



# Oakmont PC Users Group

## E-Mail Newsletter

September 1, 2008

Volume 2 Number 6

### **Officers:**

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**Helper Committee:**  
Granville DeMerritt  
[grandemerritt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grandemerritt@sbcglobal.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	538-4153
Jack Feniger	538-8809
Gordon Ramsey	538-4981
Bob Rietow	537-0451
Phil Kenny	538-2075
Bob Stinson	539-7684

### **We're on the Web!**

<http://opcugroup.googlepages.com/>

### **President's Message**

A few OPCUG Board members have noticed that their ages are several notches above the average age of those at Oakmont. Recognizing that any organization requires periodic infusions of the energy and new ways of looking at things best provided by qualified, interested, *younger* members, we have started inviting some such folks to our Board meetings in the hope that some (dare we say many?) might be motivated to step in. I think we are achieving some success, but we can always consider more. Are you interested? If so, please speak to me or any current Board member.

**Art Nichols, President**

### **Welcome New Members**

Since we did not have newsletters over the summer months we would like to welcome the following new members over the summer: **Bob and Joan Bergman, Jules and Barbara Glaser, Berkeley Johnson, Peter Lommori, Larry Maniscalco, Linda Canar and Jo Cipra.** We invite you to contact Gordon Ramsey (or any of our board members) to express your special interests.

### **September Q & A Session**

**Monday September 8 – Computer Talk Session, West Recreation Center at 2:45 p.m.**

Our regular monthly Question and Answer help session will be held at 2:45 p.m. on September 8 at the West Recreation Center following our Board meeting at 1:45 p.m. Please bring any questions for which you might want answers. **Any member is also welcome and invited to attend our Board meetings.**

### **September General Meeting**

**Monday September 15 – West Recreation Center at 2 p.m.**

Our September program will be given by Judie Coleman, a familiar Oakmont computer expert, on Tips, Tricks and Secrets of the Vista operating system. Since Vista is somewhat different from the XP operating system, you may find this very helpful. Judie is a Certified Windows Expert. Our fine hospitality committee will have refreshments and door prizes as usual. Gran DeMerritt has available a list of both volunteer and professional computer helpers. Gran also has copies of past program handouts and he maintains the Exchange Table for periodicals and equipment. Feel free to contact him for this information.

***Yummy Stuff  
September 15***

**Coffee and Dessert**

We invite you to join us during our general meeting on the third Monday for refreshments. We present an array of cookies, cakes, coffee, tea, and soft drinks. We offer refreshments as an informal way to socialize and compare the many challenges of our computers. This event is chaired by Dorrelle Aasland (537-1518) and Jill White. We encourage you to call Dorrelle to contribute some cookies to the desserts.

***What's New?***

**What's New on the Web Page?**

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

1. The April 1, 2008, Newsletter was added to the Archive and the May 1, 2008, Newsletter was mounted in the masthead.
2. The Spring Schedule of Classes for the Oakmont Computer Learning Center was removed because the classes have been completed and the Learning Center is closed for renovation.
3. Granville DeMerritt's picture was mounted, replacing that of Bill Richards. Bill has moved to Oakmont Gardens and Granville has assumed the duties of Helper Committee Chairman. Thanks, Bill, for your years of service.
4. BullZip PDF Printer information and instructions were added. (See Technical Stuff below)

***Technical Stuff***

**BullZip PDF Printer**

When we transmit a document, the recipient is required to have a program which will open the document and the font(s) used if it is to look the same as the original. Sometimes this is severely limiting for something like a party invitation done in a flowing script-like font. The answer is to use the PDF - Portable Document Format - originally pioneered by Adobe.

Almost every computer these days has Adobe Reader installed to open PDF format documents. These documents contain all the information required to reproduce the document with the same appearance as the original. It is for this reason that most of the distribution of this newsletter is made in PDF format.

Adobe has for many years distributed the Adobe Reader free and has built a good market for their Adobe Acrobat software for the generation of PDF documents. The lowest price for versions in the Acrobat family is \$300. In recent years, a number of free PDF generators have become available from the open source community. Although not as capable as the commercial Acrobat, the free versions are quite adequate for most home/small business users. They all install as a printer along side of your regular printer(s) and convert the document by selecting it as the printer and printing to a file you select.

The best of the free versions, in my opinion, is the BullZip PDF Printer. In addition to converting documents it also permits appending several documents together to make one PDF. If for some reason you generate a newsletter with each page a separate document, they can easily be combined into one PDF document. It also provides for watermarking (e.g., DRAFT) with adjustment for font size, rotation and transparency; also encryption, graphics, quality and other features.

***Gone Phishing***

For step by step instructions on how to obtain and install BullZip PDF Printer visit our Club web site at: <http://opcugroup.googlepages.com/> and look for the item on BullZip PDF Printer.

If for some reason you do not have Adobe Reader on your computer, simply browse to: <http://www.adobe.com/>, press the "Get Adobe Reader" button and follow instructions.

**Phishing (Fishing) for Your Personal Data**

According to the Wikipedia Computer Dictionary, phishing (fish'ing) is the act of sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that might be used for "identity theft."

A PC Club member recently received such a HOAX e-mail. It appeared to come from "sonic.net." The company, Sonic.net, confirmed in a phone call that it was a SCAM. Phishing e-mail messages are made to appear to be from your bank or someone (or company) you know. To make e-mail messages APPEAR legitimate, the scam artist may place a link that appears to be the legitimate Web site, but actually takes you to a phony scam site. They may even copy and display a real company "Logo." Microsoft, in a web site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/phishing/identify.msp> provides an excellent item on phishing. "Copy and Paste" the above link into your address bar.

**Oakmont Computer Learning Center (OCLC)**

***OCLC***

The OCLC has suspended classes during the Central Facility Complex renovation. During this time all of the computers and computer software will be upgraded to ensure that the teaching experience offered will be "state of the art." Classes should resume sometime in the fall of 2009.

While the classroom is closed, the OCLC is offering a lecture series once a month on computing topics and other technology of interest. These 2-hour programs will be available to ALL Oakmont residents at no charge. You don't need to be computer savvy – or even own a computer – to participate and benefit from these lectures.

**Session 1: Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Berger Auditorium: "There's A Computer in Your Future" or "So What Do I Do With the Thing Now?"**

This presentation is especially for those who don't have a computer, have thought about getting one or have only recently acquired one. Bring friends or neighbors. Both Macintosh and Windows/Vista computers will be used during the lecture, so no one is left out. For further details see the column in the *Oakmont News*. If you know of someone who is contemplating purchase of a computer or has recently purchased one, please refer them to this session.

**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: [sailor38@sonic.net](mailto:sailor38@sonic.net)