

# pc news

*a publication of the 1960 pc users group*



July 2008

## July Newsletter

Welcome to summer in Houston! What better way to keep cool than to stay inside and work on your computer. I don't know about you, but the time flies when attempting a project, answering email, or working on photo editing. Before you know it, the hot, humid day has blended into a cooler evening, and seven times each month all members have the opportunity to attend evening SIGs lead by our seven knowledgeable SIG leaders. Of course our SIG leaders provide all members with many opportunities to learn and/or sharpen new skills, answer computer questions, and share information. So take advantage of a chance to stay cool, meet and make new friends, get the latest computer information as well as brush up on the basics. Car pool, invite a friend, and come to more than one SIG each month.

Last month our Special Interest Groups covered the following topics:

Digital Photography leader, Bill Franklin, gave pointers on interior photography. Bill discussed important items such as use of a tripod, aperture priority and settings, exposure length, use of a wide angle lens, bracketing, use of software to combine exposures, and when to use a flash. We also enjoyed scenes of Costa Rica taken by Jean Franklin during the Franklins' recent photo trip. The "Share and Learn" session continues to display member creativity.

Software SIG leader, Don Marvin, presented a comparison of the two most common office suites; Microsoft Word and Sun Microsystems' Open Office. We looked at features of both programs side by side and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Internet SIG leader, James Hug, reviewed steps in developing a personal website. James has a Powerpoint Presentation available in the Archive section of his Internet site for additional help and information.

Hardware SIG leader, Bill Wright, attempted to upgrade & cleanup a donated, older computer for the purpose of giving to someone in need of a pc. This proved to be quite an undertaking and learning experience for the group. Investigate the Hardware SIG site and archives on the club website.

Graphics SIG leader, Alex Dumestre, demonstrated the advantages of using Layers in digital graphic editors, as well as tools such as Palette and Paint Brush in the Paint Shop Pro software. His customizing of a personal trip map demonstrated the application of these tools. He also discussed the use of multiple photos for use in merging, time lapse and sequential photography.

Windows SIG leader, Sam Sanderson, discussed the following topics and websites:

1. Help regarding WinXP, SP3 and HP computers  
<http://computerworld.com/>, and <http://windowsecrets.com/>
2. Windows Task Manager, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WindowsTaskManager/>
3. Internet options, <http://support.microsoft.com/>
4. Email questions such as how much space is used by keeping many email messages, regardless of the folder they are in. It does make a difference, depending on the way you handle your email. An email program that may be helpful: <http://email.about.com/od/freemailreviews/tp/freemail.htm>

Genealogy SIG leaders, Betty Hesketh and Alex Dumestre, reviewed the advantages of visiting the Clayton Library, see <http://www.1960pcug.org/gensig/> for additional information. Betty also introduced members to: <http://pilotfamilysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=0>.

## JULY SIGs

Here are topics to be featured at some of our SIGs in July:

The General Meeting and Digital Photography SIG will feature Raymond Fosdick, professional photographer, who will have a special presentation program. The "Share and Learn" segment theme is "Eyes" for this month. Come at 6:30 p.m. for social and refreshment time followed by a 7 p.m. meeting. This meeting is held in The Forum at Cypress Creek Christian Church, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring.

Special Interest Group meetings are held in The Annex building at the address above, in room 30 on the second floor, from 7 – 9 p.m.

In July's Internet SIG, Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, James Hug will continue his series of setting up your own personal website. Besides a review of the last meetings, we will continue looking into website content: interactive maps, scaling images for different resolution monitors and web albums. This series is for the beginner who has the desire but does not know where to start.

### Genealogy SIG - July 24, 2008

Speaker: Lynna Kay Shuffield

Subject: American Revolution - DAR - Is that Service Correct?

In July one of our favorite speakers, Lynna Kay Shuffield, will return. She will discuss using new DAR resources online, other online databases, and library resources to document your ancestors who served in the American Revolution. Be sure to mark your calendars for this special event. Beginning and experienced researchers are welcome.

Please visit our genealogy web pages for the latest Genealogy SIG happenings and helpful hints for your research. [www.1960pcug.org/gensig](http://www.1960pcug.org/gensig)

SIG Co-leaders:

Betty Hesketh            [bhesketh1@gmail.com](mailto:bhesketh1@gmail.com)  
Alex Dumestre            [adumestre@comcast.net](mailto:adumestre@comcast.net)

## New Member

Welcome to Patrick McGuirk, a new member who states he is at the intermediate experience level and is willing to help where he can. His main interests are in Word, Excel and Power Point. This is what our club is all about, members helping and sharing with members. Welcome aboard, Patrick.

## Refreshments

A big thank you to Peggy Majors for furnishing our refreshments at our June meeting. The refreshment table is always a nice gathering spot with a chance to socialize and meet members. If you would like to sign up for refreshments a list is at the sign in desk and you will be reimbursed with your saved receipts.

## **APCUG RESOURCE SITE**

Just a reminder that members have access to the Association of PC User Groups available at: <http://www.apcug.net/>. Through their web site, semi-annual meetings and newsletters, they provide many services to member organizations, including User Group Discounts. Below are a couple of recent subjects and web sites among the many articles available to 1960 PCUG members.

**Make Your Wireless Network Safe** by Marjie Tucker, Editor, Mountain Computer User Group, [www.mcug.org](http://www.mcug.org) (Approx. 665 words). Wireless networks are becoming more and more popular, but they do add some additional security risks. You need to spend a little extra time to ensure that your data and your identity are secure.

Moving on to Vista – Part 7, by Neil Stahfest, Librarian, Tacoma Area PC User Group, Washington, [www.tapcug.org](http://www.tapcug.org) (Approx. 679 words). Does your computer go to sleep? By default, Windows Vista was designed to go to sleep after an hour of inactivity. The feature is primarily designed to conserve laptop battery power. Find out how to control this energy/battery saving feature.

## **Field Trips**

Our June field trip to the Painted Churches in the Schulenburg area was a successful event for interior and architectural photography. We are always open to suggestions and ideas for future trips. We can usually arrange for free Precinct 4 bus transportation for members 50 and older. So put on your thinking caps and bring your suggestions and plans to a meeting. Any of our board members will gladly help to plan dates and make arrangements.

Hope to see you this month at several SIGs and the general meeting on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bring a friend, ideas, questions, and plan to enjoy yourself.

BeaAnn Kelly,  
Communications Officer