

# Focus

## North Bethesda Camera Club (NBCC)

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled *Focus*, which features a member or member club, turns to the **North Bethesda Camera Club (NBCC)**, which meets in Rockville, Maryland. The club was founded in 1965 and has been a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) since 1969.

Elena McTighe, APSA,  
PPSA, Publications  
Vice President

Twelve years ago, members of NBCC were asked to teach a six-week course in photography to persons with developmental disabilities. And from then until the present, NBCC has performed a unique program: a community service outreach with the *Potomac Community Resources Program*. Potomac Community Resources (PCR) is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian organization that encourages and supports the integration of persons with developmental disabilities into the life of the community. On the first Tuesday of the month, club members volunteer to teach basic photographic techniques to some of PCR's members who belong to the *Phabulous Photographers Group*. Monthly, all of the *Phabulous Photographers* get photo assignments

and some kind of an award. At the end of each year, the members present their work at the *Annual Joe Razza Photographic Exhibit*. "It is amazing to see how their photography has improved and what photography has done for them."

NBCC members undertook a second huge project. The C&O Canal National Historical Park planned to digitize thousands of historical canal photos, dating back to the 1800's, and make them available to the public. Members of NBCC were recruited to help.

There were 4,882 historical photos in the possession of the Park. The collection was held in a secure climate controlled area, so protected because they were rare, one of a kind, and precious to this Park, which extends north of Washington



**Judy Burr**  
PSA Representative

Joel Hoffman and Sarah  
McGhee discuss her  
photographs for the club  
assignment.  
Photo © Judy Burr





*José Cartas and Eric Kunze look over his pictures of spring for the month's assignment. Photo © Judy Burr*

DC for 185 miles. All of the photos were scanned and processed in the digital darkroom. DVDs were made of all the images and given to the park. It is estimated that over 500 volunteer hours went into this project and the park saved from \$80,000 to \$100,000. After a selection process, the C&O Canal Trust posted the 100 best photos on its website ([www.canaltrust.org](http://www.canaltrust.org)) to determine the level of public interest.

A statement from the NBCC website (<http://nbccmd.org/>) tells us that, "Challenging our members with stimulating competition assignments, sharing knowledge through educational programs, and enjoying the fellowship that springs from a common interest are the hallmarks of the North Bethesda Camera Club today. The 150 members of NBCC meet on most Wednesdays from September through May. Other activities include a summer picnic, exhibits at public galleries, photo critiques, member training, workshops and field trips both local and across the country, and the popular NBCC Photo Essay presentation each spring" ■



*Competition chair presents Gordie Corbin with the Galaxy of Stars-4161 points award for recognition of her photographic excellence during her years of membership. She has earned more points than any other club member. Photo © Alex Guo.*



*NBCC is fortunate to be able to photograph in the Nation's Capital and Roy Sewall is looking for the best angle at the Library of Congress. Photo © Judy Switt*



*Phabulous Photographer Michael Alving and José Cartas look over spring photos. Photo © Judy Burr*

*Tom Sullivan discusses the display with Michael Alving at the annual Phabulous Photographers Exhibit. Photo © Judy Burr*

