

Tidewater Camera Club Competition Score Sheet

Month/Year: October 2015

Theme: Using Black & White to create Mood and Drama

From 1-5 points for each score

	Title	Comp	Impact	Tech	Total	Judges Comments
1	hawaii coast	5	5	5	15	Excellent image. See Sebastião Salgado's recent book, Genesis.
2	annapolis docks	4	5	5	14	Excellent black and white art image. Good composition with the the end of the dock set by rule of thirds; composition and conversion, i.e., high contrast, draws eye right through the image.
3	boo	4	5	5	14	Excellent low key portrait, i.e., low light. Conversion is great with high contrast and deep blacks. Image is shape where it needs to be, i.e., eyes and hand, and softer where it should be, i.e., the ears.
4	double take	4	5	5	14	Excellent concept; excellent light; and very impactful. Good detail in white dress. Watch the feet.
5	leopard sunset	5	5	4	14	Excellent. Unusual to select a silhouette for this kind of image but it works well and is different. Good composition.
6	onlyone	5	5	4	14	Great motion shot. Composition is great and the subject is EXTEREMELY clear. Only issue is how bright the upper right corner is; distracts me. Darken slightly with the Gradient Tool in Lightroom or Photoshop.
7	salvation	4	5	5	14	Good composition; uses leading lines to lead the viewer into the image and to the most important aspect of the image--the cross. High. Long exposure to smooth out the sea and provide other worldly feel to it was a good choice for this image. Good conversion, bright whites and deep blacks.
8	wyoming storm	5	5	4	14	Excellent image. More detail in the clouds would really make the image pop; the detail could be teased out using the Gradient Tool in Lightroom or Photoshop and adding some clarity and sharpening to the sky but don't over do it.
9	cell phones	4	5	4	13	Good contemporary story, i.e., good impact because it is a statement about the impact of technology on our lives. Composition is good and good use of focus, i.e., the person in the front of the image is slightly out of focus, throwing attention of the person in back who is in focus. Conversion is good.
10	milford sound after the storm	4	5	4	13	Excellent image. Good composition and tonal range, i.e., bright whites to black. However, I might sacrifice some of the tonal range for more detail in the clouds, i.e., decrease the highlights and add clarity.
11	seeking balance	4	4	5	13	Good composition; cross at 2/3 into image. Common composition. Excellent conversion--retained detail in brightest areas of the image.

12	when the bell tolls	4	5	4	13	Perspective in this image is great, low and tight on the foreground. This give the image a sense of depth. Conversion is done well. Wide depth of field is okay in this image as it is putting the cemetery in context but slight blurring of the background might help to downplay the mountains but still allow the viewer to put the cemetery in its environment.
13	allout	4	4	4	12	Subject is well positioned in the frame and has lots of room to "move into;" black and white conversion is excellent for this type of image, i.e., medium contrast. However, upper portion of left arm is cut off at top of frame; I want to see this.
14	dr john	3	4	5	12	One of the first things to look for in low light images is sharpness (long exposures and no chance to use a tripod is a recipe for unsharp/out-of-focus images. Here the subject is in focus; good capture. The out of focus rail at the bottom of the image and the microphone provide depth to the image, putting dr john deep in the photograph. Two issues: (1) the feathers are cut off at the top and (2) he is very close to the edge of the image.
15	early morning hunt	4	4	4	12	Good placement of the subject but would like to see some more room on the right for him to shoot "into." The darkness of the image adds to the drama and impactfulness; however, I would like to lighten the end of the bow to pop it out some more against the background; it is starting to blend into the background. Great perspective-looking slightly up makes the hunter look larger and more foreboding.
16	frozen	4	4	4	12	Good subject for a black and white image-dead trees and snow. The horizon is definitely tilted in this image, which is fine because it is tilted enough that we know that this is a conscious decision by the photographer. Good conversion of image-note that the snow has detail.
17	the next chapter	4	4	4	12	Good composition following rule of thirds; light from the doorway leads the eye through the image. Good conversion with deep blacks.
18	sunk	4	3	4	11	Centering the statue works here because a figure in the lower left is off center. Composition is generally good but the background is distracting because it is so busy and in focus.
19	white hot	4	3	4	11	Good use of lines; diagonal lines are dynamic, adding interest to an image. Composition is good with the flame in the lower corner.
20	white house ruins	3	4	4	11	Standard composition of the White House ruins (not many others). Good conversion to black and white; more contrast might help separate the colors in the wall more.
21	drama	3	3	4	10	Overall a good group portrait; subjects don't seem posed and look like they have real smiles. Image is a little dark for a portrait.

22	drama in the rain	4	3	3	10	Good composition; good conversion (it would have been easy blend the animals into the background by toning the trees in the background the same as the animals). The barn roof (?) in the lower left is very distracting; darken it to reduce its presences in the image.
23	fences	3	3	4	10	Good subject for a black and white image; this is an image about light and light always makes a good black and white image. Composition is fine; however, I would like to see the trees straight up and down; easy to fix in Lightroom or Photoshop with the lens correction panel/module. Like the deep blacks as well but would still like to see the trees and foreground lightend just a little bit to reveal slightly more detail.
24	heidelberg rooftops	2	4	4	10	Drop the frame and vignette; only use them when they add to the image. Inappropriate and overuse of frames and vignettes are two of the seven deadly sins of post processing because it distracts from the rest of the image.
25	highland ave somerville	3	3	4	10	Check the motion in the image and leave room for people to look out of the picture. The person on the right side is up against the edge of the photo and has no where to see. Also, the large depth of field means my eyes are looking all over the picture and I am not sure what you want me to look at; use depth of field to tell the viewer what to look at. Our eyes are drawn to the in-focus/sharp areas.
26	rayonier	4	3	3	10	The sky appears to be posterized and looks unreal. The composition is fine but impact is minimal. Your subject is tough one to photograph in a compelling way;
27	rutting in the rain	4	4	2	10	Good composition. Impact I negatively affected by overprocessing of image. Image is overprocessed, either too much clarity or sharpening or both.
28	the pond	3	3	4	10	Big, bright white spot, i.e., between the trees, just where you might expect the subject is very distracting. Is horizon straight (can't tell from the image on the screen)? Good use of foreground, i.e., the bushes in the lower right and left corners; including the bushes helps create depth in the image.
29	wreck	3	3	4	10	Shipwreck in good position in frame. Sky is very boring; if possible, need to go back when there is a thunderstorm.
30	assateague island sunset	2	3	4	9	Good composition except for the horizon; it is at a slight angle. Never, ever do a slight angle. If you mean to angle the horizon, angle it enough that the viewer knows you meant to do this; otherwise, we just think that you weren't paying attention to the horizon. Also, add a little more contrast to the image.
31	easternshore	3	3	3	9	Sun is dead center of the image; crop to move it toward one side or the other. Conversion is good. Images with fog can be difficult to process. We all want good contrast but by definition, a foggy scene is a scene with low contrast and, when we add contrast, we increase contrast and lose the fog.

32	looking up the spiral staircase	3	3	3	9	Needs more room at the bottom and the pinnacle should be placed a little more to the left and up. Lighting is very harsh, washing out the staircase at the bottom and creating a hard shadow. The windows are completely blown out.
33	nuts	3	3	3	9	Good graphical subject--nuts, texture of the wall, and difference in tones, i.e., white strip along the right side of the image. The nuts are dead set in the middle of the image; move them up (because the shadows are cast at a downward angle). The white area contains a hot spot and texture is missing from it and the surrounding area.
34	smith island	4	2	3	9	Composition is rule of 2/3. Image is very noisy and conversion is conservative, i.e., no deep blacks or really bright white, reducing contrast.
35	huntress	2	3	3	8	Why is the arm cut off in the image? This puts her face and her hair quite close to the edge. Why is she looking off camera? When posing a person for a photograph, they should either be looking at the photographer or into the image. Also, there is a noticeable bright spot on her upper leg.
36	unfinished	2	3	3	8	Horizon is not straight; Sun is in the exact middle of the image. Conversion is generally good but the sun appears a big blob; also there are significant lens aberrations.
37	sisal rain coat	3	2	2	7	Composition is very tight, cutting off the fringe around the edges. Image is too dark which in turn takes away from the image's impact. Texture is terrific.
38	spider rock	2	2	3	7	Composition is static with subject in the middle of the image. Perspective is common, i.e., Spider Rock is always photographed from above. Conversion has no deep black; little contrast in the image.
39	grasshopper bw	5	4	5	14	Excellent image. The background is perfect-creamy and no detail to take away from the subject. The subject is perfectly focused and sharp.
40	walk in the woods	4	5	5	14	Great image. Well composed and conversion is great as well with deep blacks and bright whites.
41	quiet moment	4	5	4	13	Nice image and title and image are very consistent. Good tonal range, although the dress appears to be slightly blown out. Would like to see a bit more room in front of the subject.

42	this is your life	4	5	4	13	Very nice conversion to black and white. Watch the background; the white care in the background is distracting and could have been blurred to help reduce it as a distraction. It is important when out in the field to bracket your f-stops. Why? Because most of us can't tell on the back of the screen whether the background is sufficiently blurred or sufficiently sharp, which depends on the subject and the photographer's intent.
43	heidi	4	4	4	12	Great child portrait. The lighting on the hair is terrific. Good conversion as well; child's portraits should not be high contrast. The low contrast portrait is better for child because it isn't as stark. Background could be a little more out of focus. One caveat to this: It is probably more of a technical issue with viewing it online but watch your highlights; the hair on the right side of the image appears to be blown out.
44	natural skylight	4	4	4	12	Excellent image. Some detail is lost in the tree visible in the skylight. Good tonal range and composition.
45	broken	4	3	4	11	Good composition; good conversion. Straight lines are not an issue with dilapidated buildings. Good image for black and white; lots of texture. Might consider darkening the lower right corner because it draws the eye away from the subject.
46	memories	3	4	4	11	Dilapidated buildings are great subjects for black and white. Good tonal range, i.e., bright whites to deep blacks. The image is a little cluttered and it is difficult to tell what you want us to look at, perhaps a little less depth of field in the foreground would reduce the clutter and focus the viewer on the back wall.
47	this old shack	3	4	4	11	Good conversion to black and white with deep blacks and bright whites; good sky. Composition is a little off; the left side of the shack is very close to the edge with lots of room behind the shack.
48	crossing	3	3	4	10	Composition is generally good. However, watch your edges; we want to fill the frame but still leave room around the edges for "breathing room" as well as mounting. I would like to see the background darkened so it fades further into the background as well provide more contrast to the image. Sky is unfortunate; it is rather boring but there is nothing to be done about this except to go out and shot it again when the sky is spotted with clouds. A blue sky in a black and white image will always be a big block of gray and won't be appeal to your viewer.
49	easternneck	4	3	3	10	Good composition; good choice to minimize the boring sky, i.e., no clouds. Weakest aspect of the image is the conversion; this image needs more contrast. More contrast would help with the impact of the images as well.
50	enduring the swarm	2	4	4	10	I feel sorry for the cows; I hate it when one mosquito comes after me! Great subject for a black and white image; lots of texture as well as drama. However, I want to see the other cow's face.



51	marions prayer	3	4	3	10	Very harsh lighting but appears to be ambient not added so you must deal with it in the best way possible. Here the older gentlemen's beard is blown out while the other two people are underexposed. In Lightroom or Photoshop, decrease the highlights to bring back detail in the beard and increase shadows to lightent the individuals- qucik and easy fix. Also the older gentlemen is too close to the left side of the image.
52	retention pond	4	3	3	10	Nice retention pond-most aren't worth photographing! Good focus and sharpness throughout the image. Some clouds and the trees on the left side of the foreground appear to be blown out. Composition is fine but subject and photograph are familiar so impact is minimal.
53	rickety and still working	3	3	4	10	Use of the dock as a leading line is good but end of dock ends up in exact middle of image. Common composition, perspective, and subject. Good conversion, bright whites and deep blacks; exposure, focus, etc. looks good.
54	starboard tacks	3	3	4	10	Very little room at top of the image for the sails to "breathe." Conversion is good with some bright whites and some deep blacks. Background is very busy; pay attention to the background-they many times will make or break an image. Shoot at a lower f-stop, i.e., wider aperture, to blur the background.
55	waterfall illusions	2	4	4	10	Composition is off; good conversion and impact. Two big issues with composition, the left most waterfall is completely cut off and the right most is way to close to the right edge of the image. Shoot this as a vertical and only include the two right most waterfalls and leave room for the right most water fall to flow out of the image.
56	dredge	3	2	4	9	Good subject but perhaps just too much of the subject. The background is distracting (too bright given the color of the rope); darken the background and the ropes will pop out at you. Also a very busy image. However, there are a lot of "pictures within this picture" that would be more impactful. Get up closer and isolate individual portions of the subject.
57	fenwick homes	4	3	2	9	Good composition; the line of homes draws your eys in and down the lien of homes. However, the stairs on the last how is partially cut off. You either want to cut it off enough that we know that you meant to do so, which means you only get part of the boat, or leave enough room for the stairs to breath. From a technical perspective, the image is over-sharpened. See the halos on the tops of the roof.
58	duck pond	3	3	2	8	Nice subject, good horizontal composition (like the smal pod of grass in lower left corner because it helps add depth to the image. The horizon of the lake is dead center and the image is very static: cut more of the sky out to raise the horizon in the image but make sure the tree tops remain in the image. Also, the trees exhibit some halo'ing from too much structure or clarity.
59	watching polar express	2	4	2	8	Great subject and idea. The image is, however, out of focus and lacks much contrast, lacking pizzazz.

60	the hand	2	2	1	5	Out of focus and cropped too tightly.
61	plumeria	4	5	5	14	Excellent image. Good composition but the negative area in the image is quite large a little crop off the right side of the image might help focus viewers on the subject. Very good conversion-I can still see detail in the white petals. The black negative space adds a lot of drama to the image.
62	eclipse start bw	3	4	4	11	The moon, although in the upper third of the image, would probably be better placed to one side of the image. Also, it would be good to lighten the clouds; they are very difficult to see.
63	anchor doorstep bw	3	3	4	10	Subject is centered in frame and static; better to crop off a little off the left side and top to move it off center. Good conversion for this type of photograph, i.e., low contrast.
64	bayside painter	2	3	4	9	Good placement of the painter and easel in the image; however, the feet of the painter and easel are cut off. If you mean to cut something out of the image, cut enough off that we know you meant to do so; otherwise, we think that you just weren't paying attention to the details.

