

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

Judge: Vinaya Mathews

Assignment Theme Photos - " *Street Photography* " Scoring System: 3-9 pts

Image Title	Score	Comments
A Taste of New Braunfels-Marlys Stahl	5	A sharp, colorful street photograph. The narrow aperture has helped keep the image sharp from the foreground through to the background, and the exposure is quite good. The black chalkboard adds some visual interest to the frame. However, the main point of interest or subject is missing. In street photography, capturing a fleeting moment or conveying a story is often the most important aspect. Unfortunately, neither is strongly evident in this image. Adding a clear subject, decisive moment, or human interaction could make the photograph more engaging and give it a stronger narrative
Along the Sidewalk-Cindy Korzekwa	3	Sorry to say, but the overall photo quality is not quite up to the mark. The image appears slightly unclear, so cleaning the camera lens is highly recommended before taking the next shot, I think
Hey! I am Walking Here-James Moseley	7	A perfect execution of the "fishing for the shot" concept. A good, sharp, colourful street photograph. The bushes in the foreground work nicely as leading lines and add further visual interest to the frame. The only slightly negative aspect is that the lady's outfit is almost the same colour as the background, which makes her blend into it to some extent. However, the pink colour of her shirt and the red hairband help separate her from the background. I only wish the photograph had been taken a few seconds earlier, with the lady positioned further towards the right side of the frame. This would have created more space in front of her and resulted in a more appropriate composition. Overall, an interesting image and a very good attempt at "fishing for the shot."

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IMG8756-Robert Grosman	4	Emotional impact, storytelling value, the capture of a fleeting moment, or a unique point of interest are some of the key elements that can make a street photograph compelling. I couldn't find any of these elements in this image. Capturing a man entering a doorway from behind technically qualifies as a street photograph, but it doesn't create much visual or emotional impact.
Let Me Tell You What Happened...-Suzanne Daunt	6	A lady sitting outside a house or shop, narrating something with clear emotional involvement, creates a strong emotional impact. The image is sharp, the light is mild, and the exposure is well controlled, making it a technically good street photograph. However, I feel that adding a few more elements to the frame that contribute to the story would have made the image more impactful. For example, it would help to establish whether she is talking to someone, expressing her emotions to another person, or simply talking to herself. Such contextual elements could have strengthened the storytelling and given the photograph greater emotional depth. Anyway, this is also a simple, technically sound street photograph.
Morning Ritual-SamLawson	7	The photograph speaks exactly to what the title conveys. The fact that the fishing rod isn't shown in its entirety also suggests that the intent of the photograph is not to show the result of the activity, but the activity itself. It could represent the man's usual habit, a way of passing time, or simply one of his routine morning activities. His age, facial expression, and body language, particularly the absence of excitement or anxiety, all contribute to the mood and help the photograph communicate the title effectively. These elements make the image successful both visually and conceptually. Technically, the image is well composed, though the left side of the face and shirt appears slightly overexposed. Toning down those highlights could improve the overall balance of the photograph.

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Outside Bruce and Gloria Ingram Hall- David Love	5	The image is sharp and beautifully lit. The clouds add an attractive element to the composition, and the image has a pleasing RGB flavour. Technically, the photograph can fit within the broad definition of street photography. However, it reads more as a cityscape than a strong street photograph. Street photography is closely related to photojournalism (PJ), and the PJ definition specifically states that "the journalistic (story-telling) value of the image receives priority over pictorial quality." Viewed from that perspective, while the photograph has good pictorial qualities, it lacks the emotional, or storytelling impact that would elevate it as a compelling street photograph.
Slow Day at the Bar- Christiane Menelas	4	A colourful and sharp photograph of a bar, with the presence of two customers perhaps justifying the title. However, I don't find a clear point of interest or a compelling subject that engages the viewer. Emotional or storytelling value is an important element of strong street photography, and both are rather limited in this image. Three of the four people are shown with their backs to the camera, making it difficult to understand what the bar attendants are doing. There is also little interaction or connection between the customers and the attendants, which weakens the sense of a story or a decisive moment. Sorry to say, but beyond the powerful and attractive colours, I don't find much that holds my interest in the photograph as a street image.

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Smoke and Sustenance-Sharlana Dillard	7	A lovely storytelling image with strong emotional impact. The smoke adds another layer to the story and enhances the overall mood. The image is sharp, the exposure is well handled, and the facial expressions of the person tell much of the story on their own. The angle of composition is impressive, but a tighter composition could have increased the storytelling impact manyfold. "Fill the frame" is one of the most powerful guidelines in composition. Follow this guideline, cropping the image tight and I believe the image could become much more powerful and impactful.
Taking a Breather-Ralph Nordenhold	8	A wonderful street photograph. The image is sharp, the light is beautiful, and the background is nicely blurred using a wide aperture, keeping the focus firmly on the main subject. The almost greenish-grey colour palette gives the image a distinctive mood and visual consistency. Above all, it is the expression of the main subject that makes this photograph stand out. The person is completely engrossed in reading, and his facial expression speaks volumes about what he is reading and perhaps what he is feeling. That genuine, candid moment gives the image its strong storytelling and emotional value. Lovely image indeed!
Texas State Bobcat Trail-Becky Love	4	Technically, this qualifies as a street photograph, but it lacks a clear main subject, story, point of interest, or emotional value. There is nothing in the frame that particularly engages the viewer or encourages them to look deeper into the image. It feels more like a random candid street shot than a purposeful street photograph.
The Depths of Despondency-Sandy Gilbert	8	A very touching street photograph with an equally apt title. The image is sharp, with a blurred background, and the composition contributes strongly to its storytelling quality. The choice of a grey tone further enhances the mood of sadness and draws attention to the difficult circumstances the person appears to be going through. The combination of the subject, composition, tonal treatment, and title creates a strong emotional connection with the viewer. A lovely and impactful street photograph.

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The Entertainer-Edward Zukowski	7	(Out of curiosity, I read a little about the Phoenix Saloon and found its history and background quite fascinating.) Coming to the image, it is a good example of "Frame within a Frame" composition. The image is sharp from foreground to background, and the vibrant colours add to its visual appeal. Placing the guitar artist behind the doorway, while keeping the name of the saloon clearly visible, shows an intelligent photographic intent and a good execution of that idea. The combination of composition, context, colour, and subject makes the image both interesting and meaningful. Overall, a very good street photograph.
Urban Leisure-Barbara Beversdorf	6	A beautiful cityscape photograph, but it would be more suited to the Travel section than to Street Photography. Technically, the photograph can fit within the broad definition of street photography. However, it reads more as a cityscape than as a strong street photograph. Street photography is closely related to photojournalism (PJ), and the PJ definition specifically states that "the journalistic (story-telling) value of the image receives priority over pictorial quality." Viewed from that perspective, while the photograph has very good pictorial qualities, it lacks the emotional or storytelling impact that would elevate it as a compelling street photograph. So, this is not a strong street photograph, but it is a good cityscape and, in my opinion, would be better suited to the Travel section.

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Waiting-Shelby Caesar	7	An enigmatic and mysterious street photograph. The blurred railing in the foreground is a little distracting, but at the same time, the railing on the right works effectively as a leading line towards the main subject. The composition is good, with the main subject placed along the right one-third line and plenty of space in the direction of his gaze, which adds to the sense of mystery. The image is sharp, and the lighting is good. Making the man, who is the main subject, slightly brighter while toning down the surrounding areas could help him pop and add more visual impact to the image. Overall, this is a good street photograph. The mysterious look and expression of the main subject are the strongest and most positive aspects of the image.
Walk This Way-Jackies Wise	4	Technically, this qualifies as a street photograph, mono conversion is actually very good, light is good but it lacks a clear main subject, story, point of interest, or emotional value. It feels more like a random candid street shot than a purposeful street photograph.

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Monochrome

Scoring System: 3-9 pts

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After Hours-Edward Zukowski	6	The monochrome conversion works really well, with a good range of grayscale tones. The exposure is well balanced, the composition is interesting and the image is sharp. One area that could be improved is the foreground. Most of the visual elements sit in the midground and background, while the foreground mainly serves as a directional path for the car. Reducing the foreground by about an inch could help minimize the negative space and make the composition feel a little tighter & so better.
Baby Bandit-Christian Menelas	6	Different, interesting subject is well captured. An image is sharp though the aperture is wide open, definitely it must be to throw b/g blur but it is so wide that even rare part of Bandit has become blur. The catch light in the eye is the strongest point of the image. Exposure is well balanced. In any image the brightest part catches the attention of the viewer first. So the main subject should be preferably lighter than b/g. Here it is opposite
Basic Black-Patricia Jones	7	Very nice portrait. The image is sharp, well exposed, and the posture is pleasing. If the main side light had been positioned a little further forward, a Rembrandt lighting effect could have been achieved. Of course, the choice of lighting is entirely of the photographer, and I respect that. Just a thought from my side. The two rods/bars in the background could have been avoided during the shoot or removed in post-processing. In the Open category, removing unwanted elements through post-processing is permissible, so that could be considered.
Chrome Dream-Shelby Caesar	7	Very good photo, very sharp, excellent mono conversion. Capturing any metal especially shining metal is not easy as it reflects the light, but in this image exposure of steel rod & other parts is perfect. The image goes well in shape & form category

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Green Heron-Marlys Stahl	5	The heron is captured very sharply in its natural environment. The exposure on the bird itself is excellent, but the background appears a little too bright. In nature photography, many factors are beyond the photographer's control, I know, which is why early morning and late evening are generally considered the best times for capturing birds. Secondly, in an Open category such as Monochrome, making appropriate adjustments during post-processing is absolutely permissible. As a general rule, it is desirable to include the full bird or animal in the frame, except in cases of intentional or exceptional close-ups. In this photograph too, the composition would have been stronger if the bird's front leg had been captured in its entirety.
Into the Darkness-Jackies Wise	3	Excellent work. An innovative idea executed very well. The use of the rough textured background, the shadows created by the low-angle directional light, and the diagonal arrangement of the elements within the frame have all contributed beautifully to the overall composition. The only aspect I would point out is the slight greenish tinge visible in the mug and along the edges of the shadows. In the Monochrome section, only shades of a single colour are permissible. In this image, I can notice a cream tone in the upper-left corner and a greenish tone toward the lower-right corner. PSA definitions of different divisions is as below: https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions

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Ocho Sombreros-James Moseley	4	The light is mild and the image is sharp, mono conversion is also ok, but, sorry to say, I couldn't quite understand the subject of the image. Is the row of wall-hanging caps intended to be the main subject? If so, I'm wondering why more than half of the frame is occupied by the ceiling. Secondly, the caps are similar, but they aren't exactly identical, and there isn't much variety among them either. As a result, I don't find a particularly engaging element or visual point of interest in the frame.
Steps by the Canal-Ralph Nordenhold	7	The beauty of the image lies in its diagonal composition and in the interesting combination of different geometric forms. The placement of the elements creates a pleasing sense of balance and structure. The image has a good range of grayscale, The sun is almost at the top. Had the light source been a little lower, it might have enhanced the image further by creating much longer shadows of the plants. Any way, very good mono image.
Summers End-Sandy Gilbert	5	The title of the image makes me feel that the intention behind choosing a dried flower is to convey the idea of the end of a season. The subject is sharp, and the angular light has created beautiful shadows on the dried flower, giving it a three-dimensional effect. However, the background is too bright and tends to compete with the subject, somewhat spoiling the overall impact. Also, without reading the title, it is a little difficult to understand the significance of the subject or what the image is trying to convey.
The Art of Arrival-Suzanne Daunt	8	Wonderful image indeed! Truly captured the bird in the art form & that too in its environment. Superb composition, extremely sharp bird even though it is captured in flight. The blurred, uncluttered background makes the bird stand out exceptionally well. The catchlight made the bird so beautiful. Perfect exposure capturing the details in all gray tones. Loved the image!

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Trade Days Totem Carver- Barbara Beversdorf	5	The title of the image helps clarify the point of interest or the intended main subject. Generally, when a human being is included in the frame, our first attention is naturally drawn to the person. In this case, that can make it difficult to immediately recognize the carved pillars as the primary subject, before reading title. The light is also quite harsh, and a slightly lower exposure might have worked better. I also feel the composition could have been tighter, so that the carved pillars become more prominent and clearly establish themselves as the main subject of the image.
Under the Picnic Table- Cindy Korzekwa	4	Under the picnic table, but what is interestingly happening here? Only one dog has come out, while the other is still inside. The light is also quite harsh, and the details on the main dog appear to be washed out. Sorry to say, but I feel the image lacks a clear point of interest or intent. I'm also unable to find a strong storytelling or emotional element, or any interesting play of light and shadows or strong composition. One of these aspects could have given the image a stronger visual purpose and made it more engaging.
Where the Storm Left Me- Sharlana Dillard	7	More than the image itself, it is the title that immediately catches my attention. It creates curiosity and makes one want to look more closely at the image. The image is sharp, with a good range of greyscale tones, and the composition is well balanced. The clouds in the sky add considerably to the visual appeal. The overall grey tones and the mood created by the image give it a somewhat mysterious and intriguing feel. Overall, a good image, with an interesting title that adds to its appeal.



Following a 31-year managerial career with a leading bank in India, Vinaya Mathews transitioned in 2014 to dedicate herself fully to her two lifelong passions: **service to the underprivileged and photography.**

Vinaya holds the highest portfolio distinctions from the Federation of Indian Photography, **Master FIP** and **Master FIP (Nature)**, both earned in the same year. Her international distinctions include **Excellence FIAP (EFIAP)**, **Proficiency PSA (PPSA)**, **Gold Exhibitor (GAPU)**, and **Silver PSA (SPSA)**, the latter being a portfolio distinction.

Her weekly column, *Photography in Easy Words*, was published in a local newspaper for several weeks. Her articles have also appeared in leading national photography magazines and, most recently, in the **PSA Journal, July 2026 edition.**

She has been an active member of three **PSA Image Discussion Groups** for the past three years. In addition, she has served as a **judge at national and international photography salons for the past seven years.**