

“Digital Photos: From Camera to the Web”

And all the steps in between

Frequently Asked Questions

Taking Pictures

Take lots of pictures. You're not wasting film! Read the manual. Your digital camera has lots of goodies. If you don't have your manual – you can probably find it on the web. Sony.com, or Canon.com, Kodak.com etc.

How can I learn more about digital photography?

- www.shortcourses.com is a great website for everything you ever wanted to know about digital photography

Transferring to the Computer

Is there any way I can get old, paper photographs into the computer?

- You can have the printed photos scanned at companies like Kinko's (it can be expensive – Kinko's quoted \$9.95 per photo)
- Take a digital photo of an old photograph.

How do I transfer the pictures from my camera to the computer?

- It's different with each camera, you need to read the instruction manual.
- A cable to connect between the computer and the camera and some software to install on the computer. Once the software is installed, then just plugging in the USB connector cable will launch that software and you're on your way.
- A disk or card may come out of your camera and into the computer. Then it can be read like a disk drive.
- Infrared transfer

Where do they go when I transfer to the computer?

- Usually you can specify a location. It is important to know where they're going and not to just let the camera put them anywhere. The most common place is My Computer\My Pictures\ Then you can create subfolders under that. We recommend making a system where you have folders for your original photos and another folder for the edited version.
- If possible, set your system to automatically name them starting with the date.

Deleting and Renaming

Why can't I leave the photos named with the automatic numbers?

- You can if you want, it just isn't very useful.

Why should I wait to delete bad pictures until they're transferred onto the computer?

- You can see them better there. You might be surprised that a photo that looks bad on the camera looks good on the computer, especially after you use some photoediting techniques.

Edit and Resize

When I email my photos, they take forever to send and the people I email them to complain about the time for downloading them, what can I do?

- You need to size your photos before you email them. You use a photo editing program like: Photoshop, Photo Editor, PhotoDraw, Paint Shop Pro. A free program you can download is called IrfanView. You can download it from <http://www.irfanview.com/>.
- If you have a digital camera, some software probably came with it. You need to learn how to change the file size of your pictures by manipulating the dimensions of the photo and the quality.

How many pixels should my pictures be?

- 400 – 600 pixels for emails or the web. 2100 pixels for good quality printing.
- If you REALLY want to understand pixels and sizes, read www.shortcourses.com Pixel section.

What other editing can I do to my photos?

- The most common editing besides resize is cropping. Make sure to crop before resizing.
- The next most common is to lighten or darken.
- Then, the sky is the limit, read the documentation that came with your software.

Emailing Photos

How do I send a photo with an email?

- Once the file is a reasonable size, you can attach it (remember to say you're attaching it in the body of your message)
- If you are using Outlook, you also have the choice to embed the photo so it displays in the body of the message. Use the menu option "Insert Picture" instead of "Insert File"
- Windows XP provides a shortcut that will resize and attach to email all in one step:
Find the photo(s) you want to send using My Computer
Click on the one you want. (Ctrl-click on multiple pictures)
Right-click and choose 'Send To' / Email recipient. When prompted select "Make all my pictures smaller"

Posting Photos on Websites

Is it expensive to create a photo album website?

- There are lots of web-services out there that allow you to create a photo album on their website for free (Yahoo!, MSN, Ofoto) . These sites are usually advertiser-supported. If you don't want advertising, and you want your own web name like www.SallyRVer.com, then you have to sign up with a webhost and learn how to create web pages and photo albums on your own. This costs anywhere from \$35/year to \$40/month for the service.
- For this class we will be using Yahoo to demonstrate. You can see the results at <http://photos.yahoo.com/chrisguld>

What's a Blog?

- Short for Weblog. A dated journal of text and photos on the web. Our weblog is at www.jimandchris.com and click on 'weblog'. We use www.blogger.com to create and maintain it, but there are many other choices. We think every RVer should have a Blog ... a travelog!
- Blogger tips: for best results, get your own domain/website and use the FTP option in Blogger. If you don't use FTP, you are limited to one picture per post.

What if I want prints?

- There are very good color printers that cost less than \$100 today. For some of these, you don't even need a computer. Just take the card from your camera and stick it in the printer.
- Most camera stores (including Walgreen's) have services to make prints from your digital cameras. Expect to pay about \$5 per print
- You can use web-based photo services and pay about \$0.50! Look at Ofoto.com, MySpecialPhotos.com, Snapfish.com and many more.
- You can also order your photos on cups, mousepads, and calendars.

Backing up to CD

Your computer is a good place to store photos, but it can crash, break or get stolen. So, you want to have a backup of your photos on CD. We prefer CD Rs. They are cheap and they are permanent. CD RWs, although reusable, may not be readable in another computer. And, you may accidentally overwrite them.

- With Windows XP, use My Computer to find the folder of pictures you want to copy to CD.
- Right click on the folder and choose Send To / CD drive
- It will take a minute to gather all the files and show you a window of file waiting to be written to CD
- Click on 'Write these files to CD'

PhotoStory 3

A free download from <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.aspx>

You will want your original full-size photos for this program. It allows you to create movement in your still pictures by starting at one part of your photo and moving across or zooming in or out during the progression of the slide show.

You can also add music.

The end result is a .wmv file that you can copy to a CD. It is way too big to send in email or post to a website.