MVPC Salon FAQ
Dec 22, 2022

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.

3. How do I contact the Salon Committee?
The Salon Committee can be contacted via email to
mvpcsalon@googlegroups.com

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Can I still submit my images by email?
No, this is no longer supported.

7. What salon(s) can I enter?
A new member can enter any salon: Color, Monochrome and Novice. Many people find the idea of entering a salon to be intimidating. The intention of the Novice salon is to remove some of this intimidation by limiting participation in the Novice salon to new photographers, but there is no requirement that a new member enter the Novice salon. Once a member has achieved four awards (images scoring 13 points or more) in a salon year they have proven themselves to be competent in their craft, they can no longer submit images to the Novice salon in subsequent years.

All members can enter up to four entries every month. New members are encouraged to do likewise - more entries provides more opportunity for feedback through the salon critique on how they might improve their craft.

8. How many entries can I submit?
All members can enter up to four entries every month. New members are encouraged to do likewise - more entries mean more opportunity for feedback through the salon critique on how they might improve their craft. The four monthly entries can be divided between the Color, Monochrome and Novice salon with the following restrictions:

- Maximum of two entries in the Color salon
- Maximum of two entries in the Monochrome salon
- Maximum of four entries in the Novice salon
- Fewer than four images may be submitted in a month
- Entries to the Novice salon and the Color or Monochrome salons cannot be submitted in the same month.

9. When are entries to be submitted?
Typically, entries are to be submitted at the general club meeting prior to the salon. For example, prints for the March salon are to be submitted at the March general club meeting.

10. 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 salon need to be brought to the May in-person meeting. Digital entries do not need to be resubmitted since the salon committee already has them.

11. 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.

12. What about "digital copies" of a print? What are they, what are they used for and how do I create it?
The prints are given to a judge. The judge does not see a digital version of your print until the meeting. The digital copy of your print is used for two purposes: (1) prepare the paperwork for the judge and (2) for display during the critique of images at the salon meeting. If a digital copy of your print is not provided 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.

The digital copy should be an accurate facsimile of the submitted, possibly matted, print. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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

15. Why do we limit the size of 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). This size provides enough resolution for a quality image on a HD monitor while still being a reasonable size for uploading to the web site. When post processing their images, most photographers are using monitors that are capable of displaying at least that resolution or better.

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.

Although image size is essentially the same for N4C and MVPC, 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.   MVPC requirements are a superset of the others. Any image submitted to one of the above salons can be submitted without changes to MVPC.