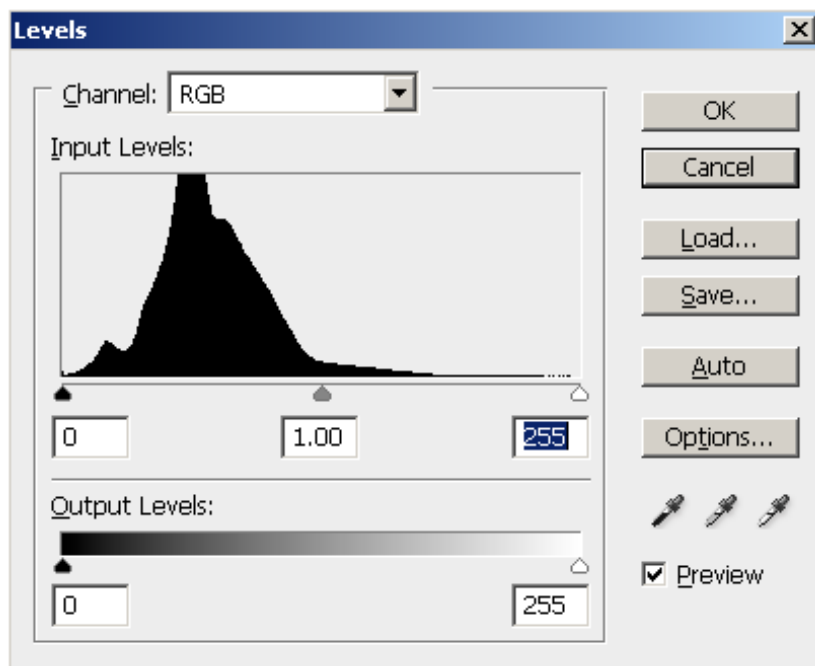


# Digital Diva

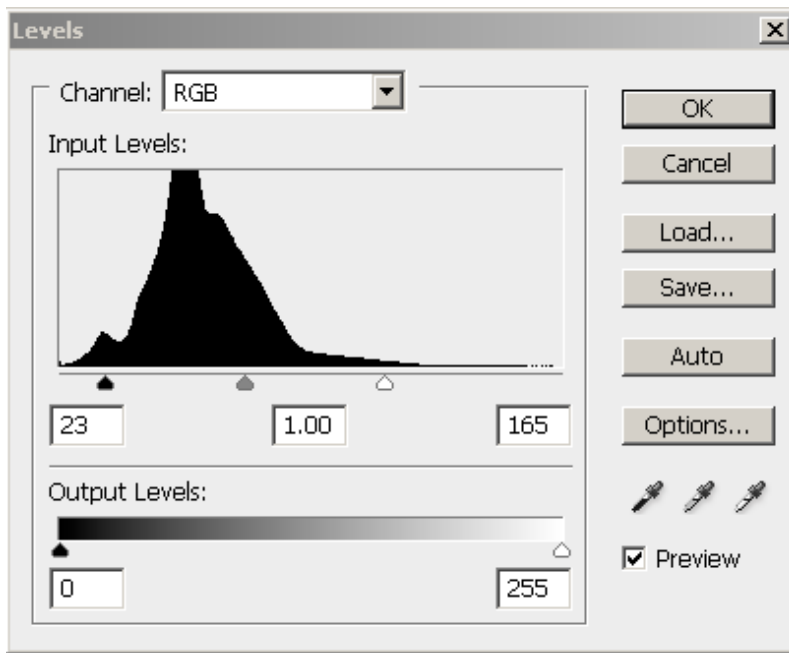
## Setting the White and Black Points with the Levels Histogram

Very often at Camera Club we see entries that are well composed with interesting subject matter but are somehow lacking that WOW factor. Very often the solution is as simple as setting the white and black points correctly.

Every photo editing program has some version of a levels histogram and I'm going to show you how to use them. The histogram shows us the range of values, not colors, in our image which ideally would be from 0, pure black to 255, paper white.



If you look at the histogram for this image you will see that the information on the right, or highlight end, falls far short of 255, so we are going to expand the values by moving the white slider on the right to the left to where the information is recorded. This will brighten the image considerably.



You can see that by moving the white slider to the left we have expanded the highlights, and also by moving the black slider to the right to the point where there are significant values in the shadows we have also increased the contrast of the image giving it more punch. You can also move the middle slider to adjust the midtones, or gamma, of your image. This is the very first edit you should do on any image.

Incorporate it into your workflow, try it, you'll like it!

Your Digital Diva,

Susannah