

RED RIVER MONITOR



Volume 21 No. 10

NWLAPCUG, Inc. Newsletter

October 2009

Review of the September 2009 Membership Meeting by Bob Pierce

President Pat Joyner called the meeting to order. The Minutes and the Treasurer's report were read and approved. There was some discussion concerning our new door prize process and it was decided that if a member's name was drawn and the member was not present, the name would be put back into the pot for the next meeting. We also voted to increase our annual scholarship award to \$1000 if funds are available, an increase from the current \$500 award.

Pat then introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Ron Riley from Louisiana Technical College. Ron was assisted in his presentation by his associate, Mr. Ken Arlin. They brought with them two desktop computers in clear acrylic cases. Even the power supplies were enclosed in the acrylic. This allows the user to see what is going on inside the case and look at the various components. It was very evident that cigarette smoke can enter the case via the air vents and create serious issues with nicotine deposits on the hard drives, CD drives, DVD drives, etc. Also evident was that there are a number of openings that roaches or other insects can enter. These insects can then short out components and create problems for the user.

The rest of Ron's program was based on a CD he had created from downloads off the internet. The programs on the CD were diagnostic programs that will allow most users to tackle some of the issues that crop up during use of the computer. The first of these was a software instructional program called "Virtual Desktop". For those of us that want to build our machines, this is an excellent slide show that illustrates the step-by-step procedure to build your own. It illustrates how things fit on the mother board and chassis. There are instructions for mounting the CPU and RAM and it shows what the hard drives and other drives look like and how to hook them up. It includes the regular warning that you should be grounded before working with the mother board and RAM.

There are a number of troubleshooting flow

charts on the disc. Ron demonstrated a flow chart on solving printer problems. The flow chart consists of a question in a box with two outputs from the box: one "Yes" and one "No". You follow the flow chart until the problem is solved. There were a number of flow charts available on the disc, with more on the web. Also on the disc are several sets of FAQs. There are a lot of Q and As on the web, and Ron put several on the disc. Other valuable tools included on the disc are various trouble shooting guides and a glossary of computer words and phrases. This is an excellent set of tools.

A "PC Information Sheet" is available. This is a form the user fills out that includes all of the hardware devices on your computer. This will be needed if you call tech support for help. It also includes places to enter info on peripheral devices, such as printers, scanners, modems, etc. Another program that works handily with the information sheet is Belarc Advisor, available free off the web. Product numbers, serial numbers, status of Windows updates, etc. The user should make a print-out of this report before doing any work or calling tech support.

There are several maintenance programs on the CD. Some of these include "Defrag", "Disc Clean-up", and "Demo Creator". One of the most helpful will be a program called "Locksmith". This is a program that will let you find lost passwords. We have all written a password down and then lost the piece of paper it was written on. This program runs as its own operating system and includes a number of utilities.

Ron and Ken left the CD with Pat who agreed to make copies for anyone that wanted it. After seeing the demonstrations of some of the software, anyone that tinkers with their computer can find a good use for this CD. See Pat to get your copy. Ron then drew the name for the door prize. The name drawn was Jane Blase, who was not present. Her name will be put back in the pot and the door prize will be increased to \$40 for the October meeting.



Users Helping Users

Red River Monitor

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 Co-Editor: Ben Fusco

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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

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|----------|
| President | Pat Joyner | 798-2766 |
| Vice Pres. | Dr. John Hardin | 861-3408 |
| Secretary | Jack Barnett | 968-2372 |
| Treasurer | Robert Saucier | 861-2235 |
| 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



Here we are into the month that Microsoft is releasing their new operating system Windows 7. First we have to decide whether to make the changes or not, and on all our computers or just one. As Bernie explained there are several versions available and the upgrades will be for the version we have of Vista. Most of us have home premium installed. The upgrade will be to windows 7 home premium. If we decide to go to a higher version, Business, or Ultimate it will be more expensive I'm sure but I don't know if it will require a new install. If it requires a new install we will lose our contacts and etc. If the contacts are saved to a comma delineated file they can be put on a flash drive and imported back into the system. Whatever it requires it will be clearly worth the trouble as the new system is great. Let everyone share your experiences with the club so we can enjoy a good experience with the upgrade.

October 15th Annual Membership Meeting

As is the case, each year, in October our meeting is the ANNUAL MEETING for NWLAPCUG Computer Club. At that time we hold the election for the Board of Directors.

So far, we have two people running for that Board. They are John Hardin and Robert Saucier, and as you know, these two are for renewal spots since they are and have been on the Board for years.

There are some prospects for additional members to run for the Board since we do have several spots open, nomination will be taken from the floor. So if you have a desire to serve, please come to this meeting and let your name go onto the ballot.

We need, badly, NEW BLOOD on the Board and you are encouraged to serve....there are 89 members now....won't you serve?

To hold this election, we need a quorum of the membership and your attendance is so needed at our October meeting.

Please, try to come

Notice We have a new mail address
Northwest Louisiana Personal Computer User Group, Inc.
 P. O. Box 53232
 Shreveport, LA. 71135 www.nwlapcug.com

October Meeting Program

Besides this month of October being our Annual Meeting, we also have a program that is one of our most sought after discussions that all of our members get to participate. It's our usual **Question and Answer** session.

And, our members that will be in attendance to answer ALL your inquires about the computer, are those who are our most knowledgeable will be leading our discussions to start us off...**are Pat Joyner, Bernie Conradi, Bob Franklin and Bob Pierce (these are our true computer guro's)**

If you have a question; a problem; a comment that you want answered, discussed, or you just got something to share with us...this is the time. If it's on your mind, and you need an answer, these guys have agreed to show us; tell us; just ...how to. And everyone in attendance can join in.

This meeting, you'll enjoy; you'll learn; you'll come away a little better informed.

So, come on down...see you at 6 PM for refreshments, with our Board Meeting at 6:30, followed by our Q&A program at 7 PM, Bronson Hall, room 310, LSU-S, that's Thursday, October 15.

SEE YOU THERE

GOT DOOR PRIZES....

You remember....we now have a CASH door prize going on....each week \$10.00 is added to the drawing from the membership roster....if the person whose name is drawn is there, he gets the 'pile' of cash...if not, the money goes over to our next meeting when another \$10.00 dollars is added...and the drawing is continued till the winner is PRESENT to win.

So for now the pot is at \$40.00...with the three names of Jack Couvillion; Richard Johnson and Jane Blasé having been drawn and they were not there.

Is your name **next** for the \$40.00 bucks drawing? Remember, you gotta be present to win. Oh...when your name is drawn, it goes right back into the pot of names when your not there.

See you there.

Photos taken at the September 2009 Membership Meeting By Glenda Conradi



Ron Riley



The Membership



Ron Riley & Ken Arlin

Corel Graphics/Photo SIG, September, 2009

by Glenda Conradi



At our September meeting we started the program with the first tip, which addressed the safety of storing your digital photo files a Web based photo storage site, rather than storing your files and backups on your own hard drives. According to an article on the Internet a photographer who paid Flickr to store over 3,000 photos that he had taken over a five year period, lost all of them when a hacker got into his account and terminated it. He was told by Flickr, and its owner Yahoo, that there was nothing they could do to recover his photos, they were just gone. If that happened at one site it could happen at another. Getting a second hard drive to store backups of your photos might be a good idea.

We also looked at the rules for taking photos in public places, and your rights. Even though there are very few restrictions when you are taking pictures of people or places on public property it is a good idea to know what photos are considered safe to take, even if you are a casual photographer, or take pictures just for fun. These Web sites tell about some guidelines you should follow. <http://www.krages.com/ThePhotographersRight.pdf> & <http://www.kantor.com/legalrights/Legal%20Rights%20of%20Photographers.pdf>

Next we spent time talking about, and showing, ways to convert photos, film and slides to a digital format that you can put on your computer, edit, send as email attachments or work with the same as the photos you take with your digital camera. You can buy a scanner that is made specifically for scanning film and slides, or you can use some flatbed scanners to scan them, if the scanner has a special transparency adaptor for this purpose. You will end up with a black image if you try to scan film or negatives

by just laying them on the scanner bed, because the light needs to come from the top and shine through the film, not up from the bottom, the way a scanner normally scans. The scanners made just for scanning film differ from regular scanners because they do not have glass between the light and the film they are scanning and are supposed to produce a better scan of film and negatives. If you do not have a transparency adaptor for your scanner you may be able to find instructions on the Internet that tell you about some other methods of scanning film and negatives you may want to try with your scanner. We used a scanner and showed the process, and results, of using a home made slide and film scanning adaptor that we found a template for on the Web that you can print out. The results were not that great, but if it was a special picture and the only way you could get a copy, the poor one might be better than nothing. If you have printed photos you can scan them on a regular scanner, the way you would any other document. You may also take a picture of the photo with a digital camera, but the results may vary depending on the quality of the photos your camera takes and how you set up to take the picture. It may take some experimenting to find the best way to light the photo and avoid a reflection.

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. Everyone 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.

Newsletter Articles Welcomed

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by the first day of the month to
Phillip Sanders- phillip479@aol.com And to Ben Fusco- benfusco@bellsouth.net

Windows SIG September 2009

by Bernie Conradi



Again, there were 28 people in attendance this summer evening. I am very pleased to see this many people, because the more that are in attendance, the more ideas and solutions we have. Thanks again for your interest. Bob Truitt

attended as a guest of Nick Nicholas, and Claude Beasley returned after an absence from the group. We had the usual announcements of the latest anti virus dat file updates and the latest Microsoft updates. There are also updates for Firefox and Thunderbird. So if you use these programs, I recommend you check for updates to see if you are up to date. Most of these updates are for security reasons, so that is why the updates are important. I showed a free program called "Fences". This program allows you to hide the icons you have on your desktop with a double click and brings them back with another double click. There are a number of options you can use in this program. It can be downloaded from <http://www.stardock.com/products/fences/>. We also showed the Internet site that allows you to run a test on your password to determine the level of safety for the password you have created. You can get this feature at <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/fraud/passwords/checker.aspx>. There was a question on how to get rid of the multiple tool bars that appear in your browser. And then we covered the instal-

lation of programs and how you can get some of these tool bars if you do not read all the screens that appear during the installation of the software. If you do not uncheck the line that asks you if you want to install the particular tool bar then you end up with something you do not want. We also showed how to disable them or uninstall them if you already have them. There were also questions about sending multiple email messages, how to scan and save a document or picture so you can email the document, how to view your cookies list and how to get rid of a popup set up by the screen saver. For the program this month we covered, in-depth, the use of Microsoft Update to keep your computer operating system and other Microsoft programs up to date. We demonstrated how to set the preferences for Automatic Updates and the other options for updates. We also demonstrated Windows Update, and actually downloaded and installed an update. I think keeping your operating system up to date is very important, and necessary, from a security standpoint.

Please join us at 7:00 PM on October 22, 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

Reminder of the Next Membership Meeting

When: October 17, 2009-- 6:00PM social, with the meeting to begin at 7:00PM

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

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

NWLAPCUG's Special Interest Group 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.

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|---|---|---|---|
|  <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.

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|--|--|--|--|---|
|  <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 | 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 |

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)

Meet Our NWLAPCUG Officers



Pat Joyner
President & Director



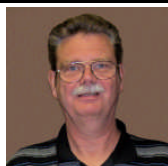
Dr. John Hardin
Vice Pres. & Director



Jack Barnett
Secretary & Director



Robert Saucier
Treasurer & Director



Bob Franklin
Director



Bob Pierce
Director