PSA NATURE DIVISION
DIGITAL INTERCLUB COMPETITION – 2009- 2010 SEASON
CONTEST #3 and FINAL STANDINGS

The judging for Contest #3 of the PSA Nature Division Competition for Clubs was held by the F/67 Camera Club of Bremerton, Washington in May, 2010.

The judges were:

Valerie Henshel (Naturalist, Professional Nature Photographer)
Don Paulson (Naturalist, Professional Nature Photographer)
John Davis, Jr., APSA, PPSA

The Competition Chairman was Steven Fisher, APSA. He was ably assisted by other members of the F/67 Camera Club: Virginia Richter, Jerry Joaquin, Roger Miller and Jim Haney..

39 Clubs participated in this first contest, 13 in Class A and 26 in Class B. This was our third competition with the clubs separated into two classes. For one club it was their first competition of the season.

The Club results are shown below.

CLASS A			CLASS B		
Club	**Score**	**Award**	**Club**	**Score**	**Award**
Camera Naturalist Camera Club	72	1	Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association	72	1
Boston West Photographic Society	70	2	London Camera Club	71	2
Greater Lynn Photographic Association	68	3	Grupo Fotografico Parque	64	3
Exploring Light	66		St. Louis Camera Club	63	
Merrimack Valley Camera Club	66		West Cumbria Photo Group	62	
Loveland Photographic Society	65		Hillcrest Camera Club	61	
Naples Camera Club	63		Peoria Camera Club	60	
Stony Brook Camera Club	62		Pikes Peak Camera Club	60	
Mount Baker Camera Club	61		South Jersey Camera Club	60	
New Haven Camera Club	54		Foto Club Quilmes	59	
Ridgewood Camera Club	53		Cape Cod Viewfinders	58	
Saguaro Camera Club	52		Lancaster Photography Association	58	
Unlimited Visions Photo Club	49		F/67 Camera Club	57	
			Oklahoma Camera Club	57	
			Schenectady Photographic Society	55	
			Photo Guild of Nova Scotia	54	
			Image Makers Camera Club	53	
			Photo Pictorialists of Milwaukee	50	
			Tri-County Camera Club	50	
			Lowcountry Photography Club	48	
			Houston Camera Club	47	
			Tri-State Photographic Society	47	
			Charlotte Camera Club	44	
			Hoylake Photographic Society	43	
			Western Reserve Photographic Society	41	
			Lake Country Camera Club	36	

The Class B Individual results were:

Title	Score	Award	Club	Maker
Lake Huron Sunrise	15	Award of Merit	London Camera Club	Bill Niessen
Snow Monkeys in Japan	14	Award of Merit	St. Louis Camera Club	Barbara Steps
Stormy Day Cardinal	13	Award of Merit	Hillcrest Camera Club	Linda VanSeters
N Wolf Interaction	13	Award of Merit	Image Makers Camera Club	Clare VanderVeen
In Flight	13	Award of Merit	Tri-State Photographic Society	Jeff Snyder
Dancing Trees	13	Honor	Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association	Tom Dills
Mighty Humpback	13	Honor	Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association	L. J. Weslowski
Yosemite Valley View	13	Honor	Lancaster Photography Association	Sue Craft
Dallas Divide	12	Honor	Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association	Joe Hancock
The Sentinel	12	Honor	Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association	Donna Eaton
Desierto Blanco	12	Honor	Grupo Fotografico Parque	Andrea Meras
Secretario	12	Honor	Grupo Fotografico Parque	Ana Maria Robles
Brown Hare	12	Honor	Hoylake Photographic Society	Robert Devenish
Juvenile Sharp Shin Hawk	12	Honor	London Camera Club	Ross Blakey
Spider and Prey	12	Honor	London Camera Club	Mary Chambers
Bat Eared Fox with Pups	12	Honor	Photo Pictorialists of Milwaukee	John Lowin
Winter Pine Stand	12	Honor	Schenectady Photographic Society	David Jeffery
Noddy Mother and Chick	12	Honor	South Jersey Camera Club	Joanna Patterson
Merlin in Snow with Kill	12	Honor	West Cumbria Photo Group	Alan Walker
Indian Eagle Owl in Flight	12	Honor	West Cumbria Photo Group	Bas Montgomery

The Class A Individual results were:

Title	Score	Award	Club	Maker
Bluebird Approaching the Nest	15	Award of Merit	Camera Naturalist Camera Club	Phil Echo
Common Red Poll	14	Award of Merit	Stony Brook Camera Club	Richard Shirley
Mating	13	Award of Merit	Camera Naturalist Camera Club	Roman Kurywczak
Osprey Lift Off	13	Award of Merit	Naples Camera Club	Mike Landwehr
Tricolored Heron Portrait	13	Award of Merit	New Haven Camera Club	William Barnett
Grizzly Mom and Cubs	13	Honor	Boston West Photographic Society	Ed McGuirk
Robins Nest	13	Honor	Camera Naturalist Camera Club	Phil Echo
Limpkin with Chick	13	Honor	Exploring Light	Livia Trauber
Golden Eagle on Prey	13	Honor	Greater Lynn Photographic Association	Karl Schanz, APSA
Steam and Snow in Yellowstone	13	Honor	Loveland Photographic Society	Gary Lengyel
Bald Eagles Mating The Cycle Continues	13	Honor	Merrimack Valley Camera Club	Jim Fenton
Mother and Baby	13	Honor	Naples Camera Club	Liz Keery
Peregrine Falcon	13	Honor	Naples Camera Club	Della Landheer

Please note that these titles and images may not be used in any future PSA Nature Division Interclub Contest. 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.

Class B Season Summary:

Club	Contest #1	Contest #2	Contest #3	Total	Rank
Cape Cod Viewfinders	77	74	58	209	1
Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association	60	58	72	190	2
Charlotte Camera Club	46	55	44	145	
F/67 Camera Club	64	57	57	178	
Foto Club Quilmes	63	58	59	180	
Grupo Fotografico Parque	65	59	64	188	3
Hillcrest Camera Club	61	54	61	176	
Houston Camera Club	51	55	47	153	
Hoylake Photographic Society	-	54	43	97	
Image Makers Camera Club	60	57	53	170	
Lake Country Camera Club	-	49	36	85	
Lancaster Photography Association	60	48	58	166	
London Camera Club	-	66	71	137	
Lowcountry Photography Club	45	52	48	145	
Oklahoma Camera Club	53	53	57	163	
Peoria Camera Club	64	62	60	186	
Photo Guild of Nova Scotia	65	60	54	179	
Photo Pictorialists of Milwaukee	56	56	50	162	

Pikes Peak Camera Club	-	-	60	60	
Schenectady Photographic Society	53	53	55	161	
South Jersey Camera Club	52	48	60	160	
St. Louis Camera Club	58	60	63	181	
Tri-County Camera Club	46	56	50	152	
Tri-State Photographic Society	-	52	47	99	
West Cumbria Photo Group	56	57	62	175	
Western Reserve Photographic Society	58	53	41	152	

Class A Season Summary:

Club	**Contest #1**	**Contest #2**	**Contest #3**	**Total**	**Rank**
Boston West Photographic Society	76	65	70	211	1
Camera Naturalist Camera Club	73	66	72	211	1
Exploring Light	69	66	66	201	3
Greater Lynn Photographic Association	75	66	68	209	2
Loveland Photographic Society	65	62	65	192	
Merrimack Valley Camera Club	70	62	66	198	
Mount Baker Camera Club	62	66	61	189	
Naples Camera Club	58	58	63	179	
New Haven Camera Club	67	66	54	187	
Ridgewood Camera Club	66	64	53	183	
Saguaro Camera Club	69	68	52	189	
Stony Brook Camera Club	70	65	62	197	
Unlimited Visions Photo Club	59	51	49	159	

Quite a few images were disqualified by the judges.

- Pay attention to human elements in the background. They may be insignificant to you but judges have eagle eyes and can pick up the smallest out-of-whack detail.
- Be careful about putting in domestic animals. In one case the domestic animal causing the DQ was brought to the attention of the club during the entry process and was not replaced even after a second notice.
- Be careful about putting in hybrid plants. Plants can be tricky and you rely on the knowledge of the judges. A lot of plants can start out as human derived hybrids and become “garden escapes”. Others do not escape. When in doubt, don’t rely on the judge giving you the benefit of the doubt. Go to the many available guide books and double check the suitability.
- Black and White images are allowed in nature but unlike monochrome categories in Pictorial Prints, EID and CPID, the image is only allowed to be black and white. Restoring an original color is not allowed.

Since this was the last contest of the year, the F/67 judges also selected the Class A and Class B Images of the Year from the 15 images in each class that won Awards of Merit.

- The Class A Image of the Year is "The Charge" by Phil Echo of the Camera Naturalists Camera Club of New Jersey.

- The Class B Image of the Year is "Lake Huron Sunrise" by Bill Niessen of the London Camera Club of London, Ontario, Canada

IMPORTANT: We need three clubs to step up and judge our contests for the 2010-2011 Season. The three dates would be:

- Between November 7 and November 22 for a Contest #1 entry closing date of October 22, 2010
- Between February 1 and February 15 for a Contest #2 entry closing date of January 15, 2011
- Between May 1 and May 15 for a Contest #3 entry closing date of April 15, 2011

The dates for Contest #1 are a week later than usual because of a conflict with the PSA International Conference in Charleston. I will not be getting home until around October 16.

The actual date within the range above is up to the host club. A reminder that the host club does not get a makeup. No more than one of the three judges on the panel can be from the host club. Please let me know if you are willing to host a contest and which one(s) you would prefer to host.

Daniel Charbonnet, FPSA
Director
ND Interclub Digital Competitions