

Padre Trails Camera Club

Travel - 09/19/2024

Judged by: Ed Freeman



Meet our judge 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. In his words, "Don't hold your breath."

Shown here are the images submitted for this competition from all three groups, Blue, Green, and Red. The winning images in each group are presented beginning on page18.



01 - Callanish stones Scotland

Jared Ikeda

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 5 Stars

I would have aimed a bit higher —just a little less grass in the foreground and a little more sky in the background — but otherwise, perfect. Beautiful tonalities, shadow and highlight detail, composition, everything.



02 - Cattle Drive in Nevada

Carol Silveira

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

This is a great shot, and hard to get as well. Is there some Photoshop manipulation? The separation between the cattle and the ranchers is a little suspicious. And a shame that ANY b/w picture of cattle and dusty cowboys in the background is forever associated with Marlboro ads...



03 - Chaing Kai-shek Memorial

Julie Chen

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Hard to resist the temptation of shooting this as a low, wide angle shot. I just wonder if it might have been even more effective as a vertical. That way you'd still get a lot of the foreground and the building itself wouldn't have to be so distorted.



04 - El Capitan, Yosemite, Ca, Star Trails and its Night Climbers

Jeff Hobbs

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

It's good for what it is, but these days, what with tracking devices that keep the stars sharp over a long exposure, pictures of star trails have become a bit of a "been there, done that..." Whatever is in the foreground (El Capitan?) would have been more impressive in a wider shot. It's an iconic mountain, but that isn't apparent in this shot.



05 - Evening stroll, Netherlands

Julie Chen

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 5 Stars

Gorgeous light, mist, color, composition — everything makes it a near-perfect shot. If I had taken it, the only thing I'd do different is I'd have moved the couple closer together in Photoshop — but that would have been cheating...



06 - Fanad Head Lighthouse, Donegal, Ireland

John Drum

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Perfectly composed. Too bad the sky is so dull; some filtration might have darkened it a bit, but not much else you can do except revisit when the weather changes.



07 - Guanajuato, Mexico

Carol Silveira

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 5 Stars

Really nice shot, great lighting. I might have experimented with slightly different compositions, but this one works.

08 - Hiking Into the Storm

Joni Zabala



STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Extreme panos rarely work, but this one does. Quite arresting. I'm not sure that being black and white is adding to the impact; it might if the image were a little darker and more contrasty and the sky was burned in a bit, but it's very effective the way it is.



09 - Jacobite Train aka Hogwarts Express

Jared Ikeda

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 5 Stars

Near perfect shot, caught at exactly the right moment. I would have aimed a bit higher — less foreground, more background and a bit darker and more contrast would have made it even more dramatic.



10 - Little Sur River with Rainbow, Big Sur, CA

Chris Johnson

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Talk about being at the right place at the right time! Beautiful, perfectly composed shot. Try darkening it a little and increasing the contrast just a tiny bit and see if that doesn't improve it — not that it needs much improvement.



11 - Machu Picchu

Jerry Loomis

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Thank you for not taking the standard view of Machu Picchu we've all seen a million times (I know; I've been there and I took it!) This view is great except for the boring sky; I'd have shot a wider view if possible, and if darkening the sky wasn't an option, included less of it.



12 - Monsoon Lightening Strike, Catalina Mountains, Az

Karen Schofield

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Incredible lightning exposure(s) — the foreground, unfortunately, isn't all that special. Try darkening the whole picture for a bit more dramatic effect.



13 - Monument Valley At Sunrise From Hunts Mesa

Jeff Hobbs

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Gorgeous shot, great composition (except I would have aimed a tiny bit lower to include a bit more foreground). The light is, well, God-like. I only wish you had lugged a 4x5 on a heavy tripod up there and shot it on Tri-X, in which case it would have ranked with some of Ansel Adams' best. As it is, I find the digital compression and possibly in-camera editing somewhat distracting. It looks like it was shot on an old iPhone. Is that your original file or how you processed it?



14 - Sunset Safari, Botswana

Karen Schofield

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Nice, simple, peaceful shot. A slightly lower POV might have made the vehicle stand out more.



15 - The Matterhorn

Jerry Loomis

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

A classic Matterhorn shot. I would have aimed a bit lower to capture more land and less sky. I'd also be interested in seeing what it would look like in black and white, shot with a yellow filter, as the color overall is pretty boring and doesn't add anything.



16 - Underside of the Louvre Pyramid, Paris, France

Chris Johnson

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 3 Stars

A zillion pictures of the TOPSIDE of the pyramid and nobody ever thinks to shoot the BOTTOMSIDE! The picture itself isn't all that special — why is it B/W??? but you get an A+ for THINKING of shooting it!



17 - Where it all began, George Floyd Square, Minneapolis, Minnesota

John Drum

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

The kind of picture that makes you want to stop and study all the little details. I spent longer looking at this picture than at any others, thinking about how that fateful day transformed so many lives. As a picture, it's quite matter-of-fact and rather ordinary, but the fact that it's tied to an historical event makes it very special.



18 - Winery, Central Otago, New Zealand

Joni Zabala

STAR RATING & COMMENT: 4 Stars

Peaceful, serene, perfectly composed, nothing spectacular about the subject matter but very pleasant. Is it just me or does everybody find the bicycle hitching posts on the left rather jarring?

Padre Trails Camera Club

Nature #4 - 09/19/2024 - Group GREEN

Judged by: Ed Freeman



01-American Cemetery Omaha Beach Normandy, France
Dick Light

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Nice shot. I would have aimed the camera a little higher, to take in the tops of the trees. The grass you'd lose in the foreground doesn't contribute much.



02-Boulevard Joie de Vivre-Paris
Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Great grab shot. A wider view would have included more context, more atmosphere, which would have created a more engaging shot.



03-Cheetah in the Grasses
Janet Azevedo

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Well, my hat's off to you for getting ANY picture of a cheetah in the wild, but the composition isn't the best. A wider shot might have given you the opportunity to create a better composition, although I can understand the urge to shoot as close as possible.



04-Cypress Trees, Caddo Lake, Texas
Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Spectacular subject matter, nice composition, color and contrast. Could you have taken a panoramic of the same scene? Might have been even more impressive.



05-Date Palms of Palm Desert
Janet Azevedo

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Hard to resist taking a picture when you're presented with a view like this. Even though the photograph is sort of matter-of-fact, the subject matter is interesting enough to make it worthwhile



06-Early AM at Disney Hall
Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING: 3

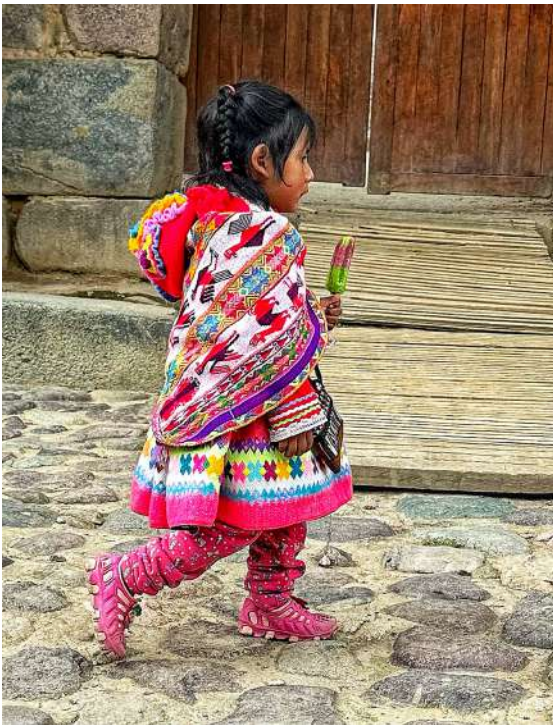
COMMENT: Uh-oh, you're in MY territory now. I've photographed Disney Hall dozens of times, and while this shot is a good one of the view most people will see for the first time, if you go back and wander around the outside (and the lobby) you'll see endless opportunities for more creative pictures.



07-Lake Tahoe
Fernando Ibanez

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Okay, stand on the shore of Lake Tahoe and just TRY to take a bad picture, I challenge you! This picture demonstrates how hard it would be — beautifully textured foreground, clear blue water, snow-capped mountains in the background — what's not to like?



08-Little Girl in Ollantaytambo, Peru
Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Great grab shot. A wider view might have made the Popsicle less noticeable but would have added more context and made for an even more interesting shot. Cobblestone streets are always worth including!



09-Lobster Shack-Badgers Island
Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: A good, matter-of-fact shot. Nothing wrong with it, but nothing spectacular, either. Could have been taken a hundred years ago — except for the solar panel on the roof of the shack!



10-Lobster Shack
Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Another good, matter-of-fact shot. A more special picture might have been a straight-on shot of the side of the building, if there was anywhere you could stand to shoot it straight-on.



11-Mt Shasta at the End of the Old Road
Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: good shot, although it's a bit of a cliché — the straight road leading to a spectacular something in the distance. Next time try using a more telephoto lens so you get a more foreshortened road and the mountain looks bigger. As it is, the road takes up most of the real estate and it's, well, just a road...



12-Paris Icon
Dick Light

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: A perfect shot for what it is, but when you're photographing something that's been shot a gazillion times, you're really challenged to do something extra-special. Maybe back up and shoot the Tower all lit up with the silhouettes of some darkened buildings in the foreground?



13-Sail Ho

Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: Perfect composition! Really nothing negative to say about this one, except that I wish it had been shot on a high-end DSLR at f16; tack-sharp would have made it even better.

14-Salvation Mountain, Slab City, CA

Carol Fuessenich



STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: You managed to show up on the one day out of the year when the sky was overcast. Too bad, because the colors are really great in bright sunlight. You could adjust the color balance in Photoshop (or even in camera) so that it's not quite so cold looking, but other than that, really nice shot.



15-Somewhere In Between

Charlie Gibson

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: I don't know what you could have done to improve it — nice picture that tells (simple) story.



16-The King-Africa

Fernando Ibanez

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Great shot except for the color. I don't think it would be stretching the rules to add some blues and cyans in the shadow areas and maybe a touch of red in the highlights — just so the whole picture isn't an unrelenting yellow.



17-The Ponte Vecchio

Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: The tourists on the left are distracting, but who knows how long you'd have to wait before you could get a shot without them. Try cropping them out; you lose something but you gain something too. Other than that, nice picture, if not particularly unique. For unique, you might need a boat or a drone.



01-Amsterdam Canal

David Eisen

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: Nice composition and atmosphere, but too much contrast for my taste, and the color, especially the green in the trees is too saturated. Try reducing both and maybe even the sky will darken a bit, which would help as well.



02-Castle on _the Rhine

David Eisen

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: Wonderful subject matter but there's too much going on in the picture — the bridge, the town, the hill, the castle, the much lighter and contrasty boats on the left side... Try cropping out just the castle and see how that looks.



03-Kite View - Lava on the Highway - Big Island HI

Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: Spectacular subject matter but it's hard to know what exactly it is in this picture; I couldn't tell without reading the title, and I've been there! A wider shot might make it more obvious.



04-Lazy Botswana Morning

Sara A Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Great subject matter, but you're stuck with a dilemma: shoot closer so the leopard is more front and center and you lose the atmosphere; shoot wider and you'll get atmosphere but the leopard will be less apparent. Me, I'd go for closer...



05-Looking up to the pedal roof

Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING: 2

COMMENT: I can see why you took this shot — quite a spectacular piece of architecture — but unfortunately to make it really successful would require substantial opening up of shadows and darkening highlights — drastically lowering contrast, in effect.



06-Mono crater, Mono Lake, CA

Steven Sherwood

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Beautiful subject matter, well photographed. Next time try shooting the same thing as a panoramic; it'll be even more impressive.



07-Mountain Clouds, Bishop, CA

Steven Sherwood

STAR RATING: 4

Wow, talk about being in the right place at the right time! But something bugs me — the thin white line separating the mountains from the background makes it look like the mountains were way over-sharpened, and the transition from sky to mountains on the right looks fishy too. Too heavy a hand with Photoshop?



08-Paris Apartments at Night

Andrea Madsen

STAR RATING: 4

Maybe not the most arresting composition ever, but for what it is, excellently done. Might have been more interesting as a wider shot.



09-Reichsburg Cochem

Andrea Madsen

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: I love this. Simple, unpretentious but it tells a complete story.



10-The Salk Institute, La Jolla

Sara A Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: This is a gorgeous shot that has one tiny flaw that drives me absolutely insane: when you're going to take a symmetrical shot like this, make sure you're **ABSOLUTELY** in the **EXACT CENTER!!!** In this case you're probably two or three inches too far to the right and the **SLIGHT** off-kilter result is enough to cause sea-sickness in the viewer. Otherwise, really nice; I appreciate the perfectly geometric verticals and horizontals.

11-Tlingit Residents of Kake Alaska Singing for the Tourists

Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING: 4



Wow, they sure look like they're having a good time. **NOT!** This could have been an even funnier picture if you had happened on an even more perfect moment. The secret in situations like this is to take a gazillion exposures and maybe you'll get lucky with one of them. This one is good but not great. Try rendering it in black and white too; the color is so eye-catching, it's distracting when the picture isn't **ABOUT** color...



12-Waiting for the train

Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Yeah, I know why you shot this — the tracks are so clean and empty and monotone and the people are so small and colorful — the contrast is great. It would have been even better with a wider shot that either cut out the people on the opposite side entirely, or included them and a lot more empty track. As it is, it's a good idea but it doesn't quite come off as well as it might.

Top Three Winners - Blue Group



First Place - Evening Stroll, Netherlands
Julie Chen



Second Place - Guanajuato, Mexico
Carol Silveira



**Third Place - Jacobite Train
aka Hogwarts Express**
Jared Ikeda

Winning Images Group Blue

Honorable Mentions



Machu Picchu

Jerry Loomis



Callanish Stones Scotland

Jared Ikeda



Hiking Into the Storm

Joni Zabala



Where it All Began

John Drum



Monument Valley at Sunrise

From Hunts Mesa

Jeff Hobbs

Top Three Winners - Green Group



First Place - Sail Ho

Sandie McCafferty



**Second Place - Cypress Trees,
Caddo Lake, Texas**

Bill Shewchuk



Third Place - Lake Tahoe

Fernando Ibanez

Honorable Mention - Green Group



The King-Africa
Fernando Ibanez

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Note: No Honorable Mention Awarded



Winning Images Group Red

First Place



Reichsburg Cochem
Andrea Madsen

Second Place



The Salk Institute, La Jolla
Sara A Courtneidge

Third Place



Waiting for the Train
Brian Spiegel