

FEB MPPC MEETING INFORMATION

ON-LINE SHARING

The panel discussed how to share your digital photographs on-line. This can be used for a number of purposes:

- Photos displayed for other photographers to view and comment.
- To keep in touch with family members near and far.
- To sell your images
- To send your images to a professional Printer in another location.

The things you need are a computer, a high-speed Internet connection and digital images. Digital images can contain a large amount of information, so a high-speed Internet connection is desirable. Either Cable or DSL from you phone company will suffice. A standard modem, phone line, connection is very slow. It may take hours to do what a high-speed connection can do in minutes.

FILM to DIGITAL:

Film images can be converted to digital by having them scanned. This can be accomplished at home if you have the proper equipment. The easiest way is to have them converted by your local photo outlet or shop. Often, you'll be asked if you want the pictures on CD when you have the film developed. A side advantage of this process is you can view them, often at the store, and pick the pictures you want to have printed. A word of caution: Most of these scans are low resolution (quality) good for small prints, viewing on a computer screen or sending by Email. The advantage is their small file size which can be anywhere from 25KB to 120KB (KB is 1 thousand bits of information). By comparison a high quality scan compares to the quality produced by a digital camera, 3 -20 MB (MB is 1 million bits of information). The file size makes huge prints, but is impractical for most users to display on the Internet. Further, only professional photography shops have this type of equipment. One place that will produce high quality scans at a reasonable price is the ScanCafé: www.scancafe.com They have a good policy at a reasonable priced.

RESIZING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

A high quality digital photo (file) is huge and takes up a lot of space on a computer, be it yours, or the site you chose to display them. To

reduce this huge size the digital photo is “resized” or “down scaled.” Another term for this operation is “up or down resampling.” All refer to changing the image size. If you UP SCALE an image and you make it larger, DOWN SCALE makes it smaller. High quality images can be 240 to 300 ppi (pixels per inch) for printing. Email and computer images only need to be 72 - 96 ppi. To make it simpler a graphics program like ACDSee, Picasa or PhotoShop & Photoshop Elements, make it easy to resize images.

In the programs menus find “resize or file size”, it may be on a sub menu. Example: in Photoshop products: select IMAGE from the top menu. A submenu will appear. Select IMAGE SIZE (Image>Image Size) The Image Size controls will appear as a box on the screen with some options.

- Resample image – check on
- Constrain proportions – Check on
- The next adjustments are toward the top of the box
- Width – 800 (Make sure small box to right says pixels)
- Height – 600 (Make sure small box to right says pixels)
- Note: because Constrain Proportions is on, entering one number will automatically calculate the other number. I suggest you enter the number for the largest dimension depending on if the photo is a landscape or a portrait
- Click OK
- Save the image as another name so as not to chance the original image. EX: Tim.jpg may become TimEM.jpg Also make sure the image is saved as a .JPG

The Resize I use most often is 700 for the largest picture dimension. Most monitors today display a screen size of 800 ppi wide x 600 ppi high or larger. This makes sure the print will fit on the monitor.

Many of the Email programs and Sites will resize the image for you or give you a choice of sizes, and you don’t have to worry about it. This may be part of your decision on what site or Email program you use. Some sites are free while others offer additional services for a fee. If you have children PLEASE make sure there is a system to control access to “adult” material. Most sites have some method to do this.

SITES: This is information NOT a recommendation or endorsement by MPPC, any of its members or the author.

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Hope this information is helpful
Tim