



Member's Handbook

Formerly the Niagara Falls Camera Club
Website: NiagaraPhoto.org
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/nfccFB/

Revised August 2025

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WELCOME

The Niagara Association of Photographic Art (NAPA) invites you to explore the many facets of photography through programs, workshops, competitions, critiques and the exchange of ideas. The purpose of the club is to improve the members' photographic skills through the sharing of ideas and experiences. Members range from beginners to widely experienced photographers.

Meetings and programs will be held at 7:00 p.m. (refreshments at 6:30 p.m.) at the Stamford Centre Volunteer Fireman's Association on Dorchester Road at Fireman's Park. Meetings are generally held September through March on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Please refer to the program guide or website for the current schedule (<https://niagaraphoto.org/program/>).

NAPA holds monthly competitions open to all paid members. There is also an Image of the Year Competition in March.

The annual Rainbow Competition between the Niagara Association of Photographic Art and the Twin Cities Camera Club (from Tonawanda, NY) is held in April with the two clubs taking turns as host.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Since 1954 the Niagara Association of Photographic Art has been meeting to provide an avenue for interested persons to learn, enjoy, explore and to discuss photography. Originally known as the Niagara Peninsula Colour Photographic Club then the Niagara Falls Camera Club, it was assisted in its beginnings by the Hamilton Camera Club.

Over the years the Club has been variously located in the Y.W.C.A., Memorial School, the H.G. Acres building and the Morrison St. United Church until September 1975, when it made its home in the Niagara Falls Public Library. Starting September 2022, the club now meets at the SCVFA Hall at Fireman's Park.

The Club's chief purpose is to increase its members' photographic skills. There is an equal emphasis on Digital Images and on Colour and Monochrome Prints. Programs are diverse and wide-ranging, from photo-essays to instructive workshops, competitions, seminars and photo outings.

In 2023, the NFCC changed its name from The Niagara Falls Camera Club to the Niagara Association of Photographic Art. This change reflects the growing interest in photography as an art form and our focus on the image as opposed to the equipment used to create the image.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Membership entitles you to:

- attend all regular NAPA meetings and workshops
- participate in monthly competitions in which
 - images are evaluated
 - awards made
 - suggestions for improvement given
- participate in members only outings

Annual Membership Fee

- Single - \$60.00
- Family (Two adult members considered spouses) \$100.00

The membership fee entitles members to compete in any of our competition groups.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

NAPA will embrace diversity and find value in each other's unique experiences, perspectives and characteristics. We will celebrate our authentic selves and foster an environment where everyone feels included and appreciated. A reminder that we will refrain from phrases and questions that maintain a stereotypical imagery and that are culturally insensitive. Discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated and it is important to maintain an accepting environment and avoid making generalizations about groups based on gender, sexuality, religion, political affiliation or race.

NIAGARA ASSOCIATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ART COMPETITIONS

Participation in our monthly competitions is the ultimate learning experience! Images will be assessed and scored on the monthly competition night by experienced professional and semi-professional photographic judges who will give constructive commentary as time permits. The member's name will be announced if the image receives an Honour award or Honourable Mention. In each of the competition groups members may enter a maximum of two (2) entries per competition for a maximum of twelve (12) per year.

Any image entered in monthly competitions may be used at the discretion of NAPA to represent the NAPA in outside competitions. Members not wishing their images to be used will still be eligible for NAPA competition ribbons and all major annual awards.

SCORING

Entries may earn a maximum of 15 points. The minimum score for obtaining an Honour Award (Ribbon) is given as follows (**UPDATED August 2025**):

Bronze Group (Beginners)	10 points
Silver Group (Some Experience)	11 points
Gold Group (Advanced)	12 points
Diamond Group (Medalists from Gold)	13 points
Platinum Group (Experts)	14 points

ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS

A member begins by entering either prints and/or digital images in the Bronze Group and advances after earning the following number of ribbons in one year (**UPDATED August 2025**):

Bronze to Silver	- 7 ribbons of at least 10 pts each
Silver to Gold:	- 8 ribbons of at least 11 points each
Gold to Diamond:	- 9 ribbons of at least 12 points each
Diamond to Platinum:	- 10 ribbons of at least 13 points each

SCORING GUIDELINE

The list below provides both judges and competitors and guide as to what an image may score or why a judge may have given an image a particular score.

9. Below Average. Image shows significant faults in composition and technique
10. Average, undistinguished; unmemorable. Shows minor faults. Lots of room for improvement in composition, interpretation, etc.
11. Good. Competent: technically satisfactory, but lacking in impact, interest, strength of composition, etc
12. Very good, but falls short of excellent rating
13. Excellent. Demonstrates photography mastery; a memorable picture
14. Outstanding; dramatic; beautiful; technically superb; very strong impact
15. Unique; outstanding; stunning; flawless

COMPETITION RULES FOR DIGITAL IMAGES & PRINTS

1. The photographer must be a paid-up member of the Niagara Association of Photographic Art.
2. Each member may enter a total of two images a month in any one or more of the six categories. Extra points will be given for images entered in more than one category.
3. No Digital Image or Print or similar variation of that image that has won a ribbon locally may be entered again in any local monthly competition. The decision is left to the discretion of the Print Committee/Projected Image Committee.
4. Digital Images (Projected and Prints) must be based on original photographic images. No clipart, AI elements or purchased images are allowed.
5. Images made at workshops may not be submitted for monthly competition. A workshop is defined as a formal instructional situation in which the setting and/or subject is prearranged by someone other than the photographer.
6. To be eligible for the Top of Division awards at the end of the year, 100% participation is required in the monthly competitions during that competition year, i.e. 12 entries are required for full participation.
A participating member with less than 12 entries in a Division will not be eligible for the award.
7. If a tie exists in the score of the top Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond or Platinum group, it will be broken in the following manner:
 - a. **First** - the person with the most honour awards will be declared the winner;
 - b. **Second** - if a tie still exists, the scores will be checked and the person with the most 15's will be declared the winner.
 - c. If each person has the same amount of 15's, then the 14's, 13's etc will be checked in the same manner until the tie is broken.
 - d. If a tie still exists after checking down to the 6's, the persons will be declared tied.
8. Any image entered in monthly competitions may be used at the discretion of the Executive to represent the Niagara Association of Photographic Arts in other external competitions.

Images entered will be shown at the NAPA meetings. Titles and scores will be given, and, in the case of an award-winning entry, the maker's name will be announced as well. Constructive comments will also be given as time permits.

CATCH-UP RULES FOR DIGITAL IMAGES & PRINTS

Missed entries can be made up only by submissions in the following month. Only one double submission is permitted per member per category (Digital, Colour Print, Monochrome Print) per year.

For example, if a member misses September's competition, the member is permitted to submit September's entries along with October's entries. September's entries are to be clearly indicated. If September's entries are not submitted in October they will not be accepted in subsequent months. The competition Chair reserves the right to make exceptions.

MONTHLY PROJECTED IMAGE: SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Competition will be limited to Digital Images. The maximum size of each image is 1920 pixels wide (horizontal) and 1080 pixels high (vertical). Images should be submitted as JPEG files.
2. Color space should be sRGB.
3. Resolution: There is no need to change the resolution.
4. Entries must be emailed to the Digital Image/Slide Chair by a prescribed date as indicated in the program, the deadline being one week prior to the competition.
5. Each member may enter a total of two images per month in any one or more of the six categories. One extra point will be awarded for images entered in more than one category.
6. Digital Files must be named according to rules *in the next section*.

PROJECTED IMAGES COMPETITION: FILE NAMING RULES

Digital files are to be named using the following five fields:
Category, Level, Entry Number, Member's name & Image name.
The fields are separated by the Underscore symbol (_).

Entry Category		Level	
Action	A	Bronze	B
Creative	C	Silver	S
Nature	N	Gold	G
Photojournalism	J	Diamond	D
Pictorial	P	Platinum	P
Portrait	T		

Entry Numbers: Two-digit numbers between **01 and 12**

Month	September	October	November	December	January	February
Entry Number	01, 02	03, 04	05, 06	07, 08	09, 10	11, 12

The file naming format is:

DIGITAL: Category_Level_Entry Number_Member's Name _Image Name

For example:

1. Mary Smith (Bronze Competitor) is a member entering her first competition. She titles her first entry which is a pictorial image as follows:
P_B_01_Mary Smith_Lighthouse at Dusk.jpg
2. John Henry is at the silver level and has a nature entry. It is his second entry in November (i.e. his 6th entry for the year) The file will be named as follows:
N_S_06_John Henry_Snoopy Raccoon

Files may be submitted by email to the Digital Image Chair at digital@NiagaraPhoto.org or brought to the club on a CD or USB storage device the meeting prior to the competition.


MONTHLY PRINT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (COLOUR & MONOCHROME)

1. Prints entered in competition may be produced by the photographer in his/her own darkroom, printed by a commercial photo lab or printed as a digital print.
2. Each member may enter up to two (2) prints per competition in the monochrome division and/or two (2) prints per competition in the colour division.
3. Entries must be submitted on the night of the competition.
4. All prints must be mounted on heavy cardboard, or foam core board. No frames or glass are allowed.
5. The maximum size for prints shall be 320 square inches, including mat, not to exceed 30 inches in length and 24 inches in height. The minimum size for prints shall be 80 square inches (8"x10"), not including mat.
6. Each print must have a completed entry card attached to the back of the print in the top right-hand corner. **NEW:** All prints submitted should be accompanied by a digital image submitted electronically to the print chair prior to the competition when possible.
7. Monochrome prints and Colour prints will be judged separately. A monochrome image is an image in black and white or in shades of only one colour. A colour image is an image that is not monochrome.

Print Competition Entry Form

An entry form (shown at right) must be submitted with each print. Entry forms are available from the Print Chair of the club.

Ron Planche - email:
ronplanche@gmail.com

 NAPA Enter Month Here Submission PRINT # <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> SCORE <input style="width: 80px; height: 60px;" type="text"/> Honour Award <input type="checkbox"/> Honourable Mention <input type="checkbox"/>	2025/2026	
	<i>NAPA Print Evaluation and Competition Form</i>	
	Name: _____ <small>Please Type or Print Legibly</small>	
	Proficiency Level: Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Title of Print: _____ <small>Please Type or Print Legibly</small>	
	Category: Colour <input type="checkbox"/> Monochrome/B&W <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Print Category: Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Nature: <input type="checkbox"/> Pictorial: <input type="checkbox"/> <small>Category Definitions and rules are outlined in the Member's Handbook</small>	
	Creative: <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-J: <input type="checkbox"/> Portraits: <input type="checkbox"/>	
	NOTE: 1. You must attach this card to the BACK of your prints on the TOP RIGHT CORNER 2: Submit a DIGITAL COPY to the print chair PRIOR to the competition	

ENTRY CATEGORIES DESCRIPTION

1. **ACTION:** Must imply motion; for example, racing events, equestrian events, sports.
2. **PORTRAITS:** Formal or informal (i.e. studio or location shots). Poses of adults or children in which an attempt is made to portray character, personality and individuality of the subject.
3. **NATURE:** The heavens, the earth, the sea or any part thereof or any wild life in its natural state; must show no evidence of man such as animals in a cage or flowers in a garden.

Definition:

Images which feature animals (fauna) can be

1. Non-captive animals in their native habitat. However, images in which a manmade object has become part of the creature's natural habitat, such as a stork in a roof nest or a barn swallow in its nest in a barn, as well as tagged animals in the wild, are acceptable.
2. Captive animals that are living in a natural environment. These images must have been skillfully taken to avoid showing signs of the captivity. Game farms and zoos may sometimes provide such images.

Any image entered into this nature category must be truthful (documentary) to the subject as seen. Significant objects cannot be added or removed.

PSA Nature Definition of Nature Photography:

<https://psa-photo.org/resource/resmgr/pdf/divisions/nd/nd-interclub-guidelines.pdf>

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict 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 certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, 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, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

4. **PHOTO-JOURNALISM:** Human interest, story telling pictures as seen in the news media; humorous situations; sports happenings and events.

Photojournalism Definition (PSA): "Photojournalism entries shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Photojournalism competition."

No element may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effects filters can be applied. Any sharpening must appear natural.

5. **CREATIVE:** Departure from reality; montages, tabletops, manipulations, multiple exposures.

This category provides the photographer with the opportunity and challenge to display the broadest expression of imagination and creative thought.

Examples include abstracts, impressionism and symbolism. Techniques include but are not limited to computer manipulation, diffractions, distortions, multiple exposure, solarization, posterization, and multiple images. Also: motion blur, patterns, selective focus, zoomed exposures, sandwiched slides or layered images designed to yield non-objective or abstract images.

The original image must be an original composition from a slide, negative or digital camera.

6. **PICTORIAL:** That which does not fit into any of the above categories: land/seascapes which include the hand of man, architecture, domesticated birds and animals in zoos, cultivated plants, people at work, etc.

The use of photography as an art form. Emphasis is on interest value, composition, technical excellence and visual impact. Subjects are broad and include scenics, close-ups, buildings, and still life.

Text in bold represents NAPA Guideline Rules.

NAPA EXECUTIVE 2025-2026

President	Scott Simons	scott@scottsimons.ca
Past President	Karen Fulham	karenvfulham@gmail.com
Vice President	Dave Merrow	dmerrow@NiagaraPhoto.org
Secretary	Amy Haskin	ahaskin@NiagaraPhoto.org
Treasurer	Michelle Stranges	mstranges@NiagaraPhoto.org
Digital Chair	Chris Empey	cempey@NiagaraPhoto.org
Print Chair	Ron Planche	ronplanche@gmail.com
Program Chair	Karen Fulham	karenvfulham@gmail.com
House Committee	VACANT	
Publicity	Chris Empey	cempey@NiagaraPhoto.org
Newsletter	Doug Reilly	dreilly@NiagaraPhoto.org
Website/Zoom	Chris Empey	cempey@NiagaraPhoto.org
Outings	Lynette Mori Dave Bauer	lmori@NiagaraPhoto.org dbauer@NiagaraPhoto.org
Fall Seminar Chair	Virginia Stranaghan	vstranaghan@NiagaraPhoto.org
CAPA Representative	Katie Heykoop	capa@NiagaraPhoto.org

NIAGARA ASSOCIATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ART PRESIDENTS

1954 - 1955	Bea Peterson	1982 - 1984	Gerald Mangan
1955 - 1956	George S. Butt	1984 - 1986	Tom Howe
1956 - 1959	Dr. Don Johnstone	1986 - 1988	Frank Goulding
1959 - 1960	George S. Butt	1988 - 1990	Michael Aceti
1960 - 1962	Don Bainton	1990 - 1992	Tom Howe
1962 - 1963	George S. Butt	1992 - 1993	Jack Saddler
1963 - 1964	Gary Bernier	1993 - 1994	Michael Aceti
1964 - 1966	Lloyd Snider	1994 - 1996	Joy Robinson
1966 - 1967	Rene Gauthier	1996 - 1998	Scott Simons
1967 - 1969	Cora Barwell	1998 - 2000	Miriam Gersho
1969 - 1970	Robert Barron	2000 - 2001	Harry Mottershead
1970 - 1971	Lloyd Snider	2001 - 2003	Len Mather
1971 - 1972	Bess Barron	2003 - 2006	Terry Demray
1972 - 1973	Len Chorley	2006 - 2009	Chris Empey
1973 - 1974	Shirley Forth	2009 - 2012	Terry Babij
1974 - 1976	Peter McKenna	2012 - 2013	Chris Empey
1976 - 1978	Elsie Messer	2013 - 2015	Eric Baloga
1978 - 1980	William Bolton	2015 - 2020	Karen Fulham
1980 - 1982	Ted Ball	2020 -	Scott Simons