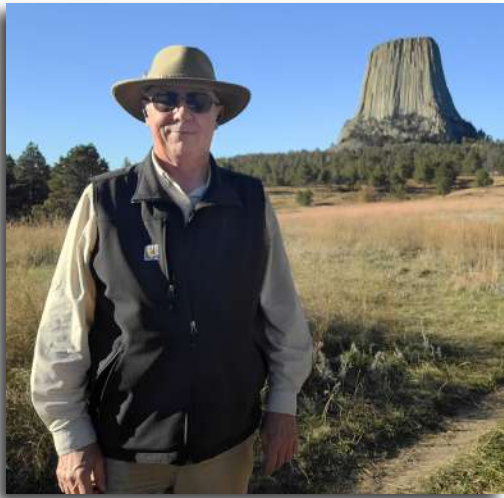


# Padre Trails Camera Club

Night Photography - 02/19/2025

Judged by: Michael Fredrich



## Meet Michael Fredrich

Michael's interest in photography started when he was in grade school. He spent high school and much of college being more of a photographer than a student. He had an early career as a wedding photographer, working for a studio in his hometown. After a long break from photography while pursuing a PhD in X-Ray Crystallography, and a harried early professional career, he came across Joseph Meehan's book *Panoramic Photography*, purchased a panoramic camera and was hooked again.

Michael is inspired by the natural environment and wild places. Unique and unusual structures and interiors are also favorite subjects. He has been a member of the Livermore Valley Camera Club (LVCC) since 2009 and has served as vice president, president and currently as secretary/treasurer. He competes at the Masters level.

He regularly teaches the technical session of the LVCC's annual seven session basic photography class, held through the Livermore Area Recreation & Parks District (LARPD). He has taught classes on HDR photography and matting & framing at LARPD and Las Positas College.

Philosophy: I look for what works in an image and then suggest how it could be improved. I feel constructive criticism is important to help photographers grow. I look for technical competence with an attention to detail, but make adjustments based on the level of the maker. I look for impact and creativity, but also for images that are more subtle and might grow on me over time. I ask myself, what would I want to hang on my wall? I appreciate the "rules," but I like to see them broken in interesting ways.

*Shown here are the images submitted for this competition from each of our three competition groups. Each is followed by Michael's selections for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Honorable Mentions within that group.*

# Padre Trails Camera Club

Night Photography - 2/19/25 - Blue Group Submissions



01 - *Bodie at Night* by Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: Classic Bodie shot. The illuminated interior adds a lot. Good sky exposure. Stars are nice spots. Not sure the right side is working well for the image. I keep switching my attention over to the building on the right.

02 - *James Dean Building-Salinas* by Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: Very colorful. I wish the fourth light was working. The image shows this classic building in a neoteric way.

03 - *Lakeshore Drive Chicago* by Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: Like the effect from the red tail lights in the traffic circle. There is too many dark areas with only a few spots of light. Looks handheld. Might have preferred it shot from a tripod.

04 - *Late Evening at Point Lobos* by John Drum

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: Dark. Like the rocks and yellow flowers in the foreground. I can imagine the maker liked the cloudy hills, but sometimes sacrificing some elements make a better image. Go into your editing tool and experiment with different crops. I found the 75% image Dropbox gave me looked pretty good

05 - *Looking through it* by Jerry Loomis

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: Nice use of the tree to provide a pleasing foreground. Milky Way is not as sharp as I would like, but OK. Only a very little stretching of stars. Might have tried to bring down the sky glow a little. Wish the milky way core was a little higher and farther from the edge.

06 - *Mars appears after being Eclipsed by the Moon* by Gerry Gifford

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: Great catch. It took me a little while to find Mars. This would have been an opportunity to pull out a little and do a multiple exposure with Moon moving in front of Mars and then past it. I might have experimented with an increase in contrast to bring out the details in the moon.



*07 - Milky Way Over Bodie, CA* by John Drum

STAR RATING: 4

**COMMENT:** Good Milky Way. Good capture of the core. It's not as sharp as I would like, but it's OK. Like the use of the old building as foreground. It looks like the maker did a little light painting, well done. This would have been an opportunity to do multiple exposures for the two main elements (the sky and the building) at different focus points and composite them. You don't have to move, so it's an easy masking job.

*08 - Moonrise over the Tufas, Mono Lake* by Sara Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 2



**COMMENT:** Like the sunset between the tufa. It's generally a bit too dark. This would have a good opportunity to do some light painting.

*09 - Night Fishing in Monterey Bay* by Chris Johnson

STAR RATING: 2



**COMMENT:** Like the men working the nets. I might have zoomed into that area. Wish the boat wasn't as hot as it is.

10 - *Night Warrior* by Bill Brown

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: Pretty dramatic. Like the framing of the woman---s face with the flaming sords. You captured the scene at just the right moment. Wish the sords were a little sharper, but you got the important things in good focus. Good tonal range. Nice defocused background. Very well done.

11 - *Our Galaxy* by Jerry Loomis

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: Good exposure. Good color in the MW core. Stars nice and sharp. Wish the tree wasn't so dominant in the image and obscuring the MW. A lot of noise in shadows. Might have tried a denoising application. Topaz DeNoise AI does an excellent job.

12 - *Ready for tomorrow* by Sara Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: A little mysterious. It's like a scene from a 1950's noir movie. Like the light sweeping down across the corrugated metal siding and then highlighting the stack of crab traps. I like the lite corrugated metal, but it does divert attention from the important subject of the crab traps. Might have experimented with cropping some from the top.

13 - *San Francisco at Night* by Carol Silveira

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: Respectable image of the Bay Bridge and SF skyline. The classic line of the bridge lead our view into the city. Strangely, it---s a little soft. There might have been a light fog. Might have brought down the brightness of, what I think, is the stadium. There is a little detail in the water, but none in the sky. I would have cropped the image into a panoramic, keep a little of the water and much less of the sky.

14 - *Spreckles Sugar Stacks* by Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: Almost a family portrait. I like the patterns on the ground. They lead you to the elevators. The sky is completely blank. I would have cropped off a little from the top. Wish the lights weren't so bright, they distracts form your principle subjects.

15 - *The Two Body Problem* by Bill Brown

STAR RATING: 5



COMMENT: Maybe a slight stretch of the night theme, but it's an excellent image. Like the juxtaposition between the two acrobats. Their body positions are great. Their faces are both in good view. Great exposure. Everything is nicely sharp.

16 - *Tromso, Norway Reflections* by Chris Johnson

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: Like the lighted bridge leading into the town. It drops my view at the large modern structure. I like the mountains rising up behind the town and the reflections of the town on the water. The clouds are ok, but I think the most interesting parts of the image are relatively strip through the center of the image. I think I would have cropped much of the sky out and made the image even more panoramic than it is.

17 - *We Can Do This* by Carol Silveira

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: Rather enigmatic. Are the riders fist-bumping or pushing each other off. What's the smoke and sparks about. It looks like there are fireworks on the ground. I might have cloned those out. Without them it would add more questions to the image. Still, very well done. Great image.

18 - *White-faced Scops Owl* by Julie Chen

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: Like the color of the eyes. A little spooky. A bit "flashy," but there's great detail in the bird feathers.

*19 - Wildfire Smoke Colors Halloween Full Moon* by Gerry Gifford

STAR RATING: 1



**COMMENT:** I'm assuming the strips in the sun are due to low sparse clouds. It gives an interesting effect. It almost looks like Jupiter. There is a lot of featureless sky.



Top Three Winners - Blue Group



**First Place - The Two Body Problem**

*Bill Brown*



**Second Place - We Can Do This**

*Carol Silveira*



**Third Place - Night Warrior**

*Bill Brown*

Padre Trails Camera Club

Night Photography - 2/19/25 - Blue Group



## Winning Images Blue Group

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### Honorable Mention



Milky Way Over Bodie  
*John Drum*

# Padre Trails Camera Club

Night Photography - 2/19/25 - Green Group

Judged by: Michael Fredrich



*01-All's Fair!* by Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING: 4



**COMMENT:** Like all the blurring, turning the Ferris wheels into green spirals. Better yet is the motion of some people gives the feel of the restless energy of the image. The motionless tent provides an anchor to the image.

*02-Calla Lilly Valley, Garrapada Beach at 1:00 Am, with Full Moon* by Jeff Hobbs

STAR RATING: 3



**COMMENT:** Other than the low contrast and saturation, this image could be mistaken for a daylight image. I like the Calla Lilly filled valley leading down to the shore. The stairway provides a pleasant feature to the image. While examining the image the Dropbox viewer let me display the image at 75%. I really liked that crop. the cala Lilies make a strong foreground and the stairway becomes a stronger element. Most of the sky/sea is gone. Try it.

*03-Del Monte Beach* by Janet Azevedo

STAR RATING: 3



**COMMENT:** I like the color cast by the sky on surf in the foreground. The red glow along the provide a pleasant accent. The sky above the rosy glow is largely featureless and doesn't add much to your image. I'd experiment with cropping off much of the top third.

*04-Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes* by Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: I like the texture of the sand dune on the left and the sweep of sand to the right. We tend to look at the brightest things. The very bright urban lights are pretty distracting. I was wondering if you could have gotten low enough to bring the lights below the top of the dunes, but keep the glow in the sky. Might take focus stacking because the foreground could get pretty close.

*05-Milky Way Over Mono Lake Tufas* by Karen Schofield

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: Like the use of the tufa as a strong foreground feature. Good choice of tufa. Good Milky Way. Stars don't show any sign of trailing. Nice core capture. I wish the maker would have stepped 2 or 3 feet to the left to more center the MW between the Tufa. This also would have been a good opportunity to do some light painting on the tufa. A small 2 AA battery incandescent (LED's are usually too blue) flashlight would probably be enough.

*06-Milky Way, Newport State Park, Wisconsin* by Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: Been there. Good Milky Way. Don't see any streaking of stars. Like the color grading of sky more than some night sky images. Like the tree providing a good foreground. Wish the maker would have stepped a few feet to the left to isolate the MW from the tree a little more. A lot of noise in the shadows. A tool like Topaz DeNoise AI does a great job.

*07-Moon Over Monterey* by Charlie Gibson

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: The image is very minimalistic. I like the moon. It's not blown out. It shows a lot of detail. I like the reflection in the water. I'm not so hot on the whitish blob between the moon and the reflection.

*08Moonlit Sierra Night* by Janet Azevedo

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: I like the effect the long exposure had on the shape of the clouds. The even produce negative god rays. That's the meat of the image. There are a few nice stars in the sky, but losing some of the relatively empty sky might improve the image. I zoomed in to 75%, concentrating on the clouds and thought it was a stronger image.

*09-Moonset at Turret Arch - Moab* by Karen Schofield

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: I like the dead tree and the complex rock formation. The moon is a relatively small element and there is a lot of empty sky. You might crop in to isolate the primary subjects, the rock and tree. It would also accentuate the moon.

*10-Night Exposure of Clouds and Stars, Carmel Valley* by Jeff Hobbs

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: Great daytime / nighttime effect. Like the sky with a strong star pattern and in-motion clouds. The color balance in the foreground grass and trees is very good. I might experiment with cropping a little off the bottom.

*11-PG Produce Market* by Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: I like the spotlighting of the table center. Looks like the lighting existed. Well seen. I wish that roll of bag wasn't there. It would be tough to clone it out. Maybe dodging it heavily. The maker might experiment with selective cropping. Eliminating the white canopy would be good to.

*12-Red Restaurant and Bar* by Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: I'm a fan of sweep panoramics. I like the position of the building corner and the view into the building with the stairway. I might try to darken the very bright area to the right. I wish there were things of more interest on the left. I would crop or clone out the odd pattern from the bottom of the image.

*13-Santa Cruz Cinema* by Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: I'm a fan of sweep panoramics. I like that the maker place strong elements in both sides of the image. I like the placement of the sculpture. Makes a strong foreground. Wish the hot areas of the building were less. Wish the sign in the middle wasn't there. Filling a panoramic with interest over the entire image can be tricky. The make did a good job.

*14-Spider Works* by Charlie Gibson

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: Well executed fireworks image. It's sharp. I like the bright center explosion. I would have liked it more if it was in some context. An element relating it to earth would be better.

*15-The Stroll* by Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING: 5



COMMENT: After a close look, I realize the person to another photographer (he's carrying a camera), but with the wet pavement and the single man, a little bent over, it all give the image a lonely feeling. It's well exposed with a good tonal range.

*16-Virginia Beach Towncenter* by Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING: 3



**COMMENT:** I was wondering if this is a drone image. It's not a very long exposure. There isn't much stretching of lights, yet there is a slight softness to it. I like that it was captured at twilight. There is still a little detail in the darker areas. The large buildings make a good point primary subject. I like the twilight color, but there isn't much happening in the sky above it. I might try cropping much of it off.



# Padre Trails Camera Club

Night Photography - 2/19/25 - Green Group

Judged by: Michael Fredrich



## Top Three Winners - Green Group



**First Place - The Stroll**  
*Sandie McCafferty*



**Second Place - All's Fair!**  
*Sandie McCafferty*



**Third Place - Exposure of Clouds and Stars, Carmel Valley**  
*Jeff Hobbs*

Padre Trails Camera Club

Night Photography - 2/19/25 - Green Group



## Winning Images Green Group

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### Honorable Mention



Milky Way, Newport State Park, Wisconsin

*Bill Shewchuk*

*01-B.C. Museum & Parliament Building in Victoria* by Don Eastman

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: Like the perspective. It looks like either a drone shot or shot from a hotel window. The Parliament building is nicely placed in the image. I wish the maker had chosen a view to include more of the lower corner of the museum (?). As it is, I'd crop off much of the black top of the image.

*02-Bay Bridge* by Fernando Ibanez

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: Classic Bay Bridge image. Well exposed. The calm water has given the maker great reflections in the water. I like that the maker lit (light painted) the pilings in the foreground. They combined with the long reflections in the water lead my focus to the bridge.

*03-BC Parliament Building & Harbor in Victoria* by Don Eastman

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: The Parliament building is the images primary subject. You get a partial view of it, but the building was partially obscured by trees. I might have moved closer to isolate it. The Welcome to Victory sign is a nice touch, but again, a different position might have gotten the hole sign in as a strong foreground element. As it is, removing the light post on the left would have been easy to clone out. The

maker might consider tightening the crop of the image and adjusting the bottom to better focus on the Parliament building.

*04-Christmas at Filoli* by Rick Verbanec

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: This image is all about the color. It starting to approach an abstract. If the rules allow, I might have played with filters to take it much farther in that direction. This is a commercial holiday display. You need to avoid just photographing somebody else's art and work to make it you own.

*05-French Man Cooking* by Dick Light

STAR RATING: 5



COMMENT: I enjoyed the simple, warm, and homey feeling of this image. The open window in this rustic building framed by the crude shutters, leads the viewer in the interior. There we see a 19th century looking kitchen with a man, towel draped over his shoulder, stirring something. It couldn't be better if it was a setup shot. Adding to the image are the complementary colors of the cool blueish exterior and the warm yellow of the interior. Excellent image.

*06-Lombard Street* by Fernando Ibanez

STAR RATING: 5



COMMENT: Great night shot of an iconic location in San Francisco. The meandering taillights down Lombard Street leads the viewer down Russian Hill and then back up Telegraph Hill to Coit Tower. The image is almost a mini tour of SF. Exposer in this high dynamic range situation is well controller. I might have done a little dodging of the residential building slightly to the right of center.

*07-Moon Shines on Clouds* by Clarissa Conn

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: Very unusual image. I've never seen the moon illuminate clouds in this way. I see the moon, but it's almost like it is a spotlight showing down onto the clouds. If nothing else it documents an unusual phenomenon.

*08-Moonset* by David Eisen

STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: Usually, I like to see some detail in images of the moon. The starburst, an unusual on at that, works in this case. I like the handful of stars in the twilight sky. The tree on the horizon adds a little interest, but I wish I could see mor of it. Getting lower might have helped.

*09-Photo Nocturne* by Andrea Madsen

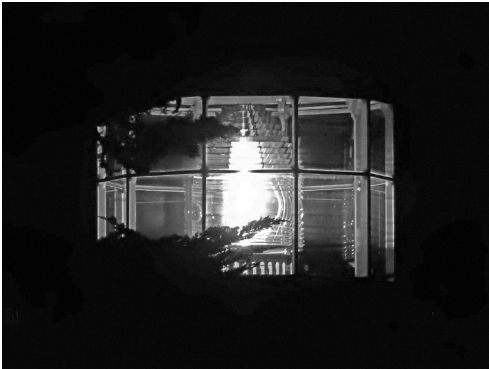
STAR RATING: 3



COMMENT: I appreciate the image for its colorful sunset and cloud-covered sky. Keeping the horizon low helps accentuate the sunset. The best part of the sunset is in the lower 2/3's. If the rules allow, I might try to add a little pink coloration to the cloud in the upper 1/3. I like the house and it's lit windows. It anchors the image to the land.

*10-Pt Pinos Fresnel Aglow* by Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING: 1



COMMENT: It's hard to find many lighthouses with their fresnel lenses intact. The maker may have attempted to use the tree branches to frame the light, but I'm not sure it is working. There is also a lot of noise and posterization.

*11-Rainy Night on Cannery Row* by Rick Verbanec

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: A great street scene. I like the coloration of the image. It has somewhat of a film stock look, a little less saturated than often seen in digital images. I can see it is raining. It shows in the light from street lite. That's somewhat of a double edge. I wish the make would have taken a few steps into the street (safely) so the light post won't block part on the Monterey sign. That might also block the bright lights on the building near the left edge. I like the face of the building across the street. Maybe a wider lens could accomplish both.

*12-Sensorio Paso Robles* by David Eisen

STAR RATING: 2



COMMENT: A rather mysterious scene. It's almost an alien sight. I like the wash of lights across the dark hillside. The silhouettes of the leafless trees are a nice enhancement. This is a commercial art display. You need to avoid just photographing somebody else's art and work to make it your own. I might have cropped a little off the top.

*13-Sunset Bathroom Break* by Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING: 5



COMMENT: So, I don't have the slightest idea what this is (or how the title relates), but I feel it works. It's a simple unadorned abstract image. I like the color banding, orange, gray, black with that yellow, maybe door. It's an image I would put on my wall. Very well seen. It's not an image I would have seen. Good job.

*14-Viviers At Dusk* by Dick Light

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: Very picturesque village. The maker captured the image at a time when there was still enough light to see detail in the buildings and roofs. Too much later and these elements would be dark and featureless. Still, it's late enough that streetlights illuminate building faces and outline streets here and there producing a great effect. The clock tower with its lit top and clock face add to the image. Also like the effect the wooded hill side, distant hilltop and cloudy sky produces. My only wish would be that the maker could have avoided the bushes in the left corner and lower center.

*15-Welcoming Barn* by Andrea Madsen

STAR RATING: 4



COMMENT: I like the approach the maker took in photographing this rustic barn. It's still light enough to allow the weathered texture of wood to show, but lit elements (the yard light and star) clearly show. I like the inclusion of the bench on the side. The yard light above the door anchors the image. The two windows also add to what otherwise would be a somewhat less interesting structure. I like the star above the barn's peak, but it also requires including a lot of featureless sky. I think I would have cropped the image just above the star and cloned out any remaining tree branches. Consider also a crop that completely eliminates much of the upper half of the image.

# Padre Trails Camera Club

Night Photography - 2/19/25 - Red Group

Judged by: Michael Fredrich



## Top Three Winners - Red Group



**First Place - French Man Cooking**  
*Dick Light*



**Second Place - Sunset Bathroom Break**  
*Brooks Leffler*



**Third Place - Lombard Street**  
*Fernando Ibanez*



Padre Trails Camera Club

Night Photography - 2/19/25 - Red Group



## Winning Images Red Group

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### Honorable Mention



*Viviers At Dusk*  
*Dick Light*