

RED RIVER MONITOR



Volume 21 No. 5

NWLAPCUG, Inc. Newsletter

May 2009

Review of the April 2009 Membership Meeting by Bob Pierce

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Joyner. A count of members present once again told us that we did not have a quorum. Therefore, election of Directors was deferred until next meeting. There being no further business, President Joyner introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Mike McLallen. Mike worked for Caddo Parish as an Instructional Specialist and taught the teachers on how to utilize computers in the classroom. He installed computers, printers and network equipment throughout the 75 Caddo Parish Schools. He retired from the Caddo Parish School System in 2008 and joined the staff at Noel Methodist Church where he set up a new GED-type Computer Lab and now leads computer courses for those church members desiring to gain from his knowledge and experiences.

Mike began his presentation on EXCEL by showing us some of the new features in EXCEL 2007, primarily the "ribbon", or the row of icons across the top of the screen. Don't forget the HELP (?) icon on the right end of the ribbon. A lot of information is available in the HELP portion of EXCEL. Mike also gave us a handout illustrating some of the things we should be familiar with in order to be considered as a basic, intermediate or advanced user. I think most of us agreed that we should be classified as "basic" users.

The best way to illustrate the features of EXCEL is to develop a working spreadsheet, and Mike had picked out a budget spreadsheet for a basic high school operation for us to use. One of the first decisions is whether or not to use password protection. Passwords are case sensitive and can protect a

workbook containing any number of spreadsheets. With the proper use of formulas and macros, data entered on one sheet can simultaneously populate selected cells on another sheet or be applied to formulas on the same or different sheets. A formula in the format of IF:THEN statements are widely used to populate cells on spreadsheets. Use of this type work book and spreadsheets can save a lot of time in tracking and analyzing expenditures, even though they can get to be quite large. If you want to keep people from looking over your shoulder and stealing your data, just make the characters white until you need them, then change them back to black. You can also "hide" columns and bring them into view only when you need to see them.

One of the most used commands in EXCEL is the UNDO command (CTRL Z). You can use this tool to go back several steps. Another feature available is the border feature, which allows the user to place a heavy border around a cell or cells to give them emphasis. To use any of these formatting features, you must select the cell or cells you want to change, then you can perform the action desired. Other parts of OFFICE can be combined with EXCEL for special effects. WORD and EXCEL make some interesting items, as does PUBLISHER and EXCEL. If you wish to automatically resize a cell after data is entered, place the curser where you get an arrow pointing right and left, then left click.

Mike's program was well presented, well received and much appreciated by those present. Door prizes were won by Bob Franklin, Jack Barnett and J. C. Barnett.

REMINDER
NEW PLACE FOR THE MEETING Bronson Hall Room 310



Users Helping Users

Red River Monitor

Published by
**Northwest Louisiana personal
 Computer User Group, Inc.**
 6658 Youree Drive Suite 108-112
 Shreveport, LA 71105

Editor: Phillip Sanders
 Co-Editor: Ben Fusco

The opinions expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Mention of products by their trade name does not in any way constitute endorsement by anyone.

Permission to reproduce portions that are not specifically indicated as printed courtesy of any computer magazine is given to other computer user groups for non-profit use. All other reproduction is prohibited without the specific written permission of the original source.

NWLAPCUG, Inc. is a non-profit organization.

Member of APCUG



Newsletter Articles Welcomed

Please submit articles for newsletter, in RTF file format, by the first day of the month to
 Phillip Sanders- phillip479@aol.com
 And to Ben Fusco-benfusco@bellsouth.net

Officers & Board of Directors

President	Pat Joyner	798-2766
Vice Pres.	Dr. John Hardin	861-3408
Secretary	Jack Barnett	968-2372
Treasurer	Robert Saucier	861-2235
Joe Cislaghi		636-6922
Bob Pierce		686-0203
Bob Franklin		933-1235

Membership Dues

Full: \$15.00 a year
 Spouse: \$6.00 a year
 Student: \$10.00 a year

Visit Our Web Site

<http://www.nwlapcug.com>

Words From the President

Pat Joyner



The progress of technology is amazing. I'm in the process of installing windows operating system on a 32 GB live flash drive. The size will also allow the installations of many of the software programs as well and can be carried on a lanyard around your neck for use when ever you need it. Our speaker this month will show us how to twitter, should be great.

Ten Net Commandments

- 1.) Thou shalt not buy merchandise found in pop up ads or spam.
 - 2.) Thou shalt not post thy e-mail address, phone number, address or social security number on the Internet, nor shalt thou post anyone else's.
 - 3.) Thou shalt not forget to update thy Windows every second Tuesday. They are just ten Internet "laws" we all should abide by on a regular basis.
 - 4.) Thou shalt not connect to the Internet without installing an antivirus, nor shalt thou begin a scan without checking for updates.
 - 5.) Thou shalt not connect to the Internet without installing a firewall.
 - 6.) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's credit card number, nor his bank routing number, nor his social security number.
 - 7.) Thou shalt not enter thy credit card number without seeing the tiny padlock icon on thy status bar.
 - 8.) Thou shalt not reply to the e-mail from the Nigerian banker.
 - 9.) Thou shalt not forward chain letters to thy friends and family.
 - 10.) Thou shalt not use "password" as thy password, nor thy birthday, nor thy childrens' names.
- Make sure you're staying on track with the Ten Net Commandments!

A Vista Tip

Now that you are getting to know your way around Vista how about some hidden gems. Things to make Vista easier or maybe just more fun. These gems are just a small sample. To learn much more about Vista or Windows XP visit our Windows SIG put on by Bernie Conradi. The SIG is held at Pod-nuh's Bar-B-@ on Shreveport Barksdale Highway on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Do you have a lot of vacation or holiday pictures named ds001 ds002 and you would like to rename them to something you understand. How about renaming them all at once. Open Windows Photo Gallery and select the photos you want to rename. Right-click and select rename. Type he new name in the box and Windows vista will rename them all. So if you renamed them vacation they will be named vacation (1) vacation (2), and so on. The same trick works in Windows Explore for any kind of file provided they are the same type.

Preview of May Meeting

Continuing....with our “how to” program again this month....you remember we started with our own Carole White producing her calendar...then last month we had Mike McLellan doing his thing on Excel....(and if you didn't hear these two, you missed it.)

So coming up next to our podium is **Michael Futreal** who is the learning guru who will introduce to the Club Membership **TWITTER** and will teach us all to “learn how to Tweet”.

Twittering is growing in popularity as some people are still trying to figure out Facebook or even MySpace. Twitter is essentially a series of RSS feeds where people update the answer to one question: ‘What are you doing’. But be direct and short: ONLY 140 characters are allowed.

The service has grown so much that it has its own language...“Twitterspeak”. It also can be integrated with other social net working sites. There is an application to link Facebook with Twitter. Photos taken on cell phones also can be used to update the

status. Confused? Here's a Twitter 101 guide that Michael Futreal will teach us, to clear all this up on Thursday, May 21. After signing up, users called Tweeters can update their statuses as often as they wish and follow other Tweeters.

Our speaker has worked as the Web and New Media Developer at Centenary College where he also teaches a variety of classes. He holds a MS in applied Sociology from North Carolina State University. He got his first computer, a TI-994A, in 1981... when 4K was still impressive and tape-drive seemed quite clever.

Sounds good to me....so ‘come on down’ and let's all learn to Tweet. Michael has agreed to join with us and we'll all learn how it's done.

Remember, 6 to 7, is our social hour and then we'll start our program at 7:00 PM.

See you there....**Bronson Hall room 310, LSU-S, Room 310.**

Photos taken at the April 2009 Membership Meeting By Glenda Conradi



Waiting to start



Mike McLellan



Mike McLellan Gives Program

Door Prize Winners



J. C. Barnett



Bob Franklin

Digital Photo SIG

April 2009

by Bill & Cisly Morgan



For the April SIG, we used the new location at LSUS, the cozy room 310 in Bronson Hall. We had a nice group and thought the smaller room was a much nicer

location for our type presentation.

While getting ready for the April SIG, we realized we had been doing the Digital Photo SIG for 6 years, so thought it would be a good time to reflect back, to review a little. So, to begin the SIG, we looked at some slides, some pictures we have used over the past years and kind of did a review of some of the things we have done during that time.

Digital photography has made giant strides during those years. Six years ago we were using a half megapixel point and shoot camera, Paint Shop Pro 7 software, Windows 98, and very little know-how. Today we use an 8 megapixel SLR camera, Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2, Windows XP, and, because of hours and hours of practice and research in order to do 6 years of SIGs, we have a little more experience, a little more know-how.

We have said many times, "If you want to learn something about computers, some specific subject, offer to lead a SIG. You will be surprised how much you will learn." And we have learned a lot, and hope, some of the attendees of our SIGs have learned a little along the way.

Finally getting into some Digital Photo subjects, we used several pictures to show how to fix the white balance of pictures that were taken in different types of light. We take indoor pictures without flash whenever possible, whenever there is enough light to get a good exposure without

camera movement. It is a little easier these days to eliminate camera movement because most of the newer cameras are equipped with some type of image stabilization. However, when indoors, it is sometimes impossible to get the light setting exactly right.

We usually keep the camera set on sunlight even when taking pictures indoors, but, most of the time, we will also shoot duplicate shots changing the setting to candle light, incandescent light, or whatever looks best on the little LCD screen on the back of the camera. After downloading the pictures into the computer, we use our software, Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2, to correct the white balance.

If anyone would like to try this little trick, you go to **Adjust** in the menu bar. Click on **Color Balance**. If it is not already checked, check **Advanced Options**. Make sure the **Preview on Image** box is checked. Paint Shop Pro will automatically correct the white balance. You will be able to see the result on your image. If you think it is not quite right, you can make some slight adjustments be using the color sliders. We think this is a better method of correcting white balance than trying to set it in the camera.

Moving to a different subject, we showed how we use our scanner, computer, and printer to do design work for some of the projects we do from time to time. Anyone who does scrap booking, woodworking, sewing, gardening, or most any kinds of projects or hobbies, need to look into how a camera, scanner, computer, graphics and photo software, and printer, can help with all of these kinds of projects. Sure there will be a learning curve and it will take practice to always get the results you want, but, in our opinion, it is all well worth it.

Reminder of the Next Membership Meeting

When: May 21 2009-- 6:00PM social, with the meeting to begin at 7:00PM

Where: Bronson Hall Room 310 on Youree Drive at LSU-S

Guest are also welcome to attend. Info: 861-2235

Corel Graphics/Photo SIG, April, 2009

by Glenda Conradi



Since the March Corel Graphics/Photo SIG had to be canceled, we combined the March and April SIGs and added more tips on back of the tip sheet. The first tips covered the basics of using a digital camera starting with taking the new camera out of the box and what you need to do before

turning it on.

We talked about batteries and memory cards to use in your camera and how to get the most out of them; understanding your camera's functions and features, and what those little icons on your camera stand for.

The tips on the back of the tip sheet included a picture of some of the common scene mode icons and explained the function of these modes. Many of the members at the SIG brought their cameras along so they could look at their icons and become more familiar with what their camera had to offer.

We looked at taking pictures with your camera and how to get photos off the memory card and into your computer, and then how to organize the photos, resize them for email friendly attachments, and crop and edit the photos to improve them.

Next we covered the advantages of using a memory card reader to transfer the photo files from the memory card to your computer versus using a cable to connect the camera to your computer to transfer picture files from the camera to the computer's hard drive (or other storage device). Transferring picture files with the cable sometimes involves extra steps, or requires that you use the camera manufacturer's software, and may be slower. In addition, you have to keep the camera turned on during the file transfer, which consumes the camera's battery power.

A better solution is to attach a memory-card reader to your computer, insert your camera's memory card and drag and drop files from the card to the computer's hard drive. You can buy card readers that accept a single type of memory card, or that accepts a variety of cards. Also a printer that can print directly

from memory cards can double as a card reader. While the printer is connected to the computer, the system sees the printer's memory-card slot as another hard drive.

For the program, we looked a little deeper into digital camera basics and stressed how beneficial it is to become familiar with your camera. Most digital cameras come with manuals that give details covering the specific functions of your camera. Take the time to look at the manual. There should be diagrams that show you where to locate basic parts of the camera, such as the battery compartment, memory card compartment, on & off button, zoom control, menu button, view finder, LCD display, LCD on/off button, USB connection, tripod thread and more.

Look in the manual to see what your camera has to offer, such as how you select different scenes modes if available, picture taking modes, video mode, how to change the flash modes, how to adjust focus, white balance, picture resolution and change exposures settings, and how to use the self timer. Learn how to delete photos and format the memory card, how to transfer photos to your computer using a USB cord or a memory card reader.

Most cameras have many of the same basic features but some of the newer ones are adding improvements such as anti shake mode and face detection. It is much easier to take pictures if you know your camera.

We hope you will be able to make the next Corel Graphics/Photo SIG on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Podnuh's Bar-B-Q, located at 1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy. The room in the back is reserved starting at 6:00 p.m. for those of us who would like to eat and want to do it before the meeting starts. Of course it is fine to eat during the meeting, too. Please let me know if you have questions, or suggestions, that can be used in our SIG meetings for part of the program. If there is something you would like to see covered at one of our meetings you can email me at glenda@conradi.com.

Windows SIG April 2009

by Bernie Conradi



We had a very good group this evening with 23 people attending this month. Again, we welcome all who wish to attend. Come out and get your questions answered or help someone else with your good idea. We all learn with the sharing and interaction of

all who attend. We started out the evening with the usual announcements of the latest updates to Windows and the anti virus programs. We cautioned all about a virus spreading using an email with a subject of "You Have a Postcard from Hallmark". This email may come from someone you know but it may not be from them if someone hijacked their address book. I read an email from Wayne Gramblings daughter, who was a visitor last month at our meeting. She thanked the group for the help she received via the tips from the group, which helped her speed up her computer. Again this is the kind of thing that I hope to promote with the Windows SIG. I talked about a plug in for IE8 and Firefox called "AVG Link Scanner". This plug-in will help identify a link you click on that may be a threat to your computer. We passed out the usual monthly tip sheets and ask for questions. Clyde Santifer asked about why he is getting script errors when trying to print and it was suggested he clear the print cache and that he uninstall the printer driver

and reinstall it. We also had a nice discussion on the use of Picasa 3. Don Davis gave us some very good tips on how to use this program. We had three items for the program this month. The first was a demonstration on how to use the Manage Add-ons in the new IE8. Then we read an article from the Internet about the difference between 32 bit and 64 bit processors and computers. It was suggested that before you jump into a 64 bit machine that you check to see if you can get drivers for all the peripherals that you are going to attached to the new machine and that all the software you want to install in the new machine are made for a 64 bit processor. The third item for the program this month was a presentation on why you get the "Big Red X" when trying to view a graphic on the internet... Then there were some suggestions on how to solve this problem. One item was to check the security level in your browser and also to turn on the image viewer in your email program.

Please join us at 7:00 PM on May 28, 2009, at Podnuh's Bar-B-Q on Shreveport-Barksdale Highway. Everyone is invited to attend. I am looking forward to suggestions for upcoming programs, as I want to present subjects of interest for all in the group. Let me hear from you. You can email me at bernie@conradi.com.

Bernie Conradi, Windows SIG Leader



**Remember those
who have fallen
and your loved
ones**



NWLAPCUG's **S**pecial **I**nterest **G**roup Leaders






Our SIG leaders are in the heart of NWLAPCUG's monthly activities. See the chart on the last page of this newsletter for the monthly schedule of their meetings. Every member is welcome to attend any or all of their meetings and for as many times as they wish. All of this with *no extra fees* involved.

SIG leaders are dedicated to sharing their expertise in their particular programs. Their meetings include presentations, demonstrations and

cover questions and answers. In some cases, handouts may be furnished.

Following the SIG meeting, a number of the SIG leaders will submit an article, reporting on the activities of their meeting, for publication in the next month's newsletter.

Members are encouraged to take a tour of these SIGs and determine which one or more appeals to their liking.

 <p style="text-align: center;">J.C. Barnett Word SIG</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Pat Joyner Saturday SIG</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Bernie Conradi Windows SIG</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Glenda Conradi Corel Graphics/Photo SIG</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Bill & Cisly Morgan Digital Photography SIG</p>			

Members Furnishing Newsletter Articles

Computer related newsletter articles are welcomed from our members who are other than SIG leaders. We appreciate as few as one article a year. Or as many (not to exceed one per month) as you would like to generate. The range of topics is virtually

unlimited. To name a few, your experience/opinion with certain software programs, the entertainment and educational value in computer use, How To's, Tips, etc. etc. Your participation may surface one of your great hidden talents.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Bob Franklin</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Carolyn Franklin</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Phil Sanders</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Bob Pierce</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Ben Fusco</p>
--	--	--	--	---

MONTHLY CLUB ACTIVITIES

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SIG TIMES, DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION CONTACT , VIA E-MAIL, THE RESPECTIVE SIG LEADER AS LISTED BELOW.**

Corel Graphics/Photo SIG	First Tuesday Podnuh's Bar-B-Q	7:00 P.M.	Glenda Conradi	glenda@conradi.com
Digital Photography SIG	First Thursday Room 310, Bronson Hall	7:00 P.M.	Bill and Cisly Morgan	cisly@shreve.net
MS Word SIG	Second Thursday 2:00 P.M. Broadmoor Library		J C Barnett	jcbarrett875@suddenlink.net
Board of Directors Meeting	6:30 PM Before the Membership Meeting		Pat Joyner	patbj@bellsouth.net
General Meeting	Third Thursday Bronson Hall, Room 310	7:00 P.M.	Pat Joyner	patbj@bellsouth.net
Windows SIG	Fourth Thursday Podnuh's Bar-B-Q	7:00 P.M.	Bernie Conradi	bernie@conradi.com
Saturday SIG	Fourth Saturday Broadmoor Library	2:00 P.M.	Pat Joyner	patbj@bellsouth.net

IF YOU NEED INFORMATION ABOUT THE SIG'S SUBJECT, MEETING PLACE OR TIME,
PLEASE CONTACT THE PERSONS LISTED ABOVE

Meeting Places

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q - 1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy (CorelDRAW/Graphics SIG; Windows SIG)
 Room 310, Bronson Hall LSUS--Northside of campus (General Meeting)
 Room 310, Bronson Hall LSUS--Northside of campus (Digital Photography SIG)
 Broadmoor Library-- 1212 Captain Shreve Drive - (MS Word SIG; Saturday SIG)

Meet Our NWLAPCUG Officers



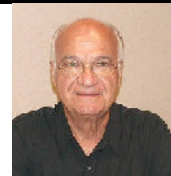
Pat Joyner
President & Director



Dr. John Hardin
Vice Pres. & Director



Jack Barnett
Secretary & Director



Robert Saucier
Treasurer & Director



Joe Cislighi
Director



Bob Franklin
Director



Bob Pierce
Director