

# REPORTS

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Second Quarter 2007



**The Association  
of Personal Computer User Groups**

## In This Issue

From the President .....	3
Secretary Notes .....	3
Publicity .....	4
More Publicity Ideas .....	5
Publicity in Tokyo .....	6
Wikia and Wikipedia .....	6
Region 13 .....	7
<b>Pikes Peak Computer Application</b>	
Society Celebrates 25 Years .....	8
Happy 25th Birthday .....	9
Twenty-FiveYears! And WindowsVista .....	10
Happy 25th Birthday .....	11
Northwest Florida Association of Computer User Groups Established ...	11
TextAloud .....	12
Region 4 .....	12
Region 2 .....	13
Member Services Committee .....	13
APCUG Announces Three Big Contests .....	15
APCUG Annual Conference Returns to The Riviera Hotel & Casino .....	15
DBXpress version 1.40 .....	16
Region 11 .....	17
APCUG Eastern U.S. Annual Spring 2008 Event Possible .....	18
A New Version of the Shareware Disk of the Month .....	19
PUSH Editorial Committee .....	19
Region 6 .....	20
Southwest User Group Conference ....	21
The FACUG Spring Conference .....	21
Summary of Medical Condition .....	23
Clean Out Your Closet .....	24
Jerry Award Competition .....	25
The Monthly Drawing .....	25
APCUG Benefits .....	26

## Wrap Up

Last quarter we focused on ways to increase membership in our efforts to help user groups. This quarter we focus on Publicity ideas, with articles on page 4, page 5, and page 6. What would you like for us to focus on next quarter? What challenges are you experiencing in your user group that you would like for our Directors and Advisors to focus on?

1982 must have been a good year for User Group Formation, because this is the quarter of 25th birthdays. See the articles on pages 8 through 11. Our advisors have informed us that Pikes Peak, Quad Cities, Utah Computer Society, and Sarina PCUG in Canada are all celebrating their 25th anniversaries. APCUG wishes them a very happy 25th, and we hope they are around for another 25 years. And if we have missed any UGs who are also celebrating their 25th birthdays, we wish you another 25 years as well.

I wish APCUG could take credit for their formation, but APCUG itself was the result of some discussions started when the presidents from three user groups -- Boston Computer Society, Capital PC User Group, and Houston Area League of PC Users -- organized the First Annual User Group Summit meeting at the 1986 Fall Comdex.

Preliminary announcement for the 2008 Annual Conference is on page 15, along with an announcement on the same page for website, newsletter, and photocontests, and page 25 has information on the Jerry Award Competition, and the winners of all will be announced at the 2008 Conference.

**APCUG REPORTS** is published quarterly by the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, Inc. (APCUG) to inform and educate officers of member user groups. It shares information about the activities of APCUG and related opportunities for the benefit of APCUG members.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions that are expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent an official position of, or endorsement by, APCUG.

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**Publication Guidelines**

Articles should be limited to two pages (approximately 1500 words). Text may be in almost any format but preferably in Microsoft Word or plain text.

Submit articles with the intended issue date in the subject line to **editor@apcug.net**. For example: REPORTS Q3 2006. Please include your name, User Group name, and an e-mail address where you may be contacted.

**Submission of Articles**

The absolute deadline is shown below; copy received after the deadline will be considered for the next quarter's issue. We request that copy be submitted at least two weeks before the deadline shown below, in case we need to contact you about changes..

Issue	Copy Needed	Deadline
Q1 = Jan/Feb/Mar	Jan 15	Feb 1
Q2 = Apr/May/Jun	Mar 15	April 1
Q3 = Jul/Aug/Sep	June 15	July 1
Q4 = Oct/Nov/Dec	Sep 15	Oct 1

Unless protected by copyright, all articles published in REPORTS may be reprinted. User Group editors should give proper credit to the author.

All articles submitted for publication in REPORTS are subject to editing. Each issue of REPORTS focuses on User Group management issues, achievements and events of member groups from the 13 APCUG Regions, and updates from APCUG directors, advisors, and committee chairs.

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# From the President

This seems to be the quarter of 25th birthdays. Our advisors have informed me that Pikes Peak, Quad Cities, Utah Computer Society, and Sarina PCUG in Canada are all celebrating their 25th birthdays or



anniversaries, or whatever you want to call it. APCUG wishes them a very happy 25th, and we hope they are around for another 25 years. And if we have missed any UGs who are also celebrating their 25th birthdays, we wish you another 25 years as well.

It is also a quarter of new birth, and we welcome the Northwest Florida Association of Computer User Groups into existence. We also welcome the UGs that have just joined APCUG this year: Sun River St George Computer Club (St George, UT) and Rochester New York SeniorNet Learning Center (Rochester, NY).

I am still looking for several more volunteers to serve on the On Line Services (OLS) committee. Do you have anyone in your UG that you feel can help us come up with online solutions to help APCUG and its member User Groups? I need someone with experience with cgi-scripts, someone with experience with WebSite Statistics (we used to have LiveStats on our server, but somehow it disappeared, and I would like to replace it with something more current), a volunteer or two who really know Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), and someone who knows how to set up and maintain a Linux Web Server. Initially I am focused on services that APCUG uses, but if volunteers have ideas for services that APCUG can install and make available to its member UGs, I am definitely interested in that as well.

April-June 2007

I am also looking for help with the Publications committee. Right now APCUG Reports is published using Adobe PageMaker (version 6.5), because that is what I used when publishing the TCS Tabloid Newsletter, but I would like to begin using Adobe InDesign, and need some committee members familiar with it. I am hoping to use it, together with Microsoft Share Point services so that we can have several people working on the layout, so that if any one person is sick or unable to work, we can still get the issue out on time.

We certainly expect to have a LOT more information available next quarter, but for those of you who want to begin planning now, our 2008 conference will begin Thursday, January 3rd (late afternoon) and it will run through Sunday, January 6th (end at 12 Noon). Additional information is available on page 15, as well as information about three contests we will be holding this year: Website, Newsletter, and Photo. Winners of all three will be announced at the 2008 APCUG Annual Conference, along with the winners for the Jerry Award Competition (preliminary information on Jerry Awards is on page 25).

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## Secretary Notes

by Jim Evans  
APCUG Secretary  
secretary@apcug.net

As I write this, the grace period for groups to renew their APCUG membership for 2007 is almost at an end. With great help from the Board of Advisors, almost all of the groups have renewed. Unfortunately, more than a few groups, faced with declining memberships and rising costs, have gone out of business.

You are receiving this issue of Reports because your group renewed. Please share Reports with your fellow directors, officers and volunteers. Take the time to visit the APCUG web site ([www.apcug.net](http://www.apcug.net)). There is a wealth of information, ideas, tips and other resources that can help your group grow and keep it vital.

If you have questions, suggestions or comments, let us know. We can't help if we don't hear from you. Stay in touch with your regional advisor.

We know that many of you have spam blockers in place. To help insure that APCUG e-mails reach you, please add the apcug.net domain to your whitelist or list of domains that you do not block.

# Publicity

by Don Singleton  
APCUG President

Are you having trouble with declining membership? People die, or move out of town, or lose interest, so if you want your membership numbers to increase, rather than spiral downward, you need to bring in new members, and that means that people need to know you exist.

Last month I wrote an article *"Increasing Membership Using a Tabloid Newsletter"* (<http://reports.apcug.org/2007q1/r08.htm>) which suggested publishing a monthly tabloid newsletter and distributing it for free all over town. When we did that, our membership increased every year, and when we were forced to stop publication, our membership began to drop. I still think this is the most effective way to grow your membership, but this quarter we will take a look at some other ways of letting people know you exist, in the hopes that they will visit a meeting or two, and hopefully join.

## Trifold Brochures

One very effective way is to print up some trifold brochures. Take a sheet of paper, and lay it on the table horizontally. Fold one third of it over, and then fold the other third over. This is basically a Trifold Brochure (you can also do it with a sheet of legal size paper and make a quad fold brochure). If you go to <http://apcug.net/help/trifold/> you will see a dozen trifold brochures (and one quad fold). Notice that the front "page" identifies the group and gives a small amount of information, and as you open the folds you learn more and more about the group, until hopefully you will want to visit the group some time, and possibly join.

If you would like to add your group's trifold to the list, email a PDF of it to [president@apcug.net](mailto:president@apcug.net).

You should be able to take a stack of trifold brochures to the local computer stores, and persuade them to let you leave a stack of them on their counter. They should allow this, since they want your business and that of your members. Then if someone comes in with a question they can't answer, they may give that person one of your brochures and tell them to "see if they can help you".

A trifold brochure is also already folded and ready to insert in a letter, so if anyone contacts you by snail mail, and you answer their question, include a copy of your trifold in the envelope.

## Table at a Computer Show

A number of years ago ITEC (<http://home.goitec.com/itec/events/Index.htm>) and the The Computer & Technology Showcase (<http://www.techshows.com/>) had a LOT of shows around the country. We had one of each in Tulsa every year. They have cut back on the number of shows, but you might see if there is one in your city, and if so, contact them to see if you can get a free booth in exchange for helping to publicize their event. As you can see at <http://www.tcs.org/ioport/nov99/itec99tcs.htm> during the ITEC show in 1999 we not only had a free booth, we also presented ten seminars at the two day show (basically the sort of program that we would put on at a General Meeting).

If ITEC and C&TS do not have shows in your city, check with your city's Convention Bureau and see if there are any Business and Technology Showcase shows in your area, and approach them.

You might also see if there is a local swap meet in your city. <http://www.computershowok.com/> is the website of one such show in Tulsa that hosts a computer show and super sale on the third Saturday of each month in Tulsa, Oklahoma, (7th & Garnett). The man that runs that show offered the Tulsa Computer Society a free table at each of his shows, in exchange for our reminding members about his show.

## Radio / TV Show

Does your city have a Radio or TV show about computers? Contact the person in charge of that show and see if he/she would be willing to have one of your members appear to talk about computers, and particularly what you do at your User Group. I suspect they would be very happy to have you on.

## Computer Column in the Local Paper

Does your local paper have a Computer Columnist? Contact them to see if they would mention your User Group. And if they don't have such a column, contact the editor to see if he would be interested in having one of your members write a weekly column on Computers.

If you want people to visit your User Group, they need to know your group exists, where and when it meets, and a little more about your group, and the way for them to learn that is PUBLICITY.

If you have any additional ideas for publicizing your group, or helping membership grow, please write them down and email them to [president@apcug.net](mailto:president@apcug.net). I would like to be able to publish them next quarter.

# More Publicity Ideas

By Linda Moore  
APCUG Director

Past President of North Texas PC Users Group  
[Linda.Moore@ntpcug.org](mailto:Linda.Moore@ntpcug.org)  
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The best angle is the human interest angle, where you feature a member of a specific UG, who accomplished some great or unusual feat..... or feature a UG, which is taking an unusual approach and is growing as a result of the approach.

Local owned newspapers have long used this technique to increase their readership and subscription rates. Everyone likes a human interest story about someone in their community.

I do not think that it is possible to get either newspaper or TV publicity, unless the newspaper - TV is locally owned. Big media just doesn't have time for local news.

However, the Hearst Corporation is the exception to this rule. I have been reading Dwight Silverman's blog at <http://blogs.chron.com/techblog/> for several years. For the past year, I have posted announcements about NTPCUG's meetings on Friday, when Dwight sets up the Open Comments for anything technical. People all over the world read Dwight's TechBlog.

By comparison, the Dallas Morning News no longer has a technology section and their website is equally lacking. I checked out the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and they appear to have the same policies as the Houston Chronicle. For instance, if you are a resident in a city where they publish a newspaper and are passionate about a particular subject, for instance "user groups", then one of your members might be selected to be a blogger on their website. For more information on this, check out <http://blog.seattlepi.newsource.com/solicit.asp>.

The Hearst Corporation (<http://www.hearstcorp.com/>) also owns radio and TV stations, so there may also be opportunities there as well. Unfortunately, there is not a Hearst publication in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. I even applied to be a blogger for the Houston Chronicle, since Dallas is a suburb of Houston but it was a no-go, although Dwight did get a good laugh

April-June 2007

out of my comment, since there has always been a great competition between Houston and Dallas.

At various times, NTPCUG has hired a PR firm, run radio commercials, advertised in local college newspapers, 1/4 page ad in the Dallas Morning News, and had booths at every tech show between 2002 - 2005 and none of these efforts produced a scintilla of positive results in terms of new members.

However, we have discovered that our best marketing tool is our website and the more dynamic the content is, then the higher we are in the search engine results. Better than 80% of NTPCUG's visitors find us via our website. I would bet that this statistic is also valid for most user groups. Is your user group deploying a marketing strategy, which is geared to hook the visitors to your website?

Too many user groups still have what we used to have, which is a static homepage that never changes. Most visitors never go beyond the homepage, unless there is something on the homepage that hooks them. Many user group members also never go beyond the homepage, unless there is something on the homepage that entices them. User groups can attract visitors to their website, if it is also a source of information pertaining to high-tech issues, such as Net Neutrality, Internet Radio, etc. or the latest information on leading edge technology.

Does your website's homepage answer the following questions?

- Who, What, When, Where, Why and How?
- What is the focus of your user group's presentations?
  - end-users
  - developers
  - IT Professionals
  - Small business owners
- Who should consider joining your UG?
  - end-users
  - developers
  - IT Professionals - system analyst, network administrator, system administrators, IT Managers, etc.
  - Small business owners

- What international organization(s) is your UG affiliated with and are these logos on your UG's homepage?
  - APCUG
  - International NET Association (INETA)
  - Culminis
- Do you feature new SIGs on your home page for at least 90 days before and after the date of the new SIG's first meeting?
- Do you feature topics with broad appeal on your home page?
- Do you feature information about hot technology topics such as Net Neutrality on your homepage?
- Do you feature product reviews on leading edge technology on your homepage, such as the new solid-state hard drives or road warrior new security devices such as the Yoggi GateKeeper Pro?
- Do you have links to any awards that your UG may have won?

Check out <http://www.ntpcug.org/> for other topics that I have not covered.

SharePoint Services makes it easier for different people to post updated information, which they can flag with an expiration date. This reduces the amount of time that needs to be spent in housekeeping duties. I will talk more about SharePoint Services in the APCUG's 3rd Quarterly Reports.

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## Publicity in Tokyo

by Barbara Manning, Advisor, Region 13

I do the publicity for the Tokyo PC Users Group even though I don't live in Japan right now. All our publicity is done online in publications within Tokyo. One publication, Tokyo Classifieds has a weekly paper publication where we get a free ad because we are a non profit organization.

I started with no information and called Tokyo classifieds. I asked them who to contact for publicity, and they were very understanding and cooperative giving me the names and contact data for their competitors. Since it was a free ad, it made it easy for them to

share the information.

Now I have a list of contacts in my date book which pops up the deadline dates each month or week so that I never miss a deadline. We post a generic ad advertising the club in Tokyo Classifieds. Where I can, I post information on the specific topic for the meeting.

I also post longer length pieces in other online club and organization newsletters. We also have a standing arrangement with other computing clubs to cross reference our meetings. In most cases the clubs do not compete for members so there is no problem.

I also regularly invite the editors from the publications in which I advertise to send a reporter to a meeting. They get a story from it, and we get some publicity. Of course you can't be certain that the publicity you get will be what you want, but its a very small risk. We've also traded advertising in online newsletters or email newsletters for club sponsorship. Rather than pay for advertising on our site, publishers will cheerfully post a meeting or club announcement in their newsletter in exchange for showing their logo on our site.

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## Wikia and Wikipedia

by Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor

An APCUG Regional Advisor recently heard from a user group leader that important informational/reference Web sites are shockingly uninformed about user groups.

[http://computing.wikia.com/wiki/Computer groups](http://computing.wikia.com/wiki/Computer_groups) lists exactly two computer groups: one New Jersey user group and APCUG. Hardly any info is given for either organization, though there are links to the groups' real sites. That there's NO entry for "user group" seems surprising. A longer -- but hardly complete -- list of user group entries appears on [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of users%27 groups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_users%27_groups).

Note that Wikipedia is the better-known user-written/edited encyclopedia, while Wikia is "an advertising-supported platform for developing and hosting community-based wikis. Specifically, Wikia enables groups to share information, news, stories, media and opinions that fall outside the scope of an encyclopedia."

As Wikis become more widely used for research and reference, it's worth the effort to list and describe our user groups in both these forums so that potential members, news media, industry organizations, and hardware/software vendors have one more way of reaching us.

## Region 13

### International

by **Barbara Manning, Advisor**  
[bmannings@apcug.net](mailto:bmannings@apcug.net)

## Australia

### Brisbug UG

<http://www.brisbug.asn.au/>

Jan '07 – 6 hour program on USB flashdrives included creating them. The Feb program was not listed on their site.

### Melbourne UG

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/>

Inaugural meeting of the Sunbury General Interest Group. Twenty-five people attended.

PC Update Magazine will go through a major overhaul in the next few months. The editor is surveying the membership for its ideas.

450 people attended a Microsoft presentation on Feb 7.

The UG continues its Monthly Disc program, which is filled with useful free, share and pay for applications.

Presented the 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award to Kevin Dempster for valuable work done, especially as a member of the iHelp Team. The iHelp Team comprises a group of tireless volunteers who answer questions and ensure that Melb PC members get the help they need.

### Perth UG

<http://www.perthpcug.org.au/>

March 7 is the Annual General Meeting, presentation on Adobe Lightroom.

February 2007 meeting on delving into the inner workings of a computer box.

The UG offers training in Beginning PC and PhotoShop CS2 v9.

## Canada

### Durham UG

<http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/>

Family Tree Maker demo at March 8 meeting.

April-June 2007

SIGs on Beginning PC, installing and using Vista, Linux and CAD Featured software: Paint.net V3 in March, WinSpike in February and USB Review in January.

### Sarnia

<http://www.scug.ca/postnuke/index.php>

March 28 General Meeting topic is digital cameras.

SIGs on digital photography, genealogy, Linux and Windows.

### Victoria UG

<http://www.bbc.org/index.php>

The UG enjoys a blog written by BB&C Volunteer of the month (November 2005, July 2003, and September 2000), Randy Esdon, who is currently serving on the HMCS Ottawa on his third tour in the Arabian Gulf.

January was their Annual Group Meeting (AGM) where they restructured and reduced the executive branch from six to two directors and streamlined systems to be more responsive to member requests.

February newsletter offered congratulations to member Marguerite Hobbs whose photo 'Green Eyes' tied for the Peoples' Choice award in the APCUG Photo Contest.

They also reported that the Web Enthusiasts' Association of Victoria, known as WEAV, disbanded.

## Japan

### Tokyo UG

<http://www.tokyopc.org>

January meeting on Windows Utilities that save you time.

February meeting on Web 2.0 Services for work and pleasure.

March meeting on Browser showdown.

Issues with ISP services blacklisting their URL dominated executive discussions in February. The issue is temporarily resolved, but the webmasters expect it to rise again as more ISPs make unfortunate traffic decisions.

**If at first you don't succeed,  
destroy all evidence that you tried.**

# **Pikes Peak Computer Application Society Celebrates 25 Years**

## **Colorado Springs, CO (Region 9)**

### **By Toni Logan**

In March, P\*PCompAS officially existed 25 years as an incorporated entity. I thought it might be a good idea to give you all a brief history of our club through my eyes. Sometime in the early 80's, Brad and I were shopping at a Radio Shack. We were intrigued by one of their items, a Model I computer. It seemed like that could be a real handy item in our house. We proceeded to buy it and our world opened up to a great association of people and activities.

Meanwhile, a friend, Warren Hickey, invited us to a meeting of microcomputer owners. They met on a Saturday morning at Vilachi's, which was on the corner of Bijou and Union. There was a big screen TV where we watched some demonstrations of computer stuff. Most of it was over our heads. The discussions were mostly about machine language. Dave Wood came up with the name for the club and that was FRASBUG, which stood for Front Range Small Business Users Group. We enjoyed the social aspects of the group and we were hooked. The founder of FRASBUG, Dave Wood, eventually left town and the group reformed as PPCOMPAS, and then in 1982 the club incorporated, so we celebrated the 25th anniversary of that event this March. Computers have come a long way since the inception of PPCOMPAS and I don't think anyone realized at the time how much we would depend on the home computer and what we could do with one.

Dave Hughes gave an interesting program at Blair College in 1994. This was really the first foray into the Internet. He presented a program about the Internet, demonstrated its use, and a look at the NAPLPS (North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax). It was the standard for the coding and transmission of color graphics in computers. He talked about a new system designed to provide interconnectivity between the hundreds of different networks around the nation and around the world. Voila! The Internet was born.

Dave is well known to long-time PPCOMPAS mem-

bers, having been one of the original members of the organization back in 1979. Dave, a native of Colorado Springs, has been in the personal computer business for many years. In fact, he established and ran the first BBS in Colorado Springs in 1980. Until recently, Dave also provided the physical space for the WebBoard server hardware (case, monitor, keyboard, and mouse). He also provided a high-speed connection to the Internet.

Mid Kolstad got us all interested in genealogy. She would help those of us who knew nothing about the subject. There have been so many people involved with PPCOMPAS over the past 25 years. There is no way to mention all of them. Some of the past Presidents have been: Ralph Redinger, Byron Smith, Dick Knoeckel, Norm Miller, Mid Kolstad, Byron Smith, Dick Stienmier, Billy Robinson, Dick Immig, Toni Logan, Chuck Blaney, Greg Lenihan, Dave Guevara, Harry Birkner, Joe Nuvolini, and Paul Godfrey.

### **The Technology**

We have gone from many different computers and systems to basically IBM types and Windows systems. There were a lot of different user groups including TRS-80; Atari (PPPACE); IBMPC; Computer Genealogy Study Group; C/S Osborne; TI Group (Front Range 99ers); CP/M Group; Commodore/VIC20; Apple Group; Color Computer; and Kay Pro Users Group. During the mid-80's a lot of us got our first IBM clone computer and then we were all talking the same language, sort of.

### **The Meetings**

Over the years we have met at a restaurant; a business place on West Colorado; a technical college on Elkton Drive; Rastall Center at CC; Blair College on Galley; a Colorado Springs Police Substation; and our present location, Springs Community Church. It is amazing to me that even though our meeting places have been all over the Colorado Springs area, attendance at meetings has stayed constant. We have members from the Denver area, Woodland Park, Security, Monument, and all over Colorado Springs. The membership has fluctuated from a small number of 30 to over 100 members. We have given a plaque to Blair College for letting us meet there. We have given the Community Church tables, a projection screen, and blinds for letting us use their very nice facilities.

# Happy 25th Birthday

to the Quad-Cities Computer Society

Rock Island IL (Region 6)

By Joe Durham

Q Bits, November 2006

Judi McDowell, president, started our celebration by recounting her first interest in computers. Then 19 other QCS members followed, as they each gave a brief computer biography and a description of their association with the Quad Cities Computer Society.

Each story is unique. Every person described and shared the wonder, mystery and enthusiasm of working with computers in the 1980s, 1990s and up to the present. These voices portray the genius of the QCS Society members from different backgrounds: hobbyists, business people, electronic engineers, photographers, genealogists, computer programmers, ham radio operators that have assembled together over these 25 years to help each other. Together we encourage one another as we unravel the mysteries of using these marvelous machines which amaze us, sometimes frustrate us, and always challenge us.

People started on a diverse set of systems: Commodore 64, Radio Shack TRS-80, Apple IIe, Macintosh, IBM, Timex Sinclair, Atari and on and on. In many ways computing is more powerful and less expensive today, but in the past these immature and less complex machines allowed users to create and experiment on their own.

To complement this communal dialogue, the club had a PowerPoint picture display that covered the QCS in photos, logos and graphics. It was fun to watch the panorama of people, places, and things as we listened to the description of days gone by.

As a hands-on counterpoint, a display of old hardware and software that members brought was arranged along the north wall. Old 5-1/4" floppies, 5-1/4" drives, a Commodore 64 opened up for display, and an IBM terminal that ran on 3-1/2" floppies and a small LCD screen that accessed mainframe computers. There were photos of old computers, and photos taken of our club events and members. 1981 issues of QBITS were available. Just a brief perusal of these



issues described the wide range of topics that were covered in our meetings. After a short intermission we gathered for cake, ice cream and punch. The cake had the Club's logo imprinted on it which was appropriate. The cake image technology wasn't in existence or even imagined when the club was formed in 1981.

Each member was asked to select their favorite program and place their name in a raffle. Several members won door prizes as they came forward as their favorite titles were announced. The QCS thanks the publishers of Smart Computing for providing a copy of their latest issue for each member attending the 25th Anniversary celebration.

The QCS main meeting, over the years, featured new software, new vendors, new hardware and computing trends. Rightly so, for our computing world is changing daily.

The QCS thanks all of those for coming out of the woodwork and sharing their stories. For these personal reflections demonstrate why this club exists; we help each other as we learn ourselves. Jim Kristan made a valid observation. When he first joined, he asked help of others. Later as time went by, other people began to ask him for help. Each member can testify to that same transition. And so it goes.

In the years ahead as our club will chart new horizons, and different computing directions, let us keep this "Members Helping Members" mantra in mind. In the next 25 years, we will get our new machines, install Microsoft Vista, and get new devices and new games. At the 50th Anniversary let us share again the stories of personal computing. It will be a refreshing pause in the onrush of technological progress.

# Twenty-Five Years! And Windows Vista

By Cliff Millward, Editor  
cliffm@xmission.com

From: Utah Computer Society "Blue  
Chips" magazine  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Ah, to be 25 again; but that's another story! Several past presidents of Blue Chips attended the 25th anniversary meeting. Present were Dean Lang, Stuart Gygi, James Alexander, Bob Angell, John Jalosynski, and Don Kaufer.

However, isn't it wonderful that Microsoft chose to launch Windows Vista so close to our anniversary? I just know they did it to honor us (grin!) Too bad that all of us did not receive a free copy of Vista as a birthday present! How could Microsoft be so negligent?

Seriously, I have read several reviews of Vista, and I am a bit perturbed about one "feature" in this program. I understand that you must have Windows XP installed on your computer in order to use the upgrade offering instead of a new install package. If you want to install the upgrade on a new hard drive you must first install Windows XP. There is no provision to insert the Windows XP disk into the CD drive to check for ownership when installing Vista.

I presume this was done to prevent illegal copies from being installed, and I understand their concern, but it is, to say the least, most inconvenient! It only makes it more difficult for pirates to install it. Those intent on getting an illegal copy will only install a pirated XP copy first before loading the new Vista.

HOWEVER, in reading some recent articles, they indicate that Vista installation is smooth and much easier than XP's was. One writer states that "With an in-place upgrade from XP to Vista you may be lucky and have everything work perfectly - or you may join the ranks of the disappointed." - - - What to do?????

My advice; before you upgrade I suggest you run the Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor which is a free download from Microsoft. It will check your system and tell you what you need to change before you "venture



forth." You can get this download by clicking Start - Windows Update, then click on Windows Family or you can go directly to Microsoft.com and go through a couple of windows.

There are 5 versions of Vista (which makes it somewhat complicated):

1. Windows Vista Home Basic
2. Windows Vista Home Premium
3. Windows Vista Business
4. Windows Vista Ultimate
5. Windows Vista Enterprise

Which one to use depends on what you need. One reviewer suggests that if you are using XP Pro, you should purchase the Home Premium edition.

I may be a bit heretical here, but I suggest you not upgrade until you must. I understand some games are having difficulty running under Vista and who knows what other programs will have problems? I have one program that would not run after an automatic installation of an upgrade to my existing Windows XP!

Also, Vista will require more "horsepower" from everything, so you may have to replace a lot of internal items -- that costs money!

I believe your best approach is to either buy a new machine with Vista installed or wait a couple of months to see what happens. Perhaps prices will come down and/or Vista Version 2 will appear.

Unfortunately, sometime in the future you will be forced to upgrade in order to take advantage of newer pro-

grams and/or peripherals.

Because of all this news, I recently looked into buying a Mac. However, a comparable Mac would cost about \$1,500 and the monitor I would want would cost about \$1,500 also -- and that does not include the new programs I would have to purchase. I do not mean to contradict myself, but several programs I possess have a Mac installation on the same CD as the Windows installation. Also, I understand you can upgrade some programs for a reduced price. So, some money could be saved but, in my opinion, not enough.

If I ever win a Las Vegas JackPot or a long lost relative leaves me a fortune, I will buy a Mac, but I don't anticipate this stroke of good fortune occurring to me in the near or distant future.

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## Happy 25th Birthday

Happy 25th  
Birthday to  
Sarnia PC  
Users Group  
in Canada.



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## Northwest Florida Association of Computer User Groups Established

**J. B. Hillard**  
**Coordinator, NWFACUG**

On November 2, 2006 the organizing user groups of the newly formed Northwest Florida Association of Computer User Groups moved forward in their effort to provide a coordinating venue for home computer user help, education, and entertainment in the Florida panhandle.

The NWFACUG primary purpose is to bring user  
April-June 2007

groups closer together in the geographic region of 16 counties in Northwest Florida. Any computer user group in the region will be eligible for membership. The NWFACUG will be closely associated with Okaloosa-Walton College and the Positive Retirement Through Imaginative Education program.

The organization will operate with many similarities as traditional regional associations affiliated with the APCUG. However, for the annual educational and entertainment function, it will be open to the public and not exclusively for member user groups. While promoting the membership, we will be exposing the public to what user groups are all about, and what can be accomplished when people come together. Hopefully, the residual benefit will be increased membership in the host user groups.

In October, 2006 the founding members hosted a computer fair that received wide-spread public recognition. This was a "first of its kind" in Northwest Florida in that the focus was on the home computer user. There was a slight commercial presence, but the spotlight was on the home computer hobbyist. This brought out the type and age group that we usually see at user group regional events, but there was a strong element of younger participants as well.

Presenting vendors were Smart Computing Magazine, Microsoft, and Corel. All total, 27 vendors provided door prizes of which nearly 200 were given out to the public and participating user group members. Several vendors wanted to set up a presence but we were not able to handle the logistics for this first time event. However, in 2007 it will be expanded considerably and more on-site vendors will be invited to participate.

Organizations are often formed by a "spark" igniting an idea and interest. In our case the "spark" was Jen Clausen, Field Representative for Smart Computing Magazine. A simple telephone call from Jen requesting an audience to present Smart Computing became the catalyst that was leveraged to form the NWFACUG.

Over the next couple of months all the paperwork will be completed, officers selected, a website established, and membership application to APCUG will be completed. We look forward to becoming a member of the APCUG family.

## **TextAloud**

**By Bonnie Synder, P\*PCompAS**

**Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

When doing extensive reading on your computer monitor, do you find that your eyes fatigue from the glare on the screen ... and your neck gets a "crick" in it? Well, I may have found a computer program that can resolve those problems. The program is called "TextAloud." This program can load and read Word files, text files, Web pages, and PDF files. When I say the program "reads" these files, I mean that it has eight built-in text to speech voices that you can adjust for pitch and rate, which will read the document back to you in speech, so you can just sit back and listen. In addition, the Web site that supports this program (NextUp.com) has links to a variety of commercial text to speech voice sites.

Another feature of this program is its portability option. If you don't wish to be tied down to your computer while reading your documents, TextAloud gives you an option to convert them to MP3, WAV, and other sound file formats, so you can load them into your MP3 player or burn them to a CD and listen to them on a portable CD player.

TextAloud also provides a toolbar for Internet Explorer and Firefox to make reading and capturing Web pages very easily done. Plus, the toolbar has magnification options that will magnify the entire Web page (instead of just portions of one, as the built-in magnification program that comes with Windows XP).

To try TextAloud out, you can download a fully functional 30-day trial version from the NextUp Web site. They also have other talking software—one to hear the news from various sites and another that will speak the weather. If you choose to purchase TextAloud, it is only \$29.95, which I think is very reasonable. It is always a good idea to check NextUp.com periodically, too, as they come out with free updates on a regular basis.

The people at NextUp.com are really terrific and are very open to suggestions for improving or adding on to their products. In fact, they encourage user input by providing a monthly prize for the best user suggestion. They also have a free, optional monthly newsletter to which you can subscribe, and they will send it to you via e-mail.

So, if you feel the need to rest your weary eyes, try out TextAloud. I think you'll be very pleased you did.

NOTE: We have written permission for re-publication by any non-profit.

## **Region 4**

**(AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN)**

**by Rod Rakes, Advisor  
rrakes@apcug.net**

**The East Tennessee Computer Society  
<http://www.etc.org/>**

ETCS has changed their meeting format. For the first fifteen to thirty minutes, questions about problems (both software and hardware) will be addressed. After the Q&A, the main presentation began.

**Gwinnett Senior PC User Group, Georgia  
<http://www.gsnpcug.com>**

In February, GSNPCUG heard from Rod Rakes, APCUG Region 4 Advisor, about the annual APCUG meeting and the CES show. Rod also presented several time saving utility programs which was followed by a Q&A period. Fred Gakstatter presented a program on digital photography and manipulating digital photos for the March session. GSNPCUG has opened a satellite branch of SeniorNet at the new George Pierce Park Center. There will be 12 new computers for classes.

**Hilton Head Island Computer Club, SC  
<http://www.hhicc.org/>**

HHICC had a March session on "How to Burn CDs and DVDs" by Ken Peters, followed by Q&A. There was also a new member orientation SIG and a Volunteer SIG, both led by Jolyn Bowler.

**PC User Group, AL  
<http://www.HPCUG.com>**

In February, Ron Schmitz of the Huntsville group, discussed and demonstrated software and techniques for scanning slides and converting them to digital formats. This proved to be a well-presented and attended meeting. A luncheon honoring 3 key members of the group was held at a local restaurant following the March meeting.

**The Palmetto PC Club, North Carolina  
<http://www.palmettopc.org/>**

At the March 8th meeting Nancy Johnson showed how to change and improve the pictures in the computer. She spoke of her recent win in a national graphic arts contest, and her interest in using the computer to generate special effects from photographs. She showed some of her work and gave an overview of digital painting of portraits or scenes, restoration of faded or damaged photos, and revision of photos to add or remove individuals or objects. She used Adobe Photoshop for most of her work, but gets added effects from other software as well.

## Region 2

(VA, MD, DC, DE, NJ)

by Gabe Goldberg, Advisor  
ggoldberg@apcug.net

The **Princeton, NJ PC Users Group** <<http://www.ppcug-nj.org/>> recently featured Joseph Perignat speaking on home computer security, a topic important to us all. Perignat is an independent consultant to home and small business personal computer users. He also teaches home personal computer fundamentals at Bucks County Community College. He has spent over 25 years in the pharmaceutical industry responsible for Information Technology Departments. Most recently he has been a speaker on Security for the Home PC to several organizations. His talk was described:

There are bad folks trying to do bad things to home personal computer users. They want to get hold of your personal information and use it for illegal purposes. They want to use your personal computer to spread spam. Some may even try to cripple your computer.

This presentation is aimed at the home personal computer user and covers security terminology and the ways personal computers can be compromised. The Speaker will show you what you need to do to stay out of harms way. He will provide information on where to go for further information on personal computer security and where to obtain free personal computer security software to protect yourself.

The **Newark, DE "Senior Surfers" Computer Club**, located in the Newark Senior Center <<http://www.nscseniorsurfers.com/>> featured a Windows Vista overview by Dick Scott, described:

The folks in Redmond WA (Microsoft) have provided a presentation titled "*See what Vista is all about.*" For those who have found the version of Vista they "needed" there will be "opportunities" to share your earliest Vista experiences with the club, you are on the leading edge!

**Another Baltimore Computer Users Group** <<http://www.abcug.org/>> is mostly made up of PC 'home' users, whose interests include: internet surfing,

graphics, digital photography, productivity software, games and almost anything related to computing. A recent meeting discussed key internet topics like name domain services, e-mail forwarding/filtering, and website hosting. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings.

The **Lake Monticello, VA Computer Users Group** <<http://lmcug.apcug.org/>> Web site opens with the cheery greeting, "Computer users helping other computer users in the community of Lake Monticello. Welcome! You are not alone. We can help you get the most out of your personal computer." Who can argue with that?! Their holiday meeting featured "Cool Christmas Gifts," descriptions and price comparisons on various products -- everything from Playstation 3 to digital cameras, laptops, cell phones, and Windows Vista. A 2007 meeting described Windows Vista, the long-awaited new operating system from Microsoft. The meeting covered what Vista is like, what's needed to run it, and features and benefits it offers over other operating systems. It highlighted the stunning new Aero interface and explained how to find out if Windows Vista is for you.

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### Member Services Committee by Judy T aylour, Chair, Board of Advisors jtaylor@apcug.net

Member Services = tangible benefits for user groups other than PUSH, free Website hosting, conferences, etc. such as discounts offered to APCUG-member groups and then to their members as a benefit of belonging to their user group. Linspire was quite excited about the number of people who downloaded their latest offer – almost 600.

The Presentation-in-a-Box list is compiled and maintained by this committee. If you know of a vendor that has a PIAB, please let me know at [jtaylor@apcug.net](mailto:jtaylor@apcug.net) so that I can contact them regarding offering the PIAB to all APCUG-member groups.

A packet of information was recently put together that will help interested people in starting a new user group. It was sent to two people who are interested in starting user groups in Wyoming and Alabama.



# Looking Ahead to the 2008 Conference

Before long, the 2008 APCUG Conference registration information will be announced so members can move forward with their travel plans in order to attend the 2008 APCUG Conference in Las Vegas.

## YOU CAN HELP US HELP YOU:

When making your travel plans, please bear in mind that making your Riviera hotel reservations through our official registration process is the only way APCUG receives credit for your stay.

Making your reservations for the Riviera Hotel through internet discount services and travel sites will not provide APCUG credit for your stay nor give you the special group services benefits.

Secondly, the more rooms our members reserve through the APCUG code, the more money we save in conference costs. This savings allows us to spend in other areas which in turn, helps us make the conference more rewarding for you.

# APCUG Announces Three Big Contests

## Recognition, Recognition, Recognition!

That's what it is all about. If you have a great newsletter, website, or members that take great digital photos, let's show the world; it's time for the APCUG Annual Newsletter, Website and Digital Photo competition!

September 1, 2007, is the date for you to start submitting your website URLs, newsletters and Digital Photos for these competitive events. The procrastinators will have until October 15, 2007, to get their entries in. In the next issue of Reports we will have complete details as to where you will be able to submit your contest entries as well as the rules and judging criteria for each contest.

The results of the competition will be announced at the APCUG's Annual Conference, January 3 – 6, 2008 in

Las Vegas; you do not need to be present to win. After the conference, the results will be posted on the website (<http://www.apcug.net>) and sent out via NOOZ and Reports. All submitted Digital Photos will be on display at the conference. All winners will receive a Certificate of Participation; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will receive plaques as well as the appropriate 2007 contest logos for the web and newsletters to use on the group's newsletter or website.

Don't miss the great opportunity to get some recognition for your group.

### APCUG Contest Committee

Bill James  
Melvin Weekley  
Roger Tesch

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## APCUG Annual Conference Returns to The Riviera Hotel & Casino

January 3rd to 6th  
Jim Evans  
[jevans@apcug.net](mailto:jevans@apcug.net)  
Conference Co-Chair

The 2008 Annual Conference of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) will run from late Thursday afternoon, January 3rd to late Sunday morning, January 6th. The 2008 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) will start on Monday, January 7th and run until Thursday, January 10th. We will again be meeting at The Riviera Hotel & Casino near the Las Vegas Convention Center, where part of CES is held.

The 2007 Annual Conference was held at The Riviera and the reviews were very positive. APCUG is planning an even better conference for 2008. Most of the volunteers and staff who worked in 2007 will be there for 2008.

Many of the 2007 educational session presentations are posted at <http://apcug.net/events/conference07/conf07files.htm>

You can see the winners of the Jerry Awards at [http://www.apcug.net/community\\_service/jerry2006/jerrys2006winners.html](http://www.apcug.net/community_service/jerry2006/jerrys2006winners.html)

The Photo Contest Winners are at <http://www.apcug.net/events/conference07/winners/apcug2006/photowinners.html>

Highlights & Benefits Planned for the 2008 Conference include:

April-June 2007

- Jerry Awards
- Newsletter Contest Awards
- Web Site Contest Awards
- Photo Contest Awards
- Educational Sessions (2 days)
- Vendor Presentations
- Opportunities to meet vendors
- Meal / Social Events
- Opportunities to meet user group members from around the world
- Spouse Program

Watch the APCUG Web Site (<http://www.apcug.net>) for news of when registration will be open. Also watch your e-mail and upcoming issues of APCUG Reports.

APCUG strongly encourages you to stay at The Riviera. By staying there, you will be helping us keep our costs down. Your registration fees only cover a small part of our costs. This year, by staying at The Riviera, you may win a free upgrade to a suite. Watch for details.

### The Riviera Hotel Room Rates

Reservation Deadline December 12, 2007

Single / Double Room - \$79 – January 2nd to the 6th – During Conference

Single / Double Room - \$129 January 7th to 10th – During CES

Additional Person - \$10

Petite Suite - \$175

1 Bedroom Suite - \$300

# DBXpress version 1.40

## Product Review

By Linda Moore, APCUG Director

This product review is both a tale of woe and a success story. First, I will tell you about my tale of woe. In 2002, I bought a OptiPlex GX400, then Dell's top of the line desktop computer. I ordered it with the maximum amount of RAM (at the time - 512 MB) and two 40 GB hard drives with Windows 2000 Professional.

During the summer of 2004, I started to get a strange error message in Outlook Express (OE). The error message said something similar to "You are either running out of hard disk space or you have an insufficient amount of memory." I checked and I had over 20 GB of free space on both hard drives and with 512 MB that could not be the issue.

So, I ignored the message partly because I was very busy and the error message didn't make any sense to me at the time. I got the message two more times and proceeded to ignore it then as well.

Lesson #1 that I learned is that **"No matter how illogical the error message is, never ignore an error message."** If possible, take a snapshot of the error message. This will be invaluable in your research to determine what is causing this error message to be displayed.

Then my OE Inbox locked up and I could no longer access any of the messages, which were previously in my Inbox. Instead Outlook Express created a new Inbox(1) for me. I did a considerable amount of research over the next few months and discovered that there are all kinds of chug holes related to OE. More about the chug holes later.

I discovered that there were several freeware programs, such as MailNavigator and Magellan and I discovered this website, <http://www.oehelp.com/default.aspx>, which has links to a lot of other excellent websites. For more detailed information on DBXpress, see <http://www.oehelp.com/DBXpress/Default.aspx>. One of the major recommendations on this site is to make a copy of the corrupt Inbox; so I copied the Inbox that I was locked out of and named it InboxBK1.dbx file.

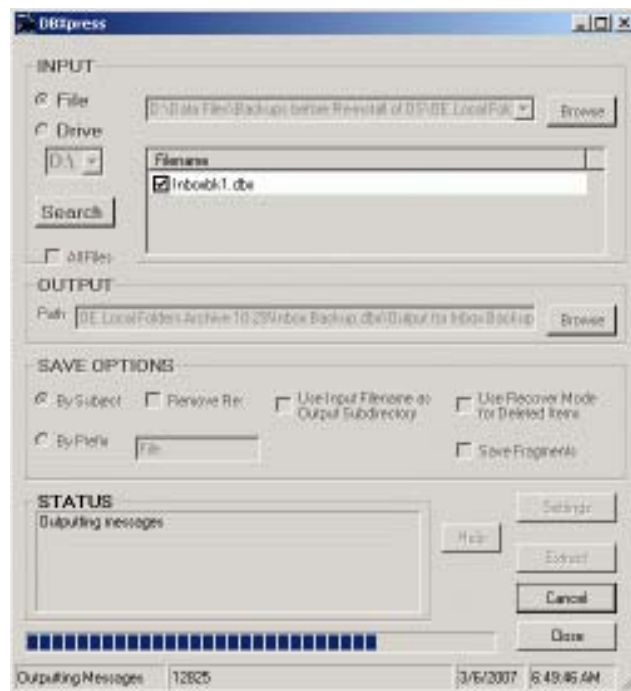
This website is where I discovered Stephen L. Cochran's program, DBXpress, version 1.40 for \$24.95, which I ordered. Stephen provides free updates with

any purchase of DBXpress.

First, I tried MailNavigator and then Magellan to see if these programs would work but neither would work. Then I tried DBXpress and it worked like a champ, but first I discovered that I needed to create an output file. So I created this output folder as a sub-folder under the folder, which contained InboxBK1.dbx.

Then I selected the path for InboxBK1 for Input file and then I selected the path for the output file. The next step was to click the extract button and the program started to hum.

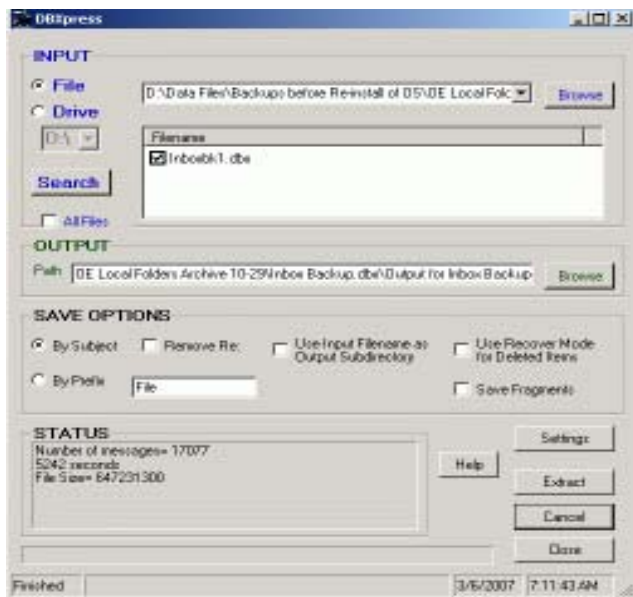
It took about an hour to complete all of the steps but eventually, DBXpress saved every message that was in my InboxBK1 to the output file, all 17,077 messages. Here is a picture of DBXpress hard at work.



On the next page is the final snapshot of the final DBX screen.

Here are a few of the things that I learned about how to safely operate OE.

- The out of memory error means that the Inbox or OE subfolder has gotten too large for the folder to be loaded. The maximum size allowed by OE for any folder is 2 GB; however, my Inbox crashed at 634,000 KB. The 2 GB maximum applies to every folder in OE.
- I set up lots of sub-folders under both my Inbox



folder and my Sent folder.

- The recommendation for the maximum number of messages that any folder should contain is 2,000, which I adhere to.
- Using the “Find” command, you can still find any message that you need, no matter what sub-folder that it is in.
- Compact “All Folders”. Never compact single folders because sometimes this can cause your OE files to become corrupted. Fortunately, I did not have a corrupted Inbox, just an over-sized Inbox.
- Perform basic housekeeping at least every couple of months, where you sort your Inbox by subject and delete all of the email messages that you don’t need to keep. I delete email messages from ZDNet, WordTips, Access, etc. Based on the quality of the content, I have even unsubscribed to a few of these listserves, which has also helped.

OE has been updated in Vista and it is now called Windows Mail. For those of you who are already running Vista, I think that the tips above apply to Windows Mail as well.

Linda Moore  
 APCUG Director  
 Past President of North Texas PC Users Group  
[Linda.Moore@ntpcug.org](mailto:Linda.Moore@ntpcug.org)  
 Copyright © 2007 Linda Moore

## Region 11 (Southern California) by Judy Tylour, Advisor [jtaylour@apcug.net](mailto:jtaylour@apcug.net)

The **Big Bear Computer Club** (BBCC) has both a new webmaster and editor and you can check out their new Website and newsletter at [www.bigbearcc.org](http://www.bigbearcc.org). Most groups have fundraisers to bring in added funds but how many have a Fundraiser Contest. The BBCC is having one. Spring is almost here and it’s time to start making plans for their summer fundraiser, but what kind of fundraiser? The Board needs help in coming up with a fundraiser idea and that’s where their members come in. They know their members have wonderful ideas and the Board would like them to share those ideas. Members are asked to submit their ideas via e-mail with Fundraiser Idea in the subject line. Whoever comes up with the best fundraising idea wins \$25.00. The winner will be announced at their April meeting.

The **Glendora Seniors Computer Club** features a Q&A at their meetings (they meet twice a month) but some members are still reluctant to ask questions in front of the entire world. Jim Glass, Program Chair, offers to step outside the room with a computer under his arm and do “one on one” Q&A. This illustrates the users helping users motto and proves that the GSCC is really a friendly seniors group serving all computer skill levels. [www.gscclub.org/](http://www.gscclub.org/)

The **Claremont Senior Computer Club** has a new feature on their Website: Quick Tips. You can check out the tips at [www.cscclub.org](http://www.cscclub.org). 3/13 – how to create a Captain’s Log with Notepad; 3/3 – Too many icons? Clean up your desktop; 2/27 – Logon Password Protection; 2/20 – Customize the toolbar; 2/12 – Common tasks view on the left side of the window; and 2/6 – Daylight Saving Time.

The March meeting of the **Long Beach Computer Club** featured CyberDefender. The meeting was videotaped by a professional crew and will soon be available from CyberDefender for those groups that requested the Presentation-in-a-Box. [www.lbibmug.org/](http://www.lbibmug.org/)

The **Los Angeles Computer Society** has an LACS

Audio Archive on its Website. You can now listen to the audio portion of their general meetings in streaming format or as a podcast. To listen as a stream you need to have either RealPlayer or Windows Media Player. To listen to a podcast you need a program like iPodder and an MP3 player. If you do not have these programs you can download them by clicking on the link for the program you wish to download. There is no charge for these programs. [www.lacspc.org](http://www.lacspc.org)

One of the recent presentations of the **Tri-City Computer Club** consisted of two members who attended APCUG's annual conference reporting on the Roundtables they attended. Between them they attended 13 RTs and the information they shared will benefit both their club and members. <http://tricitycomputerclub.com/>

**Let's Compute Computer Club** in Palm Desert loves its computer lab monitors. Monitors are people who want to help others in whatever capacity they can. Why else would they volunteer their time? Let's give the monitors a high-five of thanks. [www.scpd-computerclub.org/](http://www.scpd-computerclub.org/) The club offers a gazillion classes each month and serving as a monitor has very subtle perks. Learning by helping, learning by observing and sometimes learning from others in the lab. The bits and pieces of information accumulate and soon you are surprised at what you have learned.

The **San Diego PC Club** offers Friday workshops twice a month and they are a great way for members to get informal answers to their computer questions or advice about their broken computer. Members who attend get help from some of the most computer literate people in San Diego. <http://sdpcug.org/>

The **Seniors Computer Group** in San Diego has almost 15 volunteers who are available to help members with close to 40 different hardware and software problems from tracking stocks on the web and downloading prices to WordPerfect, creating a webpage, SnagIt, Time Warner's Road Runner, Photoshop, Kai Photo tools and much more. <http://home.san.rr.com/scg/>

Starting in January 2007, the **Computer Connection Club** in San Jacinto, has a page on their website devoted to what APCUG has to offer. To date it has links to NOOZ and PUSH articles. [www.computer-](http://www.computer-connection-club.org/)

[connection-club.org/](http://www.computer-connection-club.org/)

The **Temecula Valley Computer User Group** has a link to other computer clubs (let's mingle) on its Website. When you click on it, you see the home pages for six clubs. Click on one of those links and you are visiting one of those clubs: Colony Computer – Murrieta, Computer Club of Menifee Valley, Computer Connection Club of San Jacinto, Fallbrook PC Users Group, Hemet Senior Computer Club and the Tri-City Computer Club of Oceanside. <http://member.apcug.org/tvcug/>

The **Computer Club of Menifee Valley**, "Friends Helping Friends," has a Bulletin Board on their Website. It was activated on 1-25-2007. Postings and registration information from the club's prior board were not brought forward to this board. While everyone is welcome to read messages, posting requires a quick and easy registration. [www.ccmv.net/](http://www.ccmv.net/)

**TUGNET**, Granada Hills, recently had another successful meet and eat fundraiser at El Torito restaurant. This gives members, relatives, neighbors, et al a chance to get together and eat, plus it benefits the user group. [www.tugnet.org](http://www.tugnet.org)

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## APCUG Eastern U.S. Annual Spring 2008 Event Possible

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Board of Directors,  
[iwilsker@apcug.net](mailto:iwilsker@apcug.net)

Many of you may remember that the APCUG used to hold an annual spring or summer event in addition to the winter event in Las Vegas. My first APCUG event was held in conjunction with Chicago COMDEX in 1991, and many of us attended those annual events. COMDEX then relocated to Atlanta in the mid 90's, and APCUG followed. Following the cessation of Atlanta COMDEX, we held events in New York City in parallel to PC Expo.

It has been several years since we held a major event in the eastern U.S. and there has been some input received from member groups asking that we again offer an eastern event. The President of the APCUG has delegated the task to me to work on a proposal to implement an eastern meeting much as we did for many years.

There was some work done in recent years planning a return to Atlanta, as that location would be centrally convenient for many eastern groups, but that effort lead to naught. Discussions, supplemented by APCUG survey responses, were divided between those who want to hold a meeting in conjunction with a trade show, and those who want to hold an independent APCUG event. Work has been done to find another COMDEX-like event held in the eastern states, but no such event has been found. There are several local and regional trade shows in the region, but none had the draw and synergy that a COMDEX or PC Expo scale event would provide.

Formal and informal discussions among APCUG leadership and supporters have expressed interests in holding an APCUG event in the Baltimore – Washington area, Atlanta, Dallas, Florida, or Chicago, but no decision has been made.

As the chair of the committee assigned to come up with a proposal for an annual event held in the spring or summer in the eastern (or central) U.S., I need your help. If you are aware of any trade show that might be of interest to user groups, please let me know and I will research them. If you have a proposed or preferred location, as well as a time frame, for a spring or summer APCUG event, I eagerly solicit your input for consideration. You can reach me at [iwilsker@apcug.net](mailto:iwilsker@apcug.net).

This is your organization. We need your help to provide you the services and events that your user group desires.

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## **A New Version of the Shareware Disk of the Month Fox Valley PC Association, Illinois Region 6**

In March the FVPCA debuted their new Drive of the Quarter program. They have obtained a 250 GB external USB drive and fifteen 1 GB USB thumb drives and the cost will be \$15 for the 1 GB thumb drive, and \$25 for the yearly membership. Next year the cost will be reduced to \$20. (The extra five dollars is to cover the cost of the external USB drive.) There were 10 members at the February meeting who ex-

pressed interest in the program. A list of the programs included on the first Drive of the Quarter was available at their March meeting to entice other subscribers.

The thumb drives were preloaded with software for the first Drive of the Quarter and subscribers picked them up at the March meeting. Depending on how many members enroll in the program, they will likely have several extra drives that can be preloaded and ready for a simple exchange in June. If they need to, they will be able to download a fresh batch of software to the subscribing member's thumb drive. It will be important for the members to have moved the software off the drive to make room for the second quarter's downloads. They suggest moving the folder onto the subscriber's hard drive, or possibly burning it to a CD (if it will fit!)

If members have a special freeware program that they think will benefit other members, they are encouraged to submit their suggestion at the meeting or to one of the members of the executive committee.

From the Fox Tales, Official Publication of the Fox Valley PC Association, March 2007; Jon Jackman, President.

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## **PUSH Editorial Committee Judy Taylour, Chair**

What's new for 2007? A new page for PUSH on APCUG's Website is in the works. Tidbits about the articles will be uploaded to the PUSH page and non-APCUG member groups will be encouraged to join to receive this terrific benefit. Editors receive many articles each month that can be used in their newsletters and groups not having a newsletter are encouraged to post the articles on their Website for their members to read. There are even groups that put part of the article in their online newsletter with a link to the complete article on their Website. There are many ways that the PUSH articles can be used to expand your members' knowledge. Many of the articles are ready-made meetings since they contain all the information about a program (step-by-step), problem and solution, etc. A good source to have available if the scheduled vendor doesn't arrive or the member giving the presentation is unable to do so.

## Region 6

(KY, IL, IN, MI)

by **Patty Lowry, Advisor**  
**plowry@apcug.net**

The **Chicago Computer Society** recently held a Photo Contest and they had 321 entries! Winners will be announced in their April newsletter. They have a prize for one lucky CCS member who remembers his/her membership number (semi-hidden in their newsletter, Hard-Copy.) In the space after the end of one of the articles is a 5-line paragraph specifying that member number as the winner of a one year subscription to Smart Computing.

The **Quad Cities Computer Society** has been bringing in new members with its "Short Term SIGs." A short term SIG will last from three to six months. This keeps interest in the SIGs and also helps prevent volunteer burn out. Visitors may visit one SIG where they are given a Visitor Packet. In the Visitor Packet is included a letter to thank them for visiting, a newsletter, a club brochure, a membership application, a coupon for admittance to another SIG, and a pen with their club name and web address. If they want to continue coming to the SIGs, they must join.

Happy 25th Birthday to the **Kentucky-Indiana PC User Group**. They had such a good time at their February meeting, they decided to have year-long events to celebrate KIPCUG's growth and survival for the past quarter century. One of their strengths is their Special Interest Groups - 19 strong! The Access Basic SIG uses the tools that are available in Access without programming; users bring problems and they come up with solutions. The Advanced Users SIG explores software and hardware topics of interest to people who are very comfortable with their computer and want to know even more. The Community Outreach SIG takes donations of computer equipment and restores them to working condition. KIPCUG won 1st Place in the 2006 Jerry Award competition - New Community Service Project category. The Digital Photography SIG examines software and hardware topics that will make your photographic efforts more fun and rewarding. Members at any level of experience are welcome. The Excel Basic SIG starts with questions about home or work prob-

lems, and they have the opportunity to learn and practice new material. The Genealogy SIG has presentations on the use of The Master Genealogist software, along with a short Q&A and the Genealogy II SIG also helps members to understand The Master Genealogist software with a Q&A format. The Hands On SIG gives attendees a chance to find some assistance and learn more about their PC and the Hardware SIG helps members expand the capabilities of their existing system. The Intermediate Users SIG focuses on various versions of MS Windows software. This SIG is for users who are comfortable with the daily use of their computers and have mastered their fear of computers, and are willing to push the envelope a little. The Investing SIG consists of round table information exchanges on any economic subject of current interest. The New Users Daytime SIG is for people new to computers and the New Users SIG South is geared to the level of the attendees to help them stay on track. The Real Estate SIG's mission is to provide property owners and investors the opportunity to gain a greater insight into the transaction, so they can protect their endeavors more effectively. The Technical Market Analysis SIG uses technical indicators to try to determine the near term direction of the market and hone attendees' skills. The Utilities SIG examines a mix of freeware, shareware and retail programs. The Visual Basic SIG discusses features of VB, frequently discussing games that are developed or VB Net. Attend the Webmaster SIG and you will learn to build web sites. The Windows OS SIG focuses on maintaining and updating Windows OS's to keep them performing at peak efficiency.

In addition to KIPCUG, two other groups in Region 6 won awards in the 2006 Jerry Awards Competition: **Bowling Green Area Microcomputer UG** - Honorable Mention, Ongoing Community Service Project and the **Fox Valley PC Association** - 1st Place Tie, How the Community Service Project is Managed.

**Imagine if every Thursday  
your shoes exploded  
if you tied them the usual way.  
This happens to us all the time  
with computers,  
and nobody thinks of complaining.**

Jeff Raskin

# Southwest User Group Conference

We're on our way to the 14th annual Southwest User Group Conference in San Diego and you are invited to join us.

When: July 13, 14 & 15, 2007

Where: Town and Country Resort & Convention Center ([www.towncountry.com](http://www.towncountry.com))

What: A great chance to see the latest and greatest vendors have to offer computer users, meet with vendors and book meetings, as well as network with user group officers and members who have the same problems we all do with our groups. And with the interaction during the conference and at the user group workshops you will probably come up with solutions to those problems. Plus you will have the opportunity to enrich your personal computer experience with the informative workshops provided by vendors.

How: Go to [www.swugconf.org](http://www.swugconf.org), fill in the registration form and mail it with a check for \$50 (early bird special price) by June 22 to the address noted on the form.

We are also having our 2nd Digital Photo Contest and all attendees are invited to participate. Groups who have digital photo contests are eligible to submit their winners to the SW contest if they have members attending the conference. You will find the contest guidelines on the conference website.

Attendees staying at the hotel are eligible for one free night at the hotel.

Welcome Bag, T-shirt, all meals, vendor faire, hospitality suite, Internet Cafe and Fun in the Sun and Computers, too = the Southwest Conference. We hope to see you there,

Judy Taylour & Patricia Hill,  
Co-chairs

[swugconf@socal.rr.com](mailto:swugconf@socal.rr.com)

[swugconf@aol.com](mailto:swugconf@aol.com)

[www.swugconf.org](http://www.swugconf.org)

[swugc.blogspot.com](http://swugc.blogspot.com).

April-June 2007



# The FACUG Spring Conference in Kissimmee on Mar. 2-3

By Tom Thiel, Lake Sumter Computer Society

FACUG stands for the Florida Association of Computer User Groups. Lake Sumter Computer Society joined both the FACUG and the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) last year. While membership costs us \$35 and \$50 respectively, I believe, and I hope you also believe, that this is money well spent.



This was my second Spring Conference and my third FACUG conference.

Lynne Rimmer and I attended, and like John Bianchi and I did last year, Lynne and I drove the 50 miles to Kissimmee in time to be there for the "breakfast session" around 8 a.m. each day!

That meant that Lynne had to get away really early since she had an additional 45 minute trip from "The Forest" to where I live in east Eustis.

Like previous conferences, there was a lot of information of value to member UGs again this year. Many of the speakers were the same as at previous conferences, but they did a good job of bringing their materials up to date. And there were new speakers who brought many new perspectives.

Based on my observation of the number of tables and the number of persons sitting at them, I believe attendance was down from last year. Also, there seemed to be fewer large UG teams than last year.

I don't know if my observations were accurate, but as a new FACUG Board member, I think we need to find out; if so, then why! By the way, I have been asked to serve as FACUG Membership Chair with responsibility for the QuickBase member database and the mission to grow FACUG membership.

One thing even more apparent to me this year is that there are large differences in UG composition and domain. This greatly affects what works and doesn't work for that UG.

For example, UGs from closed retirement communities are much different than ours, which has its potential member clientele distributed throughout a wide, tri-county geographic area. We need to publicize in the media to attract new members to replace those who have not renewed while the closed community has its inner network and clubhouse.

And our being located on a college campus, and being an official entity of that college, raises some additional constraints.

Most UGs promote themselves as educational entities and conduct many short formal instructional classes. We, of course, do not do this.

Those UGs with extensive formal teaching agendas say this is what gets and keeps members and also provides some limited funding. It is interesting to note that at least one “teaching” UG is situated on a high school campus.

After last year’s conference, we came up with “The Top Ten Ideas” gained from that meeting.

We implemented a New Member Folder program that has been quite successful, largely through the extraordinary efforts of Oscar David.

Another somewhat less spectacular effort from last year’s meeting was the development of an “LSCS Colleagues List,” which identified those members who volunteered to help with specific software applications. This didn’t work as well as we had hoped because so few members volunteered.

Volunteerism in LSCS, or rather the lack of it, has been especially troubling to me. I guess I see it as my personal failure as your President.

In our newsletter I cited some of Paul Lutz’s excellent and enthusiastic presentation on the topic. Paul said that in their Group they expect all members to volunteer, especially new members. He spoke in depth about the values and expectations of volunteering.

The conference was conducted on a quad-track format; attendees had to select from four simultaneous presentations.

I think perhaps this is too many different tracks, because one of the sessions I attended was “Local ISPs

and User Groups,” which was very well handled by substitute, Eugene Elwine.

But, there were only four in the audience! And while I got some ideas about what the title suggested, there also was much good discussion about general UG management issues as well.

The social side of computer user groups was discussed at several of the sessions I attended. And I found the speaker’s views most interesting.

Two speakers, both from “closed community” UGs, always have social components of their meetings – cake and coffee, bagels and lox, a dinner or a night out, a SIG at the Pub, etc. They rate this essential to their Group’s success.

As you know, I have mentioned social aspects in at least one, and maybe more, of the Zoomerang surveys. At best you rated it lukewarm; some were violently opposed.

Yet in a very well presented roundtable on “The Social Side of User Groups” by June Wentworth, it dawned on me that many of you come for the social aspects of our meetings, as limited as that may be! How do I arrive at that conclusion? You cannot be there for the subject matter; you know more than some of the presenters – especially me!

It also does one well to try to assess how their UG is performing in comparison to other UGs. That’s hard to do, but I got some clues.

One closed community with 320 members has a turnout of 70 at their meetings. We have been averaging about 50 members out of 149 at ours; not too bad. The Central Florida Computer Society has about 200 members from the Orlando metro area; we have 149 members from our much less populated tri-county area. Again, maybe not too bad.

What was most disappointing to me about the Conference? The fact that only two persons attended from LSCS!

The Fall Conference will be held Sat. and Sun., Oct. 20-21, 2007, at the Bahia Shrine Temple in Orlando. The Central Florida Computer Society Tech Fair will be held in conjunction with this conference. Please make your plans now to attend.

And next spring's conference will likely be at the same Orlando facility, which is especially handy for us. I'm not yet certain of the dates for this one – either Feb. 29 – Mar. 2, 2008 or Mar. 7-9, 2008.

What was the best thing about attending the FACUG Conference? Networking with other UG leaders – by far and away. The formal presentations are good, but contacts are priceless!

Why? Well, in our newsletter you've already read about Corel donating a copy of Paint Shop Pro XI. And there are a couple more of these kinds of contacts still in the offing.

Without our membership in UG Associations and the contacts we make by going to the conferences, none of these opportunities would be available.

And we receive so many other benefits from our memberships too! Presentations in a Box, evaluation software, software discounts, book discounts, PUSH newsletter articles for the Newsbytes, outside speaker contacts, conferences, etc. – LSCS has benefited from all of these!

I would like to attend the APCUG conference though! But, it is held early January in Las Vegas in association with the Consumer Electronics Show. Travel expenses there would be significant and personal. An east coast site for APCUG has been mentioned, but so far nothing that I know of is in the offing. In reality the expenses would be about the same; perhaps even more.

So, I thank you for the opportunity to represent you at this spring's conference.

I hope I've wet your appetite enough for you to seriously consider joining with me in attending the fall conference in Orlando!

**Few influential people involved with the Internet claim that it is a good in and of itself. It is a powerful tool for solving social problems, just as it is a tool for making money, finding lost relatives, receiving medical advice, or, come to that, trading instructions for making bombs.**

Esther Dyson

## Summary of Medical Condition

By Don Singleton  
APCUG President

I hope you will forgive me for taking up a little space in APCUG Reports for something that is not user group or computer related, but I started to maintain a document with information that I pass on to any new health care professional (doctor, dentist, home health nurse, EMSA (ambulance) technician, etc) that I dealt with. Many of them have expressed great pleasure in having a concise document with all of the information that they would need to know to treat me, and how they wish all of their patients did the same thing. So I thought that I would mention my Summary of Medical Condition ([http://reports.apcug.org/2007q2Redacted\\_Medical\\_Condition.pdf](http://reports.apcug.org/2007q2Redacted_Medical_Condition.pdf)), and suggest that every one at least maintain a document showing every medication they regularly take (including over-the-counter medications), everything (drug, food, or other) they are allergic to, a list of all of the surgeries they have had, with the dates, in case the doctor wants to check something in your hospital record, and the phone number and address of each of your doctors.

In my case I go an additional step further. Every time I am discharged from the hospital I request a copy of my chart for that hospitalization. They are required by HIPAA to provide it. They can charge you a reasonable copying fee, but it should not cost any more than \$100. And then I go through that chart page by page, learning exactly what is going on with me. Google has a special page called Google Health (<http://www.google.com/Top/Health/>) that is pretty good, but while <http://64.233.167.99/> is a very cryptic URL, it is even better for explaining all of those big medical terms. If you look up a disease it will ask you if you want information about treatment, symptoms, tests/diagnosis, causes/risk factors, information for patients, information for health professionals, information from medical authorities, or information about alternative medicine. By using those links I have been able to learn a LOT about my various ailments, and I include information both from my chart (particularly discharge summaries and lab results) and from pages I find on Google in my Summary of Medical Condition.

## Clean Out Your Closet

by Judy Taylour,  
Member Services

The **ICON (Interactive Computer Owners Network)** group in Missouri

has an annual “**Clean Out Your Closet**” event. Members are encouraged to round up all their used (but still usable) unneeded software, hardware, peripherals, books, etc. and bring them to the meeting for someone who needs them. Someone might find that “one man’s junk” is just the treasure they are in need of. Their March 17 program featured “Us” – ICON’s members and leaders in a round table discussion about how they can best provide the help members need.

They also have an Opinion Poll on their website. What a great way to find out what your members need in the way of programs. Not enough members backing up? Let’s schedule a meeting on back-up. More members select the choice “I don’t care if I lose my data” probably means they wouldn’t be interested in attending a meeting on backing-up. <http://www.iconusersgroup.org/>

### Program / Advertising / Fundraising Idea

I’ve seen in several newsletters that groups are having a presentation by Cartridge World (we had one at my group last year when the store opened in the Santa Clarita Valley in California – got the idea from reading another group’s newsletter). Some groups have Cartridge World ads in their newsletter, recycle cartridges through CW and my members receive a UG discount.

### Another Word for Help

Instead of having members who Help, the F1 helpers, etc. the **Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey** has a Guru Corner. <http://www.acgnj.org/>

### Recycle Bin

The **Southwest International Personal Computer Club** in Texas has a Recycle Bin. The SWIPCC “Recycle Bin” is a method by which members may sell computer related items, new or used.

By offering an item for sale through the “Recycle Bin,” SWIPCC members agree to donate 10% of the sell-



### What Works

ing price, rounded off to the nearest dollar, to SWIPCC.

All sales are face-to-face between the buyer and seller and are final. It is the buyer’s responsibility to ensure that the item is compatible with the buyer’s system. “Know what you are buying!”

In addition to their PDF newsletter, they also feature an Article of the Month on their Web site. The March article was by their president, Douglas Agree, on Lightscribe Labeling (which was included with the April PUSH articles.) [http://www.swipcc.org/swipcc\\_php/index.php](http://www.swipcc.org/swipcc_php/index.php)

### Digital Photography

The March meeting of **Cajun Clickers Computer Club**, Louisiana featured a local news anchor who is an avid photographer as well as a newscaster. He presented Tips-Tricks-Techniques for taking fantastic digital photographs. You never know who you can find to make a presentation. Have you checked your local newspaper, radio station, TV station? <http://www.clickers.org/>

### Newspaper Online Hub

**Santa Clarita Valley Computer Club** and **TUGNET**, California have had representatives from their local newspaper, The Daily News, make presentations on the newspaper’s new online hub (community). The newspaper has stopped publishing a separate section for the various areas it supports and has gone to an online format where you can upload your own media release, photos, etc. Check out your newspaper to see if they have anything online that you can use to publicize your group. That way, you know you are getting your information in the ‘newspaper.’ The newspaper selects some of the articles and prints them in the weekend edition.

<http://www.dailynews.com/>

<http://www.scvpcg.org/>

<http://valleynews.com/SantaClaritaValley>

<http://www.tugnet.org>

### Starry Night

Do you have a planetarium in your area? Or even an astronomy club? The March meeting for **BPMG (Business and Professional Microcomputer Users Group, Inc.)** in Maryland was led by the enthusi-

astic director of the Planetarium at the Children's Museum in West Hartford, Jason Archer. He took the attendees through the skies and stars with three wonderful software programs: Starry Night, The Sky, and Celestia. Members were encouraged to bring their wildest imagination of the universe to this meeting and prepare to be dazzled! <http://www.bpmug.org/>

## Robotics Meeting

Do your local schools have a robotics club? You might want to contact them to see if one or more students will bring their project to your meeting for a show 'n tell session. I bet those junior high or high school kids would love to show off their projects and skills.

## Reward your members for writing articles and giving presentations

How about giving your members the opportunity to win a \$50 gift card for writing an article for your newsletter

or giving a presentation? It's one way to thank those members who are active participants in your group and, who knows, it might even give someone just the incentive he/she needs to become a more active participant. You could have a drawing every six months and if a member writes one article and gives a presentation, etc. his/her name is entered into the drawing twice. **Central Maryland User Group.** <http://mycmug.org/>

## The Monthly Drawing

**The Pikes Peak Computer Application Society,** Colorado, has a drawing where members bring their unwanted computer-associated items to the meeting for a raffle. Each member, after signing in for the meeting, receives a ticket. The members deposit their ticket on or near the desired item. The drawing takes place at the end of the meeting and the winner takes the item home. By bringing in an unwanted item both members benefit. <http://ppcompas.apcug.org/>

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## Jerry Award Competition

by Don Singleton, President  
[president@apcug.net](mailto:president@apcug.net)

This is a preview announcement for the Jerry Award Competition for 2007. A formal announcement, with the website to submit, will be in next quarter's issue of APCUG Reports, but because we are asking you to prepare things a little differently this year, I wanted to give everyone a head start.

Beginning with the 2004 contest we retained all of the entries, because we felt that a group planning on doing a project may have something to learn by studying what all other groups are doing. You can review these submissions at <http://comservice.apcug.org/jerry.htm>. The problem is that the way we have been collecting files and presenting them to the judges, there is just a list of files, and there is no way for a group to show what order they should be viewed in, what they feel is most important, etc. This makes the judges job harder, and it also makes it harder for a group planning on doing a similar project to follow things.

For the 2007 competition I want to make some changes. I will be illustrating what I would like to see by referring to what the Tulsa Computer Society's HelpingTulsa project does. To avoid any conflict of interest, I will state here and now that TCS will NOT be entering the contest in 2007.

The main thing I want to change this year is that I want

to urge all projects to prepare a website describing exactly what their project does, with all of the How To information on it. We do that for Helping Tulsa. <http://helpingtulsa.org/> is basically What We Do, and <http://helpingtulsa.org/howto/> describes the HelpingTulsa Computer Refurbishing Procedures. There are several reasons why we find it helpful to maintain these procedures online. One is for the Jerry Award Competition, of course, but even more important is that all of our volunteers, some of whom do their refurbishing work at home, can just refer to the website to see how to do a particular task. We have also shared our techniques with other not-for-profit Computer Refurbishing Projects, and they can keep up to date by referencing our website.

We suggest you add this information to your UG's Web Site, but if for any reason you are not willing to have it on your UG Web Site, APCUG will provide webspace to a community service project of any APCUG Member Group, so you can build your own website for your project.

We do recognize that not all projects will have someone with the web skills to maintain a web page, so in 2007 we will also accept a Microsoft Word document with all text, photos, etc. in it, and when we prepare the entry for the judges we will use Word's Save As Web Page, so the judges will have a series of web pages to judge. If you do your entry as a web site, you can include Power Point slide shows, video, and other such data that may not be supported in an MS Word document.

# APCUG Benefits

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) is an International, platform-independent, volunteer-run nonprofit organization devoted to helping user groups offer better services to their members.

## 1. **Solutions to Your Problems**

It is little recognized, and is way underutilized, but the people who keep APCUG functioning are one of the greatest assets that member groups have going for them. These people have been there and done that! President, Vice President, Program Chair, you name it, they have probably done it. This means that, in all likelihood, whatever problems you are having, they have had in the past and have dealt with it! Every User Group has an Advisor assigned to it, and if they are unable to help they will send your request to all the Board of Directors and Board of Advisor members. You are sure to get some solutions back.

## 2. **Monthly NOOZ Communication sent to User Group Leaders**

Each month your Regional Advisor sends out NOOZ which includes a variety of information regarding APCUG, your own region, vendors, contests, and much more.

## 3. **Quarterly Reports sent to User Group Leaders**

Every quarter, APCUG sends out its official publication, Reports, to each User Group's leaders. It is full of information, event news, advice and contact information.

## 4. **Neighbors to Help Out!**

With over 300 member groups, there are probably several groups within a 250 mile radius of yours. Look them up on the APCUG web site via the User Group Locator and get to know them! Share presenters, help each other, cross-advertise. Everyone benefits.

## 5. **Attract Vendors for Presentations**

Being part of APCUG gives you an inside track to hosting Vendor Presentations. An excellent way to attract Vendors is to team up with neighboring UG's so they can make presentations on consecutive days. This lets them justify the high cost of sending someone to your meeting.

## 6. **APCUG.net Web Site**

Well worth the time to investigate! Our web site not only showcases current news and breaking information, it also contains all kinds of: Tips & Tricks for Running Your User Group, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, contact points, UG Locator, past issues of the APCUG Reports, vendor contact information, Online UG Newsletters, articles for newsletters, free web space for User Groups, and a Web Board so that groups can hold meetings on line, etc, etc!

## 7. **Web Page Hosting**

For UG's that are unable to find online space locally, APCUG has the facilities you need!

## 8. **WebBoard**

With WebBoard you can set up a conference area for each of

your officers, SIGs, and members so they can communicate with fellow members between meetings. This is accessible via the Web, through a Mailing List interface, or through a News Reader interface. The WebBoard offers chat room access for all conferences.

## 9. **Free and Discounted Offers from Vendors**

APCUG member groups periodically receive information regarding vendor discounts that can be passed on to their members.

## 10. **Annual Conference - No Better Value in the World!**

Every year, APCUG has a huge conference in Las Vegas. The Annual Conference is packed full of workshops, information, networking opportunities with the participating vendors, demonstrations of the newest products and a Vendor Exhibition and Reception!

## 11. **Regional Events**

The Annual Conference is not the only game in town! If you are unable to travel to Las Vegas, then check out the website for regional conferences. Just like APCUG's Annual Conference these annual events will help everyone who attends and are held in Florida, Washington, San Diego and Chicago.

## 12. **Jerry Awards**

Named after one of APCUG's founders, Jerry Schneider, the Jerry Awards provide recognition for many APCUG groups that are involved in community service projects of all sizes and scope. The purpose of the Jerry Awards is to recognize and reward these projects and to encourage new and expanded involvement. These projects exemplify how the mottoes of "users helping users" and "user groups helping user groups" have evolved into "user groups helping the community."

## 13. **Bonus Newsletter Articles**

Every month, APCUG sends articles to UG Editors for use in their newsletters. The articles are written by UG members, professionals, and occasionally vendors. They are an attractive option for Editors who would like help in filling out their newsletter.

## 14. **User Group Newsletters Online**

Check out the Online Newsletter list for program ideas, articles and much more.

## 15. **How-To Guides**

The APCUG website has excellent "How-To" guides to organize a user group, including examples of Articles of Incorporation, constitution, by-laws, budget help, and lots of extra's.

## 16. **Help for Your User Group**

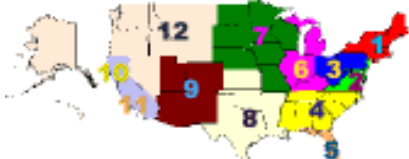
Information for program chairs, growing your user group, newsletter & PR guidelines and more have been compiled from various sources including past APCUG conferences and regional events.

## 17. **Presentations-in-a-Box (Help for your UG Meetings)**

Check this section out for alternatives to having a vendor present at your meeting.

# Know Your Region and Advisors For 2007

CHANGES ARE POSTED ON THE APCUG WEBSITE – <http://www.apcug.net>

BOA Chair	Region 4 AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN	Region 9 AZ, CO, NM, UT
Judy Taylour (2007-2008) Santa Clarita Valley Computer Club 18727 Nadal Street Canyon Country CA 91351 661 252 8852 (phone) jtaylour@apcug.net	Rod Rakes (2006-2007) Gwinnett SeniorNet PCUG Huntsville PCUG 827 Copper Mist Court Grayson, GA 30017 678 377 7554 (phone) rrakes@apcug.net	Melvin Weekley (2007-2008) Seniors Computer Group 1951 47th St #61 San Diego CA 92102 619 262 5512 (phone) 619 851 5514 (cell) 619 262 5512 (fax) mweekley@apcug.net
Region 1 CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT	Region 5 Florida	Region 10 CA >93000
Sam Wexler (2007-2008) April-October 48 Martin Drive Poughkeepsie NY 12603 845 471 7271 (phone)	Stu Silverman (2007-2008) Valencia Lakes Computer User Group 11780 Castellon Court Boynton Beach FL 33437 561 731 1812 (phone) ssilverman@apcug.net	Cheryl Wester (2007-2008) Temecula Valley Computer UG, Inc. 16807 Pfeifer Way Perris, CA 92570 951 780 8797 (phone) 951 907 5996 (cell) cwester@apcug.net
October-April 7399 Morocca Lake Drive Delray Beach FL 33446 561 638 0553 (phone) swexler@apcug.net	Region 6 KY, IL, IN, MI	Region 11 CA <93000
	Patty Lowry (2007-2008) Quad Cities Computer Society 3151 Winston Drive Bettendorf IA 52722 563 332 8679 (phone) plowry@apcug.net	Judy Taylour (2007-2008) Santa Clarita Valley Computer Club 18727 Nadal Street Canyon Country CA 91351 661 252 8852 (phone) jtaylour@apcug.net
Region 2 DC, DE, MD, NJ, VA	Region 7 IA, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI	Region 12 AK, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, WA, WY
Gabe Goldberg (2006-2007) Capital PC User Group 3401 Silver Maple Place Falls Church VA 22042 703 204 0433 (phone) ggoldberg@apcug.net	Roger Tesch (2007-2008) Madison PC Users Group 1918 Greenway Cross Apt 3 Fitchburg, WI 53713-3037 608 271 2259 (phone) 608 271 0190 (fax) rtesch@apcug.net	Clint Tinsley (2006-2007) Idaho PC User Group 3734 Camborne Street Boise ID 83704-4517 208 375 8356 (phone) ctinsley@apcug.net
Region 3 OH, PA, WV	Region 8 AR, KS, LA, OK, TX	Region 13 International
Bob Kwater (2006-2007) Dayton Microcomputer Assn. Inc. 2590 E. Aragon Dayton, OH 45420 937 299 2509 (phone) bkwater@apcug.net	David Steward (2006-2007) Alamo PC User Group 5227 Pine Lake San Antonio TX 78244 210 662 8606 (phone) dsteward@apcug.net	Barbara Manning (2007-2008) Tokyo PC Users Group 11 NW Lakeview Blvd. Lees Summit, MO 64063 816 872 4767 (phone) bmanning@apcug.net



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**Regionals are being organized in  
various areas of the United States.  
Check to see if there is one near you.**