



Oakmont PC Users Group

E-Mail Newsletter

APRIL 1, 2007

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Helper Committee:
Bill Richards
wgrich@sonic.net

Help Volunteers: The following is a list of individuals who have offered to help solve your computer problems. If you have a problem and before you do violence to your computer, give one of these Knowledgeable folks a call:

Jack Feniger	538-8809
Gordon Ramsey	538-9481
Bob Reitow	537-0451
Phil Kenny	538-2075
Bob Stinson	539-7684

We're on the Web!

opcugroup.googlepages.com

Presidents Message April 1, 2007

I recently had the task of writing a letter to new members to welcome them to the club and to outline the benefits of being a member of the Oakmont PC Users Group. When I finished the job I was surprised at how beneficial membership in our club really is. Especially nice is the ability to be able to call on fellow members for assistance in solving problems with your computer. Volunteers, who give freely of their time and talent, deserve all our thanks for the great work they do. Several volunteers have mentioned that in the course of helping others with their problems they end up learning new things themselves.

The moral is: "Learn to help others to learn to help yourself." Most of us can help someone. No matter how much you know there's always someone who knows more and someone who knows less. So pitch in and do what you can to help other computer users. You don't need to be a designated guru to give someone a hand.

In that connection let us not forget that most computer programs have a *Help* menu available on the right hand of the top menu bar of the screen. Many of us are reluctant to ask directions of others when we are lost but in the quiet of communion with your computer it is easy to ask for help. It takes some learning to get the proper key words so that the help function understands what we're looking for. A little practice here can go long way to making your computer life a lot easier and let you feel the rush of victory over adversity.

Jack Frantz, President

April Meetings

Monday, April 9th: West Rec. Center

The OPCUG Computer Talk Session will be held at 2:45 PM on Monday, April 9th. This question and answer period will be led by Jack Frantz with the help of 'cutting edge' members.

The OPCUG Board will meet earlier, at 1:45pm, and all club members are welcome at our Board Meetings.

Monday, April 16th: West Rec. Center

The General Membership Meeting and Presentation will start at 2:00 PM. Bob Stinson will address: basic digital photo enhancement techniques. If you happened to hear his talk on this subject at a recent meeting of the Digital Photography Club, you may yet wish a review. Often much is gained from a second hearing.

Door prizes and light refreshments will follow the presentation.



Oakmont PC Users Group



The Computer Experience

In his presentation to our Club on March 19th, John Bradford, a Computer professional, spoke of the many possibilities we have with the modern computer. His four page handout noted many of its 'options'; - Options of Devices, Software, Websites and Accessories. He also listed the many tasks we may perform and enjoy both "without the Internet" and "with the Internet". If you could not attend this informative meeting, you will be able to pick up a copy of John's handout at our April meetings. (See the Helper Committee paragraph below.)

Welcome New Members

Recent new members of the P.C. Club are:

Howard and Jane Hickman and Jan Smekens.

We hope that each of you will contact one of our officers, or Board member, to express your interests and your suggestions. The vitality of our PC Club relies on the active participation of members like you. Again, welcome.

New on the OPCUG Web Page

The newest additions are:

1. *Are you Vista Ready?* By clicking on the link in the web page and following the directions given you can download a small Microsoft program to your desktop. The program when opened will analyze your computer and tell you of any compatibility problems, should you later choose to upgrade to Windows Vista.
2. *APCUG Push Articles.* These are the articles, selected by the Association of PC Users Groups, from newsletters throughout the organization, which were published in February 2007. Click on the link and follow the instructions to download a file which contains 16 articles. Check the titles and click on any that seem interesting.
3. *Working with USB Sticks (Travel Drive or Flash Drive)* Flash Drives have become fairly inexpensive and are an excellent place to store files for backup or to move them to another computer. Click on the link and follow the instructions to bring a fine booklet to your desktop.

To get to the web site, click on the link in the left column. When you get there, make it one of your favorites by clicking on *Favorites* and then *Add to Favorites*.

Helper Committee

Bill Richards, Chairman of the Help Committee, and Granville DeMerritt will set up an 'free exchange' table after the April 16th meeting. Members are encouraged to bring computer magazines and software that they no longer need to the 'Exchange Table'. Bill will have a listing of members who are willing to assist others with minor problems. His list includes a number of computer professionals. Also, after the meeting on the 16th, Granville will have copies available of "Handout" materials from some of our recent presentations.



Hospitality Committee

Thanks to Dorrelle Aasland and Jill White for the refreshments and the awarding of door prizes at the February 19th General Meeting. One door prize this month will be a book for senior computer users recommended by Bill Richards.

Mouse Problems? If it's a conventional mouse, one with a wire coming out from the far end, it could well need cleaning. An article in the 'Readers Digest Beginners Guide to Home Computing' gives the following advice:



Icky mouse?

The inside of the mouse can get dirty over a period of a few months. If the cursor loses its smooth action around the screen and jumps, then it is likely your mouse needs cleaning.

So, with the computer off, turn the mouse upside down. You will see a ring surrounding the mouse ball. The ring is released by either twisting or sliding it.

With the ring removed, take the ball out and then use adhesive tape to pick up any dust or lint on the surface of the ball. Wipe away dirt or lint inside the mouse socket. You can also blow gently to remove any dust. If anything is trapped inside the socket or on the rollers, use a cotton swab dipped in isopropyl alcohol to loosen it. Allow the surfaces to dry completely before cleaning. Replace the ball

and secure the ring and you will have a smooth-running mouse again.



If, however, you have a wireless mouse, the problem could well be low batteries. Since there are no wires, the mouse requires batteries and after some months they are drained. Wireless mice are sealed and so need no cleaning.



Oakmont Computer Learning Center Classes

Descriptions and schedules for P.C. Classes are available at the O.V.A. Office. As of March 28th, space was available in the following spring classes: **Greeting Cards; Internet/Email-Introductory; Internet/Email-Advanced** and **Spreadsheet**.

The following classes were filled: **Basic 109, File Management** and **Digital Photoshop Elements**.

Waiting lists are maintained and people are notified when vacancies occur –now or the next session. Class registration is by Phone Only. To Register, call Caroline Keller at 539-7618.

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 the distribution list. You will need to let us know at: Sailor38@sonic.net.