

South Pacific Star Party Astrophotography Competition 2011

Spirit of the Competition: The goal of the competition is to encourage astrophotography within the ASNSW. The *spirit* of the competition is to display images of astronomical objects taken by amateur astrophotographers using plausibly amateur equipment, *with acknowledgement going to images which are beautiful, interesting, informative, and technically excellent or challenging given the site and equipment used.*

The competition will be judged by popular vote by Star Party attendees. There is one single category: Open. The definition of "amateur equipment" is left intentionally vague, but the use of a large institutional telescope is contrary to the spirit of the competition and unlikely to attract votes. Images only peripherally related to astrophotography (eg equipment, people, kangaroos by moonlight) will not be considered. The organizers will at their sole discretion reject entries which contravene the spirit of the competition.

Entries & Prizes: The competition is open to members of the ASNSW, and/or to Star Party attendees, whether members or not. Entries *must* be entirely one's own work. Up to three images may be entered per individual. A small trophy will be awarded for first, second, and third place, with Honourable Mention for fourth and fifth place. An entrant can win at most one place: once an entrant is awarded a place, their remaining entries will be passed over.

Teams: Team work (e.g. one photographer, one image processor) is acceptable. One may enter as a member of a team (up to three people per team), or as an individual, but not both. A team is treated as a single entity, and can therefore enter a maximum of three images, and win at most one prize.

Presentation: Scrappy untidy work may be rejected. Each image must be on glossy A4 paper, preferably full bleed (no white border). The print may be physically cropped from A4, on one side only, to suit image aspect ratio. Write your name (or names in the case of a team) and one contact address on an opaque sticky label and attach this to the back of the image. That will identify the image without it being visible from the front. In the same envelope as the image there should be a separate A6 (ie ¼ of A4) plain white stiff card (to be displayed alongside the image) indicating the name of the object, field of view, scope, mount, camera, filters, duration of exposure, and where taken (eg Wirruna, private dome in Andes, urban backyard), and team size if relevant, plus *optional (but strongly encouraged) explanatory text*, for example:

NGC 2359. Field 45' x 30'.
PlaneWave 12.5"CDK, Titan mount, permanent pier,
SBIG STL-1100M cooled monochrome camera
H-alpha 14 hrs, O-III 10 hrs, S-II 10 hrs
Penrith Council Car Park, Penrith NSW (Team of 2)

*Thor's Helmet in Canis Major is the shocked ejecta
from a Wolf-Rayett star. Narrowband filters and long
exposures were helpful when photographing this faint
object from suburbia.*

The name of the photographer must not be included on the card. Entries will be accepted up to 11am on the second day of the Star Party (2nd April 2011). Please ensure you read and understand the attached terms and conditions before entering the competition.

This is an amateur event with kids and meat pies on the prowl.
There is every chance that images may be lost or damaged.

The 19th Annual South Pacific Star Party

Astro Imaging Competition 2011

Conditions of Entry

1. The competition is open to all pre-registered attendees of the 19th Annual South Pacific Star Party and financial members of the Astronomical Society of New South Wales (ASNSW);
2. Entries may be submitted by teams of up to 3 people. All members of a team must satisfy the conditions of Rule 1. The team will be treated as a single entrant;
3. All images must have been taken by the entrant on or after Friday 14th May 2010 (i.e. since the beginning of the previous SPSP);
4. All images must be the sole work of the entrant;
5. The entrant may submit up to 3 images in the competition.
6. For the purposes of this competition, an amateur astrophotographer is defined as someone who has not earned more than \$5,000, in any previous calendar year, from the sale or publication of astronomical images;
7. The competition organisers may, at their sole discretion, disqualify an image that is not, in the opinion of the organisers, taken by an amateur astrophotographer or is not taken on amateur astrophotography equipment. If there is any doubt regarding your eligibility, please contact the organisers before entering the competition;
8. The entrant must legibly complete an official entry form. The entrant must supply the details requested including full name, address and contact phone and e-mail addresses. If an ASNSW member entrant is not attending the SPSP in person, they must nominate a representative;
9. The entrant or nominated representative must deliver all entries in person at the designated time and location at the South Pacific Star Party. Entries sent by post or email will not be accepted;
10. Images must be supplied in print form and meet the following requirements:
 - a. Images are to be printed on a standard A4 glossy sheet (21cm x 29.7cm) but can be cropped on one side only;
 - b. An opaque sticky label containing your name and address is to be affixed to the back of the image.
 - c. Entries are **not** to be mounted on any form of backing/mounting board.
 - d. A separate A6 plain white card must be included indicating the name of the object, field of view, scope, mount, camera, filters, duration of exposure, and where taken. The card may also include other explanatory text. This card must not include the name of the entrant.
 - e. Note: all images will have a stick-on Velcro tag attached by the organisers for display purposes and these prove difficult to remove without damaging the photo. Displayed images may be otherwise inadvertently damaged.
11. A full resolution copy of the images in TIFF or JPG format must be supplied on CD/DVD for potential inclusion in the awards ceremony and / or subsequent magazine publication. It must be appropriately labelled with your name and contact details. For logistical reasons, CD/DVD's will not be returned; A TIFF file is preferred and is recommended for superior reproduction for the winner's prize of an A3 print of their image. It is also suggested that images are tagged with the colour space (sRGB, Adobe RGB etc) the image was edited in for superior colour reproduction;
12. Copyright in the images shall remain with the entrant and the ASNSW shall be granted an irrevocable license to use the images as it sees fit, including publication in magazines. Proper acknowledgement will be given to the entrant whenever an image is used. Note that an A4 print of the winning image may be given away as a prize to a randomly drawn voter in the competition;
13. The Judging and Awards process will be in accordance with the Voting Procedures on display at the SPSP. Judging is by popular vote of star party attendees. The images will be ranked according to the number of votes received, with the image receiving the most votes being awarded first place. The five most popular images will be announced at the star party; Once an entrant receives a place (first through fifth) for an image, their remaining images will be ineligible for any further places.
14. All attendees of the SPSP may participate in the judging of the entered images except persons less than 12 years of age. Each attendee is allowed one vote;
15. Entry in the competition constitutes your acceptance of these conditions.