

# Bits & Pixels

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P.O. Box 51154, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

[www.padretrailsccl.org](http://www.padretrailsccl.org)

## Nature #4 Shorebirds / Wading Birds Winning Images — Group Blue



1<sup>st</sup> "Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) Claiming Territory"  
*Chris Johnson*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Flight of the Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)" *Jeff Hobbs*

This month's competition solicited photos of shorebirds and wading birds. This includes those birds that rely on beaches or wetlands for feeding, resting, and nesting. There are over ninety species found locally on the shores, marshes, and estuaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, of which thirty are dominant.



2<sup>nd</sup> "American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)"  
*Chris Johnson*

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# Nature #4 Shorebirds / Wading Birds Competition Winning Images

Group Blue

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HM "American Avocet  
(*Recurvirostra americana*) in Flight"  
Mary Ann Avera



HM "Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) Capturing  
California Ghost Shrimp (*Neotrypaea californiensis*)"  
Mary Ann Avera



HM "Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)" Dennis Giuffre



## Meet A. Bender, Judge for Nature #4 Shorebirds / Wading Birds Competition

A Bender has passionately pursued photography and travel since separating from the Air Force in 2013. She currently leads photo adventures and workshops through *A Bender Photography LLC*, *Wildside Nature Tours*, and *Precision Camera & Video*. Her business is based out of San Antonio, Texas.

In March 2020, she became a Tamron Pro Ambassador for *Tamron USA* and is honored to have been asked to represent one of the world's leaders in the optical lens industry. In the fall of 2021, she became a member of *Nature First - The Alliance for Responsible Nature Photography*, and is one of their ambassadors for Texas.



Bender's images have been featured in galleries from New York to Las Vegas, Charleston to Portland; she has received recognition for her artistry on an international level from Japan to the U.K. She has spoken with groups from around the country and taught at national photographic conferences. Both her images and writing have appeared in such publications as *Outdoor Photographer*, *Tamron Magazine*, *NANPA Expressions*, *Landscape Photography Magazine*, and *Wild Planet Photography Magazine*. She is also a contributing writer and photographer to *The Journal of Wildlife Photography*.

Bender sent a message to the Club saying she was impressed with the entries for the Shorebirds and Wading birds competition. She goes on to say shorebirds are a difficult subject, and bird photography in general is one genre that requires a long lens to be really successful. Bender adds that without a 400-600mm lens it can be very difficult to get decent results without spending time with a species and being able to get close to it. Tips she offered included to be careful not to overcrop, and learn how to read your histogram to help avoid under- or over-exposing images. Once overexposed, there is no recovering that detail. Bender is available to answer any questions about the Shorebirds and Wading Birds competition, and can be reached via email at [a.bender.photography@gmail.com](mailto:a.bender.photography@gmail.com) or social media.

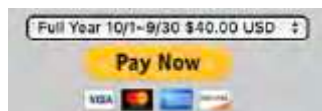
## September is Membership Renewal Month

The new Club year begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>, so it's time to renew your PTCC membership. Annual Club dues have increased to \$40 this year, the first increase in over 15 years.

Renewing early will ensure you remain eligible for competitions, other member activities in the new year, and that you continue to receive Club information via email. Renewal is easy!

The simplest and safest way to renew is to visit our website,

<https://www.padretrailsc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html>, and then click on the PayPal "Pay Now" button.



Remember, you do not need a PayPal account to use this method of renewal. You may pay as a guest with any credit or debit card.

If you prefer, you may renew by check, payable to Padre Trails Camera Club, mailed to:

Padre Trails Camera Club  
P.O. Box 51154, Pacific Grove, CA 93950



## Club Member Generosity

Club member *Jared Ikeda* has worked steadily over the years, mostly in the background, keeping our website vital, current, and attractive. The next time you see Jared, please give him a high five for all of the work he has done for the Club.

# Nature #4 Shorebirds / Wading Birds Competition Winning Images

Group Green

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1<sup>st</sup> "Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)" Julie Chen



2<sup>nd</sup> "Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)"  
Bill Shewchuk



3<sup>rd</sup> "American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)"  
Merced National Wildlife Refuge"  
Bill Brown



## Nature #4 Shorebirds / Wading Birds Competition Winning Images

Group Green

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HM "Black Turnstone (*Arenaria melanocephala*) at Fanshell Beach"  
Charlie Gibson



HM "Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) in Coastal Texas"  
Bill Sherwchuk



HM "lvl 1 Tracker"  
Sean Crawford

Level One Tracker, or "lvl 1 Tracker" is in reference to video games rather than any birding or wildlife experience. The photographer chose to make a joke for the competition.

## Nature #4 Shorebirds / Wading Birds Competition Winning Images

Group Red

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1<sup>st</sup> "Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)"  
*Frank Penner*



2<sup>nd</sup> "Western Willet  
(*Tringa semipalmata inornata*)  
Stepping Out"  
*Ken Jones*



3<sup>rd</sup> "Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)"  
*Fernando Ibanez*



## Nature #4 Shorebirds / Wading Birds Competition Winning Images

Group Red



3<sup>rd</sup> "Nonbreeding Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) Digging Deep for Food"  
Ken Jones



HM "Surfbird (*Calidris virgata*)"  
Frank Penner



HM "A Pair of Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)"  
Jerry Loomis



# Spots and Shots: John Drum Leads a Worldwide Photo Walk in Carmel

Club member *John Drum* volunteered to lead photographers of all skill levels, and from as far away as Baltimore, Maryland on a photo walk in beautiful downtown Carmel. The event was free and registrants had the opportunity to compete for prizes as part of Scott Kelby's Worldwide Photo Walk, the world's largest social photography event. Kelby's Worldwide Photo Walk has taken place since 2008, and this year's walks occurred in over 50 countries. The annual event was started by Kelby, a travel photographer and author of publications on Adobe Photoshop software. Look for Kelby at the *Optic West Conference* in Monterey in November.



"Lillie Grossman and John Drum"  
*Charlie Gibson*



"Front left to right, Chris Johnson, Carol Silveira, and Amy Sibiga"  
*Charlie Gibson*



"Photographers Gather for Photo Walk"  
*Charlie Gibson*



"Carmel Library" *Lillie Grossman*



"Dalmation and Door" and "Entryway"  
*Chris Johnson*



"Storybook Cottage" *Rick Verbanec*



"New in Old" *Rick Verbanec*



## My Two Bits

### *Let's Keep the Ball Rolling*

by Ken Jones

Valued members, September is membership renewal month. Last year, in this very space, I predicted that the Club would be back to in-person meetings by now. Sadly, that has yet to come to pass. However, my prediction of more in-person field activities did prove correct for our 2022 year. The infusion of fresh energy into the Club's group shoot process, its growing community service activities, and the push of our members' art into exhibits large and small have resulted, I think you'd admit, into a pretty good year.



One of the strongest benefits of membership is the deep insights members receive about their submitted images. Our competitions provide knowledgeable comments and recommendations from our judges, and a comprehensive technical and aesthetic evaluation of their work through the now well-established Star-rating System. The work of the Competition Process Review group two years ago that created and refined this system has provided a much more level field for all our members, and made submitting to competitions more beneficial. It has also made doing so more fun. All of this is demonstrated by the fact that participation in Club competitions remains robust. This year alone, members will have received review comments and detailed feedback on nearly 700 of their images. Think about that! Think about what that kind of input is worth to someone who wants to improve their photography.

To me, the most satisfying aspect of PTCC membership is the sense of belonging to an engaged group of good people with a common interest in creative artful expression through photography. This idea is underscored by the fact that the Club has stayed together and continued to move forward throughout the pandemic. Even in the less-than-optimal, one-dimensional virtual world of Zoom, my observation is that we all still enjoy spending time with each other and sharing our ideas, concerns, and images.

There's every reason to believe that this trend will continue in 2023 and beyond, but it all starts with you. I sincerely ask that you renew your PTCC membership today, and help keep PTCC thriving into the future.

*Take your lens cap off*

Ken

## Meeting Recap & Preview

### *August & September*

Our August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting consisted of an Open Projector, and featured five members who shared and discussed their images. Open Projector nights provide a good opportunity for unstructured discussion of the topic we all love.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, Club Treasurer *Judi Clayton* and the budget review working group presented the Club's financial situation. There were thirty-three members present via Zoom, and the discussions generated valuable feedback to the budget group.

A report presented by *Chris Johnson* relayed important changes to the way the Club's group shoots will be managed in the coming year. Chief among the changes is the creation of a central steering committee who will handle the logistics and planning for all group shoots.

The main event of the evening was the presentation of our Shorebirds and Wading Birds competition, judged by wildlife photographer, A. Bender. The results of this judging may be seen here: [www.padretrailsc.org](http://www.padretrailsc.org).

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, members and guests will welcome *Barbara Bullock-Wilson*, daughter of master mid-twentieth century photographer, *Wynn Bullock* and his wife *Edna*. Barbara Bullock-Wilson will speak about the Bullock Family Photography Archive, and efforts underway to find a permanent home for this photographic treasure. The evening will focus on the essence of her parents' lives and work, and we'll see many examples of their iconic imagery.

At our September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, we will enjoy the returns of our last competition of the current Club year, Travel.



### Upcoming 2022 - 2023 Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>: 2023 Pictorial #1
- Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>: Nature #1 Open
- Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>: Pictorial Fine Art



Snapshot

## Plan Now for the Next Round of Competition

by Carol Fuessenich

Every year the Board for Padre Trails Camera Club selects the topics for the competition for the upcoming year. There are some general categories that are always used and there are often specific subjects within a category.



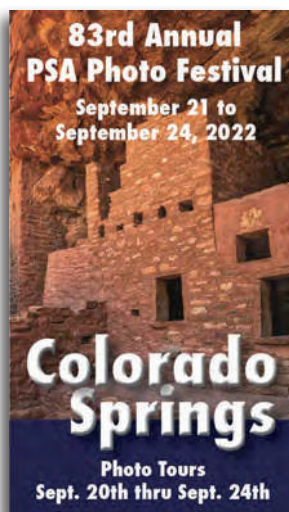
Each year we have competitions in Pictorial, Nature, Travel, and Creative. Each of these has its own rules for submission. There could be an open Nature or Pictorial where the photographer has the freedom to photograph and submit whatever they want... as long as it follows the rules for that category. Now, within each of these categories there might be a directed subject. Under Pictorial there could be architecture, lines, macro or night photography. It is whatever the Board decides. The structure is the same for Nature. The specific topic could be birds, flowers, or perhaps macro.

PSA (Photographic Society of America) has done an excellent job of describing what is allowed and not allowed in each category. These descriptions can be found on their website <https://psa-photo.org>. You do not have to be a member of PSA to access the descriptions. Padre Trails is a club member of PSA. Because we are, we use their definitions for the general categories. These rules are clearly outlined on our website under Member Resources. There is a description of what is allowed as well as what is not allowed. I encourage each of you to review the descriptions on our website.

As you look at the topics for the PTCC 2022 - 2023 year, read the descriptions of each category on our website, plan your shoot, and go have fun!!!



It's not too late to attend the PSA Photo Festival conference. Check it out online at <https://psa-photo.org>.



## Club Events Calendar

### *Dick Light is In the Loop*

Club member *Dick Light* submitted this sure to be a winning image titled, "The Harmonica Player" in the annual *In the Loop* magazine photography contest. Dick, not one to take photos of people too often, captured this compelling image on the Monterey Wharf.



### See Club Member Photos at the Fair:

#### Monterey County Fair

September 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

<https://montereycountyfair.com>

#### Santa Cruz County Fair

September 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

<https://www.santacruzcountyfair.com>



### 2022 CPA International Juried Exhibition

Center for Photographic Art

San Carlos at 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA

93923 Submission period through Thursday,

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:59PM PST

<https://photography.org/ije-prospectus-2022>



### Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
via Zoom

All Officers and Activity Chairs  
can be reached via email at:

[info@padretrailscc.org](mailto:info@padretrailscc.org)

Membership information can be found here:

[www.padretrailscc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html](http://www.padretrailscc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html)



Member Club Since 1948

