



**March, 2009**

## **President's Message**

### **March, 2009**

It's been a month since the ice storm and even though I still don't see the light at the end of the tunnel I can see the street from my office without seeing piles of debris so as long as I don't look in any other direction things are looking better. There was a time in my life when I enjoyed putting on my plaid lumberjack shirt and heading into the woods with my chain saw and hatchet to hack and hew downed wood into submission but it's going to be a long time before I feel that way again. When I think about how much money and how many hours of labor have been expended in and around Mountain Home during the last month I get a headache so I try not to think about it and just be grateful that we can still do the majority of the work ourselves.

This month's meeting program will be given by Linda Masters and will cover the online services offered by the Baxter Bulletin. This should be very interesting since the website has changed a lot since Dan Greer gave us a talk about it. The meeting is on the third Wednesday (03/18 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.

The class schedule has changed several times in the past couple of weeks so be sure to check it out to make sure you have the latest and greatest information. I still have a class slot to fill on 5/16 so let me know if there's a topic you'd like to see covered.

The Office 2007 SIG will meet on the second Friday, 3/13, and we currently have no specific topic in mind so if there is a particular Office program or project you'd like to have as a subject let me know. Having a meeting on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> was marginal in January but having the 13<sup>th</sup> fall on a Friday two months in a row is really tempting fate but then if it's not leap year March always looks a lot like February.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

REVIEW  
**Genie Backup Manager Pro V8.0**

Review by Jerry Marr  
March 2009

We all know that it's no big trick to copy our Documents folder onto a flash drive or an external hard drive once in a while but backing up email is not quite so straight forward and remembering to do it on a regular basis gets harder and harder as time goes by. I have used Windows OneCare as my backup program since it was in beta but with the announcement that it was going away I decided I'd best start looking around for a replacement.

Windows Vista has an easy to use automatic backup process built in but you can only control the types of files to backup rather than having control on a folder level and I didn't like that since there are a lot of graphic and music files on my computer that do not need to be backed up. I downloaded several trial programs and read multiple online reviews and decided that Genie-Soft ([www.genie-soft.com](http://www.genie-soft.com)) was worth an extended test.

I am running the Pro version but there is a slightly cheaper Home version which I suspect would do everything the home user needs just as well as the Pro version but it's not a lot more money and I like more function even if I don't need it. They have a free 30 day trial for either version if you want to take it for a test drive.

The download and installation was standard and simple and the wizard walkthrough for the initial full backup was nearly fool proof. You are shown a list of your files and folders similar to the Explore list but it includes your email files so it is very easy to decide what folders contain data you actually want to back up. You are also given the choice of compress or not which I liked because I have an external hard drive so I am not concerned about space and compression adds a lot of time to the backup. Another advantage is that the files are directly accessible so if I want to restore a specific file I don't have to use their restore function to find it.

The official restore process is simple and straight forward but I didn't go through it entirely because I didn't want to go to the trouble of deleting files just to see if they got restored. I have no reason to think it would not work and there is a limit to how much I'm willing to do for a review.

Some advantages of using a backup program instead of simply doing it yourself are you can schedule automatic backups so you won't forget to do it. The backups can be incremental so, after the initial one, only changed/new files are backed up. It will include your email files which are not easy to backup yourself. The disadvantage is that they cost money.

Bottom line here is if you want backup software and you don't want to use what's in Windows

then this one is definitely worth looking at and be aware that version 9 will be available in a few months so you would probably want to wait.

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## Computer Tips

### The Difference Between http and https

The main difference between `http://` and `https://` is It's all about keeping you secure.

**HTTP** stands for HyperText Transport Protocol, which is just a fancy way of saying it's a protocol (a language, in a manner of speaking)

For information to be passed back and forth between web servers and clients.

The important thing is the letter **S** which makes the difference between **HTTP** and **HTTPS**.

The "**S**" stands for "Secure". If you visit a website or webpage, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: `http://`.

This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular 'unsecure' language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website. If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.

This is why you never ever enter your credit card number or personal information in an `http://` website!

But if the web address begins with `https://`, that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on.

If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information or personal information - you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with `https://`, if it doesn't **DO NOT** give ANY credit card or personal information to them!!!!

Marie

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Welcome our new members

Sue & Robert North

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

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**Monthly meeting program schedule**

**March:** Linda Masters, the Online Editor of the Baxter Bulletin, will speak.

**April:** A speaker from CenturyTel will give a presentation.

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**Twin Lakes Computer User Group**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**February 18, 2009**

The Monthly meeting was called to order by President, Jerry Marr, at 2:00 pm. There were a total of 34 members present. We had two guests Susan Emmer and Bud Rodgers.

The Treasurer report was given by Jerry Marr with a beginning balance of \$6429.00 and ending balance of \$6459.00.

The next Digital Sig will be held Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> in the library meeting room at 11:00 am and members are encouraged to bring pictures of the ice storm to share and if time allows Jerry Wilcoxon will demonstrate Kaleidoscope on Photo Shop.

Office Sig will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> and there is presently no agenda so members were asked to e-mail Jerry Marr with suggestions for a topic.

At March's General Meeting Linda Master's from the Baxter Bulletin will present features of the Baxter Bulletin's web site.

At April's meeting Century Tell will discuss their offerings for internet, telephone and digital TV.

Jerry Marr presented Microsoft's new operating system Window's 7 to the members today.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leigh Coulter acting Secretary for Kathy Coulter

## Special Interest Groups

### The Digital Camera SIG

The next meeting will be March 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M. in the Library meeting room. Members are encouraged to bring pictures of the ice storm to share and if time allows Jerry Wilcoxon will demonstrate Kaleidoscope on Photo Shop.

**Jerry Wilcoxon**

**SIG Coordinator**

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## Members Photo Gallery

Click on the camera



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### 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

Email: [ellielb@suddenlink.net](mailto:ellielb@suddenlink.net)

Phone: 870-508-4197

Ellie Bast

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Mountain Home, AR 72653

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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*

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### **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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See you next month