

# Padre Trails Camera Club

Pictorial Competition - Oct 16, 2019  
Group A Comments



**01 - A Sign of Fall.jpg**

**Carol Fuessencih**

This is a nice, bright, colorful image. I think your use of a square frame is very effective for this piece. \*\*



**02 - A Sunset Shared.jpg**

**Carol Silveira**

Beautifully nostalgic image here. Hard to beat watching the sun go down with your best friend. \*\*\*



**03 - Asheville farm abandoned.jpg**

**Ken Jones**

Americana from a time past. Amazing how similar this scene looks to many of those near my childhood home in Michigan and also out in the Salinas Valley where I am currently working on a project. The image is very soft, perhaps an issue with the file? \*\*\*



**04 - Barber Chair Eastern State Penitentiary.jpg**

**Carol Silveira**

Placing the light source just out of view in this frame adds a layer of intrigue befitting the strangeness of the whole scene. Really nice capture of this bizarre remnant from another time. \*\*\*\*



**05 - Barn At Sunrise.jpg**

**Lillie Grossman**

Beautiful postcard capture of a place almost too ideal to be real. The river snaking through the foreground is a nice surprise. The form of the barn mimics the form of the mountains and the light and the color of the sky capture the power of the golden hour. \*\*\*\*



**06 - Bend But Never Break.jpg**

**Rick Verbanec**

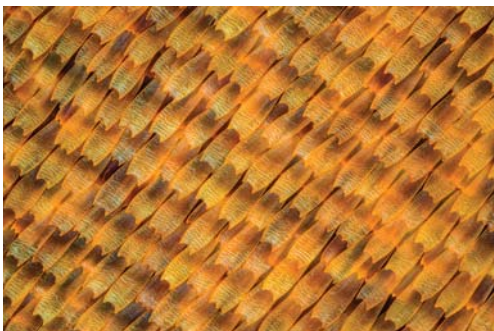
Wonderfully humorous image that mimics aspects of the human experience. The image evokes the joy of a quiet snowy day. Image feels a little flat, could benefit from a little more contrast. \*\*



**07 - Bromeliad patterns.JPG**

**Margret Cordts**

Wildly colorful structural image. \*\*



**08 - Butterfly (Nymphalidae euphaedra) hind wing scales. jpg**

**John Avera**

Striking color with a mesmerizing repetitive pattern make this image come to life. \*\*\*\*



**09 - Coffee.jpg**

**Karen Schofield**

Nice exposure and consideration of lighting. \*



**10 - Copyist at the Louvre.jpg**

**Shelley Nemeth**

Interesting image but I can't help but notice the no photo sign hanging from the easel. \*\*



**11 - Curbside Courting.jpg**

**Frank Penner**

Magnum Photos Founder Robert Capa famously said "If your photographs aren't good enough, you're not close enough" and this image exemplifies that statement. Street photography requires bravery to eliminate the barriers between viewer and subject. \*



**12 - En fleur harbor northern france.jpg**

**Ken Jones**

Beautiful postcard image of a place that makes me long to explore. \*\*\*



**13 - Faces of Socialism.jpg**

**Rick Verbanec**

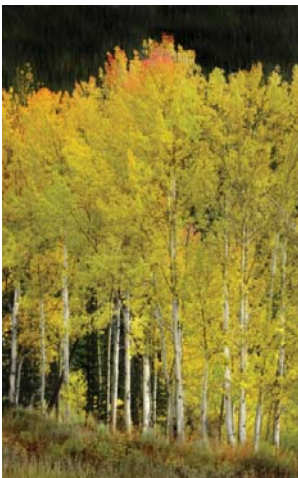
Strong pyramid composition with nice exposure and a good control of the image's depth of field. \*\*



**14 - Faces Of Spooky Fun.jpg**

**Jeff Hobbs**

Compositionally well considered, no unnecessary information or details to distract the viewer from the strangeness contained within the frame. \*\*\*



**15 - Fall Aspen Along Rabbit Ears Pass.jpg**

**Judi H Clayton**

Bright, vivid image that captures the beauty of the fall season. \*\*



**16 - Fall Colors in the Wind.jpg**

**Jared Ikeda**

Visually confusing image that seems to blur the line between representation and abstraction. \*\*



**17 - Granddaughter, Nev.jpg**

**John Drum**

Precious family moment that comes short of bridging the gap that has long existed between vernacular and fine art imagery. \*\*



**18 - Guanaco Sentry under Fiery Sunset.jpg**

**Karen Schofield**

Striking nature photograph. \*\*\*



**19 - Hay get me out of here.jpg**

**Jim Lambert**

A disturbing image that evokes a strong emotional response from the viewer. \*\*\*



**20 - Horses share Fall color near Durango, CO.jpg**

**Gerald R Gifford**

Classically beautiful image of the American West that could benefit from a little less color saturation. \*\*\*



**21 - Icfishermen in a Snowstorm.jpg**

**A Bender**

A truly stand-out image that both challenges and rewards the viewer. \*\*\*\*\*



**22 - Impressionistic Wildflowers.jpg**

**A Bender**

Pretty image that successfully evokes the visual effect of French Impressionism.. \*\*\*



**23 - Indy Cars at Laguna Seca.jpg**

**John Drum**

An energetic image that loses some aspects of its photographic integrity with the use of an algorithmic filter.  
\*



**24 - Joshua Tree National Park.jpg**

**Chris Axe**

Excellent composition and control of the light; nice gradient in the sky and foreground. Perhaps a little too much information was recovered in the shadow area of the hills and the foreground tree—some noise has crept in.  
\*\*\*\*



**25 - Land's End Labyrinth, San Francisco.jpg**

**Jeff Hobbs**

Compositionally satisfying image—the panoramic perspective can be challenging but also rewards. However, this image lacks the visual punch that could be achieved with some more post-processing work.  
\*\*



**26 - Lone Traveler in Chicago O'Hare Airport Terminal.jpg**

**Bill Shewchuk**

Nice example of an image that channels our desire for symmetry; I would suggest leaning into that just a little bit more. With a slight rotation and a little more cropping this would really come to life. \*\*\*



### 27 - Me and My Shadow.jpg

**Judi H Clayton**

There are a lot of distracting elements in this image that make it hard to decipher (without the hints of the title) what the actual desired subject is. Consider possibly a much tighter crop to really isolate what you want the viewer to key in on.

\*



### 28 - Milky Way at Carmel Valley.jpg

**Jared Ikeda**

Turning our cameras to the sky is an act few photographers can resist but one that requires a great deal of time and practice to perfect. You have a good start here; really focus in on the composition: what elements are critical to the image?

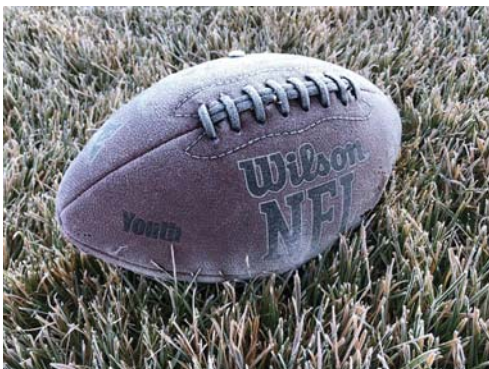
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### 29 - Monterey Fish Company.jpg

**Chris Johnson**

Nice colors in this image bring a sense of intrigue. The composition here leaves me searching for a place to rest my eyes without finding one, an experience that is distracting. Consider the use of leading lines: where do you want them pointing us? \*\*



### 30 - Morning Frost.jpg

**Carol Fuessench**

I spent many a cold, frosty morning on a sports field growing up in Michigan and this image seems to want to induce an element of nostalgia for those experiences but it falls short, I think because it just doesn't give me enough to work with. It is a nice tight crop but in this case, I think it's a bit too tight. Pull back a little, give us more of the experience of this field and we will feel the image more. \*



### 31 - New York City, Old and New.jpg

**Shelley Nemeth**

I like this contrast between the old and the new and am especially intrigued by the round (old) vs the sharp, almost jagged of the new. Cloning out the van (or better yet, and image without it) would really help to eliminate a distracting element in what is otherwise a strong formal photograph. I also find the variance in white balance between the shadows and the highlights to be distracting; this might be an image that really jumps out in black and white. \*\*



### 32 - Night Lights.jpg

**Chris Johnson**

No matter how many photographs I look at, the “eye candy” appeal of bright bokeh balls doesn’t go away! With that said, I am struggling to understand the WHY of this photograph? The composition doesn’t tell me anything; the bench obscures the visual pathway I can’t decipher why it belongs in the image. Consider every element that goes into a photograph and ask yourself, why is it here? \*



### 33 - Northern Flicker.jpg

**Bill Brown**

Nice capture. Really crisp detail, excellent exposure, and nice use of shallow depth of field to isolate your subject. I do find the foreground branch (?) in the upper right to be a distraction (as I do almost every element out of focus in front of the subject). Consider the possibility of a tighter or more panoramic crop to eliminate some of this effect. \*\*\*\*



### 34 - Oyster mushroom gill and cap patterns.jpg

**Margret Cordts**

Beautifully structured photography—each line draws my eye to a different element of the image. Really nailed the exposure, tough to do in a monochromatic image of this nature.

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### 35 - Pacific Grove Rocks!.jpg

**Bill Brown**

Nice use of long-exposure to create a painterly effect in the ocean. It feels like you have really honed in on an effective exposure for this type of image that allows you to both show, and obscure, the motion of the water. I had a very similar image years ago that ended up on the cover of the Point Lobos Magazine. \*\*\*\*



### 36 - Picking Lettuce.jpg

**Lillie Grossman**

This is an interesting image that starts to tell a story about the geography and culture of a place. The post-processing is a bit heavy-handed; consider pulling back a little and look for a more natural effect. \*\*\*



### 37 - Red Candle.jpg

**Brooks Leffler**

Technically well executed image. I like the nice, tight framing that really make the various textures and shapes stand out.

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### 38 - Rusty Bike.jpg

**Joni Zabala**

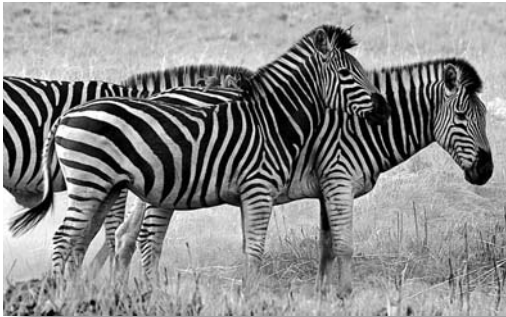
Decay is like catnip for photographers, we find it almost impossible to ignore the impact of time and chemical reaction on once shiny things. This image plays on this appeal but falls a little short on substance. Really consider the why when you hear the call of the decay. \*\*



### 39 - Springtime Mountain Stream.jpg

Gerald R. Gifford

Really nice composition here—the flowing water seemingly leads us all the way up the face of these mountains. However, the image feels unnatural as a result of the post-processing (or HDR) that has been applied to it. Allowing a bit more shadow within the frame would give the viewer more of a sense that they are witnessing a natural environment. \*\*\*



### 40 - Stripes.jpg

Joni Zabala

The nearly camouflaged birds on the center Zebra's back really present a nice surprise to the engaged viewer. \*\*\*



### 41 - Summer Concert in Small Town USA.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

Nice image that captures the feeling of long summer evenings spent with friends and family. While the evening light is certainly beautiful, the image's saturation is a little high, resulting in slightly unnatural colors and some degradation of the highlights in the sky. \*\*\*



### 42 - The Vessel.jpg

Jerry Heisel

Interesting perspective on a much-photographed art piece. The little bursts of color from the other visitors encourage the viewer to continue scanning the image.

\*\*\*



**43 - Touch of sunshine on a Pink Lady.jpg**

**Frank Penner**

Technically excellent image that captures something of what we all love about warm summer days. Nice use of focus control to isolate the subject from the background and good contrast/saturation control to get the color to really pop without feeling over done. \*\*\*\*



**44 - Tucker's Cyclops Eye.jpg**

**Brooks Leffler**

Well composed image presenting an unusual perspective on an unusual car. The reflections on the chrome beckon the viewer to a strange world just out of reach. \*\*



**45 - Wagon Wheels at Black Ranch.jpg**

**Carmay Knowles**

Excellent composition and exposure make this image compelling. The road leading around a bend begs to be explored and the historic elements harken a time gone by. I could use a little more shadow density in the image—it feels like the left end of the histogram is a little thin.

\*\*\*\*



**46 - White Sea bass with Lemons.jpg**

**Jim Lambert**

A surprising image that really speaks to the power of post-processing to transform a photograph.

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#### **47 - Whoa Nelly!.jpg**

**John Avera**

Real command of the photographic process displayed here. The composition feels incredibly balanced and the out of focus elements in the background effectively contribute to the impact of the image's storytelling.

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#### **48 - Wind Turbine Panorama - Palm Springs, CA.jpg**

**Chris Axe**

Beautiful light compliments the strong composition of this photograph. The cloud formations, the seemingly endless turbines, and the dramatic natural terrain combine to present an incredibly satisfying visual experience.

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#### **49 - Merced River In Autumn.jpg**

**Mary Ann Avera**

Superb composition, excellent exposure (including slowing the shutter to give the water that extra silky appearance), and beautiful color make this a strong landscape photograph.

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#### **50 - Denouement.jpg**

**Mary Ann Avera**

Nice lines drawing the viewer from near to far through the entirety of this image. I love the contrasting textures from one side of the frame to the other.

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Winning Images:

Honorable Mention

**Northern Flicker**  
*Bill Brown*



**Oyster Mushroom Gill and Cap Patterns**  
*Margret Cordts*



**Merced River in Autumn**  
*Mary Ann Avera*





Third Place

**Wind Turbine Panorama –  
Palm Springs, CA**  
*Chris Axe*

Second Place

**Whoa Nelly**  
*John Avera*



First Place

**Icefishermen in a Snowstorm**  
*A. Bender*

