



Oakmont PC Users Group

E-Mail Newsletter

May 1, 2010

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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

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We're on the Web!

<http://oakmontpc.com>

Webmaster:

Gary Pickering

rwp@sonic.net

President's Message

It's hard to believe but here it is May again and this is the last newsletter until September 1. We are continuing our tradition of no General Meetings (Program Meetings) during the summer months of June, July and August. The General Meetings will resume on the third Monday in September, the 20th of September, at 2 p.m. They will continue through November at which time we again go quiet for December to let the OVA use the room for Christmas parties.

Your club officers and board are open to suggestions every day of every month. Any thoughts as to how the club can better serve the membership are appreciated. A number of e-mail addresses are to be found in the left column of this page. Let us hear from you.

The OVA office informs us that they are surprised that more residents do not avail themselves of occasional OVA administrative alerts and/or notices. It's a worthwhile service and should be of interest to most Oakmont residents. To sign up, send your E-Mail address to: ovainfo@sonic.net. It's not at all intrusive and you'll be glad you did.

Hospitality

All of us would like to thank Earla Snow for supervising the April Hospitality duties. These social times after the programs give us the chance to get to know each other better and to share ideas.

May Question and Answer Session

Monday, May 10 – 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.

Free at Last

May General Meeting

Monday, May 17 – West Recreation Center at 2 p.m.

The May program is entitled “Really Good Free Stuff.” The world of freeware is perhaps larger than the world of commercial software. The presentation will cover where to look for free applications to meet your needs, both for your desktop and “in the Cloud.” The latter is an increasingly popular venue where the software remains on a web page and you do your work there. The output can be saved in the internet, accessible only to you or your designee, and/or in your computer.

Cloud computing has the advantage that the software is always the latest version and your work can be accessed by you or your designee from any computer anywhere in the world.

The presentation will demonstrate the download and installation for desktop and how to register for Cloud applications. Numerous links for a broad spectrum of applications will be provided. There are many dedicated programmers working to help you; try it out.

New Members

A Big Welcome!

We welcome the following new members to our club: **Catherine and Raymond Downey, Diane and Hugh Kellog and Irina Pavlov.** You are encouraged to become participants and please feel free to contact any of the officers for help or assistance.

Sad News

Thank You, Mike

For many years Mike Clark has been carried on our “Need Help” list under the heading “Professional Help for Fee.” Sadly, he will no longer appear on the list. We have received information that he passed away in early April. We have not yet received any details but should we hear anything further, we will pass it on.

On several occasions Mike was a presenter at our Program Meetings. His presentations were always well received and, on occasion, included a CD for each attendee containing useful tips and utility programs. Thanks, Mike, and may you rest in peace.

News From the Webmaster

***From the Master of
Oakmontpc.com***



The slide show and the program notes for Gary Caldwell's presentation on "Converting Your Analog Music (vinyl records and tape cassette recordings) to Digital CD's and DVD's" are available on the OPCUG website. So click on the "Past Programs" tab on the website's home page and start converting your old records and tapes to mp3 music files.

I've added a new tab called "Helpers" in the "Help" pull-down menu. Click on this to see the latest list of helpers available to our club members.

Bob Mandelstam found some great videos on working with the **Windows 7** operating system. You can find the videos listed under the OS page in the navigations bar. Point your mouse to "Help" tab on the navigation bar and slide it down to "Computers" and over to "OS" and then click on "OS." This will take you to the help page on operating systems. The videos are in the section "Windows 7 - Is it for You?"

Microsoft's New Fixit Program

Wouldn't it be grand if, when you had a problem with your PC, you could simply push a button and the problem was cured? **Windows 7** has taken a major step in this direction, but now additional capability for **Windows 7, Vista** and **XP** has become available.

First, let's look at the current **Windows 7** capability. In that operating system, in the bottom right hand side of the screen, one sees a small flag. If you click  left or right, you will be led to the *Action Center* and a  dialog which will cause your computer to search for the cause and then correct the problem. To an old hand at computer fixing, it seems like magic.

On April 15 Microsoft released the Beta version of *Fixit* which adds that capability for **Windows XP** (SP-3) and enhances the capability in **Vista** and **Windows 7**. The link to the Microsoft web site is:

<http://fixitcenter.support.microsoft.com/Portal>.

This brings you to a site which provides for download of the capability. Here is a snip from the site:



Fixit will examine your computer to determine if you have a problem and then ask you if you wish to “*Fixit*.”

If *Fix it Center* cannot solve a specific issue, customers can still access phone, email or chat support with a Microsoft Support professional who can access their *Fix it Center* account and get details about the hardware, the problem, and the solutions they have already tried, to ensure faster problem resolution.

It's tough to be in the guru business these days!

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