

# READY NET GO ... NEWS

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<http://www.readynetgo.net>

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## Tip of the Month

### Email Tips

We've all received them; email messages in our Inbox with only **first names** in the **From** field. Usually there's an attachment; sometimes there is a subject listed and sometime there isn't. Seems harmless, right?

Think again! These are **tell-tale signs** of a potential message with a virus or at the very least it's SPAM. The good news is that you can get more information about this type of email without opening it.

In Outlook 2003, **right click** the message and choose **Options**. A box will open detailing where the message came from (at the bottom in the section **Internet Headers**). If you scroll through this list, you'll see your email address as well as the email address of the sender. You also may see the IP address of the sender and whether or not the IP address matches the senders email. (Note: nearly all legitimate messages will match).

If you don't recognize the email address, **delete it before opening it**. And if it has an attachment, **DO NOT** open it.

Since more people are using SPAM filters and anti-virus software, make sure **your information** is easy to recognize. Use your full name in the **From** field and always put descriptive text in the Subject field. This way, if a filter inadvertently removes your message, the individual will spot it when they review their junk folders.

## Time to get digital ...

It's been a few years since our last newsletter on digital cameras so we thought we'd offer some new advice on choosing the best camera for your needs. You may be looking to upgrade from your 2 megapixel camera or you may finally be ready to get rid of your old manual film camera. Either way, we hope the following tips will point you in the right direction.

There are thousands of digital cameras on the market right now and they all claim to be the best. If you've never had a digital camera, first decide what you want.

### 1) Will you print your photos or email them to family and friends or post on a website?

- If you're going to print your photos, you need a higher megapixel camera – opt for 3 or 4 or higher if you want photos bigger than 8 x 10. Email and web photos need to be small because the larger they are, the longer they take to download. If you email and post photos on the web get a 1 or 2 megapixel camera. \* (If you buy a larger megapixel camera, you can always save your pictures at a smaller resolution)

### 2) Do you like to zoom in on the action?

- Not many cameras have a lengthy optical zoom so this may be a good way of narrowing your options. For a point and shoot model, **optical zoom** capabilities are typically 3X with some larger point and shoot models having 8X or 10X zooms. If you take a lot of landscape shots you may want to buy a camera that has add-on lenses for more versatility.
- [For reference, a 5X optical zoom is equivalent to a 38mm – 190mm lens.]

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## WWW (Websites Worth Watching)

1. [www.dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com) – Full specs and professional reviews on digital cameras.
2. [www.dcresource.com](http://www.dcresource.com) – Another good site for digital camera reviews. You can even sign up for a how-to course starting in September.
3. [www.dcvIEWS.com/yourview.htm](http://www.dcvIEWS.com/yourview.htm) – Click on a month under '**your hotshots**' (3<sup>rd</sup> box at the bottom of the screen) to view some spectacular photos.

### 3) Do you want a camera you can slip in your pocket or do you like a firm grip to keep it steady?

- Size and weight are probably the two most important features for first time buyers. Keep in mind that the smaller the camera is, the less features it will have. There are many excellent, slim, point and shoot models with ample features however. If your hand shakes or you tend to lose things easily, you may want to opt for a larger camera.

If you're looking to upgrade your digital camera, there are many new improvements which may alleviate some of your trials and tribulations.

- 1) **Larger LCD screens** – Many cameras now have a 2.5" LCD screen which makes lining up and reviewing your photos easier.
- 2) **Rechargeable batteries** – Most of the newer cameras use **rechargeable batteries** rather than AA or AAA. Recharging the battery makes economic and environmental sense but you may want to purchase an extra battery just in case. Or look for a model that supports both rechargeable and regular batteries for those moments when an outlet is nowhere in site.
- 3) **Resolution** – The resolution indicates how much fine detail the camera can show. Generally, the higher the resolution, the crisper the pictures will be. Higher resolution cameras come at a price though, so if you're on a budget you'll have to weigh the cost - benefit ratio. 4 megapixel cameras are moderately priced now and offer very good quality for 8 x 10 photos or smaller. If you want the newest technology, look at the **12 megapixel** cameras (~\$2500). While these aren't point-and-shoot cameras you would take to the beach, they do offer exact control for superb photos.
- 4) **Video** – Most digital cameras now shoot video with varying results. If you want to take movie clips, or add sound to your pictures, look for a model that handles these features well. Start with the review sites listed under this months' WWW.
- 5) **Scene modes** – If you have an older digital camera, you may not have many bells and whistles. One of the features on newer models, which have made taking pictures easier, is scene modes. Manufacturers have taken the guess work out of environmental conditions and have created **modes that are pre-set for certain lighting conditions, distance, and focus**. In most instances, these scene modes really help with the end result. The only drawback is that many cameras have these modes buried within menus. If you're the point-and-shoot type, don't worry about the number of scene modes. If, however, you want to take photography to that next level, the scene modes may just be the icing on the cake.

#### Other things to consider:

- 1) **Weight** – Gone are the days of cameras that weigh 2 or 3 lbs. Many styles measure a meager 1" thick and weigh close to 5 oz. Slipping a camera of this size into your shirt or jacket pocket ensures that you won't miss a "perfect camera moment".
- 2) **Ease of use** – Can you review and delete pictures quickly? Are the menus intuitive? You don't want to have to whip out the manual every time you take a picture.
- 3) **What type of media does the camera take?** Olympus uses **xD** cards, Sony uses the **SonyStick**, most others use **CF** (Compact Flash) or **SD** (Secure Digital) media. They have different pricing although all work basically the same way. And since you will most certainly download your pictures to a PC, you can use one card over and over. The only problem is that since the media is so small, you may want to keep some extra on hand in case one of them gets lost or damaged.

Finally, many inkjet and photo printers have card slots that do not require a PC for printing (you can even do minor edits of photos right on the printer). If you're in the market for a new printer, make sure the one you buy is compatible with your digital camera.