

South Pacific Star Party Astroimaging Competition 2020

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 astrophotographic equipment, *with acknowledgement going to images which are beautiful, interesting, informative, and technically excellent or challenging, given the site and equipment used.*

The use of a large institutional telescope is contrary to the spirit of the competition. Hand-drawn images, images taken with mobile phones, images only peripherally related to astrophotography (equipment, people, sunsets, kangaroos by moonlight, space shuttles and rocket launches, etc.) are not eligible. The organizers will, at their sole discretion, reject entries which contravene the spirit of the competition.

Entrants: The competition is open to members of the ASNSW, and/or to Star Party attendees, whether members or not. Team work (e.g. a team of two might be one photographer and one image processor) is acceptable. One person 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 in a category.

Entries: Entries *must* be entirely the original and sole work of the entrant. One entrant can submit a maximum of three entries. Entries must satisfy the following **Conditions of Entry**.

Categories: There are two categories: Deep Sky and Open. The entrant must select a category for each image submitted. **Deep Sky** is for clusters, galaxies and nebulae (i.e. deep-sky objects). **Open** is for eclipses, the Sun, planets and wide-field images.

Judging: The competition will be judged by popular vote by Star Party attendees. Full details and the procedure in the event of a tie are detailed at Item 12 in the following **Conditions of Entry**.

Prizes: A small trophy will be awarded for first, second, and third place in each of the two categories. An entrant can win at most one place in each category: once an entrant is awarded a place, their remaining entries in that category will be passed over.

Presentation: Scrappy, untidy or frivolous work may be rejected. Entries are to be submitted in an envelope containing a completed entry form, prints of each image (labelled on the back with an adhesive label), a descriptive card for each entry and a USB memory stick with image and description files. Full instructions are detailed at Item 10 in the following **Conditions of Entry**.

Forms: Entry forms, Conditions of Entry and a **Template Descriptive Card** are available on the website here: <http://www.asnsw.com/starparty/astroimaging>

**Entries will be accepted up to 11am on the Saturday of the Star Party.
Please ensure that you read and understand the following terms and conditions
before entering the competition.**

Conditions of Entry

1. The competition is open to all pre-registered attendees of the Annual South Pacific Star Party and financial members of the Astronomical Society of New South Wales (ASNSW).
2. Entries may be submitted by individuals or teams of up to three (3) people. All members of a team must satisfy Condition 1. The team will be treated as a single entrant.
3. All images must have been taken by the entrant since the beginning of the previous South Pacific Star Party.
4. Every image entered must be the original and sole work of the entrant.
5. One entrant may submit up to three (3) images in the competition. For each of the three images, the entrant may select either the Deep Sky or Open category as they desire.
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 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, contact phone number and email address. 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. Entries must be supplied in print AND digital form by the following processes:
 - a. **Print each image** on glossy paper, preferably full bleed (no white border). Area must be between 400 and 640 sq cm, longest side no more than 30 cm, shortest side at least 20 cm (i.e. A4, 10" x 8", US Letter, a 20 x 20cm to 25 x 25cm square, or a 21 x 30cm rectangle are all fine). Entries are NOT to be mounted on any form of backing/mounting board.
 - b. Write your name (or names in the case of a team), image category (Deep Sky or Open), 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. The judges will allocate a category if the entrant fails to do so.
 - c. Complete a separate plain white **Descriptive Card** for each entry. The Descriptive Card indicates: Category (Deep or Open), the name of the object, field of view, telescope, mount, camera, filters, duration of exposure(s), where taken (e.g. Wiruna, private dome in Andes, urban backyard) and team size if relevant, plus optional (but strongly encouraged) explanatory text. This card must not include the name of the entrant (which will be anonymous to voters).

The **Descriptive Card** will be displayed alongside the entry. A template Descriptive Card is available on the ASNSW website here: <http://www.asnsw.com/starparty/astroimaging>. The font size and layout of the Descriptive Card should not be altered. There is further information in the Template Descriptive Card file, supplied as a "Word" document that can be completed

on computer before printing. The name of the photographer must NOT be included on the Descriptive Card, only on the back of the entry. Example information that could be shown on a Descriptive Card:

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-Rayet star. Narrowband filters and long
exposures were helpful when photographing this faint
object from suburbia.*

d. Save files to USB memory stick using the following filename formats:

- i. Firstname_lastname_object.jpg (or .tif for **image**);
- ii. Firstname_lastname_object.doc (or .txt for **descriptive card or description**).

A full resolution copy of the entered image(s) in *uncompressed* TIFF or JPG format must be supplied on a USB memory stick for potential inclusion in the awards ceremony and/or subsequent magazine publication, along with your descriptive card (or a text description if the card is hand-written). The USB stick must be labelled with your name and contact details. USB sticks will not be returned. It is also suggested that images are tagged with the colour space (sRGB, Adobe RGB etc) in which the image was edited.

e. Submit entries in a large envelope containing:

- i. a completed and signed entry form;
- ii. printed image(s), each labelled on the back;
- iii. a completed Descriptive Card for each image; and
- iv. the USB stick with all image and description files.

Note: All images will have stick-on Velcro tags attached for display purposes. These are difficult to remove. Images may otherwise be inadvertently damaged.

11. Copyright on the image(s) shall remain with the entrant and the ASNSW shall be granted an irrevocable license to use the image(s) as it sees fit, including publication in magazines. Proper acknowledgement will be given to the entrant whenever an image is used.
12. 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 three most popular images in each category will be announced at the star party. Once an entrant receives a place (1st through 3rd) for an image in one category, their remaining images will be ineligible for any further places in that category. In the event of a tie for 1st place, it is the intention to award each a prize for 1st place and then move on to 2nd place. Similarly, for ties for 2nd and 3rd places. 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 in each of the two categories. Improperly completed voting tickets (e.g. a Deep Sky number on an Open category voting ticket) will not be counted.
13. The organizers and their deputies reserve the right to adjudicate at their sole discretion in the event of informal entries, informal votes, or other unclear or unforeseen circumstances.
14. Please collect images from the display boards on the Saturday evening.
15. Entry in the competition constitutes your acceptance of these conditions.