



January, 2009

Happy New Year! Let's Think Pictures!

The pace of life is slowing down during this wintry, post holiday season and many of us will have some free time, maybe even too much free time. There's plenty of photographic projects to do, and many of them are free. Let's take a look at a few.

Pictures You Didn't Know You Had (Sort of)

We've all taken pictures that were disappointments when we first viewed them, and then probably discarded them. That's the wrong thing to do - after all, we only learn from our mistakes.

Sometimes the picture was just "grab shot", or the wrong lens was on the camera. Perhaps a zoom lens was set to tele instead of wide, or the camera wasn't held straight & level.



Picture #1, for example, is the entire shot as it was captured. It is static - nothing is happening. Then the photographer remembered why the picture was taken and went to work to make it better. Too much of the photo is foreground and background and had to be removed. The subject, a man looking for something to shoot video of, was oblivious to the action going on right behind him. It's as if the kangaroos were taunting him for being so clueless. Picture #2 shows the important parts of the scene and draws the viewers' eyes into the action.



For those of us using a computer with digital photos, only a few minutes are needed to make this change without losing the original scene if we want it in the future. There's the rush one gets when creating something from seemingly nothing. Without using a computer, you can achieve the same end with a cut mat or just a pair of scissors to effectively alter our original.



January, 2009

Sometimes we might take pictures that just aren't right the way the subject arranges itself. In past issues, we've discussed that composition in Western culture has our eyes going from upper left, across then down to lowest right. If there's nothing on the right side to keep our eyes from leaving the picture, that's exactly what happens - the image is left behind and pretty much ignored. Photo #3 is shown as it was shot. Photo #4 has been flipped



horizontally so that the tree trunk acts as a frame along the right border to keep the viewers' eyes from drifting out of the picture. The photo was also straightened so that the tree trunk is more vertical than diagonal. A little cropping along the bottom and a slight lightening gives the greens a little



more oomph. Is it a great picture? Sadly, no. Is it a better picture than #3, yes.

Our last example, photos #5 - 6, take a snapshot and transforms it into a soothing pictorial background suitable for hanging in a hallway, along a stairwell or some other lifeless area. Again, it isn't a masterpiece, but it takes a pretty bland snapshot and turns it into a better than average photo.



January, 2009



all photographs ©2008 J. Harmen

How Big is Too **BIG?**

Manufacturers seem to be always making things bigger and typically promoting them to be better. This is not always the case, as will soon be shown.

At the Consumer Electronics Show held this past week at Las Vegas Pretec (a chip maker) announced a new SD memory card architecture that will allow up to 2 TERABYTES (TB) of storage on an SD card. This will be called the SD XC type card. A 2TB memory card is the same as 1024 gigabytes (GB) or 1,048,576 megabytes (MB). A primary vehicle to use this card is the digital camcorder. At today's best HD format, this is about 15 hours of video. With the average digital camcorder battery giving about an hour of service life per recharge, it would take at least 12 batteries or recharges to fill the card.

Still camera makers will undoubtedly make their cameras compatible with SD XC, if for no other reason than they can. Let's consider some ramifications.

An advanced digital SLR camera today averages about 10 megapixels (MP) and would take approximately 349,000 photos on a 2TB card. The estimated transfer time from the camera's card to a power user's newest computer would be about 15 hours, assuming the computer is doing nothing else but downloading. (The average home computer has a hard drive of 50-200 MB and the drive is far from empty. Only a small percentage of the photos could go on the computer at any given time.

MadisonPhotoPlus the Photo Summit



January, 2009

We know that it takes the average person 10-20 minutes to find about 20 pictures when working with a 1GB card containing about 500 images. Imagine trying to find those 20 shots out of a selection of 349,000 images!

As you (hopefully) have learned by now, the best permanent storage media available today is the CD, which can hold up to 700MB of data. At today's higher CD write speeds, a full card could be burned to 2996 CDs in only about 233 hours. If there isn't room to store all those CDs, and longevity isn't that important, about 410 DVDs would do the trick. There's also the 8700 4X6" pages needed to hold the index prints so files could be located.

Occasionally, a person has a corrupt file or accidentally deletes their pictures and image recovery software must be used. Today on a powerful computer and a high speed 2GB memory card, it takes about 7.5 hours to scan the card. Sometimes it takes more than one pass to recover most of the images. A single pass on a 2TB card could be accomplished in as little as 320 DAYS.

Modern print making machinery can make a 4x6" print in about 6 seconds. With that information, one can compute how many weeks, days & hours would be needed to print the entire contents of the card. Go right ahead!

And, if they can make a 2TB card in 2009, what about that 32TB card that's on the drawing board now?

Taking you into the light!



The winter/spring schedule for our classes is attached to this month's newsletter. Two weeks later, it will appear on www.madisonphoto.com and www.photosummit.com. At that time, classes will be open to the public. As usual, newsletter readers get first dibs.

By the way ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We'll be back next month with new ideas for you, but we hope to hear from you before then. Thank you for coming to us with your photographic needs and concerns.

MadisonPhotoPlus

40 Main St., Madison, NJ 07940

v. 973-966-2900; f. 973-377-1458

www.madisonphoto.com

*Eric, Jerry, Joy, Julie, Marie, Mario,
Rob, Sybil & Vincent*



the Photo Summit

383 Springfield Ave., Summit, NJ 07901

v. 908-273-7427; f. 908-277-0218

www.photosummit.com

*Bret, John P., John T., Lynne,
& Mark*