

# SLO Bytes HardCopy

A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users' Group  
Vol. 23 No. 12  
December 2007

*Alan's November 4th, 2007 General Windows SIG by Alan Raul*

**Flixxy.com** - The Best Videos on the Net

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

**Windows Startup Sounds - 1.0 to XP and Vista**

<http://www.flixxy.com/microsoft-windows-vista-startup-sounds.htm>

**Google Web Search Features** - In addition to providing easy access to billions of web pages, Google has many special features to help you to find exactly what you're looking for.

<http://www.google.com/intl/en/help/features.html>

**Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer** - is an easy-to-use tool designed for the IT professional that helps small- and medium-sized businesses determine their security state in accordance with Microsoft security recommendations and offers specific remediation guidance. Improve your security management process by using MBSA to detect common security misconfigurations and missing security updates on your computer systems.

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/tools/mbsahome.msp>

**Secunia Software Inspector** - relies on carefully crafted Secunia File Signatures to recognize applications on your system. The detected applications are then matched against our Secunia Advisory Intelligence to determine whether an application is up-to-date or not. The results are then used to advise you on how to update to more secure releases of the insecure applications.

[http://secunia.com/software\\_inspector/](http://secunia.com/software_inspector/)

**The PC Decrapifier** - is designed to remove a specific list unwanted software in an unattended fashion.

<http://www.yorkspace.com/pc-de-crapifier>

**John Barnett's Windows Vista Support: Windows Vista Frequently Asked Questions**

[http://vistasupport.mvps.org/vista\\_faq.htm](http://vistasupport.mvps.org/vista_faq.htm)

**Microsoft TechNet: Windows Sysinternals** - is a collection of utilities and technical information related to Windows internals that you won't find anywhere else. These tools are leveraged by IT-Pros and Developers for detailed troubleshooting and analysis of Windows software. Demonstrated: Autoruns and ZoomIt

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/sysinternals/default.msp>

**AVG Anti-Virus Free** - Virus protection for home use

<http://free.grisoft.com/>

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*November 4th, 2007 Main Meeting Review by Kaye Raul*

**Top 10 Ways to Protect your Computer** was the main topic at the November 4th meeting of the SLO Bytes PC Users Group presented by **Gene Barlow** of User Group Relations.

Gene Barlow is one of the most widely recognized presenters at user group meetings. We are sorry to hear that Gene will no longer be traveling and this was his last presentation for our group.

We use our computers today to do a wide variety of important tasks from communicating with family and friends to keeping track of our finances and many other purposes. There are certain things that all of us should be doing with our computers to protect them from damage and crashes. Take a few precautions ahead of time and avoid the pain of a major problem later.

**Gene's suggestions are:**

1. Backup your Hard Drive
2. Get Professional Help (Invisus Professional Services)
3. Use Internet Protection Software
4. Keep your Software Security Patches up to date
5. Beware of Spam Email
6. Encrypt Private Information
7. Wipe Hard Drives before you dispose of them
8. Use a Sandbox for Risky Tasks
9. Keep your Data Files Separate
10. Stay current with Technology

Thanks to Gene Barlow for an informative presentation. For more information on the products he spoke about, visit his website <http://www.ugr.com/> or <http://www.usergroupstore.com/>

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***Kaye Raul's Programming Schedule by Kaye Raul***

Festivities will be the theme at the December 2 SLO Bytes Meeting. There will be goodies and a drawing with prizes for all members. Prior to the party, **Alan Raul** will moderate his Q & A session from 12:45 PM to 2:00 PM

**Additionally**, a second SIG for beginners will run concurrently in another room, offering advice and answering questions on Windows operating systems. This is a small group environment specially suited for the novice user.

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***November 19th Digital Photography SIG Review by Nancy Vrooman***

A Christmas card meeting! From the very simple to the more complex. And proof that you can make one from Power Point! With Elements we saw block letters filled with holly, how to create your own brush from an item in a photo and making a photo ornament that really looks spherical. Lens flare and all! And a nifty trick to decorate a tree with snow. Lots of questions. All answered. Good eats and coffee that beats Starbucks.

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***President's Message***

**At our 2 December, 2007 meeting:**

- At 12:45 PM**, Alan will be moderating the Question and Answer session.
- At 12:45 PM**, Ben Hansen, Eugene Rheingans and Fred Cook will run the Windows SIG for Beginners in the dining room.
- At 2:00 PM**, Ralph Sutter, our "Santa Claus" will run the raffle give-away to all members present at the meeting.

At our **December 2nd meeting**, we will have an opportunity to cast our vote for all the officers of SLO Bytes. All of the current Officers agreed to serve in the coming year. Our Secretary, Ralph Sutter will conduct the election.

We will also be holding a "Swap Meet" at the December 2nd meeting. Members should bring older and new (computer related items) to be sold or exchanged or just for a give-a-way. All items should be displayed on one of the tables in the dining area for everyone to examine.

**\*\*\*Please take your items back if they are not sold/picked-up by others\*\*\***

It with sadness that I report to you the death of our beloved SLO Bytes member, for many years, **Bill Avery**. Bill passed away of cancer. He was in treatment for it for a year but finally lost the battle on Thanksgiving day. Bill was a volunteer at SLO Bytes in various positions for many, many years, always willing to step in whenever and wherever the need arose and not just in the tech related areas. We will miss Bill...

We did not receive the latest PUSH articles from APCUG before HardCopy went to press this month. Look for them in January. The PUSH Archive articles can be found at <http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/index.html>

Take a look at [http://oldsite.kcbx.net/classes\\_education/class\\_schedule.php](http://oldsite.kcbx.net/classes_education/class_schedule.php) to see if you would like to avail yourself of the various **computer related classes** available at the **KCBXnet Training Facility**.

**Cal Poly Continuing Education's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)** is a comprehensive learning and service program for those 50 and over. This is a highly rated College level education program available at Cal Poly. This is their website: <http://www.osher.calpoly.edu/>

Take advantage of the four **learning CD's** "Learn Windows XP, Excel, Word & Power Point" available for our members to check out (at the Treasurer's table).

Continue to bring any **used ink-jet printer or toner cartridges** to our meeting. We collect them (at the Treasurer's table) and turn them over to "Make A-Wish Foundation" who generate much needed funds for their organization by refurbishing and selling them.

--Ray Miklas

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**Treasurer's Report** by Robert Mires

<b>Income</b>	
Renewing members	\$225.00
New members	25.00
Refreshment receipts	42.94
<b>Expenses</b>	
Hall rent	90.00
Drawing purchase	2.00
<b>Bank accounts@10/31/07</b>	
CD#116	1,240.27
CD#116.1	3,390.58
Savings Acct. bal	53.94
Checking Acct. bal	942.88
Interest – year to date	195.63

**New members:** Del Hollinger

**Renewing members:** Bob Ward, Rick Headley, M.L. Boisen, Richard Dickey, John Enos, Ed Glembotski, James Johnson, Natural Foods Coop (Graham), William Palmerston, and Deborah Schmitt

Robert Mires, Treasurer

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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 Kaye Raul ([kmraul at sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmraul@sbcglobal.net)) or visit [www.slobytes.org](http://www.slobytes.org) 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. Full 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 comradeships.

**Article Submission** Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month. Articles should be E-mailed to the editor ([rmiklas at pacbell.net](mailto:rmiklas@pacbell.net)).

**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.

### ***Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)***

**HTML/Internet SIG** normally meets at 6:30 PM on Tuesday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at Ralph Sutter's home in Arroyo Grande. Call Ralph at 489-8678 for directions.

**Linux SIG** normally meets at 6:30 PM on Thursday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at KCBXnet [a.k.a. SLONET] Training Center, 4100 Vachell Lane, SLO.

**Photography SIG** normally meets at 7 PM on a third Monday of each month at Don Jones's home in Pismo Beach. Call Don at 773-5526 for directions.

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### ***SLO Bytes Officers/Volunteers***

- Ray Miklas (President, HardCopy Editor) [rmiklas at pacbell.net](mailto:rmiklas@pacbell.net)
- Kaye Raul (V.P. Programs Chair/Publicity) [kmraul at sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmraul@sbcglobal.net)
- Robert Mires (Treasurer/Membership/Publishing) [rmires at sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmires@sbcglobal.net)
- Ralph Sutter (Secretary/Webmaster/HTML-Internet SIG) [rsutter at cuesta.edu](mailto:rsutter@cuesta.edu)
- Alan Raul (General SIG/Linux SIG)
- Ben Hansen (Beginners SIG)
- Eugene Rheingans (Beginners SIG)
- Fred Cook (Beginners SIG)
- Don Jones (Photography SIG)
- Ginny Monteen (Contributing Columnist/Main Meeting Review)
- Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments/Contributing Columnist Photography SIG)
- Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)
- Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)
- John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)
- Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up)

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**Disclaimer:** Neither SLO Bytes PC Users' Group, its officers, editors, or contributors to this newsletter assume liability for damages arising out of this publication of any article, including but not limited to the listing of programming code, batch files and other helpful hints. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted by other user groups if credit is given to both the author and newsletter from which it was taken. Reproduction of articles with a specific Copyright notice is prohibited without prior permission from the original author.

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