

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club (GNBPC) Score Sheet for July 2026

Judge: Tim Durham

Assignment Theme Photos - " *Golden Hour* " Scoring System: 3-9 pts

Image Title	Score	Comments
A Golden Symphony- Christiane Menelas	9	Beautiful photo that captures all the colors of Golden hour. Excellent framing of the rising sun with the trees and rocky cliffs on each side of the image. I like your choice of a small aperture to create the starburst in the sun and the slightly off-center placement of the sun. The foreground gives us something to look at and leads up to the sunrise. You have given us just enough detail in the distant canyon walls to give us the sense of size and depth. Very well done.
At Dusk-Cindy Korzekwa	4	My eye immediately goes to the golden sunset colors in the image as the maker intended. Unfortunately, the image is out of focus. This could be due to very large apertures or camera shake with a slow shutter speed. Consider the use of a tripod when shooting in low light conditions.
Days End at Caddo-Marty Watson	8	Wonderful sunset image, I like the way the maker framed the sun with the cypress and gave us a leading line of cypress trees on the right to take our eye to the sunset. Lighting has been handled very well in this image, the highlights in the moss on the tree is excellent. I like the foreground with the reflected branches in the water and the detail in the trees on the right giving midground and background depth. The image is almost split in the middle between sky and water, I feel the maker has used this choice effectively to give us more sky and water for environmental context. I'm a bit bothered by the white light next to the large cypress tree, this could be cloned out. Consider adding a bit more saturation to bring out the orange and yellow in the sunset and blue in the sky.
Early Morning on a Coquina Beach-Sandy Gilbert	8	The golden light on the beach has such wonderful warmth. I like the way the maker has brought my eye into the image from the lower right and takes me along the beach to the purple tinted clouds and then across the water. Excellent choice on the shutter speed to give a little softness to the waves and capture the color of sunrise in them. Focus is excellent from the seashells on the beach to the rocky areas in back of the image. Consider cropping 5-10% of the image from the top, the clouds are what I want to look at in the sky. This would keep my eye on the beach and waves.

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Guardians of the Sky- Jackies Wise	9	Stunning image of Haleakala astronomy complex and a Golden hour. I like the choice of the maker to embrace the sky and the colors in the sky and clouds making it the focal point for our eyes. Our eyes are free to look at the colors and detail in the clouds and sky. Positioning of the astronomy complex in the lower left allowed capturing great light on the domes and buildings with just enough detail in the foreground rocky areas. This area anchors our view and gives some good context to the image as a place to see the sky in detail. Well done.
Illuminated by Dusk- Sharlana Dillard	9	My eye immediately goes to the catchlight in the eye of the horse, backlighting of the mane and vegetation. Focus is excellent in the foreground and extending just behind the horse, becoming softer at the trees in the background. Overall exposure and lighting has been very well handled. Great image that could be cropped many ways and still be just as beautiful.
In the Golden Hour-David Love	5	I like the sharpness in the image and golden light on the plants and house on the left. Capturing the two birds adds some interest in the sky area. I feel this image would benefit from additional post processing. Consider cropping tighter all around; part of buildings on the right and left, sky area to near the top of the tree and some of the street and concrete. Work with the color adjustments and saturation to bring out the flower color and golden color of the lighting.
Magical Evenings-KJK	7	I like the feel of this scene it seems like something you drive by and not give a second look but there is a nice feeling to this image. The car and driveway angle lead my eyes to the sun and golden colors. I like the sharp angular fences and buildings offset by the round chairs. Old rusty cars are always fun to photograph and Mando's sign in the background gives the image good depth. For me the upper half of the image doesn't hold much interest, consider cropping down near the upper roof. I feel the image would be stronger with a warmer tone and a bit more saturation.

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Memory-Barry Armer	7	Good leading lines from the roadway to the barn and I like the barn was shot from a slight angle. The clouds and sky have a wonderful feel; the sky and clouds are the point of interest in this image. The ground and barn are over saturated with very little detail in the heavy shadow areas. Consider bracketed exposures and HDR to pull out more shadow detail in the future. You might consider cropping the bottom to just below the grass area to remove some of the less visually interesting ground.
Serenity at Dawn-Suzanne Daunt	9	This is a very simple but striking composition. The maker has given us enough ground in front of the tree. The horizon line is level; the colors look saturated but natural with the blue and orange complimenting each other. The detail in the sand and the tree is excellent, and the yellow orange sky allows the branches to almost jump off the screen. Very well done!
Shadow Dance-Robby Grosman	6	Clever image of a young girl and her shadow. Very nice the way the maker used the angled tree shadows as part of the background. The overall brightness looks good, I would like to see a little more warmth in the overall image. I'm bothered by the girls legs being cut off, I would rather have less space above her and keep the feet. I like the pose and the light on all those curls.
Summer Fun-Becky Love	4	The image focus and depth of field are both acceptable. The sun portion of the image is very over exposed, and the remainder of the image is suffering from significant lens flare. I like the concept of this image, keep working on your technique. I would like to see the dog's face or something of interest the dog is looking at (think chewy toy or bright ball).

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Swimming at Sunset-Shelby Caesar	5	Nice image of a young girl enjoying a swim at sunset with backlighting on her hair. Her face looks natural and not posed. Good detail in the face and eyes, good job holding the shadow areas. There are some areas of blown out highlights on her head and the left lower edge of the image. The image could be cropped tighter to eliminate the blown highlights on the left lower edge. I would like to see the girl's entire hand, consider cropping in tighter like a portrait.
The Gathering-Edward Zukowski	7	Unique take on the Golden hour with Lego figures and set. I like the overall feel and coloring of the image. The background looks very good for the Golden hour. The image is in focus from front to back but the area with the people looks a bit dark compared to the shadows in the rest of the image. For me the image is too centered and I would like to see the eagle further to the right to give the bird space to fly into.
Vertical City-Craig Pellerin	8	Very nice lighting and colors in this image and it is very sharp. Great choice by the maker to use a small aperture and get the star pattern around the light in the left lower corner. I like that a bit of the sea with the boats was left in for contextual purposes. I would like to see a bit more of the beach or harbor area below the city to give us the ground view the city is built up from. Consider cropping the right building off just left of the roof line, the view to the left is much more interesting. You might try a mask to on the lower third of the sky to bring out the colors and highlights in this area. Well done image at dusk.
Wings Etched in Morning light-Barbara Beversdorf	7	Very nice capture of 5 Sandhill Cranes with morning light behind and to the left of them. Good job leaving some room for the flock to "fly into". The last crane is focused on the eye; the others are all very sharp in the right wing and heads. There is some loss of detail in the left wings. To me it looks like the image has been over enlarged or over processed. There is slight chromatic aberration on the first 3 birds. The background sky looks very natural and it works well with the image.

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Between the Stripes-Jackies Wise	8	Wonderful graphical image of the eye, ear and body of a zebra. You have captured terrific detail in the ear, partial face and eye lashes of the animal. Focus gets softer as my eye moves to the right which helps keep my eye focus on the ear and eye of the zebra just where the maker intended. This is a great image. Just for fun you might look at reducing the contrast and lightening the ear area to create more depth. Consider cropping 20-25% off the right edge, there is a lot of less interesting space over there. Very stunning image.
Celebrating Purim-Cindy Korzekwa	7	Interesting still life with items revolving around the Purim observance. Great choice of decorations that result in striking shades from white to deep black. The background and the table covering work well with the overall set up and I like the off-center camera angle. I would like to see a larger table and not see parts of the table covering edge, and flowers, decorations cut off or very near the edge. You are on the right path with just a little more detail in the set up.
Dreams Aground-Sharlana Dillard	8	No doubt this ruined one or more people's day! Great PJ type image and wonderful colors for a monochrome image. Placement of the boat in the lower left works very well. I like the deep blacks in the windows, the whites are bright but not blown out, very good exposure control in bright lighting conditions. Love the clouds and the darker sky background. For me the mast is taking my eye out of the image to grey sky with no interest. The lower left half of the image is where all the interest is, consider cropping out 2/3 of the grey sky and 20% off the right. Great image!

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Endicott Arm-Barbara Beversdorf	7	Nice monochrome image of the Endicott arm. I like the water with the slight reflection of the mountains and the wispy clouds crossing below the tops of the mountains. The image is sharp and I like to capture and overall mood, but there is too much negative space. Crop out half the sky, half the water and 20% off the left side. This will leave a panoramic format and get us much closer to the interest points; the snow, trees and interesting clouds. Work on the sky to bring out more detail using the contrast, white and black controls. You may need to use some masking but this image is worth the effort.
Farmyard Still Life-Sandy Gilbert	9	Very fun to look at still life and terrific detail in all the components in the image. Nice leading line in the brick work taking us the wire basket and pot. I like to choice to place taller sticks in the basket and some bundled limbs against the bamboo background. The detail in the wooden structure on the left is wonderful. The clouds look great, very nice contrast and interest. Overall, I like the deep blacks and white whites and every shade in between. You have great texture and a lot for the eye to take in.
Heading Out-Shelby Caesar	7	Terrific human-interest story with the surfer heading out and a few surfers already in the water. The inky black wet suit and white surfboard really captured my eye. You've given us an interesting leading line heading out into the water, so it is more than just a surf picture. Focus on the subject is slightly soft and the piling front is out of focus but dominates the first view. The colors, textures and overall mood are wonderful. This image could be cropped in many ways and still be interesting.

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In the Trees-Becky Love	7	Good eye to recognize the wonderful reflection of the trees in the water. For me, the reflection makes this image. The sky is white and has no detail but reflected is creates a graphic with some nice detail where the water meets the land. I feel the central trees are too centered and the image is cut in half. Consider cropping half of the top and 10-15% off the right. Reduce the exposure of the upper landscape areas so they are less dominant. If possible reduce the highlights throughout the image. Keep my eye on the graphic portion of the image and interface between the sky and land where the detail is.
Last Warrior Standing-Christiane Menelas	9	Very interesting leading lines from the side taking us into the subject. The subject is well posed; I like the slightly lifted left shoe, lean to the right side and the interesting pants. The high key background is a great backdrop for the image with a slight view of the opposite shoreline. The maker has chosen to center the subject to capture the reflection in the foreground. Detail in the foreground and through the subject is excellent fading into the background. Another image that could be cropped in multiple ways to give a different feeling. Excellent image!
Make Room-Marty Watson	5	A very unique perspective on a bird's nest, very creative approach. I like the overall framing of the nest and that none of the major edges are cut off. Unfortunately, none of the birds are in focus. There appear to be areas in focus on the bottom edge but not of the primary subject. The image also has some very blown out highlights in the birds and the next materials and the sky or background areas. This is a situation where you need fill light to allow for the subject to be properly exposed. Good effort and unique approach to the subject.

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On the Hunt-Suzane Daunt	9	Great nature image as well as a very good monochrome. Focus is right on the head, beak, eyes of the bird and there is a slight catchlight in the animals left eye. Placement in the frame is excellent and the backlighting on the wings creates great interest. The detail in the feathers on the body and around the head are wonderful and being mostly attracts our attention. The shallow depth of field was an excellent choice to give the bird depth and hold our focus on the head. Wonderful image!
One Musician-Craig Pellerin	9	Great image of a musician at an event. Reminds me of monochrome images of rockers in the 60's and 70's. This is not an easy shot with the very bright lights in the background, which have great bokeh and some frontal lighting. Placement of the musician is excellent and the detail in the sound board, guitar and microphone are all very good. The musician's face, hands and hair look great with detail where needed and fading off toward the back. There is one burnt out highlight near the waist of the musician you might consider cloning out but it doesn't bother me. You have handled very difficult lighting well!
Over Water-David Love	6	This scene makes you think a little about what you are seeing at first. I like crossing darker lines of the waterfall and bridge with its reflection. The foreground has good detail, but the bridge is out of focus, watch your focal point or adjust your aperture for more depth of field. I would like to see the water tower in the background in focus. There is good tonal range throughout the image, I like the deep blacks in the shadow areas and whites in the waterfall. There is a lot of negative space in the sky and the lower foreground. Consider cropping the sky just above the water tower and removing half of the foreground area with the rocks and water.

Tim Durham – Biography



I'm a native Californian, raised in Fresno and moved to Merced after college. I worked in food processing my entire career, building and managing plants. I began photography with the purchase of my first camera in college. I took typical photos of friends, family, landscapes, and travel photos. I became more serious and took photography classes at Merced JC in the early 90's primarily working in Monochrome. Work, sports, and coaching pushed photography to an occasional if not rare hobby for many years.

I gave up sports after serious knee surgery and bought my first digital camera in 2010. I joined the Merced Camera Club and began competing at the club and the San Joaquin Valley Camera Club Council where members from 7 photo clubs compete. I enjoy landscape, sports, still life and wildlife photography and am continually learning. Over the past several years I have added night photography to my list.

I shoot with Nikon equipment; Z7 and Z8 and several lenses from 14 to 600mm but use my Apple iPhone occasionally as well.

I'm fortunate to live in central California and have access to 4 nearby National Parks, multiple wildlife refuges, the San Francisco and Monterey areas and a many other interesting areas for photography. I completed the PSA Image Analysis Course in 2019 and started judging to give back for all those who have judged my images in the past and guided me on my photography journey. I enjoy viewing all types of photography and hope to offer some constructive comments that may help you on your photographic journey.

As a judge, I also welcome your comments to help me become better at encouraging and furthering others in their photographic journey. You can see examples of my work at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/durhamtim/>