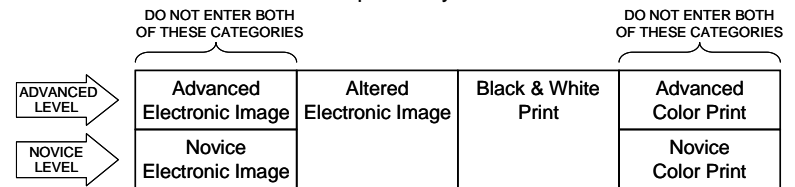


**COMPETITION RULES FOR NBCC
Effective September 2009**

ALL COMPETITORS, BY THE ACT OF SUBMITTING IMAGES INTO COMPETITION, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE LETTER AND THE "SPIRIT" OF THESE RULES:

- Scheduled Competitions.** A scheduled monthly competition will be held in every category in which at least three entries are submitted. One-third of the entries in each category, rounded to the nearest third and with a maximum of 10, will receive awards: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place with the remainder Honorable Mentions. When only one or two entries are submitted in a category, no award will be given, but the judge will be asked to critique the images.
- Eligible Members.** Competitors must be members of the North Bethesda Camera Club with dues paid in full.
- Eligible Entries.** Each entry must be the original work of the competitor. All images, and all components in a montage image, must be photographs taken by the competitor, using a camera, no earlier than the date specified in the competition assignment. For example, the following are ineligible for any competition: any part of an image created by someone else; image elements artificially added including clip art, text, lines or shapes; anything scanned other than the competitor's photographic print or film.
- Processing.** Standard processing and printing may be done commercially or by the competitor. However, all custom processing must be performed by the competitor. For example, optimization performed by professionals or expert friends could give an unfair advantage, and are not permitted. Entries are to be your own creation.
- Number of Entries.** Each competitor may submit up to four (4) total entries in each monthly competition, but no more than two (2) entries in any single category. The penalty for exceeding the maximum number of entries will be the disqualification of all of that competitor's entries for that month.
- Repeat and Similar Images.** An image may be entered into monthly competitions no more than once per month, no more than three (3) times ever; and never after the image wins any NBCC competition award. A "closely similar image" (one that depicts the same subject from the same perspective and under equivalent circumstances) is considered the same image under this rule. For example, photographs with only minor changes in the scene, composition, lighting, exposure and treatment are treated as a single image for repeated entry purposes. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification (forfeiture of awards and points) of the original and repeated entries.

- Categories of Competition.** There are six categories as listed below.
 - Novice and Advanced Electronic Image Categories** accept only computer files of Unaltered Images which will be displayed using a digital projector.
 - Altered Electronic Image Category** accepts only computer files of Altered Images which will be displayed using a digital projector.
 - Black & White Print Category** accepts only monochrome prints of Unaltered Images. Monochrome is defined as shades of a single color. Toning (e.g., sepia) may not exceed that achievable by traditional chemical darkroom techniques.
 - Novice and Advanced Color Print Categories** accept only color prints of Unaltered Images. Monochrome prints are not permitted.
- Novice and Advanced Levels.** Electronic Image and Color Print photographers compete at two levels: Novice and Advanced. The term "Novice" in the names of these categories is traditional and does not imply beginner status. Instead, the Novice categories are intended for all competitors below the Advanced level, including highly-skilled intermediates. Competitors determine for themselves at which level they will compete based on their expertise in that area. A member may compete at Novice level in one area (such as Novice Color Print) and Advanced level in another (such as Advanced Electronic Image). Members are encouraged to settle into the appropriate level and remain there for the duration of the competition year.



NOTE: Altered Electronic Image and Black & White Print are considered Advanced for purposes of awards. However, they are open to all competitors, and there is no separate Novice level in these categories.

- Unaltered Images.** Entries in the Black & White Print, Novice Color Print, Advanced Color Print, Novice Electronic Image and Advanced Electronic Image competition categories are Unaltered Images. These must be an honest photographic depiction of observed reality, with three exceptions: (1) limited cloning (see below), (2) in-camera manipulation limited to multiple exposures taken in sequence (but not image overlay, see "not permitted" below), exposure time effects, panning, zooming, optical filters, and infrared capture, and (3) rendering the entire image in monochrome. Images which are partly monochrome and partly color are not considered representative of observed reality, and are only permitted in the Altered Electronic Image Category. These rules are based on the concept that the competitor strives to present the best reproduction of the image which he/she originally recorded with the camera.

NOTE: Limited "cloning up to 2%" is permissible in all competition categories. The intent is to allow removal of small distracting elements that existed in the original scene by pasting over them with background pixels from the same image. For example, you may hide a bit of tree branch at the edge of a photo by covering it with adjacent sky pixels, or hide small litter with nearby background pixels. The intent is NOT to enhance the scene by adding elements. If you replicate azalea blossoms to fill in a gap or uneven portion, that entry goes in the Altered Electronic Image category.

The following adjustments are permitted in all categories:

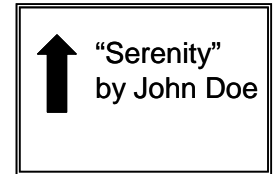
- Clone up to 2 percent of the image area, using pixels from within the image to hide minor defects but not add elements.
- Burning and dodging.
- Brightness, contrast, highlight and shadow detail adjustments.
- Cropping and rotating.
- Color correction (but not significant alteration).
- Color saturation (but not significant alteration).
- Converting the entire image to monochrome, including toning.
- Perspective and lens correction.
- Sharpening.
- Red-eye reduction.
- Repair anomalies (dust, lint, scratches, digital noise, faulty pixels).
- Blending or stitching multiple exposures of the same scene taken at the same time from the same position to create a realistic single image.
- Adding one thin stroke border surrounding the entire image and colored black, white, or neutral gray.

The following are not permitted for Unaltered Images:

- Adding, removing, or replicating image components, or otherwise combining two or more images (including in-camera image overlay processing), except as explicitly permitted above.
 - Substantially altering the reality of the image after exposure with digital processing. For example, "creative" filters, extreme color changes, blurring, and distorting (beyond perspective and lens correction) are not permitted for Unaltered Images if they substantially alter the reality of the image.
10. **Altered Images.** Entries in the Altered Electronic Image competition category must be manipulated beyond the limits for Unaltered Images (Rule 9) but every image component must be fully compliant with all applicable rules. For example, "creative" filters like pixilation, brush strokes, and add noise are permitted, but text and lines may not be added unless they are from the competitor's photographs made within the date limits. Winning photographers may be invited to briefly explain their alterations for audience education purposes.

11. **Print Presentation.** The minimum print size (image area) is 8x10 inches. The maximum print size (image area) is 16x20 inches. All prints must be mounted on rigid boards no thicker than ¼ inch, which may not exceed 16x20 inches. Mounting need not be done by the competitor. If over-mats are used, they must be securely attached to the back mount board at both top and bottom. Prints must not be framed. No name, title, or identifying marks may appear on the front. If two or more images are mounted on the same board, they will be treated as a single entry.

The back of each mounting board must be clear of all conflicting markings. The competitor's name and image title must be very clearly printed on the back of the mount with a prominent arrow indicating the "up" orientation. Prints will be displayed as indicated by the arrow. Nothing may be on the back of any print that could damage another print (such as metal, exposed adhesive, loose tape or stickers).



12. **Electronic Image Submission.** Specific guidelines for electronic image competition files and submission are posted on the NBCC Web site (www.nbccmd.org) and are subject to revision. Competitors must comply with all guidelines and consent to all policies, and should review the latest information before submitting.
13. **Year End Competition.** Any photograph which has won a Club award during the competition year (including Honorable Mention) is eligible to enter the Year End Competition. Prints submitted to this competition must be the exact same prints as originally presented with the NBCC award sticker on the back of the mounting board. Winning electronic images will be submitted for the Year End Competition automatically.
14. **Violation** of any competition rule, as determined by the Competition Image Review Committee or Competition Committee Chairperson, will result in the disqualification of the entry. Certain rules above carry additional penalties as described therein. The Board of Directors may take further corrective action to maintain fairness for all competitors. Prior to entering, each competitor is responsible for resolving any uncertainty, such as a questionable entry or clarifying a rule, with the Competition Image Review Committee or Competition Committee Chairperson.