



# The Bytes of Las Vegas

January, 2011

## New Notice to Members:

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## SPECIAL NOTICE

**THE ANNUAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD AT  
THE MARCH 2ND, 2011 MEETING HELD AT  
THE CHARLESTON LIBRARY**

**MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 4**

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2011 Time: 5:00-6:45 PM (NOTE  
NEW TIME)**

**Place: West Charleston Library 6301 W Charleston**

**Please contact <http://www.lvpcug.org> for latest information.**

**Announcements**

The Special Interest Groups (SIG) will be meeting at their regular times. Be sure to check the calendar on the web site. We are looking for a new place for our General meetings and SIG's. If you have any suggestions, please email us at [info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org)

Check the web site at <http://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 certain topic. We would appreciate your ideas!

**RECYCLING** The used ink and toner is good for the environment but at this time the Las Vegas PC Users Group is no longer accepting the items for recycling. The Club would like to recommend that you recycle your items with the [Cartridge World](#) Stores located in the Las Vegas area.

**Officers and Volunteers**

Contact by sending an email to [info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org)

Board of Directors

Larry Burgher

Technical Director &

Wendy Jaroslowski      President

Webmaster

Harold Rozinski      Vice President

Linda DiGiovanni

SIG Coordinator

Joyce Shore      Treasurer

Leland Beel

Bytes of Las Vegas Editor

Robert Lynch      Secretary

& Little Bytes Editor

Judy Ruf      Executive Director

**Membership Questions** If you have any questions about your membership.

Please send email: [membership@lvpcug.org](mailto:membership@lvpcug.org)

Web site: <http://www.lvpcug.org>

**Membership**

**\$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. Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc. 1350 E. Flamingo Rd# 188**

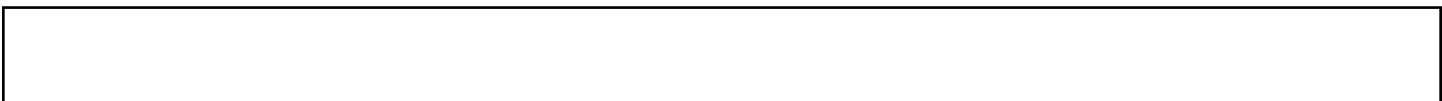
**Las Vegas, NV 89119**

**Newsletter**

**The Bytes of Las Vegas is published on as needed.**

**A PDF version is available to members online at the web site.**

**Information in the newsletter was obtained from sources considered to be reliable. Accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed.**





**NEXT GENERAL MEETING : WEDNESDAY March  
2nd 2011 TIME: 5:00 - 6:45 PM**

**PLACE: WEST CHARLESTON LIBRARY  
6301 W CHARLESTON BLVD (East of Torrey Pines)**

**“Computers are magnificent tools for the realization of  
our dreams, but no machine can replace the human spark  
of spirit, compassion, love, and understanding.”**

**[Louis Gerstner](#)**

**When Your Computer Has  
You Really Frustrated.  
This is a new Key not  
found on your Keybd.**

We are looking for a space to conduct an informational demo  
about LVPCUG. If you know of any place that is available to conduct  
a demo about the Club Please contact Judy Ruf or send email to:  
[info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org) Needed are a table space some chairs and an  
electrical outlet to plug in a laptop computer.

For those members who use [Cartridge World](#) for their printer consumables, please note that their store  
formerly in the Home Depot shopping center at Rainbow and Charleston has moved to [3655 S Rainbow](#)  
Suite 104 in the Walmart shopping near Spring Mountain. Thanks to Karl Rehak for discovering this.  
Their other store is still at [9550 S Eastern Ave](#), Suite 190.

Attend a meeting and you have a chance to win a door prize from the drawing at the  
end of the meeting, Door Prize winner from the December 1st meeting was Charles  
Fredrick who won a \$25 Gift Certificate to Cartridge World.

**THIS SPACE AND MORE IS RESERVED FOR  
A NOTE, HINT, COMMENT OR OTHER WISE  
FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
LAS VEGAS PC USER GROUP  
THANKS THE EDITOR**



**Membership Corner**

**Member dues help the club pay bills such as liability insurance, Clear Internet service, web site fees, APCUG membership, equipment, meeting room rent, and raffle prizes. It is important that members be always on the lookout for a perspective new member.**

**Welcome new members . Members if you use online banking you can send your renewal fast and easy by letting the bank do the work and pay for the postage. Our club information is Las Vegas PC Users Group, 1350 E. Flamingo Rd. #188, Las Vegas, NV 89119.**

**New Notice to Members:**

**The Executive Board has decided to reduce the frequency of General Meetings from monthly to quarterly because of the difficulty in getting presenters, and because of low attendance. Meetings are scheduled for March 2nd, 2011, June 1st, 2011, September 7th, 2011, and December 7th, 2011. The frequency of board meetings is also reduced, so they occur in the month just prior to the general meeting.**

**The number of The Bytes of Las Vegas posted to the web site will decrease in number, more information at a latter date.**

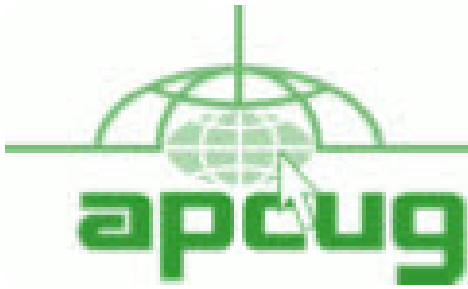
**ELECTION NEWS**

**The Election of the Officers of the Las Vegas PC Users Group will be conducted at the general meeting on March 2nd, 2011.**

**The Election Committee has nominated the existing Board of Officers, who are agreeable to run in this upcoming election.**

**If you have any questions please send email to [info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org)**





If you are a member of LVPCUG that means you are a member of APCUG and you have a great opportunity to use the resources that they provide. Such as the calendar that members may log in and view a meeting of a different club or SIG and see what they are doing. Please go to [www.apcug.org](http://www.apcug.org) and create a users account in the APCUG SharePoint Site so that you can enjoy some of the benefits of membership in the LVPCUG and its shared portals.

Jan 2

BoD Elections The Board of Directors elected Kathy Jacobs President, Vice President Marie Vesta, Secretary Jim Evans, Treasurer Clint Tinsley

Jan 3

BoA Elections The Board of Advisors elected David Steward Chairman, Robert Vance Vice Chair, and Patty Lowry Secretary

**“Here” in the above article is referring to the [www.apcug.net](http://www.apcug.net) web page with the information about the Live Meeting Training information. This will be a direct link to the proper information.**

From rogue AV to fake disk clean-up utilities  
[www.zdnet.com/blog/security/from-rogue-av-to-fake-disk-clean-up-utilities/7804?tag=nl.e539](http://www.zdnet.com/blog/security/from-rogue-av-to-fake-disk-clean-up-utilities/7804?tag=nl.e539)

\$100 bill printing error: Over \$110 billion unusable

<http://www.zdnet.com/photos/100-bill-printing-error-over-110-billion-unusable/489747>

The most popular Windows Blog tips of 2010

<http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/window-on-windows/?p=3457&tag=nl.e064>

New Google Feature Identifies Malware-Infected Sites For years, hackers have turned the Internet into a never-ending game of "malware roulette, with virtually any web site running the risk of being compromised. In an effort to make the online community ...

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20110106-04> Thanks Larry and Wendy



How to tell you're short on time...

Here is your funny Picture from AhaJokes.com



LAS VEGAS PC USERS GROUP

Buy, Sell or Trade This is a new section for the Members

Item name and description, what is wanted to do with item, price or other terms

Persons: Name,Phone number if desired and or an email address to contact the person placing the Ad in The Bytes of Las Vegas.

The Ad will run for 3 months and then will be discontinued unless the request is resubmitted for one time more.

??? No commercial ads to be run for free?? Subject to editors space and time.

Please Contact the Editor by sending an email to: [editor@lvpcug.org](mailto:editor@lvpcug.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Keyboard Manager (Fellowes), under desk, fully adjustable both height and tilt, gel wrist rests, gliding mouse pad. New, never used, still in box. \$35.

Email: [mcmxx@embarqmail.com](mailto:mcmxx@embarqmail.com). Phone:702-361-6363. M. Mills



Date ad Started  
10, 2010 11,2010  
1, 2011







• **Emails To Look Out For:** If you get an email urging you to update your eBay, PayPal, or bank account information, chances are it's false. An easy way to tell in Outlook is to hover your mouse pointer over the hyperlink in the message. If the URL reads something like "www.paypal.com" in the message, but some other address such as "www.vali-dationcgi.org" shows up in the floating box next to the pointer as you hover, you can be pretty certain you should delete the email. Phishing emails attempt to get you to provide personal information by mimicking emails from legitimate companies. Most companies will never ask you to verify account information with an email, so beware any such correspondence.

• **GOOGL It:** When you are looking for something in an unfamiliar area, it can be a real pain to figure out where things are. But if you send a text message to GOOGL (46645) with a search query, such as "Pizzerias, Omaha," you'll get a free text message right back from the search company, with the answer to your query. You can also use this service to define words (for example "define zenith") and more.

• **Flash Drive Benefits:** If you're like many laptop users, you take your computer everywhere. Portable computing means that your storage devices will undoubtedly absorb more abuse from bumps and scrapes than those left behind on a desktop PC. Some storage technologies aren't well-suited for the road—hard drives can break if they suffer a hard blow, and CDs and DVDs are easy to scratch to the point that you can't read them. That's where USB flash memory drives often shine. These drives are small enough to fit on a keychain, and they come in tough plastic cases that make them very difficult to damage.

"Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit [www.SmartComputing.com/groups](http://www.SmartComputing.com/groups) to learn what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group!"

The five most overhyped tech products of 2010

<http://www.zdnet.com/blog/btl/the-five-most-overhyped-tech-products-of-2010/42155?tag=nl.e539>

Your next PC: thinking beyond the desktop

<http://windowssecrets.com/links/tnv5qubb8w6md/33ab12h/?url=WindowsSecrets.com%2F2010%2F12%2F02%2Fts%2F%3Fn%3Dstory1>

The Ultimate Netbook Buyer's Guide - Part 1

<http://www.geeks.com/techtips/2010/ultimate-netbook-buyers-guide-part-1.asp>



### Hotmail Glitch Wipes Out Entire User Accounts

Users of Microsoft's Hotmail email service weren't welcomed by holiday greetings from their friends this past weekend. In fact, they didn't get any messages at all. Recent reports state that many ...

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20110103-04>

### McAfee Security Releases 2011 Threat Predictions Report

Security company McAfee Labs recently released their 2011 Threat Predictions report, where they foresee cyber criminals turning their attention to three specific attack vectors in the coming year. An ...

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20110103-05>

### Another Microsoft Exec Jumps Ship

[http://www.infopackets.com/news/business/microsoft/2011/20110120\\_another\\_microsoft\\_exec\\_jumps\\_ship.htm](http://www.infopackets.com/news/business/microsoft/2011/20110120_another_microsoft_exec_jumps_ship.htm)

### Kama Sutra Email Virus Puts Users in Tough Position

[http://www.infopackets.com/news/security/2011/20110120\\_kama\\_sutra\\_email\\_virus\\_puts\\_users\\_in\\_tough\\_position.htm](http://www.infopackets.com/news/security/2011/20110120_kama_sutra_email_virus_puts_users_in_tough_position.htm)

Strange but true!

This year we will experience 4 unusual dates.... 1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11 .... NOW go figure this out.... take the last 2 digits of the year you were born plus the age you will become this year and it WILL EQUAL TO 111. Thanks Joyce

This is from Steve Bass's latest issue of TechBite: It's CoolHotNot

I told you about CoolHotNot weeks ago and the site's cooking. Eight industry experts extolling the great products we use, the ones we wish we had, and the lemons that no one ought to get near.

CoolHotNot's CEO, Dave Whittle (former PIBMUG members will remember him) and the super curmudgeon, John Dvorak, talked to Dave Graveline about the new site. Watch the video, then sign up to win products at CoolHotNot by clicking on the I Want It button.

### IE, Firefox to Release 'Do Not Track' Add-Ons

Mozilla and Google have both followed Microsoft's lead in giving users

a chance to opt out of having their activity tracked by advertisers. But the voluntary schemes may not be effective enough to ...

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20110126-03>

Something I read at PC World. I have not tried it yet. Chuck F. Help by Leo (32-bit version)

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,169305/description.html?tk=nl\\_ddx\\_h\\_dlfeat](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,169305/description.html?tk=nl_ddx_h_dlfeat)

Thanks Larry, Wendy and Chuck





## What is Your Background?

*by*

Howard Mark

Digital Imaging Techniques SIG leader  
Las Vegas PC Users Group

OK, we are not talking about ethnicity here but what is typically behind a principal object, person, etc. you see when you take a photograph.

Today there is a way to take a picture and change the background at will. It does take a bit of planning but is really pretty simple to do.

For some history you have to go back to the 1940's where the movie industry found a way around a very expensive and time consuming process using optical photo printers to get special effects on film such as replacing backgrounds. Today it is hard to find a movie without special effects. Many of these effects are accomplished using the technique explained below.

The method of getting today's special effects such as a weather person giving you a weather report while standing in front of a satellite image of the U.S. is called Keying - more precisely Chroma Keying.

In its simplest form chroma keying can remove a given color from a picture. Once this is done you can replace that color with another color or even another image.

Currently the choices used as backgrounds - when taking a picture - are designated as Chroma Blue or Chroma Green

As an example if you take a picture of your son's soccer team positioned in front of a Chroma Green background it is simple to remove the green background and replace it with another color - or even a picture of the team's soccer field!

So to the point of this article.

A firm named Savage ([www.savagepaper.com](http://www.savagepaper.com)) is a company that offers a wide variety of photographic equipment among which are two digital background items.

These items can be found at the Savage web site home page (see above) under the items:

- Digital Backgrounds
- Digital Photography Kit

### Digital Backgrounds

The Digital Backgrounds products consist of 12 volumes of various background scenes that can be keyed into your photographs. Each volume offers 48 scenes, graphics, etc.

Here are a few of the offered volumes:

- Various images/colors of muslin drapes
- Holiday scenes
- Baby, child, teen graphics
- Scenic Outdoors

Continued on Page 10



Continued from Page 9

Now understand that these volumes offer just images and pictures. There is no software included that will do the Chroma Keying.

The process to do the keying is to be found in your photo editing software. You must have a program like Adobe Photoshop or Elements, Corel's Paint Shop Pro, etc.

### Digital Photography Kit

#### **Kit Includes:**

- Reversible (Blue and Green) Chroma Key Collapsible Background

Savage Collapsible Backgrounds are sized 60" x 72" (1.5m x 1.8m) and collapse to 1/3 their original size for easy transport. A durable carry bag is included.

- 8' (2.4m) Aluminum Background/Light Stand

Collapsed Height: 27" (68.58 cm) Lowest Height Use: 4' 2" (1.27 m) Weight: 2.4 lbs Dual purpose stand easily converts from a light stand to collapsible background stand.

- **Digital Background Variety Pack**

Contains 120 original themed 300dpi Digital Backgrounds that are sized to 2400x3000 pixels.

- **Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 9 Trial software**

Allows you to easily remove & replace backgrounds

### Comments and Opinion

If you have never worked with Chroma Keying it would be helpful to have a tutorial or two. Savage has figured this might be the case. To help you each volume comes with five tutorials. They are:

- **Photoshop:** Key Out Backgrounds, Photo Touch Ups and Added Floor Effect
  - **Adobe Elements:** Key Out Backgrounds
  - **FXhome Photo Key:** Key Out Backgrounds

### Costs

Savage is offering their Volumes for \$39.95 (3 for \$100). So buying a single volume makes each picture cost \$0.84. I was able to find a few sources for the Digital Kit at \$199.

### Opinion

Do you need these products? No you can go out and shoot these pictures and generate your own graphics if you choose to. Perhaps of greater import - can you do it for \$0.84 per image?

Even if you are a casual shooter I would be willing to bet you will find a use for these images. I know I will.

Thanks Howard Mark for this information



**SIG's MONTHLY CALENDAR**

<b>SIG NAME</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>TIME OF MEETING</b>	<b>SIG LEADER</b>
Helping Hands	1st Saturday	#1	10 AM TO 4 PM 395-6676	Linda DiGiovanna
Windows Developers	On hold till a meeting room can be found			
Novice(new users) And Internet	2nd Saturday	#1	1 PM TO 3 PM 452-9440	Chuck Frederick
Software and Product Review	2nd Saturday	#1	3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM 395-6676	Linda DiGiovanna
Digital Imaging	2nd Sunday	On Hold till a SIG Leader can be found		
LINUX/Open Source	3rd Saturday	Please contact Web page for Latest Info. Need a SIG Leader for The Group		
How-To-Workshop	4th Saturday	#2	10 AM TO 5 PM	Dennis
Starting March 26, 2011 (Note this is a new meeting place)				Kemper

**Places are:**

#1 Wengert Room is located in the back of the NV Energy building just west of Jones on W. Sahara

#2 Enterprise Library is located in Las Vegas at 25 E. Shelbourne Av. South of Windmill LN and East of Las Vegas Blvd.

All meetings Are Subject to Cancellation by the SIG Leader or the Property Owner. The Calendar Page of the LVPCUG web site is keep as current as possible. If you would like to be a SIG Leader for some of the SIG's that are not meeting at this time, Please Contact Wendy to get the details of the duties of the Leader. You may leave a email at [info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org).

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.

Membership Application

New Members or Renewal with Information Changes

To join the Las Vegas PC Users Group, please complete the information form 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 at : [www.lvpcug.org](http://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 LVPCUG? \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Check for \$30 to: Las Vegas PC User Group  
Membership Director  
1350 E. Flamingo Rd #188  
Las Vegas, NV 89119-5270

Club Use only: Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Method \_\_\_\_\_