



# Oakmont PC Users Group

## E-Mail Newsletter

April 1, 2009

Volume 3 Number 4

### **Officers:**

*President: Gordon Ramsey*  
[ramsey7999@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ramsey7999@sbcglobal.net)

*Vice President: Ruth Caldwell*  
[ruthiec@sonic.net](mailto:ruthiec@sonic.net)

*Secretary: Art Nichols*  
[annpgn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annpgn@sbcglobal.net)

*Treasurer: Gary Goodenough*  
[gmgooody@pacbell.net](mailto:gmgooody@pacbell.net)

*Communications:*  
*Krystine Boehme*  
[tvkrys@yahoo.com](mailto:tvkrys@yahoo.com)

*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**

We have some excellent programs coming up this month and next on **Google** and **Wii**. Again, we also request if there are any subjects our members would like to see presented in our Fall season, please contact our Program Chairman, Jack Frantz, at [jack@thefrantzes.com](mailto:jack@thefrantzes.com).

We have received a number of interesting websites from some of our members that might interest you. These sites are shown elsewhere in our Newsletter.

**Gordon Ramsey, President**

### **Welcome New Members**

We welcome the following new members to our club: **Esther Caraco, Lewis Gobble, Una Skelly, John and Rose Speight, Robert Tuttle, and Kathy and Randy Vincent**. We encourage our new members to get involved. You are all welcome to attend our Board meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month at 1:45 p.m. in the West Recreation Center prior to our Q & A Session at 2:45 p.m. Please feel free to contact any of our officers for any help or assistance.

### **Helper Committee**

All members are reminded that the Helpers Table at each membership meeting has many items of interest. There is a list of handouts available which cover most of the programs over the past year. In addition, there is a current Helper List, which includes volunteer and "for a fee" helpers. On the table, you will also find an array of donated books, magazines, "How To" material, and many other computer items, all free for the taking. If you have similar items to donate, please feel free to bring them with you to any membership meeting. A copy of the monthly Newsletter is also available on the Helper Table, as well as in the OVA Office.

### **Hospitality Committee**

We want to thank **Dorrelle Aasland, Pat Schabel, Betty Seacord** and **Hank Richmond** for providing some tasty refreshments for our March 16 meeting. Also thanks to **Kay Johnson** for set-up help. We are always looking for additional help and all those willing to help please call Dorrelle at 537-1518.

***Send in Your Questions***

***Goo Goo Google***

***How Stuff Works***

### **April Question & Answer Session**

**Monday, April 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 Emcee. If you would email your questions or problems to Bob at [bobmandel@psualum.com](mailto:bobmandel@psualum.com) 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 email requests will have priority.

### **April General Meeting**

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

The April General Meeting will feature **George McKinney** on *The Wonderful World of Google*. Here's what George has to say:

We've all become used to Google. We use it for searching the internet. But Google is expanding quickly to become a vast reservoir of important information and techniques. Every day there are more capabilities from Google as it tries to hold and expand its position as a leader in this industry. Google owns YouTube, the leading source for on-line videos. It also offers a host of valuable resources which seem unrelated to its original mission as the leader in searches.

At this presentation we'll discuss how Google makes it possible to translate a passage from Russian to English; how you can use Google to set up a website, a blog, or form a group; how to find a video of Frank Sinatra singing "New York, New York"; and how to use Google to stay updated on the latest results of the Minnesota Senatorial election.

We'll discuss Google Maps, including street view and traffic. We'll also review the fabulous capabilities of Google Earth. Once you use Google for directions you may never use MapQuest again!

We'll also discuss more mundane things about Google – improving your search effectiveness (what does a search for "Joe Dimaggio" 1950...1960 mean?), and new search engines in the Google family incorporating books, scholarly resources, and videos, and Gmail.

Finally, we'll spend a few minutes with Google Pack, Google's way of helping you with useful free software, and Google Desktop, a way of organizing your desktop and searching within your computer.

**Interesting Website – <http://computer.howstuffworks.com>**

A most interesting web site named *How Stuff Works* has been suggested for our newsletter. It is a huge site which offers simple explanations for a wide variety of topics ranging from Automobiles to High Finance. The tab on Computers is especially fruitful. Individual topics explain the most basic concepts all the way to detailed *How to* articles such as *How to Add Memory to Your Desktop Computer* <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/add-ram-desktop.htm> .

## **Check the Web Page**

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

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

1. The February 1, 2009, Newsletter was added to the Archive and the March 1, 2009, Newsletter was mounted in the Masthead.
2. The handout from the March 16, 2009, meeting presentation by Dutch Lichliter on *The TV Set and Computer Converge* was posted. This handout contains a many very useful links to web sites which offer TV for viewing on your computer and also sites relating on to how to bring the computer video to your TV set.
3. *Trash Pickup Discounts for Seniors* is the title of a short article. Some of the Senior Citizens living in Oakmont are not aware that *Santa Rosa Recycling & Collections* offers discounted rates for Senior Citizens. The eligibility criteria and the application form are provided as a PDF download.

### **Technical Stuff**

Among the most exciting applications of computer technology is the category of graphics manipulation. Graphics manipulation programs break into two distinct groups:

- Bit Mapped - The image is made up of row after row of colored dots just as is the case for TV images. The format .jpg is an example and the files are usually large. The "Gold Standard" for this group is *Adobe Photoshop*. The program takes considerable effort and time to master and is quite expensive, although a lower priced and less capable version *Adobe Photoshop Elements* is available. There is a free program which was started as an undergraduate senior project at MIT under the mentorship of Microsoft. Click <http://www.getpaint.net/> to get the download, tutorials, a blog and other useful information
- Vector Graphics - The image is drawn by lines and is the format for *Clip Art* which is used to liven up many documents. The format .svg is an example and the files are much smaller than bit mapped files. The "Gold Standards" are *Adobe Illustrator* and *Corel Draw*. These programs are also fairly complex. Somewhat easier to master is *Inkscape*. It is a free program. Click: <http://www.inkscape.org/> for access to the download, clip art library, tutorials and much more.

Each of the programs permit importing graphic files of the other type so that the end product can be a combination of bit mapped and vector graphics. Both web sites offer extensive tutorials for those willing to invest the time to reap the reward of a new skill.

Happy manipulating!

## **Graphics for All**

***Back to College!***

**Lifelong Learning – FREE SRJC Courses**

**Photo Retouching:** Many family photos show the wear and tear of many years of storage. They often show blemishes or have faded over time. The photo retouching skills you'll learn in this class will provide you an opportunity to bring these old photographs back to life. The course will introduce you to the use of scanners, digital cameras, and how to use Adobe Photoshop to effectively scan images, restore and repair photographs, correct image tone and color and optimize quality.

**NOTE: students should have basic working knowledge of Photoshop or Photoshop Elements to take this class. This is not a class for beginning Photoshop users.**

SE 505, Section #8637

5 Fridays, April 17 – May 15

10 AM – 12:00 Noon

Room 2802 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Maggini Hall, SRJC's Santa Rosa campus

FREE

**Robotics Design and Programming:** Building and programming robots appeals to everyone from the very young to all of you who are still very young-at-heart. This class will take you through the fundamentals of designing and programming a mobile robot from the bottom up. All robots are built using Lego bricks. Yes, these are the same Legos your children and grandchildren use and which are used in many colleges and universities around the country to teach robotic design. Topics will include mechanical design, microcontrollers, motors and locomotion, sensors, navigation, and computer vision.

SE 505, Section #8636

5 Fridays, April 17-May 15

12:45 – 2:45 PM

Room 2806 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Maggini Hall, SRJC's Santa Rosa Campus

FREE

These classes have been scheduled to allow Oakmont residents to ride Bus 30 from Oakmont to SRJC in time for each class, and to return to Oakmont on Bus 30 after the class(es) are completed. Bus fares will be reimbursed.

If you prefer to drive or car pool, a 5-session parking pass is available for \$15 in a parking lot immediately adjacent to Maggini Hall.

Registration materials are available in the OVA office. For more information see the *Oakmont News* article: *Lifelong Learning*.

**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: [tvkrys@yahoo.com](mailto:tvkrys@yahoo.com)