



## **April 2010 Newsletter**

Spring is here and we have some exciting programs and field trips planned for the remainder of the year. Coming up for the April 6<sup>th</sup> general meeting and Digital Photography SIG is members Don and Pat Townzen's presentation of the "Courthouses of Texas." Don & Pat traveled the state of Texas for over 3 years photographing all 254 county courthouses. They will be sharing some of these pictures, plus tidbits of Texas history, and some Texas folklore, too.

Please note that the general meeting will be held on Tuesday instead of our regular Thursday meeting night. Social time at 6:30, meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

SIG leader, James Sandham, encourages you to send in your photos for the "Share and Learn" segment of the program. Please downsize pictures to 900 pixels or 120 ppi and send by April 2<sup>nd</sup> to [jsandham77@gmail.com](mailto:jsandham77@gmail.com) to be included in the slideshow. We all enjoy viewing the many interesting photos submitted by members each month. Please consider sending in photos if you never have in the past. There are plenty of photo ops at this time of the year, or maybe you have a recent travel, family, or special interest photo you would like to share.

Also, remember to check all SIG website pages for a treasury of resources, archives, and information about PC and photography topics.



In March, J.T. Thomas gave an informative program on Managing the Workflow of photo processing in Lightroom. He included general photography tips for improving your photography. His website is [www.jtphotographics.com](http://www.jtphotographics.com) for more information.

**J.T. Thomas, presenter**

BeaAnn Kelly photo

## SIGS

**Software SIG** Tuesday, April 13, 7-9 p.m., Leader, *Don Marvin,*

In June 2008 we looked at OpenOffice.org (OOo) and how it compared with Microsoft Office Suite (MSO). As more and more new computers are now coming with only Microsoft Works with its limitations preinstalled now may be a good time to look at an Office Suite with more capabilities. The current version of (OOo) is version 3.2 and the one we looked at previously was version 2.1. There have been many changes since our last review. The product is still free and certainly worth another look.

In addition I have found a few little free or nearly free programs that some of you might find useful and we will look at these as well. These are often very useful and maybe a way of solving a problem that you have and did not have a solution to.

Finally, remember this is a good time to get questions answered, help in solving problems or a chance for you to share what you have found with others. Have a Wi-Fi capable laptop PC? You are welcome to bring it to the meeting as well. If you do bring your laptop come a little early so we can establish your connection settings before the meeting begins.

**Investors SIG** Tuesday, April 20, 7-9 p.m., Leaders, *Larry McKee and Ben Anthony,*

The objective of the meetings is to provide helpful and interesting investment information to the attendees through presentations, group discussions, web site references, and information exchanges. Hopefully, this information will provide a better knowledge base for making decisions for those who manage their own portfolios or want to have a more meaningful critique with their investment advisors.

The normal agenda at our monthly meetings is as follows:

- Review current information that is affecting the markets and investment outlook
- Present and discuss the current month's topic(s)
- Conduct an open discussion of any special opportunities or cautions that any of the attendees want to share with the group
- Solicit inputs from the attendees regarding future special topics or improvements in the meeting format. Suggestions for guest speakers are welcome



The preceding photograph is a Bill Franklin photo of a port in Aruba shown in the March S&L.

**Graphics SIG** Thursday, April 22, 7-9 p.m., Leader, *Alex Dumestre*,

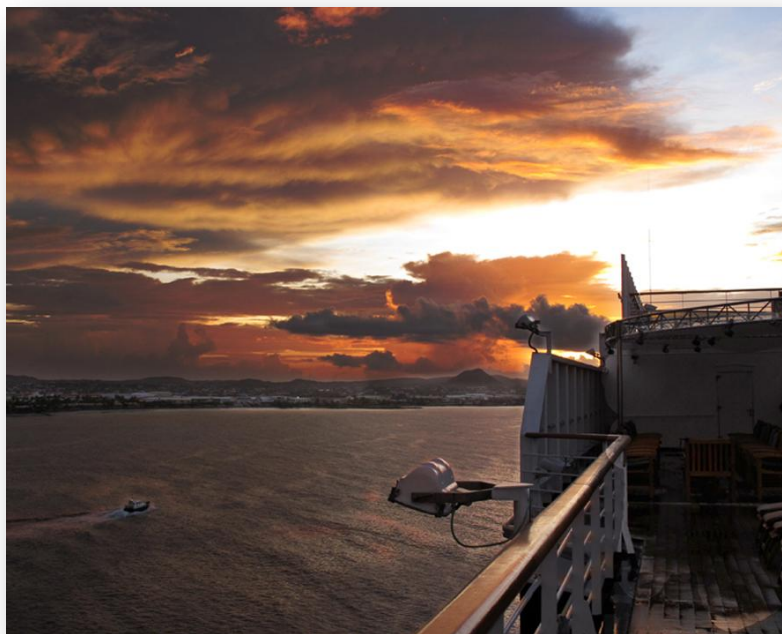
**The Graphics SIG is defined to cover all aspects of computer graphics that may be of interest to our members.**

In particular, all kinds of (1) painting, (2) drawing, (3) presentation, (4) scrapbooking and (5) photo editing software are in our area of responsibility both for printed and Web output. We also get into (1) scanning, (2) digital photography, (3) video, and (4) slide show production. We deal with use of graphics in more general purpose applications such as word processors and e-mail.

**Which of this wide array of applications are actually covered at a SIG meeting** depends strongly on the knowledge and interests of the SIG leader and of the guest speakers that the leader can recruit **and** on the suggestions made by the SIG attendees. The Graphics SIG, as are most of the club's SIGs, is very informal and questions are welcomed during the course of the meeting. It is suggested that, if possible, you submit your questions in advance via e-mail in order that the leader be able to do some research on the question if necessary. Attendance is typically about 20 members. Guests are welcome.

**Your current leader specializes in** graphic editing, slide show production, digital photography and scanning though he and/or other attendees may be able to answer your questions on a wider range of applications. Your current leader also has a standing offer to perform restoration work on damaged or faded photographs that are important to you. Simply e-mail digital files to him or bring them or original prints to the meeting.

Please check Alex's Graphic SIG page on the 1960 PCUG website for links to more information and answers to your questions.



Jean Franklin photo

**Windows SIG** Tuesday, April 27, 7-9 p.m., Leader, *Sam Sanderson*,

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.

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!

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



James Sandham photo

**Genealogy SIG** Thursday, April 29, 7-9 p.m., Leaders, *Betty Hesketh and Alex Dumestre*

For our March 25th Genealogy SIG member, Bert Fedt, prepared a slide show entitled "A Pictorial Family History". As the title suggests, he showed how a family historian can present a meaningful family history of several generations pictorially rather than with text and charts. Following the presentation, Bert answered questions and share some 1880 western pictures with the group. It is always interesting to find different ways to present our research, so we hope you didn't miss this program. 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 for the latest SIG happenings and research information.

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

Members who would like to sign up for our genealogy newsletter, please e-mail Betty at [bhesketh1@gmail.com](mailto:bhesketh1@gmail.com).

SIG Co-leaders:

Betty Hesketh [bhesketh1@gmail.com](mailto:bhesketh1@gmail.com)

Alex Dumestre [adumestre@att.net](mailto:adumestre@att.net)

Member, David Gustine, has prepared a useful chart for laptop and desktop comparison shopping which is included below. This was also discussed at the last Windows SIG. Thank you, David, for all your time and effort in compiling and contributing this helpful information.

		<b>Desktop computer</b>										
Cost		\$1,149	\$836	\$729	\$649	\$599	\$549	\$549	\$479	\$358	\$309	
Manufactory		Dell	HP	Asus	Gateway	Dell	Gateway	Dell	HP	eMachines	Compaq	
model #		SX8100-1986NBC	HPE-112y	CG5275-AR003	DX4300-15e	I560-4000NBK	DX4831-01e	I545-1125NBK	s5304y	ET1831-05	CQ5300Y	
Processor		Intel® Core™ i7-860 processor	AMD Phenom™ II 925* quad	Intel® Core™ i5 Processor	AMD Phenom™ II 810* quad	Intel® Core™2 Duo processor E7500	Intel® Core™ i3-530 processor	Intel® Pentium® E5400	AMD Athlon™ II 215	Intel® Celeron® processor 450	AMD Sempron™ LE-1300	
Sytem Memory(RAM)		8GB DDR3	8GB DDR3 SDRAM	8GB DDR3	8GB DDR2	8GB DDR3 SDRAM	6GB DDR3	6GB DDR2	4GB DDR3	3GB DDR2	2GB DDR2	
Screen Size		3 PCI	1 PCI Express x1	2 PCI	1 PCI, 1 PCI Express x16	1 PCI-E x16, 1 PCI-E x1, 1 PCI	4 PCI-	2 PCI-E x1	2 PCI -	4 PCI -	3 PCI -	
Hard disk		1TB SATA (7200 rpm)	1TB SATA	1TB SATA (7200 rpm)	1TB SATA	1TB SATA (7200 rpm)	1TB Sata	640GB SATA (5400 rpm)	750GB SATA	500GB SATA	320GB SATA	
Optical drive		double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	double-layer DVD±RW/Blu-ray Disc/CD-RW	double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	DVD±RW/CD-RW	double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	DVD±RW/CD-RW	double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	
Weight												
Windows 7 Home Premium		64-bit	64-bit	64-bit	64-bit	64-bit	64-bit	64-bit	64-bit	64-bit	64-bit	
size (WidthxDepth)		16.1"x7.3"x17.9"	15.8"x7.1"x16.3"	18.1"x7.9"x21"	16.2"x7.1"x16.3"	14.8"x6.9"x17.4"	16"x7.1"x16.3"	14.8"x6.9"x17.4"	15.1"x6.5"x16.9"	14.2"x7.1"x16.2"	15.1"x6.5"x16.9"	
		Microsoft Windows Experience Index										
Processor			7.5	7.2	7	7.1	6.5	6.9	6.2	6.5	6.2	4.2
Memory (RAM)			7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	6.5	7	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.4
Graphics performance			7.3	4.2	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.9	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.2
Gaming graphic performance			7.3	6	5.3	5.4	3.5	5.9	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
Primary hard disk transfer rate			5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
		I had to go to the store and do the following on the computer to find out the Microsoft Window Experience Index										
		1. Depress the "Enter" key to get out of demo										
		2. Upper left corner of the screen left mouse click on "Explore this computer"										
		3. Left mouse click on icon "Computer"										
		4. Top bar of the pop-up window left mouse click on "system Properties"										
		5. Left mouse click on the underlined words left of the "Experience Index" for the computer										

Compiled by David Gustine March 9, 2010 computer in Best Buy Store Willowbrook one display isle

Cost versus Microsoft Windows Experience index

**Laptop Computer**

Cost	\$1,049	\$949	\$749	\$729	\$579	\$499	\$449	\$429	\$349	\$349
Manufactory	Sony*	Dell*	HP	Asus	Lenovo	Dell	Asus	Toshiba	Acer	Compac
model #	VPCS111FM /S	S15Z 2249CPN	DV4 2155DX	UL50VT-RBBBK05	SL410-?	I1546-2453JBK	K50I-RBBGR05	L455-S5009	AS5532-5535	CQ60-615DX
Processor	M/S Intel® Core™ i5-430M processoro	Intel® Core™ i5-430M processor	Intel® Core™ i3	Intel® Core™2 Duo		AMD Turion™ X2	Intel® Pentium® processor T4400	Intel® Pentium® processor T4400	AMD Athlon™ single-core processor TF-20	Intel® Celeron® processor 900
Sytem Memory(RAM)	4GB DDR3	4GB DDR3	4GB DDR3	4GB DDR3	4GB DR3	4GB DDR2	3GB DDR2	4GB DDR3	3GB DDR2	2GB DDR2
Screen Size	13.3" widescreen;	15.6" widescreen	14.1"	15.6"	14"	15.6"	15.6"	15.6"	15.6"	15.6"
Hard disk	500GB hard drive;	500GB hard drive	320GB SATA (7200 rpm)	500GB SATA (5400 rpm)	500GB SATA (5400 rpm)	250GB SATA (5400 rpm)	320GB SATA (5400 rpm)	320GB SATA (5400 rpm)	160GB SATA (5400 rpm)	250GB SATA (7200 rpm)
Optical drive	DL DVD±RW/CD-RW drive	DVD±RW/CD-RW drive	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW
Weight			5.2 lbs.	5.1 lbs.	5.1 lbs.	5.9 lbs.	5.7 lbs.	5.9 lbs.	6 lbs.	6.6 lbs.
Windows 7 Home Premium			64-bit	64-bit	Professional 64-bit	64-bit	not given	64-bit	64-bit	64-bit
size (WidthxDepth)			13.2"x9.5"	15.2"x10.2"	13.5"x9.2"	14.7"x9.6"	10.1"x14.6"	10.1"x14.6"	14.4"x10.8"	14.9"x9.9"

**Microsoft Windows Experience Index**

Processor	Calculations per second	6.7	6.5	6.2	4.9	5	4.9	5.6	5.5	3	4.4
Memory (RAM)	memory operations per second	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.5	5	6.1	5.6	5.5	4.9	5.1
Graphics	Window Aero performance	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.1	4.1	3.4	3.6	2.9	3.6
Gaming graphics	graphic performance	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.8	4.8	5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3
Primary hard disk	Disk data transfer rate	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.9

\* Specifications information not available on Best Buy website

**Windows Experience index Scale = 1. - 7.9**

yellow quad processor Intel new chip introduced in 2010	AMD quad	green dual processor	blue single processor
orange video displayed will not have smooth transitions: movies, Internet clips, etc			

An **Invitation** for a PCUG conference in north Texas has been sent to our organization. A copy of the email invitation from Bill Drissel, President of the North Texas PCUG follows:

I'm Bill Drissel, President of the North Texas PC Users Group, NTPCUG, ([www.ntpcug.org](http://www.ntpcug.org)). On April 30 and May 1, 2010, we are sponsoring the Association of PC Users Groups (APCUG) Regional Convention. The 1-1/2 day conference will have three tracks: Windows, Open Software and APCUG. Program is attached.

I'd appreciate it if you could notify your members. I realize the time is short but if you could email this invitation to your members, I'd appreciate it.

Regards,  
-- Bill Drissel

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 **APCUGDallasRegionalSchedule.pdf**

83K [View](#) [Download](#)

### **Digital Photography Field Trips**

James Sandham, Digital Photography SIG Leader, has arranged for the following field trips. **You don't have to be a photo enthusiast to participate**, so sign up if you have the dates available on your calendar.

The 1960 PCUG Digital Photography SIG has lined up the first two outdoor field trips for 2010.

**Place: Shimek's Gardens**

**Date: Monday, May 17, 2010**

**Shimek's Gardens** is a privately owned/operated National Display Garden located in Alvin at the home of Nell & Harvey Shimek. They grow and crossbreed over 850 kinds of hybrid lilies, roses, hibiscus, many tropicals, and perennials. We will be there at the height of the growing season for day lilies. Nell & Harvey are both exhibition and garden judges for the American Hemerocallis Society, so they know what they're doing, and I'm sure we'll all enjoy their lovely gardens. Tripods are permitted.

Visit their website at <http://www.cityscope.net/~neshimek/>

**Cost:** Free

**Precinct 4 Bus:** you must be age 60 or above to ride the Precinct 4 buses -- no exceptions! We'll have a 26-passenger bus with a lift gate for passengers with physical limitations. Bus departure time will be determined closer to the actual date.

**Lunch:** bring your own sack lunch & drink

**Place: Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC)**, located between Seabrook and Ellington Field

**Date: Friday, June 11, 2010**

**Armand Bayou Nature Center** is a public facility located just west of Seabrook. ABNC is a 2,500 acre preserve of wetlands, prairie, forest, and marshes surrounding the Armand Bayou. There are plants and animals galore, bird watching, nature trails, and animal displays of snakes, spiders, hawks, and bison. There is a raptor exhibit, a visitors center, a 600-foot raised boardwalk through a hardwood forest and past a nature pond, an education & interpretive building, a bird observation blind, a total of 4.5 miles

of trails, a prairie platform, butterfly gardens, an 1800s farm site, and even a bison viewing platform. Tripods are permitted.

Visit their website at <http://www.abnc.org/>.

**Cost:** \$1.00 each for age 60+ visitors

**Precinct 4 Bus:** you must be age 60 or above to ride the Precinct 4 buses -- no exceptions! We'll have a 26-passenger bus with a lift gate for passengers with physical limitations. Bus departure time will be determined closer to the actual date.

**Lunch:** bring your own sack lunch & drink

**Sign-up sheets** will be circulated at the April 1, 2010 General Meeting. If you can't be at the April meeting, please send Jim Sandham an e-mail specifying which field trip you want to attend -- [jsandham77@gmail.com](mailto:jsandham77@gmail.com).



Judith Tooth photo

Jim Kelly photo



Hope to see you at the **Tuesday**, April 6<sup>th</sup> general meeting and Digital Photography SIG or at one of our other popular SIGs throughout the month.

BeaAnn Kelly,  
Communications Officer



Yellow-crowned

Night Herons

BeaAnn Kelly photo