



NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL, INCORPORATED
WWW.NECCC.ORG

Report of the Special Services & General Activities Vice Presidents

June 24, 2023

Compiled by: Mary L. Campagnolo, APSA, HonNEC

"A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT"

Antoinette Gombeda, APSA, HonNEC

The Annual Report describes the activities and services provided by The New England Camera Club Council to our member clubs. I wish to express my gratitude to all of our council board members for their dedicated and tireless work throughout the year. They have given their time and talent to support, educate, and entertain the New England photographic community with no payment except our thanks and the satisfaction of a job well done. I hope you'll join me in saying "thank you" to the people who chair these many activities. My thanks also to Mary Campagnolo, APSA, HonNEC, who compiles this report each year. You, as club representative, serve a key role in the communication between NECCC and its member clubs. Please keep me informed of happenings in your club (agombeda@optonline.net) and send any change to your club's president and/or representative to Barbara Rozavsky (barbphoto@mac.com) and Susan Mosser (s.jmosser@comcast.net) so that we can keep the lines of communication open. Another important line of communication is the monthly invitation you receive from Chane Cullens for the monthly Keeping Clubs Active (clubservices@neccc.org) Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Barbara Rozavsky, HonNEC

As of June 15, 2023, there are 59 clubs that are active NECCC members. In the past year, 3 clubs disbanded or chose not to participate. A new club formed in Vermont and joined NECCC in the spring. The current clubs are listed on our web site under "Member Clubs" tab. There is also an Excel sheet that is kept up to date and can be downloaded as a PDF. It lists the clubs by state and city.

For the 2023–2024 season, club dues will go back to full price. The rates are as follows:

\$15.00/year for 1 to 50 members

\$35.00/year for 51 to 99 members

\$50.00/year for 100 or more members

As the club information packets and invoices are usually mailed out in August, it is important that we have the correct information about the club officers—in particular, the club reps and presidents. This year, we are asking also for the person in your club who is responsible for sending out communications to your club members. If you have updates to your club's information, please e-mail me by July 31 at barbphoto@mac.com. Thanks for your cooperation.

NECCC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

Antoinette Gombeda, APSA, HonNEC

We are excited to have awarded three scholarships this year to very deserving young adults working toward a degree in a field related to photography. Their dedication to learning the craft of photography is exemplary. We congratulate them on their achievements and wish them continued success. They are the future of photography, and we look forward to having them apply for a scholarship next year.

Adam Bowditch of Newtown, Connecticut is entering his fourth year at Sacred Heart University where he expects to have a BA in Media Arts in 2025. His concentration of study is Media Arts: Film, Television and Media. He is proudly sponsored by the Flagpole Photographers Camera Club. Adam is receiving the Clarke MacNish Memorial Award from NECCC. He is also receiving the photography award from the Connecticut Association of Photographers and one from Greater Lynn Photographic Association.

Danielle Minicucci of North Haven, Connecticut is attending Connecticut State University and is entering her senior year. In 2024 she will receive a BS in Studio Art with a concentration in photography. Danielle is proudly sponsored by the Greater Bridgeport Camera Club. She is receiving the NECCC Scholarship Award. Danielle is also receiving the photography award from the Connecticut Association of Photographers and one from Greater Lynn Photographic Association.

Grace Yoder of Granby, Connecticut is entering the University of Hartford this year as a sophomore with anticipated graduation in 2026. She will receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in photography. Grace is proudly sponsored by the Simsbury Camera Club. She is receiving a NECCC Scholarship Award Grace is also receiving the photography award from the Connecticut Association of Photographers and one from Greater Lynn Photographic Association. We are grateful for the many donations to the scholarship fund by individuals and camera clubs. Lois Clarke, Roslyn MacNish and Jane Sibley were long time NECCC Board members who knew how important an education was and established their scholarships. It is generous acts such as these that can ultimately make the difference in another person's life. Respectfully Submitted by Scholarship Committee Antoinette Gombeda – Chairman William Barnett Mary Campagnolo Richard Cloran David Yankee

RECORDED COMMENTARY SERVICE

Shiv Verma, FPSA, HonNEC

There was one request for a full commentary service of 30 images from Coastal Camera Club of Madison, CT. The expert commentary was provided by Art Vaughn, HonNEC and delivered electronically to the club the end of March 2023 for showing the following month.

RECORDED PROGRAMS

Shiv Verma, FPSA, HonNEC

The programs are being cataloged and new ones developed for addition. There were no requests over the past year.

JUDGES LIST

Michael DiStefano, APSA, HonNEC

Since taking on the position of Judges List Coordinator, the existing list was revised for its detail of content and a new Application was created with new questions to better assist clubs when selecting judges in the post Covid era due to in person and zoom meetings. The list will be reviewed and updated as needed on a regular basis. New judges will be recruited based on recommendations from current judges and camera club officials.

SPEAKERS LIST

Dennis Goulet, HonNEC

The president and NECCC rep for each club on file will be contacted requesting recommendations for speakers they had in the past year. These speakers will be contacted to ask them to fill out a speaker form. To update the list of presentations, a request to each speaker on the list will be sent asking to review the list for currency, and provide the year each presentation was last updated.

THE BEST OF THE NECCC PRINT SHOWS

Arthur Vaughan, HonNEC

Four clubs signed up for this year's Best of the NECCC Print Program. As in past seasons the program was a "live" unrecorded presentation, giving attendees the opportunity to discuss the prints shown as the program moves along. The prints are then displayed on tables at the conclusion of the program, allowing for closer viewing, and additional lively discussion.

The program's first presentation was on October 4th, 2022 at the Quiet Corner Camera Club in Mansfield, CT. Additional presentations were at the Nashoba Valley Photo Club in Littleton, MA on March 8, 2023, Upper Cape Camera Club in Falmouth, MA on March 22, 2023, and at the Charter Oak Photographic Society in West Hartford, CT on April 10, 2023

This season's total travel mileage was 758 miles. Any Best of NECCC Prints that are from clubs having entries in the Print of the Year Competition, to be held at Merrimack Valley on May 17, will be returned with their prints from that competition. Any remaining prints from council clubs will be available for pickup at the NECCC Reps Meeting in Amherst on June 24, 2023.

NECCC CLUB SERVICE PACKETS

Rhonda Cullens, MNEC

In August 2022, information about the online Club Services packet available at NECCC.org was emailed to both the Presidents and Reps of all the member clubs. Included was the Annual President's Letter from Antoinette Gombeda, the Table of Contents and Timelines of services available with links to all of the contents, documents and forms, and a flyer highlighting many of those services and benefits provided by NECCC. Special notes were also included pointing out that dues had been reduced by half again and could now be paid electronically. They were also encouraged to attend the Keeping Clubs Active monthly Zoom meetings as a further NECCC benefit and support system.

KEEPING CLUBS ACTIVE

Chane Cullens, HonNEC

The NECCC Keeping Clubs Active user group meets monthly for members to discuss their shared interests, goals and concerns. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm and are attended by the club representative, president, and other club leaders. To access Keeping Clubs Active videos and handouts, visit NECCC.org and click on the Keeping Clubs Active tab or go to <https://group.neccc.org/active/>

At each meeting, Chane Cullens presents recent club news and Rhonda Cullens presents Hot Topics discussed, followed by requested topics. Over the past six months, Keeping Clubs Active has covered a range of topics, including, Running Hybrid Meetings, Changes in the 2023-2024 Digital Interclub Competitions, Competition Software Survey and Requirements, Recruiting New Club Executive Leaders, Fine Art Photography, Photography Conference, Annual Rep Meeting, Judges Education, Originality of Photos, Following Club and PSA Competition Rules and more.

If you are interested in attending the meetings or suggesting topics, please email ClubServices@NECCC.org.

NECCC You Be the Judge Miniseries

The NECCC You Be the Judge Miniseries offers educational discussions and presentations aimed at enhancing the experience of participating in camera club competitions. These episodes are free and open to everyone and information about the online meetings, including date and time, is sent out to the NECCC mailing list. To join the mailing list, visit <https://group.neccc.org/#NewsletterSignUp>.

The miniseries has delivered episodes in January, February, March, and May, with new episodes planned for the fall. The attendance has been remarkable with 700 to 900 people registering. The feedback has been astounding with the episodes helping photographers and judges learn more.

In Episode 1, Rick Cloran, HonFPSA, GMPA, HonNEC, delved into the rules and guidelines for nature photography competitions as defined by the PSA and FIAP. He also shared his personal insights on how to approach evaluating and commenting on nature images, and what makes a successful competitive nature photograph stand out.

Episode 2, also presented by Rick, covered the key aspects of a successful competitive nature image and what separates them from an otherwise good nature image. Each of the key aspects was covered in short, easily remembered points, reinforced with multiple examples using images that have and have not been successful at local, interclub, and international exhibition levels.

In Episode 3, Chane Cullens, HonNEC, showed how to provide educational comments by evaluating a photograph on its impact and explored ways to create impactful photographs through storytelling, creativity, composition, and technical excellence.

Episode 4 featured a panel of experts who answered audience questions related to the first three episodes, as well as other judging and competition topics, and gathered feedback on future episode topics from the audience.

If you are interested in attending the meetings, suggesting topics, or presenting a future episode, please email ClubServices@NECCC.org.

Digital Circuit

Shiv Verma, FPSA, HonNEC

The Digital Circuit is on hold till further notice.

PRINT INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

Arthur Vaughan, HonNEC

A total of 12 clubs participated in Interclub print competition during the 2022-2023 season, with 9 competing in class "A" black & white, 3 competing in class "B", and all 12 clubs in color. A total of 270 prints were submitted into competition this year... including make-ups. This season's host clubs were, for the Fall Competition... the Greater Lynn Photographic Association, the winter print competition... Merrimack Valley Camera Club, and for the spring competition... the Boston Camera Club. Sincere thanks go to each of our host clubs, every member of their Interclub Competition support teams, and the competition judges for their participation and hard work in carrying out the 2022-2023 series of interclub print competitions.

The top scoring clubs in the three categories for 2022-2023 are:

B&W class A: 1st	Cape Cod Viewfinders	296 pts.
B&W class B: 1st	Quiet Corner Camera Club	278 pts.
Color: 1st	Flagpole Photographers	307 pts.

The Interclub Print of the Year competition will be held at the Merrimack Valley Camera Club on the evening of May 17, 2023. A total of 45 prints have qualified for entry by placing 3rd or higher in the three interclub competitions. Clubs having eligible prints have already received notices regarding the Print of the Year Competition and what prints should be submitted. A reminder will be sent out to those clubs that have not yet responded.

PROJECTED IMAGE INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

William Barnett, APSA, GMPSA, AFIAP, MNEC

Cindy Gosselin, HonNEC

The 2022-2023 competition year was the seventeenth for the pictorial (open) competition and the sixteenth for the nature competition. For the season, thirty nine clubs participated in the pictorial competition (26 in Class A and 13 in Class B) and thirty eight clubs participated in the nature competition (20 in Class A and 18 in Class B).

The three host clubs were the Greater Bridgeport Camera Club, the Greater Lynn Photographic Association and the Flagpole Photographers Camera Club. A sincere "THANK YOU" is due each of these clubs, their chairpersons, workers, and judges for a job well done. We need the enthusiastic support of the host clubs to hold these competitions. The winning clubs for the year (total of three competitions), and their categories and classes are:

Pictorial Section Class A

Club	Points	Place
Greater Lynn Photographic Association	278	1st
Photo Society of Rhode Island	270	2nd
Gateway Camera Club	269	3rd

Pictorial Section Class B

Club	Points	Place
Housatonic Camera Club	258	1st
Milford Camera Club	255	2nd
New England Shutterbugs	252	3rd

Nature Section Class A

Club	Points	Place
Greater Lynn Photographic Association	289	1st
Nashoba Valley Photo Club	278	2nd
Stony Brook Camera Club	275	3rd

Nature Section Class B

Club	Points	Place
Seacoast Camera Club	289	1st
Cape Cod Art Center Camera Club	263	2nd
Quiet Corner Camera Club	260	3rd

Congratulations to the winning clubs, and thanks to all the clubs that competed. First place awards will be presented to Greater Lynn Photographic Association, Housatonic Camera Club and Seacoast Camera Club.

The four photograph-of-the-year winners are listed below. The judge used for this daunting task was Bob Benson, FPSA, EPSA, AFIAP. Bob joined a camera club in 1978 so that he could learn how to operate his new 35mm film camera. He also joined the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association, serving in various positions, including President from 2003-2005. He judges and presents various programs locally and internationally, as well as providing programs and training for new judges in the Chicago area. He has received many awards for volunteerism, creativity and photography excellence and holds a TOPS in color and mono prints and creative dpi.

Section	Club	Maker	Title
Pictorial Class A	Greater Lynn Association	James Brady, MNEC	Angling For The Takedown Photographic
Pictorial Class B	Litchfield Hills Camera Club	Tom Malinski	Petunia Refraction In Drops
Nature Class A	Gateway Camera Club	Cathy Keifer	Spider Wrapping Hopper
Nature Class B	Flagpole Photographers Camera Club	Katie Slawitschek	Competing For Food

(Projected Image Interclub cont'd)

Bob's comments on the images were as follows: The Pictorial A winning image had beautiful form in the stop action and was like seeing a ballet of movement. The painterly effect of the Pictorial B winning image, along with the colors of the drop reflections was compelling with lots of impact. The spider kill Nature A winning image told a great nature story, with even the grasshopper turned in such a way to add more interest. The graceful arc created in the Nature B winning image was beautiful; and the owl looking at the viewer completed the effect.

Daniel Charbonnet Memorial Photograph of the Year Award

In honor, and in memory, of Daniel Charbonnet, past President of NECCC, a memorial award for the Projected Interclub Photograph of the Year has been established. This award chooses the "best of the best" from the four winning Projected Image Interclub images. Bob Benson was honored to select this winning image. Bob commented that it was one of the best insect images that he has seen. The winning image is:

Daniel Charbonnet Memorial Photograph of the Year "Spider Wrapping Hopper" by Cathy Keifer, Gateway Camera Club.

Congratulations to each of the winners.

Next year (2023-2024 season).

Thanks are extended to all those entrants, judges, clubs, etc. that made this competition season a success. The success of the competitions is not possible without all of you.

William (Bill) Barnett, FPSA, GMPSA, AFIAP, HonNEC will be stepping down as the Co-Chairman of this Interclub after 17 seasons. Chane Cullens, HonNEC will be taking up the reins as Co-Chairman, along with Cindy Gosselin, HonNEC. There are many exciting changes planned for the upcoming season(s) of the Interclub.

A flyer containing a summary of any changes, as well as a list of next season's competition dates and closing dates will be sent to the club reps of this year's competitors and will be included in the annual Club Information Packets. Documents containing complete rules and instructions will be posted on the Interclub Competition page of the NECCC Internet site and will also be sent to all of the competition representatives as soon as they are available.

Charitable Giving

Susan Mosser, HonPSA, HonNEC

Karen Geaghan, MNEC

The New England Camera Club Council, Inc. was established in 1937, and incorporated in 1963. The first annual photography conference was held in 1946. NECCC is a charitable, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and will be acknowledged both individually and in the NECCC Bulletin.

General Operating Fund

The General Operating Fund is an opportunity to offer direct support to NECCC activities. Donations to this fund have been used to purchase and maintain equipment needed for the operation of the July conference and for the operating expenses of the Council. Even though the way we handle conferences has changed, the council still has operating expenses and we need to maintain a rented storage facility to house the equipment NECCC owns during the upcoming years.

Memorial Fund

Each year the Council awards three substantial scholarship grants to deserving students enrolled in a photographic curriculum in an *accredited institute of higher learning* so that they may further their education in the field of photography and imaging. These students are honored and presented with their scholarships on the stage of the UMass Fine Arts Center in front of the conference attendees.

Gift Giving

A donation or gift to NECCC helps further the goals of NECCC: to provide scholarship grants to students; to support New England camera clubs through various programs that are offered; and to educate photographers at all levels of skill during our programming and competitions. Everyone who works on the board, or on any of the many committees, does so as an unpaid volunteer. As a charitable, tax-exempt organization recognized by the IRS, NECCC appreciates your support - a donation to the New England Camera Club Council is a win-win situation.

For donations to the General Operating Fund, please mail to:

NECCC Operating Fund
Susan Mosser, HonPSA, HonNEC,
173 Central St.
North Reading, MA 01864-1701
s.jmosser@comcast.net

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we received \$175 in donations to the General Fund given in memory of departed photographers, dear friends and in Honor of and in Liew of Judging fees by members of the Council.

For donations to the Memorial Fund, please mail to:

NECCC Memorial Fund
Karen Geaghan, MNEC
15 Addison Rd.
Wilbraham, MA. 01095
karen@kareengeaghanphotos.com
(413) 537-3001

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we received \$2290 in donations to the Memorial Fund given in memory of departed photographers and dear friends.