

SLO Bytes HardCopy

A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users' Group
Vol. 24 No. 4 April 2008

March 2nd, 2008 General Windows SIG by Alan Raul

Watch TV On-line - FREE TV Broadcast Directory: <http://www.streamick.com/>

Some of my favorites

The Earth Channel: <http://www.streamick.com/index.php?tv=TheEarthChannel>

C-SPAN: <http://www.streamick.com/index.php?tv=cspan1>

C-SPAN3: <http://www.streamick.com/index.php?tv=cspan3>

Bloomberg USA: <http://www.streamick.com/index.php?tv=bloombergusa>

NBC 4: <http://www.streamick.com/index.php?tv=nbc4>

NASA TV: <http://www.streamick.com/index.php?tv=nasatv>

Maxx-xs Movie Trailers: <http://www.streamick.com/index.php?tv=maxxtrailers>

Beginners Guides: 99 Windows Vista Performance Tips and Tweaks: <http://www.pcstats.com/articleview.cfm?articleID=2238>

Example #67 Create desktop shutdown and reboot icons:
<http://www.pcstats.com/articleview.cfm?articleid=2238&page=22>

Google Guide - is an online interactive tutorial and reference for experienced users, novices, and everyone in between:
<http://www.googleguide.com/>

Softpedia News: <http://news.softpedia.com/>

WinVistaClub - Microsoft Windows Vista - News, Views, Tips, Security, Downloads, Features & More:
<http://www.winvistaclub.com/>

GRC - Gibson Research Corporation Take a look at the excellent menu system. GRC is most noted for SpinRite, a data recovery and drive maintenance software product:
<http://www.grc.com/>

WIZMO read all about what the WIZMO program does:
<http://www.grc.com/wizmo/wizmo.htm>

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March 2nd, 2008 Main Meeting Review by Kaye Raul

Zazz Daniel Founder/President of DigaLife was our guest speaker at the March 2 meeting.

DigaLife organizes and digitizes all of your old photos to organize and preserve them. They also assist you with "Oral History Interviews" to preserve those memories of your adventure-filled life for future generations. Another service offered is professional genealogy research.

Having had the benefit of growing up with three generations of family under one roof, Zazz learned early about the power and wisdom of generations. This, combined with a background in professional family event photography and many years of hands-on sales & marketing in both the consumer products and tech sector, have given Zazz a unique skill set to develop & succeed with DigaLIFE™.

For additional information and services please contact Zazz at DigaLIFE Inc. www.digalife.com
Toll-Free: 888-219-4541 or 805-481-4566

Thanks again to Zazz for an informative presentation and offering solutions to preserve and explore our past.

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At 12:45 PM, Alan Raul will give an overview of the Microsoft products that he saw demonstrated at the Microsoft TS2 event in Santa Clara. These include the new versions of Windows Server, Visual Studio and SQL Server. He will moderate a Q & A session. **A Windows operating systems SIG** for beginners will also be conducted in the same time slot.

Please visit the SLO Bytes web site at www.slobytes.org for information on the main presentation at 2:30.
Kaye

March 15th, 2008 Special Meeting Review by Don Jones

On Saturday evening, March 15, a little over sixty of us who braved the elements (it was raining when I left home) were treated to an exciting overview of what is happening and coming in the rapidly changing world of Digital Photography and Imaging. **Tim Grey** <http://www.timgrey.com/>, who is leading Microsoft's efforts toward Photographer's needs in addition to being a recognized author and expert on Digital Photography and software, gave us his unique insight into the cool new tools and coming technologies and possibilities in photography software and cameras. Some highlights included:

Lenses made specifically for digital cameras. Yes, it is not just a marketing gimmick. See, for example the recent article in PCPhoto magazine, p. 68, March/April 2008.

Plenoptic lenses which can give pictures with variable depth of field from infinite to very narrow as chosen by the user in the processing software. It could be used to construct a 3D image by processing the pixels from each area of the sensor, since each area has a different focal length applied.

"Progressive Video" which will allow better capture of that "perfect moment in time". This is becoming more capable with each new advance in processing hardware and accompanying software advances.

Tim discussed the "Software as a Service" movement as it applies to photography.

Many of you have seen the Microsoft "Silverlight" show up in Microsoft Updates and wondered what this is about. Tim demonstrated the Seadragon and Silverlight browsing technology with some extraordinary photograph browsing using Broadband Internet and <http://memorabilia.hardrock.com/>

Another "Wow" demo was the incredibly powerful and complex possibility of cropping out inner parts of photos and stitching together the remaining parts. This is done technically by mathematically calculating the "path of least resistance" so the stitching appears normal even though the interesting parts of the picture are now closer together. The stitched remainder can then be displayed at a larger scale without losing important components. An example was moving a mother bear closer to her cubs by removing grassy space between them.

Here are a couple of links to the Microsoft site;

<http://www.microsoft.com/prophoto/default.aspx>

http://www.news.com/8301-13580_3-9882019-39.htm

<http://www.microsoft.com/prophoto/downloads/synctoypbeta.aspx>

It was a memorable presentation.

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Kaye Raul's Programming Schedule by Kaye Raul

Our main speaker for the April meeting has not been confirmed at press time. Check back soon.

Prior to the main presentation:

Alan Raul will moderate his Q & A session from **12:45 PM to 2:00 PM**

A Windows operating systems SIG for beginners will also be conducted at the same time slot in the dining room.

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March 17th, 2008 Digital Photography SIG Review by Nancy Vrooman

Big turnout and early talk was about Tim Grey's presentation Saturday past. Don asked for volunteers to answer Alan's challenge re: an updated HTML photo SIG page. Sue expressed interest and Nancy tentatively. Janet volunteered to take photo sig notes when needed. Ray jumped in with all this volunteering and asked for someone to take SLO Bytes main meeting write-up, which Bill Avery did so ably.

Onto the enjoyable part of the meeting. Sue used about 14 of her snapshots taken on an overcast day at Pismo State Beach to show how quickly Picassa could do a slide show. It was that quick. Here are the pictures, here's the show. One click of a button. But.....let's be creative. She is the acknowledged 'Queen of Crop'. Now the children with their buckets popped out and the curlews watchful eyes were visible. This lady has the magic touch. Picassa is a free program and beginner friendly. It will even resize your photos for mailing with an email button.

Is this a traveling group?. From Pismo we jumped to Yosemite, then to Alaska and back to Pismo. I don't think the group realized help was being requested on improving photos by one. Great fun to see vacations.

Below are some notes I took at Tim Grey's presentation on 15th of March.

The first thing you notice about Tim Grey is his zest for life. And then you realize you're listening to a young man with a tremendous amount of technical knowledge who makes it seem as though you're talking with your best friend.

The good news is the megapixel race can be counted as being over. 20mp (60 Mb files) cameras capture images comparable to our old 35mm cameras. For the advanced amateur 8-10mp is ample.

Improving digital lenses pose a few problems. Film cameras didn't care about the light source but for digitals the best capture is when the light source is at a 90 degree angle to the sensor. Adobe has pioneered a new lens composed of multiple lenses. Remember Vincent Price in the fly's vision? This plenoptic lens is able to capture light at different focal lengths and everything will be in focus! Software integrates the images.

Foveon sensors with a pixel that contain RGB values were not adopted as the standard. Hence today's cameras' pixels are of one 'color'. Room for improvement with imaging sensors. To learn more about Foveon go to <http://photo.net/equipment/sigma/sd9>.

Microsoft has a new format called JPEG XR. Superior to JPEG and JPEG2000 and able to be saved as lossless files but not the same thing as RAW. The XR stands for extended range. Tim assured us this technology is excellent.

Photoshop's Bridge (the cataloging feature of that program) and Lightroom were discussed. Graphic artists will still need Photoshop but professional photographers will find Lightroom's capabilities have been specifically geared for managing their vast quantity of images easily and quickly. As with all multi-improved software over time it becomes bulky. Lightroom has the advantages of being designed with previous knowledge as well as copious customer input. Much more was covered and an impressive display using Silverlight (a Microsoft software product) instantaneously zoomed in on a 'collage' of a thousand pictures to display the license plate number on a car in a scenic shot. The images were from a point_and_shoot Canon SD_900. This new browsing technology able to handle that many images as one display is called Seadragon.

If we ever can have Tim Grey again don't miss it! You can subscribe to his daily question-answer email on Photoshop at <http://www.timgrey.com/>.

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President's Message

At our 6 April, 2008 meeting:

At 12:45 PM, Alan will be moderating the Question and Answer session

At 12:45 PM, Ben Hansen, Eugene Rheingans and Fred Cook will run the Windows SIG for Beginners in the dining room

At 2:30 PM, Our main speaker will begin speaking. At press time, the topic and the presenter had not been confirmed. This information will be provided upon confirmation.

Go to <http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/0408/index.html> to see the **12 great PUSH reviews for April 2008**. They came to me from **Judy Taylour of APCUG**, Editorial PUSH Committee Chair. Our Webmaster, Ralph Sutter uploaded these articles to our website. The actual PUSH articles are hyperlinked from these reviews.

Go to <http://www.theswcc.org/> to view the information on the **Southwest Computer Conference**, scheduled in May 30, 31 and June 1 in San Diego, CA

Go to <http://slobytes.org/nooz/index.html> to view and read the American **PC User's Group [APCUG] NOOZ Newsletter**

Take a look at http://oldsite.kcbx.net/classes_education/class_schedule.php to see if you would like to avail yourself of the various **computer related classes** available at the **KCBXnet Training Facility**.

Cal Poly Continuing Education's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a comprehensive learning and service program for those 50 and over. This is a highly rated College level education program available at Cal Poly. This is their website: <http://www.osher.calpoly.edu/>

Take advantage of the four **learning CD's** "Learn Windows XP, Excel, Word & Power Point" available for our members to check out (at the Treasurer's table).

Continue to bring any **used ink-jet printer or toner cartridges** to our meeting. We collect them (at the Treasurer's table) and turn them over to "Make A-Wish Foundation" who generate much needed funds for their organization by refurbishing and selling them.

--Ray Miklas

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April 2008 Treasurer's Report by Robert Mires

Income	
Renewing members	\$250.00
New members	25.00
Refreshment receipts	34.66
Expenses	
Hall rent	90.00
Sec State annual report	20.00
Safeco Ins. annual pmt.	226.00
APCUG annual renewal	50.00
Bank accounts @ 02/29/08	
CD #116	1,258.96
CD #125	2,734.00
Saving Acct bal.	54.21
Checking Acct bal	925.67
Interest Jan 08	31.53
Penalty-early withdrawal	3.95

New members: Charles Dills

Renewing members: Edward Walter, Don Jones, Ed Faeth, Harvey Hodkins, Celina Penalba, Louis Pera, Doris Simpson, Nancy Winkenbach, Robert Mellema, Robert Mires

Robert Mires, Treasurer

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Club Information and Meeting Times

SLO Bytes, a PC Users Group dedicated to educate its members in the use of personal computers, digital devices and software, meets on the first Sunday of each month at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall at 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo. All meetings are open to the public at no cost. Special interest groups meet from 12:45 PM to 2:00 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 2:30 PM. Contact Kaye Raul (kmraul at sbcglobal.net) or visit www.slobytes.org for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

HardCopy is a monthly publication of SLO Bytes PC Users' Group located in San Luis Obispo, California. Information in this Newsletter is derived from both our own membership and other PC User Group Newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings and provide information related to the use of PCs and various Operating Systems.

Membership Dues are \$25 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter via e-mail, technical assistance, raffle gift drawing at the end of the meetings, a voice in the affairs of the club, and comradeships.

Article Submission Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month. Articles should be E-mailed to the editor (rmiklas at pacbell.net).

Computer-related businesses wishing to advertise in **HardCopy** may now do so. The rate is \$15.00 per month or \$120.00 per year for a business card size announcement. Content in ad copy is subject to approval by the SLO Bytes Board of Directors.

Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

HTML/Internet SIG normally meets at 6:30 PM on Monday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at Ralph Sutter's home in Arroyo Grande. Call Ralph at 489-8678 for directions.

Linux SIG normally meets at 6:30 PM on Thursday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at KCBXnet [a.k.a. SLONET] Training Center, 4100 Vachell Lane, SLO.

Photography SIG normally meets at 7 PM on a third Monday of each month at Don Jones's home in Pismo Beach. Call Don at 773-5526 for directions.

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SLO Bytes Officers/Volunteers

- Ray Miklas - President (HardCopy Editor) rmiklas at pacbell.net
- Kaye Raul - Vice President (Programs Chair/Publicity) kmraul at sbcglobal.net
- Robert Mires - Treasurer (Membership/Publishing) rmires at sbcglobal.net
- Ralph Sutter - Secretary (Webmaster/HTML-Internet SIG) rsutter at cuesta.edu
- Alan Raul (General SIG/Linux SIG)
- Ben Hansen (Beginners SIG)

Eugene Rheingans (Beginners SIG)
Fred Cook (Beginners SIG)
Don Jones (Photography SIG)
Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments/Contributing Columnist Photography SIG)
Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)
Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)
John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)
Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up)

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SLO Bytes Website <http://www.slobytes.org>