

**Huntsville Photographic
Society
Welcome Packet**

Jan 2011

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Intro

Welcome to the Huntsville Photographic Society (HPS). This packet of information contains useful details about the society. Our goal is to promote the science and art of photography. Being over 50 years old, the society is one of the oldest photographic organizations in Alabama.

Websites

Currently HPS has two websites. One used for general information and the other used for photos.

www.HuntsvillePhotographicSociety.org contains most of the information listed in this document. It's also a good site to check for updates or changes to the meeting location, time and dates.

www.HPSphotos.smugmug.com contains our monthly contest digital entries and winners. It also has fieldtrip photos, Photoshop Practice photos and Feedback Forum photos.

BiMonthly Meetings

HPS meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Meetings are typically at the Huntsville Madison County library in the auditorium at 7:00pm. Occasionally meetings must be moved to other locations due to library being closed or other schedule conflicts. The first meeting each month is a program. Programs may be presented by HPS members or non-members. The second meeting is our monthly contest. Each month has a different topic. Topics are chosen at the start of the year. If a month has a fifth Monday, we have an open forum meeting. People come to discuss general photography topics, show off pictures or equipment or ask questions.

Dues

Membership fees are due at the start of the year and cover a calendar year. Dues are \$20 for an individual or family. Student's dues are \$10. For members who join after June, the dues are 1/2 price.

Newsletter

Our newsletter, "In Focus", is sent out each month. Although we send a few hard copies to members we prefer to send soft copies through email. If you are not receiving a newsletter, please notify the newsletter editor. Newsletters are also available online at our main website (www.HuntsvillePhotographicSociety.org). At the end of the newsletter is contact information for the newsletter editor along with all other board members. Members are encouraged to contribute articles for the newsletter. This includes local events of interest, photo techniques, book reviews and personal accomplishments or awards. The newsletter can also list items for sale by members.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

The following points will be awarded for monthly competition.

- First Place = 5 points
- Second Place = 4 points
- Third Place = 3 points
- Honorable Mention = 1 point

Lifetime points and number of wins will be tracked for each HPS member and the following awards given.

- Fellow of HPS for 20 **wins** (includes 1st, 2nd, 3rd and HM's)
- Bronze Star for 20 **points** obtained after Fellow award
- Silver Star for 40 **points** obtained after Fellow award
- Gold Star for 60 **points** obtained after Fellow award
- Master of Photography for 100 **points** obtained after Fellow award and after public exhibition of photographers work

Master's exhibition must meet the following requirements:

- At least 6 images must be displayed
- Exhibition must last at least 5 days.
- Exhibition must be in a public venue
- Exhibition must occur before the 100 points are obtained or within a year after obtaining 100 points
- Photographer must notify Competition Secretary of exhibit for confirmation
- Exhibitions may be part of a multiple artist exhibit

Best of the Year Competition and Year End Banquet

At the end of the year, HPS holds a banquet. Three events happen during the banquet.

1. A Best of the Year contest is held. Any image that has placed during normal competition during the year is eligible for entry into the Best of the Year competition. No points are awarded for the Best of the Year competition. It is the responsibility of the photographer to track their winning images and resubmit them in November for Best of the Year contest. Note: Digital entries that have placed do NOT need to be resubmitted.
2. The President's award is presented to the member who acquired the most points during the year in normal monthly competitions.
3. Lifetime achievement awards are presented.

Sponsorship & Monthly Prizes

Costco sponsors HPS and gives the following prizes each month

- First place = Free 12" x 36" or 12"x24" print
- Second place = Free 12"x18" print
- Third place = Free 8"x12" print

Winners do not need to be members of Costco and should go to Costco photo lab to claim their prize. Prizes must be claimed before following month's contest or within 30 days of the contest.

Mentor Program

HPS has a mentoring program. Any photographer wishing to get help with their photography can sign up. When they sign up they can list what kind of help they are looking for (technical, composition, macro, portrait, etc.) Any experienced photographer can also sign up as a mentor. When mentors sign up they can list the area of photography they feel they can help others with. The student and mentor can then discuss what works for both of them. It could be as simple as the mentor critiquing the students work, a sit down over coffee discussing items, or a hands on photography outing. Students are welcome to try several mentors too. Currently Jerry Green is coordinating this program. Jerry can be contacted at: gofish80@comcast.net

Photoshop Practice Program

In 2009 we started the Photoshop Practice group. This is a subgroup within HPS focused on improving our photo editing skills. An image is sent out to the participants and each person edits the image to improve it the best they can. Any edits can be done to the image with the one exception. No NEW items can be added to the image (i.e. you can't paste a dog into the image. Although you could move an existing dog from one location to another or erase it altogether.) The images are posted at: www.HPSphotos.smugmug.com/PhotoshopPractice. For more information or to join the group contact Rick Kress at: rgkress@knology.net

Feedback Forum Program

In 2009 we started the Feedback Forum Gallery. This is a site where members can post their images with the intent to have other HPS members and the photographic community in general critique their images. Images can be viewed and commented on at: www.HPSphotos.smugmug.com/Feedback-Forum. For more information contact Rick Kress at rgkress@knology.net

Field Trips

Occasionally HPS will go on photographic field trips. Andrea Shetley is our current activities vice president. The activity VP is the contact point and organizer for our fields but any member can actually lead the field trip. Any member who would like to lead a field trip should coordinate with Andrea.

Competition Topics 2011

Jan	Minimalism	Aug	Night or Low Light
Feb	Open	Sep	Open
Mar	Modes of Transportation	Oct	Scenic North AL / Southern TN
Apr	Curves	Nov	In the Woods
May	Pairs	Dec	Awards Banquet
Jun	Musicians	Jan '12	Still Life
Jul	Cityscapes		

Rules for Monthly Contest *(from website)*

Who? What? When?

- Contests are held every fourth Monday of the month.
- All HPS members are eligible to enter the monthly contests. All entries that place during the year are then eligible for competing in the end-of-year competition held on the second Monday of the December.

Rules of Competition

Basic Rules

- Only current, dues-paying, members in good standing may enter competition.
- A total of *six* entries per competition are allowed but only *four* in any one category are allowed.
- Entries must be submitted no later than five minutes after the time the meeting is scheduled to begin. (e.g. Entries must be "in the hands" of the competition secretary by 7:05PM)
- Once an image has placed in a monthly competition (1st, 2nd, 3rd or Honorable Mention), that image, or one nearly identical, may not be re-entered in a monthly HPS contest unless the image is significantly modified. Significant modification could include things like major cropping of the image or changing the image from color to monochrome or vice versa. Other modifications could also qualify. The competition secretary will be the judge if an image has been significantly modified.
- The author of an entry is to remain anonymous as far as possible until judging is completed.
- There should be no comments during initial viewing.

Categories

Color Prints

- Minimum print size is 5x7 inches.
- Print must be mounted and may be matted. Color mats are welcome. ***Absolutely no frames!***
- Mounted print along with mat, must fit within the light box (currently 30" wide x 22" tall)
- Print your name on the back.
- Indicate the ***top*** of your print on the back.
- All prints must be two dimensional. Prints that have been intentionally folded to stand out will not be allowed.
- Entries must be a single print. Mats with multiple openings will not be allowed unless explicitly stated for a particular topic.

Monochrome Prints

- Follow the same rules as for color prints.
- Monochrome prints can be Black and White or Sepia or any other single color along with white. If a print has two or more colors (i.e. hand tinted or colorized) it is considered a color print.

Digital Entries

- See below for separate page of digital rules

Rules for Monthly Contest - Digital Entries *(from website)*

How the competitions will be conducted

Entries will be placed on a website approximately 5 days before the competition. The judge for that month will be given access to the photos and will inform the Digital Competition Secretary of their choices for first, second, third, and honorable mentions (awards base on the current HPS competition rules). If the judge cannot get access to the photos, they will be asked to come a little earlier than normal on competition night and allowed to judge the photos before the actual meeting. If they cannot show up early, they will judge the digital photos along with the other three categories during the meeting. Regardless of when the judging occurs, all entries will be displayed followed by the winners at the meeting. The judge will comment on entries if time permits.

Submission Method

Two choices of submission will be supported:

- 1) By CD to the Digital Competition Secretary (usually at the preceding meeting).
- 2) By email. Send photos to HPSContest@knology.net. With the subject line: HPS Contest.

NOTE: It is very important to have the correct subject line. ALL OTHER EMAIL WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DISCARDED. Also note that the email address does not have a space between HPS and Contest but the subject line must have a space!

Digital Secretary must have photos 1 week (7 days) before the competition. The Digital Competition Secretary or a designated board member will accept CDs at the 1st meeting of each month for that month's competition.

Submission Requirements

- JPG images only
- 8-bit color (I bits/channel)
- sRGB color space (this is default for most cameras)
- Maximum width is 1024 pixels
- Maximum height is 768 pixels
- File size must be less than 800 Kilobytes
- File name MUST be in the following format: YY-MM-#-YourName.jpg
- YY year of the competition
- MM month of the competition
- # entry number (1, 2, 3 or 4)
- YourName your first and last name, no spaces, initial caps (all in lower case except the first letter of first and last names).
- dash (not underscore) is used between each field

Examples:

- 06-10-1-JoeBoyd.jpg (Joe Boyd's 1st entry for the October 2006 contest)
- 06-10-2-JoeBoyd.jpg (Joe Boyd's 2nd entry for the October 2006 contest)
- 06-10-1-GuyMcCallister.jpg (Guy McCallister's 1st entry for the October 2006 contest)

07-01-1-RickKress.jpg (Rick Kress's 1st entry for the January 2007 contest)
07-01-2-RickKress.jpg (Rick Kress's 2nd entry for the January 2007 contest)
07-01-3-RickKress.jpg (Rick Kress's 3rd entry for the January 2007 contest)

Note: An optional letter may be added before your name (a - z). This allows the entrant a limited amount of control over the order in which the photo appears during judging.

Photos on Website

By default, all submissions will be posted to the Huntsville Photographic Society photo Website after the contest has been judged and will be open to the general public for viewing. The images will be reduced in size and there will be sufficient notice barring the use of the photos without the photographer's consent. If you do not wish for an entry to be displayed on the Web, add the letter "X" after your name but before the ".jpg" extension in the file name. Example: 07-01-3-RickKressX.jpg would not be put onto the Web for viewing by the general public. If you do not wish any of your images display on the Web, EACH file must have the "X" at the end of the name.

Miscellaneous

The originating format of the photo does not dictate which category you may enter. You can still print digital images and compete in the printed categories. You may scan negative film, slides or prints and compete in the digital competition. Any and all combinations are allowed. The work must be your own original work.

The existing rule of a maximum of 6 entries per competition with no more than 4 in any single category still applies.

Competition in digital or any of the other categories is limited to HPS members.

HPS membership is open to all people regardless of residence. You do not need to be present at the meetings to compete.

Novice Competition Class *(from website)*

Starting in January 2009, there will be two classes of competition, Novice and Accomplished. Each class will have it's own judge. Novice is defined as an individual who is new to the basic principles of photography. Accomplished is defined as "all others". Members decide at their own discretion which class they will enter, however, they can only compete in one class. Members may change classes only once during the year, and must notify the VP of Competition upon doing so.

The purpose of the new novice class is to provide the opportunity for an introductory experience to competition and to provide increased feedback and mentoring instruction as they learn competitive photography. The judging of novice entrants is on a point system, with a range of 0 - 5 stars awarded to each entry, at the discretion of the judge. The judge will be asked to provide comments on all novice entries. Entries will be displayed at full size/resolution (the size the judge views), instead of being resized to a smaller file (due to the technological requirements of the digital competition website). Pictures will be displayed for approximately one month or until the next competition.

At this time there is only one category: Digital. A print category (color & monochrome combined) may be added in the future. The Novice class will be judged by an HPS member who has attained Fellow level. If you are interested in being a judge, please contact the competition secretary (contact information is at the end of each months newsletter)

Entries for the Novice class should be submitted to the same e-mail address with the same "Subject" line under the current rules, i.e. , send to HPSContest@knology.net, subject: "HPS Contest", however, the file names are slightly different. Entries for novice must begin with an "N" followed by a dash. Example: N-YY-MM-#-YourName.jpg. All other submission requirements are the same, including maximum # of entries per person is 4.

NOTE: No points are awarded for Novice competition and entries are not included in the Best of the Year contest held at the end of the year.

Honorary Membership *(from website)*

The Huntsville Photographic Society (HPS) wishes to recognize and honor those individuals who have contributed to or provided for the development, betterment, promotion and appreciation of the art and science of photography through contributions to HPS and significant service to the photographic community.

Therefore, at any time, HPS members may nominate in writing to the Board non-HPS members for Lifetime Honorary Membership. After deliberation and receiving a majority vote of the Board during a Board meeting, the nominee shall be declared a lifetime Honorary Member of The Huntsville Photographic Society.

The nominee shall be informed and upon acceptance, shall be mailed or delivered a certificate signed and dated by the president certifying the honor. At the earliest opportunity, when the nominee can be present at an appropriate HPS event, the presiding HPS officer shall make a public recognition to the honoree. A permanent record both printed and electronic shall be placed in the archives of HPS and an announcement shall be published in the next HPS newsletter.

The Honorary Member shall be afforded all rights and privileges of a regular member. Upon their agreement, their name may be published on HPS communications including stationary, newsletters, brochures, and web sites.

May 13, 2008, as revised and approved by the HPS Board Oct. 13, 2008