Getting Started in Flickr

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What is Flickr?

Flickr is a worldwide online social media for photographers. Flickr's Wikipedia entry states the following: (See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flickr)

> **Flickr** (pronounced "flicker") is an image hosting and video hosting website and web services suite that was created by Ludicorp in 2004 and acquired by Yahoo on March 20, 2005. In addition to being a popular website for users to share and embed personal photographs, and effectively an online community, the service is widely used by photo researchers and by bloggers to host images that they embed in blogs and social media.

You will want to create your own personal Flickr account first, then join the Lewisburg Photography Club's Flickr Group. It's great fun to explore the millions of images people have posted. When you discover a photographer that you like, you will want to click "Follow" to add that person's Flickr account to your "Following" list. That way it's easy to find that person's account later among the huge Flickr jungle. Be warned that Flickr can be addictive! Some of us will need to set an alarm -- "Your hour of viewing Flickr is over! Back to work!"

Why would I want a Flickr account?

First, Flickr allows you to store up to 1000 Gigabytes of images for FREE. A Gigabyte is 1000 megabytes. Assuming a typical high-resolution image takes 10 megabytes, that's the equivalent of 100,000 high-resolution images!

Second, the Flickr team has years of experience in setting up an online-based community for photographers. For example, the Flickr software has flexible ways for uploading and displaying images that work well. If you have a large number of photos to upload, Flickr will do that in the background at night while you sleep. The software has features to allow photographers to explore and comment on other photographers' images. A group of photographers, such as our Photo Club, can pool photos and communicate ideas within a Flickr Group. There are many Flickr Groups. Some Groups are organized around a specific camera. Others are organized around a photographic technique such as macro. You can also tag your photos with keywords and mark other photographers' photos as Favorites (Faves).

Third, Flickr is a huge valuable resource! "The Verge reported in March 2013 that Flickr had a total of 87 million registered members and more than 3.5 million new images uploaded daily." (Wikipedia) It is a valuable resource for viewing other photographers' photos and learning the art of photography. I especially like to look for photos during colorful international holidays such as the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Fourth, free Flickr accounts do have ads but they are a lot less annoying than other social media websites such as Facebook. You can pay an annual fee (about $50) to remove the ads if you wish.

Setting up Your Personal Flickr Account:

In your web browser, enter the following URL: https://www.flickr.com

Flickr is part of Yahoo and Yahoo requires you to have a Yahoo account before you can set up a Flickr account. If you already have a Yahoo account, use that login and password.

Assuming you don't have a Yahoo account, click "Sign Up." Now enter your email address and create a new password. Write down the email address and the new password because you will need them whenever you wish to log into Flickr at a later date. Enter your name, and the day, month, and year of your birthday. Enter your gender if you wish.

When you reach the "Verify your email address" page, Yahoo will email you a security "Account Key." Log into your email program and read the new email message from Yahoo and find the 5-digit Account Key. Back in the "Verify your email address" page of your browser, enter the 5-digit Account Key and press "Verify."

Assuming no problems, you now have a Yahoo account and the system takes you to Flickr where you select a Flickr "screen name." Pick something that others will recognize. I chose **danhyde** first but I was told it was taken so I chose **danchyde**. Now when you click to continue, you should go to your home Flickr web page. In the next sections, you will learn how to upload photos, set the little icon using a picture of yourself, and set the background in the header.

Two Main Views of Flickr:

Like many web-based systems, Flickr can be confusing to beginners. There are two main views that you will use a lot. The first view **Camera Roll** allows you to upload your photos and change settings to your photos. By default when you upload a photo, it can only be seen by you (**Private**) and in **Camera Roll** view. You <u>must</u> change a photo's **Privacy** settings for anyone else to see it (See below section "Changing Privacy status of images to "Public").

The second main view is **Photostream.** Clicking **Photostream** on the top menu will allow you to view your photos as others will see them. You have control on what photos others see. You can allow everyone to view a photo by setting the **Privacy** setting to **Public**. You also can allow only **Friends** or **Famil**y or both **Friends & Famil**y to view a photo.

One of the quirks of Flickr is that others see photos in your **Photostream** <u>ordered in time</u> <u>with the most recent at the top</u>. This may not be the way you wish, but you are stuck with it! Viewers can choose to see the order by the **Date Taken** or **Date Loaded**. If you want a different order, you must fool Flickr by changing the date and time on each photo, which is a big pain! In a follow up document, we will show you how to partially conquer this ordering problem by using Flickr Albums.

Uploading images to your Flickr account:

Click on **Camera Roll** to place Flickr in that view. If you can't see **Camera Roll** on the screen, select "Camera Roll" from the "You" menu. In your computer's folders use the mouse to click on and select the photos you want to upload. Drag the photos to the **Camera Roll** window. You will see in the upper right a little window with "Uploading" showing the progress of the photos being uploaded.

Changing Privacy status of images to "Public":

In **Camera Roll** view, click on a photo. You will see a check mark in the center of the photo. If a photo is selected, a narrow window appears at the bottom with "Privacy Edit Share Add to Album Download Delete" that shows the actions you can do on the selected photo(s). Select "Privacy" and click on the "Public" radio button.

If you wish to select many photos, just click on one photo then holding down the shift key click on a second one far away. All the photos between the two will be selected.

Now click on **Photostream** and you should see the photos that you made Public.

Create a new nicer URL of your Flickr account to share with relatives and friends:

Once you have a few photos in Flickr you will want to share them with friends and relatives, especially those who don't have Flickr accounts.

Click on the icon at the upper far right. This icon probably contains your picture. You will see a small window open up. Click on "Settings." This is where you can edit your settings. Near the bottom is a setting to set your Flickr web address. Click on the option and enter text at the end to form your URL. I used my screen name danchyde. This created the web address of my Photostream to be https://www.flickr.com/photos/danchyde/

Setting your Profile Picture:

First, in **Camera Roll** view, upload a photo with you in it. You don't need a head shot that fills the photo. Any photo with you in it will work. You will be able to crop (in a circle) the photo to display only the part you want.

Hover the mouse over the icon in the small circle on the left side of header. A small pencil icon will appear. Click on the pencil icon. A new window will appear with your photos. Click on the photo you want to use for your Profile Picture. Now click "Select." You will have a chance to move a slider to increase or decrease the size of the cropping circle. Click "Save" and this will set your Profile Picture.

Setting Header's Background Image:

First, in **Camera Roll** view, upload a photo for the header's background. Since the header is wide and short, you need a photo that approximately fits. I found by experimenting that an image of 1000 pixels by 370 pixel fits. If your image is too short, Flickr will use duplicate copies. If your image is too tall, Flickr will allow you to select a horizontal strip of it. You will need to crop the image to the proper pixel size before you upload it by using a tool such as Photoshop.

Hover the mouse over the header and a small pencil icon will appear on the header's right. Click on the pencil icon. A new window will appear with your photos. Click on the photo you want to use. Now click "Select." If your picture is too tall, you will have a chance to drag the horizontal strip up or down with the mouse. Click "Save" and this will set your header's background image.

Joining the Lewisburg Photography Club's Flickr Group:

If you have not done so, set up your own personal Flickr account first.

Ask Dan at hyde@bucknell.edu to invite you to the Lewisburg Photography Club's Flickr Group. He will send an invite to you to join the group.

[Warning: read and follow the next few sentences carefully! There seems to some old leftover mechanisms in the software that appear right but don't work!] After you receive the mail message from me that you have been invited to join, log into your Flickr account. Now click on the notifications icon (The bell-shaped icon in upper right hand corner). A new small window will appear. Don't click on any notifications but instead click on "FlickrMail" in the upper right corner. Open the FlickrMail message from me and click on "YES!"

You should have now joined the Lewisburg Photography Club's Flickr Group! You can check by selecting "Groups" on the "You" menu. The Photo Club should be listed.

Getting to our Photo Club Flickr Group in the future:

Log into your personal Flickr account and select "Groups" from the "You" menu. A new window will appear listing all the Groups you have joined. Click on "Lewisburg Photo Club" to go to the Photo Club's landing web page.

To read or add to the Photo Club's Discussions:

Note that only invited members can read or add content to the Discussions, i.e., they are private.

Go to the Photo Club Group's landing page and click on **Discussions**.

Uploading your photos to Lewisburg Photo Club's Flickr Photo Pool:

Note that only invited members can add photos to the Group's Photo Pool.

To add one of your photos to the Group's Photo Pool, you need to select an image from your **Photostream.** (The photo needs to have a Privacy setting of Public.)

You can't upload to the Group's Photo Pool directly from your computer's folders. You <u>must</u> first upload the photo to your personal Flickr **Camera Roll,** then change the Privacy setting to Public. Then in Photo Club's group landing page you upload the photo from your Photostream.

Play and Have fun!

This document only covers enough Flickr to get you started. There are many more interesting Flickr features to explore in a follow up document that covers features such as Flickr Albums, slide shows, tags, reading camera and lens settings of a photo, and search strategies to explore the Flickr universe for inspiration.