

# pc news



*a publication of the 1960 pc users group*

January 2009

## January 2009

Happy New Year to the entire membership and potential members reading this Newsletter! 2008 has been a most unusually memorable year, to say the least! We must remain optimistic despite the scandals, financial crises, bailouts, recession, and a major hurricane, Ike, tearing through Galveston and the Houston area. At least gas prices are at record lows now. We have survived tough times in the USA in the past and now is the time to overcome obstacles by using our determination and strengths which have made this country great.

The 1960 PCUG has continued to be led by an active board and SIG leaders who all provided members with valuable information and educational opportunities throughout the year. We truly appreciate the hard work and efforts of these leaders and look forward to a great 2009.

### 2009 Board

President *Gary Toll*

VP of Communications *BeaAnn Kelly*

Treasurer *Bob Argo*

VP of Programs *Bill Franklin*

Membership *Jean Olson*

Past President *James Hug*

VP of SIGs *Marj Krisman*

Secretary *Gene Jackson*

Directors at Large: *Ben Anthony, David Gustine*

*James Sandham, Don Townszen*

### General Meeting and Photo SIG

**Please Note General Meeting Change to Tuesday, January, 6, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.**

Our last photography SIG was November with our guest speaker Jerry Ward from Canon. Jerry gave us a great program with a lot of good photo tips. His display of Canon cameras and lens kept many of us there till almost 10:00 PM with Jerry answering all our questions about the cameras and lenses. For December we had our annual Christmas party and an action packed movie for everyone to enjoy. Our thanks to Sam Sanderson for the entertainment.

*Bill Franklin*, Digital Photo SIG leader, will start the **2009 New Year on January 6**, with Debbie Pietsch. Debbie is a very delightful and enthusiastic young photographer who will present a program on children's photography. Debbie has only been in photography for a few years and you will be amazed at some of her images. She still doesn't know how good she really is. Please come on out and start the new year right and give Debbie a great welcome.

We are in the planning process for 2009, so if you have any ideas for programs, speakers, or other activities for our photography SIG, please let us know at the January meeting.

Photo share and learn for January is an open category, so send any 3 or 4 images you would like to share to Bill.



James Hug with his 2008 Presidential Service Award



Jean Olson receiving 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Award from James Hug

Here are a few of the highlights from our December Meeting and party. **James Hug** has gone above and beyond as 2008 president of our organization, as well as maintaining additional duties as Internet SIG leader, presenting outstanding programs for 2008. **Jean Olson** attends every meeting and SIG without fail and has faithfully maintained attendance records for the 1960 PCUG. Congratulations and thanks to James and Jean for all your dedication to our 1960 PCUG. We have many more members who demonstrate and perform duties to strengthen and improve our organization, making it difficult to select a single member for the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

### January SIG Schedule

The following SIGs are from 7 - 9 p.m. at Cypress Creek Community Christian Church, Room 30 in the Annex building at 6832 Cypresswood Dr. at the dates listed below.

January 8, 2009, Thursday, **James Hug's** "Internet SIG" objective is to expand our members knowledge of what is probably the most significant communications system since Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone. At the same time he will continue to look at the new uses of the Internet as they arise.

His last Internet SIG meeting generated many questions and interests, too many for the short time we had (how time flies when you are having a good time), so we will continue our moderated discussion (questions and answers) on 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 James your questions or desires beforehand at james@hug-family.com.

January 13, **Don Marvin**, Software SIG leader, will look at the new version of Open Office 3.0. It has some interesting changes and we will try find out if it is ready for prime time. If you have been using the one of the older versions of Open Office below 3.0 or have already tried the new version, our group would be interested in your experience with it.

You may have been seeing or reading about a new term called "Cloud Computing". What is it and how will it affect us? Many major software providers are developing applications based on this concept. We have looked at a few of the basics versions of this new technology in the past so let's see if it is in our future as PC users. If you have time before the meeting do some research and come and share what you have learned about it. Finally, don't forget to bring your questions to the meeting - one of the really important functions of our special interest groups is to help answer them and help solve problems.

Alex Dumestre, Graphic SIG leader, is looking forward to being back with the group after my five-month hiatus and will be prepared to show some non-photographic uses of PaintShop Pro. He hopes to devote most of the session to discussing and answering any questions related to graphics -- PaintShop Pro, ProShow Gold, Picasa, Irfanview or whatever! Come prepared with things to ask or suggest.

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 bring the original (in an envelope with your name and e-mail address) to the meeting to be scanned. The possibilities with a torn, badly faded original are amazing.

Bill Wright, Hardware SIG leader, asks you to bring any utilities you would like to share with others, on either floppy disks or CDs, to the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. As always; if you have a sick computer, or just want to tune it up, make arrangements with him 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.

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> Genealogy SIG leader, Betty Hesketh, has Lynna Kay Shuffield speaking on American Revolution/DAR - Is that Lineage Correct? She will discuss DAR databases and lineage between you and your American Revolutionary War Ancestor. Don't miss what promises to be a very interesting and informative meeting.

If you have an interest in researching your family history, our Genealogy SIG is a great place to begin. Our members are always eager to share information and to help beginners with anything from using their genealogy software to sharing tips on how to research. Both beginning and experienced researchers are welcome.

Please visit our genealogy web pages for the latest information on SIG happenings and research help.

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

On January 27<sup>th</sup> Sam Sanderson, Windows SIG leader, will lead 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.

### APCUG Articles

Recent articles from our APCUG membership are listed below. Hope at least one of these articles proves a helpful start to the New Year.

Advanced System Care Free V3 - Improve PC Performance by Ira Wilsker (Approx 1,077 words). This is another article from Ira that can very easily be turned into a meeting. One of his most frequently asked questions on his weekly radio show has to do with improving the performance of a sluggish computer. One of the utilities he most recommended was the free version of IObit's Advanced Windows Care - Personal Edition, version 2. Recently IObit released an upgraded and updated utility renamed Advanced System Care Free V3. Another winner. [lwisker@apcug.net](mailto:lwisker@apcug.net)

Broadsides by Ron Broadhurst, Space Coast PC Users Group, Florida [www.scpcug.com](http://www.scpcug.com) (Approx. 532 words) Ron's ideas are compiled from years of accumulations from various magazines, books, online sites and his own personal experience. This article contains info on: How to get your Vista Recycle Bin back, printing e-mail addresses in Outlook Express, backing up your Outlook Express address book, control panel shortcuts, and creating a shortcut for a shortcut.

Build a 'Green' PC on a Budget by Rob Limbaugh, President, Danbury Area Computer Society, CT [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org) (Approx. 919 words) We're constantly bombarded by the subject of energy conservations - 'green' t his and 'green' that. I think that much of our problem is our 'disposable society.' But, if you happen to be looking for another computer and you're willing to spend some spare time and effort, you can rescue good parts from a premature demise and save money at the same time. How? You'll have to read the article....

Circuit Writer, Version 6.4 by Jim Scheef, Director, Danbury Computer Society, CT [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org) (Approx. 903 words). A Future in Chrome, Two Lists of Ten, and Does Search Really Work? Are all covered in Jim's article.

Cloud Computing by Sister Dorothy Robinson, Editor, The Olympia Microcomputer UG, WA [www.olyumug.org](http://www.olyumug.org) (Approx. 326 words) When did you first hear the term "cloud computing?" Sister Dorothy is usually the last to know anything, it seems, so he has only recently started noticing this term on the Internet. She did some research and some say it's the greatest thing since sliced bread – but others think it isn't such a hot idea.

Copying Information from Your Screen by Richard Kennon, Member of the Amador Computer Users Group, CA [www.acug.net](http://www.acug.net) (Approx. 376 words) This is a follow-up to Dick Carricato's article about copying pictures from your computer screen. Richard is a proponent of FastStone Capture and tells us a little bit about what it does.

Freebies! by Dave Bilcik, a member of the STPCC (Southern Tier Personal Computing Club), NY (Approx. 670 words) You have technology at your fingertips so think about what is important to the special people in your life and give something meaningful to them. The best part: it doesn't have to cost much to be meaningful.

Moving on to Vista – Part 11 by Neil Stahfest, Librarian, Tacoma Area PC User Group, WA [www.tapcug.org](http://www.tapcug.org) (Approx. 865 words) One of Vista's disk management systems is a dynamic disk and the ability to extend a volume. Suppose you have a volume or folder on your hard drive called Pictures for your photographs. If you run out of space on your hard drive, but you have space available on another hard drive installed on your PC, you can extend your Picture volume onto that drive to make it bigger.

Music Tagging with ID3 by Mike Moore, Editor, Bowling Green Computer Users Group, KY [www.bgamug.org](http://www.bgamug.org) (Approx. 924 words) The music industry has adopted a standard, know as ID3, that provides for meta-information to be included with an MP3 file. You might think of ID3 as the wrapper that an MP3 files comes surrounded in.

Performing Better Searches by Sharon Housley, VP, NotePage Marketing for FeedForAll [www.feedforall.com](http://www.feedforall.com) (Approx. 1,052 words) Performing and perfecting search engine results can save web surfers lots of time and energy. Understanding the nuances of searching allows researchers to immediately drill down and locate the information they are seeking, without having to wade through a myriad of irrelevant search results in the process.

Review – magicJack by Constance Brown, President, Canton Alliance Massillion Users Group, OH [www.camug.org](http://www.camug.org) (Approx. 1,166 words) Several members of CAMUG have phone service using VIOP and Constance recently ordered a magicJack to see if it would work for her – she loves it.

Review – Pro Presentation Taken Apart slide:ology by Gregory West, Editor for the Samia Computer Users' Group, Canada [www.scug.ca](http://www.scug.ca) (Approx. 558 words) There is nothing worse than a bad presentation. We have all, at one time or another, been forced to sit and watch a slide show presentation go sour and chase instead of attract potential interests. What goes wrong? The answers are on each of the 274 pages of this book.

Review – Roxio Creator 2009 by John Roy, President, The PC Users Group of CT [www.tpcug-ct.org](http://www.tpcug-ct.org) (Approx. 839 words) Roxio, a division and brand of Sonic Solutions, continues as the premier must-have CD/DVD burning suite. This product is a collection of key applications bundled into an attractive launching interface. The Roxio suite provides support applications necessary to effectively use your computer just like Microsoft Office suite provides key office software.

Review – Wacom Intous 3 Writing Tablet by Jerry Goldstein, Vice President, The PCUG of CT [www.tpcug-ct.org](http://www.tpcug-ct.org) (Approx. 1,502 words) Writing tablets, aka digitizing drawing, or graphic tablet have been around since 1888 when the Telautograph was patented. They have come a long way since then with one manufacturer carving out its own market nice. That manufacturer is Wacom. Jerry finds the tablet a must-have...

Surviving the Switch to Digital TV by Andy Marken, Marken Communications, [www.markencom.com](http://www.markencom.com) (Approx. 1,136 words) At the stroke of midnight on February 17, 2009, the analog transmissions that have beamed free television over the air in the United States for over half a century will disappear for good. They will be replaced by digital signals, many of which are already broadcasting, in what will be the most significant change to television since the introduction of color.

Why security precautions are necessary by Bob de Violini, a member of the Channel Islands PCUG, CA [www.cipcug.org](http://www.cipcug.org) (Approx. 1,077 words) ID theft, malware, hacking WPA encryption, scare of the month and patches galore are included in Bob's article.

Windows 7 is coming by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS [www.compuKISS.com](http://www.compuKISS.com) (Approx. 615 words) If you ask 100 people their impressions of the Vista operating system, 95 of them will tell you that Vista is no good, even if they have never seen or used it. It is obvious that public opinion of Vista is in the mud and it's a fact that Microsoft cannot afford another misstep.

XP SP3–Access Denied by Bob Elgines, President & Editor, Colorado River Computer Club, AZ [www.crc caz.org](http://www.crc caz.org) (Approx. 278 words) Have you tried to install the Windows XP SP3 upgrade and it hasn't worked? Maybe Bob's solution will work for you.

## Thank You

I would like to personally thank all the members of 1960 PCUG who have been so helpful and patient with my first year as Newsletter editor. Marj Krisman, Bob Argo and James Hug took the time to come to my home to give me personal, one-on-one help from the beginning stages. Marj also fields my phone questions any time of the day or night. All three have provided me with invaluable assistance and computer education. Many other members have always been willing to answer my questions no matter how simple. Thank you all for carrying out the most important mission of our club, "members helping members."

Happy New Year!

BeaAnn Kelly,

Communications Officer