



## **May 2010 Newsletter**

This month's newsletter is full of news from all of our fantastic SIGs and the valuable information each leader has provided for members. Please attend several different SIGs each month to reap the benefits of your 1960 PCUG membership. Questions may be submitted by email to specific SIG leaders who are willing to find the answers and solutions to computer-related problems. Many of our SIG leaders provide direct information and/or archives and links through website related pages.

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

James Sandham, SIG leader, has a superb program lined up with featured speaker David McDonald.

**Thursday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.** in the Forum at Cypress Creek Community Church.

David McDonald: "Bird Photography - From Field to Art Print"

In late 2005, David decided to try photographing birds for his own pleasure, and to share the beauty of them with others. He had never done photography previously, so he had to learn everything. He has a number of photos now on the Houston Audubon Society 'bird gallery,' and also has a marvelous blog full of photos and facts which he shares on a regular basis. You don't need to be a bird photographer to enjoy this program!

Last month Don and Pat Townzen (members) amazed us with photography and Texas history in their presentation of "The Courthouses of Texas." Their three year journey to capture all 254 Texas county courthouses is a major accomplishment. We may have to schedule another program next year to cover some of the buildings not discussed within the hour presentation.



Don and Pat Townzen with albums of Texas courthouse photographs

James encourages members to submit photographs to Share & Learn for each Digital SIG meeting. It is always fun to see your photos on the screen. You will be surprised how good they look on the big screen, plus members enjoy sharing the narratives about the photographs. Beginner-to-expert level photographs are welcome. We also gain tips and answers to questions for improving our photos.

### Share & Learn:

It's time to send me several of your recent digital images for the Share & Learn slideshow. End-of-2009 holiday shots, maybe outdoor images of the recent hard freeze, trips you took, or whatever you think the group would enjoy seeing.

Send them to me -- [jsandham77@gmail.com](mailto:jsandham77@gmail.com) -- by the end of Monday, May 3rd so I can get them all into the slideshow.

Please resize your images down to 900 pixels on the long side, or downsize them to 120 ppi.

## **Software SIG**

**Tuesday, May 11, 7-9 p.m.** *Don Marvin, SIG Leader,*

In May's Software/Internet SIG we will be look at the how to have an effective backup system for programs and data stored on our PC's. Discussion will include backup software, methods of backup and types of storage media for backups. We will look at software included with your operating system as well both free and purchased commercial products. There are also many options available for online remote backup that are economical possibilities if we have adequate Internet access we will take a look these.

In almost any group of computer users we will find that backups are either minimal or never done. How effective is you backup? Plan on sharing your methods or procedures with the group. You may have just the idea someone else is looking for.

As usual, I will also try share some interesting software I have discovered that you might find useful. Bring your laptop if you like. We can always use more computing power in our meeting.

[Software/Internet SIG Leader](#)



Peter Herbert Photo

## **Investors SIG**

Thursday, May 13, 7-9 p.m., Larry McKee and Ben Anthony, co leaders

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

Here is the discussion and presentation from April:

After the market updates, we will have a brief review of a Canadian Trust newsletter, then there will be a presentation regarding Financial Advisors. Following that, we will show data regarding commercial and residential real estate mortgage resets, plus some high yield ETF candidates that were on the agenda last month, but weren't shown due to time constraints.

Future special topics:

- Investing in new or breakthrough technologies
- Indexed mutual funds compared to managed mutual funds
- Ideas for the selection of investment candidates
- Research tools for the evaluation of investment candidates
- Technical Analysis of the stock market

During the month, we maintain an information exchange for useful data regarding current investment developments. Attendees are encouraged to email suggested articles to me at: [mckeelarryg@hotmail.com](mailto:mckeelarryg@hotmail.com)

We do not make recommendations for specific investments. Each recipient of information should decide what to do with the information he or she receives, if anything.

## **In Memorial to James Hug**

On April 6, 2010, we lost one of our most dedicated members of the 1960 PCUG, *James Hug*. James served as president of the 1960 PCUG in 2008, leader of the former Internet SIG, and co-creator of the Investors SIG in 2009. For those of us who had the privilege of knowing James, or attending any of his presentations, we will miss him greatly. He devoted much time and energy to the organization. Many members benefited from his help and expertise with technological problem solving.

We are saddened by his loss. We offer condolences to his widow, Carol Hug, also a member.

## **Graphics SIG**

Thursday, May 22, 7-9 p.m. *Alex Dumestre*, Leader

Here is what you would have learned in April if you attended Alex's SIG:

After spending most of our time during the past three meetings on some general (non-photographic) graphics editing, I will get back to concentrating, this month, on photo editing. This does not mean that more general use of the graphics editor will not be covered so feel free to include general graphics editing questions or suggestions in your pre-SIG e-mails or meeting comments. We will work with PaintShop Pro X3 to show some of their new features, particularly the much expanded Organization and Express Lab capabilities.

In addition to photo editing I will also spend some time showing the creation of slide shows using the very capable ProShow Gold program. In the age of digital photography, in particular, I find that slide shows are my favorite way of sharing my photos (particularly of vacation trips) with friends and family. Why do I mention "digital photography" in my previous statement? Because, while it was easy in the past to sit on a sofa with a dozen or two prints from a trip and tell our friend all he/she wanted to know about our trip in about 10 minutes, we now tend to have a hundred photos, few of which we make prints of. These hundred photos can be arranged in a slide show that includes titles, captions, pan & zoom, music and an occasional video that can be viewed in the same 10 minutes, and which does not require your personal narration each time. Very important is the fact that you can distribute the show in any of several different ways that suit the needs of individual friends/relatives. Among the most useful are:

1. Writing the show to DVD or Blu-Ray disc so that they may be viewed on TV,
2. Mailing the above discs to friends/family for viewing on their TV,
3. Uploading the show to your own Web site,
4. Or, as I do, uploading it to the free Photodex.com site and e-mailing invites to the friends.family to view the show there.

I'll show 10 mintes or so or my Eastern Europe river cruise from last spring.

It's been a while since I mentioned my standing offer to work on restoring any of your treasured photos that have suffered the ravages of time, particularly faded, torn heirloom photos. Bring any candidate you may have to the meeting. This is a safe process since the original is just scanned and returned to you while the restoration work is done on the digital copy.

The May meeting will include additional information on slide presentations. Make sure you check out Alex's archives and articles to be found on his webpage. Also, take him up on photo restoration work with which you may need help. Alex can do some of the work on line.



David Gustine Photo

James Sandham Photo

Craig Loomis Photo



Here are a few more samples of some of the nice photographs viewed at April's Share and Learn segment at the Digital Photography SIG. Consider submitting your photos by Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> for Thursday's meeting. Learn about where and how the photos are taken. The story behind the photo is very interesting in most cases. We like to share a few of the selections from the previous month's photos in the current newsletter for you to enjoy.

## Windows SIG

Tuesday, May 25, 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.

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](#)

Below is some of the input from a member who attended Sam's Windows SIG last month:

" We were small in size, but mighty in info with member participation.

Sam is excellent in finding info on the Internet suggested by members.

Ben Anthony told about RevoUninstall:

<http://www.revouninstaller.com/>

Member Ed needed help with networking computers and Sam checked out:

<http://www.howtogeek.com/>

David Gustine spoke about equipment: Lomega, & ScreenPlay WiFi Adapter, a great accessory that adds wireless functionality to your ScreenPlay Pro & ScreenPlay Director Multimedia drive."

These are samples of material available for many of your computer questions or problems. See you on the 25<sup>th</sup>!

Judith Tooth photo



## **Genealogy SIG**

Thursday, May 27, 7-9 p.m. *Betty Hesketh and Alex Dumestre*, Co-Leaders

The Genealogy SIG is a very popular session each month and is well attended. Here is what Alex & Betty planned and discussed at [last month's meeting](#):

This month we will look into using photographs in our genealogy programs and will also look at the latest version of Roots Magic.

Genealogy programs started out, several years ago, allowing the user to attach one or more photographs (or other digital images) to individuals in the database. These could be viewed on the screen or printed in various reports. Most genealogy programs have expanded much beyond this point today and we will look some of the more specialized features, using Roots Magic as our example. We will show how to enter the photos, birth certificates, census images, maps, etc. and make suggestions about to organize the many images on your computer. Many programs allow associating these photos and images with many other things than just an individual. For example, there are Groups, Facts (e.g., Birth, Death, Burial, Residence, etc., etc.), Sources, Citations, etc.

Roots Magic is now at version 4 and is maintained by the same author and team that first wrote Family Origins many years ago. I view it as being powerful and more intuitive than most genealogy programs, has many neat features and the support is wonderful. If you are looking to buy a new program or is you would just like to compare RM with your own program, be sure to come and ask questions.

Alex

Watch for information and subject matter for May in upcoming email notices.

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)



Jean Franklin Photo

## **Board Meeting**

A reminder to all members to encourage your attendance at Board meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. The **May** meeting will be on the **18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** in room 30 on the second floor of the Cypress Creek Community Church annex building where all SIGs meet (except Digital Photography). We encourage your attendance, input, and participation in these planning meetings.



BeaAnn Kelly Photo



Bill Franklin Photo

Sign up to bring refreshments, save your receipts, and you will be reimbursed by Treasurer, Bob Argo.

See you in May at our outstanding SIGs.

BeaAnn Kelly,

Communications Officer