

**PSA NATURE DIVISION  
DIGITAL INTERCLUB COMPETITION – 2009- 2010 SEASON  
CONTEST #1**

The judging for Contest #1 of the PSA Nature Division Competition for Clubs was held by the West Cumbria Photo Group of Great Britain on Saturday, November 14, 2009.

The judges were:

Ronnie Gilbert, DPAGB  
Richard Spiers, DPAGV, BPE2\*  
John Williams, PPSA, DPAGB

The Competition Chairman was John Williams and the Manager during the judging was Les Ayers, PPSA, APAGB, EFIAP, MPAGB, ARPS. He was ably assisted by other members of the West Cumbria Photo Group.

35 Clubs participated in this first contest, 13 in Class A and 22 in Class B. This was our first competition with the clubs separated into two classes. You will notice we are getting more international clubs joining, with two from Argentina now in the group.

The Club results were:

CLASS A			CLASS B		
Club	Score	Award	Club	Score	Award
Boston West Photographic Society	76	1st	Cape Cod Viewfinders	77	1st
Greater Lynn Photographic Association	75	2nd	Grupo Fotografico Parque	65	2nd
Camera Naturalist Camera Club	73	3rd	Photo Guild of Nova Scotia	65	2nd
Merrimack Valley Camera Club	70		F/67 Camera Club	64	3rd
Stony Brook Camera Club	70		Peoria Camera Club	64	3rd
Exploring Light	69		Foto Club Quilmes	63	
Saguaro Camera Club	69		Hillcrest Camera Club	61	
New Haven Camera Club	67		Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association	60	
Ridgewood Camera Club	66		Image Makers Camera Club	60	
Loveland Photographic Society	65		Lancaster Photography Association	60	
Mount Baker Camera Club	62		St. Louis Camera Club	58	
Unlimited Visions Photo Club	59		Western Reserve Photographic Society	58	
Naples Camera Club	58		Photo Pictorialists of Milwaukee	56	
			West Cumbria Photo Group	56	
			Oklahoma Camera Club	53	
			Schenectady Photographic Society	53	
			South Jersey Camera Club	52	
			Houston Camera Club	51	
			Pilchuck Camera Club	48	
			Charlotte Camera Club	46	
			Tri-County Camera Club	46	
			Lowcountry Photography Club	45	

The Class B Individual results were:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Maker</b>
Eagle Fishing	13	Award of Merit	Schenectady Photographic Society	Jim Craner
White Ibis with Fiddler	15	Award of Merit	Cape Cod Viewfinders	Janet Dimattia
Whale	15	Award of Merit	Cape Cod Viewfinders	Bill Low
Colibries	15	Award of Merit	Grupo Fotografico Parque	Ana Marie Robles
Caught in Flight	14	Award of Merit	Hillcrest Camera Club	Cynthia Underhill
Beargrass and Lupines	12	Honor	F67 Camera Club	John Davis, APSA
Golden Eagle Meal	12	Honor	Image Makers Camera Club	Gerald Emmerich
Coyote w/Mouse	12	Honor	F67 Camera Club	Steven Fisher, APSA
Lunch Caught	12	Honor	Image Makers Camera Club	Rich Kempfer
Helping Hand	12	Honor	St. Louis Camera Club	Mac Mackay
Lechuza	13	Honor	Foto Club Quilmes	Salvador Masitto
Duo	12	Honor	Foto Club Quilmes	Juan Obljubek
Nuthatch	12	Honor	Photo Guild of Nova Scotia	Ken Renton
Watchful Snow Leopard	13	Honor	Cape Cod Viewfinders	Peter Selig
White Pelicans	12	Honor	Pilchuck Camera Club	Kevin Siefke
Springbok & Young	12	Honor	F67 Camera Club	Jack Templeton
Singapore Bird Park	12	Honor	St. Louis Camera Club	Patrick Tenny
Red Stag, Glen Etive	12	Honor	West Cambria Photo Group	Kate Wilmer

The Class A Individual results were:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Maker</b>
Western Grebe Pair	15	Award of Merit	Greater Lynn Photographic Association	Rick Cloran
The Charge	15	Award of Merit	Camera Naturalist Camera Club	Phil Echo
Tern Kiss	15	Award of Merit	Camera Naturalist Camera Club	Roman Kurywczak
Polar Bear and Ivory Gull	15	Award of Merit	Greater Lynn Photographic Association	Wendy McIntosh
Humpback Whale Feeding	15	Award of Merit	Stony Brook Camera Club	Monica Verma
YNP Bighorn 5	14	Honor	Greater Lynn Photographic Association	Rick Cloran
American Robin Feeding on Sumac	15	Honor	Merrimack Valley Camera Club	Jim Fenton
Marbled Godwit Late Light	14	Honor	Merrimack Valley Camera Club	Jim Fenton
Alaskan Coastal Grizzly No. 54	14	Honor	Ridgewood Camera Club	Martin Joffe
Pileated Woodpecker & Chicks	15	Honor	Boston West Photographic Society	Ed McGuirk
Brown Pelican Reaching Under Wing	14	Honor	Exploring Light	Joanne Stolte, APSA, EPSA
Eland Run	15	Honor	Naples Camera Club	Carol Williamson
Hummingbird at Flower	15	Honor	Loveland Photographic Society	Rick Dunahoo

Please note that these titles and images may not be used in any future PSA Nature Division Interclub Contest, whether Digital or Slides. The five Award of Merit images in each Class will be included in the annual Image of the Year competition at the end of the season.

Contest #2 will be hosted by the Ridgewood Camera Club. Closing date for entries will be January 15, 2010 with the judging being held in February. Images and makers' names should be sent to Daniel Charbonnet, [ddrc3@msn.com](mailto:ddrc3@msn.com).

As I indicated above, the judging was run by the West Cumbria Photo Group in Great Britain. While I generally only acknowledge PSA honors, I thought it would be interesting to include their British honors as well.

DPAGB – Distinction in Photographic Alliance of Great Britain – Similar to the PSA ROPA Distinction

MPAGB – Master in Photographic Alliance of Great Britain – A higher distinction

BPE2\* - British Star ratings similar to the PSA Star ratings

EFIAP – Excellence, International Federation of Photographic Arts

ARPS – Associate, Royal Photographic Society.

Another interesting thing is the judging system in Great Britain. There is a selection and training program for judges. Judges are not chosen just because they are good and experienced photographers.

I have added a second attachment to the report. The Nature Division approved a revision of the Nature Definition at the 2009 PSA Conference which was then approved by the PSA Exhibition Standards Committee. I have revised the Nature Division Digital Interclub Rules for the 2009-2010 season to incorporate this change. The change does not really change what makes a Nature Image but it does change what you are allowed to do to the image on the computer.

**“No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural.”**

For most people, this means that the various HDR techniques are now allowed and it means blurring the background is now allowed, **provided the results look natural**. For your members that enter International Exhibitions: **This does not mean you can automatically start using images processed under this new definition**. The rules stated in a given Exhibition's Conditions of Entry will still apply. There is generally a 6 month lead time between when an Exhibition applies for PSA recognition and the closing date of the Exhibition so many of the ones coming up were approved before the revisions were approved. Be sure to read all Conditions of Entry carefully.

Daniel Charbonnet, FPSA  
Director  
ND Interclub Digital Competitions