



# Poly Speaks

Edited by Jim Mildice

## In This Issue

**Poly Speaks is changing .....1**

**Competition .....2**

**Coming Events .....3**

**Editor's Corner .....3**

**Tools & Techniques .....4**

**Guest Section .....4**

**Letters to the Editor .....4**

## Poly Speaks is Changing

As you can see, Poly Speaks is going to be different in 2010.

To start out with, it has a new editor, and it's my goal to expand its contents to provide more information of interest to Poly members.

After hearing comments from members at various times, we noted that many of you don't go to the web site very often to get your Poly news. Since distribution by E-mail is just about as easy (for us) as putting information on the web site, we decided to try to reach all of our members more directly through a system of dual publishing, through both E-mail and the Poly web site.

Our aim is to publish once a month. The Email newsletter will be sent to each member (and other interested parties), in the Adobe Acrobat PDF format, so you will be able to read it using the free, downloadable Acrobat reader, (which is available for almost any kind of operating system that your computer uses). You can also print it if you prefer to read a paper copy.

The box at the left contains a sample of the typical contents for an issue. We won't have every subject in every issue, and there will be subjects added to the list as the need arises and the publication matures.

Page 1 will usually report on the latest news about the club. Among other things, that can include special upcoming events, interesting

happenings at past events, or special competition results.

In subsequent pages, we will also try to give you more detail about upcoming club events and field trips than is available in the web site Calendar. Dorothy's E-mail updates about outside events that have photo opportunities cover that area pretty well, so we won't try to duplicate it here.

There will also be room for editorial commentary, and op-ed pieces by club members.

Competition results and scores are well-covered on the Poly web site, so while we may address competition issues from time-to-time, we will also not attempt to duplicate that data from the web site.

We also hope to be able to publish short articles on techniques or equipment that we think will have special interest for Poly people. We are hereby soliciting article inputs from any of you who are interested. They may cover any subject, include text, pictures, and/or drawings; and length should be about one page.

Lastly, we are reserving some space for a "Letters to the Editor" section. This can be a place to ask questions about Poly Speaks or other club issues, or to have your opinion heard about a particular subject.

To be successful, this new magazine needs to be a cooperative effort, and you are all invited to participate and contribute.

Jim Mildice - Editor

# Competition Issues

## Rules and Requirements

Poly has experienced a growth spurt in the last quarter of 2009, and there are many new members who will be competing in 2010. The first monthly competition is coming up on January 9, so we thought it would be useful to have a quick review of the important rules for our monthly competitions. For more details (such as scoring criteria, etc.) read the actual rules in the New Member's Data Package and the Club Bylaws.

- **Technology** - digital images only, JPEG format. Images are judged by projection only, and projector resolution is 1024 x 768 pixels; so submitting pictures with higher pixel counts will just result in larger files (with longer upload and download times), but no improvement in what we see on the screen.
- **Open Category** – up to three images, any subject, with no limitations on interpretation or post-processing.
- **Project Category** – one image, depicting the photographer's interpretation of the assignment title. No limits on post processing.
- **Scoring** – Judge assigns a score 5 through 9 for each "Open" image. Scores of 7 and above are considered "accepted" for exhibition. Judge picks a first and second place winner for each monthly competition. "Project" images are not scored, but the judge picks a first and second place winner.
- **Submission** – by E-mail, before 8:00 PM on the Friday before the competition date. Send them to [polyentries@yahoo.com](mailto:polyentries@yahoo.com). Each image should be identified as follows: "**title** by **your name**.jpg." If it is a project entry, it should be: "PROJECT **title** by **your name**.jpg." Bill usually accepts a few submissions in the morning, at the competition meeting, but we all should try to avoid this addition to his already-heavy workload on the morning before the show.
- **Resubmission** – Images receiving a score of 6 or less may be corrected, adjusted, and/or resubmitted in subsequent competitions.

Accepted images may not be resubmitted in monthly competitions. When accepted images are submitted for our year-end competition, they may not be changed or improved from their originally-submitted presentation.

- **High-Points Competition** - scores from each month are totaled to determine the yearly High-Points winners. If a participant misses a monthly competition, make-up submissions are not allowed. However, the high points competition scores are determined by totaling the highest 9 monthly scores from the 11 monthly competitions. So a high-point competitor could miss two monthly competitions, or be completely out-of-sync with a particular judge, and still compete on an even basis.
- **Year-end Competition** – All "accepted" (7 points or higher) open-category images are eligible for the best-of-the-year judging. Each member can select a maximum of 11 of his/her "accepted" images from the current year, and enter them to be judged by an independent panel. All first and second place winners from the "Project" categories may also be submitted to compete for a "best-of-the projects" award.

## How Much is Too Much ?

Recently, some of us have been participating in the discussion about the never-to-be-resolved issue of "Photoshop" manipulation of images. (How much is too much?) Of course, Poly "Open Competition" rules have no limits about how much a photograph can be altered to produce our own artistic expressions. Most nature photographer competitors seem to be firmly in the camp of "no alterations are allowed."

There is a thoughtful, interesting article on the subject, by a nature photographer, on the "Nature Photographer's Network" on-line magazine.

Give it a look at:

<http://www.naturephotographers.net/articles1109/dw1109-1.html>

Thanks to Terry Myers of the Tuesday Morning Workshop Group for the reference.

## Coming Events

### Year-end Awards Party

As most of you have already seen from Judy's emails, the Poly Photo Year-end Awards party will be a luncheon, starting at 11:30AM, at the Prado Restaurant, in Balboa Park, on January 23, 2010. The presentation of the accepted images and the awards for the year-end competitions will follow the luncheon, in the auditorium of the Museum of Photographic Arts at 1:00PM (within walking distance in the Park). Some members also submit short (5 minute) slide shows, which are shown after the award presentations. Also, if you have schedule problems, you can just go to one event or the other.

For those of you who have not attended in this venue before, the restaurant is elegant and beautiful, with good food and great service. The MoPA theater is a good one, with state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, and you get to see the current MoPA exhibits after the show.

Don't miss it.

### Workshops

At press time for this issue, Ernesto and Shelly are working out the details of the Poly workshops for the coming year. Poly Speaks will publish information about them, on a regular basis, as soon as it becomes available.

## Editor's Corner

Poly is clearly a competition-oriented club; and with the wide range of skills in our membership, that's a good thing. For many photographers, monthly competition provides the first regular series of opportunities for (more or less) objective feedback about our images from an experienced, trained judge/photographer. The second benefit of participation in Competitions is that they have a well-defined structure, with a set of goals, rules, and expectations. With some experience and knowledge about the various judges' biases, you can refine your subject selection and technique to be successful in this activity.

Of course, in our evolution as photographers and artists, that leads to the obvious questions: What comes after Competitions? How can Poly help with the next step in our development?

A few of us have talked about this a little during the recent holidays. Of course, we didn't come to any conclusions. So I put the question to all of you: What more do you want to do with your photography? What can Poly do to help?

To help stimulate your thinking, let me leave you with a quote I found in a Photo/Art book a while ago:

*"It's about our pictures. We can't let them be the product of a system where everyone is aiming to please . . . the judge . . . the expert . . . the editor . . . whomever. We need them to be expressions of our own voices."*



## Tools and Techniques

Since this is the first issue of the “new” Poly Speaks, this section is still under construction. Remember, the success of this area will depend on contributions from our readers.

## Guest Section

No guests this month either, since no one knew that this forum was available until they read this month’s issue. However, we are soliciting your inputs for next month.

In a more standard type magazine, this might be called a Guest Column or a Feature Story. But we don’t want it to be limited to the format that would imply. For example, this Section can actually be a “column” discussing some issue that you have been thinking about, or a group of pictures you want us all to see, or a photo-essay, or an illustrated story, or anything else of interest to our group of photographers.

If you have an idea, and want to discuss it, send me an Email at [jmildice@mac.com](mailto:jmildice@mac.com) and put “Poly Speaks guest” in the subject line.

## Letters to the Editor

Obviously, you can’t send any comments, replies, or questions until you know that there’s an invitation to do so, I’ll look forward to hearing from some of you for next month’s issue.

Send your Emails to [jmildice@mac.com](mailto:jmildice@mac.com) and put “Poly Speaks letters” in the subject line.

## Future Issues

This first issue has a lot of words and few pictures. It seemed like there was a lot to say and explain, and we still need to recruit contributors. Since Poly is, after all, a photography club, I would like its newsletter to be filled with pictures from all of us. So if you send them in (with captions, background data, and/or commentary), I’ll put them in the publication.

Send them via Email to [jmildice@mac.com](mailto:jmildice@mac.com) and put “Poly Speaks pictures” in the subject line.

On Page 1 of this issue, I said that because of feedback we have received from some of you, we were going to start out this year with dual Web Site and Email publishing. After a few months, we intend to reevaluate this decision based on what our readers feel is most useful to them. So after you’ve seen a few issues, send us some feedback about this type of distribution, and I will tabulate the results, to see if we should change.