Tips for Creating a Slideshow

Compiled by Bob Spalding

One of the best ways to present your images is with a slideshow. With today's high quality flat screen TV's and quality projectors a well produced slideshow can convey the drama and emotion of your digital images. Listed below are some tips to help produce that high quality slideshow.

Timing: Keep your slideshow to 8-12 minutes. You may have hundreds of photos, but use only your very best ones. Your viewers need to be kept engaged and alert. If the show is too long, they will start to lose interest.

Music: Besides great photos, nothing adds more to a slideshow than music. Music selection should convey the emotion and sense of place to your audience. Consider the mood of your slideshow and find the appropriate music. Select music that goes with the imagery but doesn't take the viewer's attention away from the photos. Try to avoid music with singing.

Slide Timing –Transition - Motion: Transitioning photos should remain on the screen for approximately 3-4 seconds before transitioning to the next picture. There are many types of transitions available. The most common is the dissolve. These can be very powerful in conveying emotion. Adding the Ken Burns effect can add not only a unique transition, but also motion to your program. *Motion creates Emotion*.

Test: Check your presentation before showing it to the public. Watch a completed draft several times to be sure it works the way you planned and fix any mistakes. Test the presentation on the system you are using at the event. There is nothing more embarrassing than the presentation not working when it is show time.

Misc: *Landscape* pictures show better than *Portrait* pictures. *Video* works great if it relates to your slideshow. ***Edit all photos*** before you start developing your show. *Resize* photos to 1024x 768 and save as Jpegs. This is a good option for most slideshows. If using *Text*, be sure it is large enough and easy to read.   Add a *Credit Slide* at the end. Give yourself credit for the photos and the slideshow. This creates a nice ending for your show.