



An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

REPORTS

Volume 24 Issue 4
Fourth Quarter 2013

Association of Personal Computer User Groups

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| APCUG Communications | 48 |
| APCUG DMA&NASAC Regional Computer Conference on Digital Technology | 4 |
| APCUG Financial Summary | 3 |
| Are Your User Group Meetings "kinda" Boring? | 40 |
| Article Deadlines | 49 |
| Board of Advisors | 48 |
| Board of Directors | 48 |
| Do You Need "New" Presentations For Your Group? | 49 |
| How to Register on the APCUG Website | 30 |
| MEETUP TECH SIG | 42 |
| Membership | 7 |
| New APCUG Logo | 44 |
| O'Reilly Quarterly Book Program | 44 |
| October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month | 7 |
| Officers | 48 |
| OPCUG / PATACS Meeting setup | 13 |
| PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | 2 |
| REGION 1 | 8 |
| REGION 10 | 27 |
| REGION 11 | 27 |
| REGION 2 | 9 |
| REGION 3 | 14 |
| REGION 4 | 17 |
| REGION 5 | 18 |
| REGION 6 and INTERNATIONAL | 20 |
| REGION 7 | 23 |
| REGION 8 | 24 |
| REGION 9 | 25 |
| SAVE THE DATE | 29 |
| Some Tips for Writing for the APCUG Website | 39 |
| Spring 2014 FACUG Technology Conference | 45 |
| Volunteer of the Year | 44 |
| What Apcug Offers | 46 |
| Why Can't I Log on to the APCUG Website? | 38 |
| Windows XP's Swan Song | 43 |

ELECTION REPORT

Think you are qualified to be a member of the Board of Directors or the Board of Advisors in APCUG? Well, we do. If you are reading this, chances are that you are a Director or an Officer in your local user group, and have proven that you have what it takes to volunteer and help your fellow user group members.

The only real requirement is the eagerness to help, and be a part of one of the best organizations in the country.

We are currently seeking candidates for the Annual Elections. This year we have three Director positions and five Advisor positions up for election. Candidates for the Board of Directors will serve for a three year term, and candidates for the Board of Advisors serve a two year term.

So if you or someone in your organization would be interested in working directly with the APCUG, send a current picture and a bio of 250 words or less describing your activities within your user group to the APCUG Elections Committee at elections@apcug.org by no later than October 15th.

Thanks Ya'll,
The Elections Committee
David Steward, Chair
Patty Lowry
David Williams

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

During this past quarter, **Hank Feinberg** resigned as a Director, and **Roger Tesch** resigned as an Advisor. Both these people gave APCUG a lot of their time and dedication, so for this we thank them. It isn't easy to find volunteers, and these gentlemen both gave years of service. **Lee Laughner** is our new Director as well as the new Editor of Reports. We thank her for taking on these positions.

Marie Vesta
APCUG President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time is of the Essence! That is a phrase that I have heard at different times of my life concerning different subjects, but feel that it represents the status of our local User Groups. We are slowly fading away. Each month a few more groups dissolve and their membership scatters. Some find another user group, but some just give up trying. If we don't take the time now to create new interests for our present and future members, the whole idea of User Groups will become a thing of the past.

As leaders of these groups, it is our job, (even though voluntarily) to find the answer to this problem. Are we offering the information that our members require? Are we presenting informative and useful SIGs? Are we using all the tools that are available to make our groups look inviting to new members?

APCUG offers a lot of answers to these questions. As volunteers, we all know there is a burn out percentage and getting vendors to do presentations is definitely a part of the past.



APCUG has the capabilities to come to your meeting via Skype, Zoom, or other programs and do a live presentation for you. We can take a lot of worry about finding presenters. There is a list of presentations available under Benefits on the website at www.apcug2.org. Take the time and look these over, you might be surprised to find everything from how to use an iPhone to digital imaging techniques.

APCUG also offers the Virtual Technology Conferences every quarter. Five hours with two subjects to choose from, Technical to User Group friendly. I have been attending computer conferences in different areas of the United States for the past 15 years and can't convey to you the friends that I have made and the knowledge that has been gained through them. With the economy the way it is today, attending conferences in person isn't easy anymore, but with the VTC, you get to sit at home, meet people with the same passions for your hobby, and learn more about this technical world than you ever thought possible. Yes, you will actually meet people, and their names will start to become familiar to you; not only the presenter, but the rest of the audience. The best part of this is no cost other than your time. How long has it been since someone has given you the opportunity to attend a five- hour learning session free?

Lastly, let me say that Time is of the Essence because once a User Group closes its doors, there is no going back. Let's try and save the ones we have by coming together and using all the resources that are available to us.

Until next time,
Marie Vesta
APCUG President

[Back to Index](#)

APCUG Financial Summary

Sandy Hart, Treasurer

shart@apcug.org**APCUG Treasurer's Summary Report 3rd Quarter 2013**

| | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------|
| PayPal Account | July 1, 2013 Balance | 624.55 |
| Regional Conference Registrations- 24 | 1690.00 | 1690.00 |
| Fees | -121.00 | |
| Transfer from PayPal to Operating Acct | -1700.00 | -1821.00 |
| PayPal Balance 9-30-2013 | | 493.55 |
| Bank of America Operating Acct Balance 7-1-13 | | 8767.04 |
| Income: | | |
| Transfer from PayPal | 1700.00 | |
| Travel - Airfare refund | 289.60 | |
| Membership Renewals | 150.00 | |
| Regional Conference -Registrations/raffle | 1030.00 | |
| Total Income | 3169.60 | 3169.60 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Online Services/Hosting/communications | -1242.81 | |
| UGLS Software Upgrades | -531.25 | |
| Travel | -596.15 | |
| Shipping - mail forwarding | -21.44 | |
| Contests: Photo Printing | -26.84 | |
| Regional Conference -Venue/printing/Raffle prize | -3100.28 | |
| Regional Conference - Refund | -68.16 | |
| | -5586.93 | -5586.93 |
| Operating Acct 9/30/13 Balance | | 6349.71 |
| PayPal Balance | | 493.55 |
| Savings Balance | | 17973.09 |
| CD Balance | | 101835.77 |
| Net Worth as of 9-30-2013 | | 126652.12 |

Additional income for the DMA/NASAC Regional in OH was mailed and didn't make it before the end of September. The Regional was successful with a small profit.



An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

APCUG DMA&NASAC Regional Computer Conference on Digital Technology

September 13, 14 and 15, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Airport Dayton, OH

Robert Lee Vance (Bob), Advisor
bvance@apcug.org

The Regional conference started with a "Meet and Greet" on Friday night, giving the attendees a chance to mingle and network with the members of other user groups locally, nationally, and internationally.

With the APCUG Vice President, several directors, and a few APCUG Advisors present, the attendees learned more about our International organization, what it stands for, and how we can support and assist user groups.



The morning began with general announcements and Hewie Poplock gave a quick overview of the new APCUG website after which Hewie introduced Dave (Doc) Dockery who kicked off the conference with the informative Keynote: *The Future of Technology*.

Next were the breakout sessions that included three separate tracks. Track 1 was mostly hardware, whereas Track 2 covered miscellaneous subjects, and Track 3 highlighted software and applications for computers. Attendees had the opportunity to choose from 33 uniquely different presentations.

Track 1 Hardware presentation included recycling and repair by Jim Amore, Licking County Computer Society, and by Gary Granger's presentation on the Computer Museum, concluding the morning block with a presentation on Arduino, an open-source electronic prototyping platform, intended for artists, designers, hobbyists, and anyone interested in creating interactive objects or environments.



Track 2 had a presentation by Leroy Clouser on the *Neat Scanning System*. Patty Lowry, the membership chair of APCUG, explained how to use the new User Group Locator Service (UGLS). Greg West then shared information on iPad basics.

Track 3 was about three popular software programs. Bob Gostischa's presentation from Avast on how to protect yourself and keep your data secure on line. Hewie Poplock did an Introduction to Evernote, and Team Viewer a Desktop sharing program.

Following lunch, we enjoyed the Gene Barlow Webinar, *Switching to a Solid State Drive (SSD)*

Track 1 kicked off the afternoon with Jeff Carlson from Intel providing information on the new Haswell series 4 Processor. He was followed by David Williams, director with APCUG, doing a presentation on *Stayin' Connected* followed by *3-D printing* by Stephen Frey.

Track 2 included *Traveling With your iPad* by Greg West; next came Bob Gostischa from Avast with a presentation called *You've Got a New Computer Now What?* For those interested in e-commerce there was a presentation for Protecting Yourself on eBay & Craig's List



Track 3 focused on Genealogy, the LDS Data base, and how to research. Michael Garrambone was the presenter. Before breaking for DINNER, Keith Mayer updated us on the Microsoft Windows 8 Server.

Sunday gave the choice of nine presentations, so the attendees again had some tough choices to make.



Hardware Track 1 started off Grant Root showing the advantages of backing up in the

cloud. Charles Rocket with Dayton Diode Hackerspace gave us information on or learning, making, and hacking Arduino, Android, carpentry, and metal casting robots and more.

Track 2, Miscellaneous Subjects included presentations about Facebook and Instagram, presented by Jamie & Taylor Flynn, and rounded out by a presentation by Dave Lundy on Digital Photography.

Track 3, Software Subjects started Catherine Devlin's presentation on Programming with Python, a cross platform program that works with Mac and Linux. APCUG VP Hewie Poplock gave an excellent presentation websites using Drupal. He also explained issues he encountered while the new APCUG web site. The last presenter in this track was Don the Linux Guy, who explained the benefits of using an open source system.



Windows,
on creating
creating
Corbett,
operating

The final Sunday afternoon breakout sessions included a virtual tour of Microsoft Store, a presentation on Nano Technology and Nano Science, and application of extremely small things, by Gary Turner of the DMA user group of Dayton. We also had the chance to see Robyn Coy give an excellent presentation about geo-caching.

Besides the iPad Grand Prize drawing, winner Suzette de Guzman, who had bought more tickets than anyone else, there were numerous discounts and door prizes awarded to the attendees. The prizes included: books, e-books, software USB drives, camera storage cards iPad Tablet Screen Cleaners, a free night stay at the Holiday Inn Dayton Airport. The Dayton Microcomputer Association won a one year renewal of their membership in APCUG.

As the conference came to a close it was time to make the announcements of the winners of the various APCUG contests. They included the Jerry Awards, the Digital Photo, Website, and Newsletter contest.

Jerry Awards

1st place winner: Quad-Cities Computer Society
2nd Place Winner: Los Angeles Computer Society

Digital Photos

Animals

1st Place Winner - Lion Licking, by Helaine Cummins, TUGNET, Los Angeles, California
2nd Place Winner - Wide-eyed Cat, by Dave Lundy, Dayton Microcomputer Association, Dayton, Ohio
3rd Place Winner - Sleeping Bear, by Randy McIntyre, Quad Cities Computer Society, Moline, Iowa

People

1st Place - Cowboy, by Helaine Cummins, TUGNET, Los Angeles, California
2nd Place - Renaissance Woman, Stanley Warshow, Boca Raton Computer Society, Boca Raton, FL
3rd Place - Alien Invasion, by Dave Lundy, Dayton Microcomputer Association, Dayton, Ohio

Still Life

1st Place - Stand and be Counted, by Darlene Norton, Quad Cities Computer Society, Moline, Iowa
2nd Place - Broken Blub, by Don Feighery, OLLI PC Group at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
3rd Place - High Tea, by Helaine Cummins, TUGNET, Los Angeles, California

Landscape

1st Place - Annecy, France, by Jane Quinn, Computer User's Group of Redding, Redding California
2nd Place - River in Zion National Park, by Helaine Cummins, TUGNET, Los Angeles, California
3rd Place - There's One in Every Crowd, Darlene Norton, Quad Cities Computer Society, Moline, Iowa

Website

1st Place: PC Community (PCC) (Haywood, California)

2nd Place: Tampa Bay Computer Society User Group (Tampa Bay, Florida)

3rd Place: Philadelphia Area Computer Society (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Newsletter Contest

1st Place Boca Raton Computer Society / *Boca Bits*

2nd Place TUGNET / *Keywords*

3rd Place Space Coast PC Users Group / *The Space Coast PC Journal*

This conference was a mix of Windows, Mac, Linux, and mobile devices and their programs, and the applications that run on these platforms to help make our lives more productive.



[Back to Index](#)

Membership

Patty Lowry

Membership Chairman

plowryapcug@gmail.com



Another year has passed and it is now time to renew your membership to APCUG. Once again we are having an “Early Bird” renewal contest. Three lucky groups that renew before December 31, 2013 will be put in a drawing for a Kindle eReader. It will be preloaded with \$300 worth of books courtesy of O’Reilly.

Each year APCUG gives a one year membership to a club attending a conference. The fifth and final free year membership was given away in Ohio. The winners for this year are: Valencia Falls Computer and Technology Club, Florida; Northwest Florida Association of User Groups, Florida; Sun Village Computer Club, Arizona; Sonoma Valley Computer Group, California; and Dayton Area Microcomputer, Ohio. Congratulations to you all and don’t forget to take advantage of APCUG Benefits.

Instructions to update your group’s information can be found on the new APCUG website, www.apcug2.org, under “Find a User Group”.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

Judy Taylour

Has your group signed up to be a Champion? APCUG has and all APCUG member groups are encouraged to support NCSAM by becoming a Champion.

- Being a champion is a way for your group to officially show its support for National Cyber Security Awareness Month and its commitment to cyber security.
- Being a champion is easy and does not require any financial support.
www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/champions/

You will find links on their website to events and free security check-ups as well as Tip Sheets: Botnet Fact Sheet, Victims of Cybercrime, Mobile Tip Sheet, Internet Safety & Security Tips for Parents, STOP, THINK, CONNECT – Tips & Advice.

[Back to Index](#)

REGION 1**CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT**

Sam Wexler, Advisor

swexler@apcug.org**Southern Tier Personal Computing Club**

Vestal, New York

Freebies! By Dave Bilcik,

Next stop we will consider a group of the leading “bread and butter” applications you might want on your machine, the “free” office suites. All are compatible (enough) with Microsoft Office to allow you to do what you want with your files. To give you an idea how much you can save, Microsoft Office Home and Business 2013 is about \$220 at Staples at the moment.

First on the list is LibreOffice 4.0.4, a new release, open source, and free. There is a version that will work on Macs, Linux and Windows. It is currently my choice as a word processor and it seems to handle most of what I want it to do. You can get one for Macs, Linux and, of course, Windows. Go to http://download.cnet.com/LibreOffice/3000-18483_4-75337651.html to get the newest version. They are updating this suite more aggressively than most and working to eliminate the need for a Java environment for extended functionality.

Next to consider is Kingsoft Office Suite Free 2013 (Ver. 9.1.0.4058). It is also free and the code is proprietary (you can't see the source code or make changes). Its interface looks very much like MS Office, but it does not need Java, and it is only a 42.7 MB download. The download link is http://www.filehippo.com/download_kingsoft_office_suite_free/. There are versions of Kingsoft Office for iPad, iPhone, Samsung, and Android as well as the above Windows version we are talking about. Try it on and see if it fits the way you work.

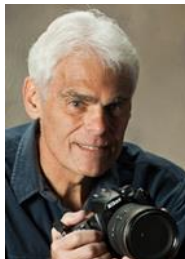
Last but not least of these “suite” deals is the browser-based cloud suite Google Drive. In 2012 Google integrated its Docs suite with Google drive (including 5 GB of free online storage for your apps). If you have a browser on your machine with internet access, you are golden and good to go with Google Drive (how many Gs was that?). See <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2403546,00.asp> for a detailed review.

There is always more. For more choices and discussion of features of the office suite freebies that are out there, see <http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-office-suite.htm> for your extra serving of more. Don't get brain freeze.

Organizing, Editing & Sharing Photos by Ken Graff, Lisa Leifels, **Danbury Area Computer Society,**

Danbury, CT

Photographer Chase Jarvis once said that ‘the best camera is the one that's with you’. This is a quote I found on the website (www.graffix.com) of Ken Graff, whom we were lucky to have as our presenter at the September 3rd general meeting. Ken showed us some examples of the amazing photographs that the small camera on your phone is capable of taking.



The first digital camera was sold in Japan in 1989 and, about a decade later, in the year 2000, the first camera phone was sold in Japan. Since that time, the quality of the cameras included on most phones has improved dramatically. In today's world, more photographs are taken on smartphones than on any other type of device. Now that it has gotten more convenient than ever to take pictures spontaneously of both the trivial and monumental events unfolding around us, a common problem many of us face is what to do next. How do you organize the large volume of valuable photographs you have accumulated over the years? This was one of the many questions that Ken addressed.

Ken is a photographer, educator, and digital artist who worked for more than three decades at Union Carbide, taking photographs all over the world. He has been the digital imaging SIG leader for DACS for the past 15 years, and he teaches at The Danbury Senior Net.

He also demonstrated how much fun digital photography can be by exploring the editing features of the free program Picasa. He showed us how a simple photograph can be transformed into an exciting piece of art with the touch of a mouse. Picasa was originally created by a company named Lifescape in 2002 and was bought by Google in 2004. The program can be used to help you organize, view, edit, and even share your photos. In case you were curious, the name "Picasa" is a blend of the name of the Spanish painter, Pablo Picasso, the Spanish phrase mi casa for "my house", and "pic" for pictures.

Not only does the device in your pocket make phone calls, play music, and take pictures and video, according to Ken, it is also a digital darkroom. There is no shortage of apps in the photography category, there are literally thousands, and they can do unbelievable things. Another topic covered was showing us a few other editing apps available for the Android and iPhone, which rival the capabilities of Photoshop for a fraction of the cost.

Ken ended his presentation with a Question and Answer session.

[Back to Index](#)

REGION 2

DC, DE, MD, NJ, VA

Gabe Goldberg, Advisor

ggoldberg@apcug.net

NEW JERSEY

Brookdale Computer Users Group (BCUG) www.bcug.com

I enjoyed visiting BCUG again to speak about my favorite Windows utilities (a frequent topic of mine!).

Princeton PC Users Group www.ppcug-nj.org

George Bunk spoke on "The Next Space Age: The rise of suborbital and personal spacecraft." He noted that the Next Space Age is happening NOW; passenger-carrying suborbital craft are flying and will start commercial service within the next two years. Small spacecraft known as "nanosats", orbiting Earth, can be constructed with inexpensive hardware by schools and even individuals. Attendees learned how these developments and others are bringing space research to the masses.

MARYLAND

Capital PC User Group www.cpcug.org

CPCUG once again hosted the Internet Cafe at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Members volunteering to spend four hours telling Fair goers about CPCUG and Project Reboot received a free Fair ticket and a snazzy t-shirt from Project Reboot (CPCUG's long-running PC refurbishing program). And a third Microsoft SQL SIG was organized (covering a different geographic area).

VIRGINIA

Fredericksburg PC Users Group (FPCUG) www.fpcug.org

FPCUG newsletters highlight upcoming meetings and -- teasingly titled "You Missed It" -- immediate past meetings. The latter is an effective way to remind members why it's worth attending meetings. Recent events included:

V. Lynn DelaMer, Executive Director, and Teresa Bowers, Senior Visitors Program Director, of Mental Health America, Fredericksburg, showed what that organization does. Lynn explained an overall view of

mental health in the United States and steps MHA (Mental Health America of Fredericksburg) is taking to help with this problem. Teresa explained how the Senior Visitors Program pairs volunteers with senior homebound individuals; volunteers spend about an hour a week with the homebound doing whatever is desired.

A presentation "We Were All Winners with AAA" recapped how AAA has been around for many years and you may have heard your grandfather -- or maybe great-grandfather -- telling stories how AAA helped him when he had to make a trip of over 100 miles. That was then, this is now. Thomas Grey described some the operations of the local AAA garage, entailing various check-ups and how the AAA garage fulfills requirements at lower cost while maintaining the manufacturer's warranty.

Important advice was offered in "If It's Too Good to be True, It probably Isn't", noting that when surfing the web, you sometimes get pop-ups offering a trip to Disney World or a wonderful cruise to the Bahamas at no cost. You go to the next step and find that you must send money to reserve your place. The speaker was Detective Patrick Lamb of the Fredericksburg Police Department whose primary job is Fingerprint Examiner but who is also very literate in detecting Internet scams. Through a PowerPoint presentation and live experiences he demonstrated typical schemes to part you from your money and capture your identity.

Northern Neck Computer Users Group www.nncug.org/pages.asp

I like NNCUG's motto, complementing the ubiquitous, "Members helping members:" "If you don't know computers, you need us. If you do know computers, we need you."

Brian Riley, NNCUG Vice-President and expert in Website development, presented "Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going", summarizing PC/technology evolution. He noted that notwithstanding hoopla about Windows 8, at least from Microsoft, sales of this product have not passed those of the not particularly well-received Vista operating system! Tablet sales are on pace to eclipse PC sales in just two years. The same is true for cameras.

The-point-and-shoot camera can now be found in a smartphone, along with the rest of its functions, in same size and for the user, much more convenient. Google seems to be concentrating on competing seriously with Microsoft. So the trend appears to be: personal use digital applications are all migrating to the smartphone/ tablet; and software is migrating to a SAS (software as service) model on the cloud.

Jennifer Nash, of Metrocast Telecommunications, presented "High Speed Internet To Arrive?" discussing the status of Metrocast's wiring of Northumberland County for high speed Internet.

The Photo SIG continued exploring aspects of Photoshop Elements (PSE).

Members were urged to bring laptop computers in order to follow what was shown, and to bring in photos to share with the group or to request advice.

Rob Mink, NNCUG President and owner of Northern Neck Computer Consultants, gave an overview of paid and free office suites for Windows based computers, covering Microsoft Office, Open Office, Libre Office, and Kingsoft Office.

Another guest speaker was Jim Bartlett discussing DNA tools and testing for genealogy research.

NNCUG's Tablet SIG met to discuss features, tricks, and apps for iPad, iPod, iPhone, or Android devices. It also covered moving photos from a tablet to a computer and vice versa.

Brian Riley discussed computer backups, including Macrium Reflect, allowing making both an image and a clone of the hard drive which is a mirrored copy of the disk.

[Back to Index](#)

Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society www.patacs.org/

PATACS painlessly raises money year-round for refreshments and parties.

Coffee/cookies/pretzels are available during meetings, with a "discreet tip jar" for contributions. And tax-deductible post-meeting Pizza SIG donations add to the treasury.

PATACS was recently gratified by feedback from a speaker, "Thanks for having such a great group! I've presented at a lot of places, and yours was, by far, the most prepared and speaker friendly." That confirms how important setup/preparation are for successful meetings, pointing to the meeting team's help and expertise which get presenters "ready to rock" with their talks. This smooth operation isn't accidental; a meeting setup sheet reminds regular/occasional/fill-in meeting logistics volunteers what to do, step-by-step. [See attached file [meeting setup](#)] Lorrin Garson continues his excellent/comprehensive newsletter article series "Useful Bits & Pieces" with topics such as "A Server at Home?" and "What Does That Malware Do and How to Identify It?"

Geof Goodrum -- in addition to sharing newsletter editing duties -- continues his wide-ranging column, "Linux and Open Source News".

After an unexpectedly prolonged construction period, PATACS returned Arlington meetings to the nicely renovated -- and still historic -- Carlin Hall Community Center.

Kyla Lupo presented "Apps for Android Smartphones". She was recruited to speak after a member saw her ad in a senior-oriented publication offering tablet and smartphone tutorials and consulting.

PATACS meetings have a relatively unusual format: in addition to a main 75-minute presentation, a less formal "Learn 30" talk offers a second topic to increase meeting appeal -- e.g., quick talk on Secunia/Belarc utilities for PC maintenance.

---General Topics, Tips, Advice

I'm sometimes asked why user groups still exist, considering the wealth of information available online. Here's an example of what online research can't provide! I mentioned at a meeting that I had problems with a still potentially workable HP LaserJet printer. A fellow member generously remarked that he had an identical printer that he wasn't using and that I could have it. Members indeed help members!

Branding and marketing are essential skills and activities for user groups. If people don't know who you are and what you do, they're unlikely to join or be committed members. Especially for groups meeting in donated or rented spaces (and not many groups own their quarters!), visibility and professionalism are always challenges. For not much money, it's possible to improve the "presence" with accessories such as trade show displays and retractable banner stands such as those from www.postupstand.com/>. These are handy for branding meetings without tacking to walls, setting up stands. Another supplier is http://qwww.quickexhibits.com/BannerStand_Imagine.htm>.

For perspective on computers and technology past, read "Strolling Down Memory (Core) Lane -- Museums and online resources help preserve computing history" at <http://ow.ly/oBe1U>>.

It's always sad when a user group disappears, but a grand gesture was made when Virginia's NovaCom donated more than \$2500 to PATACS as it dissolved. Along with the funds, many NovaCom members transferred allegiance to PATACS. So it's worthwhile for groups to know and collaborate with neighboring organizations. First, there's strength in numbers; second, groups can collaborate and coordinate activities; third, groups can combine and share resources.

Here's another motivation for people pitching in to help run user groups: "Volunteering May Make People Happier, Study Finds" <http://tinyurl.com/lymgpb8>>.

If you haven't asked your members and prospective members about interests, issues, opinions, problems, etc., check out "Readership."

Surveys: 10 Good Reasons Why" at <<http://tinyurl.com/qjpxtto>>. You can improve meeting quality and get suggestions for speakers/presentations, and sometimes even volunteers by requesting meeting evaluations. It's a tossup whether to do these online or on paper. Online surveys are cheap and easy but require people to participate after they've left the meeting; paper forms are immediate feedback but require manual tabulation.

It's easy to disappoint and annoy members by canceling or changing meetings at the last minute. Don't cancel meetings because one key person is away -- use cross-trained teams/backups to avoid being vulnerable to one individual's temporary unavailability or (much worse) sudden departure. It's best to share other jobs such as newsletter editor and webmaster to prevent burnout, develop backup, and solve problems. And it's often easier recruiting for fractional jobs than full responsibility for critical tasks.

When recruiting a prospective user group Board member, he asked why he should volunteer and what the job involved. I replied:

Why volunteer?

- Help shape group short- and long-term aspects -- e.g., in no particular order: meeting speakers/topics, technologies used, membership benefits, budgets, outreach, mission;
- Contribute to and support a community-service organization;
- Make useful industry/community contacts;
- Personal growth from teamwork, responsibilities, etc.;
- Leadership growth from ... helping lead;
- Technology growth from meeting/Board discussions and researching speakers, etc.
- Entails what?
- Attending (at least most) monthly Board meetings, third Mondays, Arlington, in person or online;
- Participating in email discussions of group issues;
- Remaining paid-up member;
- Accepting occasional task responsibilities, e.g., recruiting/booking speakers, seeking sponsors/donors, writing letters, chairing meetings, handling meeting logistics or a/v;
- Seeking occasional opportunities to help/support PATACS, e.g., community outreach, vendor liaison.

The Orange County newsletter recently complimented PATACS publication.

Many user group leaders read other groups' newsletters and websites. If you see something you like from another group, say so. It's gratifying to hardworking editors, webmasters, and contributors.

Especially when various people conduct meetings, it's easy to forget things. So it's worth creating a meeting checklist and opening/closing scripts, including key points such as Turn cellphones off! Don't answer them! Don't talk on them during meetings! I've been more than a little irritated when people around me have phones ring, answer them, and converse -- and these typically aren't teenagers and should know better!

I'm harsh when people do that during my presentations so take care of your presenters! The same is true for stamping out side conversations during presentations. It's rude to presenters and prevents audience members from hearing the talk they came for. Sometimes "yakkers" have the nerve to suddenly ask questions that have already been answered, which they'd have heard if paying attention!

I've seen too many meetings stumble and fumble because presenter technology didn't match projection capabilities. Incompatible connectors can be remedied by all sorts of adapters providing X-to-Y connectors.

Some are cheap (DVI to HDMI was less than \$10) while analog/digital cost a bit more. It might be prudent stocking up on an assortment, to more flexibly handle "situations". The same is true for accepting Apple technology -- I have iPad-to-VGA and iPad-to-HDMI cables; as more speakers use smartphones and tablets, your group should too.

User group meetings are often not very social -- people arrive, take their seats, listen to a talk, maybe ask questions, and leave -- not having met anyone new or even learned about fellow members. It's rewarding and interesting to include brief icebreaking sessions for audience self-introductions. These can be varied by asking people to briefly describe their current computing environment, first computer used, biggest current technology challenge, etc.

Especially as more user groups distribute newsletters electronically, it's easy for people to lose track of when a topic was addressed. And it's difficult for new members to access past -- but still valuable -- content. So it's worth occasionally producing a cumulative index of past issues/articles and featuring that prominently on the website.

I'm frustrated when seeking information about user groups if I can't quickly tell where the group is located, how to find meetings, and places for pre/post-meeting socializing. An online article "Create Google Maps of Your Own to Share & Collaborate with Friends" provides tips and tricks for easily creating helpful navigation aids is at <<http://tinyurl.com/nwqyx33>>

OPCUG / PATACS Meeting setup

Thanks to Mel M. for the model!

1. Mel M: Pick up the keys to Bathrooms, and Annex rooms on Thursday at 12:00 am or whenever.
2. Bill W: Thursday 4 PM -- Stock fridge with soda and water from potty barn.
3. Saturday: Classroom Key opens TA1; Social Key (1AE2) opens Social Room, Annex; Bathrooms separate key
4. AV Cabinet Keys -- Short square key opens cabinet front (plastic doors). Longer, round key opens cabinet back (shouldn't be needed.)
5. On Saturday, at approximately 11 AM, open up TA-1, Bath Rooms, and the Social / Annex rooms.
6. Open AV cabinet, turn on power (Bogen PA Amp, Audio Technical Wireless Mic Receivers, Onkyo Music Quality amp/receiver -- set to PC input.)
7. Set up white 6' table to right of screen -- don't block rear exit door with table.
8. Get bag (green tape) from drawer; remove wireless mic transmitter and headworn mic.
9. Get wireless mouse remote, Hitachi projector remote from drawer.
10. Take Items in 6&7 above, and laptop, to front of classroom, white table.
11. Set up power strip and wireless router (from bottom of AV Cabinet).
12. Take PATACS door prize box to rear PATACS table.
13. Move a 6' white table to rear center for PATACS.
14. ** June / December meetings only: Clinic Items from Cottage: Clear plastic bin with blue top contains mice, keyboards, power cords for table top. 25' yellow power cable (bucket), LAN cables, LAN switches. Flat panel monitors (Rm 103 -- low shelves).

15. Have form masters available for OPCUG: including sign-in sheets and materials for OPCUG (dues payment record, membership applications, door prize tickets.) As needed, provide copies to Linda Randall, or other member of house committee to collect dues. (Lisa Ferrett, Ernestine Meyer, Carole Richard).
16. Items from back of potty barn – Box with tip jar, soda sign for fridge to social room; Box with misc. materials, and display racks for brochures – green (joint flyer) on front table, and blue (PATACS) to PATACS table. Three clipboards to front table – one for dues record (house committee member); two for membership applications. Put out 'wet floor' stands with 'Meeting Speaker' signs on the two parking spaces to the right of the entry path.
17. Mel Goldfarb will handle the door prizes boxes, unless there's a change in plans. Mel will need access to the cottage to get the OPCUG Box. Set up 4' table at front of room for the OPCUG prizes. PATACS prizes go on RH end of sign-in table at front of room.
18. Return Social and Bathroom keys to Bill at conclusion of meeting teardown – enter return in key log.

[Back to Article](#)

REGION 3

OH, PA, WV

Robert Lee Vance (Bob), Advisor

bvance@apcug.org

OHIO

By the time this goes to press, the APCUG DMA&NASAC Computer Conference on Digital Technology will have concluded. The user group members from Dayton and Xenia **did** a fantastic **job** hosting and coordinating of the activities that led up to the conference.

DMA

The Dayton Microcomputer Association meeting for July featured a presentation and virtual tour of the new Microsoft Store, which opened at the Kenwood Towne Centre in Cincinnati. The August General Meeting featured Gary Coy doing an update presentation on Windows 8.1. During the September General Meeting, AVAST anti-virus Representative Bob Gosticha stopped by as part of his Region 3 User Group presentations. On the 21st of September, DMA will be having a Software Freedom Day event.

NASAC

The user group from Xenia, Ohio had a presentation on Windows 8.1 by Gary Coy. The general meeting of the 12th of September featured Bob Gosticha from AVAST with his protection of your data and privacy on line.

BVCC

The Bristol Village Computer Club of Waverly, Ohio returns after their 3 month summer hiatus. They too will be taking advantage of the Region 3 user group tour of Bob Gosticha. Their first meeting after their break was on the 9th of September. The Bristol Village Computer Club also participated in the Licking County Computer Society's Recycling efforts by donating in excess of 15 older and defunct computers.

LCCS

The Licking County Computer Society of Newark, Ohio had a picnic instead of a July General Meeting. The August meeting featured a presentation by David Rauch on computer data backups. The September general meeting will be rescheduled to the 22th of September, at which time Bob Gosticha, who is also a member of the Licking County Computer Society, will be doing one of his security and protection presentations as part of his Region 3 user group tour.

ACPCUG

There is always a beginner Sig for those who are having a problem with their computers at the Akron Canton PC Users Group before the general meeting. This session is facilitated by Gerry Schaefer. During the September 3 meeting, Gerry Schaefer followed up with a presentation on Data Storage-SD Chips. The usual meeting place for ACPCUG is at the Green Public Library, 4046 Massillon Rd., Green, OH, 44685.

CAMUG

The Canton Alliance Massillon Users Group in Stark County, Ohio holds their general meetings at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in North Canton, Ohio. The user group was established in 1983, and it currently supports Windows 7 Vista, XP, NT, 2000, 98, 95, Windows 3x, and MS-DOS based computers, and they are moving into the new windows 8 and 8.1 operating systems. You are invited to attend two meetings without an obligation; then after those two, you will be asked to join and pay your membership dues. The August General Meeting was about How to Prepare a PowerPoint Presentation and was conducted by James Wright a CAMUG member.

GCPCUG

The Greater Cleveland PC Users Group held a Cloud 101 presentation highlighting the fact that the cloud is all around us these days with such programs as Dropbox, iCloud, Office 365 just to name a few. Jeffery E. Gezymalla a director with Paragrid, Inc. explained the basics of Cloud 101. The upcoming meeting for Oct 12, 2013 will feature Abby Stokes: *Is this thing on*. Her presentation is available to anyone who requests and schedules it through the presenter and the Speakers Bureau.

<http://www.apcug.net/speakers/> or <http://apcug2.org/speakers-bureau>

NEOPC

The Northeast Ohio PC Club jumped at the chance to have Norbert (Bob) Gosticha from Avast do a presentation on "Protecting Yourself, Your Computer, and Your Identity." This is the thirteenth year that NEOPC will be conducting computer orientation classes at the Fairview Park Senior Center.

Besides the general meetings that are held monthly at the Westlake Porter Library in Westlake, Ohio, there are several monthly Sigs held at the local senior center.

CCS

The Columbus Computer Society had the privilege of having Bob Gosticha do a follow-up presentation with CCS after attending the APCUG DMA&NASAC Regional Computer Conference on Digital Technology. His presentation highlighted the need to protect ourselves from virus, worms, Trojans, rootkits, and botnets.

How to spot phishing attempts and how to recover you e-mail account once it has been hijacked.

During the August general meetings extended Q&A, Craig Woeste presented information about being a new user of a smart phone and what to set up on the iPhone4s or iPhone5s. He also discussed the many different apps that are available and how they can make your everyday life easier.

CAP

Computers Assisting People, the group with Techies Who Care! They donate complete computers to those who could not otherwise afford them.

A complete computer system is defined as one with monitor, mouse, keyboard, network card, speakers, and all cables. Each system includes a legal copy of Microsoft Windows and other legal software. In the past few months, CAP has donated two complete 3.2 systems to Celebration United Methodist Church and another six complete 2.6 – 2.8GHz systems to Euclid Lutheran Church.

Additionally Mr. Murtis H. Taylor received a 1.7 GHz system and a HP LaserJet printer. These are just some of the success stories about CAP (Computers Assisting People).

LCCUG

The Lorain County Computer Users Group did not have a July meeting. They did however go ahead and published a newsletter for that month: <http://www.lccug.com/newsletters/201307.pdf>. On August 4, LCCUG had their annual picnic. For the August general meeting, Neil Higgins, one of the LCCUG members, did a presentation on VirtualBox Virtualization, which is the ability to run multiple operating systems as “guest” inside your existing operating system. Neil went on to explain that one of the great features of VirtualBox is a cross platform application that can be used on systems using Intel or AMD processors whether they are running Windows, Mac, or Linux operating systems.

The General Meeting on September 10 featured “What's new with Windows 8” and other assorted techno stuff! The presentation was given by Glen Pubal of Royal Business Machines in Elyria, one of the Club sponsors and an excellent host and presenter. He discussed a myriad of topics mostly centered upon what is new and changing with the Windows 8 operating system.

PENNSYLVANIA

CPUser Group

The CPUser Group of Tarentum PA is first of all to be congratulated on their newly created web site. <http://cpusergroup.apcug.org/>. It looks terrific. A great job well done to Pat Anicka and her team. Additionally it is the CPUser Group's 10th Anniversary, so what better time for a new web site. The club has been on hiatus during the summer months. They have now returned to their regular meetings, and their featured speaker for September was Norbert. (Bob) Gosticha from Avast.

LACC

Lancaster Area Computer Club returned in September, after taking June, July and August off except for a picnic. Their first General Meeting was held on the 25th of September with the topic of the presentation being learning all about connecting to the Internet, aka the “World Wide Web.”

During this meeting, the members learned about their home LAN (Local Area Network) as well as the purpose of a Modem and a Router. What a switch is and how Wi-Fi devices work. They also learned how to connect and set up these devices and the best brands of this type of hardware. A discussion of ISPs or Internet Service providers, Hot Spots, and Home and public connections was covered.

LVCG

At the Lehigh Valley Computer Group during the August General Meeting, attendees were treated to a presentation by Mr. Kyle Bugg of Air Products. His presentation was about Hardware Virtualization. The presentation was followed by a usual Random Access session where the members ask and help answer questions.

PACS

The Philadelphia Area Computer Society general meeting presentation was on Evernote, All Your Information on All Your Devices, and was presented by Mark Bazrod. Evernote is a free, open source program. Versions are available for Mac, Linux, and Windows machines.

[Back to Index](#)

REGION 4**AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN**

Judy Taylour, Acting Advisor

jtaylour@apcug.org**NORTH CAROLINA****Henderson Area Computer Society**www.hacs.org

HACS meetings are held twice a month, January through November. They meet on the third Monday of the month with an educational meeting at 6:30 pm followed by a featured speaker presentation at 7:30 pm. Their SIG group normally meets the second Thursday of each month from 1-3 PM. Recent meetings included: An Alternative to Photoshop for Image Manipulation, Cloud Computing, Backup Your Computer – what, how, when & where, Where is Computing Going in the World of Tablets and The Cloud, and Carolina Free PC: Bridging the Digital Divide with Kevin James from Spartanburg talking about how his group takes donated machines, refurbishes them, and then donates them to worthy recipients such as charities and needy children.

SOUTH CAROLINA**Palmetto PC Club**<http://palmettopc.org/>

Instead of their September general meeting, the PCCC had one of their Boot Camp SIG meetings – here's info from their website: We've already seen big changes in how we use the internet and technology in general this year. And starting this month, we'll begin to see new hardware including computers, tablets and smart phones in stores and online. Our club wants to help you get the most out of this new technology—and have fun doing it. We also want to offer tips and advice that will help you make an informed decision on what technology is right for you.

For this month's meeting we'll have a boot camp experience, similar to our Saturday morning gatherings. Before our upcoming regular club meeting, take time to consider questions or issues you have regarding use of the cloud, email, computers, gadgets or anything related to computing. Make a list and take it with you. We'll have a bonus boot camp this month to help improve your experience using the latest technology.

Mark your calendar and join us Thursday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. to learn how to use the latest technology and to discuss other fun tech stuff. We're open to all platforms — mobile, tablets, laptops and desktops. Don't forget to invite a friend.

Join us and bring your laptop or gadget. We want to help you enjoy and get the most out of all your new technology. Also bring any questions you may have and we can address them together. Feel free to bring a guest!

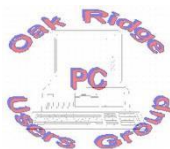
Their Saturday Boot Camp SIG is for beginners and advanced users. Now that you've bought that new computer, what's next? How do I keep it operating in top condition? How do I use email? How do I protect my personal information? What kind of software or hardware should I purchase? They also like gadgets and can offer help and advice on e-readers, tablets, iPads and other new exciting devices.

They're now fans of the Google Chromebook and Chrome OS. They had a Samsung Chromebook on hand at the June SIG should members need help or are just curious.

TENNESSEE

Oak Ridge PC Users Group

www.orpcug.net/



The Oakridge PCUG provides an opportunity for computer users to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experiences in order to make better use of their personal computers. They meet the 3rd Thursday of the month; one of their recent meetings featured a variety of topics: a brief review of Windows 8 tiles and charms (covered in the previous month's meeting) and then a presentation on Windows 8 Apps. One of their members has the Xfinity App running on his iPad and demonstrated how to watch TV shows on the iPad, using Wi-Fi. They also talked about TV over the internet and ended with a short introduction to Perl that will be covered in depth in a future meeting.

[Back to Index](#)

REGION 5 FL

Dave (Doc) Dockery, Advisor

Judy Taylour, Advisor

jtaylour@apcug.org

APCUG is pleased to announce a new Advisor for Region 5: **Dave Dockery**. He recently retired from the presidency of the 1,300 member Tampa Bay Computer Society (TBCS) after serving in that capacity for over 12 years. The group has a wide variety of over 50 technology training events each month at their offices in Clearwater, AND they fix their members' computers for free.

Dave has also hosted computer and technology-oriented shows on both local radio and television, and he is a "Kindness Coordinator" for Pinellas County - sponsoring events that promote "Random Acts of Kindness." He created the Random Acts of Kindness Computer Clinics where a team of computer techs from the Tampa Bay Computer Society goes into the community and repairs computers (for free) for a day.

Dave speaks at a wide variety of venues on computers, Windows, Microsoft Office, the Internet, social networking, paradigm shifts, mind mapping, and more. Currently, Doc is working on bringing free technology training for unemployed, so they can be competitive in the local job market.

Space Coast PC Users Group, Inc.

<http://www.scpcug.com/>



The SCPCUG recently utilized one of APCUG's member benefits when their August speaker had to cancel at the last minute. SCPCUG Journal Editor & Learning Center Manager Ron Ingraham showed a 50 minute video from the APCUG 2013 Summer Virtual Technology Conference. The video was Capture Streaming Media with Applian Software by Applian Director of Marketing, Leslie Bee. Leslie demonstrated Replay Video Capture, Replay Media Catcher, and Replay Music. She also talked

about the Replay Capture Suite which contains those 3 programs plus 4 others. More information and a PDF handout can be found at <http://apcug2.org/content/vtc8>.

Another of their recent meetings featured Todd Reed of "Peace of Mind," a computer repair and web development company, giving a presentation on Adobe Creative Suite. Adobe Creative Suite is now called Adobe Creative Cloud with desktop applications for photography, video, audio, and design. Programs include Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Dreamweaver, After Effects, Premiere Pro, Acrobat XI Pro, etc. Creative Cloud provides some of the world's best creative tools, cloud storage, and access to new features and products as soon as they're released. It's now available as a subscription service with various annual or month-to-month membership plans. A free 30-day trial is also available. Todd told attendees about his past experiences with Adobe software and said that while their software is relatively expensive it can do anything you can think of and their excellent customer support is free.

It was nice to read that their April presentation featured my YouTube video presentation, "Save \$\$ with Free Software," from APCUG's Virtual Conference #3 session on May 5, 2012. This excellent presentation identified a large number of free programs and included their web links. Some of the programs members had not heard of before. The free programs talked about included: SIW-System Info for Windows, Shields UP!, Microsoft Security Essentials, avast!, Malwarebytes, Safe House, CCleaner, Revo Uninstaller, DriverMax, Nitro PDF Reader, Nitro PDF to Word or Excel, FastStone Capture, Audacity, Applian-Freecorder 4, Windows Live Photo Gallery, Windows Live Movie Maker, PhotoRazor, Symphony Lotus Office Suite, Google Drive, DropBox, CrashPlan, Bit.ly, Evernote, etc.

Century Village Computer Club-WPB

<http://www.cv-computerclub-wpb.com/>



The Century Village Computer Club offers many classes in specific computer programs during the year for its members. For those who are new to computers, they have Basic Beginner courses as well as Intermediate and Advanced Windows courses. Some of

their lectures and classes include: Tablets and Digital Photography, Apple Mac Computers Only, Apple iPhone, iPad and Operating System, Sharing Photos Online and Stock Market Study.

Brevard Users Group

<http://bugclub.org/>



The BUG Club has a variety of monthly meeting in addition to their general meeting and Windows SIG that meets in Melbourne. There are afternoon SIGS in Viera on the 1st Monday, another afternoon SIG on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in Eau Gallie, as well as the Tinkers SIG that meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month. They have recently been developing session specific notes and attachments that can be found on their website.

Boca Raton Computer Society

www.brcs.org



The Boca Raton newsletter, Boca Bits, has had an exciting electronic makeover! In the continuing quest to offer exemplary services to their members, and to encourage others to join their ranks, they

embarked on a journey that will substantially improve the offerings of the Society's Boca Bits newsletter. During the summer, the electronic version of Boca Bits began its evolution towards becoming a more comprehensive and user friendly communication tool for their members. Some of the enhancements include: more articles, active links to sites mentioned in articles, more color, more artwork, photos, and screen shots. The editor is working on making it smart phone/tablet friendly.

This evolution is just that ... an evolution ... a continuum made up of better and better generations of their newsletter. BRCS asks its members to send an email to their editor, or any board member, with suggestions for elements for inclusion or exclusion for upcoming versions of the newsletter.

[Back to Index](#)

REGION 6 and INTERNATIONAL

Greg West, Advisor, APCUG Marketing Chair, FACEBOOK, and User Groups

gwest@apcug.org

Facebook is free, and it is now one of the best ways to attract new and current members to your user group. Even if you do not want to get involved with FACEBOOK you should seriously consider setting up a Facebook Page for free marketing purposes. If you don't tell people you are here, they won't know you exist. Most people are now online and less and less people are getting their information from paper items and expensive want-ads. Try advertising your user group for free, online today!!

BIG BLUE and COUSINS USER GROUP

British Columbia, Canada

<http://www.bbc.org/>

One the front page of Big Blue's website, there is a meeting I would like to attend, although the 3000+ mile trip unfortunately won't happen. However, this group is now promoting the use of Facebook at their next meeting with the following announcement: "Our monthly meeting has moved to a NEW TIME (LUNCHTIME) AND PLACE.

1:00 pm (sharp) afternoon lunch on Wednesday September 18th, with the presentation topic: Organizations and Facebook. If you thought Facebook was just for young people, you might like to know that more than half of the people in the 50 to 65 year age bracket use Facebook, and more than a third over 65 uses it as well. Organizations, like the CBC, use Facebook for contests and audience feedback. Should your organization have a Facebook page too? What security and configurations should you know when contacting organizations through Facebook? Wendy Wall, our presenter this month, is the Social Media Coordinator for the Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association.

Also, on the front page is another great marketing effort, and that is this group is helping to promote APCUG. They list links to the APCUG website for the APCUG Quarterly Reports for everyone to read, share, and discuss. Check out their executive committee and say hi: <http://goo.gl/TsGMJa>

NOTE: if your user group has a Facebook site please send the URL to me so we can all join and share tips and tricks and say hi. APCUG FACEBOOK PAGE - drop in and say hi... <https://www.facebook.com/APCUG>

VERNON PC USERS CLUB

British Columbia, Canada

<http://www.vpcuc.org>

Here is a great idea for any user group. Directly on the front page of Vernon's website they put a link called: *Betty's Newsletter*. This has club news and announcements.

This is a fantastic marketing tool to entice members out to meetings and encourage new members to attend a meeting.

APCUG is featured in Betty's newsletter, announcing our brand new interactive website and how to sign in. This is a free online service for all APCUG members who can ask questions, share info, and get free help on almost any topic in our NEW forums.

Betty's newsletter explains up front about their organization, how to join and current officer's emails. Well done Betty!! This is another great idea to promote your user group.

PERTH PC USERS GROUP INC

Perth, Australia

<http://www.perthpcug.org.au/>

This group is live on Facebook, drop in and say hi today: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Perth-PC-Users-Group-Inc/117263684956017>

Also, check out their newsletter called AXESS. Some of the features there include updates from the executive, main meeting topics, comments from committees, SIG reports, a Webinar, Calendar and more. All newsletters are posted on their site, check them out here: <http://goo.gl/j86RQK>

SYDTRUG Inc.**SYDNEY TRS-80/MS-DOS USER'S GROUP**

Sydney, Australia

<http://www.sydtrug.org/>

The members here in this group are noticing that the "more specialized nature of computing" is one cause their "membership is scattered wide and far."

This is somewhat of a unique group as they are getting an "influx of younger members" whose "influence extends far beyond the Group activities through their support and advice to family, friends, and colleagues."

Other groups are starting to get younger members coming to their user group meetings.

My own group: Sarnia Computer Users' Group <http://scug.ca> now has a program coordinator who is only 13 or 14 and has been an active member for over a year now. His mother brings him to the meetings. He is excellent in the mobile department.

Does your group have younger members? If so, let us know via email or posting on APCUG's Facebook page.

MIDLAND COMPUTER CLUB

Midland, Michigan

<http://mcc.apcug.org/>

This user group runs a computer lab in a local community center where they also have their meetings each month. On the front page of their website, is a notice about getting help “with your computer needs.” There is a number to call and the dates they have access to the lab, or you simply “drop in”. This is a free service for those with a membership to the senior’s center.

As many user groups today publish their newsletters using PUSH articles from APCUG, this group has in-house writers, somewhat of a rarity with some user groups. Does your group have members who write articles? Let me know by sending an email to: gwest@apcug.org Another feature of their newsletter are the colored screenshots. Pictures can create more interest for articles than without. It is always nice to see what the person is actually talking about in the article.

The best part of the newsletter, is the section called: “Useful, useless, and strange (in no particular order) Web Sites:” Here is an site they list that you might want to check out in private, just in case you don’t do as well as you did so many years ago LOL:

<http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/>

Do you remember taking the SAT test in high school? There is an online version available for you to take. This is a great way to find out how sharp you are today compared with how smart you were XX years ago!

THE CHICAGO COMPUTER SOCIETY

Chicago, Illinois

<http://www.ccs.org/>

Directly on the front page of their website they are stating: “We offer our members a wide range of educational and networking opportunities.” This means it doesn’t matter if you are brand new to computers, or “already an expert,” you will meet “members who share similar interests, explore new computer-related topics, and showcase your computer knowledge and leadership skills.” Something for everyone here at this user group.

Some user groups are more “beginner to average” centrically, whereas other groups still have “expert” or advanced computer users as members. Does your group have advanced members? If so, tell us about them: gwest@apcug.org

Check out the wide range of SIGS the Chicago Computer Society offers by clicking on the calendar link on their website.

To all user groups in Region 6 and International:

Canada, Australia, USA: Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana

Please send me the link to your user group’s Facebook page. I am looking to connect all of us so we can communicate and share user group ideas and help one another when needed.

VERY IMPORTANT: I need the name and email address of the main person in your user group who does or will act as the APCUG rep, a person with whom I can communicate and share APCUG information and updates for distribution. Thank you, and keep in touch. [Back to Index](#)

REGION 7**IA, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI**

Judy Taylour, Advisor

jtaylour@apcug.org**MISSOURI****Interactive Computer Owner Users Network**<http://www.iconusersgroup.org/>

One of their members recently gave a presentation on her trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. She returned with stunning pictures of the city. They were the kind of pictures that people put into slideshows, with music, and then email to each other. But, she was there for genealogy research.

Another of their meetings featured Mikel Cattlet and Patty Duncan on Social Media Do's and Don'ts and Smartphones. At one of their recent classes, Jeff from Missouri State University demonstrated Google Glass. Everyone who came to this class got to try out this new device! This is a computer that mounts on the face, using essentially an eyeglass frame. When activated, the user perceives a large computer screen that isn't really there, except as a tiny image on a tiny optical device mounted on the frame.

WISCONSIN**SouthEastern Wisconsin Windows Users Group**www.sewwug.org/

Found on their website: What is a Computer User Group? A computer user group is an informal forum for members to share information and ask questions about computer hardware, software, and operating systems.

Computer user groups provide the opportunity to learn about purchasing, using, and maintaining your computer, evaluating and purchasing software and demystifying and solving some of the problems that occur while using your computer.

If you have ever stared at your computer or wondered why you cannot seem to get it to understand what you want, a computer user group is for you. The exchange of information between members, the resources available in the form of technical help, educational materials, useful tips and tricks to make navigating the Internet and software (like Microsoft Office®) easier, helpful web site addresses with information and downloads, and the knowledge that your problem is not unique, combine to make membership in a computer user group a valuable resource.

The cost of membership is small compared to the expense of phone technical support, even assuming you ever get through. User groups are a complement, not a substitute for the formal education provided at colleges, technical schools, and computer training services.

And, dues are due! Just think about it. You get to associate with intelligent, good-looking people for just 25 smackers per year! What a deal! Who among you hasn't learned something worth a few bucks?

[Back to Index](#)

REGION 8**AR, KS, LA, OK, TX)**

Bill James, Advisor

bjames@apcug.org**Region 8 User Groups are Brimming with Ideas**

Region 8 UGs have incorporated a number of ideas to improve their UG attendance and membership. Some of these ideas are not new, but in some cases forgotten. So it is my pleasure to showcase these groups on the work that they are doing for their members and their community.

Alamo PC Organization

With the popularity of smartphone and tablets, it not surprising that User Groups are having demonstrations, workshops, and classes for these devices. The Alamo PC Organization will be doing such a demo for the iPad and iPhones for their October, 2013 meeting. If you decide on having such a meeting, don't forget to also include Android and Windows devices as this is a wonderful opportunity for members to step-up and demonstrate their devices. If you don't have willing members, there are plenty of local vendors that will fill the void and be more than willing to demonstrate the devices. If there is enough interest, start a SIG for Mobile Devices.

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group

The C-B WUG has a door prize for members that attend their meetings. A door prize is a wonderful way to encourage attendance and membership to your UG. The door prize need not be expensive, a flash drive or gift card are always welcomed gifts. This group also has great programming. At their July meeting they offered information and tips on Microsoft's latest offerings of Windows 7 and Windows 8 to helping members understand Windows 7 backup and Windows 8 File History function. Their monthly newsletter had a number of articles on Windows 8. Whether your group has embraced Windows 8 or not, they need to be made aware of what this OS has to offer because every new PC has it pre-installed.

Cajun Clickers Computer Club

Cajun Clickers is celebrating its 22nd year and touts itself as being Baton Rouge Louisiana's oldest, largest and most active PC club. Every 3 months they offer a PC Tune Up where members and non-members come to repair and tune up their computers for a nominal charge. The workshop is aided by their more experience members helping with the repairs. This is a great way to acquaint individuals to computer hardware and software from the backend. A number of benefits arise in the form of increase revenue and introducing non-members to the club. This is a great idea if you are looking for a way to promote your club and gets some revenue.

Computer Club of Oklahoma City

When you are planning a program it does not hurt to think outside the box. The ccOKC General session for August was a little different in that it appealed to individuals that want to use their computers for something other than just e-mail and web browsing. The group was given a presentation on using a computer for creating embroidery. The presenter gave a demonstration doing counted cross stitch, quilt, piece quilt blocks, creating a favorite, logo and a number of other creations. They were also shown how a computer will send designs that you have purchased or created yourself to the newest creative sewing/embroidery machines. Try mixing up your programming occasionally and see the results. There a

individuals that use their computer in a myriad of ways and are more than willing to demonstrate how it is done.

Houston League of PC Users

HAL-PC is the world's largest PC user group - home to an award winning internet service, exciting technology presentations, [Special Interest Groups](#), hands-on computer classes, award winning Magazine, Senior Learning Center Courses. HAL-PC along with the Computer Club of Oklahoma City is one of the few APCUG groups that also belong to the Senior Net User Group. SrNet (www.seniornet.org) is an umbrella organization that provides course materials and software to their member organizations at no charge. However, you do have to meet certain criteria to belong to the organization and the price of admission can be steep, but it may be worth exploring. The group caters to the 50+ age group in making them computer savvy in the latest technology.

New Orleans Personal Computer Club

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club helps people take advantage of everything personal computer technology can do to improve their lives. But, this group also allows membership payment online using PayPal. Offering online payment can be an easy and affordable way for members to join or renew their membership. No longer do you have to send out renewal notices or continue to nag your members for their dues. Instituting a fixed renewal date and then allow members an easy way to fulfill their obligation can be a move in the right direction to retain membership.

The above is just a few of the ideas that Region 8 User Groups are using. I hope you find these ideas something of interest that you might be able to use in your User Group. If your UG has an idea that you are using to retain and attract new members, please share it. Also as your Regional Advisor I am an APCUG benefit that is always available to assist your group be successful -- Happy Computing!

[Back to Index](#)

REGION 9

AZ, CO, NM, UT

Ray Baxter, Advisor

rbaxter@apcug.org

With this last quarter comprising the summer months, many Region 9 clubs typically reduce their activities. A review of the clubs websites and newsletters during this past quarter revealed the following:

Computer Booters of Sun Lakes



Sun Lakes, Arizona

During the summer this club has experienced various Board Member changes. The September program was informative with a presentation demonstrating the tools and techniques used by forensic investigators.

Computer Club of Green Valley

Green Valley, Arizona



Club APCUG Rep. Lee Laughner was elected to the APCUG Board of Directors last month. We are all thrilled to have her experience and expertise help provide direction for our organization. At the Southwest Computer Technology Conference held at the Pomona College Campus in California in June, CCGV won six prizes in the Digital Photo Contest.

Computer Users of Greeley

Greeley, Colorado



This is one of the clubs I visited in June and I was pleased to see my mug shot on the club's website. This club's recent meetings covered such topics as Google+, and Pinterest, as well as promoting their Linux SIG.

Mile High Computer Resource Organization (MICRO)

Denver, Colorado



In July, member Dale Harrington spoke on the use of multiple monitors, and in August they held their annual picnic.

Payson Area Computer Association

Payson, Arizona

The club began publishing a newsletter for its members. Recent presentations included topics on genealogy, smartphones (by Verizon Wireless), and the new APCUG website.

Phoenix PC Users Group

Phoenix, AZ



Some topics covered at the August meeting included the ongoing battles between Apple and Samsung, the new Explorer for Windows 7, and an update on two computer radio shows.

Pikes Peak Computer Application Society

Colorado Springs, CO

With the Air Force Academy close by, this club often has very interesting presentations, and August was no exception with Bob Stewart, who was a NASA astronaut on the Challenger shuttle.

Prescott Computer Society

Prescott, Arizona

The club was active during the summer with presentations covering a wide selection of information that included website coding, digital photography, and computer hardware.

Sun City Anthem Computer Club

Henderson, Nevada

In July I visited with Warren Begas, President (and Webmaster) of the Sun City Anthem Computer Club in Henderson, NV. This club is available to residents of this sprawling master community, and boasts well over 1,000 members. The expansive computer club room has Apple computers that also boot to Windows including several running Windows 8. They meet several times a week for training and other activities.

Tucson Computer Society

Tucson, Arizona



In June Francis Chao of the TCS via the Speaker's Bureau provided a Skype presentation for the Payson Area Computer Assn. detailing the various cloud based storage services. The Payson club members found the presentation informative and interesting, and were very appreciative of the time Francis devoted to make this viable.

[Back To Index](#)

REGION 10 CA

Cheryl Wester, Advisor

cwester@apcug.org

California groups have been busy. Christmas parties are planned, raffles are being put together, meetings are being setup, SIGs are going strong, and the list goes on.

Temecula Valley Computer User Group, <http://www.tvcug.org> has been busy. Ken Colby, from GreenScreenWizard, was the speaker in September. He shared how his technology works, how easy it is to change the background of a picture, and told a little about his studio in his house in San Diego. He kept the audience captive and answered numerous questions. In August, Temecula had a discussion on iPads. They are always easy to talk about and everyone had apps and favorite hints and tricks to share.

Orange County PC Users Group, <http://www.orcopug.org> has also been busy. They always have a great newsletter so check it out at <http://www.orcopug.org/pdf/july2013.pdf>. This summer they had a great meeting on how to put an impressive slideshow together. They learned how to combine photos, videos, and music to make a great slideshow that keeps a captive audience. It definitely does beat "death by PowerPoint."

Claremont Seniors Computer Club, <http://www.cscclub.org>, is another active club. They keep really busy with all of the classes they offer. Their meetings for the month of September are about Windows 8.1. They are also discussing what people should do that have XP as one of these days, in the near future; Microsoft is going to stop supporting it.

On a different and sad note; have you planned for the death of your officers? In the last few weeks our group lost two amazing men. They were both active participants in our group and in one case our webmaster. He has all the information on his system and we don't have anyone else trained to use it or know how he had it set up. If you don't have backup people let this be a reminder to you.

Please don't forget to add me to your newsletter list. Send me interesting topics and if you have some speaker ideas share them with us. Have a great holiday season everyone and be safe.

REGION 11**AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY**

Judy Tylour, Advisor

jtylour@apcug.org**HAWAII****MOAA Computer Group**www.the-tug.org/

The July meeting featured the i's: iPad and iPhone. Several members brought their i's for show 'n tell. They watched a PowerPoint slide show on the many functions of the iPad. With topics on how to take a picture; how to reset the unit in the event of a catastrophic failure; how to delete icons from the 'desktop', and several other procedures that were asked for by the group. One member spent time with the newest owners of the iPad to show some basic steps. Questions about the iPhone were answered by many of the members. The info given is useful and may convince us to try one of the products.

Another meeting featured GodMode. With such a lofty sounding name they thought they would open a Pandora's Box of secrets and Easter eggs and neat stuff that the average user didn't know, or know about. It turns out the name was originally DevLinks which stands for Developers Links and it was intended for programmers and applications developers to use. DevLinks is a one-stop shop for all the applets contained in Control Panel.

WASHINGTON

Komputer Enthusiasts of Greater Seattle

<http://www.kegs.org/>



KEGS has a unique program to encourage member participation – it's called KEGABUCK\$. What is KEGS KEGABUCK\$ program?

In their computer users group they have a unique way of promoting and rewarding member participation and volunteerism. Every time a member attends a meeting or volunteers to help with one of their KEGS programs they reward that participation with "funny money" called KEGABUCK\$.

Once a year they have an auction where ONLY KEGABUCK\$ can be used to bid on items. Thus, the members with the highest level of KEGS participation have the most money to spend.

How does a KEGS member get their KEGABUCK\$? There are only a few instances where members will actually be handed KEGABUCK\$ during the year: 1) At the Monthly General Meeting and 2) At their Pig SIG. The rest of the KEGABUCK\$ entitlement is calculated from the attendance records that are administered by the SIG leaders and special program administrators.

Just before the auction they run programs against the SIG and special program attendance rosters. Those programs generate totals for each member and the KEGS board then meets and stuffs envelopes with KEGABUCK\$ that were calculated by the programs.

Members are expected to bring all their personally collected KEGABUCK\$ to the auction (including any funny money used in special programs and any KEGABUCK\$ from previous years) so they can be used with what is in the envelopes.

They have a policy of purging any KEGABUCK\$ that have not been picked up at auction night and are three (3) years old. They also have a good-will policy that, if members forget to pay dues but are still attending KEGS functions, they will give them their KEGABUCK\$ envelope on auction night if they pay for the full years membership at that time. Earn extra KEGABUCK\$ if you buy and wear a KEGS T-shirt.

One of the things they like to do is "impress" newcomers to the meetings. Early in KEGS development they decided that a new visitor would be impressed if they attended meetings where existing members showed their club commitment by wearing a KEGS T-shirt. To thank the dedicated members that participate in the T-shirt program, they provide an additional 50 KEGABUCK\$ bonus when a KEGS T-shirt is worn to one of our meetings. In view of the impression they're trying to make they do require that the t-shirt be worn externally and visible during the meetings. (Shirts worn under other clothing DO NOT qualify for the bonus!)

There is one SIG meeting that is not eligible for this bonus - the "Pig SIG". Even if your eating is computer controlled, we consider this a social event (and we're trying to help you keep Pizza sauce off of your shirt).

SAVE THE DATE
VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

November 2, 2013

By Judy Taylour



Our next quarterly Virtual Technology Conference will be held on Saturday, November 2. Presentations scheduled to date include: How to create a bootable USB drive, What the heck is Access?, and How to do a good review. If you give presentations to your group and/or other groups and would like to expand your presentations to attendees around the world, please let Judy Taylour know at jtaylour@apcug.org -- we are always looking to expand the list of volunteers who give presentations at our VTCs.

Is your group taking advantage of the VTC presentation videos on APCUG's YouTube channel? The videos can be played in HD video (depending on your bandwidth) and full screen. Use the controls at the bottom right corner of the video when you play them. This makes them perfect for showing at your next user group meeting. Here is a partial list of the videos you will find on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/apcugvideos

10 Simple Things

A Comparison of SkyDrive, Google Drive, Box and iCloud

A Tour of APCUG's New Drupal Website

Are We Losing This Generations' Photos?

Basic Troubleshooting of Your Computer

Capture Streaming Media with Applian Software

Freeware and Shareware

How to Navigate the Windows 8 Start Screen with Your Mouse and Keyboard Shortcuts

How to Publicize Your User Group

Installing & Using the Windows 8.1 Preview

iPad Basics and a Bit More

Linux on your Home Firewall and Router and Media Center and Video Security System – easier than you think!

Program Ideas

Setting Up a Blog

Sharing Family Stories on Your iPad and Online

Spring Clean Your Computer aka Performing Computer Maintenance

Staying Connected & Networking Through the Cloud

To Cloud or Not to Cloud, that is the Question

Using Your Smartphone for Everything, Part II

Why Engage in Social Media

Windows 8 Mysteries and Misconceptions Explained

[Back to Index](#)

How to Register on the APCUG Website

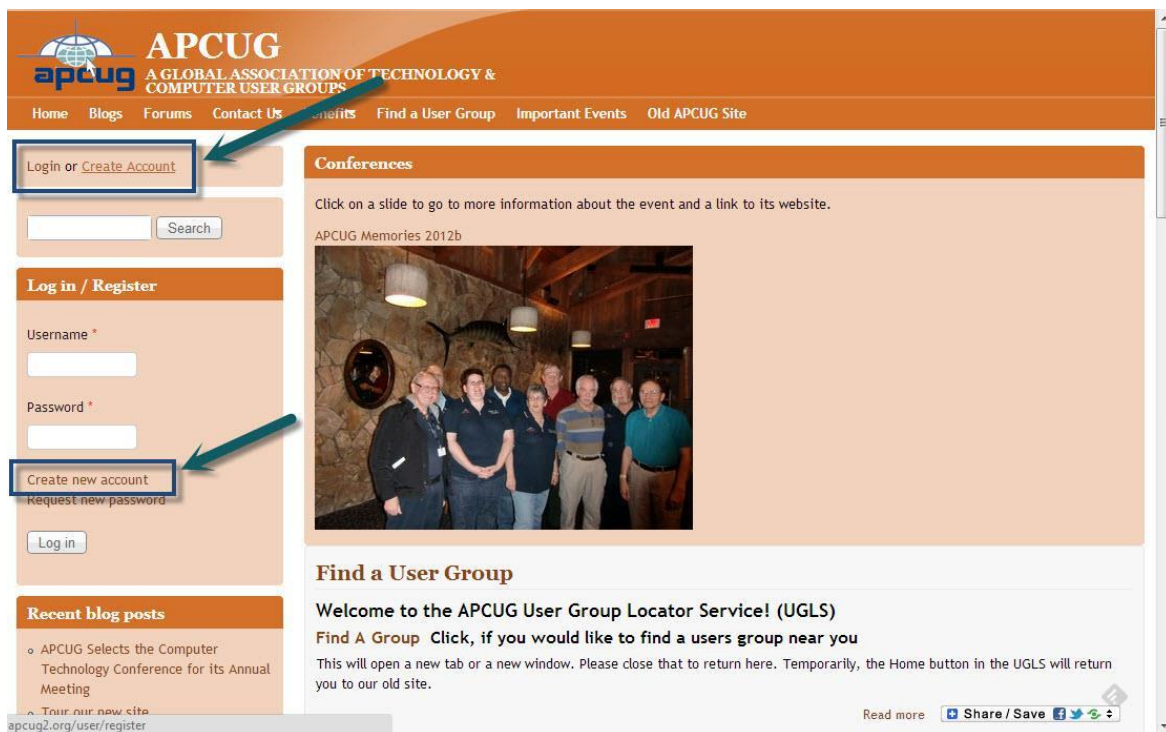
<http://www.apcug2.org>

Hewie Poplock, APCUG Webmaster, Vice-President

The initial screen will be similar to this.



You will need to Register by clicking on "Create Account" or "Create new account".



After clicking on either choice to create an account, you will be on the “Create new account” screen. Fill in all of the items. Many of the items are required and will be indicated with a red asterisk.

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Home Blogs Forums Contact Us Benefits Find a User Group Important Events Old APCUG Site

User account

Login or Create Account

Create new account Log in Request new password

Username *

E-mail address *

Main profile

Full Name

First Name

Last Name

Recent blog posts

- APCUG Selects the Computer Technology Conference for its Annual Meeting
- Tour our new site
- User Group Newsletters Uploads
- Blogs are now enabled

More

Start filling in the form.

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User account

Login or Create Account

Create new account Log in Request new password

Username *

E-mail address *

Main profile

Full Name

First Name

Last Name

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- Blogs are now enabled

More

When you reach the bottom, you will fill in the Word verification, so the system knows that it is a human filling out the form. You then click on the “Create new account” button.

In which state or province is your User Group listed. If you are not in a group, choose your personal location. If you cannot find your location, choose "Not listed."

APCUG Group Region
05

Choose the region of your group using the following: Region 1- CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT Region 2- DC, DE, MD, NJ, VA Region 3- OH, PA, WV Region 4- AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN Region 5- Florida Region 6- KY, IL, IN, MI Region 7- IA, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI Region 8- AR, KS, LA, OK, TX Region 9- AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT Region 10 - CA (California) Region 11- AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY Region 12- International (Outside of US) All - APCUG Publication

Additional Information

Please add any addition info about your user group experience. Any other user groups, offices or positions held, wishing to join a group, etc.

How did you hear about us? *

Mentioned at our user group meeting last month.

Please help us know how you found us. (255 characters or less).

Word verification *

bdrur (verify using audio)

bdrur

Type the characters you see in the picture above; if you can't read them, submit the form and a new image will be generated. Not case sensitive.

Create new account

You will then see a conformation message and that your account is pending approval.

The OLS committee will receive an email that you have created your account. One of the OLS Committee will then approve and upgrade your account to the appropriate level.

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Home Blogs Forums Contact Us Benefits Find a User Group Important Events Old APCUG Site

✓ Thank you for applying for an account. Your account is currently pending approval by the site administrator. In the meantime, a welcome message with further instructions has been sent to your e-mail address.

Login or Create Account

Search

Log in / Register

Username *

Password *

Create new account
Request new password

Login

Recent blog posts

Conferences

Click on a slide to go to more information about the event and a link to its website.

Southwest Technology & Computer Conference

Fun in the Sun and Technology Too!

Southwest Technology & Computer Conference

SW Technology & Computer Conference

Cal Poly Pomona

June 21, 22, 23 2013

Find a User Group

Welcome to the APCUG User Group Locator Service! (UGLS)

Click, if you would like to find a users group near you

apcug2.org/content/southwest-technology-computer-conference

You will receive an email conformation that you registered.

Zelda,

Thank you for registering at APCUG. Your application for an account is currently pending approval. Once it has been approved, you will receive another e-mail containing information about how to log in, set your password, and other details.

-- APCUG team

Once you are approved and your account is accepted, you will receive a follow-up email with a verification link. You will have 24 hours to click on the link to activate your account. This link is only good for 1 use.

Subject: Account details for Zelda at APCUG (approved)

Zelda,

Your account at APCUG has been activated.

You may now log in by clicking this link or copying and pasting it into your browser:

<http://apcug2.org/user/reset/314/1367244313/tqtbhNYMarKp5fS0u4wzCSR8P2WIPi>

This link can only be used once to log in and will lead you to a page where you can set your password.

After setting your password, you will be able to log in at <http://apcug2.org/user> in the future using:

username: Zelda

password: Your password

-- APCUG team

Once you complete this step by clicking on the link, you will get the "Reset password" page with the instructions to click on the "Log in" button to change your password.

APCUG
A GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER USER GROUPS

Home Blogs Forums Contact Us Benefits Find a User Group Important Events Old APCUG Site

Login or Create Account

Search

Recent blog posts

- APCUG Selects the Computer Technology Conference for its Annual Meeting
- Tour our new site
- User Group Newsletters Uploads
- Blogs are now enabled

More

Reset password

This is a one-time login for *Zelda* and will expire on 2013, April 30 - 10:05am.

Click on this button to log in to the site and change your password.

This login can be used only once.

Log in

The page will want you to set your password and confirm it.

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✓ You have just used your one-time login link. It is no longer necessary to use this link to log in. Please change your password.

Zelda

Hello Zelda | Logout

Search

Printer-friendly version Send by email PDF version

Recent blog posts

- APCUG Selects the Computer Technology Conference for its Annual Meeting
- Tour our new site
- User Group Newsletters Uploads
- Blogs are now enabled

More

Add Items

► Add content

Zelda

View Edit

Account Main profile

E-mail address *

xxxxxxxx@gmail.com

A valid e-mail address. All e-mails from the system will be sent to this address. The e-mail address is not made public and will only be used if you wish to receive a new password or wish to receive certain news or notifications by e-mail.

Password

Confirm password

To change the current user password, enter the new password in both fields.

Picture

Upload picture

Choose File No file chosen

It also will give you an indicator of how strong your password is.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `apcug2.org/user/314/edit?pass-reset-token=17DOS17ylEnNa8y0_PLCB3Z1IZ489Jp8wizRIEdad80`. The page header features the APCUG logo and navigation links: Home, Blogs, Forums, Contact Us, Benefits, Find a User Group, Important Events, Old APCUG Site, VTC, and Virtual Technology Conference. A green message box states: "You have just used your one-time login link. It is no longer necessary to use this link to log in. Please change your password." The user profile for 'Zelda' is displayed, including a 'Hello Zelda | Logout' link, a search bar, and links for 'Printer-friendly version', 'Send by email', and 'PDF version'. The 'Recent blog posts' section lists several articles. The 'Add Items' section has a link to 'Add content'. The 'User menu' includes 'My account' and 'Log out'. The 'Edit profile' section shows the user's email address as '@gmail.com', a password field with a strength indicator of 'Good', and a 'Confirm password' field. A note advises on making the password stronger by adding uppercase letters and punctuation. A 'Picture' field is also present.

You also can upload your photo. Be sure that the “Personal contact form” box is checked. If it is, you will be able to receive emails through the system without revealing your email address. Check for your correct time zone. The times will be adjusted automatically in most places on the website. Then, once again, complete the Word verification and click the “Save” button.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit profile' section of the APCUG user profile page. It includes a 'Picture' field with an 'Upload picture' button and a 'Choose File' button. Below this is a 'Contact settings' section with a checked box for 'Personal contact form'. The 'Locale settings' section shows the 'Time zone' set to 'America/New York: Monday, 2013, April 29 - 10:12am -0400'. The 'Word verification' section displays a CAPTCHA image with the text 'pnnum' and a 'Save' button.

Your account is now active and you are logged in. You will know that you are logged in when you see the “Hello” and your name on the top left and the logout button is right next to it

The screenshot shows the APCUG website's user profile page. At the top, a green banner indicates "The changes have been saved." The user is logged in as "Zelda". The profile section includes a "Hello Zelda | Logout" link, a search bar, and buttons for "View" and "Edit". Below this, there are tabs for "Account" and "Main profile". The "Account" tab is active, showing fields for "Current password", "E-mail address" (saturnlvr@gmail.com), "Password", and "Confirm password". A "Password strength" indicator is also present. A message at the bottom of the form states: "To change the current user password, enter the new password in both fields."

Once you are logged in, you will see addition menu items and choices on the top menu, on the left side, and even some news articles may now be visible that were not before.

This screenshot shows the APCUG website with the user menu expanded. The menu includes options like "Benefits of membership to APCUG", "UG Newsletters", "Member Websites", "Discounts", and "What We Offer". The "Recent blog posts" section lists several articles, including "APCUG Selects the Computer Technology Conference for its Annual Meeting". A large yellow announcement box in the center reads: "APCUG MA/NASAC Regional Computer Conference on Digital Technology Holiday Inn Dayton Airport NW, Ohio Sept 13 -15, 2013". Below this, the "Find a User Group" section welcomes users to the APCUG User Group Locator Service (UGLS) and provides instructions on how to find a group near them.

Now, go and enjoy the site.

Why Can't I Log on to the APCUG Website?

By Hewie Poplock, APCUG Vice-President, Webmaster



Several officers of user groups have asked that question. We have discovered that some people were using their UGLS sign-on which consists of their User ID and a password. The website & UGLS are exclusive of each other, have different purposes and are located in different places.

A website account must be established to gain access to most of the information on the website.

We discourage the use of your email name as your user name on the website. We suggest using your first name, nickname or something else that identifies you. You will receive an email to the one that you list in your registration. That email will contain a link to allow you to select your own password.

If you forget your password, but have already registered, select "Request new password." You will fill out a form, and a link to change your password will be emailed to you. You will be able to change your password after clicking that link. However, that link will only be accessible for 24 hours. If you miss the time, you will have to request it again.

The website seeks to hide all email addresses so that the bad guys cannot harvest them for spam. It will be attached to your email so that others can contact you through the website, but never see your email address.

<http://www.apcug2.org>

Or just use this:

Why can't I log on to the APCUG website?

By Hewie Poplock, APCUG Vice-President, Webmaster

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<http://www.apcug2.org>

[Back to Index](#)

Some Tips for Writing for the APCUG Website

By Hewie Poplock

APCUG Webmaster, Vice-President

Writing articles has changed from how many of us were taught in school many years ago. We now need to write as an inverted pyramid, the reverse of writing in the past or for other mediums. You need to make your point then fill in and explain.

The title of your article, news report, or blog will be the webpage address. It is also the headline, and is very important to have it clearly explain your topic, yet be brief for the URL. It becomes the link from the front page to your article. The first several sentences or the first paragraph or 2 become a “teaser” on the front page, so they need to attract the reader to the full article.

Keep your article sentences short and concise. Keep your paragraphs short and only one idea for each. Lists are even better, but keep list items short, seven words or less, and less than ten items to a list. Web users tend to scan pages and not read them, so lists catch their eye and attention better. Meaty paragraphs are better than long, verbose compositions.

Add details after the important information, as most readers will never get to it, unless they are very interested in what you have to say. Links work better as part of the text; they stand out and give the reader a good idea of the topic.

Once you have written your article, put it down and take a break. Then return to it and proof read it. Check the spelling and grammar carefully, but remember that auto-correct can be your worst enemy. Words will be spelled correctly but will make no sense or confuse the reader if improperly changed. Once you have made your corrections, have at least one other person read your missive. You may read and re-read something incorrectly several times. Also, a sentence or a paragraph might make sense to you, but not be explained properly to the reader.

Be sure to add any photos, screen captures, or graphics that fit and help explain the topic. Be sure to size them so that they are readable, yet not so large that it takes too long to load or makes the page too large, but be sure that it is readable if it is necessary.

If you have trouble, be sure to contact the webmaster and you will get help. Once you post a few times, it will be easy.

[Back to Index](#)

Are Your User Group Meetings “kinda” Boring? Try “MEETUPS”...

by Greg West APCUG, Advisor Region 6 and International, APCUG Marketing Chair



Also read here and see the article at the end of this write-up on how the Central Florida Computer Society hosts a highly successful “MEETUP” TECH SIG each month!!

For some user groups, getting volunteers is a huge issue. So much so, groups are threatening to fold if they do not get new volunteers as did the Port Huron, Michigan group and the Sarnia, Ontario group. Today they are successful again as they downsized an unnecessary large executive board and lessened the load. It makes sense with user groups getting smaller to change the concepts of the way things worked “BACK IN THE DAY” and have proven not to be successful anymore. So, what is the real answer for user groups? I say the answer is “CHANGE”.

Many people who volunteer in user groups are the same ones who step up year after year, while others sit back and enjoy their work. Many user group executives are at a loss for help at meetings. One answer to this problem is to hold what is known as a “MEETUP”. Check out meetup.com to see how successful this new meeting concept has now become.

Meetups are becoming extremely popular, 90+ thousand meetings each week in the USA alone. Worldwide, the numbers are mind boggling. Some meetups are similar to a workshop with numerous random presenters. Some are simply brainstorming meetings that offer attendees to learn what THEY want to learn, not what some leader thinks they should know.

So, what makes a meetup so successful compared to some older ways user groups hold meetings? So what’s the big deal about a meetup instead of an organized meeting?

The answers are found within the concept of people sharing ideas and discussing tips freely and openly.

Twelve months ago I decided I was not going to be a talking head (full time presenter at meetings) anymore. I created an iPad Meetup where members of the community and my user group could attend. The meetup has no official officers and no designated helpers. The work is done as people roll into the room; seats and tables are setup etc., as is the projection audio equipment as needed.

Of course we have a person who leads a meetup, one or more people who act as facilitators to keep things flowing, and that’s it. Nothing complicated. No voting necessary, no elections. The help comes much easier, I have found, without the barriers of structure. People seem to like the freedom and ease of meetups. The meetups seem run themselves.

In fact, at the APCUG Ohio Regional Conference in September 2013, I gave two, what was supposed to be “Presentations” on iPad Basics and iPad Advanced. Once the “meeting” began I quickly explained the concept of a Meetup and told the attendees they were “in charge now, it is your meetup”. People seemed to like the new concept of a meetup at the conference; I plan on continuing with the meetup style of a session for my future presentations and even expand to advertise that the attendees choose the topics at the meetup. Yes of course you need someone starting off the meetup with a short presentation, talk, or stating how the meetup is to proceed, but then it is quickly turned it over to the attendees for a “brainstorming” and sharing session.

The answer is simple. Give your meeting over to the attendees to discuss the topics and you will be amazed what happens...You are taken to areas of interest that you had not even thought of entering before, and it is the areas that the members want to visit, not your interests, which may not be of interest to many in the room.

This, I believe, is the mainstay of meetups, and the secret to their huge success!!

Meetups have no “talking heads” (persons at the front speaking to audience) at meetups who dominate most of the meeting, except maybe a short Q&A at the end. All-too-often, in conventional meetings, if you miss something a speaker said or didn’t understand what the speaker said, you can get lost very fast and lose interest in the meeting and possibly the group.

Old style meetings, (PowerPoint with a Talking Head) are falling aside, quickly making room for the new concept: Meetups. Yes of course, old style meetings will hang around for some businesses such as banks, medical and legal professions, but with 90, 000+ meetups each week in the USA, well let’s just say the public has decided which type of session they now prefer.

I believe that user group members just might like to participate in a “User Group Meetup”. Most people like to talk and share ideas and concepts, so why not let them from the get go! It is the new way of learning.

Since most people are skeptical of putting up a hand to ask a question for fear of appearing less than smart, this opens the door for meetups where people sit in a much more welcoming atmosphere with people all around them sharing info and tips, asking questions and “Breaking the Ice”.

Some meetups have a speaker who begins the session, maybe with a given topic to get things going, or a simple introduction. Meetup leaders (after a while you will find people who simply just help without asking) may query the members for whom have found helpful mobile Apps, PC tricks or tips, and maybe a very helpful training video online, just to mention or even to show and tell. A good way to start a meetup is to have people to introduce themselves and explain what type of technology they are using and would like to use and why. Those questions/statements are known to Toastmasters as “Ice Breakers”, opening the door for those who never ask or answer questions at meetings to start.

A meeting where nobody usually speaks out that much, or offers assistance to move the session along, now all of a sudden is changed. Many times the leader or rather leaders as it turns out just sit back and let it happen. After teaching both Macs and PCs for over ten years and giving hundreds of tech presentations I have quickly found that the audiences today much prefer the interaction and participation of a Meetup, rather than having a “Talking Head” at your meeting all the time. Everyone learns more, everyone learns what they want to learn, and as an added bonus, everyone has a lot of fun. Oh yes, and change the seating, if possible, at each meetup. This helps to get people out of the “box” and try something new.

Recreate your user group today!! Try a meetup soon, they do work!

Following is a special report I requested to give you yet another example how meetups are becoming successful with user groups and giving user groups the needed newness!!

[Back to Index](#)

How the Central Florida Computer Society hosts MEETUP TECH SIG

Hewie Poplock, VP of APCUG:



The Tech SIG of the Central Florida Computer Society has been meeting for years on the 4th Tuesday. The last several years have been at a local Denny's restaurant, which has a back room and free wi-fi. (The wi-fi has only been reliable for about the last 6 months.) Stan Wallner is the leader of the group. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm, but we start arriving at 6:00 so that some of us can eat first. Others eat during the meeting.

Stan starts the meeting at 7. The loose format works.

Stan decides which way we go around the room, and each attendee has about five minutes to talk about any technology topic that they wish. Many times a discussion gets going well and the five minutes may last 15. Topics include, but not limited to the latest gadget that someone bought. It might be a dollar item from Meritline, a \$1500 laptop, a camera, an accessory, some software, a new phone or tablet, a Roku, or a discussion on the cable TV companies, questions asking about some software, hardware, etc.

We joke around and have a lot of fun as well as learning a lot. Recently, we have been setting up the projector with a computer and one of the members goes to sites that have the item that we are talking about or search for pricing on an item, or just getting more info about a topic.

Some members may "pass" as they don't have a topic, but usually still participate in the discussions. We have a few members who insist on leaving at 9 pm, but there are always several who finally finish up about 9:30 or 10.

We also maintain a GoogleGroup for this SIG and have a lot of correspondence throughout the month, pointing out product specials, interesting and/or important tech news, or just asking for some computer help.

Notes by Greg West: If your user group runs a similar type of "meetup" session, please email me and let me know how it is going. I want to hear the stories for a future report on how to improve user groups in today's tech environment. User groups need to reinvent the wheel; we need to change to survive in an ever-changing tech environment. The way we did things "back in the day" are not cutting it much anymore...Change is needed to survive!!

This article is posted on the APCUG new website at: <http://bit.ly/meetupsatapcug>

Feel free to use this article in any medium and please give APCUG the credits by inserting the above website URL.

[Back to Index](#)

Windows XP's Swan Song

By Bill James, Region 8 Advisor



If you are still Windows XP, please read on. Did you know that Microsoft introduced that operating system in October, 2001 and it is arguably one of the most popular of all the Microsoft OS's? It still represents 37% of all desktop operating systems worldwide as of June 2013. However, time is marching on and Microsoft has announced that starting April 8, 2014, there will be no more patches or updates – including security ones – issued for Windows XP. If you for instance do only email and web browsing you should think that this new policy should not affect you. Oh but it does because over time without updates Windows XP not only will it become less secure, it also means that you are going to face issues with support, finding anti-virus and other programs that work with XP. Your web browser, the tool that you use to access the Internet will also be open to security issues because of the lack of security updates and you will be locked into obsolete browsers designed for XP.

The problem as I see it is not to wait until you have a catastrophic computer failure which will then force you to update your system. But do it now, and start to look at your options and decide what route you wish to take. With a working XP system you will be able to move your all your data files, those emails you wish to keep to the new computer and find alternatives for those favorite programs that will work with your existing data without any drama. By thinking of updating your system, you will be able to logically and methodically determine what your needs are and choose the system that works best for you. You will not be under any pressure to find something immediately so that you can start using your computer again.

If you do not want to move all the way up to Windows 8, you can still find copies of Windows 7 available. But, I would not wait too long because those sources to that program will soon dry up. If you are considering buying a new computer or updating your OS, I would wait until Windows 8.1 is released in the later part of October 2013 because there are significantly enough changes in Windows 8.1 to negate what you may have already learned about the previous version of Windows 8.

If you need help with learning to use your new OS, encourage your UG to offer classes or workshops for the new OS. Moderating a SIG or Workshop is a wonderful way to learn about software. If you are in charge of programming, offer programs and workshops for your members. If you have not signed up for APCUG/O'Reilly free books program, then you are missing a source of information that covers the newer OS. If you are unfamiliar with the program, look for information on the APCUG website or APCUG Reports.

[Back to Index](#)

Volunteer of the Year

By Jim Evans
Committee Chair



Do you have a great hard-working volunteer in your group that you would like to honor? Think about nominating him/her for the Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year Award. This year's nominations will start November 1st and end on November 30th. The recipient will be announced in early January. A plaque will be sent to the user group so it can be presented at a meeting.

Watch your Inbox for an email with a link to an online form that you will need to fill out. You will be asked the following questions:

1. Brief explanation of why you feel your user group's nominee should receive the Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year award.
2. Describe how your volunteer has made a difference to your user group.
3. Show specific examples of your volunteer's roles and responsibilities.
4. Explain how your volunteer has shown initiative and leadership in his or her efforts.

You will be asked to send a jpg picture of your nominee that will be used when the recipient is announced. If you have any questions, please email voty@apcug.org.

APCUG / O'Reilly Quarterly Book Program

Jim Evans
Committee Chair

In late October, groups will have an opportunity to sign up for the Fall 2013 books. By participating in the program, each group will receive 3 physical books shipped to you from O'Reilly and 2 eBook certificates. Watch your Inbox for an email with a link to a form your group will need to fill out.

On the form there will be three categories of books. In each category, your group can choose one of three books. The groups will receive the books in November.

The books can be used in your raffle, as speaker gifts or as volunteer appreciation. There is no requirement to review the books. If you have any questions, please email OReillyBooks@apcug.org.

New APCUG Logo

Jim Evans

As you may know, APCUG has a new logo. On the APCUG website, under "About APCUG" will be a link to logo files that your group can download and use on your website and newsletters to show that you are a member of APCUG.

[Back to Index](#)



WOW - Another Great Value!!

Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) does it again!
Spring 2014 FACUG Technology Conference



Sunday, March 16, 2014 - 9:00AM to 4:30PM (Registration opens 8:00AM)

South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL
(between Linton Blvd & Clint Moore Rd)

*Mac, PC, iPhone and other Smart Phones, iPad and other Tablets, Social Networking,
Internet Security, Identity Theft, Digital Photography, eBay, Hints & Tips* and much more

Includes additional business-oriented track for business people who require computer and
technology knowledge to run their business or to better do their jobs more effectively

Includes FREE deli lunch and cold drink from a local kosher caterer

\$25/person for first 200 FACUG/APCUG attendees; \$50/person after first 200 attendees

Add \$10/**person** if you do not belong to a FACUG or APCUG User Group

Limited Availability - we will setup a waiting list once we sell out all the available seating

.....

I am including my \$25/person (\$35 for non-FACUG or APCUG members) conference registration
check. Please fill out the following form and place it into an envelope with your check.

Mail to: **Sam Wexler, FACUG President, 7399 Morocco Lake Drive, Delray Beach, FL 33446**

Once this is done, send an email containing the completed information below [to president@facug.org](mailto:president@facug.org) to time-stamp your submission, since there are a limited number of seats.

DATE: _____ COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY CLUB: _____

NAMES OF ONE OR TWO PEOPLE: _____

EMAILS: _____

CHECK #: _____ Amount: _____ PHONE #: _____
Payable to Spring 2014 FACUG Technology Conference

For questions or more conference information, email facugconference@ariesmart.com SORRY NO
REFUNDS since we must guarantee our numbers with the caterer.

[Back to Index](#)

What Apcug Offers

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) is an international, platform-independent, volunteer-run non-profit organization devoted to helping User Groups offer better services to their members. Listed below are some of the membership benefits:

Speakers Bureau

APCUG maintains a list of vendors and User Group officers and members who will give online presentations to your group; usually via Skype. If your members are tired of presentations from the same members or the same members tired of giving presentations, contact one of the speakers and book a presentation. You will find information about the Speakers Bureau at www.apcug2.net under the Member Benefits tab.

Virtual Technology Conferences

APCUG offers a Virtual Technology Conference quarterly. This gives group members the opportunity to 'attend' presentations in the comfort of their own home. Check out the videos of past sessions of APCUG's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/apcugvideos. You will find information about the Virtual Technology Conferences under the Member Benefits tab.

Regional Conference

APCUG has a regional conference annually in various locations, co-hosted by APCUG and a user group in the state. The 2013 conference will be held in Dayton, Ohio. Attendees have the opportunity to attend presentations, have networking opportunities with other attendees as well as the participating vendors, demonstrations of the newest products, and much more.

Discounts and Special Offers from Vendors

APCUG member groups periodically receive information regarding vendor discounts and/or special offers that can be passed on to their members. A list of training and publisher discount programs can be found on the Discount / Special Offers page, under the Member Benefits tab.

PUSH Newsletter Articles



Every month (20+) articles are sent to group editors to use in their newsletters. The articles are written by group members, professionals, and occasionally vendors. They are an attractive option for editors who would like help in filling their newsletter. You will find information about PUSH under the Member Benefits tab.

Web Site Hosting

For groups that are unable to find, or afford, online space locally, APCUG will host their website, and the Web space is a benefit of their membership. Send an e-mail to ols@apcug.org for information about Web Site hosting.

O'Reilly / APCUG Five Books per Quarter Program



Member groups have the opportunity to receive two books and three eBook certificates each quarter. These books may be used as door prizes, thank you to members giving a presentation, put into the group's library, or however the group decides to use them.

UGLS - Neighbors to Help Out!

Check out your state/country in the UGLS (User Group Locator Service), there are probably several groups within a 200 mile radius of your User Group. Click on the link to their Web site and get to know them! Share presenters, help each other, cross-advertise. Everyone benefits. You will find the UGLS under the User Groups tab.

Attract Vendors for Presentations

Being part of APCUG gives you an inside track to hosting vendor presentations. An excellent way to attract vendors is to team up with neighboring groups so they can make presentations on consecutive days. This lets them justify the high cost of sending someone to your meeting. Use the UGLS to find groups in your area.

User Group Newsletters Online



Is your editor looking for ideas for your newsletter? You will find a link to all of the member groups that have their newsletters online. Articles! Program Ideas! Fundraising Ideas!, and more will be found in the newsletters. You will find the Online Newsletter list under the User Groups tab.

APCUG.NET Web Site Well worth the time to investigate! The website not only showcases current APCUG and User Group news and other breaking information, it also contains all kinds of: Tips & Tricks for Running Your User Group, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, contact points, UGLS, Discounts, Speakers Bureau, Virtual Technology Conference information, Online Newsletters and much more.

How-To Guides

The APCUG website has excellent "How-To" guides to organize a group, including examples of Articles of Incorporation, constitution, by-laws, budget help, and lots of extras. Find the How-To Guides under User Groups tab.

Help for Your Group



Information for program chairs, growing your group, newsletter & PR guidelines, and more, compiled from various sources including past conferences and regional events. Find the Help for Your UG information under the Member Benefits tab.

Newsletter, Website, and Digital Photo Contests

APCUG holds the three contests annually. All members are invited to submit their digital photos and groups are welcome to submit their newsletters and websites for those contests. Information is sent to member groups via an e-mail to the officers listed in the UGLS. Find contest information under the Membership Benefits tab.

Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year Award (VOTY)



Volunteers are the backbone of APCUG and its member groups and are what keep user groups viable. All volunteers have this in common: their advocacy for technology and their User Group. To recognize the importance of the volunteer to APCUG's member groups, they are encouraged to submit one of their members for the VOTY award.

Monthly NOOZ Communication sent to Leaders



Each month your Regional Advisor sends out the NOOZ letter. This includes a variety of information regarding APCUG, your own region, vendors, contests, and much more.

Quarterly Reports sent to Group Leaders

Every quarter, APCUG sends out its official publication, Reports, to the leaders of groups. It is full of information, event news, advice, and contact information. You will find the current and past issues of Reports under the Web Site tab.

Solutions to Your Problems



The people who keep APCUG functioning are one of the greatest assets that member groups have going for them. These people have been there and done that! President, Vice President, Program Chair, you name it, they have probably done it. This means that, in all likelihood, whatever problems you are having, they have had in the past and have dealt with it! Every group has an Advisor assigned to it, and if he or she is unable to help your request will be sent to all the Board of Directors and Board of Advisor members. You are sure to get some solutions back.

Follow us @



<https://www.facebook.com/APCUG>



www.twitter.com/apcug



www.youtube.com/apcugvideos

[Back to Index](#)

APCUG Communications

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Website | www.apcug.net |
| Twitter | APCUG |
| Facebook | facebook.com/apcug |
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| Secretary | secretary@apcug.org |
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| International Regions Greg West | gwest@apcug.org |

[Back to Index](#)

Do You Need “New” Presentations For Your Group?

Check out APCUG’s Speakers Bureau (www.apcug.net / Member Benefits tab). You will find almost 100 presentations listed under the below topics:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Back-up | Internet | Refurbishing |
| Cloud Computing | Linux / Open Source | Security |
| Digital Photography | Mac | Social Media |
| Ergonomics | Music /Video | Software |
| Free Software | Operating Systems | User Groups |
| General | Preventative Maintenance | Virtual Machines |
| Hardware | Printers / Printing | Website |

Article Deadlines

| Issue | Published | Deadline |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| Q1, JAN, FEB, MAR | JAN 20 | DEC 20 |
| Q2, APR, MAY, JUN | APR 20 | MAR 20 |
| Q3, JUL, AUG, SEP | JUL 20 | JUN 20 |
| Q4, .OCT, NOV, DEC | OCT 20 | SEP 20 |

Unless indicated otherwise by the author, all articles published in REPORTS may be reprinted.

User group editors should give proper credit to the authors. All articles submitted for publication in REPORTS are subject to editing. Each issue of REPORTS focuses on User Group management issues, achievements and events of member groups from the 12 APCUG Regions, and updates from APCUG directors, advisors, and committee chairs.

[Back to Index](#)