



Oakmont PC Users Group

E-Mail Newsletter

December 1, 2009

Volume 3 Number 9

Officers:

President:

Gordon Ramsey
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Vice President:

Ruth Caldwell
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Secretary:

Art Nichols
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Treasurer:

Gary Goodenough
gmgooody@pacbell.net

Communications:

Krystine Boehme
krystine_at_oakmont@yahoo.com

Helper Committee:

Granville DeMerritt
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:*

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://opcuqgroup.googlepages.com/>

President's Message

This will be my last message as president of your club. It has been an interesting year. We reached a new level of membership with 200 paid members this past year. I want to thank all the officers and members of our board for their support, for without it life becomes much more complicated. Unfortunately we are losing two very active members of our board this year. Dorrelle Aasland, who was our Hospitality Chair, and who always managed to have some great refreshments on every meeting day, has resigned after many years of service. We will miss her greatly as Dorrelle was the kind of person you like to have on your team. Her responsibilities were carried out without complaint and one could always depend on her to get the job done. The other board member leaving is Bob Stinson. Bob could always be counted on to step up when help was needed and he provided a common sense voice in our board meetings as well. We will miss both of them greatly.

Fortunately we have three new board members who will be seated at our January board meeting. We anticipate they will step in and provide some new strength and ideas for our board and we look forward to their service. They are Arlene O'Rourke, Lewis Gobble, and Dutch Lichliter.

There are three officers who have been willing to serve for several years and continue to provide continuing service to your club. They are Ruth Caldwell, Gary Goodenough and Art Nichols. All of them have served without complaint and have done a great job. Thanks to them for keeping things running smoothly.

I would also like to pay special mention to Jack Frantz who will be your new president in the coming year. This is Jack's second time as president and he is stepping in when the nominating committee was unable to find a nominee. Jack is a real stalwart on our board and is an exceptional asset to our club. He works tirelessly and provides extra support whenever needed. Without him our club would be hard pressed to get many of the chores completed.

Gordon Ramsey, President

New Officers for 2010

President:	Jack Frantz
Vice President:	Ruth Caldwell
Treasurer	Gary Goodenough
and Membership:	
Secretary:	Art Nichols

There will be no club meetings in December.

Program for January 18, 2010

Spreadsheet Fun

Spreadsheets – Excel: It's not just a fancy adding machine. From simple shopping lists to complex Macro driven applications - some are just for fun and others are serious. You will get an overview of some of the types of applications you can create in Excel and witness the power of this spreadsheet program. The other major Spreadsheet programs function in similar fashion to Excel. For more instruction, sign up with the Oakmont Computer Learning Center (OCLC). Take the full course for some hands-on training. Mike Noble, a very experienced practitioner will present the program on January 18, 2010, at 2 p.m.

Hospitality Committee

Many Thanks, Dorrelle

We want to thank Dorrelle Aasland and Bob Mandelstam along with several other helpers for the fine refreshments available at our November meeting. It was like an early Thanksgiving with many choices to satisfy the palate. **I would like to point out that if we do not receive a volunteer for the Hospitality Chairman, we will have to dispense with refreshments at future meetings.** These social times do provide an opportunity for members to discuss the program and to compare notes.

Anyone willing to volunteer for the Hospitality Chair please contact Jack Frantz, our 2010 president.

Thanks to our November Program Presenters

Graphics Thanks

We want to thank Jack Frantz and Gary Caldwell for a fine program in November on the free Graphics and Photo editing programs that are available to club members. We are fortunate that we have members who are willing to put the time and effort into making these presentations to our club.

OCLC News

OCLC Up and Running In January

The Oakmont Computer Learning Center (OCLC) will resume classes in their new facility in January 2010. The schedule of classes is published in the December 1st edition of the *Oakmont News* and is also available in the OVA office.

Important Announcement!

Web Page is "Down"

Google has discontinued googlepages.com. For quite a while Google has not accepted new users to googlepages.com. In the last week they have automatically migrated our club site to sites.google.com. As frequently happens with automatic transfers considerable garbling has occurred. As a result, a major restructuring will be required before the site is back to its former utility. The plan is to have a new and improved web site operational at a newly purchased URL about January 1, 2010. In the meantime if you go to the old site, Google will automatically redirect you to the migrated sites.google.com location. Between now and the new site date we will try to bring some utility back to our web page at the sites.google.com location.

Bring on the New

Considerations When Buying a New Computer

1. Laptop or Desktop - The portability of a laptop is highly desirable but it comes at a price. The Laptop is more expensive for the same performance and very often cannot equal the capability of the Desktop without getting into the heroic price range. If the main reason for a laptop is to check e-mail and internet while traveling, a Netbook in addition to a Desktop computer might be the answer. A nice Netbook can be purchased for ~ \$300. A good Desktop will be \$500 to \$600.
2. 32 bit or 64 bit Windows 7 - If you plan to keep the computer for a long time (5 years?) the 64-bit version of Windows 7 is necessary, but the proper processor is also required. The 32-bit system can only address 3 Gigabytes (GB) of Memory (RAM) and future applications will require ever increasing amounts of RAM.
3. RAM - RAM is very easy to add later and is relatively inexpensive. To be able to add, the motherboard should provide a *maximum RAM supported* of at least 6 GB and start with 4 GB using the 64-bit version of Windows 7.
4. Processor - The processor chip should be at least a Core 2 Duo (Intel) or X2 (AMD). The multiple processors in one processor case are needed to best utilize the 64-bit architecture. Avoid Sempron (AMD) or Celeron (Intel) processors. These will always be a bottleneck in your system, especially in the future. The Intel processors on an "apples to apples" comparison add \$50 to \$100 to the price of the computer. Both brands of processor function equally well.
5. Other - Additional considerations are where to buy. First, buy on sale and don't forget on line purchases. Locally, Best Buy, Staples and Office Depot. Costco, both in store and on line (<http://www.costco.com/>) is an excellent source when they have a sale. Costco doubles the manufacturers warranty. They also sell ZT Systems Computers which give more computer for a lower price than the major brands and provide lifetime 24/7 toll free support. An outstanding on line source is Newegg (<http://www.newegg.com/>). Monitor the Newegg daily specials. They have a generous return policy, as does Costco.

Considerations for Upgrading a Computer to Windows 7

Unless you are upgrading from Windows Vista, the work involved in upgrading is only slightly more than that involved in buying a new computer. You will need to transfer all your Favorites, e-mail and associated settings and applications. There are three very important tools to aid this process.

Up With the Old

1. Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor - The download is available from: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/upgrade-advisor.aspx>. Running the Advisor results in a very complete report on issues that may be encountered by the upgrade. If there are any problems with peripherals, such as printers, these will be delineated along with recommendations as to what to do about it. Run Advisor before purchasing the upgrade disk/s.

2. Easy Transfer - Can be downloaded for Windows XP at: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/products/features/windows-easy-transfer>. This provides an easy way to move your files and settings from the old system to the new. Copy the files you wish to transfer from the old computer to a flash drive or CD/DVD and then, after upgrade, transfer them to the new installation. The Wizard helps you pick what to move. Easy transfer is already part of Windows Vista and Windows 7.
3. Ninite - A wonderful program to automatically install many of the free applications you desire after upgrade. Ninite provides a colorful listing of 48 applications from Firefox Browser to several anti virus programs. Simply check the boxes for the desired applications and Ninite will install them in your computer. The web site is <http://ninite.com/>. To read more on how it works, go to: <http://www.howtogeek.com/howto/4774/getvolery-makes-installing-software-incredibly-simple/>.

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

There will be no club meetings in December.