

Updated September 1, 2008

## Digital Photo Guidelines For Railpace Newsmagazine

**Thank you for your interest** in submitting your digital images for publication in Railpace Newsmagazine. Welcome to the growing number of digital photographers in the pages of Railpace each month!

**2005** marked our first full year accepting and publishing digital photos, and we were very pleased with the quality of reproduction that we were able to achieve.

During **2006**, the vast majority of rail photographers moved to Digital to exploit its quality, flexibility, and ability to contribute news photos in an expedited manner.

**By 2007**, about 90% of the photos published in Railpace were now digital camera images, including the front and rear covers, and two-page spreads!

Today, "prosumer" or "intermediate level" digital cameras provide images of excellent quality for magazine reproduction. Even a 3-megapixel digital camera can provide a good quality 3-1/2 x 5-inch "news-photo" when the camera is set to its highest recording quality.

The recent generation of 6, 8, and 10-mega pixel cameras provide resolution high enough for a 2-page spread (11x17"), and can **produce resolution superior to 35mm film cameras.**

Digital has also proven to beat film resolution when shooting in low light situations, such as railcar and station interiors, and at night photo sessions. Digital camera "Auto White Balance" and the option to manually set "light source type" is also a huge plus for night and indoor photography where fluorescent, incandescent, mercury vapor and sodium vapor lights are often encountered.

If you're already onboard with Digital photography and ready to submit digital images to Railpace Newsmagazine for publication, we've got great news, **IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO CONTRIBUTE!**

- You can use our **FREE FTP Photo Upload site**, and
- You can simply send us your **out-of-the-camera JPEG ( .jpg ) or .RAW/.NEF files**

**We want to make contributing Digital photos to**

**AS EASY AS TAKING THE PICTURE !**

## Trackside:

- It's important to **shoot your image at the highest resolution your camera can record.**
- Virtually all digital cameras record images in JPEG mode ( .jpg file extension).
- Set your camera to the highest quality (no compression) setting.
- You will fit fewer images onto your flash card, but the trade-off is they will be the highest quality.
- You paid for all those megapixels— so *use* them!

Newer digital cameras, such as the 6-megapixel Canon Digital Rebel, 8 MP Canon Digital Rebel XT, 10 MP Canon Digital Rebel XTi, Xsi, Canon 10D, Canon 20D, 30D, 40D, Canon 5D, Fuji Finepix S2, [and other new digital cameras] can also record in **RAW** format, which provides the highest quality. Nikon-brand digicams, such as the Nikon D70, D80, D90, Nikon 5700 and others, also can record in RAW mode, with the file extension .NEF

## On Your Computer:

When you have digital image(s) that you want to share with us, simply do the following:

1. **Make a low-res “thumbnail”** (72 d.p.i., 10-inches across, approximately 300KB) JPEG file and **send it to us as an e-mail attachment** “for approval.”

**E-mail the “for approval” file to the Railpace Editorial Office at:** [railpace@ptd.net](mailto:railpace@ptd.net)

**Be sure to save this low-res thumbnail as a new file name, so that you don't over-write and downsample (reduce the file size/ quality of) your hi-resolution file !**

Include a brief photo caption or information in your e-mail explaining your photo.

2. If we can use your digital image in an upcoming issue of Railpace, we'll send you an e-mail response with the **URL** (internet address) of our FTP Photo Upload Site, and a **Passcode** which will allow you to Upload up to **four** hi-resolution images.

3. Simply **Upload** your hi-resolution JPEG or RAW file over our free FTP (File Transfer Protocol) site. **It's easy to use, there is no file size limit, and it's FREE. JPEG file format works best;** .RAW and .TIFF file formats may also be sent; these work best if you have a fast (DSL or cable-modem) connection.

**Extra Convenience!** The Railpace Digital Photo Upload page provides a place to type in your name, e-mail address, and **plenty of space for a detailed photo caption.** Include your postal (snail-mail) address if you wish to receive a complimentary copy by First Class Mail of the issue in which your photo appears.

The Upload submission page keeps all of your information together in one file, and saves you the extra step of having to E-mail detailed caption information separately.

## Adjusting and Processing Digital Images:

We recommend that you send us your unedited, HI-RES, out-of-the-camera JPEG or RAW file.

Kindly do not spend time editing your hi-res file, allow us to do that, so we're not trying to guess what corrections you may have already made, or have to un-do something you already did.

## Getting Your Digital Images to Railpace

You can utilize our, FREE, web-based **FTP Photo Upload Service**, described above, or burn your digital file(s) onto a CD and **snail-mail or courier it to us**.

***Kindly do not try to e-mail huge, hi-resolution files!*** Many E-mail servers cannot handle large file attachments, and your e-mail may be rejected by your ISP's mail server.

**To send us your digital images on a CD:**

**BY MAIL:**

**FedEx / UPS / DHL couriers**

Railpace Newsmagazine  
Editorial Office  
PO Box 229  
Greentown, PA 18426-0229

Railpace Newsmagazine  
Editorial Office  
130 Beechwood Cove Road  
Greentown, PA 18426

The Photo Upload System is available 24 / 7; system performance is fastest after 10 PM at night.

**Please be patient**— it may take a while after the “progress bar” is filled for the screen to display the message “Upload Completed”

If you have Dial-Up or a very slow Internet connection, your Upload may time-out. Consider getting DSL or a Cable modem connection, or use a friend's computer with a faster connection to Upload.

Some contributors who use America On Line ( aol.com ) have reported difficulty Uploading files.

**If you have trouble uploading, send an e-mail to [railpace@ptd.net](mailto:railpace@ptd.net) and we'll try to assist you.**  
**The free Upload system is very reliable, and is available 24-7.**

## F.A.Q.s (Frequently Asked Questions)

### ***Why do I need a Passcode to get onto the Upload Service site?***

The Passcode is used to keep hackers, pranksters and other low-life from messing up a good system! The Passcode also provides privacy for your work, as it prevents other contributors from looking at— or tinkering with— your images, before they're published in Railpace.

### ***Why am I restricted to Uploading only “up to four images”?***

Although file servers can accommodate **much larger file sizes** than e-mail servers can, **file storage capacity** is still not infinite. The four-image limit allows enough space for other contributors to also place their images. Think of the Upload Service as a temporary “bridge” where you pass images to us, it is not a “storage” or “photo gallery” site.

As a side benefit, the 4-image limitation **requires to you “edit” and choose your best submissions.** We just don't have the staff to look at hundreds of digital images, or review your entire 2-week vacation at Sand Patch... *you* are the Editor, choose what is best quality and **most newsworthy.**

### ***What if I'm stuck with a dial-up connection to the Internet?***

You can try to upload your file, but it will be *painfully* slow, and may time-out. Consider getting DSL or Broadband (Cable), or find a friend who has DSL or Cable, and upload from their machine.

### ***I need to send more than 4 images, such as for a feature article.***

In situations where you need to send us many images, please send us a CD.

### ***My Upload “Failed” and did not go through !***

- Be sure you are Uploading a JPEG ( .jpg) [**preferred**]; or .RAW .NEF or TIFF file type.
- **JPEG** ( .jpg) files Upload best... TIFF files can be cranky unless you have a fast connection.
- Your file may be **corrupted**. Reopen it and check it, **then re-save it with a slightly different file name.**
- Your connection may be timing-out, especially if you have Dial-Up, or a slow internet connection.
- The vagaries of the Internet...line troubles... network burps... try again later.
- Some contributors who have America On Line ( aol.com ) have experienced difficulty Uploading files.

The FTP Upload Service is available 24/7; system performance is fastest after 10 PM.

You are in the vanguard of a new generation of Railfans and historians, digitally preserving our railroad heritage. We are honored to run your digital images in Railpace Newsmagazine. *Welcome Aboard!*

Check the Railpace website, **www.railpace.com** for periodic updates to this Digital Photography Guide.

**Print out this “guide”** to answer questions you may have when you're not in front of your computer, and to counsel friends who are joining the ranks of digital photographers. [You may need to save it to your desktop first, before printing it.]

*Questions/comments/suggestions on this instructional presentation?*

Please e-mail: [railpace@ptd.net](mailto:railpace@ptd.net)