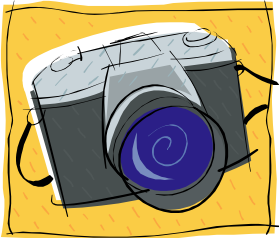


Nashoba Valley Photo Club

November 2009

THE CAMERA CASE



Letter from the President by Walter Harrington

November already. The club season is moving quickly. Once again the club membership is approaching sixty members. There is a great deal of interest in the monthly Digital Salons, with 113 entries for November. The quality of the work is very good. This month we will have the first Print Salon of the season and many good entries are expected. In October the new laptop computer was delivered and we are starting to use it at the meetings. We are quickly becoming self sufficient in the digital age.

There are some exciting events coming up. Later this month, Gary Stanley will present "Composition and Lighting, the Keys to Success." Gary is a nationally known nature, landscape and wildlife photographer. He is based on the coast of Maine in Harpswell. This will be a very interesting and educational meeting. In February we are hosting, along with Hunt's Photo and Video and Sigma Lenses, a seminar by Robert O'Toole. Robert is an accomplished wildlife photographer and Photoshop professional. See the website for the complete details of this program. In March we will have another studio, portrait workshop. This will be a two step program with an evening of classroom instruction followed on another

day by a three hour, hands on studio session. This will be a good opportunity to get your entries for the April Assigned Subject: "Portraits." The field trip committee is planning night sessions at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth and at the Christmas Festival of Lights at LaSalette Shrine in early December. They are currently planning for trips in 2010.

On the subject of Assigned subjects, you should be aware that in order for us to use an image in the Multiscreen Interclub Competition, the photograph MUST be taken after May 20, 2009. Your entries for the NVPC competition may be taken within the 18 months of the competition; however, unless it meets the Multiscreen date we cannot use it.

The Benchmark System is now in place and as soon as we receive the November scores from the judge we will publish the Member Performance Standings to date.

The weather is getting colder, but there are still photo opportunities. Get out there and shoot..

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Calendar

Nov 4: Digital Competition: Open, Nature and Assigned topic: "Red"; also first Print Competition of the season! See rules below

Nov 10: Digital Camera Users Group: Working with flash units

Nov 18: Gary Stanley presents: "Composition and Lighting, the keys to Success"

Competition Rules

For *Digital Competitions* there will be three categories: open, nature and assigned topic. Members may submit a total of three images - with no more than two per category.

For *Print Competitions*, members may submit a maximum of two color prints and two black & white prints. Print size must be at least 5"x7" and not larger than 16"x20". Prints may NOT be framed, but MUST be matted or mounted on mat board or foam board. The outside dimensions of mat or mounting must not exceed 16"x20".

The remaining assigned topics for this year are:

Color Red (November's assigned topic)
Backlit/Rim Lighting
Diners
Night Scene
Lakes, Rivers, Streams
Portraits
Sports

For more details:

<http://nvpcweb.org/DigitalSection.htm>

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Refreshments Coordinator

Marian Harman



RAMBLIN' ON.....OR, THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER

by Dick Kenyon

We all roam around looking for interesting subjects to photograph. Sometimes we are driven by an assignment, searching for a particular subject. How often, though, are we blessed by a natural event that happens before our very eyes and are able to capture it photographically? We may have the opportunity to photograph a spider's web but how many of us have seen a spider weaving a web? We may chase dragonflies in the attempt to get a good image but it is rare that we have the chance to observe a dragonfly emerging from its larval stage as did Peter Frailey this summer. Many of us have photographed butterflies but how many have witnessed a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis? Sometimes, by pure luck, we are presented by nature with one of its many fascinating events. It helps though to have a great deal of patience, determination and staying power to spend a lot of time walking around local conservation areas or your backyard observing with a closely focused eye. Knowing what you might see also helps.

Several weeks ago I had good luck when I was called to the front porch by Gale to observe and photograph the demise of a dragonfly that was caught in a spider's web hanging near a shrub in our front yard.

The spider quickly killed its prey and wrapped it up with web material. This happened at about 8 pm so it became dark while I was moving around with my tripod mounted camera to make images of the event. It was interesting to see that the main spider web was suspended from a single strand that

stretched from the top of the seven foot shrub all the way to the gutter at the edge of the roof.



Dragonfly in Web

© Dick Kenyon

It was about five or six feet long. How did the spider put that initial strand in place? Maybe it descended from the gutter spinning the strand and then crawled up the shrub dragging it behind but somehow that doesn't seem likely. Could the spider have jumped from the gutter to the shrub, spinning out the strand in flight? Again not likely, I think. Maybe the spider rode the wind. Whatever the secret, the feat is astounding.



Spider with Prey

© Dick Kenyon

Titles on Nature Entries

This subject needs to be discussed from time to time. When making up titles for your entries, especially in Nature but also in any category, the maker should make an effort to properly identify the subject bird or animal. In the past three months we have had examples of misnamed image subjects. The problem occurs most often with birds, because they are more abundant and easier to approach than mammals. Here is a website you can use to help you identify birds: <http://www.mbrpwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/infocenter.html>. There are also sites that can help you identify other species. The quality of your photograph includes the title, which demonstrates that you know what you photographed.

Must the title of a Nature entry include the proper name of the subject? For example, if the entry is a sandpiper, must the title be "Semipalmated Sandpiper," or would "Shorebird" be acceptable." The answer is that either title is acceptable. The problem arises if the image is entered in the NECCC interclub Nature Competition. According to NECCC, "accurate, descriptive titles are encouraged but not required by either PSA or NECCC. That said, NECCC does require that the subject be clearly identified on the Nature entry form. A given subject can only be entered once from any one maker in a given year (competition year not calendar). Hence if a club were to put down bird as the subject matter instead of Common Tern, for example, they could not use another bird from that maker for the rest of the year." NECCC is very strict in enforcing this and more than one entry is disqualified each year because someone isn't paying attention.

PSA adheres to the PSA definition of nature, but doesn't have any

required ID of subject matter nor is there a penalty for inaccurate titling. PSA does encourage the host clubs to read the titles during judging and the judges may well score down if they feel the title is inappropriate. However, there is no hard and fast rule.

In summary then, there is no rule governing the "title" of a nature entry. However, in the event that you have entered an image that is selected for interclub competition, it would be very helpful for the competition coordinator if you have identified the subject in the title. Further, if you are entering an image in an outside competition, such as the Glennie, it may help your score if your title included the subject name. It will almost certainly affect your score if you misidentify the subject.

Bylaw Change Proposal Passes

At the meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, the membership took up the question of whether or not to change the way club members are classified and how performance will be measured. The proposal to eliminate the Classes of B, A and Star, to change the monthly competition to a salon where entries will be judged and scored for individual member ratings and to establish a Benchmark Rating system, was considered and voted on by the members. At the time of the meeting there were 58 paid up members. There were 36 members at the meeting, constituting a quorum, i.e., one third of the paid up membership or 20 members. After some discussion and questions, the members approved the change on a vote of 35 for and 1 against.

The change will be retroactive to September 1, 2009 and all scores will be applied using the new benchmark system. A copy of the revised bylaw will be available shortly on the club website.

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Competiton Results for 10/07/2009 Digital - Judge: Barbara Peacock

Assigned Subject: Old Building(s)

Benchmark 3

Abandoned Maine	Vera Kaufman	30
Side Of Old Building	Michael Los	29
Old Barn In Hollis	Steve McKenna	28
Weathered Window	Linda Deciccio Fanning	28
Old House In The White Mountains	Jenn Buliszak	28
Castle Hill Crane House	Ed Perkins	27
Old Roadside Barn	Barbara Murch	27
Signal Shed	Samuel Galpin	27
Portland Head Light	Steve McKenna	27
A Neccesary Old Building	Barbara Murch	27
Stone House Star Island	Linda Lecuyer	27
Old Lighthouse	Lynne Peterson	26
Sturbridge Village	Julie L'Heureux	26
Old Church Framed Ny Trees Lowell Mass	Karen Johnson	26
Wall	Bruce Caldwell	26
Crane Estate No 3	Carolyn Perkins	26

Benchmark 2

Bermuda Fort	Lucy Schultz	25
Mussenden Temple County Derry	Paul Buckley	25
Old Fort Door	Lucy Schultz	24
Dunluce Castle	Paul Buckley	24
First Baptist Church Marlborough	Arthur Dabilis	24

Benchmark 1

Old Abandoned Shed	Arthur Dabilis	23
Roudenbush	Dick Kenyon	23
Cupolas Cupoli Or Cupolae	Robert Stevens	23
Beacon Hill	Tom Briere	23
Marine Hull Paint Manufactory Circa 1863	John Walsh	23
Old Stone Cellar	Douglas Debenedictis	23
Railroad Crossing Station	Ginny Galpin	22

Open

Benchmark 3

Portrait Of The King	Meyer Franklin	30
Warbler	Pat DeCilio	29
Fox Kit By Garden	Sandy Selesky	29
Birches In A Winter Marsh	Bob Bicknell	29
Yellow Swallowtail Butterfly	Vera Kaufman	28
Louisbourg Lighthouse Sunset	Paul Buckley	28
Reflection Through The Ages	John Walsh	28
Jewel Tone Sunset	Tom Price	28
Colorful Onion Domes	Barbara Murch	26
Carnival	Julie L'Heureux	26
Double Beauty	Linda Deciccio Fanning	26

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Footbridge	Douglas Debenedictis	26
Benchmark 2		
Piercing Eyes	Julie L'Heureux	25
Peace Raindrops	Lucy Schultz	25
Waves At Casle Rock	Tom Price	25
Yellow Lily	Bob Bicknell	25
Me And My Shadow	Linda Lecuyer	25
State Center	Jenn Buliszak	25
Fire Escape	Carien Veldpape	25
Sailboats	Douglas Debenedictis	25
Swallowtail Feeding	Peter Frailey	25
Piping Plover Keeps Lookout	Robert Stevens	24
Rowes Wharf Boston	Ed Perkins	24
St Augustine Sunrise	Jon Saperia	24
Iris	Walter Harrington	24
Benchmark 1		
Jet Ski Racer	Michael Los	23
MIT Amphitheatre	Jenn Buliszak	23
Crabapple	Pat DeCilio	23
View From Light Keeper's Porch	John Walsh	23
Ian	Christine Burdick	23
Hood Ornament	Carolyn Perkins	23
Peace And Quiet	Carien Veldpape	22
Pergola And Flowers	Marian Harman	22
Airborne Silhouette	Tom Briere	22
 Nature		
Benchmark 3		
Ruby Throat Posing	Meyer Franklin	30
American Goldfinch	Sandy Selesky	30
Dragonfly No 7	Dick Kenyon	30
Great Blue	Bruce Caldwell	30
Puffin Off Seal Island	Ed Perkins	29
Moss Glen Falls	Donna Hackley	28
Swallowtail Butterfly Feeding	Walter Harrington	28
Great Blue	Tom Briere	28
Snowy Plover	Jon Saperia	27
Sandy Beach	Marian Harman	27
Juvenile Grey Catbird	Marian Harman	27
Beaver Lodge At Sunrise	Tom Price	27
Pileated Woodpecker	Robert Stevens	26
Great Blue Heron	Samuel Galpin	26
Benchmark 2		
Ibis	Steve McKenna	25
Maine Sunset	Carolyn Perkins	25
Snowy Egret Displaying	Sandy Selesky	25
Red Winged Blackbird With Dragonfly	Meyer Franklin	25
Mt Mansfield Flower	Linda Deciccio Fanning	24
Gull	Pat DeCilio	24

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The End Of Summer	Carien Veldpape	24
Benchmark 1		
Cactus Swirl	Linda Lecuyer	23
Fledgling Hawk	Peter Frailey	23
Emerging Dragonfly	Peter Frailey	22
Storm's Reflections	Vera Kaufman	22
The Babysitter	Christine Burdick	22

Items for Sale

Sam Galpin (sgalpin@comcast.net) has few old lenses for sale that were used on a Nikkormat in the 1960's and 1970's. He would like to sell them for a reasonable price:

50mm f1.4
105mm f2.5
28mm f3.5
55mm f3.5 Micro-Nikkor with extension tube and bellows
75-205 Vivitar f3.8 zoom

Slide Scanning at Eastern Photographic Lowell, MA

We'll scan your slides and copy the images to a CD for you for \$4.95 plus \$.65 per slide. Or, if you are still shooting slides, have all your images saved on a CD when you bring the slides in for processing. Cost is \$4.95 in addition to processing.

Nashoba Valley Photo Club Since 1982

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, September through June
At 7:30 pm
J.V. Fletcher Library, Westford, MA

NVPC Website and Blog

Please check out the NVPC website and blog at <http://nvpcweb.org>. Among other things, you will find samples of our members' work, our handbook (with bylaws), our schedule for the year and an archive of past newsletters.

For more information, call Eastern Photographic at 978-937-0101 or visit their Web site: <http://www.easternphoto.com/index.html>

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Eastern Photographic Services, Lowell, MA

Frequent customer card