Judging Images & Commentator Training
Presented by Lauren Heerschap
What does a Commentator Say?

Three Areas to Comment on:

- Impact
- Technical Skill
- Artistic Presentation
Commenting on Impact

Impact

• “Wow Factor” First Impression
• Evokes Emotional Impact
• Compelling to all viewers
• Timeless or defines a time
Commenting on Technical Skill

• Correct Exposure

• Focus

• Contrast – relative lights and darks, highlights, shadows

• Distracting Elements

(Continued next slide)
Commenting on Technical, Cont.

- Tell-tales: use of content aware, cloning, over-sharpening, noise
- Cropping
- Use of software for correction – red-eye, burn and dodge, soft focus, vignette
Commenting on Artistic Presentation

- Composition – rule of thirds, perspective, balance
- Depth of field
- Placement of subject, horizon
Artistic – Cont.

- Dominant lines, shapes, textures, colors
- Title: adds or distracts, needs improvement

Note: Placement of Category: It is the role of the Commentator or Judges to question the Director if the photo is in the correct category. The Print Director or Digital Director will make that decision.
Commenting - Things Not to Say

- “I don’t like snakes” (content of photo). I can’t judge that well.
- “This is very interesting.” (but that means…?)
- “I wish I had taken this photo.” (explain)
- “I can guess whose image this is, it is easy to tell.”
- “Beautiful, well done image.” (explain, please).
- Criticism without explanation; not constructive.
- Other?
Judging Process

- Judges are given a review sheet.
- Even if you are experienced, please read it prior to starting.
- Press the score button for each image. Press zero if it is your image or a family member’s image.
- The Director records the individual scores and average score for each image and reports it to the audience. The average is only announced, not your score.
The Nine Point System

- An absolute scale with a range of 1-9
- Absolute implies that a score should mean the same thing in every judging
- Our own subjectivity will happen in our interpretation of the scores
## Scale Interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stolen</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Weak Average</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The scale interpretation ranges from 'Stolen' to 'Excellent Exceptional'.
What is a 1?

“1 is used to disqualify an image (1) that is copyrighted, (2) a copy of a painting, slide, print or digital image not produced by the maker or (3) submitted for competition that, in the judge’s opinion, does not belong in the designated category.”

Note: The option exists to move the image to another category at the decision of the Director instead of scoring a 1.
Example of a “1” Score

This is a copyrighted image from Google Images.
What is a 2 Score?

2 is reserved for images that indicate the quality photographic elements (subject matter, composition and techniques) have not been treated in a thorough manner. A poor image.

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What is a 3?

3 The image has several shortcomings. A fairly poor image.
What is a 4?

- **4** Has some redeeming qualities. A fair image.
Another 4...
What is a 5? Average...

5 is reserved for a good quality image that is both sharp and well exposed. An average image.

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Another Average 5

5 is reserved for a good quality image that is both sharp and well exposed. An average image.
What is a 6?

6 is for an image showing originality and good compositional techniques but perhaps lacking in strong impact or interest. A good image.
7: Strong

7 is for an image showing originality, good composition and techniques along with strong impact and interest. A very good image.

“Ice and Flow”
8: Excellent

8 is for an image showing a mastering of the elements of subject matter, composition and techniques. An excellent image.

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9: Exceptional

9 Is reserved for an exceptional image. These images should be unique and worthy of special recognition. A score of 9 should be used for those images that are the very best for our club, not the most exceptional image the judge has ever seen.
“Resting Rufous”