

Padre Trails Camera Club

Pictorial Competition #3 - Motion - July 17, 2019

Group A Comments

Judged by: John Thawley



01 – 56 Corvette.jpg

Great subject and composition. Purple fringing from chromatic aberration on the brightwork is a distraction (and can be easily fixed in Lightroom's lens correction panel...) Also could use more motion in the wheels.



02 – Agile biking in traffic.jpg

Good motion and pan. Cropping feels a little tight and the 20D's noise and resolution are showing their age amongst others in this category.



03 – Anticipation.jpg

Good shot but doesn't quite nail the decisive moment or quality of light against the other surf shots in this category.



04 – Big Sur Half Marathon.jpg

LOVE the motion and color in this shot, but its overall softness is a distraction for me. A visually successful 'shutter drag' depends on the contrast between elements blurred in motion and the surrounding context which are truly sharp.



05 –Carnival Ride.jpg

Among my favorites for image quality and sharpness, just missed the top 6. Well done.



06 – Cell Phone Time.jpg

Great panning and composition. Edged out by others with better lighting.



07 – Coastal wave motion over time.jpg

Beautiful image, it just speaks to me more about nature than it does motion.



08 – F Monroy aboard Atta Ky For the Win.jpg

Good shot in a tough category.



09 – Fall Flax in motion.jpg

Nice image, it just speaks to me more about nature and color than it does motion.



10 – Fast fun.jpg

Good shot in a tough category.



11 – Flock of Seagulls in Flight.jpg

It's way outside my comfort zone to compliment and affirm an image where nothing is sharp. But the brilliant and fluid, bird-shaped blurs against the dark mottled background are really working here. Bravo.



12 – Gleeful Elly .jpg

Good shot in a tough category. Speaks to me more as a portrait with motion than an image best exemplifying the theme of motion. But take that with a grain of salt and some sympathy for a viewer who looks for other priorities in a portrait.



13 – Going After a Stray.jpg

Among my favorites and just missed the top 6. Well done.



14 – Gold on the Water.jpg

Nice image, but speaks to me more about nature and color than it does motion.



15 – Golden Gate Park.jpg

Overall image softness is a distraction. A visually successful ‘shutter drag’ depends on the contrast between elements blurred in motion and the surrounding context which is truly sharp.



16 – Grande Jete.jpg

Love the motion, fluidity, sharpness and edge lighting on the subject. Contrast and over-processing(?) are the distractions that kept it out of the top 6.



17 – I think I can.jpg

Good shot in a tough category. I think leaving just a little more contrast in processing would help. A few deeper shadow tones would be appropriate for a dark horse in contrasty, mid-day sun.



18 – In the Pocket.jpg

Great shot, composition and decisive moment. Just pipped out of the top 6 by another great surf shot with better lighting.



19 – Jumping Into Steamer Lane.jpg

Another great shot in a tough category.



20 – Just before the crash.jpg

Nice action and composition. Inadequate processing (for white balance and contrast/shadows blocking up...) kept it from reaching its potential.



21 – Laguna Seca Raceway.jpg

Solid, publication quality action shot. But front-lighting in mid-day sun has a tough time distinguishing itself among others in the category with more interesting light.



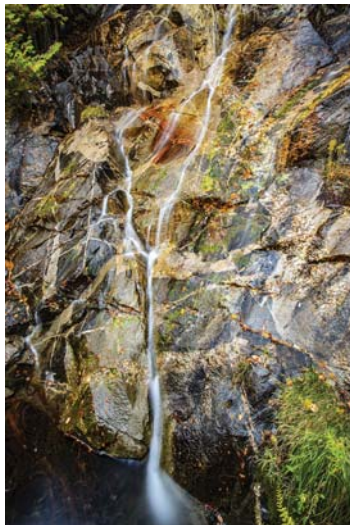
22 – Last Hurdle.jpg

Another good shot in a tough category. I think leaving just a little more contrast in processing would help. A few deeper shadow tones would be appropriate for dark horses in contrasty, mid-day sun.



23 – Lazy Susan Colors.jpg

Good color and saturation, just too abstract for this viewer.



24 – Marble Waterfall.jpg

Good image, it just speaks to me more about nature and color than it does motion.



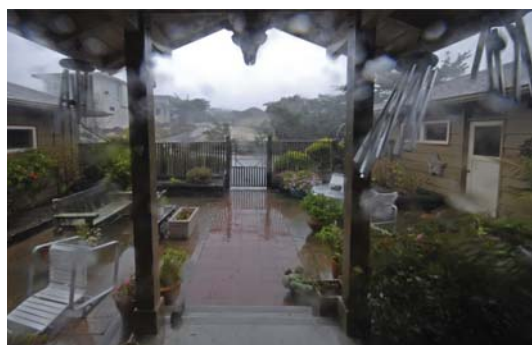
25 – Monster Truck Flies at Air Show.jpg

Great shot, color, composition and decisive moment. Just pipped out of the top 3 by images with slightly better processing. Not everyone will appreciate the irony of a monster truck in an agricultural setting, but it plays well for me.



26 – Morning Run.jpg

Great shot in amazing light. Just pipped out of the top 6.



27 – Noisy Chimes in the Big Wind of '08.jpg

I'm sure this was a vivid experience, but the softness, flat lighting and lack of a strong point of interest are preventing me from seeing it the way you likely remember.



28 – Nuthin to it.jpg

Another solid, publication quality equestrian shot in a very competitive group. I try to avoid commenting on equipment, but it looks like you've hit the wall with that 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6 IS. You're getting great focus and sharpness and have likely taken it as far as it will go (for this subject matter). The size of the animals and the distance you must keep from them will always limit that lens's ability to show less focus in the background. And significantly softer backgrounds would really pump up the emphasis on your subjects. These images are 5 years old and I have no idea how often you shoot the equestrian scene today. But if it's your genre, a 70-200 f/2.8 IS could really change your life.



29 – Out of my way.jpg

Good shot in a tough category.



30 – Overtaken on the Outsid.jpg

Great panning and composition – solid, publication quality shot. I think you went a little too far with processing for lower contrast, though. And that’s a distraction. In midday sun, the shadow areas of a black motorcycle SHOULD have some deep blacks and dark shadows.



31 – Pelican Making A Big Splash.jpg

Good image quality – it just feels like it’s missed the decisive moment.



32 – Perfect Form.jpg

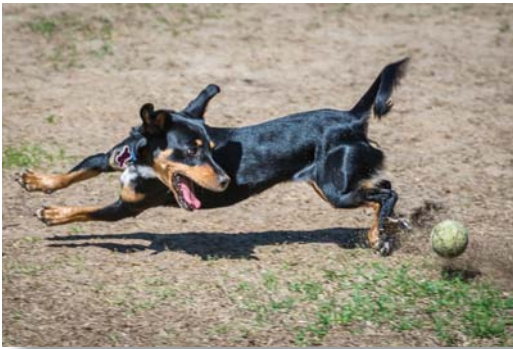
Good shot in a tough category. Speaks to me more as a portrait or fashion shot with motion than an image best exemplifying the theme of motion. But take that with a grain of salt and some sympathy for a viewer who looks for other priorities in portraits and fashion.



33 – Power and Motion.jpg
Good shot in a tough category.



34 – Riding the rail.jpg
Nailed the decisive moment, but white balance is distractingly off and composition seems a little pinched at the bottom to me.



35 – Sadie Chasing the Ball.jpg
Great decisive moment, composition and sharpness. Solid exposure and/or processing for contrast and tonal range (in mid-day sun!). And it's a super happy dog! Well done.



36 – Scrub jay Swoops In.jpg
Nice compositing, but processing for saturation and contrast removal go a little too far for my tastes.



37 – Sea Spray.jpg

Another good shot in a tough category.



38 – Slow Surf.jpg

Okay shot in a tough category. Lacks sharpness overall.



39 – Smoky Mt. Waterfall.jpg

Nice image, but speaks to me more about nature and color than it does motion.



40 – Speeding Along the Rec Trail.jpg

I love the overall design/composition but the cropping feels a little claustrophobic for me. A very nice image in a tough category.



41 – Spinning at the Boardwalk.jpg

A very nice image in a tough category. No flaw I can point to, it's just competing with images I found more compelling.



42 – Splash Down.jpg

A solid, publication quality shot. Making the jump from pretty sharp to razor sharp is one thing you might try to take it to the next level. The 5DIII will be fine at 400-800 ISO. And the difference between 1/500th and 1/2000th might have been dramatic in the eyes and splashing water.



43 – Steel Wool Photography.jpg

No flaw I can point to. This is as sharp and technically solid as any steel-wool-at night shot I've ever seen. I've just seen a lot of them. This feels like it's more about using the technique for technique's sake than it is about a concept or an emotion. It's a very well crafted image in a very tough category.



44 – Sunday in Santa Paula.jpg

Wickedly sharp subject that is beautifully lit against a wonderfully contrasting background with just the right amount of blur. Bitchen.



45 – Swift Water.jpg

Nice image, but speaks to me more about nature than it does motion. Flat lighting/processing and slight underexposure limit viewer interest. Don't be afraid to let your whites actually go white. It's okay to have a little appropriate clipping in areas where we don't expect to see detail.



46 – Swirling Birds.jpg

Captures the theme of motion in a fun and exciting way. But the exaggerated colors push it closer to the genre of photo illustration than straight photography. The processing is a distraction for me – it barges in front of other visual/conceptual elements I'd prefer be seated first. That's very subjective, though. No doubt another judge might disagree.



47 – The Spike.jpg

Good shot in a tough category. I like the Stephen Shore/William Eggleston qualities of light and color. It's just a little busy with regard to subject/background relationships.



48 – Waves at Garrapata.jpg

Very nice, if perhaps a little over processed. Emphasis on nature and color move our motion theme to the subordinate position.



49 – Wild Ride.jpg

Great shot, composition and decisive moment. Side lighting on the face and contrast between glowing spray and blue sea take the viewer right where the action is. Bravo.



50 – Yosemite Forest Floor.jpg

Feeling conflicted about this. It's a very compelling image. But seeing it on a monitor at only 1200 pixels wide, the color, saturation and blur are losing the battle for my appreciation of abstract art. I think it might be breathtaking as a giant, exhibition quality wall print. I'm sorry I don't get to experience it like that.



51 – F8 Bearcat Skimming the Tree Tops.jpg

Among my favorites for image quality and sharpness. Just missed the top 6. Well done.



52 – Great Egret Concentrating on Capturing Fish.jpg

Nearly half the entries in this category explored relationships between motion and nature. This one is so compelling, I can't stop looking. It's a pleasing composition. Exposure and tonal range are superb. What truly captivates me is your balance between extreme sharpness in the bird and the ideal, tangible movement in the water. Any more blur and the water would lose form and detail. And any less and it would lose our attention. You've found the perfect balance without compromising any sharpness in your subject. Remarkable.



53 – Jumping for Joy.jpg

Another of my favorites for image quality and sharpness. A beautiful image that just missed the top 6. The relative size of the children next to the boat divides my attention between the two. And that distracts me from your interpretation of motion. Although it's an amazing image, that distraction kept me looking for bolder examples on the theme.



54 – The Aurora Borealis Dancing Across Norwegian Skies.jpg
Breathtaking image. It just speaks to me more about nature and light than it does motion.

Honorable Mention



Wild Ride
John Drum



Monster Truck Flies at Air Show
Mary Ann Avera



Flock of Seagulls in Flight
Judi H Clayton

3rd Place



Sadie Chasing the Ball
Bill Brown

2nd Place



Sunday in Santa Paula
Lillie Grossman

First Place



Great Egret Concentrating on Capturing Fish
Chris Johnson