



Oakmont PC Users Group

E-Mail Newsletter

April 1, 2010

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garycaldwl@sbcglobal.net

Helper Committee:

Granville DeMerritt

grandemerritt@sbcglobal.net

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

Jack Feniger 538-8809

Jack Frantz 539-4232

Phil Kenny 538-2075

Bob Mandelstam 537-8724

Gordon Ramsey 538-4981

We're on the Web!

<http://oakmontpc.com>

Webmaster:

Gary Pickering

rwp@sonic.net

President's Message

Requiem For Bob Rietow

Most of you know that Bob Rietow, one of the stalwarts of our club and a truly great human being, passed away on March 16th. A few days ago a wonderful church service was held at our Oakmont Star of the Valley Church in celebration of Bob's life. Impressive as the church service was, the "celebration" after the service in the parish center, by something on the order of 200 of Bob's friends, revealed the depth of feeling Bob engendered in the Oakmont golfing and computer communities as well as in his neighbors.

Speaking for the club, Bob touched the lives of our entire membership. He was a regular on the "Board of Experts" that makes the monthly Question and Answer Sessions so educational and helpful. In each issue of *Oakmont News*, in the column devoted to our club, Bob's name was among the volunteer helpers who make themselves available to assist others solve their computer problems. They do this for no personal gain other than the satisfaction that comes from knowing that they helped. Thank you, Bob, for your many, many years of help and support to our club. Aloha!

New Members

We would like to welcome new members **Jud** and **Palma Heckler**, **George** and **Caroline Keller**, and **Jan Tempel** to our club.

You are encouraged to become participants and please feel free to contact any of the officers for help or assistance.

April Question and Answer Session

Monday, April 12 – 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 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 1:30 p.m. and is open to any members who would like to attend.

Make Old Music – New

Thanks, Audrey!

News From the Webmaster

APCUG

***Microsoft Joins the
Free Security Providers***

Big Discounts!

April General Meeting

Monday, April 19 – West Recreation Center at 2 p.m.

Gary Caldwell will cover “Converting Your Analog Music (vinyl records and tape cassette recordings) to Digital CDs and DVDs” using a free software program named *Audacity 1.2.6*. This program can also improve the quality of the old recordings. *Audacity* is a freeware classic that has been used and improved by audio practitioners for years.

Hospitality

We would like to convey many thanks to Audrey Engen for flawlessly executing the March Hospitality duties. Everyone who attended the meeting thanks you also.

What’s New on the Web Page

Our **Home** page has lots of new information you might want to check out. There’s an announcement about the “Club Winter Survey,” along with the latest presentation on “The Power of the Right Click” by Gordon Ramsey with a pdf handout of his talk. New videos are available on *Windows 7* for those who could use some help with this new operating system.

I’ve provided a Q&A pdf form on the **Home** page so you can print out the form and hand it in at the next Q&A session. I had to remove the online version because of some problems with submitting the form using e-mail. On the **General Interest** page I’ve provided a link if you would like to see a list of all the OVA registered clubs. Yes, our club is there with a link to our new website. Check out OPCUG’S website at <http://oakmontpc.com>.

Association of PC Users Groups (APCUG)

For quite a few years, our club has maintained membership in the APCUG and our membership benefits from the advisories, discounts and tools they make available.

A key advisory is: **Microsoft Free Support for Virus, Malware and Failed Service Packs**. Virus and malware are often very difficult to remove; and once a system is infected, they may disable protection and hide to make detection and removal difficult while they carry out their nefarious mission. Also, new Service Packs (*Windows 7* has Service Pack 1 and *Windows XP* has Service Pack 3) sometimes cause trouble with specific systems and the combination of application programs installed on that system. Microsoft in the USA provides free 24/7 support at telephone number 1-866-pcsafety (more than seven numbers but easy to remember). Call that number if you suspect that you have any of the above-mentioned issues.

Discounts for Members of OPCUG

The two largest publishers of computer books are O’Reilly and Peachpit Press (more heavily oriented to the Mac community). Our club is authorized to obtain the 35% discounts offered. Simply browse the publisher’s web site and at checkout insert the coupon code.

O’Reilly offers a 35% discount on books to user group members whose group belongs to the O’Reilly UG program. Coupon Code DSUG. 15% discount on O’Reilly conferences. www.oreilly.com

Bring Back the Focus

Peachpit Press

We provide your group members with a 35% discount off the list price of any of our books. At checkout, right before entering their credit card information, they must enter the user group coupon code:

UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive). <http://www.peachpit.com/store/>

This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes.

A complete list of all the discounts available to our club has been prepared by extracting from numerous APCUG documents and will soon be posted on our web site.

Digital Photographers – Unshake for Blurry Pictures

Blurred and out of focus pictures, especially scans of old paper photographs, can be extremely difficult to bring into focus. High-end software such as *Photoshop* and (*Photoshop Elements*) can require considerable skill and trial and error effort to improve the focus.

An easy to use freeware program called *Unshake* has been reported to provide equal or better results in certain cases. Go to:

<http://www.zen147963.zen.co.uk> to download and get instructions. The program is written entirely in *Java* and so does permanently install the program. You need to read all of the instructions (they are not lengthy) before you try to use the program. The entire display is quite simple and is shown here. Press the open button to find your photo then press the *Deblur* button. Wait for one to four minutes, the estimate line tells you how long, and your improved photo will appear larger than the original on the screen. If the first try doesn't go far enough try a stronger setting than *Normal blur*. It will take a bit of experimentation and patience because this is a computing intensive task that will occupy the full attention of your computer for some minutes to work its magic. Your patience will be rewarded

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

