



North Haven Camera Club Competition Handbook

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by the Executive Board

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www.northhavencameraclub.com
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Table of contents

Chapter	Page
I. Eligibility to enter images in competition	3
II. Scheduled Competition Events	3
III. Photographer Skill Set Classifications.....	3
IV. Submission of Images.....	3
V. The Six (6) Scoring Categories and definitions.....	4
VI. Scoring.....	6
VII. Picture of the year.....	6
VIII. Submitting your images and prints into competition.....	6
IX. Judging Criteria.....	10

I. Eligibility to enter images in competition

Membership must be fully paid by October 1st of the current club season, before images can be submitted to any future competition category. New members joining at any point during the club season are required to have their membership dues paid before entering any competitions.

II. Scheduled Competition Events

The purpose of competition is to be motivational, educational and fun experience. We will conduct (8) eight monthly competitions (weather permitting) during the club season in each category in the following months; September through November, and January through May. If in the event of weather or another unknown event should cancel the scheduled competition, we will make every effort to reschedule.

Note: There is no competition in December or June

III. Photographer Skill Set Classifications

In order to maintain a fair and balanced competition environment, members will be assigned into one of three competitive Groups. Each Group can consist of any number of members.

1. **Group - B** – All new members will be placed in group B unless they are known to be or state they are more advanced
2. **Group - A** will be for members with advanced photography and or editing skills.
3. **Mentors Group** - This group will be for those members who are advanced or professional shooters or those members who are very highly skilled at photo editing.

Advancement of members to Group – A or Mentors Group

As members improve their photographic skills, an upgrade to Group - A, or Mentors will be warranted. It will be based upon the previous year's average scores in the print, traditional, realistic, assigned, manipulated, and nature categories. Those members who have an average yearly score of 24 or above, in two of the six categories, will advance to the next classification in the upcoming club season. See section VI regarding the year end scoring procedure. At its discretion the North Haven Camera Club Board can make mid-year and other adjustments, as required, to promote fair competition.

Requesting a Transfer into the next Classification Group

Any member may request to be included into Group - A or the Mentors group. Requests should be submitted to the board for review.

If a member feels that he or she has been placed in a Group unfairly or without merit, then they should notify any member of the executive board so that we can discuss the matter and seek out a remedy.

IV. Submission of images

1. A photographic image is a pictorial representation of the world around us, which can encompass many subjects and perspectives. When entering images for competition and/or special projects, we ask our members to refrain from submitting images of the human form that contain nudity. Nudity will be defined as exposed skin or body parts that would be considered to be unlawful in a public area. Images deemed tasteless, violent, or anything else that may be considered inappropriate or with an insensitive subject matter can be rejected.
2. Any image submitted for each of the categories must be that of the photographer submitting the image. In addition, all allowable post processing or editing of the submitted image must be an original image by the hand of the photographer entering that image.
3. Members can enter any number of categories they wish. Monthly scores and year-end awards are based on category performance only and not the number of categories entered. Each category is open to all three groups.

The maximum number of images allowed are five (5) images per month. Below lists the number of images allowed in each category:

- a. **Print Category:** Each member can only submit 1 image per month for a total of eight (8) print images per club year.
- b. **Assigned Subject Category:** Each member can only submit 1 image per month for a total of eight (8) digital images per club year.
- c. **Traditional, Realistic, Manipulated Art and Nature:** Each member can submit up to a total of Three (3) digital images in either of the above listed categories per month for a total of twenty four (24) for the year.

For example: 1 photo in Traditional, 1 in Realistic and 1 in Manipulated, 1 in Nature or all 3 photos in Traditional, Realistic, Manipulated or Nature or any other combination is allowed.

4. No make-up images will be accepted
5. Once a photo is entered in a competition the same photo may not be entered in another category for the remainder of the club season year. After the first year the photo may be entered in any other category than what it was originally entered. After the photo has been submitted twice it can no longer be entered into any competition category. If your image has placed has won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd it cannot be entered again.
6. If you are not sure if you image qualifies for a given category for competition, email your questions along to the Competition Chair no later than the Wednesday before the final submission date.
7. The Competition will close Saturday at 11:45 P.M. prior to the scheduled monthly competition.
8. Any image found to be ineligible after the 3 day window before the competition deadline will be removed from the competition without the opportunity to resubmit.
9. See section VII on how to submit your images into the monthly competitions.

V. The Six (6) Scoring Competition Categories and Definitions

1. **Traditional Category:** The viewer should not suspect that there has been an adjustment made

Permitted Post Processing:

- a. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the story or the pictorial content: changes to color, saturation, hue, vibrancy, brightness, contrast, levels, exposure, toning, sharpening, clarity, red eye reduction, perspective correction, noise reduction, white balance, highlight and shadow detail adjustments, resizing, dodging, dehaze and burning are allowed.
- b. The use of the healing brush or like tools shall be limited to removal of dust spots, scratches and objects
- c. Cropping and flipping images
- d. Straightening and leveling
- e. Monochrome images with a single hue (example... sepia toned)
- f. Vignette & soft blurring
- g. Border or frame that does not alter the basic image

Prohibited Post Processing:

- A. Inserting of elements not actually present when the photo was taken. *Example:* Adding a moon, replacing the sky, adding reflections, etc
- B. Computer generated effects such as watercolor or oil paints
- C. Computer generated graphics such as text or illustrator
- D. Textures or patterns
- E. Elements must not be moved, cloned, or added to the image
- F. Converted black & white images (in camera or in post processing) with colored elements
- G. Infrared images created with software manipulation
- H. Processing of multiple exposures of a single scene (HDR)
- I. Processing of multiple captures of a single scene employing focus stacking or multiple exposure
- J. Panorama stitching
- K. Blurring all or part of the image

2. **Realistic Composite Category:** The combining of visual elements from separate images by the photographer into a single image often to create the illusion that all those elements are part of the same realistic scene.

Permitted Post Processing:

- a. Layers
- b. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the story or the pictorial content: color, saturation, hue, vibrance, brightness, contrast, levels, exposure, toning, sharpening, clarity, red eye reduction, perspective correction, noise reduction, white balance, highlight and shadow detail adjustments, resizing, dodging and burning
- c. The use of the healing brush or like tools shall be limited to removal of dust spots, scratches and objects
- d. Cropping and flipping Images
- e. Straightening and leveling
- f. Processing of multiple exposures of a single scene (HDR)
- g. Processing of multiple captures of a single scene employing focus stacking or multiple exposure
- h. Panorama stitching
- i. Monochrome images with a single hue (example... sepia toned)
- j. Vignette & soft blurring
- k. Border or frame that does not alter the basic image
- l. Blurring all or part of the image

Prohibited Post Processing:

- a. Inserting of elements that do not maintain the appearance of reality or do not make the photograph realistic
- ~~b.~~ Computer generated effects such as watercolor or oil paints
- ~~c.~~ Computer generated graphics such as text or illustrator
- d. Textures or patterns
- e. Converted black & white images (in camera or in post processing) with colored elements
- f. Infrared images created with software manipulation

3. **Nature Category:** PSA Rules apply <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-nature-definition>

~~4.~~ **Assigned Subject Category:** This category shall follow the rules of the “Realistic Composite or Traditional Category” The assigned subject’s theme should be the main focus of the photo. Assigned subject category images are intended to be a fun way for members to stretch their photographic skills by trying new and different photographic techniques.

5. **Manipulated Art Category:** There are no limitations to the adjustments and the photo does not have to represent reality. The photographer of these images should feel free to use a wide range of tools and resources, limited only by imagination. The original image(s) shall be captured entirely by the photographer.

Permitted Post Processing:

- a. Layers
- b. Textures
- c. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the story or the pictorial content: color, saturation, hue, vibrancy, brightness, contrast, levels, exposure, toning, sharpening, clarity, red eye reduction, perspective correction, noise reduction, white balance, highlight and shadow detail adjustments, resizing, dodging and burning
- d. The use of the healing brush or like tools shall be limited to removal of dust spots, scratches and objects
- e. Cropping and flipping images
- f. Straightening and leveling
- g. Processing of multiple exposures of a single scene (HDR)
- h. Processing of multiple captures of a single scene employing focus stacking or multiple exposure
- i. Panorama stitching
- j. Monochrome images with selective color(s)
- k. Vignette & soft blurring

- l. Border or frame that does not alter the basic image
- m. Blurring all or part of the image
- n. Computer generated effects such as watercolor or oil paints
- o. The blending of several photos or parts of photos (all parts to be the members work) to achieve an artistic work.

Prohibited Post Processing:

- a. Computer generated graphics such as text or illustrator

Print Category: Traditional, Realistic or Manipulated Categories may be used

NOTE: Post processing is defined as adjustment(s) done through a computer and/or software.

VI. Scoring

1. *Monthly:*

- A. Three competition judges will score in each category of our monthly competitions.
- B. The score of six (6) through ten (10) with half points in-between will be the scoring range; with (six) 6 being considered the lowest and ten (10) the highest score value, with 7 being an average baseline for an image.
- C. The scores are then tallied by the highest to the lowest score in each category.
- D. The competition winners are derived in each category by the top 3 scores as follows: 1st place will be awarded to the highest score, followed by 2nd place which will consist of the next highest score then 3rd place will be the third highest score.
- E. In the event of a tie score in any category, then each member that consists of the tie score will be awarded the appropriate place standing.

2. *The Year-end Awards Scoring:*

- A. Your six (6) highest scores in each of the categories will be added together and then *divided by six (6)* even if you only enter less than six (6) images in the category. This number will be your average score for that category.
- B. The year end place winners are derived in each category by the top 3 average scores as follows: First Place will be awarded to the highest average score, followed by 2nd place, which will consist of the next highest average score, and then 3rd place will be the third highest average score. In the event of a tie score in any category, then each member that consists of the tie score will be awarded the appropriate place standing.

VII. Picture of the Year Award

1. To be eligible for the picture of the year, your image must have placed 1st. in your assigned group; i.e. Group A, Group B or Group Mentor.
2. Judging for the Picture of the Year will be conducted by at least one qualified outside judge and witnessed by two members of the North Haven Camera Clubs executive board.

VIII: Submitting your images and prints into competition

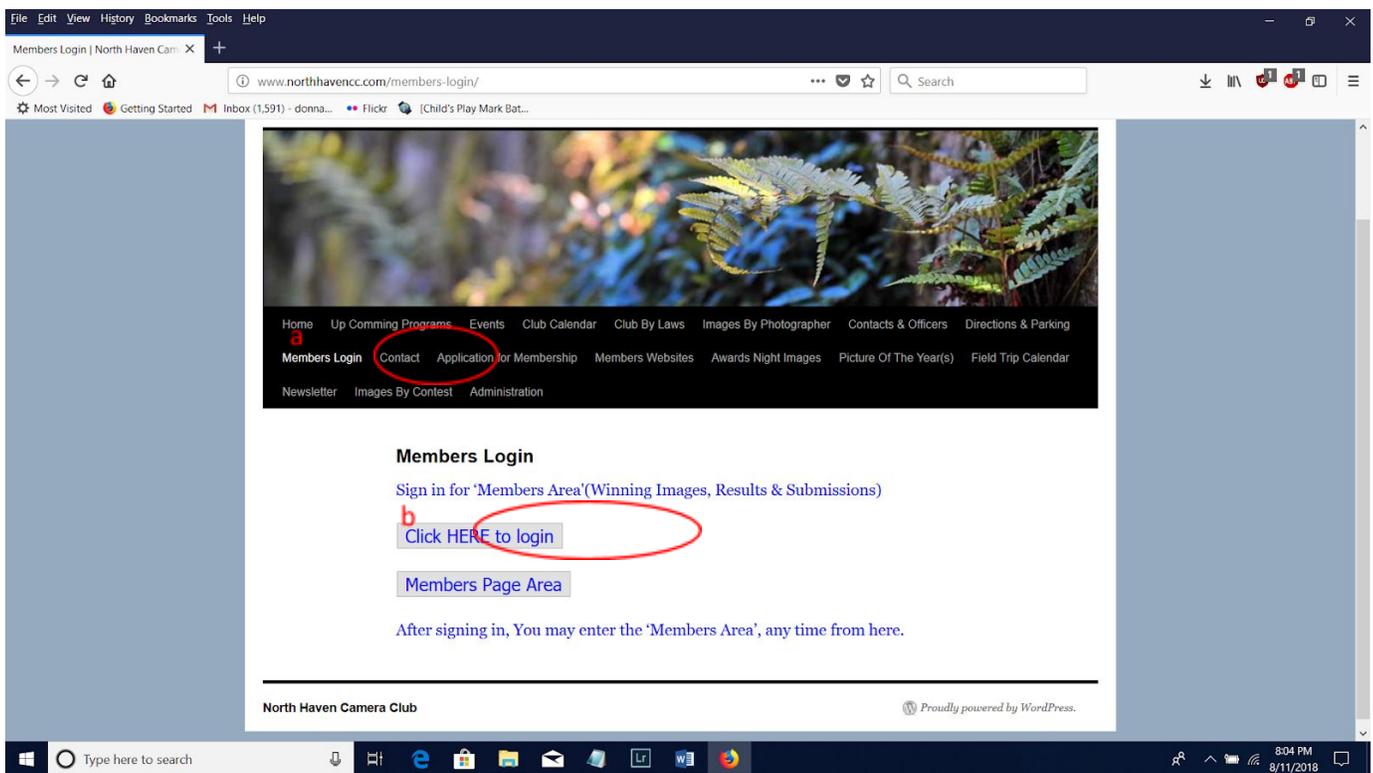
1. *Print Requirements*

- a. You must submit a digital image (see below) to enter and be scored in the print competition
- b. All categories rules are allowed when submitting prints for competition
- c. Prints can be submitted on traditional or alternative papers or be printed on metal or canvas

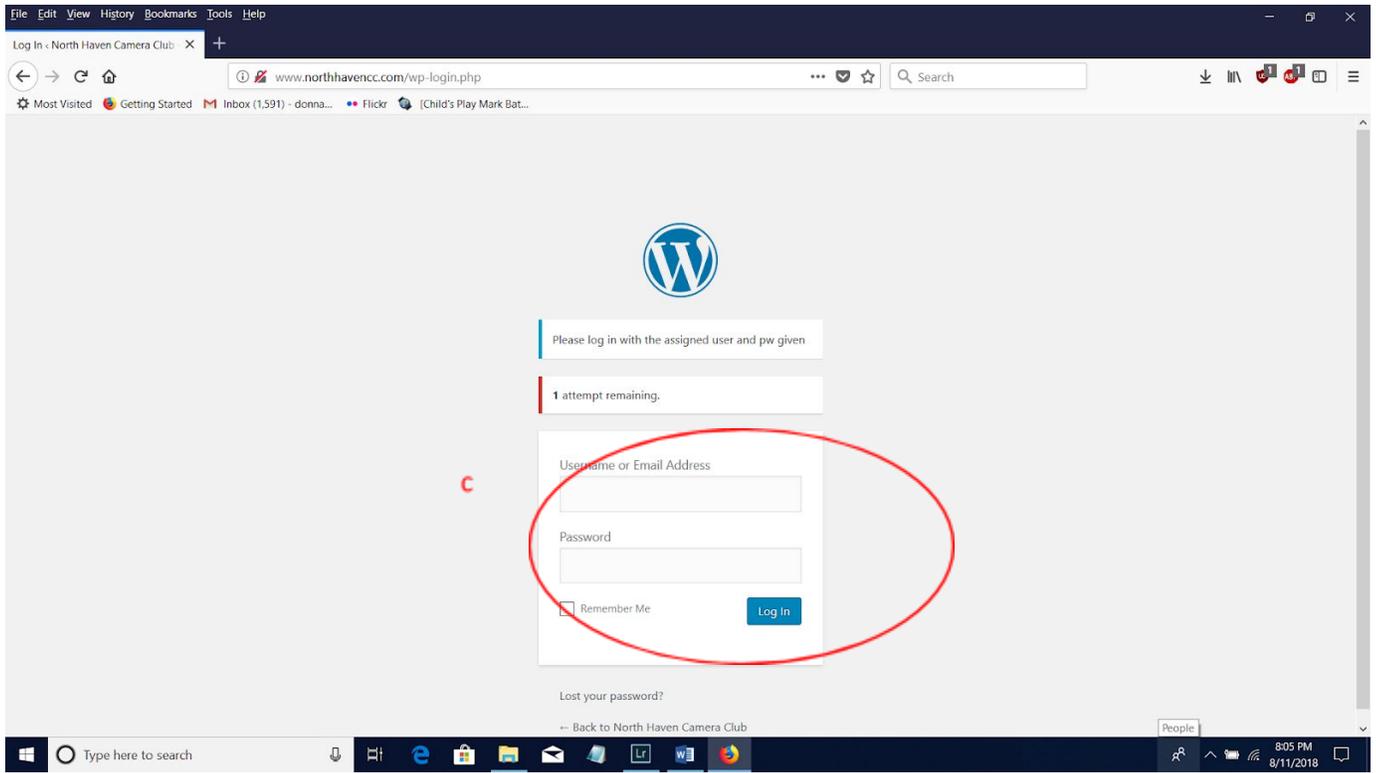
- d. All prints printed on paper must be matted or mounted. Although the image is the most important factor when judged, consideration should be given to presentation of your mat or mount. It should be neat, clean and enhance the print.
- e. To enter the print category, submit a digital image through the competition software (see section Digital Image section below)
- f. Prints must no smaller than 8 x10 and no longer than 16x20
- g. No Framed Prints in glass or Plexiglas is allowed.

2. Digital Image:

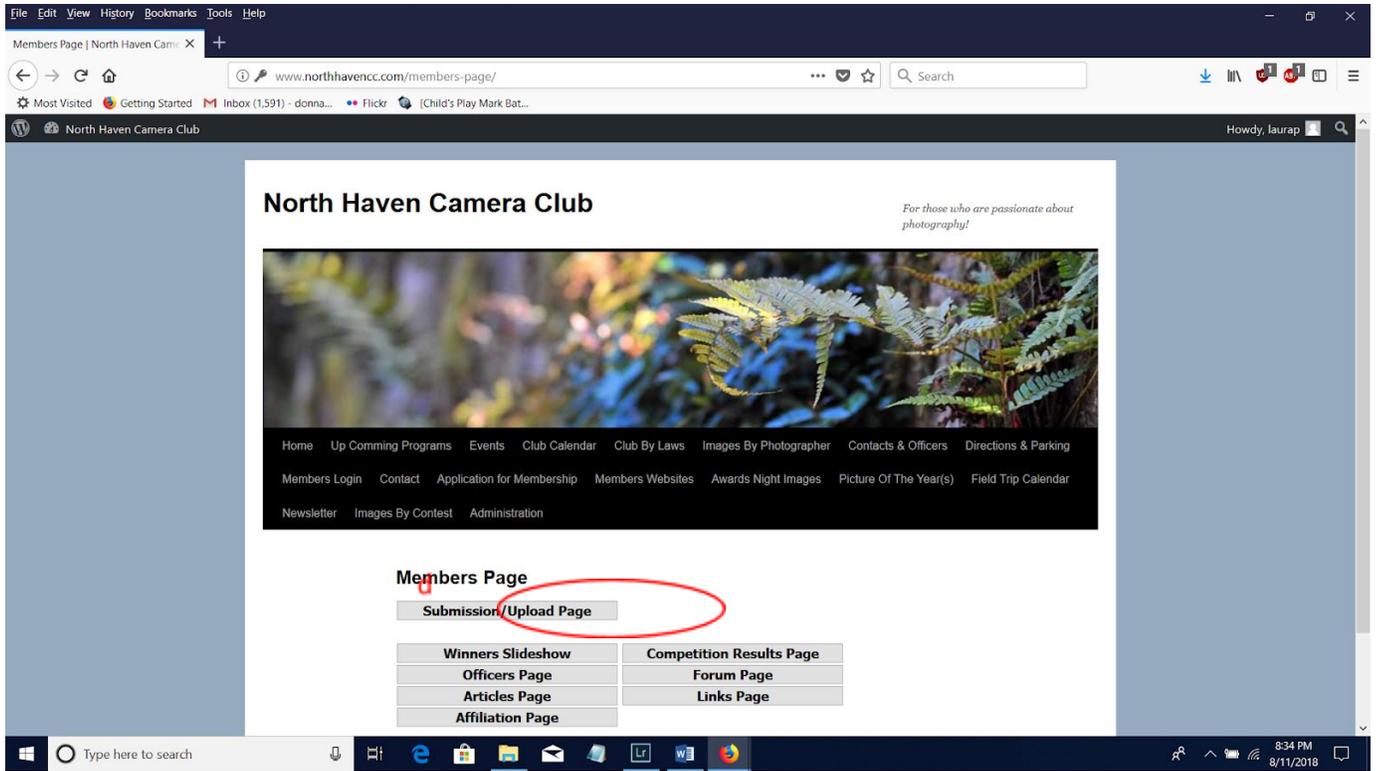
- a. Click on Member Login Page
- b. Click on "Click here to login"



- c. Enter Username and password

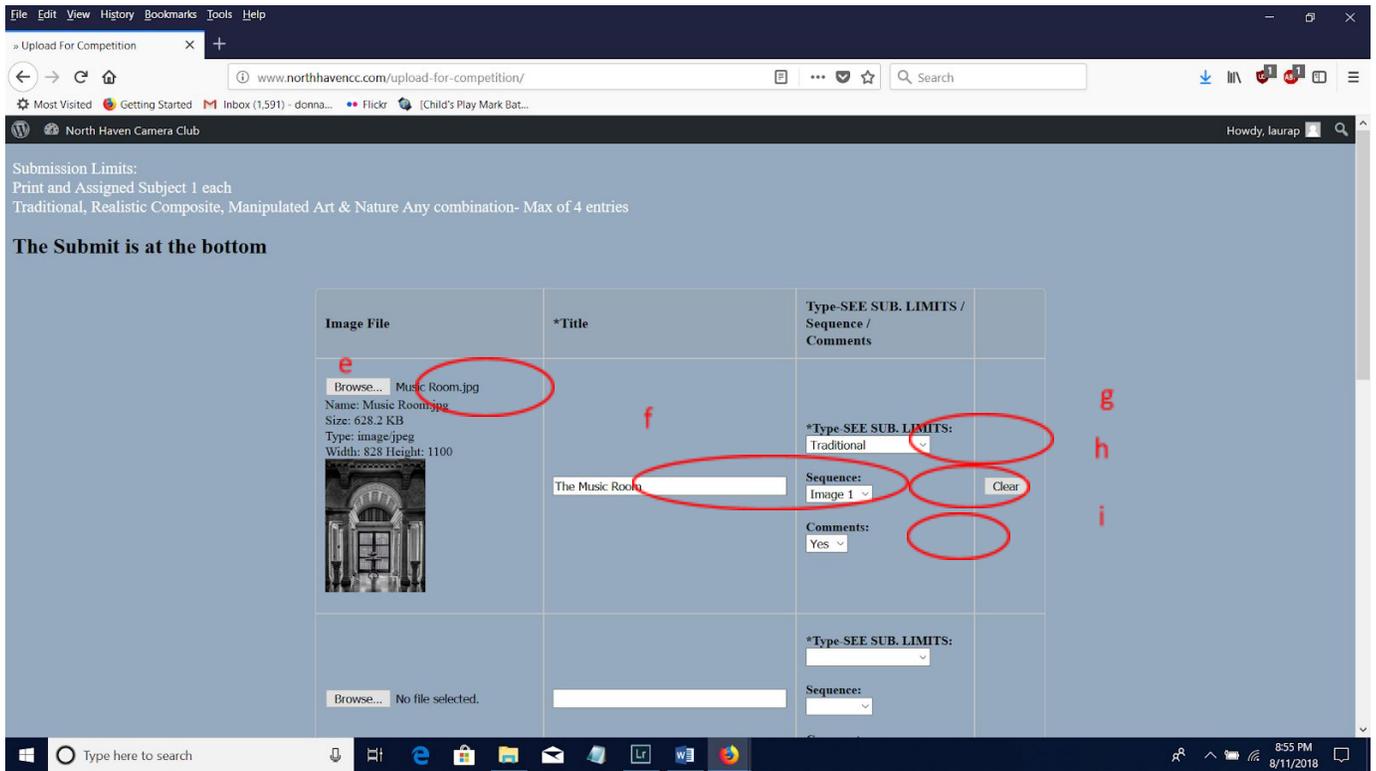


d. Click Submission/Upload Page

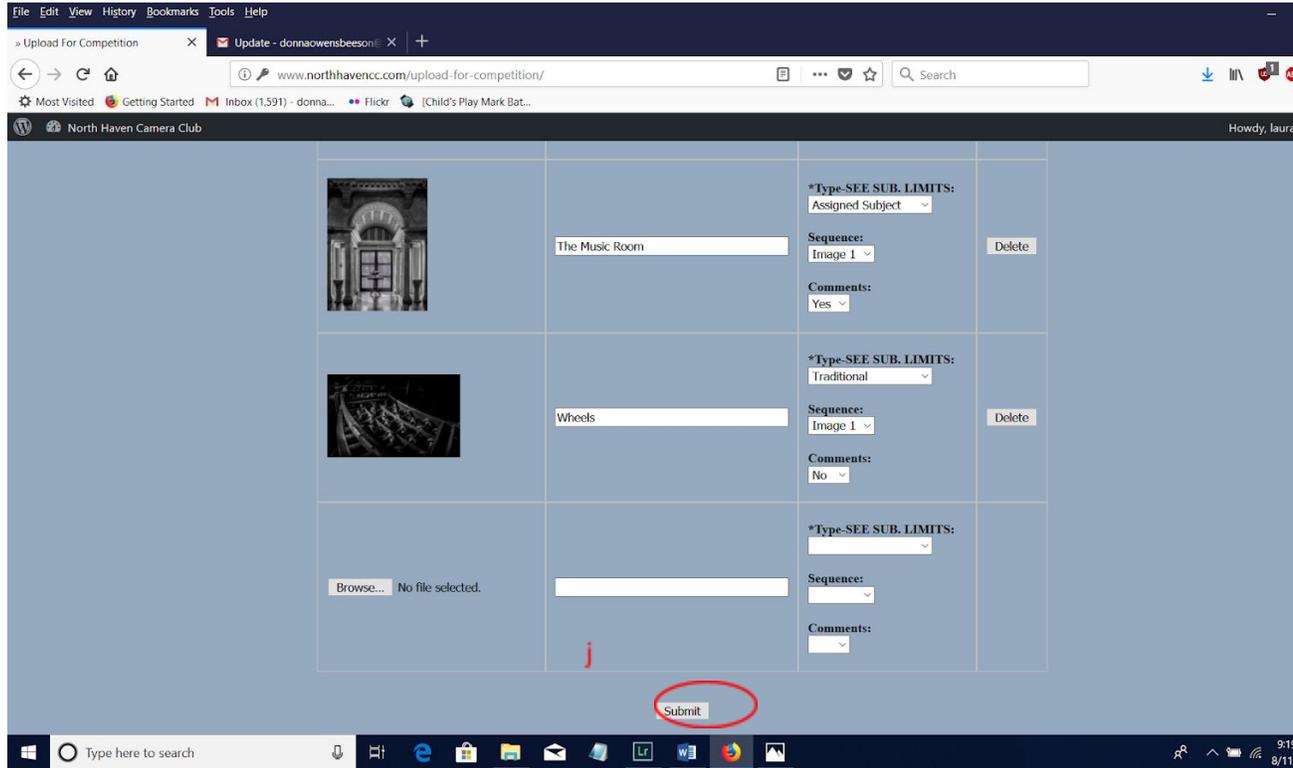


e. Click Browse and Choose your image.

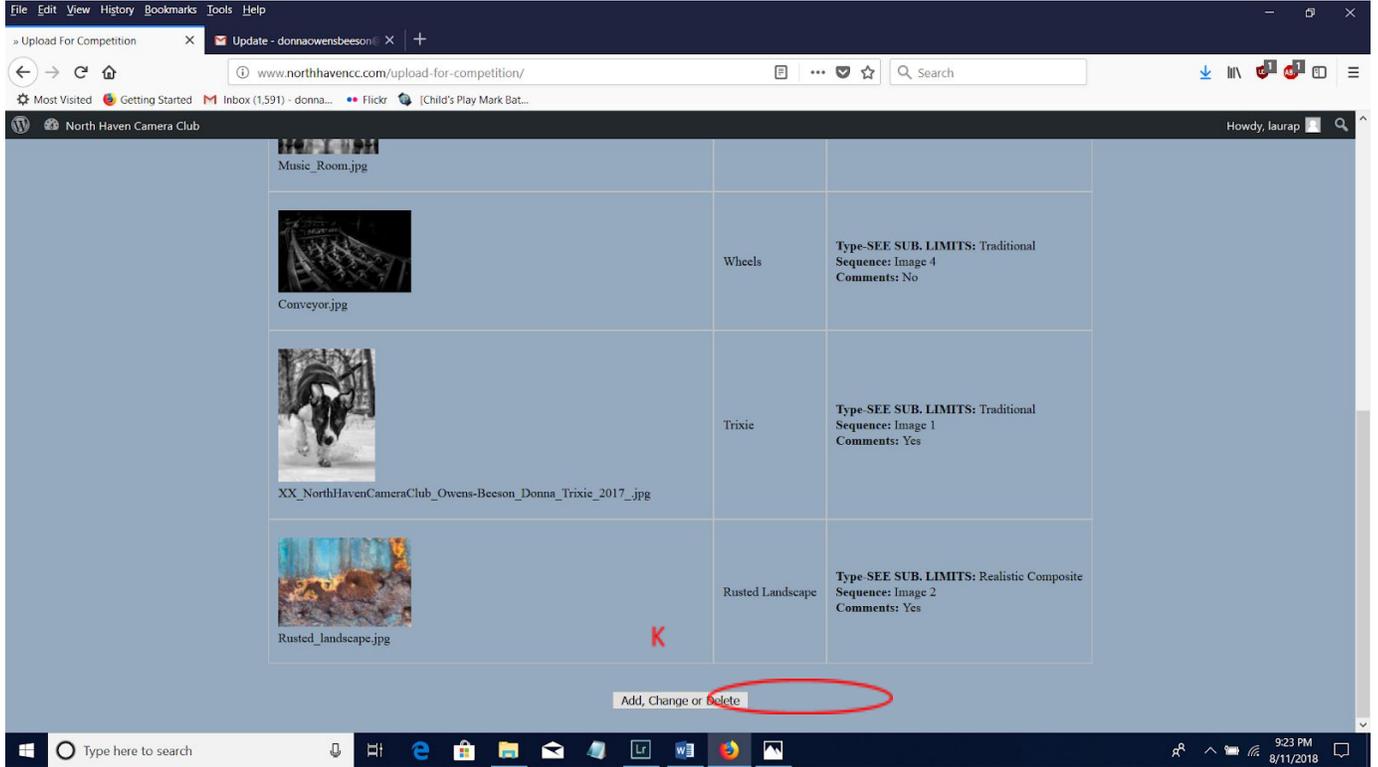
- i. All Images must be resized to fit within the dimensions of 1400px (width) X 1050px (height). For example, if the photo is a vertical it must be resized to fit 1050px..
- ii. The maximum file size must be less than 1 Megabyte.
- f. Title your image, No numbers or special characters are allowed in the title.
- g. Choose your category
- h. Sequence your image: Sequence your images 1 through 5
- i. Choose yes to indicate a critique from the judges



j. Once completed, click on submit to enter your images



k. Click add, change or delete to make adjustments



IX. Judging criteria

*The basic elements judges must consider when judging a photo in a competition.
(Note: before each competition, we will project on screen and directly to the sitting judges,
what is expected in their judging efforts).*

- A. Interest:** is that quality which captures the attention of the viewer. It may also be described as “impact”. Interest can be appeal, significance, drama, showmanship, or originality, depending on the qualities inherent to the subject or the way it is presented by the photographer.
- B. Technique:** is concerned with mechanics. It shows whether the photographer knows his tools. A judge might make these observations: Is the image sharp? If it is not sharp, did the photographer know what he was doing to get a special effect with blur or softness? Is the image underexposed or overexposed? If it is either, was it done for a reason? Is the image cropped properly to make a nice presentation? Technique can refer to pure technical perfection in a projected digital image or print or to special effects, such as high contrast, high or low key, masking processes, etc.
- C. Composition:** is the arrangement of subject matter in an effective or pleasing manner. Good composition literally makes you see what the photographer intends you to see. Factors in good composition include the following:
 1. **Emphasis:** The image should have one principal subject with everything else subordinate to it. You are not limited to one center of interest, only one main theme. The image should have harmony. Simplicity of arrangement is key.

2. **Balance:** This is a matter of balancing masses or tones from one side of the image to the other. Horizontal lines and lead lines, as well as placement of subject matter, are factors in balance.
3. **Unity:** The subject must be harmonious to its surroundings. Strong lines cutting across it from edge to edge should not separate the image. The eye should not have to jump from one subject to another with too much space between; nor should the image be cluttered or scattered.
4. **Color:** Although it might appear to belong under “Technique”, color is a part of composition. It can be used to convey a mood or impression to strengthen the message or impress the viewer with a particular sensation. An image adjustment to Monochrome or monochrome with a single color highlight is acceptable.

Lack of Distractions: The image should be free of distracting backgrounds and mergers. There should be no light corners or edges or light traps (also called “hot spots”) which attract attention. One should not be left with a feeling of incompleteness. No arms or legs should be “cut off” by the edge of the image

Judging Guidelines

Score Range In ½ points	6-10
Average Image	8
Perfect Image	10

Judges: Comments should be constructive and should help the photographer improve their technique and see things that might not have been seen before. Please use Laser Pointer to help show comments.

Photographers: Please understand that judging is a personal opinion and there are various points of view. These comments are provided to help us become better photographers.

Scoring should consider the following:

<p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does the image evoke emotion * Does the image tell the story * Does the image show creativity <p>Technical Quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sharpness * Good Depth of Field * Exposure * Lighting * Accurate color * Details in Shadows and Highlights * No Over and/or Underexposed areas 	<p>Composition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Good Cropping * Is the Subject Identifiable * Good Arrangement of Subject * Emphasis * Balance of subject in image * Unity of image * Movement of viewer's eye throughout image * Capture and hold viewer's attention * No bright sections that detract the viewer's eye away from the subject
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