

Nashoba Valley Photo Club

Member Handbook

2007 - 2008

(Corrected Version May 31, 2008)

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Nashoba Valley Photo Club. This handbook is provided to inform you of many of the basic operational functions of the club

1. By-laws – Attachment 1 – Competition Rules #s 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19
2. Slides or prints must have been taken within the previous 18 months of the competition.
3. Carefully read the rules regarding nature subjects for both slide and electronic competition. For slide competition nature subjects must be “wild.” No zoo shots, captive animals, domestic animals or garden flowers. See the definition of a “Nature Shot” provided on a separate page of the handbook.
4. Carefully read the instructions on “Thumb Spotting” your slides. Please put your name and title on your slides.
5. Fill out the slide/print entry form(s) at home, prior to the meeting. This will make our meetings more efficient and less hectic. See the slide coordinator to get a supply of entry forms for your Class.
6. On Meeting Nights the doors generally open at 7:00 p.m. Please try to get to the meetings prior to 7:30 p.m. Entries for competitions will NOT be accepted after 7:30 p.m.
7. Please consider volunteering when help is requested.

THANK YOU!!

The Marshall J. Van Etten Memorial Service Award

This award was established in the memory of Marshall Van Etten, an initial member of the club and, until his untimely death, a steady contributor to the club.

The underlying concept of this award is to select a member of the club who has contributed his/her time and effort to the success of NVPC over a year or more. It can be someone who has served in several officerships or coordinator roles over a period of several years, or it can be someone who has contributed a great deal of time, productivity, and enthusiasm, in a relatively short period of time. This service award exemplifies an effort to help improve the success of our club and the recipient of this award is chosen each spring by Board members and given out in a special plaque at the annual banquet in June.

The following recipients have won this award:

Hank Mudgett

Dick and Gale Kenyon

Eileen Dunn

Steve McKenna

Paul Buckley

Karen Johnson

Marian Harman

Bob Bicknell

Tom Briere

Donna Hackley

CONSTITUTION OF THE NASHOBA VALLEY PHOTO CLUB (NVPC)

- ARTICLE 1 **NAME** The name of this organization shall be "Nashoba Valley Photo Club" (NVPC).
- ARTICLE 2 **PURPOSES** The purposes of the Club shall be to promote and share photography in the Nashoba Valley area.
- ARTICLE 3 **MEMBERSHIP** Any person interested in photography may become a member of this club, as provided for in the Bylaws.
- ARTICLE 4 **OFFICERS** Club officers of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Representative to the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) shall be elected by the membership in accordance with the Bylaws.
- ARTICLE 5 **MEETINGS** Meetings of the Club membership shall be held not less than once monthly from September through the following June. The Club shall be guided by a Board of Directors composed of the elected officers, the Competitions Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor. The Board shall be chaired by the Club President and shall meet periodically throughout the year to discuss matters of interest to the Club and to plan Club activities.
- ARTICLE 6 **AMENDMENTS** Amendments to this Constitution may be made after 30 days' notification to the membership and following a two-thirds affirmative vote of a quorum defined as at least one-half of the paid membership.
- ARTICLE 7 **BYLAWS** Bylaws governing the transaction of Club business may be adopted, revoked, or amended after 14 days' notification to the membership and following a two-thirds affirmative vote of a quorum defined as at least one-third of the paid membership

BY-LAWS OF THE NASHOBA VALLEY PHOTO CLUB (NVPC)

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP. Any person may join. Dues must be paid after 2 “guest” meetings. No one can compete before officially joining the club. Any member whose dues are in arrears for more than 2 consecutive meetings shall be notified that he/she will be dropped from the membership rolls at the time of the next meeting unless dues are paid in full before the next meeting.

ARTICLE 2 DUES. The annual dues of the Club shall be established by the Club officers. The dues schedule shall be published with the program schedule and distributed to the membership prior to the first seasonal meeting in September. Dues fees shall be payable to the Treasurer in September or upon joining the Club.

ARTICLE 3 ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Election of officers for the subsequent Club season shall take place during the first meeting in May. The President shall call for nominations from the floor for each office. the President will ask the nominees if they are fully aware of the responsibilities of the elected position. The responsibilities are defined in the by-laws and in the members’ handbook and can be reviewed at this time. the President shall ask the nominees if they accept or decline the nomination. Voting shall be by show of hands or by ballot. Individuals receiving the greatest vote tally for each office shall be declared elected. The term of each office shall be one season (year). Installation of the newly elected officers shall take place during the June banquet meeting. Interim elections shall be held at the time of an officer’s inability to continue, with the newly elected officer serving the uncompleted term of office.

ARTICLE 4 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Club. The duties of the President shall be to preside over all Club meetings and to ensure that all Club activities are conducted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws of the Club. The President or Vice-President may serve as Programs Chair, being responsible for organizing and facilitating the annual program including subjects, schedule, speakers, judges, and competitions.

Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assume all authority and responsibilities of the President during the President’s absence. The Vice-President shall serve as the Club Banquet organizer and assist the President in other informational matters.

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all fiscal activities of the Club, including, but not limited to: collecting dues, maintaining the

treasury and balance sheets, and making appropriate disbursements in a timely fashion in support of authorized Club transactions. The treasurer shall present a current report of fiscal posture of the club at each Club meeting. The Treasurer shall keep a current list of paid members and will make the annual donation to the J.V. Fletcher Library fund.

New England Camera Club Council Representative (NECCC Rep).

The NECCC Rep shall serve as the liaison between the Club and NECCC. The NECCC Rep shall serve as the Club's expert on all phases of NECCC activities and shall interface with NECCC, in conjunction with the President, to achieve the purposes of the Club.

ARTICLE 5 COMPETITION RULES. Competition Rules are defined in Attachment 1 hereto.

ATTACHMENT #1 - BY-LAWS
NASHOBA VALLEY PHOTO CLUB (NVPC) COMPETITION RULES
(Revised March 7, 2007)

There shall be three types of competition: Slide, Print and Electronic. All competitions shall be governed by the following paragraphs.

1. All members compete on an equal basis unless a special competition has been prearranged.
2. Entries are accepted only from members who have paid dues.
3. An entry is disqualified if it has previously been an award winner in the any category in an NVPC competition.
4. An entry that is almost identical to a previous award winner will be disqualified.
5. Competitions are conducted in three categories: Open, Nature and Assigned. An assigned category subject will include singular and plural. For example, bridges or bridge are equally acceptable.
6. An entry will be considered in category only if the dominant subject of the image is consistent with the category topic. An entry's qualification to meet category will be determined by the Competition Coordinator or the Competition Judge(s).
7. A member may enter a specific subject in only one competition category on the same competition night. Multiple entries of a single subject but not the same object are allowed within a single competition category. . If an image is entered in an Assigned slide competition, one may enter an image of a different object of the same subject in a coincident Assigned electronic competition. The term "subject" is defined as the generic meaning of the term.

Example (Open):

If the entry subject is a lighthouse, then up to the maximum number of images of **different** lighthouses are acceptable. There can not be multiple images of the **same** lighthouse on the same night. If one or more lighthouse images appear in the slide competition, there can be no other lighthouse entered in the Assigned, print or electronic competitions, and vice versa.

Example (Nature):

Up to the maximum number of images of birds can be entered in the slide or electronic competition but they must all be **different species of birds** such as a Great Blue Heron, a Red Shouldered Hawk and a Snowy Egret. Two Great Blue Herons are unacceptable that night. If a member submits a Great Blue Heron in the slide competition they cannot enter one in the electronic or print competition (or in Open or Assigned categories that same night). You can have a different Great Blue Heron in a different composition setting on a different competition night but not one similar to a previous winning entry of a Great Blue Heron (similar composition setting, pose, etc.).

Example (Assigned – Hot Air Balloons):

If multiple images are entered they must be of **different balloons**. Different shots of the same balloon aren't acceptable. If an image of a balloon is put in the slide competition, no balloon may be entered in a coincident Print competition or in the Open category competition.

Example (Assigned – Broken):

If more than one image is entered, it must be a shot of a **different subject** reflecting the assigned topic. More than one shot of the same subject illustrating the topic is not appropriate. If you enter a shot of a broken window, no other shot of that broken window can be entered. You could enter another slide or two of **different** broken windows. If an image of a broken window is put in the slide competition, no broken window may be entered in a coincident Print competition or in the Open category competition.

(This is to promote more diverse entries by each maker and to allow balanced competition from other makers within the same class. It will also align the Open, Nature, and Assigned categories to the same entry guidelines.)

8. When there is only a single member's entries within a division, all of that member's entries will be judged and only the first place (top scoring) entry will be awarded the judge's points (a ribbon win).
9. For slide competitions with Assigned, Open and Nature categories on the same night, a total of six (6) slides may be entered with a limit of three (3) in any one category. Thus, combinations of 3, 3, 0; OR 3, 2, 1; OR 2, 2, 2, etc. are acceptable. For slide competitions with fewer categories, or for other reasons, the limit on the number of entries will be announced in advance by the Competition Coordinator – a limit of 4 slides for 2 category competitions (i.e., just Open/Nature, no Assigned) For Print competitions having only an Open category, two (2) color and two (2) black and white prints may be entered. For electronic competitions three images may be entered with no more than two in any one category.
10. Nature slide entries shall be entered only in the Nature category and cannot go into the Open category. The rules for Nature entries in the electronic category are different and are defined in paragraph 21. Nature shots shall comply with the NECCC/PSA definition of a nature shot with the following additional limitations. Nature shots shall not include zoo shots or shots of rehabilitation animals or captive animals posed at "animal farms" or other "set-ups." A wild bird with a band is acceptable. Cultivated wild flowers such as those at the Garden in the Woods or one's own garden are not acceptable as nature shots and need to be entered in Open. Pictures including cultivated grass are acceptable in Nature. There should not be any evidence of the "hand of man" in a nature shot except for those that enhance the nature story and are consistent with the definition of "authentic wildlife." (See definition of Nature in Handbook.)
11. Open slide entries include anything that is not totally wild nature (see definition in #10 above) and not the assigned topic for that specific night's competition. See paragraph 21 for the rules regarding Open entries in Electronic competitions.
12. Slide "sandwiches" made by mounting two slides back to back are ONLY acceptable in the Open and Assigned categories.
13. Multiple exposure slide images are ONLY acceptable in the Open and Assigned categories.
14. Slides made by solarization, derivation or digital techniques are acceptable ONLY in Assigned category which identifies the particular technique. Slides made by digital techniques may be entered provided that digital manipulation is limited to cropping or color enhancement.

Removal, substitution or relocation of objects, foregrounds or backgrounds is not acceptable. Any manipulation beyond this would ONLY be accepted in an Assigned category defining the technique.

15. Slide entries shall be thumb-spotted with a *, a black dot, or an x in the lower left hand corner as viewed normally. The maker's name (and address if possible) and title of the slide shall be stated on the slide mount. Failure to comply may disqualify the slide.
16. Color or black and white prints, unless otherwise specified by the Competition Coordinator (i.e., the mini-print competition in December), can be any size between 5 x 7 and 16 x 20.
17. Mini-print competition maximum print size shall be 5 x 7 and maximum mount size shall be 11 x 14.
18. The following are acceptable in Black & White and Color print competitions: Prints made from film or digital cameras. Any enhancement or manipulation of an image is acceptable provided that the final image is the work of the club member.
19. Color or black and white prints may be either commercially made or made by the Club member. In either case, the slide or negative must be the work of the member.
20. Competition entries must have been shot within the eighteen (18) months preceding the competition which they are entered. an entry not winning 1st, 2nd, 3rd or Honorable Mention may be reentered in a subsequent competition providing it was shot within the eighteen (18) months preceding that competition.

21. **Electronic Competition Rules**

Submitted Images

Images submitted for the electronic competition must originate as photographs taken with either a digital or film camera. The photograph and any digital processing of the image must be the work of the person submitting the image. However, scans to convert an image to a digital file may be performed by a person other than the photographer. Processing of the digital image using Photoshop, or any other photo processing software, is allowed. The adjustment and manipulation of the digital file that is allowed is dependent on the category of the image as defined below:

Categories

There shall be three categories for electronic competition:

- **Open**

Images of any subject, including nature subjects and images that have *creative content, may be submitted in the Open Category. The primary objective is that the image should first be a quality photograph that demonstrates the photographer's ability to obtain a decent initial image (photography) and then adjust it to achieve a decent final image (digital editing). The image may be cropped, flipped or reversed. Altering between horizontal and vertical is allowed. There is no limit to the digital enhancements that may be used to improve image characteristics such as color, saturation, luminosity, exposure, color balance and sharpness. The following practices may be used to modify the taken image:

- Cloning to remove distracting characteristics
- Moving objects within the image
- Inserting objects from another photographic image
- Combining images of the same subject, such as a series of bracketed images, to increase the dynamic range of the image
- Combining images to create a panorama

*Images with creative content are those where the photographer makes an artistic presentation by combining different photographic images, by combining photographic images with computer graphics or by the use of filters to create brushstroke, watercolor, palette knife and other such effects in the image. Photography must be the dominant element of the presentation. All of the components of the image, photography and graphics, must be the work of the person creating the image. Clip art and other such images may not be included.

- **Nature**

All images must meet the following Nature Definition of Nature Photography, which has been taken from the PSA definition and modified to meet NVPC objectives:

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The **story telling** value of a photograph **must** be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation, manual or digital, that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

Images must also meet the requirements for electronic images, as follows:

All images must be considered “Digital Realism”, where a photographer may perform any **enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image that could have been done at the time the image was taken but that does not change the truth of the original nature story. The image may be cropped, flipped or reversed. Altering between horizontal and vertical is allowed. Adding elements to your image, removing elements from your image, combining separate images or rearranging and/or cloning elements in your image are not acceptable and can lead to disqualification of your image in the competition.

** The NVPC interpretation of the allowed enhancements and modifications that improve the digital presentation include adjustments to color, saturation, luminosity, exposure, color balance, sharpness and adjustments that affect the distribution of the pixels as displayed in the histogram. NVPC further allows the use of filtering to remove noise from the image and cloning to remove flaws resulting from dust on the sensor.

Nature images that incorporate enhancements and/or adjustments beyond those allowed herein must be entered in the Open Category.

- **Assigned Topic**

Rules for the Assigned Topic Category are the same as for the Open Category except that the dominant feature of the entry must be the assigned subject. The subject for an Assigned Topic will be announced for that competition. Entries may be disqualified if, in the opinion of the Competition Coordinator or the Competition Judge, the image does not meet the category definition.

22. The method for scoring competitive entries, the explanation of classes of competition, criteria for advancement from class to class, and the annual awards designations are as follows:

SCORING

Entries shall be considered by one or more judges, who shall award a score, generally between 17 – 30. The highest score takes first place in the class and category of competition, with the next lower score second, etc. If two (or more) entries are tied in score, both entries will receive the higher award and all other awards will be given out as if the tie had been broken. The top 4 scoring entries win awards. If there are more than a total of 4 entries receiving the same score after the highest 3 entries have been chosen, they (more than 4) can receive awards as well. e.g. An entry scoring 26 takes 1st place, an entry scoring 25 takes 2nd, 3 entries scoring 24 all take 3rd place. Or, 3 entries with 26 take 1st place. The next scoring entry has a 25, which takes HM. There are no other winners. Or, 2 entries with 26 take 1st place, the next highest score at 25 takes 3rd place, 2 entries with 24 get HMs.

CLASS DIVISION

Class B – Less experienced, new member without photo club experience

Class A – Moderately experienced

Class * - Advanced, a Master's class

New members will automatically be placed in Class B unless the member proves a prior competitive record or exhibits a portfolio that in the judgment of the club officers merits placement in a higher class.

For purposes of print and electronic competition, the classes will be as designated above.

**SLIDE, PRINT AND ELECTRONIC IMAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION –
First meeting in June**

No more than 6 slides (from previous 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place competition winners; HMs not eligible) can be entered in this competition and no more than 3 per category – the same rule that applied in all monthly competitions during the course of the season. Those chosen to compete must be entered in the same category they had previously won in. No more than 2 color and/or 2 black and white prints can be entered in the Print of the Year competition – the same rule that applied in all print competitions during the course of the season. No more than three electronic images with no more than two in any one category, selected from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place competition winners, may be entered in the Electronic Image of the Year Competition.

ANNUAL AWARDS

At the end of the Competition season, awards will be given in Class *, Class A and Class B, in both slide and electronic types as follows:

1. Member with most points (see Note 1) for OPEN category will be designated “Best in Open.”
2. Member with most points for ASSIGNED category will be designated “Best in Assigned.”
3. Member with most points for NATURE category will be designated “Best in Nature.”
4. The member in each class with the highest sum of the scores in all three of the above categories will be designated “Photographer of the Year.”
5. Slide of the Year and Electronic Image of the Year competition certificates will be awarded for the 1st place winners in each category and each class.

NOTE 1: Points are the total scores of slides winning 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention awards plus the single points for all non-winning slides entered.

NOTE 2: The awards mentioned in 1, 2, and 3 above shall be certificates.

NOTE 3: The “Photographer of the Year” awards shall be plaques.

Color and Black and White Prints:

Print competitions being limited to the OPEN category, the highest cumulative scores in each class in color and in black and white will be designated “Photographer of the Year” for color prints and “Photographer of the Year” for black and white prints. Appropriate plaques will be awarded.

NOTE: Cumulative scores are those of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention awards.

Print of the Year competition certificates will be awarded for the 1st place winners in each category in each class.

The Marshall J. Van Etten Memorial Service Award

This award was established in the memory of Marshall Van Etten, an initial member of the club and, until his untimely death, a steady contributor to the club.

The underlying concept of this award is to select a member of the club who has contributed his/her time and effort to the success of NVPC over a year or more. It can be someone who has served in several officerships or coordinator roles over a period of several years, or it can be someone who has contributed a great deal of time, productivity, and enthusiasm, in a relatively short period of time. This service award exemplifies an effort to help improve the success of our club and the recipient of this award is chosen each spring by Board members and given out in a special plaque at the annual banquet in June.

ADVANCEMENT:

At the end of each competitive season, the Competition Coordinator and club officers will determine which members, if any, shall advance to the next higher class. This determination shall be made primarily on the basis of the average slide score achieved during the season together with the level of participation in slide competitions.

FOR THOSE WHO ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW

NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL – A regional group of about 100 New England camera clubs. For more information or talk to the club's NECCC Rep.
<http://www.neccc.org>

NECCC INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS – Our club enters in Pictorial Color Slide and Nature divisions, submitting slides in each of the Fall, Winter and Spring contests. Competition is with other clubs in NECCC. Judging is hosted by different clubs and can be viewed if in our area. Coordinated in our club by the NECCC Rep.

NECCC SLIDE CIRCUIT – A collection of slides from 8-10 clubs critiqued by a qualified commentator. Usually 5 or 6 slides from each club in circuit. Slides plus audio tape sent from club to club as an instructional program. Circuits formed annually in Pictorial and Nature categories. Your submitted slides are sent out in July and returned to you the following June at the conclusion of the circuit. Our club submissions handled by the NECCC Rep.

NECCC SLIDE COMMENTARY – A collection of 40 slides, all from our club, submitted for critique by a qualified photographer. Slides returned to us with an audio tape containing the critique and analysis, together with suggestions for improvement. Members can have 4 or 5 critiqued depending on the number of participants. Coordinated by the club's NECC Rep but NOT done annually. Hasn't been done in a while because we now have judges who give critiques for every slide entered in our competitions.

INVITATIONAL SALONS – Annual competitive salons which the club is invited to join. We enter the John W. Glennie Memorial Nature Salon run by the Merrimack Valley Camera Club. This competition is usually early in April in Andover and can be attended if interested. From time to time there are other salons we join. The Club enters the Greater Lynn International Salon in January or February..
<http://www.greaterlynnphoto.org/>

HARRY'S ROUNDTABLE WITH DICK – It meets 4 times/year every other month beginning in October on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Small group discussions on various photographic techniques and topics determined by the coordinator. Bring in your slides for critiquing as well.

DIGITAL CAMERA USERS GROUP – This group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday to discuss digital camera techniques, digital image editing and printing. Topics for discussion are announced in advance.

BEHIND THE IMAGE – A short, 3-5 minute presentation of a single slide or print by a member. The maker explains the where, what, and why of the image, technical details or difficulties, what their objective was, etc. A chance to share your work with the other members and have some useful interchange via questions. See the President or Vice-President to secure a spot on the schedule. All are welcome.

CLOSED BOX – Not an annual event. Held only if room in the schedule and someone to coordinate it. Each participant shoots a 24 exposure roll of slide film and turns it in, undeveloped, to the Coordinator. This person has the film processed and arranges each series of slides in carousels. Participants are charged the cost of the processing. On the night of the competition, the identification slide (self-portrait) plus a number of other randomly picked frame numbers are screened and scored. The highest scoring set of 8 slides wins. No distinctions between classes are made and no awards given.

SCAVENGER HUNT – Not an annual event. Held only if room in the schedule and someone to coordinate it. Each participant is provided with a roll of film and a list of subjects. The subjects have to be photographed within a specified time period varying from 24 hours to a few weeks. The Coordinator provides the film and also takes care of processing the film (at cost to the participant). Prior to the competition, each participant is given the opportunity to review their slides and select the single slide from each subject they wish to submit. No distinctions between classes are made and no awards given.

BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB – Over 1200 members from the Boston area. Birding field trips every weekend and sometimes during the week all through the year. Full membership meetings 2-3 times/year. See Sandy Selesky for more information.

YANKEE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY – An organization of photographers which sponsors 2 day-long programs in the Fall and Spring at the Danvers, MA High School. Programs of instruction, slide competition, print competition, and various photographic set-ups such as models, nature, black light, soap film, glassware, are offered in the Spring Pot-Pourri. In the Fall there is usually a speaker giving an all day program. Announcement of dates and program content are made at our club and in our newsletter. The YPS publishes “The Yankee Crier” newsletter twice/year. Information will be given out as the President receives it from YPS.
<http://www.yankeephotosociety.homestead.com/>

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ENGLAND (PHSNE) – PHSNE promotes the preservation and collection of information and material regarding photography in New England’s past. Programs are held on historical subjects. Twice a year in the Fall and Spring, PHSNE holds “PHOTOGRAPHICA.” This is a giant, 2-day used equipment and historic memorabilia sale of everything photographic. Contact: PHSNE, P.O. Box 189, Newton, MA 02165. <http://www.phsne.org/>

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA (PSA) – A national society of photographers offering wide services to individual members and camera clubs. Publishes the monthly “PSA Journal.” <http://www.psa-photo.org/>

Revision History

There is no record of changes prior to June 2007.

June 2007 – The bylaw was revised to add rules for electronic (digital) competition. Various general paragraphs were changed to include digital competition. Various paragraphs were changed to correct grammatical errors without changing the meaning of the paragraph. In the paragraphs defining the Annual Awards, the award for “Best in ...” was changed from a plaque to a certificate.

May 2008 – The Constitution of the Nashoba Valley Camera Club was put back into the Handbook. It had been accidentally removed from the 2005 – 2006 version.