

## Tidewater Camera Club Competition Score Sheet

Month/Year: September 2014

Theme: Open (with no time limit)

From 1-5 points for each score

	Title	Comp	Impact	Tech	Total	Judges Comments
1	along route 55	4	4	5	13	The old truck sitting askew amid tall grass and the odd coloration add to the impact of the scene. Vignetting the edges contributes to the feeling of times past.
2	bad hair day	3	3	4	10	The bird is sensational, bushy-haired and red-eyed. The foreground framing is a bit strong relative to the lighting of the bird. The use of an out of focus background is appropriate in order to provide separation , yet its busyness slightly detracts. Perhaps a little more brightness on the subject would make the difference.
3	barred owl from below	4	5	5	14	A fine sharp image, where it needed to be, on the owl's face. There are several distracting spots the scene where light filters through the foliage, although I would consider that minor. The sharply focused leaves are also minor. A cooperative bird, nicely exposed. Well done.
4	bass harbor lighthouse	4	3	5	12	A very pleasing composition with the rocks, the tree, and lighthouse. But I'd like to see a bit more of the lighthouse. Highlights on the green foliage also enhance the scene.
5	benoni street	3	3	5	11	An interesting sky, calm water surface, and a segment of pier make an interesting image, especially in black & white, but sorry to say it really needs another element...a boat, perhaps in the left foreground.
6	black grasshopper	3	4	5	12	The subject is captured well, centered, and quite sharp. The orange tones in the background provide some strong, mildly distracting framing, while at the same time showing us its environment. I'm undecided about the pale leaves in the foreground.
7	calli	4	5	5	14	Calli is a very strong image. Excellent detail and color. I just wonder if some further exploration with the angle of the subject could enhance it further. Perhaps placing it off center in the frame would do it.
8	camouflaged	5	5	5	15	A well titled photo, and a well presented image overall, with foreground and background elements out of focus, while the subject ( off-centered) is sharp. The overall green tonality is a strength, with nothing too bright or too dark. A winner.
9	clock tower	3	3	3	9	The spire of the tower gets faint and ultimately lost in the white sky. It might be improved by reducing the brightness of the image. The angle of the tower seems well chosen, and the foliage adds a touch of framing at the bottom and left.

10	cove point	3	3	3	9	The photo was well timed to get the beacon glowing, but mid-day shots, as this appears to be, rarely have the impact that such a nice subject might have in the early morning or late in the day.
11	cow pies	3	2	4	9	Well...the cow pies are visible and plentiful, but really aren't the subject of this pastoral scene. The handsome cow is well exposed and sharp, but the scene needs something more! Perhaps a closer view, or portrait, using the blue corrugated barn siding as a background to give it greater impact.
12	cranberry ridge	3	3	5	11	This is a very pleasing landscape, with interest added by using several layers of texture and tone. It would have been useful to bring the top layer of clouds down near the mountain ridge, thus adding another horizontal layer ( this can be done in the digital darkroom ), and/or to have a vehicle or horse-drawn wagon on that road.
13	double hibiscus	3	3	3	9	The flower is exposed well, although not dramatically. If flowers are to be a frequent subject, it is handy to look for a dark area that can be situated behind the subject. Alternatively, carry a black velvet fabric that can be used as a background. Underexposing the shot will also bring out more form in the leaves and add drama. In this photo a light toned board in the lower background distracts. Just cover it up with velvet!
14	echoes of a Sunday afternoon	4	4	5	13	A nice slightly asymmetrical composition with pleasant texture and tones on the repeating bridge supports. Even the angle of the sunlight echoes the angles of the bridge on the left side. The distant blue triangle becomes a point of interest.
15	eggistential attitude	3	4	5	12	Who would have thought that frying eggs could be a competition entry? But it works! From my perspective it may have been stronger if the circular forms of the frying pan and the pepper grinder had not been cropped. Then it is a repetition of round forms on black and gray.
16	farmers daughter	5	4	5	14	A very nicely organized portrait with good use of rim lighting on her jacket. The cropping seems a bit too tight on the right side, cutting off some of her hair which seems to be beautifully backlit. I like the tones of the field and sky, and also the "farmhouse" in the background. Well done.
17	green hub	4	5	4	13	A bold abstract with strong lines which lead the eye to the center hub rather than the snappy green offset hub. An interesting photo with highly saturated colors.
18	growing old	3	3	3	9	This is a fine subject and the photographer has made use of the two trees to provide framing while keeping the main architectural features of the house. Use of late ( or early ) light could have enhanced the impact, and the focus is slightly soft.

19	highway gothic	3	4	5	12	Once again the repeating bridge structure provides a strong leading line toward the distant triangle. Even the gradation of light from darker foreground to lighter background works well. If a person in a red jacket had been leaning on the rail of the wooden crosswalk, we would have had a point of interest with great impact.
20	hiking out	3	4	5	12	This photo draws the eye in and makes the viewer want to look at the details. The graceful sails work well together. The only weakness that I see is the presence of the power boats, particularly the larger one to the left. Photoshop needs to come to the rescue!
21	how many meals	5	4	4	13	A compelling photo with a broad tonal range from pure black to pure white. I like the steam or smoke rising from the pan and all the textures around the man. This is nitpicking, but I find the sharpness to work very well in most areas of the image, and less well in others. Note that his sweater, whiskers, and hair seem to sparkle. If we could see his eyes or some emotion, this photo would be stronger yet.
22	indian river bridge	4	5	5	14	The pleasing blue tones against a fading dusky sky provides a picture with impact. The composition could be further explored ,, maybe there is more to the left that we should see.
23	kingfisher at twilight	3	4	4	11	The kingfisher is shown as a black and white against a solid orange background, which leaves the viewer wondering if it was photographed in a natural setting or in a museum. It might be more effective if the bird was shown in natural color against a soft gray background. The bird does show some personality!
24	krinkles reflecting	4	3	3	10	The composition is interesting, especially putting the cat's face in the upper right ( using the "rule of thirds" concept ). However, the bright white spot on the floor is distracting as is the graininess.
25	lake louise	3	4	4	11	Lake Louise is shown beautifully, but the dramatic mountains are somewhat lost in darkness. There is great ruggedness and beauty in the distant peaks. A long lens might have shifted the emphasis to them while still keeping the color of the lake. Alternatively, if the wide angle lens that was used had been tipped down, we might have seen the entire shoreline of the lake.
26	log canoe	4	4	3	11	This one is a challenge. All the busy texture makes it appear that we are looking through a backlit piece of parchment. The boat and crew are well placed in the frame, i.e., the boat has space in front of it ( another principal of composition ).
27	love beheld	4	3	4	11	I like the diagonal composition and the soft lighting, Maybe a smaller aperture would have allowed both adult hands to have been in focus, rather than just the left.
28	mad red tailed hawk	4	5	5	14	A fine expression and symmetrically presented subject, i.e. right in the middle. The only distraction is the brownish vertical object in the left background.

29	moon set crabbing	4	4	5	13	A beautiful pictorial composition. Nice late light, although a bit bright on the tree trunks to the back left. Nice gradation of color from the moon to the trees. I would remove the leaves from the upper right of the scene.
30	mother goose	3	3	3	9	This captures MotherGoose and her little ones, but not in a very dramatic way. It would require much patience, but maybe all of the little ones at some point would look toward the camera. The muck or grass in the foreground water is distracting. Side light would also enhance shape. Mother is in sharp focus, babies a bit soft. Nevertheless, an enjoyable family shot.
31	mt mckinley	4	3	3	10	Fortunately there is a leading line ( the tracks) to lead us to the faint mountain in the distance. With a little effort in photo editing software, the contrast in the mountain could be enhanced, making it a stronger part of the scene. Removal of the overhead wires and sign would improve it too.
32	my luckiest snap	4	5	5	14	This is a photojournalistic shot in which the photographer captured a decisive moment. It would be great if we could see more context of the event, perhaps even the driver's face and expression. But that is a lot to ask. This is dramatic, sharp, and technically sound.
33	nanticoke	4	3	4	11	There is a lot going on in this photo, making the viewer look all around when the focus point should be the eye ( which is partly obstructed). Certainly colorful and with good use of shallow depth of field.
34	old woman st lucia	5	5	5	15	A very well captured and presented image. Her face is cheerful and facing the viewer. The colors and door frame provide a strong composition.
35	on the go	3	4	4	11	The United terminal in Chicago is a fascinating place for photography. The setting is already strong, thus the photographer needs to select a person or thing to provide an accent. Try waiting for a person with a special hat, or silhouetting a person with a side shot. While on the conveyor the subjects are captives, thus you can look at who is coming and place them in the photo.
36	osprey landing	3	3	3	9	The osprey's wings in motion, with the body sharp, conveys the true sense of a nest landing. A good photo, but not a strong competition entry.
37	osprey pair	4	3	4	11	I like the visual relationship of the birds, one strong vertical with the head and eye looking up toward the other. Both are sharp. There may be a small dust spot on the sensor, visible in the lower right
38	paddle boarding	3	3	4	10	This is a situation in which the subject is clearcut and the boulders provide some framing. It is just what the title says...paddle boarding, but not very exciting paddle boarding.. I would like to see more of the scenery with the boarder as a smaller an accent.
39	patroness of the fort	3	3	3	9	The photo has a pleasing tonality and feeling of balance even though the "patroness" is not centered. She could also be selectively brightened, and the dark spot on the wall beside her removed.

40	petunia	4	4	3	11	Although I enjoy photographs of flowers I don't find a great sense of beauty in this. It's composition is fairly strong, and certainly the stark white in contrast with the violet provides impact. Perhaps what is needed is a bee.
41	praying	4	4	4	12	It is difficult to retain sharpness in small close-up subjects such as this, but the key part of the photo - the face and arms —are in focus. The overall green tone is pleasing. The soft pink in the background suggests flowers, but does not detract because the mantis is right up front. The texture of the fabric in sharp focus is a distraction.
42	reveral bridge	5	5	5	15	Very well photographed. The long exposure creates a pleasant softness on the water surface. The warm light of the setting sun is a fine background. The only negative that I see is a spot ( maybe dust ) right above the tallest bridge structure.
43	roar no more	3	4	4	11	This is a fairly gruesome scene, but not a bad travel shot. It certainly helps recall the location because of the busyness in the background and the fire below.
44	roof view	3	3	4	10	The repetition of architectural forms often produces a pleasing image. This is on-the-way, but not quite there! I'd suggest looking at some of the details in this scene to see if there is a stronger point of interest to be revealed by means of cropping.
45	sand play	3	3	3	9	Well, this is a good family photo to help recall a day at the beach, but as a competition entry it just does not tell us enough. The child seems to be deep in a hole , but hasn't year created anything for us to enjoy. The top down point of view is a good creative approach, and it is sharp and well exposed.
46	shoeprint	4	3	4	11	The shoe print is clear and sharp, with it's definition enhanced by side lighting. But what does the circle in the sand at the top left tell us?
47	silos	5	4	5	14	What a pleasant pastoral scene. Just a play of horizontally layered landscape with gold tones contrasting with a green stripe. The sepia-toned sky adds another layer.
48	spocott mill	4	3	3	10	The mid-day lighting just does not do justice to this photo. Shooting it straight on works fairly well, but I would avoid cropping off the tip of the windmill blade. And a person in the doorway would give another point of interest.
49	still life	4	3	3	10	Using a low angle and shooting upward produces a diagonal line that provides some interest in this static subject. Some additional color saturation would also contribute. In subjects such as this, details often product even more dramatic compositions.
50	stockholm cathedral	4	3	5	12	The very pleasing colors and depth in this scene make it a fine travel photo. Too bad there is no easy way to remove the automobiles, but that was the way it was.
51	sunrise at steptoe	5	5	5	15	A wonderful landscape. I enjoy the play of light and dark areas, the flowing curved lines, the textured foreground and the softly streaked golden sky. The only tiny distraction is the perfect square in the lower left.

52	tainted hope	5	4	5	14	What a curious image. The little barefoot girl staring directly to the camera and balanced between the pool steps, below the stripes on the wall, in a rippled white dress, and a mess of subdued objects behind her. I like it, except for the light across her face.
53	the tetel chew	5	4	5	14	This black & white with strong side lighting shows texture in many areas. The bright white behind her head and the several patches of brightness help define her and the container at her side. The trees and stump also seem to tell us something about the setting rather than being a distraction.
54	tiger	3	3	5	11	The tiger is well exposed and rich in color and detail; even the whiskers and eyes are well defined. Shallow depth of field enhances the tiger's profile.
55	tri training	5	5	5	15	This is a well executed sports photo. The background blur is excellent as is the streaking of the bike wheels. The composition allows space in front of the rider, which also happens to show her shadow, both positives. About the only thing I might suggest would be for her to be coming from the right so that her face would be in the sunlight rather than her back.
56	view from the museum	5	4	5	14	Well seen design. Simple, clean, interesting. A human element might have given it a boost.
57	water lilies and frog	4	3	3	10	This is interesting and colorful, but could be much more so if shot with warm light late in the day...which would also give shape to the frog and probably better shadows in the lilies.
58	widgeon and friends	3	4	5	12	It seems like there is a good picture in this scene, but it just requires some creative cropping to find it. The scene is well exposed and the lighting brings out the color in the feathers. Maybe this should be a portrait of the widgeon?
59	wild pony	5	4	4	13	The pony is well photographed using the available backlighting to show detail in the mane, whiskers, and grasses. The highlight areas look just a bit too bright, but I recognize that that may have been a judgement made by the photographer.
60	winged follower	3	4	5	12	The dragonfly is well exposed and sharp. The diagonal presentation helps to add compositional strength. But I would suggest trying other angles that might show some of the detail in the wings and make use of darker areas as background.
61	winter light	5	5	5	15	This is a strikingly beautiful image. If this was captured on the Eastern Shore then I'm going to sell our condo and move over here! If this was created by a skilled Photoshop user, then I commend him/her for the careful digital workmanship. Of course, it could be stronger yet with the addition of another element, such as a gnarled tree, or a deer, etc. The high color saturation works.
62	yellow boat val morin	4	5	5	14	Nice boat, nice clouds, nice late light work together to make a very pleasing image.
63	zebra	4	4	4	12	Zebras often look good in black & white, and this is no exception. There are a few darkish things in the background, including another zebra, that look like they could be cropped out. Also if the subject had been cropped from the right to the point where the mane meets the back it would become a stronger portrait. And, there is a background twig that appears to be coming from the zebra's mouth.
64	zebra at dawn	4	4	4	12	Well, we have gone from A to Z, and this is yet another competent image. The warm early light surrounds the foreground zebra and provides a uniform background for its stripes and its friends. With a long lens, this could also have been a good portrait showing its almost symmetrical pattern in a straight on shot.