



The Bytes of Las Vegas

November, 2008

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President's Message

With the season of Thanksgiving and all the hype of Christmas being pushed at us from the stores and on the radio and TV, it is easy to forget why we have these holidays.

Let me tell you about what happened to my wife and I as we tried to take care of some of the business for the Users Group this last while. We put a box out at the last General Meeting at the Cheyenne Library and one or two of the members gave food for the Whitney Elementary School. Also one member gave me \$10 to use for this purpose. We bought some food items and added them to the items we received at the meeting.

We made the trip to the school with a box of shoes that my son and his family had gathered up and the food items. When we arrived my wife went in to see where to deliver the items.

While she was waiting for some help, she heard three people talking about not having enough food for the kids to take home for the weekend and several of the children were just wearing socks to school and didn't have shoes or coats. When they saw that we had some food and clothing for the kids, they so happy to have help and were so appreciative and glad to see what we had.

The Principal of the school said that just when it looked like they would not be able to feed the children, someone seems to show up with food. It made our trip worth it and we felt we had done something good for the Group and ourselves in a small act of charity. Just a little bit of giving went a long way for these children.

I believe we all can have a greater time this holiday sea-

son if we would all just try to help or understand someone else's problems other than ourselves.

It would be a happier and healthier world if we would all try to do a few random acts of kindness.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Holiday Party and know we will have a great year together

"Members helping Members"

Clyde Schubarth

President, 2008-2009



Holiday Social

December 4, 2008
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Paseo Verde Library

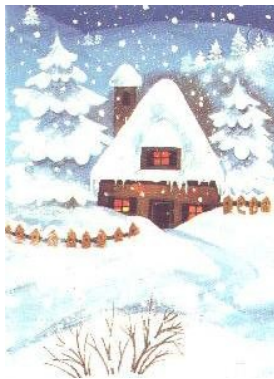


General Meeting—December 4, 2008

Our December meeting will be something different. We will be having a Holiday Social for all of our members.

The Social will be held at the Paseo Verde Library in Henderson (just south of the Green Valley Parkway and Paseo Verde on the left side). The address is 280 S. Green Valley Parkway. We will be using the meeting room at the front of the Library.

Time:6:00-8:00 p.m.



Some of the plans for the evening are as follows:

The meal will be potluck. We are asking everyone to bring a dish to share. A meat platter and utensils will be provided. We are looking forward to the great food!

A raffle for a Navigon 2100 GPS System will be held. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the door.



Music will be provided by Winston Sanders, one of our members.

We are going to have a contest of the BEST photo taken at the Social. All you have to do is bring your camera, snap some great shots, and

submit them to clyde1580@cox.net by January 1. The pictures will be reviewed and a special prize awarded.

Each member is encouraged to bring a Guest to share the evening.

There will be a box for donations to the children at Whitney Elementary. They are in need of the following: non-perishable food items (snack items help in individual packets), toys and clothing, or gift cards. Please do not wrap the toys or clothing.

So that we will know how many to plan for, please let us know if you and/or a guest will be attending. Please send an email to info@lvpcug.org and an idea of what food item you may be bringing to share.

See you there!!!



Little Bytes

RECYCLING BRINGS REWARDS

The LVPCUG are receiving rebates for recycling ink cartridges and cell phones. The Recycling Committee urges members to set aside those used ink cartridges and cell phones and bring them to the general meeting. You might also spread the word to family members and friends to save them for you too. There is no cost to the club, only your time in gathering the material and the committee members' time to package it.

If you have any questions, please see Thomas Linn or Judy Ruf at the General Meeting.

New Year Plans

Plans for the Year 2009 are in the works, The Board of Directors are working hard to develop new programs that will be fun and informative. This is YOUR Club and we need your help. Please send in ideas, comments, and thoughts of what YOU would like. We would ask that you forward these items to info@lvpcug.org.

Take the time to share and help make this Club even better. We already have some great plans in the works. Wait 'til you see them! Coming soon!!!!

Digital Imaging SIG

Howard Mark
256-3662

2nd Sunday
12:00—2:00 p.m.

Nevada Power
6226 W. Sahara
(Meeting room
at back of building)

Photographs, Adobe
Photoshop and Ele-
ments. Techniques to
edit photos.

Digital Imaging



Low Budget Shooting

Do It Yourself Solutions to Professional Photo Gear

By

Cyrill Harnischmacher

Reviewed by Howard Mark, Digital Imaging Techniques SIG Leader

The do it yourself subtitle line got my attention rather quickly – not that I am an inveterate – DIY guy. I can use most common household tools without hitting my thumb more than once while driving home a nail.

The author's one page Introduction quickly defines the book's hard to argue primary premise – without good lighting you are probably not going to get great pictures. He also makes the point that there is no reason to rigidly follow his designs and construction suggestions. He urges you to redesign, innovate and by all means use his effort as a point of departure to serve your own needs. The introduction's tag line is: Much success and "good light".

This hardcover book's next 63 pages will show you how, using common household tools and readily available materials, to construct your own light modifying implements. Some of these are:

- Imaging tables
- Mini-seamless backdrop
- Small and outdoor light tents and a large light cube
- Reflectors and diffusers
- Softboxes, mirrors and a flashlight light brush

The book is profusely illustrated – 95% of the book's pages. 60 out of 63, contain at a minimum one or more of the following:

- Photographs – showing tools, materials, a finished project or photos taken while using one of his projects, etc. The latter proving Cervantes quote "the proof of the pudding is in the eating". Use your new project X implement and you too can make beautiful pictures.
- Construction sketches – material layouts/drawings complete with dimensions and instructions
- Material lists – that itemize the needed materials, tools and suggested sources

The last chapter of the book is entitled "Going Shopping". Here you are offered a rather thorough list of shopping venues and what kind of needed supplies you can expect to find at each. As an example – perhaps an atypical example but a good one never the less – is a Kite Building Supply Store. Here the author suggests you can find "Rip stop nylon, fiberglass rods, fittings, all things that need to be lightweight, yet strong".

From Where I sit...

The publication, from design to layout, content, photos, sketches, paper and binding appear to me to be of high quality. At 8.5 inches square and weighing a pound the book has a certain quality heft to it. Now I am not suggesting that the heavier the book the better it is. Rather that it just feels "right".

For my own selfish reasons I hope the book turns out to be highly successful. Successful enough so the author might be encouraged to write another one with some more of his excellent ideas, instructions and suggestions.

The author is a working professional photographer who, mostly likely, can afford to buy professional photo equipment – and probably has. As many of you may know once the word "professional" is attached to any photo equipment the price seems to rise dramatically. Here you are offered a path to build professional level lighting tools and to do so with substantial cost savings.

If you choose to build and use any of the projects in this book I believe you will be able to achieve the promised light control. Please understand I am not promising any remarkable changes in skill, technical competence or creativity when using your newly constructed project. But then also please remember that "hope springs eternal" – especially in photography.

I hope you find the book well worth reading – I did.

Rocky Nook publishes the book and it is distributed by O'Reilly books.

O'Reilly has a very active User Group program which offers a 35% discount on their books if you order directly from them. To get the discount use the code – DSUG.

Here is some useful information if you plan on ordering the book:

Title and Author: Top of first page

ISBN:978-1-933952-10-9

Price: \$19.95

O'Reilly Website: <http://oreilly.com/pub/topic/digiphoto>

"Any club member, whose membership is in good standing, is welcome to place their name in nomination for election in March 2009 to the following offices:

- President
- Vice President
- Executive Director
- Secretary
- Treasurer

To place your name in nomination or questions regarding the duties of each office should be directed to the 2009 Election Committee: James Barrett, jtbarlv@embarqmail.com, Linda DiGiovanni, systemapplicationreview@yahoo.com or Richard Robusto, ricmar2@cox.net. Thanks are extended to these members for volunteering to serve on this important committee.

Rudolf to Blitzen

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year (the only members of the deer family, Cervidae, to have females to do so). Male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November or mid December.



Female reindeer, however, retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolf to Blitzen...had to be a female.

We should've known this when they were able to find their way without a GPS!

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.

Membership Application

(Please print)

Date _____ New Renewal

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Spouse's email: _____

It is LVPCUG policy to keep your information confidential. Your information may be released to other members; however, for contact, meetings, and other Club business as needed.

Supplemental Information (optional, but helpful):

How did you hear about the LVPCUG?

What type of Computer User are you? (Please circle all that apply)

Novice Intermediate Advanced Consultant Trainer Work Related Home User

Other (please specify): _____

Please put an "X" in front of the items you use and have some knowledge of, and an "O" in front of those subjects you would like to learn more about:

_____ Programming	_____ emailing	_____ Digital Imaging
_____ Networking	_____ Desktop Publishing	_____ Windows
_____ MS Office	_____ Multi-media	_____ Linux
_____ Operating Systems	_____ How to	_____ Genealogy
_____ Hardware	_____ Internet	_____ Mobile Comp.

Other: _____

Send check for \$30 to: Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.
Membership Director
1350 E. Flamingo Road #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Or bring it to the General Meeting held on the 1st Wednesday.