Photo2GPS: Tips and Tricks

An efficient way to geo-tag photos

FAQ's:

- Does Photo2GPS work with 64 bit operating systems? (I do not know...)
- Does Photo2GPS work with Windows 7? (I do not know...)
- Does Photo2GPS work with Mac OS? (I do not know, but I doubt it...)

Before you head out into the field:

1. Download & install DNRGarmin (http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mis/gis/tools/arcview/extensions/DNRGarmin/DNRGarmin.html)
2. Download & install photo2GPS (http://clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/GPS/Photo2GPS.zip) Note that additional info. on photo2GPS can be accessed here: http://clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/GPSresources.htm
3. Download & install GoogleEarth (http://earth.google.com)
4. Download & install the Garmin device driver (http://www8.garmin.com/support/download_details.jsp?id=591)
5. Make sure your battery is looking good on your GPS receiver
6. Make sure that the batteries in your camera are "good"
7. Erase all tracks / track log data (might as well nuke the waypoints too) on your GPS receiver
8. Make sure that the active track log is turned "on" on the GPS receiver (Main Menu Page → Tracks)
9. (optional) Delete all pictures off of your camera
10. (optional) Make sure that the "Daylight Savings Time" setting on your GPS is turned "off" (might save some trouble shooting later...)
11. Make sure that the date / time setting on your camera is relatively accurate (accurate to within a few minutes. This just makes life easier for you later if you need to trouble shoot...)
12. Make sure that your camera is in a "low" resolution setting, and that the camera is saving images to a jpeg format
13. Right before you walk out the door...Take a picture of the clock on your GPS receiver (you can do this outside, but it is often easier done with interior light...)

While you are out in the field:

1. Make sure that your GPS is visible to the sky at all times (don't hang the GPS receiver around your neck or put it in your pocket)
2. Take pictures with the camera as you go along
   a. Feel free to take measurements & notes about features in each image. This info. can later be associated with images in GoogleEarth.

When you return from the field:

1. Create a working folder (named Photo2GPS) on your desktop (or elsewhere). Create 3 subfolders (named Pix, Trax, & Output) within this folder.
    - Pix → the images that you took will be copied to this folder
    - Trax → You will save the active track log file (.gpx format) in this folder
    - Output → this where your final GoogleEarth output file (.kml or kmz) will be stored
2. Copy your photos from your camera to the Pix folder. Just copy and paste the images from the camera device to your pix folder... DO NOT use any camera/imaging software to copy these images to your "Pix" folder. This will likely screw things up (this software often messes with the time stamp on each of the images).
3. Download and save your active track log to the "Trax" folder using the DNR Garmin software (save in .gpx format).
4. Start the Photo2GPS software
    a. Step #1: Select the folder where your photos are stored (pix folder): you should receive a verification that 9 images of 10 files (or whatever) were scanned. Also, not the times that the first and last photo were taken (this is good for trouble shooting later...).
    b. Step #2: Select the folder where your final file will be stored (output folder)
    c. Step #3: Select the GPS track file
        - Browse and select the GPS Track file
        - Highlight the image of the clock on your GPS receiver and set the time adjust to synchronize your GPS receiver time with the time on your digital camera
        - Map the photos (if blue dots do not appear, then your images and your GPS trax have probably been synchronized. If blue dots do not appear, then it may be time to troubleshoot).
    d. Go to the output folder, and double click on the GoogleEarth KML File.... Check it out and make sure everything works and looks like it should!