



Cyber Chat

Regular Meeting

April 17, 2008

10:00 AM

Okaloosa-Walton College

908 W. Hwy 90

Room 154

DeFuniak Springs, Florida

Tech Session

8:45—9:45

Rm 201

Saturday: At the FACUG Conference in Zephyrhills

By J.B. Hillard

When Robert and I left DeFuniak at 4:30 AM on Friday we were driving in the rain. Unknown to us we were headed into tornado active areas to the east. I have been in rainstorms before, even in a hurricane, but this was the worst I have ever seen. The rain became extremely heavy as we neared Tallahassee. Unknown to us there was tornado activity northeast of Tallahassee. We travel on east of Tallahassee in heavy rain and it became more extreme. The car engine started acting up with the tachometer gauge rpm fluctuating when it should be steady. As we got to Lake City we decided a visit to Honda Motors was in order. It turns out the Service Manager determined what was probably happening the tires were losing traction in the extreme rain and we were on the verge of hydroplaning. Scary! The rain was lightening up and we continue on south and did not run out of it until about Ocala. Lois and Carl left DeFuniak at 8AM and were following behind the storm and

did not catch the rain until the Lake City area but it had subsided considerably from what Robert and I went through. We kept in contact by cell phone.

The FACUG Conference itself has been absolutely amazing. The change in venue from the convention center in Kissimmee to the Zephyrhills High School was a good business decision. This change puts the association back into financial good standing. The convention center in Kissimmee had become just too expensive for the income that is needed each year to put something on like this.

Carl Lofstrom has done an amazing job putting the presenter program together. Each session is limited to 35 by the school fire code but this has not created a problem. There has been enough choice that everyone is able to attend a session they like.

(See FACUG-page 5)

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The principle of equal access/equal opportunity for everyone is practiced.

The primary purpose is to assist our members and others to become more proficient in the use of a computer for their personal enjoyment. We serve through promotion of computer literacy and education by being actively involved in the community.

The Chautauqua Cyber Club, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization under section 501(c)3 for educational purposes, and incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida.

CCC Listserv: email to waltonccc@freelists.org

Free computer help by using the club listserv. Post a problem by email and obtain an answer (most of the time).

The listserv is a service provided to members of the Chautauqua Cyber Club and invited guests. It is used for problems solving, posting club news and special bulletins, and to maintain a user friendly communication network.

NOTICE

Publishing information: Articles submitted for publication should be in Microsoft Word or regular ASCII text and unformatted. Photos with article are encouraged.

Presenters/Writers: Members are encouraged to volunteer and present a program on software or hardware. Vendors will provide presentations-in-a-box, and publishers will provide books for review. Whatever is presented becomes the property of the presenter. Make your interest known and share. You will be surprised at what all is available to demonstrate.

Cyber Chat: This is a monthly publication. It is mailed to each members as a benefit, but can be viewed on the website at www.waltonccc.org.

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Boot n' Reboot

by J. B. Hillard—President



It sure looks like a new facility for computer training is not far down the road. Renovations are currently in progress at the new Life Enrichment

Senior Center (LESC) that includes space for a "Resource Center" to teach computing. Leigh Morrison, Manager of the facility is moving right along and will have activities running this month. She has already sent out a schedule of events. If you did not receive one just drop an email to..... seniorcenter@co.walton.fl.us

April is National Volunteer Month. We will have the opportunity to celebrate our volunteers at a cook-out on April 15th at the LESG. The CCC is joining the LESG in this public cook-out for a spring outdoor gathering of our members. **Our good cooks are urged to bring one of your good desert dishes to enhance the hamburgers and hot-dogs.** Everyone be sure to wear your CCC shirt. A lot of the public will be there and this is a good time show the colors.

A survey of our members has been completed and shared via the listserv. It gives us a good idea of the club make-up, interest, and areas that need improvement. The stats are in this newsletter. We will be talking about the survey at the April meeting.

We have a couple more meetings until the summer recess when we shut down for July and August.

Hope to see all of you April 15 and in the meantime.....

Happy computing, J. B.

Our Community



Community Service Program

"People Helping People"

It started January 23rd when I received an email at the college from SCM Delbert Hoskins, 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles", a unit based about 50 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq. Using the Internet SCM Hoskins found the OWC student computer loan program that is supported by the CCC. He was looking for help in establishing an education and communications center for his unit in Iraq. We went to work and OWC donated 20 computers that were recycled by Sam Sloan and Robert Connor, CCC volunteers. This was the easy part of meeting the request.

Working a three way effort from Iraq, Fort Campbell, Ky and myself with the Air Force at Hurlburt Field, we were hopeful the Air Force would be able to help. After several weeks of anxious waiting the bubble popped. There is no way we can let these folks down. They scrounged materials and erected their little oasis in anticipation of receive the computers.

We have to raise the money for shipment, about \$500.00, but on April 7 the computers will be delivered from Niceville to Bonifay where they will be prepared for shipment by motor carrier to Fort Campbell. On April 25 they will be on a U. S. Army cargo plane direct to Iraq.

There will be a follow-up story with photos in the May issue of Cyber Chat.

J. B.

THIS 'N THAT



Just a note about membership attendance so far this year.

So far the following members have not been seen at any of the meetings this year:

Paul Berg, Rex Brogdale, Robin Cook, Tommie Gipson, Anita Harris, Fred Kemp, Fred Mason, Diane Merkel, Robert Nelson, John Penderly, Neolish Robinson.

Following members are being removed from the roster with regrets:

Jeff Larson, Keola Lyall, Jay Van Slate.

Thank you to the regular attendees. They are the one that are benefiting and telling us what they would like to see and so for future meetings

On an upper note, we welcome, Wanda M. Novak and her hard working accountant husband Thomas V. to our membership. Maybe Tom can join Wanda after tax season.

If the members would like to continue to have coffee and pastries please signify by letting me know via email, at **kittys-four@embarqmail.com**. Marie Gibson has graciously accepted task of picking up the goodies needed. But, we need volunteers to help after the meeting in cleaning up. So if I get a volunteer or two to help with cleanup and you vote for coffee we will continue as in the past. Otherwise it will be BYOC.

(See This n' That-page 8)



TIP LINE

Q: Can you please explain what the Microsoft Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool is? It comes through every month with the Windows Updates, but I've never really figured out what it does.

A:

Oh, that's such a good question! I've been asked this question several times in the past and to be honest, I thought we already covered it in the newsletter. That's the only reason why I never addressed it. But, after taking a quick look through our archives, I found out we've touched on it before, but we never really gave a good definition of it. So, before I go any further, I just want to apologize for neglecting this for so long and I hope my explanation of it today will make up for lost time. Let's get started, shall we?!

Here's the basic definition you've been looking for! The **Microsoft Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool** is a utility that scans your computer for any infections that revolve around malicious software. If anything is found, the Removal Tool then helps to get rid of it. A few examples of the software it focuses on a bit more are Blaster, Sasser and Mydoom. Once the scan is finished and the malicious software is removed from your computer, the Tool gives you a report describing everything that was detected and removed.

Now, like the person who asked today's question stated, a version of the Microsoft Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool is released each month with the Windows Updates. Other versions of the Tool are also released when needed to help out with new security issues.

(See TipLine-page 5)

(FACUG From page 1)

The last count I heard is 153. Not sure how many user groups this represents, but we have 53 UG's that make up the FACUG. This represents about 15,000 members in Florida.

The APCUG President is here as well as major vendor representatives from Microsoft, Corel, Trend Micro (an amazing presenter I'll tell you about later), Zoom Text Verbatim, Pinnacle Systems, User Group Relations, Assured, and Smart Computing Magazine. Smart Computing had an excellent Jeopardy type game related to Smart Computing. We will be doing the game at a club meeting in the future after we do a presentation on the magazine and website. This will be great fun.

A highlight today was that each attendee received full version of Microsoft Windows Vista Ultimate Full Version, a \$400.00 value. See <http://www.windowsmarketplace.com/details.aspx?view=info&itemid=3268633>

Also, we received a full version of Micro-Trend, an amazing product.

Sunday there will be presentations by Corel, Jay Ferron the APCUG President, How User Groups can benefit from Web 2.0 technologies, learn all the many things a GPS can do for you, Verbatim and Pinnacle Systems. After the presentations we have the awards for best newsletter and website. This is followed by the FACUG annual meeting and then the vendor fair and grand door prize drawings. They have enough prizes that all attendees will go home with at least one prize.

We headed home early Monday and arrived in DeFuniak by mid-afternoon. Robert headed south to visit a friend in North Port, Florida and stop in Tallahassee to visit an-

other friend on the way back and return by Friday morning.

I have been elected to serve a two year term on the Board of Directors and will be the new Vice-President. This is my second stint on the Board. I'm working on getting Marie Vesta, the President to visit the panhandle clubs this year, maybe our Expo 09 next January, and I'm pushing to have the Fall Conference in October 09, in Tallahassee.

If you want to take advantage of some of the products that were available to us, go the FACUG website: www.facug.org and click on the Vendor Offers tab. Here you will see that some discounts are available and others have been extended for a few more weeks.

(Tip Line from page 4)

It's possible that some of you neglect to install the Microsoft Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool each month. You may think your computer is just fine and you're convinced you don't need another utility running on your computer. Well, everyone's entitled to their own opinion, but I strongly recommend you run the Tool at least once a month. Even if your computer seems to be acting normal, you're still at risk of being infected. The Removal Tool is heavy duty and it makes a big difference when it comes to keeping your computer safe.

You should also make sure you keep all of your other antivirus, spyware, etc. software up to date. Those programs can work along with the Tool to keep your computer as protected as possible. Also, just for your information, the Microsoft Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool works with the following operating systems: Windows 2000, XP, Vista and Server 2003. Stay safe!

~ Erin



PC Don
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Article Continued from March

Darkrooms Replaced by Computers

One of the main joys of digital photography is the ability to "touch up" one's pictures in all kinds of ways. What used to be done by darkroom and spray-gun specialists, is now done by PC users with programs like Adobe PhotoShop and Corel Paint Shop Pro. The former has always been the choice of graphics professionals, and costs about \$600. PhotoShop Elements, a slimmed down version, cost about \$100. I like Corel Paint Shop Pro, which costs about \$80, and can be downloaded from www.corel.com.

There's no way I can describe all the touch-up tricks available in so many different programs, but I can give you a few tips to get you started enhancing your digital photos.

Simple *Brightness* and *Contrast* adjustments can fix over/under-exposed pictures with a few mouse clicks, while the *Dodge* and *Burn* tools can lighten or darken areas you select.

Clone, Smudge, Straighten & Lots More

The "clone" tool is one I use constantly. It lets you choose an area of a photo and then "clone" it onto another location. A facial blemish, for instance, can be hid-

den by simply cloning a clear spot over it. Or — visualize snapping a child at play on

a park lawn just as a stranger walks into the shot. You can make the stranger disappear with cloned grass, trees, and sky. It's amazingly easy.

Another handy item is the "smudge" or "smear" tool. If, for instance, some of your cloned grass appears a little different than the area it was copied into, you can "smudge" dissimilar edges into a smooth, natural-looking blend.

An alternative means of cloning is to use a "selection" tool to outline an area in a photo, whereupon it can be copied and pasted into other locations with traditional **Ctrl+C** (copy) and **Ctrl+V** (paste) commands.

Choosing **Ctrl+X** (scissors) will **cut** the selected area out of the picture, leaving the "canvas" color showing through. This is handy if you want to, say, remove a distracting background from around someone's portrait, whereupon a "paint bucket" tool can be used to fill the cut-out area with a solid color or a texture of some kind.

All image-editors have tools for rotating mal-aligned pictures, but Corel PSP has a super-easy "Straightening" tool. After clicking the tool, you draw a straight line along, say, the edge of a building. Click on the line and the picture rotates to where the building is at a right angle to the horizon.

Built-In Instructions

How do you find these tools, along with details on how to use them?

(Darkrooms From page-6)

All of these programs come with extensive Help menus, including a Search box into which you can type the name of a tool, command, or effect you're seeking. Many also have built-in tutorials, with additional instructions being available online.

For serious students of image-editing, ROP and evening courses in Adobe PhotoShop can be found in many high schools and community colleges. But the average snapshot-taker can also become a formidable touch-up artist with a little practice.

Article Continued from March

Be Your Own Photo Processing Studio

For those to whom digital cameras are new, you may be surprised to learn you no longer need a photo service to produce your prints, nor do you need a darkroom technician to crop or touch them up. You can do it all yourself.

However, it helps to be familiar with some of the terminology. Digital images are called "bitmaps" because a collection of tiny colored squares called bits are mathematically mapped on your screen to create an image. JPG, GIF, and BMP are "bitmap formats" which create the images, using different formulas.

Many folks use small "photo printers" that automatically produce a 3x5 or 4x6 paper print, much like you used to get

from a photo processing service. However, these printers offer very little in

the way of "editing" features and their output is pretty much "what you see with your camera is what you get on paper."

Full Size Printer Offers More Options

I prefer using a desktop printer that will output any size I specify, and even print multiple pictures on a single sheet. I also prefer to "edit" my pictures before sending them to a printer.

Photo-editing includes things like making a picture lighter or darker, having more or less contrast, and changing the image size to anything you want. You can also remove unwanted things from a photo as well as put things into it that were never actually there.

Dozens of Image-Editing Programs in Use

All printers, scanners, and digital cameras come with some basic editing software, so you may have several programs on your computer. Since there are so many, I can't give tips on using them all. However, all PCs come with Windows Paint; so I will explain some of its most-used features here.

Some Basics of *Windows Paint*

Launch the program by clicking **Start>Programs>Accessories>Paint**. Clicking **File>Open** will normally take you to your *My Pictures* folder, where you can double-click a target image to display it on the Paint "canvas."

(See Photo page– 8)

(Photo from page– 7)

The average digital photo is too large to be printed on a sheet of standard paper, so reducing its size is often the first thing you'll do. Click on **Image>Stretch/Skew** and type a percentage into the Height and Width "Stretch" fields. I find that 25 or 30 percent works well with most digital photos. If the new size doesn't look right, do **Edit>Undo** (or **Ctrl+Z**) to return to the original.

However, if you like what you see, click **File>Save As** and give the edited photo a new name. If you want to crop part of a photo in order to, say, remove extraneous background around a subject, use the *Select* tool (top right icon) to draw a box around the subject. Then click **Edit>Cut** and **Edit>Paste** to put the cropped selection in place.

When ready to print, click **File>Print Preview** to see a miniature of how your picture will look on paper. Use **File>Page Setup** to adjust margins and choose paper orientation.

Paint, as its name implies, is more of a "painting" program than a photo-editor, but the above features can be useful.

(This n" That from-page 4)

Another thing that we are thinking of doing is to subscribe to a program that will give us remote access to your computer. That is, if you call us up with a problem with your system and we cannot talk you through it, we can then access the your computer from our respective homes or lab and hopefully affect repairs. The Club

will have to incur a monthly charge for this, which in turn we will ask you for a per usage fee. We are not talking huge amount but maybe around \$5.00 per use. Depends on the plan that we subscribe to.

Now for some of the survey results that only 20 of you took:

It seems that the majority of the members, 95% have Windows XP as their OS.

Half of you said that your computing skill is intermediate while 25% said that they are novice. Everybody seems satisfied with the Thursday AM meeting time and 100% of you said they like have speakers.

Only 50% said they would volunteer to do a job of their choosing and 78% would like to participate is day trips that may not be computer related.

The next item of rating overall the quality of the programs and assistance were 39% good; 22% fair and very good equally; and 17% excellent.

Now the last one leaves me scratching my head because 78% of you are willing to participate in a tech session before the monthly meeting, but at the last meeting on the 20th, I had the lab open at 8:30 AM and by nine, no one had showed up. I attended a Board meeting and came back still nobody showed up. That is why it perplexes me. Does it you?



Your editor



Club Shirt

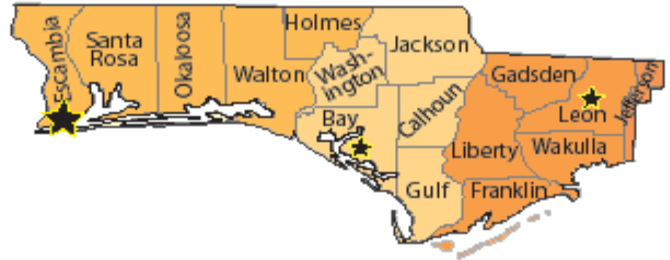
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