

## Club Competitions:

Joining competitions can make us better photographers. We recognize though that competition judging is not perfect. The best photo (as some of us might interpret it) does not always win – but experience has shown that the top choices are usually excellent. We see competition as a way to improve individual photography and, hopefully, have fun. If it becomes too serious some of the enjoyment is lost.

As a member club of CAPA Canada (the Canadian Association for Photographic Art) we participate in a several competitions. Visit the CAPA website at < [www.capacanada.ca](http://www.capacanada.ca) >. Click on the link for competitions and download or read the competition guide. There are various club events including theme, nature, open and the "Altered Reality" category. Note the sections referring to club competitions and digital requirements. CAPA also has individual members and events that do not concern us. As well, we enter the "North Shore Challenge" (hosted by the venerable North Shore Photographic Society of Vancouver) and the Lions Gate "Celebration of Nature Competition. The "North Shore Challenge" is remarkable in that the image selection is wide open, even accepting highly manipulated composites. In 2009, for the first time, we entered the Pacific Zone Print Challenge sponsored by the Richmond Camera Club. We expect to enter again in 2010. Our club has a selection process a month or so prior to the event where the images representing our club are picked– by vote of the members. You will receive instructions as to how many images you can submit (generally only two, though as the club grows we may have to restrict entries to just one). A member can have only one of his or her images selected to represent the club. Other than for the NSC and Lions Gate where we submit ten, the usual club entry is six images. In general contest worthy images should have sharp subject focus (for people or animals this means the eyes), though focus can be selective. Good contrast, a strong central subject and originality are important. We sometimes need to use manual focus for the not infrequent circumstances when auto-focus doesn't work so well. Do not put borders or lines around your image and remember that text is not permitted anywhere on the image - whether copyright symbol, title or otherwise. Take note that the contest host usually has a right to make use of images for promotion or other purposes (for example CAPA in its magazine or on websites). For CAPA events, you may indicate that you do not permit such use.

Competition Events we enter in most years include:

Late September – The Lion's Gate Celebration of Nature. Striking nature images are called for.

Mid-January – North Shore Challenge. There are few if any restrictions on the subject or type of image. What counts most is impact and originality.

Mid-October - CAPA open (that is Pictorial as subject – meaning virtually anything) and Nature categories

Mid-January – The CAPA theme competition. In 2009/10 the theme is “Three of a Kind” In future years, check the CAPA website for the theme topic and a second event called “Altered Reality”. Altered reality means a deliberately and highly manipulated photography – or described as extremely photo shopped. You must though basis your effort on photograph(s) you have taken yourself.

Early-March – Print selection for the Pacific Zone Print Challenge. The rules are announced in January.

Mid- March – A repeat of the Open and Nature competitions.