

# South Pacific Star Party Astrophotography Competition

## 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. The five most popular images will be recognized. There is one single category: Open.

The image *must* be entirely one's own work. Team work (e.g. one photographer, one image processor) is acceptable, but any prize will go to the team. 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

The competition is open to members of the ASNSW, and/or to Star Party attendees, whether members or not. Each image must be on glossy A4 paper. Write your name and 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. Teams of up to 3 people are permitted (use multiple sticky labels). In the same envelope as the image there should be a separate A6 (ie ¼ of A4) plain white 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 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 (15<sup>th</sup> May). 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 18th Annual South Pacific Star Party

## Astro Imaging Competition 2010

### Conditions of Entry

1. The competition is open to all pre-registered attendees of the 18th 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 22nd May 2009 (i.e. since the beginning of the previous SPSP);
4. All images must be the sole work of the entrant;
5. 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;
6. 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;
7. 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;
8. 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;
9. 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);
  - 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 will 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.
10. 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 winners 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;
11. 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;
12. 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;
13. All attendees of the SPSP may participate in the judging of the entered images, except persons under 12 years of age. Each attendee is allowed one vote;
14. Entry in the competition constitutes your acceptance of these conditions.

*Any questions about these rules or the competition should be directed to [astro-imaging-competition@asnsw.com](mailto:astro-imaging-competition@asnsw.com)*