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Organized for the mutual
advancement and enjoyment of
photography .



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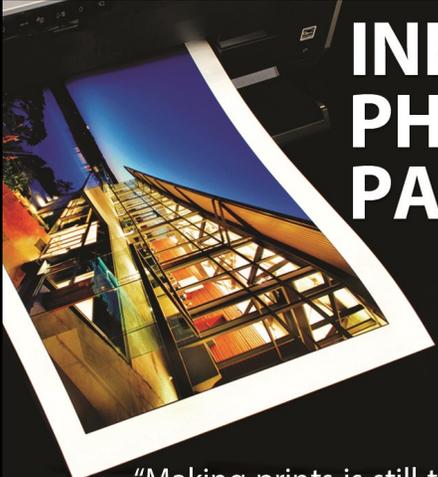
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Beating 'Em To the Punch

by Rick Berger

Member: HUB Camera Club

Livingston Camera Club

If you compete in camera club competitions or have observed a few, at one time or another you've probably seen a judge become overly critical of an image, sometimes getting so picky that the phrase "constructive criticism" seems to fall by the wayside. Here are a few tips to avoid judge abuse and perhaps beat them at their own game.

The key to the strategy begins when you look at an image that you're considering entering into a competition. First, like an actor, begin by getting into character. Turn yourself into the most despicable, petty, nitpicking old fuddy duddy imaginable. Pretend that you're the Scrooge of all judges.

The next step is to look at your image with an overly critical eye. First, look at the most obvious and glaring mistakes. Scrutinize the exposure and color. Question whether it's simply too light or too dark. Are the highlights as white as vanilla ice cream on a snow bank? Are the shadows reminiscent of melted tar on black asphalt? Are the colors believable or saturated to a cartoon-like hue? Now check the composition. Does it help the shot to tell a meaningful story? Does it draw you into the picture making you feel like part of the scene? Most of you can take it from there and look for the other major factors that contribute to producing a good photograph such as cropping, the use of leading lines etc.

Now, let's get back to that nitpicky judge. Try to anticipate what'll really bug him or her. The eye is first attracted to the lightest parts of a photo. You know that guy in the upper left corner of your photo? Yeah, that guy...the one wearing that glaring white shirt. Clone him out! Burn him in! Send him packing! Do whatever you have to before that judge has a chance to make mention of the "distracting guy in the white shirt." See that branch cutting across the lower portion of the daffodil in your garden shot? Zap it! Look at the top of the lady's hat in your portrait. It's just touching the top edge of the image. Re-edit and give it some breathing space.

Another way to win against Judge Picky is to develop what's been called OCD...Obsessive Cropping Disorder. How many times have you heard a judge say, "It would have been much better if you had cropped it tighter. All that background stuff is distracting?" Now I'm not a big advocate of extremely tight cropping when you shoot. That's a throwback to the days of slides when it was "What you shoot is what you get." Too often I've cropped too tightly in the camera and struggled with the image on my computer wishing I had left more room around the subject so I'd have more to work with in terms of composition.

I think by now you've gotten my drift. Beat yourself up before your photo gets trounced in a room filled with people staring at it on a screen.

*A note to all of you judges out there...

We really do appreciate your efforts and realize that the criticism is designed to help us become better photographers. It's our job to scrutinize our images with a critical eye before submitting them to a competition. If you do this diligently, you may be the next recipient of a "9!"

**WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT NJFCC MEMBER CLUBS in
December 2017?**

Club	Location	Date	Topic	Judge or Speaker
Camera Naturalist	Program at NJAS	12/7	Presentation: For the Love of Landscapes	Roman Kurywczak
Cranbury "Digital"	Cranbury Methodist Church	12/27	Competition: Multiple Images	
Cranford/Millburn	Bauer Ctr. Millburn	12/11	Holiday Party / Terry Boyer Competition	Phil Echo
Essex Photo	Caldwell United Methodist Church	12/7 12/19	Competition Program: You Be the Judge [Shadows]	Marie Kane Joe Thomas
4 Seasons@Manalapan	FSM Clubhouse	12/11	Year End Competition	
Gateway	Sacred Heart School Staten Island, NY	12/6 12/13	Competition 3 Holiday Social / Member Workshop 3	Vinnie Kempf
Hillcrest	Pilgrim Presby. Ch. Phillipsburg11/27	12/11	Regular Competition	
HUB	Mountain Lakes Library	12/18	Holiday Party p/Mtg. 3 Minute Slide Shows	Members
Hunterdon County	Bethlehem Pres. Ch. Pittstown	12/12	Club Competition: Beaches	
Livingston	Livingston Comm. Senior Center	12/11	Program: From Darkness to Daylight	Harvey Wang
Metedeconk Lakes	Jackson.	TBA	TBA	
Monmouth	Colt's Neck Reformed Church	12/7 12/21	Presentation: Floral Photography Merit Judging: Open	Padma Inguva Myles Truesdell
Monroe	Monroe Township Comm. Center	12/6 12/20	Competition: Architecture Holiday Party	
Morris Photocolor	Morristown Town Hall, Room 304 Senior Ctr. Room	12/13	Holiday Party / Member Shorts	
Ocean County	Girls Scouts of the Jersey Shore Toms River	12/4 12/11 12/18	Program: Using NIK Software Holiday Party Competition: Pictorial Images [BW]	Joel Goldberg
Photographers of Sussex Co.	Admin. Bldg., Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta.	12/11	Holiday Party / Meeting	
Photographic Society of Vineland	Newfield Senior CTR Newfield	TBA	TBA	

**WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT NJFCC MEMBER CLUBS in
December 2017**

Club	Location	Date	Topic	Judge or Speaker
Pocono	NCC Monroe Tannersville	12/5 12/19	Executive Committee Meeting Sharing Favorite Shots of the Year	Members
Princeton	D&R Greenway Land Trust Princeton	TBA	TBA	
Raritan Photographic Society	American Legion Hall - Milltown	12/7	Holiday Party and Competition: Open and Oldies	
Ridgewood	Franklin Lakes Meth. Church	12/6 12/13 12/20	Holiday Social Event Competition: Nature 2 Program 4	Dave Mills
River Pointe	RP Clubhouse Manchester	TBA	TBA	
Rockland	Clarkstown Comm. Ctr New City, NY	12/14	Presentation: Panos and Hi-Res Mosaics	Doug Goodell
Somerset County	Manville Library	12/12	Presentation: Winning	Joel Morgovsky
Sparta	Sparta Amb. Squad	12/13	Holiday Party	
Staten Island	Snug Harbor Culture Ctr. Staten Island	12/21	Holiday Party	
Stone Bridge	SB Clubhouse Monroe	TBA	TBA	
Teaneck	Rodda Rec Ctr Teaneck	12/5 12/12 12/19	Competition: Creative Digital Competition: Prints Workshop	Marjorie Forrest David Mills
Tri - County	Nutley Library	TBA	TBA	
Vailsburg	Bailey Civic Ctr.	TBA	TBA	



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Because specials come and go so quickly this time of year, I am providing the link below that will show our December Holiday Specials. This link will be updated on a regular basis and most of the specials have beginning and ending dates, so check back often. You can click [here](#) to see them. Please call me at [781-462-2383](tel:781-462-2383) to place your orders.

And something else you may want to know about:

Canon has continued their printer rebate program. Now through December 31, 2017 or until supplies run out, we are offering the Canon Pixma PRO 100 printer at \$369.99 before rebate (Canon sells it on their website for \$499.99). We are including with it TWO packages of Canon 13x19" Luster paper, 50 sheets each, a \$100 value! Canon is offering a \$250 mail in rebate on this package, so your final cost is \$119.99! This printer includes a FULL set of eight ink cartridges and is always reviewed very well. Call me now to get yours!

Hunt's and Canon are also offering an incredible special on the Canon Image PROGRAF Pro-1000 17" Printer. Purchase the printer for \$1,299.99, and receive \$600 worth of Canon paper! You can then send in your \$300 mail-in rebate. Your final cost is \$999.99 for the printer and \$600 worth of paper. Supplies definitely limited on this one. Call me now to reserve yours. Rebate expires December 31, 2017!

As always, UPS Ground shipping is FREE in the Lower 48 and there is no sales tax except for orders shipped to MA, RI or ME. Please call me, Alan Samiljan, at [\(781\) 462-2383](tel:7814622383) or send an email including your name and phone number to asamiljan@huntsphoto.com and I'll call you.

Hope to hear from you soon and have a Happy Holiday Season!

Photographically yours,

Alan Samiljan

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You can contact me by e-mail: rkurywczak@gmail.com or call (908) 241-0500

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