Procedure:
2026 End-of-Year Competition

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2026 Changes

Submission Dates	Digital images can be submitted **NO EARLIER** than the day **AFTER** the monthly September evaluation and are due by our EOY Deadline: **Midnight, October 10, 2026.** Email them to our Digital Director: **Digital.CCRVA@gmail.com.**
EOY Judging	End-of-Year Competition judging will take place on November 14, 2026.
EOY Awards Presentation & Banquet	Plans are underway for an **Annual Banquet** again this year where winners will be announced. **Please note:** The event will be held on the second **Wednesday in December (December 9th).** Winners will receive official certificates acknowledging their achievements. **Memorial (Best) Awards** may receive trophies or some other recognition to be determined.
General Categories	Multiple images CANNOT be combined into a single image. For example, replacing the sky in one image with a sky from another image, even if that replacement image is yours, disqualifies the image for a landscape entry. It must be submitted as Creative Art.
2026 Assigned Subjects	The Assigned Subjects for this year, along with their codes, are: • **Patterns (AS_P)** • **Shadows (AS_S)** • **Multiple Exposures (AS_M)**
Digital Submission Rules	You should receive an automated response from the Digital Director indicating that your email was received. If you DO NOT, confirm with the Digital Director that they received your images.

2026 Important Info

Certification	By entering this Competition, you certify that you have followed the standards and guidelines set forth in the following procedures.
Permissions	By entering this Competition, you agree to allow the publication/display of your images on the **CCR website, Facebook page**, and in our monthly publication, ***Southern Exposure***.
Prints	**You may convert any digital image submitted at one of our Image Evaluations into a print for the EOY Competition**.

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General Rules

1. Photographers submitting images for the EOY Competition must be Camera Club of Richmond members in good standing, having paid the current year membership dues, which are $45 per year ($25 for F/T students).
2. All submissions, camera work (including staging and post-production), as well as any creative changes must be the work of the photographer submitting the image.
3. Images made under the **immediate direction or technical supervision** of another person, **or those that are substantially staged by someone else,** are not eligible. (For example, ***being given specific exposure and technical settings*** by an instructor while attending a photo outing, seminar, class, trip, or safari are not eligible.)
4. The Camera Club of Richmond's End-of-Year Competition allows each member to enter up to **TEN** images in the contest and are subject to these rules:
   - Images that are submitted throughout the year into **Image Evaluations** are called **Evaluated Images**, and you may enter **up to ten**. Therefore, if you want to enter the maximum number of images in the EOY competition, please plan to submit images for Evaluation throughout the year.
   - You may opt to **substitute** up to **FIVE** images that were **NOT previously** evaluated. These images are called **Wildcards**.
5. An image may **only be entered once** into a single EOY Competition. (For instance, the image may not be entered as both a Print and Digital image, or into different **Categories.)**
6. You may convert any digital image submitted at one of our **Image Evaluations** into a print for the EOY Competition.
7. Images may NOT include the photographer's name on the face of the image.
8. Entries must be submitted with the proper Digital File Name and jpg format, including file size.
9. You may, but do not have to, add a digital frame or mat to your submission to give it a "finished" presentation. *See **Anthony Rumley's Video** on CCR's YouTube channel for instructions. If a digital frame or stroke is added to an image, the final size must still be within the maximum width and height limits*.
10. Post Processing Guidelines:
    - In the **General Categories** (Animals, Architecture, Flora, Landscape, Pictorial, Portrait and Sports & Events), images may be edited, however, post-processing **may be used *only* to enhance the existing image to ensure realism**. Enhancements are allowed to exposure, color and tone, sharpening, cloning, minor retouching, contrast, cropping, and rotation. You may NOT combine elements from multiple images. For example, replacing the sky in one image with a sky from another image, even if that replacement image is yours, disqualifies the image for a landscape entry. It must be submitted as Creative Art.

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- The **Special Categories** (the three **Assigned Subjects** and **Creative Art**) are intended to show each photographer's creativity and skills to enhance an image. You may combine elements from multiple images of your own creation and use post-processing, including filters and creative imaging software. Images in these Categories are judged on their imagination, creativity, uniqueness, and editing. **Generative AI-modified images are not eligible.**

The Camera Club of Richmond offers five **Image Evaluations to our members each year. Members are invited to submit one or two images that are reviewed and critiqued by a seasoned/professional photographer during those designated monthly meetings.*

Code Cheat Sheet

Categories	**Media Type**
Animals (AN)	Digital (D)
Architecture (AR)	Print (P)
Creative Art (CA)	
Flora (FL)	
Landscape (LA)	**Group**
Pictorial (PI)	Novice/Intermediate (N)
Portrait (PO)	Advanced (A)
Sports & Events (SE)	Expert (E)
Assigned Subjects • Patterns (AS_P) • Shadows (AS_S) • Multiple Exposures (AS_M)	
Color Designation	**Image Type**
Black & White (BW)	Evaluated (EV)
Color (CO)	Wild Card (WC)

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Category

Submitted images that do not meet the requirements of the Category may be disqualified at the Judges' discretion.

General Categories	
Animals (AN)	Animal photography traditionally refers to images of undomesticated animal species that normally live in the wild. Animal Photography documents various forms of wildlife in a natural or simulated habitat. An example of simulated habitat would be an image of an animal in a zoo that does not show cages, buildings, or other manufactured construction not present in its natural surroundings. The incidental presence of animals (e.g., distant birds, cattle, etc.) or manufactured objects (e.g., distant fences, vehicles, etc.) is acceptable.
Architecture (AR)	Architectural photography is the photographing of buildings and similar manufactured structures that are accurate representations of their subjects.
Flora (FL)	Flora photography is a photograph of plant life occurring in a particular region or timeframe.
Landscape (LA)	Landscape photography shows spaces within the world, sometimes vast and unending, but other times of a smaller scope. Landscape photographs typically capture the presence of nature (e.g., panoramic views of the Grand Canyon, or a Seascape) with a primary emphasis on the natural subjects. A Landscape can also focus on manufactured features or disturbances within the natural landscapes (e.g., Richmond Skyline from the Flood Wall, etc.)
Pictorial (PI)	Pictorial photography is a general photography Category. It might be a still-life image, a casual picture of a person or pet (not a formal portrait), street photography, travel images, photojournalism, or any image not previously addressed in another Category. This would be the Category for pet photography, whether posed or just spontaneous.
Portrait (PO)	Portrait photography is a photograph of a person or group of people that captures the personality, traits, or features of the subject by the use of effective lighting, backdrops, poses, direction, or post-processing. Street Photographs meeting these criteria may also qualify as Portraits.
Sports & Events (SE)	This Sports & Events Category is dedicated to capturing the raw energy, emotion, and drama inherent in competitive and recreational events. From the peak action of an athlete in motion to the atmosphere and behind-the-scenes moments, the images tell compelling stories that transport viewers into the heart of the action. This genre blends technical precision with a photo-journalistic eye to document the full experience of a game or gathering.

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Special Categories	
Creative Art (CA)	Creative Art is an extension of conventional photography and post-processing into creative art. Its purpose is to stimulate creative thoughts and encourage experimentation with innovative ideas going beyond a simple photograph. **While many of the tools we utilize for post-processing use some form of Artificial Intelligence (AI), we DO require that all aspects of your image are your own work and NOT created by text-based AI photo-generators such as Midjourney, DALL-E, DreamStudio, etc.**
Assigned Subjects **(AS_P)** **(AS_S)** **(AS_M)**	At the beginning of each year, the CCR Board announces three special Categories referred to as **Assigned Subject** Categories for that year. The intent is to challenge our photographers to try something new or stretch their post-processing skills (since these Categories also allow unlimited, creative post-processing edits). This year, those Categories are: • **Patterns** • **Shadows** • **Multiple Exposures** **Remember:** • You may enter **ONLY ONE** image into each of the Assigned Subject Categories. • Each Assigned Subject image must be entered with the proper _AS designation into the Image Evaluation for that Assigned Subject. • Wild Cards are not allowed into Assigned Subjects.

Category Selection Tips

The selection of a **Category** for your image can be a daunting task. One method, used by pros and amateurs, is to ask yourself a few questions about your motive for capturing the image. For example, was your motive to:

- Shoot that elusive tiger on your African Safari? That would be in **Animals**.
- Document a historical cathedral? Then, it would fit into **Architecture**.
- Preserve the color and texture of a beautiful blossom? This would be **Flora**.
- Show the magnitude of a vast desert? This would be a **Landscape**.
- Tell a story or show an event? This would be **Pictorial**.
- Capture the beauty or emotion of a particular individual? This is a **Portrait**.
- Record a decisive play for your favorite sports team or a fun moment from a special event? This would go into our new **Sports & Events** Category.
- Combine multiple images and/or demonstrate your post-processing skills? This would be **Creative Art**.

If you answer your “motive” question honestly, you will probably select the correct Category.

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Media Type

Digital Images (D)	Digital images must be submitted as jpg files. Refer to these sections for additional instructions: **Resizing Images in Adobe Lightroom** **Resizing Images in Adobe Photoshop** See the **Digital Submission Criteria** for specific guidelines on submitting digital images.
Prints (P)	Prints must be mounted, matted, or printed onto any material that allows the image to be freestanding in the light box. Refer to the **Print Submission Criteria** for specific guidelines on preparing and submitting Prints.

Media Types are judged separately for each **Category, Color Designation, and Group.**

Color Designation

Black & White (BW)	Black & White images are monochrome images, including infrared photographs, produced in black and white or in varying tones of only one color. Images that are primarily monochrome but contain added color to part of the image should be submitted as Color, NOT as Black & White.
Color (CO)	Color images are shot in full color or contain any color other than black & white.

Color Designations are judged separately for each **Category, Media Type, and Group.**

Image Type

Evaluated Image (EV)	The image WAS previously submitted to an Image Evaluation during the year.
Wild Card (WC)	The image was NOT previously submitted to an Image Evaluation during the year.

Groups

CCR has three Groups in which you may choose to compete.

A member may choose to compete in **any** Group they wish for their first Competition.

Please carefully assess where your photography skills rank as you determine at which level you should compete.

You may move to a higher Group at any time. If you wish to move back to a lower Group, you must request and be approved by the CCR Board. See the Credits & Group Advancement section for more details.

Novice (Group N)	New CCR members or members who have not entered a prior EOY Competition and are beginning to learn photography skills. If you have won awards or been accepted into galleries or competitions, you're probably NOT a Novice/Intermediate photographer!
Advanced (Group A)	Members who have advanced photography skills beyond the novice or intermediate level.
Expert (Group E)	Members who have well-developed photography skills, consistently placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in prior EOY competitions.

NOTE: **Groups** are judged separately for each **Category, Color Designation, and Media Type.**

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Digital Submission Criteria

Digital Submission Rules

The Digital Director needs digital files to organize the hundreds of images being judged. In addition, the CCR Webmaster will create a **Member Gallery** of all winning images on the CCR Website and images may be featured on the **CCR Facebook page** and in our monthly publication, ***Southern Exposure***.

You must submit properly formatted and sized digital images by the EOY deadline. **See Digital File Delivery for specifics.**

There are three basic specifications:

- **Digital images must be in jpg format.**
- **The horizontal side of your digital image must not exceed 3840 pixels.**
- **The vertical side of your digital image must not exceed 2160 pixels.**

You should receive an automated response from the Digital Director indicating that your email was received. If you DO NOT, confirm with the Digital Director that they received your images.

If you need additional instructions on formatting and sizing, please see separate procedures for:

- **Resizing Digital Images in Adobe Lightroom**
- **Resizing Digital Images in Adobe Photoshop**

Madness Behind the File Naming Convention

A spreadsheet is used to organize and present images during the judging. This spreadsheet includes media type, image title, photographer, and whether the image is for an Assigned Subject.

That information is included in the filename of the image.

We run a program to create the spreadsheet by extracting information from the image filenames. It uses the underscores (_) to delineate the different pieces of information and treats any other character, including a hyphen (-), as part of the image title or photographer's name. It also looks for each piece of information to be in the proper position within the filename. This automation expedites the image handling process, but the submitted filenames **MUST** strictly follow the naming convention for it to work.

Also, the **TITLE** of your image must be the exact title that was submitted to the Image Evaluation.

Special Circumstances: *If the Evaluator commented that the title was not good or could be improved, you may change the title of an image as long as you notify the Digital Director prior to submitting the image.*

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Digital File Naming

Digital images must be properly named to be judged.

Media Type_Category Abbreviation_Color Designation_Group_ Image Title_Image Type_Your Name.jpg

INCLUDE *the* ***Underscores (_)***

INCLUDE *any necessary* ***Spaces*** *or* ***Dashes*** *in* ***Your Name*** *and your* ***Image Title.***

Use only jpg file type.

Example #1 – File name for General Categories:

P_PO_CO_A_Christina_WC_Michael Orr.jpg would represent:
[P] Print Media Type
[PO] Portrait Category
[CO] Color Designation of Color
[A] Group
[Christina] Image Title
[WC] Wildcard (**NOT** Previously submitted to an Image Evaluation during the year)
[Michael Orr] Photographer Name

Digital File Naming for an Assigned Subject

Example #2 – File Name for Assigned Subject:

D_AS_M_CO_A_Honoring Fallen Brothers_EV_Karen Davis.jpg

would represent:
[D] Digital Media Type
[AS_M] Assigned Subject: Multiple Exposures
[CO] Color Designation of Color
[A] Group
[Honoring Fallen Brothers] Image Title
[EV] Evaluated (Previously submitted to an Image Evaluation during the year)
[Karen Davis] Photographer Name

Digital File Delivery

All digital images must be emailed to the Digital Director by **MIDNIGHT, Saturday, October 10, 2026**. Please Email your jpg files (2 or 3 at a time) as follows:

To: **Digital.CCRVA@gmail.com**

Subject: **EOY Competition**

Click the paperclip icon to **attach** your digital files. *Don't embed photos in the body of your email.*

You'll receive an automated confirmation from the Digital Director. If you have not received this confirmation by the next day, you should contact him/her to verify that your files were received.

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Print Submission Criteria

Print Submission Rules

Prints are evaluated on a light box, according to **Photographic Society of America (PSA)** rules.

Prints must be at least 5” x 7” and no larger than 16” x 30” in size (including any mat).

Prints must be mounted, matted, or printed onto any material that allows the image to be freestanding in the light box.

Make sure that the method for adhering the printed image to the backing cannot be seen on the front of the image. (Please no scotch-taped corners.)

Framed prints are not allowed.

Attach a completed copy of the **EOY Print Form** to the upper-left corner of the back of the mat. Please ensure that all writing is legible.

Look for a message from the Print Director for a time and place to deliver your prints.
(They may be accepted at the October meeting if you have them ready by then.)

Digital File Requirement for Prints

If you are submitting a Print, you must also submit a properly formatted and sized digital image by the EOY deadline: **Midnight on the 2nd Saturday in October (October 10, 2026.) See Digital Submission Criteria for specifics.**

The Digital Director needs these digital files to organize the hundreds of images (prints and digital) being judged. S/He creates a list of all prints submitted, then forwards that, along with those image files to the Print Director. This helps the Print Director organize the prints for the Judges.

In addition, the CCR Webmaster will create a **Member Gallery** of all winning images on the CCR Website and we will highlight these winners on our **CCR Facebook page**.

For Help

If you need help, feel free to contact any of our CCR Board members, starting with:

Digital Director: Digital.CCRVA@gmail.com

Print Director: Prints.CCRVA@gmail.com

EOY Judging, Points, & Scoring

At the End-of-Year Judging Event in November, three top photography experts will review every digital image and print submitted. Each Judge will assign **Points** to each image. Each Judge may award as few as **3** or as many as **9 Points** to each image. Judges are not aware of the scores given by the other Judges.

The End-of-Year Team enters each Judge's score into a spreadsheet that totals the Points for each image. The lowest possible score for an image is **9 Points**; the maximum is **27 Points**.

Those **Scores** are then used to rank the entries in each **Judging Block** from highest to lowest to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places. Any resulting ties within the Judging Blocks are immediately resolved by the Judges via additional rounds of judging.

In addition, Honorable Mentions are awarded to any remaining images that meet the Minimum Total Score for the Photographer's Group. (See below.)

Judging Criteria

1. Overall Impact/ Impression	Does the image tell a "story" and is the subject of the image appropriate to the story? Does the image evoke emotion? Does the image have a "wow" factor?
2. Technical Factors	Does the image display focus, depth of field, exposure, lighting, contrast, and color balance (or tonal scale in black and white images) that are appropriate to the subject matter and the "story" being told by the photographer?
3. Creativity	Is the photo original and fresh in composition and/or in the use of lighting, perspective, color, special effects, etc.?
4. Composition	Is the design of the image visually pleasing or disturbing depending on the intent of the photographer? Do the elements of the image hold the observer and easily draw him/her to its subject? Does the composition come together as a whole, providing balance or lack thereof as appropriate to subject matter and the "story"?
5. Finishing	If present, do physical or digital mats, borders, vignetting, etc. add to the photo or distract from it?

Remember that each Evaluator and Judge is expressing his or her personal opinion and that "Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder" – AND the Photographer!

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Minimum Total Scores (MTS) for Awards

CCR assigns EOY awards following the lead of several other photography associations and clubs. Instead of assigning Awards based on the number of entries in each **Judging Block,** CCR determines EOY Awards by focusing our emphasis on ***merited images***, so that **all** meritorious images are recognized.

In our merit-based system, each **Group** is assigned a **Minimum Total Score** (**MTS**). Those MTS levels will increase commensurate with Group skill levels (i.e., the Novice/ Intermediate MTS will be lower than Advanced; and Advanced will be lower than Expert.)

- **All** images meeting the MTS threshold for a **Judging Block** (**Category**, **Color Designation**, **Media Type,** and **Group**) will earn Awards.
- If the three highest scoring images meet the MTS, then 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards are given, regardless of how many images are entered.
- Any additional images meeting the MTS are awarded Honorable Mentions.
- Awards for **Assigned Subjects:**
  - Groups are judged together in each of the three Assigned Subject Categories.
  - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards will be given.
  - Honorable Mentions will be awarded based on the MTS for each Group.

Winners of these EOY Awards will receive a lovely certificate (suitable for framing!) acknowledging this achievement.

As Judges – and therefore Scores - vary from year to year, the final MTS for each Group will be determined by the CCR Board after the judging in order to award approximately 20-25% of the images entered.

NOTES:
The Board does not change any assigned scores, nor does it take away awards given by the judges.
Except for the Major Awards, the judges do not assign awards, only scores.
If no entries in a Judging Block (Category, Color Designation, Media Type, and Group) meet their MTS, then no Awards will be given.

Memorial (Best) Awards

The EOY Judges will select six outstanding images for the CCR's **Memorial (Best) Awards**. The winners of these awards may receive trophies – or some other recognition (to be determined.)

Award:	Name Given to the Award:
Best Color Digital	**W.A. Yoder Award**
Best B&W Digital	**Phillip Luce Award**
Best Color Print	**Stanley Balderson Award**
Best B&W Print	**Edwin Booth Award**
Best Assigned Subject	**Hyman Rose Award**
Best in Show	**Bernard Howell Award**

Credits

Members accumulate **Credits** based on the number of EOY Awards won. Credits are accumulated over a running 3-year timeframe. The 2025 EOY will include 2022 through 2024. When an individual's Credit Total reaches the benchmark amount, they will graduate to the next Group.

Credit Amounts:

- 5 Credits - Best in Show (in addition to 4 Credits from your Major Award)
- 4 Credits - Major Awards (in addition to 3 Credits from your 1st Place)
- 3 Credits - 1st Place
- 2 Credits - 2nd Place
- 1 Credit - 3rd Place
- 0 Credits - Honorable Mention

Group Advancement

Novice/Intermediate Group graduates at 20 or more total Credits
Advanced Group graduates at 25 or more total Credits

Once a photographer advances to a higher Group, they start over with zero Credits. ANY photographer may self-advance into a higher Group if they wish.

Once a photographer moves to a higher Group, they may only move downward by petitioning the CCR Board for approval.

As the EOY Team prepares for each Competition, a member of that team may contact certain members to recommend a Group change based on the Credits they have accumulated in prior EOY Competitions.

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GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT TERMS

Camera Club of Richmond Member	A CCR member is one who has paid membership dues for the current year. All CCR members are eligible to submit images for **Image Evaluations** (held five times per year at monthly CCR Meetings) as well as participate in the **End-of-Year Competition**. CCR dues for FULL membership in the club are $45. ($25 for F/T students.)
End-of-Year Competition (EOY)	CCR holds a Competition at the end of each year and invites members to submit up to ten photographs to compete for Awards in several different **Categories**. Up to five of those photos may be Wildcard **Images**. The other images (called **Evaluated Images**) must have been evaluated at one of the monthly CCR **Image Evaluations** during the current year. These photos are due in October and judged by a panel of experienced photographers – usually from outside the Richmond area – in November. Awards are presented at our CCR Awards Presentation/Banquet which is held in place of our regular CCR meeting on the second Tuesday in December (December 9th).
JPG	**JPG** stands for Joint Photographic Experts Group. JPG is the standard file format for compressing digital images so they can more easily be stored or sent by email. CCR requires that all images submitted for Image Evaluations and End-of-Year Competition are in the **JPG file format (extension "jpg").**
Judging Block	A **Judging Block** is just a convenient way to label the collective images that are competing with each other. It is the block of images that are judged together as determined by **Category, Color Designation**, **Media Type**, and **Group**. For instance: **Color, Prints** in the **Animal Category**, for the **Expert Group** are judged separately from the **B&W, Prints** in the **Animal Category**, for the **Expert Group**. **Thus, separate Judging Blocks will be created for every combination of the four factors listed above.**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – AND ANSWERS!

My Question:	The Answer:
Who can enter the End-of-Year (EOY) Competition?	Current, paid Camera Club of Richmond (CCR) members may enter. Dues are $45 per year; ($25 for F/T students.)
May I enter more than one image in a **Category**?	There is no restriction on putting multiple images into any of our **Recurring Categories**. You could put all ten images into any one of these Categories: **Animals, Architecture, Creative Art, Flora, Landscapes, Pictorial, Portraits, and Sports & Events.** However, you may enter **ONLY ONE** image into each **Assigned Subject** Category. By definition, an Assigned Subject MUST be evaluated during the month it is Assigned and ONLY ONE image is allowed per photographer. **Thus, there can be NO WILDCARDS entered into an Assigned Subject Category at EOY.**
May I enter one image into multiple **Categories**, **Color Designations** or **Media Types**?	No. An image may be submitted only one time. You may not submit the same image into two different **Categories** nor as both B&W and Color or Print and Digital. Two images with only minor variations (in the opinion of the judges) will be deemed the same image and may be disqualified.
May I incorporate adjustments suggested by an Evaluator into the final image submitted for EOY Competition?	Yes. Minor adjustments suggested by the Evaluator are permitted. The revised image must originate from the same source file.
May I change the title of my **Evaluated Image**?	No. The title of an **Evaluated Image** must be exactly the same title used in the Image Evaluation.
Is there any exception to the titling rule?	Yes, there is one exception: An image title may be changed if the Evaluator specifically suggested a change to the title of the image. **If you choose to make this change, you MUST notify the Digital Director with the old and new titles.**
May I re-submit an image that has been submitted in a prior, CCR EOY Competition?	Yes. You may re-submit an image if the image did not win any Awards in a prior CCR EOY Competition.