

Bits & Pixels



Third Quarter 2024 (July - September)

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P.O. Box 51154, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

www.padretrailscc.org



Evening Stroll, Netherlands by Julie Chen
1st Place Group Blue - September Travel

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My Two Bits

Looking Forward to an Exciting New Year

by Ken Jones

October 1, 2024 marks the beginning of Padre Trails Camera Club's 77th year of helping Central Coast amateur photographers develop their creative and artistic potential. Back in 1948 when the Club began, one of its stated goals was to promote amateur photography. There's no way Club members then could have foreseen the skyrocketing popularity of photography today. A quick internet search reveals that in 2024 some 14 billion photos are posted to social media sites... every day! People today are very much into photography. However, as I've pointed out before, the sheer quantity of images being captured isn't the point. What Padre Trails, and other camera clubs like it, are emphasizing is the quality of the images, from the initial "seeing" to composing, capturing, and post-processing one's images to create a result that satisfies the photographer, and in some cases, inspires viewers.



Going forward to our next Club Year we've planned challenging competitions, active member interaction on subjects ranging from our judges reviews and comments, members' shared interpretations of a range of interesting specific technique or subject drills we call "Pop-Ups," and Group Shoots to incredible venues including *Marina Dunes, Cannery Row, Garrapata Lillies and Beach, Point Lobos*, and the *Santa Cruz Beach and Boardwalk*. Thrown in for good measure are photo scavenger hunts that encourage members to get out in the community and practice the art of seeing. All this in addition to our regular monthly competitions that are judged by professional photographers who provide invaluable feedback on our images that help build our members' confidence in their photography. We'll also enjoy spring mixer and fall potluck that are informal get together in a relaxed atmosphere allowing members to share ideas, ask questions, and generally stay in personal touch. It's going to be a very good year!

Take your lens cap off..

Ken

Members' Shout-out Achievements Beyond PTCC



2024 Monterey County Fair Photography Winners

Padre Trails members fared well at the Monterey County Fair this year. Here are the winners:

Chris Johnson:

- 1st place for *Niko*.
- 1st place for *Family Day at Asilomar*.
- 2nd place for *Shenanigans*.
- 3rd place for *Delicate Ranunculus*.
- HM for *Sunbeams and Low Tide*.

Dick Light:

- 1st place for *Deep Fly to Right Field*.
- 1st place for *Vivers at Dusk*.

Carol Silveira:

- 1st place for *Bodie*.
- 2nd place for *Magic*.

John Drum:

- 1st place for *Fullers Teasol and Barbed Wire*.
- 2nd place for *Bewick's Wren at Salinas State Beach*.

David Eisen:

- 2nd place for *Durango Silverton*.

Ken Jones:

- 3rd place for *Shetland Island House*.



And don't forget the *Santa Cruz County Fair* where Padre Trails was again well represented. Congratulations to these multi-county winners:

Chris Johnson for her 1st place and Best of Show for *Gerbera Daisy*, another 1st for *Tulips*, and 3rd for *Tiny Jumping Spider*.

Carol Silveira for her 2nd for *A Quiet Place*, and her Honorable Mention for *Bodie*.



Dick Light's French Man Cooking Dinner won 1st place in the People category of a contest held by *HWY 68 LOOP* magazine. Congratulations Dick!



July 2024: Pictorial - Creative B&W Competition Winners

Judged by Rachael Short



Rachael Short's passion for photography started at a young age. She spent many hours in the dark room in high school and continued on to Brooks Institute of photography in Santa Barbara where she earned her bachelor's degree. Photographs of nature, people and places allow her to explore the relationship between light and shadow—images she transforms into platinum prints from digital negatives with help from her friends. In 2010 she was in a car accident that left her a quadriplegic. She now divides her time between physical therapy and capturing images with her iPhone. Rachael continues to re-define herself as a photographer as she overcomes the challenges of her disability and looks upon the world with a new eye.

About this competition:

The Club's **pictorial category** is defined as a visually impactful photograph which projects emotional intent and/or artistic quality, and through the photographer's efforts, emphasizes beauty of subject matter, tonality and composition. This category offers artistic freedom: the "digital dark room" is allowed, as long as the compositional reality of the photograph is maintained. Entries should be a faithful representation of the original scene, and localized adjustments can be used appropriately. Pictorial is typically an "open" category, but may be "directed" to incorporate specific photographic elements. In this case, the competition is directed to Pictorial standards incorporating a Creative Black & White presentation.

For PTCC members, "**Creative**" is the only category that allows altered reality. In fact, it is required. It is intended for imaginative, artistic effects not otherwise possible in photography. Any photo that could be submitted to another competition probably doesn't qualify as creative photography. The final image should demonstrate originality of concept and/or imagination and must be based on the photographer's original photograph(s), with modifications made exclusively by the photographer. Images must include some alteration of reality, done either in post-processing or in the camera or both. This category is free from the restrictions of the other competition categories. Imagination and originality of concept are paramount.

So for this one, our members were challenged to create images that incorporate the elements of pictorial and creative photography, rendered in black and white. Visit Rachael's website at: <https://www.rachaelshort.com/> and look at her evocative photography. It will be clear to you that this competition was a perfect fit for her to judge.

July 17th Creative B&W Winners

Group Blue



1st "The Birds Have Taken Over Fort Point"
Chris Johnson



2nd "My Worst Nightmare"
Carol Silveira



3rd "Supermoon Over a Merced Dairy Farm"
John Drum



HM "The Sisters"
Bill Brown

July 17th Creative B&W Winners

Combined Groups Green & Red



1st "Beauty in Agings"
Carol Fuessenich (Group Green)



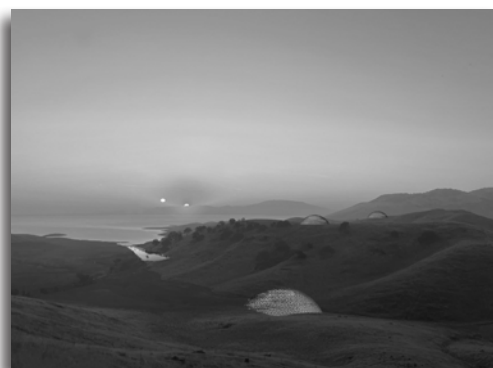
3rd "Waiting"
Ken Jones (Group Green)



HM "Old Ranch Hands"
Sandie McCafferty (Group Green)



2nd "Lights and the Night"
Carol Fuessenich (Group Green)



HM "Faraway Morning"
Ken Jones (Group Green)

Revisiting the Basics

Skill Set Series from the Photographic Society of America's (PSA) monthly Journal

by Ken Jones

Charles F. Gattis, Jr. is a retired pastor living near Huntsville, Alabama. He's a master photographer and past president of the *Huntsville Photographic Society*, a PSA Club with more than 200 members. In its August and September 2024 issues, the PSA Journal featured skill set articles by Charles that I found particularly enlightening.

The astounding advancements in camera sophistication and capabilities over just the past few years (and I'm including the smart phones in this category) has made taking pictures almost a no brainer. The problem with this is it tempts us, as photographers, to leave the brain behind and let the technology do the work. The results, at least to my thinking, is that the images we create are often technically brilliant, but lacking in human appreciation and connection, *feel*, if you like.

Mr. Gattis's first two skill set articles, *Seeing* and *Capturing* caught my attention because they talk about the importance of slowing down and thinking about the scene that initially drew us to photograph it.

All of us have heard friends or judges comment, "Good seeing!" when discussing one of our images. There's more to that comment than meets the eye. Mr. Gattis stresses the importance of seeing a subject or scene in terms of its elements of design, balance, dominance and proportion. What it is, really, that called us to photograph the thing in the first place. He points out that each of us visualizes a scene in our own unique way, and underscores this truth by relating the different outcomes when several photographers "see" and photograph the same subject. It's critical to really see our subjects, as only we do, before letting the camera do its magic.

Gattis emphasized that you don't need a camera to practice seeing. He relates that he often goes on walks without his camera looking for the elements of the subjects he finds interesting, and that by doing so, he's forced to consider all the aspects of a potential future photograph.

Gattis takes us a step further in the second of his skill set series: *Capturing*. The emphasis here is the realization that the camera, even a really good one, cannot capture what we see. The machine lacks the dynamic range, perspective, color richness, and depth of field capabilities of our eyes. Going back to the important of actively seeing a subject, the elements that compel us as photographers have to be worked through composition, angle, and lighting to bring what is eventually captured in the camera as close to what we've "seen" in a scene. Gattis references what we've all said at times when sharing photographs we've taken that fall short one way or another, "The pictures don't do justice to the scene." That's why Gattis urges us to practice and experiment with different ways of seeing and capturing our subjects.

Carol Fuessenich, Padre Trails PSA liaison, does an excellent job of keeping us up to date with PSA resources and opportunities, which are many. To paraphrase PSA's mission, its objective is to promote the art and science of photography, provide education, information, inspiration, and opportunity, and to foster personal growth and expression, creativity, excellence, and ethical conduct in our photographic endeavors. The PSA Journal is a monthly publication, and its varied content supports this vision in a big way. If you can, pick up a copy and read more about Charles Gattis and his unique approach to improving our photography and his own. Visit: <https://psa-photo.org/page/journal>



And Then Ansel Said...

- "There's nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept."
- "The single most important component of a camera is the twelve inches behind it!"
- "With all art expression, when something is seen, it is a vivid experience, sudden, compelling, and inevitable."

Source: Various

A Day at the Rally

By Sandie McCafferty

Dad was a “Car Guy.” He bought new cars periodically and reveled in their new car smell. He believed it was time to buy a new car as soon as the ash tray got full... and he smoked a lot in the car. Back roads were his favorite place for contemplation.

That being said, I am not a “Car Guy.” Therefore, when I decided to volunteer with PTCC members *Bill Brown, John Drum, Charlie Gibson, Ken Jones, David Thon, and Rick Verbanec* to photograph Pacific Grove Rotary’s 2024 Concours Auto Rally in August it was a big step out of my comfort zone. It was also a great chance to learn and get to know some of the other members of the Club while giving back to the community.

The Pacific Grove Rotary Concours Auto Rally is in its 30th year, and takes over Lighthouse Avenue, then the Rally spills along scenic Ocean View Boulevard and on to 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach, then back to Pacific Grove. The Rotary Club’s generous support for PG projects and local youth programs is funded with money raised from this event and others.

In preparation, I visited my neighbor who polishes his low riders endlessly, and I watched a couple of YouTube videos, because that’s what you do now. Ever up for a challenge, I headed to Pacific Grove.

The lead for the effort, PTCC member Charlie Gibson, rallied us together and explained what type of images the project needed, and the rules of the road. On Friday, August 16th, we were let loose with our cameras to merge into the foot traffic of the concourse on Lighthouse Avenue, and later along the rally route. Our photos will be shared with the Rotary to promote their programs and their events in the future. Charlie is gathering them together and will create a 4 to 5 minute video of this year’s highlights and winners for public view, adding that it’s his “avenue to give back.” Charlie quipped, “Right now everyone’s images are like a big bowl of goulash, but I know it will all come together.”

This year focused on a celebration of the Ford Mustang. There was a dazzling amount of chrome and polish, quite a few car-themed Hawaiian shirts, and a feeling of positivity, nostalgia, and connection. Other entries ranged from elegant to extreme. Lamborghini, Rolls, Bentley, Nova, Olds, even a mini van! all had their day to shine and be appreciated. My favorites were the ones like dad used to have: T-Bird, Cougar, MG, Chevy,... and of course, his WWII Army Jeep.

As I pulled away after a long day of appreciating and photographing the cars, and the love of those cars, I felt closer to my dad. I thought that, maybe, I might be a little bit of a “car guy,” after all.



1966 Sunbeam Tiger Mark 1a

Owner: Ross Handy

Photo by David Thon



Ford Shelby GT 500 Carbon Fiber Track 2020

Owner: James Barron

Photo by John Drum

Editor’s Note: Sandie has been a member of PTCC since June of ‘22. This is her 3rd article for Bits & Pixels and it’s hoped she will become a regular contributor.

July 2024: Open Nature Competition Winners

Judged by Bob Sadler



Bob began making photographs in 1965 while serving in the US Army in Vietnam. He wanted a way to capture the best of that country and bring it home. Even though the camera was relatively simple (Yashica twin-lens reflex) and he knew nothing about photography, he was captivated with the results. Somehow, the images shed a different light on things...narrow, intense, delightful images of the ordinary. After he shot photographs for several hours, he could see things in that same delightful way for days...maybe weeks before it wore off.

In the early 90's, all of his photographic equipment was stolen from a car while traveling through France. Fortunately, the insurance claim allowed him to buy new equipment. He was always interested in large format photography, so he purchased a Wisner 4" x 5" camera. He shot large format color transparencies for 20 years, but now primarily uses a Canon 60D digital camera, a Go-Pro, and an iPhone.

During the past ten years, he's attended workshops with Eddie Soloway, Cole Weston and Kim Weston, Dan Westgren, Willie Osterman, and Richard Newman. He studied studio lighting with Barbara and Fernando Moon Batista. He's attended and conducted workshops at the Center for Photographic Arts in Carmel, CA. He joined the Board of Directors at the Center for Photographic Art in 2019.

See Bob's work and learn more about him at: <https://bobsadler.smugmug.com/>

About this competition:

Nature photography is the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a viewer will be able to identify the subject material and recognize its honest presentation. The visual message of the photograph is considered more important than the technical considerations but high image quality is essential. This nature competition has no direction as to subject matter giving our members freedom to photograph the subject of their choice.

August 21st Open Nature Winners

Group Blue



1st "Anna's Hummingbird"
John Drum



HM "Honey Bee on Flower"
Jared Ikeda



2nd "Taiwan Barwing"
Julie Chen



HM "Black Turnstone in Kelp with Flies"
Chris Johnson



3rd "Osprey With Catch"
Dennis Giuffre



HM "Deer in Yarrow"
Jerry Loomis

August 21st Open Nature Winners

Group Green



1st "Red Eyed Frog of Costa Rica"
Carol Fuessenich



3rd "Sea Otter Pair"
Ken Jones



2nd "California Brown Pelican"
Ken Jones



HM "Cypress Tree, Caddo Lake Texas"
Bill Shewchuk

August 21st Open Nature Winners

Group Red



1st "Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)"
Sara A Courtneidge



2nd "Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)"
Sara A Courtneidge



3rd "Juvenile Red Tail Hawk"
Clarissa Conn



HM "Light Shadow Guide The Way"
Brian Spiegel

A Fun Group Shoot Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club Ranch Roundup

Seven members enjoyed a day in Carmel Valley on Saturday, September 21st at a Club Group Shoot at the *Trail and Saddle Club's Ranch Roundup*. Lots of action to photograph. The day was filled with a variety of friendly competitions in a range of ranch operation skills involving the whole family. There will be a showing at a future meeting of the top 10 images from members *Bill Brown, John Drum, Carol Fuessenich, Chris Johnson, Ken Jones, Jerry Loomis, and Sandie McCafferty*.

Sandie is a member of the Trail and Saddle Club, and helped put the day together for us. Chris Johnson designed and provided our signs, handouts, and free candy for the kids. Sandie spent time in the booth describing events and announcing riders. Thank you Sandie and Chris for arranging the day.



Our Mini-Booth
Photo by Ken Jones



The One That Got Away
Photo by Bill Brown



Championship Form
Photo by Carol Fuessenich



Waylon Fanning: The Next Great King of the Cowboys!
Photo by Sandie McCafferty



A Sunny Smile
Photo by Jerry Loomis



Sorting
Photo by Chris Johnson



Future Cowgirl
Photo by John Drum



A Winning Time
Photo by Ken Jones



Ride 'em Cowboy
Photo by Rick Verbanec

September 2024: Travel Competition Winners

Judged by Ed Freeman

Ed Freeman's early career was in the music industry. He performed as a folk guitarist and classical lutenist, worked as a road manager on the last Beatles' tour, played guitar on dozens of pop recordings, wrote orchestral arrangements for artists including *Carly Simon* and *Cher*, produced and arranged over two dozen albums, including *Don McLean's* American Pie.

After a mid-life career change, he now creates commercial and fine art photographs that have been featured in hundreds

of publications. Two books of his computer-enhanced images have been published. His architectural series - Desert Realty and Urban Realty - have been the subject of touring museums shows. Prints of his fine art images are in the permanent collections of several American museums and private collections world-wide.

These days Freeman travels the world taking pictures, teaches Photoshop, still plays piano, is fighting a losing battle to learn Mandarin Chinese and swears mightily that he will write the Great American Symphony one day - whenever he gets some spare time. Don't hold your breath.



Visit Ed's website at <https://www.edfreeman.com/> to see his innovative and unique work.

About this competition:

Travel photography must express the characteristic features or culture of a place naturally. While images are expected to be of high technical quality, the visual message is considered most important.

September 17th Travel Winners

Group Blue



1st "Evening Stroll, Netherlands"
Julie Chen



2nd "Guanajuato, Mexico"
Carol Silveira



3rd "Jacobite Train aka Hogwarts Express"
Jared Ikeda



HM "Machu Picchu"
Jerry Loomis



HM "Monument Valley at Sunrise From Hunts Mesa"
Jeff Hobbs



HM "Callanish Stones Scotland"
Jared Ikeda



HM "Hiking Into the Storm"
Joni Zabala



HM "Where it All Began"
John Drum

September 17th Travel Winners

Group Green



1st "Sail Ho"
Sandie McCafferty



2nd "Cypress Trees, Caddo Lake, Texas"
Bill Shewchuk



3rd "Lake Tahoe"
Fernando Ibanez



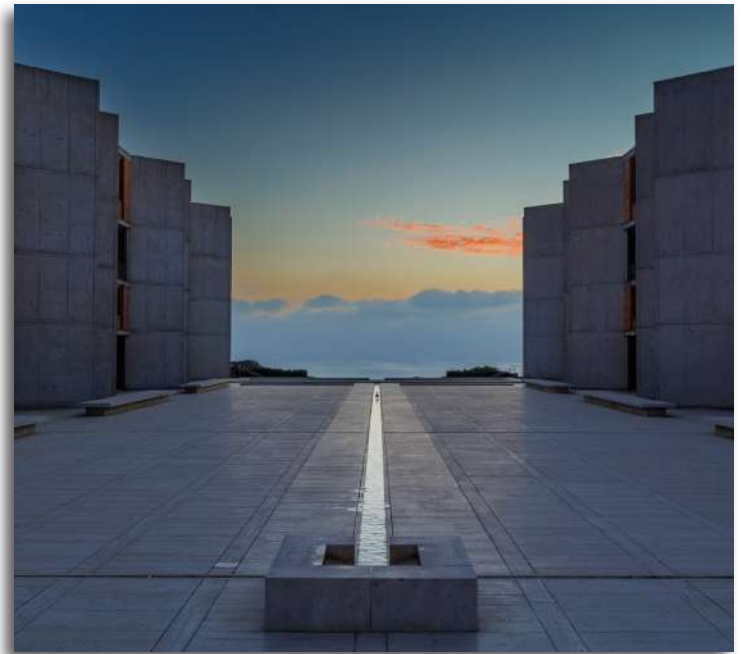
HM "The King-Africa"
Fernando Ibanez

September 17th Travel Winners

Group Red



1st "Reichsburg Cochem"
Andrea Madsen



2nd "The Salk Institute, LaJolla"
Sara A Courtneidge



3rd "Waiting for the Train"
Brian Spiegel

Note: No Honorable Mentions
were awarded in this group.



Armchair Travel to Australia Hop Aboard the PSA Website

by Carol Fuessenich

G'day, mate! When you have the time, sink into your cozy armchair and check out these Australian camera clubs and societies that I found highlighted on PSA's website: <https://psa-photo.org/> and enjoy a trip down under.



On your next virtual trip to Australia you might drop in on a meeting of the *Northern Tasmania Camera Club*. <http://northtascameraclub.org/> which has been active since 1889 (older than PTCC by a long shot) and is a member of PSA.

Like our club, they go on photo treks, have guest speakers, and learning sessions. Many of the Club's activities and programs closely mirror what PTCC is doing on the Monterey Peninsula. Interesting how like minds think. An enormous amount of research on the Internet has found numerous web sites that members will find beneficial. All of the sites, and many are YouTube sites, are free.

Travel next to the *Toowoomba Photographic Society* <https://toowoomba.myphotoclub.com.au/> They meet each week either in person or via Zoom, and conduct both digital and print competitions.

Like other clubs, they have workshops and demonstrations of photographic techniques, photography/post-processing, guest speakers and club member presentations, and again as PTCC, they try to have one group outing each month.

According to their mission statement, "The Toowoomba Society's aim is to promote, improve, share, and enjoy photography in Toowoomba and the surrounding districts offering many services, all specifically designed to improve photography and photographic skills in a friendly social atmosphere." Sound familiar?

Each of these sites is packed full of their talented members' amazing images. It's time for a Walk About...You'll find so much inspiration from around the world at the PSA site. *Happy Travels!*

Our Saturday July 27th Summer Mixer



The Club held its 2nd informal mixer on a beautiful July afternoon at the Pacific Grove home of president *Ken Jones* and his wife Anne. These casual get togethers provide the time and atmosphere for Club members to reconnect and catch up. Apart from the hot dog BBQ curated by Chef Ken, *Chris Johnson* conducted some valuable, and useful, over-the-shoulder training on various Photoshop tips and techniques. Lots of good food, information, and conversation. A very nice day!



Upcoming Competition Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- Sunday, October 27th: Open Nature
- There is no submission in November.
- Sunday, December 29th: Open Creative

Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
via Zoom

All Officers and Activity Chairs can be reached via email at info@padretrailsc.org

Membership information can be found here
www.padretrailsc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html