

# Padre Trails Camera Club

## Pictorial Competition - Feb 20, 2019

### Group A Comments

Judged by: Craig Mohr



#### 01 - Ancient Cage.jpg

The pattern of the 'cage' is a strong element that attracts the viewer. We immediately go to the contrast and texture. The exposure 'outside' the cage can be brought down which will add more richness to the image. More DOF will accentuate the texture even more. The 'cage' is a really strong element just needs a small tweak to tighten up the image. Great concept of 'trapped'



#### 02 - At the Ready.jpg

The subject matter is excellent. Photographers love texture and color and a bit of decay. There are many stories, the one I would be most curious about is the paint brushes themselves which fits the title 'at the ready'. Framing in tighter (or cropping) can bring the story to the brushes. The exposure could be opened up a bit. The options are limitless to show the surrounding environment while still making the brushes as hero. The muted light is a great compliment to the subject.



#### 03 - Baranof Island, Alaska.jpg

There are 3 dynamic elements in this image. The clouds, the mountain and the lake. They all are competing for attention. Bringing down the exposure will make the clouds the star and add a tremendous amount of dimension to them. A bit of cropping can bring a stronger visual focus to the mountain or water, whatever is the story you want to tell. The exposure adjustment is the simplest and most dynamic. With the exposure brought down the subtle lines of the water and the mountains work in harmony to compliment the clouds.



#### 04 - Beams.jpg

Very strong visual focus. Tremendous feeling of depth and movement in the frame. Increasing the contrast by darkening the shadows very slightly in post will add some visual energy to the tonal range. The top of the frame is a bit heavy, visually. A bit tighter crop from the top would balance out the top and bottom. Excellent tonality.



### 05 - Bodie Reflections.JPG

Excellent use of the reflection to create more 'architecture' in frame. The post processing work creates the feeling of a painting or illustration rather than a photograph. I would love to see the exploration of additional color palettes to see where this image could become more watercolor like in nature. The choice of how much window pane to show or not to show really anchors the subject without distracting.



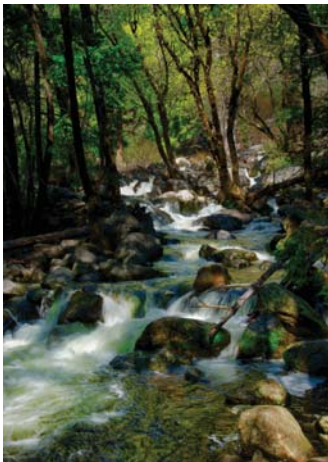
### 06 - Bryce Canyon Splendor.jpg

My first impression is the image has a strong central focus, but is hidden because the exposure is a bit too bright overall. Bringing it down really makes the 'path of light', that is slashing across the frame, come alive.



### 07 - Carmel River near Ribera.jpg

Excellent use of the 'frame within a frame' technique to drive the viewer into the frame. The clouds act as a ceiling to keep us there. The light was beautiful that day and provides great detail of richness in color and textures. The image begins to lose the true story of the landscape when we notice the buildings in the background. Being white, they draw our attention and compromise the nature of the location.



### 08 - Creek in Yosemite.jpg

Very good technique of creating movement in the creek. A great balance of blur and static aspects of the water. Seeing through the water helps the viewer to realize the image is sharp. The framing feels that it is leaning to the right. A subtle bit of straightening would help that. The image would benefit from more shadow detail, a bit less vibrance and then a richening of the blacks. It will allow more subtle details to be revealed. Only minor LR adjustments. The framing really tells a concise story.



### 09 - Eucalyptus in the Sunset.jpg

The color is very exciting and the technique of silhouetting the trees creates impact. With this framing there is almost equal 'weight' between the trees and the sky. Cropping in from the bottom to just eliminate the electrical towers makes the silhouettes less important and a counterpoint to the dynamic colors. The story will now become the beautiful color you captured.



### 10 - F22 Raptor .jpg

Beautiful pre-visualization and timing to capture this image. The jet has been transformed into a more organic being as the interaction with the sky and air temperature to add a ghostly presence. We feel the speed even though the jet is frozen. Excellent use of photography to create more than just a documenting of the subject.



### 11 - Face at Bandon Beach.jpg

Excellent visual balance. The placement of the subjects in the frame is very nicely done. There is a gap in the rocks at the bottom of the page in the foreground that doesn't add to the framing. It can be cropped out. Bringing down the exposure 5-6 tenths of a stop will increase the dramatic feeling of that day. The light is beautiful, nicely done to recognize it. Subject placement is very solid and anchors the viewers focus.



### 12 - Face in the Wall.JPG

A great Ghost. The 'reddish hair' does a great job of framing the face. The dark 'wedge' shape at the top is a bit visually heavy. Cropping into a bit from the top will de-emphasize the impact. A touch more contrast or vibrance will add a touch of richness to the 'hair' color.



### 13 - FALL COLOR.jpg

Excellent use of the 'fall line' to move the viewer through the frame. The details of the golden leaves and the trees works well with the crispness of the light. A little judicious cropping can improve the visual focus. Cropping into the tree on the right will act as a border to keep the viewers eye in the frame. Cropping out some of the gaps in color at the bottom of the frame creates a better 'sea' of color. Using LR to 'dehaze' creates a cleaner separation of tones between the sky and the trees.



### 14 - Fiery Dahlia.jpg

Spectacular color. Truly fiery. The choice of DOF creates strong visual focus and downplays the background. Excellent placement within the frame.



### 15 - Garapata State Park -- Soberanes Waterfall.jpg

Very interesting location because there is so many contrasts to work with: water, sand, rocks, plants. The light is very soft, but flat which does not create much dimension and form across the subjects. There are probably 5 or 6 crops to explore with this subject. This framing has a lot of competing elements.



### 16 - Garrapata Beach House at Dusk.jpg

The subtle color palette is beautiful. The use of motion in the water adds to the subtle atmosphere created by the light. You could crop in from the bottom and still tell the story of the sand and it will drive the viewers eye toward the house. Bringing down the exposure will also bring the house into better balance with the sky.



### 17 - Garrapata Blow Hole.jpg

The light is very dramatic and quickly draws the viewer into the frame. Strong visual focus on the burst of water keeps the viewer interested. The framing of the burst is very good allowing room for it to 'breathe'. To highlight the burst a bit more the exposure can be brought down a tad or the 'blacks' can be adjusted. The 'amber - blue' color axis is very pleasing to the eye.



### 18 - Garrapata Solitude.jpg

The motion is captured beautifully. There are many strong visual elements. There is room to bring the viewers' attention to the flowing water, which is the strongest of the elements. The rocks do not appear sharp enough to create a counterpoint of rough versus smooth of the water. Darkening down the sunset would also drive our eye more to the water.



### 19 - Glorious Poppies.jpg

Very unique POV. The viewer is brought down into the flowers rather than from above which detaches the viewer. The light is used to show the transparency and delicacy of the petals. Very rich color.



### 20 - Golden Gate Optical Illusion.jpg

Excellent use of compression to compact the bridge. The location POV is unexpected and reveals the curve of the roadbed. The name 'Golden' Gate could be brought into play here by accentuating the color either by increasing saturation or adjusting the 'dehaze', both in LR.



### 21 - Happy Valentine.jpg

The delicacy of the flower is nicely done, I would like to see more. The heart shape is a very strong, overpowering element that does tell a story, but there is another more subtle story in the rest of the rose.



### 22 - Heliotrope.jpg

The color is very powerful and intense. There is a visual conflict with the background that competes with the flowers. The tile pattern can be minimized with a bit of cropping to bring the visual focus entirely to the beautiful flowers.



### 23 - Kayak Flower with Drifting Petal.JPG

Excellent concept of the 'drifting petal'. Colors are strong and the pattern of the kayak 'flower' draws the viewers attention. De-emphasizing the rocks in the foreground will work to bring more visual focus to the 'flower'. Getting closer will diminish the rocks.



#### 24 - kremlin domes.jpg

The framing is tight which works to create a pattern of the domes rather than just a recording of them. The bright background helps to emphasize the graphic nature of this image, but does not provide much depth. A very strong graphic.



#### 25 - Lone Cypress During Winter Storm .jpg

Very strong framing and excellent patience to capture the crashing wave. If the photographers' intent is to embrace the soft muted tones, it would be stronger to crop out the brightness in the sky at the upper right. That bright area makes the rest of the frame look flat and under saturated. Without it, we will more appreciate the muted tones.



#### 26 - Lone Tree.jpg

This image tells a wonderful story of solitude and emptiness. The single tree creates just the right amount of visual energy to act in counterpoint to the large calm energy of the snow. The subtle ridges of snow leads the viewer to the star of the image.



#### 27 - Looking North.jpg

There are two very strong elements here. The hillside and the water which is interesting with texture and detail. Then the bridge, which is more interesting. By bringing down the overall value of the left side of the frame the image becomes about the bridge with the hillside in support. The adjustment brush or gradient tool in LR can achieve.



#### 28 - Lovers Point Off-the-Lip.jpg

Excellent capture of the peak of action. Great anticipation. Even though it is a still image there is a lot of visual movement in this shot. Framing is very efficient, no extraneous elements. Very nicely done. Strong visual design. A step further than an action shot.



### 29 - Monterey Conference Center.jpg

Excellent use of the geometry of the building. The interaction of the shapes with the frames' edge keeps the viewer entertained. The post processing is creating a bit too much interest in the outdoor table and the stripes of the flag they now compete with the subtleties of the rest of the image. The image as a whole is strong and does not need any singular point of interest.



### 30 - Mt. Cook.jpg

Beautiful use of the ridge lines to move the viewer back and forth across the frame. The splash of foreground light, has a lot of visual energy, works to balance out the larger, darker areas that are less energetic.

Exposure balance is excellent, holding the subtle detail in the clouds and the shadow detail of the mountains.



### 31 - Outstanding at Concours.jpg

I see two stories in this image. There is the strong Photoshop skills contrasting the color of the vintage car against a monochrome background. The other story I see is the 'Vintage' story of the car against a more vintage style monochrome element. That story would come out if the saturation was dialed back a bit to give the colors a less saturated look to better match the monochrome background.



### 32 - Overcast Fall Day in Montana.jpg

Great use of the 'frame within a frame'. Adding a slight vignette will move the viewers' eye more toward the water and strengthen the visual focus.



### 33 - Pre-Dawn at Tour dElegance.jpg

The cars are very cool and the soft light works to create a richness and a sense of weather. A bit of cropping will strengthen the visual focus. Currently we are interested in all the cars and the red one is holding our eye at the frames edge. Cropping in half way of the driver's door moves us more into the frame.



### 34 - Preening Flamingo.jpg

Excellent framing. There is not any wasted space attempting to show the whole flamingo. No need to show any more. The color feels very true.



### 35 - quiet passage.jpg

The path draws us into the frame and we are curious what is around the bend. We follow the continuation. The color palette is very warm and inviting. Cityscapes (landscapes, also) need more DOF. The viewer needs something to establish focus.



### 36 - RainBlow, Humpback Whales, Monterey Bay.jpg

The wide framing on this shot creates too many interesting subjects. Cropping in tight will bring emphasis to the Rain-Blow. The 'mist' needs to be the main subject. Post work could bring out some definition. Good anticipation of the moment.



### 37 - Rainbow at Vernal Falls.jpg

Very dynamic colors. This image becomes more of an 'abstract' than a traditional photograph. The HDR effect is unexpected in the nature photography genre and makes it difficult to find the 'hero' in this image. Cropping in a bit from the right side will eliminate some unneeded real estate from that side.



### 38 - red bikes.jpg

Colors are very exciting. Contrast of subject to background is great. The bikes really stand out. Crop half way into the mailbox on the left and the visual focus is all bikes. Right now there is a competition for our interest between the mailboxes and the bikes.





### 39 - Red Door copy.jpg

Excellent framing. Strong geometric composition. The verticals are just a bit askew. That creates a bit of uneasiness for the viewer. Squared up straight is more comforting to the eye.



### 40 - Renaissance Faire Participants After A Long Day Of Fun.jpg

Beautiful moment. The B&W distills the image to the essence of the story. A heart warming moment between 2 people. The tonality can be improved with darkening the blacks and opening up the highlights. Some judicious cropping can visually re-focus the image. The cup on the left side and the women's elbow on the right can be cropped out and still capture the story.



### 41 - Sailor Take Warning.jpg

Very dramatic sky. Colors are intense. The image is just missing foreground subject to match the strength of the colors and drama of the sky. These buildings are not up to that challenge. Taking them down in value will diminish their weakness as an element.



### 42 - Salinas Valley Irrigation.jpg

Very dramatic light with a strong visual focus. The frame is well balanced and the great tonal range keeps the viewer engaged. Minor improvement for the traditional would be less of the contemporary buildings mid-frame.

Excellent use of linear movement across the frame.



### 43 - Sarah Duke Gardens in the Fall.jpg

The gentle curve of the bridge is an easy way to bring the viewer into the frame. But, we do not need to show this much before we know it is a bridge. The real star of the frame is the 'pagoda' basking in the beam of light on the left side. At first it appears to far left, but by cropping in from the right the pagoda will visually move comfortably into the frame and we can appreciate the complex light pattern that illuminates it.



#### 44 - SITKA MARINA AT NIGHT.jpg

The colors are quite powerful. The amber/blue axis is always inviting for viewers. The boat is the strongest visual element, moving it a bit right in the frame will make it even more important. Cropping in a bit from the right will do just that.



#### 45 - Space Shuttle Endeavour's Last Flight.jpg

Excellent tonal range. The 'specular highlight' on the nose of the plane adds visual energy to the monochrome. Framing is very good giving the planes room to 'fly' in the frame. The fact it sits low in the frame makes the viewer feel it is struggling to make altitude. Great story.



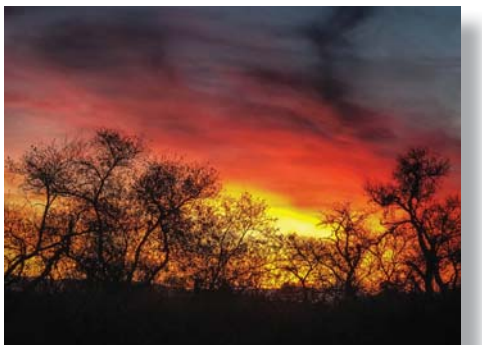
#### 46 - STAINED GLASS CEILING.jpg

Great color and the viewer's eye really moves with the shapes of the stained glass. The highlights are bit bright. There is some clipping. Cropping in from upper left will make the framing more efficient. It will add even more movement in the frame and still show enough of the 'glass' to still tell the story.



#### 47 - Stormy skies over Dexter Reservoir, OR.jpg

Beautiful color palette. The shape of the lake and the brightness in the sky really draws the viewer in the frame. There is a sharp point of land at the lower right that can be minimized by cropping in from the bottom of frame and still keep the movement for the viewer. I will not hurt the story.



#### 48 - Sunrise after the Storm.jpg

The color is spectacular. Very intense. The real star of this image. The silhouettes of the trees are competing with the color. The visual weight of these 2 are equal and the color is the more interesting and is crying out to be featured. Cropping in from the bottom just above the horizon line will bring the sky out as the dominant element.



### 49 - Sunset on Electric Peak.jpg

The frame within a frame is very effective in leading us into the frame. Very good choice of contrast between the 'gate' and the nature-scape. A bit of drama would bring another element to the story. Bringing down the exposure about 1 stop in LR or the original shoot creates a feeling that the light is moving over the ridge and the top edge of the metal gates still hold a defining 'glow' of light to define them. A more moody, storm is coming, story.



### 50 - Vermont Monument.jpg

Strong graphic. The rough surface contrasted with the nature of the leaves and the greenery peaking through the 'seam' in the fountain. The light is soft and lessens the contrast and details. The overall color balance is very amber/yellow and is diminishing the subtleties of the flowers and the small green leaves. Neutralizing the color or raising the overall color temperature separates the colors and adds an additional layer of color contrast.



### 51 - Walking Whale Peak Trail.jpg

The concept is excellent. Solitude. There are so many elements the viewer has almost infinite directions to take. Conceptually strong, but visually there is room for tightening up the frame. The plastic fencing on the left side places the image in a contemporary time frame. Cropping to eliminate the fence will make the image timeless. And technically it eliminates a lot of brightness and de-emphasizes that large area.



### 52 - Winners Circle .jpg

This is a very interesting and unexpected framing. The expression is quizzical and really draws us to the subject and invites the viewer to create their own story about the jockey. The lighting is a bit flat and does provide shadow detail, but by darkening the jockey's face, camera right, it adds more depth and dimension and gives the image a bit more 'photographic' energy.



### 53 - Zigzag.jpg

Movement within the frame is excellent. The viewer is dragged into the image without hesitation. The balance of color works very well. The visual warmth of the sky contrasting the cool feeling of the water creates additional movement in the frame. We are attracted to warmer appearing colors first.

# Winning Images:

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## Honorable Mentions



**Space Shuttle Endeavor's Last Flight,**  
Jeff Hobbs



**F22 Raptor,**  
John Drum



**Bodie Reflections,**  
Bill Shewchuk

**3rd Place:**  
**Face at Bandon Beach,**  
Ric Verbanec



**2nd Place:**

**Lone Tree,**  
Joni Zabala



**First Place:**

**Lover's Point Off the Lip,**  
Bill Brown

