



**The Interface**  
**April, 2010**

**President's Message**  
**April, 2010**

I am often surprised at how many computer club members are involved in multiple local organizations even though I should be used to it since my wife has belonged to a whole pot full everywhere we've lived. We have members who are quilters, gardeners, wood carvers, wood turners, and a dozen other things and in their spare time they volunteer at the library or Kindness Inc. or the Literacy Council or a bunch of other places. I know pride is supposed to be bad but I'm proud of us.

The March meeting program was a resounding success and not only did Sheriff Montgomery prove to be an excellent speaker nobody got arrested. OK, I'll admit that it would have been fun if someone had been arrested but the program went well even without it. This month will be fun too. Jerry Wilcoxon has been involved with a photo sharing website for several months (if that surprises you then you haven't been paying attention) and will demonstrate what the website is all about and how to interact with it. If you want a preview go to [www.photoblog.com](http://www.photoblog.com) and have a look but I'll warn you that once you get started looking you'll be there for a while.

The meeting is on the third Wednesday (4/21 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.

One of our members had her Yahoo account hacked into last week and people in her address book were sent a rather silly request for money which was pretty dumb but harmless. Unfortunately this incident was erroneously reported locally as a virus attack which caused undue concern but gives me the opportunity to once again remind all of you to make sure your antivirus programs are up to date and if you have an online email id such as Yahoo or Gmail (or any other) make sure your password is a strong password such as is described here.

[www.microsoft.com/protect/fraud/passwords/create.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/protect/fraud/passwords/create.aspx)

April's classes will be on Spread Sheet Basics, PowerPoint Basics, Digital Music Basics,

and Computer Maintenance. If you plan to attend any of them and there is a specific area you'd like to be sure is covered send me an email and let me know. I still have one class slot to fill so let me know if there's a subject you'd like to have added to the schedule.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

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## **XP Mode Software Review**

By Jerry Marr

April 2010

Vista and Windows 7 have been giving XP die-hards a headache for years but now for a few bucks extra they can get the benefits of Windows 7 and still drag along their old tired worn-out XP software. Microsoft has had a Virtual PC package around for quite a while which would allow someone to create and run one or more virtual machines, each with its own operating system, on a single computer but you had to buy the Virtual PC software and then buy the operating system(s) and the installation was definitely not for the faint hearted.

Windows 7 has changed all of that if you're willing to spring for either the Professional or the Ultimate versions instead of the Home Premium. Installation is simply a matter of going to the virtual-pc website and downloading and installing the Virtual PC and the XP Mode software. The first time you start it you'll need to enter a password but as long as you click on the 'remember me' box you'll never need to do it again.

XP will run in a regular resizable window and will look exactly like XP because it actually is an honest to goodness XP system. You would install your software by putting in a CD and using Explore to locate the drive and running the install program, you can't rely on the sort of auto-start you're used to but it will work just fine. One of the really slick features is that after the install you can drag the program short-cut onto the Windows 7 desktop and execute the program from there without needing to restart the XP mode program. Another slick feature is that you have direct access to all of the Windows 7 folders from the XP Mode window so you can open documents or view pictures or whatever. The first thing I did was to go to the Windows 7 background pictures because the XP Mode system doesn't have any and I like my background pictures.

You need to be aware that the XP Mode system is a brand new system so you'll need to install its own virus protection program and take the time to download a whole pot load of system updates and do whatever customization you're used to having in an XP system. Another thing to get used to is that since XP is running in a Windows 7 application window you need to be

careful what keys you press because Windows 7 will be the system the keyboard is talking to. They've taken care of part of that by putting Ctrl+Alt+Del in the XP Mode tool bar and there's a USB Attach function that will allow you to attach something you've plugged into a USB port and a dropdown Action list will allow you to do a Restart or Sleep or View Full Screen. You can minimize it just like any other application and continue doing Windows 7 stuff and when you close it, it goes into hibernation rather than a shutdown.

Bottom line here is that if you have XP programs that are essential to you and will not run on Windows 7 this is a really slick feature but not cheap. The Professional version is around \$70 more than Home Premium and the Ultimate version around \$90 more. If you already have Home Premium you can upgrade to Professional for around for around \$80 or upgrade to Ultimate for around \$130 (wow). If you already have either Professional or Ultimate then you really should go to [www.microsoft.com/windows/virtual-pc](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/virtual-pc) and get it even if you don't have any XP programs that aren't Windows 7 compatible but it's just plain fun.

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## Computer Tips

What is the difference between **RUN** and **SAVE** when downloading a file?

If you click "**Save**" you can specify where the setup file will be saved to. From there you could put it on a disk just in case you need to reinstall it or want to put it on another computer

By choosing "**Run**" the setup process starts once the setup file is downloaded to your temporary internet file. When you empty your temp file the setup download goes away.

**Marie**

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### [Likable Links](#)

[Baxter County Library Databases](#)

[Special Interest Group \(SIG\) Questionnaire](#)

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## Monthly meeting program schedule

**April:** See the President's Message above.

**May:** Remote computing by Jerry Marr

Please welcome our new members from March

Joy Farley  
Don Hunter  
Rusty Young

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**Twin Lakes Computer User Group**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
March 17, 2010

The meeting opened with 51 members in attendance and two new members, Joy Farley and Rusty Young. Also in attendance were two guests, Roger and Yvonne Perreault for 55 in all.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$4629.86.

April's program will be about [www.photoblog.com](http://www.photoblog.com) given by Jerry Wilcoxon and in May, Jerry Marr will show us all about Remote Computing.

This month's Guest Speaker was Sheriff John Montgomery, who spoke about Technology and Law Enforcement. He covered the [www.baxtercountysheriff.com](http://www.baxtercountysheriff.com) website which contains a lot of information. He also is a finalist on America's Most Wanted All Stars and if you care to vote, go to [www.amw.com/allstars](http://www.amw.com/allstars) from April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This month's drawing for a flashdrive was won by Diane Ingersoll. We would also like to extend a "Get Well Soon" wish to V.P. Ron Fry.

Respectfully submitted by  
Ruth Kelley, TLCUG Secretary

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**Members Photo Gallery**  
Click on the camera



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**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.

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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: <mailto:crhutchison@centurytel.net>

Phone: 870-491-5406

Kay Hutchison

188 Sycamore Springs Terrace

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 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).*

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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