

Fort Worth Camera Club October 2026 Competition Judge: Jerry Schlesinger

		Class B Digital					
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
B	1825	Spotted Sleeping!	9				I think that this is a nice image of a "cute" subject. The diagonal pavement is the cat makes for a good composition. I would like to see maybe one more f/stops worth of depth of field. The exposure on thee cat and background rocks is fine. I think lightening the the darker areas on the bottom and right would improve things; I find them a bit distracting as they are.
B	1835	So Long	9				I think that this is technically a good shot and I like the portrait orientation. I get the story that you are trying to tell and for me at almost makes it. I would love to see the leader's head turned so it was looking back to you
B	1871	Summer Bells	9				The technicals are fine and I like the black/White rendition. For me the composition might be improved by cropping from the right to just where that hill meets the background mountains; that would move the central peak off center a bit.
B	1876	Dawn	12	hm		Shelly Borders	I think that this is a nice scene that was captured well. The diagonal placement of the waterway is a good compositional element as are the trees forming a frame. The depth of field is great. To me it looks a bit underexposed and I would try to remove the pole in the background under the bridge
B	1701	Call of The Wild	12	3		Richard Remm	Technically this is well done in my view. The exposure and focus are spot on. I would crop this from the right to where the two top leaves form a V and about the same amount on the left and the top to improve the composition,at leasat for me.
B	1830	Between Beauty and Ruin	12	2		Rebecca O'Toole	I like the story being told by this image; it makes it interesting. The focus on the bird is spot on and I like the golden sunlight. I would crop half of the area about the bird and half of the area to the birds right out to improve the composition. Lighting the bird and the can by about a stop wouldn't hurt.
B	1107	White Sands	13	1		Grace Mercado-Marx	I find this to be a somewhat stereotypical image of White Sands (or any desert). It is nicely done with a good choice of time of day to get the shadows and dark sky. This looks like it was done in infra-red; if so good job. I wish it were shifted a little to the left to allow more room between the grass and the border. As it is I would crop it from the right just to remove that wisp of a plant or just clone it out

Award all 4 ribbons

Class A Digital							
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
A	1113	Golden Stride	12			Mike Gill	Nice capture in my opinion. Proper technicals and good story. I would crop this from the left to take out about half of the water and down from the top just leaving the shoreline
A	1394	Ready for My CloseUp	8				I think the exposure and focus on this image is fine and I like the position of the main subject in the frame. For me the background activity is distracting. I would try cropping from the right to just where the middle giraffe intersects with the tree, taking out the rear giraffe and the golfcart, and then try to clone out the remnants of the giraffe
A	1479	Just Sitting Around	9				I think the this is an excellent portrait of a groundhog. Great exposure focus and depth of focus. I think it needs to be doing something, creating a story, to make it better
A	1731	Mazu	12			Vicki Lai	To me this is a good shot of a balloon festival. There really isn't anything I would change; you need the sky and the other balloons to tell the story.
A	1776	inside the glass	9				This is a curious image that demands to be studied in my view. It is well done and I like the lighting. For me the glass is just hanging in space. I would either include the stem to the bottom of the frame or remove the remnant and make it more of a bowl.
A	1833	Collisions	12			Duane Sager	I think the success or failure of shots like this depends a great deal on the setup, the rest is just timing.. In this case the backdrop and lighting are superb in my view. There is a little white area in the lower right that I would clone out.
A	1845	Peruvian Women At Work	13			Bredt Westley	To me this is a good example of street photography. It is well focused and exposed and it tells a story. The symmetry and the colors make for a good composition. I would darken the yellow pot in the lower left and the brown-orange objet in the upper right to make them less visible. I wouldn't crop them out though; I think the rest of the image needs the rest of the pixels cropping would remove
A	1847	Suburbia	9				I think that this image is technically fine. The depth of field is excellent. I would crop this from the bottom to just under the plants on the left and then clone out the remaining white drain plug. The vehicle behind the tree on the left is distracting. I would just hide it by cloning some of the leaves to replace those pixels
A	1865	Dancing Tulip	11			Margaret Mayo	I find this image to be full of movement and color. I think it is a pleasant image to look at. I don't see how to improve it though
A	1874	A relaxing evening at the lake	9				I think that this is a beautiful sunset image. The composition is good and colors are great. I would take out the poles, and their reflections in the middle of the image; they are distracting. There is a reflection of one on the right and a smaller one on the left that I would also remove.
A	1637	Night Ride on ACTV 45	13	hm		Richard Payson	This is a different and therefore interesting image in my view. I don't think I would touch it except for the title. Something to identify the location (Rome?) would help the viewer I think. I don't find the bright spots from the street lamps or even the boat, distracting; rather they are part of the scene
A	1817	Sunwapta River	14	3		Saskia Vaughan	I think that this is a really good landscape. The curving river is a good leading line and the two mountains and ominous clouds give the image balance. The Depth of Field is excellent.I might try this as a monochrome
A	1759	Catrina's Gaze	14	2		Stephen Mayeux	I think that this is a very well done portrait. The exposure and focus are right on. The subject is perfectly symmetrical so being centered makes for a good composition. Nothing I would change
A	1787	Ribbons Through the Gorge	15	1		Randy Whiddon	This may be the most unique and interesting image of car trails that I have ever seen. Wouldn't touch it

Award all 4 ribbons

		Masters Digital					
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
M	605	Yakety Yak	10			Robert Chura	As I see it , this is a well focused and exposed image with a good bokeh isolating the figure. I would like to see this image flipped so that the Yak is looking to the left to greet the viewer as the eye scans from left to right
M	669	Throwing a Loop	10			Tom Savage	This is a good rodeo action shot as I see it. The composition is balanced with good exposure and focus. The gray tone on the calf's head is wierd and distracting. I would try to fix that in post.. There is also an object in the lower left that I would remove.
M	720	Desert at Night	10			Ken Spencer	I think that this is a great desert scene; all of the plants are a pleasant change from wind blown sand. The depth of field is great. The wispy clouds and the brightness of the scene suggest that this is a long exposure using a tripod. The title says it was nighttime in which case it is over-exposed so I would darken it, especially the sky to convey that
M	1352	Hills County Courthouse Stairway	12			John Nixon	I think that this is an excellent architectural study. There is great detail and I appreciate that fact that the windows are not over- exposed. The stairs are good leading lines. There is nothing for me to comment on
M	1353	Moose Kiss	9			David Morgan	I think that this is one of those shots that you have to take because the opportunity is fleeting. I t would be more successful if the subjects were more isolated from the plants behind them. You could try isolating them and blurring the background in post
M	1531	Coming in Hot	12			Chad Fenner	This is a wonderful capture in my view. Three butterflies all in focus with a great bokeh. The subjects position make for a good composition and a bit of a story. I would tone down the top of the leaf a bit.
M	1539	Waterfall at Devils Bridge	9			Jeff Heyer	I believe that this time exposure captures the scene well. Overall the image looks dark but I expect that is the way it is and I wouldn't lighten it.. The image has good depth of field; even the trees under the arch are in focus. I think it is cropped to tightly at the top; I would prefer to see the entire bridge structure
M	1621	Itsy Bitsy Spider	8			Brian Fesko	As I see it, this image has good focus and exposure with a good bokeh to isolate the subject. I think the spider needs to be on something to support it; the image looks unnatural to me and I find that distracting.
M	554	Waiting for the Sun	13	hm		Jack Young	This is a really nice panorama in my view. It is correctly exposed and focused throughout. Photographing the scene with all of the blooms turned away from the camera is a fresh perspective that makes it interesting. I have nothing to add
M	1711	Breakfast	13	3		KP Wilska	The composition, with the legs on the 1/3 line and facing to the left is very good in my view. I wouldn't change it
M	1499	3 Clean Barrels	14	2		Ron Shue	To me, this image looks like a successful result of scanning. It certainly implies the speed of the activity but more importantly, in my view, it shows the joy on the girls face. Somehow I don't mind that the horses eye isn't sharp or that the background rails are not horizontal.
M	1227	Three Eyed Assassin Day Two	15	1	y	Roy Richardson	In my opinion this is simply a great close-up that doesn't require any changes. Incredible focus and detail

Award all 4 ribbons

		Class B Prints				
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Comments
No entries						

No ribbons

		Class A Prints					
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
A	1817	Dawn Before the Rain	11				I find this to be a beautiful landscape. The exposure is spot on and the depth of field is outstanding. The composition captures the scene very well. I like the overall symetry of the composition The rocks in the foreground are a welcome addition. I think.and the person on the dock gives it scale. I don't really think I would change anything. PS- I think the black mat with the small white border works well for this image
A	1776	Spirits of the Forest	12	2			It took me a while, and a magnifying glass, to appreciate what was done to create this image. I doubt that I would have seen it without the title. This is well done, creative work that I wouldn't touch. Just a comment on the matting, and this does not impact the score. The print has a noticeable white border visible in three sides, but not on the bottom as it is mounted. I think that kind of border should be symmetric within the hard mat. I realize that getting the print and mat aspect ratios to match might be a problem so maybe the image just need to be enlarge a bit to avoid the issue altogether.
A	1833	Midnight Oil	15	1			Beautiful. There is nothing I would suggest to change this. The designation on the back says it is a portrait and I fully agree. It belongs in any office waiting room.

Award 1st and 2nd places only

		Masters Prints					
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
M	669	Little Cowgirl	10			Tom Savage	I like the expression on this girls face, she looks a bit annoyed which is different. The exposure is fine. I think it needs more depth of focus; the left side of her face is soft and is especially noticable in her left eye. For me the crop is to tight; I would like to see all of the brims on both sides of the hat.
M	720	Looking Up - Navarro County Courthouse Skylight (Corsicana)	7			Ken Spencer	Taking his image from a corner, rather than straight up from the center is a creative idea in my view. It creates an unusual image which makes it interesting and the monochrome presentation also adds to the overall impact. The focus and depth of focus are fine. The multiple bright spots are obvious distractions. I would try removing the smaller ones in post. The two large ones remain a problem. My only suggestion there might be to combine this with a severely under exposed image taken at the same time and combining parts of those. Good luck!
M	1531	The Power Behind the Pounding	10			Chad Fenner	Technically I think that this image is fine. I like the exposure and focus. The overall composition sets the scene for the story being told and the light behind the drummer's head is a good addition. I think the story would be better told if the image were one of the drummer in action as opposed to this rather contrived pose.
M	1352	McLennan County Courthouse	11	hm		John Nixon	I think that this is a well done image overall that shows the scene. Technically it is fine with respect to exposure, focus and Depth of field. I would darken the lights a bit and remove the dark spot on the light in the top center. The red sign on the left hand door could be removed as could the bottle and sign on the right.
M	1621	Ibis in the Round	12	3		Brian Fesko	To me, it looks like the maker did some serious editing to create the excellent image. The slightly off center placement of the bird, looking into some space is a good composition in my view. The only thing I would try to change is to add the edge highlights to the birds left leg.
M	1539	T&P Station Ceiling	13	2		Jeff Heyer	As I see this, it is technically a superbly done image. The exposure is spot on as is the focus. The Depth of Field is extraordinary, as evidenced by the hanging chandelier and the ceiling both being sharp. The composition is completely symmetrical which is typical for this kind of image. I initially looked at it as a landscape, given where you placed the title, but I think it hangs better as a portrait.
M	1499	Passing in Silence	14	1		Ron Shue	I like this panorama. The dark sky and lake make the silver foggy area really stand out and there is a good story being told. Great focus. I would remove the reflections of light on the bottom left and far right. I think this would be better as a larger print but keep the aspect ratio.

Award all 4 ribbons