- <u>**RESTRICTIONS**</u>:

- Colour toning including sepia or cyanotype will be not accepted.

- A Black and White modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work and will not be accepted.

- All elements shall be predominately photographic and must be the original work of the entrant.

- Subject matter must be predominately tasteful or will be disqualified.

Novice submission deadline: Saturday, OCTOBER 15, 2022 @ 10pm

IAS – OCTOBER 2022 CHALLENGE

NOVICE – NOVEMBER 2022 CHALLENGE

FLOWERS

- Single flowers, multiple flowers, fields of flowers, selective focus, fill the frame, macros, multiple exposure, In camera movement, colour, monochrome, black/white, the options are endless.

- **Post Processing**: Open Editing (see handbook).

- *Selective* **Special Editing techniques** of Multiple exposures, HDR, Focus Stacking, Infrared, Use of Filters acceptable.

- **Application of Texture overlays** acceptable provided that the original texture has been captured/created by you.

   All components must be the original work of the challenge entrant.

IAS submission deadline: **Saturday, October 15, 2022 @ 10pm**

Novice submission deadline: **Saturday, November 12, 2022 @10pm**

IAS – NOVEMBER 2022 CHALLENGE

NOVICE – JANUARY 2023 CHALLENGE

SYMMETRY

The definition of symmetry in photography is a visual balance between two halves of an image. Both sides of the image carry the same weight, meaning the composition is evenly distributed. One side is not overly cluttered compared to the other.

- VERTICAL SYMMETRY. When the left and right side of a photo are symmetrical.

- HORIZONTAL SYMMETRY exists when the top and bottom of an image are symmetrical.

- RADIAL SYMMETRY - Images that radiate from a central point such as:

  - Spokes on a bicycle wheel

  - Petals on a daisy

  - Circular ripples of water when a stone is tossed into a pond

- **Post Processing**: Open Editing (see handbook).

- **Acceptable Selective Special editing techniques** of HDR, Focus Stacking, Infrared, Use of Filters acceptable.

- <u>**RESTRICTIONS:**</u> Using software to achieve a symmetrical image is prohibited. The image must be taken in camera not created with software.

IAS submission deadline: **Saturday, November 12, 2022 @10pm**

Novice submission deadline: **Saturday, January 14, 2023 @ 10pm**

IAS – JANUARY 2023 CHALLENGE

NOVICE – FEBRUARY 2023 CHALLENGE

SEEING RED

- You are invited to share your best shots show-casing"**the color red**" as the main aspect of the composition.

- Utilizing unique composition, an interesting subject matter, and exciting lighting techniques will no doubt put your image over the edge.

- Image may be any subject, genre or style of photography.

- **Post processing:** Open editing.

- *Selective* Special Editing techniques of Multiple exposures, HDR, Focus Stacking, Infrared, Use of Filters acceptable.   All others are not acceptable.

IAS submission deadline: **Saturday, January 14, 2023 @ 10pm**

Novice submission deadline: **Saturday, February 18, 2023 @ 10pm**

IAS – FEBRUARY 2023 CHALLENGE

NOVICE – MARCH 2023 CHALLENGE

MINIMALISM

- Minimalist photography is a genre of photography that is distinguished by **extreme, austere simplicity**. It emphasizes sparseness and focuses solely on the smallest number of objects in the composition process.

- Concentrate on keeping it simple by minimizing distractions.

- Combine interesting subject matter with a strong composition that uses as few elements as possible.

- The aim is to include the bare minimum in your shot while still maintaining visual impact.

- The more simple that your composition is, the more powerful it will be.

- Negative space in a photograph refers to the area surrounding the subject that is kept intentionally empty. This compositional tool is extremely useful as it helps to reduce distractions in your frame and places the emphasis back on your subject matter.

- **Post Processing**: Open Editing (see handbook).

- *Selective acceptable* **Special Editing techniques** of multiple exposures, HDR, Focus Stacking, Infrared, Use of Filters acceptable.

- All others are not acceptable.

IAS submission deadline: **Saturday, February 18, 2023 @ 10pm**

Novice submission deadline: **Saturday, March 18, 2023 @10pm**

IAS – MARCH 2023 CHALLENGE

NOVICE – APRIL 2023 CHALLENGE

WHITE ON WHITE

- Use of Light, Reflection and Shadow. Proper Exposure will be crucial.

- White background.

- Subject should be White /Shades of White.

- Image should be predominately WHITE. Small pop of colour acceptable to add interest (less than 10% of image). I.e. Flower stem, stamen, shadows, eye, etc.

- Subject can be anything – animal, flowers, candy, objects, jewelry, food, household items etc.

- Shadows and/or Reflections may cause shades of graying effect, this is acceptable as it helps define and add depth to your subject… the trick is to make the brain think It is white.

- Make the focus on the subject, not the shadow/reflections. Shadow/Reflections should only enhance your subject not be the subject.

- **Post Processing**: Open Editing (see handbook). Make good use of your sliders: white/highlights/curves adjustment/ shadows adjustment/ exposure/ temperature etc.

- <u>**RESTRICTION:**</u> Original image must have been taken as a white on white. A change due to Black/White conversion or Heavy Desaturation is not acceptable.

    IAS submission deadline: **Saturday, March 18, 2023 @10pm**

    Novice submission deadline: **Saturday, April 15, 2023 @10pm**

IAS – APRIL 2023 CHALLENGE

IAS only: Photographer's Choice

COLOUR/BW/ MONOCHROME

- Any Subject or Genre of photography is acceptable.

- **Anything goes editing including all special techniques listed in handbook**.

- All components of the image must have been taken and processed by the challenge candidate.

- <u>**RESTRICTIONS:**</u>

- All elements of the image shall be predominately photographic and must be the original work of the entrant. (no graphics)

- Subject matter must be predominately tasteful or will be disqualified.

IAS submission deadline: Saturday, April 15, 2023 @10pm