

A METAPHOR

*THIS WILL BECOME
CLEAR (I HOPE),
MOMENTARILY*

THE BEACH IS YOUR WORLD



THESE ARE YOUR TOOLS



SANDCASTLES ARE FUN!!!



WITH TIME AND PRACTICE



PHOTO CLUB CONTESTS

TIPS FOR BEING MORE SUCCESSFUL
AND **HAPPIER**

MY BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

I've taken up Photography because it's the only hobby where you can shoot people and cut their heads off without going to jail.



WE DO PHOTOGRAPHY BECAUSE WE WANT TO AND OUR EQUIPMENT IS LESS IMPORTANT TO THE RESULTS THAN OUR COMMITMENT AND PRACTICE.

8 TIPS FOR BEING A MORE SUCCESSFUL *PHOTOGRAPHER*

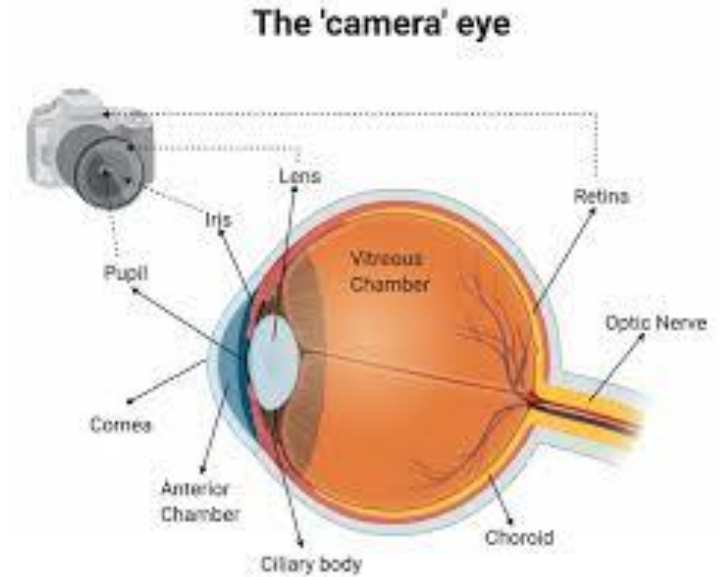
IN GENERAL

1. KNOW YOURSELF
2. KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT
3. SEE LIKE A CAMERA*
4. STUDY THE WORK OF OTHERS (NOT JUST PHOTOGRAPHERS)
5. TAKE LOTS OF PICTURES AND STUDY THE RESULTS
 1. **JOIN A TEN SHOT PROGRAM**
6. HANG AROUND WITH FOLKS THAT KNOW MORE THAN YOU DO
7. MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS ABOUT THINGS RATHER THAN JUST PICTURES OF THINGS
8. ASK FOR HELP/CRITICISM
9. **REPEAT**

*SEEING LIKE A CAMERA

EYE vs CAMERA

- **ENVIRONMENT: MULTI DIMENSIONAL vs 2D**
- **FOCUS: CONTINUOUS CENTER WEIGHTED vs FIXED PLANE**
- **DYNAMIC RANGE: TREMENDOUS vs LIMITED**
- **FOCAL LENGTH: FIXED vs CHANGABLE**
- **OPERATIONAL SPEED: CONTINUOUS VERY FAST vs EPISODIC VARIABLE**
- **METADATA: SUBJECTIVE & OBJECTIVE vs ONLY OBJECTIVE**



A QUICK OVERVIEW

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU CONTROL AND WHAT YOU DON'T

Photography Basics: Aperture, Shutter Speed, and ISO Explained

<https://fstoppers.com/education/photography-basics-aperture-shutter-speed-and-iso-explained-670227>

KEY POINTS ABOUT CLUB CONTESTS

A FRAME OF REFERENCE

1. **PHOTOGRAPHY IS SOMETHING WE DO FOR FUN**
2. **CONTEST PHOTOS ARE ONLY A SMALL & SPECIALIZED PART OF OUR TOTAL OUTPUT**
 1. **PROJECTS, BOOKS, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, EXHIBITS, FAMILY ALBUMS.....**
3. **WE ASK JUDGES TO RANK ORDER OUR SUBMISSIONS**
4. **GENERALLY, WINNING IMAGES**
 1. **HAVE OBVIOUS AND INTERESTING MAIN SUBJECTS**
 2. **WERE TECHNICALLY WELL MADE AND FLAWLESSLY PROCESSED**
 3. **WERE ILLUMINATED WITH EXQUISITE LIGHT**
5. **A CONTEST JUDGE'S OPINION IS BUT A SINGLE DATA POINT**

NOT INVOLVED IN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

WHY NOT?

- I DON'T KNOW HOW
- JUDGES DON'T UNDERSTAND MY PHOTOS
- IT'S HARD WORK
- IT'S STRESSFUL
- **IT'S NOT FUN**

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

WHY BOTHER?

- LEARN
- SHARE
- CONNECT
- VALIDATION



I THINK THAT BY PARTICIPATING IN CLUB CONTESTS, YOU CAN BECOME A BETTER PHOTOGRAPHER IN GENERAL AND THAT WILL ENHANCE YOUR ENJOYMENT OF THE HOBBY.

IF IT'S NOT FUN, DON'T DO IT!

SO, HOW CAN YOU MAKE IT FUN?

ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!

***CELEBRATE THE PROCESS OF BECOMING THE
PHOTOGRAPHER THAT YOU WISH TO BE***

FOR EXAMPLE

ABOUT ME

- WOODLAWN CAMERA CLUB, SAN ANTONIO (1980ish)
- PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA
- MID-MISSOURI CAMERA CLUB
- PLANO PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB (1989)
- HEARD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB
- DALLAS CAMERA CLUB (PRINTS)
- MY COMPETITION GOALS
 - FINISH IN THE TOP HALF FOR THE YEAR
 - NOT BE FIRST UP IN MONTHLY CONTEST
 - EXCEPT, **JUST FOR FUN...**



PLAY IS REFERRED TO AS LUDIC BEHAVIOR AND
IS THE ROOT OF THE WORD **LUDICROUS**.

INTRINSIC VS EXTRINSIC MOTIVATION

WHO/WHAT DO YOU WORK FOR?

- QUESTION? WHY DO WE ENJOY PUPPIES AND KITTENS SO MUCH?





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INTRINSIC VS EXTRINSIC MOTIVATION

- WHO/WHAT DO YOU WORK FOR?

**ARE WE HAVING
FUN YET?**

EXTRINSIC MOTIVATION

WILL MAKE YOU MISERABLE!!!

Dead End Job



WHEN I HEAR PEOPLE SAY THINGS LIKE, “**I WONDER WHAT A JUDGE WOULD SAY ABOUT THIS**” OR “**I BET A JUDGE WOULD HATE THIS**”, I FEEL VERY SAD. IF THE REASON YOU ARE OR ARE NOT TAKING A PICTURE IS BASED ON WHAT YOU THINK SOMEONE ELSE WILL THINK OF IT, YOU ARE SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR ENDLESS MISERY.

MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR YOURSELF!!!

BE HAPPY

INTRINSIC MOTIVATION

MAKE YOURSELF HAPPY!

- PHOTOGRAPH WHAT YOU **CARE** ABOUT
 - IF YOU DO NOT REALLY CARE ABOUT YOUR SUBJECT, NO ONE ELSE WILL
- **USE** THE TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE TO YOU TO SHOW THAT YOU CARE
 - THINK OF EACH IMAGE AS A STORY AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TELLING IT
- WHEN SHARING WORK, **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE**
 - REALIZE THAT EACH VIEWER WILL HAVE THEIR OWN INTERPRETATION
 - SHOW ONLY YOUR BEST
 - DO NOT TAKE IT BADLY IF OTHERS DO NOT AGREE
 - LEARN FROM IT

CONTEST SPECIFIC TIPS

THE LEAST IMPORTANT THING YOU WILL EVER GET OUT OF A CONTEST IS THE SCORE!

- 1. REMEMBER WHY YOU ARE DOING THIS**
 - 1. YOU ENJOY PHOTOGRAPHY, IT MAKES YOU HAPPY...**
- 2. CONTEST JUDGES ARE SUPPOSED TO RANK ORDER THE ENTRIES**
 - 1. THEY ARE FORCED TO PICK WINNERS**
 - 2. THAT DOES NOT MAKE YOU A LOSER!**
- 3. PAY ATTENTION TO JUDGES COMMENTARIES**
- 4. CREATE CONTEST SPECIFIC IMAGES**
- 5. DON'T WAIT TO SELECT ENTRIES**
- 6. SET REALISTIC GOALS**

CONTEST SPECIFIC TIPS

REMEMBER WHY YOU DOING THIS

- YOU ENJOY TAKING PICTURES
- YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR WORK WITH OTHERS
- YOU WANT FEEDBACK
- *YOU WANT TO LEARN*
- BECAUSE ITS **FUN!**

CONTEST SPECIFIC TIPS

CONTEST JUDGES ARE SUPPOSED TO RANK ORDER THE ENTRIES

- **DCC JUDGING AND AWARDS**

- The competition chairpersons will select photographers from outside the club to judge entries. The judges are asked to evaluate images based on impact, composition and technical merit. Competition scores may range from 65 – 100 based on the general criteria below. A score of 75 is considered to be a good image.
- 95 - 100: Exceptional
90 - 94: Superior
85 - 89: Excellent
80 - 84: Commendable
75 - 79: Above Average
70 - 74: Average
65 - 69: Below Standard

CONTEST SPECIFIC TIPS

CONTEST JUDGES ARE SUPPOSED TO RANK ORDER THE ENTRIES

- **PPC**

- Judge's Points (also called Image Points) are awarded by the judge based solely on the merits of the image and not in competition with other images. The judge considers impact, composition, and the technical aspects of the image in determining the point value. No image scores less than 6 points, and the maximum number of points is 15.
- Place Points are awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention (HM) in each Level. The point values are:

• First Place	10
• Second Place	6
• Third Place	3
• Honorable Mention	1

CONTEST SPECIFIC TIPS

CONTEST JUDGES ARE SUPPOSED TO RANK ORDER THE ENTRIES

1. REMEMBER THAT CONTESTS ARE BUT A SMALL PART OF YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY
 1. YOU ARE YOUR PRIMARY AUDIENCE: MAKE YOURSELF HAPPY MOST OF THE TIME
 2. FOR A CONTEST, **MAKE THE JUDGE HAPPY**
2. DO NOT LET A CONTEST JUDGE BE THE FIRST PERSON TO SEE YOUR ENTRY
 1. ASK OTHERS (NOT YOUR MOTHER) FOR ADVICE
3. DO NOT GIVE THE JUDGE ANYTHING NOT TO LIKE
 1. ELIMINATE FLAWS SUCH AS NOISE, DISTRACTIONS, HORIZONS, EXPOSURE, LACK OF SHARPNESS
4. MAKE IT SIMPLE AND EASY FOR THE JUDGE
 1. AN IMPACTFUL IMAGE WITH A CLEAR FOCAL POINT SUPPORTED BY THE OTHER ELEMENTS WITHIN THE FRAME, **PROVIDE A SIMPLE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE**

REFERENCES

MY PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

- LOOK UNDER THE TRAINING & EDUCATION TAB ON CLUB WEBSITE FOR PRESENTATIONS ON
 - “WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR”
 - “EXPOSURE”
 - “VISUAL DESIGN”
 - PLUS, PLENTY OF OTHER IMPORTANT TOPICS BY OTHER MEMBERS

REFERENCES

WEB LINKS

- What Is Composition In Photography <https://youtu.be/ViwpdmD2tgY>
- 7 Tips for Impact by Nigel Danson <https://youtu.be/uLZKUfxnjYY>
- 5 Tips for IMPACT <https://youtu.be/pJBMT-2rjNc>
- The Fundamental Building Blocks of Interesting Photos
<https://petapixel.com/2022/03/19/the-fundamental-building-blocks-of-interesting-photos/>
- **7 Essential Elements to a Good Photo**
<https://petapixel.com/2023/03/18/7-essential-elements-to-a-good-photo/>
- [EXPOSE TO THE RIGHT: Here's What It's All About \(VIDEO\) | Shutterbug](#)
- Composition tips Steve McCurry https://youtu.be/7ZVyNjKSr0M?si=6U-oUT_Ki4jC1KVH

REFERENCES

BOOKS

- Rick Sammon's **CREATIVE VISULIZATION** FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS: COMPOSITION, EXPOSURE, LIGHTING, LEARNING, EXPERIMENTING, SETTING GOALS, MOTIVATION AND MORE. Focal Press, 2015
- Bruce Barnbaum, The Art of Photography: A Personal Approach to Artistic Expresion. 2nd Edition. rockynook, 2017
- David duChemin. PHOTOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING: A DEEPER LOOK AT CREATING STRONGER IMAGES. [All – Craft & Vision \(craftandvision.com\)](#)
- Just about anything by Freeman Patterson, but for sure, *PHOTOGRAPHING THE WORLD AROUND YOU: A Visual Design Workshop*.

CONTEST SPECIFIC TIPS

PAY ATTENTION TO JUDGES COMMENTARIES



You know what the happiest animal
on Earth is? It's a goldfish. You
know why? Got a ten-second
memory. *- Ted Lasso*

CONTEST SPECIFIC TIPS

CREATE CONTEST SPECIFIC IMAGES

- MAKE A FOLDER ON YOUR DESKTOP FOR POTENTIAL CONTEST ENTRIES
- KEEP THE LIST OF CONTEST THEMES (SUBJECTS) WITH YOU FOR REFERENCE
- MAKE AN EFFORT TO PHOTOGRAPH OFTEN AND LOOK FOR CONTEST IMAGES
- MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS ABOUT THINGS RATHER THAN JUST OF THINGS (SNAPSHOTS)

EXAMPLES FOR DISCUSSION

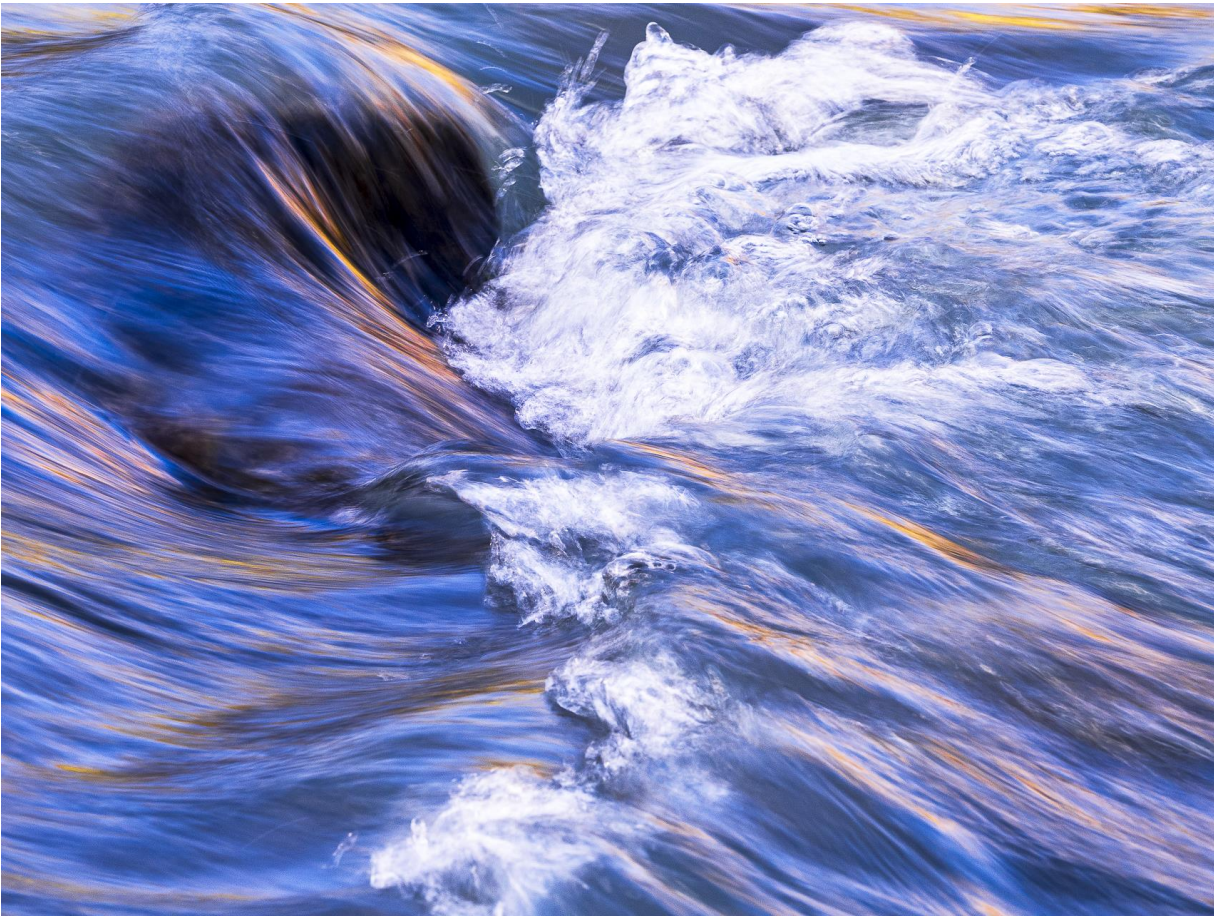


SHADOWS

TREE(S)



WATER





A SECOND CHANCE

CONTEST SPECIFIC TIPS

DON'T WAIT TO SELECT ENTRIES

- **SELECT AND PREPARE IMAGES WELL IN ADVANCE OF DUE DATES**
 - **GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO GET FEEDBACK AND MAKE CHANGES**
- **CONSIDER ENTERING IMAGES MONTHS AHEAD OF TIME (PLACE HOLDERS?)***
 - **ENTER EVERY CONTEST, YOU WILL LEARN SOMETHING (AND THAT'S WHY YOU ARE DOING THIS)**
- **IF YOU STRUGGLE TO PICK AN ENTRY FROM MANY POSSIBILITIES, FLIP A COIN**
 - **YOU CAN ALWAYS ENTER THE OTHERS IN LATER CONTESTS**



CONCLUSION

THE TAKE HOME MESSAGE

1. PHOTOGRAPHY IS **PHUNN!!!**
2. CLUB CONTESTS SHOULD ONLY BE A SMALL PART OF YOUR HOBBY
3. PHOTOGRAPH WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT
4. IF YOU WANT BETTER RESULTS, TURN IN PHOTOS JUDGES LIKE MORE
5. KEEP LEARNING: TAKE MORE PICTURES, STUDY, TRY NEW THINGS
6. SET ATTAINABLE GOALS
7. ASK FOR HELP

QUESTIONS?

I USE OLYMPUS CAMERA AND
LENSES