

# Padre Trails Camera Club

Open Pictorial - 10/16/2024

Judged by: Felix Alfaro



Meet Felix Alfaro

A California native and Monterey Bay resident since 1971, I've been surrounded by natural beauty my entire life thus far. I have been surfing in the Monterey Bay since 1982; and since 1993 have operated my surfboard repair business, Sand Dollar Surfboard Repair.

I've also had the good fortune to be surrounded by creative, talented people who have influenced, educated, and inspired me as I've grown along my own path. My wife and father are both longtime photographers and harsh critics; and I've been lucky to have them in my corner, pulling no punches.

I've been a rabid student of photography for over a decade and have enjoyed some modest commercial success. My work is hanging in many homes as well as numerous medical facilities throughout the state.

I've been a sitting member on the Santa Cruz County Open Studios Art Tour Committee for the last two years.

Being a dad and husband to my beautiful family is my primary source of joy and gratitude. After that I'm chasing light in our neighborhood or researching and planning shots elsewhere.

I'm happiest when I'm creating and I've always appreciated quality of light. Photography has given me the lexicon to describe and share it.

*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 page 22.*

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Open Pictorial - 10/16/2024 - Group Blue Submissions



*01 - Best Friends*

Julie Chen

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: What a joyful moment! Nicely shot exposure. The focus is on point. That soft warm light is great. I would be keen to see more reflection below those two . Maybe a vertical crop?



*02 - Canadian Mountain Sunrise*

Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Well shot alpine lake scene. Not much I can offer here. That reflection and that little splash of red are tasty elements. I can't help but wonder what another composition up or down the shoreline would yield.



*03 - Clouds Flowing Over Mt. Bruno*

Patricia McKean

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: This one took me a minute to digest. I'm not usually a fan of power lines in a photo, but they sure are useful to convey scale. The tonal range is shown in a pleasing, almost yin/yang sort of way with the diagonal dark to light with a little of each in the other. Well done.



*04 - Debris on the Beach After Storm in Capitola*

Chris Johnson

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Nice well shot documentation of Capitola. Maybe some afternoon light would add some spark to the scene.



*05 - Face-Off*

Julie Chen

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: What a capture! The tack sharp focus of the cat and the bee is just great. The light. The cat's tongue. The whiskers. I don't know what else to say.



*06 - Farm Workers*

Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: Nice documentary photo. It takes a lot of work from a lot of people to get the food to our tables. This clearly shows it.





*07 - Fuller's Teasel and Barbed Wire*

John Drum

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Quite a prickly piece. It's well done, technically. I'm wondering what compelled you to shoot exactly that particular group.



*08 - Long Forgotten*

Carol Silveira

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: I appreciate the textures and the light here. This has quite a nostalgic feel. Like I'm in grandpa's tool shed. I wonder if shooting from a different angle would be fruitful?



*09 - Macro Beauty*

John Drum

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: I like the colors. Pretty straightforward composition. With the light being what it is, maybe shooting at a more oblique angle would produce some interesting results.



*10 - Pacific Sea Nettle*

Sara A Courtneidge

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Nice capture of a beautiful animal. The color contrast is pleasant. I'm not sure if it would be possible to frame it much differently. It looks like the tank at the aquarium.



*11 - Pacific*

Bill Brown

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: This is a nice midday photo. It looks well done. I can't help but imagine this scene with some golden evening light with dramatic shadows.



*12 - Pot of Gold Behind the Barn*

Chris Johnson

STAR RATING: 5

COMMENT: You found the gold! What a fantastic shot! Chasing rainbows is challenging. One can't really plan a shot. It's a great exercise in being flexible and creative and quick with regards to capturing one as part of an intriguing composition. I would like this image without the rainbow as well. The dappled light and hills are great. If you were able to custom order the weather, maybe a spotlight on the barn instead of the hill might be a choice. Technically speaking, though a majority of the frame is in shadow, all the details are there. The fence line and ridgeline and rainbow all leading to barn is a tasty combo.



*13 - Return to the Garden - BiG SuRCuS Style*

Bill Brown

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: There is some really interesting light going on here. The light the person in the back is holding adds a lot. I would like to see this shot with the light but without the second person. Otherwise, I like the light/shadow play.



*14 - Still Standing*

Ken Jones

STAR RATING: 3

COMMENT: Interesting photo. I could look at this for awhile. Looks like some issues from editing maybe. In the group of birds in the top left there appears to be some kind of artifact. Spaceship maybe? Some lack of gradient/details in the hills from a filter maybe? Otherwise it appears to have been shot well.



*15 - Sunset at Asiloma*

Carol Silveira

STAR RATING: 4

COMMENT: It's a beautiful beach scene. Not much I can say. It's well done. I do wonder about the possibility of exploring a different composition.





*16 - Sunset at Soberanes*

Patricia McKean

STAR RATING:5

COMMENT: What a stellar shot this is! It has it all. So much to look at. The foreground vegetation is a nice jumping off point on your way up the coast to the horizon. The color throughout is tastefully handled. I really like the long exposure. Technically, I don't know what I would do differently. Very well done!



*17 - WSunset in Texas*

Lillie Grossman

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: I would like to be there enjoying this moment. I do appreciate the silhouette Trees. Also the sunbeams from the clouds. Maybe dropping the whole frame a tad would improve it. A touch more foreground.



*18 - Weston Beach, Point Lobos*

Sara A Courtneidge

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT: The daytime long exposure is so nice here. The smooth water contrasting the shapes and textures of the rocks is good stuff. We've got the full combo platter of tones from darkest shadows to bright sky. Also, thanks for the "S" flow going from the rock at the lower right, across the tidepool, leading to the big rock offshore. Nicely done.

# Padre Trails Camera Club

Open Pictorial - 10/16/2024 - Green Group Submissions

Judged by: Felix Alfaro



## 01-Abandoned Farmhouse

Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT: I can't say a whole lot about this one. Overall, it's a pretty nice photo. It's a bit bright. There are a few areas in the sky where the highlights are blown out a bit. If I was driving by and saw this I would certainly stop and shoot it, especially with those clouds.



## 02-Category 5

Janet Azevedo

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: The Drama! I love active weather like this. That said, It would be great to shoot it with a longer lens and get the action near the horizon. I'm not convinced the foreground adds much to the image.



## 03-Chiles

Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: The bokeh, the background, and the light make for such a nice feel here. Regarding composition and flow - I'm not sure where my eyes should go. The chilis that are in focus still don't seem like an obvious focal point. This is a tough one. I don't know what I would do except maybe just experiment and see what shakes out.





*04-Colors of the Botswana Sunset*

Karen Schofield

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT: I like so much about this photo. The composition. The silhouette of the fractal tree branches. That tasty light between the sun and the zebras. I really would like to see more of the details in the shadowy foreground. I can see a number of zebras and a diagonal group of bushes that seems like somewhat of a leading line going to the sun. Hard to say because of how dark it is. Definite potential to be a home run shot.



*05-Cut-Up Fruit*

Brian Spiegel

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT: This one had me salivating. It looks like a tasty snack. This image has a home spun authenticity about it. The plate, the blemishes on the fruit, and the natural light make it seem like it could be in anyone's kitchen. Having said that, I wonder what it might look like shot from a lower angle or from farther away with a shallow depth of field.



*06-Down by the Waterline*

Karen Schofield

STAR RATING:5

COMMENT: This photo has a warm softness that is so calming and inviting. The feeling I get from it because of, or maybe in spite of, the softness outweighs any technical considerations. It might be improved with a sharper focus. It might not. A different crop might be in order. Maybe vertical to include the top of the tree. Maybe not. Pretty darn sweet shot as is.



*07-Elizabeth's Big Show*

McCafferty

STAR RATING:2

COMMENT: There are some aspects of this that really speak to me such as the dust aloft catching the light.

But, and I do mean butt, I'm wondering if there wasn't an opportunity to capture the front of the horse and rider. This is definitely the longest I've ever looked at a horse's rear end.



*08-Falling Leaf*

Joni Zabala

STAR RATING:5

COMMENT: The more I look at this the more I like it. It's simple yet has a lot going on. The juxtaposition of static and motion, the contrasting colors, the depth of field. The execution and handling of the image are well done



*09-Ferris Wheel 1.6 Exposure*

Jeff Hobbs

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: I wouldn't have guessed this is a ferris wheel. I was thinking more like a fan in a wind tunnel or something. It's a nice long exposure but doesn't hold my interest. A wider frame might provide more interest and story.





*10-Hummingbird of Costa Rica*

Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING:1

COMMENT: I like this as a piece of art. As a photograph I would have liked to see some part of it in sharp focus. There are some great details that might have really shined like the water drops, the colors on the bird, and the flower.



*11-In The Mist*

Janet Azevedo

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT: This makes me want to take a vacation. This timeless scene could be anywhere. The indistinct background and the top to bottom misty gradient add to the feeling of not needing to know when or where it is. Technical considerations don't matter where we're going.



*12-Mt. Hood at Dusk*

Joni Zabala

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: This photo has the elements that make it worth the trek. That tasty bit of light hitting the snowy peak. The painterly pastels in the sky. All good stuff. I'm not totally sold on the silhouetted vegetation in the bottom of the frame. Maybe less of it would work or maybe more. There is some tint thing going on in the sky. Am I seeing green? Also the color gradient from the clouds to the peak is not super smooth.



*13-Passiflora 'Purple Haze'.*

Charlie Gibson

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: Technically speaking, I can't offer much here. I do wonder what exploring different angles might yield.



*14-Pink Rain Lily*

Carol Fuessenich

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT: I like the bold, simple composition here. Well done.



*15-Running from the Broch*

Jared Ikeda

STAR RATING:5

COMMENT:I really like the depth in this one. Nicely balanced composition. The shapes and proportions are pleasing. If I were to nitpick, and I will... I would be interested in seeing the foreground with a bit more light. Maybe if the overall exposure were notched up to retain the nice contrast. This photo had me going back to it and lingering. I want to hike up the hill and check it out.





*16-Sail Maker's Old Glory*

Sandie McCafferty

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: This is a well done documentary photo. The story is clearly conveyed. And the technical particulars are in order.



*17-Stone Wall Gate*

Jared Ikeda

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: The exposure looks appropriate in this photo. Sharp focus as well. I also like the color palette. That being said, I feel like this would be a great spot to photograph a person.



*18-The Old Steel Bridge*

Bill Shewchuk

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: How lucky to have a camera handy with weather like this! I'm challenged to offer suggestions regarding the composition. I wonder if the white balance being shifted a tad warmer would help this image at all.



*19-Vertigo*

Jeff Hobbs

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT: This is a nice, graphic long exposure. I'm scratching my head trying to think of how I might shoot this. Maybe pulled back to show the whole scene would add to the story and context.



# Padre Trails Camera Club

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Judged by: Felix Alfaro



*01-Abandoned Shack*

Andrea Madsen

STAR RATING:1

COMMENT:The exposure is nice and the focus is on point. I would be curious what the scene would look like with some different light or maybe a tighter frame or pulled back more.



*02-Autumn Stroll*

Don Eastman

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT:I'm a sucker for colors. Having said that, I would love to see this with some golden light setting the leaves aglow. I appreciate the contrast throughout. Possibly a bit dark in some spots, regarding details in the shadows. I want to walk down the path and see what's around the corner.



*03-Beaujolais Wine Cave*

Dick Light

STAR RATING:5

COMMENT:I can feel this one. Reverence. Quiet. Purpose. Tradition. The color palette. I also like the clockwise flow starting with the cask on the left. Depth of field is great. Nice contrast while still retaining details in the shadows. Technically speaking, I'm not sure how it could have been handled differently. Well done!

*04-Lazy Botswana Morning*

Rick Thau

STAR RATING:5



COMMENT:How lucky to see a bit cat like this! The exposure is really nice considering the dappled light situation often found under a tree canopy. Maybe the diffuse/cloudy light was in your favor. The tack sharp focus also makes it easy to appreciate the details like the animal's fur and the texture on the tree. I'm curious about the leopard's tail. Would it have been possible to include it in in the frame? The animal's head seems to be at the intersection of thirds - maybe that was a consideration for the composition? Great photo of a beautiful creature!

*05-Chihuly Garden*

Fernando Ibanez

STAR RATING:2



COMMENT:I can see why one would be compelled to shoot this. I get the framing with red spires on either side as well. Also, I love colors. It seems like a different composition or crop may have helped this one. Omitting the row of lights at the top center or getting up close and personal with a tight frame and use some bokeh to showcase one little area.

*06-Derelict Water Tank*

Steven Sherwood

STAR RATING:1



COMMENT:The geometry is interesting. There are a number of anomalous circles that caught my attention, mostly on the grey panel on the left. Maybe the result of addressing some dust spots? Also, it looks like some type of denoise or painterly filter was used.





*07-Determined 10 Year Old*

Dick Light

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT:Great capture of a fun moment! No doubt what the story is, I just wonder if he struck out the batter. Well done throughout. Super sharp. Great light on the pitcher's face. I like the stripes of dirt and grass. I would be thrilled to have a photo like this of my son.

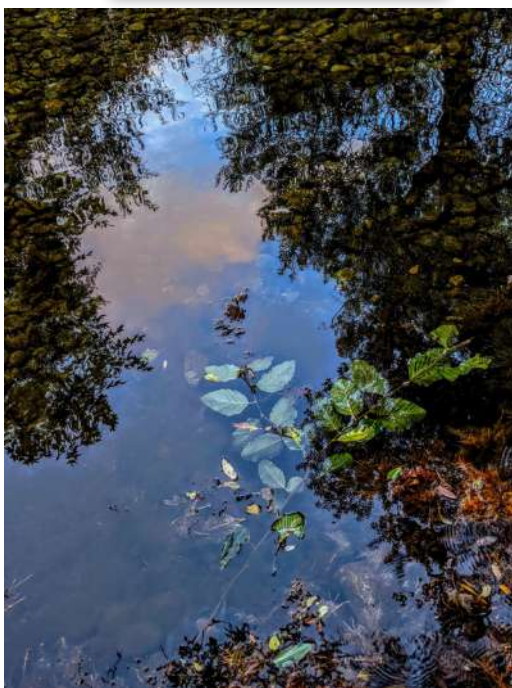


*08-Fancy Garage Door - Los Cerillos NM*

Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING:2

COMMENT:Interesting geometry. The warmth of the image is appealing. I found myself puzzling over the construction of the door. The whole thing seems a bit askew. Not quite level or symmetrical. Possibly the very slightly oblique angle at which it was shot or maybe the organic nature of the rustic construction were factors.



*09-Leaves in River*

Steven Sherwood

STAR RATING:2

COMMENT:The juxtaposition of reflective and transparent water is fun. Maybe a different composition might have been explored. I actually think this image is more compelling upside down.



*10-Peruvian Fisherman*

Jerry Loomis

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT:IWe only get part of the story here and that's ok. The high key exposure is especially nice. The details in the subject's face. The onlooker in the background who possibly has a camera. These things imply celebration on some level. Maybe he won the fishing derby?



*11-Putting to Sea*

Rick Verbanec

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT:Firstly, Thank You for getting the horizon level! I'm glad the ship fills the frame so that we're able to see all the activity on board. I feel it is cropped a bit too close at the top and bottom. I would be keen to see it pulled back just a bit. Otherwise, It's a fascinating capture. So much to look at.



*12-Redwood Cathedral*

Andrea Madsen

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT:The geometry is nice. It's so tricky to get the exposure just right through the entire frame in a dappled light situation such as this. There is a little clipping in the highlights. A different light scenario might help. Late morning/midday?





*13-Scattered Shadows*

Brooks Leffler

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT:I see why this caught your eye. Unique shadow/light opportunities are fun when they present themselves. The placard in the middle is distracting though.



*14-Shuttle Over Monterey*

Don Eastman

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT:Nice documentary capture of a special moment. I realize it might not be a shot that allows for a lot of planning, but it seems kind of like a photo one might take with a cell phone. Perhaps it could be elevated if you were able to incorporate some other elements like some trees or buildings. Also the highlights are just a bit overexposed.



*15-Sunrise in Tierra Del Fuego*

David Eisen

STAR RATING:3

COMMENT:What a magnificent place! Knowing that it's at sunrise, I get the amount of blue in the foreground. However, I might shift the white balance a tad warmer. Also, maybe a denoise filter was applied. The lack of details on the craggy peaks and tonal gradient make it look like a painting. Which works for me given the subject.





*16-Sunset at the Pier*

Fernando Ibanez

STAR RATING:1

COMMENT:Colorful skies reflected in a watery foreground! That would get my attention any day of the week. The soft focus and visible pixels in the sky lead me to think maybe a camera with a really small sensor was used. Or maybe a bigger file with more data would help it?



*17-Workin the Corral*

Rick Verbanec

STAR RATING:5

COMMENT:What a moment you've captured! The horse's well lit face says it all. The tack sharp focus, the airborne dirt, the levitating ropes, and all the other details make me smile. From the darkest shadows to the white on the horse's head you've tastefully handled this image. I especially enjoy the rider/horse light/shadow combination. It really makes the horse the star.



*18-Young Lady from Peru*

Jerry Loomis

STAR RATING:4

COMMENT:This definitely represents the color of the region. I would like to see it brighter, maybe overall exposure or bringing up the whites. Just a little. And including the top of her hat would help as well. Great subject. Nailed the focus.





*19-Zebras in Sabi Sands near Kruger South Africa*

Rick Thau

STAR RATING:2

COMMENT:Interesting scene. Sharper focus on the central zebra would have improved this shot. Also the shadows could be brought up some. Perhaps some different light and an alternate composition could elevate this.

## Top Three Winners - Blue Group



**First Place - Sunset at Soberanes**  
*Patricia McKean*



**Second Place - *Pot of Gold***  
***Behind the Barn***  
*Chris Johnson*



**Third Place - Weston Beach,**  
**Point Lobos**  
*Sara A Courtneidge*

## Winning Images Group Blue Honorable Mentions



*Sunset at Asilomar*  
*Carol Silveira*



*Face-off*  
*Julie Chen*



*Canadian Mountain Sunrise*  
*Ken Jones*



## Top Three Winners - Green Group



**First Place - *Running from the Broch***  
***Jared Ikeda***



**Second Place - *Down by the Waterline***  
***Karen Schofield***



**Third Place - *Colors of the Botswana Sunset***  
***Karen Schofield***

## Honorable Mention - Green Group



*Abandoned Farmhouse*  
*Bill Shewchuk*



*Cut Up Fruit*  
*Brian Spiegel*



*The Old Steel Bridge*  
*Bill Shewchuk*



*Falling Leaf*  
*Joni Zabala*



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## Top Three Winners - Red Group



*First Place - Workin' the Corral*  
*Rick Verbanec*



*Second Place - Big Leopard in a Tree at*  
*Sabi Sands near Kruger South Africa*  
*Rick Thau*



*Third Place - Beaujolais Wine Cave*  
*Dick Light*



## Honorable Mention - Red Group



*Putting to Sea*  
*Rick Verbanec*



*Determined 10 Year Old*  
*Dick Light*



*Peruvian Fisherman*  
*Jerry Loomis*



*Autumn Stroll*  
*Don Eastman*