

**RA Photo Club
Competitions Committee
Annual Report
2013-2014 Season**

Prepared by

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For the 2013-2014 season the RA Photo Club Competitions Committee held six regular competitions and the Bruce Wilson Memorial Competition.

The number of members participating in competitions decreased slightly from 117 in 2012-2013 to 115 in 2013-2014. Even though participation dropped entries increased slightly from 736 slides and prints in 2012-2013 to 756 for the same period in 2013-2014.

No film slides were entered.

A summary of the entries is in **Table 1**.

Month	Topic	Dig.	Film	Print	Total Entries	Jun.	Int.	Sen.	Mstr.	Avg. Score	Awards (excl. PoN/SoN)
Sept.	Nature & General	102	0	27	129	51	54	22	2	A.19.48 G.19.69	28
Oct.	Negative Space & General	98	0	23	121	57	45	19	0	A.20.30 G.20.64	40
Nov.	Street & General	124	0	17	141	69	55	17	0	A.19.82 G.21.07	55
Jan.	Nature Morte & General	100	0	18	118	45	55	18	0	A.18.62 G.20.32	31
Feb.	Serenity & General	111	0	14	125	58	50	17	0	A.19.71 G.19.92	32
Mar.	Faces & Figures & General	109	0	13	122	52	53	17	0	A. 20.53 G. 20.55	32
Totals		644	0	112	756	332	257	110	0		218
Prev. yr.	Oct. 2012-Apr. 2013				736	335	199	87	2		234

Table 1.

Awards were earned by 28% of the entries, slightly lower than 31% in the previous year. The average score was 19.02, relatively unchanged from the 18.35 of the previous year. Evidently the calibre of the photographs submitted has remained high. There was a significant decrease in the number Junior level entries, however offset by an increase for Intermediate and Senior levels.

The January competition "Nature Morte" proved to be a problem for participants. Fourteen out of 61 participants had entries disqualified as not on topic, so many, that all participants with a disqualified entry were offered a chance to submit a replacement image. Six re-submitted, six did not and two withdrew from the competition.

Historical Data - Number of Entries

Season	Entries per Competition	Entrants	Entries	Awards	% Awards
2005-2006	3	74	651	194	29.8
2006-2007	3	68	936	283	30.2
2007-2008	3	115	935	308	32.9
2008-2009	3	121	809	131	16.2
2009-2010	3	114	957	189	19.7
2010-2011	3	129	1059	188	17.8
2011-2012	2	116	722	210	29.1
2012-2013	2	117	736	234	31.8
2013-2014	2	115	756	218	28.8

Operations

Competitions at the RA Photo Club rely heavily on technology, from the submission of entries, to the assistance in judging, recording of scores and the tracking of results. Our submission and judging system has continued to evolve with many new features this year including a revised Judges Console, live Score Display used during judging, and “next up” for print judging and direct generation of the labels.

A number of incremental improvements have been made in the judging/competitions applications over the past year in order to improve efficiency and address suggestions made by operators.

Projection technology remains a limitation in displaying the complete tonal range within photos, especially when compared to modern LCD monitors.

If we are unable to upgrade our projector alternate methods of displaying photos for judging will need to be explored to more closely match the Competitor’s intended rendition.

We now have a print judging stand and storage unit. Lights will be addressed next season.

Some progress has been made on the documenting of the entire competition process.

Judging

Good judging remains elusive resulting in dissatisfaction from some entrants.

Efforts have been made to match judge’s qualifications to the topic, and to have at least one woman judge each competition, but these criteria are often difficult to maintain; the list of judges is composed of 91 individuals, of which only 24% are women. As many as 15 to 20 judges need to be contacted for every competition in order to find 3 judges that can commit to an evening, and since judges are volunteers, it is very difficult to enforce demographic representation or be overly stringent on their expertise towards a topic. As members of the RA Photo Club reach the Senior or Master Level, they are called upon to be judges; members

who have reached one of these levels this year will be added to our list.

As we now have data from nine seasons of the scores from individual judges it is now possible to perform some meaningful analysis.

The distribution of scores by individual judges may be quantified, hopefully allowing some means of performance rating.

The ability to display the scores to the individual judges has been added to the competitions presentation. We may use this on a trial basis next season, hopefully allowing higher quality of comments, representative of the scores awarded.

Bruce Wilson Competition

An new display setup consisting of new easels and an improved lighting arrangement was used this year coupled with a good team resulted in a smooth presentation.

Small improvements are planned for next year.

Team

We have an excellent team who are all committed to making the RA Photo Club Competitions a positive learning experience;

- Louise Richard, Co-Chair of the competitions committee
- Elaine Hum Sim and Jack Starkings, finding qualified judges for each competition
- Mike Geiger
- Jamie Johnson
- Howard Sandler
- Glenn Bloodworth
- Elizabeth Kaminska
- Bill McCloskey
- Robert Laramée
- Darren Boucher & Dina MacCleod.

2014-2015 Season

For the 2014-2015 season the objectives are;

- Complete the documentation of the competition process.
- Train more operators.
- Improvements in the process.
- Achieving a better understanding of judging.
- Weeding out poor judges.
- Expand the team.
- Review how we thank our judges. At least one judge has indicated that a small payment in lieu of dinner would be preferred.