

Announcing: 2021-2022 Arundel Camera Club Critique Sessions

We are hopeful that we can resume print competitions in January, but in the interim, we are offering four digital Critique Sessions in the fall of 2021 in lieu of print competitions at meetings on **September 9, October 7, November 4, and December 2.**

Who are the Critique Leaders?

Each critique session will be led by a different judge each month. Each judge whom we have invited to lead these critique sessions will have judged a contest at Arundel Camera Club in the last two years and has received top marks from our members.

Critique Leaders were selected because they are recognized by their peers as being knowledgeable and able to have a deeper conversation with you individually about your photos. There will be openings for novice and unlimited photographers to submit four digital images each.

What will a Critique Session look like?

For each monthly Critique Session, 6 members will submit 4 photos each for the Critique Session. The Critique Leader will engage in an individual conversation with each photographer on their 4 submissions for about 15 minutes total. The Leader may open the session up for a few questions from the other participants on any of the photos discussed if time. The next photographer gets an opportunity for his or her 15-minute session, and the process continues until all 6 photographers have talked with the Critique Leader about his or her own 4 photographs.

How is this different from a photo contest?

No photo is pronounced a winner or a loser. This is like any of our past digital contests where we can observe the judge commenting on the photos, whether you attend the meeting remotely or in-person. It is different in that your own critique session is a conversation. You can have a discussion with the Critique Leader, ask questions about the Critique Leader's observations, and share your own ideas. It will be a conversation on your work.

Will the session be open for other members to observe?

Yes. Those of us not engaged in the Critique Session will be able to observe it either remotely or in-person as we would for any club photo contest. However, we plan to make time for questions or conversations via on-line chat tools or in-person for observers to participate. (If we are unable to meet in-person, Critique Sessions will be completely on-line.

What photographs can be submitted for critique?

That's up to you. You can submit photos you plan to enter in contests later this year, past contest images that lost for which you want another point of view, or just something you are noodling with and are looking for a creative direction.

Some photographers working on a project with a particular theme may want to bring 4 photos from that set for discussion. They should be photos on which you want some feedback and conversation—an opportunity to get inside the head of someone who judges photo contests routinely. And you don't have to bring polished, perfect photos. By the way, Critique Leaders will not be judging any of our contests in the 2021-2022 meeting year, so there is no risk of biasing a future judge by submitting an image you are working on.

How will photos be submitted for a Critique Session?

More details will be available on that later, but it will be similar to the way you now submit photos for digital contests. You will submit each digital photo to the contests email address, contests@arundelcameraclub.org, sized properly (1024 pixels on the long side), and using the usual naming convention (Novice or Unlimited_Photo Name_Photographer Initials).

Summary: Your Critique Session

Your personal critique session will last about 15 minutes, and you can relax—unlike contests, no photos are labeled as winners nor losers. The Critique Leader will have a conversation with you about each photo and help you think about ways to get the most out of your image. You can participate remotely or in person and will be able to talk one-on-one with the Critique Leader during your session. We also plan to allow time for chats and questions from other members watching the Critique Session either in-person or remotely.

We need 24 brave members to volunteer for this new adventure. Critique Sessions are designed to be low-stress and conversational, non-judgmental, and hopefully fun.

How do you sign up to participate in a Critique Session?

Sign up now to reserve your slot in the Fall 2021 Critique Sessions. Right now, all we need to know are your first and second choice dates in the event that your first choice session is already filled.

Submit your two date choices via email to contests@arundelcameraclub.org

Include the following information:

1. Your Name
2. The best way to reach you: email and/or phone number
3. The Critique Session you are interested in: (Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2)
4. Competition status: (Novice or Unlimited)