



April, 2009

President's Message April, 2009

Well April is here and you're going to be reading this close to the first so I considered coming up with a semi complicated April fools joke and decided that there are already enough fools so creating any more would not be a good thing.

If you missed the March meeting you missed a masterful program by Linda Masters. She did a very nice job describing the online Baxter Bulletin features and managed to get through the whole thing without fielding any recipe questions. This month's meeting program will be given by somebody from Centurytel so this should be a very good time to compare them with the Suddenlink presentation we had a few months ago. The meeting is on the third Wednesday (04/15 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 other thing you missed, if you missed the meeting, is that we voted to buy the ION VCR2PC converter and I must say that pleased me because I love buying new hardware even if I don't get to keep it. What you may not know, even if you were at the meeting, is that Ron Fry is our new Hardware Chairman. His duties will be to house both the VCR and Cassette converters and to check them in and out as members request them. He will also assist in the software installation and will provide a demo of the hardware either at his house or yours depending on what you can work out with him. Keep in mind that his job is to assist you in getting your media onto your PC, what you do with it then is up to you and you can't rely on him to assist. If you would like to borrow either of the converters send your requests to hardware@tlcug-ark.org. One final thing to remember is that we totally subscribe to the old if you break it you've bought it philosophy so unless you want to buy us a new one, be careful.

Note that we only have one class scheduled in April. The good news is that we will not have the same conflicts for the meeting room in the new library and the bad news is that I will need to come up with a lot more class topics. Let me know if there is a specific program or computer related function that you'd feel comfortable teaching because we need more variety in our classes.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

Review
Making Movies
Review by Jerry Marr
April 2009

This is not the normal review in that I won't be discussing a specific program but rather the activity of processing various types of files and ending up with a movie. You might have camcorder files or wmv files created by a slideshow programs like Photo Story 3 or the mpg files that the club VCR2PC converter will produce or even just a bunch of jpg pictures. You can use any of these files alone or in combination with any of the others and end up with a file you can play on your computer or create a DVD movie that will play on any DVD player and you likely already have all the software you need to do this.

Vista comes with Windows Movie Maker and Windows DVD Maker and if you're on XP you can download a free XP version of the Windows Movie Maker program. These programs are very basic but also very easy to use. Movie Maker uses the story board format which will allow you to split a movie into clips and then either remove some or rearrange them to control the final movie. You could also insert various transitions between clips or put a picture between clips or add a title or credits and various other activities. The DVD Maker (Vista only) will take the output from the Movie Maker program and create a DVD movie.

In addition to these programs we all have software that came with our computers if we have a DVD burner. My HP desktop and the clubs HP laptop came with CyberLink DVD Suite which includes CyberLink PowerDirector which has a lot more features than the basic Windows DVD Maker such as automatic scene detection and audio mixing and chapter creation and on and on. Our home XP machine came with Sonic MyDVD Plus which has fewer features than my CyberLink but more than the Windows DVD Maker so look around on your computer to see what you have. If you can't determine what program does what then put a blank DVD in your DVD drive and look to see what programs are listed in the AutoPlay window. Ignore the Windows Media Player and Windows entries and look closely at what other programs are listed.

The software that came with your computer will do all of the basic functions but they will nearly always have an upgrade available that you may be prompted to buy. Sometimes the additional function in the upgrade are worth investing in but most of the time they aren't so be very sure you need what they're offering before you lay down your money.

Bottom line here is that collecting digital media together and creating movies can be a lot of fun and doing so will never alter or harm the input files so if you don't like the end product you just delete it and start over. Be advised though that even if you have a very fast system, movie creation can be a slow process so don't be in a hurry or think something's wrong if it's still cranking away after an hour (or two).

Computer Tips

Windows XP Tip

If you frequently use the Windows XP desktop to store your program shortcuts, the desktop can become a jumble of icons and make it difficult to find the one that you want. To solve this problem, right-click an empty spot, on the desktop, click Arrange Icons By, and then Name. This sorts shortcuts alphabetically by name.

In Vista , right-click an empty spot on the desktop, click Sort By, then Name.

Marie

Welcome our new member

Susan Emmer

[Likable Links](#)

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

Monthly meeting program schedule

April: A speaker from CenturyTel will give a presentation.

May: To be announced.

Twin Lakes Computer User Group

General Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2009

The Monthly meeting was called to order by President, Jerry Marr, at 2:00 pm. There were a total of 38 members present. Karlan Carlson renewed his membership. There are now a total of 149 members.

The Treasurer report was given by Lea Chodacki with a balance of \$5157.08

Program Chairman Bert Merkling said that the April meeting will be hosted by a

representative from Century Tel.

Jerry Marr announced that the Sig Co-coordinator is now Leigh Coulter and that Photos will be taken care of by Jerry Wilcoxon.

New Business

Jerry Marr explained the VCR converter and said that there was no need to demonstrate it as it is very user friendly. Kathy Coulter made the motion to go ahead with the purchase of the VCR converter and Mercedes Loosse seconded the motion. The vote by membership was unanimous.

We need a person to take over as Hardware Chairman for the new VCR converter and also the Cassette converter. If interested please contact Jerry Marr.

Linda Masters from the Baxter Bulletin presented the program and shared how to use the Baxter Bulletin online options.

There was a drawing for computer wipes which was won by Steve Rogers.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Coulter
Secretary

Special Interest Groups

The Office SIG

The Office SIG is held on the second Friday of every month. There's no actual agenda so we will discuss whatever Office 2007 topics people want to talk about.

The Digital Camera SIG

Weather permitting, the TLCUG Digital SIG will plan for a spring field trip at Cooper Park at 10:30 on April 28th. Bring a camera if you'd like, or just follow the other shutterbugs to see how they take their pictures. Meet in the area of the Rapp's Barren cabins (parking is close by) and see what the spring flowers and wildlife are up

to. If the weather is bad, we will meet at the library at 11:00 as usual. If you have any questions as to the meeting place, call Jerry Wilcoxon (cell phone) @ 321-5074.

Jerry Wilcoxon
SIG Coordinator

Members Photo Gallery

Click on the camera



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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See you next month