



Oakmont PC Users Group

E-Mail Newsletter

October 1, 2007

Volume 1 Number 6

Officers:

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Treasurer: Gary Goodenough
gmgoody@pacbell.net

Communications:
Charlie McBride
sailor38@sonic.net

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:*

Gary Caldwell	538-4173
Jack Feniger	538-8809
Gordon Ramsey	538-4981
Bob Reitow	537-0451
Phil Kenny	538-2075
Bob Stinson	539-7684

We're on the Web!

<http://opcugroup.googlepages.com>

The Presidents Message

In the last six months, your club has had a substantial influx of new members. Many of them are relatively new to computing and computers and a few are more experienced. Whichever you are, I believe, that the club can greatly enhance your computer enjoyment and capability.

Contact with other computer users will help you even if you believe that you prefer to labor and learn solely on your own. We have a number of members who merit Guru Status and who help with the monthly Question and Answer Meetings and /or make themselves available to help any Oakmonter who requests help. Many of these wonderful folks have told me that they almost always learn something new from these encounters. Contact, written or personal, helps and our two meetings per month foster such contact.

Directly engaging in club activities is also highly beneficial to you and to the club. Often, we tend to shy away from direct participation for fear of getting "roped in" to something that we're not quite prepared to do. To dissuade you from such thoughts let me suggest that you make it a point to converse with one of the Board members about possible things you might do in the club. No one will "twist your arm" but you might find something you enjoy doing, if not at the moment, perhaps down stream. We need a gradual flow of new faces and ideas for the club to grow in ways other than number of members. You can depend on your club; I hope your club can depend on you.

Jack Frantz, President

What's new on the web page?

The club's web page, <http://opcugroup.googlepages.com/home> has been updated with the following:

1. **How to make free information calls.**
Dialing 1-800-FREE411 is the way.
See the web page for more info.
2. **Latest newsletter.** In the header of the web page is a link to display the latest Newsletter. The Newsletter posted is the September 1 edition. Shortly after this letter is distributed, an archive of the 2007 Newsletters will be added and the header link will be changed to this newsletter.

P.C. Club Meetings

Thank You Maury !

Welcome !

Refreshments and

Door Prizes !

Your Helper Committee !

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Monday, October 8th. – ‘Computer Talk’ Session, West Rec. Center

The OPCUG computer talk session will be held at 2:45 p.m. on Monday, October 8th. This question and answer period will be led by the technical committee. You are requested to jot down your questions. 3 x 5 cards will be available. The OPCUG Board Meeting will be held earlier, at 1:45 p.m. All members are welcome at our board meetings.

Monday, October 15th. - General Membership Meeting

The General Membership Meeting will also be held at the West Recreation Center. Starting at 2 p.m., Gary Caldwell will cover the history, evolution, and current uses of Craig's list.com. If there is something that you wish at little or no cost, or if there is something you would like to be rid of, this presentation will be of special interest for you. The meeting is on the third Monday, October 15th at 2:00 PM.

THANKS TO MAURY CHORNESS

At the general meeting on September 17th, Maury Chorness presented information concerning the helpful cluster search engines on the Internet.

If you missed this interesting discussion, there will have copies of his handouts available after the meeting on October 15th. Thank you again Maury for your informative presentation.

WELCOME

We wish to welcome new member June Mayer as well as Hy and June Lieling. We hope each of you will contact one of our officers, or a board member, to express your special interests. We also hope that you will participate in club activities. The vitality of our club relies on the active participation of members like you.

HOSPITALITY

We wish to thank Trish Diviney and Jill White for arranging the refreshments for the September General Meeting. Light refreshments and “door prizes” are planned again for the meeting on October 15th, Dorrelle Aasland, chair of this committee is expected to rejoin us in October after a vacation. Door prizes for October will include the second of two deluxe surge protectors that were donated to the Club by Bill Richards. Thank you Bill!

HELPER COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill Richards, and Gran DeMerritt will set up the free exchange table for The October 15 meeting. Members are encouraged to bring recent computer magazines and software that they no longer need to the exchange table.

Bill Richards will have copies of his latest list of members who are willing to assist others with minor problems. His list includes a number of computer professionals serving in this area. Gran will have copies of handout papers from recent presentations. In particular, he will have a Handout provided by Maury Chorness at the September meeting covering ‘helpful cluster search engines’.

Fall Classes in Oakmont

Some Technical

Stuff !

OAKMONT COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER

The computer learning center is located at 310 White Oak Drive (next to the fitness center). A description of classes is available in the OPA office and is posted outside the computer center. P.C. Classes are also listed in the October 1st. issue of the OPA News. For PC information, you may call Caroline Keller at 539-7618. To register you may call Ewa Uding at 539-3461. The efforts of the many PC club members who serve and support the Center are greatly appreciated.

Google Pack – An Astounding Group of Free Programs

Google Pack offers an array of programs. They are available for download at <http://pack.google.com> Clicking on this site gives a survey of any of the Google Pack programs already installed and permits selection of any additional programs desired. The download includes Google Updater which installs the selected items and provides future updates.

To learn more about the individual programs, click http://pack.google.com/intl/en/learn_more_frameset.html In the left column you can select the program of interest. After selection, the right frame gives several options including a product tour. After finishing one to your satisfaction, you can go to another through some sixteen separate programs. Some are Google's own while others are third party programs. They are always free – no trial versions or spyware.

The ones of most interest to your author are:

Picasa	Spyware Doctor Starter Edition
Google Earth	Skype
Mozilla Firefox with Google Toolbar	Star Office 8

Star Office is the star of the lineup. It is sold by Sun Microsystems as a competitor to Microsoft Office and sells for \$ 70.00. The difference between the Google Free version and the direct sale item is telephone support.

I have tried out Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents in both directions, saving Star Office documents in Microsoft format and opening them in the corresponding Microsoft program and vice versa, and did not detect any difference. If your version of Office is old or you do not have Microsoft Office, Star Office is highly recommended.

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. You will need to let us know at: sailor38@sonic.net