



September 2009

Let's begin this month's issue by welcoming our new members, as well as to inform them how much we appreciate their becoming members of the 1960 PCUG. Here are the names of members joining in August: *Larry and Ivy McKee, James Fallon, Jr., Dale and Mary Elliott, and Vicki Blake.* We look forward to meeting you at all of our SIGs, exchanging information, and benefitting from what all of you have to offer our PCUG. Interaction with some of these interesting, intelligent, and knowledgeable members helps to strengthen our organization. Please make all members feel welcome and support our motto: "*Members Helping Members.*"

Digital Photography SIG and General Meeting

Gary Toll (photograph below) is shown presenting his Lighting program at the August General meeting. Gary, president of the 1960 PCUG, demonstrated the lighting, camera settings, and positioning of the subject to obtain proper exposures for capturing the best image. We all learned valuable information for improving our photographs. Thank you ,Gary, for sharing this program with us.

We all gain knowledge by sharing what we have learned from our members. Think about doing a presentation to impart your knowledge of a specific interest relating to any of our SIGs. Digital Photography is an opportunity to offer information of all aspects of photography: technical tips, software, basics, pecific subjects, or giving a slide

presentation of your photographs with tips and suggestions on how to take better pictures, can be a full program.

If you have photographs, tricks or tips to share, please inform our SIG leaders of what you have to offer.

Everyone has talents and information to share with our club. Jump in and consider presenting a program.!!

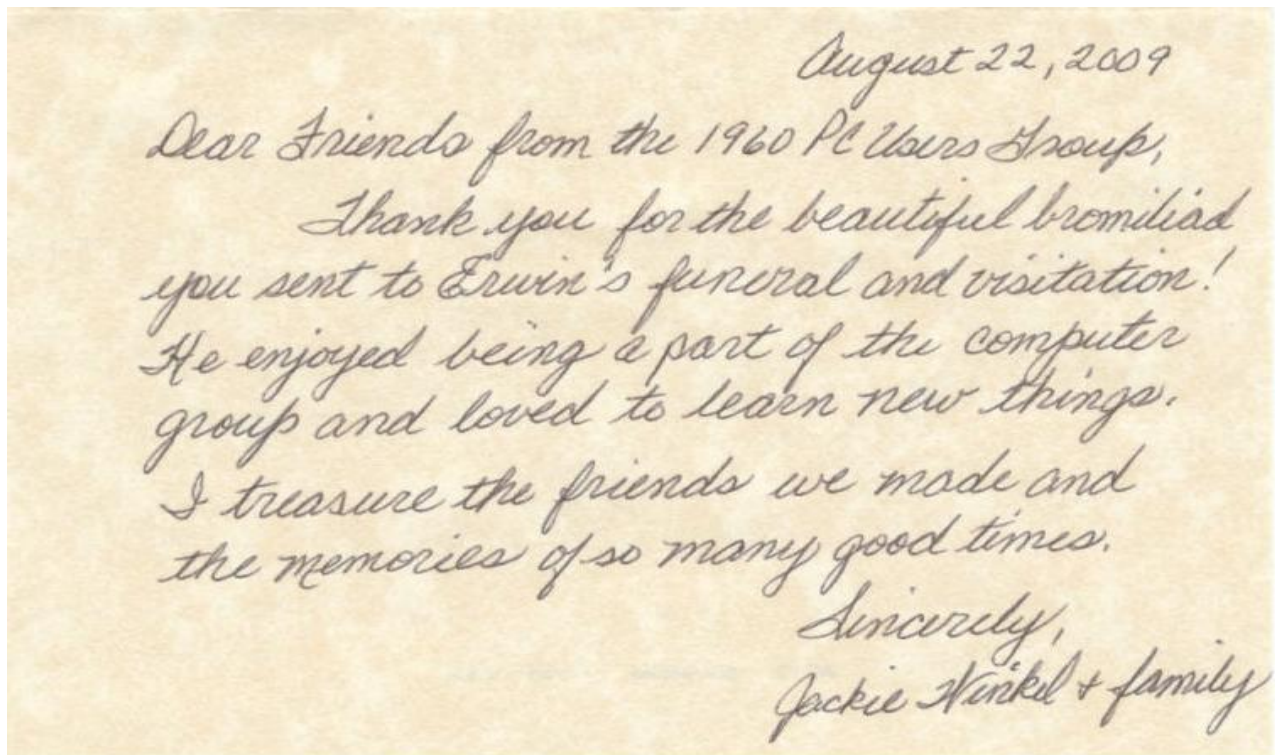


Bill Franklin, photographer

Member Tribute

Erwin Winkel, a member and 2008 Board member, passed away in August, 2009. His wit, compassion, and zest for life will truly be missed in our club. Erwin lived life to the fullest and was admired by all his many friends. His wit, friendly and kindly spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew Erwin.

Several members attended his visitation and/or funeral, which were celebrations of his life with his wonderful family and vast number of friends. Below is a thank you from Jackie, his wife, and the Winkel family. We will all miss Erwin deeply.



Optimize Your PC

Written by Jon Jackman, President, Fox Valley PC Association, Illinois

Fox Tales, August 2009

www.fvpca.org

jockojkj (at) aol.com

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I saw an e-mail from PC World inviting me to speed up my slow PC. This directed me to a link for a “free scan” of my computer using PC Pitstop Optimize 3.0. Recently, we had a discussion at our general meeting of slow system performance, so I decided to give it a try and document the effort here. It may postpone an inevitable Windows re-install, but we will see.

The scan yielded some interesting results and offered to do it for me if I purchased the program (for about \$30.) I looked at the results and wondered how I might be able to do this manually for free? I looked around on Google and found some step-by-step guides on basically accomplishing the same things that PC Pitstop’s Optimize would do if I paid the \$30. I ran the program and it began to scan my system. Interestingly it ran 3 scans of my Download speed. Not sure what that was about. It then displayed several pages of results: Junk Files, Internet Settings, Startup Programs, Registry Fixes and Performance Tweaks. When I reboot, it reminds me of what it can do to make things run better by displaying red messages. I will try some manual fixes and watch to see if the start-up scan gets progressively greener.

Looking at what Optimize tries to do I first decided to run CCleaner, a free program that has been a recent DOQ offering (2009 DOQ-2). Alternately, you can download it from www.ccleaner.com.

Junk Files

The first Optimize Results screen listed the junk files that I could safely delete. In my case, Optimize listed Temporary Files, Recycle Bin and Internet Caches. Using CCleaner in the Cleaner option under the Windows tab, files for Internet Explorer, Windows Explorer and System are listed by default, so I ran the “Analyze” tool. I was reminded to close Firefox to enable the Internet Cache to be cleaned as well. After several minutes it was complete and it said that ANALYSIS COMPLETE -

(526.859 seconds), 555.9MB to be removed. (Approximate size). As a comparison, Optimize indicated that 729 MB would be cleaned. I ran the “Run Cleaner” option.

Internet Settings

The second Optimize Results screen looks at Internet Settings and explains that they may be tuned for faster throughput and may provide a substantial increase in Internet performance. In my case, my connections (HTTP, TCP/IP and Firefox) had no recommended adjustments. However, you may try using the Optimize free scan yourself and see that you have some that are recommended. In that case, you may try to Optimize your settings manually. Search Google for “TCP Optimizer”, download and run it. Select “Optimal”, then apply. Look around carefully and see what else you might optimize.

You will need to reboot.

Startup Programs

When Windows starts up it automatically loads a number of programs, many of which you may not need. As you install more and more programs, this list can continue to grow. In my situation, there were several Startup Programs that Optimize considered “unnecessary.” (You could run the free scan and see what it says about your system.) The ones listed on mine were: InstallShield Update Service (2 instances), Adobe Acrobat SpeedLauncher, QuickTime Icon and Realtek HD Audio. Using

CCleaner I went to Tools and then selected Startup. I looked at the programs that Optimizer 3.0 suggested and right clicked on them and chose “Disable”.

Registry Fixes

Programs sometimes leave incorrect information behind in the registry, either because they uninstall improperly or because the files associated with the entries have been moved or deleted. Cleaning the Windows registry would hope to keep your PC in working order and keep the system running at peak performance. Using CCleaner, select Registry and then “Scan for issues”. You can then choose to Fix them. Afterwards, not too many of the Optimize findings were changed.

Performance Tweaks

Optimize made some recommendations to adjust some settings in the Registry. Using the suggested tweaks I searched the Registry and made the adjustments to the keys that I could find, although not all of the ones recommended could be found. As always, back up your registry first! (CCleaner would have done that prior to fixing the registry in the step above.) Start, Run “regedit”, then Edit, Find and enter the string. Right click and adjust the value.

Additional Fixes

Use Auslogics Registry Defrag

Defrag your hard drive!

Uninstall Optimize 3.0... You might want to reinstall it and run a new scan after you have done all of these steps to see if you made progress.

You should see a faster booting, faster running machine!

Good luck!

September SIGS

Digital Photography SIG and General Meeting, *Bill Franklin*, leader. 6:30 pm.,

Bob Blome will present our program on September 3,2009. Bob is an amateur photographer who does a great deal of traveling with his wife. His program will cover a recent trip to China. You will be amazed at what you can do with a point and shoot camera. Even if you are not an avid photographer you will enjoy Bob’s images from China. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September, and bring a friend.

Judith Tooth, Photographer



Software SIG, Don Marvin, Leader, September 8, 7 pm.

In our June meeting we looked at some of the currently available browsers and some of their features, however we did not look at them in detail by checking them out on live web pages. This month we will use the various browsers to look at different web pages and compare how each renders the information. Recently Microsoft has announced that any browsers prior to IE7 will no longer be supported. This means that more and more web developers will no longer be adding the special code necessary to properly display pages with these browsers. If anyone is using the older Internet Explorer versions the time is now to make the change and our meeting will provide an opportunity for you to select a new browser. Bring the URL of any of your web pages you would like to look at with the different browsers especially if they don't display correctly with your current browser.

Sun Microsystems has a new virtualization program called Virtual Box that provides the facilities to load multiple operating systems on any PC. Sometime ago we looked at VM Ware's free product which in my opinion seemed to run very slow, but this product appears to run much quicker. We will look at Windows 7 RC and Windows XP Pro running on a Windows Vista computer. If you made a switch to one of the newer versions of windows, but have some programs that will not run on them, this may be a way to have the newest and oldest operating systems on your computer and switch back and forth without having to reboot.



Jean Franklin, Photographer

Investors SIG, Ben Anthony & James Hug, Leaders, September 10, 7 pm.

The objective of the Investors SIG is to provide its members a forum in which they can share their personal asset management ideas. Don't expect stock leads or investment tips, this is not the purpose of this SIG. Bring your questions or topics for financial discussion with James and Ben. This SIG is a good opportunity to review your financial situation regularly, and to make necessary moves at the right time.

Hardware SIG, Bill Wright, Leader, September 15, 7 pm.

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.

Email: [Bill Wright](mailto:Bill.Wright@...)

Graphics SIG, Alex Dumestre, Leader, September, 17, 7 pm.

A preliminary step to putting a slide show together is doing any necessary editing of the individual pictures that go into the show. We will spend some time looking at certain aspects of editing (using PaintShop Pro) and will attempt to answer your questions on graphics editing.

Remember that my primary interest in conducting these sessions is to be able to introduce some of the digital graphics technology to some of you and to try to answer questions that you have on the wide spectrum of computer graphics -- so ask questions! Also, remember my standing offer to attempt to work on any damaged or otherwise defective heirloom or other photo that you cherish. See the statement on this subject further down on this page. I used to get these submitted several times a year but haven't seen any in recent months. Don't be bashful, sometimes we can do great things to a damaged/faded heirloom.

I hope to see you there.

Bill Franklin, Photographer



Windows SIG, Sam Sanderson, Leader, September 22, 7pm.

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.

Past meetings have covered a wide range of subjects including copy-paste, system configuration, HD television, virus detection and removal, setting up home networks, choosing the best ISP to use, and all MS Office products. Last month the group discussed features of Word 2007, Gmail notifier, and use of dual monitors.

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, Betty Hesketh & Alex Dumestr, Leaders, September 24, 7 pm

In August our discussion focused on basic research techniques, including how to get started with your research, where to locate records and the necessity for a good genealogy software program and an organization plan for keeping paper records. Please share your successful techniques with the group. Beginning and experienced researchers are welcome.

Our next scheduled bus trip to Clayton Library is Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

We are a group of computer users with a special interest in family research. This is an interactive group, so bring your questions to the SIG and we will do our best to help answer them as time permits. Be sure to visit our genealogy web pages at http://www.1960pcug.org/SIGs_new/genealogy_sig.htm for the latest SIG happenings and research information.



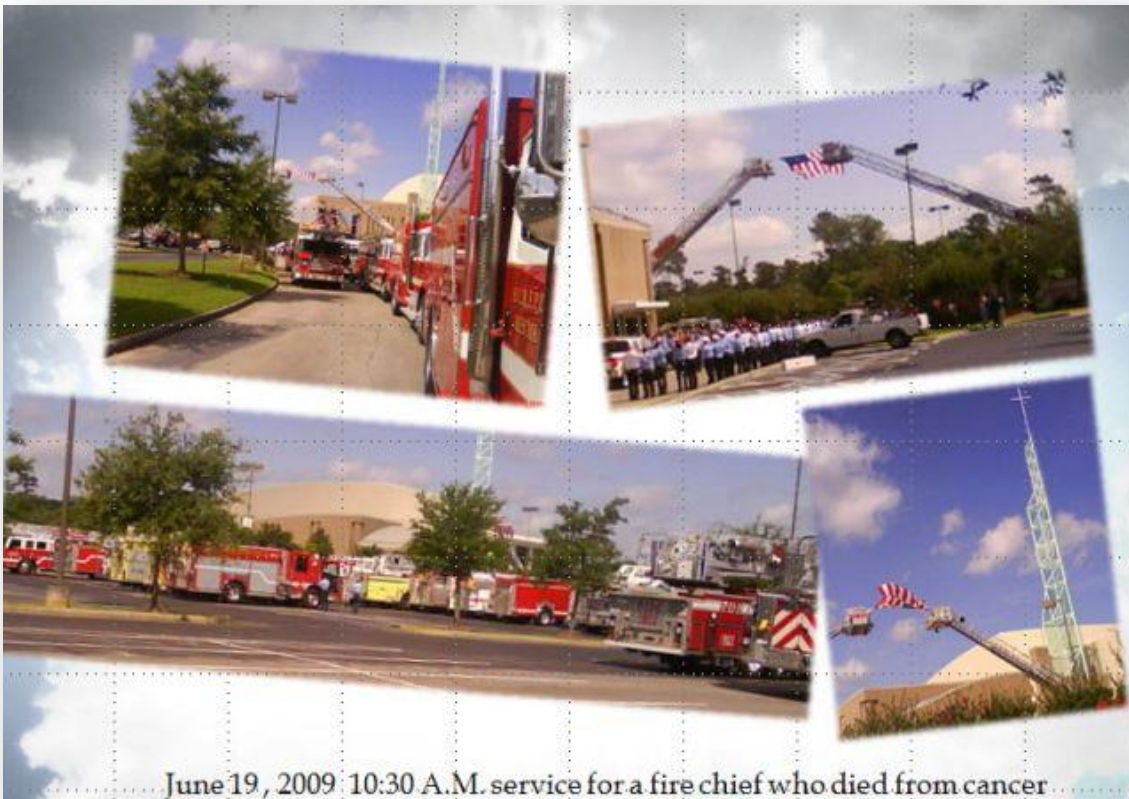
Al Mosco, photographer

2010 Board Nominating Committee

A nominating committee for the 2010 Board is needed to select members to fill positions for next year. The election will be held at the November General meeting and newly-elected officers will be installed at the December meeting/party.

All members should consider volunteering to hold office or serve on the nominating committee. Please step up, get involved and contribute to strengthening the 1960 PCUG. You may contact any board member or SIG leader in person or by email. Get the most out of our organization by taking action and helping to serve in our club.

David Gustaine Photograph



Share & Learn

Don't forget to submit photos to Bill Franklin at billfranklin@gmail.com for September's meeting. You may email up to five (5) images. Be part of one of the favorite sections of the general meeting: viewing members' photos and learning tips and tricks for taking better photographs.

Refreshments

Thank you, Jean Olsen, for coming through again with refreshments in August.

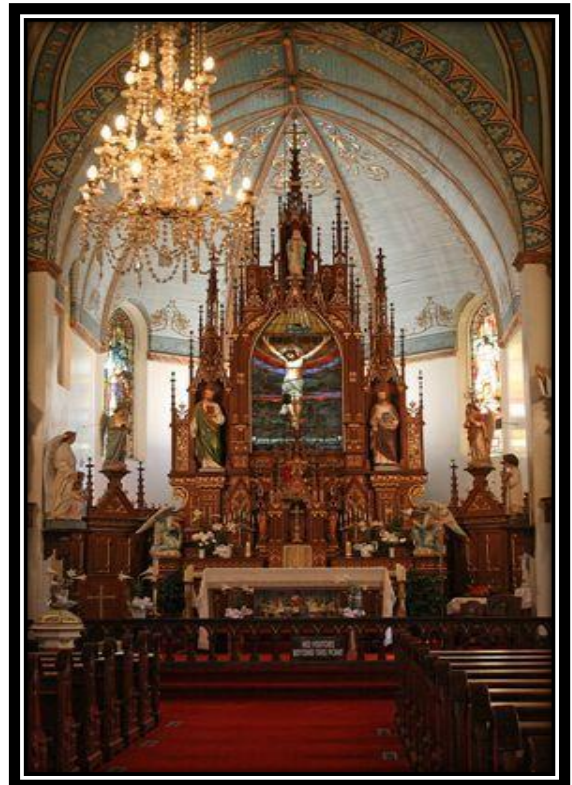
Take your turn to bring a snack or tidbit for our 6:30 social preceding the General meeting each month. Sign up with Jean, or sign the list as it is passed around during the meeting. Save your receipts for reimbursement. Now, that's pretty easy!

Paul Severson, Photographer



Kroger Card

Remember to renew your Kroger card for 2009 so our organization earns extra funds through your purchases with the community sharing program. Check the website for details.



**Sylvia
Tucker, Photographer**

Hope to see you in September (hey, that would make a good song title) and wish you all good health and joy in life.

We are always open to suggestions, articles, or items to improve our newsletter. Contact me at beaannkelly@gmail.com for input.

BeaAnn Kelly,
Communications Officer

