

Hi Flagpole

# January 2026 Newsletter

[FlagpolePhotographers.com](http://FlagpolePhotographers.com)

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## *What's Happening*

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*Meetings are free and open to everyone. Arrive 30 minutes early for the social time.*

### **January 8**

[The Zen of Landscape Photography.](#)

[Program by John Munno](#)

In-Person & Online

### **January 11**

[Field Trip to New York Botanical Garden](#)

In-Person

### **January 22**

[Competition – White on White, Nature,](#)

[Color, Monochrome and Monthly Challenge](#)

[Sunrise or Sunset](#)

In-Person & Online

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## **Flagpole Photographers Camera Club**

### **Posts**

Get Ready for the Club vs Club Showdown!

We are excited to announce our participation in a thrilling photography competition against New Haven Camera Club on February 17, 2026. The competition will be conducted virtually, where an esteemed judge will carefully select the "best" photo from each category. The club that secures the most wins across the 25 categories will be crowned the ultimate winner. We've got a ...



[Read more](#)

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## Sign-up for Field Trip to New York Botanical Garden



If you are joining us for the Field Trip to New York Botanical Garden please sign up below. If bringing a guest, please enter their name as well. What You Need to Know Purchase your Holiday Train Show Timed-Entry tickets before they are sold out. Site: <https://www.nybg.org/> Choose Saturday, January 10th at 10:45 am Carpooling available. Meet at 9:00 am at ...

[Read more](#)

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## 2025 Holiday Party with "Fun" Photos Competition Results

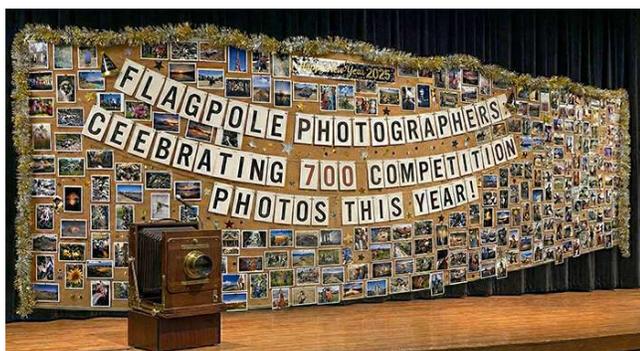
1. Congratulations to our winners!
2. Results

[Read more](#)



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## All 2025 Competition Photos Video



A record of over 700 competition photos from January 2025 to December 2025. Thanks to everyone!

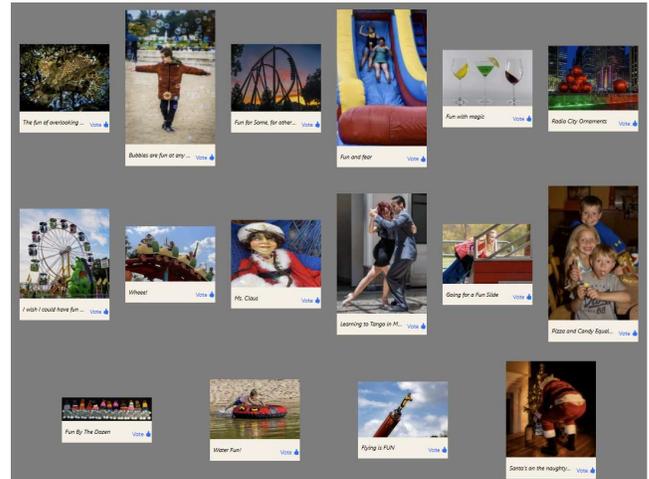
[Read more](#)

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## Holiday Party "Fun" People's Choice Voting

Sign In to vote for the photo of your choice.  
Voting ends Thursday at noon.

[Read more](#)



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## Photography Ideas

Ideas for our **Assigned Subject - White on White** and **Monthly Challenge - Sunrise or Sunset**.

Note - the monthly subjects' meaning is always open to your interpretation, don't allow these ideas to impact your creativity.

### White on White

The Challenge: Since you can't rely on color contrast, you must rely on texture and shadow. The goal is a "clean" white (not gray or muddy) that still retains detail.

#### Subject Ideas

- Food/Kitchen: Eggs (cracked or whole) on white tile floor, or white mushrooms on a white plate.
- Paper Abstracts: Folded printer paper. Use a side light to cast shadows that define the shape.
- High-Key Portraits: A person or pet in white clothing against a white wall or sheet.

#### Key Techniques

- Exposure Compensation: Your camera's meter wants to turn white into gray. Dial in +1 to +2 stops of Exposure Compensation to make the whites look bright.
- Watch the Highlights: Enable your camera's "Highlight Alert" (Blinkies). You want the photo bright, but if the screen blinks, you've lost the detail. Back off the exposure

slightly until the blinking stops.

## Sunrise or Sunset

The Challenge: To elevate a sunset photo beyond a "snapshot," you need a strong foreground element.

### Composition

- Anchor the Photo: Don't just photograph the sky. Look for a silhouette of a tree, a dock, a building, or a rock in the foreground to give the eye a place to land.
- Reflections: Water is the classic partner for sunsets. Look for local lakes or ponds where the sky color is doubled.

### Key Techniques

- Bracketing (HDR): Sunsets have high dynamic range (bright sky, dark ground). Use Auto Exposure Bracketing (AEB) to take 3 shots (-2, 0, +2) and merge them later in post-processing.
  - Sunstars: If the sun is still visible, stop your aperture down to f/16 or f/22. This creates a sharp "starburst" effect from the sun's rays.
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