

Photography Learning Opportunities

By Club Ed. Director Don Kennedy

Photography Educational Opportunities

This paper represents my best efforts to share many of the photography learning opportunities available to PWPC members in the local area. I have concentrated on opportunities outside the PWPC because these educational events are already announced by our club as they occur throughout the year and include events sponsored by our club and those sponsored by other area clubs that have invited our participation. The material below should be considered a finite listing that will be updated on a monthly basis as additional or event specific opportunities arise. I would be happy to discuss any of this material with current PWPC members or those who may be considering membership.

I. In person and online training

- a. Colleges and Universities: Multitudes of State and private institutions throughout the DMV area offer fine art and photography tuition based curricula for both degree and non-degree seeking students. Some offer some online attendance options. Course offerings, application procedures, and other details are available online for these organizations.
- b. Non-academic organizations that offer courses of instruction: These organizations may offer instruction online or in person. They are mostly instructor-led. Students participate in learning exercises in a classroom, online, or in a field setting similar to workshops. Course work generally does not lead to a degree. Most have instructors who are or have been professional photographers or educators and have extensive backgrounds in photography or the arts. See Smithsonian Associates website and others below.

Examples of non-academic organizations are:

1. The Capital Photography Center (capitalphotographycenter.com). Check website for fees and offerings. Fees vary depending on the length of training events but now start at \$84.00 for a single event lasting a few hours to more if it lasts all day or longer.

Sample classes in 2026 include the following:*

1. *Lightroom Classic in A Day*, 9:00am-5:00pm, Fee: \$159.00

2. *Photo Basics-Getting Off Auto*, 9:30am-1:30pm, Fee \$109.00
3. *External Flash Made Easy*, 2:30pm-6:30pm, Fee: \$99.00
4. *Getting Started in Portraiture*, 9:00am-12:30pm, Fee: \$139.00
5. *Fieldwork-Photo Basics at The National Building Museum*, 2:00pm-4:30pm, Fee: \$84.00.
6. *Photoshop for Photographers*, 9:00am-5:00pm, Fee: \$175.00
7. **Online Zoom.** *Getting Started with Lightroom Classic*, 7:00pm-8:30pm, Fee: \$145.00
8. *Abstract Photography-Creating Abstract Images*, 1:30pm-5:00pm, Fee: \$109.00
9. *“City of Bridges” Pittsburgh Photo Workshop*, June 11-14, 2026, Fee: \$1095.00

* I counted 47 different offerings on the Capital Photography Center website; some events were single day, some multi-day, and some were single day events repeated on multiple occasions. The classes fill up quickly, but space remained in many throughout 2026.

2. The Visual Arts Center offers year-round classes in photography online and at its facility in Richmond (visarts.org) or call (804) 353-0094. The last quarter of 2025 (Sept-December) they offered 13 separate photography courses on a tuition per course basis. For the winter of 2026 they aren offering 14 adult classes in photography (see sample class listing below). For persons interested in film photography, or traditional and alternative method print making, they have a fully equipped darkroom that can accommodate 10 to 12 students (or individuals who need a darkroom on an hourly fee basis). They also have a computer learning classroom with multiple connected computers that have both Lightroom and Photoshop installed. Tuition fees apply as do discounts for persons with Center memberships. Annual membership cost is \$30 for persons 18-30 yrs of age and \$60.00 for those over 30. Reduced tuition fees are one benefit of an annual membership. The Spring of 2026 classes have not been published, but they will begin registration soon so be on the lookout for an online schedule and offerings.

See below the sample List of Visual Arts Center photography classes offered for the Winter of 2026. Tuition rates are for persons with an annual membership. Non-member rates are slightly higher.

1. *Introduction to Digital Photography*, (beginner) 6:30-9:pm, Tuesdays January 13-February 3rd, 2026 (four 2.5 hour classes, \$130.50).
2. *Introduction to Black and White Darkroom Photography*, (all levels), 10:00am-12:30pm Thursdays, January 15-February 5, 2026 (four 2.5 hour classes, \$130.50).
3. *Capturing Authenticity: Portrait Photo Basics* (all levels), 10:00-11:30am, Saturdays, January 17-February 14, 2026, no class on Feb 7 (four 1.5 hour classes, \$85.50).
4. **ONLINE:** *Introduction to Digital Photography Workshop* (beginner), 10:00am-2:00pm, Saturday and Sunday, January 24 and 25, 2026, \$112.50.
5. **ONLINE:** *Editing the Digital Photograph in Adobe Photoshop* (beginner), 6:00-8:00pm, Tuesdays February 10-March 3, 2026, (four classes), \$112.50
6. *Intermediate Digital Photography* (intermediate), 6:30-9:00pm, Tuesdays, February 10-March 3, 2026, (four classes), \$130.50.

3. Smithsonian Associates. (smithsonianassociates.org) The Smithsonian Associates offers a limited number of photography classes under their Programs/Studio Arts category. Classes may be in person or online. See website for courses and schedules. Fees apply.

II. Self-Directed, non course based instruction.

- a. YouTube. There are hundreds, maybe thousands, of “how do I do this” or what’s the best equipment for” type videos about everything photography. Check them out.
- b. Podcasts: Like YouTube, there are many photography podcasts online that can be educational.

19 best of 2025 compiled by Krystal Kenney on the (greatbigphotographyworld.com) web site. Last updated on January 27, 2025.

Cameras or Whatever (stalmanpodcast.com). Episodes are listed on the site. Look for one that interests you. For those who enjoy a lot of pro photographer background and somewhat off-subject gab with some informational jewels interspersed. Lots of Apple, cell phone, and video related subject matter.

(BHPhotoPodcast.libsyn.com)

(BeginnerPhotographyPodcast.com). A free weekly podcast, by *Cloudspot*, hosted by professional photographer Raymond Hatfield.

(photobizx.com). Seems to be mostly for persons wanting to build and run a successful photography business.

(sixfigurephotography.com). Another photo biz site with a podcast, blog, etc.

The Martin Bailey Photography Podcast (martinbaileyphotography.com)

There are so so many online opportunities. You just need to find one that meets your interests, needs and expectations.

- c. Turn Your Home into a classroom with book-based learning or meet with a small group at a predesignated location to learn together in seminar fashion. Adobe Press' "Classroom in a Book" series for Photoshop and Lightroom are self-learning books similar to correspondence courses, except there are no formal tests. Learn Lightroom and Photoshop editing techniques with lessons and work materials on your own using your computer. Authors, like Scott Kelby, also have Photoshop/Lightroom books with downloadable lessons. All you need is a computer, a small segment of time, a subscription to the program being taught (Photoshop or Lightroom), and their easy follow-along lessons to get up to speed. I personally used books by Deke McClelland, Katrin Eismann, Ctein, and other authors to learn everything from Photoshop basics to more in-depth methods for Photoshop compositing, masking, photo restoration, image sharpening and printing, etc. You work at your own speed, at home or another location on your own schedule. In my opinion, this is the easiest way to learn these two programs. Lesson books are plentiful, inexpensive compared to live instruction, and easy on your day to day schedule.