

# STATEN ISLAND CAMERA CLUB

Serving the Staten Island community since 1954.

THE  
**Clix**



September 2019

## Up Coming Events: Next Competition - October 17th- Building G Sung Harbor 8 PM

9/21/19 Third Saturday Assigned Subject Workshop - Sunset - Great Kills Park – 5:30 PM See meetup for details.

10/06/19 Landscape Shoot See Meet-up for details All Members

10/10/19 Image Critique See Meet-up for details All Members

10/17/19 Monthly Competition Harbor Room-Snug - Judge is Al Brown - Assigned Subject is Sunrise/Sunset.

10/19/19 Assigned Subject Workshop See Meet-up for details Subject is "Abstract."

## President's Message by Dennis Arculeo

Welcome to the first issue of the Clix for the 2019-20 season. A lot has happened since the last issue. Several new members have joined, and we welcome them to the club.

We had our first Assigned Subject workshop in August and we saw the great results from our First Monthly Competition. Eric has had several Model Meet-up shoots this past summer and there are more planned for the coming future. Saturday September 21st we will meet at Great Kills Park to have our 2nd Assigned Subject Workshop. Namely a Sunset shoot. Great things are planned for this season so keep

a breast and up to date with what is happening. Checking the Meet-Up page for the club and participating in the events is the best way to advance your photography. Website: <https://www.meetup.com/Staten-island-camera-club/events/>.

Please remember that membership matters and the more members we attract the better the experience will be for all. Talk up the club, ask people you know to come visit us. They might be interested in joining, and we would love to have them become a active member. See our Season Schedule: [https://www.sicc-photography-club.com/upload/2019-20%20meeting%](https://www.sicc-photography-club.com/upload/2019-20%20meeting%20schedule.pdf)

## Powerful Composition by Marcus Taylor

After 30 years, I still want my images to be compelling; to really accomplish what I hope they will.

After 30 years, I know there's no such thing as the "Un-Suck filter"; nothing we can buy that just magically makes our pictures stronger.

Much as I joke about it, I also know many photographers are still looking for that very thing. That new piece of gear. The new tripod, lens, camera, or whatever.

And somewhere under the B&H catalog and beyond that heavily-used Amazon app on your smartphone, you know it's not out there.

But if there were a shortcut, it would be simple. Learn what makes great photographs and do that. And part of what makes a powerful photograph? A powerful composition.

No camera in the world will make captivating photographs on its own. Even the most amazing thing in front of our lens requires decisions from us to make that thing into an amazing photograph.

Those decisions are the way we make a great moment feel great, gorgeous light feel gorgeous, and the lines and shapes take us to the emotional and storytelling heart of the image.

Composition is the visual language of the photograph, and you can learn to use it more intentionally, creatively, and powerfully. In the world of photography, a great photograph on its own. Even the most amazing thing in front of our lens requires decisions from us to make that thing into an amazing photograph.

Those decisions are the way we make a great moment feel great. Gorgeous light feels gorgeous, and the lines and shapes take us to the emotional and storytelling heart of the image.

Composition is the visual language of the photograph, and you can learn to use it more intentionally, creatively, and powerfully.

We have to learn to recognize great moments and to play with the geometry of the frame. We have to get a little giddy when we see a scene with great light or maybe an interesting repeated element or contrast. These (among many others!) are the building blocks of

Assigned Subject Digital Awards Gallery – Close-Up/Macro



Award

Stamens and Pistil - Len Rachlin



Award

Bee - Robert Mantz



Award

Looking for Pollen - Lauren Arculeo

Award (9)

HM (8)



Award

Close Up Dragonfly - Bob Green



Award

Refueling Stop - Dennis Arculeo



Assigned Subject Digital Gallery – Close-Up/Macro HM's



Zinnia -Sue Svane



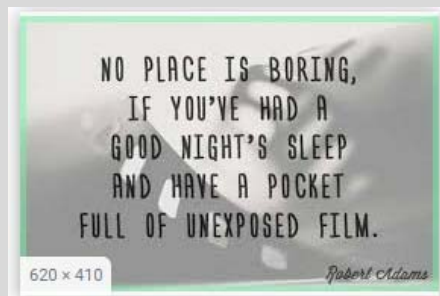
Macro Karo Sunflowers - Bob Green



A Peony - Joe Sorge



Subtle Flower - Scott Allen



Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

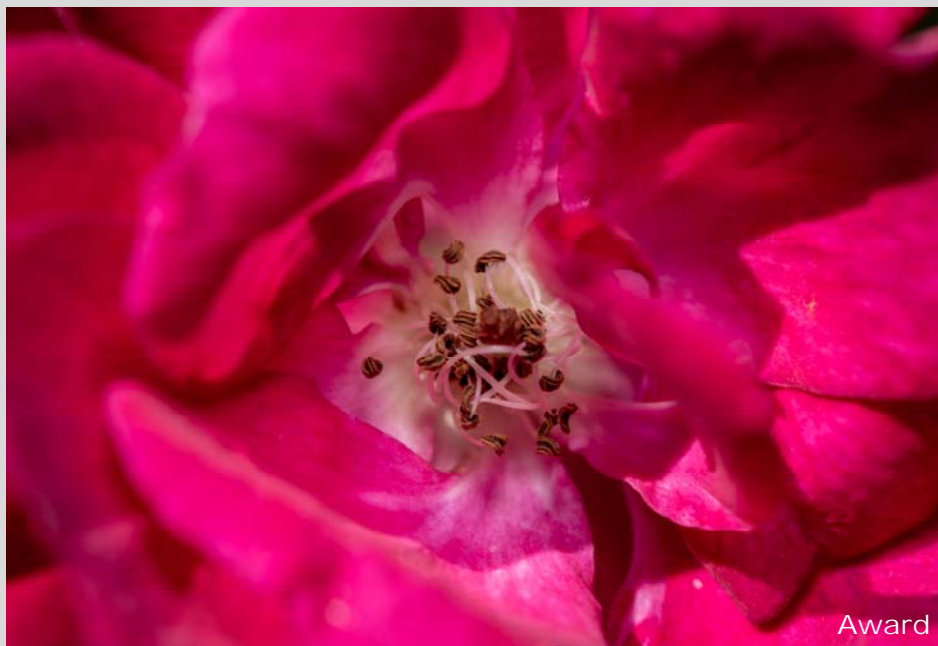
**Assigned Subject Print Awards Gallery – Close-Up/Macro**



Wild Mushrooms - Dennis Arculeo



White and Pink Flower -Joe Sorge



Rosa - Excelsa - Mike Miglino

Assigned Subjects are suggested by and voted on by the membership at the end of the previous season. You may enter up to two images in the Assigned Digital and two in the Print competitions every month.



## Assigned Subject Print HM Gallery – Close-Up/Macro



Pretty in Pink - Dennis Arculeo



Purple Flower - Joe Sorge

**How to Develop Your Style - D. Arculeo**

Finding your photography style can be a somewhat daunting task especially when you are just starting out. But let me assure you that this also is a problem some of the veterans face from time to time. Do you know why? Because we are human and our likes, dislike, and attitudes do change over time. This is only natural.

While you may think that if you have a good thing going in terms of an established style, why rock the boat? But sometimes not listening to that inner voice can have negative effects in terms of creating work that you are really proud of!

So regardless of where you are in your photographic journey, there are a few things you can do to find your style and creative voice – be it in terms of photographing or editing your photos.

One thing to keep in mind as you are going through this process is that less is often more than enough. So don't feel like you need hundreds of images to create a successful collection of photographs! Here are 5 tips to get you started on finding or defining your photography style.

The first thing to understand in defining your style is to ask yourself what are you looking to accomplish with your photography. Are you looking to photograph for leisure or pleasure? Do you want to sell your work in terms of print or stock? Do you want to use your images for your portfolio to attract a certain type of clients?

There are many different genres of photography and there are many different types of clients for each genre. It's typically best to start the process of defining your style by focusing on one collection of work at a time, so set your goals on what you want to accomplish for each individual series of work.

Research, research, research. In other words, look around you to see what everyone else is doing and creating. It is very important to be aware of what other photographers are creating in your area. I am not telling you this with the intention of you copying or following what everyone else is doing. But with the intention of educating yourself on what all is out there in the market space.

When you are defining a unique style for yourself, you can certainly use their work for inspiration, but do make your images different so they speak to you and your own aesthetic sensibilities. Your work is a visual representation of your brand, so try to think of ways to be true to yourself while still adding a unique edge to your work.

You can use visual tools & feed back like Pinterest and fill it with images that represent the look and feel you are trying to achieve – not just with photographic style but also your unique editing style..

This may be the most difficult thing to wrap your head around, but it will definitely help you in the long run. Take a step back and **really critically analyze your work**. Find out what you believe doesn't work, but also what really does. Since the goal is to like what you do, start with doing what you like to do. Your style will develop from your continued application of your creative self evaluation.

The idea is that you want to bring yourself to a point where you feel you can recognize your style from anything you create. Look for similarities in subject matter, composition, depth of field, lenses used, tones, colors, and any unique patterns your eye may catch. No matter which genre of photography you are pursuing, you are still the artist behind the camera and you are creating these images.

## Digital Assigned Subject Leader Board

No. of Entries	Member	Total Points	As of Last Competition	
			Award	Honorable Mention
2	Bob Green	17	Close-Up Dragonfly	Macro Karo Sunflowers
2	Dennis Arculeo	16	Refueling Stop	
2	Lauren Arculeo	16	Looking for Pollen	
2	Robert Mantz	16	Bee	
2	Joe Sorge	15		A Peony
2	Sue Svane	14		Zinnia
1	Len Rachlin	9	Stamens and Pistil	
1	Scott Allen	8		Subtle Flower

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

## Print Assigned Subject Leader Board

No. of Entries	Member	Total Points	As of Last Competition	
			Award	Honorable Mention
2	Dennis Arculeo	17	Wild Mushrooms	Pretty in Pink Purple Flower
2	Joe Sorge	16		White and Pink Flower
2	Mike Miglino	16	Rosa Excelsa	

Staten Island Camera Club Website: <https://www.sicc-photography-club.com/>Image Critique Meetup website <https://www.meetup.com/Image-Critique-Meetup/>Staten Island Camera Club Meetup/FSM <https://www.meetup.com/Staten-Island-camera-club/>

## Assigned Subjects

September 2019	Close-Up or Macro
October 2019	Sunrise or Sunset
November 2019	Abstract
February 2020	Shapes or Forms
March 2020	Study Eye, Hand or Foot
April 2020	Street Photography

The Monthly Assigned Subject competitions are in addition to our regular monthly competitions. You have the option to compete in any Assigned Subject in both Prints and or Digital formats.

The Assigned Subject can be entered as a Mono or a Color image. The season winner will be the member who has the highest number of points at the conclusion of the competition year. For the End of Year Competition, you can enter **one** of your prior Assigned Subject entries as one of your four final images, either in Digital Mono or Color and or in Print



Color Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



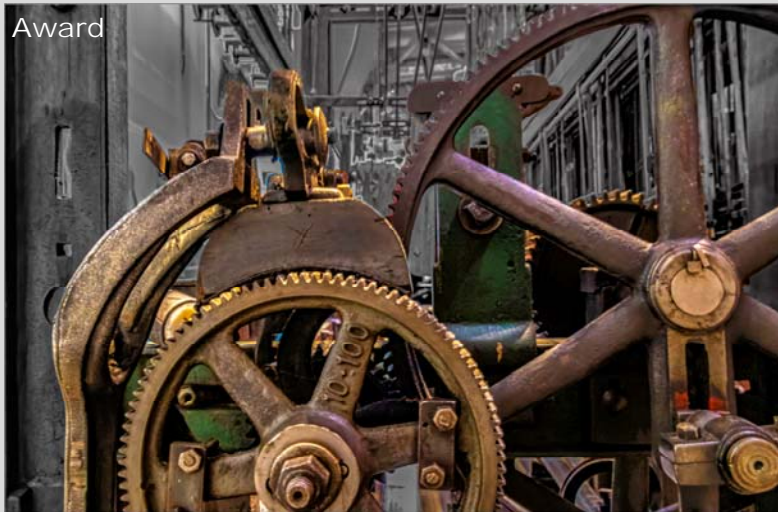
Award

Still Life with Spools of Thread - Len Rachlin



Award

Mountain Lace - Lauren Arculeo



Award

Wheels of Industry - Dennis Arculeo



Award

Settling on the Nest - Dennis Arculeo



Award

Bad Hair Day - Bob Green

**Award - First Place (9)**

**HM - Honorable Mention (8)**



## Color Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



Fractalus Drawbridge - Bob Green

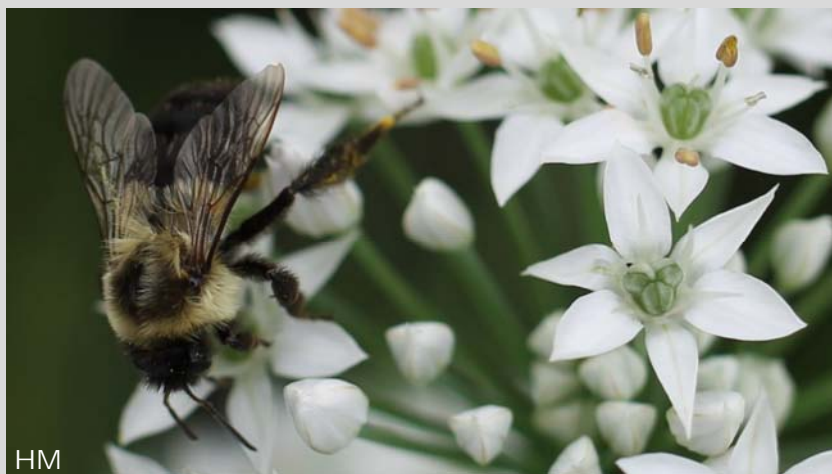


Lunch Time - Michael Miglino

## Color Digital Image Competition HM Gallery



Rocco the Umbrella Cockatoo - Lauren Arculeo



Bumble Bee – Sue Svane

**Award - First Place (9)**

**HM - Honorable Mention (8)**



## Color Digital Image Competition HM Gallery



Beautiful Rose - Lora Livshits



Friday Night Moon Rising - Joe Sorge



Coney Island Character -Len Rachlin



A Piper - Joe Sorge

## Tip of the Month

**Don't always stand when you take photos**

Most beginner photographers do this. They stand at their full height to take a photo. It's very natural to stand upright and take photos, but it is incredibly limiting. Sure, you see the world from a standing position most of the time, but it's not always, (or even often,) the most interesting point of view from which to photograph something.

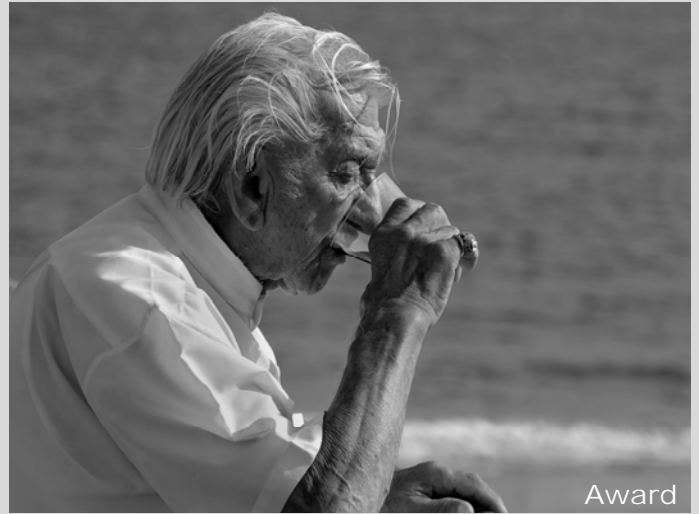
Climbing up on a chair or lying down on the ground will often give you a far more interesting perspective. Getting low or getting up high will afford you a different view of your subject which may be far more interesting because it is not how your subject is typically seen. I am always looking around for opportunities to get above my subject to make photographs. But you don't have to go to extremes. Just squatting down or even bending your waist slightly and you will see your subject differently than when you're standing upright – as will the viewers of your images (that is the key to standing out from the pack).

Think about it each time you go to make a new photo. Consider getting lower or higher up than your subject. If you can, make a series of photos at each position and compare them all later on your computer. If you do this, pretty soon it will become a new habit.

Monochrome Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



Composition with Three Peppers #2 - Len Rachlin



Cool Drink at the Beach - Len Rachlin

**Award - First Place (9)Cool Drink**

**HM - Honorable Mention (8)**



Foggy Morning at the Pond - Dennis Arculeo



Prickly - Michael Miglino



Dancing With Grace - Scott Allen



## Monochrome Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



Award

Happy Roxy - Sue Svane



Award

Old Car - Bob Green

## Monochrome Digital Image Competition HM Gallery



HM

Port Hole View - Joe Sorge

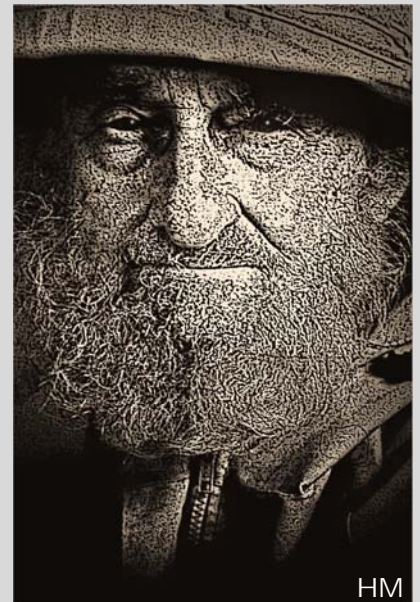


HM

Roxy - Sue Svane

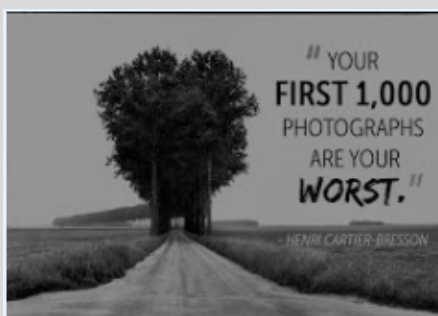
**Award - First Place (9)**

**HM - Honorable Mention (8)**



HM

Old Fisherman - Bob Green



## Color Digital Image Competition Leader Board

No. of Entries	Member	Total Points	As of Last Competition	
			Award	Honorable Mention
2	Dennis Arculeo	18	Settling on the Nest Wheels of Industry	
2	Bob Green	18	Bad Hair Day Fractalus Drawbridge	
2	Lauren Arculeo	17	Mountain Lace	Rocco the Umbrella Cockatoo
2	Len Rachlin	17	Still Life with Spools of Thread	Coney Island Character
2	Joe Sorge	16		A Piper Friday Night Moon Rising
2	Sue Svane	14		Bumble Bee
2	Lora Livshits	13		Beautiful Rose
1	Michael Miglino	9	Lunch Time	

**Award First Place (9)**

**HM Honorable Mention (8)**

## Monochrome Digital Image Competition Leader Board

No. of Entries	Member	Total Points	As of Last Competition	
			Award	Honorable Mention
2	Len Rachlin	18	Composition with Three Peppers #2 Cool Drink at the Beach	
2	Bob Green	17	Old Car	Old Fisherman
2	Sue Svane	17	Happy Roxy	Roxy
2	Dennis Arculeo	16	Foggy Morning at the Pond	
2	Joe Sorge	14		Port Hole View
1	Scott Allen	9	Dancing With Grace	
1	Michael Miglino	9	Prickly	



## Color Print Competition Awards Gallery

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)



Vase-with-Hosta - Len-Rachlin



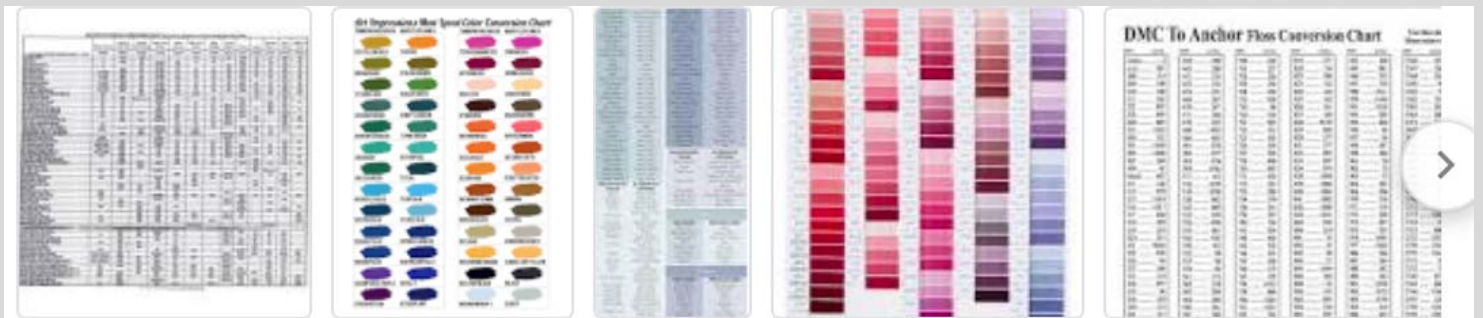
Fishermen's Net - Dennis Arculeo



Fruit of the Vine - Dennis Arculeo



Mr.Kool - Len-Rachlin





**Color Print Competition Awards Gallery**



Not Quite The Karate Kid –Mike Miglino



Walk or Ride - Joe Sorge

**Monochrome Print Competition Awards Gallery**



Dahlia - Len-Rachlin



Mirror,-Mirror-on-the-Floor - Len-Rachlin



Monochrome Print Competition Awards Gallery



Scarf, Beads & Feathers - Dennis Arculeo



Super Cute - Mike Miglino



NY Niagara Falls - Joe Sorge



Freedom Tower - Mike Miglino

## Color Print Competition Leader Board

No. of Entries	Member	Total Points	As of Last Competition	
			Award	Honorable Mention
2	Len Rachlin	18	Vase with Hosta Flowers Mr. Kool	
2	Dennis Arculeo	18	Fruit of the Vine Fishermen's Net	
2	Mike Miglino	17	Angelic	Not Quite the Karate Kid
2	Joe Sorge	15		Walk or Ride

## Monochrome Print Competition Leader Board

No. of Entries	Member	Total Points	As of Last Competition	
			Award	Honorable Mention
2	Mike Miglino	18	Freedom Tower Super Cute	
2	Len Rachlin	17	Dalia	Mirror, Mirroe on the Floor
2	Dennis Arculeo	16	Scarf, Beads & Feathers	
2	Joe Sorge	14		NY Niagara Falls

Award (9)

HM (8)

Continued from page 1.

composition, and they will get you so much further than that new lens ever will. I promise. Sounds simple, right? So how come more people aren't doing it?

Because understanding this craft takes effort and we buy new gear in the hopes that we can do it all with just a press of a button.

God knows the camera-makers imply that this is the case all the time. We keep buying all that gear, it gives us a temporary hope, but then it fades and we're back to flipping through the pages or searching online, looking for hope.

To tell better stories or visual poems, within the frame, we need to master the language we speak: the language of photography. Employing the power of the visual frame can help you do that in a more focused way than figuring it out on your own.

And when you consider all the gear it might save you from buying in hopes of discovering the Un-Suck Filter, it's probably the best bargain out there.

We can learn a lot by reading or watching videos, but if words alone could make us better photographers, we'd all be Henri-Friggin'-Cartier-Bresson by now.

**Comment: by Dennis Arculeo**

Whatever rules you employ for your composition, you should make a conscious effort to analyze what you create. Take that very analysis to heart and ask, how could this image have been improved when I took it? What did I miss?

**Here are the Top Photography Composition Rules You Need To Know:**

- Fill The Frame / don't over Crop.
- Don't Cut Off Limbs.
- Understand The **Rule** Of Thirds.
- Use Frames. Golden Triangle / Rectangle
- Make use of Lead In Lines/Shapes or Forms.
- Simplify – Knowing Your Focus.
- Watch out for the Background.
- Look For Symmetry or Patterns.

For more, Google them all.



## Gerneral Information

### Important SICC Websites

Staten Island Camera Club Website

<https://www.sicc-photography-club.com/>

Image Critique Meetup Website

<https://www.meetup.com/Image-Critique-Meetup/>

Staten Island Camera Club Meetup/FSM

<https://www.meetup.com/Staten-Island-camera-club/>

Email us at:

[info@sicc-photography-club.com](mailto:info@sicc-photography-club.com)

Note: All **Blue** characters are Hyperlinks.

Ctrl Click with mouse or tap your stylist to follow the links on-line.

### Competition Guidelines

There are six categories to submit into for a monthly competition. You can enter 2 Color Digitals, 2 Color Prints, 2 Mono Digitals and 2 Mono Prints, as usual (8). And now you can also enter 2 in the Assigned Subject category in Digital and 2 in Print.(Which equals a total max of 12 images per competition)

You are permitted to make up One missed Regular competition in each of the categories that you are participating in; except for the Assigned Subject Competitions, which can not be made up.

Digital entries must be submitted by 11:59 PM on or before the Tuesday evening prior to Thursday's competition, using the upload procedures established by the Photo Contest Pro website.

All print entries must be submitted and ready for Competition by 7:45 PM on the night of the Competition. Print Entry Sizes: Printed images will be no less than 8x 10", but not more than 13x19". Prints must be mounted on a board and can be single matted. Over all presentation size including the mat or backing board should not be less than 10X12"nor any larger than 17X22." Commercially available mats for 8x10" sized prints are generally 11x14" with an opening for 8x10" prints and are available in local stores or on-line.

The upper rear Left Hand corner of the print must contain our competition label filled in with the image's Title, Member's Name and the Color/Mono Category; checked in the appropriate box. Assigned Subjects are not numbered. The entry # on the Label (#1 or 2), must correspond to what is printed on the scorer's sheet.

All images, both Digital and Print, will follow the same scoring scheme. First Round entries that are scored a "6" or less will be dropped, any image scored a "7" makes it into the 2nd Round. During the 2nd Round the Judge will re-score the Photo and will either keep the "7" Score or raise it to an "8" gaining an "Honorable Mention" or a "9" which is the designation for an Best in show "Award".

Once a Photo receives an "Award" (9) it will be retired and may not be re-entered into any future regular Monthly Club Competition in the same or any other category. Any 9's earned during the season can compete with other photos in the Photo of the Year competition. Photo of the year winning images also will be retired and restricted in the same manner as above.

Any color Digital, or Print that received a 7 or 8 may not be re-entered into competition in the same season in the same category. However it may be re-entered in a succeeding season, only once, in a different category.

Competitions are held in the Harbor Room, Snug Harbor Building G, on the third or fourth Thursday of each month at 8 PM. (See our Schedule on our Website for exact dates and times.)



### NJFCC News

Thanks to our great trainers, we have a new crop of trained judges ready to start judging competitions for our member clubs!

These judges have been added to the list and show as GREEN on the list-- SO...check them out!

We would like to thank them for their willingness to step up.

**The NJFCC Photo Exposition will take place on October 12th.**

**Go to Events tab on the website and view the information**

Please make sure you also check the updated rules for pictorial competitions!!!

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Visit NJFCC

<http://www.njfcc.org/>

### Club Officers for 2019- 2020

**President: Dennis Arculeo**

**First Vice President: Eric Mayr**

**Second Vice President: Vacancy**

**Treasurer: Vacancy**

**Secretary: Carol Mayr**

**Competition Chairperson: Carol Mayr**

**Clix Editor: Dennis Arculeo**

**Webmaster: Dennis Arculeo**