

Tidewater Camera Club Competition Score Sheet

Month/Year: December 2017

Theme: "Framing"

Title		Comp		Impact	Tech	Total		Placement
1	bolingbrooke_cr	1	1	2	4	I looked at this image at length and often, but was unable to see any frame except the shape of the pier stantions. The brief was use frames to show your subject, so unless the water reflection of the pier is the subject of this image... then this one doesn't work too well. Its just a somewhat postcard style image of a pier and creek...on the pluses the exposure is fine and the focus works. There is an attempt to maybe have a frame on the left, but because it is not mirrored on the right and is out of focus, by itself it is a major distraction.Without a clear point of interest highlighted by a frame, not sure if this is in the right competition. If you are struggling with the competition, help yourself, find an experienced club member and ask for help. Don't be afraid, I am sure they will help you to choose an image that is right for the competition! Or help you in taking one!		
2	business_end	3	2	4	9	This is almost great... annoyingly so! The hard graft of finding a frame here, has been done. With amazing diverging lines leading to it. Very clever. Yet the frame is very small. Who says size doesn't matter?! Try lowering the angle somewhat and getting the exhaust port a much bigger, and not so close to the edge of the image, would I'm sure work better. Currently the 'port' is almost presented as an after thought, than purposely done. Having said that – Well seen... but there is so much that is not necessary here and because of it, the frame and the interest is lost somewhat. Maybe more of a vertical crop would have made this a wonderful find with the leading lines the plane's shape taking the eye to the exhaust port. Being super picky but make sure you have the image centered correctly, not off by hair or two.		
3	butterfly_on_door_2	2	2	4	8	Vertical and horizon lines being off are my pet hate! So easy to correct with todays tech. So now that that is out of the way... the butterfly is nice and crisp. I would process it to desaturate any color in the background, as the pink hue currently there, is not working for me. Not when the butterfly markings are so monochromatic. Would like to have seen more depth of field as my eye drifts to the background from the butterfly too easily. Think if it was possible to get slightly higher perspective, the butterfly shape might have been so much more pleasing. Nice find.		
4	Coat_of_Arms	4	3	4	11	Clean and crisp image, well seen, nice focus. Wonderful frame within frame find. Great color. A highlight in the comp! Being picky again, as I so often am, I think it would benefit from being a true square image, try loosing the guiliding on the left and right sides. Side note: if you were so inclined, you could have fun playing with zooming options with you lens during your exposure, or in post... could be an interesting exercise. Well done.		
5	creamsicle_dawn	2	2	4	8	Very cool silhouette postcard shot of Bay life! Suspect that this maybe an archival image pulled out for the comp, on another day in a different comp this would do very well. Yet in this comp the frame and the action that is happening with the fisherman/woman is on the boat... that tiny boat in a big image of sky and sea! All the hard graft is done here... great color, well seen subject, but there is almost 2/3 of this image that could be cropped out to leave you with the great frames of the boat especially, with one containing the fisherman/woman. It could have been lens limitation. If not don't be afraid to fill your image with the subject when necessary! So frustrating close!!!!		

6	CrumptonBridge	3	1	3	7	This is also frustrating! Finding a great natural frame, then stopping! Why? The frame is a device or tool to guide the viewer to something interesting. It is not enough just to have a frame!!! Read the definition! I'm waiting expecting a heron or eagle flying through the frame or maybe a colorful sailboat anytime now, not a spec of some structure so far off I can't make it out. The exposure is also strong and harsh, I feel no reason to want to find out what it is... gone in 60 seconds or in this case 5 second! The focus is good but it's just not enough! Shame!	
7	docked_roughly	2	1	3	6	Not wanting to pick on one image to make a point but at this stage of the comp I have seen this a number of times. Landscape images shot at aperture F16 or F22. Sharp all through the frame yay! As above not good enough... you have found a somewhat frame... almost by accident it seems and almost cropped it out. But a aperture of F4 on the boat would have softened the frame and helped the viewer immensely. The composition is so very weak here, even though there is a nice find, the boat head on gives the viewer a white blob with no features or shape. Later or earlier in the day might have yielded more interesting light rather than the monochromatic uninteresting image presented. Just a thought a different time of day may have yielded a glass like water too... making the reflection amazing... try again!	
8	frame_in_ruins	3	2	3	8	Not for the first time...Where to start? Great location, nice and sharp. Good exposure... but that's where it kind of falls over. The composition is very weak! Leaving just peoples heads and shoulder drifting in the lower left, a big no no. I can see the attempt to frame using the horizontal cloud cover... Nicely scene... but just not enough. The columns dominate the central subject, plus the contrast is very flat..Making this a grab shot at best! As a black and white with the people gone and most of the columns too - you may be on to something. Plus note: one of the most creative visual framing in the comp!	
9	frozen_morning	2	2	3	7	I love black and whites with great tones and textures and unfortunately this isn't one of them! Oh what a shame... this is like the Bay sunset shot earlier... great find – might work better in a different comp – for this one almost a wasted effort. There is a frame with nothing in it. (The upper part of the image) The shadowed branches in the middle have no real definition as such no interest there either! There is a gem in the image that was not obviously explored... the frozen lamp... from what I can see, great textures plus multiple frames to play with from the glass in the lamp. A Closeup of this really should be the image here... done properly... a total winner with that icicle... don't be afraid to explore a scene, not take one image and move on! Your job as a photographer is to explore and present the usual in an unusual way!	
10	Hail_David	4	3	4	11	Ah David in Florence! Beautifully shot, well processed, great use of frame. Appears a tad overexposed but that could be my monitor, Reflected in the score. In black and white quite breath taking a site... however careful where your eye is lead to, as in the case, we'll say no more on that one! As photographers we need to ask questions of ourselves and our audience. This image looks like it came out of the Florence Museum catalog... not a compliment I'm sorry. It has been taken a thousand times – am sure there were several other angles for getting the statue and frame together to make more of an original image. As previously with the snow scene... don't be afraid to experiment and explore... thats how you learn to make compelling images!	
11	hofburg_palace_carriages	3	2	4	9	I looked at this image at length ... yes it is well taken, is technically good, with good light and exposure. Processing a touch harsh, but thats a personal preference, nice archway framing the carriages... yet is it compelling? Does it make me want to go there... no! It's a very 'safe' image. Will work great as an editorial image. Watch for the heavy dark vignetting, it isn't helping with such a light colored image. There are so many other frames that could have been explored from the subject presented... next time take a chance...	

12	homebound	4	4	3	11	My heart sang when I saw this Bravo! Sharp, a touch over exposed. Such a simple and effective image with the sunlight creating a natural frame! One of my favs from this comp. Great find but think square crop would work better. Making the main subject less bullseye and getting him looking back into the image. Excellent execution of the competition brief!	
13	house in meadow	2	2	3	7	Conversely my heart sank when I saw this image... the reason was the gimmicky quasi-HDR of the processing! The extreme colorization, all trying to mask the main issue...No real composition, resulting in a lack luster image. Yes it does have a frame! Yes it has something in the frame! Yet all the viewer sees is stark color and hyper sharpness, all just high lighting how busy this image is – total sensory overload! Totally unnecessary! Even the horizon is off as the house is slightly sloping to the left, Trees don't grow perfectly straight up, making them so only increased the issues within this image. Desaturating this image is a must to get this to work, Using a wider aperture to soften the foreground would have helped greatly. That and a tighter crop all aid to make this image work better.	
14	house_abandoned	3	2	3	8	DOF... DOF... @£\$%%DOF! Stop shooting a scene like this a F16 or F22...use what nature provides to your advantage... F5.6 would have been ideal... why because all the detail of the foreground tree's branches dominates the main subject of the old house! In fact they all but obscure the house! Figure out the star of your photograph and make sure your viewer sees it easily! Hiding it like this makes the scene overly busy and uninteresting... in this case resulting in all that great texture of the old house, that is screaming to be looked at, is lost... think about your compositions... not enough to point your camera and push the shutter. This photographer knows how to get good exposure and good focus but forgot the most important thing and that is to make images that interest the viewer! Go back if you can and try again!	
15	Jersey_Barrier_Widgeon	2	1	2	5	Frame – check! Subject check...done! Time for tea and biscuits! NO NO NO! Exposure is not great, neither is the subject... get to know your subjects, ducks are predictable in their habits... just wait long enough and they will start to repeat patterns. Like bobbing their heads and then shaking the water off, possibly then flapping their wings to get the water off... the hard part was finding the frame kudos for that, finding a bird again bravo! But being in too much of a hurry to wait for the bird to do something more than preen. Bad photographer! There is currently not even a graceful silhouette of the bird...Oh did I mention the not straight horizon???	
16	kissing_bridge_window	3	2	4	9	We appear to have an accomplished technical photographer here, yet for all that technical expertise I am left wanting, Yes we have a frame, yes we have a subject in the frame! But the effort to illuminate the inside of the barn, in this case created a paradox in this image. One where the foreground presented was more interesting than the main subject of the watermill. Lean to use your flash correctly, turn you flash down to get a more natural look without harsh shadows. Now the frame that enormous frame – the composition of the watermill seems lost, almost an after thought, when you finally do look at it, you start asking why the watermill at all? Currently there is a bullseye feel to the location of the frame too, try cropping some of the interior away to get back to your main subject. Try and get a more equal exposure between the interior and the exterior to make a more cohesive image, rather than two individual images in the same picture	

17	let_me_out_of_here	3	2	4	9	A frame, a subject in the frame...Criteria of the comp fulfilled.. result! Not quite sure if that is enough... Am I repeating myself, am I in a bad dream? Here we have a slightly underexposed well taken image, it is nice and sharp... but the interest falls away quickly. The bird is looking away, so no engagement with the viewer. There is half the frame with negative space, that may suggest pity for the captive bird, but it serves no strong purpose here. The image needs a little more pop in contrast but the big thing is that the composition is very weak. If this was taken with a similar angle to the "David" statue image earlier in the comp, then we would be looking at something fresh. That may also have got the bird to engaged a bit, then we are talking something very cool. Think about angles... 'head-on" anyone can do...if you have invested money in your gear, learn to use it creatively – experiment! Take a risk, if it fails work out why, then try again! Each time you will know what not to do and get closer to creating something wonderful to share!	
18	lost_in_the_distance	1	1	2	4	Foggy days and bridges normally equate to photographic gold, yet poor composition and a bullseye approach leave the image feeling flat. The introduction of a blue gradient does nothing to lift the image, in fact it might be working against it, making it more oppressive. This is a grab shot at best with no compositional effort taken.Lost to find the main subject here too!.	
19	marys_cat	2	1	2	5	Oh Mary, this is nice find with a natural frame, yet the poor exposure and lack of real composition relegate this to no more that a grab shot. In conditions like these under expose the scene to get definition in the wooden planks and a lot of the fur. Then you could have increased the contrast to make the cat pop. Not forgetting the upright on the right! It really dominates because of size and color, watch the corners and edge photographers!!!	
20	missed_goal	2	2	4	8	Missed opportunity here too. Great shot of the girl, yet the severe crop on the goal posts makes the image feel a little enclosed. Elements need to be able to "breathe, so would have benefited from more space both left and right. Took me a while to find the ball and only found it after reading the title. Not great! There appear to several other options with stronger frames like through one of the arms of the girl. On the pluses great exposure and very sharp. Love the texture of the pompoms! Working the scene is a must for the skill level of this photographer to get the best shot available.	
21	montenegro	3	3	3	9	Busy, busy, busy!!! Lost opportunity is what comes to mind here. This looks like the first shot in a possible sequence. One where the photographer would look at all the different and wonderful options presented to them here! Yet the result here is a busy image that doesn't have a clear point of subject. I can see at least four or five great images that you could extract out of this location. The color is just fab! Great texture on the internal wall, almost too HDR, but the overblown sun bleached floor kills this image immediately. Think it must have been shot as a JPG. Always shoot RAW, gives you so much latitude to bring areas like this back. My personal preference would have been to explore some of the bars to isolate some of that cool reflection. Concentrating on maybe two or three bars, especially as they are so irregular... would have created something astounding. Love the location here. Go back and try again would be my best advice!	

22	naturally_framed	3	2	3	8	An abundance of frames in this image... they are everywhere but to what end? The more I look at this image, the more confused I become to the real subject. The dominance of the steam/smoke makes it so difficult to get past it. That coupled with how they have little definition as they are and overexposed... the poor couple, which is the most interesting part of the image, are totally lost. The lack of a coherent composition leaves this image wanting. Unfortunately this becomes more of a grab shot than a planned image. Longer lens is a must to get the most out of this kind of scene.
23	origami_escape	2	4	3	9	I love abstracts more than most... so gravitated to this one quickly. Yet the viewer quickly starts to flounder somewhat given the competition subject. I get a sense there should be something within the frame to complete this image... no payoff. Again a frame is not enough! It also appears to lack in contrast for my taste, making it feel very flat! There appears if you look closely a golden origami piece in there that would look great if it was in the main frame part... missed opportunity!
24	passing_through	2	3	3	8	Nice framing here, goodish depth of field usage. It does fit the criteria of the comp.. but am I as the viewer engaged... not really. It's a fox in the wild! At present the image is very flat. The large negative light colored area space doesn't really work and in fact pulls attention away from the fox significantly. Bu that white area is a great excuse to add a soft cloud scene, bringing the focus back to the fox... then maybe a black and white treatment?! Look at what you have taken with an objective eye (this is true for so many images in the comp)... look at the deficiencies, look at ways to enhance them, if need be.As it stands there needs to be more contrast in the fox to make it jump from its surroundings. Suggest cropping tighter might have eliminated some of this. The processing leaves a lot to be desired here... what we have is a framed grab shot nothing more. It's not enough these days to press the shutter and walk away unless your name is Joe McNally!
25	peekaboo	3	3	3	9	Another image I've looked at and considered a few times... Lets start with the good... Nice sharp focus, good exposure, DOF works for the main subjects. Now not so good – choice of the subject not that compelling, somewhat humorous maybe? Poor composition plus poor cropping of an image that I am sure had more background distractions to what we see in this... the planters I can live with - just. The Menu board I can't! Another case of pressing the shutter, getting a frame and going home... don't be afraid to look at other angles and maybe take a risk or two. The more I look at this, the more I see several alternatives that may have improved what has been presented... changing your viewing angle, as discussed, is the easiest and most obvious. Getting lower making the second figure have much greater presence is a choice. But I noticed that the two statues are on a wet red square... I think there would have been a wonderfully creative shot of the reflections in the red square...the red square creating a frame... could have been spectacular! Missed opportunity!
26	pulling_pots	3	4	3	10	Another shot that was close to being something great yet falls at the first hurdle. Sloping horizon seeing the bridge and horizon line falling to the left... unforgivable. The rest is very well done, Great find, nice interactions between the fishermen. Multiple frames from the boat to the fishing pots nice stuff. Maybe me but I think the foreground is slightly sharper than the fishermen... watch for that. The color balance needs works. The skin tones of the fishermen seem overly red.

27	Rising_Volcano	2	2	3	7	Subjects in Frames is the theme of the comp... again its not enough to show a frame and be done! Its really about the use of frames to highlight something else in your image. It is a trick painters and photographers use, like diverging lines to help guide the viewer to a payoff... something, a person, a bicycle, a toy, an animal – anything. Its like going to see a card magician, and watching them shuffle cards all nite. You would feel cheated The frame is part of your composition, it is the card shuffling to get to the trick!!! Really try to consider your composition and what look at what you present. Again composition is the weakness in this image... without separation in the upper part of the image from the “volcano” – the image feels lost. The good color of the foreground doesn’t work with the blues of the majority of the image... you must color balance your image to get a more even feel. Watch for dust spots in your image... this one has several including one almost in the centre.	
28	sand_beach_overlook	2	2	3	7	Classic postcard shot, not a compliment! Feels like a shot from someones archive, rather than taken specifically for the comp. The focus is soft, maybe at the limit of your lens! The exposure is also poor. With today’s technology it is going some to get an over exposed scene like this. The image does have a subject with in a frame which is better than some, but I feel that it was not taken with that in mind. If I am wrong I apologize! The image would benefit from cropping the sea in the upper part somewhat... bringing the focus back to our slightly soft couple. Side note: The time it takes to go through your archive to find something that fits, could be better spent trying something new with current skill set... don’t be afraid to have a go rather than trawl the old pics for something that fits.	
29	schonbrunn_palace_gardens	4	4	4	12	Not suppose to have favs but in this months comp this could be mine! There is so much to like in this image, the exposure, the compositional symmetry, the frames, did I mention the frames!... appeal to my graphics side. However the color is bordering on HDR with its over saturation... fine for an Album Cover but its is starting distort the sky, so maybe not so for a stand alone image! Minor points I would like to see a little bit more separation between the top of the fence and the monumental arch. Secondly I could do away with the columns to the far right and left of the image. So a tighter crop would be my personal preference. Lastly watch for Chromatic Aberration between the light and the dark areas in the top archway! All fairly Minor! A bit more care needed – Well done!	
30	seeing_red	3	3	3	9	Clearly a case of wood for the trees here! Epicly so! This image suffers from poor depth of field and a too tight of a crop. Nice color, good sharpness. However the tonal quality leaves it too busy. Without that block of red it would be hard to distinguish anything here. If the foreground were soft it might lead the viewer comfortably to the red leaves! Or being a bit more adventurous and doing a zoom to the red leave and creating a striking abstract. I also feel that there was a lost opportunity here, there could have been an interesting reflection that may have worked better... we will never know! Think outside of the box next time!	
31	The_Pirate_Ship	2	3	3	8	Looking at this tree-scape there is great deal of technical merit going on in this image. Sharp focus, good exposure. Yet again lacking is a strong subject. The hard graft of finding a frame here has been done but there is so much that is not necessary here. A much much tighter crop would have made this concentrate of the subject mentioned in the title but since the subject shown shows little in for form of dynamics, one has to possibly question the choice. Watch for objects on the eges of your images, as here in the bottom right!	

32	the_runner	3	3	3	9	Clear case of making the competition subject the image rather, than using it to highlight the scene of the runner. The busyness of the framing is such that the eye is overwhelmed almost immediately and wants to look away, this effect is enhanced by the severe processing. The poor use of depth of field only increases the effect of being overwhelmed. An aperture of F5.6 or less would have worked wonders here. By cropping 60% of the tree and foreground you could get a better stronger sense of what the scene could be. The boat is unfortunately irrelevant, and quickly become a distraction here as the couple are looking away from it. This photographer has grasp the fundamentals well and now need to exploreSo use of depth of field would have made this image work much better.	
33	The_view_from_Fort_Jefferson	4	4	5	13	Multiple frames here are well found they work well, good exposure and nice and crisp throughout! Yet personally the use of the main frame makes the couple feel bullseye like. Totally unnecessary as the main subject is obviously the couple walking through the scene. A more interesting crop might help this image greatly. Maybe even using the brighter walkway as the last part of the frame...Watch for chromatic aberrations when you go from light to dark... minor but may help if you wanted to print something like this!	
34	tritone	3	2	3	8	This is almost brilliant... frustratingly so!. Appeals to my graphics side. The hard graft of finding a frame here has been done. The bow around the eye - well seen... but there is so much that is not necessary here and because of it the frame and the interest are lost. A much much tighter crop would have made this a wonderful find as would maybe a black and white approach. Would have loved to see something more from this!	
35	up_to_the_volcano	2	2	3	7	Yes a frame, a big frame! Showing me a view of a small clouded volcano scene and maybe some interesting clouds... again a bullseye image... composition is sadly lacking as is my feeling that the volcano is even worth looking for in the mist! Without out the title I would not know that somewhere there was even a volcano! The tree-line in the frame might be worth exploring or even filling the window frame with just the clouds and really processing them would have been a more winning approach. As would moving your view point to the left with that diagonal light falling over the wall and frame creating a square crop with the window frame off centre!	
36	view_from_the_white_house	2	1	3	6	Where to start.. it is not enough to have your image containing a frame/s. This particular shot cuts parts of the main elements in half by one of the said frames. Not a great move. There is possibly an interesting image from the lower right pane... but not enough to make this work well. Having access to such a view and not capitalizing on it it almost criminal! This is where working the view is definitely needed. To improve this image try moving your angle left/right/up/down it would have yielded a much more compelling image I am sure!	
37	view_into_the_sacristy	3	4	3	10	Clearly frames here! Well spotted such a lovely scene... great sense of depth and emotional contemplation...the processing of the images is what keeps this image from being wonderful. The over exposure in the foreground of the surrounding door frame... is extremely distracting. Maybe a black and white might have been so much more powerful Processing the scene to better illuminate the man&desk part of the image. Great find well done! Just need to look at getting the most from you image.	

38	water_views	2	2	2	6	Because this image is obviously a small crop from a much larger image, one has to ask why? Yes it does contain frames but in not compelling in any way. The subject is the house with frames in it, not a frame with a house in it. No sense of composition. Over exposure of the white areas draws the eye and it is very difficult to get back from there, .	
39	window_dressing	2	2	3	7	Lots of frames here but without the main window frame the other frames feel like they are floating somewhat.. the white key-line does not make up for this! Not a fan of keylines around pictures! Direct flash, again not a great idea, hotspots and harsh shadows, both very distracting being the resultant. Try concentrating on one frame maybe the one with the snake head, it would be more interesting . Watch for depth of field... seeing another room in the background is also distracting but sadly in this case feels more interesting than the main image.	
40	winter_light	4	4	3	11	One of my favs from this comp. Great find but think square crop would work better. Lower frame doesn't add anything. Touch more contrast to make the image sing a bit more. Watch for branches of second tree encroaching... easy fix with a little more compositional effort.very nice indeed.	
41	woodies_at_work	1	1	2	4	struggling to see any frame here. More a case of diverging lines rather than a frame. Making the image out of subject. It doesn't help that the composition is weak, the birds don't relate to each other. The over processing has introduced severe Chromatic Aberration (easy fix in LR or PS if shot in RAW). A similar note to end the comp as it began! If you are struggling with the competition, help yourself, find an experienced club member and ask for help. Don't be afraid, I am sure they will help you to choose an image that is right for the competition! Or help you in taking one!	