



## **President's Message**

### **May, 2010**

I am closing in on 10 years in Mountain Home and am still surprised at how fast spring springs here and how volatile the weather can be. I spent my formative years where you could actually plan spring outdoor activity more than 2 days in advance so I think there's something off about wearing a parka and a tank top in the same week but I must admit that it's nice having leaves back.

The April meeting program was a good one. Jerry Wilcoxon did a very nice job introducing us to the online photo website he's been using and since I am genetically unable to resist new computer activity we had to sign up. Jerry did a browse by location at the meeting and when I did it several days after the meeting there were noticeably more people listed in our area so I guess I'm not the only one. I'm not saying what my ID is because people tend to feel sorry for me when they see the sort of pictures I take.

This month's meeting will be a close look at the Smart Computing magazine. As a rule we don't involve ourselves with commercial products but several board members subscribe to it and they sent me a box of free magazines and a PowerPoint presentation and a t-shirt and I actually do think it is a good source of computer information so we're making an exception. I brought magazines to the April meeting and will bring more to the May meeting so if you didn't get one in April be sure to pick one up this time.

The meeting is on the third Wednesday (5/19 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.

May classes will be on free software, webcams and Skype, and how to create a website. The website creation class will go through the process of using the free webspace provided by internet providers and free programs available to create and maintain web pages. I'll use Suddenlink for the demo since that's my provider but the

same process is there for others. If you plan to attend any classes and there is a specific area you'd like to be sure is covered send me an email and let me know. This is the last month of classes until September so let me know if there's a subject you'd like to have added to the new schedule.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

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## Online Air Travel Information

By Jerry Marr

May 2010

I know this is where I should be delving into the inner workings of some esoteric piece of software but there are a couple of websites that I wanted to make sure you were aware of. We all know that air travel is getting to be more and more of an unpleasant experience so the more you can know in advance the fewer unpleasant surprises there will be and these websites can help.

<http://seatexpert.com/> and [www.seatguru.com](http://www.seatguru.com) are both websites that will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about what seat you really don't want and even if the airline charges you to choose your seat it might be worth it to avoid a really bad one. Either of these websites will let you enter a specific flight or browse by airline and then by airplane type but I have to say I prefer the descriptive comments on seatguru (and I think the name is cooler too).

This is an example of what they list on seatguru.

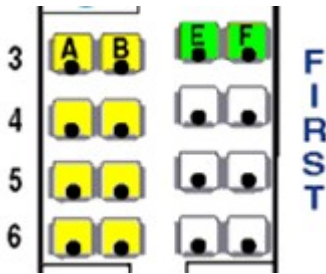
### Seatmap Key

 Good Seat	 Power Port
 Some Drawbacks	 Emergency Exit
 Poor Seat	 Overhead TV
 Standard Seat	 Galley
 Blocked Seat	 Lavatory
 Crew Seat	 Closet

What they consider drawbacks are things like if the seat doesn't recline or only partially reclines for one reason or another or if the tray is in the armrest or there is extra engine noise or it's colder than normal or too much traffic. I've never wanted to plug in my laptop but they tell you which seats have power and I didn't know it but some seats even

have less padding than others. They also tell you the good things like extra leg room so it isn't all negative.

As an example if you were flying an American Airlines MD80 first class.



Seats 3A and 3B have restricted leg room and there's no floor storage and the overhead bins are smaller than seats on the other side. I know I would want full sized overhead bins if I win the lottery and was willing to spring for first class seats. Seats 3E&F have the extra leg room they took away from A&B so that's where I'd want to be and seatguru would have told me that. Check it out.

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## Computer Tips

### Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7

Make sure that you have an antivirus program installed and keep it updated.

Marie

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## [Likable Links](#)

[Baxter County Library Databases](#)

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

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## Monthly meeting program schedule

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

**June:** Remote computing by Jerry Marr (pending)

Please welcome our new members from April

Neil & Ruth Conley  
Roger & Yvonne Perreault  
John & Carolyn Wiren

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**Twin Lakes Computer User Group**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
April 21, 2010

The meeting opened at 2:00 pm with 33 members in attendance along with new members, Roger and Yvonne Perreault, John and Carolyn Wiren, and Neil and Ruth Conley.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$4723.67 as of 3/31.

Members in attendance received a complimentary pen and copy of Smart Computing which ties in with next month's program on Smart Computing. June's program is on remote assistance is pending

This month's program was given by Jerry Wilcoxon on [www.photoblog.com](http://www.photoblog.com), a website for people who don't know how to do websites. Photoblog would make a wonderful SIG if there is enough membership interest and participation. Jerry used pictures taken at Baker Prairie in Harrison for examples.

The flash drive door prize was won by Ruth Conley.

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

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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