

# Welcome

AOL's PhotoCam *plus* has been designed exclusively for AOL Members. PhotoCam *plus* is a high-quality yet affordable digital camera that allows you to create, edit, share and send photos to friends and family.

You're about to step into the future of great photography with AOL's PhotoCam *plus*. This easy-to-follow manual shows you how to use your new camera and MGI's PhotoSuite III SE software like a pro.

You'll find smart tips and cool ideas for creating exciting photo projects. You'll have fun too, which is what AOL's PhotoCam *plus* is all about!

So whether you want to send snapshots with your AOL email, upload, store and share your photos using AOL's "You've Got Pictures", design elaborate cards and tags, build the ultimate AOL Hometown web page, or simply let your imagination roam free. You now own the 21st Century tool that'll help you do it — AOL's PhotoCam *plus*!

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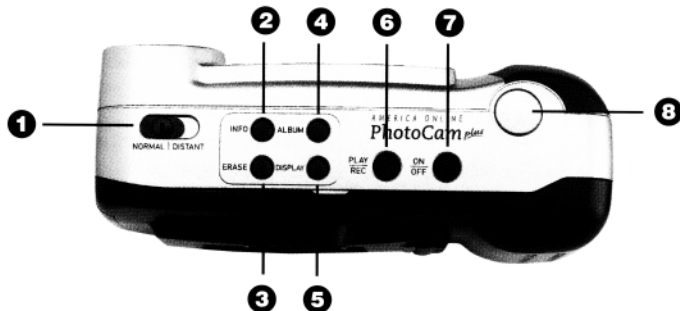
## Know Your Camera

This is not your traditional camera. This is a "digital" camera. A digital camera allows you to take pictures without the use of film.

Eliminate developing costs by downloading the photos to your PC. You can send your photos via AOL email, upload them to You've Got Pictures, or to your web site.

Before going into creating fun projects with AOL's PhotoCam *plus*, familiarize yourself with the features and functions of AOL's PhotoCam *plus*.

## Features and Functions



## Top of PhotoCam plus

- 1 Normal | Distant** - Set the camera to Normal mode if the object or view is between 4" and 12" away from the camera, or to Distant mode if the object or view is 12" or more away from the camera.
- 2 Info** - By pressing the Info button, the current camera settings will appear on the LCD screen. These include number of pictures remaining, Date Stamp, Battery Indicator, Resolution Mode, Self-timer, Flash (On/Off/Auto).

**3 Erase** - The Erase button gives you the capability to discard unwanted photos from the camera's memory. A confirmation screen will give you the opportunity to confirm your request to erase the picture. Press the ►| Timer to continue to erase and the ◀|Flash to stop the erase process.

**4 Album** - Press the Play/Rec button once to enable the LCD to be in the Play mode. Then press and hold down the Album button for several seconds to view previously taken photos. This format will display nine photos at a time on the LCD Display.

When in the Album mode you may individually select and erase one photo at a time by using the arrow button on the back of the camera and then using the erase button on the top of the camera.

**5 Display** - The display button is used to turn on the LCD Display to view the images.

**6 Play/Rec** - Press the Play/Rec button to set the camera in record mode. After you press the shutter release button, the picture is stored in memory. Press the Play/Rec button again to view the photos.

**Note:** *The camera must be turned on when using the four main feature buttons: Info, Erase, Album, and Display.*

**7 On/Off** -Press the On/Off button to turn the PhotoCam *plus* on and off. When the flashing green light next to the viewfinder stops flashing, you are ready to take a picture.

**8 Shutter Release** - Press the Shutter Release button to take the picture.

## ***Back of PhotoCam plus***



**1 View Finder** - Look through the Viewfinder to view the real life subject you want to photograph.

**2 LCD Display** - The LCD Display (Liquid Crystal Display) is one way used to view the photos you have taken, as well as access the menu and info options.

**3 Menu** - Press the Menu button to display the eight menu functions:

- *Compensation* - controls brightness/contrast, + is brighter and - is darker.
- *W. Balance* - allows the camera to adjust to light conditions using preset selections (auto, day light, shady, lamp, fluorescent).
- *Auto Play* - set the time delay between frames before a slideshow of your images starts automatically.
- *Transfer* - to transfer all photos from internal memory to an (CF) external memory card if installed.
- *Auto Off* - Power off timer for non-activity.
- *Quality* - choose photo quality from high to low.
- *Format* - choose to erase all photos already taken at once.
- *Time* - Time and Date menu.

**4 ▶| Timer** - The Timer button lets you move forward to view the photos you have in memory in Play Mode and sets a 10 second timer delay in Record Mode.

**5 ◀| Flash** - The Flash button gives you the options of choosing AutoFlash, No Flash or Full Flash in Record Mode or lets you move backward to view the photos you have in memory in Play Mode.

**Note:** *It is recommended that you use the AutoFlash feature, which is the default setting. This will allow the camera to choose the appropriate type of lighting.*



## Digital Interface Compartment



Located on the left side of the camera are the four ports for attaching the following cables: Video Output, DC Power Adapter, Digital (Serial) and USB.

These ports will enable you to attach the appropriate cables from the camera to your PC, TV/VCR and AC power.

- **Video OutPut** - used to hook your camera to a TV/VCR for viewing images taken with your camera. (yellow cable)
- **DC Power Adapter** - use an AC outlet for power to unload or view images, saving your batteries for future use. (red cable)
- **Digital (Serial) Connection** - the most common way to connect your camera to your PC. (green cable)
- **USB Connection** - for users who have a USB port and Windows 98. (black cable)

**Note:** *The camera is set on an Auto Shutoff. If you do not perform an action within the allotted time the camera will turn off. (Default is three minutes) This can be changed by accessing the main menu button, selecting "Auto Off", use your ► ◀ buttons to increase or decrease the Auto Shutoff time.*

So now you have an understanding of the features and functions, let's get the PhotoCam *plus* ready to take photos.

Once that is complete, we will walk through the steps to "Getting Connected".

## Start Using Your Camera

- **Step 1** Insert the four AA batteries into the battery compartment located on the bottom of AOL's PhotoCam *plus*.



You are now ready to begin taking pictures.

# Shooting Photos

- **Step 1** Press the **On/Off** button.
- **Step 2** Press the **Display** button to use the LCD Display, or you can use the viewfinder at anytime verses using the LCD Display.
- **Step 3** Select a subject then press the **Shutter Release** button to take the picture.

The picture will remain on the display until it is stored in the PhotoCam *plus* memory. Once the picture is stored, the green indicator light will stop blinking, signaling that AOL's PhotoCam *plus* is ready to take the next picture.

**Congratulations!** You have just taken your first digital picture.

- **Step 4** Take three more photos to use later during the project selection.

**Tip:** *Unlike a traditional camera, if you move the camera your image will not be blurred at this time.*

**Reminder:** *Wait for the green indicator light to stop blinking before taking your next picture. This may take several seconds depending on the flash mode.*

Now that you have taken the photos, they are stored in PhotoCam *plus* memory, let's view them.

## View with the LCD Display

- **Step 1** Press the **On/Off** button to turn AOL's PhotoCam *plus* on. Wait for the indicator light to signal AOL's PhotoCam *plus* is ready.
- **Step 2** Press the **Display** button to turn on the LCD Display.
- **Step 3** Press the **Play/Rec** button to begin viewing photos.
- **Step 4** To move to the next photo, press the **►| Timer** button. When you move forward or back through your photos, they will appear out of focus for a second until the photo(s) have completely loaded.

# Hooking Up to Your Computer

This section covers three ways that you can connect the camera to your computer or TV/ VCR.

- Page 7 is for USB connection to PC.
- Page 8 is for serial connection to PC.
- Page 8 and 9 are for connecting the camera to your TV/VCR for viewing photos.

**Tip:** *If you have a Pentium 166 MMX or faster computer and Microsoft Windows 98, we recommend you use the USB cable to upload your photos.*

*If you are not sure whether your computer has a USB port, please refer to your computer's Owners Manual for availability and location of your USB port(s).*

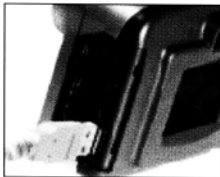
## Using the USB Port to connect AOL's PhotoCam *plus* to your computer.

Using the USB connection allows faster uploading of your photos.

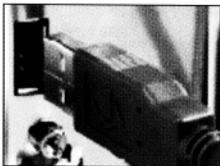
You must install all of the software before connecting in order for your computer to function properly using the USB.

The USB Port is located in the Digital Interface Compartment on the left side of the camera.

- **Step 1** Insert the USB cable into the USB port located in the Digital Interface Compartment on AOL's PhotoCam *plus*.



- **Step 2** Connect the other end of the USB cable to the USB port located on the back of your computer.



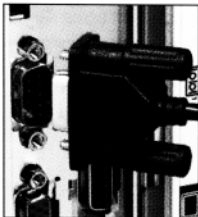
## Using the Serial Port to connect AOL's PhotoCam *plus* to your computer.

The Serial Port is located in the Digital Interface Compartment on the left side of the camera.

- **Step 1** Insert the green cable into the digital port located in the Digital Interface Compartment on AOL's PhotoCam *plus*.



- **Step 2** Connect the serial cable adapter to the COM port located on the back of your computer.



**Note:** *The COM port is found on the back of the computer, however locations may vary with computer manufacturers.*

*Refer to your computers Operating Manual to locate your COM port.*

**Tech Tip:** *Should you have a conflict with your computers serial COM port, AOL has a special online site to help you troubleshoot this issue. Go to AOL Keyword: **Camera Shop**, click on PhotoCam *plus* FAQs, then go to the COM port troubleshooting for assistance.*

## Hooking Up to Your TV/VCR

To view stored images on your television set.

- **Step 1** Insert the yellow video output cable into the video out port located in the Digital Interface Compartment on the left side of AOL's PhotoCam *plus*.





- **Step 2** Connect the other end of the yellow video output cable to the yellow video in plug on your TV/VCR.



**Note:** TV/VCR manufacturers vary. Locate the audio/video ports on your individual TV/VCR and insert the video output connector into the Video port.

- **Step 3** Turn on your **TV** and **VCR**.
- **Step 4** On your television, select the channel for auxiliary video input (not Ch 3 or 4).

**Note:** Channels may vary by manufacturer; refer to your VCR's operating manual.

- **Step 5** Press the **On/Off** button to turn AOL's PhotoCam plus on. Wait for the indicator light to signal AOL's PhotoCam plus is ready.
- **Step 6** Press the **Display** button to turn on the LCD Display.
- **9**

- **Step 7** Press the **Play/Rec** button to begin viewing your photos.

**Hint:** To move to the next photo, press the ► | Timer button. When you move forward or back through your photos, they will appear out of focus for a second until the picture has completely loaded.

Now that you have taken pictures and are "connected", let's take a look at the digital imaging software MGI PhotoSuite III SE where you can create fun projects to view on your computer or television.

## ***Install PhotoSuite III SE and PhotoCam plus Driver***

- **Step 1** Place the **PhotoCam plus** Digital Camera CD into the appropriate drive.

The Camera Installation screen appears.



- **Step 2** Click on the **MGI PhotoSuite III SE** button.
- **Step 3** Click **Next** on the Welcome screen.
- **Step 4** Click **Yes** on the Software License Agreement screen.
- **Step 5** Click **Next** on the Setup Type screen. The default setup type is full installation.

**Note:** *PhotoSuite III SE files are being installed in the C:\Program Files\MGI\ MGI PhotoSuite III SE directory.*

- **Step 6** Click **Next** on the Start Copying Files screen.
- **Step 7** Click on **Register Now** or **Register Later** in the MGI Registration screen.
- **Step 8** Click **Finish** on the Setup is complete screen.
- **Step 9** Click on **PhotoCam Plus Digital Camera Twain** button.
- **Step 10** Click **Next** on the Welcome screen.
- **Step 11** Click **Next** on the Choose Destination Location screen.

- **Step 12** Click **Next** on the Select Components screen.
- **Step 13** Click **Next** on the Select Program Manager Group.
- **Step 14** Click **Next** on that Start Installation screen.
- **Step 15** Click **Finish** on the Installation Complete screen.
- **Step 16** Click **OK** on the Install screen to restart your computers. For the drivers to take effect you must restart the computer.

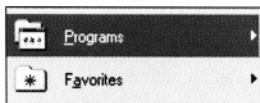
After restarting the computer, a MGI PhotoSuite III SE shortcut icon has now been created on the desktop. You may now double click the icon to access the software, or by going through the steps described in the following section "Accessing the Software".

## ***Accessing the Software***

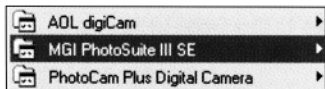
To access PhotoSuite III SE once the computer has been shut down or the program closed.

- **Step 1** Click on the **Start** button.

- **Step 2** Click on **Programs**.



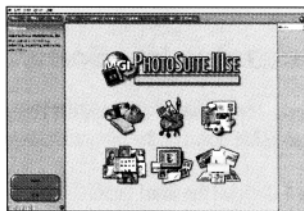
- **Step 3** Click on **MGI PhotoSuite III SE** program group.



- **Step 4** Click on **MGI PhotoSuite III SE** icon



When you click on the MGI PhotoSuite III SE icon, the main screen appears. From here, you can select a project or work on your own.



MGI PhotoSuite III SE is photo editing made easy! Choose from a library of special effects to turn your photos into original works of art or let the kids have fun creating cool images from their own snapshots! Then share them with family and friends.

## ***Fun Things You Can Do***

You can do the following fun things now with AOL's PhotoCam *plus* and MGI PhotoSuite III SE:

1. Download photos to your computer.
2. Edit or enhance your photos.
3. AOL Email photos to friends and family.
4. Upload your photos to "You've Got Pictures", create an album, and share the album with family and friends.
5. Create photo layouts, cards and tags or other fun stuff.

**Reminder:** *Did you take your pictures?*

## ***Downloading Photos***

You can download photos to your computer or directly to PhotoSuite III SE. Make sure the PhotoCam *plus* is connected to your computer and you have PhotoSuite III SE open. At the PhotoSuite III SE main screen:

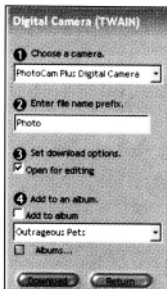
- **Step 1** Press the **On/Off** button to turn on the PhotoCam *plus*.

- **Step 2** Click on **Get** from the navigation bar.



- **Step 3** Click on **Digital Camera** on the activity panel.

- **Step 4** Using the pull down arrow choose the camera (PhotoCam Plus Digital Camera)



- **Step 5** Click on the **Download** button.

Your photos will begin to appear on screen in thumbnail view.



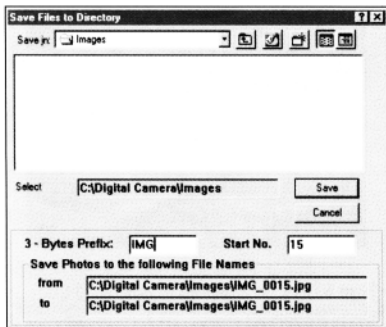
- **Step 6** Click on a picture to download from the thumbnails.

**Tip:** Refer to the TWAIN driver help file to learn more about how to use this software by clicking on the *Help for the user(s)* button.

To download to your computer:

- **Step 7** Click on the **Save Photo(s) to Disk Directory** button in the upper left corner of the TWAIN driver screen.

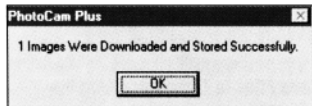
The **Save Files to Directory** dialog box appears. All images will be saved to the following directory **C:\Digital Camera\Images**.



Images will be saved numerically. Once the files are saved, you can later rename the files.

To download to PhotoSuite III SE :

- **Step 8** Click on **OK** on the PhotoCam Plus confirmation screen.




To download to PhotoSuite III SE:

- **Step 9** Click on the **Transfer Photo(s) to application** button in the upper left corner of the TWAIN driver screen.



Select **Photos** from the drop down list at the upper right corner of your PhotoSuite III SE main screen and your picture will appear below.



**Hint:** To select more than one photo, hold down the **Ctrl** key on your keyboard while clicking on the desired photos. To select all of the photos, click on the **left thumbnail icon**  located on the remote control.

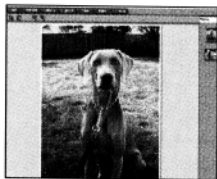
**Note:** For purposes of our examples, download your photos to PhotoSuite III SE.

# Printing your Photos

Once you have downloaded your photos to PhotoSuite III SE:

- **Step 1** Click on a picture in the photos album which is located on the right side of the PhotoSuite III SE screen.
- **Step 2** Click on the **Prepare** button on the navigation bar.

Notice how your picture is displayed in the center of the screen.



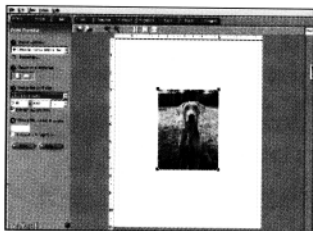
- **Step 3** Click on the **Print** button from the navigation bar.

The print options appear to the left of the picture.



- **Step 4** Click on **Print** in the activity panel.

This opens the print preview window.



You can modify the picture size by dragging the handles on each corner of the picture. You can also select a predefined print size.

It is recommended that the picture size stay below 4" x 6" to ensure the highest print quality. Anything larger than 4" x 6", and the chance for image quality reduction is increased.

- **Step 5** Click on the **Print** button located below Step 4 on the activity panel.

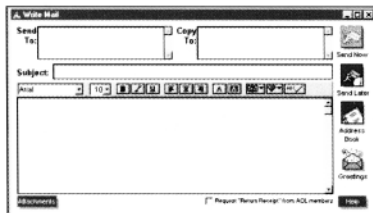
Follow your printers' procedures to continue printing.

# AOL Email Photos to Family and Friends

Before moving onto the projects section, let's email our picture to family and friends.

**Reminder:** You must be signed on to AOL to continue with this part of the exercise.

• **Step 1** Click on the **AOL Write**  icon.

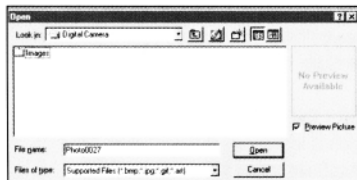


• **Step 2** Click on the **Insert a Picture**  icon.

• **Step 3** Click on **Insert a Picture** from the drop down list.

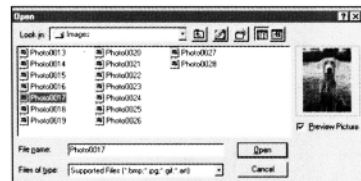


The Open screen appears.



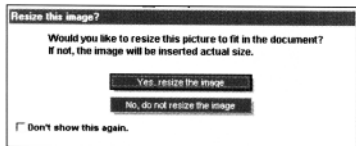
**Reminder:** The photos were downloaded to C:\Digital Camera\Images.

• **Step 4** Double-click on the **Images** folder



• **Step 5** Double-click on the desired photo.

The **Resize this image?** screen appears.



- **Step 6** Click on **Yes, resize this image.**



Now you are ready to add a note, insert a subject and the recipient names.

**Reminder:** *If sending to a non-AOL member, you must send the photo as an attachment to the email message.*

## 3 Fun Projects

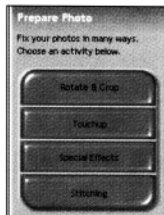
The next section will walk you step by step through 3 fun projects that you can create using the photos that you have downloaded from the PhotoCam *plus*.

Are you ready to work magic on your photos?

## Preparing the Photo

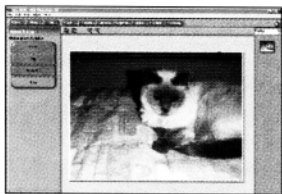
Once you get a photo you are automatically taken to the Prepare Photo section. Let's start by cropping our photo.

- **Step 1** Click on the **Rotate & Crop** button from the Prepare Photo the activity panel.

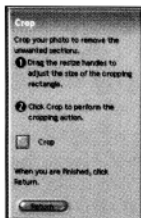


- **Step 2** Click on the **Crop** button.





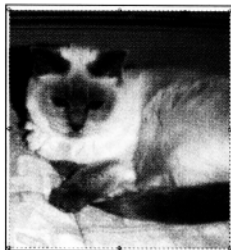
- **Step 3** Crop the photo to remove any unwanted areas by dragging the resize handles to adjust the cropping rectangle.



- **Step 4** Click on



The newly cropped photo appears.



- **Step 5** Click on the **Return** button.

Since we have cropped the photo, let's prepare to touchup.

- **Step 1** Click on **Touchup** on the activity panel.
- **Step 2** Click on the **Enhance** button.
- **Step 3** Click on the **Apply** button.
- **Step 4** Click on the **Return** button.

Now that the photo has been cropped and enhanced, let's prepare to save the photo with a new name.

- **Step 1** Click on **Share** from the navigation bar.

- **Step 2** Click on **Save As** from the Activity panel.

The Save Photo dialog box appears.

- **Step 3** Type in the new name for the photo (**kitty.jpg**). The file will save as a JPEG file. JPEG is an image file type like bitmap (BMP). JPEG images give a good balance between image quality and file size and are ideal for online use.

- **Step 4** Click on the **Save** button.

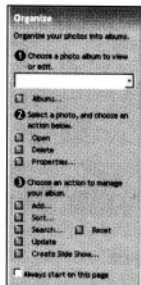
If you have multiple photos of one topic such as pets, you can create an album.

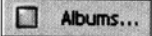
- **Step 5** Click on **File** from the menubar.
- **Step 6** Click on **Close All** from the drop down menu.

## ***Creating a Photo Album***

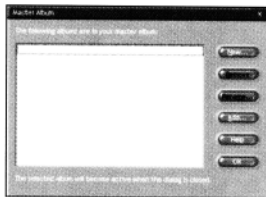
To create an album:

- **Step 1** Click on the **Organize** button on the navigation bar.



- **Step 2** Click on  on the activity panel.

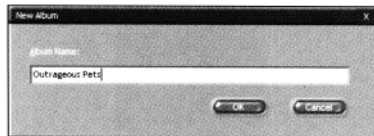
The Master Album screen appears.



- **Step 3** Click on **New** to create an album.

The New Album screen appears.

- **Step 4** Type in a name for the album such as "Outrageous Pets".



- **Step 5** Click on **OK**.

Notice how the album name appears in the activity panel on the left side of the screen.



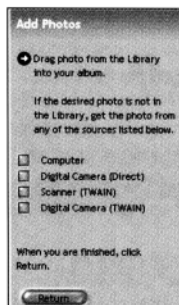
- **Step 6** Click on **OK** to close the Master Album screen.

That wasn't too difficult. Now that you have an album, let's add the photos.

To add photos:

- **Step 7** Click on the **Add** button located under option 3 on the Organize activity panel.

The Add Photos activity panel appears.



- **Step 8** Click on **Computer**.

The Add Photo to Album screen appears.

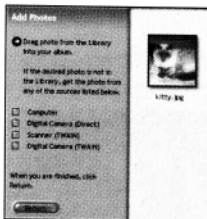


**Reminder:** *The photos were downloaded to C:\Digital Camera\Images.*

• **Step 9** Double-click on the **Images** folder.

• **Step 10** Click on **Kitty.jpg**.

• **Step 11** Click on **Add**.



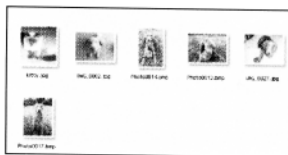
If you want to add more than one photo at a time to the album

• **Step 12** Click on the photos while pressing the **Ctrl** key on the keyboard.

• **Step 13** Click **Add**.

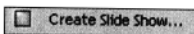


• **Step 14** Click on **Return** when you have finished adding photos to the album.

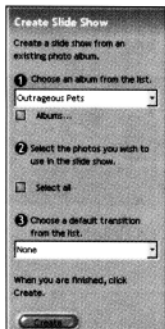


Once back at the Organize activity panel, you can turn that album into a slide show.

• **Step 15** Click on the



The Create Slide Show activity panel appears.



The Outrageous Pets album is visible.

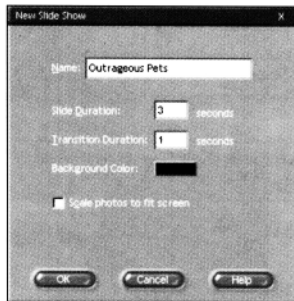
- **Step 16** Click on the **Select All** button.
- **Step 17** Click on the pull down arrow to choose a transition. Let's choose **Mosaic**.



- **Step 18** Click on the **Create** button.

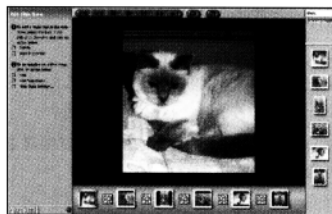
The New Slide Show screen appears.

- **Step 19** Type in the name for your slide show "**Outrageous Pets**".



- **Step 20** Adjust the slide duration, transition duration and background, then click **OK**.

The Edit Slide Show screen appears where you can edit a slide or modify a transition.



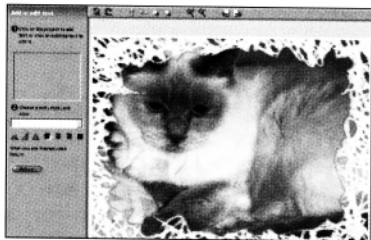
- **Step 21** Click  to view the slide show.



Whew! What a cool program. We're not finished yet. Let's take a closer look at the **Compose** feature and add a frame and text to our photo.

- **Step 1** Click on **Frames and Edges** on the Compose activity panel.
  - **Step 2** Click on the pull down arrow and choose **Landscape Edges**.
  - **Step 3** Double-click on an **edge**.
- The **Compose** activity panel appears so that you can add text, props, photos or objects.
- **Step 4** Click and drag a photo from the library to the shape.
  - **Step 5** Click on **Add/Edit Text**.

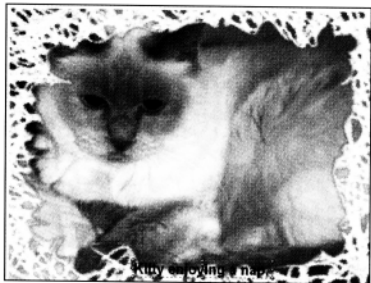
The add/edit text activity panel appears.



- **Step 6** Click on the picture.

Notice that the text appears on the photo.

- **Step 7** Type a note such as "**Kitty enjoying a nap**".



- **Step 8** Change the font, style and color.

- **Step 9** Notice how the text has a blinking box around it, click and drag the text to the desired location on the photo.

- **Step 10** Click **Return**.

Let's go ahead and save our photo.

- **Step 11** Click on **File** from the menubar.
- **Step 12** Click on **Save As** from the drop down menu.


The Save As screen appears.

- **Step 13** Type in a file name **"napping.jpg"**. Save the file as a JPEG, so you can email the photo to family and friends or upload it to "You've Got Pictures".

## "You've Got Pictures"

Now it is time to upload the photo to "You've Got Pictures". "You've Got Pictures" provides an easy, convenient solution to getting photo quality prints from your photos.

**Reminder:** *You must be signed on to AOL to continue with this part of the exercise.*

- **Step 1** Click on the **"You've Got Pictures"** logo  from the AOL Welcome screen.



- **Step 2** Click on **"Have a digital camera? Upload your pictures NOW"**.

**Note:** *If you already have photos in "You've Got Pictures", continue to Step 3.*

- **Step 3** Click **OK** on the Upload screen.



- **Step 4** Click on the **Upload Picture** button.

AOL members get free storage space for their photos. Digital camera users can upload photos to their free storage slots so they won't take up valuable room on their hard drive.

- **Step 5** Type in a name for your album. You can upload to an existing album or create a new one.

Uploading a photo to "You've Got Pictures" will fill one of the 50 spaces you have available in your "Saved Pictures" area.

1. Your photo will be uploaded to the album named. If you want to upload to another album, click **Cancel** and select again from your list, or create a new album in the space below.
2. Click **Browse** to locate the photo you want to upload from your computer. A dialog box will appear.
3. To select your photo, find and click on its name in the dialog box, then click **Open**. The selected filename will appear in the space below. Click **Previous Picture** to see the photo.
4. If the selected filename is correct, click **Upload Picture** to continue. If it is not correct, click **Browse** to select again.

Acceptable formats include: JPG, JPEG, GIF, BMP

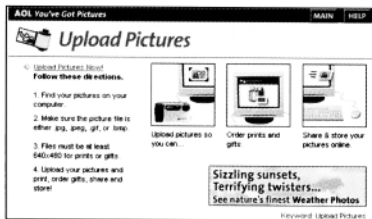
Upload picture to:  
A new album with title of

- **Step 6** Click on the **Browse** button to locate your image.

**Reminder:** Your photos are located in the *C:\Digital Camera\Images* directory.

- **Step 7** Click on the **Upload Picture** button.

Your photo is now stored online.



Now you can upload another photo, order prints and gifts, or share your photos, as well as create and share online albums with friends and family. Prints and gifts will be mailed to you or anyone you choose.

You can customize your photo album by adding a title, captioning your photos, and choosing a background, color, and layout. Then you can instantly share your album with family and friends (AOL and non-AOL members).



## **Next Steps**

Now that you are familiar with AOL's PhotoCam *plus* capabilities, visit other AOL key areas listed below for more ways to enhance your online and offline photo experience.

Go to AOL Keywords:

- **AOL Shop Direct** – for your digital imaging peripherals, software and more.
- **AOL Hometown** – to create your own personal web page to share with family and friends.
- **Groups@AOL** – to create your own personal family and friends area where you can post photo collections, private messages, and share a calendar of events.
- **Pictures** – to upload and share your pictures.