

WELCOME TO THE ENCHANTED LENS CAMERA CLUB (ELCC)

This handout is intended to help you become familiar with the Club and its opportunities to expand your photographic vision. First, logistics:

Meetings

The club meets the first and third Thursdays of each month from September through June. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. sharp. We meet at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Carlisle, one-half block south of Central. Enter via the Fellowship Hall doors on the west side of the building. Please knock if the doors are locked.

Meeting dates are subject to change due to holidays, church or area activities. You can always check the calendar on the website to know what is going on.

The FIRST MEETING of the month is devoted to club business and a guest speaker. This meeting is also when you would submit images for the monthly Exhibition.

The SECOND MEETING of the month is devoted mainly to the judging of the submitted images. Expert photographers who are not club members critique the submitted photos and explain the good and bad points and how they could be improved upon.

PARKING: There is a church parking area behind the church to the East and one to the Southeast of the church. You may also park on the street, where appropriate. Please do not park in the large lot West of the Church behind the Nob Hill shopping area.

SNACKS: Please help yourself to snacks (provided by our members) and coffee/hot tea at the front of the room before the meeting and at the break.

RESTROOMS: Go through the white double doors on the right side of the room, then take an immediate right.

If you need to leave early, please exit quietly via the back doors and we will see you at the next meeting.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much are the dues and what are the benefits?

The dues are \$50 annually for individuals and \$25 per year for each additional family member. For registered high school and college students dues are \$25 annually.

The benefits are immeasurable. The club provides fun, knowledge and experience from other members. The Exhibition Judging provides a forum to get other views and constructive criticism of your work. Social sessions provide opportunities to discuss specific interests and problems. There are monthly outings for learning and getting to know other members. The Mentorship Program and committee participation are other ways to expand your knowledge. The members who participate are the ones who have the most fun and get the most benefit.

The dues pay for our facility, the monthly f/Stop newsletter, web site, monthly and End-of-Year Awards, State Incorporation and filing fees and maintenance and/or replacement of club equipment.

What is the Mentorship Program?

The Mentorship Program is set up to help us all improve our skills as photographers. The Pre-Meeting Seminars (5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.) on meeting nights is mostly aimed at beginning photographers and will include a lecture, photo outing, and show and tell and feedback from the instructor.

We will also be having quite a number of workshops that meet on other nights, or possibly on weekends for the more advanced photographers. These meetings are on off-meeting nights because the subject matter requires more time or in-depth teaching. To see more specifics about what is planned, go to the Mentorship section of the web site or check the calendar for specific dates and events.

What are the Divisions I keep hearing about?

New and less experienced members initially enter in the "B" Group. More experienced members exhibit in the "A" Group and the most accomplished present their work in the "AA" Group. The ELCC Exhibition Rules on the website explain how one advances from B to A to AA.

How many images may I enter in a monthly exhibition?

You may submit up to a total of three images (prints, slides and/or projected digital) in the assigned and/or open categories each month for judging.

Who selects the judges, and do the judges assign the scores and the awards?

There is a committee chairperson appointed each year by the Club President who obtains our volunteer judges from outside of the club membership. They will judge the images prior to the second meeting of the month and assign a score (from 3 to 15 points). The judges will also determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards and Honorable Mentions as he or she deems appropriate. During the meeting the judge will provide a critique of each image submitted that month.

Why should I come to the judging if I don't have images entered?

Coming to the Exhibitions is a valuable learning experience. In hearing the scores and comments on all the images you will learn valuable information about your own photography. Most of the club members would love to tell you where their image was made or the techniques they used after the judging is completed.

Don't be shy about entering images. Remember not to take the judge's comments too seriously as judging is very subjective and, you can enter the image again in another month as long as it was not awarded a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award in an earlier competition. Refer to the Exhibition Rules for more complete information.

What is the “Right camera equipment, digital and/or film?

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. Our members use all kinds of equipment.

Why do you have prospective members and members sign in?

We want to acknowledge, welcome and introduce our new and prospective members. The existing members sign in so when a vote is required we can ensure that we have a quorum of members. Also, there is a box where we keep the name tags so that you don't have to remember to bring yours to the meeting.

How/when do I get club roster to be able to contact other members?

The membership list is confidential and is not provided to anyone outside the club for any purpose and is only to be used by the membership for ELCC business. You will receive a user ID and password when you become a member and can then obtain it from the website.

How can I get other questions answered?

Visit our web site at <http://www.enchantedlens.org> or email the club at <http://enchantedlens.org/contact> Read the Club Constitution and Bylaws and Exhibition Rules. Read the f/Stop newsletter. Ask the chairperson of the appropriate committee. Ask another member. Ask the Membership Chairperson, and if they do not have the answer they will direct you to someone who can or will find out.

Please join today and start enjoying all the benefits immediately. Please find a member of the Mentorship Committee who will gladly assist you in signing up, take your dues payment (check or cash) and give you your Membership Card and Membership Packet. A name badge will be ready for you at the next meeting. We will also sign you up for the Yahoo site while you are at the meeting so you can begin enjoying group emails right away. You never know when someone will put together a special event!