

The

Computer Link

March 2009

The Newsletter of the Northern Neck Computer Users' Group

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Send newsletter
submissions to Editor
➔**DEADLINE**➔
for **NEXT ISSUE**,
One week after meeting

Boys & Girls Club Computer Activities

Tyren Frazier, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck, proudly explained how his organization is filling a need for helping families at February's NNCUG meeting.

Every day after school yellow school busses pull into the former Urbana Building Supply on N. Main Street in Kilmarnock and drop off up to **105 children** between the ages of 6 to 18 for organized and monitored homework assistance and recreational activities. Volunteer adults are there to keep the activities going and help kids in need. Closing time is 8pm. .

The big facility has areas for separating age groups and play activities. Of great interest to NNCUG members was the glassed off **computer room** where more than a dozen rebuilt desk tops with flat screens are available for homework and recreation. Tyren explained that "kids know computers, but don't always have them at home."

They are big on web design, digital art and music making. Many do their googling for homework reports. Printers are available too. High speed internet was **donated** by a local provider and the computers themselves were also donated free. Microsoft provides much of the software including Digital Arts 7.0. Boys and Girls Clubs are nationally chartered and follow time worn guidance to follow the rules, respect each other, learn and have fun.

Tyren himself is a product of Boys and Girls clubs. At an early age he became a volun-

teer, paid employee and then became a full time professional after completing his college training. He is very proud of his Kilmarnock operation which differs from his past locations in big inner cities where kids come from nearby neighborhoods.

Drop in sometime and think about becoming a kid (or helper) again. Thanks, Tyren, for the great presentation. **Ed.**



Tyren Frazier
Photo by Chris Christensen

Tech News That Affects Everybody

Written by *Sandy Berger*, CompuKISS
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Some of us scour the technology and business sections of the newspaper and the Web to get the latest news. Some of us head for the lifestyle and community sections, without much of a care about technology. Yet, today's technology news is often news that will affect everyone's life in one way or another.

Let me give you a few examples. The Pope recently announced **opening of the Vatican YouTube channel** (www.youtube.com/vaticanit) which will feature short video clips of Pope Benedict XVI's activities and links to news and information about the Catholic Church. The Pope is posting two or three videos each day. Most are short clips showing the Pope's speeches, activities, and participation in important events. In a recent speech, the Pope praised the Internet as offering rich opportunities for dialogue, friendship and spreading the Christian message.

There is a lot of irreverent stuff on YouTube, but the Pope's participation shows how mainstream this popular video website has become. YouTube, FaceBook, MySpace, and other social networking websites have become more and more popular. If you haven't yet visited any of these, YouTube is a great place to start. (www.youtube.com)

Another recent news announcement was the Palm Pre, which is a smartphone that will be available in a few months through Sprint. You might think that this is just another phone, and you would be right. But the **implications for cell phones are quite dramatic**. Palm has developed a totally new version of the operating system for this phone. Google now has their own cell phone operating system as do Microsoft, BlackBerry, and Apple. These are some pretty big name and you will notice that the software that runs these phones is called an operating system. That's because these phone are really

mini-computers that can do email, surf the web, and perform many other functions. Cell phones are changing dramatically. They are turning into handheld computers that will change the lives of those who use them.

We also should not overlook Apple's recent announcement that they will be dropping the DRM (digital rights management) for all songs in their iTunes store. The DRM crippled the songs so they had limited use. For instance, they could only be played on a certain number of devices or be copied a certain number of times. So music lovers the world over will be rejoicing to see that by April of this year, **all of iTunes 10 million songs will be DRM-free**. There is one caveat. Those who have previously purchased music and/or videos on iTunes that included Apple's DRM will now have to pay to get the DRM removed. Apple will be charging 30 cents a song. iTunes has sold six billion songs since going online in 2003. They did not offer any DRM-free music until recently. So most of those six billion songs had DRM. If every purchaser pays Apple 30 cents for taking away the DRM, Apple would make \$180,000,000. A boon to Apple, a pain-in-the-rear for honest music lovers who previously used the iTunes store.

news that will affect everyone's life in one way or another

Microsoft was also in the news recently with their announcement that the beta testing version Windows 7, their next operating system could be **downloaded and tried for free**. Their website was inundated by curious Windows users. So many came, that they had to add more servers and download services. They originally said that they would limit the downloads to 2.5 million, but recently removed that restriction and will continue to offer the beta trial until February. Don't think that you will be getting something for nothing, though. The beta of Windows 7 will stop being functional on August 1, 2009. At that time you will either have to reinstall your previous operating system or pay for Windows 7.

Last but not least in the technology news is the announcement that Western Digital has created a **2 terabyte hard disk drive**. Believe it or not, this may have one of the biggest effects on individual users. As we can store more and more digital data at reasonable prices, more and more data will be digitized. We are already living in a digital world, but that world gets more reliant on technology every day.

Moving on to Vista – Part 13

Written by *Neil Stahfest*,
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The chances are the first peripheral device you purchased for your computer was a printer. You may have even received a "free" printer when you purchased your computer. Vista makes it easier than ever to connect a new printer to your computer than ever before. The Plug-and-Play feature really works (unless, like me, you have an old laser printer that Windows Vista does not support. :- ().

So you connect your printer, follow the Printer Wizard's directions, it works and you're happy. But wait. Have you examined your printer to discover all of its functions? Did you know that many modern printers, **even the inexpensive models, can print on both sides** of the paper, print sideways on the paper (called landscape mode), print in gray scale as well as in color and allows you to control print quality (to save ink when you don't need high quality print). Here's how to find out what you can do and

manage it.

Create or open a document using your favorite word processing program or WordPad. At the top of your screen, click on "File" and then scroll down to "Printer Settings" and click again. When the "Printer Setup" window opens, click on the "Properties" button. At this point what you see depends largely on your individual printer.

In the case of my HP printer, I see a window with tab labeled "Paper/Quality", "Finishing", "Effects", "Basics", "Color" and "Services". Selecting the appropriate tab allows me to select

Vista makes it easier than ever to connectThe Plug-and-Play feature really works

print quality (Normal, Draft, Enhanced, etc.), Portrait or Landscape mode, page order, color, single or two sided paper printing and many other options. In the case of my HP printer, when I select two sided paper printer, the printer prints on one side of the paper and then an on-screen message **shows me how to reinsert the printed sheet** in the paper tray to print of the other side. These print options are actually determined by the printer, not Windows. Windows just provides the means to control the printers features.

Windows frequently provides **more than one way to do the same thing**. Desktop icons provide a shortcut to run programs listed in the Start Menu. You can easily create new desktop icons by opening the Programs section of the Start Menu, selecting a program, right clicking on it and drag it to a blank area on your desktop. When you release the right mouse button a short menu appears with the option to "Create Shortcuts Here". Select it, and left-click once to create the icon. You can rename this icon to anything you wish.

If you right-click on a desktop icon, one of the menu options is "Properties". Select Properties and left-click once. Under the "Shortcut" tab notice the entry line labeled "Shortcut key". It probably contains the entry "None". **By selecting a suitable key (letter or number)**, you can create a key combination shortcut to your program. It's a convenient way to access frequently used programs, spreadsheets and documents.

Before we leave this menu, notice the button labeled "Change Icon". When you left-click on this button you'll see an array of icons that you can **use to substitute for your default icon**. Pick an icon, click on the "Okay" button and then click on "Okay" again. Your new icon will appear on the desktop.

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2008 Photo SIG Photo of the Year Contest Pictures



Butterfly in Distortion



Rainy Day on the Bridge



Texture of Driftwood



Floral Compost



Fourth of July



Filtered Water Drops



Hummingbird in Flight



Heron



Shadows of the Past



Winter Pond



Peanuts



Dark Spurs

Contestants are Linda Boyatzies, Richard Davies, Cliff Freeman, Gerry Holmes, Marilyn Jurkops, B.J. McMillan, Marianne Miller and Judy Sapione. Cast your vote at the March 21st Meeting at Rappahannock West-

Come to March 21st Membership Meeting and Vote for 2008 Photo Contest Winner & Board of Directors

We expect long lines at the coffee counter as the crowds of NNCUG regulars and irregulars come to the March meeting to select the winner of the annual photo contest and exercise their right to re-elect the Board of Directors by acclimation or nominate from the floor. Come one, come all!!

On page four you can see all the pictures in the

contest. Each contestant will also be bringing their entries to the meeting for viewing and making your vote more difficult to decide. Page four can also be seen in color on www.nncug.org, click on "Galleries" and then the "2008

Photo Winners" URL. To improve the view, increase the size to 150%.

As for the candidates for re-election, see the first five people listed on page 1 of this issue.

They agreed to run again and will be hunting for **mandatory re-pecements** under the by-laws for next year's election. We have term-



February Photo SIG Winner

Stairwell by *Richard Davis*

limits in some cases.

As an additional inducement, Linda Boyatzies will be treating the membership to an introduction to Photo Shop Elements to make your digital camera hobby more fun. **Ed.**

NNCUG Feb 2009 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Northern Neck Computer Users Group was called to order on February 21, 2009, at 9:30 am by president B.J. McMillan. 32 members and guests attended.

Minutes of the January 17, 2009, meeting were approved. The Nominating Committee reported that all current officers have **agreed to serve again** next year. The election will be held at the March meeting. Treasurer Jim Thompson submitted a Treasurer's Report. We now have 117 members.

Jim Sapione reported on the activities of the Photo SIG and BJ McMillan reported on the status of the Beginners SIG. She reiterated that NNCUG is looking for someone to take over the Beginners SIG, or lead the Beginners session one month each quarter. (**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL BJ** at 580-8666.) Absent this solution, NNCUG could sponsor a Beginners workshop once every 3-4 months. The results of the **survey on how members use their PCs** or would like to use them have been tabulated. BJ will be asking individual members to develop programs based on the survey results. Betty Lehman reported on NNCUG's Website and Tom Duke reported on the NNCUG newsletter.

After a Question and Answer period, **Tyren Frazier**, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club in Kilmarnock, gave a presentation on the new 19 station computer lab at the Club, and their Digital Media programs, including a photography module. The program for March will be the annual Photography Special. **Linda Boyatzies** will provide an overview of Photoshop Elements and the monthly winners from the Photo SIG will discuss their winning photos. All members will vote for the **Best Photo of the Year**. Raffle winners were: **Carol Hallett, George Cadmus, and Linda Boyatzies**. The general meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.

BJ McMillan, President

Membership Report - February 2009

WELCOME— Joe Hecht, Brandon Rohr, Philip Allan

RENEW March 2009 – Linda Boyatzies, Lloyd Hill, Carolyn Bridgers, Maurice Dickerson, Louis Marin, Karen Edwards, Rich Emery, Robert Flore, Jim Harnsberger, Louise McIntire, Linda Small

RENEW February 2009 – Susan Christopher, Joanne Crichton, Alden Head, Mary Jenks, Doris Lundegard, David Mower, Clark Schumacher

Membership dues are \$20 annually. Please send to:

Jim Thompson, Treasurer, NNCUG, P.O. Box 774, Burgess, VA. 22432

For insertion into our local newspaper advertising, please send to bevnjim@netscape.com no later than 15th of the month.

The Computer Link

Northern Neck Computer
Users' Group
P.O. Box 1213
Kilmarnock, Va. 22482

NNCUG Meeting Dates

NNCUG GENERAL MEETING

Third Saturday 9:30 a.m.

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Meeting Room

BEGINNERS SIG

Third Saturday 11:00 a.m. (after General Meeting)

GENEALOGY SIG

Third Saturday 11:00 am

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury

[Members interested in leading and forming new SIG group, contact B.J. McMillan 580-8666]

PHOTOSHOP SIG

First Tuesday every month, 9 a.m.

Lancaster Community Library, Kilmarnock

For more information,

Call Jim Sapione, 804-462-5831 or message

Bird@kaballero.com

**For a photo treat visit
www.rapptapp.homestead.com**



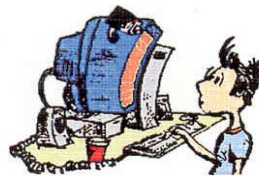
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Coming Attractions

Membership—March 21st, 9:30am RW-C—Photo Contest
Photo SIG—April 7th, 9am Library—TBA