

Program Notes for ORCC December '09 meeting

The December meeting of the camera club provided an opportunity for members to submit images featuring pets or domestic animals. In contrast to other bi-monthly competitions where the judge may select the best photos and comment only on those, Judge Carl Warner was invited to critique each of the selected images for strengths and weaknesses.

Carl Warner, a resident of Clinton, Tennessee has had an extensive career in photography, including photojournalism for both newspapers and television. He has traveled widely as a foreign correspondent, and has held director and editorial positions in both printed and television media. He has taught in numerous colleges and universities. Early in his career, Carl became a certified photographic judge and shared with us his comments on what professional judges look for.

The most important element of a photo in a photography contest is IMPACT. Judges want to see a photo that clearly stands out from the rest. It should have instant eye appeal and an element of originality. This is at least 60% of the grade awarded to the photo. The photo should suggest a story. The judges then look for technical elements... composition... focus... exposure.

Technical Elements: Professional judges are aware that some images are enhanced by soft focus or by over- or underexposure and take that into consideration. Even disregarding the rule of thirds may be permissible if the image is improved by doing so.

Did the photographer present the image in the right format – i.e. vertical vs. horizontal?

Matting and presentation: Did the photographer present the image with museum quality mount and were the colors of the mounting mats a good choice?