



# Oakmont PC Users Group

## E-Mail Newsletter

January 1, 2010

Volume 4 Number 1

### Officers:

#### President:

Jack Frantz

[jack@thefrantzes.com](mailto:jack@thefrantzes.com)

#### Vice President:

Ruth Caldwell

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#### Secretary:

Art Nichols

[annpqn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annpqn@sbcglobal.net)

#### Treasurer:

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#### Communications:

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#### Programs:

Gary Caldwell

[garycaldwl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garycaldwl@sbcglobal.net)

#### Helper Committee:

Granville DeMerritt

[grandemerritt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grandemerritt@sbcglobal.net)

**Help Volunteers:** *If you have a problem, give one of these knowledgeable folks a call:*

Jack Feniger 538-8809

Gordon Ramsey 538-4981

Bob Rietow 537-0451

Phil Kenny 538-2075

### We're on the Web!

<http://oakmontpc.com>

#### Webmaster:

Gary Pickering

[rwp@sonic.net](mailto:rwp@sonic.net)

### President's Message

With the New Year a new President and Board of Directors take over the administration of your club. Many of the faces are the same as last year, including Gordon Ramsey who becomes Immediate Past President. Thanks, Gordon, for an outstanding year and thanks to all who helped make it so. Thanks also to the Help Volunteers (see left column) who make themselves available to help Oakmonters solve problems and learn more about their computers.

Our club is run by volunteers and it is necessary to continuously recruit new faces for the various jobs. This year we have several new Board members and we encourage everyone to sit in on Board meetings. To all, set aside the second and third Monday afternoons of each month to enrich and challenge your mental faculties.

With the mounting state and federal deficits, paying income taxes is most important. However, none of us is expected to pay more than our fair share. Don't rush to do your income tax too soon because in February we will have an outstanding taxpayer, Bob Stinson, who will demonstrate *Turbo Tax* and several other tax preparation software programs, both commercial and free types.

We wish you a Happy New Year of glitch free computing.

**Jack Frantz, President**

### January Question and Answer Session

**Monday, January 11 – West Recreation Center at 2:45 p.m.**

If you have a computer question or problem you would like resolved at our Q & A Session, Bob Mandelstam is our Coordinator and M/C. If you would e-mail your questions or problems to Bob at [bobmandel@psualum.com](mailto:bobmandel@psualum.com) several days before the meeting he will work with our experts to determine a solution, which will be addressed at the meeting. We will continue to take questions from the floor but the e-mail requests will have priority.

We encourage our members to attend this session whether you have a question or not. There is always something to learn and sometimes even the most knowledgeable pick up something new. The Q & A session follows our board meeting, which is held at 1:45 p.m. and is open to any members who would like to attend.

***Excel in Excel!***

***Dues Are Definitely Due***

***Come See Gran***

***Check Out the  
Brand New Website***

***OCLC Classes***

### **January General Meeting**

**Monday, January 18 – West Recreation Center at 2 p.m.**

**Spreadsheets – Excel:** It's not just a fancy adding machine. From simple shopping lists to complex Macro driven applications – some are just for fun and others are serious. You will get an overview of some of the types of applications you can create in Excel and witness the power of this spreadsheet program. The other major Spreadsheet programs function in similar fashion to *Excel*. For more instruction, sign up with the Oakmont Computer Learning Center (OCLC). Take the full course for some hands-on training. Mike Noble, a very experienced practitioner, will present the program on January 18 at 2 p.m.

### **Dues for 2010 are Due**

The annual dues for our club are \$10 per family to be paid in January or at latest, February 28. If not paid by that time we are led to the conclusion that you no longer wish to support the club and will drop your name from our roster. In the last year our membership reached a new high and, hopefully, we can continue to grow and offer more benefits to the membership. Please make checks payable to OPCUG. They may be turned in at the January General Meeting or mailed to our treasurer, Gary Goodenough, at 451 Oak Mesa Drive. The dues are used to keep the club's equipment up to date and to pay for refreshments (provided some public spirited person(s) volunteer) at the program meetings.

### **Exchange Table**

On our Exchange Table at each General Meeting we have a variety of donated books, magazines, and computer stuff, all free for the taking. A printer which appears to be in good shape is available. If you have similar items to donate, please bring them to the meetings.

Gran DeMerritt has also printed out a new helper list, which is available. This is a list of our own volunteer helpers as well as some professional computer people. Handouts from previous programs are also available.

### **What's New on the Club's Website**

Plenty! In last month's newsletter we reported that Google had migrated our web site to their Google Sites facility because they were no longer supporting Google Pages. The automatic migration made the site unusable. During the ensuing month the links and text were restored and the December 2009 Newsletter added.

While this was going on, thanks to the good offices of Dutch Lichliter, a new club Domain Name (URL) was obtained. Gary Pickering has been appointed as the new Webmaster and he has done a beautiful job of reconstructing the web site and bringing it up to date. The site is up and running and, although there are a few rough spots which are being worked out, it looks great. Check it out at <http://oakmontpc.com/>. Our sincere thanks to Gary for a wonderful contribution to our club.

### **OCLC News**

The Oakmont Computer Learning Center (OCLC) resumes classes in their new facility this month. The schedule of classes is published in the *Oakmont News* and is also available in the OVA office.

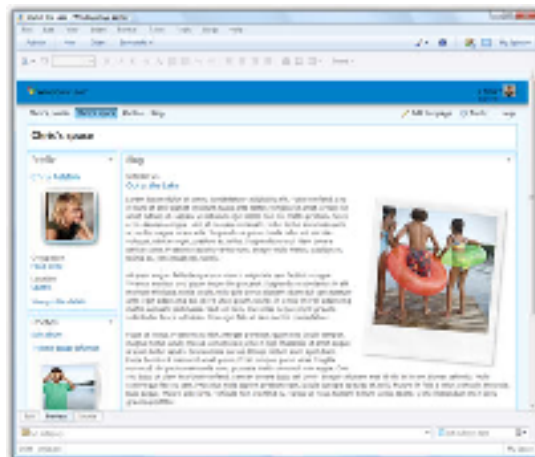
## Technical Stuff

### **You Need a Blog!**

Why do you need a blog when perhaps you do not even know what a blog is? A blog is a personal web page, to which you can limit access or throw it open for all the world to see. Anyone with far flung family and friends can bring joy and satisfaction to them by posting news, pictures and videos on their personal blog. It's somewhat like the social networks you read about but without all the care and feeding. Microsoft provides free tools and web space with *Windows Live Writer*. The following were extracted from Microsoft's site.

**Blog your heart out:** *Writer* makes it easy to share your photos and videos on almost any blog service—*Windows Live*, *Wordpress*, *Blogger*, *LiveJournal*, *TypePad*, and many more.

**Blog almost anywhere:** *Writer* lets you publish to almost any blog service, including *Windows Live*, *Wordpress*, *Blogger*, *LiveJournal*, *TypePad*, *SharePoint*, *Community Server*, and many more. Don't have a blog yet? *Writer* can help you set one up.



**What you see is what you get:** With *Writer*, you can preview everything you're adding to your blog to see how the fonts, spacing, colors, and images will look, before you publish.

photos together into an album—just select the style you want and *Writer* takes care of the rest.

**Look like a pro:** It's fast and easy to make your photos look great on your blog. Insert them and apply cool borders and effects. You can even pull your

**Videos bring your blog to life:** *Writer* can help you publish videos to *Soapbox* on *MSN Video*, or to *YouTube*, and embed them in your blog. And just like photos, it's easy to align, resize, and caption your videos, so they look just the way you want them to.

**Plug in some extras:** *Writer* is already packed with useful features, but if you like to tinker, there are all sorts of plug-ins you can add to help you do even more—like insert your stuff from *Facebook*, *Flickr*, or other websites.

Download this program at: <http://download.live.com/writer>. If you need help, ask our volunteers; and if a number of you request it, our Program Chairman, Gary Caldwell, might even set up a demo program.

### **To opt out of this E-Mail:**

If you do not care to receive information from the club through the E-Mail Newsletter, you may opt to have us delete your name from our distribution list. You will need to let us know at:

[krystine\\_at\\_oakmont@yahoo.com](mailto:krystine_at_oakmont@yahoo.com)