



Lionel Harris

Lionel was born in 1935 in Spokane, WA and was raised from the age of 5 in Lewiston, ID. Just after his 17th birthday he joined the Air Force during the Korean War and served four years at various airbases mostly within the USA. He spent his first year in the military training as an Aircraft Mechanic and earned proficiency on all aspects of both heavy transports and experimental single and dual engine jet fighters. Lionel served his overseas duty in Thule, Greenland, approximately 690 miles inside the Arctic Circle, and where it was extremely cold. As a Flight Mechanic he also traveled to many interesting and scenic places and, sad to say, never took a single picture.

In 1956 Lionel was hired by the Boeing Company and for four years worked on a variety of experimental aircraft. In 1961 he transferred into the Company's Payroll Operations organization to take advantage of his college training in Accounting. He continued to pursue his education and received a degree in Business Management. Lionel was then selected to attend the Boeing Company's two year Management Arts and Science Program, graduating from the program within one year. A year later he was promoted to the position of Payroll Operations Manager, a job he held until his retirement in July of 1995.

Lionel and his wife Lei were married for fifty-three years. She passed away in 2010. For fourteen years they owned and operated an Elderly Foster Home in the Enumclaw area, his wife caring for the patients and Lionel handling the accounting for the business. Following his retirement from Boeing Lionel spent the next four years completing the building of the house he and Lei would live in for 11 years on Panther Lake in Mason County and where Lionel still resides. When finished with this major project, he then found extra time on his hands and began a home based business entitled Research Services. His one person operation provided information to generator manufacturers and wholesale dealers that allowed them to make informed and knowledgeable bids on large construction projects such as skyscrapers and hospitals. After two years in business and realizing this was too much like a fulltime job, rather than the part-time he had envisioned, Lionel closed the business and turned to selling artwork and crafts at local festivals and art shows, primarily to meet people, have fun and keep busy.

Upon meeting the artists, photographers, and craftsmen Lionel decided it was time do something more creative himself. He gave away his vintage 1961 35 mm Olympus Super Zoom point and shoot camera which he had used for family prints and slides all those years,

did a little research, and purchased a Nikon 880 digital 3.1MP camera and started taking pictures seriously. Lionel soon realized his images were low quality and started getting more serious about learning all he could about the art of photography, and of course then came the purchase of better equipment and editing software . It wasn't long before he was selling his own photography at the art shows. Eventually he decided he was ready to join a camera club to see if he could learn even more from others that also enjoyed photography as much as he did. After attending meetings at several Puget Sound camera clubs, he decided that the local F:67 Camera Club offered the best approach to learning and joined the club in the early Spring of 2005. Lionel says that the semi-monthly judging and critiques along with peer voting may be the best way for members to determine whether or not their photography is good and what kind of improvements may be necessary to make their images better. He has sold his work in local galleries and on the internet, has co-sponsored local art shows and continues to participate in local vendor sales and art shows.