

Competition Meeting Scoring

Seven Ponds Photo Club

Here at 7 Ponds we have many new members that are not familiar with our scoring system or judging system used at our competitions. The judges are selected from among our members that do have some experience in photography and have won awards at GDCCC Competitions. (More about GDCCC later) We have 3 judges and each is equipped with a numeric scoring device that has numbers ranging from 1 to 9. We use ONLY 5 to 9. As images are evaluated, each judge's score is noted and the total of the three is recorded. The criteria each judge evaluates is IMPACT (interest), COMPOSITION and TECHNIQUE. If a judge feels there are some flaws in the image, points would be subtracted. A single judge could enter a score ranging from 5 to 9 and combined the 3 judges could render a final score of 15 to 27.

There are some inherent problems with uniformity in any judging system because it is difficult to get judges that have the same experience and likes and so forth. This has been a problem for years for all camera clubs that hold competitions among their members. It also causes discontent among members. It is also a problem here at 7 Ponds.

The intent of the competition evening is to let members engage in a friendly competition that is entertaining and also a learning experience. There are no prizes but we can all still be winners. It should be noted that images entered into our competition are also eligible to be entered into GDCCC competitions. The GDCCC is The Greater Detroit Camera Club Council. It is an organization of 11 camera clubs and we at 7 Ponds are members. The GDCCC does award ribbons and medals.

Because of the variation in camera club judging, the GDCCC has adopted a system that has been developed and promoted by Richard Grubola of the Photo Guild and also adopted by the Chicago Camera Club Association. It has been adopted by the Photo Guild, West Oakland Camera Club, Oakland Camera Club, Motor City Camera Club, Grosse Pointe Camera Club and perhaps others. Richard spoke at one of our meetings and explained the details. Many of our members were not present and perhaps not aware of what we are trying to accomplish.

Here are the details of the 27 POINT SCORING GUIDELINES:

1. All images are to be previewed. The purpose of the preview is three fold. Let the judges get an overview of the competition images. Let the judges pick out the images he/she will score a 5 or a 9. Let the judges get into the judging "mode".
2. Judges should score images according to the Scoring Guidelines as shown below:

Seven Ponds Nature Center Photography Club 04/05/2019			
27 Point Scoring Guidelines			
Criteria: Interest, Composition, Technique			
Single Score	Letter Grade	x3 Judges	SPC Description
9	A	27	Very Strong, need not be perfect
8	B+	24	Strong Image
7	B	21	Good Solid Image
6	C	18	Minor Flaws
5	D	15	Significantly Flawed Image

Note: An image does not need to be "Perfect" in order to merit a score of 27.

After the competition is complete we will critique images as time permits.

Again, the object of all this is to provide an educational and entertaining experience for all of our members. There is usually some good natured banter, especially directed at those who are misguided and have cameras other than Nikon.

Attached is another file that attempts to better explain the criteria used in judging. Interest (impact), Composition and Technique. Another very good related article appeared in the "Outdoor Photographer" March 2019 issue. It is called "You be the Judge" by George Lepp. It starts on page 30 of that issue.

Hank Lewis

Competition Director at 7 Ponds