

REPORTS

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Third Quarter 2007



**The Association
of Personal Computer User Groups**

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Wrap Up

The User Group motto of "Users Helping Users" evolved into APCUG's role of "User Groups Helping User Groups." The next logical step in the evolution was "User Groups Helping the Community." Groups with Community Service projects should check out the article on page 5 for information on this year's Jerry Award competition, and there are some good ideas in articles on page 4 and 7. Newsletter, Web, and Photo contests are covered in articles on page 8 through 12.

As the article on page 13 indicates, we are hoping to schedule an event on the East Coast, and we definitely have major plans for a 2008 Convention in Las Vegas; see the articles on page 13 and 14, and make plans to attend.

An article on How to Publicize Your Group and Recruit New Members on page 16 arrived too late for last quarter's issue.

We have reports on activities in more than half of our regions: 1 (page 23), 2 (page 18), 3 (page 27), 4 (page 29), 6 (page 30), 12 (page 20), and 13 (page 21).

There are a number of additional excellent articles. Happy Reading.

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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board@apcug.net

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REPORTS Editor: Don Singleton
editor@apcug.net

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/June	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.

APCUG Communications

Website: <http://www.apcug.net>
Board of Directors: bod@apcug.net
Board of Advisors: boda@apcug.net
Individual Officers:

<http://apcug.net/APCUG/management/index.htm>



From the President

A Face to Face meeting was held in Tulsa on June 1-3, and we had 17 members of the APCUG Board of Directors and Board of Advisors in attendance. Dur-



ing that meeting over 20 teams of Champions were formed to address various tasks, many of which may result in new benefits and services for member groups. These will be discussed more fully in future issues of APCUG Reports as they get closer to being completed.

For now I would like to cover two of them, because I am going to ask for your help on both. We are considering redesign of the APCUG Web Site and APCUG Reports.

APCUG Web Site

Do you have a website design that you feel we should consider? It may be your UG's website, or it may be some other UG's web site, or it may be some other site altogether. But if you think our website would be more useful if it looked like that website, then please send the URL of the site, together with a description of exactly what aspects of that site you feel we should adopt, to donsingleton@cox.net.

I am still looking for several more volunteers to serve on the On Line Services (OLS) committee. Do you have anyone in your UG (your WebMaster, or some other member) 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 July-September 2007

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.

APCUG Reports

While we are redesigning things we would like to take a look at APCUG Reports. Do you have any suggestions that would make APCUG Reports easier for you to use? If so please send them to donsingleton@cox.net.

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. That way if any one person is sick or unable to work, we can still get the issue out on time. Do you have anyone in your UG (your Editor, or some other member) that is familiar with InDesign, and who would be willing to help on the APCUG Report team?

We are also looking for candidates to run for APCUG Director and APCUG Advisor. If you are interested, please see the article on page 31. The candidates that are up for election are Jay Ferron, Steve Peyrot, and Ira Wilsker for Director, and Sam Wexler, Gabe Goldberg, David Steward, Bob Kwater, and Clint Tinsley, for Advisor.



Community Service Ideas

by Don Singleton, APCUG President
president@apcug.net

I already announced that because I was going to urge everyone in this year's Jerry Award Competition to prepare their entries in a WebSite format like the Tulsa Computer Society's Helping Tulsa (<http://helpingtulsa.org/>) does, we would NOT be entering the contest this year, to be fair to everyone. But we developed a few ideas this year that I wanted to share, and since I would not have an entry to point to, I thought I would just use APCUG Reports to share them with everyone. One thing we learned in HelpingTulsa is that regardless of how good someone's idea was, someone else could improve on it, and I will be interested to see if anyone comes up with any improvements on these ideas.

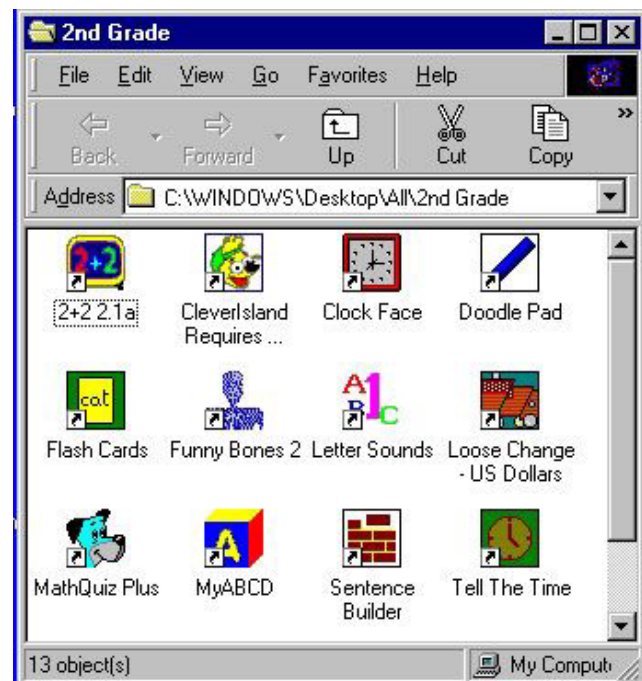
Children's Image

We develop a collection of public domain and shareware application programs targeted to a specific audience, and then make a Ghost image of it, to let us install it on multiple refurbished machines. One time St Mark's Methodist Church was holding a summer day camp for children of grades 1 through 6, and they came to us for help. I had a CD of educational programs that I had downloaded, and two teachers with the Summer Day Camp program went through them and said this program is good for grades 1-3, this one for grades 2-4, this one for grades 2-3, etc. I installed all of the programs, and then put a shortcut to the program in as many of six folders as was appropriate, and fixed icons for the numbers 1 through 6 for the folders, so that a child can click on the number of the grade they are in, and it opens a folder with all of the programs they should be able to run.

We first provided it to St Mark's Methodist Church, but it then became our most popular image (if you want a CD of all of the programs or a GHO file (to use with Ghost) of the image let me know). We pro-

vided them to after school programs, day care centers, low income apartment units that wanted to set up a room with computers all residents could use, etc. We provided them to some rural schools, but Tulsa Public School was not interested, because they had so much money from a recent tax levy that they could afford to buy brand new computers for their schools.

I had one of my volunteers pull an inventory of machines we had refurbished, and out of 56 units, 37 were with the Children's image. I tried to think what can we do to find people that need these machines, and then it came to me. I called Tulsa Public School system and asked which elementary school was in the part of town with the lowest per capita income (they call them "at risk" schools), and then I called the Guidance Counselor at that school and asked if they would be interested in 10 or 20 computers to distribute to the most deserving students. They thought it was a wonderful idea. They already select a Student of the Month, and now they would have something to give them besides a certificate. They would have a computer of their own at home. I asked her to put me in touch with a couple of other "at-risk" schools, and they loved the idea too. One school is going to distribute computers based on reading scores in the standardized tests, and the other school is still trying to decide how to distribute theirs, but all love the idea of encouraging their students to excel, because they have a chance of winning a computer of their own. And just think of what that can do to improve their chances in life.



Community Service and Jerry Award 2007

When the Tulsa Computer Society was at its largest, in the late 90s, we had about 30 Special Interest Groups (SIGs). One of them was a Computer Refurbishing SIG, and while we had several people that would drop by to help from time to time, there were three main people involved: Gary Ludwig, Jim Erwin, and myself. Gary came up with a fantastic idea called the Master CD. It was one CD with the necessary software on it to install eight different variations on operating systems:

- XT/286 OPENDOS image, 17mb
- W31, Win3.1 minimum install, 16mb
- W31_286, Win3.1 286 system install, 25mb
- W31_95, Win3.1, 95 lookalike, 18mb
- W95a, Win95a, 45mb
- W95a w/602ProOffice & AntiVir, 80mb
- W95b, Win95b, 80mb
- W98 w/Iview, Pstudio, 195mb

Yes I know those are very old, but this was something in the mid to late 90s, not yesterday. At that time it was a big deal, because we were still getting 8086 and 80286 systems in that needed DOS, and most of the machines either needed Win 3.1 or Win 95. Win 98 was the "new" system at the time. And Gary's invention meant that regardless of what level machine we were working on, there was one CD that would handle all of them.

There was no room on the CD for anything else, so we had a separate CD with public domain or shareware application software (word processors, games, utilities, bibles, etc.) The CDs were continually getting scratched, and we had to make new ones from the master set, so I came up with the idea of putting the Master CD and my application CD on a 2 Gig hard drive that we could temporarily cable up to the machine we were working on. Then Jim discovered Ghost that we could use to install images of various configurations of OS/application software to machines, and we had a second hard drive with Ghost and its images (we tried a couple of similar programs, but preferred Ghost the best). So now we had two different hard drives. One we would use to customize

a machine, and another to install copies of a configuration on multiple identical or similar machines. I then came up with the idea of using Partition Magic to allow me to have both capabilities on the same hard drive (we called that machine the Image Machine.)

For several years the three of us worked together. One of us would come up with an idea to improve what we were doing, and then another of us would come up with a way to improve even further on it, and after several years of doing that we really had a good way of refurbishing computers. We shared our ideas with other computer refurbishing projects, including one run by a Chicasaw Indian tribe in Ada, Oklahoma. One day I got a call from Larry Yost in Nebraska. He had heard from the Indians in Ada that we refurbished computers. His computer had broken, and he wanted to know if we could give him a replacement. I told him we could not ship computers but that if he could find someone here to ship it to him we might be able to help him out. However, if he wanted to learn how to refurbish computers, and if he could come down to Tulsa, we would show him how to do it and give him the tools (an Image Machine) to do it with. He took me up on the offer and came down two or three times, picking up more Image Machines each time, and he even persuaded me to come up there for a month -- something I had never done before (or since), because I am disabled and it is very hard for me to travel. But he was able to get a refurbishing project going in Superior, Nebraska.

When I was in Superior helping to train their people, I saw how they had workers from several of the small rural towns around Superior. They told me that when it snowed it might be a week or more before people in those areas could make it into Superior, so they wanted every volunteer to have his/her own Image Machine, so they could work on refurbishing when snowed in at home. The problem was the Image machine required an 8 Gig drive at the time, and we did not have enough to make one for each volunteer. It took me a couple of days thinking how to do it, but I came up with a way to do most of what they really needed done on a 2 to 4 Gig drive. When I got back to Tulsa I found that the volunteer I had left in charge while I was gone had donated out all of the machines we had in my garage, and he found a donor that had a bunch of machines,

but they wanted them refurbished and given back to them. So rather than bring all of them to my house he took an Image machine to their building and worked on things there. There were a few things he found he needed, like drivers (since his work area did not include access to the internet). So when I got back to Tulsa I combined what I had done in Nebraska, with the things Lee needed but did not have, and came up with a new machine which we call the Road Warrior. It contains a search tool for drivers, a copy of our procedures manual (which is online, but if you don't have a connection to the net you can't get to it), and a few other things, like the ability to make any of the floppy disks we use.

If we can come up with this many improvements to the procedures just by having Gary, Jim, Larry, Lee, and Don working together, just think what we can do if we get all of the great minds in all of our User Groups working together.

In the Jerry Award 2004 contest, I instituted the HOW category, in which a community service project would be judged not just on WHAT they did, and how well they described WHAT they did, but also on HOW they did what they did, and on how well they described HOW they did it. We had an Ongoing Projects category and a New Projects category, just like we always did, but each had prizes awarded not just for WHAT they did, but also prizes for HOW they did it.

Different people were responsible for the 2005 and 2006 contests, and they maintained HOW, but for some reason, they made it a separate category, and they had three: Ongoing Projects, New Projects, and How.

There are some very good community service projects operated by User Groups, and when you read what they are doing you might think "I wish we could do something like that here." But most of the time that thought is going to be followed by "but I don't know how we would ever get something like that started; we just don't have the people to be able to put something like that together," and so you don't do it. I want to tell you that you are wrong. You do have the people that can do it, you just need a little help doing it.

As of the 2000 census, there were 2,055 people, 980 households, and 598 families residing in Superior,

Nebraska, and yet the Superior Pawnee Computer Society just shipped two forty foot containers, with about 600 computers and monitors, plus a lot of books, clothing, and other material to Africa, to be used in Southern Sudan and a number of other African countries, plus they have probably provided an equal or greater number of refurbished computers all over Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

So you think your User Group is too small, or you live in an area that would not support a major community service project? Is your town smaller than 2,055 people, or is your vision just smaller than Larry's. There were not a lot of computers to be refurbished in Superior, but Larry did not let that stop him. He got computers from a hospital in Hastings, worked through the YWCA in Adams County to sponsor collection days for old computers, collected books with the help of the Evangelical Free Church in Grand Island, and eventually he had satellite refurbishing projects in several larger cities in Nebraska, including Omaha and Lincoln (the state capital). You don't have to be in a huge city to do a huge amount of good work. You just have to have a huge desire to help others.

You can go to <http://comservice.apcug.org/> and see a lot of very valuable links to information about Computer Refurbishing and Community Service. One of them is <http://comservice.apcug.org/jerry.htm> which contains the winners of all 9 previous Jerry Award competitions, plus beginning in 2004 it contains all of the material submitted by every group that entered, whether they won or not. Our effort is to build a database with information about what is being done, and how it is being done, all over the country. I would say all over the world, except so far only groups in the USA have entered. I personally have sent Image Machines and Road Warriors to a number of other countries, and I would love to see User Groups all over the world doing community service projects.

It may seem that I use Community Service and Computer Refurbishing interchangeably. If I do, that is just because that is what the Tulsa Computer Society's community service project is focused on, and because most of the entries in the Jerry Award competition come from Computer Refurbishing projects. But we have had some entries from groups that do computer training (for seniors, or for the general public), as well

as projects like "Free Wireless for Senior Center," Cell Phone Collection Project, Scholarship Program, Computer Mentoring Program, etc. So the Jerry Award competition is open to all community service projects run by User Groups.

For the 2007 Jerry Award competition we are going back to emphasizing HOW TO. We will have categories for Ongoing Projects, Short Term Projects (that will exist for less than a year), and for New Projects. The judges will be provided with a ranking system where they will assign a certain number of points based on what a group is doing. A larger number of points will be given if their submission describes how they do what they do, in enough detail where another group can start a similar project in their city. Groups who have never won before will get a few extra points to help level the playing field with established groups who "seem to win all the time." Last year, under pressure from groups that said they did not enter because other groups always seemed to win, they set a rule that groups that won the previous year could not enter. We are not going to do that this time, but groups that have won multiple times will need to do an especially good job explaining exactly how they do what they do, in order to win this time, since groups that have never won before will have a leg up. I believe that is only fair.

If your project has been going on for many years, you probably have come up with a lot of improvements in tools and techniques, just as my group has done, and we want you to take the time to explain each of those tools and techniques, so that others can duplicate what you are doing. And as announced earlier, since I am encouraging other groups to do what we have done in terms of documenting exactly how we do what we do, my group will not be entering this competition. I will be one of the judges, and if you want to know what I will be looking for, check out <http://helpingtulsa.org/howto/>.

I would like to encourage your group to build a website, just as I have done, to document your procedures, and this will let you arrange them in a form to be most impressive to the judges. You need to guarantee us that the website will be maintained for at least five years. If you need space for a website, remember APCUG provides free webspace to member User
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Groups. If you just do not know how to build a website, and cannot find anyone in your group to do it, we will accept entries in a single Microsoft Word file (or an RTF file that can be read by MS Word). We will then do a "Save As Web Site" with the file, and the judges will be presented a list of URLs (web addresses) to judge. Once the judging has been finished, that list will then be added to <http://comservice.apcug.org/jerry.htm> so that next year groups will be able to see what you provided.

Please try to include every tool and technique you use in your submission, and make it easy for another group in another city to try to duplicate what you have done. Who knows, next year you may get extra points for each project in another city that has been successful at duplicating what you have done.

If you have any comments on this plan, please let me know at donsingleton@cox.net. Right now I am planning on having three or four main judges, but I also want to ask all of the submitters (if they are willing to do so), to judge everyone else's entry using the same point system that the main judges will be using. You can judge your own project if you wish, but that evaluation will not count when selecting the winners.

I am leaving things open right now for comments from everyone. Let me know if you like this idea, what points you think should be included in the ranking system, etc. Based on those comments I will have a webpage up by September 1 for you to use to submit your entries. The procrastinators will have from September 1 until October 15, 2007, the absolute deadline to get their entries in. The judging period will run from November 1 until December 15, 2007, and if you entered and said that you would be willing to be a judge, that is when you will be given access to a private website with all of the entries.

Keeping Old Laptops Out of Landfills While Helping Others

**Sam Wexler, APCUG Advisor
President, Valencia Falls Computer Club
swexler@apcug.net**

One of my new projects is to find ways to help keep old laptops out of landfills by refurbishing them and

then giving them to people like kids in a disadvantaged high school in the South Bronx, wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington or needy seniors in South Florida. I am compiling information on how some User Groups are doing this work, and then putting it out for the rest of the world to see in the hope of attracting others and thus grow the effort. It's a win-win for everyone.

If you are working on a project like this, you can write something that can be added to an APCUG database and maybe also win a Jerry Award for your User Group. As a possible guide, you may want to look what last year's winner did by accessing <http://www.ntpcug.org/JerryAwardApplication/index.html>. Also please send me any information about others you may know who are doing this work.

APCUG Announces Three Big User Group Contests for 2007

Don't miss these great opportunities to get some recognition for your group.

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 beginning date for you to submit your website URL, newsletters and Digital Photos for these competitive events. The procrastinators will have until October 15, 2007 -- the deadline to get their entries in. The contest rules and criteria for all the contests are contained in this issue of APCUG Reports.

The results of the competition will be announced at

the APCUG's Annual Convention, January 3-6, 2008 in Las Vegas; you do not need to be present to win. After the convention, the results will be posted on <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 to use on their group's newsletter or website.

APCUG Contest Committee

Bill James
Melvin Weekley
Roger Tesch
Barbara Manning
Lori Berenson

2007 APCUG Newsletter Contest

If you have a great newsletter, let's show the world; it's time for the APCUG Annual Newsletter competition! September 1, 2007 is the date for you to start submitting your newsletters for this competitive event. The procrastinators will have until October 15, 2007 -- the deadline to get their entries in. Newsletters will be judged in 3 different categories:

- Small - under 100 members
- Medium - 101 - 299 members
- Large - 300+ members

Submit 3 of your newsletters in .pdf format to newsletters2007@apcug.net; if your newsletters are on the web, you can submit the URL for each. If they are password protected, please provide a password for access or hard copies. Mail your hard copies to:

2007 APCUG Newsletter Contest
c/o Melvin Weekley

1951 47th Street #61
San Diego, CA 92102

Newsletter submittals must be received by e-mail or snail mail on or before October 15, 2007.

The newsletter judging criteria is as follows:

User Group Information (0 - 5 points each)

- Officers' name, position & contact info
- Website address
- Meeting location, address, time, directions
- Date, time, subject of next scheduled meeting
- Calendar / List of Events (board meetings, SIG meetings, general meeting)
- Promotes the UG, lists UG benefits, contains info on how to join the group
- Info on submitting an article / review, editor's deadline

Editorial Content (0 - 5 points each)

- Newsletter is informative & useful
- Information is timely
- Articles or information contributed by officers or members
- Articles that can appeal to different levels of computer users
- Articles from other user group newsletters (giving author & group credit, issue & date) or APCUG PUSH articles
- Review / recap of past meeting

Layout & Presentation (0 - 5 points each)

- Look & layout is consistent from issue-to-issue
- Layout indicates attention to white space & page balance
- Has a Table of Contents
- Effective use of graphics and / or photos
- Consistent use of typeface (headings, subheadings, captions, articles)
- Newsletter is visually appealing and easy to read

Interesting newsletter

- (5 pts) Really great newsletter; topics of interest – I'd like to receive it each month
- (4 pts) Interesting newsletter – I could read another issue or recommend it to others
- (3 pts) Well done; I could see others finding this newsletter useful
- (2 pts) Good, but probably don't need to read another issue
- (1 pt) Good for purpose

The results of the competition will be announced at the APCUG's Annual Convention, 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 <http://www.apcug.net/> and sent out via NOOZ and Reports. 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 this great opportunity to get some recognition for your group.

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APCUG to Offer “Clearinghouse” for UG PowerPoint Presentations

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Board of Directors

Many of the user groups are all too well aware that it is becoming more difficult to find presenters and presentations for our periodic user group meetings. To help resolve this predicament, APCUG is offering to collect and disseminate PowerPoint presentations that have been created for presentations to user groups.

PowerPoint presentations submitted to APCUG for dissemination will be housed on www.apcug.net and groups will be able to download the presentations, as needed. PowerPoints submitted may be either self-explanatory, which only need to be run by the recipient group, or may be narrated by the original presenter. If narration is necessary, it will be the responsibility of the user group using the PowerPoint presentation to coordinate with, and arrange for the narrator to call in to the user group meeting where the presentation is being shown. Narration may be done in person, by phone, VoIP connection (such as Skype), voice chat on instant messaging services, NetMeeting, or any other agreeable method. By implementing and utilizing this PowerPoint dissemination approach, user groups of any size may then be able to offer their members programs from a greater selection of resources.

Judy Taylour, Chair, Member Services will collect and compile the PowerPoint presentations. Please send your contributions to jtaylour@apcug.net. To start the process, I contributed two of my recent presentations, one on Cyber Crime, and one on Identity Theft. The Identity Theft presentation I contributed has some Texas specific slides in it which would be easy for me or the host user group to modify to reflect information for any other state. I would be willing to narrate either PowerPoint presentation for any APCUG member user group on a time and facilities available basis.

Now, it is time for other user groups to ask their presenters who use PowerPoint if they would be willing to share their work with other user groups. Appropriate credit will be given to the person making the presentation.

For more information on this APCUG benefit, you can contact Judy Taylour at jtaylour@apcug.net or me at iwilsker@apcug.net.

APCUG 2007 Website Competition

How does your User Group's website stack up against the competition? You can find out by entering the APCUG 2007 Website Competition. September 1, 2007 is the date for submitting your website URLs. The procrastinators will have until October 15, 2007 -- the deadline to get their entries in.

Your website will be judged by individuals who are experts in the field of website design. Our judges are aware that most UG's do not have big bucks to have a professionally designed site, and every website will be judged on some basic criteria (see below) - so everyone can compete. Your website will be judged after the contest closing date. There is no definite date for the judges to visit your site, but it will be visited before December 16, 2007. The names of our judges will be announced in the next issue of APCUG Reports. The judging criteria for the websites are as follows:

User Group Websites will be judged in three different categories

Small - under 100 members

Medium - 101 – 299 members

Large - 300+ members

User Group Information (0 - 5 points each)

- Clarity of purpose; you can tell the web site is about a user group / computer club on 1st page
- Meeting information, location, date, time on 1st page (up-to-date)
- Address, directions / map (within one click)
- Links to
 - o Officers' names, positions, contact info
 - o UG benefits & membership application
 - o Calendar of events (up-to-date)
 - o History / purpose of group
- Information is timely and useful

Layout and Design (0 - 5 points each)

- Web site pages attractively designed
- All pages are formatted in a similar manner

- 1st page is not too busy; easy to read information
- Easy to find information via menu links / link names reflect what is on the target page
- Pages easy to navigate & have a link back to the home page
- All links functional (no dead links) including graphics
- Artwork and design elements interspersed throughout the web site add interest and visual appeal
- Size and style of type easy to read
- No spelling / grammar errors to detract from the site

Search Engine (0 - 5 points maximum)

- Using Dogpile (metasearch engine), group's web page can be found by the name of the user group and the city where the group meets

Interesting Site (subjective)

- (5 pts) Really great site; has topics of interest - I saved it as a favorite and would recommend it to others.
- (4 pts) Interesting site – I could come back or recommend it to others
- (3 pts) Well done; I could see others using this site
- (2 pts) Good, but probably would not come back
- (1 pt) Good for purpose

Submit your club's website URL to: websites2007@apcug.net

The results of the competition will be announced at the APCUG's Annual Convention, January 3–6, 2008 in Las Vegas; you do not need to be present to win. After the convention, the results will be posted on <http://www.apcug.net/> and sent out via NOOZ and Reports. All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation; 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive plaques as well as the appropriate 2007 contest logos to use on their group's newsletter or website.

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

The future isn't what it used to be

2007 APCUG Digital Photo Contest

Following up on the success of our 2006 Digital Photo Contest, the APCUG is pleased to announce our 2007 Digital Photo Contest. Again, it will showcase the talents of our member group photographers! Somewhere inside all of us is a creative genius just waiting for the chance to grab the spotlight.....and we want to give you that chance. There will be multiple chances to win....including.....professional judging and our own "People's Choice Award" chosen from our Convention attendees! So, grab those cameras and start shooting!

Contest Rules

1. The photo contest event will begin on September 1, 2007.
2. Final submittal of entries will be October 15, 2007. Entries not postmarked on or before that date will be disqualified.
3. The contest is open to all individuals who are members of APCUG affiliated User Groups.

Photos may be submitted in each of four categories:

- A. People
- B. Animals
- C. Landscape
- D. Still life

Note: Landscape can be mountains, sky, sea, flowers, desert, trees, etc.

Still life is any object not shown in motion; architecture, automobiles, boats, sculpture, historical objects, etc.

Let your imagination look through your viewfinder!

4. Entries must be taken with a digital camera
5. All photos are to be printed no larger than 8 ½ x 11. Panoramic prints are accepted but should not exceed the same area as 8 ½ x 11 (93 square inches). Prints must be made on glossy photo paper.
6. Prints are to be without borders. Entries received with borders will be trimmed before presentation

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for judging.

7. Entries can be color or black and white.
8. The entry label is to be pasted or taped to the back of each print.
9. Entrants will submit one photograph (with 4 prints of it) per category and a CD or floppy disk with the image in .jpg format. Entrants can enter all 4 categories if desired.
10. Entrants will be judged for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place under the following criteria but will not be applied to the People's Choice Award:

Composition (5 points)

Technical Skill (5 points)

Visual Impact (10 points)

11. All Entries must be postmarked no later than October 15, 2007 and mailed to:

APCUG Photo Contest

C/O Roger Tesch

1918 Greenway Cross, Apt 3

Fitchburg, WI 53713-3037

APCUG will not be responsible for any lost photos in the mail. Entrants should retain copies of the photos. Entries that are not postmarked by October 15, 2007 are disqualified.

12. There will be 3 judges reviewing all entries. Each category will have 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards. The People's Choice award will be selected from all entries, and that selection will be chosen by the attendees at the APCUG Convention in January, 2008. First Place winners and the Peoples Choice winner will be published in the APCUG Reports. Awards and certificates will be presented at the APCUG Convention in January, 2008.

**They show you how detergents
take out bloodstains.
I think if you've got a T-shirt
with bloodstains all over it,
maybe your laundry
isn't your biggest problem.**

Entry Label (APCUG 2007 Photo Contest)

Mail to: APCUG Photo Contest
C/O Roger Tesch
1918 Greenway Cross, Apt 3
Fitchburg, WI 53713-3037

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Country _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

User Group Name _____

- Category (circle)
- A. People
 - B. Animals
 - C. Landscape (mountains, sky, sea, flowers, desert, trees, etc.)
 - D. Still life (any object not shown in motion - architecture, automobiles, boats, sculptures, historical objects, etc.)

(Please label each photo with your name and Category.)

Date _____

Disk Label (Files in .JPG format.)

Name _____

File Name _____

Entry blank available at <http://apcug.net/events/photocontest/entryblank.htm>

APCUG May Co-Host Eastern U.S. Events

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Board of Directors,
iwilsker@apcug.net

One item that has been brought to the APCUG leadership on several occasions is the need to resume holding an APCUG event somewhere in the eastern half of the United States. Long time APCUG members may remember the APCUG events held in conjunction with COMDEX in Chicago and Atlanta, and the events held in conjunction with PCEXpo in New York City. Many user group leaders found that attending an eastern APCUG event was more cost and time effective than the other APCUG annual event in Las Vegas.

In order to help meet the unsatisfied need for an eastern event, I was given the responsibility by the President of APCUG to either find an existing event in which we could participate, or to come up with a free standing event to complement the existing Las Vegas event, but in an eastern location.

Discussions have been held with a few existing events about coordinating APCUG participation, and one is now very promising.

On June second and third of this year, initial conversations took place between myself, representatives and leadership of Florida's FACUG, and other members of the APCUG boards, about possibly co-sponsoring the March, 2008, FACUG event. This event, which has not yet been finalized, may be held in the Orlando or Tampa areas. We hope that holding the event at a popular destination location would attract participants and attendees from a wide geographic area. A quick review of airfares indicated that flights to the Orlando area in March 2008, being the off-season in that popular destination, were reasonable from major eastern and midwestern airports. A March event may also provide a pleasant respite from cold weather to those coming from the north.

A final agreement between APCUG and FACUG has not yet been reached as of this writing, but progress is being made. On the assumption that discussions are fruitful, look forward to a joint announcement from the two groups in the near future providing details of this event. It is hoped that the synergistic cooperation of the two groups can provide for an outstanding and well attended conference, with geographically diverse par-

ticipants.

In addition to a Florida conference, there are also attempts underway to hold another conference somewhere in the northeast or north central US, with discussions currently centering on the NY, NJ, and PA region. User groups in that area have expressed great interest in again holding an event somewhere in that region, and APCUG is trying to satisfy that need.

I host a small volunteer committee of APCUG leaders, and will need additional help in order to plan these exciting new events. If you or your group would consider assisting in coordinating an event with APCUG, please contact me at iwilsker@apcug.net.

Call for Speakers APCUG Annual Convention By Ash Nallawalla, Convention Co-Chair anallawalla@apcug.net

Plans are taking shape for the 2008 Annual Convention to be held in Las Vegas on January 3-6, 2008.

Theme: Membership Retention and Growth

If you are planning to attend and have experience as a user group leader, please write to convention@apcug.net and list one or more of the topics below (or suggest one) if you would like to be a speaker. Most topics will have a panel of 2-3 presenters including the lead speaker.

- Member recruitment/retention
- Developing professional/technical SIGs
- Vendor relations
- SIG leaders
- Legal issues and Insurance
- UGs and news media
- Program Chairs
- Fund raising
- Succession planning
- Editors
- Public speaking
- Finding and retaining volunteers
- UG web sites
- Presidents
- Technology topics (sponsored)

We look forward to your emails! See you at the Convention!

APCUG Annual Convention Returns to The Riviera Hotel & Casino January 3rd to 6th, 2008

Jim Evans
jevans@apcug.net
Convention Co-Chair

The 2008 Annual Convention of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) will be late Thursday afternoon, January 3rd to late Sunday morning, January 6th. The 2008 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) will start after our Convention 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.

Highlights & benefits planned for the 2008 Convention include:

- Jerry Awards
- Newsletter Contest Awards
- Web Site Contest Awards
- Photo Contest Awards
- Roundtable / 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

Check elsewhere in Reports for details on the Jerry Awards, and the Newsletter, Web and Photo contests. There is also a separate article regarding the



roundtables.

Later this summer, registration information will be posted on the APCUG website (<http://www.apcug.net>). There will also be information sent via e-mail, the NOOZ that the advisors send out and snail mail.

APCUG realizes that our attendees can find cheaper hotels and even cheaper rates at the Convention hotel than what we can offer. However, APCUG strongly encourages you to stay at The Riviera under our group code. By staying there, you will be helping us keep our costs down. The hotel provides free meeting space based on the number of room nights that are booked. Your registration fees only cover a portion 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 6th (During APCUG Convention)
- Single / Double Room - \$129 – January 7th to 10th (During CES)
- Additional Person - \$10
- Petite Suite - \$175
- 1 Bedroom Suite - \$300

The 2007 Annual Convention was held at The Riviera and the reviews were very positive. Many 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

The Photo Contest Winners are at <http://www.apcug.net/events/Conference07/winners/apcug2006photowinners.html>

Someone who thinks logically
is a nice contrast
to the real world

Offering Telephone Support to Members

By Ash Nallawalla,
Melbourne PC User Group

Melbourne PC User Group (Melb PC) has office space that includes a telephone system where any extension can be across an Internet connection. We have a “First Aid” telephone number that members can call if they don’t know how to solve a computer problem, such as knowing which of the 200+ Dial Help volunteers to call. (see below)

Dial Help

Dial Help is a list of about 150 topics and 1 - 4 members and their telephone numbers underneath each topic. It is sent with our monthly magazine. These topics include general headings such as “Security” or specific versions of software such as “Windows Vista”. The volunteers can choose to display different telephone numbers for Day and Evening, which we define as 9 am to 5 pm and 6:30 to 9 pm respectively. The callers are advised not to leave a message asking to be called back, as telephone calls are untimed, but not free in Australia.

First Aid

The First Aid line is diverted to a volunteer-of-the-day’s home number by prior arrangement; where a volunteer has a fast Internet connection, he or she could simply take home the special Internet-protocol telephone and plug it into a spare port on their router. Using the Internet for phone calls keeps the landline free for personal calls.

SkypeIn

We do not use this paid Skype service, but for \$38-\$60/year you can get a telephone number in your area code. When someone dials the number, it rings the Skype program on your PC. If your members were to contribute to the cost, you could open a Skype account in the name of the user group and use SkypeIn to offer a single First Aid number to your members. The volunteer of the day would be the only person to log into Skype that day and take the calls. If the volunteer has to step out for a minute or go to sleep, he or she simply logs out and the call diverts to voicemail!

The volunteer can be logged in from any corner of the world – as long as there is a fast Internet connection.

July-September 2007

Secretary Notes

June 2007

Jim Evans

APCUG Secretary

secretary@apcug.net

As this column is being written, changes are coming. As you may know, APCUG maintains an on-line database of our member groups. The database was created by former APCUG Advisor and Director Bill Rothermal about seven years ago. In its day, the database was a great means for member groups to update information about their group and its officers. The information in the database feeds the APCUG User Group Locator that web site visitors can use to locate a user group near them.

However, like anything on the internet and having to do with computers, it has become dated and badly in need of a face-lift. Later this year in the fall, APCUG expects to have the new database up and running. In the meantime, member group officers should watch for an e-mail to confirm their information and get any corrections made.

By the time the printed version of Reports reaches you, the User Group Locator on the APCUG site will have had a makeover that is easier on the eyes and has some better navigation. There are several groups which have members in more than one state. Groups like Capital PC User Group, Kentucky-Indiana PC User Group, Macon Users Group and Quad Cities Computer Society. For these four groups, information has been added so they appear in multiple states in the locator. If your group needs to be listed in multiple states, please send an e-mail to cdb@apcug.net.

If information on your group needs to be changed or updated, the President or APCUG Representative of your group can request a user name, password and directions be sent to them. All they need to do is to send an e-mail to cdb@apcug.net. Please include the full name of the officer, the full name of the group and the city where the group is located.

Thank you. See you next quarter.

**The meaning of happiness
is whatever you want it to be.**

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How to Publicize Your Group & Recruit for New Members

Southwest User Group Conference – 2006
Judy Taylour

Newspaper

- Get to know the people you are sending your media releases to. Put a kit together that includes information about your UG – t-shirt, coffee mug, newsletter, brochure, application, etc. and make an appointment to meet with the person you will be sending your releases to. Reporters love food – take along some cookies or invite them to lunch.
- Ask how they want to receive your Press Releases – fax, e-mail, document attached to an e-mail or the fill-in form on the paper's Website and how many days (weeks) in advance of the event it should get to them.
- Call your release a "News/Media" release instead of "Press" release when dealing with media other than print.
- Send your News/Press release early in the morning. Sending it in the afternoon sometimes interferes with their deadline and it might get lost.
- Include quotes in your release.
- Include a photo with your release.
- Put the most important things at the beginning of your release.
- Use your grammar checker. If it states that your release is at a 9th grade level or higher, then it will be too difficult for others to read. A 5th – 7th grade reading level is ideal!
- Send a thank you fax / e-mail after they have put your meeting info in the newspaper.
- Put a meeting announcement in your local free classified newspaper(s). Ask for it to be placed in the Computer section, not the Meeting section.
- Put a meeting announcement in the local paid classified newspaper. It is usually free for non-profits.
- See if your local homeowners associations and churches will put your meeting information in their newsletters / bulletins.

Radio

- Check with your local radio station to see if they need filler and will mention your meetings, events, etc. If so, find out the length of the announcement. After you have written the announcement, time yourself (and others) saying it to make sure you haven't gone over their time limit. Get to know what they want.
- Do you have a local station with a computer call-in show? If not, offer to start one once or twice a month (or weekly).
- Do you have a larger market computer call-in show? If so, have your members call in with questions – always mentioning they are a member of your UG.

TV Station

- Cable companies are required to have local public access programs.
- Have a few people in your group videotape a commercial to air on the public access station. Here's an example of one that my group did:
 - o Computer set-up in front of a blank wall (we moved my furniture aside).
 - o Woman (my daughter) working at the computer & husband at her side.
 - o Husband asks her what she needs help with.
 - o She responds that Tyler took care of fixing
 - o He then asks but what about (another task).
 - o She replies again that Tyler showed her how to do it.
 - o He then asks if Tyler can help him with (another problem).
 - o She responds — 16 or 32 bit (this was three years ago)?
 - o He asks where has Tyler learned so much about computers.
 - o Camera pans to a 7-year old (grandson) working at his computer and he says ... "I go to the Santa Clarita Computer Club Meeting" [big smile].

We filmed an alternate ending at a meeting with all the attendees saying Santa Clarita Valley Computer Club instead of Tyler's response. Each month, the person who filmed & edited the tape does a short comment at the end about the upcoming meeting. This was a project for a class he was taking.

- Videotape a meeting where you are putting a computer together, etc. and offer it to the public access station – they are always looking for content.
- See if they have a scrolling list of meetings, etc. If so, get your group listed.

City Website

- Check your city website to see if they have a community meeting page. If so, make sure your meetings are listed. When new meetings are listed on my city's website, an e-mail is sent out (about twice a month) to those people who subscribe to that service.
- See if they have a link to community organizations on the City website – get your group listed.

Community Websites

- Search by your city's name to see if there are any 'commercial' websites specifically for your city. If so, they usually have a listing of organizations where you can list your group's name, website address, meeting day, etc.

Cable Vendor

- Check to see if they have a website devoted to your community. If so, make sure your group is listed.

Schools

- Check with your local Adult Education and Regional Occupational schools to see if they have computer classes. If so, ask if you can come and talk to them for about 10 minutes at the beginning of each new session. Prepare a handout to give to each student: brochure, newsletter, application, free ticket to attend a meeting, copy of flyer for next meeting, etc. Also visit the computer classes at your local junior college.

Organizations

- Contact the Rotary, Kiwanis, etc. to see if you can give a short presentation about your UG. Again, provide packets of info for attendees.

Community Outreach (not a regular meeting)

- Have a membership recruiting meeting and show attendees how to install & customize the Google toolbar, talk about security and free anti-virus & firewall programs ---- whatever your members are comfortable demonstrating.
- Sponsor someone from the local police department talking about identify theft, computer security, etc. Always have a membership table with group handouts for each attendee. We had WordPerfect come out years ago and our table was right by the door. We got a ton of new members. We always wondered if they thought they had to join to see the presentation <g>. Some people are still members.
- Does your community have a Business Expo? Ask if they have an area for non-profits where you don't need to pay for the booth. Ask if members can put on a computer-related mini-seminar.
- Ask all of your privately-owned computer stores, ISPs, digital camera stores, etc. if you can display your brochures at their store. To spread the work around, have one person responsible for each store. Cultivate them so they can possibly put on a program for your group.
- Place your brochures in all of your libraries, senior centers, retirement homes, etc.
- If your community has a Computer Show (aka swap meet), ask the promoter if you can have a table. Have all the usual stuff to hand out. You'll also need a banner (under \$100) to hang behind your table. If they are reluctant to give you a free table, offer an ad in your newsletter in exchange for the table.

General

- Brochure: do not include time-sensitive information to avoid obsolescence.
- Logo: for easy recognition on all printed materials.
- Business cards for officers.
- Have the technical editor from your local paper speak at your monthly meeting.
- Have someone from your local ISP, PC Club, etc. speak at your monthly meeting. If they get to know you they will recommend your UG to customers. Our PC Club manager had such a good time, he

asks to come back about every quarter and has volunteered raffle prizes even when he's not at the meeting.

- Check with your local paper to see if they need a 'technology' columnist.
- Provide "How-to" articles that members write to include in the newspaper. For every article written, also include information on your user group.
- Understand journalistic lingo.
- Send your monthly newsletter to the press, radio and public access TV station.
- Double and triple check your sources. Work with other user groups in your area to raise the public awareness of UGs.

Region 2

(DC, DE, MD, NJ, VA)

by **Gabe Goldberg, Advisor**
ggoldberg@apcug.net

Fredricksburg PCUG (Virginia) Does Great Things For Their Community (Courtesy of Judy Tylour)

Last year they launched a Neurofeedback Project which has resulted in introduction of several licensed therapists to neurofeedback, who are now providing neurofeedback training to adults and children in their community, relieving their suffering from depression, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, and numerous other conditions. See the Neurofeedback page on their website at www.fpcug.org for more information.

This year, they gave a very large donation to the new Moss Free Clinic, enabling them to provide networked computers to their staff, which allows them to work more efficiently in helping thousands of individuals in their community who cannot afford healthcare.

FPCUG provided computers for the Boys & Girls Club and continue to support the Robotics Team at the Governor's School.

They also still provide great assistance to members with their Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings every Tuesday and Thursday at the Falmouth Fire House. In addition, many of their members have benefited from APCUG Reports Page 18

personal assistance from one of FPCUG's "expert" members, at the Fire House, or even in their home if their problem can't be resolved by bringing their computer to a SIG meeting.

At their General Meeting on the 2nd Thursday, they highlight a speaker and provide refreshments and door prizes, hoping to attract new members, of course. But their primary loyalty is to their continuing members.

Senior Surfers Computer Club, Delaware

The Senior Surfers plan to offer several informative sessions in July starting with Beginner Basics – Questions and Answers with Dick Scott. No question is too basic for this session. Hopefully, attendees will get the answers they need -- just come on out and meet everyone. And don't forget that you can raise your hand among friends.

Tips & Twists with Barb Greer will use their new CD (attendees were reminded to pick their copy up at the June 14th social) and Barb will share some of her "secret" Internet ideas and findings.

Bob Bloom will share his recommendations on backing up your computer files - Why, Which, When & Where.

Each session will end with Advanced Questions and Answers: "Is there something about your computer that is giving you fits?" Bring your question and see if their tech team can answer it. Basic questions are also welcome at this session. www.nscseniorsurfers.com/

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey

The ACGNJ Salutes 2007 Hobbyist of the Year — Claude Kagan. Claude is retired from AT&T and Western Electric. He has been a member of the IEEE since the late 1940's and has written more than 50 technical publications. He has received awards from both the IEEE and its Computer Society for his many contributions to computing. Kagan has donated equipment to INFO AGE from his collection of computers and telecommunications equipment. He is an advocate for the use of the Dvorak keyboard layout and has placed videos in YouTube in support of the Dvorak Keyboard. Around 1967, Claude founded RESISTORS (Radically Emphatic Students Interested in July-September 2007

Science, Technology and Other Research Subjects), the first computer club in NJ. This was ten years before ACGNJ was founded. He founded the club for a group of school children from Hopewell and Princeton area who discovered that Claude had a mainframe computer in his barn in the early 1960's and chose to follow their interest in the computer there, working after school.

The primary computer in the barn at that time was the Burroughs 205, a vacuum tube computer weighing about 9 tons. Power to run the computer cost about \$1 an hour (a considerable sum for teenagers in those days). The computer used enough power to heat the barn during the winter and could not be used during warm weather.

Some of the other artifacts in the barn included an early typewriter with a piano keyboard, an early IBM paper tape punch that made square holes (not round), an official IBM song book, early prototypes of touch-tone phones, Teletypes, Flexowriters, an early IBM time clock, manual telephone switchboards, electro-mechanical telephone switches, and music boxes. Early R.E.S.I.S.T.O.R.S. wrote programs in SAM76, a language developed by Kagan, and even wrote a primer about the language.

Claude said, "The RESISTORS started in Hopewell Township prior to 1967 consisting of a group of Hopewell Township School students who formed a club to smoke pot in a small stone building on Poor Farm Road in protest of the lack of a decent science program in their school system. They visited me in my barn and changed their purpose, getting high on computers instead." www.acgnj.org/

Another Baltimore Computer Users Group, Maryland

In January ABCUG announced a contest to encourage members to create videos. They will be judged by the membership this Fall, like their Calendar Contest. Many of their meetings will focus on aspects of making a video, so this is their theme for the year.

Members are also reminded to make entries for the calendar contest, too. Summer vacations provide a great opportunity to create winning entries -- just remember to keep your camera close.

July-September 2007

ABCUG members are also asked to write reviews. Do you have a new piece of equipment? Why not share your experience with the rest of the group? Tell us about your experience with the product! Simply write up a short review and send it to the mail distribution list. www.abcug.org/

The IBMPCUG of Redding

by Jane Quinn

The IBMPC User's Group of Redding aka "Computer User's Group of Redding" started in the Windows 3.1 era. We have persevered because of our philosophy of sharing what we know and learning together. Our SIGs offer instruction several times a week on multi media projects such as creating DVD movies, photo slideshows, photo editing, MP3 music players, Desktop Publishing and understanding Microsoft's Windows OS systems XP and Vista. We have a great newsletter, the Motherboard, which delivers insightful software and hardware information each month to our members. Our website link is: <http://www.snowcrest.net/ibmpcugr>

Digital Image Suite 2006

Reviewed May 03, 2007

Topic: the Library

in Digital Image Suite

SIG group: Multi Media Group

SIG leader Jane Quinn

How do you find a particular picture on your computer after you've transferred it from your camera to your computer??

With Digital Image Suite 2006 Library software you can easily organize, locate and archive. Use the Import Wizard to copy the pictures from your camera to your computer Pictures folder, and catalogue them in the library. Type a name for the subfolder and this becomes the name for the pictures as well. Use the Label Painter to create a label name as part of the picture stored information. There are assigned default labels for Print. Use this label information to quickly "select" pictures or videos by these tags. Take a minute (which is all it takes) to watch the tutorial video that comes with the Library help portion. In seconds you will discover all these tools that will help you quickly organize your multi-media files. See how you

can assign ratings to your pictures. Assign a 5 star rating to your best pictures. Dazzle your friends by quickly choosing only those 5-star pictures and immediately launch slideshow while still in the library program. This slideshow icon appears next to the PhotoStory tab. Yes, you can also build a Photo Story 3 from your filtered photo choices while still in the library. Amazing stuff. Watch the video and see how simple this tool is to use.

How can I easily archive my pictures and videos using Digital Image Library???

You can use the Archive wizard to save pictures and videos from your computer to a CD or DVD. Then you can remove the files from your computer and regain that storage. This program has several features for archiving, including settings to erase the original pictures and videos after they are safely archived. The reminder settings can prompt you to archive your files every month. There are lots of control settings to activate. For example, you can archive only new files and files that have been modified. Or you can prompt the wizard to stop and remind you later. However, using the library is a simple and easy way to create your inventory of pictures and videos for safe keeping.

Can I change the creation date of an image file? My camera's was set to the wrong date when I took my pictures. How can I fix that?

Yes you can change the Date Created when you're in the Digital Image Suite library. Select the picture, click the right mouse button and select Properties. Either type over the wrong date or click on the drop down arrow to select from an image calendar. Now you can safely archive your pictures with the proper date affixed to the image.

Jane Quinn

Vendor Relations

**Computer User's Group of Redding
(AKA IBM PC User's Group of Redding)
jqquinn7427@gmail.com**

**Frontier Computer Club- Instructor & Secretary
Email: senior2000@charter.net**

I find it hard to sit still in one spot, and impossible to sit still in two spots.

Social Activities

**Gabe Goldberg,
Region 2 Advisor**



What Works

As I visit user groups throughout Region 2, I enjoy their diverse meeting formats and programs. I especially enjoy groups with social components in activities -- gathering for meals before or after meetings, holiday parties, trips and tours, etc. These groups often have a vibrant community spirit not always seen/felt in more "all business" groups. So if your group mostly operates for technical meetings, consider adding social activities. That's a way to bring families into the fold and recruit people who enjoy socializing more than exclusively geek talk. And if your group IS socially oriented -- let your APCUG Regional Advisor know! Tell him/her about your events/activities/programs to share them with your neighbor groups.

Remember that user groups start and evolve as their members/leaders desire -- there's no template, master plan, or one-style-for-all. This leads to the charm and chaos of groups' variability! But it also means that change is possible -- don't be captive to tradition. Especially avoid the "Never do anything for the first time" trap -- i.e., "If we haven't done it before, it's a bad idea." As times change, different offerings appeal to your members and community. Evolve and (maybe) survive; stagnate and (surely) die.

Region 12

(AK, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, WA, WY)

**Clint Tinsley, Advisor
ctinsley@apcug.net**

We currently have 15 APCUG member groups in Region 12. Region 12 consists of Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. Alaska, Wyoming and Montana are not presently represented in the APCUG membership.

Boeing Employees' Computer Society is doing well, that new Boeing Dreamliner is soaring and BECS is flying as well. Must be contagious. The May 23rd

meeting featured Excel with an excellent handout that is downloadable from their website <http://www.becs-wa.org/> Too bad you have to be a Boeing Employee to join this group. The June 23rd meeting is featuring a Digital Imaging Learning Seminar. BECS also has 6 Special Interest Groups currently meeting a wide range of interests.

Another very active group in the Northwest, also with a number of SIGs, and a full calendar is TAPCUG, The Tacoma Area PC Users Group, <http://www.tapcug.org/> On their website you can find their meeting schedules and the latest copies of their Data Line newsletters in PDF. The June 9th meeting featured the winners of their 2007 Spring Photo Contest.

It should be noted that the Tacoma area is very active with at least two member groups in APCUG plus there is planning for a Raincoast Conference in 2008, which has historically been in Tacoma. This has been a great conference in the past and we are looking forward to its reincarnation in 2008. Another active group in Tacoma is Toggle, the Tacoma Open Group which takes care of the first three letters in Toggle ... Catchy name. They have a very busy and active website which you might want to take a look at <http://www.toggle.org/> where you will find their online newsletter along with other resources.

Moving south on the coast to Portland, you will find the Portland PC Users Group, their website is <http://www.ppcug.org/> A very active group and they will be enjoying the presence of the renown User Group evangelist Gene Barlow at their July 11th Meeting. He will be presenting one of the subjects near and dear to his heart "Maintaining a Trouble Free PC and Hard Drive" The group also has a number of Special Interest Group reaching out to their membership and promotes computer recycling.

I am happy to report that a number of user groups are alive and well in the Pacific Northwest. Next Quarter, we will move a little inland and report on the Nevada and Idaho groups before moving off shore to Hawaii. Boy, if I could just go there.

You might also want to check out the APCUG website for the User Group Spotlight on a regular basis. Your User Group may be in the Spotlight.

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International Region

(Region 13)

Barbara Manning, Advisor
bmanning@apcug.net

Activities within the region:

Australia

- Melbourne PC Users Group response to the PC Update survey has been terrific. Here's a brief summary of feedback to date.
 - o 91 % of respondents always read their PC Update. A further 7% read it most months.
 - o 51% rate PC Update as Good. 21% say it could be improved. 19% say it is already excellent. The disenchanted 4% say it needs to be improved a lot.
 - o The most popular articles are tutorials containing step-by-step instructions, followed closely by software reviews and feature articles.
 - o A massive 93.1% of respondents want more computing hints `n tips `n tricks. 61.4% want more product reviews and 47.4% want more beginners articles.
 - o 56.3% want less book reviews, and 25.7% want less SIG reports.
 - o 45% of respondents would like to see an Experts section introduced, 44.7% would like to see a computer industry news section, 37% would like to see a students section, 25.4% want news of Exec activities, and 24.8% want a section containing lifestyle articles. That should comfort our management; reports of their activities being more desirable than lifestyle articles.
 - o As for pages that could be left out, 72.3% ticked "Why you should join", 69.3% nominated the Internet Agreement, and 61.3% say the membership application form could go.
 - o May meeting was on GPS - Where Are We Now? Tips and tricks - and the current state of the technology. And, Getting in the Zone. What's the balance with computer security? One of the world's biggest computer security products is Zone Alarm, which recently set up in

Australia, and gave our members a chance to quiz their Asia Pacific manager about new developments and how to solve any of their own problems.

- Brisbug PC Users Group May meeting on Dual Core Processors and Saving MS Activation. They draw people to the meeting with a raffle, giving away a WebCam this month.
- Perth PC User Group May Meeting demonstrated the varied forms of videos available on YouTube. They held their Annual General Meeting in March. They have eight SIGs, focused on beginner to intermediate level PC users. SIGs appear to be geographically segmented.

Canada

- Durham PC Users Group has a downloadable PDF file for membership applications. Their 14 page online newsletter is filled with short announcements on new software, bug fixes and general interest computing. Barnaby Jeans, Senior Technology Advisor for Microsoft Canada was the featured speaker for Microsoft's Windows Vista. He showed some of the new features and capabilities for both IT Professionals and home users.
- Big Blue & Cousins newsletter revisited desktop publishing software and featured an article on using old equipment, with the upshot being that older equipment is fine if it can get the job done. The April meeting was on new desktop services available at the local Staples store, which was a big hit for the store and for the people at the meeting.
- Winnipeg PC Users Group May meeting was on photo editing software and its uses.

Scam-of-the-Month

Simple idea to add a little extra kick in your user group membership recruitment efforts

**Steve Peyrot
Vice President APCUG**

I have often heard that one of the best ways to ensure success in anything is simply to replicate the things that successful people do. This basic concept holds true not just for individuals but for organizations as well. I would like to simply share one small idea, which if

deployed and publicized properly at any user group throughout the country, could drastically increase your membership, and spark a level of enthusiasm not seen in a vast majority of user groups in a very long time.

In traveling throughout the country, both for pleasure and for business, one of the most rapidly growing community organizations I have seen are those relating to consumer awareness; i.e., targeting consumer scams and fraud. Just this summer alone, I have seen this type of community group flourish in towns located in North Carolina and Colorado. What I saw made me wonder if good ol' computer user groups could strengthen their posture within their communities just by embracing another aspect of users helping users! Are not consumer scams mostly related to some form of computer use?

What I found in a simple "trial run" completely blew me away. We hit on something that generated a meeting attendance of twice the number of 1st time visitors than regular members. There were no additional resources spent in publicizing the meeting, just a slight change of emphasis in the meeting announcement.

What I found was that by taking the concept of discussing one of literally thousands of scams that consumers face on a daily basis, I was able to bring in folks to a computer meeting and expose them to the user group community. I simply publicized that we would be discussing scams and how to avoid them and folks came in for that. In the end, we ended up with folks that "learned" what user groups were all about at the same time that they were learning about computer and consumer type of scams.

What started as an experiment generated forty members in less than 60 days. It also helped our user group realize that when groups like ours expand their horizons just a little, the end results are exciting and can bring many rewards. The end users benefited a tremendous amount as well. We had members of the community learn about scams and also learn what user groups are all about!

**I like my new telephone,
my computer works just fine,
my calculator is perfect,
but Lord, I miss my mind!**

Region 1
(CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)
by Sam Wexler, Advisor
swexler@apcug.net

Help the Kids
Business & Professional Micro User Group,
West Hartford, CT
<http://www.bpmug.org/>

The Charter Oak Cultural Center located in Hartford, is a nonprofit, multi-cultural arts center committed to giving access to the arts to all people and doing the work of social justice.

They have a number of computers they would like to donate to the kids in their after school program. However, these computers require a little refurbishing. They must be cleaned and an operating system installed on them.

BPMUG has been asked to provide assistance in this most worthwhile project. If you are willing to participate, please call 561-8511 or email to msil@comcast.net

Don't throw away your XP computer just yet!
Connecticut PC Users Group, Norwalk
<http://www.ctpc.org/>

First Walt Graham showed us some free utilities to make Windows XP more functional. Then Jim Sullivan showed us more ways to optimize XP by looking at the many processes and services which Windows starts automatically, and reveal which of these you need, and which can be turned off to speed up your machine.

He showed some programs and web sites that describe what these processes and services are doing to help us decide which of them are just slowing us down.

The Technology and Uses of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)
Danbury Area Computer Society
<http://www.dacs.org/>

The Technology and Uses of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) by Dr. Paul Moskowitz with Chris Novell. Are you using Radio frequency identification? If you have an E-ZPass, you are. And if you don't have an E-ZPass, chances are that you are making use of or benefiting from RFID some other way. RFID
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is a simple wireless technology in which RFID tags and readers exchange information; usually the tag sends its ID number to the reader upon request. The simplest passive tags have no batteries or transmitters. The tags receive their energy to operate from the radio signal sent by the reader. They communicate with the reader by reflecting the received radio wave back to the reader. The reflected wave is modulated by the tag in order to communicate the ID number of the tag.

Dr. Moskowitz discussed the technology behind RFID and how it works. He showed examples of RFID tags and discuss how RFID is used for consumer and industrial applications. Some of the uses include electronic credit cards, pet identification and location, present and future uses of RFID for retail businesses, and privacy implications of the technology. RFID tags may be viewed as electronic bar codes. However, the semiconductor chip which lies at the heart of the tag opens more applications. For example, many billions of dollars of counterfeit pharmaceuticals are sold each year. Losses in human suffering go beyond the monetary losses. Since each RFID tag may be made to be unique, RFID offers a method of authentication to help fight counterfeiting.

Why a Firewall?
Hartford User Group Exchange
<http://www.huge.org/>

When you connect your computer to the Internet, you have opened a door which invites any other computer in the world to come in. Actually, you have more than 65,000 doors into your computer, any one of which may be open. That is, unless you have taken steps to keep these doors closed. That is the purpose of a firewall. The firewall filters the information packets that show up at your "door" or computer port as we usually refer to it, and can either prevent them from entering or pass them through.

When your computer connects to the Internet, it is assigned a numeric address or IP (internet protocol) address. These addresses are a 32 bit number. They are usually written out in four groups with periods between each group as follows: 111.11.11.111. Traveling over the Internet are many programs that simply look for unprotected IP addresses. The IP address of any unprotected computer is sent back to the originator who can then upload a Trojan or spy ware pack-
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age to that address. The originator can then take control of the computer, or the application can record keystrokes and send all recorded information back to the program originator.

Seeing What's Beneath Your Photos
ICON PC User Group, Brentwood, NY
<http://www.iconpcug.org/>

Did you know that whenever you take a photo, an extensive list of data is also preserved with each photo? Embedded in each of your picture files are all sorts of information including the date, the type of camera, and what settings your camera used when taking the photo. When you take your photo and edit it with another program, that program also records information within the file thus leaving a trail of information. This takes place not only in photos but also in Word documents and many other types of files. This is often referred to as Meta-Data.

There are two ways you can access this data. One of them is already embedded into Microsoft's Windows XP. Right click on any photo and go to Properties. You will see at least two tabs under Properties: General and Summary. Click on Summary. Most likely if you have never done this before, Summary will be in "simple" mode. You will see "Title", "Subject" and "Author". There will be a button to go to advanced mode. This is where you can see all of the data. If you are already in advanced mode, the button will then say "simple mode" to allow you to switch back and forth.

OpenOffice 2.0 and
other OpenSource Software
Mid-Hudson Computer User Group,
Poughkeepsie, NY
<http://www.mhcug.org/>

Jim Anderson from the Rockland PC User Group demonstrated the latest version of the free OpenOffice 2.0. OpenOffice includes word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software which can be used to perform most if not all of the functions of Microsoft's Office at a much lower price -- FREE. In addition, several other OpenSource programs were briefly described. CDs containing OpenOffice and 33 other free OpenSource programs were given out to the attendees. Hank Feinberg who runs PC ReNew

described how they refurbish discarded PCs and then give them free to the needy people who can use them.

MySpace Website
The PC Users Group of Connecticut, Trumbull
<http://www.tpcug-ct.org/>

Robert Wannagot, Chief Probation Officer for the State of Connecticut, presented a program on the attractions and dangers of MySpace, the social networking Web Site. **MySpace.com** is a wildly popular web site where teens can find each other, and sometimes find trouble. You may never have heard of this site, but most kids have.

Free E-Mail Accounts
Rockland PC Users Group
<http://www.rpcug.org/>

All members in good standing can request a free email account bearing the RPCUG domain. Two types of accounts are available: Forwarding and POP3.

A Forwarding account will forward any e-mail received to another e-mail address of your choice. For example, mail sent to **john@rpcug.org** could be sent to **johnjones@aol.com**. If you acquire a new e-mail address, you can request that the forwarding be done to this new address. Another useful feature is to have the e-mail forwarded to multiple other e-mail addresses. For example, have the e-mail forwarded to both your personal and business addresses. If you change jobs, just request that the forwarding address be changed and all your mail will go to your personal and new business e-mail addresses.

A POP3 account is a real mailbox at our domain (**rpcug.org**). With this type of address, you can choose to pick up your mail anywhere that you can gain access to the Internet. You can use one of the common mail programs such as Eudora or MS Outlook to download your mail as well.

The PC Radio Show
<http://www.pcradioshow.org/>

Bringing you computer industry news, hardware and software reviews, guest interviews and news of User Group meetings for over 20 years, the Personal Computer Show is a three-time winner of the prestigious national Computer Press Awards.

Our co-hosts are Joe King, Hank Kee and Alfred Poor. On any given night, they may be joined by Michael Horowitz, our webmaster, Olivia Whiteman, Danny Burstein or Joanne Witt.

The show airs every Wednesday night from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM EST on WBAI-FM 99.5 in New York City, and is heard throughout the tri-state region. In addition, the show is streamed live over the Internet (<http://www.pcradioshow.com/>).

At about 8:30 you can call in and join the discussion or ask for help with any computer related question at (212) 209-2900. The gang on the show try to answer whatever questions on computers and computing you might have.

Did You Learn One Thing?

by Sam Wexler, APCUG Advisor
President, Valencia Falls Computer Club
swexler@apcug.net

At the beginning of every club event, I tell the attendees our goal is for them to learn just one thing while they are at that event. If they learn two, then they are in bonus territory. At the end of the event, I would ask: "Did you learn one thing?" and always received positive answers. Now I get the answers without asking the question. Most attendees leave with a positive feeling. The rationale behind this process is as follows. Some people view a club meeting like a show and expect the jokes or songs to keep flowing. That is usually not the case. There are parts of every meeting that are absolutely boring to some people, but if you direct their attention to their personal "one gem of wisdom gained" they will most likely give the meeting good marks. Try it at your next meeting and let me know what happens. It can't hurt and it could help with very little energy used.

On the rare occasion when you have a bad meeting, nothing will save you. The problem is you could have a good one hour meeting but the attendees will focus on the 5 bad minutes instead of the 55 great minutes. Using this technique, your attendees will give your meeting high marks. Also in a meeting there always seems to be a vocal minority that you can almost never satisfy. If people leave talking about the one or more things they learned, then that negative vocal minority will have a very difficult time being heard. Try this process at
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your next meeting and then analyze what happened. Remember it can't hurt but it could help a lot.

WHY BACKUP?

I bought one of my laptops a little less than 3 years ago and had the wisdom to buy a three-year warranty. In less than three years it has been sent back to the manufacturer for repair four times with hardware problems. Three of those four times the hard drive was replaced and the fourth time they never told me what they did. Those who think lightning doesn't strike twice should know it actually struck my Systemax at least three times and maybe four times. All my research then and now says this laptop is a quality product and it was probably my bad luck to buy the PC equivalent of a Monday car. The reason for this story: anyone out there who doesn't backup regularly is an accident waiting to happen.

I TOLD YOU SO!

You ask how do I get my members to back up? Once a year at a club meeting I ask the attendees to repeat after me and I say: "I told you so".

The room vibrates with a heavy loud "I told you so". I then tell the attendees everyone in the club has been told a zillion times to backup so when their hard drive crashes and they lose all those non-replaceable pictures, financial records, emails, etc they would be a physical wreck. At this point they would hate me if I told them "I told you so" so I tell them to remember when the entire Computer Club said it and now we know they were talking to you. This process works!

NO PROBLEMS?

Jim Smith, VP for BPMUG in Central Connecticut has a process that works for his UG. During each meeting, he has a Q&A session. To introduce it, he asks the audience if everyone's computer worked perfectly during the last 30 days. No issues? After the chuckles and guffaws die down, he invites anyone with a problem to stand at the microphone and tell of their problem so that others can try to offer a solution. It seems to kick off their Q&A in a light-hearted manner and reminds the audience that they aren't the only one with computer problems.

FINAL QUESTION

At the appropriate spot in each meeting (probably near the end), ask the question: "Did you learn one thing from this presentation?"

Gabe's Gadgets Grabbag

by Gabe Goldberg, Advisor
ggoldberg@apcug.net

I'm a professional writer. Some writing clients are boomer and senior-oriented venues such as (formerly) AARP's Computers and Technology Web site and presently Compu-KISS (www.compukiss.com), a technology-oriented Web site for seniors, and Guide to Retirement Living Sourcebook (www.retirement-living.com/) a print publication covering senior housing and lifestyle topics.

So I have the opportunity to write about all sorts of interesting, useful, and fun areas of technology. I assembled a number of these into a presentation which I've given several times to SIGs of my home user group, Capital PC User Group, as well as a number of other Region 2 groups. I thought it worth sharing my list of gadgets for folks to peruse on their own or perhaps review and present to their groups.

1. Laptop computer desktop - www.laptopdesk.net
2. Microsoft Intellimouse - magnifier and mouse software - www.microsoft.com/hardware/mouseandkeyboard/productdetails.aspx?pid=003
3. Connector adapters - 9-pin-to-PS/2, USB-to-PS/2, 9-pin-to-15-pin
4. USB hub - beware twisting and weight - use extension cord
5. Telephone extension cord
6. Ethernet extension cord
7. USB data transfer box/cable - filevan.com/usb.html
8. 20Q - www.20q.net/
9. Sphygmomanometer - www.omronhealthcare.com/
10. Windup flashlight and lantern, nightlight - www.datexx.com/ and www.athenabrands.com and www.ccrane.com
11. ZipIt/IMFree - www.zipitwireless.com/
12. Homesight - broadband.motorola.com/consumers/home_monitoring.asp
13. Lasershield - www.lasershield.net/
14. Voice recorder - www.olympusamerica.com/cpg_section/cpg_vr_digitalrecorders.asp
15. USB drives - Various! (Lexar, Kingston, SanDisk, etc.)
16. Mailing label printer - www.advizia.com/brother/modelDetail.asp?PkgID=382274&User=ptouch&Rnd=580
17. Item label printer - www.advizia.com/brother/modelDetail.asp?PkgID=383857&User=ptouch&Rnd=861
18. Presto - www.presto.com
19. Dazzle media reader - www.flash-memory-store.com/daz8in1higun.html
20. Now You Can Find It - www.loc8tor.com and www.sharperimage.com/us/en/catalog/product/sku_SI676FUN
21. Key-chain camera - www.ritzcamera.com/product/542044235.htm
22. Tiny vacuum - www.ekitchengadgets.com/teps.html
23. Key-chain radio
24. Blacksmith puzzle - www.tavernpuzzle.com/
25. Big-button remote control - www.bigbuttonremotes.com/

Notes: Technology evolves. What's leading-edge becomes commodity and then obsolete. Competitors arise which surpass original versions. If you like these items, make sure you're looking at current products.

Shop smart, compare alternative models and prices online.

URLs are omitted for commodity items.

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Region 3 (OH, PA, WV)

The Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc., Ohio

DMA has a new feature in their newsletter, The DataBus: This Month in Computer History. There is something computer-related for each day of the month and it makes for interesting reading.

Their Apple Dayton SIG is dedicated to the use of Apple computers and the Macintosh operating system. Their meetings feature a variety of speakers, hardware and software demonstrations and problem-solving Q&A sessions in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Content is aimed at both experienced users and novices, to inform them of the latest developments in Apple computers, peripherals, and software technologies. Attendees have access to a group of dedicated Mac users who are always willing to listen to ideas and help solve problems. www.dma.org

Canton/Alliance/Massillon User Group, Ohio

In Constance Brown's Executive Routine column, she gave members some tips and tricks on how to Capture Memories, the topic of their June meeting. The meeting focused on how to move from a snapshot to a photo.

- Limit the subject matter. Too many points of interest can clutter the photo.
- Focus on the subject and let the background be out of focus.
- Take close-ups.
- Look for unusual subjects or a new way of viewing them.
- Capture movement.
- Don't always make your subjects smile! Smiles can distort the face just as much as frowns.
- Light should come from the front or side.
- If taking a picture in front of a window, use fill flash.
- Darken slightly for more intense color.
- Use correct white balance when setting light manually.
- Add warmth – gold reflecting surface; add color – red reflecting surface; make details steely sharp –

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silver reflecting surface. Large, shiny gift bags make great reflectors.

- At sunset, start metering when sun has dropped 2/3 of the distance below zenith and follow it down into the horizon. You will be surprised how soon the camera will start to pick up color. Meter by pointing the camera directly into the face of the sun.
- At sunrise, continue to shoot until sun is 1/3 up from horizon.
- Sunset colors are strongest just as the sun drops below the horizon because more atmosphere is present to bend the light. Other atmospheric conditions such as smoke or smog can result in extra brilliant sunsets.
- Beautiful "sunset" pictures may be taken at sunrise! www.camug.com

Exton PC Council, Pennsylvania

Their Four Corners meeting is normally held only in December and is very popular so they decided to also hold one in July. There are different activities in the four corners of the room; the meeting will feature Digital Imaging, LINUX, Gadgets & Hardware, Freeware & Cool Sites, and MS Office. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting and learn in a relaxed atmosphere.

The Download of the Month, as featured in the June issue of The Batchfile News, was by Charlie Fote. So, you're the proud owner of a new PC. You anxiously open the box, dumping out the contents, casting the instructions aside. You feverishly push your old PC off the desk and get the new one set up. On the floor lies a pile of plastic wrap and twist ties. Your brand spanking new PC boots up only to greet you with a plethora of pop up advertisements pestering you to pay for anti-virus software or sign up for a music service. Your desktop is littered with website links for 'special offers.' The system tray is already full of programs that continuously use your internet connection to make sure that you're 'up to date.' "When did I ask for this?" you ask. Well, you didn't and that's where the PC Decrapifier comes in. The PC Decrapifier attempts to remove all of the junk on your PC that you never asked for or wanted. To manually remove all of this stuff by hand can take at least an hour (depending on the severity of the infestation.). The PC Decrapifier

will detect the 'junk' on your system. You choose what to uninstall, then sit back and watch while the PC Decrapifier works its magic. The PC Decrapifier is a program free for personal use to help the average computer user combat this problem.

Download from <http://www.pcdecrapifier.com/>
www.extonpccouncil.org/

CPCUG's ReBoot Award Proposal

**by Gabe Goldberg, Advisor
ggoldberg@apcug.net**

Project ReBoot (Capital PC User Group's computer refurbishment initiative) recently applied for an IBM "Innovation Award in Transforming Government" <www.ksg.harvard.edu/innovations/Transformation/>. While we don't know whether ReBoot will win an award, the application process demonstrates creativity in seeking funding for community-related efforts. As traditional sources of user group funds diminish, new approaches are necessary. Many corporate, foundation, public, private, national, regional, and local funding programs exist. But in general (except, perhaps, for famous MacArthur Foundation "genius awards"), foundations don't seek out worthwhile causes; applications must be submitted.

CPCUG's application, consisting of answers to ten questions, will be judged on several criteria:

Its innovation, the degree to which the transformation represents a fundamental change in the governance, management, direction, or policy approach of a particular agency, jurisdiction, or country.

Its effectiveness, the degree to which the transformation has achieved tangible and sustainable results.

Its scope, the degree to which the transformation can demonstrate substantial reach and significance.

Its collaboration, the degree to which the transformation demonstrates successful cooperation among internal agencies and external partners.

Its transferability, the degree to which the transformation, or aspects of it, shows promise of inspiring suc-

cessful replication by other governmental entities.

The first question was, "1) Describe your transformation. What significant problem does it address?" The answer began:

Project ReBoot is closing the digital divide by rebuilding donated computers and providing entire, authenticated systems to low-income, homeless, disabled or displaced students and adults, while serving as a learning hub and supply warehouse for school and community computer clubs attempting to establish similar distribution programs. We also have two welfare clients as workers learning computer repair in a sheltered work environment. We also make at least a dent in the problem that millions of PCs are scrapped every year which have at least three or more useful years ahead of them.

The digital divide is a quiet and debilitating disruption in every community in America, a reality with personal, family, community, social and economic impacts. Families, individuals and students without a computer at home cannot keep up with schoolwork, will not meet the workforce requirements of a 21st century job, and are constantly reminded that they are disadvantaged especially when standing in line waiting for the allowed thirty minutes at a library computer. Thousands of disabled and low income adults need computers to participate in the modern economy. We are watching as the newspaper want ads are being shifted to the internet from the paper medium. The irony is that the knowledge, resources and excess computers are available to provide a computer to every American but short-sighted policy makers sell perfectly good computers for scrap metal. A disabled veteran was given a computer, after getting nowhere with the VA, and was referred to us by a welfare agency. He reported that the local VA hospital had thrown about 100 PCs into dumpsters and told the staff that anyone caught taking one would be fired.

The application ran for 13 pages, requiring a significant effort to complete. But it will be worth it if we win. Many groups have equally compelling projects which could expand their reach with added funding. What has your group done to creatively seek awards and grants to fulfill your mission of community service?

Region 4 **(AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN)**

Macon Users Group, North Carolina

Serving southwestern North Carolina and northeastern Georgia

MUG's June meeting featured Children Using Computers—What You REALLY Need To Know! Local computer tech Lizzz Russell discussed the bill in Congress regarding the theft of intellectual property, which will include confiscating computers if even an attempt is made to access copyrighted material. There are a lot of parents that will be out a computer or two plus fines because of the rampant file sharing by children. Russell told the attendees about the extent of other things happening with the internet—from anime porn targeting children, to questionable chat rooms frequented by children and showed actual material removed from children's computers that was quite shocking. She demonstrated what is going on and then showed the audience how to monitor and control their children's or grandchildren's activities. This was a timely and important topic! www.maconusersgroup.org/

Huntsville PC User Group, Inc., Alabama

HPCUG is actively involved in the Huntsville community. It was instrumental in obtaining the first PCs for the Huntsville Public Library and maintains a Library Liaison on the Executive Board. Another Executive Board position is Liaison to the Huntsville Public Schools. Computer class teachers are given aid whenever they ask for help. The Group is also involved in helping handicapped individuals receive computers to aid their education and make life a little easier. www.hpcug.com/

The Mountain Computer User Group, Georgia

It's almost time for the group's annual summer picnic. It will be held on Monday, July 16th at the Hiawassee River Trout Lodge at 6:00 PM. Spouses and guests are encouraged to attend and they plan to have several very nice items as door prizes. They will also have their raffle drawing during the picnic. You won't want to miss any of the fun! Hamburgers and hot dogs and beverages will be supplied by the club. However, each

of the club families is asked to bring either a covered dish or a dessert of their choice. Their June meeting featured a tour of the Open Office suite of programs. Open Office is an "Open Source project," which means that programmers around the world are welcome to contribute to the code. It is sponsored by Sun Microsystems, the primary code contributor, but over 180,000 people from nearly every curve of the globe have joined the project. www.maconusersgroup.org/

Palmetto PC Club, South Carolina

After almost three years in a "dry" location, the PPCC has moved to a new location with Internet access! Their new home is the Capital Senior Center at Maxcy Gregg Park in Columbia, SC. They invite members to bring their laptops and make the SIGs really sing! The SIGs meet before the main meeting. These SIGs include Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Windows and Advanced Users.

One of their recent meetings featured the Deputy Director for Emergency Services for Richland County who provided a snapshot of how computers are connected to emergency management. He also spoke about an online short course in Community Emergency Response Training. The information includes home, car, and work emergency kits; caring for others; extinguishing fires and what the difference is between man-made and natural emergencies. www.palmettopc.org/

Plateau PC Users Group, Inc., Tennessee

Several \$600 scholarships were awarded at the PPCUG June meeting.

From Roane State Community College: Kristin Wolfe - Kristin is a 19-year old first-year student at Roane State. She is majoring in Art and would like to do some work in computer graphics in the future.

From Cumberland County High School: Sara Myers - Sara is a 17-year old senior and ranks 60th in her class. She is going to major in Nursing at TTU.

From Stone Memorial High school: Elizabeth Sexton - Beth is a 17-year old senior who wants to major in Pharmacology at one of our local colleges.

Their July meeting will feature Printshop Pro PictureTubes and Digital Rubber Stamps for creating art work. www.ppcuginc.com/

Tampa Tidbits

Just a fast update on the goings on in my little corner of the world in Florida.
Dave (Doc) Dockery, President
Tampa Bay Computer Society, Florida

TBCS currently has 1,050 members; our free computer repair clinic is finally slowing down. Not just because the snowbirds have gone home, but I would guess also for the following reasons:

1. It's harder to infect WinXP SP2
2. Users are finally learning they can't click on everything.
3. ISPs are virus scanning upstream of everyone.
4. Vista is much harder to infect - no more rootkits with Vista - awesome advantage.

I continue to look for new things to do to attract members. We've lost free newspaper advertising, but found that there is a local nonprofit listserv that we have joined. Nonprofits tend to have the same technology problems that seniors do, so we make ready allies. I advise you all to pursue alliances with nonprofits.

I am promoting Web 2.0 applications and looking for speakers who will explain many of these apps to our members. It's beginning to stimulate an awareness of profound changes in websites and their services. This is where the action is taking us and I strongly suggest that you all be looking at the evolution of the web. Help your members.

I'm also doing more Vista training - both inside TBCS and also getting requests from other local clubs and organizations. TBCS purchased a new Vista laptop for me to use; it's an awesome evolution for the OS. As people begin to understand more about its features (while becoming less concerned about its differences) they slowly begin to realize that it really is a worthy upgrade.

Hopefully some useful ideas. Doc.

**Computer Science
is no more about computers
than astronomy is about telescopes.**

E. W. Dijkstra

Region 6

KY, IL, IN, MI
Patty Lowry
plowry@apcug.net

Spring is gone and summer is upon us. Time to think of summer activities. The Bowling Green Area Micro-computer User Group, Inc., the Kentucky Computer Society and the Computers Are Easy all had picnics in June. Socials such as these are good ways for members to get to know each other.

The New Wave Computer User Group in Chicago, Illinois held a "Youth Leadership & Technology Conference" in April. The New Wave Computer User Group, Inc. joined with the African-American Leadership Roundtable (AALR) as co-hosts. They offered a wide range of activities. Their goal was to attract more young people and their parents to get a glimpse of current and future trends in computer technology.

The following was found on the Computers Are Easy web site (<http://www.caeug.net/>). LG Electronics (<http://www.lge.com/>) and Linspire (<http://www.linspire.com/>) have reached patent agreements with MS. It looks like MS has Red Hat (<http://www.redhat.com/>) in its sites. Red Hat is the largest Linux competitor to MS.

These deals with smaller Linux companies may keep Linux under the MS thumb. The public has no knowledge of the terms of these deals. The stories are at

http://www.cbronline.com/article_news.asp?guid=E3FA2AA7-9392-400F-B816-718448ADE95E and http://www.cbronline.com/article_news.asp?guid=5F47D139-468B-4EB0-A745-EDA52A8ABBF1, and <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id.132893-c.lindowlinspire/article.html>.

In a related story MS hires a Linux expert from the Linux Foundation (http://www.linux-foundation.org/en/Main_Page). Making so many deals requires experts in open source software (oss). The story is at http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/06/13/microsoft_linux_recruits/. Tom Hanrahan, the oss expert, once worked for IBM.

Another web site you may want to check out is <http://www.ckcs.org/?/topfifty/index.html> Joe's TOP FIFTY TIPS FOR WINDOWS XP/ VISTA from Central Kentucky Computer Society.

Windows Vista Compatibility Logos

Important Note for User Group Editors
by Ash Nallawalla



Editors, when publishing any review of hardware or software, please ask the writer to mention if the product is certified for Windows Vista or works with it. If it is, please print the appropriate logo with the article, so that your members will know to look for it when they make a purchase. Windows Vista does not work with certain older software or hardware and some of those incompatible products might still be on shelves, often at attractive prices.

These are two main logos you will encounter most of the time:

- Certified for Windows Vista
- Works with Windows Vista

There are two superseded logos that were used prior to the launch of Windows Vista:

- Windows Vista Premium Ready
- Designed for Windows XP/Windows Vista Capable

Those products might have worked with the betas but might not with the released version. It is best for users to avoid those products if there is any likelihood that they might upgrade to Windows Vista in the future.

There are also two Windows Vista logos you will see on computers. The white one signifies a Premium experience, such as the Windows Aero effects, multimedia, high bandwidth networking and so on. The gray Basic logo denotes meeting minimum specifications for using Windows Vista. In my opinion, no computer enthusiast would want a Basic device, but it might suffice for lightly used PCs such as ones used for occasional web browsing and email.

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For a list of applications that have earned either current logo, please see: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/933305>.

There is plenty of published content about the logos but you can get a good overview at: <http://innovateonwindowsvista.com/>.

For a light-hearted overview, check out: <http://www.productsofchampions.com/>.

You can download the logos from [<http://apcug.net/reports/VistaLogos.zip>] and keep them at hand for use in your newsletter.

We Need You...

by Bill James

APCUG is here to help its member User Groups. APCUG directors and advisors - they are all former or current User Group officers. And, the search is on.....we're looking for people who are passionate and committed to the User Group movement to help lead APCUG. This year we're seeking candidates to fill three Director positions and seven Advisor positions.

The Job

Directors - APCUG's Board of Directors is the direct management arm of the organization. Directors participate in the daily operation of APCUG; each serves a three-year term.

Advisors - The Board of Advisors is APCUG's direct link to its member User Groups. Each Advisor is assigned a geographical region and is the liaison between APCUG and the User Groups or acts as the User Group's ombudsman, if necessary. Each Advisor serves a two-year term.

Each Director and Advisor participates in at least one monthly online meeting, (Advisors meet online on the 3rd Sunday of each month and Directors meet the 4th Sunday) and are encouraged to serve the organization as either an officer of their respective board, or a member of a committee.

The Right Stuff

What it takes for either position is a desire to see our Member User Groups succeed.

If you think you've got the right stuff, we'd like to talk to you. Email election07@apcug.net to let us know you would like to run.

Thank you from the Nominating Committee.

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Zune - A Player for the Rest of Us

By Ash Nallawalla, APCUG Director,
Australia

Are you older than 50? Have you tried to use an MP3 or video player but found your thumbs and fingers were all mixed up? Perhaps the text was too hard to read? A solution is at hand, in the form of the Microsoft Zune player. Its large fonts and simple controls make it quite suitable for the 50+ age group. The buttons give positive feedback, unlike the capacitive touch pads on others where you might click more than you intended to. Available in stores and online for around \$230, this gadget is a portable picture viewer, video and music player, as well as a radio. It is about the size and weight of a deck of cards.



The Zune has a 3x2-inch (320x240 pixels) color screen and a 30 GB hard drive. Its circular control is a 4-way switch and the centre is a push-button. There are two smaller Back and Play/Pause buttons. At the base there is a docking socket and at the top is an earphone socket and a lock. The only accessories that you get are a soft pouch, earphones and a USB connector. The two earbuds are magnetized, so they snap together when not in use and do not get tangled up.

There is built-in WiFi, but it only communicates with another Zune, with which you can transfer music (not video). These shared tunes only last for three days and you can only play each one three times. Once you name your Zune (its "tag"), you can participate in the community of nearby Zunes within WiFi range and share your music or let them see what you are listening to.

How much can you fit on the 30 GB Zune? The official estimate is about 30 hours of video, 25,000 pictures, or 7500 tunes. Some people have hacked it to take an 80-100 GB drive, but this will void the warranty.

In use

Installation was dead easy on my Windows XP desktop, once I swapped the USB connector from the front of my PC to a slot at the back. The Zune was recognized and the process updated the firmware and the

Zune software. It fetched the latest data from the Zune Marketplace, which is the online music store.

I tried the 14-day free trial (included in the box) of the Zune Pass, which normally costs \$14.99 per month or \$44.95 for three months. You can download all the songs you want and they can be played while your subscription is current.

The Zune software found all music, video clips and pictures on my PC - there wasn't a lot to begin with, so this was quick. I found a couple of CDs and some music clips online and synchronized them with the Zune. There is still 27 GB free so I might get a converter program that will let me load some full-length movies that I could watch on a round-the-world flight later this month.

The Zune's ability to store digital images and home-made videos makes it easy to bore your relatives and workmates with your family's latest activities and archival footage featuring at least four generations! Think about it - if you lost your home in a fire or flood, wouldn't it be great if you had transferred all your pictures and home videos to the Zune?

I am more of a radio listener than a pure music listener. The Zune displays the radio frequency in a large font so you'd need to be almost blind not to read it. My favorite FM station supports the Radio Data System (RDS) which is also known as the Radio Data Broadcast System (RDBS) - this means the name of the song being played and the performer are displayed on the Zune.

You can store song lyrics if you have them, but you cannot see them on the Zune screen. In the future we might see synchronized lyrics but I am not sure if there will be a bouncing dot to go with the words.

I noticed a clever feature when listening to music and I pulled out the headphones in the middle of a tune. The music pauses - so you don't lose your place and it can be resumed when you plug back the headphones.

Audio quality is fine, at least for what you can expect from basic earphones. I didn't test the battery capacity but most people report about 11 hours with the WiFi switched off.

Quirks

The main irritation for me is that while the Zune is be-

ing charged, it is unusable for anything else. You can click the buttons and nothing will happen.

My next nag is the inability to connect to the Internet with the built-in WiFi. This could be a future possibility. Closely related is the inability to get podcasts into the Zune easily. The latter is easily solved with the free, third-party program FeedYourZune, which is also an RSS reader.

You cannot use the Zune as a data storage device and so it is not visible through Windows Explorer. It would be handy if we could use it for occasional data storage. I had to use a third party hack (to my Windows registry) to achieve this.

Community

There are many sites that feature the Zune. Here are a few:

- Zune Insider - Cesar Menendez (MSFT): <http://zuneinsider.com>
- Zune Guy - Bill Wittress (MSFT): <http://zuneguy.com>
- Zune User Group: <http://www.zuneusergroup.com>

Recommendation

You will enjoy using a Zune! I have a white Zune but you can get it in pink, red, brown and black. You can buy numerous accessories such as docks, protective cases, chargers, cables, and so on. For more information, visit the official site <http://www.zune.net>.

Improving Your Chances When You MUST Lend Your User Group's Equipment

**Sam Wexler, APCUG Advisor
President, Valencia Falls Computer Club
swexler@apcug.net**

We have all received requests from other groups to borrow your club's equipment like a multimedia projector, laptop or anything else. For some you know it is OK, but for others you know deep down inside your projector is either not coming back, coming back

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in pieces, or even worse, coming back with a problem that will occur during your next speaker's presentation. If you don't lend it out then you are looking at some bad feelings, maybe among members of your own club. There is also the case when you want to use your club's equipment at another club's function to which you belong. What do you do?

Our Valencia Falls Computer Club has a multimedia projector that we have loaned many times to many different groups and have had no problems (yet). We have only one rule: when any equipment is borrowed, a body goes with the equipment, the body is responsible for its safe return and the body must be a member of our club's Board. To firmly cement this rule, propose it at a club meeting and ask for a show of hands where no one in their right mind will vote against it.

When a request is received to borrow anything, the immediate response is for the requestor to find a body. If the requestor has any problem with the rule, then tell them you are simply following the request of 100% of the membership and you are subject to impeachment if you did not honor it.

Try it and see if it also works for you!

Why Dogs Shouldn't Use Computers

1. He's distracted by cats chasing his mouse.
2. SIT and STAY were hard enough; CUT and PASTE are out of the question.
3. Saliva-coated floppy disks refuse to work.
4. Three words: carpal paw syndrome.
5. Involuntary tail wagging is a dead give-away that he's browsing www.purina.com instead of working.
6. The fire hydrant icon is simply too frustrating.
7. He can't help attacking the screen when he hears, "You've Got Mail."
8. It's too messy to "mark" every Web site he visits.
9. The FETCH command isn't available on all platforms.
10. He can't stick his head out of Windows XP.

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**

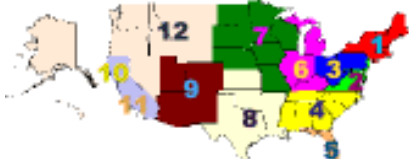
Information for program chairs, growing your user group, newsletter & PR guidelines and more have been compiled from various sources including past APCUG conferences and regional events.

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	Open	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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Regional events are being organized in various areas of the United States. Check to see if there is one near you. <http://www.apcug.net/events/index.htm>