

Bits & Pixels



February 2023

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

www.padretrailsc.org

Creative Fine Art Competition Winning Images — Group Blue



1st "Beach Sunset" *Jerry Heisel*



3rd "Meerkat and the Moon" *Julie Chen*



2nd "Black-n-White Design" *Jeff Hobbs*

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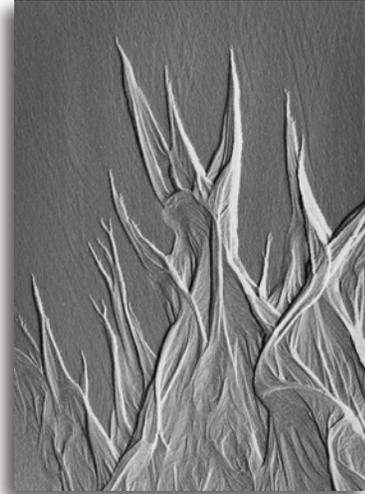
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Creative Fine Art Competition Winning Images

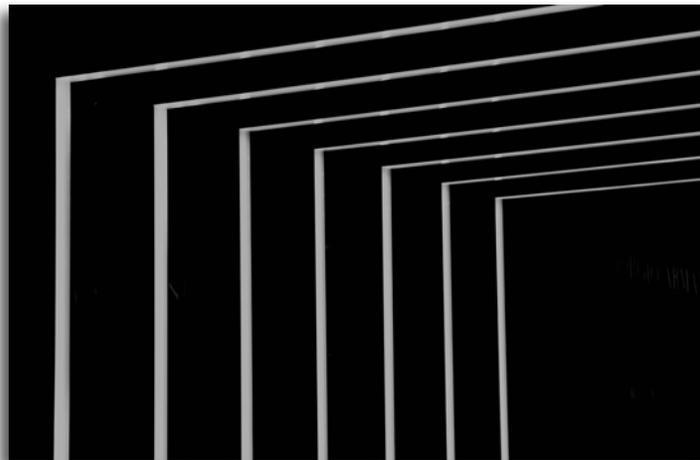
Group Blue



HM "Breaking Out" *Christene Johnson*



HM "Sand-Pebble Beach" *Sean Crawford*



HM "Adjusted Design at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, France"
Kent Van Vuren

Meet Les Ellis, Judge for Creative Fine Art Competition

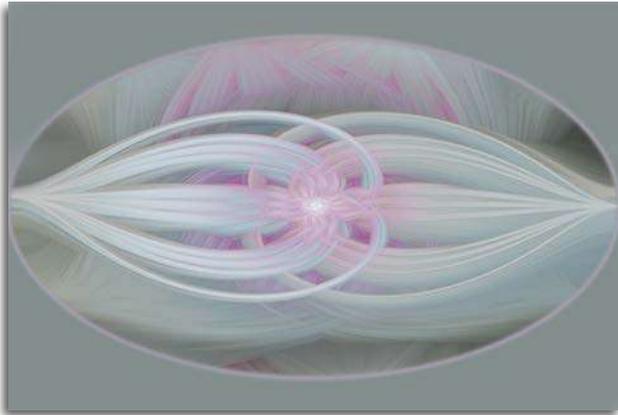
My real photography began about 20 years ago when my wife wanted to take macro photos of flowers. I "borrowed" her camera to photograph the car shows in 2003. With the advent of digital photography, and the introduction to the Monterey photography community by Miller Outcalt, we both became quite involved with photography and the different organizations.

Being a docent at Point Lobos led to many photo adventures there and some of my most memorable photos. I became the facilitator for the Independent Photographers in about 2008, and enjoyed that experience until COVID and other factors shut us down.

I still enjoy sharing my photos, though almost exclusively by email these days. I wish you all wonderful adventures with your cameras and each other.

Creative Fine Art Competition Winning Images

Group Green



1st "Swirls in Pink and White" *Carol Fuessenich*



HM "Waiting Tableau" *Ken Jones*



2nd "Walking" *Nicole Asselborn*



HM "Foggy Fantasy" *Denice Loria Woyski*



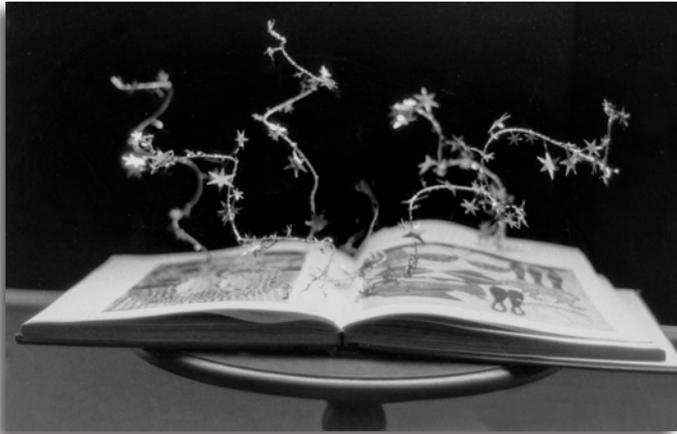
3rd "Lost in a Lost World" *Denice Loria Woyski*



HM "Home" *Nicole Asselborn*

Creative Fine Art Competition Winning Images

Group Red



1st "An Adventure of the Mind" *Carole Gan*



HM "Bloody Belly Comb Jelly" *Dick Light*



2nd "Prismatic Whirlpool" *Charlie Gibson*



HM "Merced River Spring Flow" *Charlie Gibson*



3rd "Weathered Wood" *Brooks Leffler*



HM "Milky Way Over Mobius Arch" *Karen Schofield*

Pacific Grove Books Monarch Photo Book Edition #2

The monarch butterflies are returning to Pacific Grove in droves! Pacific Grove Books is once again collecting photos to create a monarch book second edition, *Monarchs In Butterfly Town, USA*. In 2022, images from nine Padre Trails members helped fill the pages of the first edition of this amazing book. PTCC members are urged to investigate this opportunity and add their talents to the second book this year. There is no entry fee. All the entrants whose photos comply with categories will be included, and will receive a copy of the second edition of *Monarchs In Butterfly Town, USA* when it's launched in October 2023.



Photographs will be accepted in the following three categories:

- Monarchs in the Sanctuary, around town and the Monterey Peninsula—Monarchs or Monarch Artworks: ceramics, textiles, paintings, illustrations, jewelry, signage, decor, etc.
- Pacific Grove Butterfly Days Celebrations—first weekend in October—parade, bazaar, quilt show, birdhouse auction and other activities etc.
- The Essence and Beauty of Pacific Grove—nature (Monterey Bay, Pacific Ocean, shoreline, parks, flora, and fauna), architecture, activities, people in a public setting, events, etc.

How to Enter

Visit <https://form.jotform.com/223027341558049>.

The Old West Exhibit by Batista Moon Studio Photographers



Three members of Padre Trails Camera Club are among the six Batista Moon Studio photographers whose images of the Old West exhibit opened at the Sylvan Gallery in Sand City's West End District on January 21st. Images by PTCC members *Barbara Moon*, *Fernando Batista*, and *Sylvia Gardner*, and work by local photographers Terrence Farrell, Juanita Griffin, and Martha Hogan, captured beautifully a dynamic time in American history.

The Old West evokes thoughts of wide vistas, cowboys, cattle drives, and the muscular American expansion, in which Monterey played a catalytic role. The following Gold Rush started a migration west that led to the creation of great wealth, and an enduring mythology of the West not just as a place, but as an idea and a way of life.

The nascent art of photography fueled the attraction to the West by documenting its natural wonders, cultures, and the stories of the people who built their lives here. These six photographers were inspired by these ideas and have presented their unique interpretations of this attraction in the exhibit. Their photographs include Western themed landscapes, architecture and architectural details, portraits, still life, and night photography.

Each of these talented local working photographers has shown photos in multiple exhibitions throughout the Central Coast. The opening reception was very well attended by family, friends, and several Padre Trails members. Future weekends will feature live music and poetry by Rags Rosenberg on February 4th, 2-5PM, and Rose Merrill with the Violet Flame on February 11th, 2-5PM.

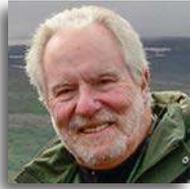
View The Old West exhibit at the Sylvan Gallery, 613 Ortiz Ave, Unit A, Sand City, CA, through February 18th.

My Two Bits

AI? Oh My! One Case for Actual Intelligence

by Ken Jones

The *New York Times* recently featured an article about the power of the popular new chatbot, ChatGPT, and the alarms being sounded at schools and universities over its use by students to create what are called, "complete, well-written, fully nuanced" papers. In fact, according to the *Times* article, it was the unexpected excellence of the work being turned in by some students that began ringing those bells with instructors, and rightly so.



Don't get me wrong, I'm not anti-technology. I love the things the advancement in AI has given us, particularly in photography and image enhancement. Getting back to those flawless essays, however, the difference between AI applications in photography and in academia seem to me to be profound. Whereas AI's assistance in image enhancement begins with the vision and imagination of photographers. To get the shot in the first place, they have to "be there," see the potential of a scene or subject, frame, and take the shot. Then AI comes in. In academia, the final work is created from a minimum of simple prompts. In one sense, that's a good thing, but in another, it does a serious disservice to the student. It's not overstating things to say that there is a growing number of graduates hitting the job market who have never balanced a checkbook, make change, or even read cursive writing. It's not a leap to say that future graduates may not know how to do independent research, or think critically, double plus ungood.

Before you start using words like old fogey, Luddite, or curmudgeon, I did find the *Times* article encouraging in one aspect. In response to the power and popularity of ChatGPT and other AI chatbots, instructors, particularly in colleges and universities, are beginning to change the way they teach. They're moving away from the, "write a thousand words on" approach to in-person oral assessments, and in-class writing without the aid of artificial intelligence, a good move I think.

So, ironically perhaps, AI's ability to finish an assignment without doing a lick of work, may just result in more student-teacher engagement and the development of the other AI Actual Intelligence.

Take your lens cap off...

Ken

Meeting Recap & Preview

January & February

We began the new calendar year on January 4th with a visit from landscape and nature photographer, Jon Norris. Jon shared with us his passion for Joshua National Park, and took us along on his journey of discovery there as he learned to find and capture all the beauty the Park has to offer. An engaging speaker who clearly loves his subject, Jon left us all inspired. Thank you, Jon, for that inspiration.

On January 18th, we enjoyed the returns of the Club's Creative Fine Art competition, judged by local fine art photographer, Les Ellis. The meeting was a hybrid format as we continue to refine the technique for holding meetings simultaneously to in-person and remote members. Our efforts could technically be termed a success, with six members present and twenty-nine joining from remote locations. Results of the competition are available at our website's Gallery pages.

February will again begin with another special guest. On February 1st we'll welcome professional photographer, Randy Tunnell. From his website, "Randy Tunnell's background and experience enable him to create top-notch images for a wide variety of clients. Whether it is an individual portrait, or gavel-to-gavel coverage of a week-long event, Randy's ability to capture images that convey a story, a message, or a feeling, is always present in his artistry." The meeting will be in-person at our Pebble Beach meeting room, with Zoom also available, and promises to be fun and inspiring for everyone.

On February 15th we'll see the returns of a novel competition for our Club, a Pictorial with the directed subject "Pets." Images will be judged by professional photographer, David Henry. Dave is a former Canon employee and a former photographer with *The Sacramento Bee* newspaper where he worked for 30 years.

In other future news, our Club will have an exhibit at the Pacific Grove Public Library that will open April 2023. Thanks to Club member *Bill Sherwachuk* who first introduced the library to Padre Trails Camera Club.



Upcoming Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- Sunday, February 26th: Nature - Directed to Macro
- Sunday, March 26th: Pictorial - Directed to Still Life



Guidelines for Travel Photography

by Carol Fuessenich

One of our last competitions each year is the Travel category and now is the time many of us are taking photos for that competition. It seems each year there are questions about what is allowed and not allowed in our travel photographs. The Photographic Society of America (PSA) has addressed the questions, revamped its definition and clarified guidelines. These guidelines apply to the three reality divisions: Travel, Nature, and Photojournalism.



The following is from the latest *PSA Journal* (Jan. 2023). A Photo Travel image is a portrayal of the real world we live in, as it is found naturally. There are no geographic limitations.

Content guidelines:

- If the image is predominantly or exclusively a land, sea, or cityscape, these “scapes” must include characteristic, distinctive and recognizable physical features.
- Images that predominantly or exclusively depict people and their activities must illustrate a distinctive culture of a country, region, or continent.
- Images that predominantly or exclusively depict animal populations are allowed, if the animals are in their native environment and are characteristic of that country.
- Portraits or other close-ups of people or objects must include elements depicting some of the surrounding environment to make it obvious that the image was not taken in a studio setting.
- Images from events or activities arranged for photography or of subjects directed or hired for photography are NOT allowed.
- Time exposures are allowed, if they do not dominate the image as a special effect.
- Highly distorted images as those produced by fisheye lenses are NOT allowed.

In an attempt to make sure photographs qualify for the Travel category, PSA has compiled lists of what is and is not allowed.

Allowed editing:

- Cropping, straightening, and perspective correction
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens (e.g., dust spots)
- Adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast
- Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (focus stacking)
- Image stitching.

Editing techniques that are NOT allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving, or changing any part of an image (except cropping)
- Adding a vignette during processing
- Blurring parts of the image to hide elements of the original scene
- Darkening parts of the image to hide elements of the original scene
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome or partial toning, desaturation, or over saturation.



Club Events Calendar

PTCC group shoot at Wilder Ranch State Park
February 4th

Spirit of Pacific Grove exhibit at the Pacific Grove Library
Opens April 2023
Contact Ken at kjones.pg@gmail.com with your framed image information by February 15th

The Old West exhibit
Sylvan Gallery, 613 Ortiz Ave, Unit A, Sand City, CA
through February 18th



Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
In-person and via Zoom

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

info@padretrailscc.org

Membership information can be found here:
www.padretrailscc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html



Member Club Since 1948

