

Hi Flagpole Photographers

# March 2026 Newsletter

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

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

## March 5

[Mentor Night: Packing for Trips Kickoff](#)

[Topic by Rhonda Cullens](#)

Online

## March 12

[Portraits Noir: Dramatic Lighting Program](#)

[by Sandy Schill](#)

Newtown Senior Center

## March 26

[Competition - Picture a Song, Nature,  
Color, Monochrome and Monthly Challenge](#)

[Still Life](#)

Newtown Senior Center and Online

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## Important Deadlines

Don't miss your chance to participate!

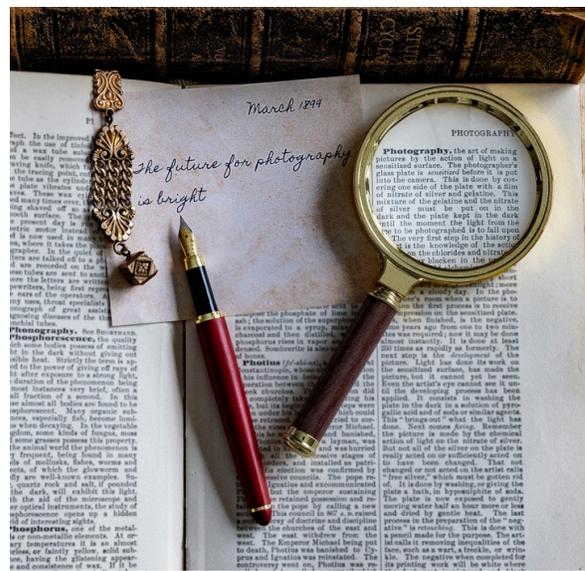
- [Upload](#) Due: **Thursday, March 5** at 7:00 PM, [Mentor Night Discussion Photos](#)
  - Dropoff Due: **Monday, March 9**, NECCC Individual Print Competition prints to Sandy Schill - see email.
  - [Upload](#) Due: **Sunday, March 22** at 9:00 PM, [Monthly Competition Photos](#)
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## Flagpole Photographers Camera Club Posts

2026 February Competition Results, All  
Photos & Video

1. Congratulations to our winners!
2. Results
3. Video of the Judges Discussing the Photos

[Read more](#)



# 2026 Flagpole Photographers Annual Competition & Exhibit Info



"Peak Speed" by Sue Thompson  
2025 Annual Competition – Best in Show

Categories to Showcase Your Photography!

1. Creativity
2. Landscape
3. Nature
4. Open Color
5. Open Monochrome

[Read more](#)

# Results of Botanical Garden Photo Challenge

1. Congratulations to our winners!
2. Results
3. Video of the Judges Discussing the Photos

[Read more](#)



## New Haven vs Flagpole Showdown Results

Category	Flagpole Photographers Camera Club	New Haven Camera Club
Architecture	 <b>Big Ben</b> Sandy Schill 1st Place	 <b>Louvre</b> Vikas Kolte
Birds	 <b>Breakfast In Bed</b> Rick Tyrseck 1st Place	 <b>Wait I Was Here First</b> Alice Liang
Blue	 <b>Memorial</b> Rich Kunsch	 <b>Norwegian Fishing Village</b> Barbara Vietzke 1st Place

Team Competition Results Team Competition Results Category Flagpole Photographers Camera Club New Haven Camera Club Architecture Big Ben Sandy Schill 1st Place Louvre Vikas Kolte Birds Breakfast In Bed Rick Tyrseck 1st Place Wait I Was Here First Alice Liang Blue Memorial Rich Kunsch Norwegian Fishing Village Barbara Vietzke 1st Place Book Where Stories Take Flight Robyn E. Abrams 1st Place Old Photo Album James Dionne Cold Sailing the seven seas Steve Madison 1st Place S Curve Tom Cuchara Creative Artistry Nature is Man - In Camera Double Exposure Justin Smith Storm Girl Linda Brinckerhoff 1st Place Faces India Colleen Robinson A ...

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## People's Choice Voting - New Haven vs Flagpole

Sign In to vote for the photo of your choice in each category. All members are encouraged to vote even if you did not enter photos. Voting ends Tuesday, Feb 10 at 9 pm. Click a photo thumbnail to see a larger view. Votes can be cast using the thumbnail or large view vote buttons.



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## Monthly Assigned Subjects Ideas

**Note:** The meaning of our assigned subjects is always open to your personal interpretation. Let these ideas spark your imagination, rather than hinder your creativity!

### Picture a Song

**The Challenge:** Bridging the gap between an auditory experience and a visual one.

#### Subject Ideas

- **Lyrical Focus:** Zero in on a single, highly visual lyric and build a literal or metaphorical representation of those specific words.
- **Genre Moods:** Match your color palette to the genre. A bright, upbeat pop track demands vibrant colors and high key lighting, while a moody acoustic ballad might feature deep shadows and muted tones.
- **Rhythmic Motion:** Photograph subjects in motion that mimic the tempo of the song. Dancers, a musician lost in the moment, or even abstract elements like splashing water can convey the energy of the track.

#### Key Techniques

- **Shutter Drag:** Use a slower shutter speed to introduce intentional blur. This is an excellent way to represent a fast tempo, chaotic energy, or the smooth, sweeping notes of a string arrangement.
- **Dramatic Lighting:** Utilize crisp, high-contrast lighting to emphasize a punchy rhythm. A directional light can help carve out dramatic shadows and add the strong visual impact necessary for a true merit image.

### Still Life

**The Challenge:** The beauty of still life photography lies in having absolute control over your environment, making it the perfect playground to refine your composition. The goal is to

elevate ordinary items into a captivating narrative through precise placement, thoughtful staging, and a clear center of interest.

## Subject Ideas

- **Collecting Objects:** Look around the house for everyday objects with interesting textures, complementary colors, or geometric shapes. Old tools, spools of thread, or even interesting pieces of hardware can be fascinating subjects.
- **Conceptual Arrangements:** Group items together that tell a cohesive story or share a common theme. A traveler's desk with a map, a compass, and a weathered journal invites the viewer to imagine the person who left them there.
- **Minimalist Studies:** Focus on a single, beautifully textured object against a clean, contrasting background. This relies entirely on form and light to hold the viewer's attention.

## Key Techniques

- **Light Sculpting:** Exceptional lighting is the lifeblood of a still life, defining form, texture, and dimension. Experiment with off-camera flash; a single light source modified with a diffuser creates soft, wrapping light, while grids or funnels can highlight specific details.
  - **Depth of Focus Control:** Take advantage of a tripod to lock in your framing. Use a large aperture number (like f/8 or f/11) for deep depth of focus, guaranteeing the technical excellence and sharp focus that turns a simple arrangement into a standout photograph.
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