



Member Handbook

South Shore Camera Club



2020-21 SSCC Photo of the Year, Jean Cardia

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Section 1: Welcome to the South Shore Camera Club!

About Our Club

The South Shore Camera Club, located in Quincy, Massachusetts, is one of the oldest clubs in the area as it has been active since 1934. Its mission is to create a place for photographers to share their challenges and hone their skills. The Club extends a hearty welcome to all those who enjoy photography regardless of their skill level. Our members come from all walks of life, share a love for photography and enjoy the great fellowship this club offers. The Club welcomes both amateur and professional photographers to our club.

The Club holds meetings on most Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm, September through May. The Club holds monthly competitions from October through May on the second Tuesday of the month. We compete with projected digital images in a number of categories. All members are invited to compete. Our judges offer fair and encouraging critiques complete with tips for improvement or experimentation.

Road trips are scheduled throughout the club year. Most are local one-day excursions, but we have extended our reach as far as Canada, Washington, D.C., and even parts of Europe. Workshops on various photographic subjects are scheduled throughout the year. These are a great opportunity to work on a new technique in an encouraging learning environment.

Club Links

Official website at: www.southshorecameraclub.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/ssccquincy

Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/sscc-resources>

Section 2: Club Activities and Photo Opportunities

Meeting-Night Speakers

One of the club's goals is to provide opportunities for our members to sharpen their photographic skills. Most of our speakers are professional photographers with years of experience. They present on various topics such as composition, exposure, photojournalism, night photography, sports photography, and much more. By attending the weekly meetings regularly you will learn more about photography than you ever imagined!

The Board continually seeks presenters who can stimulate our members to attempt new techniques and improve their photography. If you know someone who would be a good speaker for us, let us know!

Road Trips

Road trips are offered to club members throughout the year. These road trips are designed to provide members opportunities to photograph in a variety of environments and to socialize with fellow club members. Much technical information is shared in these informal settings. These road trips have taken club members to sites throughout New England and beyond. Past trips have made it possible to photograph fall foliage, urban areas, mansions, lighthouses, beaches and much, much more.

Road trip costs are low or free. Occasionally there are higher costs due to travel or admission fees. Club members often carpool to keep costs down. Sometimes the road trips require the club members to sign up to purchase tickets, make reservations or restrict the number of photographers that can attend.

Information regarding road trips can be found in the following resources:

- [SSCC website \(calendar\)](#)
- SSCC Facebook page
- SSCC Google Group
- Our weekly meetings

Only members in good standing (dues paid) can attend road trips. All road trips must be scheduled through the Road Trip Committee.

Pop-up Road Trips

If any member wants to share their photo experience with other members, they can schedule a Pop-up road trip! If you have an idea of a place that you want to go, you can post the idea to our Facebook page and/or our Google Group and organize it yourself. It doesn't have to be elaborate. In fact most pop-up road trips are to local places like the salt marshes in Quincy, Fort Revere in Hull, Scituate Light and several others. When a member organizes a pop-up trip, he/she should post the trip information (date, time, place) and their contact information to the SSCC the Facebook page and the Google Group.

Independent Road Trips

Club members may host their own road trips that are unaffiliated with SSCC. These are fun-filled, exciting, and a great way to learn about photography.

Facebook Group

SSCC has a Facebook Group page that's a lively forum for ideas, information sharing and image conversation. This page should always be supportive of the group's photography and limited to photography and photography related topics. Access to the Facebook group is restricted to SSCC members in good standing. If you want to be a member of this group, email ssccsite@gmail.com.

Google Group

SSCC operates a Google Group site to enhance member-to-member communication. Members can send messages via email to the Group email address and they will automatically be delivered to the other members in that Group. These messages can include photos that you want to share, comments on others' photos, questions, asking for advice, seeking help or opinions, setting up Pop-Up Road Trips, and sharing information and links of interest to other members.

Access to the Google groups is restricted to SSCC members in good standing. If you want to be a member of this group, email ssccsite@gmail.com.

Workshops

SSCC offers occasional workshops led by both members and professional photographers throughout the year on a variety of topics. Participation in club workshops is restricted to SSCC members in good standing.

Stoughton Library Travel Series

For several years the South Shore Camera Club has teamed up with the Stoughton Public Library to present shows for the library's monthly travel series. The travel series runs from September to June, and our club supplies the library with shows from January to June of each year.

Club members are asked to prepare a travel show lasting about 40 minutes plus time for questions. The library appreciates good photography, but they also want presentations which include verbal information about the history, culture, etc. of a place. Each year we accumulate a list of all shows our members can present, and then the library staff selects the six they want from our club. Any U.S. or foreign destination can be the subject of a travel show, though New England sites are generally too close to be of interest to the library.

The library has a laptop computer, slide and digital projectors, a projection screen, and most cords needed for show presentations. The library staff is very friendly and willing to help with all technical issues. Slides or digital collections of photos are what the photographer must provide. The library normally pays presenters with a \$50 grocery store gift card, or some similar type of honorarium. Generally between eight and 25 people attend each show.

Club members who have presented one of these shows in the past are willing to help first-time presenters, so if you want to do one of these shows there is always someone to help you out. These shows are a great way to get publicity for the SSCC, and they also provide each photographer with a chance to show-off their work. Anyone with questions should email us at ssccsite@gmail.com

Section 3: Monthly photo competitions

Competition Overview

From October through April of each year the SSCC sponsors a monthly photo competition for its members. Our competitions are held at the facility where the South Shore Camera Club holds its meetings. On the competition night all of the qualifying images that were entered by the deadline are shown and commentary is given on the images at the discretion of the judge.

All of our competitions are based on digital projection. We currently do not support print competitions. There will be one competition each month for a total of seven digital competitions.

Two photos can be submitted by each member for each monthly competition. Members are encouraged to enter ANY TWO of the FIVE categories each month. Images placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category will compete for Image of the Year. This award is presented at the annual SSCC banquet.

The competitions are fun, and the judges' critiques are designed to help all photographers improve.

Eligibility

Only members in good standing are eligible to enter their images into a competition. Members in good standing are those who have paid their dues in full prior to submitting photos for competition.

Competition Meeting Night

The Competition Meeting night is always the second Tuesday of each month, beginning in October and continuing through April.

Competition Photo Submission

Entries must be uploaded by midnight on Tuesday, two weeks prior to the competition. Exceptions can be made if arranged in advance and agreed to by the Competition Coordinator or Club Officers in the absence of a Competition Coordinator. Descriptions of monthly and assigned categories can be found on our website.

Competition Levels Defined

Every month the Open Color category allows each participant (beginner, intermediate, advanced and master) to compete against others in their skill level. Because of this, each competitor must choose a level at the beginning of the year in which they will compete. This selection should reflect the competitor's skill level as defined below. The descriptions are deliberately broad, so do your best to determine your competition level. If you feel like you are

between two levels, we encourage you to select the higher level so you can be challenged and learn from others. This way your photography can improve. Once you choose your level, you can opt to move up a level, but you cannot go back down to a previous level.

Beginner level is reserved for folks who have little-to-no experience with photography. You might still be learning how to compose images, how to get the desired exposure, how to use your camera, etc.

Intermediate level is for photographers who have been involved in making photos for a while. You feel comfortable around a camera, understand basic composition, and have a pretty good understanding about exposure. You may have entered competitions or juried exhibits.

Advanced level is for people who know what they are doing. You are confident around the camera. You know how to manage exposure. You have probably entered photo competitions in the past.

Master is for those beyond Advanced.

Section 4: Photo competition rules

Rules Affecting All Categories

1. All images and editing must be the work of the entrant only.
2. Multiple shots taken of the same scene [i.e. images taken at the same time, from the same position, with the same equipment] may not be entered in more than one category during any one monthly competition.
3. Images winning First, Second, or Third place awards may not be re-entered in the same or any other category in subsequent competitions — EVER. It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that winning entries are not resubmitted. All such entries will be disqualified by the Competition Coordinator and/or the club President and Vice President.
4. An image not winning a place award may be re-entered in subsequent competitions. This includes Honorable Mentions.
5. All entries must have titles unique to that entry, in order to facilitate record keeping. Different entries in the same category should not have the same name during any given competition year. Titles are especially important for entries in the Photojournalism category, as the title is taken into consideration by the judge and can play an important role in the judging.
6. Images that contain nudity, tasteless violence or insensitive subject matter, or anything else that may be considered inappropriate, can be summarily rejected from competition by the Competition Coordinator, Club President, or Club Vice President without appeal. The Board reserves the right to review and, if deemed warranted by a majority Board vote, to prohibit the display in any club content or as part of any Club-sponsored media any photo which, in

the Board's sole determination, may constitute a nude, graphic, and/or inflammatory subject matter which a majority of the Board believes is improper for display or use as part of any Club event or publication.

Image Manipulation & Editing

Digital manipulation and editing allows enhancements and modifications to improve an image while maintaining the photographic essence. It allows adjustments to exposure, contrast, sharpness, acceptable cropping, altering between horizontal and vertical, enhancement of overall color and High Dynamic Range (HDR).

Composite photographs are only acceptable when listed as an assigned category. They will only be accepted as long as all elements included are the submitting photographer's own work and the final result is still photographic in nature. Commercial clip art, parts of commercial photographic collections, or the work of another photographer may not be included. Removal of elements is permissible.

End-of-Year Awards

There are two types of awards given at the end of the SSCC year:

1. Image of the Year
2. Photographer of the Year

The winners of each of these awards are determined using different processes, and the information below describes each process.

Image of the Year Award

The Image of the Year (IoY) award is based on the results of the final competition hosted in May. In this competition, all images that have received a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award during the year are entered. Honorable Mention and non-placed images are excluded.

A judge will run this event as an "in/out" competition. In the in/out process:

- We will choose one category at a time (ex.: Nature – Wildlife) for the judge to evaluate.
- We will project one image at a time from the selected category onto the screen.
- The judge will select if the image moves forward in the competition, or is rejected (hence, in/out).
- This process will continue for multiple rounds within the category until only one photo remains (has never been rejected).
- This remaining photo will be the image of the year for that category.

The judge will work their way through all eight categories until there is one photo from each category that has been selected as the Image of the Year for that category.

The categories are:

1. Open Color – Beginner
2. Open Color – Intermediate
3. Open Color – Advanced
4. Open Color – Master
5. Black and White
6. Nature – Wildlife
7. Nature – General
8. Assigned category

Once a single image has been selected as the IoY for each category (a total of eight images), the judge will begin an in/out selection process, after which a single photo will remain. This photo is the overall Image of the Year. The judge will have the option of viewing all eight photos at one time if they wish to instead of completing an in/out process.

Winning image of the year does not require you to move up a competition level.

Photographer of the Year Award

The Photographer of the Year (PoY) award process is different from the IoY process. In this case, the PoY relies exclusively on the scores received by each photographer who has entered a competition during the SSCC club year. The scores given to every photo entry (Placement Award Scores) are added up for each photographer for the entire club year. The following levels will be used when determining PoY:

1. Beginner
2. Intermediate
3. Advanced
4. Master

Whoever has the most cumulative points for each of these levels will be considered the PoY for their level. In the case of a tie, each of the photographers will be declared PoY.

Any photographer who is declared Photographer of the Year due to their high scoring must move up to the next level the following year. The Beginner PoY moves up to Intermediate; the Intermediate PoY moves up to Advanced; and Advanced PoY moves up to Master. The Master PoY does not move up as there is no level above Master.

Section 5: Competition Judging

Judging

All images are judged by an independent judge during the two weeks prior to the Competition Night meeting. On Competition Night all of the images entered are shown, and commentary is given on the images.

The judge determines the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and Honorable Mention in each category. On the night of the competition, recognition will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners as well as Honorable Mentions. Multiple awards for tied scores may be given at the discretion of the judge.

In the event there are five or fewer images in a category, a maximum of a 1st and 2nd place will be awarded, or, at the discretion of the judge, no prizes may be awarded. If there are six images or more, the judge will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, and a maximum of 3 Honorable Mentions. If 10 images or fewer are entered, the judges are encouraged not to automatically award all 3 Honorable Mentions.

Any club member who is called upon to judge a competition in the absence of a scheduled judge may not enter the competition for that month. If the member has already submitted images to the competition, the images will be disqualified for that month. Following standard competition rules, these images may be entered into another monthly competition.

Scoring

Points are awarded to each winning entry as follows:

First Place	30 points
Second Place	25 points
Third Place	20 points
Honorable Mention	15 points

In case of a tie, duplicate points will be awarded.

* Every qualified photo that is entered into a competition receives 5 points.

What the points are used for:

- Points are used for Photographer of the Year awards
- Points are used for advancement in competition level
- If you earn 200 points or more in competitions during one SSCC competition year, you automatically advance you to the next level the next year

Additional guidance:

- When a new club year begins in September, all members' points start at zero again
- Members will consult with the Competition Coordinator to make any voluntary changes in level
- New Members will choose their starting level after consulting with level descriptions.
- Any questions or issues can be brought to the President or a designated board member
- Professional photographers are advised to enter at the Masters competition level

Levels and Advancement

Each member will choose which level they will compete in based on their skill. New Members will choose their level after consulting with level descriptions.

The levels are as follows:

Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Master

- Any questions or issues can be brought to the President and a designated board member
- Professional photographers are advised to enter at the master's level
- If any member feels that they are in the incorrect level, they may bring the issue to the President
- Current members may and should move to the next level (i.e. beginner to intermediate) if they feel that their skills have progressed to that next level.
- 200 placement points earned in competition during one SSCC competition year automatically advances you to the next level

So that new members can appropriately assess the level at which they should compete, below is general guidance for each level:

- **Beginner** level is reserved for folks who have little experience with photography. You might still be learning how to compose images, how to get the desired exposure, how to use your camera, etc.
- **Intermediate** level is for photographers who have been involved in making photos for a while. You feel comfortable around a camera, understand basic composition, and have a pretty good understanding about exposure. You may have entered competitions or juried exhibits.
- **Advanced** level is for people who know what they are doing. You are confident around the camera. You know how to manage exposure. You have probably entered photo competitions in the past.
- **Master** is for those beyond Advanced.

Section 6: Uploading Images for the Digital Competition

To upload your images go to: <http://sscc.photoclubservices.com/>

You will need to have an account setup there. If you do not have an account, please email ssccsite@gmail.com and the Competition Coordinator will set you up with an account.

Brief instructions (Please see the website for complete detailed instructions):

1. Select **Competitions** from the Main Menu
2. Select **Submit Images to Competition**
3. Then select the competition you wish to submit to
4. Click **Upload Images** into the Competition at the bottom of the screen. When the dot turns green, save your image.

You can submit 2 images per month, a total of 14 for the year. The system will only allow you to enter one image per category, until you reach two submissions. After that, it won't let you upload any more for the competition that month.

Section 7: Competition categories

Open color (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Master levels)

This category can be interpreted liberally as that area of photography which shows the viewer a scenic vista, cityscape, pets, reflections, travel, nature, or any other image demonstrating impact, color, composition and a point of interest. Portraits, photojournalism, and nature images may also be entered in this category, at the photographer's option, but will be judged as Open.

Black & White (all levels combined)

Black & White may be toned (sepia or brown) but may not be hand colored or tinted.

Nature: Wildlife; Nature: General (all levels combined)

A photograph depicting the wildlife of our planet, such as animals in the wild, birds in a natural environment will now be entered into Nature: Wildlife. Landscapes of natural beauty, wild and cultivated plants, etc. will now be entered in Nature: General.

Images that show the obvious hand of man (man made patterns, rows, etc.), domesticated animals, scenes showing cultivated fields, fences, houses, telephone lines, mowed grass, etc. will be disqualified. However, images in which a man made object is part of the creature's natural habitat, such as a stork in a roof nest, a barn swallow in its nest in a barn, as well as tagged animals in the wild, are acceptable. Cultivated plants are accepted in Nature: General category as long as the hand of man is not present or visible in the image.

Not acceptable are images such as birds on a fence post, or man made surfaces (decks, concrete, railings etc.).

Assigned Categories (all levels combined)

This category is determined each year by the Board of Directors. It consists of a list of a different theme for each month. The list will be published to the membership at the end of the club year in May. This will allow the membership to work on the assigned categories over the summer.