



The Bytes of Las Vegas

June, 2009

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President's Message

What a month we have had--the first meeting from APCUG, the first Board Meeting held with the use of Skype, and the first long distance President.

Our membership in APCUG allows all of our members to log in to several Live Meetings and see how the other Users Groups from different parts of the country hold their meetings. We are allowed to see all the presentations that some of the members from other parts of the country are willing to share with us and learn from them at no cost to our members. With special training, you can see presentations from different APCUG member clubs. Can you imagine all the things we can learn from other people who are working on computers.

As many of you know my family and I have moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. This is home for us and home of my ancestors. We have a home about 3 minutes from our daughter and my two grandsons and about 10 minutes from my son and my two granddaughters so we are surrounded by family and in a beautiful part of the country.

In an effort to help the Users Group, I will stay on if needed till January 2010 in an effort to help the group meet the future of the Club Committee's requirements and to maintain a continuity of leadership. In this effort, we had a board meeting where I attended via the Internet with a Skype connection and was able to conduct the meeting and get important work done on behalf of the Users Group. As many of you know, I have been a big proponent of the use of web camera and this was just one of the many ways it can be used to help each and every one of us. The ability to talk to our families and our grandkids is another. I know that pictures are not the greatest but I got to see some of my family the other night that I had not seen for years. What a great treat.
(continued on page3)

No meetings will be held in July and August-----Mark your calendar

**Next General Meeting to be held
September 2, 2009 at 6:15 p.m.**

Please contact the website for the latest information.

Announcements

The Special Interest Groups (SIG) will be meeting at their regular times. Be sure to check the calendar on the website. We are looking for a new place for our General meetings and SIGs. If you have any suggestions, please email us at info@LVPCUG.org

Check the website at www.LVPCUG.org for the calendar dates and times.

Would you like to share a computer talent you have or would be interested in learning about a certin topic. We would appreciate your ideas!

RECYCLING BRINGS REWARDS

The LVPCUG is 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. Their 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 on Sept. 2 at the West Charleston Library.

Officers and Volunteers Contact by sending an email to info@lvpcug.org

Board of Directors

- Clyde Schubarth.....President
- Harold Rozinski.....Vice President
- Joyce Shore.....Treasurer
- Robert Lynch.....Secretary
- Judy Ruf.....Exective Director

- Larry Burgher.....Webmaster
- Don Sabatine.....Product Review
- Howard Mark.....Down the Road Editor
- Leland Beel.....Bytes of Las Vegas Editor, Little Bytes Editor

Website: www.lvpcug.org

Membership

Dues are \$30 per year. Dues are collected Annually from your membership date. If you would like to join, a membership form is located at the end of the newsletter. Please complete and forward to our mailing address.

Mailing Address

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.
1350 E. Flamingo Rd. #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Newsletter

The Bytes of Las Vegas is published on a monthly basis.

A PDF version is available to members online at the website.

Information in this newsletter was obtained from sources considered to be reliable.

Accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed.

Deadline for article submission:

10 th of each month to info@lvpcug.org



President's Message continued from page 1

As I have said all along Life is not a spectator's sport. We all need to be working with the talents we have to make the Users Group work and to make life work for all of us. Don't be someone who asks someone else to do all the work while you set back and do nothing. We are going to be having a special election to fill some of the positions on the Board and some of our members have stepped up to do more than ever so think what you can do and volunteer to help.

We are exploring ways to have meetings by computer that will let you see the meetings from your home. We can set up training sessions on topics that might be of interest and fun for the members to help create and watch. Now is the time to get involved to learn how to do some of these great things on the computer.

Follow up for information about the Live Meetings

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups will have a training meeting on how to use Live Meeting on July 13th (Monday) at 4 pm PDT. The second training meeting will be on July 18th (Saturday) at 1 pm PDT.

In order to connect to the Live Meeting you will need to go to the website www.apcug.net and look at the main page and find the instructions to get registered and get a log in and password to Sharepoint site. This will need some time, so it needs to be done some time before you plan using it to log in to the site.

Mark your calendar for the September Meeting on the Sep 2nd (Wed) at 6:15 pm.

Our presenter will be Mr. Al Gibes from the Review Journal newspaper.

Bio: Mr. Gibes is the Online Guy at the newspaper, writing the Online Guy column weekly, since May 1998. More information will follow before the September meeting.

Information about the New Operating System from Microsoft

Windows 7 as the system will be called is due to be released for sale on October 22, 2009, latest information as of June 26, 2009.

The new Windows 7 is a new rewrite that is some of XP and some of Vista but at more speed in loading, faster processing. This information on most of the tech web sites such as www.zdnet.com, www.cnet.com and others that you may find if you search for Windows 7 OS on the major search sites. It appears that Microsoft will release 5 different levels, starting with Starter, Home Basic, Home Premium, Professional, the top end is Ultimate. This will be a interesting time in the fall if you are planning on a purchase of a new computer it looks like it will come equipped with the new Windows 7 OS.

INTERNET TIP

Protect Your Primary E-mail Address

Chat rooms and message boards are among the most appealing places for spammers to gather e-mail addresses. Protect your primary e-mail address by creating other "throwaway" e-mail addresses for posting on message boards and for giving out to people and sites you're not sure you can trust. Many ISPs allow you to create secondary screen names or additional e-mail addresses at little or no cost, or you can get free e-mail addresses from Yahoo!, Hotmail, and other free-e-mail services.

If spam comes flooding into those accounts, you can always delete them and make a new one, all the while shielding your primary address from the flood.

APCUG help tips

(DG) Dave Gerber www.davebytes.com



How Can I Capture PC Screen Contents?

By Gabe Goldberg, Computing and Publishing, Inc. Tipler (at) gabegold.com

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all others users require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above)

It's often desirable or necessary to capture—that is, record into a file-- what's on your Windows screen. Windows has two basic tools for this: the Print Screen (or PrtScreen or some other variant) key captures the contents of your entire Windows desktop onto the Windows

Clipboard:

pressing Alt and PrintScreen captures only the active program window. Sometimes one of the choices is exactly what you need.

Remember that the Clipboard only holds one item – so to collect multiple images, you must save each one before collecting another.

A handy way to do this is with the Windows Paint program. Open Paint by clicking Start, All Programs, Accessories, and Paint. After capturing each image, make Paint the active window, press Ctrl-V to paste the image into Paint's work area, then click File/Save and specify the file's name and format (JPEG or .jpg is compact and usually adequate).

But sadly, these techniques aren't very flexible. If you need just the details in part of a window or you need contents of a scrollable area, tough luck.

Fortunately, many other tools exist. My favorite screen capture tool is CaptureWiz at <http://www.pixelmetrics.com/> from PixelMetrics. Modestly priced and described as “quality screen capture software for busy people,” it includes options to capture anything, anywhere on your screen.

Two CaptureWiz versions are available: Lite (\$19.95) which handles screen capture options including area, frame, all, scroll, video, and audio; and Pro (\$29.95) which adds flexibility, options, and features, and also captures scrolling areas animation, audio, mouse pointer, and more.

I use CaptureWiz to create graphics which accompany my Tipler articles, after each capture it presents a dialogue box for saving the images. I like its feature which retains captured images so I needn't worry about losing them by forgetting to immediately save them.

There are many other screen capture utilities, Googling windows “screen capture” finds an abundant shopping list with free and various cost choices.

Snagit by TechSmith is another well-regarded modestly priced product. (<http://www.techsmith.com/screen-capture.asp>)

Digital Imaging

Digital Imaging SIG

Howard Mark
262-3662

2 nd Sunday
12:00--2:00 p.m.

Nevada Energy
6226 W. Sahara
(Meeting Room at
back of building)
Photographs. Adobe
Photoshop and Elements.
Techniques to edit
photos.

Adobe Photoshop Elements is a great program to enhance your photos, catalog your pictures, and create extra features for print and the web.

At the following site: www.photoshopelementsuser.com, there are tutorials and a forum to join that will provide more information.

Did you know that this program will help you find your photos quickly. With the invention of the digital camera, it is easier to take lots of photos and this will help you find them.

There are also scrapbooking features to help you create backgrounds, colors, and edging for your photos.

You can easily create stories with your photos.

At the Digital Imaging SIG, they have discussed the tutorials of this program. The SIG will help you learn how to use the program and your digital camera better. Schedule attending this SIG to learn from your fellow club members.

Linux/Open Source

Don Sabatine
451-6805

3rd Sunday
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Nevada Energy
6226 W. Sahara Av.

A free operating system
that is an alternative
to Microsoft
Windows

Linux/Open Source

Ubuntu is not only a superior and free operating system, but it is bundled with many open source (free) applications. A short list of these applications include: Open Office, Graphics(with photo editing using Gimp), Numerous Games, Numerous Accessories including Screenshots, Passwords and Encryption Keys, Disk Burning, Movie Player, Music Player, Web Browser, Instant Messaging.

All this and more is free and available from the Internet.

Plan to attend the Linux SIG to learn more ways to use this program. The best part of it is that it has many programs that work like the Microsoft Office programs but it is free.

The upgrades are done and posted to the web and are free to use. You can download the program at www.ubuntu.com

Imagination rules the world.

We must take things as we find them, and not as we wish them to be.

Napoleon Bonaparte 15 August 1769--5 May 1821

Genealogy SIG

Sam Giordano
452-4037
Samespin1@cox.net
2 nd Saturday
10:15-11:15 a.m.

Family History Center
501 S. 9th Street

Search the internet
for your family history
using software and web
sites.

How to Workshop SIG

Dennis Kemper
458-0654

4th Saturday
9:30-2:30 p.m.

Paseo Verde Library
280 S. Green Valley
Parkway

Bring your laptops and
desktops for checks or
repairs.

Office Applications SIG

Wendy Jaroslowski
339-3812
2nd Saturday
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Nevada Engery
6226 W. Sahara Av
Learn Office,Excel,
Power Point,Word,
and more.

Genealogy

Family Search is website sponsored by the LDS Church to help people find their ancesstors. Family Search Labs is a website that tests new programs that can be used by Family Search. It is located at www.labs.familysearch.org. Here are some of current projects: Record Search This is a quick and easy way to search millions of records. Click on a map to see what records are available for the area. You can also enter information on your ancestors and find records.

Family Tree You and other members of your family can enter information about your family and you can watch it grow. Enter your name and the tree starts with your information.

Check this site out for more projects.

Attend this SIG at the Family History Center and get help for roadblocks that you may run into.

How-to-Workshop

AVG--Free Software for Virus Protection. AVG protects your computer against virus and spyware. It is easy to use. Many computer experts recommend and use AVG. Go to www.free.avg.com.

Another freeware is AVAST. It is also a freeware and has over 80 millon users. It can be found at www.avast.com. With AVAST you register a key that is good for 1 year. Then you have to re-do the registration.

A free Spyware program is Ad-Aware. This program has received numerous awards and can be downloaded at www.lavasoft.com Protecting your computer does not need to be expensive.

Programs that have been checked and rated by PC Magazine are available to you for free. Check these programs out.

Training Programs You can get free Microsoft Office training. Go to <http://>

www.educationonlineforcomputers.com/blogs/post/category/microsoft_office_training_tutorial.

This site has several tutorials that will teach you how to use Microsoft Office. Microsoft.com also has numerous training tutorials to help you. They have templates, forms, tutorials and many other help programs about their software.

The Office suite has numerous tips to help you produce the items you need.

Our Office Application SIG has people that can help you with using this powerful software.

Come and join them and let them help you.

Helping Hands

Linda DiGiovani
395-6676

1st Saturday
10:00--4:00 p.m.

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

Help for computer
building,
repair and problems.

Members helping members.

Helping Hands

Why up date your drivers? It is drivers that power the devices in or attached to your computer. It is important to check the drivers at least once a year and update them. Your devices may not work properly or at all if they do not have updates on a regular basis. There are lots of reasons why you need to keep your device drivers updated, but the simple one is that if you do not do so, the device may just stop working because of bug repairs and updates that do not have the proper drivers. Device drivers are something you should stay up on.

Schedule a time on your calendar on a regular basis to check your various devices and programs so you have the most up-to-date drivers.

None of us like a broken computer. You can bring your computer to our Helping Hands SIG and get help with your problems.

Wireless Networking

Harold Rozinski
870-8946

4th Saturday
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Paseo Verde Library
280 S. Green Valley
Parkway

Wireless technology,
benefits, pitfalls.

Wireless Networking

Wifi Hot Spots You can take advantage of Public WIFI hot spots or start a wireless network in your home. The first thing you need to do is to make sure your computer has the right gear. Most new laptops and newer desktops come with built-in transmitters.

If your laptop does not have the right equipment, you can buy a wireless adapter to plug into the USB port. Once the adapter is installed and the driver checked, the computer should automatically start and discover any hot spots in the area. The computer will inform you of the existence of a network ask whether you want to connect to it. You can access the internet, your email, website or favorites.

Having a home wireless network, allows you to easily connect several computers and to easily move the computers from spot to spot.

TIPS AND TRICKS

MOUSE TIP

If you are using a wireless optical mouse then get a white or light-colored mouse pad. The mouse's infrared transmitter/receiver uses less power if it's reading a light-colored surface. This will make your batteries last longer. Via Dave Gerber (APCUG) www.davebytes.com



Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.

LAS VEGAS PC
USERS GROUP

Membership Application

New Members or Renewal with Information Changes

To join the Las Vegas PC User Group, please complete the information below. The form can be mailed with a check or brought to the General Meeting. Dues are \$30 per year per family. More information about the Club can be obtained from www.LVPCUG.org

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

(Please Print)

Name(1): _____ Name(2): _____

Email (1) _____ Email (2) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

It is LVPCUG policy to keep your information confidential.

Supplemental Information (optional, but helpful):

How did you hear about the LVPCUG? _____

Areas of Interest: _____

Send check for \$30 to:

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.
Membership Director
1350 E. Flamingo Rd #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119-5270

Club Use only: Memb, No. _____ Rec'd _____

Amount _____ Method _____

