

LWV PC Club News

March 2007

Web site lwvpcclub.org

Volume 13 - No. 8

Monday April 16, 6:30 p.m., CH 3

US Postal Services On-Line Not In Line



www.usps.com

Now you can skip the trip and use your computer for many postal services. Come and see a demonstration of online products and services, and learn time-saving tips for your mailing needs.

Our presenter, Sandra Frankel, USPS Small Business Specialist, says "With a few clicks of the mouse, you can buy postage, look up a ZIP Code, order free supplies,

and ship and track mail. Also, you can have your mail held while you travel, and create hardcopy greeting cards, postcards, and letters."

The Postal Service offers nearly three dozen services on-line. Join us and learn how you might benefit from this informative program.

What is APCUG, Anyway?

The Laguna Woods Village PC Club belongs to a larger organization called the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG, for short). The Mission of APCUG is: To facilitate communication among computer user groups, the community, and the technology industry.

The APCUG Web site (www.apcug.net) contains so much information that you won't be able to digest it all in one visit, so plan on several. Some of the areas you can explore are: What We Offer, Events, Help Articles, Newsletters, Push Articles, Reports, WebBoard, and News. Check it out!

What follows is an example of an article from the APCUG Web site:

Burning Pictures On a CD (DG)

Do you have about a hundred gazillion pictures on your PC eating up hard disk space? If you have a CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R, DVD+R, DVD-RW, or DVD+RW drive, burning those pictures onto a CD, where they'll last for

decades, is very easy. A CD certainly lasts longer than your hard drive, providing you don't gum it up with one of those sticky CD labels.

Burning pictures couldn't be simpler:

Make sure that your CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R, or DVD-RW drive is installed and working.

Start Windows Explorer. (Just choose, say, Start, My Pictures or Start, My Computer.)

Navigate to the pictures you want to burn. If you're in a picture or photo album folder, Copy to CD appears in the Picture Tasks list.

(Continued on page 6,)



The LWV PC Club



The LWV PC Club is an organization dedicated to maintaining our community's PC facilities and providing helpful services and learning opportunities to all members. All functions in the PC facilities are managed and staffed by volunteer members. Major funding for the facilities is provided by the LWV PC Club, a non-profit organization.

We invite you to visit our facilities in the Community Center and check our Web site (lwvpc-club.org) to get information about our activities, services and classes. Further, we invite you to become a member of our organization and consider areas where you might join us in helping others.

Membership is open to all residents.

PC Workshop

(949) 268-2262

Hours:

Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

.....
We notify our members of Club events & meetings by email. If you are not receiving these notices and would like to receive them, please send your correct email address to: menromi@fea.net.
.....

The LWV PC Club News is published monthly (except for July, August, and December) by the Laguna Woods Village PC Club.

The LWV PC Club News is distributed at monthly meetings of the club at Clubhouse 3, and copies are available in the Computer Workshop in the Laguna Woods Village Community Center. A copy of the LWV PC Club News is also posted on the Web site of the LWV PC Club: lwvpcclub.org.

The Board of the LWV PC Club

Roger Turner, President, Programs

Katy Link, Vice-President, Email

Nancy Bellitto, Secretary

Mary Brunner, Treasurer

Burt Goldstein

Sandra Smolinsky, Editor

Kathryn Taylor, Historian

John Trask, Purchasing

Anne Clark, Webmaster

Kaye Hammerman, Education/

Publicity, & SIGS

Robin Nahas, Membership

Norm Salzberg, Workshop

Class Schedule for May 2007

Registration Desk hours:

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. and

Fridays 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

For further information call Kaye Hammerman, 859-1301
or email CHamme1009@aol.com

Course	Day	Dates	Time	Instructor
Internet and Email	Friday	May 4 - June 1	1:15 p.m.	Norm Salzberg
Photoshop Elements One	Monday	May 7 - May 21	9:00 a.m.	Bob Ring/ Ira Joss
Basic Computing Skills	Monday	May 7 - June 4	1:15 p.m.	Harold Schwartz
Basic Computing Skills	Tuesday	May 8 - June 5	9:15 a.m.	Michael Taylor
Basic Refresher	Tuesday	May 8 - June 5	1:15 p.m.	Mel Dollar
Intermediate	Wednesday	May 9 - June 6	9:15 a.m.	Bob Sellards
Word Processing	Wednesday	May 9 - June 6	1:15 p.m.	Stan Gendelman
Basic Computing Skills	Thursday	May 10 - June 7	1:15 p.m.	Kaye Hammerman
Photoshop Elements Two	Monday	June 4 - June 25	9:00 a.m.	Bob Ring/ Ira Joss

Classes are held in the Justin Webb Learning Center

LWV Community Center—3rd floor

Classes are available to members of the LWVPCC

Notice of nondiscriminatory policy as to students: The LWVPCC Justin Webb Learning Center admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to students at the Learning Center. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or other programs.

SIGs

Q: What is a SIG?

A: The letters SIG stand for *Special Interest Group*. Each of these short sessions focuses on a particular subject of interest.

Q: Where are the SIGS held?

A: They are held in the Justin Webb Learning Center, on the third floor of the Community Center Building. They are open on a first-come first-served basis.

Q: Is there a cost for a SIG?

A: SIGS are free to all Laguna Woods Village residents.

Q: How are SIGS different from classes?

A: They are less formal and have open question-and-answer periods. Frequent SIG topics include Basic Refresher, Word Processing, Computer Maintenance, Ebay, Internet Email, Digital Photo 101, and other subjects that are of interest to our members.

Q: Sounds great! How will I know exactly when a SIG will be held and what the topic will be?

A: The SIGS are always listed on Channel 6, posted on our Web site, publicized in the Laguna Woods Globe under Computer News, and Katy Link, our vice-president, sends out emails to our members.



"And I didn't fit in with
the desktop crowd either!"



Members' Web Sites

by Sandra Smolinsky, Editor

In the November 2006 issue of the PC Club Newsletter I mentioned that I would be interested in non-commercial personal Web sites of PC Club members. I am proud to present the beginning of what I hope will be an ever-growing list from our illustrious community:

Wolfgang Kutter

<http://home.lworld.net/~wkrkutter/index.html>

Patricia Lockwood

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

Sandra Smolinsky

<http://home.lworld.net/~ssmolinsky/>

If West Coast Internet is your Internet Service Provider, it will furnish you with some free Web space.



Our Club's Archives

Did you ever want to go back and check on an article in a past club newsletter? Or did you need a piece of information from one of Norm Salzberg's previous columns?

They are right at your fingertips, literally.

Our Web master, Anne Clark, carefully archives newsletters and *Joy of Computing* columns. All you need to do is go to our club Web site, lwvpcclub.org, and click on either *Newsletters*, or *Joy of Computing*. There are newsletters that date back to February, 2004. The *Joy of Computing* columns go back about one year. What a wealth of information!

**LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE PC CLUB
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 05, 2007**

PRESENT: Mary Brunner, Nancy Bellitto, Kay Hammerman, Katy Link, Robin Nahas, Norm Salzberg, Sandra Smolinsky, Kathryn Taylor, John Trask, Roger Turner (Presiding). It was MSP (Kathryn, Kaye Hammerman) that the minutes of the January 2007 meeting be approved.

ABSENT: Anne Clark, Burt Goldstein.

President Roger Turner opened the meeting at 3:30 PM in the Learning Center.

President Roger expressed appreciation for the article written by one of our members, Walter Wood, an author who has submitted a very complementary review on the value of the opportunities offered to Laguna Woods Village Residents through the LWVPC Club.

Roger commented that we need to consider some ideas for new benefits for PC Club members. Some ideas may be upgrades for the Workshop and the Learning Center by enhancements to our facilities and programs. Also mentioned it would be desirable to have power provided at a table in the workshop to accommodate laptop users. A new PC with the Vista Operating System is needed in the Workshop to serve the membership with the state of the art wireless equipment.

Roger invited Nancy to attend the Presidents' Council Meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 in Clubhouse 3 as PC Club representative. New clubs in LWV were announced and representatives were reminded to examine their clubs Bylaws and be certain they are specific and are updated accurately. A reminder, 2007 Rollover Reservations for club use are active. "Club Talk" which provides opportunities to share information, ask questions or make requests, was covered by participants from a number of the represented clubs. Wendy Bucknum advised that the

LagunaWoodsVillage.com Website will soon sport a new updated look. The next meeting will be March 28, 07.

Roger announced the upcoming Programs scheduled for the General Meetings:
February: Smart Computing
March: Microsoft Vista Operating System
April: Postal Services On-Line instead of In Line
May: Questions and Answers

Roger polled the Board for opinions on a Volunteer Recognition Dinner for 2007. Unanimous approval, Katy accepted the assignment to establish the date and reserve Clubhouse 5 for the event.

Treasurer's Report - Mary Brunner: Mary distributed the Income/Expense report for the month of 01/01/07 through 01/27/07. The major expenses were for the Workshop (toner, ink, paper), administrative costs, CH3 rent, refreshments, Audio Technician for General Meeting, and class expenses. Additional expenses were for meetings, newsletter and flyer printing, and also included a \$100.00 contribution to the Historical Society approved at the January 06 meeting.

Distributed copies show the largest source of income was from membership dues for the incoming year at \$2,640.00, then class fees of \$875.00, and donations of 148.66. Income for the month exceeded expenses. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented. (MSP Kathryn John).

Vice President's Report - Katy Link: Katy has a mailing list in place. Management of the email notices to the membership is a big task, names on the list from 2005 membership should be deleted to reduce the list. Members who are not current with their dues will be given a four month grace period before deleting their names from Katy's "send list".

Workshop Report - Jan. 8, 2007 - Norm Salzberg: Thursday AM shifts need Supervisors. A new resident with a very good technical background has joined the Monday PM shift. Louise Applequist has returned to full time



duty. David Kravitz retired after over 14 years of service.

All equipment is operational in the PC Workshop. GRF - Recreation Dept. provided a new storage cabinet to replace the old unit by the Workbench. The old cabinet will go to the PCM Warehouse.

A complimentary letter written by Walt Wood is posted on the Workshop Bulletin Board.

Norm reported that 29,130 signed onto the attendance log in 2006 to use the PC Workshop facility and 6,231 students attended classes in the Learning Center during 2006.

Membership – Robin Nahas: Robin reported a total of 1,067 LWVPC CLUB members have renewed their 2007 memberships to date. Members are reminded that everyone must have their 2007 membership renewals submitted via the newsletter application, website form, or at the Greeters Desk in the workshop. All membership updates are saved on a flash drive and on a floppy disk. Robin has updated the Flip Chart at the Greeters area to remove the photo of the Globe.

Website - Anne Clark: All LWVPC CLUB classes and Sigs and all General Meetings are posted on the website. John Trask noted that the Domain Name as .org doesn't always work. The site is also available as <http://www.lwvpcc.com> (R2). LWVPC Club members who have their own personal website are invited to have a link on the club website. However, the club cannot accept web sites with commercial ads.. Please Contact our web master, Ann Clark

Historical Trivia - Kathryn Taylor: The Laguna Woods Village Historical Society has received the New Affiliate Membership donation of \$100.00 sponsored by the LWVPC Club, and approved by the board at the January 2007 meeting.

Education Report - Kaye Hammerman: An Education meeting is scheduled for February 27, for teachers. The new teacher's computer is performing nicely, no problems have been reported. The Basic classes beginning in March filled up very quickly. SIGS will continue to be listed in the Newsletter but dates will be omitted as they are subject to change during the span of time

between posting and the event.

SIGS: The MARCH Sigs are:
Word Processing with Stan Gendelman
A View of the Old Neighborhood with Walter Wood
Basic Refresher with Harold Schwartz

Publicity:
Channel 6 has the February Sigs on their Message Board.
General Meeting flyers are in Clubhouse 3.
The Globe has been very generous with our publicity notices.

LWVPC CLUB NEWS - Sandra Smolinsky:
The LWVPC Club NEWS has received an article authored by Walter Wood praising the attributes of the LWVPC Club and will be published in the March Newsletter. Other gratuity comments from users will be most welcome for publication.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Nancy Bellitto, Secretary

(Continued from page 1,)

Select the picture(s) you want to burn; then click Copy to CD in the Picture Tasks list. If Copy to CD doesn't appear in the list, right-click one of the selected files (or folders) and choose Send To, CD Drive. A small CD icon appears in the notification area, next to the clock.

Keep moving around Windows, gathering pictures that you want to burn. In spite of what the Picture Task list and right-click menu say, Windows actually copies the files you select to a staging area -- a place on your hard drive that holds files temporarily, before you burn them to CD.

When you're done gathering files, choose Start, My Computer, your CD burner drive

(whichever drive letter that is). Windows shows you the contents of the CD's staging area.

Put a recordable CD in your CD burner and click Write These Files to CD. The CD Writing Wizard appears.

Type the name you want to be burned on the CD; then click Next. If you've chosen too much data -- too many pictures -- the wizard alerts you.

If you have too many pictures selected, don't do anything with the wizard. Instead, go back to the staging area and start deleting files or folders (right-click and choose Delete) until you're under the size limit. Don't worry -- you aren't deleting the pictures. You're just removing them from the staging area. Unfortunately, neither the wizard nor Windows offers a handy list of folder sizes or suggestions for what to trim. What you can do is right-click a folder, choose Properties, and see the folder's size.

When you think that you've deleted enough files or folders, go back to the wizard, click Retry Writing the Files to CD Now, and then click Next.

If you still have too many pictures selected, you get the warning again. Sooner or later, you have your picture collection trimmed down to the point where it can fit on the CD. At that point, the wizard starts writing files to the CD. Depending on the speed of your burner, it can take 20 minutes or more to burn a full CD.

When the wizard finishes, click Finish. The wizard removes all the files from the staging area.

Immediately try looking at the pictures on the CD.

Chances are very good that they're in excellent shape. Oh, and don't forget to label the CD with a Sharpie marker.

Dufferdom

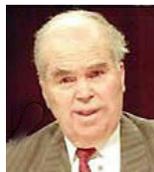
Tales of the Ordinary User

by David D. Uffer,

a member of the Chicago Computer Society, IL

daviduffer@sbcglobal.net

<http://www.ccs.org>



When you think about it, you may come to the view that there are users and there are abusers of personal computers. Of course, the direction of the abuse may be at issue: the PC could seem to be abusing the user, not responding as it had and probably should. A techie may find a fine point where the user has not followed the rules and the PC was just responding to some erroneous action or mistaken understanding. You may believe that. You may believe that machines are always constant and humans variable. I don't. Electronic circuits are complex

enough in their construction and interaction that they can go corrupt on their own. Ask a techie. Ask Murphy how he found his Law.

I think I have one of Murphy's PCs. And it may be that it does have a mind of its own, or at least an inclination to uphold and sustain Murphy. It has no brand name. It has been multiply upgraded, revised, and enhanced so that any original identity is no longer valid. I've tried various names. I discontinued Mongrel when I felt it was disrespectful, that the PC's ego, if any, would suffer. In view of its heritage, I used Legacy for a while. Then sort of settled on Custom. That's descriptive, respectful, and honorable. But there are times I want to call it Murphy.

Or maybe call up Murphy and ask him to pick up his PC--and thanks for the loan. But maybe he thinks it's mine. And maybe he's right and I'm stuck with it. Maybe it'll get better if I treat it gingerly, or just gently. But it recently developed this cute trick of getting the screen to go blank and black, not to return until some secret rite is performed upon it by a repair guy who says it's nothing special, just reconnecting. So, I've tried that too and sometimes it does whatever magic is required. The screen comes back and pretends it hasn't been up to anything sneaky. Then I tried being analytical and have successfully reduced the number of cables it took to achieve restoration. I've got it down to just 5 USB connections plus the Ethernet port. Almost gives me some pleasure to anticipate the next blackout and further reduction in cable connections. Almost a game.

The most recent blackout seems to have occurred as a result of accidentally hitting the F12 key. I'll try it intentionally when I get some slack time for fooling around and some courage. Maybe I'll learn something. I do have yet to learn another key quirk. While typing a long message or document, I accidentally invoked another kind of vanishing act by touching some key in the bottom row. Immediately, I was back at the basic desktop screen, all message or document image having gone forever bye-bye. That's when I learn and relearn that re-doing a message or document usually makes it better. Authors call it rewriting and it's a royal pain but good for the soul. I've yet to discover what key or combination causes that reaction. Same reason: chickenhearted.

Now then there may be another reason. It might just be another prank Microsoft or its staffers play on users. A colleague of mine some time ago visited Redmond for some genuine learning and came back with some tricky mini-programs that made the keys or mouse pointer behave in tricky ways, like wandering around or appearing to lose data. You can find subsequent versions of such programs by browsing the Internet, if you value frustration or scaring your colleagues. If you seriously seek and cannot find such items, you can ask me by way of Beata Kernan, who knows how to get in touch with me, at lccsadmin@comcast.net.



LWV PC Club Welcomes New Members

Sal Almiri
 Carolyn Bayer
 Marianne Galas
 Judi Green
 Noel Hagan
 Beika Hwang
 Tom Jorde
 Colleen Kane
 David Kohn
 Audrey Light
 Harold Minick
 Anne O'Donnell

**The Laguna Woods Village
 PC Club has 1,153 total
 members. We especially
 thank those of you who have
 renewed early.**

Len Peverieri
 William Piper
 Anita Robertson
 Robert Rosen
 Ruth Rosen
 Doris Sanner
 Gloria Saragosa
 Jerry Tyner
 Paul Vogel
 Elizabeth Vroman

**Watch the mail for
 your 2007 tan
 membership cards.**

Join or renew now (good through 2007)!



**LWVPC Club (Laguna Woods Village PC Club) \$15 (expires December 31,2007)
 MEMBERSHIP FORM (Please Print)
 Must be a resident of Laguna Woods Village**

Date _____ Cash ___ Check No. _____ Check one: New Member ___ Renewal ___

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Phone _____

Address (LWV Address) _____ Unit _____

Email Address (please print) _____

**Please make \$15 check payable to LWVPC Club
 Place check in Membership Mailbox in Workshop (3rd floor Admin. Bldg.)
 Or mail to LWVPC Club, Att: Robin, Membership, P.O. Box 3063, Laguna HILLS, CA 92654**

**I would like to speak with someone about helping:
 In the Workshop ___; In the Learning Center ___; Publicity ___; Newsletter ___
 Hospitality at the Monthly Meeting _____
 Would you be willing to help occasionally? Yes ___ No ___
 If interested, please check one of the above and someone will contact you.**