



The Internet Newsletter of the Hamilton Camera Club

by Johan Wigt

2002 / 2003 - Issue # 3

Is it REALLY that important?

As you all know, our club is in an experimental year in regards to judging and scoring of our submitted work, and this has brought with it some anxieties and concerns.

Let me suggest to you that change and upheaval are upsetting to most of us, so you may well wonder what has brought all this about. Several points.....

1. We used to use three judges for years in the interest of averaging fairness, but quit all that when it became tough to get three judges together; some of our members have longed to see it back for quite a while.
2. Our "single judges" started to rebel doing the job, because as our club grew, so did their workload out of the range of fairness to them.
3. We joined the GTCCC, which gave us a number of functional advantages, not least of which is an enormous list of judges available to provide the three folk who are very much prepared to judge. That is how we are functioning now, and the value of that move is that these judges have all passed a full day's seminar to give them a sense of level playing field on "how to judge". The GTCCC guidelines suggests that an average image should be scored as a 5 by each judge, but will readily tell you that in most clubs 6 is considered to be the accepted average. And just what is an "average image" you ask?. It is one that possesses reasonable exposure, OK focus, and of some interest, but no

significant sense of extraordinary value, punch, excitement, or any other superlatives. The important point here is that the GTCCC also advises that the judge must enquire from the clubs they visit to establish where they stand on the position of "average".

It follows that if, as is the case, ALL the work in any clinic is judged by the same group of three, who are not told whether the image they see is Junior, Senior, and so on, the harshness of their call is level across the work presented, and the only difference between batches of judges is going to be the actual points awarded, which may mean plenty of ribbons awarded this month and a dearth of them another time.

All of this leads me to the question I raised in the title to this article. Is it in fact the ribbon thing that is troubling us? The whole object of the clinics is after all the opportunity to show our work to other members and learn from the comments, and yes, ribbons are very nice, but they are not needed for any of us to know who the very knowledgeable photographers in our midst are as we can all judge that for ourselves. Whose prints or slides do you think are tops? Go talk to them! In all my years at this fabulous club I have never, ever, been refused advice from a single soul about their work.

For me, and hopefully for many of you, that is what is important to me, not a handful of ribbons!

Johan.

The results of Clinic #3 follow. It was shown on January 13, and the Assignment topic was FOG.

Self-Made Prints

PHOTOGRAPHER	TITLE	POINTS	AWARD
Andrew Achmann	Hay Bales	22	HM and Mono Print of the Night
Jim Hixon	Early Morning Slippers	25	HM and Colour Print of the Night
Jim Dabir	Horses in the Mist	23	HM and Assignment Winner
Sol Algranti	Meytal	22	HM
" "	Chicago 675	22	HM
Ailsa Curl	Yellow	21	HM
Paul Dunnett	Pine Point	20	HM
" "	Morning Mist	22	HM
" "	Red Cloud	20	HM
John Mullenger	Field of Dreams	23	HM
" "	Alone	22	HM

Commercial & Digital Prints

PHOTOGRAPHER	TITLE	POINTS	AWARD
Jim Alton	Not Haggis Yet	23	HM & Commercial Print of the Night
Henk Berger	Bike Over Dike	21	HM (Com)
Mary Gilmour	Red Door	25	HM & Digital Print of the Night
Jim Hixon	Spencer Creek	24	HM (Dig)
Pesi Tamboli	Hamilton	20	HM (Dig)
Rick McKenzie	What We Choose to See	22	HM (Dig)

Slides

Pesi Tamboli	Tulip Center	27	HM & Slide of the Night
Mary Gilmour	Quebec	22	HM & Digital Slide of the Night
Colin Williams	A Peaceful Place	25	HM & Assignment Winner
T.J.Robertson	Fog	24	HM
Jim Alton	Fog	20	HM
Joseph Pecyna	Foggy Morn	24	HM
Sadie Dallas	Village in the Fog	22	HM
Andrew Achmann	Pioneer Carpenter	20	HM
" "	Lake Superior Shoreline	20	HM

And with these credits on the books.....

Colin Williams

advances to

SENIOR in SLIDES

An Invitation to Show Your Prints is extended to our club by the Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist on Locke Street South, from May 10 to 18 next. Our prints are to be hung in the worship area of the church (not in a hall) as part of a week-long outreach effort to all in the community through art, speakers, music, and other efforts. We will need roughly 35 to 50 prints to make a good showing, and the topics are of your own choice: hopefully they will reflect on the wonders and marvels of God's creation, but this does not necessarily mean the great outdoors only, people pictures or grand views of man-made things are fine too, as long as they show good photographic work.(it does go without saying that good

taste is paramount in order to hang in a worship area). This proposal has already been considered and approved by the Club Executive. The contact for this is your editor, I can be reached at (905) 627-1750 and NOT at the number in the Annual Program.

At the showing of Clinic #3 our vice-president, Pesi Tamboli, read out the contents of an E-mail message he had received from one of the recent judges who explained his thinking regarding "low scores" on nice images. Here is the judge's response as read out by Pesi.

Judges may personally like an image but the criteria for judging is set out by the GTCCC. According to this criteria, a "standard" image should receive a score in the middle of the range and a "standard image" is defined as: "A standard image is one that is free from significant problems, and shows a degree of competence that would be expected from an experienced photographer. It is sharp (unless intended otherwise), is properly exposed, and is free of significant distractions or flaws. The picture in other words is a good, well-presented image which may have minor faults, but is free from significant problems, but not outstanding in any way". This implies that any score above the middle of the range has some outstanding characteristic.

My personal opinion is that most people expect exceptional scores for anything above average and this is unrealistic and people need to try harder, do better and learn/practice. My experience is that exceptional images usually do receive exceptional scores. The format your club uses allows everyone in attendance to learn from other people's images and scores much more so than say the current Latow setup where the judging is done separate from the meeting. I usually try to be in attendance at the judgings for Latow just to learn from the judges' comments regarding all the images.

That's all the news that's fit to print, so I'll leave it till another time. Don't forget, this is OUR Bellows, not just mine, so let's have it.....letters to the editor, tips, advice, things for sale, but no dire threats to the judges, PLEASE!!!!!!!

Regards,

Johan.