



SACKVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

PHOTO CRITIQUE NIGHT

01 OCTOBER 2008

INSTRUCTIONS

Club members present were divided into 5 groups of approximately 10 individuals per group.

Each group was assigned at least one club member with advanced photographic skills to act as group leader, with the remainder of the group being composed of an even mixture of those with either advanced, intermediate, or beginner skills.

The 15 images to be displayed were to be judged under the following categories, and assigned a numerical score between 1 to 5 (with 1 being a low score and 5 representing a high score).

1. Focus & Depth of field
2. Composition
3. Exposure
4. Impact & Interest
5. Degree of Difficulty.

For every image displayed each of the 5 groups was assigned a different category. After 3 pictures were displayed, groups advanced to the next category, until all 15 images were displayed. Time allotment was as follows. Each group was given; 3 minutes to discuss and evaluate each photo; 1 minute to assign a score; and 1 minute for each group spokesperson to justify the group score to the class before the next image was displayed.

For this particular evening the aspects emphasized for evaluation within each category are listed below. The first 2 categories are considered by many to be purely technical, in that they essentially involve choosing camera settings. Composition on the other hand is more artistic and creative, and involves the photographer's vision or way of seeing. The last 2 criteria are more subjective, and are usually achieved by judicious planning, although awesome results sometimes occur through serendipity.

It should be noted that these criteria are a guide only, and not all criteria need be evaluated for each image. In addition other categories and aspects could have been chosen.

CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA USED IN PHOTO CRITIQUE

1. FOCUS

- Tack sharp focus on subject
- Appropriate depth of field for the chosen subject
- Avoidance of distracting backgrounds (merges)
- Intentional blur in action shots
- Blurred background (Bokeh)

2. EXPOSURE

- Blown highlights (Shutter speed/aperture setting)
- Lack of detail in shadow areas (Shutter speed/aperture setting)
- Graininess (ISO setting), noisy (random artefacts)
- Intentional under or over expose to create mood or setting

3. COMPOSITION

- Rule of thirds
- Judicious cropping
- Level horizons
- Use of leading lines, converging lines, s-curve, or diagonals
- Contrast, texture

4. IMPACT Does the photo immediately grab and hold your interest

- Does the photo elicit emotion, or is it thought provoking

5. DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY

- Subject is rare or not easily approached (wild animal or bird)
- Picture taken in extreme weather conditions (Arctic/Tropics)
- Arrested action shot (bird in flight, racing car, running animal)
- Technically difficult (unusual or inaccessible location with a unique viewpoint.
- Technical ability

THE FOLLOWING PAGES SHOW THE 15 IMAGES THAT WERE SELECTED FOR EVALUATION. EACH PAGE ALSO SHOWS THE GROUP SCORES FOR EACH IMAGE AND CATEGORY. GROUPS EVALUATED THE 16TH IMAGE IN ALL CATEGORIES.

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

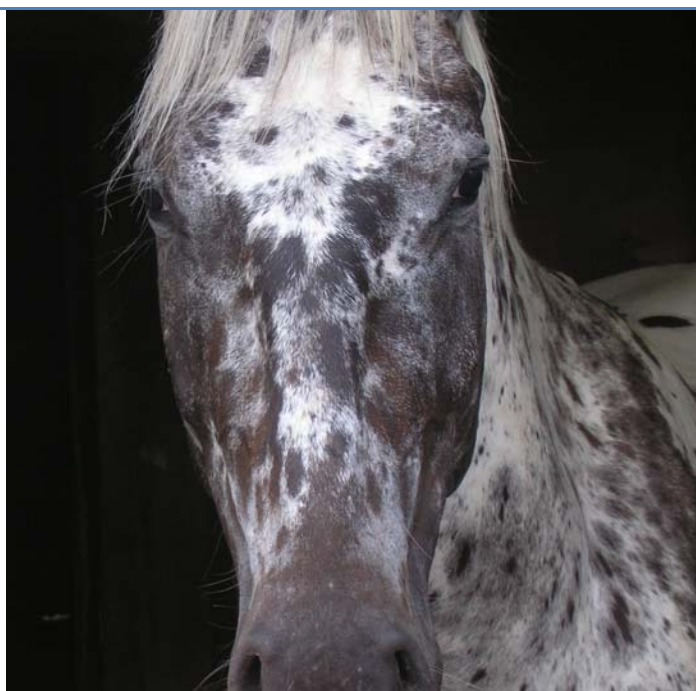
IMAGE 1/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Composition	1 Crop off bottom of Photo 2 3 4	3
II Impact	1 Endearing 2 Wonderful 3 4	3
III Exposure	1 Too dark...can't see the eyes 2 3 4	2
IV Difficulty	1 Nothing technically difficult 2 Easily captured 3 4	2
V Focus	1 Eyes are not sharp 2 Focus should be on faces not wood 3 4	2

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 2/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Composition	1 Eye always looking for something (to settle on) 2 Cropping is badly done 3 We do not feel anything 4	1
II Impact	1 Good idea...but not well done 2 3 4	2
III Exposure	1 Tricky exposure...a little hot in the forehead 2 3 4	3.5
IV Difficulty	1 Subject not tough to catch 2 Exposure on horse...background underexposed thus makes subject jump out 3	3
V Focus	1 Focus is on the face? 2 3 4	4

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 3/15



Group/Cat		Comments	Score
I Composition	1	Too busy	2
	2	Needs to be re-cropped	
	3		
	4		
	4		
II Impact	1	Too busy	2
	2		
	3		
	4		
	4		
III Exposure	1	Maybe 1/2 stop too much	3.5
	2		
	3		
	4		
	4		
IV Difficulty	1	NO COMMENTS	1
	2		
	3		
	4		
	4		
V Focus	1	Focus is on small boat on the left instead of big boat in front of the person	1
	2		
	3		
	4		
	4		

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

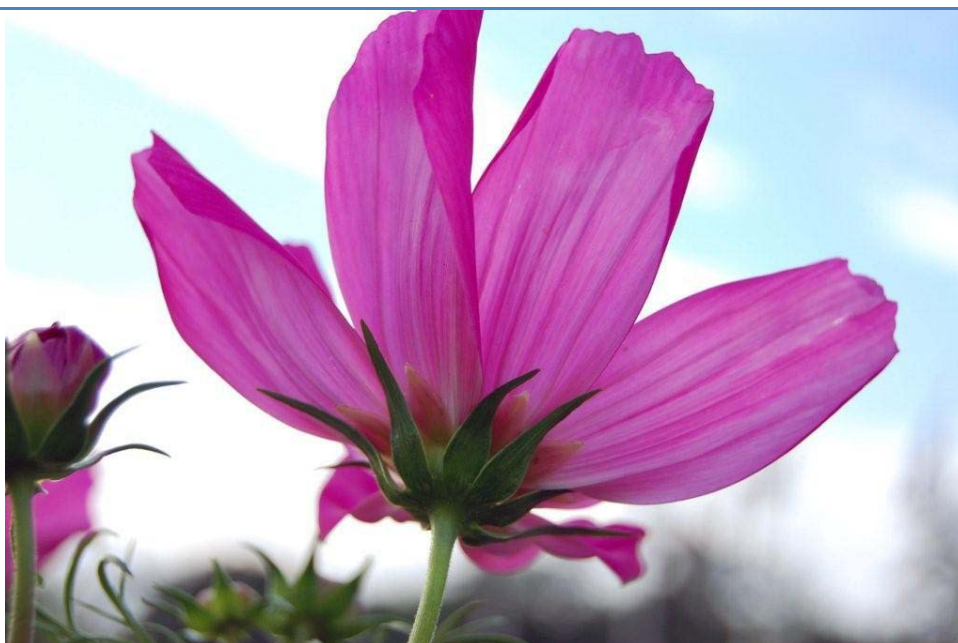
IMAGE 4/15



Group/Cat		Comments	Score
I Impact	1	Brightness at centre of wheel & leading lines	4
	2		
	3		
	4		
II Exposure	1	Pretty good pic	4+
	2		
	3		
	4		
III Difficulty	1	Snap shot	2
	2		
	3		
	4		
IV Focus	1	Wheel is sharp but hard to find subject	2.5
	2		
	3		
	4		
V Composition	1	Too busy	2
	2	Get rid of pizza sign/lamp post	
	3	Wheel should be point of interest	
	4	Consider a square crop on the wheel	
	5	Should have shot from a different angle to get wheel	

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 5/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Impact	1 Boring 2 Not obvious what was intended (to be the subject?) 3 4	2
II Exposure	1 Possible automatic bracketing to see which exposure is best. 2 3 4	4
III Difficulty	1 Tripod used 2 Macro 3 Wind can 4	3
IV Focus	1 Subject is sharp 2 Depth of field (FOF) is not too shallow as entire flower is sharp and background is nicely out of focus 3 4	4
V Composition	1 Not cropped properly 2 Small flower on left distracting 3 Portrait mode might have worked better than Landscape 4	2

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 6/15



Group/Cat		Comments	Score
I Impact	1	Grabs your attention	4
	2	Concept good	
	3		
	4		
	4		
II Exposure	1	Done good with what they had	4+
	2		
	3		
	4		
	4		
III Difficulty	1	Windy	2.5
	2		
	3		
	4		
	4		
IV Focus	1	Image is sharp	4.5
	2	Focal point is obvious	
	3	Depth of field (DOF) is great	
	4		
	4		
V Composition	1	Like the composition	4
	2	Crop if a bit on bottom and on the top	
	3		
	4		
	4		

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

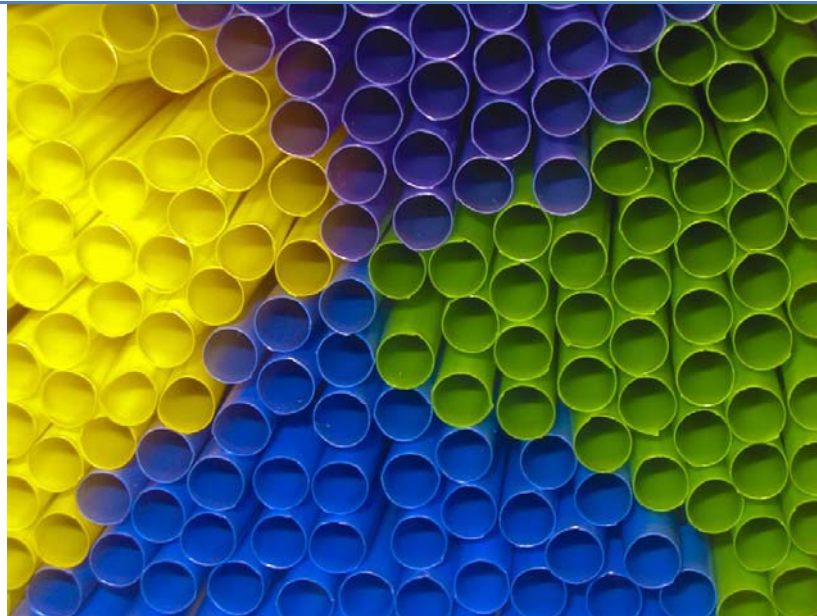
IMAGE 7/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Composition	1 Face is well framed 2 Dandelion is on the thirds 3 Bright spot bottom right is a bit distracting 4	4.5
II Impact	1 Captivating 2 Really nice shot! 3 Draws you into the moment 4	5
III Exposure	1 Overall good exposure 2 Skin tone looks very good 3 4	4+
IV Difficulty	1 Good idea, but timing off 2 Should see seeds in flight 3 4	2.0
V Focus	1 Focal range good 2 Focus on dandelion, thus eye maybe a tiny bit soft 3 4	4.5

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 8/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Exposure	1 Good exposure 2 A little variation in flash lighting up different parts of straws 3	4
II Difficulty	1 Not sure about lighting 2 3 4	1.5
III Focus	1 Strait forward 2 Sharp 3 4	4
IV Composition	1 More symmetry might work better 2 Missing straws a bit distracting 3 4	2.5
V Impact	1 Great impact. Good abstract design 2 A great tight crop 3 Liked shapes and leading lines formed by different colors	4

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

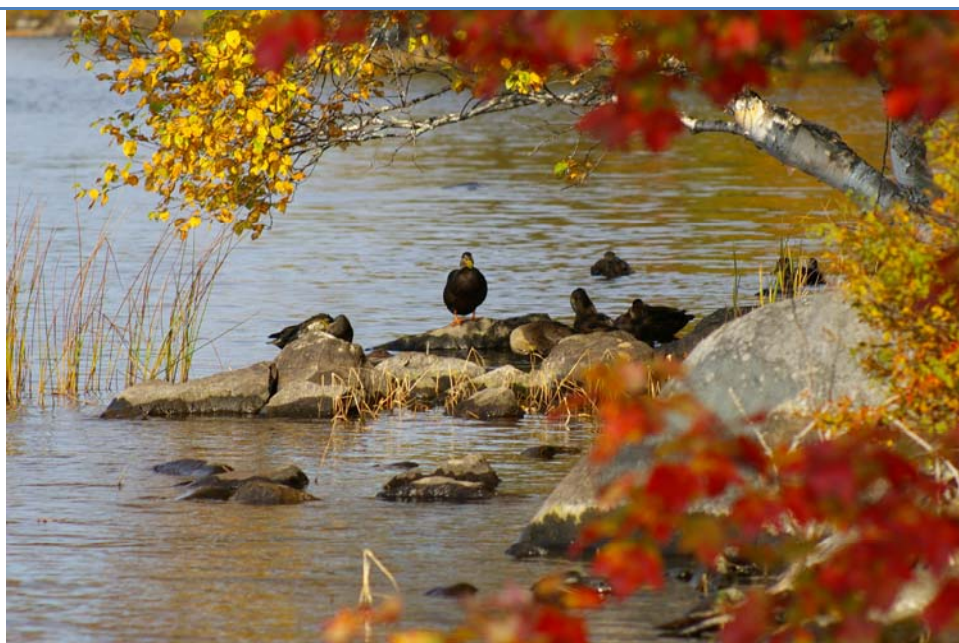
IMAGE 9/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Exposure	1 Exposed for the background scene 2 Wedding couple a bit underexposed 3 Like to see her dress more white?brighter by using fill flash 4	3
II Difficulty	1 Nice picture 2 3	3
III Focus	1 Path Focus- up for debate is whether there is too much of a compromise...either more or less of the path could be in focus. 2 Maybe a bit soft. 3	3.5
IV Composition	1 Horizon is a little off. 2 Crop to middle of tree on left to naturally frame subjects, the path then leads out to thirds. 3 Feet are cut off	2
V Impact	1 Lighting has a lot of impact 2 Would have liked a longer shot to see the train 3 Liked the light on the veil 4 Crop out left hand branch...possibly more of the tree as well	4

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 10/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Difficulty	1 No real difficulty (taking this picture) 2 Ducks are main subject...not exposed properly 3 4	1
II Focus	1 Lot of trouble with this one...e.g. what should be in focus and what shouldn't be. 2 3	3
III Composition	1 Some liked the framing 2 However this is a photo that needs to be 'tighter' 3 4	2
IV Impact	1 Color is vibrant and well saturated but composition does not hold your interest. 2 Blurred leaves in foreground are distracting 3	2
V Exposure	1 Exposure is good 2 Light on the leaves and water is good 3 Post processing should have darkened down the white spot on the tree 4 Lighten duck up	4

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 11/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Difficulty	1 Consider DOF, exposure, composition 2 3	3.5
II Focus	1 Good 2 3 4	4
III Composition	1 Crooked black patch at top is distracting, should be cropped out 2 Good composition otherwise 3 4	3.75
IV Impact	1 Back lighting is good 2 Could use some fill flash 3 Could bring more vibrancy to color 4 Stem is a bit distracting	2.5
V Exposure	1 Need a bit more light on the flower. 2 A little bit of fill light on the flower would have helped 3 Should 'pop' a bit 4	

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 12/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Difficulty	1 Not a difficult shot 2 3 4	1
II Focus	1 ? (no other comment) 2 3 4	3.5
III Composition	1 Busy 2 No focal point 3 Horizon is level 4 Follows rule of thirds	1.5
IV Impact	1 Colors are muted/ washed out 2 Nothing to grab interest 3 Subject is not clear 4	1
V Exposure	1 Sky is blown out 2 Water is blown out 3 A graduated filter would have helped 4 Poorly exposed	1

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 13/15



Group/cat		Comments	Score
I Focus	1	Very good focus and Depth of Field (DOF)	4+
	2		
	3		
	4		
II Composition	1	NO COMMENTS	5
	2		
	3		
	4		
III Impact	1	Loved the contrast between the foam vs. the powerful wave	5
	2	Captured the moment	
	3		
IV Exposure	1	Highlights are not blown	5
	2	Good light on subject	
	3		
	4		
V Difficulty	1	A great shot	4.75
	2	A tough shot to get	
	3		
	4		

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 14/15



Group/Cat	Comments	Score
I Focus	1 Very good focus and Depth of Field 2 3 4	3.75
II Composition	1 Change rule of thirds, maybe (meaning that the photo might be improved if the canoes were more centered) 2	2.5
III Impact	1 The negative space on the bottom is too much 2 3 4	3
IV Exposure	1 Very Good 2 Maintained a lot of detail in the shadows which would be difficult to do in brighter water 3 4	4.5
V Difficulty	1 Not a hard shot to get 2 3 4	2

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

IMAGE 15/15



Group	Comments	Score
I Focus	1 What is the subject? 2 Needs to be more Depth of Field (DOF) 3 4	3
II Composition	1 Could be played with 2 3 4	3
III Impact	1 Right side is out of focus- distracting 2 Interesting angle 3 4	2.75
IV Exposure	1 Excellent exposure 2 Good saturation of colors 3 White flowers not blown out 4	5
V Difficulty	1 Photographer had to get down low to get this shot 2 Nice sharp details on flowers 3 Shot at the right moment...no wind 4	4

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

FINAL IMAGE-GROUP I



Group I

	Score
Focus	4
Exposure	4.5
Composition	4.5
Depth of Field	4.75
Impact/Interest	4
Difficulty	3
	MEAN 4.1

COMMENTS

1. Crop left & bottom slightly
- 2.
- 3.

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

FINAL IMAGE-GROUP I I



Group II

	Score
Focus	5
Exposure	5
Composition	4.5
Depth of Field	5
Impact/Interest	4
Difficulty	3.5
	MEAN 4.5

COMMENTS

1. Well done
- 2.
- 3.

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

FINAL IMAGE-GROUP III



Group III

	Score
Focus	4
Exposure	3
Composition	4
Depth of Field	4
Impact/Interest	3
Difficulty	2
	MEAN 3.3

COMMENTS

1. Good focus
2. Tiny bit overexposed
3. DOF good
4. Liked the red barn
5. Shows good technical skill

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

FINAL IMAGE-GROUP IV



Group IV

	Score
Focus	55
Exposure	4
Composition	4
Depth of Field	4
Impact/Interest	4
Difficulty	2
	MEAN 3.8

COMMENTS

1. NIL
- 2.
- 3.

PHOTO-CRITIQUE NIGHT

FINAL IMAGE-GROUP V



Group V

	Score
Focus	5
Exposure	5
Composition	4
Depth of Field	5
Impact/Interest	4.5
Difficulty	3
	MEAN 4.4

COMMENTS

1. Love the picture
2. Crop the left side (remove distracting view of water)
- 3.