# SLO Bytes HardCopy
A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users Group
Vol. 21  No. 9                    September 2005

*Ray's August 7th, 2005 General Windows SIG* by Ray Miklas

We started the General SIG by playing a series of 13, 1-2 minute video clips from Microsoft. Each clip was a tutorial of Windows XP features and how to access/use them.
We also discussed the **Barlow's Hard Drive Newsletter - July 2005** and the product covered in his Newsletter, called ShadowUser Pro that safely prevents unwanted changes to your hard drive, but lets wanted changes be made quickly and easily.
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*August 7, 2005 Main Meeting Review* by Bill Avery

We had a quick coffee, tea and cookie break, as the usual activity between the Q&A session and a featured speaker. Nancy Vrooman and Peter Stonehewer arranged it, and we got caught up with each other's events of the past month. On the table in the break room, our guest speaker, **Dennis Johansen of Jim's Campus Camera**, displayed some beautiful prints from his recent trip to Washington, D.C., including a picture of the Supreme Court on the inside of the building.
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Our club guests were welcomed by President Ray Miklas, and he suggested that they may want to join SLO Bytes at our sign-in table by speaking to Bob Mires, our Treasurer and Membership Chairman. Ray announced our club activities, which include the HTML SIG (Special Interest Group), Linux SIG and our Photography SIG meetings.

If you have pictures to share for our website, please bring your files on a CD-ROM, thumb-drive or floppy, for download to a laptop at the Treasurer's Table, for transfer to our web host, thanks to Ralph Sutter.

The sign-in table is also the place to checkout software which we can loan from our CD-ROM library. Also, recycle any old ink cartridges which you have saved from your printers - just drop them off at the table, for Ray Miklas and Dave Grant to pickup after the meeting.
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Our featured speaker was **Dennis Johansen**, owner of *Jim's Campus Camera* who gave us an update on the fast-changing digital photography field. Most of the manufacturers introduce more equipment for the Holiday shopping season than any other time, and Dennis gave us his latest info on the coming season. Dennis has been our guest speaker last year and we listened carefully to his latest news. It seems that several of the leading digital manufacturers have cut back on production of mid-range cameras, while introducing a few more advanced models. The CCD sensors in these models are up to more than 6 megapixels, as compared to the 3-4 megapixels found in current models. Prices are down, and quality is up. The number of manufacturers has declined to under 100, he said. Market saturation will occur in Japan this year and in the USA, next year. Kodak continues to layoff employees and the negative trends of the economy are having a definite impact on the camera market this year.

The older users are afraid to use computers so the digital format still presents problems for them, including loss of data due to hard drive failure. Dennis recommends transferring all pictures to CD or DVD storage media which will outlast most hard drives. He noted that the gold-dye based media which gas been available recently may cause a problem if the disk is a generic brand, rather than a reputable well

known one, such as Sony or Verbatim. The cheap CD substitutes a gold dye for the gold foil used in the high grade designs, and the dye degrades with time. The gold CDs are said to last 300 years, and are still available for a premium price.

One of our members asked about the size of the sensor. After about 3 to 5 years, Dennis feels that most medium priced digital cameras will have a 35 mm equivalent sensor, which produces very high quality images for the least cost, overall. The big cameras are made in small lots; where as the small cameras are mass manufactured, so the price comes down differently for high versus low end models.

Shutter lag has been reduced to less than 100 milliseconds in the last year, so the technology has definitely improved. Canon has plans to bring a D-70 SLR digital version with an 8 megapixel sensor to market soon. LCD viewing screens are not quite as bright as they should be so in the next year, look for improvement in that area.

Many members had specific questions for Dennis, and my tape recording has that information, so feel free to contact me if you want to hear this discussion again.

Next year, Jim's Campus Camera will be part of the downtown earthquake renovations, including an automatic car parking facility, so stand by for lots of changes.

Next meeting will be about printers, so bring your questions, and take some notes to learn about them from Steve Melancon of Premier Printer Repair in Santa Maria, CA. - I'll see you there!!
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*Don Jones' Featured Speaker Programming Schedule* by Don Jones

**On September 4th** our featured speaker is Steve Melancon of Premiere Printer Repair, www.premiereprinterrepair.com, speaking on Printer Repair and Maintenance. Members will remember that he gave us an excellent talk in 2002, and we are pleased to have him back.
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On October 2nd our features speaker will be Lauri Sowa.  Lauri's website: http://wiseowlops.com/
Have you ever been curious about all the "flavors" of Microsoft Office.  Come hear Lauri Sowa introduce us to the intriguing work of Microsoft.  Lauri will be introducing us to the 2003 Suite including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook along with Publisher, Project, and Access.  Her presentation will be designed to point out what each program does well and what they don't do well.  As always, she will host a Q&A session on any computer topic.

Don't forget to drop Lauri an e-mail [Lauri@wiseowlops.com] prior to our meeting to let her know your thoughts.
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**Note about year-end elections:**
As Ray announced at the last meeting, I will be resigning my VP-Program Chairman job at the end of the year. I have enjoyed the experience and have found the other Board members very willing and helpful when I needed it. You can be assured of their help and mine if you need it. I plan to continue through the year, but it appears I may have two surgeries soon. Therefore, I may need help with Press Releases or any cancellations if they occur. The program speakers are full for the rest of this year, and I also have February set. Guy left me well-documented info, so taking over the job was quite smooth. I sincerely hope that one of you who come and enjoy the meetings consider volunteering to run for the position. It doesn't take too much time, is rewarding, and is essential to maintain a viable PC Users Group. I plan to continue with the Digital Photography SIG.

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*Digital Photography SIG Review* by Lou Pera

The digital photography SIG met on Tuesday August 16th.  The first item on the agenda was to decide future meeting dates.  By a narrow margin it was decided that rather than the second Tuesday of the month, we will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, following the SLO Bytes Sunday meeting.  So, our next meeting will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday, the 13th of September.

At the meeting we discussed which subjects we would like to have addressed by Laurie Sowa.  It was made clear that we are looking for volunteer presenters for future meetings both for the SIG and for the regular SLO Bytes meetings.  Help is available for anybody who is willing to do this in the form of video presentations.  Thanks to Don Jones who is doing a good job of staying a step ahead of the group, we explored the great tools available in PhotoShop Elements 3, such as the Healing Brush, the Spot Healing Brush, and the Cloning Tool.  At the next meeting Ray Miklas will address the group and try to make sure that all are familiar with the more basic procedures in "Elements" and will concentrate on use of the Elements 3 browser.

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*President's Message*

**September Meeting Schedule**
**At our September 4, 2005 meeting**
**At 1 PM,** Alan will be moderating the Question and Answer session.
**At 2:30 PM,** Our speaker **Steve Melancon** of *Premiere Printer Repair* will give his presentation.
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APCUG - August PUSH Articles (attached) came to me from **Judy Taylour of APCUG** Region 10 Chair and Editorial PUSH Committee Chair.
**Webmaster's note:** There are 10 great articles from PUSH this month.  They are:

        29 Useful Bookmarks - Favorites - Johnson
        Add a New Dimension To Your Browsing - Goldberg
        Beware of File Sharing - Wilsker
        Figuring Out How Spammers Get E-Mail Addresses - Gerber
        How to Thank the Leaders of Your Computer User Group - Shapiro
        Maintaining Your Downloads - Garcia
        Sharing Your World - LaBash
        Why Can't I Just Copy My Programs to My New Computer - Lewis
        Wi-Fi Wireless Internet and Network Availability - Wilsker
        Wireless Instant Messaging Makes Conversations Portable - Goldberg

Point your browser to www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/0905 to access the articles (rtf files).

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**Judy Taylor** also sent this announcement to us which is one of the articles in the APCUG's August 2002 NOOZ:
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APCUG's Annual Conference is scheduled for January 2 through 5, 2006 at The Stardust Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.  To register for the conference go to www.apcug.net and click on

Registration under APCUG Annual Conference.  Don't forget to complete the entire form.  After your registration has been received, you will be taken to the payment options page.   Registration fees may be paid with a credit card through APCUG's secure online gateway, or with a check.  Before you complete your registration, we suggest you read the APCUG Privacy Policy, and the APCUG Refund/Cancellation Policy.

Early Bird registration of $75.00 ends on October 17 and, if you pay by check, it must be received no later than October 25.  If you register between October 18 and November 30, the fee is $100.00 and the check needs to be received by December 7.  If you register after November 30, the fee is $150.00. The last date to register and receive your choice of t-shirt size is November 15.

To register at The Stardust, call 866-281-1034 and mention Group Code APCUG06. The negotiated conference room rates end December 2, 2005 --- so, make your reservations early!

Room and Suite Rates:

|  | Sunday | Mon/Tues | Wed-Sat |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | 1/1/06 | 1/2-3/06 | 1/4-7/06 |
| West Tower | $150 | $ 67 | $112 |
| Spa Suites | N/A | $110 | $175 |

The surcharge for triple occupancy is still $20 per room, per night.
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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)

We also have **Adobe Photoshop 7, learning CD's** to check out (at the Treasurer's table). These 5 CD's cover, in depth, the various program features in lesson format.

Finally, we have a copy of **Windows XP Service Pack 2 info. CD** to check out which has a 20 min. video you can run giving you the overview of what SP 2 has to offer.

If you still are in need of  **Windows XP Service Pack 2** CD for upgrading you O/S, contact me and I will give you one.
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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*
July 24, 2005 – August 24, 2005

**Income**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | New members | $50.00 |
| | Renewing members | 75.00 |
| | Refreshments | 34.00 |

**Expenses**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Hall rent | 75.00 |
| | Bar B Q (Nancy) | 36.92 |
| | Refreshment supplies (2 months) | 72.79 |

**Bank accounts @ 7/31/05**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Saving Acct Balance | 3,182.67 |
| | Checking Acct Balance | 2,049.18 |
| | Interest- year to date | 29.14 |

**New members**:  two      **Pat Rowe**
                             **Gloria Davis**
**Renewing members**: three

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 1 to 2:00 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 2:30 PM. Contact Don Jones (773-5526, donej@sbcglobal.net) or visit www.slobytes.org for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Article Submission** Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month. Articles should be E-mailed to the editor (rmiklas@bigfoot.com).

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*Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)*

**HTML/Internet SIG** normally meets at 6:30 PM on the Monday (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 second Tuesday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) 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@bigfoot.com
Don Jones (V.P./Programs/Publicity) donej@sbcglobal.net
Robert Mires (Treasurer/Membership/Publishing) rmires@sbcglobal.net
Ralph Sutter (Secretary/Webmaster/HTML-Internet SIG) rsutter@cuesta.edu
Bill Avery (Contributing Columnist/Win95/98/XP SIG) wavery@slonet.org
Alan Raul (General SIG/Linux SIG)
Lou Pera (Contributing Columnist/Photo SIG)
Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments)
Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)
Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)
Cliff Buttschardt (Set-up/Clean-up)
John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)
Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up)
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**SLO Bytes Website** http://www.slobytes.org