



## **September 2010 Newsletter**

This summer's SIG programs continue to be outstanding in content, information, and education. A simple explanation for these topnotch programs is that we have such dedicated, talented, and professional SIG leaders. If you are stuck in a rut by attending the same SIG or SIGs, try one that may be a new experience for you. You may be pleasantly surprised when you discover all the possibilities available in this technology age. The more we get involved, the better each program becomes. So be adventurous by attending and participating in some new SIGs in upcoming months.



Photo by Gene Jackson

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

**Thurs. Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Jim Sandham, SIG Leader**

Our guest presenter will be **Bill VandeSande**. He is a freelance television producer/writer who has done projects with Fox News, NBC News, and ABC News. He is also the president of Creative Media Enterprises, a firm that creates Web-based and computer-based programs for the medical and power industries.

His presentation is called "Photography from a TV Producer's Perspective (Still Life and Other Oxymorons)." Bill has unique photographic composition skills, having worked directly with many film teams in the field as they cover the news of the day. At the very least, his presentation will get all of us thinking about new and different ways to compose our images, to help them tell a story better, and make our photography more interesting.

Jim has provided the following links for additional photography information:

"How to Choose the Perfect Lens for Your First DSLR"

<http://www.tested.com/news/how-to-choose-the-perfect-lens-for-your-first-dlsr/550/>

"5 Nature Shooting Skills"

<http://www.popphoto.com/Features/How-To/How-To-5-Nature-Shooting-Skills>

"The Essential Landscape: Common Sense and Common Sins in Nature Photography - Part I"

[http://guytal.com/pdf/common\\_sense\\_1.pdf](http://guytal.com/pdf/common_sense_1.pdf)

"The Essential Landscape: Common Sense and Common Sins in Nature Photography - Part II"

[http://guytal.com/pdf/common\\_sense\\_2.pdf](http://guytal.com/pdf/common_sense_2.pdf)

"Take Better Landscape Photos" (2 pages)

<http://www.popphoto.com/features/how/2010/05/how-take-better-landscape-photos>

"For The On-Location Digital Photographer; Travel & Location Photography" (2 pages)

[http://shutterbug.com/columns/digital\\_innovations/0710digitalinno/](http://shutterbug.com/columns/digital_innovations/0710digitalinno/)

Also check out the Digital Photography SIG page for many more topics and links to an enormous amount of articles that Jim has posted.

## **Investors SIG**

**Thursday, September 9, 7-9 p.m. Larry McKee, SIG Leader**

We will generally follow the standard agenda on September 9th.

I'll summarize the results of the recent poll of our members regarding SIG Investment topics

The special economic issue for the round-robin discussion:

What's your opinion of the necessity of the 2008 economic stimulus and government loans to the banking and auto industries?

The special topic for the month:

Diversifying your portfolio through the use of hedge funds as alternative investments

Future special topics:

- Ideas for the selection of investment candidates
- Research tools for the evaluation of investment candidates
- Technical Analysis of the stock market
- Emerging Markets
- Utilities Sector Investments'
- Alternative Investments (Hedge Funds)
- The American Association of Individual Investors' concept of "The Other Stock Market"



Jim Sandham took the previous photo.

## **Software/Internet SIG**

**Tuesday, September 14, 7-9 p.m. Don Marvin, SIG Leader**

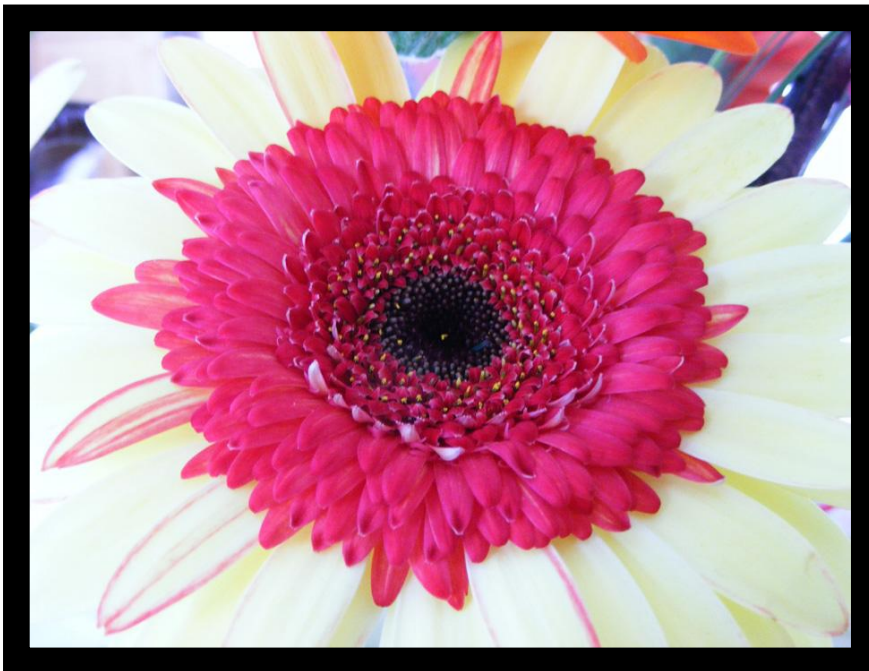
September's Software/Internet SIG is a continuation about Tips, Tools and Tricks from last month for several items we did not get a chance to cover.

Some of the subjects we discussed in August:

- How to create Portable Data Format (PDF) file from any
- Review Microsoft Security Essentials for Virus and Spyware protection.
- How to create Shortcut Menus on the Desktop.
- I have a question about my computer, how can I ask a question and find an answer using the Internet?
- How often should I perform maintenance functions to keep my computer running at its best?
- My computer is running slow, what steps can I do to fix it?

Have you got a question? Let's find an answer for you.

Bring your laptop if you like. We can always use more computing power in our meeting.



Greta Snow Photo

## **Graphic SIG**

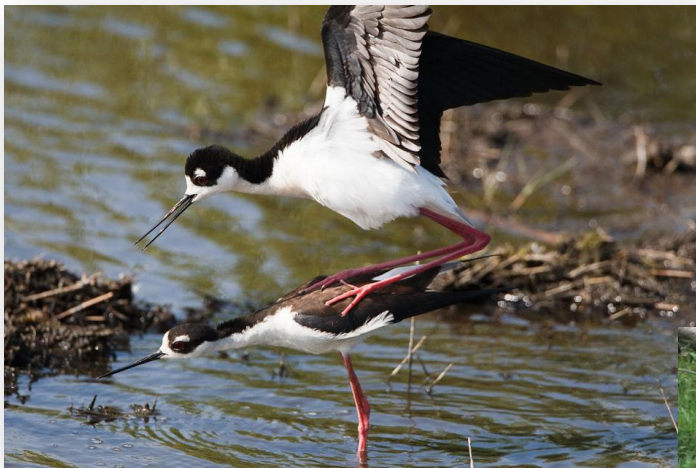
**Thursday, September 16, 7-9 p.m., Alex Dumestre, SIG Leader**

Last month we seem to have generated a lot of interest in the specifics of creating a slide show. We managed to get through only the beginning basic steps before running out of time. This month we will continue the process and will be able to spend most of our time in the more creative aspects of show creation --- pan-n-zoom, active captions, background music and use of layers. To make sure we have enough time we will start the session with this. If we have time we can get into more advanced aspects -- using videos, using sound files with specific slides and syncing slides to permit more complex pan-n-zoom effects.

I didn't detect much enthusiasm for the "Beyond Auto" segment of Point 'n Shoot photography but will try one more segment before dropping it for good. Let me know what you think.

If you have questions that you think that I might be able to help you with do not hesitate to ask. The best way is to e-mail them in advance.

Come join us. For additional resources from Alex, check out the Graphic SIG page for articles, tutorials, and notes from previous programs.



Jim Kelly Photo of Black Neck Stilts

David Gustine photo of Great White Egret



## **Windows SIG**

**Tuesday, September 28, 7-9 p.m., Sam Sanderson, SIG 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!

In the Aug. meeting, Sam brought some of the latest in technology gadgets, iPad, iPhone, a portable wireless device and demonstrated many of the features and capabilities of these. We sure had fun being amazed by current trends in computer technology. Sam also answered questions from the group. This is one of my husband, Jim's, and my favorite SIGs because we learn so much from Sam and the participants who contribute additional topics for discussion.

Bill Franklin Photo



## Genealogy SIG

**Thursday, September 23, 7-9 p.m. Betty Hesketh & Alex Dumestre, Leaders**

Last month we continued to look at your ancestral brick walls. If you would like help with your brick wall, please send Betty a copy of the relevant Family Group Sheet. We also focused on some of the LDS' FamilySearch web sites and the use of State Archives in research. Beginning and experienced researchers are welcome.

Please note that our next bus trip to Clayton Library is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2010, and sign up with our Trip Coordinator, Bill Nation, if you can join us. This is our final bus trip of the year. Also, check out our genealogy web pages [www.1960pcug.org/gensig](http://www.1960pcug.org/gensig) for additional information about the bus trip and links to useful research helps.

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](#)

[Alex Dumestre](#)



Jean Franklin Photo



Judith Tooth Photo

Please note that SIGs are held in Room 30 of the Annex building of Cypress Creek Community Christian Church, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, 77370. The General Meeting/Digital Photography SIG meets in the Activity Room in the Forum building at 6:30 p.m. Bring, or invite a guest to any of the meetings.

BeaAnn Kelly,

Communications Officer



Don Townzen Photo



Craig Loomis Photo