

pc news

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June Newsletter

Last month's panel discussion on Digital Photography and related computer software programs proved to be quite successful. Members had many questions pertaining to Photoshop and photography questions. Our panel of Alex Dumestre, Bill Franklin, and Jim Kelly answered many questions and helped to solve photography issues of members.



We hope to repeat this program next year. Remember that members are always willing to answer your questions at any of our SIGs.

President, James Hug is pictured above with Alex Dumestre, Jim Kelly, and Bill Franklin.

Member Perks

Here is an example of one of many helpful computing articles available on www.apcug.net, the site available to members of 1960 PCUG to access for particular topics. Please check out this site for answers and articles dedicated to solving and educating members of the latest in computing information.

"Computune-up"

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Do you want your computer to run faster and increase your productivity? Of course; if you have major problems, you will need to contact your manufacturer and/or professional technical support. Many of those costly major problems can be prevented by doing "computune-ups" yourself. Yes, you can do it even without being a computer geek! My thanks to Microsoft for some of the information in this article.

"Computune-up" (Software)

1. Clean up your desktop! If you have not used a program for a year or one that you never use that came bundled with your system why not delete it. You will get more space on your hard drive in return.
2. Clean up your system tray to the left of time on your Taskbar! When you remove icons from your system tray that you rarely use, it will speed up your system since your computer has to locate those programs whenever you boot up. I love a little freeware program called Code Stuff Starter that shows you what is running and lets you easily turn those programs on or off.
3. Defragment your computer and your registry which will make your system run faster by consolidating fragments on your hard drive and registry. I use freeware programs like SmartDefrag and Aus Logics Registry Defrag and there are others available on the Internet.
4. Check your memory. The more programs you have running the more demand on your system memory (RAM). Adding more memory to your system will increase speed and is very easy to do without paying for expensive technical support. You can do it with minimal instruction or have a technically-oriented friend or club member do it since it only takes a few minutes to replace.
5. Keep your operating system updated and run utilities weekly! I strongly suggest you download needed freeware software for your system from "46 best ever freeware programs" thoroughly tested and rated with commentary.

1. Make sure your computer is unplugged before cleaning and not plugged in until your system is dry after cleaning!
2. Make sure you have the following tools available: a screwdriver, can of compressed air (available from a computer store), cotton swabs (not balls), rubbing alcohol, paper towels or anti-static cloths (available from a computer store), and water.
3. Clean the inside of your computer case! Using a screwdriver remove the side of the case opposite your motherboard. Touch as little as possible inside the computer, keeping fingers away from cards and cords due to static electricity. Blow air around all the components and along the bottom of the case, keeping the nozzle four inches away from your machine. Blow air into the power supply and into the fan from the back of your computer case. Blow air into the floppy disk and CD drives. Wipe the inside cover with a lightly moistened cloth before replacing it using your screwdriver. Clean every three months if your computer is on the floor or an especially dirty environment. Clean approximately every six to eight months in a normal environment.
4. Clean the outside of the case! Run a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol around all the openings on the back of your case giving them one swipe with a dampened swab and one with a dry swab. Clean the remaining outside of your system. Do this whenever you clean the inside of your system.
5. Clean the mouse by taking out the screws and going inside with an alcohol swab. If there is a rubber ball, clean it with water, and let it dry. Then clean the outside of the mouse. Many mouse problems are simply caused by a dirty mouse.
6. Clean the keyboard! Turn it upside down and gently shake it and most of the crumbs and dust will fall out. Blow air in and around the keys. Take an alcohol dampened cotton swab and clean the top and sides of the keys. Do this monthly; your keyboard gets very dirty and can even spread germs. If you have a laptop, follow the same procedure but take extra care with your machine.
7. Clean the monitor with a moistened paper towel or a soft lint-free cloth. (You can purchase monitor cleaning products from a computer store). Don't spray liquid directly on the screen but spray on the cloth. Wipe the screen gently to remove dust and fingerprints. (Never touch the back of the monitor). I suggest you purchase a special cleaning solution from a computer store for laptop computers.

If you have finished your "computune-up," you are on your way to being transformed into a computer geek! Do not be alarmed for the "geeks shall inherit the earth"! Bill Gates, chief geek and founder of Microsoft Corporation, has already made it; he is the role model for the rest of us. This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups. All other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above !

June Photography SIG

Our June meeting will take a different direction. Our speaker for June is Debbie Pietch. Debbie is a local portrait and wedding photographer, and she will present a program on photographing children. Debbie is a very talented photographer and you will certainly enjoy her presentation on how to photograph children. Debbie is very energetic and passionate about her photography, so you don't want to miss this program if you have any interest in photographing children.

May Field Trip & June Share & Learn

Our field trip to High Island in May was very successful and we had several photographers who managed to capture some great images of the nesting birds. Our next field trip will be to the Painted Churches of Texas, and this field trip is already full. Don't forget our share and learn theme for June is "Light and Shadow". We had some really creative images our wheels theme last month, so let's see how creative we can be this month. Try to include some of the composition rules we have learned in the past months into your images.

Refreshments

Thank you to Jodena and Haskel Boring for providing delicious refreshments for our May meeting. If you would like to participate in filling our goodie table for our 6:30 p.m. social time preceding our 7:00 p.m. meeting, just sign up on Thursday, June 4, 2008. You will be reimbursed for your purchase with your saved receipt.

Board Meeting

All members are invited to attend the monthly board meeting at Denny's on Louetta across from the Post Office. Arrive at 5:30 if you would like to have dinner before the meeting. The 1960 PCUG Board is open to suggestions and input by members. Our next board meeting is June 23, 2008.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Get the answers to your tech questions at one of six SIGs offered throughout each month. Check out our website and the SIG calendar. Our SIG leaders are great resources for information and answers.

Communications

If your subdivision newsletter is publishing the 1960 PCUG schedule, please inform me, and if not, I would like to submit our club meeting information to your local newsletter. We would like to increase our membership 100%.

Have a great summer and stay cool,
BeaAnn Kelly, Communications Officer

