



Reports

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Association of Personal Computer User Groups

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THE DON SINGLETON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

2012

Jim Evans, Director
APCUG



To honor long-time Director Don Singleton, who passed away in October 2012, APCUG has established the Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year Award. The award also recognizes the importance of the volunteer to APCUG's member groups. We received 13 nominations. The committee (Jim Evans, Judy Tylour and Marie Vesta) would like to thank our judges Peggy

Ireland (APCUG Past President), Ash Nallawalla (APCUG Former Director) and Dave Whittle (User Group Enthusiast) for their work. Using a scoring system, we ended up with a tie. APCUG would like to announce that, Joyce Klonecz, President of the Sun City Grand Computer Club in Arizona and Judi McDowell, President of the Quad-Cities Computer Society in Iowa are co-recipients of the Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year Award for 2012. They will both be presented with plaques at their user group meetings.

Volunteers are the backbone of APCUG and its member groups; they are what keep their user groups viable. Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes, and personalities plus they all have a different reason for volunteering. They are idea people and do-it people. All user group volunteers have this in common: their advocacy for technology and their user group.

To quote Dan Hanson, former APCUG president, "User groups and APCUG were Don's passion. He made invaluable contributions to his Tulsa Group, Helping Tulsa, and other groups as well as APCUG as a whole. His brilliant mind and passion for user groups led to numerous significant contributions to APCUG and the user group movement."

Don lived and breathed APCUG and, over his many years of service, was responsible for: APCUG's website, Reports, Elections, By-laws/Articles of Incorporation, keeping track of the history of officers, etc.

He became a director in 1994 and served at various times as President, Vice President and Secretary. Don was a champion of the Jerry Awards Community Service program and for many years was responsible for running that award program; he felt it was very important to recognize groups for their community service projects. The Jerry Awards program is named for Jerry Schneider, one of APCUG's founders. Don formed Helping Tulsa to refurbish computers and from its' founding in 2002, until it was discontinued in 2012, they refurbished nearly 2000 computers, and helped launch 17 other computer refurbishing projects.

Joyce Klonc

President of Sun City Grand Computer Club in Arizona



Several years ago when the “snowbirds” left Phoenix for the summer the Sun City Grand Computer Club put the Macintosh SIG out of business. They sold their “blueberry” iMacs and discarded the software. In the past few years she has grown the resurgent SIG to over 250 members and Mac people hold three of five positions on the computer club board, which is the envy of the computer club.

Joyce is the President of the Sun City Grand Computer club; the club currently has over 1,400 members and the Mac SIG comprises approximately 22% of the membership. She has upgraded the computers from replacements for the sold iMacs in their 25-person classroom and the 15 person open-use room. They have a Lion server supporting the computers and have gone from three classes of Appleworks to over 45 classes—from a five-session freebie for newbies to the Mac to classes in UNIX. Joyce is not just a leader, she is a doer as well. She teaches classes in Pages, Numbers, iCal and two of the Intro classes for newbies.

Judi McDowell

President of the Quad-Cities Computer Society in Iowa



The club was on the decline in interest and membership when Judi assumed leadership. With her efforts the club has gained numbers and initiated new programs. She helped lead the user group in new directions with a series of beginner classes for novice computer users and presentations on the latest technologies. In addition to her presidential duties, Judi has led or helped lead SIGs in Excel, Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, Picasa, Quicken, networking and genealogy. She's written newsletter articles and made numerous presentations to the club and other facilities on topics including Skype, virus protection, and tax software. She makes an effort to stay current on new technology and how it can be an advantage to their user group.

With Judi's guidance, their club has become more responsive to needs in the community. She is a gifted person with technical and creative skills that keep the club moving forward with the latest technology, PLUS she has a good working relationship with the board and other volunteers. If Judi can't be convinced to stay on as QCS President, they feel they will have a hard time finding someone to replace her.

Please watch for a call for nominations for the 2013 award later this year. In the meantime, value and treasure your volunteers. ☺

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marie Vesta
President
APCUG

The 2013 APCUG elections have been held and I was honored with being elected President for this coming year. Hewie Poplock was elected as Vice President, Patty Lowry as Secretary, and Sandra Hart as Treasurer.

I want to take this time to thank David Steward for his service to APCUG this past year as President. He has done a lot to bring this organization together and help it grow. His advice to me will be appreciated during this transition.

Becoming APCUG President was never truly on my agenda, but now that it has become a reality, I want all our member groups to know that I personally will do everything within my power to help APCUG go forward with their current successes.

We are in the process of creating a new APCUG web site that will be current and up to date. Hopefully, this site will be live within the next few months. Our Virtual Conferences are a golden opportunity for all member groups to learn new ideas, both technical and otherwise, from the comfort of their living room. APCUG's Facebook page is another easy way to get the latest news of what is happening in the computer world and with APCUG itself. Watch for the advertisements of our Regional conferences and what will be offered.

Please let me know if you have any ideas how to make APCUG a more successful organization, or how we can help make your organization more successful. That is what APCUG is all about...User Groups Helping User Groups. Email me at mvesta@apcug.org with any thoughts or ideas.

Sincerely, Marie ☺

FAREWELL FROM 2012 PRESIDENT

David Steward
Past President
APCUG

As is customary, I would like to extend this farewell message as the outgoing President of APCUG. I greatly enjoyed my term as your President and intend to remain on the Board of Directors or, if needed, the Board of Advisors, and will continue to strive to move this organization forward.

In the past year, we introduced some great new benefits and made significant progress towards the overall goal of "helping user groups around the world". Membership remained steady and the overall enthusiasm of the user group community seemed to improve. I can only hope that this trend continues in the upcoming and future years.

Although the overall makeup of the Board of Directors remained the same, with one exception, I do look for some significant changes this year.

The organization lost a great asset this year in the passing of Don Singleton. He had been an active member of APCUG for over 20 years. APCUG was his life and we will all miss his dedication, supply of new ideas and direction, and his undying commitment to the hard work needed to run an organization such as APCUG. So long Don, we will miss you.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you as your President for the past year and, as is my tradition in closing, "Ya'll Take Care".

Dave ☺

DATA PRIVACY DAY 2013**Gaining Widespread Support Across the Globe**

The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), a non-profit public-private partnership focused on helping all digital citizens (that's us) stay safer and more secure online and official coordinator of Data Privacy Day (DPD), continues to see growing momentum for DPD 2013 with widespread support from countries, organizations, and businesses across the globe. This includes international Champions such as the Council of Europe, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario and the Office of the Victorian Privacy Commissioner.



Data Privacy Day is celebrated each year on January 28th and is an international day of awareness to empower people to protect their privacy and control their digital footprint. The new DPD theme: Respecting Privacy, Safeguarding Data and Enabling Trust, strives to articulate the protection of privacy and data stewardship as everyone's priority. Information about Data Privacy Day can be found at the newly launched DPD Web portal at: <http://www.staysafeonline.org/dpd>.

Since 2008 Data Privacy Day has been made successful through support and participation from major international corporations, governments, and other organizations. New participants are joining in to support DPD 2013 every day. Among its growing list of sponsors and thought leaders, Intel, Microsoft, AT&T and Google have signed on to promote privacy awareness. Many other organizations have also signed on as Data Privacy Day Champions and will participate by reaching out and educating customers, citizens, employees and communities through events, activities and/or other channels. We all know the importance of keeping our data secure; APCUG is a Data Privacy Day Champion and encourages member groups to also become Champions and display the logo on their website.

"Any company, government entity, organization or individual that collects, processes and/or stores personal information should take all necessary steps to respect privacy and prevent data loss," said Michael Kaiser, executive director of the National Cyber Security Alliance. "This can be done by being accountable for their stewardship of personal data and by also providing easy to understand information and tools to empower individuals to control information that relates to them. With the necessary leadership to respect privacy and safeguard data, it will enable a safer and more trusted Internet that will benefit us all."

Kaiser added, "January 28th is the culmination of our year-long efforts to raise awareness and empower people to protect everyone's privacy and control their digital footprint and escalate the protection of privacy and data as everyone's priority. We of course could not do this without the support of our sponsors."

"Intel is proud to play a continuing role in building global awareness about the importance of privacy," said David Hoffman, Intel's director of Security Policy and Global Privacy Officer. "Through collaboration by industry, government and civil society we can build an environment where individuals can trust their use of technology, because their personal information will be respected and protected."

For anyone interested in getting involved with Data Privacy Day, the newly launched Web portal offers a host of tips and resources for parents, teachers, educators, businesses and others at: <http://www.staysafeonline.org/dpd>. The portal also offers information about how to promote Data Privacy Day such as becoming a DPD Champion, sponsorship opportunities and a community calendar to post events. NCSA encourages companies and organizations to become a Champion by registering at: <http://www.staysafeonline.org/data-privacy-day/champions>. Data Privacy Day information is also available Twitter at: www.twitter.com/DataPrivacyDay and the DPD Twitter hashtag is #DPD13. DPD updates and privacy tips are also available on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/DataPrivacyNCSA>

About Data Privacy Day

Led by the National Cyber Security Alliance, Data Privacy Day began in the United States and Canada in January 2008 as an extension of the Data Protection Day celebration in Europe. The Day commemorates the 1981 signing of Convention 108 – the first legally binding international treaty dealing with privacy and data protection. Data Privacy Day is a celebration for everyone and an effort to empower people to protect their privacy, control their digital footprint and escalate the protection of data privacy as everyone's priority.

About The National Cyber Security Alliance

The National Cyber Security Alliance is a non-profit organization. Through collaboration with the government, corporate, non-profit and academic sectors, the mission of the NCSA is to educate and empower a digital citizenry to use the Internet securely and safely protecting themselves and the technology they use and the digital assets we all share. NCSA board members include: ADP, AT&T, Bank of America, EMC Corporation, ESET, Facebook, Google, Intel, McAfee, Microsoft, PayPal, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Symantec, Trend Micro, Verizon and Visa. Visit www.staysafeonline.org for more information and join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/staysafeonline. ☺



BRING BACK THE FUN INTO USER GROUP MEETINGS

Southwest Technology Conference

Cheryl Wester, APCUG Advisor

Program Chair, Temecula Valley CUG, CA

Watch everyone get up and scurry around

Put \$1.00 under a chair and sometime during the meeting have everyone stand up and look for it. Raffle tickets could also be used.

Field Trips

TUGNET has a field trip leader who plans several trips during the year. They have been on trips to San Sylmer / Nethercutt Collection, the Los Angeles Times, California State University at Northridge, JPL, Van Nuys airport, the Music Center / Los Angeles Performing Arts (Ahmanson Theatre, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Mark Taper Forum and Walt Disney Concert Hall), Metrolink through Union Station to the Long Beach Aquarium (even includes a bus ride) – you'd be surprised how much technology can be found at different locations or just how much fun they have being together and going on a field trip. Lunch is always included and members who belong to the Digital Photo SIG always have a great time taking pictures.

Potlucks

Have a potluck at your election general meeting

Have a summer potluck at a local park or someone's house

Have a potluck along with an auction and swap meet

PIG SIG – Eat & Chat

Many groups have a PIG SIG before or after their meeting. What a great way for members to get to know other members in a casual setting.

Other groups have breakfast together once a month at a local restaurant; social time plus a time for relaxed computer Q&A.

Restaurant Fund Raiser & Fun Time

Check out your local restaurants and find out which ones offer non-profits a percentage of the money that is taken in when your group members, friends, and relatives hand them your group's flyer. This gives your members an opportunity to have dinner together and get to know each other.

TV Show Taping / Audiences Unlimited

Members, friends and family can attend the taping of TV shows and your UG reaps the rewards. Although the tickets are free, several groups charge up to \$15 for members to attend the shows. The group plans the event, gets the tickets, arranges for carpools, etc. Make a day of it and have lunch or dinner together.

Ice Breaker

Slip of paper with different items on it and you have to find the person who matches at least one of the items. An example would be who was born on February 29th or was born in another country or someone who has won a prize or money with a mail-in form. Do an icebreaker activity sometime during a meeting—I had people line up according to shoe size! It gets people moving.

Attendee On-time Drawing

CAMUG (Canton Alliance Massillon UG) in Ohio has an attendee on-time drawing at each meeting.

KIPCUG (Kentucky-Indiana PCUG) Membership Drawing

Each month they draw a member's name from their membership roster. If the winning member is "in the house" they win a "jar full of money." (Actually they write them a check!) The Rules are simple: Members must be present to win with their dues paid. Each month they draw a member's name. If they are not present, the pool increases by \$10 until it reaches a maximum of \$300.

Digital Photo or PowerPoint Presentation

Have a digital media or PowerPoint class and have members put together a 5-10 minute presentation on their life. What a great way for members to learn new skills and the other members to get to know them.

Start Your Meeting with a Laugh

Show weird signs, short funny videos, etc. at the beginning of the meeting.

Get Those Members looking at Your Website & Newsletter

One group has a Progressive Prize Give-away. Members watch for their member number somewhere in the newsletter. They need to bring a copy of the page to the General Meeting to claim their prize. If no one claims the prize, another item is added next month, and so on until someone claims the prize(s). (If your members don't have numbers, just put their name in the newsletter.)

How about a President's Drawing? Members need to cut out the form in the newsletter, write their name on it and deposit it in the President's drawing container for the chance to win a \$15.00 gift card from one of the big box office stores.

Found in User Group Newsletters

When CAMUG updated their website, they had a treasure hunt with the members tasked to find various items on the website. The person who found the most items received a prize.

Gift Exchange

If members would like to participate in their Christmas Party gift exchange, they are asked to bring a gift valued at or about \$10. The gift needs to be something the member would like to receive -- no white elephants. The gift should be gender neutral and wrapped accordingly.

Names are drawn to determine who chooses a gift first. As a gift is picked from the gift table, it will be unwrapped right at the table and held up for everyone to see. Each gift can be stolen a total of two times and no gift hoarding allowed.

Second Time Around

The second time around drawing will be from raffle tickets bought throughout the year that were not winners. As announced at the start of the year, members must be present to win and only one winner per family membership. 😊

NEWSLETTERS

**The Heartbeat of Your User Group
Gabe Goldberg, Advisor, Region 2**

Ease Newsletter Production Burdens with Organizing and Sharing

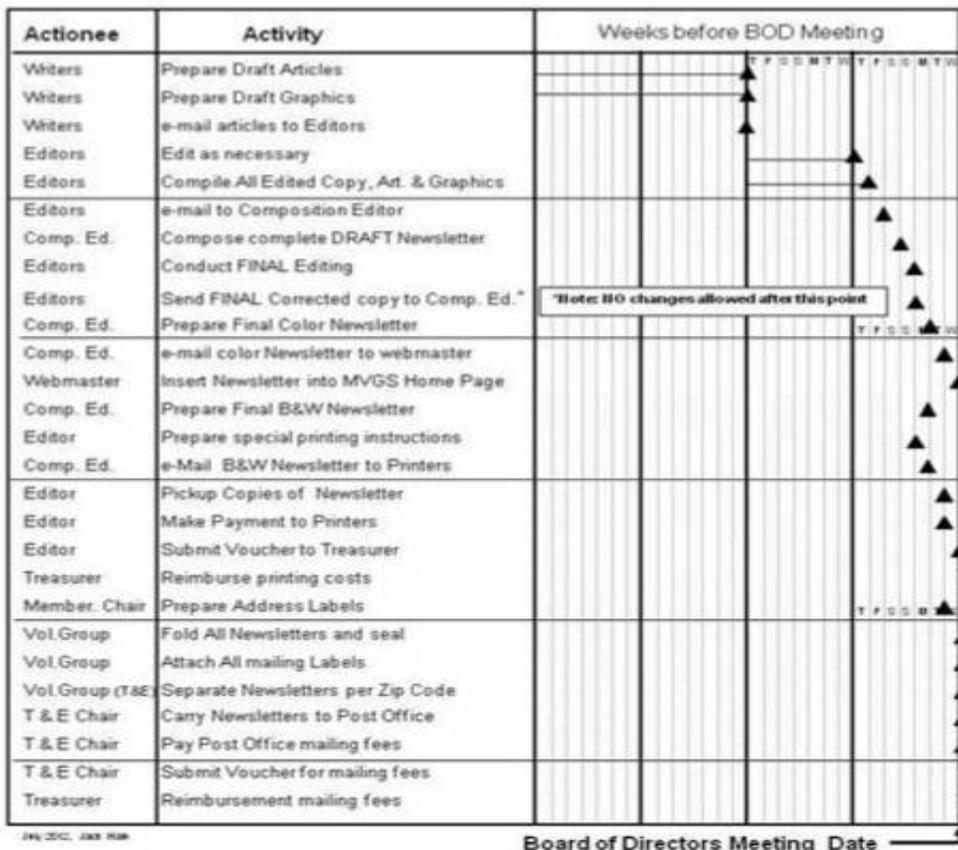
Most user groups produce newsletters -- whether printed, online, or hybrid distribution. Sometimes a newsletter is the heartbeat -- or glue -- that holds a group together, especially when it retains members who don't attend meetings. And sometimes the newsletter is a labor of love -- or pain -- by one person who struggles to get content and format editions. When (not if!) that person burns out or simply moves on, it can be challenging recruiting someone to step in and learn complex procedures. Here's an article, reprinted with permission, about how one community organization solves the problem. It's a genealogy club, not technology user group -- but you'll see the issues are the same. With teamwork and a planned schedule, the Mount Vernon genealogical Society never misses an issue distribution:

Newsletter Preparation Schedule

By Jack Hale

Preparation of the newsletter is a relatively involved process requiring the integrated efforts of a number of volunteers working together as a team. The graphic below illustrates the sequence of steps and the types of persons who volunteered to complete the activities. For prospective writers of articles, it is important to note that the submission of articles and their associated photos or graphics must be completed at least two weeks prior to the date of the Board of Directors meeting date, which is also the date that the newsletters are mailed. New articles should be e-mailed to either of the Co-Editors - Jack Shawn or Jack Hale.

Newsletter Preparation Schedule



Appreciation is extended to the following volunteers who work as a close knit team every month to publish and distribute the newsletter - Jim Fisher - Composition Editor, Cathy Creede - Membership Chair, Caroline Irvin - Training and Education Chair, Pat Loeffler, Treasurer, Jack Shawn - Co-editor, and a group of volunteers who perform the tasks of preparation and mailing. This group varies, but typically consists of the above plus several others who volunteer as their schedules permit. The diversity of the tasks performed in the preparation of the newsletter clearly illustrates the wide variety of opportunities for Society volunteers. Most members of our society have had successful careers in a wide range of disciplines and could readily pitch in and contribute in a significant and helpful manner.

Similarly, there are a wide variety of tasks that need to be performed in our Research Center and are available to those who have a few hours to volunteer. Persons with skills in writing, editing, computer operations involving software applications and internet accessing, teaching, lecturing, and library, secretary, filing, typing, graphics, and similar capabilities can become contributors very quickly. For those who have the talent and the time, please contact Jack Shawn, Research Center Chair or Jack Hale, MVGS President, to discuss your areas of expertise and our Society's current and ongoing needs. ☺

APCUG MEMBER GROUPS HAD INTERESTING DECEMBER MEETINGS

Perhaps you will get a few new ideas....

Judy Taylour

Special Subjects Round Robin – Not Your Typical UG Meeting

The **Sarasota PCUG** (Florida) meeting featured tables arranged around their meeting room with demonstrations/presentations going on concurrently at all the tables. Each presentation was about 20 minutes in length and then members rotated to the next demo/presentation. Beverages and light food were available. The demos/presentations included: Windows 8, Disk Wipe, CCleaner, Googleology, iPad, and Lion (Apple OS). Their raffle featured a 16GB Wi-Fi tablet; tickets were sold all month. www.spcug.org

Orange County PC Users' Group (ORCOPUG), CA

www.orcopug.org

Has an annual Holiday Fundraising Raffle at its December meeting. They publish the list of prizes in their December newsletter to whet their members' appetite for the computer goodies. Along with holiday food, a great time is had by all. They solicit prizes from vendors during the year and this is also their major fundraising event.

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club, GA

www.nopc.org

Had a presentation on the World's First Supercomputer - Your Brain. The president of a local training company demonstrated ways to install new "apps" to your supercomputer – YOUR BRAIN! He also offered an understanding of the "computer-like" operation of the human brain and how it impacts on how you think and communicate. He also discussed fascinating and potentially lucrative ways that you can train your own supercomputer to interact with other people's supercomputers.

Hartford User Group Exchange (HUGE), CT

www.huge.org

Featured Last Minute Geek Gifts

Computer Booters of Sun Lakes, AZ

www.computerbooters.org

Bob Gostischa, representing Avast Software was at the Computer Booters. If you haven't had a presentation by Bob your members are in for a treat. He simplifies, clarifies, and demystifies your computer, making your Internet experience a safe one. Contact him at bob3160(at)gmail.com to schedule a presentation. If you can set up a tour for him to visit several groups in your area, he will do an in-person presentation. If not, he'll be happy to give an online presentation.

Mountain Computer User Group (MCUG), GA

www.mcug.org

Furnishes turkey, ham, potatoes, dressing, gravy, cranberries, rolls and drinks -- all members have to do is bring a side dish or dessert. After a great meal they have the chance to bid on some fantastic items! All the money generated by the auction is donated to local charities. Members in good standing are welcome to bring 2 guests at no charge. More than 2 guests pay \$5 each. They also had a special drawing if members bring an unwrapped toy (\$5 minimum) to support Toys for Kids. They also drew the winning raffle ticket for the \$75.00 Amazon Gift Card.

The Computer Club of Green Valley, AZ

www.ccgval.org

Featured a presentation on iTunes for the PC and Mac.

The Greater Cleveland PC Users Group & the Cleveland Digital Publishing Group, OH

www.gpcug.org

Joined forces for Holiday Tech Gadgets V with a demonstration of a variety of digital cameras, wireless music streaming, Google Nexus tablet, Microsoft tablet, a personal energy generator, remote controls for your audio / video devices and a tech device to get you in shape physically. They had a ton of prizes in their raffle – the proceeds went to the Salvation Army.

The Hilton Head Island Computer Club, SC

www.hhicc.org

Featured Photo Albums and Photo Books in preparation for the holidays. The presentation covered how to create Photo Albums using Picasa, and then how to create Photo Books using Shutterfly. Some knowledge and experience with Picasa is helpful; no knowledge of Shutterfly is required.

Philadelphia Area Computer Society (PACS), PA

www.pacsnet.org

Learned about the DuckDuckGo search engine (DuckDuckGo.com) and why it is better than Google and why it getting better every day.

The Westchester PCUG, NY

www.wpcug.org

Played WPCUG Jeopardy. I found an easy-to-use PPT template at <http://goo.gl/qfB9d>. I tried out 3.a.

The Monterey Bay Computer Users Group, CA

www.mbug.org

Had a casual get-together to end the year and introduced the new Board and officers. The meeting was a time for a little fun—great treats, and a raffle—as well as a little reflection. You've heard the saying "Never trust anyone over 30", but as MBUG approaches its 30th birthday in 2013, it has proven to a generation of computer users that it can be both trusted and enjoyed.

They took some time to meet and greet and to discuss plans for MBUG for 2013. Their incoming President and other Board members had already been meeting and planning and are now looking forward to getting more member input on program ideas. As the familiar desktop PC becomes less popular, would members like more meetings on other devices? Which ones?

Do they want more on new communication methods: how do we really use those smartphones, what can cloud computing offer, what about blogging and other Internet sharing? Members were asked if they have suggestions for recruiting new members and fundraising.

PC Community, CA

www.pcc.org

How to navigate the ever changing landscape of technology was presented by Abby Stokes for PC Community in California. Abby Stokes, author of the best-selling book “Is This Thing On?” gave the presentation via Webinar to help us “digital immigrants” (those baby boomers and beyond not born with a keyboard and mouse in hand) understand what everyone is talking about and how to decide what might work best for you from tablets and gadgets to social networking. If you haven’t had Abby give a presentation to your group, please contact her at abby (at) abbyandme.com to schedule a Webinar....your members will really enjoy it.

The Durham Personal Computer Users' Club, ON, Canada

www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca

Featured a Webinar by Gene Barlow, User Group Relations. The topic was Organize, Protect and Share your Hard Drive. Acronis True Image 2013 has introduced a new function that allows you to easily share certain files with your other computers and with friends and family across the internet. No expensive online storage is needed to use this new facility in True Image 2013. After a short description of the many sharing options available to you, Gene showed how easy it is to use the new Data Synchronization feature of True Image 2013. Here’s another one....if you haven’t had Gene give a presentation to your group, please contact him: gene (or linda) (at) ugr.com to schedule your Webinar. He also has a great presentation on Macro Photography.

The Perth PC Users Group, Australia

<http://www.perthpcug.org.au>

Had a general interest end-of-year presentation comprising a Christmas Miscellany, a comprehensive 'Answers' site, some great Tutorials available on the web, Q and A, plus the door prize. Members were asked to bring a plate of finger food for a small celebration.

SCV Computer Club, CA

In addition to its Windows 8 presentation, the **SCV Computer Club** (California) had a presentation on 2013 New Year’s Resolutions for your Computer. The Resolutions covered nine areas to keep your computer trouble-free (so-to-speak).

Seniors Computer Club, CA

www.scc.org / www.telikin.com

One of the **Seniors Computer Club** December meetings (they meet every Saturday) featured a presentation on the Telikin computer – quite possibly the world’s easiest computer. For a limited time, Telikin will donate an 18.6” Telikin Touch computer twice a month to an organization, community center, or living facility that is committed to teaching seniors computer skills. You might want to get in touch and let them know how your club would benefit from an easy-to-use Telikin touchscreen computer. ☺

LICKING COUNTY COMPUTER SOCIETY
Donates 50/50 Proceeds to Local Food Bank
<http://www.lccsohio.org/>



The Licking County Computer Society in Ohio takes an active part in the needs of their community. During this period of economic needs, the local food banks are being used heavily and they are having a hard time keeping their shelves stocked. The society decided that it would give its portion of their monthly 50-50 drawing to a local food bank. Presently LCCS donates their monthly share to the Johnstown Food Bank. Additionally, past LCCS President Kemp O'Dell presented Chuck Moore, of the Food Pantry Network of Licking County, a check for \$500 to help with the summer demands where an increase in need is expected due to schools being not in session.

In addition to the monthly cash donations to the Johnstown Food Bank, LCCS also collects canned and dry goods that will also be donated to the Johnstown Food Bank. Everyone is invited to drop off items during any LCCS functions and especially at their 3rd Sunday General Meeting.

The Licking County Computer Society presented a check to support the Food Pantry Network of Licking County. Computer Society treasurer Janet Friel is shown presenting a check to Chuck Moore, director of the Food Pantry Network. 😊



WHY DRUPAL?

Hewie Poplock

APCUG Webmaster, **Member of the Board of Directors**

I have been appointed the webmaster of the APCUG website. The current website was created many years ago and maintained by the late Don Singleton. Don was quite proficient at using HTML and CSS. While utilizing some templates written by himself and others, he maintained the website using a Notepad like program and actually coded every page.

The current website is a treasure chest of user group information, but is quite antiquated, as well as having several pages with out-of-date information and broken links. I volunteered, with other Board members, David Williams and Greg West, to develop a new website. We chose Drupal as the platform to develop the new site.

You ask, "What is Drupal?" From their website, <http://www.drupal.org> they say, "Drupal is an open source content management platform powering millions of websites and applications. It's built, used, and supported by an active and diverse community of people around the world."

In simple terms, it is a database-based system to develop websites using content and managed by pieces or modules developed by volunteers and opening the source code for others to add to, change, or update if desired. By piecing together these modules, a very simple or complex website can be developed and maintained.

All the information is kept in a database and served to the website, eliminating the need to have hard coded webpages that can be difficult to update. Think of a catalog site, and that the items for sale change when you look at different types of products, but the pages are essentially the same.

Once the modules are in place and things are set up, to add more information, anyone who has the permission to, can add additional news or information via a form and it is immediately added to the site.

We are planning on having a place for member groups to place news about their user group, copies of their newsletters, links to their websites, lists of APCUG benefits and links to take advantage of them, user group forums, officer forums, as well as many other ways to help your user group and your officers.

You will be able to go to the site and easily find, in one place, user group newsletters, sort them by date, state, or region and then read them on the site. We will be a repository for all things to help your user group keep up with the times, find what other groups are doing to solve the same issues that your group has, and find new ideas to invigorate your group and its membership.

What is exciting about using Drupal is that the information can be updated and added to simply by filling out a form. To get more information about Drupal, go to drupal.org. To see some of the larger Drupal sites in action, take a look at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/> , <http://mediacentre.canada.travel/> , <http://beehive.govt.nz/> , <http://www.popsci.com/> , <http://www.dead.net> , <http://www.grammy.com> , <http://www.beyonceonline.com/us/home> , <http://www.duke.edu/> , <http://www.warnerbrosrecords.com/> , and soon the new APCUG website. ☺

USER GROUPS TIPS

Gabe Goldberg, Advisor, Region 2

No secrets!

Please, please, please, provide full user group meeting location/date/time information. I see too many newsletters and websites that just remind members the meetings will be at the usual place, on the usual days, at the usual time. I attend a few groups regularly and many groups occasionally -- so I can't remember everyone's meeting details. But more important than what I can remember is, making it easy for non-members to find meetings without checking for details. List meeting city with address; list area code with phone number; give as many clues as possible for non-members! The harder you make it for an individual to find out about a meeting or to attend a meeting, the less likely it is for that individual to attend the meeting. There are simply too many other options for an individual to consider in deciding how to spend their time.

Consider the iPad (and iPhone and iEverything)

User groups previously exclusively PC/Windows (and maybe Linux) focused (if not Apple-phobic) are addressing iPad users. Especially after the holiday season, many people new to iDevices will need training and information -- because, contrary to some folks' opinions, these devices are NOT self-explanatory and come with all-too-meager documentation. So this is an opportunity to widen community outreach/support and recruit new members intrigued -- if not baffled -- by their new devices. New iPad groups are forming, sometimes as independent entities and sometimes as part of existing organizations. And some areas may already have Apple-oriented groups, offering opportunities for partnering, since PC and Mac people will have iPads.

Keeping Up with Technology

Declining user group membership is nearly universal; some groups have shrunk by 50% or more since user groups peaked in the 1990s. Rather than just flogging traditional offerings such as Windows, Office, Firefox, Adobe, Symantec, etc., offerings, it's more interesting and perhaps more productive seeking new technologies to explore, exploit, and support. One such is 3-D printing, fabricating material objects via computer-generated instructions. Consumer/hobbyist 3-D printers have brought this capability to a more accessible price and usability points than ever before. Article "Fab Labs at the Library" <http://tinyurl.com/bj7u6z2> describes a library in a not-huge city making available a sophisticated fabrication laboratory. Other areas have dedicated fab labs. Either way, as a consumer technology, it's an opportunity for user groups to attract new members and learn cutting edge (pun intended) capabilities.

General and Board Meeting Tips

The most successful user groups I've seen have formal procedures for starting, running, ending, and evaluating meetings. These might seem like overkill for casual organizations -- but they're a huge help in achieving reliability and continuity, which are often challenging attributes for volunteer organizations. Simple points are:

- Use checklists or scripts for starting/ending meetings. That's the best way to ensure that nothing is forgotten -- such as reminding folks to turn off cell phones at meeting start and turn them on at the end. Other easily forgotten details can include thanking speakers/sponsors, announcing coming events, and requesting room cleanup help.
- Introduce speakers quickly and compellingly. Article "How to Introduce a Tech Conference Speaker in a Minute (or Less)" <http://tinyurl.com/b6hvwj9> gives tips useful for old-hands meeting chairs and first-timers.
- Debrief after events/meetings, either at formal Board meetings or informal post meeting get-togethers. Discuss what worked, what didn't, lessons learned, turnout, etc. The easiest way to do this is with a template listing matters to discuss and information to gather; that's a huge help for group secretary entering details into general or Board meeting minutes.

Organizational Tips

If your group meets in a senior community, recruit residents for publicity and outreach. If you meet in a public/private/religious facility, ensure that your meetings are listed on its calendar/website/emails. This will both increase your attendance and make you more appealing to the facility -- useful when it's budgeting/allocating meeting space requests.

Use email lists -- LISTSERV(r), Google, MSN, Yahoo!, etc. -- instead of email forwarders. Lists allow self-service subscribing/unsubscribing/updating, rather than requiring constant volunteer efforts keeping forwarder files current.

Simplify members filling out your forms -- membership, renewal, survey, etc. If you're not yet handling online transactions, meet people halfway by providing fillable PDF forms which can be emailed or printed after completion. Many people prefer that to entering data by hand, and whoever in your group handles paperwork will surely appreciate everything being legible.

Use Foundation Center resources <http://foundationcenter.org/> to learn about fundraising, grant applications, structuring Boards/bylaws/etc.

Evaluate mobile credit card services -- that is, being able to accept credit card payments via mobile devices. That's a great way to overcome people not being able to join, pay for meetings/good/services, etc., because they don't have cash/check with them. many vendors such as Square, Intuit, SailPay, PayAnywhere, offer small card readers which plug into smartphones and tablets.

Virtual Meetings Attract Real Attendees

As much as I advocate a social component for user groups, I've come to enjoy attending meetings by connecting online, and having meeting speakers present remotely. These, respectively, make meetings available to people who can't attend in person, and tremendously broaden the range of speakers available for meetings (as demonstrated by APCUG's well-staffed, popular, and growing Speakers Bureau!). Article "Health-Care Hybrid" <http://tinyurl.com/bpg3skm> describes how a real-world industry conference increased attendance 62% with a virtual booster shot. User groups might see the same result with enhanced online presence. ☺

SO, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY?

Hank Feinberg, APCUG Director
President, Rockland PCUG, New York

So many organizations think that because they exist, are active, have members and a name that may be catchy, everyone who hears about them knows what they do. Organizations like the ASPCA, APPEAL, APCUG, RPCUG use acronyms as their name.

APPEAL is the Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment and Leadership. Actually there are four different organizations that use this acronym. Who among us knows any of them? It is how it is used that gives us some clue. When you read APPEAL what did you think of? Does your acronym or group name help recruit the new members you are trying to get?

Instant recognition is very important. Nabisco is a major brand internationally. The original name was the National Biscuit Company. How many people today, when they hear the name, think of the company or the products they make? Is it the quality, consistency, availability of products like Oreo's, Ritz crackers, Shredded Wheat Cereal and many others that you think of or the corporation's name. Which makes your mouth water?

1901 The name Nabisco is first used as part of a name for a sugar wafer

1971 Nabisco becomes the corporate name

What does baked goods have to do with computer clubs? The answer lies in the question of what is the perception of what your organization does. What is the first impression that makes someone interested to learn more about what your club offers? What are your products or services and do they entice people to partake of them by joining?

One of the problems is that sometimes we work within our organizations and our members know each other. They share ideas, information and friendship. What we think is the perception of what we offer isn't what non-members think we do. Beginners think we are too technical. More advanced computer users think we are too basic. We don't take the time to ask outsiders what they think we do, what we offer and what they are looking for that would get them involved with us.

Today's digital world should be the clue that future members want information on all things electronic: Smart phones, WiFi, tablets, networking, Apple products, digital photography and more. It can be confusing to the non-technical. Years ago it was drivers, modems, CPU's and new Operating Systems. Now it is how do you sync your devices? Wireless networking, what is the cloud and apps that work across all devices.

So how do you get the public to recognize not just your brand/club name but what information products and services you offer?

Survey Says

Survey your members and ask a broad variety of questions on all products and subjects you can think of to identify what consumers are interested in today.

Survey past members to find out why they left the club. Survey your local libraries and adult education programs to see what they need and how you can work with them.

Recently I spoke to one of the 15 libraries in our county. They told me about a program they were running weekly: "Get Tutored by Teens In Latest Technology." What a great idea. However we had been running a Windows SIG for many years there. Why didn't the library contact us to develop the program? Somehow we didn't get our message of products and services we offer out. Some of our members are also active in Senior Net and would have been perfect and willing to work with the teenagers and share some of the structure they used in their program. What a great way to get teenagers involved with our members. Both generations could share ideas.



Survey other clubs and service organizations to see if they need speakers and or want to run some joint activities. Find out on what topics. Cross pollinate with digital photography and amateur radio clubs.

Literary essayist George Steiner once put it this way: Had a buggy whip manufacturer in 1910 re-thought things and concluded that rather than being in the buggy whip business he was instead in the business of creating "transportation starting devices," he just might have been able to survive the challenge of the new economy and make the transition into a new era.

(You might want to also take a look at my first article, If you build will they come... in the 2012 Q4 Reports where I suggest groups take a look at what the public's first image of your club is on the web.) ☺

APCUG ELECTION REPORT

Sandra Hart

Elections Committee

shart@apcug.org

2013 elections were held in November, 2012 with 10 of 11 regions participating in the voting process., casting their votes for the APCUG's Board of Directors and Board of Advisors. Notices went out through the UGLS to the President and APCUG Representative of each member group.

Board of Directors for 2013: Jim Evans, Hank Feinberg, Dave Gerber, Sandra Hart, Patty Lowry, Hewie Poplock, David Steward (re-elected), David Williams (re-elected), Marie Vesta (re-elected).

Board of Advisors for 2013: Gabe Goldberg, Bill James (re-elected), Annette Macioce (newly elected), Roger Tesch (re-elected), Judy Taylour, Robert Vance, Greg West, Cheryl Wester (re-elected), Sam Wexler.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hart, Chair
Patty Lowry
Bob Vance ☺

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

David V. P. Williams

APCUG Director

dwilliam@apcug.org

A reminder from the Social Media Committee

The Social Media Committee is tasked with developing/maintaining a Social Media network and presence for the benefit of APCUG. They cannot do that without your help.

Please Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and encourage your group officers and members to also follow APCUG.

If your group has a Facebook page or a Twitter account, let us know so we can follow you.

Please let us know of events happening with your group that would be of interest to other groups. We need just a very short article and a picture if you have one. This info will be posted on our social media sites and also placed on our website. We need your help to pass on what is happening in the user group world.

Looking forward to hearing what is going on in your world.

Contact us at socialmedia@apcug.org. ☺

APCUG FINANCIAL SUMMARY**October – December 2012**

Operating Balance 10/1/2012		15,427.73
Income		
Membership Renewals -Check	3,400.00	
Membership Renewals -PayPal	2,250.00	
PayPal Transfers to Bank	2297.52	
Total Income & Transfers	7,947.52	7,947.52
Operating Expenses		
Hosting-Websites, UGLS, iLinc	-1,387.54	
Software	-117.08	
Contests / Promotion	-138.00	
Postage, Mail Forwarding	-46.22	
Travel - BoA	-101.40	
PayPal Fees - Membership	-64.10	
CAMUG -Conference Share	-650.95	
Total Expenses	-2,505.29	-2,505.29
Total		20,869.96
PayPal Income Oct-Dec lees fees		-2,185.90
Operating Account Balance 12-30-2012		18,684.06
PayPal Balance 12-30-2012		535.00

PayPal income is shown monthly but recorded when banked.

Membership renewals are being received at about the same rate as last year, however, mail forwarding creates a longer time-pine for deposit of checks. Both Savings and CD are accumulating interest.

Respectfully submitted

Sandra Hart

APCUG Treasurer ☺

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**Patty Lowry**

Membership Committee

plowry@apcug.org

Have you paid your APCUG membership dues yet? Some lucky club will win one of three Kindles preloaded with \$300 worth of books from O'Reilly. Any group that has a payment dated by December 31, 2012 is eligible for the drawing. Our goal is to surpass the number of last year's member groups. If you missed the December 31st deadline, you can still pay your dues by check or PayPal, http://apcug.net/membership/member_select.htm .

Another reminder is to go to your group's page in the User Group Listing Service (UGLS) and check to see if your information is current. For help, go to <http://www.apcug.net> and click on UGLS Instructions in the left column.

Respectfully Submitted

Patty Lowry, Chair

Marie Vesta

Sandra Hart ☺

APCUG 2013 WINTER VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

February 2, 2013

The APCUG 2013 Winter Virtual Technology Conference on 02/02/13 is open for registration. The conference, which starts @ 1PM ET is free & open to the public.

Please go to <http://apcug.net/virtual/> for more information & how to register. The sessions include:

Track One

- * Windows 8 - Mysteries & Misconceptions Explained
- * Freeware & Shareware
- * Are We Losing This Generation's Photos?
- * How to Publicize Your User Group

Track Two

- * To 'Cloud' or Not to 'Cloud', That is the Question
- * Using Your Smartphone for Everything
- * iPad Basics & a Bit More

Schedule & details on the sessions are at http://apcug.net/virtual/index_vc6.htm. ☺



NFACUG 2013 CONFERENCE

Computer Tech 2013: For the Apple and PC Home Computer User
Northwest Florida Association of Computer User Groups

<http://www.nwfacug.org/>

*Learn How to Use the New Technologies – We Make Learning
New Computer Skills Easy*

Workshops – Vendor Displays – Door Prizes

Computer Tech 2013
"For the Apple and PC Home Computer User"

The conference will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2013, from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm at the Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, Florida – New Student Services Center. The conference is free and the public is invited to attend.

There will be 20+ workshops including: Introduction to Windows 8 Surface, Microsoft's SkyDrive "Cloud," Lean All About Genealogy, Mac's and iPad's (Bring your iPad), Become an iPad Power User, Intro to Podcasting on a Mac, Apple's New iPad and iPhone, Must-have Apps for the iPad, Troubleshooting and Fixing a PC, Video Conferencing Made Easy, Using Adobe Photoshop Elements 9, Movie Making Made Easy – Step-by-Step, How to Setup a Home Network, Everything about Regular and Wi-Fi Printing, New Voice Recognition Made Easy, Learn More about Microsoft's Windows 7, Meet the Geek – NW Florida Daily News, New Google Search Engine and Gmail, Faststone Photo Editor & Viewer, Are You as Smart as Your Smart Phone? ☺



Mark your calendar . . . get ready for the second annual [Computer Technology Conference](#)! Registration is now open! This premier conference will be held April 4, 5 & 6, 2013 at the beautiful 4 Diamond Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Casino.



Are you an early adopter? Interested in current and future technology? Computer club leader or member? Enthusiastic supporter of consumer technology? Want to learn more about what's available in the marketplace? Come to the conference!

2012 classes included Google+, You and Your GPS, Secrets of Safe Computing, Protecting Yourself Online, ABC's of Digital Photography, Un-

derstanding Your Android Phone, Video Editing with OpenShot, Home Networking, The Future of Computing and much, much more. Check out the [website](#) for last year's schedule.



Whether you use a PC, MAC, tablet or any other device, there will be something of interest for you. Join other users to share your experiences. Windows? Come to the conference. Linux? Come to the conference. Mac OS? Come to the conference. Invite your friends, family, in laws, outlaws . . . everyone is invited.

All platforms

Learn about the latest technology – attend informative classes and workshops

Some meals included

Hospitality Suite Wednesday through Saturday

Digital Photo Contest

Keynote speakers from industry leaders

Attend the Vendor Expo and purchase the latest and greatest the industry has to offer

Get up close and personal with vendors who can't wait to tell you about their latest products

Network with leaders in the field

Raffles, door prizes, special pricing and goodie bags

Conference fee:

\$75 if registered at the resort for 3 or more nights by March 1, 2013

\$99 if not staying at the resort; registration and payment received by March 13, 2013

\$125 if payment received March 14 through the conference



Use your PayPal account or pay by check. Don't have a PayPal account? They accept your credit card without opening an account.

Resort Amenities:

- \$139/night, single or double (reservations made by March 1)
- \$10 resort fee waived
- 24-hour fitness center
- Free valet and resort parking
- Hotel/Casino/Conference Center within short walking distance
- Complimentary WiFi throughout the resort
- Complimentary in room coffee and bottled water
- Complimentary daily newspapers



Registration questions? Contact Sandra Hart, registration@CompTechConf.com

General questions? Contact Patricia Hill, director@CompTechConf.com. ☺

2013 APCUG REGIONAL DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Robert Lee Vance (Bob)
Region 3 Advisor (OH, PA, WV)

Plans are underway to hold a Regional Conference in the Dayton, Ohio Metropolitan area. The tentative date for this conference is early September 2013.

This conference will be co-hosted by APCUG, the Dayton Microprocessor Association, Inc. (DMA), <http://www.dma1.org/> and the NASAC Computer User Group (NASAC). <http://www.nasac.org/>

The co-chairs for this regional conference are Bob Vance, APCUG; Gladys Campion, DMA; and Jim Ullom, NASAC. Gladys and Jim are currently working on securing a venue and creating a schedule of events.

The conference will focus on all forms of digital technology which will include the various Windows operating systems, Mac and Linux. Additionally, the newly emerging items such as tablets and e-Readers will be highlighted.

Whether you are a computer- or a mobile-device user you will find a program that will be beneficial to you. If you are using a Windows-based, Linux, Mac or mobile device many programs and applications have cross-platform functionality.

Some of the presentations that are tentatively scheduled are the Computer Museum, Microsoft, Apple, Digital Photography, Linux, Python, Mac Depot or Mac Town, Inventor's Club of Dayton, 3D printers, Genealogy, Wireless-nets.com author, Drupal and Putting a Website together, Dayton Diode, DayCon conference and Packet Wars.com. Additionally other presentations that are being worked on include: Recycle & Repair, One Note, Mr. Excel, Skype, Team Viewer, Avast, System Mechanic, Lion, Windows 8, Cloud Computing, and Remote Desktop Sharing.

When you attend the conference you might want to consider arriving a few days early or departing a few days after the conference to take advantage of some of the local sites. You could even take home a Wilbur Wright Aviator Teddy Bear for free as a souvenir.

<http://www.daytoncvb.com/travel-offers-promotions/take-a-wilbear-wright-aviator-teddy-bear-home-for-free/>

Dayton is renowned for its legacy of innovation and is one of the country's leading producers of patents and for history-changing inventions including the airplane, automatic icemaker and "pop top" can. Dayton was the home of the Wright Brothers, poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, and entrepreneur John H. Patterson.

Dayton also plays a role internationally. Through Sister Cities International, Dayton supports efforts for business and cultural development in its Sister Cities of Augsburg, Germany; Oiso, Japan; Monrovia, Liberia; Holon, Isreal and Bosnia. In 1995, the agreement for peace in Bosnia and Herze-govina, known as the Dayton Peace Accords, was successfully negotiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to end the conflict in Bosnia.

As we get closer to finalizing the arrangements for the APCUG-DMA-NASAC conference we will be releasing information through e-mails, NOOZ, web postings and APCUG's Quarterly Reports. 🎵



Royal Caribbean - Independence of the Seas

Saturday, December 7, 2013 - Sunday, December 15, 2013

The Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) is presenting its Fourth Technology Conference@Sea

There is no better vacation bargain than a cruise and no better cruise bargain than this one. Add to it a full-fledged Computer and Technology Conference on the high seas and it becomes an outstanding event not to be missed. Be a part of FACUG's fourth annual Conference@Sea on what promises to be another outstanding SAIL-A-BRATION!

The amazing bargain cost of the 9-day/8-night cruise starts at \$579.67/person + tips including the FACUG \$75 early-bird incentive refund. The FACUG Technology Conference will be on the Royal Caribbean Independence of the Seas; sailing on Saturday, December 7 to Sunday, December 15, 2013. FACUG is doing the work so we can offer this outstanding rate and amenities to you. See the Royal Caribbean website (www.rccl.com) for more information about the ship. Cabin rates are below (pp/double occupancy).

Cabin	# Cabins	Cruise minus \$75 E/B fund	+ Port Charges	+ Taxes & fees	Total/person
Interior N	17	\$268	\$200	\$111.67	\$579.67
Interior M	21	\$277	\$200	\$111.67	\$588.67
Interior L	42	\$285	\$200	\$111.67	\$596.67
Atrium PR	47	\$311	\$200	\$111.67	\$622.67
Interior K	48	\$404	\$200	\$111.67	\$715.67
Oceanview H	4	\$379	\$200	\$111.67	\$690.67
Oceanview G	5	\$514	\$200	\$111.67	\$825.67
Balcony E1	15	\$744	\$200	\$111.67	\$1,055.67

Pre-paid gratuities \$93.20/person and travel insurance \$59/person (\$89/balcony) are additional.

Sailing from Fort Lauderdale, calling on Philipsburg, St. Maarten; Basseterre, St Kitts; San Juan, Puerto Rico and Labadee, Haiti then returning to Fort Lauderdale. This offer is valid for a limited time only. The Technology Conference@ Sea registration fee is \$95/person for members of a FACUG or APCUG club (\$120 for non-members) and also \$95 for the second person in the cabin who need not be a club member.

The early-bird refund is \$75 per conference attendee. Included in the conference fee are many extra perks including a Welcome Bag full of goodies, two Meet & Greet cocktail parties which are a big hit every year and a few additional surprises.

The \$250/person cruise deposit is completely refundable until September 7, 2013 when the balance is due.

There will be buses from several locations around Palm Beach County to the Port of Fort Lauderdale and back for about \$15/person each way. We will look into buses from other points in Florida if there is sufficient demand.

Last January we had 200+ occupied cabins with 400+ people. After the cruise, a survey was taken and 3/4 of the responders, including spouses, rated the event an "A". It was called a great balance between conference time and party time. Ask your friends who were there. If you are interested in sailing with us at the above early-bird rates, you first need to register for the conference by following the directions below and then book your cruise with the booking agent noted below.

For more Cruise Information, call booking agent Dean LeBlanc, at Cruise Buyers Choice, toll-free: 866-606-2067. For more Conference information, e-mail facugcruise@ariesmart.com. ☺

REGION 1 (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)

By Sam Wexler, Advisor

swexler@apcug.org

Southern Tier PC Club

Vestal, NY

STPCC's New "Help Net"

John Langill, Newsletter Co-Editor

Many STPCC members will remember that, in the past, the club had offered a ³Help Net² service to its members. The service was provided by volunteer club members who had significant experience with specific software applications such as MS Word, WordPerfect, Lotus 1-2-3, the then current Windows Operating System, and other computer related subjects. It was discontinued in the early part of the past decade, but, thanks to a suggestion put forth by STPCC member John Kray, the club is undertaking the task of resurrecting the service as a way of helping members get answers on a broad range of personal computing questions and problems in a timely fashion; that is, without having to wait until the Open Discussion portion of the next club meeting to present them. Think of it as a way of members-helping-members similar to what often takes place at club meetings.

The club's Yahoo Group is likely to be the vehicle through which the new ³Help Net² service will be offered; and initial testing of that facility has begun. Guidelines and rules for making use of the service are also in the works. And the club hopes to begin offering the service early in the New Year.

Business & Professional Microcomputer User Group (BPMUG)

Vestal, NY

Can Technology Save the Day?

John Smith, President

Interesting times. I was looking at last year's President's message and realized I had pontificated about the storm Irene and how we realized the significance of how electricity and technology plays a role in our lives. Now here we are, a year later, and find ourselves in another challenging time with many of us disconnected from the utilities that we have grown to view as an essential part of our lives. We were a bit more prepared this time. Our generator was ready to jump into action. Plenty of fuel. I was feeling a bit smug about our preparedness for the storm. Then I look at some stories in New York and New Jersey. Elderly people several floors up in high-rise studio apartments

with no electricity, no water, no bathroom facilities, and no way to hike down many flights of stairs to try to get assistance. Suddenly I don't feel so good about my fortune. Yes, we can and do make donations and say our prayers for those in need. But that doesn't seem enough.

With all the technology, there are still people with gas cans hiking from one closed gas station to another, hoping for a bit of good luck amidst the sea of misfortune. There are still people with cell phones that have run out of charge and these frustrated individuals are hunting for someone with a generator they can plug into so they can call friends and family afar with some reassuring words. All the technology in the world isn't much comfort to the worried mother wishing her daughter and son-in-law would call or at least post something on their Facebook page.

Technology can be wonderful. I just hope that one of the new breakthroughs will be some sort of battery or other storage device that can maintain a powerful charge for a month or longer. I know it will someday be possible. It may even be soon. I'm not sure how or when but I hope it comes soon. For the sake of the next calamity that I hope doesn't come...just like after last year when I hoped a giant storm would not come again very soon. But it did. And it might again. And I hope technology will save the day -- somehow. ☺

REGION 2 (DC, DE, MD, NJ, VA)

Gabe Goldberg, Advisor
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VIRGINIA

Northern Neck Computer User Group

<http://www.nncug.org>

NNCUG in Review (from Brian Riley, NNCUG President)

In the last six months, in keeping with our theme last year, we have been covering topics where technology is changing the way we do things.

- July we learned about how it has changed the way Real Estate is sold presented by John Jones
- August I covered getting started with WordPress
- September was Digital Photography, and a really nice presentation by Dr Charles Albert Huchins who gave us some really good pointers on how to touch up photos in Photoshop
- October was a presentation on 3D printing and Additive Manufacturing by Jim Sapion
- In November, Rob Mink covered gadgets for Christmas which included a demonstration of the Raspberry Pi, a complete one board \$35 computer running Linux.
- December BJ will be covering Notepads.

Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society, Inc. (PATACS)

<http://www.patacs.org/>

Member Appreciation

Don't wait until it's too late to get to know user group colleagues! Recently Neal Grotenstein, a friendly and stalwart member, volunteer, director, and helper in multiple Washington, DC area technology groups, died. He taught classes, worked in Capital PCUG's computer refurbishing/recycling project, helped members at PATACS' twice-yearly PC clinics, and pitched in elsewhere as needed. These groups, and others in which he participated, such as the Potomac Pedalers bike club, will be diminished by his absence. I've know Neal for many years, since my first involvement with CPCUG. I've seen him at countless meetings and sat across from him at many PATACS Board meetings, but didn't know a fraction of the information contained in this bike club memorial services notice <http://tinyurl.com/cqtjq94>.

One reason I enjoy visiting user groups throughout Region 2 is that many groups have a strong social component, besides fulfilling primary missions of dealing with technology. It's worthwhile for all groups -- large/small, urban/rural -- to provide a social setting for members to get to know each other. PATACS runs "Pizza SIG (and salad!)" sessions after meetings; other groups have pre-meeting pot-luck meals, or purely social gatherings. Spending time only on technology shortchanges members by not revealing and sharing what each of us does outside the user group world. ☺

REGION 3 (OH, PA, WV)

Robert Lee Vance (Bob), Advisor
bvance@apcug.org

OHIO

The Columbus Computer Society (CCS)

Columbus

<http://www.ccscmh.org/>

CCS recently gave away one of the APCUG/O'Reilly books from the book program as a door prize at one of the meetings. They also had a presentation on installing a full house backup power generator system to be used during power outages. The presentation centered around installing and using a standby generator in a single home setup. Additionally, the members were told about some of the various local areas that have WiFi hotspots. Some of the ones in the Columbus, Ohio area include: various eatery's, public library's, hospitals, car dealers, doctor and dentists' offices, most hotel and motels, as well as paternal organizations including, but not limited to, American Legion and VFW halls.

The Dayton Microcomputer Association (DMA)

Dayton

Their website became <http://www.dma1.org/> since the Dallas Museum of Art took over the dma.org URL. One of their most informative and valuable presentations was on the NeatReceipts Scanner. The NeatReceipts is a mobile scanner and digital filing system that helps you manage all of your paperwork on the computer. All the capabilities of this product were fully explained. I had the pleasure of attending this very informative presentation.

The Bristol Village Computer Club

Waverly

<http://www.bvres.org/BVCCHome.htm>

Once again BVCC took advantage of the Speakers Bureau with a Skype presentation from Abby Stokes. During their November meeting members were shown how to make holiday greeting cards using the functionality built into Libre Office. The December meeting consisted of a presentation on PaintShop Pro projects.

The Akron Canton PC Users Group

Green

<http://www.acpcug.org/site3/>

ACPCUG has a Beginners SIG before each of their general meetings. They recently had a presentation of Gene Barlow's Acronis hard-disk backup & partitioning.

The Greater Cleveland PC Users Group

Cleveland

<http://www.gcpcug.org/>

GCPCUG recently had their annual Holiday Tech Gadgets presentations. These are very popular and garner a larger than usual attendance.

The Licking County Computer Society

Newark

www.lccsohio.org

LCCS held its second semi-annual computer recycling event in October. In November there were presentations on finding your lost or stolen iPad, iPhone or other portable devices using cloud computing and online mapping GPS applications.

The Lorain County Computer Users Group

Amherst

www.LCCUG.com

A recent general meeting topic, TV's + Computers, covered information on Netflix, Hulu and other media streaming options.

Networking Accessing Software and Computers (NASAC)

Xenia

<http://www.nasac.org/index.htm>

NASAC, otherwise known as the friendly little computer club, meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Xenia, Ohio Public Library. NASAC recently had a presentation on Facebook & Instagram.

Northeast Ohio PC Club

Westlake

<http://www.neopc.org/>

A general meeting main program was on Facebook, LinkedIn and Google+.

PENNSYLVANIA**The Exton PC Council**

Exton

www.ExtonPC.org

The Exton PC Council held an open house providing exhibits and demonstrations on using your computer for: Cloud Computing, eReaders & eBooks, Working with Photographs and Windows 8.

The CPUUser Group

Tarentum

<http://cpusergroup.apcug.org/>

CPUG recently had a software freedom day presentation at their November meeting. This meeting netted several new members.

The Philadelphia Area Computer Society

Willow Grove

<http://pacsnet.org/>

PACS had a very interesting presentation about a new search engine called DuckDuckGo.com. It is purported to be better than Google and getting better every day.

Many of the user groups in Region 3 had holiday parties during the month of December.

For those clubs that I have not reported too much about their activities it is because I have not been able to glean the information about what you are doing from your newsletters or websites. I would appreciate receiving information about your club activities so I can publicize your club in APCUG Reports. ☺

REGION 4 (AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Annette Macioce, Advisor

amarcioce@apcug.org**SOUTH CAROLINA****Hilton Head Island Computer Club**

Hilton Head

www.hhicc.org

Links to current topics of interest can be found on the HHICC website: Homeland Security Warns to Disable Java Amid Zero-Day Flaw, How To Set Up iCloud, CES 2013: 9 Cool Gadgets. They are offering classes for Windows 8 (January), Photoshop Elements (February) and Excel for Beginners in March. Their January general meeting will cover Windows 8 with a 24" Dell All-in-One

Touhscreen computer. With a basic understanding of a few basic concepts, Windows 8 can be used very much like previous Windows interfaces. You can minimize the need to use the new "Touch Interface" with a free utility and learning a few concepts. How to get and install this utility will be demonstrated. There will be a question and answer period after the presentation as time allows. Attendance is limited to the first 75 who register. Handouts will be available for attendees.

Palmetto PC Club

Columbia

<http://palmettopc.org/>

The January Palmetto PC Club meeting featured three activities: first was a Techie Show and Tell. What cool, new gadgets did Santa deliver to members this season? Members were asked to talk about them and if they could, bring them to the meeting. They also started a series of demonstrations on tablet apps that will make tablets more useful and fun. Lastly was election of new club officers. A number of volunteers stepped up and were willing to commit to carrying out officer duties necessary to keep the business side of their club running smoothly. They were introduced

and then it was on to elections. And finally, they started a series of demonstrations on tablet apps that will make member's tablet more useful and fun. January is the first installment!

TENNESSEE**Plateau PC Users Group**

Crosville

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

Plateau has a Digital Photo SIG that meets monthly. Topics vary each month but they show and discuss member's photos at each meeting and one or two "People's Choice" photos are submitted to their local newspaper each month for publication. A photo editing workshop is also held on the first Friday of each month. One of the SIG members gave a presentation at their October on how changes in computer processing speeds and the cost of storage have impacted digital photography. They

also covered how the Adobe Lightroom program works as an image catalog system and the tools it provides to improve/change the original image the camera produced. ☺

REGION 5 (FL)

Judy Taylour, Advisor

jtaylour@apcug.org**What's happening in the Greater Tampa Bay PC User Group (GTPCUG)**

Parker Monroe, Webmaster

www.gtbpcug.org**Greater Tampa Bay PC User Group**

They have been experimenting with adding demonstrations of hand-held electronic devices for their members.

Since hand-held electronic devices are all the rage nowadays, the officers decided that there was no point in ignoring them, especially since a number of our members have such devices along with their PCs. So far they have demonstrated the iPhone, an Android cell phone, and a tablet.

The main point of the demonstrations is to introduce their members to some of the alternatives, discuss their pros and cons, and give them some guidance as to what to look for if they decide to purchase any of the devices.

They are aided in these presentations by the fact that the school room we meet in contains a very modern overhead projector, which allows the audience to see both what the display of the device is showing, as well as the hand/finger movements used to navigate the device.

So far the presentations have been well received.

Valencia Falls Computer & Technology Club

Sam Wexler, President

<http://www.ariesmart.com/vfcc/>

Each November our group holds a free mini-brunch for our new members who have joined during the past 12 months. We define a mini-brunch as a bagels & lox brunch, without the lox. We have bagels, some spreads, a few goodies from the supermarket and coffee/tea. Definitely low cost. It tends to push those who are on the fence to renew their membership. We shared with them what we did last year and our views for the coming year. They (i.e. new blood) tell us what they liked, did not like and what new we should be doing. This year we shared with them some ideas for a fourth FACUG technology conference cruise and some of their ideas were actually adopted and used by this event which was announced three

weeks later. It is interesting to note that at this meeting a number of attendees tried to sign up for the FACUG technology cruise to get the early-bird refund. They would need to wait until the official announcement at the end of November to register, but at this point, FACUG knew this event would be a very big hit. This was confirmed when more than 100 registered for this conference within ten days after announcement.

Every December, we hold our Annual Brunch where most attendees pay \$2 for a brunch that would normally cost \$10 - \$15 and we always have a terrific speaker. Yes, this brunch ALWAYS makes a profit and if you write me at swexler@apcug.org I will tell you how. This tends to push people into renewing for the new year a little sooner as well as getting those still on the fence. New this year were the delicious home-made salads made by the wives of our Directors and everyone seemed to want the recipes which were sent out by email (of course!).

Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG)

Sam Wexler, President

www.facug.org

We are working on two major events at the same time: the 2013 FACUG Technology Camp @ Club Med and the 2013 FACUG Technology Conference@Sea. We stopped the Club Med publicity a half year ago because we almost ran out of available rooms and at the time of this writing is a couple of rooms available. This event will be at the end of February so you will hear more in the next (April) Reports.

FACUG, in cooperation with a number of Computer & Technology Clubs, is sponsoring the FACUG's 4th Computer & Technology Conference@Sea. We have had 1,000 attendees at the prior three FACUG Technology cruises who came from more than half the States plus Canada and the United Kingdom. This will be a landmark event that will build on the successes of our previous events, but will have more days, more stars (a 5-star ship), more shows, more fun, more food, more and different ports of call and of course more computers and technology information. All this and, for many, the cost will actually be cheaper than staying home. In addition, if you act quickly, there is a \$75/person (\$150/couple) early-bird refund for conference attendees in the form of a personal check which you can use to reduce your cruise or conference registration fee. Deposit it into your bank account when you get home or use it for whatever purpose makes you happy. For more information or to become a no-cost associate of this landmark event, see additional information in this of Reports or send an email to swexler@apcug.org. ☺

REGION 6 and INTERNATIONAL

Greg West, Advisor

gwest@apcug.org

The year 2012 was an exciting year for tech users. They brought out several new items such as the iPad mini (I think the pricing is too high), a new iPhone (that we really didn't need) and a thing called iCloud which dropped the ball with its minimal amount of storage of only 5 MBs with no way of getting more cloud storage space without paying. I suggest using Dropbox.com instead. Works better and you can get 2 GB free storage. I have been an Apple guy since 1984 but also have used all Windows OSs.

Speaking of Windows, are they putting a dent into APPLE? Not yet, but keep an eye on Windows 8 as the sales have already exceeded Windows 7 so somebody is buying it. I can't wait to get my hands on a copy, especially the new "Surface". Windows 8, what an amazing operating system that works well with the old and the new operating systems. With a mere click of a key you can be in Windows 7 and the same key gets you right back into Windows 8. The "kickers and screamers" will eventually soften as they learn more about this great software (even though they have copied much from Lion and Mountain Lion lol).

Oh yes, and did I mention, the desktop is dead as a doornail and next up is the laptop. I teach both Mac and PC users and when someone asks what type of computer they should get, I tell them to get a tablet. This is the future and the future is here now. Laptops are fading, fading, fading...soon into the ways of the 8 track player. Maybe not for a while, but you just watch!

CANADA**Durham Personal Computer Users' Club (DPCUG)**Ontario, Canada, <http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca>

I am still getting user groups saying that they have run the gamut on ideas for meetings. I quickly

remind them about APCUG's Speakers Bureau that offers many exciting speakers who will demonstrate software for your group at no cost. It was interesting to see this Ontario, Canada group getting Gene Barlow give his amazing demonstration on "Acronis Disk Director 11. If you have not heard Gene give a presentation, you are missing out. Contact Gene at, [gene\(at\)ugr.com](mailto:gene(at)ugr.com).

The Sarnia Computer Users' Group (SCUG)

Ontario, Canada, <http://scug.ca>

Here is another group that has invited Frances Chao from the Tucson Computer Society, to give his professional "how to" for Windows 8. Anything you want or need to know about this system, Frances is your man! He loves doing presentations for user groups, so contact him today: fchao2@yahoo.com

USA

KENTUCKY

Kentucky-Indiana PC Users Group (KIPCUG)

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

Most user groups members these days can use a little extra spending money. This group has an excellent method I want to share:

Membership Draws - each month they draw a KIPCUG member's name from their membership roster. If the winning member is "in the house" they win a "jar full of money." (Actually they write them a check!) The Rules are simple. Members must be present to win, and must have their dues paid. Each month a member's name is drawn. If the member is not present, the pool increases by \$10 until it reaches a maximum of \$300.

Door Prizes - registered members will receive a ticket for the door prize drawing. Door prize tickets will not be given out after 7:00 PM

What ideas does your group have for generating those extra needed dollars? Please email me with some of your tips in how your group generates extra funds so it can be shared...Not money, I mean the ideas. (haha!).

Midland Computer Club

Midland, Michigan, <http://mcc.apcug.org/>

I had the opportunity to attend this group's general meeting this past October. Always, before I attend a user group meeting I have never been to before, I wonder how they conduct a general meeting and what unique items of interest they offer. Every group uses different methods, albeit some the same. Larry Piper is the group's president and offered a very warm welcome introducing me to the members of his group. Larry spoke before and after my APCUG presentation to the group. The thing I found interesting was how Larry was able to keep the member's attention with a wide array of current tech news. Larry has the ability to add humor to this talk, which is always a huge bonus while speaking. This is an excellent way for a user group to keep up with what's new out there, so they don't hear it all from their grandkids. I'll bet some of the Midland group's members can educate their grandkids after one of Larry's discussions on new stuff and current tech issues.

All-too-often we feel our members already know, or maybe that they won't "get it", if someone talks about current tech stuff, myself included. Larry's user group tech talk has made me rethink about underestimating our members. Keeping members informed is of great value, one I have taken a different perspective on now, after watching Larry in action. But I won't hold a candle to Larry's excellent sense of humor to keep the interest flowing. ☺

REGION 8 (AR, KS, LA, OK, TX)**Bill James, Advisor**bjames@apcug.org**What's happening:**

From time to time, as the Region 8 Advisor, I like to visit the Region 8 clubs through their websites to see what is going on with the groups. From my report you will see that there are lots of exciting things happening. If your user group is struggling for ideas in programming or trying to find new SIGs, checking out user group websites is one way to start. Our region consists of User Groups from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. If you are a Region 8 user group, I would love to hear from you.

ARKANSAS**The Northwest Arkansas PC User Group**<http://pcgroup.nwark.com/>

The purpose of the NWA-PCUG is to provide a forum for members to share information and experiences that will help other members obtain maximum benefit and enjoyment from the use of their Personal Computers." At their November meeting one of their member's demonstrated basic applications for the iPad 2 that included photography, email, news, eBooks, and how to upload videos to YouTube.

If your club is not taking advantage of allowing members to demonstrate these I-devices, you are missing a great opportunity. These can really be great presentations.

KANSAS**Topeka PC Users Club**<http://topekapcusersclub.org/>

Topeka PC Users Club The Topeka PC Users Club (TPCUC), a non-profit organization, was established in 1987 and is still going strong because the membership is comprised of a group of highly dedicated individuals who gather to discuss and expand their knowledge of IBM Computers. Several of the members who started this club are still with us and they alone constitute 20 years of experience we can offer potential members.

This group features a couple of interesting SIGS. One is dedicated to new users where general topics are discussed along with answering questions that new users have. The other SIG is called an Advanced Topics SIG. This group is designed to try and answer the most difficult question that members may have. The topics vary from problems with Windows to networking and beyond. Lastly, the After Lunch Bunch SIG -- this is an open forum with questions and answers about people's computers.

LOUISIANA**Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group**<http://www.cbwug.com/>

This user group was formed exclusively for Microsoft Windows Users. Their motto is: "The sky is the limit when your computer has windows." Their November meeting covered many aspects of the new Windows 8 operating system and how to get around in it. Some people who have already switched to

Windows 8 felt a little intimidated by it because some things are done a little differently than in Windows 7. After their president (Bernie Conradi) showed and explained how it is really much like Windows 7, but you just get to things in a different way, and it actually has more things to offer, people seemed to feel more comfortable about the new operating system and more attendees seemed to be interested in using Windows 8. One of their members won a copy of Windows 8 Pro!

Cajun Clickers Computer Club

www.clickers.org/



The Cajun Clickers Computer Club is 22 years young and still clickin'! The club has a community outreach program, PC Tune Ups, to help members and non-members. Every three months the club helps computer users to repair and tune up their computers for a nominal charge with the aide of experienced volunteers.

During the month of October, the club participated in the Greater Baton Rouge 11th Annual Women's Week. This year's theme was "**Louisiana Women – 200 Years Strong!**", beginning September 28th - Oct 7. Many organizations participated. CCCC members sponsored five presentations, with Chandra Sharma coordinating:

- Picasa Part 1 - Free Photo Editor - Jean Templet
- What's NEW in Tablets & Smartphones - Chandan Sharma
- LibreOffice - Cal Esneault
- Picasa Part 2 - Free Photo Editor - Jean Templet
- Computer Backup & Crash Recovery - Ron Spruell

New Orleans Personal Computer Club

www.nopc.org

New Orleans Personal Computer Club

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club was founded in 1981 as a Louisiana non-profit organization. It is composed of individual personal computer users who help each other learn more about their personal computers and their wide variety of applications. If you own, use, or are considering the purchase of a personal computer, you will find the NOPCC learning experience and the opportunity to exchange information invaluable.

OKLAHOMA

Computer Club of Oklahoma City

www.ccokc.org



In October of this year CCOKC presented its 500th computer to a needy individual. Over the years, the club has been active in either buying, building or refurbishing computers to provide to needy individuals as well as other non-profit organizations.

TEXAS

Alamo PC Organization

<http://www.alamopc.org/>



The Alamo PC Organization is South Texas' Premier PC Club promoting computers for everyone from beginner to the expert. Their October meeting focused on the iPad and the iPhone. The presentation included a couple of iPads along and iPhones and the demonstration covered how easy it is to load them with books and reference materials as well as adding apps. Mobile devices are a hot new topic that user groups can exploit to gain new members and help your members learn new technology.

Bentsen Grove Resort Computer Club

www.bgrcc.com

BGR COMPUTER CLUB This is a group of retirees with an interest in computers who winter in south Texas. They come mostly from the upper Midwest and Canada as well as the rest of the country and the world. Their club membership runs about 140. They pride themselves in helping members understand and use their computers and have a great cadre of individuals who are willing to help each other. At a recent beginners class taught by Corinne Higbee she showed the attendees how to setup their Internet, find programs and remove the ones they did not want. They were also shown how to download and install Belarac Advisor so the students could see what was on their computer's hard drive, as well as how to save passwords in Firefox and Chrome browsers. On their website they have links for various free programs that makes it easy for their members to access.

Houston Area League of PC Users, Inc.www.hal-pc.org

Organized in 1982, HAL-PC is home to an award winning internet service, exciting technology presentations, Special Interest Groups, hands-on computer classes, award winning Magazine, Senior Learning Center courses (they are currently busy delving into Windows 8) and more! They invite you to join the group and become one of their computer users helping other computer users. For information on the latest technologies, the HAL-PC website is the place to look.

Currently featured on the site is the Computer Security Series by Robert Spotswood.

Membership gift certificates were available for members to give as gifts this past holiday season.

Here's info from their website. *Are your friends or relatives in need of computer help? Give them a year of computer tech support and access to our exciting special interest groups and events! Provide your name and email address along with the name and address of the recipient. A gift certificate and membership card will be mailed to the name and address provided.*

Southwest International Personal Computer Club – El Paso Texaswww.swipcc.org

SWIPCC is a non-profit educational organization comprised of professional and non-professional Windows 98/XP/Vista/7 and Linux computer users. The group was originally formed for the exchange of knowledge and ideas as well as fellowship among computer enthusiasts in the El Paso, Texas and Southern New Mexico area. In October their General meeting featured an APCUG Virtual Meeting Video – Into the Cloud by Judy Tylour.

North Texas PC Users Groupwww.ntpcug.org

This group prides itself as the place to be if you are interested in keeping your knowledge skills on the leading edge. They have activities for computer users, IT professionals, Developers and Small Business Owners. NTPCUG is leading the way with its SharePoint development project and its diverse membership and its special interest group. On its website you will find a very fine newsletter that covers a variety of topics. ☺

REGION 9 (AZ, CO, NM, UT)

Ray Baxter, Advisor

rbaxter@apcug.org**ARIZONA****Colorado River Computer Club**

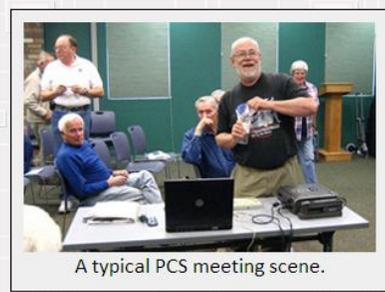
Lake Havasu

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

Their October guest speaker represented the Lake Havasu Historical Society whose motto is “Preserving the Past—Educating the Future.” With a PowerPoint presentation, they were told a number of stories about the history of Lake Havasu and about the kinds of things that are displayed and stored at the museum. Attendees were encouraged to visit the museum to see what is there. They are looking forward to more demos with Windows 7 -- their club computer has Lynx, Windows XP, Windows 7, and the demo version of Windows 8.

Prescott Computer Society

Prescott

www.prescottcomputersociety.org

A typical PCS meeting scene.

Their general meetings cover a wide range of subjects. Typically, such a meeting will involve some general PCS business or the distribution of information concerning upcoming meetings and other opportunities in the local community. As warranted, there will be discussion regarding the latest computer security threats, new products and other items of interest to the membership. Often some of their members give presentations about subjects in which they have some specialized knowledge. For example, Phil Ball's Windows Tips 'n' Tricks are a constant crowd pleaser. Recently, they have had other members give talks and demonstrations about backup techniques, GPS equipment and virus and spyware removal.

Their November meeting featured two presentations: The Election is Over - A fun-filled view of all things tablets, phones and other items of interest and The Early Days of Home Computing - A look at how home computers have grown and changed over the years. December featured Computer Security - An examination of the basic concepts related to computer security.

Computer Booters of Sun Lakes

Sun Lakes

www.computerbooters.org

The Booters have a new member promotion: Sun Lakes residents signing up for the first time for the Computer Booters club in January 2013 will receive a flash drive. Single memberships will get one 8 GB flash drive and family type memberships will get one 16 GB flash drive. New members are those returning after at least a two-year absence – 2010 or earlier. What does membership in the Booters include? General meetings, door prizes, and all classes that members care to attend -- 16 different classes offered on 60 evenings. They are on average four consecutive weeks per subject. In addition, members can always talk to someone in the club regarding specific problems. They also have a number of members that can answer computer-related questions, and one member can do in-member home computer repairs – for a small fee. ☺

REGION 10 (CA)

Cheryl Wester, Advisor

cwester@apcug.org

California groups have been busy planning; New officers have been elected, locations have been changed, Christmas parties, dinners and luncheons have been held, and more. Of course, time was found for a little computer learning as well!

Greater South Bay User group (GSBUG)<http://gsbug.apcug.org/>

GSBUG continues to have a SIG on XP. Do other groups still support this? How many people are upgrading to Windows 8? Have you had a meeting on that yet? Do you have someone in your group that would love to share how cool Windows 8 is? Find out-you will then have a meeting.

Orange County PC User's Group (ORCOPUG)<http://orcopug.org/>

ORCOPUG had its annual Christmas Raffle. It is the biggest fundraiser of the year and quite popular to all members that attend. Donated new items are put on display. People purchase tickets and

put half in the “bucket” of the one they want to win. After a set period of time any “bucket” without a minimum of 5 tickets has ORCOPUG tickets put in until the minimum of 5 is reached. If one of the ORCOPUG tickets is selected then that item is then for the group and used at a meeting for a door prize. What a cool idea. Get busy getting cool items donated. Another way to get good items is to use all the wonderful rebates that are offered and often you can “purchase” an item for free!

ORCOPUG always has great programs. Mike Lyons presented at the October meeting on The Art and Science of Google Doodles. Google's first doodle appeared on its search page in August 1998 and has been a constant and popular worldwide feature since then. How much do you know about Google doodles? I personally would love to learn more about this. Perhaps someone in your group knows about it and can do a presentation.

Temecula Valley Computer user Group (TVCUG)

<http://www.tvcug.org>

TVCUG has a wonderful volunteer from the group doing a presentation from <http://www.netsquirrel.com>. If you haven't checked out all the great PowerPoints on this website, do give it a try - instant meeting with very little work - great for when you don't have a planned meeting or a “no show” presenter. ☺

**APCUG 2013 Winter
Virtual Technology Conference
Saturday, February 2
1:00pm – 5:00pm ET**



**Windows 8 -- Mysteries and Misconceptions Explained!
Free and Shareware
To 'Cloud' or Not To 'Cloud,' That is the Question
Using Your Smartphone for Everything
iPad Basics and a Bit More
Are we Losing this Generation's Photos?
How to Publicize your User Group**

**Conference Description & Registration Links
<http://www.apcug.net/virtual/>**

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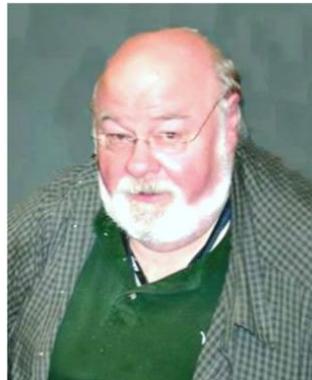
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**WHAT WE OFFER**

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) is an international, platform-independent, volunteer-run non-profit organization devoted to helping User Groups offer better services to their members. Listed below are some of the membership benefits:

Speakers Bureau

APCUG maintains a list of vendors and User Group officers and members who will give online presentations to your group; usually via Skype. If your members are tired of presentations from the same members or the same members tired of giving presentations, contact one of the speakers and book a presentation. You will find information about the Speakers Bureau at www.apcug.net under the Member Benefits tab.

Virtual Technology Conferences

APCUG offers a Virtual Technology Conference quarterly. This gives group members the opportunity to 'attend' presentations in the comfort of their own home. Check out the videos of past sessions of APCUG's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/apcugvideos. You will find information about the Virtual Technology Conferences under the Member Benefits tab.

Regional Conference

APCUG has a regional conference annually in various locations, co-hosted by APCUG and a user group in the state. The 2013 conference will be held in Dayton, Ohio. Attendees have the opportunity to attend presentations, have networking opportunities with other attendees as well as the participating vendors, demonstrations of the newest products, and much more.

Discounts and Special Offers from Vendors

APCUG member groups periodically receive information regarding vendor discounts and/or special offers that can be passed on to their members. A list of training and publisher discount programs can be found on the Discount / Special Offers page, under the Member Benefits tab.

PUSH Newsletter Articles



Every month (20+) articles are sent to group editors to use in their newsletters. The articles are written by group members, professionals, and occasionally vendors. They are an attractive option for editors who would like help in filling their newsletter. You will find information about PUSH under the Member Benefits tab.

Web Site Hosting

For groups that are unable to find, or afford, online space locally, APCUG will host their website, and the Web space is a benefit of their membership. Send an e-mail to ols@apcug.org for information about Web Site hosting.

O'Reilly / APCUG Five Books per Quarter Program



Member groups have the opportunity to receive two books and three eBook certificates each quarter. These books may be used as door prizes, thank you to members giving a presentation, put into the group's library, or however the group decides to use them.

UGLS - Neighbors to Help Out!

Check out your state/country in the UGLS (User Group Locator Service), there are probably several groups within a 200 mile radius of your User Group. Click on the link to their Web site and get to know them! Share presenters, help each other, cross-advertise. Everyone benefits. You will find the UGLS under the User Groups tab.

Attract Vendors for Presentations

Being part of APCUG gives you an inside track to hosting vendor presentations. An excellent way to attract vendors is to team up with neighboring groups so they can make presentations on consecutive days. This lets them justify the high cost of sending someone to your meeting. Use the UGLS to find groups in your area.

User Group Newsletters Online



Is your editor looking for ideas for your newsletter? You will find a link to all of the member groups that have their newsletters online. Articles! Program Ideas! Fundraising Ideas! and more will be found in the newsletters. You will find the Online Newsletter list under the User Groups tab.

APCUG.net Web Site



Well worth the time to investigate! The website not only showcases current APCUG and User Group news and other breaking information, it also contains all kinds of: Tips & Tricks for Running Your User Group, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, contact points, UGLS, Discounts, Speakers Bureau, Virtual Technology Conference information, Online Newsletters and much more.

How-To Guides

The APCUG website has excellent "How-To" guides to organize a group, including examples of Articles of Incorporation, constitution, by-laws, budget help, and lots of extras. Find the How-To Guides under User Groups tab.

Help for Your Group

Information for program chairs, growing your group, newsletter & PR guidelines and more, which have been compiled from various sources including past conferences and regional events. Find the Help for Your UG information under the Member Benefits tab.

Newsletter, Website and Digital Photo Contests

APCUG holds the three contests annually. All members are invited to submit their digital photos and groups are welcome to submit their newsletters and websites for those contests. Information is sent to member groups via an e-mail to the officers listed in the UGLS. Find contest information under the Membership Benefits tab.

Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year Award (VOTY)



Volunteers are the backbone of APCUG and its member groups and are what keep user groups viable. All volunteers have this in common: their advocacy for technology and their User Group. To recognize the importance of the volunteer to APCUG's member groups, they are encouraged to submit one of their members for the VOTY award.

Monthly NOOZ Communication sent to Leaders

Each month your Regional Advisor sends out NOOZ which includes a variety of information regarding APCUG, your own region, vendors, contests, and much more.



Quarterly Reports sent to Group Leaders

Every quarter, APCUG sends out its official publication, Reports, to the leaders of groups. It is full of information, event news, advice and contact information. You will find the current and past issues of Reports under the Web Site tab.

Solutions to Your Problems

The people who keep APCUG functioning are one of the greatest assets that member groups have going for them. These people have been there and done that! President, Vice President, Program Chair, you name it, they have probably done it. This means that, in all likelihood, whatever problems you are having, they have had in the past and have dealt with it! Every group has an Advisor assigned to it, and if they are unable to help they will send your request to all the Board of Directors and Board of Advisor members. You are sure to get some solutions back. ☺

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DO YOU NEED “NEW” PRESENTATIONS FOR YOUR GROUP?

Check out APCUG’s Speakers Bureau (www.apcug.net / Member Benefits tab). You will find almost 100 presentations listed under the below topics:

Back-up	Internet	Refurbishing
Cloud Computing	Linux / Open Source	Security
Digital Photography	Mac	Social Media
Ergonomics	Music /Video	Software
Free Software	Operating Systems	User Groups
General	Preventative Maintenance	Virtual Machines
Hardware	Printers / Printing	Website

ARTICLE DEADLINES

The absolute deadline is shown below; copy received after the deadline will be considered for the next quarter’s issue. We request that copy be submitted at least one week before the deadline shown below, in case we need to contact you about changes.

Issue	Published	Deadline
Q1, JAN, FEB, MAR	JAN 20	DEC 20
Q2, APR, MAY, JUN	APR 20	MAR 20
Q3, JUL, AUG, SEP	JUL 20	JUN 20
Q4, .OCT, NOV, DEC	OCT 20	SEP 20

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APCUG REPORTS DISCLAIMER

APCUG REPORTS is published quarterly by the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, Inc. (APCUG), 13940 Cedar Rd. #447, Cleveland, OH 44118-3204 to inform and educate officers of member user groups. It shares information about the activities of APCUG and related opportunities for the benefit of APCUG members. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions that are expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent an official position of, or endorsement by, APCUG. APCUG is an independent, non-profit association and is not

IS THAT COMPUTER READY FOR THE MEETING?

Does your group have a demo computer that only used once or twice a month? How do you prepare it for the meeting? What do I mean you ask? Updates and patches! Microsoft Patch Tuesday, Adobe (Flash) Patch Tuesday, anti-virus updates & scans, browser (Chrome and Firefox) updates and cloud file (Dropbox, SkyDrive and Google Drive) downloads; just to name a few.

Spread out over a month is not so bad, but when you’re trying to do a presentation, especially a remote one; all those updates consume a lot of bandwidth and CPU time. They can make your presentation almost impossible.

Take some time the day before and turn on the computer. Let the automatic updates run. Then open up various apps and programs to make sure they are current. Doing all this will lower your stress level at the meeting and things will go much smoother. ☺