



November 2010 Newsletter

It's time to select the 1960 PCUG Board to serve in 2011. An email ballot has been sent to all members for mail-in convenience for those unable to attend the November 4, 2011 general meeting. As instructed, mail-in ballots must be received by November 4th at the address provided at the top of the ballot: 1960 PCUG, P.O. Box 681895, Houston, TX 77268-1895.

All board nominees have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot. Please support these leaders who are committed and dedicated to continuing to strengthen our organization by presenting current computer information and educational opportunities. Many of these officers have served several terms. The remaining open opportunities are: Vice President of SIGs and Vice President of Programs, plus one more Director-at-Large position. Please consider sharing a small portion of your time to keep the 1960 PCUG the great organization that it is.

SIG leaders are volunteer positions which are filled by very competent members, with many presenting monthly programs every month for several years. We appreciate all their hard work and are so grateful for their continued presentations of interesting programs. Please try to attend various SIGs throughout each month. Bring your questions, laptop, camera or other tech equipment to a meeting for solutions to your computer-related problems.



Judith Tooth, Photographer

General Meeting and Digital Photography SIG

Thursday, November 4, 2010, 6:30 p.m. Jim Sandham, SIG Leader. A brief general meeting, voting for 2011 officers, followed by a program by Ken Allen. The presentation will deal with the design elements of stripes, spots and colors that appear naturally throughout Africa's Serengeti region. All of the images and videos were captured in 2010.

Ken Allen has been taking photographs since he was twenty. In 1990 he decided to focus his photography on nature. Shortly thereafter he concentrated on African wildlife and landscape photography. Over the last five years he has been working on a project on the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem, which he will publish as a book sometime in 2011.

He has used Canon cameras and lenses since the early 1980s. He purchased his first digital SLR in 2001, and went completely digital at the beginning of 2005.

Jim Sandham has selected the following items with links for informative articles to improve your photography:

1. "Big Bend National Park, Texas; The Glories of Southwestern Light" -- Shutterbug Magazine

http://shutterbug.com/techniques/outdoor_travel/0609bigbend/

2. "Adobe's Photoshop CS5; Faster & More Features, But Is It Worth the Upgrade?" -- Shutterbug Magazine

http://shutterbug.com/equipmentreviews/software_computers/0910photoshop/

3. "Five Tips for Taking Photos of Animals" -- PC World Magazine

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/202053>

Happy shooting.

Don Townzen

Photography



Software SIG

Tuesday, November 9, 7-9 p.m., Don Marvin, SIG Leader. Here is what Don discussed last month:

- Microsoft has release its latest browser Internet Explorer 9 beta. This month we will take a look at this product and compare some of its features with the other browsers currently in use. Most of these have also made some significant changes since we last reviewed them so this should be an interesting meeting. Has Microsoft caught up? We will also look at this issue.
- Have a PDF file you wished was in Word so you can modify it? There are some interesting websites that will allow us to do just this and most are free.

In addition to the topics for November, Don will spend as much time as needed to help with attendee's questions or problems. He also presents useful programs to share with you and links to download them. So don't miss out on all the latest software and internet information shared at this informative SIG.

Investors SIG

Thursday, November 11, 7-9 p.m. Larry McKee, SIG Leader

Our special topic for Thursday, November 11th, 2010 will be on Emerging Markets Investments. We will have a brief power point introduction and explanation of the topic and then will high light some specific securities.

I will call on attending members to share with us any of their favorite investments, Emerging Markets or otherwise, and will highlight several that I have researched.

If time permits, we will also have a discussion from the group on what should be done about the problem of companies being "too big to fail."

Future months probable topics

- Canadian Income Trusts—(after the January 2011 tax law changes)
- Master Limited Partnerships—an update on most favored sites
- On line sources of Investment Information
- Technical Analysis as a guide / assist to investing
- **Utilities Sector Investments**
- **The American Association of Individual Investors' concept of "The Other Stock Market"**

Information Exchange

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

Greta Snow Photo



Graphics SIG

Tuesday, November 16, 7-9 p.m., Alex Dumestre, SIG Leader

We spent most of the September SIG creating an advanced slide show from scratch using ProShow Gold from Photodex. (Go to www.Photodex.com for a trial version of the program.) We also spent some time looking at the multi-layer capabilities of the program and at some of the advanced features that this allowed for improving the interest of your show. Some of the uses of layers made it desirable that we utilize the transparency option provided by PNG, GIF, and other graphic formats (but not JPG) that are available. We spent a short time seeing how to make transparencies in PaintShop Pro.

We spent so much time building slide shows and looking at slide shows that I had made that we were unable to cover the "Beyond Auto" presentation that I had planned for Point 'N Shoot digital camera users. Sorry about that. We'll start with that in November. Bring your Point 'N Shoot and your manual if you want to get into specifics.

There was enough interest shown in the slide show program that I will devote some more time to it at the November SIG. If you are interested in this subject then I suggest that you download a trial version and play with it before our next SIG. I'll show parts of my most recent shows.

I will plan to have a short session on using a digital graphics editor (PaintShop Pro) but will ask for the group to suggest what they would like to see.

If you have specific questions in the graphics area, please feel free to ask -- it is especially good if you ask in advance by e-mail.

I hope to see you there.

Craig Loomis Photo



Note the change in our regular scheduling of some SIGs due to the unavailability of the meeting room during the Thanksgiving holidays. Be sure to mark your calendar.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving. November 11 is Veterans Day, a day for remembering and thanking all those who have sacrificed, served, and those who are currently serving to preserve the freedoms we appreciate in the United States. Thank you to all members and your family members who have been a part of the U.S. military. We have so much to be grateful for this holiday season.

BeaAnn Kelly,

Communications Officer



Bill Franklin photo



Jean Franklin photo



Jim Sandham photo