



July 2008

## A Modern Fable Aesop Would Shudder

Once upon a time there was a little girl who lived with her family in the suburbs of a big city. This little girl just “graduated” from grade school and will attend middle school in the fall. As a graduation gift, she got what she’d asked for - a new digital camera. Everyone was happy in the little girl’s family.

The little girl’s family was planning to drive to the Rockies for summer vacation this year, but because gasoline is so expensive they planned to stay closer to home. Instead of Colorado’s mountains, they went down the Shore here in Jersey. This would be a great vacation because the mom & dad allowed the little girl to bring her best friend for the week. A great time to be had for all.

The little girl used her camera everywhere - their apartment, the parking lot, the game arcade, the car, the beach, the restaurants, wherever she was. She was a very, very happy little girl and was very happy with her photos.

A few days after returning home the little girl’s new camera stopped working. Her daddy yelled at her for dropping the camera, but there wasn’t a scratch on it. Her mommy said she would contact the camera company. Mommy sent the camera back to it’s maker and received an email reply a few days later.

“We are sorry you have had a problem with one of our products. Thank you for returning it to us. The estimated cost to repair your camera is \$175.16 including return shipping, plus sales tax. Normally a camera this new would be covered by our warranty, but our technician found evidence of sand and salt in the camera, voiding your warranty. Please refer to the warnings on page 123 of your instruction booklet”, wrote the big bad company.

“\$175!”, exclaimed the little girl’s parents. “That’s ridiculous, the camera only cost \$200 new last week. The man never said anything about sand and salt. We used our last camera at the beach all the time”, said the mommy.

“What good is a camera if you can’t use it at the beach?” mused the daddy. “I’m not spending \$175 to fix a \$200 camera. What crooks they are. I’ll never buy any of their products again!”, he added.

And the little girl went to her room and cried...

The moral to this story is not to take your camera where it doesn’t belong. Just because we all want to take photos anywhere, anytime doesn’t mean we can. Assuming a camera will stand up to conditions we assume aren’t harsh doesn’t make it so. You know what they say about the word “assume”.



Many cameras are designed to go to the beach, skiing, boating, etc. If you don’t own one, buy an AquaPac or similar product to enjoy your camera wherever you go. Starting at about \$30, they are guaranteed to be less expensive than an repair job.



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## Travelling with cameras Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ1 *Do the security scanners affect my digital cameras?*

Going through security will not damage your camera, memory cards, CDs, DVDs, jump drives, etc. in any way. Film, on the other hand, will be damaged or ruined by the security scanners. You must protect film (up until it has been developed) in either a lead or barium container.

FAQ2 *Do I need to carry my camera and accessories in my carry on baggage?*

Yes.

FAQ3 *I've heard I cannot bring spare batteries onto a plane. Is this really true?*

Not exactly. The government is somewhat vague on this issue. Go to the following URL for their explanation: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/batteries.shtm>. You can save room and weight with a "Go" charger.

FAQ4 *Will my battery charger work in foreign countries?*

Most chargers today are variable voltage and will work correctly. Some may require an adapting tip to fit into overseas outlets. Some older style chargers require a **low** voltage transformer to work in some countries. (A high voltage transformer will not work even though it will power a hair dryer.) The charger will be marked regarding its voltage input requirements.

FAQ5 *Is it less expensive to buy film, memory cards etc. at my destination?*

Only if you want to pay more. U.S. currency isn't 2

worth very much outside our borders right now.

FAQ6 *Should I process or print my pictures while I'm away, or wait until I get home?*

Wait for several reasons. Your images on film or memory cards weigh less and take up less room than they will after printing. The weak dollar will also make prints more expensive. Many regions do not use our standard paper sizes or formats. You may end up with sizes you cannot use at home. You will also have little or no recourse if the quality should be below your personal standards.

FAQ7 *Can I watch my video on TVs overseas?*

Probably not. Although the U.S. uses a broadcast system called NTSC, very few other countries do. Other systems are totally incompatible with NTSC. For this reason, DVDs and tapes purchased overseas will not play on your system at home.

FAQ8 *Can I send photos back home using the camera in my phone?*

If the picture is worth taking, use a real camera, not the toy camera built into a phone. If you must use your camera's phone, most cell phones compatible with our systems will not work as phones outside of North America. If you use a real (digital) camera, then your pictures may certainly be sent home via the internet via your or other computers with an online connection.

FAQ9 *If I have a CD burned from images from my digital camera, will I be able to use this CD at home?*

Yes, CDs will be compatible. Most DVDs will not be compatible. Most CDs are universal while DVDs are not.



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## Random Notes

Later this month the first major shipments of the new 32GB SD memory cards is due to arrive. For those of you requiring Class 6 speed cards for your camcorder, these appear to be quite costly (in the \$450-\$500 range). For SLR cameras and some camcorders the Class 4 speed cards should sell for about half that price.

Owners of beach safe cameras should remember to rinse their cameras off and dry them before opening any doors to change batteries, cards, etc. It only takes a grain of salt to start "electronic cancer".

Our Better Imaging Photo School (BIPS) will hold a few sessions during July. Please visit [www.madisonphoto.com](http://www.madisonphoto.com) or [www.photosummit.com](http://www.photosummit.com) to view the schedule and or sign up for a class.

That's it for July. It's a great month for getting outside and enjoy picture taking.

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