

Overall impressions of all 38 images:

- All created good exposures and no blown out highlights
- A lot needed a bit more contrast or punching up the colors.
- Many images would have been improved by using polarizers
- Many would be improved by cropping. It is important to know what to include and what to leave out of the picture frame. If not done when making the image, can always be done on the computer.
- Simplicity can be an attribute. Keep it simple and know what the most important thing is, that is your subject so are there other items that compete? If so then leave them out of the final image.

Judge's Winners:

first Place: #26 Persuasion

second place: #18 Kauai Meting

third place: #4 Boardwalk

HM: #32 Saturday Night Live at Cambridge Creek

HM #14 Follow the Leader

My choices were based upon the photographers ability to recognize a unique opportunity to capture the moment using technical and compositional elements and "seeing" the possible impact. And of course using good lighting as well. Also, there were the images that took careful planning ahead by knowing the locations and executing the plan. Another aspect in the planning and then knowing when the shooting will best work for the subject.

An old saying: "Luck" favors the prepared (skilled) photographer.
And of course, it is all about light how you use it.

**Tidewater Camera Club
Competition Score Sheet**

Month/Year: April 2020

Theme: "Open - with time limit"

Section		Title	Comp	Impact	Tech	Total		Placement
a	1	anthurium	3	4	3	10	A very striking image, especially the red. For macro the lack of good focus on the top right weakens the imag. Also the lack of "breathing space" at the edges. Background is a casts so distractions from the light and dark	
b	2	a_basket_and_a_blue_sky	3	2	4	9	The maker chose interesting subjects and is was executed well. Not sure why the basket was cropped as is. It weakens the subject. The tree and blue sky is what caught my eye. A stronger polarized sky would be helpful to increase the contrast then the image would be stronger as a square corpping some from the top and just have a few of the stones and totally eliminate the basket. I do like the curve of the tree and more space to the left	
a	3	beggar_woman	4	3	4	11	this is an impressive image from a jounalistic point of view or certainly as street photography. It does not look posed as I suspect the photographer used a small telepho from across the street. The two powerful colos are the small red thing in her dand and the yellow of the scarf. I might suggest that the bottle be photoshopped out. The placement of the woman to the right and somewhat facing to the left works very well. The two vastly differnt backgrounds weakens the image a bit but as a catch the moment can not be helped.	

a	4	boardwalk	5	5	5	15	An image that is extremely impressive as a B&W. The diagonal lines all direct the eye into the image to the vanishing point. Even the clouds direct the eye in the same direction. There is plenty of contrast in the black and white. Good detail in the whites. Like the center lines that are not perfectly straight down the center, just enough off traight to increase the dynamics of the overall image.	3rd place
b	5	busy_bee	2	2		4	In this macro image the bee is quite sharp from top to legs which is difficult with such a close up image. It would be even nicer if the head of the bee were captured perhaps from a side or slightly oblique perspective. A darker background and the leaves in the bottom in front are a bit distracting. A little more cropping would improve the image- a little from the ledt to get rid of the leaf, a good amount from the bottom ge limitthe our of focus leaves and some from the right to get rid of the brown.	
b	6	dames_quarters_md	2	1	3	6	The photographer chose a n interesting subject with blue water, salt grass xlumps blending together as the eye rededes into the image clouds and a blue sky predominate. To give the image more impact it should be more contrasty and work with a polarizer to do this to the sky especially . Missing i is something to draw the viewers eye and more contrash would be helpful.	

a	7	Dark Horse Jumping The Fence	3	4	5	12	Images of the milky way are most always stunning as is this one. The fence that has a diagonal before it bends to the right weakens the composition somewhat the shadows are nice on the sand. The horse nebula is difficult to discern and weakens the overall image.	
a	8	dark_places	3	3	4	10	The angles of the book and pistol work nicely together as well as the red leaves. Also the yellow satin cloth. The dark areas around the image create the use of the work in the title. The projection of the gloved hand into the image I think decreases the impact. It would be a stronger image without the hand and lighter leaves in front of the barrel. Then the yellow cloth would create an feeling of mystery: what is under the cloth? The white of the book help to illuminate the dark subject of the gun so perhaps without the hand a little more detail would be apparent in the end of the barrel.	
a	9	Eagle	5	4	5	14	Always hard to capture a flying eagle. In this case the photographer did an excellent job, fast enough shutter and looks like a slight bit of panning. The white feathers show detail which is hard to do with the dark brown feathers Well positioned in the frame. The only thing that would add to the image is something in the talons.	

a	10	endless	4	5	4	13	An almost perfect image of an architectural structure. Two things trouble me, the curve of the structure two thirds into the image and the softness of the focus. As a crisp B&W, the image is quite striking.	
a	11	Feeder_fantasy	4	3	4	11	This image works so well as a square image with the red wing just landing on the feeder and scattering the other species (4 or 5) as I can see but they are all smaller the the effect is great Exposure and focus on the red wing works very well with most of the other birds still reasonably sharp. The weakest part of the image is the bright background. Perhaps in photoshop the maker can make some adjustments in raw or as jpeg. Also the little bit of white behind the blackbirds wings could be adjusted.	
a	12	Fly Away	3	2	4	9	The dandelion is perfectly exposed and well focused. Several things weaken this image in my thoughts. First, the background is very distracting competing with the white of the seed head. Also the edges of the dandelion is too close to the border of the frame, especially the seed that is about to take off with the wind. When selection to make an image such as this selection a dark background (cloth or matt board etc) and using ones spot meter would do the trick as long as it is far enough away to be out of focus. Take time to play with such a set up. Try other dark backgrounds as well.	

a	13	fly_with_me	4	3	3	10	Look like a reflection but upon closer examination it appears to be good photoshop exercise. The placement in the frame works well. The blue sky reflections is nice and the extra space to the left of the bird is well done. The biggest issue for me is the sharpness of both birds and lack of good contrast	
a	14	follow_the_leader	5	5	5	15	An excellent image with good detail in the whites and sharp eyes. Composition is great with the three geese and no mergers. All quite uniform in the position of the wings. The curve with the middle bird at the highest point is an added plus. The very soft focus on the tree in the background adds a bit of interest to this image.	HM
a	15	gougane_barra	4	4	3	11	The slightly blurry water reflection adds interest. The overall scene needs a little more contrast, especially in the rocky hillside above. If that can not be done, then crop two thirds of that area to make the scene more of a panorama. Capturing the redish colors of the tree to left of the building is very good. Also the angle on the building with two side showing is good. Too often photographers will shoot a structure straight on. Your attempt gives more of a 3-D look. The overall scene has a very tranquil feel to it	

a	16	hazy_days_of_summer	3	4	4	11	<p>The red chair really caught my attention. Well executed. The light background across the lake is a little bit distracting from the man fishing which is the main subject. Perhaps a little more contrast or a shift in the yellowish color although the contrast between the cool colors of the man in the chair and the shaded vegetation is good. I would suggest a crop from the top down to the trees and perthen a bit of crop of the tree on the right. Ths should strengthen the image and place the fisherman even more to the right. Maby a little darkening of the ligh areas in front of the fisherman and to the right of him</p>
a	17	heading_out_before_sunrise	3	4	5	12	<p>The orange reflection on the boat's windshield caught my eye. The exposure is well done and the boat with some detaili in the darkness of the white works well. Placement of the boat in the center can be improved by cropping from the left and also cropping from the righ to get rid of the grass shilouette. I would also crop from the bottom to have just a small portion of the ripples. By this time the image will be square and all the emphasis will be on the boat and the beautiful orange sky.</p>

a	18	kauai_meeting	5	5	5	15	Five horses well defined and separation between each is a great challenge and this is very well accomplished. There is sharpness in the first three horses and the last two are just a big soft but not detracting since they are in the back and not the front which would have been deadly. One generally wants the portion of the image in the foreground to be the sharpest. Odd number "5" is good for composition. To catch this scene, when the setting is serendipitous, the prepared photographer recognized the opportunity. I wonder what the image would look like if B&W?. Try it.	2nd place
b	19	Laundry	3	3	5	11	Well done with focus on the arch all the way to building behind the laundry. Changing the angle a bit would have eliminated the distracting building to the right side of the arch on the right and perhaps still been able to keep the two windows in the image. The little light area in the upper right could be darkened a bit. A crop from the bottom would eliminate the black iron fence that doesn't add to the image. Then the red bricks would be emphasized more so that the colors are red and yellow to clash with the white laundry.	
a	20	midnight_trolley	5	4	5	14	Technically well executed image. Sharp well positioned streetcar which is not centered. Nice mix of a variety of electric lights of different sorts. The warm colors on the streetcar predominate. Good detail in the various windows. Nice alignment of the receding street lights. Sharp cobblestones to the very front.	

b	21	Milanese_ceiling	5	4	4	13	Nicely done design with all parts of the left side and right side almost perfectly equal in this difficult image for great composition. Looks like the lights could use a s;ogjt bot ,pre ex[psure for a bit more detailbut doen not detract from the overall effect. The ceter ark at the bottom needs a little more exposure.	
a	22	mom_and_dad	4	3	5	12	Although they are just mallards, the placement and details in the feathers are well done. It is a "simple" composition that works very well with separation between the female and male. The ripples from the slow movement of the two ducks contrast nicely against the very smooth foreground and background. The very slight tilt of the diagonal swimming course adds a bit of dynamics.	
a	23	old_town_stavenger	4	3	5	12	A well executed image with good exposure and sharpness through the important parts of the image. Nice details in the stormy sky. Compositionally , it is well done and the curvature is nice for a restful feeling. I feel, however, that it lacks an important focal point such as a bicycle against the wall or better yet a person in the distance walking up the street.	
b	24	paul_gibson	3	3	4	10	The lighting on this still life or table top image is quite nice and the warm glow works well. The items in front of the Gibson carving go well with the decoy as the hunter prepares to embark upon the hunt. However, for a table top image all of the items scream confusion when I look for a pattern.	

b	25	peanut_poacher	5	3	4	12	Well handled exposure and composition with more space to the left where the squirrel is gazing. The white under belly has detail. The fact that he is clutching his chest (as typically squirrels do when upright) is cute but very hard to actually see the peanut? The wood fence planks are at a bit of an angle which adds to the image even though the squirrel is upright but the head is also tilted to the left.	
a	26	persuasion	5	5	5	15	This is an amazing capture at the perfect moment. Well executed and follow up in perhaps photoshop with all vertical lines perfect (except the far right window frame. The two boys each wearing red are so much better than a white t-shirt. Always strive for red, or if not red, then yellow. The soft almost pastel colors make the reds so much stronger. The fact that the photographer recognized a perfect potential and was able to capture the decisive moment is a tribute to perseverance. It would be nice if there were a little bit more lightness on the faces- especially the boy sitting down	1st place
b	27	pharmacists_during_pandemic	3	2	4	9	Capturing our current times will one day be a historical image. For a photo capture it is well exposed as always hard to do with white in the foreground and black in the back but details in each color. Good colors to the right and the look! was captured. For composition, perhaps moving to the right and concentrating just on the pharmacist in the white coat. My eyes keep going between the two people	

a	28	preening_every_feather	4	3	5	12	A white bird with detail in the feathers is difficult - this one is well done and the bill is in front of the feathers so it does not get lost against the dark background is too. A little centered and the feet are almost out of the picture frame. This image will be better as a square image although it is difficult to see where the top of the image ends since it is black.	
a	29	preparing_for_battle	4	4	5	13	A very interesting image. The items on the blanket caught my eye and the items suggest what the title also suggest. Two things detract from the image. One is the dark bottom left corner - the powder pouch on top of a blanket?. The other more troubling is the white sky in the upper left corner. I know it is needed to convey the early evening but less is better except cropping down would cut the top or the ruffle so a camera in a higher position should do the job and then perhaps more of the front of the blanket would be shot up.	
a	30	profile	4	3	5	12	Well handled exposure with all parts of the flower in focus. A black velvet background helps the flower stand out most of the time but perhaps another choice would be better for this image. The greatest concern to me is in the upper left corner where a petal and a leaf are out of the frame. That weakens the image from a compositional point of view. A tight crop of just the right side of the flower would be ok - in which case the curve and the pink petals along with the yellow anthers might make for a more dramatic image of less of the flower.	

a	31	rain_from_the_south	3	2	3	8	<p>The maker caught a wonderful change in the weather with stormy clouds which take up two thirds of the frame which is a definite plus. As a B&W the image lacks some deep blacks. The image would be stronger if the maker had moved up closer to the boat and taken the image from a lower position, perhaps almost at ground level. That would have placed the flag into the whiter portion of the sky. The boat is in the middle and would be much stronger if the left side was cropped out and the skies were given even more contrast. One could have cropped from either side but with the flag blowing to the left it makes more sense to crop the right side</p>	
a	32	Saturday Night Live Cambridge Creek	5	5	5	15	<p>This image did not happen by being lucky. The photographer knew the area and the activities. The image was well planned both from vantage point and for the timing. The ship is moving into the frame, the f stop was 16 or better and the shutter speed used stopped the motion of the slow moving boat. There is plenty of detail in the sky and background of other boats and buildings so there is no just "black". Also the planning of the full moon added still another dimension to the image.</p>	HM

b	33	seven_beauties	4	3	5	12	<p>Good detail in the whites and fast enough shutter to stop the one birds wings and keep them sharp. Nice 3-D effect with the grasses in the foreground except to the left side. The repetetion of the stacked rectangles works well. There is a little tilt to the right which should be easily corrected. The first (or7th bird) detracts the overall image. That would be the closer great egret on the left front. A nice capture with six birds and no mergers. That 7th bird is the onus. The number 7 does not do justice when 6 works better in thei image.</p>	
b	34	Shadows_in_the_sand	2	2	4	8	<p>Well exposed and focused. We could say that there are three main features to this image, the grassy vegetation, the sand dunes and the blue sky. This image would be a lot stronger if much of the vegetation was cropped out and also a smaller portion of the sky unles a polarizer had used to increast the intensity (photoshop could helpd. The sand cunes are the subject so make them stand out by increasing the contrast and darkening them overall. As the title states: shadows in the sand.</p>	
b	35	streaming_thru_the_forest	3	3	4	10	<p>I suspect this image was taken from the trainas it went around a bend so the shutter and f stop together made a great DOF and motion capture.Planning for the enfine in the break in the trees also works well. The image would be stronger if squared by cropping down about one third. That will eliminate a lot of distracting white and still leave a lot of the orange leaves of the one tree in front of the orange cars. Also some cropping from the bottom as well.</p>	

b	36	Sunday_evening_hoopersville	2	2	4	8	A well exposed and focused image with good DOF. The tranquil waters and softer lighting of evening works to the photographers advantage. From a compositional point of view the two white structures compete with each other taking the eye from the building to the boat and back again and again. The photographers should concentrate on one or the other and make that the subject entirely as both are great subjects.
a	37	tranquil_feeling	4	3	4	11	Well exposed on a sunny day with side lighting. The yellow line takes the eye along the curved road to the end where it takes the eye out to another perhaps tree-lined roadway. The bright orange colors and green spaces between the trees on the right add but the dark trees on the left are a negative. A plus is the glowing yellows and muted greens at the end of the road as it bends out of sight.
a	38	you promised a nest	2	1	3	6	The maker handled the focus and exposure well. The two osprey have a backdrop of blue sky. There appears to be two subjects despite the title. The boat is a distraction. Another angle that would eliminate the boat but emphasize the pole with the nest (or lack of one) would make a stronger image. Even as it is, by cropping to a tall skinny image would emphasize the nest without most of the boat - just to the right of the short pole by the boat's numbers.