

# pc news

*a publication of the 1960 pc users group*



March 2009

## **March 2009 Newsletter** **New SIG for 2009!!!**

Extra, Extra, Read all about it!!! A timely new Special Interest Group addition. *Ben Anthony*, portfolio manager, and *James Hug*, a technical trader, will moderate the new Investors SIG beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. The objective of the Investors SIG is to provide our members a forum in which they can share their personal asset management ideas. The purpose is not to provide stock leads or investment tips, but to share useful technological investment and financial information. The regular Internet SIG has been incorporated into the programs of all other SIGs.

Mark your calendar to attend the very first Investors SIG on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in room 30, Annex Bldg. at Cypress Creek Christian Community Church, 6823 Cypresswoods Dr., Spring.

## **February General Meeting and Digital Photography SIG**

*Pam Moore*, speaker for February Photo SIG, presented a great program on the history of stock photography and how to get started in this profitable business. Pam shared many of her images that have sold many times and gave tips on what is necessary to be accepted by an agency. Pam posts her images only on *ISTOCK*, but there are many agencies where photographers can get started in this business. If you would like to see more of her images go to her web site at: [www.istockphoto.com/fstop123](http://www.istockphoto.com/fstop123). Other sites that were mentioned were:

[www.bigstockphoto.com](http://www.bigstockphoto.com).

[www.mystock.com](http://www.mystock.com).

If any of our photographers decide to give this a try, be sure to let us know about your experience and which agency you tried.

We also discussed the photo exhibit coming up in June at Barbara Bush Library. If you plan to participate, be sure to email Bill Franklin and let him know you will participate and how many prints you plan to hang. We also need to



know if you would like to purchase a 16x20 inch frame from the club or if you are going to furnish your own frames.

Also, remember to bring up to ten 4x6 prints to the March 3, 2009 meeting for a committee to help decide which prints would be appropriate for hanging.

### **Schedule Change for March General Meeting & Digital SIG**

*Theresa Tusa* returns for our March meeting which will be held on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 P.M. for social and refreshments. The meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. Please note date change.

Theresa spoke to our club last year, and she will present another program on Macro Photography. Theresa does mostly macro photography and specializes in flowers. If you saw her last year, you will remember she is a very talented photographer and makes very effective use of natural light. If you enjoy close up photography then you will want to attend this informative program.

We are currently looking for speakers for the remainder of the year. If you would put on a program for us, or know of someone that would put on a program, please let Bill Franklin, Digital Photography SIG leader, know.

Bring a friend to the March meeting.

## **Software SIG**

**Tuesday March 10, 7 – 9 P.M. Don Marvin, SIG Leader**

Have a software problem you are having trouble solving? Bring it to this month's **Software SIG** meeting and we will try to find a solution. One of the main purposes for our group is to help one another and to learn how to avoid problems and this will be our focus for this March. If you have a laptop with a problem you are welcome to bring it and we will try to solve any problems collectively in our meeting. So come prepared to ask your questions and we can have one of the most interesting meetings of the year.

As a bonus, if plans go as they should we will also take a look at Windows 7beta. Using VMware to try and see just what this new version of windows will have that's new or more importantly what kind of problems Microsoft has fixed or is trying to fix in it's latest version to be release in the not to distant future. Initial comments seem to be favorable, is that true or just more of the same.

Bring your questions and suggestions to the meeting.

## **Hardware SIG**

**Tuesday, March 17, 7 – 9 P.M., Bill Wright, Leader**

If you have any utilities you want to share with others, bring them to the meeting on either floppy disks 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.

## **Graphics SIG**

**Thursday, March 19, 7 – 9 P.M., Alex Dumestre, Leader**

Last month we had the second of a series of three sessions where we hope to demonstrate the use of several of the basic commands and techniques in general (non-photographic) graphic projects. This is a bit of a change from most past sessions where I tended to concentrate on the use of a digital graphics editor for editing photographs. As usual, we 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 will use as our sample project the creation and customization of a map. The actual project is not that important as all of the demonstrated techniques are equally applicable to a very wide range of projects: Posters, Greeting Cards, Calendars, Fliers, Signs, Scrapbooks, etc., 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. I will gladly spend as much time as required to answer your questions on their use. All that is not covered this month to everyone's satisfaction may be slid to a later date.

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 my standing offer to attempt to restore any heirloom (or other) photo that you may have. This is a no-risk operation because I work only on scanned copies of your original photo -- never on the original. You may e-mail me a scan ahead of time or you may hand me the original (in an envelope with your name and e-mail address) at the meeting and I will scan it myself and return it to you at the next meeting. The possibilities with a torn, badly faded original can be amazing.

### **Windows SIG**

**Tuesday, March 24, 7 – 9 P.M., Sam Sanderson, Leader**

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, I'm sure 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**

**Thursday, March 26, 7 – 9 P.M., Betty Hesketh & Alex Dumestre, Leaders**

At the February Genealogy SIG we looked 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 looked 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)



*Bill Franklin Photographer*



*Craig Loomis, Photographer*



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*Judith Russell-Tooth Photographer*

Hope you enjoy these digital photographs submitted to “Share & Learn” by our members each month. You don't need an expensive camera to take photos like these, simply send your photos to Bill Franklin the weekend before the General Meeting & Digital SIG. It is fun and motivating to see your photography displayed for others to enjoy.



*Jim Sandham Photographer*

Listed below are a few articles for review to assist in solving problems you may encounter while navigating your computer.

How to send an E-mail message to any cell phone, written by Ken Peters, Product Review / Special Interests, Hilton Head Island Computer Club, [www.hhicc.org](http://www.hhicc.org) (Approx. 399 words). Impress your kids, grandkids and friends with your ability to text. Send a text message to their cell phone by E-mail from your computer.

How to switch Internet browsers, written by Sandy Berger, [www.compukiss.com](http://www.compukiss.com) (Approx. 920 words). Microsoft's Internet Explorer is a software program that comes on all computers that use the Windows OS. You don't, however, have to use IE. There are several other Internet browsers available.

Improving Vista Performance, written by Vinny La Bash, a member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida, [www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org) (Approx. 927 words). Microsoft has added security features in Vista which didn't exist in XP. There are new functions and while the graphics are really neat, they can give your system a big performance hit if you don't have enough memory.

Broadsides, written by Ron Broadhurst, Space Coast PC Users Group, FL [www.scpcug.com](http://www.scpcug.com) (Approx. 663 words). How to have Windows remind you about pending updates; How to download available updates; Customize the Start Menu; Add familiar icons back to your desktop; and How to find your IP address in WinXP are included in this article.

Circuit Writer Version 6.6, written by Jim Scheef, Director, Danbury Area Computer Society, CT [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org) (approx. 980 words). Ver 6.6 includes information about: Is the cloud really DRM in disguise?, The CAN-SPAM Act as a warning, Is your DSL router vulnerable?, the Julie Amero ordeal is finally over, and Events to remember?

Consumer Electronics Show 2009, written by Joe Nuvolini, President, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO, <http://ppcompas.apcug.org> (Approx. 1.225 words). Follow Joe as he attends the 2009 Consumer Electronics Show from Wednesday through Sunday. You will get a flavor of what's new in the electronics / technology arena.

Migrating Fred's Machine, written by Warner Mach, Editor of the SEMCO (SouthEastern Michigan Computer Organization) DATA BUS newsletter, [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org) (Approx. 988 words). Follow the steps that Warner and Fred went through to migrate everything from one machine to another.

Significant Bits, February 2009, written by Sean N. Henderson, VP, Marketing & Public Relations, Danbury Area Computer Society, CT, [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org) (Approx. 1,007 words). Sean received Nero 9, a CD/DVD burning suite with some authoring and backup tools as well for Christmas. He has a combination of software pieces on his machine that, in some way, do some or all of what Nero 9 claims it can do. However, the promise of having all of the tasks integrated into a single package seemed appealing. Opera Mini and Palm TX and Editing Just About Anything are also included in this article.

### ***Refreshments***

Thanks to Jim Sandham for bringing refreshments to the February meeting. Thank you also to all of our members who graciously volunteer to furnish that extra "punch" to our meetings. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Let's build up our club. We have so much to offer for all levels of computer use and keeping up to date with the latest information. Please bring a guest and let them see what a diverse and interesting group we are. Don't forget our new Investor's SIG.

See you in March,

BeaAnn Kelly,

Communications Officer