

# pc news



*a publication of the 1960 pc users group*

May 2008

## May Newsletter

Our May general meeting and Digital Photography Special Interest Group will be an audience participation program. The panel of three photographers including Bill Franklin, Alex Dumestre and Jim Kelly will attempt to answer your questions about photography in general, processing your images in Paint Shop Pro or Photo Shop, what equipment to use, or how to solve various photo problems. You are encouraged to bring your questions about other photo topics we have covered over the past two years on composition, lighting, posing, wildlife & sports photography, equipment or any related topic. All levels from beginner to advanced will have an opportunity to ask questions, so don't be shy. We all will gain from member participation.

Come to the refreshment social at 6:30 p.m. where members and guests have a chance to meet and exchange information preceding the 7 p.m. meeting. Visitors are always welcome. Current members are encouraged to bring guests to any of our meetings and Special Interest Group meetings throughout each month. So bring a friend or neighbor.

## April Speaker, Ken Allen

Ken Allen transported us to Africa last month with his wonderful images of African wildlife. His inspiring and amazing photographs are evidence of many years of experience and the challenge of nature photography. He emphasized the importance of knowing the subject, thorough knowledge of the equipment needed, and proper planning to be able to survive such adventures.

Members had many questions about this exciting program. We look forward to a return visit by Mr. Allen for more information on this interesting subject.

Thank you so much, Mr. Allen, for a fine photographic journey and your sharing of knowledge and experience.

## Field Trips

Saturday, May 3, 2008 – Mercer Arboretum – We will meet at the Arboretum Nature Center at 8 a.m. Be sure to bring your camera, hat, sunglasses, sunblock, water (drinking fountains are at the nature center and in the park) mosquito spray, and snacks if needed. We should have fun photography the flowers, butterflies, birds, landscapes and each other.

Monday, June 9, 2008 – Tour of the Painted Churches of Texas. Cost is \$15 pp and is limited to the first paid 27 members. As of 4/28, 22 people have signed up with 9 paid. So plan to pay at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting if you want to guarantee you seat. The bus will leave promptly at 7:30 a.m. Be at the Cypress Creek CC parking lot by 7:15.

## Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The 1960 PCUG is especially fortunate to have seven talented and knowledgeable SIG leaders. Each leader presents an outstanding and informative program every month in Room 30, on the second floor of the Annex Building at Cypress Creek Christian Church at 7 p.m. If you have not participated in at least one of these sessions, you are missing out on a great opportunity.

### Digital Photography SIG and General Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

Bill Franklin leads this SIG, presents some programs himself and lines up our speakers for the entire year. Bill has provided informative programs on posing the male and female subjects, and will be on the panel for this month's Photography Question & Answer program.

### Software SIG – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

Don Marvin heads up the Software SIG each month with current topics. Last month Adobe Software and Portable applications were discussed. Feb. feature Tax software questions and answers for Income Tax preparation. Don welcomes your questions and suggestions that can provide useful information for all attendees.

### Internet SIG – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

James Hug continues his series on Setting Up Your Personal Website. This series is for the beginner who has the desire, but does not know where to start. Even if you have experience with developing a personal website James may be able to provide additional information or answer a specific question. He will be covering the subject in 3 sections: Setting up the domain name, a host, and content of your website.

### Hardware – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

Bill Wright is the SIG leader. Get to know your computer inside and out, plus a forum where you can get your computer and networking questions answered. Some past topics have been: Useful Utilities, CD's & DVD's, and How to install att & DSL without Yahoo junk. Bill is willing to review any past subjects as well as help you with problems you have encountered.

### Graphics SIG – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

#### May 15 Graphics SIG. Alex Demestre

We will take a look at several uses of layers in graphics editors. All of the full-featured editors, including Photoshop and PaintShop Pro, have layers capabilities. Many beginners shy away from learning how to use layers because they -- mistakingly -- believe that they are difficult and mysterious. We will demo several applications where layers provide added capabilities and or added ease and convenience.

In order that it not fall to the bottom of my list of things to show and then get left off when I run out of time, as has a couple of times already this year, the first thing I will show is how I use sky transplants when editing photos. It frequently happens when I am visiting some photogenic location for the first, and likely the only, time in my life and I find the conditions are perfect except that the sky is a dull gray. The photos are acceptable but fall short of the splendor they

would have had if the sky had been blue and filled with fluffy clouds. What to do? Provide an appropriate sky -- one that would possibly have been there if I had one more day on location. Another condition that often cries for a sky transplant is a panorama that has bothersome sky brightness variations in different directions. We will look at a couple of cases and demo a couple of techniques, both using layers.

We will also look at how layers can very easily simplify the case where you want to write or draw on a photo or other graphic image. I've had questions related to this in recent weeks and it falls right into place here.

As always, come prepared to ask questions. It is always our intent to help clear up any stumbling blocks that may be preventing you from grabbing your graphics editor confidently when you have an application that you would like to try. Questions e-mailed to me a couple of days in advance have a higher likelihood of being answered to your satisfaction. Also as always, please let me know what subjects you would like to see covered in future sessions of this SIG.

#### Windows SIG – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Sam Sanderson leads the discussion of Windows features aimed at beginning and intermediate level users. The primary subject matter may be driven by specific questions from attendees. Questions and lively discussion about new challenges brought on by the operating system are the usual format.

#### Genealogy SIG – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday

Betty Hesketh looks at some of the best websites for finding genealogical information. Beginning and experienced researchers are welcome to these informative presentations. The group periodically takes trips to the Clayton Library in downtown Houston for further research.

For more details and archives for all SIGs check out the specific SIG on the [www.1960pcug.org](http://www.1960pcug.org) website.

#### New Members

Welcome to new members *Don Bova* and *C. A. (Al) Williams*. We are pleased you have joined us and encourage your active participation. We are always glad to have new friends in our computer group.

#### Share & Learn

This month's Share & Learn theme is "Wheels" or any other photos you would like to submit to Bill Franklin at [www.billfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:www.billfranklin@gmail.com). Photos should be submitted by the Sunday preceding our Digital Photography SIG and General Meeting. June's category is *Light and Shadows*, followed by *Eyes* for July. So get your selections lined up to submit in the next few months. Bill has the entire lineup available on his SIG on the club website.

## Upcoming Programs for Digital Photography

June	Debbie Pietsch – Photographing the Child
July	Ray Fosdick
August	Christie Lacy – Photographing the Child (another perspective)
Sept.	David Dodd – Our China – Explorations Beyond the Traditional
Oct.	Jerry Ward – Canon Rep.
Nov.	Bill Franklin – Lightroom demonstration
Dec.	Christmas Party and movie

Plan to attend every event so you don't miss out on good information, possibly provide information or suggestions, participate in all the SIGs and meet some nice folks who are willing to share and help with your computer and photographic concerns.

## Refreshments

We can always use volunteers to bring refreshments. You can sign up when the sheet is passed around and best of all, we will reimburse you. Just save your receipts.

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