

RED RIVER MONITOR



Volume 25 No. 06

NWLAPCUG, Inc. Newsletter

June 2011

Review of the May 2011 Membership Meeting by Bob Pierce

Vice-President Dr. John Hardin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. He then turned the meeting over to Treasurer Robert Saucier to introduce our speaker for the evening. Jim Jones grew up in Unionville, just North of Ruston, LA. He earned a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Louisiana Tech and a BS degree in Computer Science from LSU-Shreveport. Jim retired from Lucent Technologies a few years ago and has since pursued a hobby of genealogical research of his ancestry. He is currently president of GENCOM, a local organization active in genealogical research.

Jim's presentation was concerning a speech-to-text and vice-versa software package called "Dragon Naturally Speaking". The current version is Version 11 and is available for around \$50 on line. Jim cautioned everyone not to run out and buy this until he had finished his talk. When you buy this, you get a CD, a headset with microphone, and an instruction booklet. The software is easy to install and takes about 30 minutes. As the installation proceeds, the program builds a profile on you, including such things as what part of the USA you live in. This gives the program a hint of what kind of accent you may have. It will ask a few other questions then will start listening for your voice. The license is for a single user, but the software may be installed on more than one computer. One thing to keep in mind when you are teaching the program your voice is to do the initial vocabulary work in the same location you will be in as you use the software. The reason is that the background noise may be different and that will affect what the program "hears".

Jim then demonstrated how to use the software by dictating a document into Microsoft Word. You must be precise in your diction so that there will

be no misunderstanding by the software. There should also be no background noise, such as radio, TV, music, kids or grandkids. As you progress through the dictation, you will need to make some corrections or take other actions you normally do with a keyboard or mouse. Dragon software can also operate in a Command Mode and will recognize commands such as SAVE and SAVE AS. You can highlight a word in the text and then use the SPELL function to correct the spelling.

We then watched a demonstration of using Dragon software in the text-to-speech mode. Jim had the computer read a document to us. The user has some choices as to the "voice" used by the computer. It sounds pretty good through the headset, but not so good through the laptop speakers. If you will be using this mode a lot, external speakers would give a better sound quality.

Jim also demonstrated how to use the command functions in Dragon to navigate the web. This is a way to impress your friends by having your computer do as you say with no typing involved.

Now as to why Jim suggested that we not run out to buy this software. Windows 7 has a very similar program for free. To access the Windows version, click the START button, then ACCESSORIES, then EASE OF ACCESS, and then WINDOWS SPEECH RECOGNITION. You will have to build a profile just as in Dragon. The program is very much like Dragon in its operation and has all the benefits plus it's free. At that price, enjoy yourself and have some fun with it.

The door prize drawing was held, but there was no winner. Alice Smith's name was drawn. Since she was not present, the \$20 goes back into the pot and \$10 will be added to it for next month.



Users Helping Users

Red River Monitor

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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

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Treasurer	Robert Saucier	861-2235
Bob Pierce		686-0203
Bob Franklin		933-1235
Lee sepulvado		687-2088

Membership Dues

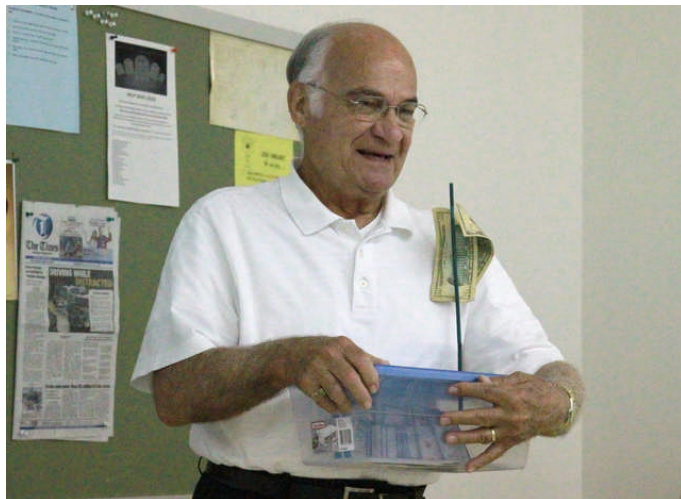
Full: \$15.00 a year
 Spouse: \$6.00 a year
 Student: \$10.00 a year

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<http://www.nwlapcug.com>

**Photos taken at the May 2011
 Membership Meeting
 By Glenda Conradi**



**Jim Jones Speaker gives
 May Program**



**Robert Saucier drawing Door
 Prize Money**

June 16th Membership Meeting

Coming to 'show and tell' is the matriarch of one of the most knowledgeable computer families in the area...a family of three who know everything (or will learn) about computers and who are SO willing to share that knowledge with whomever wants to learn.

Yes, you're right, she's **Glenda Conradi**...wife of Bernie; Mother of Richard...and all are members of NW Computer Group.

As you know, we have many members who are photography enthusiast but none any more than our **Glenda** ... as you see her each month with camera in hand, asking us all to pose at each membership meeting...and so it has been for oh so long, now.

Well, **Glenda** comes to our podium to give her thoughts and base her comments on a trip to Iowa a few years ago, when they visited all the towns Bernie had lived in growing up in that part of the country (sounds like a movie in the making to me). She took tons of pictures of the houses he lived in, schools he attended and many other points of interest...his high school class mates who still live in the area, the cemeteries and grave stones of family...and the list goes on. A true trip down memory lane and **Glenda** has captured it all on camera. She'll tell you something about angle, light; how she developed an easy to follow plan on how to have the camera ready to shoot at all times and how to keep track of the literally thousands of pictures taken so they would be easy to locate and identify later. She learned how to get the most from her camera; things you need to consider and pay attention to when taking pictures.

Her comment was...'you don't need to take a trip to use these ideas and tips, they will work just about any time you take a picture'.

She'll cover it all and you don't want to miss all her good ideas and tips.

Want to learn?...let's give it up for our good member...see you Thursday, June 16th, Bronson Hall, Room 310, LSU-S, time: 7 PM.

Come on down.

Door Prize...at our Meetings

Oh...Oh...at our May meeting the "un" lucky winner was none other than **Alice Smith**.

And, we miss you Alice, but you do have to be present to take home the Big Bucks.

So, come June 16, let's all be there and just see who the lucky winner will be.

See you there.

Corel Graphics/Photo SIG, May, 2011

by Glenda Conradi



. We started the May Corel Graphics/Photo SIG program by looking at using negative space in the photos you take, or at least trying this technique with some of them. When you leave empty space around the subject in your photo it can result in an interesting and pleasing

photograph. To understand negative space think of what you are seeing through your viewfinder or on your camera's LCD screen. The frame, or edge of a photo is the bounding size, the positive space is the subject and the negative space is made up of the empty space around the subject. If the background area around the subject is uncluttered you can get some very nice results using negative space. If you need a close up of a subject you have left empty space around you can easily crop the photo as close as you like in a photo editing program.

Next we looked at a solution you can try if you do not have a tripod, or it is impractical to carry one everywhere you go to take pictures. There is an easy alternative that will probably not produce the rock steady result you can get with a tripod, but can be a vast improvement over hand holding your camera. It is simple and easy to make a string tripod that should easily fit in your camera bag, or even your pocket, so when you need to steady your camera it can always be close at hand. It is quickly put together using a Poly cord, braided nylon, narrow grosgrain ribbon or other strong cord that does not give or stretch, and an eye bolt or hook with a nut. The cord you use must not be too thick to go through an eye bolt and can be easily tied to secure it. You may cut the cord long enough for you to have enough cord to step on and raise the camera to eye level to take a picture, or you may cut the cord longer so you can step on it with one or both feet and pull the other end up to eye level and hold that end tightly with your free hand while you take a picture. With either method do not pull the cord so tight that you may damage your camera, just tight enough to steady the camera while you take a picture. Attach the cord to an eye bolt or hook that has a thread size that easily screws into the bottom of the camera where you attach the tripod. Do not force it. You could strip the threads if it is not going in easily. Screw the nut onto the eye bolt before

you attach the bolt to the camera. Tighten the eye bolt just until you feel slight resistance and it will hold the camera steady while you take a picture. **DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN...YOU COULD DAMAGE YOUR CAMERA!** Then turn the nut to make it fit snug against the camera.

We watched a short video on Fixing A Photo. It showed us how to fix a washed out background in Corel Paint Shop Pro X2. The example was a giraffe and a washed out sky. It showed how to isolate the background, duplicate the background, then right click on the background layer and go to continuing duplicate and click on the background name "copy of background" and rename it Sky. Select "Sky" to keep it isolated from giraffe. Choose Magic wand tool, set tolerance level to 20 and feathering to 0, click on sky. Go to Selection/Edit Selections. If you see any holes select sky layer again and shift select areas that were missed. Right click sky layer and choose new mask layer/show selections. Click Ctrl D to turn off marching ants. Select Group Sky layer in layers pallet. Go to menu/adjust brightness and contrast/levels and click OK in dialog box. In the levels dialog box select Preview Image. Drag center diamond to the right to darken sky. Click OK to accept changes.

To conclude the program I showed the Portrait Professional Studio 9 Portrait Editing Software

The program is specifically made to edit portraits to remove flaws and enhance the photo as much or as little as you like. It allows you to remove blemishes, soften wrinkles, whiten teeth and more, you can even reshape the face if you want to. This version also includes a feature to let you work on children's portraits.

We hope you will be able to make the next Corel Graphics/Photo SIG on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. 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. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend.

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 May 2011

by Bernie Conradi



With another great turnout in attendance, we started with the usual reminders to keep your Windows operating systems and your antivirus programs up to date. This is a continuing and an ongoing process that must be done by all to ensure that you do not get invaded from the Internet by someone or something that you do not want in your computer. Windows updates are released on schedule on the second Tuesday of the month, so be looking for them. Also, you will get updates as necessary other times during the month. Your antivirus programs generally update the dat files daily. So be sure you have your programs set to update automatically. We read an article titled "To Format or Not to Format". This article pointed out when it may be necessary to format your hard drive and start all over from scratch. We went to the web site telling about the Microsoft Safety Scanner is a free downloadable security tool that provides on-demand scanning and helps remove vi-

ruses, spyware, and other malicious software. It works with your existing antivirus software. <http://www.microsoft.com/security/scanner/en-us/default.asp>. We then watched a video on how to make a password reset on a thumb drive. We also had a Power Point presentation on how to record a CD or DVD using the Windows operating system. There were questions on how to make the font larger on incoming emails, how to get the calendar gadget back to the desktop, how to get the latest version of Windows 7 codecs, and how to play wmv files from Windows Explorer. There was also a question about savings files to a thumb drive or external hard drive. Please join us at 7:00 PM on June 23, 2011, 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 TO FLY THE FLAG



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>J.C. Barnett Word SIG</p>	 <p>Pat Joyner Saturday SIG</p>	 <p>Bernie Conradi Windows SIG</p>	 <p>Glenda Conradi Corel Graphics/Photo SIG</p>
 <p>Bill & Cisly Morgan Digital Photography SIG</p>	 <p>Bob Pierce Beginner's 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>Bob Franklin</p>	 <p>Carolyn Franklin</p>	 <p>Phil Sanders</p>	 <p>Bob Pierce</p>	 <p>Ben Fusco</p>
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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	jc Barnett875@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
Getting Started SIG	Third Monday Hamilton/South Caddo Library	9:30 A.M.	Bob Pierce	bobpierce1942@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 (Corel Graphics/Photo SIG; Windows SIG)
 Room 310, Bronson Hall LSUS-Northside of campus (General Meeting, Digital Photography SIG)
 Broadmoor Library- 1212 Captain Shreve Drive - (MS Word SIG; Saturday SIG)
 Getting Started SIG Hamilton/South Caddo Library, 2111 Bert Kouns

Meet Our NWLAPCUG Officers



Pat Joyner
Director



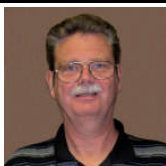
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Vice Pres. & Director



Jack Barnett
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Robert Saucier
Treasurer & Director



Bob Franklin
Director



Bob Pierce
Director



Lee Sepulvado
Director