SLO Bytes HardCopy

Alan's January 7th, 2006 General Windows SIG by Alan Raul

Caltrans Live Traffic Cameras
http://video.dot.ca.gov/

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

January 7th, 2007 Main Meeting Review by Ginny Monteen

Dennis Johansen, of Jim's Campus Camera in SLO, brought us up-to-date on digital cameras. Dennis surveyed the audience to see who owned a digital camera – nearly all – then who had the most digital cameras -- several people topped out with four!

Today's cameras offer high picture quality, little or no shutter lag, and lots of fun. The menus are more streamlined, with fewer words and "you can actually read them," he joked. The pixel count continues to increase, with even point & shoot cameras up to ten megapixels. Dennis invited people to his store (766 Higuera St., SLO) to see the high quality of 16x20 prints made with a six MP camera.

One casualty last year, Konica Minolta stopped producing digital cameras. Sony's Alpha camera incorporates features from Minolta.

A question-and-answer session covered many topics.

Lenses:
- Magnification ratio: because the sensor is smaller than a frame of film, a 50mm lens is comparable to a 80mm. The conversion factor for Nikon is 50%, Canon 60%.
- Third party lenses, made by a different company, have pros and cons. They tend to be lower in quality but are less expensive.
- BTW, Dennis shoots with a Nikon D200 with 12-24 and 70-300 AF stabilized lenses.

LCD screen:
In bright sunlight, even the new LCDs can wash out and be difficult to see. Dennis prefers cameras to also have an optical viewfinder.

Printers:
For photo quality, Dennis suggests Canon printers.

New Nikon D40:
A "nice, little camera" for $600 including lens. It does not offer bracketing; only works with AF-S lenses.

Noise and image stabilization:
- Electronic noise can be compared to grain in film. The higher the speed (ISO), the more noise.
- In SLRs, the new Canon XTi handles noise a bit better than other models.
- On point & shoot cameras, Dennis warned that image stabilization is done not by moving elements of camera or lens, but by running up the ISO, increasing noise.
- When using a tripod, turn off IS to avoid motion possibly being added.

Classes, specific to camera brands, are offered at Jim's Campus Camera.

Kaye Raul's Featured Speaker Programming Schedule

At our **February 4th meeting,** we will be breaking out into groups led by three of our members.

Don Jones will host **"Having Fun with Your Digital Pictures".** He will cover making slide shows, changing and correcting color along with answers to your questions about using PhotoShop Elements. He will show more than one way to perform the steps so that each person can see what might fit their work habits and preferences.

Alan Raul will demonstrate **"Applications you can run off your USB Flash Drive".** For example, if you would like to demonstrate the Firefox Web Browser to a friend, just run it off your portable drive. Bring your personal USB Flash Drive and have programs transferred to it after the meeting.

Ralph Sutter will give a presentation on **"Web Page Creation".** Ralph is our HTML SIG leader and will demonstrate how to create and upload your web page using Word, free software and free web hosting services. Bring your ideas and questions and learn how to design your own web page.

Prior to the main presentations:
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 in the same time slot.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Digital Photography SIG Review by Lou Pera

The digital photo Special Interest Group met on January 15th (Third Monday), showing a very good turn out with twenty-three people in attendance. Gary Docherty demonstrated his technique in preparing and printing a panorama. He had taken approximately fifteen landscape shots, which he opened in PhotoShop Elements and proceeded to stitch together with the Panorama option. He emphasized the use of the "undo history panel" and the clone stamp to make the changes found necessary to make an artful product. He also showed us his slide show production.

Kaye Raul conducted a demonstration and session of questions and answers about adding sound, including narration to a slide show. The use of one's own voice to identify and explain various photos can really enhance the product.

We had a discussion as to what the improvements over PhotoShop Elements 3, and 4 by PhotoShop Elements 5 are, and it seemed to be mostly in the "Create" section. Otherwise, P.S. 3 and 4 are able to do anything that 5 can do just fine.

Don Jones led a Q&A session about the use of the "Organizer" which had been requested and was of interest to all of us.

Good coffee and cookies

President's Message

At our 4 February, 2007 meeting:
At 12:45 PM, Alan will be moderating the Question and Answer session
At 12:45 PM, Bill Avery, Ben Hansen, Eugene Rheingans and Fred Cook will run the Windows SIG for Beginners in the dining room
At 2:30 PM, Don Jones, Alan Raul & Ralph Sutter will run simultaneous presentations in various rooms of IOOF Hall

Go to http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/0207/index.html to see the 12 great **PUSH Articles for February 2007.** They came to me from **Judy Taylour of APCUG,** Editorial PUSH Committee Chair. Our Webmaster, Ralph Sutter uploaded these articles to our website. The PUSH Archive articles can be found at http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/index.html

Ginny Monteen has volunteered to serve as a Contributing Columnist for the Main Meeting Review for our HardCopy News Letter. She will be relieving Bill Avery who has held this job for many years. Thank you Bill for doing a great job and thank you Ginny for stepping forward to fill a very useful position in the SLO Bytes volunteer organization.

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).

We also have **Adobe PhotoShop 7, learning CD's** to check out (at the Treasurer's table). These 5 CD's cover, in depth, the various program features in lesson format.

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

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Treasurer's Report for January 2007

Income
Renewing members	$250.00
New members	25.00
Refreshment sales	37.86

Expenses
Hall rent	75.00

Bank accounts @ 12/31/2006
CD #116	1,191.77
CD #116.1	3,257.66
Saving acct bal	53.57
Checking acct bal	1,745.51
Interest – year to date	170.37

New members: Irene Fully in January; Rick Headley who had renewed in December...

Renewing members: 10 for January; Ginny Monteen, Ray Miklas, Doris Simpson, Harvey Hodkins, Robert Styerwalt, Anne Julian, Glenn Zaretzka, Melissa Mooney, Peter Lawn, William Bruckart.; Gary Docherty who had renewed in December.

Robert Mires, Treasurer

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

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 (473-9139, kmraul@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@bigfoot.com).

Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

HTML/Internet SIG normally meets at 6:30 PM on the 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.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

SLO Bytes Officers/Volunteers
Ray Miklas (President, HardCopy Editor) rmiklas@bigfoot.com
Kaye Raul (V.P. Programs Chair/Publicity) kmraul@sbcglobal.net
Robert Mires (Treasurer/Membership/Publishing) rmires@sbcglobal.net
Ralph Sutter (Secretary/Webmaster/HTML-Internet SIG) rsutter@cuesta.edu
Alan Raul (General SIG/Linux SIG)

Bill Avery (Beginners SIG)
Ben Hansen (Beginners SIG)
Eugene Rheingans (Beginners SIG)
Fred Cook (Beginners SIG)
Don Jones (Photography SIG)
Lou Pera (Contributing Columnist/Photo SIG)
Ginny Monteen (Contributing Columnist/Main Meeting Review)
Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments)
Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)
Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)
John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)
Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

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