

The

Computer Link

April 2010

The Newsletter of the Northern Neck Computer Users' Group

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Send newsletter
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➔ **DEADLINE** ➔

for **NEXT ISSUE**,
One week after meeting

B. J. McMillan Finds Her Photo Organizer!

The March 20 meeting was the annual Photography Special. Past NNCUG President **B. J. McMillan** was the featured speaker at the meeting. B. J. has used at least four different versions of Photoshop Elements (PSE), including Version 7, to organize and edit her large collection of photographs.

The Organizer function in PSE has been a huge disappointment and hindrance to B. J. in tagging and organizing her photos. She has created custom tags for her photos

in one version of PSE, only to find that newer versions would not recognize those tags. The Organizer will recognize only its pre-set tags and not the ones that she created. This wastes hours of her work. In the old days of film, B.J. used a light table (or box) to rapidly compare slides to determine the

“keepers”. The Organizer is not convenient for comparing more than two digital photographs at a time. Finally, the Organizer will not let B. J. store her pho-

tos in more than one folder for various purposes such as general archiving, or storing her best images separately from any other pictures from a given trip.

B.J.’s extended search for, and testing of, photo organizers re-

sulted in finding the **FastStone Image Viewer 4.0** developed by

FastStone Soft. This freeware (for personal and educational use) is billed as “An image browser, converter, and editor that supports all major graphic formats.”,

and is available from

www.faststone.org/index.htm.

In addition, FastStone also supports digital camera RAW images from such providers as Nikon, Canon, Sony, Pentax and Adobe. The program will run under Windows 98, ME, XP, Vista and Windows 7.

According to B.J. the strong points of this program are in the areas of organizing and comparing images although some

Continued on Page 4



B.J. McMillan

Photo by Alan Christensen

Nybbles and Bits

By John Pearce,

Chair, WebBoard, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO
February 2010 Bits of Bytes, Newsletter of the P*PCompAS
<http://ppcompas.apcug.org>
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Last month, I mentioned an article in TechRepublic regarding removing old drivers from your system. Little did I know that issue was going surface in my notebook computer that I upgraded to Win 7. The touchpad on my notebook computer has a vertical scroll area at the right side of the pad. I had no problems using the vertical scroll until I upgraded to Win 7 at which point, it stopped working.

I ignored the problem until just after the January PPCompAS meeting. When I started to investigate and tried to access the settings for the touchpad, there was a pop-up dialogue box telling me that IntelliPoint was blocked from running because of known incompatibilities with Win 7. It took me a few minutes to remember that I had bought a USB mouse and installed Microsoft IntelliPoint software shortly after purchasing the notebook. I had used the USB mouse until I bought a

Logitech wireless mouse a year or so ago.

My first thought was to just remove the offending software. Good idea except there was nothing shown for IntelliPoint in the Programs and Features list and nothing for the USB mouse in the Mice section of Device Manager. Connecting the USB mouse made it appear in Device Manager and caused IntelliPoint to appear in the Programs list. I thought I was close to being done. Surprise, surprise! Trying to perform an uninstall of the software produced the

I will remember that USB devices should be plugged in during an upgrade and to make the related software and drivers visible.

pop-up about IntelliPoint being blocked. I wondered how you could uninstall it if it was blocked from running. This time the pop-up dialogue box provided a link to an update and I performed the update. After the IntelliPoint update completed, the vertical scroll on the touchpad worked correctly. However, I decided to remove IntelliPoint because I no longer use the USB mouse and could not think of a good reason to leave the software installed.

This is the first time I can remember where it was neces-

sary to upgrade software just to remove it. I expect the Win 7 upgrade did not upgrade the IntelliPoint software because the USB mouse was not connected at the time the upgrade was performed. Maybe next time I will remember that USB devices should be plugged in during an upgrade and to make the related software and drivers visible. Even better would be to remove old drivers as TechRepublic suggests.

Computers and Exercise NNCUG Meeting

If you have children or grandchildren who play Nintendo *Wii* computer games, you may not be aware that *Wii* also has fitness programs. At the April 17th NNCUG member meeting, **B.J. McMillan**, will make a presentation on *Wii Fit*.

Wii Fit training is divided into four categories: yoga, strength training, aerobics, and balance games. BJ will demonstrate some of the fun fitness activities that can be performed on the *Wii Fit*. The audience will then be given an opportunity to try out *Wii Fit* for themselves. Time permitting, **Alan Christensen**, Chair of RW-C's Athletics Committee, will be available to demonstrate some of the *Wii* games. *Chris Christensen.*

New Board Elected by Acclamation

The elections for Board Officers were held at the March 20th meeting of the Northern Neck Computer Users Group. No nominations were received from the floor. Elected by acclamation were: Chris Christensen – President; Phil Allen – Vice President; Anne Moss – Secretary; George Cadmus-Treasurer; and B. J. McMillan – Member-at-Large.

NNCUG Officers and Key Staff



Left to Right: **Betty Lehman-Web**; **Bruce Mc Millan**-Editor; **Jim Sapione**-Photo SIG; **Anne Moss**-Secretary; **B.J. McMillan**-Member-at-Large; **Chris Christensen**-President; **Ann Thompson**-Genealogy; **George Cadmus**-Treasurer; and **Phil Allen**-Vice President.

As his first act, President Chris presented a certificate of service and a “flash drive” to B.J. who was President for two years and VP for two years. He also presented certificates and “flash drives” to Jim Thompson who served as Treasurer and “Master of the Club Raffle” for five years, and Tom Duke who edited the Computer Link since 2003. Many thanks to those who served the NNCUG so well! **Ed**

Photography Awards

Richard Davis earned the title of “Photographer of the Year – 2009” in the NNCUG as a result of his strong showing in the monthly photo competitions of the Photo SIG. Linda Boyatzies placed second, by only a few fractions of a point in average scores. Both photographers have consistently demonstrated a high level of skill and artistic talent in their work during the last year!

NNCUG Photographers



Linda Boyatzies and Richard Davis
Photo by Alan Christensen

Richard’s photo (below), **Butterfly**, was selected as “Photo of the Year” by NNCUG members. **Ed.**



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Photo Organizer *From Page 1*

editing functions are provided.

FastStone provides a Windows Explorer type of approach to organizing photos and one does not have to import or “get” images as in PSE. A user can store the same picture in more than one folder. Limited tagging is supported. EXIF data for images is supported, and comments for identifying JPEG photos can be made. However, B. J. noted that the EXIF data and comments might not be read by PSE or other programs due to different formats being used.

The strong points of this program are in the areas of organizing and comparing images although some editing can be done

Up to four images can be selected and compared on the same screen. In order to assist in selecting the best of similar photographs, histograms and EXIF data for all four images can be rapidly accessed, and a rapid zoom in/zoom out feature is included. The best photos can be moved or copied as desired to appropriate folders, and the worst can be easily deleted.

Photos can be cropped, sharpness as well as color can be corrected, brightness and contrast can be adjusted, and the program even has a red-eye removal function. In addition, photos can be resized and JPEG photos can be rotated without loss of data. FastStone can create “contact sheets” showing groups of photos, save files in Adobe PDF format, and e-mail reduced size photos.

B.J. indicated that it is faster to sort a large number of photos using FastStone than PSE. It is clear that this is one of B.J.’s favorite programs! Thanks for the great demonstration. **Ed.**

March 20 Meeting Minutes

CALLED TO ORDER AT: 9:30 a.m. by B.J. McMillan, President.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: 26, and 2 proxies and 5 guests. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF 2/20/10: The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved with no corrections.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS: There was unanimous vote for **President Chris Christensen, Vice President Phil Allen, Secretary Anne Moss, Treasurer George Cadmus, and Member at Large B. J. McMillan.** Bruce Mc Millan will be editing the newsletter. The outgoing officers, **B. J. McMillan, Jim Thompson,** and editor **Tom Duke** received recognition and gifts for their service.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Total number of members: 101.

SIG REPORTS:

PHOTO: **Jim Sapione** stated that the photo group moved from a competition revolving around a particular theme to a more collegial panel approach. Attendees are encouraged to bring in their own work. They plan on teaching aspects of Photoshop Elements.

GENEALOGY: **Ann Thompson** discussed the 03/12 Genealogy SIG meeting. **Karen Hart** gave an in depth presentation about the genealogy resources at the Mary Ball Washington library. Next meeting is Friday, May 14 at 1PM at R W-C.

B.J. gave an overview demonstration of FastStone Image Viewer, a freeware program for managing photos.

Richard Davis won the **Photo of the Year** for “August Butterfly”. The winner of “**Photographer of the Year**” was **Richard Davis.** (It was mistakenly announced that Photographer of the Year was Linda Boyatzies, with Richard coming in Second. In calculating the totals, no entry was made for the December competition; after correction, Richard had the highest point total in the monthly competitions and was therefore 2009 Photographer of the Year, with Linda coming in Second. The keeper of the point totals (B.J.) apologizes to all concerned.)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 11:30 a.m.

Anne Moss, Secretary

Genealogy SIG News

At the March 12 meeting of the Genealogical SIG, **Karen Hart**, Executive Director of the Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library in Lancaster, gave a very informative presentation about the library's online and electronic resources for genealogy research.

The focus of the collection is the entire Northern Neck. Amongst the holdings are: microfilms of all Lancaster Court records dating from 1651; microfilm of Census records for Virginia and the Northern Neck counties 1782-1860; a traditional vertical file of clippings on a variety of topics pertaining to the Northern Neck including houses, historical places, local industries and Bibles; surname files consisting of family research done by others and donated to the li-

brary; and other sources that are useful to genealogical researchers.

The Library has its own website: www.mbwm.org Here researchers have access to the card catalog, but not to the actual documents.

For those who cannot visit the library in person, research help is available on a fee basis.

The Friday May 14 meeting on Master Genealogist software will meet at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury (Game Room) at 1:00 pm

Friday May 14 SIG meeting The Master Genealogist software. This award-winning software sets the gold standard for family

history software. Presenter **Mary Elizabeth Stewart** will debunk the idea that it is for professionals by showing how all of us may benefit from the many attributes of this software and its add-ons. Think of it as a total family history project manager. These are just a few of the things it will do for you:

- manage volumes of research data, photos, and sources;
 - organize a research trip, including "To Do" lists, reference material, charts, and forms;
 - track your correspondence and expenses;
 - be the hit of a family reunion!
 - create a web page;
- ... or publish a book, complete with table of contents, footnotes, multiple indexes, and bibliography!

Thursday July 9th Genealogy and Technology – Ann Thompson will distribute handouts from the National Genealogy Society Conference in Salt Lake City, and briefly cover some of the latest technical gadgetry such as: Social Networking – Twitter and Facebook; Google Alerts for genealogy research; Cloud computing; devices for portable genealogy research; DNA developments for genealogy researchers; as well as new developments at the Family History Library.

Ann Thompson

Membership Report - March 2010

Welcome - Thomas Southard, Fran Schelling, Howard Straughan, Jeffery Vail

RENEW April 2010 – David Alberts, Mahlan Brown, Roger Fortin, Marianne Miller, Jane Savin

RENEW March 2010 – Maurice Dickerson, Karen Edwards, Rich Emery, Robert Flore, Jim Harnsberger, John Helm, Louise McIntire

Membership dues are \$20 annually. Please make check out to NNCUG, and send to:

Jim Thompson, Treasurer, NNCUG, P.O. Box 774, Burgess, VA. 22432

For insertion into our local newspaper advertising, please send to bevjim@netscape.com no later than 15th of the month.

The Computer Link

Northern Neck Computer
Users' Group
P.O. Box 774, Burgess, VA
22432

NNCUG Meeting Dates

NNCUG GENERAL MEETING

Third Saturday 9:30 a.m.

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Meeting Room

BEGINNERS SIG

*Meets three times a year. Those interested, contact
B.J. McMillan at 580-8666*

GENEALOGY SIG

*Meets bi-monthly, 2nd Friday, 1:00 p.m.—RW-C
Contact Ann Thompson at athompson@kaballero.com
to get on the mail list for announcements.*

PHOTOSHOP SIG

*First Tuesday every month, 9:15 a.m.
Lancaster Community Library, Kilmarnock
For more information, call Jim Sapione, 804-462-5831
or e-mail: Bird@kaballero.com*

For a photo treat visit
www.rapptapp.homestead.com



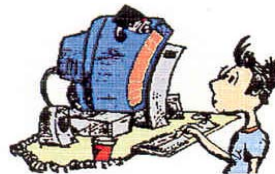
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chris@emxry.com

Computer Help available by appointment. Call Betty Lehman 435-2011 or B.J. McMillan 580-8666

Coming Attractions

Membership—April 17th, 9:30 am - B.J. McMillan
Genealogy—May 14, 1:00 pm—See Article Inside
Photo SIG—April 6th, 9 am—Kilmarnock Library