

the Projector

a newsletter for PSA Member Organizations • Winter 2009

Photographic Society of America 's ...

Camera Club Committee

Vice President:
Sharp Todd
stoddone@aol.com

Chairperson:
Margaret Sprott
dick_margaret@verizon.net

Newsletter Competition Director:
Margaret Sprott
dick_margaret@verizon.net

Website Committee Director:
Janet Bigalke
jlb-psa@embarqmail.com

PhotoEditors Group Moderators:
Elena McTighe
elenuzza@yahoo.com
Margaret Sprott
dick_margaret@verizon.net

Camera Club Journal News Editor:
Hazel Meredith
Hmeredithpsa@aol.com

Editor:
Peter Manzelli
yopete@mac.com

Member Organizations of PSA include
Camera Clubs, Camera Club Councils,
Chapters, Federations, and Associations.

PSA Councils' Challenge

by Margaret Sprott

This year will see the fifth annual PSA Councils' Challenge and I hope to have entries from all of the councils. For the first time there will NOT be an entrance fee and PSA will pay for mailing back the print and slide entries. Therefore, you do not have an excuse for holding back!

In this contest there are three divisions: Film slides, projected digital images, and prints. The idea is to get wide participation from the members of each council. Ten images from ten different photographers may be entered in each division. Judges not associated with any council will score each image and then the points will be totaled. Councils will be ranked in each division. Combined scores from all three divisions will then be used to rank the councils to determine the overall winners. In addition there will be individual winners named in each division.

Bowie-Crofton Camera Club of Bowie, MD has agreed to be the host club this year. Their President, Roz Kleffman, is experienced at running competitions such as this so the challenge is in good hands. Entries may be submitted between May 1 and June 30, 2009. The rules and entry form are on the PSA website (www.psa-photo.org) and I am working with Wade Clutton, FPSA, EPSA, so that digital entries will be able to be submitted on-line. Just click on "Competitions" and then on "Council Challenge" to find all the information you need. If you have any questions or concerns about the contest, you may contact me (dick_margaret@verizon.net) or Roz Kleffman (mermaid51@verizon.net).

All of the winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the annual PSA conference in West Yellowstone in September. Also, a slide show of all the winning images, compiled by Sharp Todd, APSA, PPSA, will be shown during the conference. Representatives of the councils will be able to pick up the entries at the conference after the awards are made. Any prints or slides that are not picked up will be mailed to the council reps after the conference.

All Councils have received a notice about this challenge. If your club belongs to a council and has not heard of any plans for selecting the images to be entered, please contact the council officers and urge them to facilitate your council's entry into this fun competition. Now is the time to begin the process! Don't wait until the last minute. I'll be eagerly watching for entries beginning in May. ●

PSA Website Contest

by Janet Bigalke

Each year the PSA International Camera Club Committee sponsors the PSA Annual WEBSITE Contest. The submission time is March 1 through May 31. Any PSA Chapter, Club or Council currently maintaining an internet website is eligible, provided the PSA dues are current to June 30, 2009. The entry form and instructions are available on the PSA website under the competition subject or by entering:

www.psa-photo.org/competitionPageDisplay.asp?DivID=8&menuID=4&pageID=173

The competition is divided into two divisions: Division A is for clubs greater than 50 members and Division B is for clubs of 50 members or less. The two divisions enable smaller clubs to participate in the contest and not feel intimidated by the large clubs that have more resources available to them. Each year for the last several years, there have been enough entrants in both divisions to award first, second and third place awards to each division and honorable mentions depending on the number of entries. The plaques and/or ribbon awards for the contest are presented at the Annual General Membership Awards Ceremony at the PSA Convention site. In addition to the awards, each entrant is given both positive feedback and constructive criticism from the judges to understand what they are doing well and where they may need to improve. After the Conference, all winning entries are then published on the PSA website and in the PSA Journal.

If you are interested in participating in the contest, you are welcome to view last year's winners. The information is available at the above URL or by going to the PSA website at www.psa-photo.org. Once the PSA website is launched, go to the "Competitions" tab and then "Website Contest." At the bottom of the Website Contest page there is a link to the "2008 Winners List." The winning entries and their website addresses are available in the document. It is amazing to see the growth of the websites year after year. They truly provide a wealth of information for everyone.

As the Director of the Website Contest, I welcome input from various Clubs, Councils and Chapters and recommendations of qualified judges. If you need to contact me, I can be reached via email at jlb-psa@embarqmail.com •

Join the Online PhotoEditors Group

by Elena McTighe

PSA Club Webmasters and Newsletter Editors have a unique opportunity to join the online PhotoEditors Group. The group operates as a forum and has 200 members. Online discussions are always taking place on topics of interest to camera clubs and camera club communicators. Links are provided to the winning newsletters and websites from the PSA Website and Newsletter competitions: learn by viewing these award winning links. To join simply go to <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PhotoEditors> and request to join. •

Youth Showcase Call for Entries

by Kathleen Z. Braun, APSA

The PSA Youth Showcase has just completed a banner year with over 500 entries from high school photographers around the country. Club, council, and chapter sponsors have already received the entry information for 2009. The deadline for submitting entries is April 30, 2009, which gives interested parties plenty of time to visit a school or school district and interest teachers in participating in the showcase.

Information on the Showcase can be found by going to the PSA website at www.psa-photo.org and looking under "Competitions" and going to "Youth Showcase." Another excellent source is going to www.psa-clubservices.org and checking under "Club Community Service" then "PSA Youth Showcase." Rules and entry forms are on this site. Questions and information on awards can be obtained from the Youth Showcase director, Kathleen Z. Braun, at Pkzbraun@aol.com.

A DVD showing the 2007 winners and some other entries along with photography tips was developed by Dana Cohoon and Elena McTighe and the Ocean Camera Club of New Jersey. In September, copies were distributed to most of the classroom teachers who participated in the 2008 Showcase. It has proven to be so popular that more copies will be made at PSA Headquarters and be available to interested parties.

It will be difficult to top last year's fantastic participation, but with more clubs, councils, and chapters becoming involved, we just might reach 600 entries in the next couple of years. I hope so. •

Enter Your Club in the Newsletter Contest

by Margaret Sprott

Formerly known as the International Bulletin Contest (IBC), this competition has been in existence for over 38 years. The records I have only make a brief reference to “before 1970” so I’m not exactly sure when it was started. I do know that it was pretty much a one-woman endeavor until about 2000 when Margaret Estes, FPSA, had health problems and had to turn it over to others. With the number of entries in the hundreds it is amazing that she was able to keep it going before the days of electronic communication and all the time savings brought about by computers.

After one year with no contest just after the turn of the century, Jerrie Paschal stepped in to rescue what was a very successful PSA program. Jerrie was in charge when I first became aware of the contest and did a fine job of organizing it. She also started the on-line yahoo group for newsletter editors to promote communication among them. After a few years of her able leadership, Elena McTighe became the Director of the newly named International Newsletter Contest. Elena did a great job with the contest and also promoted the PhotoEditors group which now has about 200 members.

Because someone in our local club urged me to enter the contest about 5 years ago, I bit the bullet, put my ego on the line, and entered. Much to my surprise I did quite well and with the really helpful comments from the judges over several years kept improving my newsletters and scoring better in the competitions. I suppose that’s why Elena talked me into becoming the Director of the contest when she became the Vice President for Publications for PSA, or my “success” was part of a nefarious plot to get me to do this job. However, it has been a fun job, reading many newsletters and watching the progress of editors who enter from year to year. Two years ago we began to accept on-line entries which has greatly decreased the time and expense of running this competition.

All of this information is to try to inspire you to enter your club’s newsletter in this year’s competition. The editors spend a lot of time creating the newsletters and this is one way to recognize and reward them for all their hard work. With the on-line entry process it takes very little time to enter and there are no fees for entering. Of course, you may still enter paper copies if that is your preference. And, just think, one day you could be the Director of the newsletter contest and I could retire!

Newsletters are entered into one of three divisions, Chapter/Council, Large Club (76+ members), or Small Club (4-75 members). There are two groups of three judges so that no judge is evaluating newsletters from his/her division. Judges use printed criteria as they score each newsletter. These criteria are available on the PSA website and are very helpful as you decide which issue to enter. Entries for this year’s contest are being accepted between March 2 and June 1, 2009.

At the annual PSA conference, which will be in West Yellowstone this year, the winners are announced and awards are presented. First, second, and third place engraved paper weight awards are given in each division plus runners-up ribbons depending on the number of entries. The Arthur P. Henrick’s pen award is given to the best of the best of all the entries. After the presentation, the winning newsletters are available for conference participants to examine. Later, all entries are posted on the PSA website. This gives everyone an opportunity to examine the winning entries and get ideas for their own newsletters. Clubs are very proud of their newsletter editors when they show off these awards, so the competition is spirited and informative.

I would love to be inundated with entries this year and begin a trend toward having hundreds of entries like there were in past contests. Just go to www.psa-photo.org for all the rules, entry form, and judging criteria. Click on “Competitions” and then on “Newsletter Contest” to find everything you need. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to e-mail me at dick_margaret@verizon.net. I’ll be watching for your entries! ●

What Is Your Club Doing?

by Hazel Meredith

I enjoy writing the Journal’s Camera Club News Column and I am always looking for topics that will interest our readers. Suggestions are very welcome and encouraged. I have also authored several “Focus” articles that feature PSA member clubs. If your club is celebrating an upcoming big anniversary, or is active in your community, please let me know. You may e-mail me at hmeredithpsa@aol.com. I also moderate the “Camera Club Sparkle” Yahoo group, which is open to officers or a designated club member to share ideas, problems and solutions that arise in camera clubs. If your club hasn’t joined yet, visit <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/CCSparkle>. ●