

# SLO Bytes HardCopy

A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users' Group  
Vol. 30 No. 1 January 2014

*December 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 General Windows SIG review by Alan Raul*

**VMUltra Drive** - External Optical, USB Hub, SD card reader  
<http://www.velocitymicro.com/wizard.php?iid=234>

**Windows Experience Index**  
<http://alanraul.com/wei/>

**LibreCAD** - is a free Open Source CAD application for Windows, Apple and Linux.  
<http://librecad.org/>

**LibreCAD Portable**  
[http://portableapps.com/apps/graphics\\_pictures/librecad-portable](http://portableapps.com/apps/graphics_pictures/librecad-portable)

**Microsoft Store**  
*Microsoft Signature* – PCs with Signature will help ensure you get the best experience with Windows 8. It's the cleanest Windows 8 experience with no junkware installed – it's clean and easy!  
<http://www.microsoftstore.com/>

**COSTCO Desktop computers with Windows 8.1**  
<http://www.costco.com/cpu-only.html?refine=30383%2b17212>  
<http://www.costco.com/cpu-only.html?langId=-1&storeId=10301&catalogId=10701&identifier=cpu-only&categoryId=30383&sortBy=PriceMin%7CO>

**Where can I purchase ZT desktops?**  
ZT Systems retail desktop PCs are not presently for sale, however ZT stands behind all of its products. Customers who purchased ZT desktops and small business servers will continue to enjoy lifetime, toll-free phone technical support for hardware, and can rest assured that product warranties remain in full effect.

Alan Raul

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*January 5<sup>th</sup> Programming Schedule description written by Ralph Sutter; program arranged by John Waller*

The **First Session** will feature **Alan Raul** moderating a **Questions and Answers** program from 12:45-2:00 p. m.

The **Second Session** begins at 2:30 pm. Due to the positive feedback that the Board has received regarding the Second Session at the December 2013 SLO Bytes General Meeting, we have decided to follow that same model for the Second Session at the January meeting on January 5, 2014. Alan Raul and I shared with the members several of the software programs that we often find very useful.

I invite you to share some of your knowledge at the January meeting. It's your opportunity to educate your fellow members regarding useful software you have discovered and the techniques that you find beneficial. It's also an opportunity to display and comment on a piece of hardware that you have discovered/used.. Your sharing can be as simple as mentioning the name of the product or offering a more detailed presentation of how you use it. In either

case, please e-mail me at [ralph@rsutter.com](mailto:ralph@rsutter.com) if you plan to share something. That will help Program Chair John Waller and me better gauge the time that we will have remaining for rest of the Second Session.

Contact John Waller (johnlwaller at sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.slobytes.org](http://www.slobytes.org) for more information about the scheduled program.

Ralph Sutter

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***President's Message by Earl Kaplan***

The history of PC User Groups tells us that the agenda we followed for the second half of last month's meeting was a good one. The earliest clubs were valuable because they allowed the members to share knowledge in a fast growing technology by sharing information that each other had learned from trying programs, methods, and hardware that the others had not had the opportunity to try yet.

The technology is no longer growing at the rapid rate it experienced in the Golden Years but there are still more programs, methods, and hardware than any one person (other than Alan) can try.

If we all share some small item of information we will all end up knowing more than we started out knowing. That is just what we want to accomplish.

Earl Kaplan

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***Webmaster's Comments by Ralph Sutter***

Notes on my presentation during the Second Session of the December 1, 2013 meeting  
Ralph Sutter demonstrated the open source free e-mail program, **Thunderbird**. Read more and download from <http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/thunderbird/>.

Sutter also demonstrated **Robosizer**, also a free program. It resizes images, making them smaller. There are numerous configuration options that control what is resized and to what degree. Read more and download from <http://www.robosizer.com/>.

Finally, Ralph showed the difference between two options in Google Chrome; **Relaunch Chrome in Windows 8 Mode** and **Relaunch Chrome on the desktop**. See screenshots [here](#).

Everyone can read the SLO Bytes Bulletin Board at <http://slobytes.org/smf/index.php?board=1.0> but only subscribers can post comments or respond to the posts of others. Despite the usual connotation of **subscribe**, it costs nothing to join the bulletin board. It is free to all current SLO Bytes members. However, to guard against cyber-mischief by spammers and other ne'er-do-wells, I have disabled self-registration. If you want to be added to the bulletin board, please send your request to me at [ralph@rsutter.com](mailto:ralph@rsutter.com).

See the **PUSH** reviews at <http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/> courtesy of the Association of Computer User Groups, **APCUG**, the national organization with which SLO Bytes is affiliated. Our webmaster, **Ralph Sutter**, uploads these articles to our website. The actual PUSH articles are hyperlinked from the index.

They are available from the following links

<http://www.slobytes.org/push/index.html> (All articles on one long page)

<http://www.slobytes.org/push/push-condensed.html> (Links to PUSH articles by month received)



You can view additional APCUG publications here: <http://www.slobytes.org/apcug/index.html>

Take a look at <http://www.kcbx.net/training.html> to see if you would like to avail yourself of the various computer related classes available at the **KCBXnet Training Facility**.

Ralph Sutter

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**Treasurer's Report for December 2013 by Bob Mires**

Income for November 2013		
	Membership renewals	225.00
	New membership	25.00
	Refreshment Sales (Nov)	36.75
Expenses		
	Hall rent	90.00
	Information Report to SOS	20.00
Bank statement ending 11/30/2013		
	Checking account	3401.23
	Savings account	55.00
	Deposit sum	236.75

**Renewing members:** Stanford Brown, Richard Dickey, Robert Graham, Richard James, E.A. Julian, Michael McCombs, Constance Thomas, Glenn Zaretza, Bob & Linda Styerwalt.

**New members:** Mike & Nancy Atkisson

**Bob Mires**

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**Club Information and Meeting Times**

**SLO Bytes**, a PC Users Group dedicated to educate its members in the use of personal computers, digital devices and software, meets on the first Sunday of each month at the **Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall** at 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo. All meetings are open to the public at no cost. Special interest groups meet from 12:45 PM to 2:00 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 2:30 PM. Contact **John Waller** (johnwaller at sbcglobal.net) or visit <http://www.slobytes.org/index.shtml> for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

**HardCopy** is a monthly publication of **SLO Bytes PC Users' Group** located in San Luis Obispo, California. Information in this newsletter is derived from both our own membership and other PC user group newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings and provide information related to the use of PCs and various operating systems.

Membership dues are \$25 per year. Membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter via e-mail, technical assistance, raffle gift drawing at the end of the meetings, a voice in the affairs of the club, and comradeship.

Article Submission Deadline for articles is the 20th of each month. Articles should be e-mailed to the editor (ralph at rsutter.com).

Computer-related businesses wishing to advertise in HardCopy may now do so. The rate is \$15.00 per month or \$120.00 per year for a business card size announcement. Content in ad copy is subject to approval by the SLO Bytes Board of Directors.

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**Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**

**Linux SIG** normally meets at 6:30 PM on the Thursday following our Sunday's General Meeting at the KCBXnet Training Center, 4100 Vachell Lane, San Luis Obispo.

**Photography SIG** normally meets at 7 PM on a third Monday of each month at Bob Grover's home in Arroyo Grande. Call Bob at 489-6230 for directions.

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**SLO Bytes Officers/Volunteers**

**Officers**

- Earl Kaplan – President: earlkaplan at gmail.com
- John Waller - Vice President; Programs Chair/Publicity: johnlwaller at sbcglobal.net
- Robert Mires – Treasurer; Membership: rmires at sbcglobal.net
- Ralph Sutter – Secretary, Webmaster/HardCopy Editor: ralph at rsutter.com
- Alan Raul – Training Officer: alan at alanraul.com

**Other Volunteers**

- Ray Miklas – Facilities Coordinator: rmiklas at pacbell.net
- Bob Grover – Photography SIG
- Nancy Vrooman – Refreshments
- Peter Stonehewer – Refreshments
- Ken Stilts – Set-up/Clean-up

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**SLO Bytes Website:** <http://www.slobytes.org/index.php>