

## Buying a Digital Camera

Cheri Sassman will explain how to buy a digital camera and will answer any questions you may have.

Cheri Sassman a life-long resident of Utica, studied photography at the MWP School of Art and wildlife photography with internationally known wildlife photographers Joe and Mary MacDonald.

Several years ago, it became obvious to Cheri that digital photography offered more creative control and technical excellence. Since then, she has studied and developed skills in that medium to the point where she shoots digital images exclusively. After retirement, she continued fine arts and action photography on a professional level in the areas of nature and sports. Currently, Cheri presents programs based on her nature photography for groups around the state and teaches photography workshops at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, the Great Swamp Conservancy, and Sterling Nature Center.



In the past five years, Cheri has received a first place and third place at the New York State Fair Photography Exhibit in professional black and white as well as a second place and three Honorable Mentions in the professional color category. A number of her photographs have been featured in the Utica OD calendars for 2009 and 2010. She has exhibited at Kirkland Art Center, the MWP Sidewalk Show, Cooperstown Regional Art Show, the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts, the Old Forge Arts Center, the National Rural Art Exhibit.

“Much of my fine-arts photography is characterized by the use of long focal-length lenses. The depth of field from these lenses surrounds my subjects with soft out-of-focus effects of color and light. Some of my images have been characterized as being reminiscent of impressionist paintings. I use this technique in photographing birds and wildlife and in extreme close-ups of flowers and insects. My art attempts to present an uncommon view of the commonplace around us that is often missed in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.”

**Tuesday, April 6 ♦ 6 - 8:30 PM**  
**Whitesboro High School cafeteria**



# explorer

The MVPCUG *EXPLORER* is published monthly from September through June by the Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc. (MVPCUG), PO Box 586, Marcy NY 13403-0586.

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The MVPCUG was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers. This non-profit organization consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the Whitesboro High School, Route 291, Marcy NY. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Initial membership fee for an individual is \$25. Annual renewal dues are \$20.

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Kay Janowsky. . . . . guest columnist

## Meeting Agenda

- 5:30. . . . . Meet and Greet
- 6:00. . . . . Business Meeting
- 6:30. . . . . Program, Part 1
- 7:10. . . . . Break
- 7:20. . . . . Program, Part 2
- 8:15. . . . . Drawing for Prizes
- 8:30. . . . . Adjournment

## Editorial notes . . .

April seems to be the month for firsts —



As noted on the back page, Apple and Microsoft both were started in April. In 1994, Marc Andreessen + Jim Clark founded Netscape Comm Corp under the name Mosaic. Hard to remember a time before computers, isn't it?

And what would we do without McDonald's? For the sports lovers, Yankee stadium opened in 1923 and the Wrigley Co was founded in Chicago in 1891 —yeah Cubs! Jackie Robinson [a Brooklyn Dodger] was the first black professional ball player in 1947.

In 1963 the soap opera General Hospital debuted. 1923 saw the first insulin available for diabetes patients.

On April 25 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened, connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. On April 15 1924 Rand McNally published its first road atlas. And in 1892 the General Electric Co formed.

One way or another all these facts affect some of us and April should be celebrated for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is welcoming nice weather.

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG  
Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.  
\$25 for initial sign-up - \$20 for renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ NY  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to  
M V P C U G  
PO Box 586  
Marcy NY 13403-0586

**Minutes of March 2, 2010**  
 — HRussell, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President **Jerry Finkelstein** called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. There were 31 persons in attendance.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Jerry started the meeting by asking Bill to give a treasury report covering for the month of 2/1/10 to 2/28/10, to the attending members. Those that are interested in the full treasury report can check either with the secretary or Bill Gorrell.

Next Bill read the audit report for the year of 2009. This report was done by Bill Wilson.

Jerry reminded the members that the new Forum is now on the club’s website. He advised the members to give it a try, <http://mvpcug.com/phpbb2/>. You must register your name and password, then you will be able to post your question to the forum. Help to your question will be forthcoming by the forum’s moderator.

Donna, our newsletter editor, said that she is working on condensing the size of the monthly newsletters. If it can be made smaller, this would save on the printing cost. Donna will advise the members at a later date of her findings.

There were questions from the members as to whether we should have the newsletter posted only to the website and do away with the hard copy. So far many of the members said that they would like to continue to have a hard copy.

Next discussion centered on whether to raise the yearly dues to \$25.00. Still, in the discussion stage, more will be said at future meetings.

**PROGRAM**

Patty Bruno, our Program Chair, introduced Ed Sajdzikowski as the guest speaker for tonight. Ed spoke and gave a demo on the basics of using M/S-Excel. He took us step by step first showing all the components. If you work with numbers, lots of numbers and need to make decisions based on those numbers? Then M/S Excel Spreadsheet is the answer. Like an army of accountants standing by with calculators in hand, Excel can take the pain out of tedious calculations. Excel provides an excellent way

to keep track of lists that have several rows and columns. Excel grid organizes the information for you. Each grid consists of rows and columns that can keep your numbers in perfect order and you can use this grid to make simple lists. You can illustrate your reports with dazzling charts and maps that are generated from the numbers that you’ve entered in your grid. When numbers are of prime importance, then Excel is the perfect tool. Ed answered many questions from the members, his presentation was very interesting and the MVPCUG club is glad to have him as a member.

**DOOR PRIZES**

**[furnished with club funds]**

- Flash Drive 4gb. . . . . Helen Russell
- Flash Drive 4gb. . . . . Bill Gorrell
- Printer Paper. . . . . George Purpura
- USB Printer Cable.. . . . Lou Barile
- 4X6 Photo Paper. . . . . Jim Pease

**[Donated by Smart Computing]**

- Subscription, 1 year. . . . . Donna Gorrell
- Subscription, 1 year. . . . . Patty Bruno

**[Donated by Rod St. Clair]**

- CD cases-10. . . . . Don Pianka
- CD-Akuazone. . . . . Steve Gorrell

**[Donated by Que Publishing]**

- Book - Flicker. . . . . Kay Janowsky
- Book - Update to Windows 7. . . . . Steve Gorrell

**[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]**

- Post-it Notes Pkg. . . . . Jim Pease

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Helen Russell, secretary



**EDITOR’S NOTE:**

Ed not only gave an excellent presentation, but he also gave us permission to scan his handouts and place them on our website. Go to: <http://mvpcug.com/tidbits.htm> and look for *Excel handout*. This is a pdf document that can be printed entirely or by page if desired. If you want to print one page only, make sure you check your printer dialog box to print the selection, or current page, or denote the page you desire.

## All About Windows7

### SOUNDS, WINDOWS, AND SCREEN SAVERS

Windows 7 has 14 different sound schemes that all sound like the default sound scheme, but with a twist. For instance, the Sonata scheme sounds like classical violins, while the Delta scheme sounds like a banjo.

Similarly, you can customize your window color and transparency, along with your screen saver, using the buttons at the bottom of the dialog box. After you've changed all these components to your liking, you've essentially created a new theme. And although you don't need to save it to use your new theme, it's not a bad idea if you want to play around some more.

### MAKE THE SCREEN MORE READABLE

If you use a laptop and the screen is smaller than a typical monitor, everything will appear smaller too. Windows 7 automatically selects the optimal display resolution for your screen, but then you can also choose how big you want your font.

1. Right-click the desktop and select Personalize.
2. Click Display on the lower left-hand corner.
3. Choose to display fonts at 100 % or 125 %.

For more Windows 7 accessibility information, including tutorials and free step-by-step guides, visit: [microsoft.com/enable/products/windows7/default.aspx](http://microsoft.com/enable/products/windows7/default.aspx).

### GADGETS

Desktop gadgets are customizable mini programs that display information on the desktop. They run continuously. You can view news feeds, games, your calendar, the weather. To get gadgets:

1. Right-click the desktop and select Gadgets.
2. View available gadgets and click Get more gadgets online to add to your collection.
3. Drag gadgets anywhere onto your desktop.

### WHERE'S THE PRINTER FOLDER

The Printers folder has been replaced by Devices and Printers, a more flexible and comprehensive way to manage all the peripherals hooked to your computer.

Open Devices and Printers by clicking the Start button, then, on the Start menu, click Devices and Printers.

Devices and Printers might look and behave differently, but it still performs all the important print-related tasks formerly handled by Printers.

### FORGOT YOUR WINDOWS PASSWORD

If you've forgotten your Windows password, you can reset your password by using a password reset disk or by using an administrator account.

To create a password reset disk:

1. Insert your removable media [CD or thumb drive].
2. Open User Accounts by clicking the Start button, clicking Control Panel, clicking User Accounts and Family Safety, and then clicking User Accounts.
3. In the left pane, click Create a password reset disk, and then follow the instructions. Make sure you store the password reset disk in a safe place.

### CHANGE YOUR WINDOWS PASSWORD

Your Windows password is the password you use to log on to your computer. You can help keep your computer more secure by changing your Windows password regularly and by using a strong password.

1. Press Ctrl+Alt+Delete, then click Change a password.
2. Type your old password, type your new password, type it again to confirm it, and then press Enter.

If you forget the administrator password and don't have a password reset disk or another administrator account, you won't be able to reset the password. If there are no other user accounts on the computer, you won't be able to log on to Windows and will need to re-install Windows.

### AERO SNAP SIMPLIFIES FILE MANAGEMENT

Open two instances of Explorer, then drag one to the left edge of the screen and the other to the right. Aero Snap will "dock" them on the left and right halves of the screen. Open the second instance of Explorer by right-clicking its icon in the taskbar, then click Windows Explorer.

### CONTROL ITUNES FROM THE TASKBAR

One Windows 7 amenity is thumbnail previews, which appear when you mouse over any running program in the taskbar. Each thumbnail has a red x in the upper-right corner, meaning you can close that program without first having to maximize it.

Apple's iTunes adds player controls. The thumbnail sports three little icons: Previous Track, Play/Pause, and Next Track. These buttons work just like the controls in iTunes proper, but they save you from having to switch to the program whenever you want to skip to the next song or pause playback. ♦

## Members Helping Members —by Kay Janowsky

In the February newsletter, our editors acknowledged and praised folks who volunteer in different ways to keep our club going smoothly. I think we should all recognize and thank our officers and directors who month after month, work behind the scene for the club. My friend Bill Gorrell keeps the equipment and drags it back and forth between his home and Whitesboro School month after month. He keeps the books straight, address list up-to-date, and notifies us when our membership is about to expire. Wife Donna takes our dues and writes a ton of material, including her columns *Did You Know* and *This 'n That* every month for the newsletter, as well as organizes the layout, not an easy task. President Jerry leads us in the meeting and writes his monthly *Byting Remarks*. He also lugs stacks of newsletters to libraries and other hot spots in the Utica area to leave for people to pick up. Lisa Britt keeps up the web site and reminds us about security measures frequently. Helen Russell, as secretary, writes the minutes and keeps track of door prizes at each meeting. Patty Bruno has diligently found interesting speakers and program topics for us. On top of that, they all brave the elements to meet once a month other than our meeting night, to figure out how to best keep things running smoothly for all of us.

We all appreciate Bo Wozniak's smile and assurance that we might have a winning ticket when we enter the meeting. Rod St. Clair is always on the side willing to help out in a variety of ways as needed. Jim Pease is our publicity man and does a great job getting notices in the paper. I signed in just as a couple was arriving at the February meeting. They said they were there because they read about the club in the O-D. Bill Wilson volunteered to do an audit on our books. That is a formidable job, and having a member do it for us saved us a pile of money. And let's not forget our friend who is still a member and contributor to this newsletter even though he doesn't live in the area; John Hunter.

In past years our club has conducted monthly SIGS [special interest groups]. Lisa Britt had an excellent Basic Training group for those of us who were struggling to understand the world of computers. There was a Word Perfect, an Internet, a Q & A, and a Windows SIG, among others. These were all hosted by members, and were well attended. In addition there were several one time classes, in topics such as digital photography, developing web pages and on new operating systems as they came up. Now Patty does an excellent job bringing many of these things to us via speakers at our monthly meetings.

These are only the things I know about, and I am sure

there a hundred other little and big things they do. I say our hats should go off to all of them, because without them, there would be no MVPCUG, people helping people. These kind folks have certainly taken our motto "Members Helping Members" to heart and given to all of us.

One last note to follow up on the NYC library card issue: my New York City library card is good until January 1, 2013. That gives me three years to download books from them. Yippee! However, I will make sure to not ever let six months elapse between using it as someone once said if you don't use it for six months they cancel it. ♦

## This 'n That —by Donna Gorrell

We all use copy + paste. Those who have Microsoft Word have an advantage of being able to copy multiple items and choose what they want to paste. However, the Windows clipboard is only capable of copying one thing at a time. If you are using a program other than Word multiple copy and paste options are not available.

I get tired of typing the same thing over and over when entering information into my genealogy database. Just how many times can you type *Columbus, Franklin Co, OH* before you want to scream? The program does have features which allow you to type a few letters and then choose the remaining—like auto type. However, it does not allow this when entering the source data.

In one of Kim Komando's columns she mentioned a free program called *Ditto*. What did I have to lose—its free. So I downloaded it and thought I'd give it a try. It now sits in my systray ready for use at any time. It has saved me much time and aggravation by being able to type something once, then add a second, third or more entry and be able to pick and choose exactly which of those I want to paste into a field in my RootsMagic program. It also works well with WordPerfect.

Here's what the website has to say—

Ditto is an extension to the standard windows clipboard. It saves each item placed on the clipboard allowing you access to any of those items at a later time. Ditto allows you to save any type of information that can be put on the clipboard, text, images, html, custom formats.

Some of the Features:

- \* Easy to use interface
- \* Search and paste previous copy entries
- \* Accessed from tray icon or global hot key
- \* Select entry by double click, enter key or drag drop
- \* Paste into any window that excepts standard

copy/paste entries

Cost: Free / Works with: Windows 7, Vista, and XP

Link: [www.ditto-cp.sourceforge.net](http://www.ditto-cp.sourceforge.net) ♦

## Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

### April is Poetry Month

Everyone seems to write poetry, but nobody seems to read it. This month, why not try to read some poetry, if only to appear radical and rebellious. Some sites of interest include the following: [WWW.poetryfoundation.org](http://WWW.poetryfoundation.org) is an encyclopedic site devoted to everything related to poetry and poets. Click on the URL and the homepage presents five boxes across the top of the page that include links to many sites and activities. These boxes include “Features”, “Resources”, “Programs”, “Foundation” and “Poetry Magazine”.

Each box contains five or more links to other sites or information. Under Resources, for example, a click on Glossary Terms brings up a series of pages that define such things as forms and types, rhythm and meter, techniques and figures of speech and so on.

[www.Poets.org](http://www.Poets.org) “Supports American poets in all stages of their careers to foster appreciation of contemporary poetry.” This site lists contests, awards, audio archives and other helpful material as well.

[www.famouspoetsandpoems.com](http://www.famouspoetsandpoems.com) provides a listing of popular poems, a compendium of more than 500 poets and a rousing good read if you're in the mood. And Spike Milligan was the poet of the month for February. Try some poetry, you'll like it.

### Eat Well and Thrive

Travelers find themselves looking frequently for sources of good food in unfamiliar cities. Where can you find a memorable meal when you don't have any idea about where to look? Not to fear, [www.wherethelocalseat.com](http://www.wherethelocalseat.com) will come to your rescue. This site dedicates itself to “stay(ing) up to date on restaurants and dining in America.” The site features the top 50 cities in the country and in NY, this means New York City, Rochester and Buffalo.

Click on one of these cities and you will find a list prepared by local foodies that tout local fare. If you hunt around you can locate a supplementary list of cities that include local towns such as Oneida, Vernon and Syracuse. Oneida and Vernon have one entry each, Abbott's Frozen Custard. Syracuse lists 11 entries, including the just mentioned Abbott's Frozen Custard, but the Dinosaur Bar B Que is listed twice so it's really only 10 restaurants. Had I compiled the list, there would have been a number of other restaurants

listed in addition to those mentioned. The site asks for recommendations so maybe I'll offer a few.

For the major cities listed, you will find up to 100 restaurants listed and categorized by food type and average price of its entrees. If you own an Iphone, a Blackberry or an Android smartphone you will be able to download local listings. Google also has a similar service, but this web site also provides city specific food blogs that list restaurant openings and closings. This seems to be a very useful site, although at my visit the server running the homepage suddenly stopped working and an error message appeared. My web site rater rated this web site as very safe so feel free to visit.

### What's the Matter With Kids Today?

As the old song asks, today's kids seem very different than kids were when we grew up. How do parents and teachers connect with kids who have never known a world without cell phones, Wiis and Gameboys, computers, DVDs and all the other electronic devices we all use? One answer is to click on [www.connectwithkids.com](http://www.connectwithkids.com).

This multi-media education company focuses on helping teachers and parents teach life skills, prevention, character, health and wellness. The mission is to connect kids with adults who can help them deal with real problems using real stories on video, television and the Internet.

The site offers for sale to parents a large number of videos on many topics such as: Parenting in the Age of Alcohol, Middle School Survival Kit, Affluenza, Bright Kids, Bad Grades and Disconnect: Why Kids Skip School. School Districts may purchase collections for school and parent outreach, professional development and online resources. There are links to other programs such as the US Department of Education “What Works Clearinghouse” as well.

Finally, the site partners with federal programs such as Safe and Drug Free Schools, the infamous No Child Left Behind and various state and local agencies. This is one place to go to understand your kids.

### Find the Cost To Drive

If you need to find out how much gas will cost on a trip, go to [www.fuelcostcalculator.com](http://www.fuelcostcalculator.com) developed by AAA. Another site to try for trips of more than 250 miles is [www.CostToDrive.com](http://www.CostToDrive.com) to find out what you'll spend on fuel.

Until next time . . .



## Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you could design a custom toolbar that will serve as a replacement for the Quick Launch toolbar in Windows 7? To do so, create shortcuts to your most-used items and place them into a folder stored anywhere on your computer. [To create a shortcut right-click the desktop or any other folder and choose New, Shortcut. Enter the path to the file or folder you're linking to, or click Browse to locate the file. Give the shortcut a name and click Finish.] Next, right-click the taskbar and choose New, Toolbar. Locate and select the folder you just created and click Select Folder. Voilà! You can customize the taskbar's settings by right-clicking it and choosing one of the options. For example, choose Show Text to uncheck and remove labels; or click View, Small Icons to pack more shortcuts into a smaller space. Drag the toolbar to your preferred position in the taskbar. If it doesn't move, right-click the taskbar and make sure Lock the taskbar is unchecked.

. . . that you can change the size of your mouse pointer? In XP and Vista, go to Control Panel. [In Windows 7 choose Large Icons from the View By drop-down menu.] Choose the Mouse Icon to display the Mouse Properties window. Under the Pointers tab, locate the Scheme section, which offers several different pointer types and sizes. For a larger pointer, choose Windows Standard [Extra Large] [System Scheme] from the drop-down menu. Click apply and move your mouse around. If satisfied, click OK. If not, check out the other available pointers in the list.

. . . that there is a website that will help you identify file extensions? Check out [www.openwith.org](http://www.openwith.org). They have a program that you can download that will explain what program is associated with the extension and they even offer a download to a free program that might open the file. Of course, you don't have to download this program just to find out the meaning of the extension. If you click on the W in the browse area, it will take you to all extensions beginning with W. For instance, .wpd means it is a WordPerfect document. You do know what an extension is, don't you? For you newbies—an extension is the three letters [usually] preceded by a period at the end of a file name. ♦

## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

How safe is safe? Remember the young days of television when you were warned not to sit too close to the TV set or you'd be attacked by its terrible electronic rays that cause cancer? I remember the threat but I don't remember any warning labels that came with the TV set. Over the years TV became a wonderful baby sitter and kids by the million were planted right in front of the TV to while away the hours and hours day after day. TV was blamed for a lot of things but did anyone ever come down with a case of cancer?

A lot of today's studies concern the cell phone. It seems that those little gadgets emit tiny amounts of radiation that may be harmful to your health. How long of regular use does it take to end up as one of Stephen King's characters in *Cell*, his recent book about people who go stark raving mad when they use the cell phone. As usual he was on to something, way ahead of his time. Recent studies suggest that wireless devices do not pose a risk. These studies, however, turn out to be flawed. Other studies show, for example, that a *single* two-hour exposure of the cell radiation produced "genetic damage in rats' brain cells that can lead to cancer." Studies are still going on, the results are *inconclusive*.

The state of Maine, Stephen King's home territory for story-telling, is quite concerned and wants the wireless industry to put warning labels on its packaging, declaring "this device emits electromagnetic radiation, exposure to which may cause brain cancer." And the warning should include "Users, especially children and pregnant women, should keep this device away from the head and body." Some people are heeding the warnings and are using their cell phones conservatively. They're not the ones talking away in their cars, on the streets, in the shops. They keep their phones switched off unless they are expecting a call.



But I bet that the ones who seem to be always on the phone are the same ones who plant their kids right up close to the TV set. ♦

Editor's Note: **Kay Janowsky**, who wrote about *Members Helping Members* this month, held the job of SIG reporter for several years. She attended ALL the SIGS, plus the main meeting. She was on the go six nights a month serving our club. Kudos!

# explorer

**Buying a Digital Camera**  
 Tuesday ♦ April 6 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ Whitesboro High School



what's.com/ing ~Prevent Animal Cruelty~ April 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1 1976 - Steve Jobs + Steve Wozniak formed Apple Computer April 4 1975 - Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates + Paul Allen April 15 1955 - Ray Kroc opened first McDonald restaurant in Des Plaines, IL April 25 1901 - NY became the 1 <sup>st</sup> state to require automobile license plates				1 April Fool's Day	2 Good Friday	3
	5	6 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM Whitesboro HS	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	14	15 	16	17 Yankee Stadium opened in 1923
18	19	20	21 Secretary's Day	22 Earth Day	23	24
25 National Pet Parent's Day	26	27 Morse Code Day	28	29 National Dance Day	30 Arbor Day	