

GROUP AAA

- 1) Back Door to Half Dome** – This is a lovely image of Half Dome, but feels a bit lopsided. The sky is too bright and the foreground too dark. Try a little dodging and burning. Also, since the sky is cloudless you could crop some of it away and still have a great image.
- 2) Barnyard Reflective** – This is a very balanced composition. It is well composed and tightly cropped. Try taking a hair off the top to emphasize the clouds.
- 3) By the Fountain** – Beautifully composed image—good seeing! Little girl is in the perfect pose—looks like she is contemplating something!
- 4) Carmel Kelp Forest** – Lovely image with the light from above. I am a bit distracted by the blank space on the left side, which could be cropped.
- 5) Catch Me if You Can** – Expression in child's face is incredible. Both child and dog have a happy, playful look. You might try cropping some of fuzzy foreground.
- 6) Chance** – This idea is terrific! Unfortunately, three-fourths of this image is out of focus, which overly dominates the composition.
- 7) Cold Day at Stonehenge** – Composition of rocks are well seen. The foreground interferes with the image and is out of focus. It might have been eliminated from a higher camera angle. The people do not contribute to the strength of this image.
- 8) Cucumber Beetle** – Excellent portrait of the beetle and the background supports it. The composition feels unbalanced and would be helped by beefing up the contrast.
- 9) Death Valley** – Nice composition of sloping mud hills. The two hills in the foreground do not contribute to the strength of this image and should be cropped. This image could also use more contrast.
- 10) Distant Mountains** – Overall composition is well seen. Image is too soft and needs to be darker and more contrasty.
- 11) Diver on Shipwreck** – The main interest in this image is the diver, his bubbles and the top of the ship. It would be interesting to see more detail on the ship. The image is inviting and draws you in, but then you don't have light and detail.
- 12) Fireplace and Chairs** – This is a beautiful setting, but the image needs some dodging and burning to bring it into balance. Pay attention to tonality to create a pleasing image.

13) Frozen Cottonwoods Along Yampa River – Gorgeous image and composition. The rendition in extreme contrast makes it a very inviting image. It is particularly inviting because of the shapes of the cottonwood's trunks.

14) Garden – Lovely composition with bench and tree. The elements of this image have been put together nicely.

15) Great White Shark Profile – Lovely image of a Great White following a school of fish. Image could use a little more contrast.

16) James – Intriguing image of a black cat and plastic ball. This is a minimal subject in a large space. The image totally lacks detail, but never-the-less, the action is intriguing.

17) Kelp Curl – Excellent composition of fascinating and different shapes. I particularly like the center group of circular shapes. Well done!

18) Lighthouse Steps – Well-seen image of interesting circular shapes. I would have cropped one-half to two-thirds of the white space on the left and some off the bottom as well to bring the subject into balance.

19) Lucy – Sweet portrait of a dog and flowers. The dog is positioned too far to the right, so try some cropping on the left and rev up the contrast to help this image.

20) Matilija Poppies – Beautiful flower, but needs more work to make it into an Art piece.

21) Old Friends – Delightful idea. Great composition of women and flowers. I might crop a little off both the right and left, just to where the flowers begin, to make a stronger focus on the women.

22) Owl Over Austin – Good seeing, but bottom third of image is not part of the main idea. Crop in closer to the "owl." Ask yourself, "What am I trying to say with this image?"

23) Peony – This is a beautiful and busy image. The center and right is where the image is. I would crop some off the left to support this. This image is filled with interesting shapes.

24) Playing in the Sprinkler – Incredible image! The highlights surrounding the umbrella attract your attention and draw you into the umbrella, which has much detail. I wonder if the maker used fill flash to get that detail? The child has a great expression on his face. There is a full range of tonality here.

25) Quiet Afternoon at the Lake – Beautiful composition of a very scenic area. It lacks a little in contrast which takes away from the impact. The clouds in upper right and behind the trees appear to be burned-out.

26) Remains of a Tree – Good seeing. The story is well done, but as a competitive image, is not as strong as some of the others.

27) Sailboat Mast – The idea is interesting, but there is too much in the image. It makes the story overly complicated. Too many elements are competing – both near and far.

28) Sculpting Horse's Eye – Interesting image. The hand is out of focus as is the left side, so I would crop the left and some off the right as well. Your main focus is the knife and the eye. Try moving in closer to your subject.

29) Seal Rocks San Francisco – This image would benefit from more contrast. Right now it is too flat. The rocks are floating right in the middle of the image. If you shot from another angle or cropped two-thirds of the sky you might like this image better.

30) Shaka Greeting – These look like happy kids—“Shaka Bro!” Great contrast. I'd crop half the sky to focus in on the kids. Tonality-wise, it is perfect.

31) She Ain't Heavy – Cute image and a beautiful portrait of children. Good composition and great tonality. I might crop in both off the left and right. On the left almost to the little girl's big toe and on the right, almost to her head.

32) Sunday Morning to Mass – It's intriguing seeing the legs moving. This image is softly contrasty—I like it. Excellent composition.

33) Teenage Wonder – Interesting technique. The story needs to be more obvious. The story does not survive the technique and composition although I'm intrigued by the technique.

34) Thinking – The face is very interesting. He looks like a very serious chess player. The background is confusing and detracts from the image. Try cropping out-of-focus elements on left side of image to the mid-point of the chessboard.

35) View from the Rock – Nice composition. Well seen and organized. The contrast needs some work.

36) Waiting for Summer – This image is a nice try at black and white, but the sky is blank and burned out and the image could benefit from more contrast.

37) Watching Carefully – The tonality of the hands is incredible! I love the baby's left hand clutching the rope. Try cropping the left to about an inch from the bow in the baby's hair and see how you like it.

B&W Returns
Dick Garrod 6/19/13

38) Water Lily – Lovely image. I would crop off the left to the middle of the “y” shadow in the background.

39) Winter Storm in Yosemite – Beautiful view of Yosemite and lovely image. The clouds are gorgeous. This is another image that could stand more contrast.

40) Wyatt – Cute child. Sweet expression on his face. I’d crop in close to the child on the left.

WINNERS -- Group AAA

HM – Watching Carefully (37) Frank Penner

HM – Frozen Cottonwoods Along Yampa River (13) Judi Clayton

3rd Place – Kelp Curl (17) Karen Schofield

2nd Place – By the Fountain (3) Frank Penner

1st Place – Playing in the Sprinkler (24) Julie Chen