



The Interface
June, 2009

President's Message
June, 2009

The end of May means the end of our Saturday library classes (until September) and we had another good year for class attendance even though 24 is the lowest number of classes since I've been keeping count. We've always had to share the library meeting room with book sales and other library activities but being 7 less than the average did indeed make a difference in the overall totals. Not counting the last Q&A class which hasn't happened yet we had 145 different people and an average attendance of 27 with a low of 10 (Email on the weekend of the ice storm) and a high of 38 (Desktop). I'll be working on the September schedule over the next few months so let me know if there's something you'd specifically like to see that isn't in our basic set.

The May meeting program was interesting and Mike Bentley from Advanced Detection Systems did a nice job covering their offerings. I don't know what this month's meeting program will be but we will come up with something at the board meeting and I'll include it in the meeting reminder note I always send. The meeting is on the third Wednesday (06/17 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.

We are all extra busy during the summer with yard work and vacations and company and stuff but don't forget to try and factor in some volunteer time. The library still needs people to stand around and wear a vest and look like they know what they're doing and I can tell you from personal experience that being a volunteer will get you invited to an appreciation breakfast that has seriously good eats. Something else to think about is the Twin Lakes Literacy Council folks need tutors in lots of different areas, I'm thinking of seeing what being a computer tutor would be like.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

Review

Advanced SystemCare

By Jerry Marr

June 2009

I ran across a free system utility program I think is worth a try. This program does all of the normal repair, clean, and optimize functions you would want and has a one-click interface that really simplifies the process. You can clean out what they call spyware and adware (really mainly tracking cookies), fix the Registry, do a 'Privacy Sweep' which cleans out your online activity history, and clean up junk files. It also will check and optimize your system configuration along with several other functions they consider diagnostic. Check out www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html for a more detailed description of the functions.

They also have a Utilities area that includes several very nice tools including a defrag program that lets you watch what it's doing which I miss from earlier Windows releases. But be careful because the Smart Defrag download tries to switch your default search engine which really irritates me but your browser will ask you if you want to allow it and give you the option to never let any program switch it on you which is a good thing to select.

Another tie to Yahoo is that all of their installation processes try to sneak in the Yahoo toolbar and switch your search engine. I'm sure Yahoo pays them to do that and this is a free program but I still hate installations that make me uncheck boxes to avoid installing something I don't want. Just make sure you don't allow them to install the Yahoo toolbar and change your default search engine unless you really want them to.

As is the case for most freeware they do have a 'Pro' version that you can upgrade to for either \$29.95 or \$19.95 depending on when you do it and if it's on sale. The major advantage to the Pro version is that you can automate nearly any of their functions and they have a 'deep clean' option for cleaning the Registry that actually does find a lot of additional things to fix. I ran Wise Registry Cleaner after running this one and it found a lot of things that were left so it doesn't hurt to have more than one tool.

Their comparison page says there are 'Exclusive System Tools' in the Pro version that aren't in the free version but I'm having trouble finding them. I asked their email support folk what tools they are talking about but they didn't answer even though they promise a 24 hour response. That's not a good thing since my question should have been a no brainer.

Bottom line here is this can be a free and easy way to do some cleaning and improving your system performance.

Computer Tips

Change the number of programs on your start menu

1. Right-click Start
2. Click Properties

The Taskbar and Start Menu Properties dialog box appears.

3. Click the Start Menu tab.
4. Click Customize

The Customize Start Menu dialog box appears.

5. Enter the number of programs you want to see (the maximum is 30)
6. Click ok to return to the Taskbar and Start Menu Properties dialog box.
7. Click OK

Marie

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

Monthly meeting program schedule

June: To be announced.

**Twin Lakes Computer User Group
General Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by President, Jerry Marr, at 2:00 pm.

The Treasurer's Report as of April 30, 2009 reflected an ending balance of \$4,807.86. Membership Chairperson, Kay Hutchison, indicated there were no new members for this month. The attendance at our May meeting was 36 members and 1 guest.

Our program was given by Mike Bentley from Advanced Detection System offering solutions for home security with questions to follow the presentation.

Jerry Wilcoxon continues taking pictures of our members for our membership picture page.

The printer which was donated by an anonymous donor was won by Kathy Coulter. The mouse donated by Mike Bentley, ADS representative, was won by Terry Hansen. The regular drawing was won by Wesley Stevens.

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

Acting Secretary,

Kay Hutchison

Special Interest Groups

The Office SIG

Jerry will take a look at the Microsoft Office Tools folder and spend a little time talking about them and then it'll be whatever anybody wants to talk about.

The Digital Camera SIG

Weather permitting we'll try again! The TLCUG Digital SIG will plan for a spring field trip at Cooper Park at 10:30 on June 23rd. 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 the meeting will be canceled. If you have any questions call Jerry Wilcoxon (cell phone) @ 321-5074.

Leigh Coulter
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