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America's Volunteer LifesaversSM

National Department of
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UPDATE

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HAVE A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY

Time sure flies when you are having fun, and **PA is about the most fun job there is** in the AUX. It is about the only office I know of that allows us to use our imagination and create new approaches to our duties.

Turkey Day is long over by now. The only leftovers you have are a few paper napkins on the counter with orange pumpkins on them. Now it is off and running for all that shopping, preparing, decorating, house cleaning and rearranging, etc. Not much time to think about PA work right now. You know that. I know that. And, **our leadership knows that too.**

This is the time when we all want to thank you for all your good work and efforts during the year. Some of you did absolutely amazing things. Some of you did very well. Some did about average. And some, WELL, some of you have next year to look forward to. We all know that you will do better. **RIGHT?**

The truth of the matter is, we (your leadership) want you to know that PA is a **TEAM effort**. If everyone does his or her part, the job gets done and we have fun too. Good team effort is how the game is won, things get built, and obstacles are overcome with ease.

We hope that you will continue to look to this publication and your very own National "A" Department web site <http://www.auxpa.org/> for instructions, suggestions, information, and motivation. We will do our best to make your job as easy and enjoyable as possible throughout 2003.

This UPDATE is very short in comparison to others. But, it is the **most important** one I have written all year. It should be like a Bikini: large enough to cover the essentials, and brief enough to keep the subject interesting.

Next year I would like to have even more ideas, articles, and suggestions from you for the UPDATE. I know you have good ones. I hear about them through the "mess-deck information system."

NOTE: My E-mail address will change in December. So, for now, please send your suggestions and comments to Norma Karpiscak BC-ALB. normali@gate.net



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PHOTOGRAPHY

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY

We know that most point and shoot, APS and digital cameras come with automatic flash built in. You are not in control and if flash is needed, it will be used.

Some cameras allow you to program the flash if your subject is in the shade or, if you want to shoot without the flash, you can close the flash or turn off the flash switch. Read your instruction manual again to see what your camera does.

The built-in flash usually shoots straight ahead, directly onto the subject, causing red eye or spots on glasses. Even built-in, red eye reduction devices have not cured this problem. There are red eye pens available at camera stores for people and pet eyes that you can dot onto your photos.

Most 35mm cameras that have a focal plane shutter are set with a speed of 1/60 of a second or slower for flash photography. If you shoot faster than 1/60, for example: 1/125 or 1/250, your shutter will open and close before the flash will light up your subject and part of your photos will be dark. On the old standard 35mm cameras you have control of most everything. There are two types; one has a speed on the camera knob that usually has the 1/60 in red for flash or a lightning symbol for flash. That is where you set your camera for flash photography.

The other, newer, 35mm cameras will automatically set your flash speed and even allow you to shoot at a faster speed. These cameras have one or both, a flash socket to plug your flash cord to connect the camera and flash unit or a hot shoe (metal plate) on the top that you slide a flash unit onto. There are pins on the bottom of the flash attachment that need to align with the metal spots on the hot shoe.

If your flash attachment does not do this you can purchase an adapter that goes between the hot shoe and flash attachment, one way you can upgrade your 35mm camera by buying a different flash unit. Your camera dealer should have the knowledge and the instructions on what is compatible for your camera.

Another good thing is to make sure the flash attachment that you purchase is positional so you can bounce the flash and/or buy extensions that raise your flash up so you don't have red eye problems or flash spots on glasses. You may have seen wedding photographers and portrait photographers use these. They do work nicely and you will be happy with the results you see in your photos.

CONTINUED

Question:” How far does the flash carry?”

Answer: Most point and shoot cameras with a built in flash carry only 12 to 15 feet. Anything over that distance, the photos will be darker and might even be out of focus. Remember seeing all the flashes at the Olympics? They were just lighting up the back of the people’s heads in front of them.

You can purchase flash attachments for 35mm cameras that will light up areas 35 to 50 feet if not further. Of course the more money you pay the more you get. Chose one that will give you the light you need in your type of shooting. I have used them all.

Please re-read your camera instruction book now and then. The more you use your camera and analyze your photos the easier and more comfortable you and your camera will become.

In the next article we will talk about “action photography.”

(Note: I have received many nice comments on how some of the previous articles have helped solve a few of those unanswered problems that had you puzzled. This is exactly what these articles are meant to do. I can remember hunting for professional photographers who would *take the time* to answer some of my questions when I decided to become very serious about photography. They were very scarce, so I vowed I would be available if I ever became one of them