

PTCC-2018 – PICTORIAL #1 GROUP A

38 images from 13 members

01 - Antique Hay Rake.jpg

Strong graphic qualities; I like the relation between the seat on the left and the hemisphere on the right, as well as that between the dark metal and the light, textured snow. Possibly stronger if you got this more at a diagonal, rather than so horizontal?

02 - Ascorbic Acid.jpg

A great capture of this crystalline landscape, and you placed the primary orange-hued structure at a very strong position in the composition. The smaller structures then play a strong, supporting role as they surround it.

03 - Cloths for Sale.jpg

An enjoyable abstract pattern reflected in the doorway. You've given us the context of the door by including some of the brown framing that surrounds it. But I find that a little distracting and wonder if it might be a bit stronger if you cropped right to the blue doorway.

04 - Coyote Valley Preserve.jpg

I like how you got good texture and local contrast into some darker areas that could easily have been devoid of detail. I think this image is mostly about the round tree at lower left and the dead tree structure to its right, and both of these leading to the more open areas on the skyline. So this might benefit from cropping more to these parts of the image.

05 - Drifting Through History.jpg

A pleasing travel image with a strong sense of the place. Lightening the human figures in the boat would help make them more prominent. You could also have cropped more closely to the boat and people, but I can see that the nice reflections in the foreground water would lead you not to. But perhaps cropping the top, almost as far as the bridge could allow the boat and people to dominate the image more without losing the sense of the buildings. Also, a bit more contrast in the image could give it more energy.

06 - Fairy Falls Columbia Gorge.jpg

You've filled the left, lower, and right portions of the image with the falls very well. I like that the upper/left area is filled with falling water with similar pattern to the rest, but provides a negative space that works well with the rest of the composition. Good choice of shutter speed. You could have brought out more contrast/dynamics in the water, but I think you made a good choice in keeping the textures fairly subtle. Nothing to change here.

07 - Fall Aspen Colors at Ripple Creek Pass, CO.jpg

Good placement of the three primary trees towards the left, and good sharpness and texture in their bark. Good use of crossing diagonal branches from the largest tree. I also like the out of focus yellow foliage as a backdrop. Other, loops of branches work well in the image, though there is a very small branch loop in the lower left that is a little distracting and could be darkened or cloned out.

08 - Fireworks Macro.jpg

Good capture of the moment in the fireworks, and good dynamics in the presentation. The three bright centers of the explosions are well placed in the frame.

09 - Floating Down the River.jpg

Good placement of the leaf within the image, and good sharpness and texture in the leaf. I like seeing the surface tension in the water surrounding the leaf. You could have brought more contrast and dynamism into the leaf and water, but it would be easy to go overboard with that so, maybe just a little more than you've given us here.

10 - Garden tomato.jpg

I like the sharpness and texture in the tomato stem, and its placement in the frame. The lightening by vignetting along the bottom, left & right serves to enhance the sense of roundness in the body of the tomato. But I think you could have been more subtle with the vignetting and still gotten the rounding effect.

11 - Getting warm under mom's wing.jpg

Good portrait of the duck family, and you did well getting good detail in the darker parts of the mother and chicks despite strong backlighting reflected from the pond. The chick's fuzz seems to have a little greenish cast to the yellow. Is that right? A small point, but including more of the mom's tail feathers would be good.

12 - Johns Hopkins Glacier, Alaska.jpg

Though mountains can easily dominate such a landscape, your treatment of the foreground makes that part similar in importance to the mountains, with good separation from them by the water. Good cropping all around into a panorama with no wasted space, but not feeling crowded either. You might have brought more contrast and dynamism into the image but, given the flat lighting, I think your treatment is suitable to the mood.

13 - lemon in the rain.jpg

Good capturing of the sense of wetness and coolness in the lemon and branch, and good placement in the frame. Background is nicely out of focus so it doesn't compete with them. The water drop at bottom, though quite small, is so much brighter than the rest that it becomes a key part of the image.

14 - Life is Good.jpg

A fun, pixyish portrait of the cat. Interesting lighting with good sharpness in the face, where it's needed most. The original might have been horizontal (or not) but, by placement on its side as a vertical, you added to the sense of mischief. You might get by with less dark space on the top and bottom.

15 - Milkyway At Bixby Bridge, Big Sur.jpg

Good capture of color, sharpness and detail in the Milky Way, and I like that you placed it over the water (rather than behind the land) so that it works well with the lighted portion of the bridge. I like the hint of detail (but not too much) in the main bridge portion and land so that it doesn't compete with the lighted portion of the bridge or the Milky Way, but still adds to the sense of place. There is an isolated light right on the horizon, I'm not sure whether it's a star or

from a boat, that I can't decide whether it adds or detracts from the image by drawing our attention away from the main elements. If the latter you could darken it some.

16 - Monarchs_.jpg

Good placement of the butterflies on the flower and branch, and placement within the frame. You've filled the frame without crowding the wings too closely to the edges. Good sharpness in the right butterfly, branch, and part of the flower. But the left butterfly seems a little soft which is unfortunate since it's a primary subject.

17 - Monterey Fair.jpg

I like the lighting, sharpness and detail in the images on the ride, and the chains against the dark sky. It seems a bit centered but, since there's likely nothing else around to add to the composition, that's Okay in this situation.

18 - Moon Jellyfish.jpg

You got a lot of nice detail in the jellyfish. This would be more interesting if there were other jellies filling more of the blue background.

19 - Morro Rock in the Distance.jpg

I like that you've got a location where Morro Rock is surrounded this way by the land, but keeps its separation from the land against the water. I like the lighting and texture in the foreground grasses, but wonder if this might be a bit stronger if you made it more panoramic by cropping a little off the sky at top and into the foreground grasses.

20 - Out To Pasture.jpg

Wonderful color and texture in the old vehicle. You might have cropped a little closer to the vehicle, since the barn on the left side isn't adding much, and the interesting cloud above the hood could then better anchor the composition on the upper left. On the other hand, I like how giving some space in front of the vehicle gives it a sense of motion, though it obviously hasn't moved in years.

21 - Pierside.jpg

Stunning composition, with the angle of yellow on the left balanced by the line (as in rope) diagonalizing to the right. Very strong graphic quality and color in the boat, and that would be enough. But further interest is added by the more subtle color and texture of the underwater plants to the right countering the very different qualities of the boat. Also, from the line between the red and green areas of the boat being continued to the right by the parallel shadow in the water.

22 - Pigeon Network.jpg

A humorous grouping of the birds, with interesting surroundings of the network of wires (Christmas lights?) and the window shutters. Could be stronger if you had been able to keep all the dark birds against the light wall, vs. some of them being lost against the similarly dark shutters. You might crop a little from the bottom to tighten the composition. It might also work well to bring this fully to monochrome and, perhaps, bring out a little more contrast.

23 - Pt Lobos Sunset.jpg

Wonderful fire in the sky coming to a point above the rocks and branches to the left of the image, and with support from the light blossoms in the left-foreground and the rocks in the middle. Though the branches on the right side are well separated from the water and are interesting on their own, they are so separated from the action on the left that, to me, they form their own picture that distracts some from the left-side picture. Thus, unfortunately, you may do well to crop the right side, almost to the sea stacks.

24 - Remember When....jpg

Good framing of the classic car, and I like the near-monochrome of the car contrasting with the colorful objects at center. Though the objects are small in the image, their color makes them the center of interest. You could bring up contrast more overall for effectiveness. I think to really max out the potential here, you could convert the car portion fully to monochrome while retaining (or even enhancing) the color in the objects at center. The trunk latch-handle (left/top) is right at the edge of the image so, if there's more in the capture, consider including just a slight bit more at the top.

25 - Repent Now.jpg

An interesting window into a particular world view. I like the wide-angle treatment you've given this, but think you could have gone further in getting closer to the truck. I don't think we need as much background as you have here, and I'd like to be able to read more of what's on the house structure behind the cab.

26 - Redwoods.jpg

A very nice blending of the two very different main areas of the image. The rhododendrons tends to dominate, just slightly in area but more so due to their brightness and color. But the redwood area holds its own due to its ethereal, misty beauty. Good seeing and presentation.

27 - Riding the Lip at Steamer Lane.jpg

A good capture of a peak moment in sports action. I like the way you've placed the surfer toward the top and right of the image as he turns around. I like the freezing of the water drops throughout and, especially, the color, lighting, and sense of depth I'm getting in the water that diagonals down from the surfer to the left. It adds to the sense of realism of what he is doing.

28 - Sandhill Cranes coming in for a landing.jpg

Very simple but effective. I like the subtle color gradations in the sky offset by the dramatic and sharp silhouette of the birds.

29 - The Finale.jpg

Good capture of a very short-lived phenomenon. You did well in capturing the bright circling object as well as the dimmer shower of sparks being thrown off. Also good that you got some detail in the ground (sandy beach?) below. The circle of light seems a too centered, though, and might benefit by shifting it a bit one way or the other (probably to the right), even if that means a reduction in the spark shower activity on the other side.

30 - The Narrows.jpg

Great range of colors and tonal range, keeping detail in the darker rocks as well as texture in the milky moving water. Your (likely) choice of a long exposure to get the milky flow in the water

works well here. The composition could be a bit tighter, and our attention focused more on the key elements, if you cropped a little from the left and bottom. On the left to a little closer to the first "cave" just above the water. On the bottom to a little closer to the water, but not so much that you lose all of the foreground rocks that transition from being dry and above water to in the water.

31 - True Love.jpg

A good story presented here with the look of satisfaction on the woman's face. It's humorous too that the woman's hair is similar in color and texture to the dog's fur. The lighting is harsh here; if you shot in raw you may be able to bring down the highlights some in the woman's hair and nose. An additional, easier adjustment would be to crop a little from the bottom and right. That would serve both to focus better on the woman's face and the dog's upper body, but also to eliminate the dog's lower foot and the highlights on the woman's left sleeve, the brightness of which are a little distracting.

32 - Turbocharged Classic.jpg

You have done very well at making your own abstract composition from this car (possibly via wide-angle lens?). You have essentially draped the sharp and detailed mechanisms of the car around the simpler, rounded shape (wheel cover?) whose only real content is the reflection of the sky above. You've done as well as you can in including the ground area on the left in the composition. But, at the expense of cutting off part of the very nice completeness in the rounded foreground shape, you might consider cropping the left side, with the ground, almost to the tire at top. I think that would pretty much complete the abstraction of this image.

33 - Venetian Gentlemen.jpg

Good capture of the expressions in these gentlemen's faces; they seem to be playing their role in time well. Also, good capture of the texture and details in their clothing (and you didn't blow out the highlights in their white linens). Given the location, I find myself wanting to see a little more of their surroundings, as well.

34 - Vintage Packard.jpg

Good capture of the detail, tonal range and color in this ornament, and good placement in the frame.

35 - Weathered Kimball.jpg

Nice texture and color in the weathered materials, though the highlights in the white keys are a bit blown out. If you shot raw you may be able to control the highlights better. You might consider bringing us closer to the weathered keys, to include the Kimball label but fewer of the keys (I'm not sure whether to include to the left or right of the label).

36 - Western columbine.jpg

Pleasing color and tonal range, though on the margin of not being sharp enough. Though the columbine is very centered, the way its stem leads to it from the right side mostly makes up for that. Also the ample space you left around the flower helps too. I like the way the light coming through the red leaves, against the out-of-focus green background, appears to make the flower float in mid-air.

37 - Wheels Bike Shop in Winter Snow .jpg

I myself have shot sports equipment stored during a season it can't be used (winter) and find the subject interesting. Here you could have come in more closely on the very interesting snow-draped bicycle, but I'm glad you stayed back and included the store sign in the image and the landscape of license plates. The slight incline in the license plate lineup makes it look like a hill from which the bicycle is leaping. I also like the colorful and textured wood wall against which we can see that snow is currently falling.

38 - Winter Snow Storm In Yosemite.jpg

A good capture of the classic view. The tonal range seems about right in the rock formations, but the highlights in the snow on the foreground trees seem a little dark and could be lightened, and the contrast in the clouds could be increased. There are three main areas of interest that I see here; the stormy clouds, the Valley rock formations, and the foreground snow-covered trees. Since the foreground trees are so separated from the Valley rock formations, I think you may have to choose two of the three to strengthen the composition. Either crop some of the trees at the bottom and accentuate the clouds, or crop some of the clouds and accentuate the foreground trees. Though the clouds are lovely, I think I'd choose the latter.

WINNING IMAGES:

1st Place: 12 - Johns Hopkins Glacier, Alaska

2nd Place 06 - Fairy Falls Columbia Gorge

3rd Place 21 - Pierside

Honorable Mention 15 - Milkyway At Bixby Bridge, Big Sur

Honorable Mention 13 - lemon in the rain

Honorable Mention 02 - Ascorbic Acid