

## SIG (Special Interest Group) Reports

*When you plan to attend a SIG meeting and have specific questions or problems you would like someone to work on or answer, please email us at [info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org). This will help assure that we will try to have someone there with the expertise. The email Subject Line: SIG Help*

*The meeting formats for the Helping Hands & How-to SIGS are usually one-on-one help as compared to the Novice SIG which is group attendance with questions and answers from the audience during and after the presentations.*

### April 6. Helping Hands & How-to SIGs

Items discussed and/or demonstrated: 1. trying to transfer non-copyrighted material from VHS to a DVD with a device manufactured by Diamond (it was not successful); 2. making restore disks compared to backup disks; 3. eliminating multiple desktop icons, but having them readily available, by combining them in folders to hold more than 1 program shortcut; 4. transferring files to thumb drives or external hard drives; 5. troubleshooting installation of correct printer driver for HP Laserjet which resulted in an error message (defective motherboard suspected or PCI slot malfunction, further research necessary); 6. the role of the bios order/procedure during bootup as affects the USB ports; and 7. RAID (redundant array of independent disks) data storage schemes that can divide and replicate data among multiple physical drives.

### April 13. Novice SIG

Major items discussed: 1. routers used to connect other computers to the Internet; 2. danger of downloading too much freeware from unknown providers; 3. unwanted black line on laser printer output; 4. Zone Alarm, the antivirus & firewall program, has a reputation for really slowing down computer processing [Editor's note: do your own research on the Internet - search word "ZoneAlarm"]; 5. the use of GRC for online Internet security test and other troubleshooting procedures; and 6. a good

warning when updating: Follow the on-screen instructions and, for heavens sake, ...do not shut off your computer until all downloads completed and installed!



### Introducing How-To Geek School: Learn Technology for Free

Most of you may be somewhat familiar with Windows 7. But just how knowledgeable are you? Could you pass a Microsoft certification test? Or do you even want to? What if you just want to learn, without spending any money? The geek school series tries to teach computer technology in a more in-depth fashion starting with Windows 7 and going beyond. Through a series of lessons with lots of pictures and advice, even you can learn to become a "techie." Just click on the following URL: [www.howtogeek.com/132654/introducing-how-to-geek-school-learn](http://www.howtogeek.com/132654/introducing-how-to-geek-school-learn)

If you just want to learn without spending any money, you can check out the articles in the series so far and periodically look forward to more. The website advises, "... read the entire series on the website for free, forever." At the end of the course, there will be a practice test that you can take to see just how well you know the material. Be advised that the material may be more than you wanted to know or tackle, then again it might be your cup of tea.

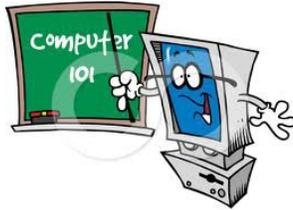




## Snopes.com : Urban Legends Reference Pages

When you are looking to confirm or debunk something you have heard or seen on the Internet, you need to go to [www.snopes.com/](http://www.snopes.com/)

the definitive Internet reference source for urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and misinformation. This is the site that advised that, sadly, Bill Gates and AOL did not team up to send you \$10 just for forwarding an email and no, you can't trust that nice man in Nigeria who wants to send you all that money. In addition to the site's covering of legends and rumors, they offer a daily change of interesting and, occasionally, some downright weird news, both true and not.



## 12 easy PC tasks you should be doing but probably aren't

Computers may have become a lot more user-friendly over the past decade, but they're still far from perfect—PCs require a certain amount of configuration and maintenance to operate at their full potential. Left undone we end up with a slower, sloppier, less secure machine as a result. This article "12 easy PC tasks you should be doing (but aren't)" from PC World, April 5, 2013, tells you what to do, how to do it and suggests free software to help you.

[http://www.pcworld.com/article/2032032/12-most-do-pc-tasks.html#tk.nl\\_pcwbest](http://www.pcworld.com/article/2032032/12-most-do-pc-tasks.html#tk.nl_pcwbest)

So, no more excuses! None of the tasks are complicated and all will have a major effect on how well your computer works for you.

Suggestion: Do one or two a week.

### —Thoughts To Ponder—

- Part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.

- There are no dumb questions otherwise I would have been sent to the funny farm long ago.

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS SIGs (Special Meeting Groups)

All meetings open to the public at no charge.

**Saturday, May 4, 10am to 4pm**

**Helping Hands and How-to SIGs**

Location: Las Vegas JC Park - Clubhouse, 5805 W. Harmon Ave, Las Vegas 89103. Parking available on both sides of clubhouse. Nearest major intersection: Flamingo/Jones.

**Saturday, May 11, 1pm to 4pm**

**Novice SIG and**

**Software & Product Review SIG**

Location: ITT Technical Institute, 3825 W. Cheyenne Ave., North Las Vegas 89032 (between Decatur & Simmons), Theory Rm2, use student entrance on east side of bldg.



This newsletter (May 2013) will be the **last issue** for those who have not paid their dues by **May 15**. To continue receiving this newsletter and be eligible for one-on-one help, **please pay your dues now**. Dues are \$30 per year. Checks should be made payable to LVPCUG and sent to: P.O. Box 363772 North Las Vegas, NV 89036



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for fiscal year

May 1, 2013 thru April 30, 2014

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The Bytes of Las Vegas is published by the Las Vegas PC Users Group of Las Vegas, Nevada. Marilyn Mills, Editor

Visit our website: [www.lvpcug.org](http://www.lvpcug.org)

This issue will be the last from our Editor Marilyn Mills. Please welcome a new Editor for the June issue.