



# Central Kentucky Computer Society

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1984 -2009**

CKCS Resource Center, 160 Moore Drive, Suite 107, Lexington, Kentucky, 40503

(859) 373-1000

[www.ckcs.org](http://www.ckcs.org)

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## CKCS PICNIC AND ELECTION MEET ----- EAT ----- VOTE

Join your fellow members and friends at the annual CKCS Picnic scheduled for MONDAY June 8, 2009 starting at 6:00 PM. The location is Shillito's Park, Shelter # 5. Look for the CKCS banner on the shelter.

CKCS will furnish the fried chicken, beverages, plates and implements. Members are asked to bring a vegetable dish, salad or dessert – enough to serve as many people in your

own party twice. This insures at least enough food to feed the hungry.

In addition to side dishes, you are encouraged to bring spouses, significant others, children, visiting relatives and friends who might be curious about CKCS.

**IMPORTANT:** Please call the Resource Center (859) 373-1000 by Friday afternnon June 5<sup>th</sup> to let the staff know the number of people in your party. We want to have enough chicken, but we don't want to buy too much.

An election will follow the meal. This year, there is no slate of officers so all nominations will be made from the floor. You may nominate yourself or others – just be sure the person you nominate agrees to serve before you place the nomination. Positions to be filled include a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus five Director positions. Please review the current list of Officers and Directors found on page 6. Nominations will be received for all positions with tenures ending on June 30, 2009.

## *The History of CKCS*

## A WOMAN PROSPECTIVE OF THE STOCK MARKET

Gertrude Gajardo has volunteered to run the Investment SIG meeting for Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> in Art Gonty's absence. Art is the regular Investment SIG leader. Gertrude offered this plan:



I'm at a loss for words, it doesn't happen very often. As a woman, I do look at stocks differently. I have changed my approach over the years, and I like making my own decisions on what to buy. The economy has changed our thoughts on time and money. We shall have a lively discussion.

It's a volatile market. Art Gonty says I really know when to buy, but I don't know when the H\*\*\* to sell. There has never been a market like this.

Being a Master Gardener, I am definitely looking at stocks related to gardening, lawn care, and the "I'll do it myself attitude". People have decided to save money, and there is fear of loss of jobs.

We will have a discussion on different approaches to analyzing stocks. I believe versatility is the key to investing. But, I don't have the answers. I am a small investor. (A lot of these guys have good retirements. I do not.) I have made mistakes in learning but these are thing to talk about on Saturday June 20 at 10:00 A.M.

*The Investment SIG meets on the Third Saturday of each month. Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.*

## IF YOU LIKE GMAIL, YOU MIGHT LOVE MAILPLANE

**By Kurt Jefferson** Macintosh SIG Leader

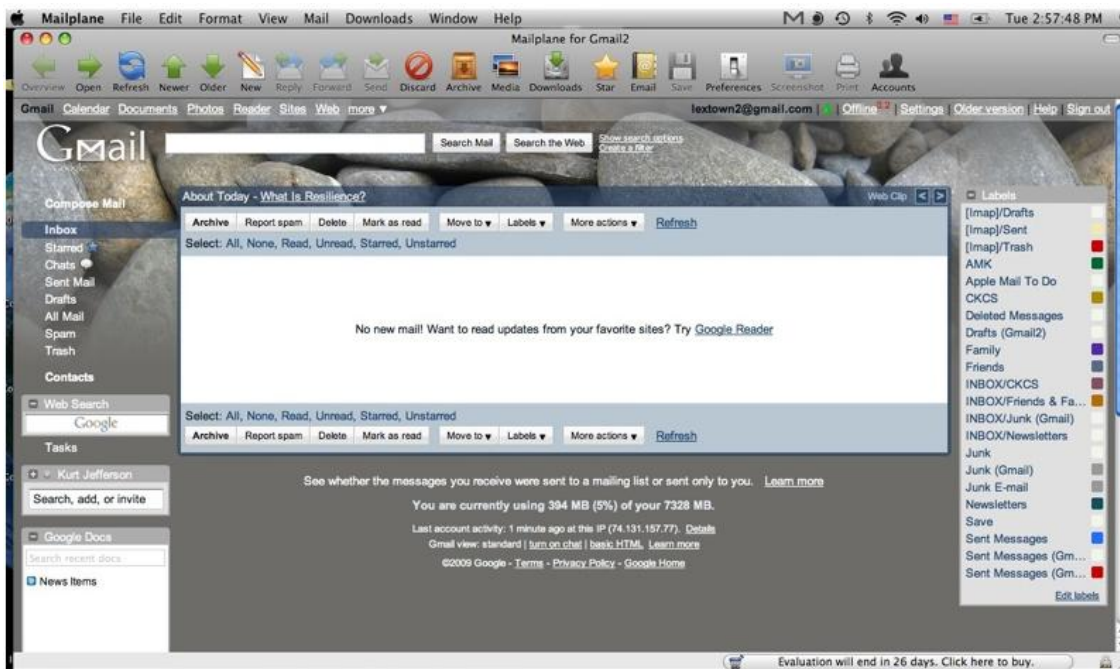
Raise your hand if you use Gmail (Google's email service). Plenty of people do. But I have always preferred viewing my email using an email client rather than Web mail. (A client is just computer jargon for an email program such as Apple Mail, Microsoft Entourage, or Thunderbird).



For free, Gmail allows you to configure your email client so you're able to get and send email that way rather than through Gmail's Web site. You can even choose between POP (an older system of email delivery) or IMAP (a newer system).

But using Apple's Mail program with Gmail didn't seem to be the best option for me. Joe Kissell, who's written a number of books about Apple Mail and email in general, writes in a TidBits article: *In particular, if you expect Mail (or any IMAP client) to work just like Gmail's Web interface in the way it handles archiving, some of what I describe here may disappoint you.*

Kissell writes that Gmail started life as a Web-only email system without folders. The idea was to throw all your email into one big mailbox and then do a Google search to find older messages. Later, Kissell says, Gmail allowed users to apply multiple labels to messages. That way, it was easier to find messages by remembering which label or labels applied to a specific message.



Finally, Google decided to allow users to access their Gmail accounts through their own email client. But there could be a catch if you own more than one Mac or PC. Kissell says the folks at Gmail monitor what they consider to be excessive email activity such as downloading all of your IMAP messages a

number of times each day. The mathematical equation detailing what Google considers excessive isn't public, but Kissell has run into the brick wall before. He says he's been locked out of all IMAP access for up to 24 hours.

In other words, when Kissell checked his email, Gmail stopped delivery because he exceeded the message limit. How did he get around this? You can follow step-by-step directions in his TidBit's article. You might especially be interested in the section labeled, "How to Configure Everything for Maximum Happiness."

Joe Kissell's Tidbits article is here: <http://db.tidbits.com/article/10253>

Kissell changed his settings in Apple Mail so he could live with Gmail's reliance on labels and archiving, Mail's reliance on mailboxes (folders), and the fact that Gmail began life as a Web mail service.

I went another route. Since I'm not a huge fan of Web mail (I use it when I'm away from home but prefer a small client), I began searching for alternatives to use my Gmail account.

I stumbled upon an article in Macworld describing an email program which I had never heard of before. It used WebKit, the same open source software on which Apple's Safari is built.

In other words, this email program mimics Gmail's Webmail (even though it's not Webmail), works only with Gmail, and provides a toolbar that can be customized.

The program is called Mailplane. It's unique in that it supports standard Mac OS X features, allows Google searches from within the program when activated, and uses Gmail's labeling and archiving options. A plug-in allows the user to send photos from within iPhoto. The Dock icon notifies the user by revealing how many new unread messages have arrived. A Mailplane icon in the menu bar also reveals the new message count, checks for incoming messages, and lets the user quickly check for messages in more than one Gmail account.

One of my favorite features is Mailplane's address book. It pulls email addresses directly from Apple's Address Book in my Applications folder. I can either begin typing a recipient's address in the proper Mailplane pane and it will autofill or I can choose Mail --> Insert --> Email Address from the program's menu bar.

If you're a fan of Gmail's keyboard commands don't sweat it. You'll be glad to know that Mailplane uses most of the same Mac shortcuts. Need to include an attachment? Simply drag and drop it into the Mailplane window (or click on the paper clip and find the attachment in the Finder). One neat feature lets the user adjust the size and quality of an attachment by user a slider bar. In addition, Mailplane 2.1(in beta) supports offline Gmail so the user can read his or her messages without being connected to the Internet.

As I write this, I have 26 days left to evaluate the program. It costs \$24.95 for one copy or \$15 for a family option. If you've got up to 5 Macs in your household, the latter is the wiser purchase.

Mailplane is not perfect. It is a work in progress. But so far, it appears to offer a good alternative for Gmail users who don't like to use Web mail. As Google keeps expanding its Google Labs programs, Mailplane keeps allowing the user to expand the email program's offerings. If you use Gmail on a Mac, give Mailplane a chance. You might find yourself wondering how you got along without it.

Dan Frake's review of Mailplane 2.0.9 is here (Mailplane is now in version 2.0.10)  
<http://www.macworld.com/article/140479/2009/05/mailplane.html>

Read about Mailplane from the developer's Web site: <http://www.mailplaneapp.com/>

The Unofficial Apple Web Blog review of an earlier version of Mailplane:  
<http://www.tuaw.com/2007/03/15/first-impressions-mailplane-the-desktop-gmail-client/>

Thinkmac.net Review of Mailplane:  
<http://www.thinkmac.net/review/review-mailplane-gmail-application-your-mac-desktop>

MacUser (the British magazine) review of an earlier version of Mailplane:  
<http://www.macuser.co.uk/reviews/186447/mailplane.html>

Bill Sodeman reviews Mailplane at BrightHub:  
<http://www.brighthouse.com/computing/mac-platform/reviews/2214.aspx>



The Macintosh SIG meets on the second Thursday of each month. Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.

## RECYCLE UNWANTED ELECTRONICS SIX DAYS A WEEK

Unwanted computers, including laptops and all accessories, DVD players, VCR's video games, cell phones, TVs, and other electronics plus miscellaneous electrical items such as microwaves, toaster ovens, toasters, George Forman grills and irons may all be recycled by Lexington Fayette Urban Country Government.

Recycling of these items is done at the LFUCG Versailles Road Campus, 1306 Versailles Road. They ask that you enter from Nancy Hanks Drive, off Red Mile Road. Signs will direct you to the correct building.

Workers will unload your materials for you 6 days a week. They are open from 8 AM till Noon on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday. And from Noon to 4 PM on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



"No, I'm not going hunting. But you can kiss our pathetically slow computer goodbye."

Image from Google, cartoon from Worldstart.com

### Central Kentucky Computer Society

Incorporated

160 Moore Drive Suite 107  
Lexington Kentucky 40503  
(859)-373-1000

#### OFFICERS

**Tenure end June 30, 2009**

President: Bob Brown  
Vice-President: Mike Seiler  
Treasurer: Jim McCormick  
Secretary: Ben Rice

#### DIRECTORS

**Tenure end June 30, 2009**

Jim Geeding  
John Newsom  
Julia Steanson  
Larry Trivette  
Larry Mitchum

**Tenure end June 30, 2010**

Wendell Curtis  
David Highet  
Matt Snoddy  
Paul Stackhouse  
Joe Dietz

Webmaster: John Newsom  
Office coordinator: Jenny Brown  
Newsletter: Jerry Heaton

**Highlighted positions to be filled by election at the June Picnic**



Zits appears regularly in the Lexington Herald Leader

# CKCS Class Schedule

## Summer 2009

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>MORN 10 - 12</b>	<b>Computer Basics</b> <i>Jun 8 – Jul 13</i> Mike Seiler Nancy Alverson Cathy Anderson	<b>Beg. Dig. Imaging</b> <i>Jun 16 – Jul 21</i> Joe Dietz Larry Cox		<b>Digital Image: Independent Work</b> <i>Jun 18 – Jul 23</i> Joe Dietz Larry Cox
<b>AFT 1 - 3</b>	<b>Mac Internet/email</b> <i>Jun 15 - Jul 20</i> Frankie Harvener Joe Settles	<b>Advanced Digital</b> <i>Jun 16 – Jul 21</i> Joe Dietz Larry Cox		
<b>AFT 4:30 – 6:30</b>	<b>Excel</b> <i>Jun 15 – Jul 20</i> Larry Parker Adrienne Saffell			<b>MAC OS X</b> <i>Jun 18 – Jul 23</i> Joe Settles David Highet
<b>EVENING 7:00-9:00</b>			<b>6:30 – 8:30</b> <b>Beyond Basics</b> <i>Jun 10 – Jul 15</i> Mike Seiler Harold Washburn	

Note: no classes were scheduled on Friday or Saturday during this session.  
Classes are 2 hours per week and are held over a 6 week period.

**To enroll, call an Office Manager at (859) 373-1000**

## JOIN CKCS NOW OR GIVE A CKCS MEMBERSHIP AS A GIFT

It is easy to apply, just go to <https://www.iglou.com/ckcsweb/other/onlineap.htm> . Fill in the blanks and use your credit card. It is that simple. Another way is to call the CKCS Office (859) 373-1000 and an office supervisor will help.

A CKCS membership is a great birthday or special occasion gift. After you complete the application, just send them a card to share the good news of your gift.

# THE MAY TECH NIGHT PRESENTATION ON FACEBOOK



Paul Stackhouse told those attending the CKCS Teck Night program (on May 11), the advantages, and steps to take to join Facebook. He offered an overview of the program and showed how much fun it can be to find friends, old and new, through the social medial site. At right is a portion of his personal Facebook home page which he used as an illustration as to what might be done. .



## APPLE OFFERS DOZENS OF IPHONE PROGRAMS HERE ARE THREE

by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

I was reading the Orange County IBM PC Users Group newsletter (nibbles & bits) and noticed an interesting article. Linda Gonse does a great job of editing this great newsletter and those of you who don't get to read it are missing a real treat. I don't own an iPhone, but many of my readers do. Lorene Romero, North Coast Macintosh Users Group President (in Santa Rosa, CA), wrote the article about some unique items available for iPhones. Three that I found interesting are quoted below with Lorene's permission:

"Coffee Break: \$1.99 (\*\*\*\*): Great app for those who love coffee! It has a very 'fun' interface with appropriate company cups. It has the usual suspects (Starbucks, Pete's and Seattle's Best), but it



also has a category for 'Other Coffee Places.' It is a great app if you are a coffee hound, like I am. The seller is Marco Pifferi"

"AroundMe: Free (\*\*\*\*): Cool little app that lets you find banks, coffee places, gas stations, supermarkets, and even an Apple store, located near you. First it finds your location and then accesses a database filled with local shops. I used it in Seaside, OR and found a wonderful coffee shop right down the street."

"Say Who Free (\*\*\*\*): Finally an app that brings back voice activation to the iPhone! Say any name (Jon Jones Mobile) and it will dial it every time for me."

You can download these from the iPhone store:

<<http://www.apple.com/itunes/whatson/appstore.html>>

## WHAT'S THIS, A PHOTO PRODUCTION LINE?

Bits&Coffee has released BatchPhoto V 2.5, a powerful Windows photo manipulation program that makes it easy to annotate, touch up, transform, apply effects, convert, and rename hundreds of pictures in a single operation. BatchPhoto lets you select a group of images, define a series of edits, and apply them in a single operation rather than individually.

With version 2.5, BatchPhoto introduces Raw Photo Development. DSLR digital cameras can save the raw image data as read by the optical sensor without any loss or additional processing. The resulting files, often called raw images or digital negatives, need additional processing on the PC with specialized software. Almost every digital camera manufacturer has one or several different file formats for storing the raw image data, which leads to poor support from software vendors. BatchPhoto can read and convert most of those formats, including formats from digital camera makers like: Canon, Nikon, Sony, Olympus, Fuji, Kodak, or Pentax.

By taking advantage of multi-core processors, BatchPhoto can convert hundreds or even thousands of raw images to common image formats like JPEG or TIFF in a single session. Custom defined settings, like White Balance or Demosaicing, allow the user to control the development process in detail. Additional filters and transformations can be applied to photos in the same session (e.g. Watermark, Resize, Sepia and so on). BatchPhoto can convert the raw images to dozens of image formats, including: JPG, TIF, PDF, PNG, GIF, BMP, EPS, TGA, and PSD. It can also change the meaningless names assigned by digital cameras to custom keyword based names, in the same operation. A second new feature is the ability to create PDF documents from multiple images. In the same process each image can be annotated, watermarked, and adjusted.

Overall, BatchPhoto has more than three-dozen graphical filters that can be applied to pictures. The filters are divided into four main categories; Annotate, Touch Up, Transform, and Effects. BatchPhoto adds itself to Windows Explorer's contextual (right-click) menu, so the user can apply predefined, or custom defined profiles to groups of pictures with ease.

BatchPhoto V. 2.5 runs under all versions of Windows, including Windows Vista and Windows Server 2008.

Home version is priced at \$29.95 (US), and Pro at \$59.95 (US). User group members get a 40% discount on the purchase of BatchPhoto by using the discount coupon 5A1398E4 when ordering, and it's good through June

2009. <<http://www.batchphoto.com/>>.

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**David Highet** CKCS Membership Chairman

Just like the flowers of Spring, the membership of the Central Kentucky Computer Society needs to grow. The flowers need only the sun and water provided by the gentle rains of Spring, our membership needs the attention of each and every one of us as dedicated members of CKCS.

That attention is not at all the hard to accomplish. As computer users and enthusiasts, we all know friends and neighbors who also own and use computers daily. All we need to do is to talk to them, and explain the benefits of membership in the Central Kentucky Computer Society.

Take a few minutes out of your day to explain the benefits of membership to your friends. Explain about the knowledge to be gained by attending one of our Special Information Gatherings. Bring a friend to a SIG of his or her own personal interest. Let them experience being exposed to other persons sharing the same interests, and to meet some experts on that interest.

Tell your friends and neighbors about the special classes we offer on different computer subjects. You will be surprised at how many of them have been looking for computer classes on their own, but could not find them.

Our society can grow only if we maintain a strong membership. There are many things we as a computer society would like to do but cannot because we simply do not have the funds to do so. If we wish to continually upgrade our equipment and software, we must grow. To grow, it will take a special effort of the part of each and every one of us.

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Nice to know information

## GET THE FRESHEST BREAD IN THE STORE

At times when you go to the grocery store to purchase a fresh loaf of bread, you might be surprised to learn that the bread you purchase might be one two or three days old.

Bakeries use color codes to let the store owner know when certain loaves of bread were delivered to the store. It is all done with the little twisties on the end of the loaf. If you treasure fresh bread, you may want to learn the codes to tell you how long the loaf of bread has been on the shelf because the dates on the bread are usually several days in the future.

Here is what you need to know; first no bread is delivered to stores on Sunday or Wednesday. Next, you need to know the color codes:

### **Walmart and Butternut Bread:**

Mon	Tue	Thur	Fri	Sat
Blue	Green	Red	White	Yellow

### **Kerns Bread:**

Mon	Tue	Thur	Fri	Sat
Red	White	Blue	Orange	Yellow

You are correct. This tidbit has nothing to do with computers. Just nice to know information from Joe Isaac.

# ONE OF THE TOP 5 FEATURES OF VISTA

By Joe Isaac Windows SIG Leader

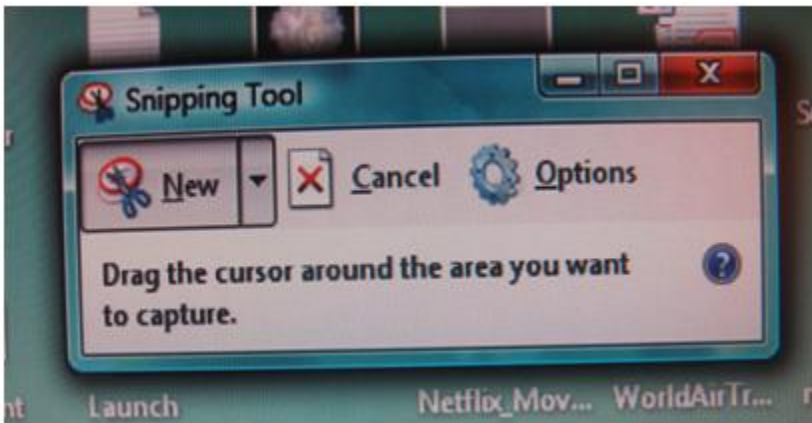
Last month we listed the number one application in Vista, **Start Search**.

This month we will list the number 2 application, **the Snipping Tool**.

Once you get to VISTA, you'll find the Snipping Tool, which is a giant step over Print Screen. With print screen you must go through several steps to crop your screen image to including only the part you wanted. The you need to use the sizing handles to set the size of the picture.



The snipping tool icon, shown at left, resides on the Quick Launch section of your task bar. It is there because once you become familiar with it you will use the snipping tool all the time. Once you click on that icon, the dialog box (below) appears, allowing you to click and drag only the exact portion of the screen you want to capture. It eliminates several steps required when using the old Print Screen feature from Windows XP and earlier Windows programs.



The illustration above right, a snip from a John Wall story, shows that you capture any part of the display you want. Only part of the image and story was selected for this illustration. All the story, picture and heading could have easily been captured if you wanted to do so. No cropping was necessary.

## Wall makes signs with



by Jeff Drummond

In the end, it went down to the for the nation's top-rated basketball prospect in the Class of 2009. star Raleigh (N.C.) Word of God Academy point guard **John Wall** a press conference at his school Wednesday – the final day of the confirm that he will be attending

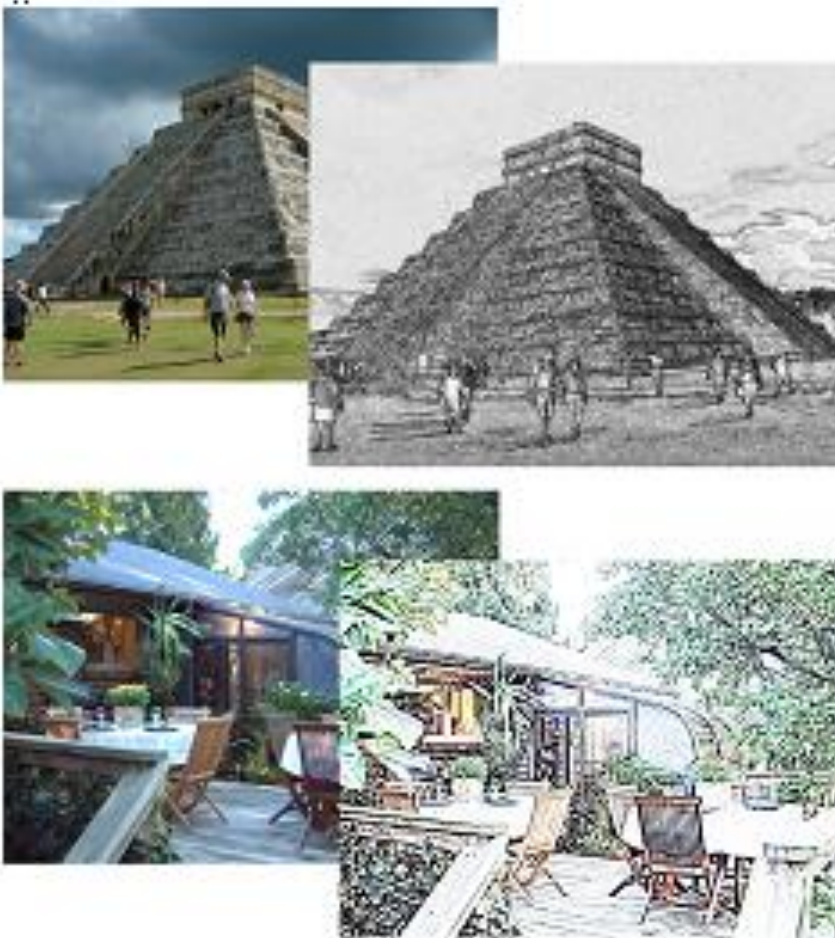
Be sure to attend the Windows SIG on Tuesday June 9 at 7:00 PM when the snipping tool and a dozen other tips regarding Windows will be presented.

*The Windows XP – Vista SIG meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Check MEETING SCHEDULE for more information.*

# CREATING WORKS OF ART WITH YOUR PHOTOS IN JUNE

by Joe Dietz

Using a digital imaging program, you can create masterpieces from your own pictures. In the **June 23<sup>rd</sup> Digital Imaging Special Interest Group**, I will use Corel's Paint Shop Pro to demonstrate how you can take one of your favorite pictures, such as a landscape, a favorite person, pet or just about anything, and turn it into a piece of art! I will demonstrate how to change your pictures into watercolors, charcoal sketches, color sketches or black and white sketches. We will also mimic the pointillism of Seurat, landscapes of Monet, and the black and whites of Ansel Adams.



**Joe Dietz**  
Digital Imaging  
SIG Leader

Don't forget the photo contest for June. This month's topic will be "Hands".

Send them to [joedietz@aol.com](mailto:joedietz@aol.com). Be sure to put photo contest in the subject line. Take a look around you and find a memorable picture of a hand (or hands). This should pose an interesting challenge and should result in some interesting entries. Send your image to me no later than June 22, 2009.

Also – bring a friend. Find someone that would be interested in either this topic or joining CKCS for the learning experience and the opportunity to meet a bunch of interesting folks! And bring them with you.

*The Digital Photography SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.  
Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.*

## NAMEPLATE

The CKCS nameplate that appears at the top of page 1 of this issue, is the one that the Board of Directors selected for this and future online newsletter posted by CKCS.



# ADDING A PICTURE TO YOUR TEXT IS EASY

It is easy to insert a picture in with your text. The picture must be scanned to create a digital image or taken with a digital camera and transferred into your computer hard drive. Another source for digital pictures are various web sites.

Take note of the file name of the picture you wish to insert, go to INSERT on the menu bar > PICTURE > FROM FILE. Then browse to find the scanned image. Once found, click on INSERT and the image appears at the insertion point in your document. The image will likely almost fill most of your page.

If you need to change the size of the picture, just click on the image and eight “sizing handles” appear around the outside edge of the image.

## CHANGING THE IMAGE SIZE

By grabbing a corner sizing handle with your mouse pointer, and holding the left mouse button down you are able to decrease the size of the image by moving the sizing handle toward the middle of the picture until it is the size you desire. The picture will maintain the correct ratio (height and width) if you use a corner sizing handle. If you choose to use a center sizing handles, the picture will become distorted like it was viewed in a fun house mirror, so don't use the middle sizing handles unless you desire a funny looking image.

## CROPPING YOUR PICTURE



To crop your picture, just click on the [cropping tool icon](#). You then must center the cropping icon over a sizing handle you want to move. Then pressing your left mouse button and moving the mouse toward the middle of the picture, you may crop out any part of your picture you desire to make the image more eye appealing. You may use any one of the 8 sizing handles to do this adjustment.

## LET TEXT FLOW AROUND YOUR PICTURE

If you desire your text to flow around your pictures as was done on the previous page, first CLICK ON THE PICTURE then go to FORMAT > PICTURE > select the FORMAT tab > select SQUARE and click OK.

Note: These instructions are based on using MS Word 2003 or earlier version. The steps are similar in MS Word 2007, but the ribbon bar in that version changes some of the steps mentioned.

--Jerry Heaton

*The Word Processing SIG meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.*

# *The History of CKCS*

## CKCS APPROACHES 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By Jerry Heaton

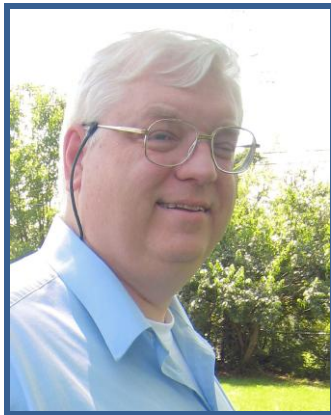
The Central Kentucky Computer Society is bearing down on its 25<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The organization was created officially as a non-profit public charity on September 4, 1984 with the stated purpose of “demystifying technology” – an appropriate slogan for the technology of computers in those early days was somewhat of a mystery, maybe even magical.

**“Any sufficiently advanced technology  
is indistinguishable from magic.”**

Arthur C. Clarke – “Profiles of The Future”, 1961 (Clarke's third law)  
English physicist & science fiction author (1917 - )

How did it all begin? Nine people got together for the organization meeting and early on they decided to incorporate ‘for the protection of the officers’, because they weren’t sure what they were getting into. Public records list the incorporators as David Reed and Arthur Abshire. Reed was an editor of the Weekender section for the Lexington Herald Leader, he created “Kentucky.com” plus other jobs with the paper, and Arthur was, and still is, a practicing Lexington attorney. “It was David Reed’s idea” Abshire said. David had gone to Boston and saw their computer society and “I thought that was an interesting idea that might just work in Lexington.” said Reed.

Reed assembled a small group of interested computer users to discuss the idea.



Arthur Abshire

Among those in the initial meeting were Reed, Abshire, John Newby, Mike Pugh, Bill Johnson, and Fred Povey. There may have been others, but when the articles of incorporation were filed with the Kentucky Secretary of State on September 4, 1984, Reed and Abshire were listed as ‘incorporators’ of the Central Kentucky



David Reed

Computer Society, Inc. and the rest, including Reed, were listed as ‘Directors’ .

David Reed was elected the first President and Abshire the Treasurer. “I think John Newby was the Vice President and I don’t remember if we had a Secretary”, Abshire said.

The public found an immediate need for the fledgling organization. Computers of that day were cranky and often when one pushed its limit beyond the small amount of memory available in those days, frequently the system would ‘crash’, but sometimes, a crash would just occur for no apparent reason. A more modern reference to a ‘crash’ is ‘the blue screen of death’. Such events were way too frequent and typically would result in the loss of data and often hours of work. Group meetings allowed members to share experiences and sometimes solutions to the problem of cranky early computers.

The first official meeting was held in the Buckner room at the Herald Leader building, located on Main Street at Midland. “We invited 100, and 60 showed up” said David Reed, “and



all but two joined and paid their dues.” The dues weren’t much Reed could not recall the exact amount “maybe between \$5 and \$10,” he said. Initially, meetings were idea (and problem) sharing meetings.

**CKCS’s first official meeting was held in the Buckner Room of the Lexington Herald Leader building at Main and Midland in 1984.**

Herald Leader Photos

several hundred members fairly quickly. On occasions, the young group invited guest speakers, and surprisingly, nationally known speakers would agree to address the meetings. Reed named a few including the editor of InfoWorld, and the editor of Byte Magazine which at the time was sort of the bible of computing. “We were meeting in a chemistry lab then” he said. They invited people with Kentucky ties; Jim Gable, product manager for Apple power PC chip came, that chip was made by IBM for Apple. Apple’s David Nagle came – he later became CEO of Apple. Representatives from Microsoft and Lexmark attended more than once, and Richard Katz representing Quicken was a regular. Bob Brown, the current CKCS President added a couple of well known journalist to the list,

CKCS grew to

Steward Alsop and John Dvorak. Other out of town speakers included Guy Kawasaki, Robert X Cringely and George Bond.

Fortunately most speakers came at their own expense as CKCS had no money for that purpose. CKCS had limited audio-visual equipment for guest speakers to use. They offered only a 35mm slide projector, a viewgraph and screen. Speakers usually bought their own visual aids. Some guest programs were simple presentations followed by a question and answer session.

Initially, the society owned no computers – they were just too expensive for the organization. They relied on members to use their own computers for the organization's benefit.

## **EARLY COMMUNICATIONS**

Early on, the primary way CKCS had to announce meetings and share information was to use an 'electronic bulletin board' called a BBS (bulletin board system). CKCS member Paul Stackhouse took this as his project to manage. His title was SYSOP (system operator) of the BBS. He ran it out of his home and it necessitated that CKCS install two phone lines to provide members access.

To reach the BBS server, a member called a local phone number. Members could upload a small program they had written to share with other members or the organization could announce the time and place for a SIG meeting. One could leave a technical question and a talented member likely would leave you an answer within just hours, according to Stackhouse.

Access to the BBS was limited by the number of phone lines. Someone would have to hang up for another to get to the BBS. CKCS started with just two phone lines and soon it was necessary to add two more lines. This would allow four members plus the SYSOP to be online at the same time. When they attempted to add even more lines to Paul's house in a residential neighborhood, the phone company balked. They had ignored the fact that 4 lines had already been installed to a private home but if more were needed, they required the organization to go to commercial phone lines and commercial rates.

This, perhaps, had some influence on CKCS board members to considering rental office space.

Another advantage of the bulletin board; since there was no World Wide Web back then, a member could have their first e-mail address – something like joedokes@ckcs.org. According to Stackhouse, "some people join CKCS just to have access to the BBS and their own email. "We had no office space so the bulletin board was sort of the glue that kept the organization together," Stackhouse said.



When the world wide web came into being, that eliminated the need of the bulletin board. In its day, though, it was invaluable.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Early meetings were held anywhere CKCS could get free space – the Herald Leader building, the Lexington Community College, the UK Equine auditorium and UK's White classroom building to name a few.



**SOME MONTHLY MEETINGS** were held at UK's Gluck Equine Center, like this one on September 10, 2001, when Microsoft introduced Windows XP to CKCS members. XP went on sale October 1<sup>st</sup> and four months later, MS reported that over 400 million copies had been sold. Joe Isaac took the above photos, which are three photos pieced together.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) would meet all around the city – anywhere a business would allow access to their conference or meeting room. Attendance to SIGs was much as it is today, Paul Stackhouse said, but monthly meetings often might attract 80 to 100 members and guests. One of the more popular SIGs then concerned DOS and was lead by Richard Gehlbach. "David Reeds fingerprints on the Society run deep and really helped lay the groundwork for continued success," commented Stackhouse.

## VOLUNTEER WORKERS

It takes about 100 volunteers to do all the things necessary to keep CKCS running smoothly. Some individuals devote many hours a week to do some of the technical jobs involving the equipment and management of the organization. Some teachers spend dozens of hours in preparation for a class, plus class time itself and there are others such as the office supervisor who dedicates three hours each week to their job. No one receives pay, everyone is a volunteer. There are not many organizations run and managed by only volunteers with absolutely no paid staff.

Realizing that CKCS is strictly a volunteer organization makes some of the past accomplishments even more amazing. For eight years, CKCS sponsored and worked a major computer trade show in Lexington called **CompuLex**.

## STARTED A COMPUTER TRADE SHOW

How did CompuLex get started? Reed said he saw the movie "Field of Dreams" in which one of the characters said, "If you build it they will come."

He and Gerald Wells had been to a large computer show in Dayton, Ohio, which featured a large number of exhibitors renting spaces. On the way back to Lexington, they discussed the show and decided they thought they could do one too. That was the beginning.

The first show was held in 1990 at the Ramada Inn at Newtown Pike and Interstate 75, which is now a Four Points by Sheraton. The cost of renting the facility for one day was \$1,500, which was a bit of a gamble, not only for CKCS, but also the dozen exhibitors who they had coaxed into participating.

Reed said they were a little worried when, after the event had already been advertised, the hotel changed its name. They thought the change might kill what little chance they had for success because people wouldn't be able to find the hotel. Even the dealers were skeptical and didn't bring very much stuff to sell because they weren't sure anyone was coming.

"We surely hoped somebody would show up," Reed said. "But, we felt much better when, about 9 o'clock, people began to line up for the 10 o'clock opening."

Sales by the exhibitors must have been OK according to Reed, because he overheard an exhibitor talking on the phone to his store downtown, telling them to close down the store and load up everything they had, and bring it out to the hotel. So, exhibitors apparently made a profit and the society did, as well. CKCS membership began to grow and the success at the first show started a trade show trend that would last for eight years.

The following two years the shows were moved to the Continental Inn on New Circle Road, which was larger and cost about \$2,000 to rent, but it too proved to be inadequate space for the growing event, current CKCS President Bob Brown, said.

"We had seminars being held under stairways they were so short of space. Exhibitors were in the hallways, people were everywhere." Brown said.

Reed said the organization was faced with a big decision as it prepared for CompuLex number four. Should it rent Heritage Hall next to Rupp Arena? "It was a bold move for a small organization. It was scary," Reed said. "The first contract was a commitment to spend close to \$30,000 for one day rental." Microsoft pledged a donation of half a truckload of its early operating system

DOS 6, which would be given to early attendees to the show. When Intuit heard about the donation, it got involved and gave some copies of Quicken as well. By purchasing a ticket to the show, early arrivals received nearly \$100 worth of computer programs.

"Needless to say, there was a crowd waiting to get in," Reed said. "It took a lot of volunteer workers to make it happen, but (after paying expenses) we made a profit of about \$25,000." The show attracted about 70 exhibitors.

Money earned from such early projects enabled CKCS to obtain improved office space and further its non-profit charitable projects within the community. It also allowed CKCS to obtaining equipment in order to begin SeniorNet classes. Additional support was also provided by IBM, Lexmark and a few other companies.

### **COMPUTER FILE NEWSLETTER**

Due to the first few CompuLex computer shows, CKCS membership grew to over 1200 and the main means of communications with members was the monthly newsletter, *COMPUTER FILE*. Copies were mailed to all members each month and several hundred copies were delivered to the libraries in Fayette and the surrounding counties.

The relationship with the Lexington Herald Leader enhanced our public image as they became involved with the monthly newsletter. Each month CKCS had 2000 copies printed and distributed. The Herald Leader agreed to add an 8 page supplement to their newspaper about CKCS, once a year and their press run was 105,000 at that time. This meant the annual CKCS newsletter in those years totaled 127,000 copies a year. When that figure was shared with the Association of Computer User Groups, of which CKCS is a member, people around the country began to take notice. Even the big computer society's couldn't match that. CKCS received a national award for their newsletter.

Then one year, the Herald Leader advertising department made the offer, with approval, they would sell advertisement in the CKCS supplement, and they would agree to include a supplement with our news in it every month and include it in the Herald Leader. Best yet, they would print our newsletter for free. They did this for one year and our distribution that year total around 1,260,000 copies. The biggest problem CKCS had, was providing sufficient news stories and information to fill the pages. As a result of all this good advertising, CKCS membership peaked at over 1700 members. Big city computer societies couldn't believe a little city the size of Lexington could accomplish anything like that.

For this organization, CompuLex shows had perhaps the greatest impact on the City of Lexington because some of these shows attracted over 6,000 attendees.

These events attracted nationally known speakers. Again, that was a pretty significant accomplishment for an organization this size.

## **SHAREWARE**

Before CKCS begin trade shows, the board of directors sought a way to raise funds. The solution was selling 'shareware'. "Once you bought a computer, you had no software to run on it and commercial software was pretty high priced and came with no assurance of a happy outcome," said Bob Brown, current CKCS president. "Back in those days, operating systems had very little interesting stuff to go with them." Shareware provided useful little programs, sometimes simple office applications, or fun interesting games and a lot of ham radio stuff, which was a big group back then. Shareware programs came on 3 ½ inch floppy disks, and since there was no free programs like you might find on the internet today, shareware filled the gap.

"We went to Turfland Mall, and they agreed to allow a space for free, since we were a nonprofit organization. They were always cooperative" Bob Brown said, but they were not enthusiasm about our prospects for success. To their surprise, "they discovered that we drew a heck of a crowd inside that mall," Brown said. The crowds were substantial, so much so that on subsequent shows, the mall asked them to move to different portions of the mall thereby increasing traffic in the areas of certain stores. The sale would start at 10 AM and end about 4:30 PM. The Mall knew shareware sales were good because the people were packed around the tables all day long. "They were thrilled with the crowd that we drew and the mall management could barely keep from giggling, but they didn't want us to know that they were thrilled," Brown said. Soon mall management wanted to charge rent, but, according to Brown, they were always able to talk their way out of that using the nonprofit status as a excuse. Typically CKCS had two shows a year at the mall – spring and fall --, and he recalled one show which gross sales amounted to over \$7000. That is moving a lot of shareware programs when you realize the typical disk sold for \$3. Shareware sales continued for several years and was a successful part of the future CompuLex trade shows that became a tradition.

## **SENIORNET**

The idea of CKCS teaching classes with volunteer instructors began in 1992. The grand opening was attended by all three Lexington TV stations which had crews in the crowded SIG room, taping of a speech by Mary Furlong, SeniorNet founder. Lexington Mayor Pam Miller was there also.

In the 18 years since, thousands of Central Kentuckian's have received personalized, hands-on instruction in the CKCS classroom. Most classes are on basic computer subjects and students have been able to hone their basic computer skills ever since.



## CKCS ON THE MOVE

Initially, CKCS special interest groups (SIG) had no permanent home, therefore meetings were held wherever free space could be had. If there were any records to be maintained, they were kept at someone's home or garage.

In the fall of 1991, the organization boldly rented their **first office space** at 2891 Richmond Road. It was not an ideal space, but it fit the budget. It was in a



**THE FIRST OFFICE** rented by CKCS was on the Richmond Road at the center entrance of the building shown above. CKCS President Bob Brown said the CKCS 2 room office was in the center of the building at the end of the sidewalk on which he is standing. The space was less than ideal. They rented the space in 1991 and stayed a year.

building that one might consider being the ugliest building on Richmond Road. It is a funny looking wooden structure with tall white skylights and what looks like white telephone poles sticking out of the roof. It looked like the architect started to build an office building and forgot what he set out to do. CKCS rented two rooms in that building, right in the center of the front entrance. The first room was a rectangular but had a curved wall on one side of the room – not something you see very often. The second room was even more unusual. It was an actual circle and in the middle of it was what Bob Brown referred to as a concrete silo which you

walked around get the opposite side of the room. It seems the architect had in mind of putting a helipad on the roof, and the 'silo' was to support that weight, however, the helipad never happened. It was not the best office space. CKCS was only there about a year, but "it seemed a lot longer than that to me," Brown said.



In 1992, CKCS moved their office to a large building at 1300 New Circle Road, located at the intersection of Liberty Road and New Circle Road. They occupied this space for 10 years, while their efforts in classroom instruction and special interest groups continued to grow in size and number.

**The second location** of the CKCS Resource Center was at 1300 New Circle Road, a large building that was built for IBM but it had become vacant and CKCS was able to rent a narrow suite of offices in the middle of that building. This move was made in 1992. Large CKCS letters were placed on the front of the building and were easily visible from heavily traveled New Circle Road. They occupied this site for 10 years.

**Note:** The picture shown above was taken in 2009. The letters have been superimposed for the benefit of newer members who don't remember the old site. That is not the actual sign, but is somewhat similar. There were some photos taken of that building while CKCS rented that space. We are seeing that and other historic photos from our membership.



The SIG room in the New Circle Road building was a long slender one and at times there would be an overflow crowd as depicted by these photos by Joe Isaac, taken on May 1, 2001.

**The organization's current location** is at 160 Moore Drive. The move there occurred on September 1, 2002. So on CKCS's official 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, they will have occupied this area seven years.

The building provides adequate space for the computer classroom plus room for the special interest groups that meet there fifteen times a month. The organization has continued its public service mission holding classes in Wilmore and for a time, they were involved with "Tubby's Clubhouse", sponsored by UK basketball coach Tubby Smith, to help children with special needs learn the intricacies of a computer and the skills related in computer usage at school and in the home.



CKCS moved to their current location at 160 Moore Drive Suite 107 on September 1, 2002. They share the building with The Travel Authority, Orlando's the Minuteman Press and several second floor tenants. The space was slightly less square footage than in their previous building, but the floor plan offered more useful space to the society.

As the organization ages to 25, it is amazing what has been accomplished by a dedicated group of individuals who established goals and objectives and carried them to fruition. With technology now progressing at warp speed, who knows what the future may hold for CKCS in the next few years.

Note: A special thanks to David Reed of Santa Teresa, NM and to Arthur Abshire, Bob Brown and Paul Stackhouse, of Lexington, for taking time to provide information for us to present a bit of the history of the early days of the Central Kentucky Computer Society. As time goes by, we hope to review some of the records that are stored at different places in the city in order share some additional interesting stories about the early days of CKCS.

Please understand that much of the information and dates herein are based on the recall efforts by individuals about events 25 years ago. It is the best information that came to mind at the time of the interview. Dates could vary slightly. Anyway, I hope you have enjoyed this bit of history of the CKCS.

-----Jerry Heaton