



# Laguna Woods Village PC CLUB Newsletter

www.thepcclub.org

May 2009

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## Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 18  
6:30 p.m - Clubhouse 3 Auditorium

***Google to the Max!***  
Using Google Apps, including:

*iGoogle*

*Google Earth*

*Google Toolbar*

*Google Maps*

***And Your Google questions***

Phillip Dunn will reprise his  
**“Taste of Google”**  
presentation at the spacious Clubhouse 3 Auditorium. Google is much more than just searching the web! Google offers many internet programs that are both fun and helpful! Phillip will bring his fun and knowledge, energetic style and, best of all, his humor, to this presentation.

**Don't miss this special program!**

All Laguna Woods residents are welcome.  
If you don't drive at night, Night Bus Service is  
available - call 597-4659

## THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH THAT FLASH DRIVE

Since their introduction a few years ago, USB flash drives (also known as flash drive, pen drive, pin drive, and thumb drive) have increased in capacity, their prices have plunged, and they are readily available in stores or online. An 8 gig size USB flash drive's capacity is almost equivalent to the data stored on two standard DVD discs, or about 5700 floppy disks, and their cost is under \$15.00 each.

Most of the USB flash drives on the market today comply with the USB 2.0 standard for high-speed transfer, while there still are a few inexpensive, low-capacity drives that are the slower USB 1.1 speed standard (or only about 3% of the speed of the USB 2.0 drives). From a practical viewpoint, the user will not notice any significant difference in speed if small files are saved and read, but will notice a difference if large files are used.

**Ready Boost** – Users of Microsoft Vista (Home, Basic, Home Premium, Business, and Ultimate versions) may find it advantageous to purchase flash drives that are labeled as “Ready Boost.” According to Microsoft, “Windows Vista introduces Windows Ready Boost, a new concept in adding memory to a system. You can use non-volatile flash memory, such as that on a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive, to improve performance without having to add additional memory “under the hood.”” If the drive is compatible with the ReadyBoost standard, some of the flash memory in the drive can effectively and temporarily be added to the RAM (memory) installed in the computer, with an improvement in performance. If the Vista user with a compatible flash drive right clicks on the flash drive letter displayed under “My Computer” or Windows Explorer, and then left clicks on Properties – Ready-Boost, Vista will recommend how much of the available memory on the drive is protected from damage, and will not be harmed if the drive is used as a ReadyBoost drive. Because of the higher performance requirements, ReadyBoost-compatible flash drives are slightly more expensive than standard drives, but are often the least expensive way to add memory to a Vista computer

**U3** – Another useful feature often found on a USB flash drive is known as “U3.” A U3 powered flash drive will be labeled as such and allows the user to

carry special versions of hundreds of programs on the flash drive that can be run directly from the flash drive without being installed on the computer. This is an effective way to carry the actual software the user is familiar with, and run it on other computers. When unplugged from the computer, U3 leaves no data or other information on the computer that was used. Some of the popular programs that come in U3 formats are the Firefox browser, Skype telephone, McAfee Antivirus (about \$15), RoboForm Password Manager, OpenOffice (the comprehensive suite of office software including a Microsoft-compatible word processor, spreadsheet, presentation program, database, and more, free), Thunderbird email client, and dozens of games. Most U3 drives come pre-installed with password protection and a “U3 Launchpad” (a menu-driven directory of the software on the U3 drive)

**Standard Non-U3 Drives** – For those who have the standard non-U3 drives, there is now an alternative for the same functionality. This alternative to U3 that will run on almost all contemporary flash drives is called “PortableApps,” and can be

found online at [portableapps.com](http://portableapps.com). According to the PortableApp website, “A portable app is a computer program that you can carry around with you on a portable device and use on any Windows computer. When your USB flash drive, portable hard drive, iPod or other portable device is plugged in, you have access to your software and personal data just as you would on your own PC. And when you unplug the device, none of your personal data is left behind.” Dozens of portable apps are available, including the Firefox browser, OpenOffice office suite, antivirus software, games, password managers, and many other pieces of software. The PortableApp Suite is totally free, and does not contain any spyware or adware. In addition to the bundled suite, there are many other programs available, almost all free, which will run as portable apps. The PortableApp website keeps a running tally of new software available, including new releases and versions, as well as beta (pre-release) software. A simple click will install the selected software on the flash drive.

*From an article written by Ira Wilsker,  
APCUG Director;  
Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont*



## ONLINE TRAINING TUTORIALS AT "Lynda.com"

Want to brush up on your software skills, learn new skills, or solve your problems in your spare time? Take a look at Lynda.com, a subscription-based online training service offering thousands of short video tutorials on a variety of topics, including:

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*Anne Clark*

### Have you ever lost your flash drive?

Here's a helpful hint! Place your phone number on your flash drive (or some other identifying mark). If lost, you can be called to retrieve it or, when you go back to the restaurant, library, bookstore, etc., you can easily identify it.



## NEW MEMBERS

### Welcome to the LWV PC Club!

Beth Page  
Arieh Rabinowitz  
Richard Roberts  
Bob Rosen  
Lee Sashkin  
Gemma Shon  
Jackie Stumacher  
Florence Tabor  
Gloria Taylor  
Edward Tyler  
Charles Ullman  
Betty Wang  
Alvin Weill  
James Wenger  
Maria Zaks

### **LOTS OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE...**

If you want to be a Workshop Greeter or Supervisor, inquire at the Greeter Desk in the Workshop. We are looking for people with a pleasant attitude who are willing and are happy to share their knowledge with fellow Villagers.

E-Mail Helen Coutant at [hcoutant@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoutant@hotmail.com) if you want to teach or to get more information. We are expanding our offerings in both software applications and internet-based programs such as iTunes, Facebook, Google, etc. We would like to offer these classes if we had instructors available.

Class structures are variable from a one-hour informational session to hands-on. Hands-on classes can last anywhere from a few hours to eight weeks. We also want to offer Saturday classes.

***So, those with a yearning to teach - let's hear from you!***

# Special Interest Groups

## SIGs

The Learning Center hosts short Special Interest Group (SIG) learning sessions. These sessions focus on a particular subject of interest, do not require any enrollment, and are free. SIG sessions are less formal and have open question-and-answer periods. SIG presenters include PC Club members who share their knowledge, experience, and interests, as well as selected outside sources.

SIGs are held at the Justin Webb Learning Center. They are free of charge and do not require any pre-registration. Room capacity is 54. Please come early to ensure a seat.

Day	Date	Time	SIG Title	Presenter
Saturday	To be announced....	1 PM	To be announced...	To be announced...

# Computer Classes

Upcoming Class Sessions for 2009

June 29 - July 31

October 19 - November 20

Registration will be held in the *Justin Webb Learning Center*.

Check for information on class descriptions and times by visiting the PC Workshop (flyers will be available) or visiting the PC Club website ([www.theclub.org](http://www.theclub.org)).

