

Oakmont PC Users Group

E-Mail Newsletter

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

Jack Frantz 539-4232

Phil Kenny 538-2075

Bob Mandelstam 537-8724

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We're on the Web!

<http://oakmontpc.com>

Webmaster:

Gary Pickering

rwp@sonic.net

President's Message

The "long hot summer" is over even though it never actually arrived except for a day or two. Our club summer hibernation is over. It is time to spring to life with a burst of computer activities. Your computer can add to your overall well-being and quality of life.

Here at Oakmont we have an outstanding Fitness Center, which if properly used, will help to maintain physical well-being and hold back and even recover from physical decline, at least temporarily. However, one of the characteristics of aging is what psychologists call cognitive decline. Memory and reasoning ability naturally decline with disuse. This is where you, your computer and your computer club can come into play.

It is possible for most of us to maintain mental agility long after our physical bodies have succumbed to the inevitable ravages of time. Just as with our physical bodies, the mind needs to be continuously exercised and challenged. Your computer can help with a limitless series of new worlds to discover and enjoy. Web sites, such as <http://www.google.com/> to find what the world has to offer and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page to explain what the world is about, are invaluable tools to exercise our minds and broaden our interests. Your club tries to help with the enjoyment of all aspects of computer use.

Mental challenge, as with anything, can be overdone. Enjoy your computer, but not to the point of total frustration. Your computer club is here to help with General Meeting Programs, Question and Answer sessions, an informative web site (<http://oakmontpc.com/>) and, if need be, direct one on one help – all provided by volunteers in the tradition of Oakmont.

Enjoy your computer and at the same time help yourself to a better quality of life.

Jack Frantz, President

New Members

We welcome the following new members to our club: **Joy and Ray Guerber** (former members), **Lola Herrod**, and **June and Donald Wetherilt**. You are encouraged to become participants and please feel free to contact any of the officers for help or assistance.

***If You Have a Computer,
You Have Questions***

The Rich Irwin Special

Lots New on the Web Page!

September Question and Answer Session

Monday, September 13 – 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 MC. 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.

Slight change in our Q & A meeting format: We will continue to answer questions but, in addition, at each meeting we hope to add a tip or two of hints that should help you enjoy your computer more.

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.

September General Meeting

Monday, September 20 – West Recreation Center at 2 p.m.

We are in for a special treat at the September Meeting: Rich Irwin, a long time PC Club member, will offer his special insights on using the accessibility features of Windows.

Have you ever thought it would be nice if the words and images on the computer screen were larger? Have you had trouble finding or following the mouse? At the September 20 meeting, Rich Irwin will demonstrate how to use two free programs available on all versions of **Microsoft Windows** since *Windows 2000*. These are "Magnifier" and "Navigator." He will also show you how you can navigate around the computer without the mouse by using only the keyboard.

Rich has been legally blind since 1998. He has taught the use of accessibility technology for several years. Even if you do not have sight or hearing deficiencies, you will find that navigating around your computer can be easier if you follow some of the basics he will be using.

News from the Webmaster

The slide show and program handouts for Jack Frantz's presentation on "Really Good Free Stuff" are available on the OPCUG website. So click on the "Past Programs" tab on the website's home page and start learning about the world of freeware that's available for "On the Ground" and "In the Cloud" computing.

Jack Frantz and Phil Kenny have created a list of websites for our club members to aid in the detecting and removing viruses and malware and Bob Mandelstam has found a PDF document on Internet safety. Point your mouse to "Help" tab on the navigation bar and slide it down to "Computers" and over to "Security" and then click on "Security." This will take you to the help page on Security. Click on the links to see the websites or read the PDF file.

Many Thanks, Barbara!

**A New
Computer Connection**

Hospitality News

We sincerely thank Barbara Pampanin for supervising the May Hospitality duties. Job well done!

Technical Stuff

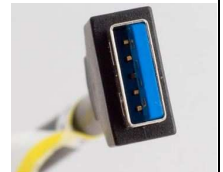
Superspeed USB has been released to the computer community. It is also known as USB 3.0. The new Trademark and Logo are:



Starting very soon, new computers will come equipped with USB 3 and communications through the port will be ten times faster than was the case with the current USB 2. The latter has been in use for ten years. External hard drives, flash drives, printers and digital cameras are a few of the classes of equipment that communicate with a PC via Universal Serial Bus (USB). Fortunately, the new connection will be backward compatible with the older USB 2 and the even older USB 1.



USB 2



USB 3

The old USB 2 had a white or black plastic insert; the new USB 3 uses a blue plastic insert.

The desirability of increased speed becomes obvious when you back up an image of your hard drive to an external hard drive. The operation seems to take forever, but will now be forever divided by ten.

What does this mean to most of us who are not contemplating a new computer soon? One of the more obvious manifestations is the large drop in price of external hard drives and other devices built to the USB 2 specification. Manufacturers have stopped or slowed the building of the older devices and are unloading inventory. Now is a great time to buy an external hard drive; but don't wait too long because, as Will Rogers said about land, "They ain't making it anymore."

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