

pc news

a publication of the 1960 pc users group



August, 2008

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Our general meeting and *Digital Photography Special Interest Group* will feature professional photographer, Christy Lacy. Christy is a very successful portrait photographer and will present a program on photographing children. This should be very interesting and useful for anyone who has children or grandchildren.

Since we did not get to present our *Share and Learn* photos on "eyes," we will show them at the August meeting. We will also show the *Share and Learn* photos for August, which is "two or three". If you don't have anything to fit these topics, then make up your own topic to present. This is just for fun, so anything goes. Members enjoy this sharing portion of the program. It is an opportunity to see how creative we can be with camera and computer photographic capabilities.

Hope to see everyone at the August meeting. Bring a guest with you. Remember the 6:30 p.m. social time gives members and guests a chance to mix, mingle, and enjoy refreshments. Visitors are always welcome.

Special Interest Groups

SIG Leaders are knowledgeable presenters in the specific topics of interest.

SIG's are meetings where you can ask questions and are the best place to discuss what you want to learn and achieve.

SIG Leaders are club members who have volunteered to HELP other members.

SIG's are the best forum for getting your individual questions answered.

Raymond Fosdick, our speaker for the July *Photo SIG* meeting was quite a hit. Raymond kept us entertained and presented much useful information. Using his wedding photos, he taught us a little about posing, some composition rules, and finally how to get better low light photos. We were quite lucky to have someone of Raymond's credentials to present a program for our club. Thanks again to Raymond for a great program. The Photography SIG meets on the first Thursday of the month in the Forum meeting room.

Software SIG – Second Tuesday

Software SIG leader, Don Marvin, discussed some excellent free programs that help remove all those extraneous entries we get in the Windows registry when we install and uninstall software, a way to quickly delete the junk files that websites place on our hard disk and how to recover accidentally deleted files. We learned how we can recover a lost password or find the keys for Microsoft products installed on your system. These are just a few of the many products available and we looked at several of them during our meeting.

Don, who has 40+ years of computer programming experience, will have more interesting information for the August 12th meeting in Room 30, second floor of the Annex Building at Cypress Creek Christian Church, 6823 Cypresswood Drive, from 7-9 pm. Bring your questions or answers, and a friend. Visit a [Software SIG](#).

[Internet SIG – Second Thursday](#)

[Internet SIG](#) leader, James Hug, reviewed and completed the “personal website” series. This program assisted members in establishing their own websites. James has the material under the Archives section of the [Internet SIG](#) information.

August 14th, James will look at "Firefox 3". "Firefox 2" lately has become the second most popular Internet Browser, and in this August's [Internet SIG](#) we will look at the changes made in "Firefox 3." "Firefox" is a very user adaptable browser with many features that many of us don't know about. If you are a "Firefox" aficionado bring your tweaks to the meeting and share them with the rest of us. Again, all SIGs run from 7-9 pm in the Cypress Creek Christian Community Church, 6823 Cypresswood Dr. Annex Bldg. on the 2nd Floor, room 30.

[Hardware SIG – Third Tuesday](#)

[Hardware SIG](#) leader, Bill Wright, demonstrated hard disk labeling using "Lightscribe," for professional-looking DVDs or CDs. He also explored methods to obtain music and lyrics from computer sites.

The third Tuesday of each month is scheduled for the Hardware SIG. Every month we try to present something of interest for our technically challenged members. Our subjects are generally requested by our attendees. Our main purpose is to enlighten them as to what is inside their computer and how it works, so that they can maintain, upgrade or even build their own computer. We also cover subjects such as proper operation, networking of computers, as well as the latest hardware developments. **Note: No Hardware SIG in August.**

If you have any utilities you want to share with others, bring them to the meeting on either DVDs or CDs.

As always; if you have a sick computer, or just want to tune it up, make arrangements with Bill before hand and bring it with your recovery disks for evaluation and possible repair. He generally arrives an hour earlier (6:00 PM) for this free service.

[Graphic SIG – Third Thursday](#)

Alex Dumestre, [Graphic SIG](#) leader, looked at Paint Shop Pro's Express Lab and at the Color (or Materials) Palette. He devoted time to taking a deeper look at the text capabilities offered by a graphics editor. He also examined some of the interesting features provided by today's high-end slide show production programs.

No Graphic SIG for August, but in subsequent months, Alex plans to introduce a couple of new commands, tools and techniques not covered in previous sessions. ProShow Gold in one of the graphic programs featured. Nominate your own choices for future meetings. Come join us and be prepared to ask questions on any aspect of computer graphics that bothers you.

[Windows SIG – Fourth Tuesday](#)

[Windows SIG](#) leader, Sam Sanderson, discussed the importance of “back ups” in maintaining the integrity of your computer system. Sam also demonstrated configuration of backups for external hard drives. The advantages in using dual monitors was also featured and demonstrated. Members had interesting questions and contributions to the [Windows SIG](#).

Every month at the [Windows SIG](#) there will be a presentation and discussion of Windows features aimed at beginner and intermediate level users. The primary subject matter will be driven by the specific questions from the attendees. As always, there will be lively discussion about everyone's new challenges brought on by our favorite operating system. Come and join in on the fun!

Genealogy SIG – Fourth Thursday

For July's *Genealogy SIG*, leaders, Betty Hesketh and Alex Dumestre, introduced Lynna Kay Shuffield. Ms. Shuffield discussed the use of new DAR resources online, other online databases, and library resources to document your ancestors who served in the American Revolution. Thank you, Lynna Kay, for an interesting presentation.

The *Genealogy SIG* will meet on Thursday, Aug. 28th at 7 p.m. Betty and Alex present the best websites for locating genealogical information. Beginner and intermediate researchers are welcome to this informative session. The group periodically takes trips to the Clayton Library in downtown Houston for further research. Visitors are always welcome.

Special Thanks to Our SIG Leaders

All of our SIG leaders deserve special recognition and appreciation for their dedication, expertise, and monthly contributions in sharing information. This is what makes the 1960 PCUG such a valuable organization for all our members. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to attend at least one of our SIGs to see and hear what our organization has to offer.

Refreshments

Thanks to Bob Argo for providing our tasty refreshments at our July meeting. If you would like to get on board to volunteer to provide scrumptious treats at a future meeting, be sure to sign up with Jean Olson at the welcome desk at our August 7th meeting. Save your receipts and you will be reimbursed by Treasurer, Bob Argo.

Field Trips

We can always use recommendations or suggestions for special field trips for members to participate in. Free bus transportation for members 50 and over can usually be arranged. Put on your thinking caps and see how creative you can be. Past trips have been successful, informative and fun for most participants. Give your ideas to any officer or SIG leader.

Website Information

James Hug has a new article entitled *Hard Disk Recovery* available on the club website. He presents an informative and important topic in an easy to understand format. Check it out.

Returning Member

Welcome back to Morris Bradley who has rejoined our club after an absence of a few years. Thanks also goes to all renewing members. Remember to invite a guest or two to any of our next SIGs, and who knows, maybe they will decide to join our fine organization.

Hope to see you at many of our August meetings.

BeaAnn Kelly,
Communications Officer

