



August 2008

Message from the President, Ed Tuffield

I would like to thank Helen for volunteering to take over the News Bytes. We all look forward to receiving it again since we were without it for a few months.



The year is more than half over and once again the annual election is coming up. We need people to fill various positions to include Officers, Instructors, Committee assignments, etc. These are not hard jobs and take very little time if everyone helps out but if no one volunteers the club would soon cease to exist. Please contact anyone listed on the News Bytes last page if you are interested and help us to continue.

The next Regular Meeting will be on Friday, August 22nd. The program will be "The Care and Feeding of Your Computer" presented by Jeff Towne.

General Members Meeting Minutes, Friday, July 25th Dieny Vonk, Secretary

President Ed Tuffield called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. The minutes of the June 27, 2008 meeting were approved as posted on the WebBoard.



Committee reports were as follows:

Treasurer: Chris Walchak reported the following account balances as of today:

Checking: \$25.66

Savings: \$5,068.57

CD: \$ 6,872.55

Total assets are \$11,966.78. We have no liabilities

One of the members in the audience asked what the interest rate on our CD is. Chris said it's 4.7%.

Education: Warren said that the new schedule for classes is posted on our website. He said that it is very important to sign up for the classes you want to take instead of just walking in, not only so you'll have a place, but also because the class may be cancelled if there are fewer than three people on the signup sheet. This means you could cause cancellation of the class while there actually are enough people who want to take it. It is also important to cancel a class if you can't make it.

Warren said we lost the instructor who has been teaching Computer Skills I and II. We need someone to teach these classes. Anyone interested can let Warren know.

Photoshop Elements class for beginners 1.0 as well as Photoshop Elements advanced 7.0 will start in August. If you graduated from the beginners 1.0 class, you can start on advanced 7.0.

The move of the classroom at the Village at Skyline has been approved. The new classroom will be constructed in building 2 while the old classroom will become part of the dining room at V@S. The Council has discussed what can be done to show our appreciation to the Village at Skyline. They would like a laptop computer for the use of their employees. By e-vote the Council approved 8 out of 12 to purchase a laptop for their use. (See article on page 5.)

Warren said that there is interest in a Vista class. Everyone who has Vista seems to be frustrated by it. However, we don't have anyone to teach it. He said he would agree to monitor a class, which could be in the form of a workshop.

Membership: Bonnie Snyder reported that we have currently 205 members and that 2 new members signed up since the last meeting. Today's meeting attendance is 48. Bonnie also informed everyone that we have a new editor for the News Bytes, Helen Von Gunden.

Newsletter: Helen said she just published her first News Bytes which is sent to members by e-mail or it can be read on our web site or on the WebBoard. She is now working on the next newsletter. She encouraged members to submit articles for publication.

Hospitality: Dee Huth thanked Georgia Rosen for contributing refreshments for today's meeting. We always welcome refreshment goodies from anyone.

Publicity: Larry O'Neill prepared another survey. This time he is asking members what kind of monthly programs they would like to see. He supplied a form for members to complete and said we welcome any suggestions.

APCUG Representative: Joe Nuvolini reported that all is well with the web site and the WebBoard. Later in the year he will give a presentation on the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Librarian: Bill Kennedy announced that we have two 19" CRT monitors to give away. Anyone interested can contact Bill.

Programs: Frank Fraser first commented that he loaded Vista without any problems and he has no problems using it except that he found various problems with peripherals. Vista did not recognize his desktop web cam. His printer was a problem also. HP and others are slow to come along with the appropriate drivers. In that respect he found that the upgrade from XP to Vista was a big problem.

Next month's program will be a computer seminar by Jeff Towne, covering a great deal of computer information, including computer maintenance. He might be a good source for answers on XP and Vista questions.

After the break, Frank Fraser presented Joe Nuvolini with today's program on the WebBoard. Frank thanked Joe for the many times he has done planned as well as impromptu programs for CoSNUG

Joe started by saying that the easiest way to get to the WebBoard is from the CoSNUG web site, www.cosnug.com and going down to the WebBoard link and then to the "New User" link. The help section on the WebBoard provides instructions on how to join the CoSNUG WebBoard which is available to all CoSNUG members. Joe took us through the process of registering and from there showed us how to log on, change password and to access the various topics called conferences, such as meeting minutes, book reviews or the newsletters. You can also leave messages on the WebBoard or post

items and articles and there is a section where you can post computer questions. Joe demonstrated in detail how to navigate the WebBoard and access the various functions. The WebBoard is a very handy tool to stay in touch with all that is going on in the computer world and especially in CoSNUG. As the WebBoard manager, Joe oversees the functioning of the WebBoard and he can make changes and needed adjustments.

Following the presentation the drawing was held and the winners were as follows:

Ream of white paper: Marilee Thiel
Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0: Viola Gardener
Avery Business Card Maker: Tim Churchill
One GB Flash Drive: Georgia Rosen
UMAX Scanner: Frank LeBosco
Computer-Gateway Pentium 633: Sybil Browne

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next month's General Membership Meeting will be on Friday, August 22, at 1:30 p.m.

Next month's Coordinating Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 12, at 1:00 p.m.



SURVEY RESULTS: What kind of programs do you want to see at our monthly meetings? by Larry O'Neill

Almost 81% of our members at the July General Membership Meeting said they would like to see presentations on **NEW SOFTWARE** as it comes into the computer world. One member added, "Presentations are a good idea, however, not if it's just a promo for sales."

In second place on the popularity chart (64.5%) were requests for **QUESTION AND ANSWER** sessions. Someone penned, "The questions should be sent to a moderator or control person ahead of time so they could be sent to the appropriate person in plenty of time to prepare an answer, that might even include a live demonstration."

Closely behind (tied at 58%) were two topics— **NEW HARDWARE DEMONSTRATIONS** and **ANYTHING ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY**. Two members mentioned the 'mini-laptops' that Joe and Ilene demonstrated this summer as being the type of hardware they wanted to see presented and described. Never would have known about them if I hadn't actually seen them demonstrated here," one member said. Still another wanted more and more information on Laptops. (*Note: See Ilene's article on those "mini-laptops" then Joe's mention of the larger unit following this article.*)

Lagging way behind everything else were the few answers to the topic: **TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS**. One reply generalized 'Computer operations' on his form, which wasn't very specific. But generally speaking, our members demonstrated more of an interest in learning the "How To's" of the computer world rather than the "Why's."

Perhaps more interesting than the answers to the formal Survey questions were the comments following the last line on the form---**YOUR SUGGESTIONS**. Here are a few that caught our attention:

We need everything you can give us on **GENEOLOGY**. How about a program on general information about ISPs? And another requested a session or two on proper e-mail use. **COMPUTER MAINTENANCE** was mentioned several times, as were requests for Vista programs. "Spend time on Irfanview," ordered one member, and another said we should bring back the Gazette's computer editor.



Potpourri by Helene Steinkruger

The numerous characteristics and advantages of the new ASUS Eee PC 701 have been proclaimed by computer guru Joe Nuvolini in recent CoSNUG and P*PCompAS newsletter articles as well as ComputerEdge Magazine online

<http://webserver.computoredge.com/online.mvc>. His enthusiasm about this small, 7-inch monitor laptop/notebook computer influenced several of our user group members to purchase the ASUS. Because of its petite size it is easy to carry when traveling either on short or long trips. Although Linux was the operating system on the original model that Nuvo purchased, the computer is now available with Windows XP Home Edition installed for those customers who prefer the popular Microsoft OS.

Five of our female user group members recently purchased the Windows version of the ASUS Eee701 and met at my house in July to share their experiences, challenges and tips for its use. These are a few of the main features and issues the members discussed and procedures they used to personalize their ASUS: All attendees liked their new user-friendly purchase and found it extremely efficient for travel; The built-in web-cam, microphone, WiFi 802.11 b/g technology, and stereo are superb; The computer includes 3 USB-2 ports, ports for ethernet cable and telephone, a port for adding an additional peripheral such as an external monitor, an SD card slot, and a battery that lasts for 2.5 hours while in use; The relatively small solid-state hard drive is 2 GB, 4 GB, or 8 GB and has standard memory of 512 MB on the most common 4 GB model; Two members added 2 GB additional RAM (memory) for ease when processing photos while traveling.

Because the Windows XP operating system is large and there were various pre-installed applications, about 2/3 of the 4 GB was filled when the computer arrived. As a result members chose to uninstall various programs such as MS Works, MSN, and a few rarely used programs. To compensate for the removal of the software from the hard drive, members purchased SD (Secure Digital) storage cards of 2, 4, or 8 GB to hold the applications such as AbiWord Portable®, Adobe Reader®, and Irfan-View®, preferred email clients, and BelArc Advisor® as well as data files and music files and other software for personal needs. Smaller programs such as AVG® (a free anti-virus program) and Skype® were added to the hard drive depending on the owner's preferences and use of the Eee PC. Compressing the hard drive was recommended to save space.

The following websites are extremely useful for providing additional information about and assistance when using the ASUS Eee PC: <http://portableapps.com/>, <http://event.asus.com/eeepc/microsites/en/index.htm>, and several YouTube sites <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w7FQKTIirg> with videos for using the ASUS. For anyone wanting to purchase a small computer to take along when traveling, the ASUS Eee PC 701 is a terrific option and at a reasonable price...\$299 to450.

A REQUEST FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Members of CoSNUG are encouraged to submit articles for publication in our monthly newsletter on topics of interest to our members. Please forward your text or Microsoft Word documents to Helenv5@msn.com Thanks!

I hope you like the format of this edition of News Bytes, my first using Microsoft Publisher. I'm in learning-mode and will be testing various formats over the next few issues.



Nuggets from Nuvo by Joe Nuvolini

Well it may be a bit premature but I have decided to make my annual January trip to Las Vegas for the Consumer Electronics Show next year. Since APCUG won't be holding it's convention, there won't be any reduced rates. A few years back I picked up business cards at some motels/hotels on Convention Center drive. I got a room at the Somerset House Motel for January 7-11. The first four nights are \$73 and the fifth \$55. It's about a five minute walk to the LVCC. Not bad when rooms at the major hotels ate several hundred dollars per night. I also discovered that registration opened for CES and I applied for my press credentials and they were approved the same day. Now all I have to do is get there. Even without the APCUG events, I enjoy this show as one gets to see all the latest technology not just in the computer world, but in virtually all areas of technology. While the rooms are outrageous at most of the large hotel/casinos, there are some places you can stay for a reasonable rate. If you're lucky enough to have friends who live there, I can't think of a better time for you to visit them. Give it some thought!

If you need a digital to analog TV converter with an analog pass through, Radio Shack now carries one. It is the Digital Stream DTX9950 Digital-to-Analog Converter Box. It is \$59.99 (\$19.99 with coupon). If they are not in stock, they will order it and it will be shipped to your home.

For you Firefox browser users, Mozilla's Firefox 3 has been released. You can download it at:
<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/all-rc.html>

Is the EeePC701 too small for you. Maybe you want to try its big brother the EeePC900. It's only \$50 more at Best Buy. It has a 900MHz Intel Celeron processor, 1GB of DDR2 memory, and 8.9" WSVGA TFT-LCD widescreen display, 16GB solid-state hard disk, Intel GMA graphics, built-in 1.3 MP web-cam, microphone, and stereo speakers. Other features include a built-in 3-in-1 media card reader, 3 high-speed USB ports, built-in wireless LAN(802.11b/g), and 10/100/1000 Mbps ethernet LAN with RJ-45 connector. It weighs only 2.2 lbs. and is only 0.8" thick, 8.9" wide, and 6.7" deep. It comes with Microsoft Windows XP Home Editions operating system, Microsoft Works, and Windows Live. The Best Buy price tag is \$449.99. You can see it at:

<http://usa.asus.com/products.aspx?l1=24&l2=163&l3=0&l4=0&model=2277&modelmenu=1>

COMPUTER PRESENTATION TO VILLAGE AT SKYLINE



CoSNUG President Ed Tuffield and Education Chair Warren Miller are shown presenting a new Dell laptop computer to Joe Urban, Brookdale Village at Skyline Director of Resident Services. The laptop computer is a token of appreciation to Village at Skyline for their generosity and cooperation in working with CoSNUG.

Since late 1999, Village at Skyline has provided a room and Internet access at their facility for CoSNUG computer equipment and classes. Hundreds of CoSNUG members have received free computer training through the dozens of classes held in the room.



BOOK REVIEW: Photoshop Elements 6: The Missing Manual by Barbara Brundage

Harry Miller, our CoSNUG Photoshop Elements instructor recently reviewed the following book from O'Reilly Media <http://www.oreilly.com/>

Photoshop Elements is perhaps the premier digital image editing program on the market. It has, however, a serious flaw – a virtual lack of documentation. This problem is addressed and, for the most part, answered by this very readable book. For ease of discussion I have divided this book into three sections.

The first section provides a very good overview of the product including importing images not only from your camera, but also a scanner and from videos. For the beginner, the topic of how to organize your image files is very helpful. Perhaps most significant was the discussion on resizing images. Understanding pixels and how they affect sharpness in both printing and on a monitor is vital, but can be extremely confusing. Ms. Brundage did an outstanding job in making this subject clear and understandable.

The bulk of the book is contained in the second section that covers the myriad tools and menu items that comprise Elements. Not only is each tool clearly and completely described, but also each of the variables associated with them. Sidebar articles and TIPS are liberally sprinkled throughout to add more insight into the “whys” and “hows” as well as to help the user get the most out of the product. Finally, to make the understanding even clearer, the author shows samples of how the tools and menus are used to fix some of the more common problems that are faced in improving images. Many of the pictures used can be downloaded from the Internet to allow the user to practice what they have learned.

The final section is devoted to discussing some of the many options for sharing your final images with others. Not only are the usual choices of printing and E-mailing covered, but also posting images on the web, creating animated GIFs, online galleries, slideshows, and flipbooks.

While this is a very good book, it does have some flaws. Perhaps the biggest flaw relates to the quality of many of the illustrations of Elements dialog boxes. These are so dark and unsharp as to make them not only useless, but annoying.

While the description of the various tools includes the keyboard short cut to opening them, surprisingly a copy of the tools’ icons is not shown.

Recognizing that many, if not most, of the people using this manual are not photographically or darkroom knowledgeable, there are several instances where a little more help could have been given. The most notable relates to sharpening an image with Unsharp Mask.

After singing the praises of this tool and discussing the variables, and even how this oxymoronic name came to be used, the author concludes by acknowledging that there are a number of opinions as to how to set each of the variables, but rather than offering any suggestions, concludes, “What ever works for you is fine.” Considering there are thousands of combinations of the three variables, some basic starting points for such situations as general, extreme, and portrait sharpening would have been helpful. The same type of recommendation would have been helpful in selecting which “sample size” to use with the eyedropper tool.

Despite these relatively minor problems, this would still be an excellent addition to any serious users library. For total beginners, however, I would not recommend it as a primary tool.

Final Rating: 4 Peaks out of 5

September 2008 CoSNUG Class Schedule
Village at Skyline 2305 Patriot Heights
Building 1 Marketing Entrance Computer Classroom

Date	Day	9:30 - Noon		Instructor		1:00 - 3:30 PM		Instructor
1	Mon							
2	Tue							
3	Wed							
4	Thu	Excel I	SL	Bob Evans				
5	Fri	PC Workshop	DN	Titus/White		Begin PhotoShop Elm 2	SL	Harry Miller
6	Sat							
7	Sun							
8	Mon							
9	Tue	Digital Photo-10:00 AM	SL	Stanley Rapaport		Coordinating Council		
10	Wed					Inter PhotoShop Elm 8	SL	Harry Miller
11	Thu	Excel II	SL	Bob Evans				
12	Fri							
13	Sat							
14	Sun							
15	Mon					1 Computer Skills I	BC	Sinclair/Kotz
16	Tue							
17	Wed					2 Computer Skills II	BC	Sinclair/Kotz
18	Thu	Excel III	SL	Bob Evans				
19	Fri							
20	Sat							
21	Sun							
22	Mon							
23	Tue	3 File Management I	BC	Bob Evans				
24	Wed							
25	Thu	4 File Management II	BC	Bob Evans				
26	Fri					1:30PM General Membership Meeting - Senior Center		
27	Sat							
28	Sun							
29	Mon							
30	Tue							

Seniors

Helping

Seniors

BC Basic Computer – Recommend sign up for all 5 classes

SL Sign up required - Limited number of students

DN Drop In – No Limit

***** THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING STARTS AT 1:30 PM *****

You must be a CoSNUG member to attend these classes. If you are unable to attend the CoSNUG General Meeting on the 4th Friday of the month, you may register for any of the classes that were not filled at the General Meeting sign-up by calling or E-mailing Charles McAllister at 473-2135 or candemcal@juno.com. You should also use this phone number or E-mail address to give notification if you need to cancel attendance for any class that you signed up for.

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We're on the Web!

[Http://cosnug.apcug.org](http://cosnug.apcug.org)

Our WebBoard Address is:

[Http://webboard.apcug.org:8080/-cosnug](http://webboard.apcug.org:8080/-cosnug)

Colorado Senior Network User's Group (CoSNUG) is an independent, nonprofit association with tax-exempt status under IRS 501(c)(3) regulations.

Regular membership is open to seniors at least 55 years old.

CoSNUG meets monthly (fourth Friday at 1:30PM) at the Colorado Springs Senior Center.

CoSNUG operates an electronic bulletin board accessible round-the-clock and publishes a monthly newsletter, CoSNUG News Bytes.

Customarily, members serve as computer course instructors and offer assistance to new members interested in acquiring computer skills including networking via the Senior Bulletin Board.

Club Applications are available at Membership meetings.

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