



PC NEWS

May 2011 Newsletter

Ahhh, this beautiful spring weather provides a great opportunity to select a SIG or SIGs to attend! The group below is enjoying the April Windows SIG where David Gustine filled in for Sam Sanderson and shared all the following information. Don Marvin also contributed his expertise to the discussion in which all attendees participated. Come out and join us for a fun and educational experience. Even if you understand the topics covered, you might be able to enlighten members in clarifying answers to questions. It is quite gratifying to assist those who can use another perspective to answer computer problems.

Here is what David covered:

- How to download eBook(s) from the Harris Country library to a Windows 7 PC. Plus, he discussed the free software you need to read them. Investors also looked at Morningstar information and reports at their home.
- How to back up the data on your phone to your PC, plus how to text everyone on your contact list with a message that exceeds 200 characters.
- A tip for setting up a hardwire network in your home without running more Ethernet cable. Solving the problem of watching an HD movie on your

upstairs
having the
every few
a common
wireless



TV without
picture break up
minutes which is
problem with
routers.

Wouldn't you

like to be an

active participant in a group of people like this energetic Windows SIG?

Please note the change in SIG schedule for May. The **Windows SIG** will be on a **Thursday, May 19** and the **Graphics SIG** will be on **Tuesday, May 24**. Same location and time, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center, 6823 Cypresswoods Spring, at 7 p.m.

General Meeting and Photography SIG

Thursday, May 5, 6:30-9 p.m. **Jim Sandham**, SIG Leader. Jim has an exciting program planned for us:

6:30 PM:

- Membership sign-in, pay dues, and greet visitors.
- Spend time with other members and share your questions and answers (refreshments will not be provided at this time)

7:00 PM to 7:15 PM:

- General Meeting Announcements

7:15 PM to 9:00 PM:

- Digital Photography SIG

Brad Wright is the owner of Photo Rental Source, an online rental photo equipment provider. Visit his website at <http://www.photorentalsource.com>, or communicate with him at his e-mail address rentals@photorentalsource.com.

Brad will discuss several SLR equipment topics, including Full Frame vs. Crop Sensor, macro lenses, zooms, telephotos, tripods, flash units, filters, and more. It's a must-see for SLR users, and will be very educational for anyone thinking of moving from a point & shoot camera up to an SLR.

Jim also has new resources for photography articles at the following websites:

"Three Ways to Take Photos at Twilight"

http://www.pcworld.com/article/208049/three_ways_to_take_photos_at_twilight.html

"Photographing Spring Flowers"

http://www.pcworld.com/article/222141/article.html#tk.nl_dfx_h_cbintro

“The Rules of Photographic Composition”

http://www.pcworld.com/article/223876/article.html#tk.nl_dfx_h_cbintro



Above is a good example of Jim Sandham’s photography with a point and shoot camera. Just proves that expensive equipment isn’t necessary in order to achieve quality photos. Come to the Digital Photography SIG for great tips to improve your picture taking.

Software/Internet SIG

Tuesday, May 10, 7-9 p.m. Don Marvin, SIG Leader. In May’s meeting our focus will be Windows 7. With the exception of some of the Netbooks all new systems are now being delivered with various versions of this operating system we all need to learn more about this latest version of Windows.

First we will look at some of the features of Windows 7 and some tips and techniques available in this OS. Features vary from a minimum number with the Basic version to extensive tools with the Ultimate version. Most of our attention will be directed at Windows 7 Home Premium the most common version pre-installed on new PC’s.

Still like Windows XP? One feature standard on some versions and a free add-on for other versions is available with Microsoft's Virtual PC a tool that will allow running your older programs in a visualization environment on your new PC.

We will also have time for anyone in attendance to share any programs, or helpful hints with the group. Please feel free to bring any problems you have been having with your computer and we will see if the group can help you solve it.

Make sure you get to Don's meeting for updates on all the "latest and greatest" software and internet information. Also check out the Software/Internet archives on the 1960 PCUG website. Don has many resources and articles for your use.



Jim Fallon Photo



Jean Franklin Photo



Bill Franklin Photo

The above photos were taken by members who attended the Sheldon Lake field-trip. This month eighteen members and guests went to Shangri-La Gardens and Nature Park in Orange, TX. You will be seeing photos from this beautiful bayou garden in upcoming weeks. Watch for future trips planned by Jim Sandham. These trips are always fun, interesting, good photo ops (you don't have to be a photographer, just enjoy the day), and best of all – the Precinct 4 bus is FREE! So make sure you get signed up for the next scheduled event.

Investors SIG

Thursday, May 12, 7-9 p.m., Larry McKee, SIG Leader. 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.

Future months probable topics

- **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"**
- **How to find and evaluate investment candidate securities**
- **China—should you invest in securities there?**

Information Exchange

During the month, we maintain an information exchange for useful data regarding current investment developments. If you wish to receive these, please provide me your email address. Attendees are encouraged to email suggested articles to me at: mckeelarryg@hotmail.com

Although we provide information about good performing securities, 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.



David Gustine Photo

Thursday, May 19, 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!



Lisa Griffis Photo

Graphics SIG

Tuesday, May 24, 7-9 p.m. Alex Dumestre, SIG Leader. From Alex:

This month we will spend most of our time looking at interesting graphics software of the free variety.

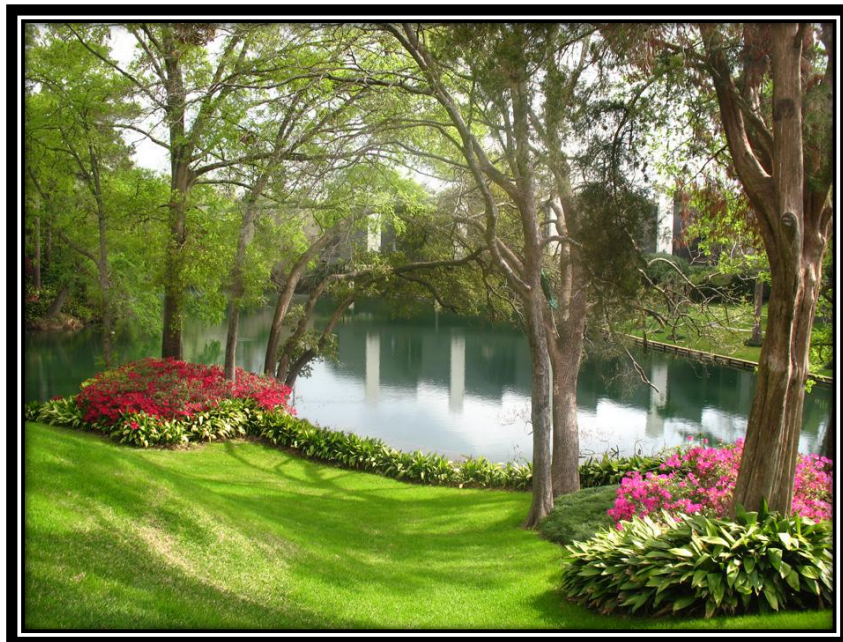
Microsoft has a free "Image Composite Editor" (ICE) which, among other things is a super fast, super easy panorama creator. It has several other uses that I have not yet investigated but perhaps I will have by the time of the SIG. The output of this program may be exported to another freebie named Photosynth that allows you to upload your panoramas (and other) to their Web site for interactive viewing by others.

I've also looked at a couple of free Morphing programs that allow you to morph, or slowly change, one photo into another. I'm sure you have see TV commercials that show one person's face into another. This is fairly easy as you will see.

We'll take another look at a free, simple, automatic slide show production and storage area on the Web. This might interest some of you who don't want to spend the time and effort it takes to produce a full-featured slide show of the type I've demoed numerous times in the past.

We will also spend some time looking at my slide shows of our Christmas Market river cruise along the Danube last December and will be prepared to, again, show how to use the many features of ProShow Gold.

Come join us and bring your questions.



Guy Thomas Photo

Judith Tooth Photo



Genealogy SIG

Thursday, May 26, 7-9 p.m. Betty Hesketh and Alex Dumestre, SIG Leaders

Be sure to mark your calendar for a special program. At the May Genealogy SIG, Lee Smith will be reviewing the latest version of Family Tree Maker genealogy software - *Family Tree Maker 2011*. Be sure to mark your calendar for this special presentation. Lee asks that, if you would like to submit advance questions, please e-mail him at Sendaiman@comcast.net prior to May 16th. Beginning and experienced researchers are welcome.

Our next bus trip to Clayton Library is Wednesday, July 20, 2011. Contact [Bill Nation](#) if you want to sign up for the trip.

Be sure to check out our genealogy web pages for the latest Genealogy SIG happenings and research helps.

I hope you appreciate all the beautiful, colorful, and interesting photos in this issue of our newsletter which were seen at last month's Share and Learn segment. Consider submitting your photos next month to Jim Sandham.

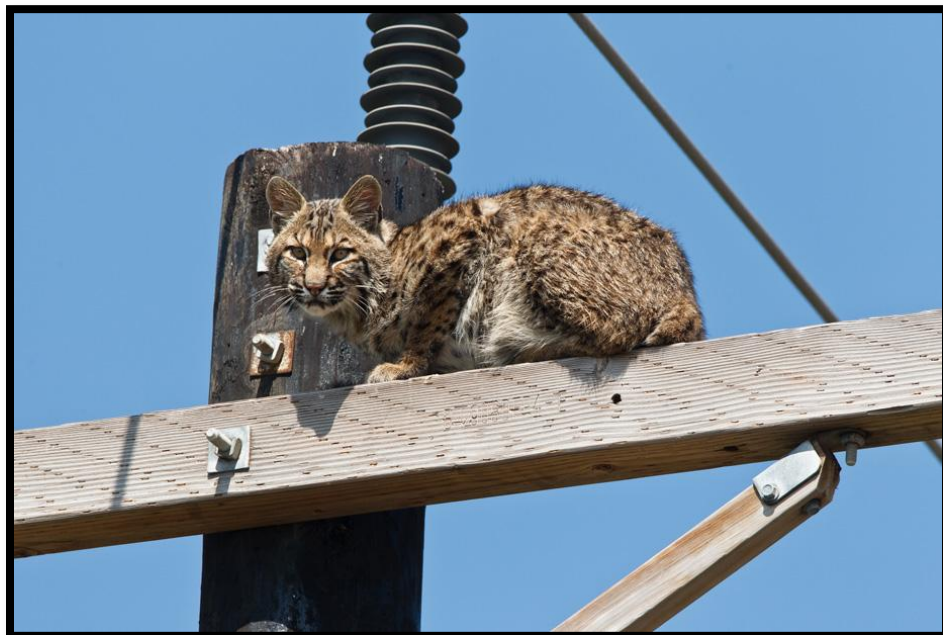
Here are two parting shots; one from yours truly and an unusual photo by my husband, Jim Kelly. Nature is truly amazing.

BeaAnn Kelly

Communications Officer



BeaAnn Kelly photo



Jim Kelly photo of a real "pole cat"