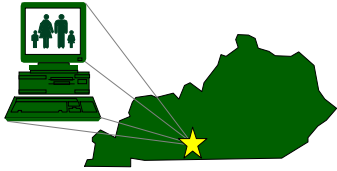


BGA-BYTES



Official newsletter of the Bowling Green
Area Microcomputer User Group, Inc.,
BGAMUG

Mike Moore, President
Carlisle Barnes, Newsletter Editor
Volume 17, Issue 2; February 2007



Left Over From January

Prize Winner

The picture shown on the right is a prize winning photograph taken by Howard Margolis, a member of BGAMUG. The photograph, entitled *Dandelion in Dew*, won 2nd place in the Division C: Landscape and Flowers division of the annual APCUG digital camera contest.

Howard's picture is in black and white, so the reproduction shown here is true to the color of the original. Unfortunately, however, the resolution in the original picture is much better than our reproduction. Regardless, it is still a great picture.



Medical Information

In January, a link to a truly authoritative medical search engine was put on our BGAMUG.org Website. This search engine is unlike the usual engines in that the links have been filtered for truly qualified authors and the order of listed links is not based on frequency of visits, but on the reputation of the sources. This search engine was put together by our club president Mike Moore, a registered pharmacist with a strong desire for people to receive truly valid medical data and advice. In the opinion of your BGA-Bytes editor, this is one of the most important links we have ever presented to the club.

February Presentations

Mike Moore's Presentation

Maintaining our personal computers is one of those jobs that most of us would rather not think about. PC experts agree, though - a clean hard drive is a happy hard drive. This month Mike is going to take us on a look at some built-in tools that Windows provides to locate and delete those pesky and unneeded files and resources that slow your computer down and get in the way of other, more useful software. In a short presentation, he will provide a rundown of three basic elements:

1. **Deleting temporary and unnecessary files**
2. **Deleting programs that you don't use and may slow down your computer**
3. **Defragmenting the hard drive to provide maximum file retrieval efficiency**

Handouts and a list of definitions will be provided. Bring a friend! It may be the most valuable 20 minutes you spend with your computer this year!

Chuck Thomas' Presentation

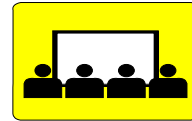
Most of us have used CDs to store music, but fewer of us have used CDs to store document files, and pictures. Chuck will explain the in and out of burning these files to CD, and the differences between music CDs and data CDs. For some reason, this important topic is not discussed as often as it should be, but Chuck will enlighten us.

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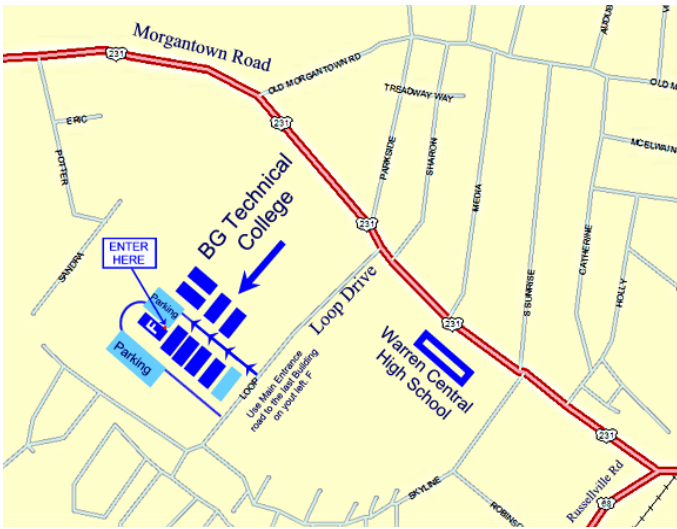
February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



BGAMUG General Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next two meetings are February 27 and March 27. These meetings will be at the Bowling Green Technical College, Bld 5, 6:30 PM. See the map above. Entrance to the BGTC campus on Loop Drive is clearly marked. Building 5 is the last building on the left, down the road through the campus. Following the meeting, there is an optional social meeting at Hardee's Restaurant at Russellville Road and Campbell Lane. Ask for explicit directions at the general meeting. **BGAMUG Board Meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month.** The next board meeting will be on March 6 in the Alamo Room of the Lone Star Restaurant, 2425 Scottsville Road, located between the Greenwood Mall and the Best Buy store. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM and is open to all. An optional dinner at your own expense starts at the same place at 5:30 PM. The regular Lone Star Dinner Menu is available.

BGAMUG Treasurer's Report From January 1 To February 6, 2007

BGAMUG Treasurer's Report For January 2007

Balance, January 1, 2007.....\$ 2,265.40
 January Deposits \$ 524.24
 January Checks\$ 224.85
 Balance, January 31, 2007\$ 2,567.79

An itemized treasurer's report will be available at the February meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Gillette,
 BGAMUG Treasurer

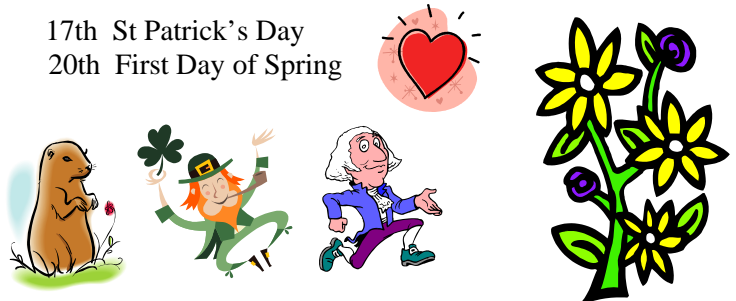
February Holidays and Celebration Days

- 2nd Groundhog day.
- 12th Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (not a federal holiday)
- 14th Valentine's Day
- 22nd George Washington's Birthday (not a federal holiday)
- 29th Leap Day. Only occurs once every four years

Third Monday of February (the 19th this year). Officially the federal holiday for Washington's Birthday, but in many states called President's day and used to celebrate the birthdays of both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

March Holidays and Celebration Days

- 17th St Patrick's Day
- 20th First Day of Spring



Local Classes

Bowling Green Community College

BGCC is currently in session for the Spring term. The next set of courses will start this summer. While BGCC offers computer courses, it also offers courses not related to computers. Here are some of the latter that Linda Todd (who teaches at BGCC) feels might appeal to our members: Note that all of the courses listed below have traditionally taught face-to-face classes at South Campus. No online courses have been listed.

*Summer 2007

May Term - May 14 - June 1

*Western Civilization to 1648 - MTWRF - 9:00 am - 11:40 am

- Charles Borders

Intro to Physical Environment - (Geography) - MTWRF 8:00 am - 10:40 am

- Jill Brown

June Term - June 4 - July 6

Cultural Diversity in the US - MTWRF - 10:00 am - 11:40 am - Burnett

World Regional Geography - MTWRF - 8:00 am - 9:40 am - Jill Brown

Psychology - MTWRF - 8:00 am - 9:40 am - Quentin Hollis

Developmental Psychology - MTWRF - 10:00 am - 11:40 am - Quentin Hollis

Basic Accounting I - MTWRF - 8:00 am - 9:15 am - Candice Witherspoon

Human Nutrition - MW - 5:00 - 8:30 pm - Dawn Graham

July Term - July 9 - August 10

Web and Media Design - MTWRF - 8:00 am - 9:40 am - Dr. George Kontos

Western Civ Since 1648 - TR - 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Thomas Carroll

Intro to Economics - TR - 5:30 pm - 9:15 pm - Mark Staynings

Human Nutrition - MW - 5:00 - 8:30 pm - Dawn Graham

Developmental Psychology - MTWRF - 9:30 am - 12:15 pm - July 9 - July 27

- L. Jenson

*If you are interested in taking one of these classes, please contact Linda Todd at 780.2547.

BGTC, KATI, and WKU

Computer classes are offered at the Bowling Green Technical College (where we hold our general meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month) as well as at the Kentucky Advanced Technology Institute, 1127 Morgantown Road, and at the Glasgow campus of the Bowling Green Technical College. These schools are not part of WKU, although Bowling Green Technical College was founded in 1939 as the Western Trade School and was operated by Western Kentucky at that time. Today they are part of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS.) Former BGA-Bytes editor Peggy Beasley teaches at BGTC.

The Bowling Green Community College, on the other hand, is one of six undergraduate colleges in the Western Kentucky University system. If you are over 65 then you may be able to attend either BGCC at South Campus or WKU "on the hill," cost-free except for a one time registration fee. The problem with attending classes on the hill is that there is literally a hill involved, and there are steps, steps, steps, and more steps. All of these schools are already into the Spring term, and the next set of classes will be for Summer. BGA-Bytes will let you know later what is offered in Summer.

Online Computer Classes

A set of free classes involved with computers and software is available by going to the Website <http://u.about.com>

Computing & Technology	Intro to COM programming with Delphi	Shell Programming with Delphi
30 days of Web Design Help	Introduction to Security Tools	Start a Desktop Publishing Business (17 days)
Adding Components to a TDBGGrid	Internet Protocol & IP Networking Fundamentals	Start a Desktop Publishing Business (10 weeks)
Adobe Photoshop Basics	Learn JavaScript	VB Programming for Non-Programmers!
Basic Mac Troubleshooting	Linux Desktop 101	VBA - The Visual Basic Working Partner
Beginning Web Design	Macintosh OS X Troubleshooting 101	Visual Basic .NET for Beginners
Build Your Own Desktop PC	Microsoft Visual Basic .NET	Web Logs 101: Blogging for Beginners
Computer Security 101	Organize Your Photos with Photoshop Elements	Web Design Class
Computer Viruses 101	Outlook Express Tips	Web Page Animation Email Course
Create a Greeting Card (9 days)	Personal Web Site 101	Web Search 101
Create a Greeting Card (9 weeks)	Popup Windows	WiFi Security 101
Desktop Publishing Rules	PowerPoint for the Absolute Beginner - Daily eCourse	Windows Font Basics for New Users
Delphi Database Programming	PowerPoint for the Absolute Beginner - Weekly eCourse	Working with Quicken Attachments
HTML Forms	Beyond Basic PowerPoint	XHTML 101
Javascript Regular Expressions	Resources in Delphi applications	XML 101
Getting Started with Microsoft Money 2006		
How to do Desktop Publishing		
Intermediate Web Design Email		

AVG AntiVirus program, Free Edition.

In the last newsletter, it was mentioned that going to <http://free.grisoft.com/doc/1> will give you access to a place from which you can download the free edition of Grisoft's AntiVirus program. On the CD put together by Mike Moore, and available free to members at the last meeting, this and a number of other programs are made available for downloading. If you didn't pick up Mike's CD, simply use the Website given above. Unfortunately, the program is not available free to organizations, if that is a problem for you. However, the paid version is still considerably less expensive than are most other application programs.

PC Tools AntiVirus program, Free Edition

In addition to the annual \$29.95 paid version of PC Tools AntiVirus, which includes high speed updates, dedicated 24/7 support, as well as telephone support, PC Tools also offers a special Free Edition which does not include either automatic updates or support. (Are those worth \$29.95 to you?) This edition was released December 22, 2006 and operates on the Platforms: Windows Vista™, XP and 2000. This free program is available by accessing: <http://www.pctools.com/free-antivirus/>.

ClamWin Free Antivirus 0.88.7 update

ClamWin is a Free Antivirus for Microsoft Windows platforms: 98/Me/2000/XP and 2003. ClamWin Free Antivirus comes with an easy installer and open source code. You may download and use it absolutely free of charge. It features: detection of both viruses and spyware. It has a scanning scheduler, and automatic downloads of regularly updated Virus Databases. The latest version of Clamwin Free Antivirus is 0.88.7 Please note that ClamWin Free Antivirus does not include an on-access real-time scanner. You need to manually scan a file in order to detect a virus or to detect spyware. ClamWin Free Antivirus includes the Clam AntiVirus engine and uses the GNU General Public License by the Free Software Foundation. The program is maintained by volunteer online contributors. It is absolutely free to all organizations as well to individuals.

Half a Century of Hard Drives

Hard drives are 50 years old this year. They first appeared in crude form in what we now call main frame computers. A typical cost at the time (for the RAMAC 305 for example) if adjusted for today's inflation would have been about \$70,000 per megabyte. Shortly after desktop computers were introduced, both floppy drives and hard drives were added to them. Some hard drives of the time had storage capacities as small as a few hundred kilobytes. Today's desktop computers have hard drives with typically tens to hundreds of Gigabytes capacity and the cost per megabyte varies from a few tenths of a cent down to a few hundredths of a cent.

Now, various desktop hard drive systems with capacities of up to one terabyte are being introduced. This year Hitachi will introduce a pair of one terabyte hard drives. The first, the Deskstar 7K1000, will ship during the first quarter of 2007 with a nominal cost of \$399. (Note that a thousand bytes is a kilobyte; a thousand kilobytes a megabyte; a thousand megabytes a gigabyte; and a thousand gigabytes a terabyte.) Before taxes and/or discounts, the Deskstar 7K1000 will consequently cost approximately 0.04 cents per Megabyte of storage.

Eastman Kodak Enters the Printer Market

Numerous companies produce printers suitable for use with desktop computers, the most prominent being Hewlett-Packard. As a marketing technique to encourage sales, most companies use a sort of bait and hook technique. They sell printers at or less than actual cost, and then sell toner/ink for them in proprietary cartridges at a very substantial profit. Sometime In March Kodak will put on the market 3 EasyShare All-in-One printers, ranging in cost from \$150 to \$300. These All-in-One printers will print, scan and copy documents and photos. Toner cartridges for these printers will sell for \$10 (black) and \$20 (color.)

Kodak, the long time world's largest photographic film manufacturer has, in recent years, cut back in film production and has entirely eliminated their production of film cameras. Their success in the digital market has been mixed. Recently, Kodak reported a fourth-quarter profit, versus a loss the previous year. Still, much of this year's profit was driven by royalties from licensing patents and technology, and overshadowed a 25 percent decline in sales of digital camera and related accessories.

Kodak intends to return to profitability by selling printers. Various market analysts are predicting a stormy sea for Kodak since they are entering an established printer market with little or no prior experience. However your BGA-Bytes editor would like to point that they have made Xerox type copiers before, have a long history of camera design and production, and are quite well established in technical research. They may fail, but the smart money would say "don't you bet on it."

The current president of Kodak, Antonio Perez, left inkjet printers seven years ago, when he lost in a bid to become president of Hewlett-Packard. On Apr. 2, 2003, he joined the then struggling Eastman Kodak company as it's new president. Perez was amazed when he was shown droplets of a new ink produced by scientists at Kodak that will yield photo prints with vivid colors that will last a lifetime. Perez is quoted as saying "It is the Holy Grail of inkjet printing, and they have it here."

For the first three months the printers will be sold exclusively at Best Buy stores, of which we have one in Bowling Green. Thereafter, other companies will be involved. Stay tuned.

Computer News and Websites of Interest is continued on Page 5.



Vonage
World's first keychain phone.
Make UNLIMITED calls from any PC anywhere.
Get Started

The advertisement on the left was online recently. It concerns a telephone which uses Vonage service via a USB connection to your computer. No price was listed, only the usual hype about the low cost of Vonage service i.e., \$24.99 a month for unlimited local and long distance calls, but also now with the option of 500 hours per month (8 hr 20 min) for \$14.99. As usual there was no discussion of taxes or any other additional charges. It is not the purpose of BGA-Bytes to advertise for Vonage, but to simply make people aware of the existence of a telephone which can be used anywhere that a computer with a high speed Internet connection and an USB port is available. If the computer is not your own, then of course a credit card must be used. Emergency service (911) is available, but it is not the same as 911 for regular telephones and appears to involve an additional cost. The phone itself comes at an additional cost. Anyone interested in the specific type of Vonage service that uses this telephone should go to the Vonage Website on the Internet and find details.

International News from a Middle Eastern Arab's Viewpoint

International news as seen through the eyes of Middle Eastern Arabs is reported in the online English language version of Aljazeera news service. To see Aljazeera's version of the news, go to english.aljazeera.net/HomePage You will find strong emphasis on the relation of the United States to the Middle East as well as the relation of Arabs to Israel. From an American standpoint, some of the news is rather negative, and even in that which most of us would consider to be fairly positive, don't expect the United States to be represented as the savior of the world. News regarding Israel is never glowing, but is somewhat better balanced than might have been expected. News is truly international and is not restricted to the Middle East.

Get the Exact Time

To get the exact time within a fraction of a second, visit <http://www.time.gov/> and follow instructions and options. The time here comes from the atomic clocks at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and also from the United States Naval Observatory. We usually don't need such accurate time, but if you do want it then this is a source. Be careful to differentiate Daylight Saving from Standard time, however. Maps are given of US time zones and international time zones, but the maps are not in enough detail to be sure of which zone places are in that are near the dividing lines.

Daylight Saving Time change: how will it affect your computer?

One aspect of a Energy Policy Act of 2005 mandated a big change in daylight saving time, which will be extended by four additional weeks starting in 2007. Well, 2007 is here and the first change takes effect on March 11, when daylight saving time starts three weeks earlier than usual. Folks with older computers are wondering what problems, if any, the time change will cause. If your computer is relatively new and automatically updated, you probably don't have anything to worry about. However, older operating systems may require you to manually update. Microsoft is making update tools available for Windows, Outlook, and Exchange, and also for some mobile products. For more info about Microsoft products affected by the change and what you should do to make the transition easier, including links to update utilities, see:

<http://www.wxnews.com/T54EW5/070206-DST> All versions of Windows can be updated using the procedure in KB article 914387 at <http://www.wxnews.com/T54EW5/070206-DST-Updates>

Online American Newspapers

Sometimes we want to find online newspapers published outside our home area. Whether for obituaries or other local news of that region, they can sometimes be difficult to find through Google or other search engines. Try www.newsvoyager.com which brings up a screen containing a map of the United States and some other information relevant to your search. For prominent newspapers in a particular state, click on the state in question and search through the resulting list of newspapers and cities. Not all online papers will give the information desired, and some online newspapers are closed except to hard copy subscribers, but regardless of how useful the online newspaper may or may not be, News Voyager can find that paper for you.

Gasoline Prices

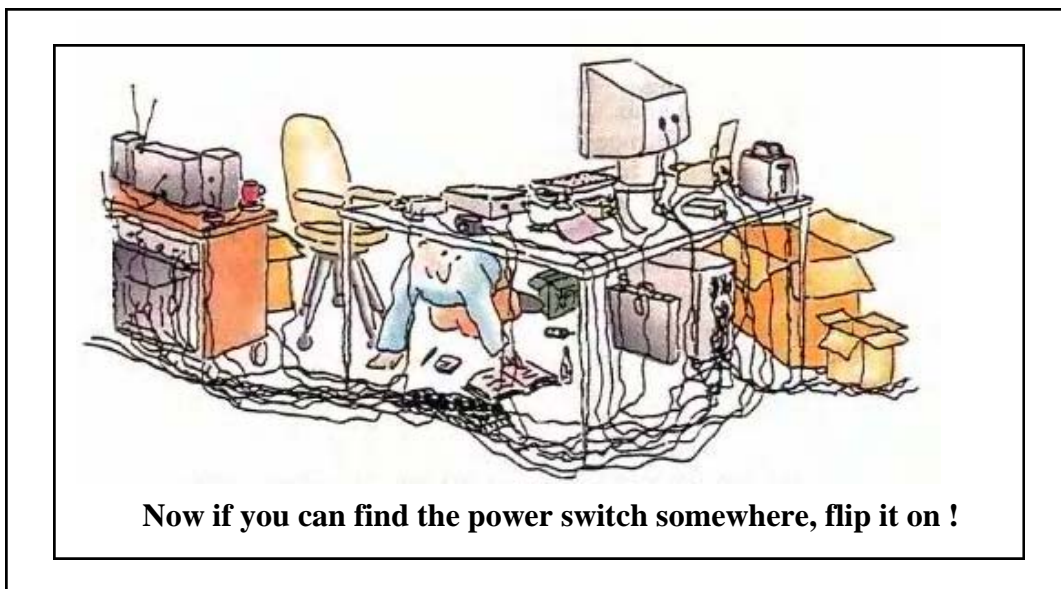
Although we have presented gasoline-cost Websites in BGA-Bytes before, gasoline prices continue to go up and down with an irritating frequency, and you may have misplaced the former references. The Websites depend on local people reporting the prices they observe in driving around a local area (in our case Bowling Green.) You can look up many places, but not all are represented. For example, Beaver Dam can be found but not nearby Hartford. Naturally, all cities as large as or larger than Bowling Green and Owensboro are represented. A good starting place is www.kentuckygasprices.com/

Time and Date .Com

To find the time and date in major cities all over the world, go to www.timeanddate.com Why the date? Well, remember the international date line? This is a remarkable Website which gives calendars for a number of years in the past and also for a number of years in the future. It also gives sunrise and sunset times, number of days between dates, and etc., etc., etc.

Smart Computer Magazine's Free Technical Support

A number of computer magazines are published, the best known of which are surely PC Magazine and PC World. Between the two, Your Editor prefers PC World, but of course it is a personal opinion. However, there is an alternate which our club BGAMUG officially recommends. It is Smart Computing. If you are not subscribed, you can get a subscription form at the next club meeting. This specific form will assure that a part of the subscription price comes back to our club. Smart Computing's Website www.smartcomtuping.com/techsupport is filled with information including general technical support, which is free. Also, for answers to more specific questions, or for questions not covered in the Website, you can call Smart Computing's free technical support group at (800) 368-8304. If you use the support group, please let your editor know the results.



BGAMUG's Kroger Cares Gift Card Fundraiser Program Update



From December 14, 2006 to January 29, 2007, BGAMUG Members have reloaded their Kroger Cares Gift Cards for \$2,190. That is a great amount for only five weeks. We only have \$2,810 more to go before earning another 4% check from Kroger.

All BGAMUG Members and supporters may participate in the Kroger Cares Gift Card Fundraiser Program by purchasing a Kroger Gift Card from the BGAMUG treasurer. The cards are \$25 and come pre-loaded with \$25 value.

You may use the gift card for all your Kroger purchases at any Kroger store. When depleted, you simply visit any Kroger Customer Service Department and have the card recharged for whatever amount you choose. Since you can use as much as you add to the card, it costs you nothing to use it, except you can use it only at Kroger's. Each time members reload their cards, BGAMUG is credited with 4% of the value. When the total credit for all our cards reaches \$5000, BGAMUG receives a check from Kroger in the amount of that credit. .

BGAMUG Club News

Chinese Cabbage Salad

BGA-Bytes is not committed to regularly displaying recipes, although we have occasionally printed a few. At the last Holiday party several of us were so taken by a particular salad, that we went back for seconds and found others had been there before us. The lady who brought a generous amount of this salad, only to have it rapidly disappear, agreed to furnish the recipe so that we could print it in BGA-Bytes. Here it is then, using three parts.

- A.**
1 head of Nappa Cabbage, chopped
8 green onions chopped
- B.**
Sauté until lightly browned:
1 stick margarine
2 pkgs. Raman Noodles crushed into small pieces (do not use the seasoning packages).
2 oz. Sesame seeds.
Some Slivered Almonds

- C.**
Dressing
1/4 cup vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
3/4 cup oil
2 Tablespoons of Soy Sauce
- Heat dressing to a boil; and continue boiling for 1 minute.
- Process:**
Store the three parts in three separate containers. Then combine and mix just before serving.
- Joan A. Douglas*

March Birthdays

Raymond Hunton 12th
Robert Hunt 21st
Joanne Dunklau 25th
Francis Tully 25th

March Anniversaries

Pat and Leon Vincent 3rd

Editor's Goof

In our January Newsletter, Mike Moore presented a four page article: *Internet Relay Chat and Library of the World*. I regret that four lines were accidentally left out. In the online version of January BGA-Bytes (in BGA-MUG.org), this is now corrected.



For Kroger Cares™ Information, contact Jerry Gillette at jagky@insightbb.com 781-6309

For Fern Terrace Information, contact Raymond Hunton at rhunton@insightbb.com 781-2380

For Abel Court Information, contact Debbie Fugate at aca0401@bellsouth.net 842-4114

Long Term Member Edwin Phelps is Smitten.

I proudly announce that Ms Elease South will become Mrs. Edwin Phelps within the next few months. We have been acquainted for a year or two, but in November 2006, the Lord finally put us together. I cannot recall ever being so smitten.

Elease was born on a farm in Monroe County not far from my Mother's old home place. The families knew and respected each other. Elease was the youngest of ten children.

Elease's first eight years of her education were in Hickory Grove--a one room school house. After graduating from Tompkinsville HS, she attended nurses school in Nashville.

She worked a while at the City-County Hospital on the hill in BG and went to Greenview when they opened in 1972. She was selected by her peers as the hospital's first winner of the Humanitarian Award. She worked at Greenview thirty four years, serving as a floor supervisor for 24 years.

Elease can do most any thing and do it well. I've found she can cook, can, bake, and make bread. She can sew, crochet, and quilt. She raises a small garden and takes care of a big yard. If worst should come to worst, I recently found she can work a team, set tobacco, and milk cows.

She sings with the Singing Seniors. Most important is she is a good Christian woman and deeply loves God. She's a member of Fairview Missionary Baptist.

We have been several places and done many things and always returned home feeling good about each other. But we can be just as satisfied sitting in a park and holding hands as we can at the biggest concert.

She loves me and says she'll always build me up and never tear me down. And I love her.....and I believe her. So keep us both in your thoughts and prayers. I'll pass on more in the near future. *Edwin*

2007 Club Officers

President Michael Moore 843-9535 webstar@hughes.net	VP of Protocol Gilbert Lakes 202 0312 gilbert.lakes@insightbb.com
VP of Membership Dick Shultz 393 0120 dschul41@Yahoo.com	Program Director Linda Todd 781-7872 linda.todd@wku.edu
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PC Placement Program Gene Iglehart 842-4570 Iglehart@aol.com	BGAMUG Historian Ginny Molloy 846 7274 charmcat@aol.com

Photoshop Elements 5: The Missing Manual

By Barbara Brundage,
Pogue Press/O'Reilly, 2006, ISBN 0-596-52728-4

Reviewer: Chuck Thomas, VP of Technology, Bowling Green Area Microcomputer Users Group

Having used software guides since the early 80's, I found the comfortable readability of this book to be a very pleasant surprise. Since software application and programming guides are designed to be helpful technical resources, they are usually dry and end up on a shelf to be pulled out when needed. But this book held my interest for five straight chapters, and through many other sections as well. Brundage's precise and friendly writing style, without being flip or condescending, her abundance of rich illustrations, and her thorough coverage, created a new appreciation for the endless possibilities of *Photoshop Elements 5*.

Another key to maintaining interest is the author's use of beautiful, full-color photos to demonstrate Elements' features and capabilities. She often suggests that the reader download the same photo from the Missing Manual web site to give the tool a try.

Also, Brundage regularly provides cross-references to pages containing more advanced material on the present topic or tool. Also, she frequently lists page numbers for other ways of accomplishing the same goal with a different tool. As a result, she can maintain a steady flow of new content without having to exhaust every subject when first introduced.

Through regular use of quarter or half-page boxes with such titles as: *Up to Speed*, *Power Users' Clinic*, *Frequently Asked Question*, *Information Station*, *Gem in the Rough*, *Compatibility*, *Troubleshooting Moment*, *Workaround Workshop*, *On the Web*, *Under the Hood*, *In the Field*, etc. the writer provides answers, hints, tips, technical information, web information, etc. that is not only helpful, but interesting.

Brundage begins with a helpful overview of the Editor and Quick Fix features and capabilities. Then she walks the reader through these from the simplest to the more complex—from simple rotation and cropping to layers, filters, and masks. In later chapters she covers the use of the Organizer, printing, slideshows and flipbooks, and adjusting images for the web or email.

A short resources chapter at the end covers the use of graphics tablets, Internet resources, and helpful Elements plugins. Two comprehensive appendices show and briefly explain every menu and sub-menu in the Organizer and Editor, while a third appendix deals with installation and troubleshooting issues.

One of the most important features of any software guide is a comprehensive index. When I experience a problem using an application or programming tool, I expect to quickly find relevant answers in a book devoted to that product. *The Missing Manual* has yet to disappoint me in this regard. For example, I recently wanted to know if the "Process Multiple Files" dialog I had opened would overwrite the original image files.

I first selected the Index Tab in Element's Help window, but couldn't find this capability listed under any of the relevant letters. Next, entering "process multiple" in the Help Search Box took me to this topic, but Adobe's one-page explanation failed to answer my question.

Later, at home, I easily found the entry "Process Multiple Images" in the index of *The Missing Manual*. It pointed to the first of seven pages of description and screen shots that answered my question and thoroughly covered this topic.

I very highly recommend this book for its readability, comprehensive coverage, and extensive resources.

Note: BGAMUG members receive a 35% discount on all O'Reilly books when using a discount code (email Chuck to obtain the code) and ordering from the O'Reilly web site. www.oreilly.com.



Tech Corner

by Chuck Thomas

This is Valentines, Presidents, and Windows Vista Month!

1. Interested in knowing more about Vista or need to know if your present computer would qualify for the Home Premium version of this new operating system? Check out these helpful Microsoft web sites:

a. To learn about the features of Vista versions and to see movies of Vista, check out:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/seeit/default.mspix>

b. To download and run the *Vista Upgrade Advisor*, which will tell you if your present computer will support Vista, check out this page and click the Advisor link:

www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/buyorupgrade/default.mspix

Although 1GB of memory is required for the Home Premium version, 2GB is really recommended, so you may want to consider an upgrade to your system (RAM) memory. But if your computer lacks anything, it will probably be in your graphics processor. To display Vista Aero 3-D, the graphics must be fast and must support DirectX 9, Pixel Shader 2.0 in hardware, and handle 32-bits per pixel. Many video chips built into the motherboard will not meet these requirements. You can see all the requirements for the Home Premium version of Vista here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/editions/homepremium/default.mspix>

c. A few days ago (2/16/07), this report from the President of Microsoft made the evening news:

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer said low corporate sales, softer pricing, and software piracy may contribute to lower sales than predicted of Windows Vista in the coming fiscal year. Calling previous sales projections "overly aggressive," Ballmer said many corporate upgrades were already included in existing contracts and will not figure in new sales numbers. In addition, he said some developing countries, where the company expects to make inroads, are beset with piracy.

You may remember when Windows XP had it's debut; everyone was excited and sales were brisk. What is the difference this time? In my view, the following factors account for the relative lack of excitement about upgrading to Vista:

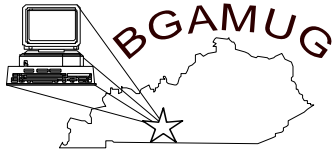
1. Windows 98 and ME were both plagued with stability problems; "blue screens of death" were common events. Windows XP, built on the very stable Windows 2000 engine promised, and delivered, consistent stability.
2. Windows XP was a major revision of the operating system—in it's look and feel, in its features and capabilities, and in stability. Although Vista promises welcome security improvements in answer to current problems with spyware, viruses, and hackers, the look and feel of Vista is seen by many as a pleasant, but non-essential visual improvement over XP. And many of us feel we have the security issues covered with a firewall, anti-virus software, and anti-spyware products, including the one added to XP, Service Pack 2.
3. The required hardware upgrade investment plus the cost of Vista will cause many to wait until they are ready to purchase a new computer with Vista installed.

2. Are you still thinking of upgrading to *Windows Vista*? I suggest you take a look at these issues of the Windows Secrets / Langua List email newsletter: <http://windowssecrets.com/paid/070201/> and the article "Use Vista for 120 Days Without Activation" at <http://windowssecrets.com/paid/070215/>.

While you are there, why not sign up for the free version of this helpful newsletter for Happier Computing in February!



BGA-Bytes
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**Don't forget our February meeting at
the B G Technical College,
Building F,
February 27, 6:30 PM.**

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BGAMUG holds regular presentation/membership meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Bowling Green Technical College (BGTC) on Loop Drive in Bowling Green, Kentucky. **The public is invited to attend our regular presentation meetings. To join, our annual membership dues are \$25 for an individual and \$35 for a family.** Loop drive intersects Morgantown Road just West of Warren Central High School. There is a stoplight at the intersection. The access road to BGTC from Loop is clearly marked with a sign. The meeting building is Building F in the last group of buildings down the access road. A map is inside this newsletter.