



## October 2009 Newsletter

Our digital photographers are creating many gorgeous photographs using the skills they have learned in the digital photography SIG each month. An example of a beautiful night capture is shown below of new member, Al Mosco's photograph of Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong, China.

This photograph coincided with the September presentation by Bob Blome of South East Asia, which included Hong Kong. Mr. Blome demonstrated how good photographs can be obtained using a point and shoot camera or a SLR camera with basic settings.



Al Mosco, Photographer



Bill Franklin photograph of Bob Blome

## 2010 Board Election

The ballot is being prepared for the election of the 2010 Board for the 1960 PC Users Group. We still need volunteers to step up to the plate and participate in strengthening our organization. We have an invaluable service to offer members. Our SIG leaders present excellent programs every month. Where else can you obtain answers to your computer problems for only \$40/yr.? Our club motto of "members helping members" is the most accurate description of our club mission. Many of our members have special talents and much to offer the entire membership. Please consider offering a few hours a month to contribute your time to our organization. This is a "win-win" position. Everyone benefits from active participation. All levels of tech contributions are highly valued and informative to all who attend the SIG meetings. We all benefit from basic, to advanced, questions and answers. This is a non-stop learning club. We value your participation. Sign up today. Check with Jean Olson at any SIG sign-in meeting, or you can email your intentions to any board member.

## Featured SIG

### Windows

If you have not had the opportunity to attend Sam Sanderson's **WINDOWS SIG**, you don't know what you are missing. Sam takes on questions via email or meeting questions. This SIG covers more than just Windows. Almost any computer-related question can be answered by Sam, attendees, or a combination of all in the room. Here is a little background on Sam Sanderson:

Techs roles have been:

- Data entry
- Programming (Fortran, Basic, Pascal, Cobol, C++, MS Macro, SQL, also VMS and DOS OS language)
- Technical Support
- Consultant for Reporting Writing and Data Analysis

Sam's current position is Manager of Sales Automation and Data Analytics for the Sales department with Administaff. His group over sees 400+ sales department staff with assisting with all sales software needs, including all MS Office products and Oracle CRM On Demand (Sales Force Automation). He also manages all data and report writing for all corporate Sales statistics and activities.

Here is Sam's approach to the WINDOWS SIG:

The Windows SIG is a very open, attendee driving SIG. It is not "plan based" like all the other SIGs. It is the one SIG that is "Open Format", meaning that the topics discussed is entirely driven by the questions and needs of those that attend. Rather than a SIG leader that might have all the answers, it is guided by discussion moderator. All of those in attendance share their stories of failures and successes. Very seldom is a question or current problem that someone is having not rectified or at least giving several options to try to solve them. We use all resources available like the internet and experiences that others have either encountered themselves, read about or know of others in the same situation. The discussions can be a very wide range of topics, from copying and renaming files to installing and upgrading operating systems. For example, last month's SIG went from a printer problem to file associations to splitting atoms. You just never know!

As you can see, meetings can be very informative and interesting. Sam moderates and collaborates with members as he helps to solve computer problems. Come on out to a WINDOWS SIG on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.



Craig Loomis,  
Photographer



Dale Elliott, Photographer

## Broadsides

Compiled by Ron Broadhurst, a member of the Space Coast PC Users Group, Inc., FL

The Space Coast PC Journal, June 2009

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

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Dear friends,

These ideas are compiled from years of accumulations from various magazines, books, on-line sites and my own personal experience. I claim neither originality nor ownership to any of its contents. My only intent is to share the various "tips", "tricks", & "hints" in hopes of helping & maybe enhancing your computing experiences. They are all intended for anyone who uses a PC. It is for beginners as well as advanced users. Enjoy and use as you will.



Ron Broadhurst

#### TURN OFF INDEXING TO SPEED UP XP

Windows XP keeps a record of all files on the hard disk so when you do a search on the hard drive it is faster. There is a downside to this and because the computer has to index all files, it will slow down normal file commands like open, close, etc. If you do not do a whole lot of searches on your hard drive then you may want to turn this feature off:

- Open My Computer.
- Right-click your hard drive icon and select Properties.
- At the bottom of the window you'll see "Allow indexing service to index this disk for faster searches," uncheck this and click ok.
- A new window will pop up and select Apply to all folders and subfolders.

It will take a minute or two for the changes to take affect but then you should enjoy slightly faster performance.

#### CORRECTING SYSTEM HANG AT STARTUP

If your system hangs about 2 or 3 minutes at startup, where you can't access the Start button or the Taskbar, it may be due to one specific service (Background Intelligent Transfer) running in the background. Microsoft put out a patch for this but it didn't work for me. Here's what you do:

- Click on Start/Run, type 'msconfig', and then click 'OK'.
- Go to the 'Services' tab; find the 'Background Intelligent Transfer' service. Disable it, apply the changes & reboot.

#### CHANGE THE START MENU STYLE TO CLASSIC

Does the new Windows XP Start menu take up too much space on your desktop? You can easily change the look back to the Windows Classic Start menu by following these steps:

- Right-click the Start button, and then click Properties.
- Click Classic Start menu.
- Click the Customize button to select items to display on the Start menu.

By default, selecting the Classic Start menu also adds the My Documents, My Computer, My Network Places, and Internet Explorer icons to your desktop.

#### DISPLAY YOUR QUICK LAUNCH TOOLBAR

- Right-click an empty area on the taskbar, click Toolbars, and then click Quick Launch.
- Easy as that your Quick Launch bar appears.
- To add items to your Quick Launch toolbar, click the icon for the program you want to add, and drag it to the Quick Launch portion of the taskbar.

#### KEEP YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAMS NEAR THE TOP OF THE START MENU

Do you have a favorite program that you frequently use? Elevate its priority on the Start menu by putting it at the top of the list. This ensures that the program will remain on the Start menu and cannot be bumped by other programs, even if you use the others more frequently.

Right-click the link to your favorite program on the Start menu and select Pin to Start Menu. Your program will be moved permanently to the top part of the list, just below

your browser and e-mail programs.

#### CHANGE OUT YOUR POINTER SCHEME

Tired of seeing your pointer as an arrow or an hourglass all the time? Windows XP offers a number of alternative pointer schemes, such as Dinosaur, Ocean and Sports:

- Open the Control Panel, double-click Mouse, and select the Pointers tab. (If you start in Category view, select Appearance and Themes, then click Mouse Pointers under “See Also”).
- Next to Schemes, click the down arrow and select a scheme to preview its pointers.

Click OK to apply the scheme to your desktop.

#### CREATE A PERSONAL SCREEN SAVER

For a great way to put your digital photos to work, try creating a slide show presentation for use as a screen saver.

- Right-click an empty spot on your desktop, and then click Properties.
- Click the Screen Saver tab.
- In the Screen saver list, click My Pictures Slideshow.
- Click Settings to make any adjustments, such as how often the pictures should change, what size they should be, and whether you’ll use transition effects between pictures, and then click OK.

Now your screen saver is a random display of the pictures taken from your My Pictures folder.

### SIG MEETINGS THIS MONTH

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

Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 6:30 p.m., The Forum, Central meeting room, Carlos Hernandez will present our program for October. Carlos is a nature and bird photographer and does most of his photography in Costa Rica. If you have an interest in bird and nature photography you won’t want to miss this program as Carlos shows us how to capture those great nature and bird photos. Carlos also takes small groups to Costa Rica two or three times a year and some of you may want to join him on one of these trips. Look forward to seeing you. Bring a friend. Bill Franklin, leader.

#### **Investors SIG**

Thursday October 8, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Room 30, second floor, Annex Building, **Leaders: Larry McKee**

The objective of the meeting is to provide helpful and interesting investment information to the attendees primarily through sharing discussions of the group and secondarily through presentations.

Agenda:

1. What is your impression of changes in the investment climate since last month, where do you think the stock market is headed and why?

2. Has anyone discovered any special investment opportunities or deceptions recently that they would like to share?
3. Special topic for discussion this month: The Technical Analysis method of selecting stocks. Please review any data you may have on this subject and share it with us.
4. Requested suggestions from the attendees: Ideas for improving the meeting  
Special topics for future meetings  
Anyone willing to present investment information to us or know of guest speakers?

Note: The investment SIG does not make recommendations for specific securities or other investments for anyone to invest in. We hope that the information shared or presented in the meeting will help the attendees make more informed decisions about how they may want to handle their money.

### Software SIG

Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Room 30, second floor, Annex Building, **Leader: Don Marvin**

The subject for the Software/Internet SIG in October will be **Malvertising** a term formed by combining the words "**malicious**" and "**advertising**". It describes advertisements that are posted on websites or in some cases entire websites, not for good reasons, but for bad ones. Most have some common attributes and all are harmful to our computers for a number of reasons. We will look at the basic characteristics of this type of dangerous software that can cripple any computer. Not only can it damage you computer it can affect your credit card account, steal your identity and even destroy your operating system and your files. Unlike many threats found on the Internet if you are using Linux, or a Macintosh based system you are not exempt from these, they can be just as dangerous to you. We will look at the many ways that they are delivered to your computer, what to look for in order to avoid them and tools that we can use against them.

If you have experienced **Malvertising** come and share your experience with the group, if not come to learn how to avoid the problem. The more we know about the enemy the more we can do to defeat it so please come and tell everyone about your exposure to these threats and how it affected you.

One of the basic objectives to the Software/Internet SIG is to look at current issues that can impact us and our computers. **Malvertising** is one current one that we need to become aware of and how to avoid it.



Erwin Winkel Photograph



Bill Franklin Photograph

## **Graphics SIG**

Thursday, October 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Room 30, Annex Building, **Alex Dumestre, Leader**

This month we will look closely at the subject of **Transparency in graphics**. This is a subject that we have often hit with glancing blows but this time we will dwell on it enough to clear up all of your questions. Transparency (or its opposite, Opacity) comes into play in both Graphics Editing (e.g., PaintShop Pro) and in Slide Show creation (e.g., ProShow Gold) as well as in other graphics applications and viewers. Transparency is frequently used on Web sites and there are graphic file formats that specifically support transparency. Examples are GIF, PNG and TIF. Images without transparency are always rectangular because they are built on a rectangular grid of pixels. Transparency allows us to get around that restriction.

In graphics editing many tools have an Opacity setting, for example, the Paint Brush, Flood Fill, Clone Brush, Layers, etc. We will look into how to handle image transparency in PaintShop Pro. Other high end editors have similar capabilities.

Likewise, in Slide Shows, Transparency comes into play when using layers. If any of you remember the slide show that I showed in recent meetings that had the little boat cruising down the map of the Danube River, The boat had transparent edges conforming to the shape of the boat.

On a different subject: I will not be able to lead the Graphics SIG scheduled for November 3 (a non-standard time caused by conflict with CCCC in using our meeting room on the regular date). I will be recuperating from knee surgery at that time and will be unable to attend. If any of you have an urge to lead a SIG on a graphics subject of your choice (and my long-windedness has prevented you from getting a word in edgewise) this is your chance. Please contact me via e-mail and we can set this up. I hope to see you there.

## **Hardware SIG**

Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Room 30, Annex Building, **Bill Wright, Leader**

Every month we try to present something of interest for our technically challenged members. Our subjects are generally requested by our attendees. Our main purpose is to enlighten them as to what is inside their computer and how it works, so that they can maintain, upgrade or even build their own computer. We also cover subjects such as its proper operation, networking of computers, as well as the latest hardware developments.

If you have any utilities you want to share with others, bring them to the meeting on either floppy disks or CDs. If you have any questions or problems send Bill an email.

And as always, we are a forum where you can get your Computer and Networking questions answered.

## **Genealogy SIG**

Thursday, October 22, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Room 30, Annex Building, **Betty Hesketh & Alex Dumestre, Leaders**

Subject: Internet Research Tips & Q&A

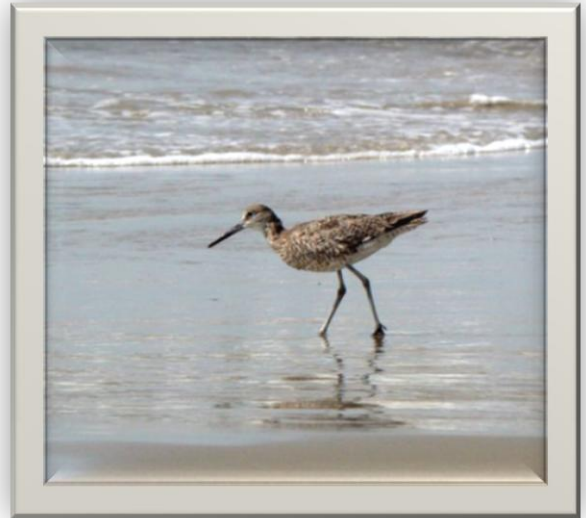
October 22nd is last Genealogy SIG for 2009, so don't miss this meeting. Due to holiday conflicts, there will be no Genealogy SIG meetings in November and December. Our next Genealogy SIG will be held on the fourth Thursday in January 2010. This month we will begin with a question and answer session, so please feel free to bring up any questions pertaining either to your genealogy software and/or your family history research. As a very interactive group, our members are always happy to help answer questions. Beginning and experienced researchers are welcome.

We are a group of computer users with a special interest in family research. Be sure to visit our genealogy web pages at for the latest SIG happenings and research information. [www.1960pcug.org/gensig](http://www.1960pcug.org/gensig)

Our next scheduled bus trip to Clayton Library is Wednesday, November 4, 2009. Notify Bill Nation if you want to join us. Co-leaders:

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

Donna Loomis, Photographer



**Windows SIG**

Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Room 30, Annex Bldg.

***Sam Sanderson, Leader***

See feature article on page 2 of this issue.

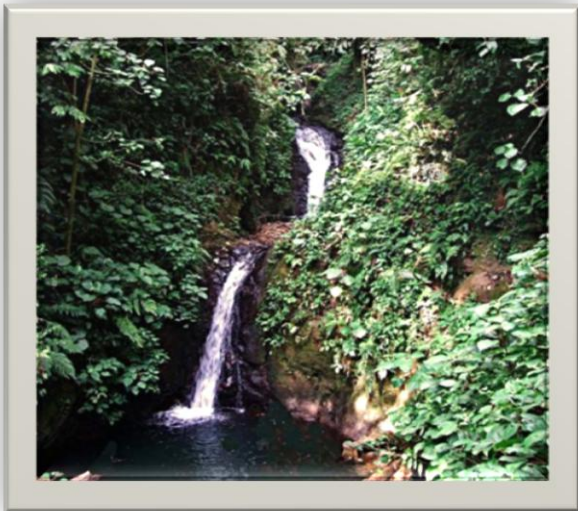


Jean Franklin, Photographer

Jim Sandham, Photographer



Judith Tooth, Photographer



Hope to see you at one of seven SIGs this month. Volunteer for a spot on the Board. Everyone has a contribution of time, talent, or both to make the 1960 PCUG a brilliant organization.

BeaAnn Kelly,

Communications Officer