

New Style



Newsletter of the LaCrosse PC Users' Group

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August 2002

Digital Photography July 2002 Meeting

David Donskey, Secretary

Presentation

Dr Roger Grant, Photography Professor at UW-L, gave the presentation; the presentation was given at UW-L Wing building as somewhat of a continuation of his earlier presentation at our May meeting.

Dr Grant gave us some of the history of the Wing building that houses the Photography Department. The Wing Building was built in 1957 and was originally the library for the university, and has been remodeled several times since to house different Departments and services.

Most recently it has been remodeled as part of a Capital Renewal project, and currently houses Academic Computer Services, The Computer Science Department, Educational Technology along with the photography department and has a large General access computer lab in the basement with 100+ computers about 90% pc with the rest being Mac's

Macs are used in the Photography department using Adobe Photoshop (Digital Imaging Software) to edit, alter, manipulate digital photos and scanned images, which are then output to Inkjet printer.

Dr Grant explained that the inks and papers used will determine how fast the image degrades, noting that some of the inks and paper that are referred to as archival may last anywhere from 3 to 30 years, a much shorter time than Silver based photos that are considered to be archival.

Exposure to ultraviolet light speeds the degrading of images, and the inks and paper used must be compatible for the photos to last, there are a wide variety of Inkjet papers available.

Photo CD are a good way to store Digital photos because the digital format means nothing will be lost when making copies. (Copies will be indistinguishable from the originals) Old photos can also be scanned and saved on a digital cd for the future

Dr Grant also explained the zone system (Moving tones around) of previsualizing what a final B&W print will look like while at the site taking the picture

Using Photoshop the photographer can do all the things they would be able to do in the dark room with film. Long exposures taken with a digital camera can create "noise" (spots) which can be edited out in Photoshop. Some digital cameras create a word processing file to record date, shutter speed, etc. of the exposure, which can be used for future reference.

Dr Grant showed us his "new toy" the Canon EOS D60 digital camera he told us about at the May meeting, and gave us a tour of the photography

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department, including the computer lab with 14 Macs with Photoshop installed for digital editing.

We also toured the darkrooms used for film processing. The lab also has scanners, both negative and flatbed, which are networked with the computer lab so student can scan images and then edit as needed.

Editor Position Filled!

by Robin Alexander

Shane Lambert has come forward to save the day and take the Newsletter as of the September issue. This is very good news.

Newsletter editing is a rewarding if time eating activity. With the chaos and changes in my life, it has been a bit more than I can comfortably handle these days.

In preparation for our move, I have been going through old software and manuals and getting rid of old no longer used items. It's been a walk down memory lane. Word Star, WordPerfect 5.1, and Newsmaster were all used for newsletters at one time. With WordPerfect, fonts had to be installed individually in the sense that if I wanted 11 point and 12 point, that was two distinct font files. Printing was a challenge, of course.

Life is easier now in many respects, but not in total. While programs such as Pagemaker are powerful, expectations are raised and there is much to learn.

Visit our homepage at <http://www.lcpconline.com>

Treasurer's and Membership Report July 2002

Dick Dahlby, Treasurer

ddahlby@cs.com

Kevin Blum.

Income received in July was \$60.00 from three membership renewals. They were Peter Schaettle, Robert and Mary Pluntz, and Kevin Blum. A \$20.00 renewal has been received in August from LaVonne Buchner. Thank you all for your continued interest and support.

Expenses paid in July were: \$7.73 for postage, and \$6.33 for 30 photocopies of the June LCPC Newsletter. The current expense for August was \$10.00 to State of Wisconsin for renewal of the organization's incorporation.

The LCPC checking account balance as of 08/15/2002 is \$908.71.

We presently have 53 enrolled members in LCPC.

Members whose annual renewal fees (dues) are presently past due are: (July) Ralph Dupae, Darrell Garner, and Robert and Delaine Stolpa.

Membership renewals due in August are: Keith and Barb Barghahn, Dick Dahlby, Dennis Graves, Robert Guggenbuehl, and Leon Wolfe.

Membership renewals due in September are: John Benton, May Borgedahl, David Donskey, Betty Mullenbach, and Arlene Wiese.

Annual dues are \$20 (individual or couple), and checks should be made payable to La Crosse PC Users Group. Dues may be mailed to either of the following addresses.

La Crosse PC Users Group
P.O. Box 2991
La Crosse, WI 54601-2991

Dick Dahlby
501 Olivet St
La Crosse, WI 54603-1318

Reminder to all members: Remember, if you change your email address, it is very important to inform LCPC of the change, so that the Membership ListServ (membersonly@lcpconline.com) can be changed accordingly. To do so, please send me an email with your new email address and I will see that the ListServ is changed. If you haven't received an email from the ListServ within the last two weeks, please let me know that also, so that I can check on it. Thank you.

Favorite PC Utility Software

Jack Storlie

At the top of my list of favorite tools is a set of files from www.startdisk.com for making bootable floppies for various Windows platforms. These programs go by the flashy of Ultimate Boot Disks. I have one set each for Windows 95/98, Windows ME, Windows 2000/NT and one for Windows XP. I have only had the opportunity to use the ones for 95/98 and Me, but they are really slick.

They do more than just boot a stubborn or corrupted hard drive system. There are utilities for checking the registry, scanning the disk for errors, etc. This is a worthwhile web site to check out. The downloaded files are executable files that will build the actual files on a floppy disk. The site also has JPEG graphical representations of disk labels (Windows ME, Windows 98, etc.) so one can dress up the floppies just like the big kids.

Of course Microsoft recommends that a bootable system disk be prepared for the eventuality of a disk crash or other emergency, but the UBD's are more

versatile than a mere bootable floppy. It is worth downloading a file for your system and re-booting to the new floppy just to see how it works. If you decide to give them a try, let me know how you like them.

The Excitement Of Genealogy

Delaine and Marlene Stolpa

Have you ever wondered if one of your ancestors was a famous, important person? The heritage of each and every one of us is a fascinating thing. Who hasn't dreamed of origins, of people living in another place, in another time?

The science of genealogy can unlock these doors and answer such intriguing questions as these.

The term, "genealogy," actually comes from two words, "genea," which means "race" or "family," and "logia," which means "science," or "study of." When we speak of the science of Genealogy, we are really talking about the study of the descent of a person or of a family.

The science of genealogy is as old as the Bible, which serves as the first written example of genealogy. Interest in man's lineage is as old as civilized man himself.

One of the original uses of genealogy was to prove that a person was descended from either certain Gods and Goddesses or from particular Kings and Queens. Therefore, up until the 16th century, the science of genealogy was most often used by either rulers or the upper classes. In the 16th century, extensive written records began to be kept, thus making it far easier for ordinary citizens to trace back their lineage.

Beginning with those who sailed to America aboard the Mayflower in 1620, the first immigrants who came to our country were primarily from England. In the early part of the 18th century, the Germans, Scottish, and Irish began crossing over, and by the end of the 1700's, there were close to

five million people living in the United States, most of whom were from these four original countries.

By the mid-1800's, people from all over the world, including Ireland, France, Switzerland, China, and Japan, began immigrating to the United States.

Virtually every European immigrant left from one of two seaports which were located in Germany — at Hamburg and Bremen. The length of the voyages varied from a little over a month to well over four months, bringing even more uncertainty to the already frightened travelers. At times, groups of ships would sail together, and members of the crew as well as passengers could visit other ships.

Other times, however, days would pass without another ship in sight.

Before Ellis Island was built in 1892, immigrants were processed at Castle Garden, located at the far tip of Manhattan. Asian immigrants used to be processed at the Pacific Mail Steamship Company warehouse in San Francisco, but after 1910 they were welcomed at Angel Island in San Francisco Bay.

As you begin searching out your family roots, you will undoubtedly begin to gather a great deal of material, ranging from charts and documents to mementos and family photos. In order to keep track of everything, it is imperative that you put together some type of filing system.

While it is a fascinating subject, tracing your family back to its national origins is, at the stage, an exercise in putting the cart before the horse. The primary task at hand is that of compiling an AMERICAN genealogy of your family. Then, depending on your inclination and the feasibility of it as regards your particular line, you may or may not decide to go any further.

If you have already done some genealogical research, then you already know what a rewarding experience it can be; if you have yet to begin, some pleasant surprises are in store. Either way, you have much to look forward to.

While there are many places from which to gather information, with the advent of the Computer Age you will find many more easily accessed sources of information, all at your fingertips. With that in mind, HAPPY HUNTING!!

A Look Back

Robin Alexander

Yesterday the appraisal on our North Carolina house was completed. One by one, the steps towards our change of life are being completed and the likelihood that we will actually be leaving La Crosse increases. For me, it's a big change - I've lived in the midwest since I left home to go to college in 1962. My wife was born in Wisconsin but lived at various times in Chicago, Kansas, Alabama and Papua New Guinea, but she's been back in the Midwest for about 20 years.

When I came to La Crosse in 1983, I got to switch from the Apple II to the new IBM PC. Apple was busy shooting itself in the foot with the Apple III and the absurdly expensive Lisa.

Our first word processor at the University was EasyWriter, an abomination of a program that started an IBM tradition of bad software. (That's software put out by IBM, not all software that ran on the IBM.)

The PC was quickly adopted by Lotus 1-2-3, the best spreadsheet program of its day and one of the best designed programs of all time in my opinion. As I recall, back then WordPerfect and Lotus cost around \$300-\$400 apiece. That's very expensive by today's standards, but we got actual customer service. WordPerfect's free, unlimited, no questions asked telephone support is long gone and much missed.

I became involved in the LCPC shortly after my arrival in La Crosse. It had been started not too long before by John Sarnowski. At that time, Computerland and MicroAge were the main local retailers. Best Buy opened

sometime later and there were a few mailorder operations.

I got on the Board and somehow became newsletter editor, a post I managed to escape from only by disappearing to Tennessee in 1989 on sabbatical.

I always tried to use computer technology in my classes at the U. In the beginning we had a computer lab with stand alone PC's, and software was checked out at the door on diskettes as students entered! You can imagine how much trouble the truly floppy disks caused back then.

My first "portable" was a 25 lb Corona PC compatible. What a beast that was. No hard drive, two 5.25" floppy drives. Adding 128K or memory cost \$200.

Then we went through our Zenith stage at the U. Some LCPCers may remember my descriptions of the many troubles with the Zeniths.

About the time of my sabbatical, the 386 had come out from Intel. This was to absolutely drool over; finally Lotus, dBASE III, and WordPerfect would run at blinding speed. The joy of speed was short lived as Microsoft's Windows brought the 386 and later the 486 to its knees. Before leaving for Tennessee I got the Dean to buy a larger hard drive for the 386 - \$600 for an 80Meg drive!

We all know that over the years Windows has become more capable and the software running on it more powerful. The Internet adds a huge level of both capability and complexity. Programming for this system is made more difficult for us part-timers by Microsoft making major program upgrades (and changes) just as we have learned the old version.

A key problem that hasn't been sufficiently addressed (and I'm not sure how it would be done) is the usability factor. Computers are still too hard for the average user. I see so many clients who are confused, intimidated and are using only a small portion of the tool before them.

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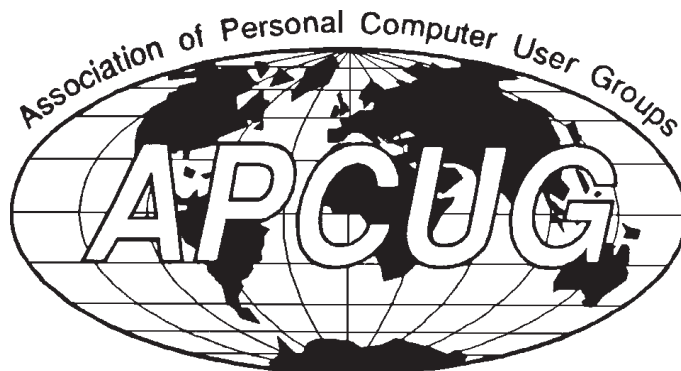
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LCPC is a member of APCUG

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General meetings are held the last Wednesday of Jan-Oct in the Overholt Auditorium at the Lutheran Hospital. The combined November-December meeting is held the second Wednesday in December.

Thank you, Gundersen-Lutheran, for making this wonderful facility available.

Meetings begin around 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome, attend a meeting or two with no obligation to join.

Dues are \$20 for one year following payment. Membership entitles you to attend meetings, tap into the corporate wisdom, receive special user group discounts from publishers and others, receive (and contribute to) this newsletter. You may also obtain software provided by publishers for review of the product. Unsigned articles are by the editor.

Other user groups are welcome to reprint with proper credit.

The newsletter is printed the Wednesday before the meeting, please submit articles by the 13th of the month. Upload to:

lacrosecug@aol.com

Commercial advertising rates: \$50 per page, \$25 for half, etc. Member's personal ads are free.

LCPC

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