

Hamilton Camera Club Clinics

The Hamilton Camera Club (will be referred to as HCC), has 4 Clinics per year. Judged by a panel of 3 judges.

There are 2 separate Divisions Prints and Digital (total of 5 submissions between the two Divisions).

Each Clinic also has a topic as an assignment. Assignment images must be taken after the AGM meeting each year (usually near the end of April) and prior to the clinic it is submitted into.

Members are allowed to enter up to 5 images in a Clinic.

There is no restriction as to how many images can be entered in any category.

Eg: all 5 could be assignment images; or 1 assignment, 2 nature, 2 pictorial; or 1 assignment, 3 creative, 1 nature etc.

Each club members scores for images are calculated, for each clinic, when members reach the required number of points, they move to the next level. Eg: Bronze to Silver; Silver to Gold etc.

Year End Awards: various trophies are awarded based on the members total scores over the 4 clinics throughout the year.

Basic Submission Rules

1. All images submitted must have begun in camera
2. The division in which the final product is presented is up to the maker.
3. There are 2 Divisions: Print and Projected images
4. An image may be submitted only once, provided it was evaluated at that time (i.e. do not submit the same image in Prints and you have in Projected Images, nor in another clinic.)
5. All images, with the exception of the assignment images must have been taken within the past 5 years.
6. The assignment image must have been taken after the Annual General Meeting at the end of the previous year.

Submission Quantities

1. There are two divisions, Prints and Projected Images
2. The maker may submit up to 5 images in their division(s) of choice with no restriction.
3. The maker may submit up to 5 images in their category(ies) of choice with no restriction.

Evaluations

1. For each of the clinics, a minimum of two judges will evaluate each image and it will be awarded a score to a maximum of 30 points.
2. Any assignment, entry which does not fit the assignment topic will be returned and marked as "Not Judged". These images may be submitted again in a later clinic, though no longer as assignments.
3. For the "Year End Awards", the 3 high scores that a maker attained throughout all the clinics will be totalled to determine the winning photographer in each category.
4. Members will have the opportunity to receive a critique should, they be offered by the judge at the time of judging. The critique will be read at the showing of the clinic presentation.

Assignment: Images entered in the assignment category must have been only those captured after the new assignment topics were decided at the end of the previous club calendar year.

Any such photography that appropriately depicts the assignment topic for that clinic may be submitted.

Please refer to 2020-2021 Clinic Assignment Topics for details on the assignment topics.

Pictorial: Pictorial images may be of any subject, but must go beyond being a simple record of what was there and demonstrate the photographer's unique interpretation of that reality by the use of composition, design, light, angle, etc.

- Any subject matter that does not fall into any other category is acceptable. Eg: Still Life, Tabletop Photography, Food, Man-made Objects, Cultivated Flowers, Transportation, Urban or Rural life are a few examples.
- Any form of manipulation is allowed, although images highly creative or artistic images, should be entered in "Creative Category"
- Nature like images are allowed were the "Hand of Man" substantially exceeds 10% of the image area, or where post processing techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements are used
- Nature images entered in Pictorial are to be considered, altered, manipulated or edited in a manner not allowed in the Nature category.

Nature: "Nature" photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from 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 to certify as to its honest presentation.

- The story telling value of a photograph must be weighted more than the pictorial quality while maintaining a high technical quality.
- Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story.
- The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible.
- Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted.
- Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photography without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted.
- All adjustments must appear natural.
- A photographer may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image to make it more closely represent the original scene photographed. This may not change the truth of the original nature story.
- Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide) are acceptable modifications. However flipping well known scenes can be risky.
- Removing spots due to dust on film or the camera sensor is allowed. Adding elements to the image and removing pictorial elements, other than by cropping, is not allowed.
- Combining pictorial elements from separate images or rearranging and/or cloning and/or copying elements in your image are not allowed.

- **Black and white images are acceptable.**
- HDR techniques and focus stacking techniques (such as Helicon Focus) are techniques that enhance the image without changing the pictorial content. These are considered to be allowable techniques.

Cautions in Nature Submissions

- Human elements (hand of man) are permitted in a nature image where they are considered to enhance the nature story. However the image may be heavily penalized if the judge does not consider that this has been accomplished.
- All adjustments to an image must look natural.
- Pictorial quality is not the same as technical quality. Technical quality is still an important criterion for evaluation and judging of images.

Creative:

The original image must have started in camera and it must be created by the maker.

- For the image to be considered to be creative, it must obviously depart from reality and it is usually produced through the use of imagination, originality, experimentation and artistic thought process.
- Creative image may be created completely in camera. The example may be: abstract, multi exposure, Intentional Camera Movement (ICM), deliberate in camera colour shift, selective colour or selective focus.
- An image that is creative may have been completely or partially altered in editing software by applying any of the artistic techniques. Eg: a composite image made of more than one original element or image with artistic filters or processing derivations applied.
- Artwork or computer graphics element, created by the maker may be incorporated into a creative image, as long as the original photographic content dominates, the majority of the image and the subject of the image should originate in camera.
- Image may not be completely constructed entirely within software and by the computer. If Abstract or subject matter is not identifiable in the image it must have been generated from the makers photograph. In order to prove that it started as an original photograph, the original photographic image and the PSD file showing layers must be made available upon request for verification.
- Note that High Dynamic Range (HDR) image or one created by simply applying a single built-in Photoshop filter are not considered creative, unless they are processed additionally by post-production.

Honourable Mention (HM)

A red ribbon signifying an Honourable Mention (HM) will be awarded at the clinic showing on the following basis:

1. A JUNIOR member with an entry receiving a score of 21 or more points
2. An INTERMEDIATE member with an entry receiving a score of 23 or more points.
3. A SENIOR member with an entry receiving a score of 24 or more points.
4. A MASTER member with an entry receiving a score of 25 or more points.
5. ONE STAR MASTER AND HIGHER receiving a score of 25 or more points.

Clinic Category Winner

The category Winner of each division (Print and Projected image) will be awarded a Blue Ribbon at the clinic showing.

Winners of the above award must receive at least the minimum points as stated for their level or the award will not be presented.

In the event of a tie, the judge will be asked to decide the winner by awarding one more point to what the judge feels is the better image. If the judge still cannot decide between equally good images, extra ribbons may be awarded.

Image of the Night

The highest scoring image in each of the divisions will also get a Purple Ribbon for Print of the Night and Projected Image of the Night.

Winners of the above award must receive at least the minimum points as stated for their level or the award will not be presented.

In the event of a tie, the judge will be asked to decide the winner by awarding one more point to what the judge feels is the better image. If the judge still cannot decide between equally good images, extra ribbons may be awarded.

Please rename your digital image filename in the format below:
title_makers name.jpg eg: Blue Jay_Art Ward.jpg

Prints:

1. **A digital version of the print must to be submitted through the [online form](#). It will be used for projection to the members only during the showing of the clinics.** Please refer to "Digital file requirements for you print submission" for requirements.
2. You may submit up to 5 images total. Any combination of prints, projected images or categories is acceptable
3. You may select one image to request a critique from the judges. Indicate your image by checking "Critique (only one per clinic)" when submitting your digital version of your image.
4. Submissions are limited to 2020-21 paid members.
5. A title is required with a limit of 50 characters. The title can be anything meaningful eg. "Butterfly" and must be the same as the digital image uploaded.

PREPARATION OF PRINTS FOR CLINICS

1. All prints must be flat mounted and not framed, and may be matted. Attach the print to the backing board using spray glue, double sided tape or contact sheets. **DO NOT USE REGULAR TAPE AS IT CAN RUIN OTHER PEOPLE'S ENTRIES.**
2. Obtain a print entry form by downloading it from our website. The new form prints 4 to a page. Provide one form for each print you will enter. Complete all information fields on the entry form except the shaded areas as per note on the form. Entries with incomplete information will be returned marked "Not Judged". Returned prints may be submitted in a later clinic.
3. Glue the form to the top right corner of the backing board. Please also draw an arrow to indicate the top of the print, so that it will be properly oriented when being displayed.

4. Take extra care that the back surface of the print mount is not sticky or sharp; any such entries will not be judged.
5. The print must be a minimum size of 8"x10" or two adjacent sides add up to 18 inches, with the mount being a minimum of 9"x11" or two adjacent sides add up to 20".
6. The maximum size for prints, including mounts is 18"x25".

A projected image of the print may to be uploaded to the website. It will be used for projection to the members only during the showing of