



Padre Trails Camera Club

Monterey, California

Group AAA Padre Trails Pictorial # 2 Leading Lines

1. Alabama Beach Sunset
The mood or feeling of the photograph is really strong. It is a beautifully scene and a beautifully rendered photograph. Photograph has a lot of punch. I loved it at first glance. Well placed horizon, strong diagonal lead-in line created by the beach chairs, lovely early (or late) lighting. One change will improve the photograph. Either clone in some sky, or crop out the very bright piece of sky in the upper right side of the photograph. It draws one's eye out of the photograph.
2. Blue moons
Diverging rows of light blue circles on a dark blue field form a pattern shot. There are two areas brighter than all the rest. Unfortunately, these bright places are right on the edge of the photograph taking the observers eyes out of the frame.
3. Charleston Ravenel Bridge
The maker has made an effort to create a static, peaceful, quiet scene of this bridge. This was well achieved by placing the point of symmetry in the center of the photograph, and keeping other elements of the bridge out of the photograph. The very strong horizontal line of the bridge strengthens this feeling of stillness. Finally, the clouds give us a sense of reality and bring some randomness to the scene.
4. Church in Tuscany
Interesting travel shot. Rich textures in all the surfaces add interest to the photograph. Strength coming from diagonal leading lines to the subject, the bell tower. Good exposure and nicely post processed.
5. City Wall as Timeline
The title of the image brings meaning to the image. Before reading the title I missed the point all together. I was so distracted by the many converging lines that led to a bright area right on the edge of the photograph, I was drawn completely away from the different phases of the wall construction. Focus could have been placed on the story by composing the wall perpendicular to the line of site of the camera, and eliminating everything above the wall.

6. **Clouds Lead The Way**
This image needs more dynamic range. The clouds are fine but much of the ground is blocked (too dark to see). This scene would have been a candidate for HDR.
7. **Colosseum Floor**
I have seen many pictures of the coliseum but never one from this perspective. The maker captured a bit of symbolism in the structure that I feel really make this image meaningful. As we are all aware, many people lost their lives here, including many Christians. The Christian symbol, the cross, is the prominent feature of this image and causes one to reflect on the dark history of this great structure. A good picture will tug at your feelings or cause you to consider or reflect on what is presented. Well Done.
8. **Curbside Surprises**
Leave it to the French, what a funny little car. It is unclear what the subject is. Is it the car, or the photographers shadow? The exposure is good and the image properly processed, but the composition does not bring clarity to the picture. Another way to think about composition is to consider subject and field. The subject is just that, the subject. It should be well placed in the frame. It is the field that brings context to the subject. It should clearly support the subject and not detract from it.
9. **Dennis the Menace park bridge**
The subject, the people on the bridge is well placed, there action is story telling and brings interest to the picture and causes one to contemplate just what is being played out between the children and the man. The Yellow hand rails are a strong leading line to the subject. I think cropping the sky away would help the image. (either have an interesting sky, or no sky at all). The image is under exposed and much of the detail is blocked (too dark to interpret).
10. **Forgotten Tracks**
This is an interesting subject. It allows one to visualize how a train switches tracks. It is also a strong graphic image with strong lines created by the ties, and the tracks. Something to consider with images with both a foreground and a middle ground. As you get higher, you emphasize the middle ground. Getting lower emphasizes the near ground and minimizes the middle ground.
11. **Highway to Granada**
A real bird's eye view of the highway. Makes one wonder what you were standing on. Things I found fascinating; how far up the lane going the opposite direction was, and where is the river? The picture appears to be post processed in such a way as to give good micro contrast but very flat in a macro sense. You might try a different crop removing the sky and see what you think of it then.

12. **Kuleto**

The framing of the tree in the foreground keeps the eye well in the rows of grapes with one exception. The hole in the tree foliage in the upper right corner where you can see the sun lit rows of grapes is a real eye catcher. Try cloning some tree foliage from the upper right corner to cover this bright spot. For my taste I would like to see deeper into the grapes (without the sky).
13. **Leisurely Traffic Jam, Venice**

The picture is easily interpreted and you easily get a sense of what the picture is all about. The image seems cropped a little tight. I would like to see all of the three gondolas.
14. **Lines in the sand**

The lines in the sand are a prominent part of the image leading the viewer into the picture. It feels void of a subject however. The pier and ocean are void of any thing but emptiness.
15. **Mirror Lake In Spring**

I selected this image as an HM because of the makers efforts to bring out the interest of the foreground and get the viewers boots in the picture (metaphorically speaking). Since this image was entered in Group AAA, I must assume the photographer is fairly new at considering their pictures as art. It has been my experience observing new photographers that they shy away from making wide angle images. So, this was a noble effort on the part of the photographer. I have one comment on the image processing. The picture is lacking good rich dark tones. This is easily corrected by adjusting the pictures histogram.
16. **Mission San Antonio black and white**

The image is well exposed and properly processed. I like that the maker put a rather dark vignette around the picture edges. This forces the viewer into the center of the picture, right where you want them to go. Most images will benefit from some edge vignette. The symmetrical composition suits the scene.
17. **Mondavi-Cellar**

A wonderful wide angle perspective of this wine cellar. The image is strengthened by the repeated patterns within the scene, particularly the reds on the barrels. Placement of the two workers and the dark vertical pillar near them is in a perfect location enhanced by the fast receding lines within the image.
18. **Mustard Bloom in the Vineyard**

This image is nicely composed with many elements that a viewer will enjoy. The mustard seed path to the barn with the bright copula, and the naked grape plants come together in a very impressive way. The image is not processed to yield the best impact however. The brightest areas in the image are still too dark, even dull. Put a levels layer on this image and correct the bright slider will greatly enhance this image. Also, a little vignette to darken the edges slightly will strengthen the image.

19. My First Fish
Great composition and perfect exposure and depth of field. I love the child's expression. This should be a family treasure in years to come. Good job avoiding a merger between the child's shirt and the fish. The line, float, and pole bring context to the image and the background does exactly what it should (fade away).
20. Napa-Morning
This is a nicely composed image. The rows of grapes lead back to the moody oak trees in the fog, and the fog masks out any distracting items in the background.
21. No Trespassing, sailors only
I can't tell what the maker wants me to look at. The image title doesn't help. Nothing in the image says "No Trespassing". If anything' the open path down the dock looks rather inviting. In this image there is no subject. There is a lot of context for a subject which beg for a subject.
22. Peaceful Promenade San Antonio Mission
This image is an appealing photograph. It is well exposed for the bright areas, causing it to retain the rich colors in the brightest areas. The eye is led down the path to a lovely red flower planting in terracotta pots. Cropping around the edges a bit will make the bright area more prominent and remove a shaded area that contains no information.
23. Pfeiffer Beach Sunset
The last rays of sunlight peeking through the hole in the rock island and reflecting from the wet sand appeals to the sensibility of everyone. We all love a sunset, and this put a very special twist on it. I believe the image would be stronger if some of the top, some of the bottom, and about 1/3 of the right side was cropped away. That would put the interesting light in the sweet spot, and remove a large section of negative space that contributes little to the feel of the remaining image.
24. Playing in the Snow
Fun picture of the two dogs, strengthened by the duplication of posture . The wide open mouths, teeth, and gums gives the viewer cause to reflect on what is really going on. Nicely exposed and processed image.
25. Post Ranch Infinity
The image composed by a number of congruent lines, some bright and above the water, some submerged in various shades of blue. This is a feel good image but lacks a subject to give it strength.
26. Rock formation at Zion National Park
The rock formation of itself is interesting, but nothing in the image makes it pop. There is no surprising irregularity to any part of the image. A search for an irregular bump, or color, or something that would distinguish it from the remaining rock would be subject for a stronger image.

27. Sand Mountain, Nevada
A nicely composed picture of the white sand mountain. The road and mountains around it give us a sense of its size. The speed limit sign adds a sense of our modern age to an object which has remained unchanged through many ages.
28. Schramsberg-Bottles
This image is a very uniform pattern shot filled with a repeated pattern of bottles and stay boards. The eye (and mind) wonder around in the image trying to find some irregularity without success. Pattern shots need a rip in the pattern, something to capture our thoughts and make us wonder why, something to catch our eye. A crack in one of the bottles, or one a different color or shade, or maybe one clean bottle would do the trick.
29. Stairs and Door
This image is a very curious arrangement of a door, a staircase formed in a wall, and a very nicely textured wall. The door and the staircase play against each other in a very interesting way and the stone contributes a feeling of a bygone age. Crop the sky away, maybe with a perspective crop (non parallel crop edges) and this will be a very strong image. As is, the sky just demands too much attention.
30. Sunset In The Vineyard
This is a nicely composed image with foreground, middle ground and background. The elements play together well. The image would be stronger without the sky. Also a little puzzling is the lack of clarity in the close grape leaves.
31. The Dunes
Close up view of the ripples are undisturbed by people, and nature has placed several little round and raised spots in the sand to catch our eye. These little spots create a focus point in the image. Well scene. There being no middle ground removes any feeling of depth.
32. The Long Road to Bodie
A good composition with strong leading lines into the town. Image is over saturated which detracts from the sense of reality.
33. Trail In Haleakala Crater, maui
A graphic image with strong shadows accentuating the curved path. The picture needs a subject, maybe a spot that has a single plant, or a hiker, or...l in Haleakala Crater, Maui
34. Winter Storm
The maker has captured the feeling of a rather dark and dreary day. Try flipping the image so the bright area in the sky is on the right side. The image will then read better (left to right entry into the image with the eye, catch at the right side).

35. Yellowstone River

All the lines created by the landscape lead the eye to the place where we no longer can see the stream. Something prominent at that location would strengthen the image. The contrasting color scheme, blue on yellow strengthen the image and put emphasis on the still blue pond in the stream. The image is over saturated and the contrast too high to add strength to the image.

HM	Mirror Lake In Spring	Judy Clayton
HM	Colosseum Floor	Jared Ikeda
HM	Charleston Ravenel Bridge	Shelley Nemeth
3 rd	Mondavi-Cellar	Glenda Smith
2 nd	Alabama Beach Sunset	Julie Chen
1 ST	My First Fish	Julie Chen