

TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR DIGITAL PHOTOS PUBLISHED IN RAILPACE

Since the advent of Digital photography, railfan photography has experienced a renaissance, and we have been inundated with photo contributions— for which we are most grateful.

Many film photographers who have switched to Digital continue to contribute high-quality, well-composed news photos, however, some new photographers, and some folks new to Digital, may benefit from the following suggestions to improve their opportunities to get their photos in print in Railpace.

— WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR —

- 1. NEWSWORTHY** photos — Not just "random shootings" of everyday subjects.
First and foremost, RAILPACE is a News Magazine. When you have a photo to contribute, ask yourself, **"Is it Newsworthy?"** While we do run well-composed shots of general interest, News Photos take precedence, and when space is limited, they get preference.
- 2. LOCATION IDENTITY** — Compose your photo so you can tell WHERE it was taken.
Not merely "a train in the woods... somewhere."
Include a "prop" such as a signal, station, bridge, town, building, sign, etc.
Make it more than a tight wedge view of the power, **include as much of the train in your photo as possible.**
This is perhaps the major reason most photos don't make the cut. You may have an interesting subject, such as a special excursion, a foreign-road unit, or a detour move, but if it's "somewhere-in-the-brush" its news value is lost.
- 3. GOOD WEATHER—SUNLIGHT** Events happen in all types of weather, but since color space is limited, we generally select the best weather photos.
Compose your photo angle with good lighting, not on "the dark side" of the subject.
- 4. PRONTO!** When possible, try to get material in before the last week of the month, when space for the next issue is at a premium, or is filled completely.
Stop thinking like a film photographer; "When I finish the roll next week, I'll mail it off for processing, and then eventually send it in to Railpace..."
With our free FTP Upload system, you can send us your photos electronically the same day, or soon thereafter, **Think like a newspaper reporter—** you don't want to be "scooped!"
- 5. UNEDITED HI-RES—** First, e-mail us a small "thumbnail" low-res JPEG image for approval, so we can let you know if we can use it. If we can use your photo, we will e-mail you a Passcode and the URL (web address) of our free FTP site, where you will Upload your **unedited, HI-RES, out-of-the-camera JPEG 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 did.
- 6. INTRODUCE YOURSELF—** It's common courtesy to tell us who you are when you send us a photo or communicate by e-mail.
We organize our photos and captions by photographer's name, and it's extremely helpful to us to know your name when we match up photos with their captions, and also if we need to get back to you with a question.
We have no idea who "Conrail2336@aol.com" or "Bob@yahoo.com" is.
We don't need a "bio" or long introduction, just a pleasant hello and... your name.

We are blessed with plenty good material now that the world has gone digital, **so you need to be prompt,** and we have to be selective— but we welcome contributions from ALL of our readers. Check the photo credits each month, and you'll agree there are many new folks coming on board!

Keep in mind that NEWS PHOTOS should be timely, just a few days, not weeks or months, old.

THANKS for your contribution to Railpace!

Rev. Sept. 1, 2008