



**The Interface**  
**September, 2009**

**President's Message**  
**September, 2009**

I had my President's message all written when Ellie Bast died and nothing I'd said seemed to be appropriate anymore so I started over. It's a very good thing that my computer has a backspace and a delete key because I kept changing my mind about what I wanted to say about her and then I said the heck with it and I copied from the Baxter Bulletin (see the article below). We will really miss her.

The September meeting program will be presented by Suddenlink and will cover the concept of using the internet for telephone service in general and their offering in particular. I've had their service for almost a month now and I must say I've been very satisfied. Installation was smooth and professional and it does everything one would generally want a phone to do. See [www.suddenlink.com/phone/](http://www.suddenlink.com/phone/) for what services are included but be aware that the TV Caller ID service is not yet available in our area. The meeting is on the third Wednesday (09/16 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 Fall Saturday class schedule on our website has changed so have another look. Don't forget that there will be no class on Labor Day weekend this year and you will notice that there are a lot of other Saturdays with no class. Next fall should find us in the new library meeting room with a lot less meeting room contention so I guess that means I'll need to come up with more topics and hopefully more instructors.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

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**Ellie Bast**

Ellie and Gordon were members of the Twin Lakes Computer Users Group since 1993 with both of them serving on the board of directors in a wide variety of positions. Here's a list of a few other notable accomplishments that were listed in the Baxter Bulletin, several of them I was not aware of.

1. Married Gordon B. Bast in Lombard, Ill on Oct. 1, 1966.
2. Retired from Sunbeam-Oster Corp. as a product designer and engineer.
3. Life member of American Society of Mechanical Engineers.
4. Life member and fellow of Society of Women Engineers.
5. Life member of Women in Management.
6. Life member of MENSA.
7. Life member of Daughters of the American Revolution.
8. Member of Friends of the Library.
9. Member of Better Breathers.
10. Hill and Hollow Quilters Guild.
11. Served on the board of directors of Wolf House in Norfolk.

Those of you who knew Ellie know what we've lost.

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**Review**  
**IBM Lotus Symphony**  
**Review by Jerry Marr**  
**September 2009**

Here's a brief history lesson and you won't hurt my feelings if you skip it. Once upon a time Lotus 1-2-3 was the best (and one of the only) spreadsheet programs available and when Microsoft came out with Office they threw in a word processor and other stuff and called it Lotus SmartSuite and tried to compete. IBM bought Lotus and made SmartSuite available on all of its work stations but Office still took over the world so Lotus sort of faded into the background.

Now, in what seems to me to be an attempt to cut in on Office profits, IBM is offering a free office suite called IBM Lotus Symphony.

<http://symphony.lotus.com/software/lotus/symphony/Home.nsf/products>

This suite has a word processor, a spreadsheet program, and a presentation program but no email program so it's not exactly a match for Office but close. It's based on OpenOffice.org Technology and supports the ODF standard, ISO 26300 and if that doesn't mean anything to you don't worry about it but if you've been using OpenOffice then you do want to give this a try.

The programs are simple and basic with a clean user interface and will indeed allow you to do just about anything you might need to do. They have versions for Windows, Mac, Red Hat Linux, SUSE Linux, and Ubuntu (whatever the heck that is) so they will appeal to a wider base than Office and with the IBM name it will appear more legitimate than OpenOffice.

Even though there are claims that it is 'just as good as' Office you have to know that the

comparable Office programs will indeed have many bells and whistles missing from this suite since no company would give away something as complex as Office. Free is the key here. There are lots of places you can get free simple word processing programs and there are several free simple spreadsheet programs but not many presentation programs so I suspect this suite will be fairly popular.

Bottom line here is if free is key or if you're rabidly anti-Microsoft then this is the best set of productivity tools I've seen but if Office is an inexpensive option then that is what I would choose every time.

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## **Welcome our new members from August**

**Caro Anderson  
Ralph Harris**

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### **Computer Tips Windows XP & Vista**

Interrupt or Cancel Printing

1. Double click the printer icon that appears down where the clock is,
2. A window for the printer appears,
3. The list shows the pending print jobs
4. Click on the document you want to pause or cancel
5. Then click on where it says DOCUMENT and choose either pause or cancel

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

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### **Monthly meeting program schedule**

**September:** See the President's Message above

**October:** To be announced.

**Twin Lakes Computer User Group**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
August 19, 2009

The general meeting was called to order by President Jerry Marr at 2:00 PM

Lea Chodacki gave the treasurer report. The August balance = \$4913.53

Kay Hutchison gave the membership report there were 48 members present today.  
New members were Caro Anderson and Ralph Harris.

Jerry explained that the drawing for the club's hardware give away will be handled through Random.org that will generate random numbers to choose the winner for the hardware.

Nancy Tester from Literacy Counsel on Bradley Drive spoke about their program and the need for computer mentors.

Nancy Pane a student who graduated from the Literacy Council computer program spoke about the wonderful experience she had there.

Kathy Altazan from the Baxter County Library in Mountain Home spoke about computer training and what is available in our town. She said that the library needs computer volunteers that will generally work from 11:30 to 2:30 helping with people with basic needs.

Kathy also said that the new library will be open sometime after June 2010. The new library will have 35 computers and will need more volunteers to help. The goal is to have a volunteer there during library hours.

The existing library building will become part of the Mountain Home Police Department.

The drawing took place for computer wipes and was won by Rita Engal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Coulter  
Secretary

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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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## 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: <mailto:crhutchison@centurytel.net>

Phone: 870-491-5406

Kay Hutchison

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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 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