
MVPC Salon FAQ
June 24, 2019

1. Where is the club's website?

www.MinnesotaValleyPhotoClub.org

2. Where can I find the salon rules?

A current copy of the salon rules, salon topics, this FAQ, and whole host of other useful information concerning salons can be found in the Salon Info section of the club's website.

How do I contact the Salon Committee?

The Salon Committee can be contacted via email to
salon@MinnesotaValleyPhotoClub.org.

3. What are the topics for the current competition season?

The salon topics can be found in the Salon Info section of the club's website.

4. How do I enter a salon?

Images for a salon are submitted online using your web browser. On the For Our Members page of the club website, click on the red "Upload Images" button. This will access the Image Upload tool. You do not need to rename your image files; this is done by the Image Upload tool. You will supply your salon number, salon type, image title, etc. On your PC, you will browse to the image(s) that you are entering. The image(s) will be uploaded to the website where it will be accessed by the salon committee.

5. Can I still submit my images by email?

No, this is no longer supported.

6. What salon(s) can I enter?

Any member can enter any salon: color or monochrome.

7. How many entries can I submit?

All members can enter up to three entries every month. New members are encouraged to do likewise - more entries means more opportunity for feedback through the salon critique on how they might improve their craft. The three monthly entries can be divided between the color, monochrome and Educational salon with the following restrictions:

- Maximum of two entries in the color salon
- Maximum of two entries in the monochrome salon
- Fewer than three images may be submitted in a month

Examples of valid submissions

- Two color and one monochrome
- One color and two monochrome

8. When are entries to be submitted?

Typically entries are to be submitted at the general club meeting one month prior to the salon. For example, prints for the April salon are to be submitted at the March meeting.

9. Do I need to bring my year end award entries?

The June salon is for determination of year end awards. All prints eligible for entry into the year end awards need to be brought to the May meeting. Digital entries need not be brought to the meeting since salon committee already has them.

10. How do I resize an image?

Instructions on how to resize digital images with a variety of photo editing tools can be found on the club's website.

11. What about “digital copies” of a print? What are they, what are they used for and how do I create it?

The prints are sent to a judge; he does not see a digital version of your print until the meeting. The software that is used to prepare the paperwork for the judge uses the file names of the digital images that you submit. Even a 16x20 print is relatively small when viewed from the back of the meeting room. Therefore, a digital copy of your print is used for two purposes: (1) prepare the paperwork for the judge and (2) during the critique of images at the meeting they are projected on a screen so that they are large enough to be seen even from the back of the room. If a digital copy of your print is not sent to the Salon Committee, your print will not be verbally critiqued at the meeting. Your score from the judge will be available on the club website after the meeting.

You want the digital copy to be an accurate facsimile of your print. As part of your workflow, when you create the image file to be printed, save this file as a TIFF or JPEG. That way you can easily come back to the file and make additional prints as needed. At the same time this file is created and saved, also create and save the image as a smaller JPEG file (FAQ2, FAQ10). Submit this resized file to the Salon Committee (FAQ1, FAQ4).

The Salon Committee will instruct the judge that due to minor differences introduced when the print is matted, the digital copy may differ from the print in only minor ways. It is your responsibility to ensure that this is the case.

12. Can I use the sky replacement feature now available in PhotoShop and Luminar?

The Salon Rules are specific in that a photo submitted to an MVPC salon “*must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else*”. As long as the sky replacement photo is one of your own, yes you can use this feature.

13. What characters may I use in my title?

Your title will become part of the image file name. Various computer operating systems differ in the characters that are allowed in file names, so to avoid file naming issues, your title is restricted to the following characters:

A-Z	Upper case characters
a-z	Lower case characters
0-9	numerals
,	comma
-	Dash
_	underscore
.	period

14. Why do we size our digital images to 1920x1080? Why is MVPC different from other organizations, and what about our images being projected at meetings?

1920x1080 is the resolution of a high resolution television (HDTV). When post processing their images, most photographers are using monitors that are capable of displaying at least that resolution. For example the monitor in use by this photographer has a resolution of 1920x1200 (Dell 2410).

The judge displays the digital image on his monitor. In addition to being calibrated, MVPC assumes that the monitor in use by the judge is capable of displaying this resolution or better. If the salon committee learns that the judge is not using this type equipment, this judge is no longer invited to judge our digital images.

There is no consistent monitor resolution requirement in judging images by other organizations. Consequently there is no consistent size requirement for digital images:

N4C - 1920 longest side, max file 750KB
PSA – 1400x1050
Interclub – 1280x960

And furthermore, organizations continually update their size requirements as technology changes and the prices of high resolution monitors comes down.

N4C has a restriction on file size because images are submitted via email. Images to an MVPC salon are submitted via an online application, not email, therefore there is no need to restrict the size of image files.

At MVPC meetings, digital images are displayed on a projector with 1024x768 resolution, and the entire real estate of the screen is not used to display the image. Members must realize that images are not judged while being displayed by a projector. The projection of the images at MVPC meetings is only for the judge to reference while presenting his critique.