

The Antarctic Society Member Slide Scanning Service

December, 2008

The Antarctic Society is launching a new service to its members. Beginning in January, 2009, members may submit their Antarctica-related photographic film slides to the Society for conversion to high-resolution digital images. The images will be produced entirely by the Society using a recently purchased high-quality Nikon scanner. This service is available only to members as a benefit of membership.

Advantages of Using the Service

1. It's free! Commercial slide scanning vendors will charge anywhere from \$0.30 to over \$1.00 per slide depending on the scan resolution and the enhancements done to the resulting digital image.
2. Your slides will be handled by an experienced Antarctic and long-time member of The Antarctic Society, Charles Lagerbom, who has a deep interest in and respect for Antarctic history. He will treat them as if they were his own personal memories.
3. You retain all copyrights to the original image. The only thing required is that you document the slide properly and grant the Society non-exclusive use of the scanned images for its website, and more specifically the Time Trek application. For this use, the image resolution of a copy will be degraded slightly before posting so that it displays faster and takes less space on the website host. The lower resolution also discourages image "pirates" from taking and using your photo for purposes that you do not authorize. The images will not be used by the Society for any commercial purpose.
4. Scanning will be done on a Nikon Super Coolscan 5000 ED, which is a high-quality, high-end scanner used by photographic professionals and serious digital photo enthusiasts. It has special software that removes most scratches and dust particles from the scanned image and restores the colors where slides have begun to degrade. The end result is often a dramatic improvement over the condition of the original slide.
5. Once in digital form, the life of the image is indefinite since digits never degrade. It is advisable, however, to copy the files to new media periodically, both because the media itself can degrade and because new media is always coming out rendering old media obsolete (think 8 mm reel-to-reel movies versus DVD). The devices needed to play older media may not be around years from now.
6. In digital form, you can easily share your images with family, friends and colleagues. Anyone with a computer will be able to view your photos in the same rich detail and color as when the photo was taken.

7. You will have backups of your photos. Not only will your original slides be a backup, but the Society will also have copies of your scanned images in two geographically separated locations. Should disaster strike and your slides and digital media are destroyed, you will be able to get them replaced at no cost through the Society.
8. You are contributing towards the preservation of Antarctic history. This is perhaps the most compelling reason to use the service. The Society believes that all experiences are important as historical “snapshots” – in this case literally – of Antarctica. You will be given full credit for your contributions in an historical record that, thanks to the incredible vehicle that is the internet, the entire world can see and appreciate.

One Step Further

Having your slides in digital form opens up an additional possibility: narrated images. The Society has also recently purchased a high-quality portable digital audio recorder. In fact, it is so portable it can easily fit into a shirt pocket. The recorder will allow the photo contributor to record the story behind the photo. This is a richer way of historical preservation because it combines an original image with a voice description from the original source – you! Once you receive back your scanned images, the process would be to sit down in front of a computer, bring up the images (all or a selected number) one at a time, preface the recording with the file name of the image (which you will see when you select it), and then explain it in your own voice. This would be just like giving a slide show to friends and family, only it would be preserved for anyone to play again and again. You can go at your own pace to do the recordings and break up the sessions as convenient. The Society would mail the recorder to you and you would return it by mail with your recorded narration. The Society would then combine the audio with the appropriate digital images and post it as an online sequence on the website. You would also receive a copy for your own use.

This would add a whole new dimension to Time Trek. This step is optional but we strongly encourage you to consider it if you are having your slides scanned by the Society, or even if you have slides already scanned that you would like to narrate.

How to Use the Service

1. Contact Charles Lagerbom at clagerbom@rsu20.org and let him know how many slides you want scanned. Charles has a full-time job as a teacher and does this in his off hours, so he needs to schedule it accordingly.
2. Mark each slide with the date of the photo (year and month if possible, e.g., December, 1981) and the location of the photo (e.g., Rennick Glacier, Northern Victoria Land). A short description (people, activity, etc.) would also be helpful but is not mandatory (again, this can be done afterwards with an audio recorder – see “One Step Further” above). A simple way to do this would be to place a number on the

slide border and cross-reference the number to a list with descriptions of date and location. Charles will use this information in cataloging the slide and assigning a file name to the resulting digital image.

3. Read the instructions on how to pack and mail your slides that are on the Society website (or ask Charles to send you a copy). Follow the instructions carefully as this will ensure that the risk of damage in transit is minimized. Mail the package to Charles and he will confirm receipt and verify that the slides are undamaged.
4. When the scanning is completed, Charles will notify you by email, package the slides in the same manner as they were originally shipped, and return the package to you by UPS or another safe, trackable service. The CD(s) or DVD(s) containing your digital images will be included in the package, along with a printout of the catalog of your images that Charles has produced.
5. Once you receive the scanned images, contact Tom Henderson at webmaster@antarctican.org if you would like to arrange for use of the digital audio recorder to narrate your images. Again, you are strongly urged to consider this option. It is a great way to preserve your memories, both for historical purposes and for your family and future generations of the family.