

# pc news



*a publication of the 1960 pc users group*

February 2009

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Our program for February 5<sup>th</sup> will feature professional photographer, **Pam Moore**. Pam specializes in “stock” photography, so if you have any interest in trying to sell some of your images, you won’t want to miss this meeting. Pam has been very successful at selling her images to stock agencies, and she will share how to get started in this venture.

Our “Share and Learn” activity is changing for 2009. Many of you have had a little trouble photographing some of the themes that have been suggested. Next year every month will be open for you to share any image you like. We just want to you to go out and shoot a lot of pictures and then share some of your favorites each month. Even if you think your pictures are not worth sharing, do it anyway. This is how we all learn and we all enjoy each others pictures. This is just for fun and we only give positive critiques. Later on this year we will be putting up a display in the Barbara Bush Library, so be thinking about pictures you would like to display. More information will be coming out later. We will need between 20-30 pictures to hang in the Library gallery. This will be a great opportunity to advertise our club.

Below are examples of “Share & Learn” photos from January.





Credits for the above photos:

Sunset – Judith Tooth, Pelican – Craig Loomis, Landscape – Bill Franklin, Jet Formation – Jim Sandham, Biplane Acrobat – Jim Kelly

**Debbie Pietsch** presented a great program on child photography for our January meeting to get the New Year started off right. Those of us who were there were treated to beautiful and creative images of children and families in different environments. Debbie's images are not the usual run-of-the-mill, big smile, straight on portrait, but rather images of children engaged in various activities. We hope you were inspired to try some of the techniques to photograph your children or grandchildren. For those who were not too interested in children, Debbie shared some of her landscapes, travel, and wildlife images. She is very talented and it was a pleasure to have her present to our club.

### February SIGs

**Please note schedule change** for the Graphic SIG due to room unavailability the week of February 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. **There will not be a Hardware SIG in February.** The Graphic SIG has been moved to the beginning of the month. Room 30, Annex Bldg. Cypress Creek Community Christian Church, 6832 Cypresswood, Spring.

#### Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7-9 P.M. Alex Dumestre will lead the Graphic SIG.

Last month he began a planned series of sessions where he demonstrated the use of several of the basic commands and techniques in general (non-photographic) graphic projects. This is a bit of a change from past sessions that tended to concentrate on the use of a digital graphics editor for editing photographs. He will be using Corel PaintShop Pro but similar capabilities exist in all of the top tier editors (PhotoShop, Elements, Photo Impact, etc.) so don't avoid the SIG simply because PSP is not your editor of choice. We did not make as much progress last month as planned due to some hardware problems, encountered but let's hope that this month will make up for that.

He will use as a sample project, the creation and customization of a map. The actual project is not as important as the demonstrated techniques which are equally applicable

to a very wide range of projects: Posters, Greeting Cards, Calendars, Fliers, Signs, Scrapbooks, etc.

Commands/Techniques that we hope to cover are:

Screen Capture, Stitching, Layers, Cropping, Selections, Borders, Shapes (including Preset), Materials (Color control, Gradients, etc.), Text Tool, Paint Brushes, Pen Tool, Flood Fill, etc., etc., etc. I do not plan to cover any of these exhaustively but only enough to show the types of uses that you can make of them. **Alex will gladly spend as much time as required to answer your questions on their use.** Whatever is not covered this month will be slid to the March meeting.

One area that he did discuss last month -- Layers -- seemed to generate a lot of interest and will be covered again this month -- so come prepared with any questions.

SIGs are informal and all attendees are encouraged to ask questions when they have encountered an explanation or demonstration that has left them confused. Ask as it happens, don't wait for a break.

Remember his standing offer to attempt to restore any heirloom (or other) photo that you may have. This is a no risk operation because he works only on scanned copies of your original photo -- never on the original. You may e-mail him a scan ahead of time or you may hand him the original (in an envelope with your name and e-mail address) at the meeting and he will scan it. The possibilities with a torn, badly faded original are amazing.

Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, [General Meeting and Photography SIG](#).

[Gary Toll](#), President, will lead a brief business meeting preceding the [Stock Photography](#) presentation by [Pam Moore](#).

[Bill Franklin](#), SIG leader, will also give photography tips and conduct the Share & Learn program. Please submit your photos to Bill at [billfranklin34@comcast.net](mailto:billfranklin34@comcast.net).

Social and refreshments at 6:30 P.M. Meeting begins at 7 P.M. Forum Meeting Room Cypress Creek Community Christian Church, 6832 Cypresswood, Spring

Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, [Don Marvin will lead the Software SIG](#). 7-9 P.M.

Maybe your PC won't boot. Or it could be infected with some kind of persistent malware. Perhaps Windows puts up a Blue Screen of Death every time you type the word *aardvark* or a special sequence of key strokes. Has your PC just gotten slower and slower since you first got your PC or loaded Windows? In our meeting this month we will look at eight steps to improving performance when the previous tune-up steps did not help as much as we wanted. We will look at a program to create a special Windows installation CD just for our computer in the event we need to restore it completely.

Last month we looked at 'Cloud Computing', what it is and what direction it is going for the average PC user. Since sometime in 2007 there have been much discussion and speculation about a feature expected to be announced by Google called the GDrive that will dramatically affect cloud computing. If we have time we will also look at this much anticipated product and some of the current information about it found on the Internet and various technical publications

Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, [James Hug, Internet SIG](#), 7-9 P.M.

At the January Internet SIG meeting, James discussed "Bit Torrent", a peer-to-peer file sharing application on the Internet and the amount of movies and music that was on it. Since then he has received several questions about it. The February Internet SIG meeting he will discuss it in further detail. As always, James invites your questions/problems with the various uses of the Internet, such as (but not limited to) e-mail; the World Wide Web (WWW) and its associated browsers; FTP; Bit Torrent; Usenet; search sites; etc.

You can e-mail your questions or desires beforehand at [james@hug-family.com](mailto:james@hug-family.com)

Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, [Sam Sanderson, Windows SIG](#), 7-9 P.M.

At the Windows SIG there will be a 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!

Send your questions and problems to [Sam Sanderson](#)

Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, [Betty Hesketh and Alex Dumestre, Genealogy SIG](#),

**Subject: Genealogy on a Budget**

At the February Genealogy SIG we will be looking at some money saving tips to use in your family history research. Not everything is available at little or no cost, but we can try to minimize our costs. We will look at several things from free software downloads to less expensive methods of acquiring some much needed information and documents without having to travel to distant places. If members have any tips to share, please bring them to the meeting. Beginning and experienced researchers are welcome.

Be sure to visit our genealogy web pages for research help and the latest SIG happenings.

[www.1960pcug.org/gensig](http://www.1960pcug.org/gensig)

Co-leaders:

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[Marj Krisman](#), Director of SIGs took notes at the [January Hardware SIG](#) – She reports the SIG was interesting. [Bill Wright](#) SIG leader, brought some equipment and demonstrated their uses: Router for connecting additional equipment, switches to enable connecting or disconnecting from the Internet between equipment, short electrical connection which could be used in a variety of ways. Bill also demonstrated uses of add-on (plus more) for Firefox Browser: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/features/#customization>

Come to Bill's March Hardware SIG for more useful and exciting information.

### Open Invitation

All interested members are invited to attend monthly **Board meetings** held at Denny's, 7720 Louetta, west of Stuebner Airline, across from the Post Office. Dutch treat for dinner at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting start at 6:30. Come join in on planning and discussion.

### Subdivision Newsletters

Currently, the 1960 PCUG monthly meeting schedule is submitted to area subdivision newsletters. Most newsletters print the schedule when space permits. If the schedule never appears in your newsletter, please notify me by email with the name of your newsletter and the contact person, or bring a copy of your newsletter to me at a SIG meeting. My email address: [beaannkelly@gmail.com](mailto:beaannkelly@gmail.com).

### Refreshments

Thank you to **Jean Olson** and **Marj Krisman** for providing our refreshments for the January meeting. We would like to have other members sign up each month to provide refreshments, so get on board and sign up at the next general meeting or any SIG meeting. Check with Jean Olson at the attendance table. You will be reimbursed when you turn in receipts to our treasurer, Bob Argo.

Happy Valentine's and see you in February.

BeaAnn Kelly  
Communications Officer