

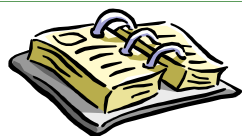
# MESSENGER

THE PRESCOTT COMPUTER SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER - PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

## FEBRUARY 2012

Visit our website at [www.pcs4me.com](http://www.pcs4me.com)

Phil Ball, Newsletter Editor — 778-2652



## CALENDAR

SIG = Special Interest Group



### FEBRUARY 2012

**February 18 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM**

**General Meeting** - Leader: Ray Carlson  
Skill Level: Novice to Advanced

First Hour: Phil Ball will present **Tips and Tricks** with insights into various topics that assist with regular computer activity.

Second Hour: Kathy Jacobs will cover **what a blog really is**, how it is different than a regular website and how to find ones on the topics you want to learn about. Other topics will be how to interact with the writer and the other readers and how to know if you want to create your own blog.

**February 25 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM**

**Special Topics SIG** - Leader: JB Burke  
Skill Level: Novice to Intermediate

Bob Ellis will begin with a short presentation on tech policy activities. Then JB will delve into topics related to computer hardware, software, the Internet and the World Wide Web.

### MARCH 2012

**March 10 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM**

**Digital Photo SIG** - Leader: Phil Ball  
Skill Level: Intermediate

*Please note that this meeting will be held at the Alta Vista Senior Living Facility in Prescott. Map on pg 2.*

Many aspects of digital photography will be discussed, including use of digital cameras and using Photoshop Elements

**March 17 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00PM**

**General Meeting** - Leader: Ray Carlson  
Skill Level: Novice to Advanced

*Please note that this meeting will be held at Las Fuentes Resort Village in Prescott. Map on pg 2.*

First Hour: PCS Annual meeting and elections for the Board of Directors.

**Second Hour:** Bob Gostischa from Avast Software will discuss using this well-known and FREE anti-virus software. This presentation focuses on normal computer users and clearly explains security myths, Internet dos and don'ts, the evolution of computer threats, and more. Even AARP recommends Avast!

**March 24 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM**

**Q&A SIG** - Leader: Andy Reti  
Skill Level: Novice to Intermediate

Topics to be determined.

**March 29 - Thursday - 6:00-8:30 PM**

**Board of Directors meeting** - Prescott Public Library; Elsea Room— All PCS members are welcome to attend. Officers will be elected from Board members

**March 31 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM**

**Special Topics SIG** - Leader: JB Burke  
Skill Level: Novice to Intermediate

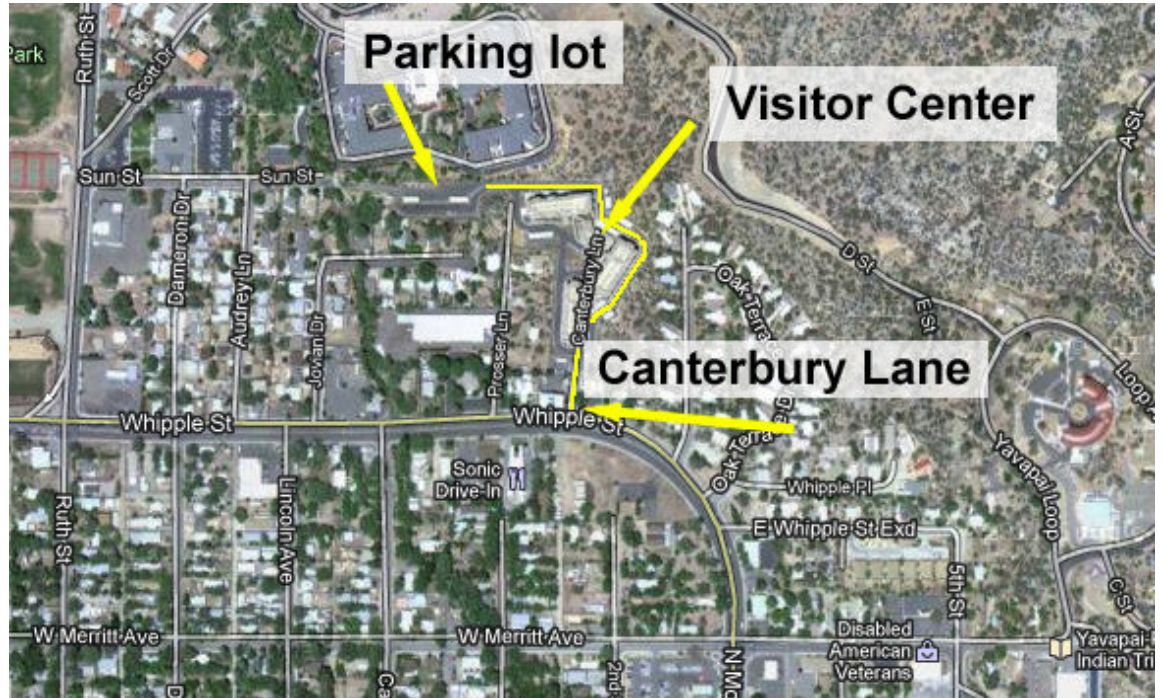
Topics to be determined. ☆

*Meetings are usually held in the Founder's Suite at the Prescott Public Library, unless otherwise noted.*

# Maps to special meeting places:

**March 10**  
**Digital Photo**  
**SIG**

Alta Vista  
Senior  
Living  
Community,  
916  
Canterbury Ln



**March 17**  
**General**  
**Meeting**

Las Fuentes  
Resort Village,  
1035 Scott Dr



# Photo Contest

## Prescott Computer Society Local Contest to determine entries to the SWUG Digital Photo Contest 2012

**DEADLINE:** Deadline for our local PCS Contest is April 1, 2012

**ELIGIBILITY:** All PCS Members may enter.

**CATEGORIES:**

- **People**
- **Nature & Landscape** - flowers, outdoor scenes, nature images, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes
- **Animals**
- **Digital Art** - A category showcasing art that dramatically changes a photo digitally using software such as Corel® Painter or Adobe Photoshop®.



**PHOTO FORMAT**

- You need to enter a jpeg in digital form via email (small, of course). The makers of our winning photos should be prepared to provide a file large enough to make an 8x10 print (minimum 1600 x 2000 but preferably bigger). Note that entries will be 8x10" prints so be prepared for cropping, if not already sized to 8x10".
- Entries must be taken with a digital camera.
- Color or black and white.
- No borders or frames.

**CONTEST RULES:**

- Each photo may only be entered in one category; one entry per person in each category. In other words, you may enter four total entries but only one in each category.
- By entering the contest, you are allowing the Southwest Computer Conference to publish the photo on its Website or in other electronic promotional materials or print media.
- Photos will not be returned.
- Copyright photos will not be accepted.
- A JPEG of each photo submitted must be received by April 1st to: [philball@cableone.net](mailto:philball@cableone.net)

**JUDGING:** Photos will be judged using the following criteria:

- Composition (5 points)
- Technical Skill (5 points)
- Visual Impact (10 points)



**AWARDS:** Winners in each category will be entered in the Southwest User Group Conference to be held in May. PCS will make and pay for the prints we submit.

# The Tip Corner

By Bill Sheff, Novice SIG Coordinator, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, PA  
November 2011 issue, The LVCG Journal  
www.lvcg.org nsheff (at) aol.com

## Fixing USB hard drives

Regardless of what kind of repair work you do, a good idea is start with the easiest and cheapest. So if you run into trouble with devices plugged into your computer via a USB cable... let's start with the cable.

Make sure there is a good connection. Remove and reinsert the cable into a different USB slot on the computer. If that doesn't work, swap the cable for another USB cable. If you are utilizing a USB hub, unplug the hard drive and connect it directly to the computer's USB port.

Still not working? Double click My Computer in Windows XP or Computer in Windows Vista. The plugged USB hard drive is on the Removable Disk part of the list. Right click it, choose Properties and see if there is something wrong. If the drive is not listed turn the computer off and unplug all other USB devices on the PC except mouse and keyboard since one of the unplugged devices might not be compatible with the USB hard drive.

Reboot the computer once all the other USB devices are disconnected and it is likely that the device will now work.

If, after all this, the USB hard drive is still not recognized or working, then the device is very likely defective.

## Burning DVD discs in Windows 7

First let's review the two different DVD formats there are. They are DVD- and DVD+. DVD- (dash) was developed by Pioneer in the late 1990's, while DVD+ was developed by the DVD+RW alliance which includes Sony, HP, Ricoh, Yamaha, and others. Just note that all DVD burners now produced support both formats, which makes it easy for the consumer.

However, it should be noted that all things being equal the DVD dash burns slightly faster.

Whenever I mention a CD or DVD below it means either a dash or plus format. DVD-R formats are for a one time burn, while DVD-RW discs are used for both reading and writing data and can be formatted over and over again.

Today there are many types of multi-media files, including data, audio, and video, and each could require different ways to burn it to a DVD disc correctly.

We will discuss common file types, the disc format they should be created in, and the type of blank disc to use for best results.

**For Home Videos** (from a camcorder or downloaded video) they should be created with an Authoring software such as Windows DVD Maker in a DVD-Video project and it's recommended to use DVD-R media.

**Digital Photo files** can either be backed up using a standard DVD burning software as a data project or be created as a digital photo slideshow by using a compatible software using DVD-R media.

Most **Recorded TV shows** from Windows Media Center should be Authored with windows DVD Maker in a DVD-Video project and burned to DVD-R media.

**Music or audio files** can be burned to blank CD-R discs using Windows Media Player. However there are two ways to go about this: First you can create a standard Audio CD which usually holds 74 minutes of music by creating an audio project or you can burn mp3 files as a data project to get more music on a disc. (Just make sure you have a mp3 disc player for proper playback).

A recent burn I did holds 182 music files on one CD+ disc, and it plays in my car.

**Disc Image Files or ISO files** require Windows, Roxio or Nero Disc Image Burner to burn the format correctly on either a blank CD-R or DVD-R disc (it just depends on the file size).

### Recording Home Videos to DVD

By utilizing the free Windows DVD Maker already included in Windows 7 installs you can simply and easily create home movie discs from your videos. The software will not make a Hollywood type film but will get you creating a DVD movie that you and your family can enjoy on your TV sets in the living room.

You simply start the software, load in some video that you captured off of your camcorder, create a custom DVD menu and burn away. You now have a DVD movie disc that you can watch on any standard DVD player.

### Recording TV Shows to DVD Disc


In the old days, if your Windows PC came with a TV capture card you can hook up your cable line or satellite TV box and watch TV on your computer screen, but today with digital signals being encrypted you now need at least a separate cable box or DVR. If you use Windows Media Center you also have a built in DVR where you can record the shows you want. The best part is that you can also now burn them to a DVD disc and watch them on your TV set just like it was intended. To do this in Media Center all you do is insert a blank DVD, then click Burn CD/DVD and choose the Video DVD option. Then select a title name for the project and select the video clips or TV shows you want to burn from your media library and click the burn button. Media Center will handle the rest and give you a DVD disc that is properly formatted.

### Sharing Digital Photos the Easy Way

One of the easiest ways to preserve, backup, and share your digital photos is to back them up to a blank CD-R or DVD. You can easily accomplish this by using Windows Explorer and choosing the Mastered format. All you do is insert a blank CD or DVD and on the AutoPlay box choose the "Burn files to disc using Windows Explorer" option. When the burn a disc dialog box opens choose a Disc Title and tick the With a CD/DVD player and click Next. Then simply browse to the digital photo folder you want to backup/burn and drag it into the empty disc folder. When ready to burn click the Burn to Disc box and you are good to go.

### Burn a DVD From an Image File

If you come across an image file such as .iso you can watch it using Magic ISO or burn that image to a CD or DVD to see the contents in the file. Since .iso is a container for a file structure you need to extract it and will accomplish this by burning it to a disc. In Windows 7 you can use Windows Disc Image Burner. This is as easy as right clicking on the .iso file and choosing Burn Disc Image...yes it's that easy now in Windows 7.

## Computer Book & Magazine Recycling Service

Do you have old computer magazines or books that you don't need any longer? Bring them to a General meeting. Just bring your recent, but no longer wanted computer-related material to a general meeting. We suggest not bringing anything over a year old because they are out-of-date.

Anyone, including guests, can help themselves to any items on this table. There will be no charge for any items. After the meeting, remaining items will be discarded.

Please save your used computer-related books and magazines and bring them to the next General meeting for recycling.

Your unwanted items may be someone's treasure.



**Welcome to  
NEW MEMBERS**

**Eloiza Baughan  
Charles Brewer**

# Flickr: A look inside the photostream

By Larry Klees, member, Orange County PC Users' Group, CA  
October issue, nibbles & bits  
[www.orcopug.org](http://www.orcopug.org)

Once upon a time there were only a few photographers in an entire city. Today, thanks to advances in digital photography, there are only a few people in an entire city who are not photographers. When you factor in the internet; millions of photos fly around the world every second with the aid of numerous applications.

One of these applications that I personally like is called Flickr. Anyone with internet access can have a free Flickr account. A Flickr account is based on a thing called a "photostream." Photographs and short videos can be uploaded to this photostream which can be used like a personal photo album. The photos can be left in the order they are uploaded or they can be organized into sets like "Christmas 2010," "fireworks," "black sheep of the family," etc. These can be viewed and, if you like, downloaded or commented on by contacts, friends, and family members. Flickr allows you to place anybody in those categories and you can allow each category different access privileges to each individual photograph.

You can join special interest groups like "Bugs" or "Macro Photography" or "San Francisco," etc. If you don't see a group you like, you can even start a group of your own. You can use all manner of search criteria to find photos in your photostream or elsewhere on Flickr.

When you log on to Flickr you are sent to a Home/ Welcome page. This page gives you a quick summary of what has happened since your last log on. From this page you can monitor views of or comments others have left on your own photos; or you can take a quick look at the new things from

your contacts, friends, family members, or groups. You can also upload new photos to your own photostream or organize other aspects of your account.

Flickr can be a little overwhelming at first but you will soon learn your way around. Flickr honors copyrights, doesn't sell your information, lets you control access to your photos, and offers many other security features.

Many people like the free accounts. Many more like the extra benefits of the pro account for about \$25 per year.



## Prescott Computer Society

*Where you share  
what you know,  
and learn what you don't.*



### Prescott Computer Society Officers & Board of Directors 2011-2012

#### Officers:

President	Ray Carlson
Vice Pres	Dave Emery
Secretary	JB Burke
Treasurer	Edi Taylor-Richards

#### General Directors:

Phil Ball
Joan Baum
Joan Fullmore
Andy Reti
Herman Schloss