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THROUGH THE LENS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of ISLAND PHOTO GROUP

Dedicated To Excellence In Photography

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Taking Pictures To Be Shown On Your Computer Screen or TV

by Ron Ettus

If you're a tourist, taking pictures with your digital camera and wishing to display them on either a TV set or a computer can be a concern. The question is how can you maximize the number of pictures on your memory card and still view quality pictures on your screen?



The size of an image file that will be printed is usually greater than the image file which is to be viewed on a TV. A television screen cannot produce the detail that a print can, so the natural question is what file size is necessary so that decent pictures can be displayed on a TV, keeping in mind that the smaller the file size, the more pictures one can store on a memory card? I have found that a file size of 500k is more than adequate to produce a good picture on a TV screen or a computer monitor.

There are two ways to control your digital camera so that the size of the file is about 500k: image size and compression.

In image size, your camera may offer various dimensions, such as 2560x1920, 1600x1200, 1280x960, and 640x480. A file size of 2560 by 1920 is equal to 2560 times 1920, which is 4,915,200, or about 4.9M. A file size of 1660x1200 is 1660 times 1200, which is equal to 1,992,000, or 1.99M. These file sizes are much bigger than necessary and could unnecessarily use up the space on your memory card. Here is where compression comes in.

What is compression? It is a set of internal mathematical and computer algorithms (or set of rules) to reduce the file size. For example, suppose you have a picture of a blue sky. Many of the pixels next to each other are the same blue color. The file could record blue, blue, blue, etc. for 200 times. Another way is to have the algorithm direct the file to specify blue and repeat it 200 times. It takes up much less space this way than to actually record something 200 times. Since pictures differ, the same compression method will produce slightly different results from the same file sizes. For printing, the greatest file size produces the greatest details. There are different methods of compression, but the ones that reduce the file size the greatest also degrade the image the most.

For my Minolta Dimage 7i, I can specify a file size of 1600 by 1200 to be compressed at the standard compression and have good results for a TV or computer monitor.

What's New

| | | |
|--|-----------------|----|
| IPG Program - Ed Sambolin - LI Photo Spots | December | 6 |
| Long Island Photoshop Meeting | December | 8 |
| PFLI Competition | December | 10 |
| Holiday Party | December | 13 |
| IPG Critique Night | December | 20 |
| PFLI Selection Committee | To Be Announced | |

Quick Tips for December



Postcard-Perfect Photograph?

by Andrew Hudson

Four elements are common to all good photographs: simplicity, composition, lighting, and practice.

Simplicity is actually a deceptively difficult element to capture. What you as a photographer need to do is let the camera help you simplify the things you see in front of you. You begin with a very busy canvas (everything in view) and have to work to simplify by eliminating some of the contents. You can do this either by getting physically closer to your subject, or by using a telephoto lens to zoom in and crop the shot tighter. When you photograph a person, photograph his or her face only, rather than the whole person.

Composition is equally important. An artist's technique, called the "Golden Mean," is to divide the picture into imaginary thirds both vertically and horizontally. Then, place the subject of the photo on or near those imaginary lines or their intersections. Study photographs that you like and you'll see that almost every one has thirds that you can find.

Lighting is the third key ingredient. Photos that win competitions almost always show a skilled use of light. Try to photograph only at dawn, in the late afternoon, and at dusk, when the low angle of the sun produces rich, warm colors and long shadows. Avoid shooting at noon, a time when light is very "flat."

Practice: Taking photographs that you like won't take a lot of special, expensive equipment. But it will take lots of trial and error. Even professional photographers take many photographs of the same subject to get just one that they like. Remember, only practice makes perfect!

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IPG Meeting Information

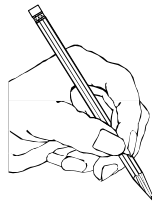
IPG meetings will be held from 7:30 - 10:00 PM on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Mondays of each month, except for holidays, at our meeting room located at:

Ellsworth Allen Park
101 Motor Avenue
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Critique Nights will be held the 3rd Monday of every month

All IPG members can submit 2 photos in each of the following categories:

Color Prints, B&W Prints and Slides



President's Message

The following is excerpted from an article by Jim McGee in the current issue of *Vivid Light Photography* online magazine (www.vividlight.com). I thought that it is food for thought for all of us.

~ Charlie ~



Charlie Bowman, IPG President

Just Another Tool?

by Jim McGee
Vivid Light Photography

I've never quite understood why some photographers get so hung up on shaving hairs about what lens/camera/flash is just a tad better than another. Check out the newsgroups and camera forums and you can find people debating these points to death.

The truth is, when someone looks at an image, they could care less what hardware was used to create it. In the end, it's the image that's important.

An awful lot of photographers get hung up in the spec sheets and forget that in the end we are photographers. Whether we do it professionally or for fun, we're in the business of making images. Which means we'd be far better off spending our time and money out in the field perfecting our skills and our craft than pouring over specs.

As far as I'm concerned, there's no best camera or best lens. But there is the best tool for the job. So look in the drawer or in your camera bag. Pick out the best camera for the kind of shooting you want to do. Turn off the damned computer and get out and do it!

In the end, it's the image that matters.



A very happy IPG member taking some pictures