



The INTERFACE
February, 2010

President's Message

February, 2010

February already but January was good around here since my wife, Bonnie, actually agreed to dump her old XP computer and get a new one. I will say it's not as good as getting new hardware for myself but it's the next best thing since I get to play with it too and having Windows 7 on both of our computers will be very handy. Of course there is now the problem that the only XP computer in the house is the club laptop so if I get an XP specific question from somebody I'll have to fire it up if I need to check something.

The January meeting program was a demo of Windows 7 because Karen Wendling had a work conflict so we will try to reschedule her later this year. For this month's program I will walk through the steps we all need to do when we get a new computer. I requested the use of a nearly new laptop and I'm happy to say Beth Vanderstek offered hers which was not only nearly new it was still in a sealed box. I have now known more than one person who bought new hardware and didn't immediately put it into play and I have to say I have no idea how they do it. No matter what time the UPS driver gets here I've never gone to bed with an unopened box in my house let alone waited weeks or months.

The meeting is on the third Wednesday (2/17 this month) at 2 in the meeting room at the Comfort Inn. Don't forget to wear your badge for the drawing and make use of the help desk which will open around 1. Thanks to all of you who have renewed it looks like we'll have another good year in 2010.

The Library Saturday classes are going well so far with enough attendance to justify keeping going. Don't forget to let me know if there's a subject you'd like to have added to the schedule. I've had several questions about a backup class so I'll include backup in the Computer Maintenance class.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

Review
Windows Media Player 12

By Jerry Marr
February 2010

Windows Media Player has been a free part of Windows for many years but the changes made to version 12 for Windows 7 are worth mentioning.

Don't worry if this doesn't make sense but Windows Media Player 12 has built-in support for many popular audio and video formats—including 3GP, AAC, AVCHD, MPEG-4, WMV, and WMA. It also supports most AVI, DivX, MOV, and Xvid files. I copied that list off their webpage and don't know what all of them are but I do know that everything I need is in the list.

The new Play To feature streams music and video to other PCs running Windows 7 or compatible devices around the home. Just right-click the tracks you want to play, or add them to your Windows Media Player 12 playlist, and select Play To and they will play on any other computer in your house also running Windows 7. This doesn't make a lot of sense for me because all of the computers in my house are in the same room but it could be useful in another environment and would be a fun thing to do.

Another slick feature is Remote Media Streaming which lets you play music or videos on your home PC from the road. This is nice but takes enough steps to set up that I won't go into the details here. If you're interested check out the Windows 7 Features page online or check the Help section of Media Player.

It has the same basic functions of managing your music library and lets you rip or create music CD's and I like the simplified display but what I really like is that they've done something to noticeably improve the quality of the playback sound. The older I get the less I can tell good sound from great sound and I don't expect great sound out of my external HP speakers but I was very pleasantly surprised when I fired up my Duane Eddy after upgrading to Windows 7. Being something of a software collector I have multiple mp3 players on my computer and Windows Media Player is far and away the winner for best sound.

Bottom line here is that you have Windows Media Player on your computer no matter what version of Windows you have so take a few minutes sometime to check it out and if you're on Windows 7 you should really spend some time with it.

Computer Tips
Windows XP & Vista

If you store a lot of program shortcuts on your desktop, the desktop can quickly become a jumble of icons that make it difficult to find the shortcut that you want. Right-click an empty spot on the desktop, click Arrange Icons by and then name (In Vista it will be Sort By, then name.

Marie

[Likable Links](#)
[Baxter County Library Databases](#)
[Special Interest Group \(SIG\) Questionnaire](#)

Monthly meeting program schedule

February: I have my new computer...now what?

March: To be announced

Twin Lakes Computer User Group
General Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2010

Meeting opened at 2:00pm with 58 members in attendance and 3 guests - Nancy Stang, Dorothy Kempf, and Shirley Dask.

We added five new members - Talullah Taylor, Richard Day, Connie Machaj, Priscilla Farrell, and Lori Wren was added as a member through the Wren household.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$4191.81.

Membership renewal got off to a good start and we also had some rejoin after a short absence.

SIG's are on hold until the new format is set and the new Library is open.

Karen Wendling's program on Computer Security will be rescheduled when her work allows.

The program on "WINDOWS 7", given by Jerry Marr, was very informative and entertaining.

The winner of this month's flash drive drawing was Lea Chodacki.

This month's drawing for a flash drive was won by Jack Bellew.

Respectfully submitted by
Ruth Kelley, TLCUG Secretary

Members Photo Gallery

Click on the camera



Special Interest Groups

The Office 2007 SIG and the Digital Camera SIG meetings have been temporarily canceled. Once the new library is complete and we have access to their new meeting rooms we will consider starting one or both back up again if we can organize them into true SIGs rather than ongoing classes.

A special interest group should be a group with a shared interest that gathers to discuss that interest but our meetings have become a class where the moderator is expected to be an instructor rather than a participant. It might very well be that computer topics simply don't lend themselves to a SIG environment and that will be something we will consider before attempting one again.

Sunshine Lady

So, you ask, what is a Sunshine Lady, anyway, and what does she do?

She sends cards of congratulation, sympathy, and get well as required for members of the Twin Lakes Computer Users Group. But --- she can't do that unless she knows who needs a card for what, and that's where you members come in. Please let me know if you know of anyone of our members or their families who could use a card for any special occasion, and a card from the group will be immediately dispatched. Right now, she doesn't do birthday

cards or anniversaries unless it's something memorable like a 50th or better. Maybe birthdays at 90 or above. We are not an uncaring group and want to be sure all our members know it - so please let me know if there is a need for a card of remembrance for any occasion.

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Webmaster Note:

The views and/or recommendations of the program presenters and reviewers are just that. TLCUG does not endorse or sell software. From time to time publishers and software vendors have supplied (solicited) a copy of their product for a review or demonstration. They may include a special promo or discount to the club members. It is up to you to determine whether it is what you need or not. Unsolicited reviews by club members may be accepted for publication here if they are considered to be appropriate. And again, the authors comments are just that. Understand that unsolicited reviews are not to be used by the author for personal gains. Additional reviews of a product or book can always be found on the web by using a search engine such as Google (this is also just a recommendation).

Virus protection for your computer

You are strongly encouraged to have an antivirus program on your machine, and to download the periodic updates from the internet. (If you do not update regularly you won't be protected from the most recent viruses.) Need help? Your mentor or other club member will assist you.

PLEASE---It's your computer---keep it safe

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