North Texas PC News

Technology Today

June 2013
VOLUME 33 • NUMBER 6

June's special presentation around 10 am is titled "***Technology Today: What's Cool, What's Hot, and What's Not***". **Dave Whittle** will be presenting on some REVOLUTIONARY developments in personal computing - including Windows 8 and a new Laptop/Tablet combination - and will help you learn how to tell which technology products will add to your quality of life and which ones will raise your blood pressure and leave you sadly disappointed.

Some of the gems that will be featured:

- One of the coolest user group products (ever)
- The hottest new laptops, including one that may be as revolutionary as the smartphone
- A web site that will soon let you share personal product experience with friends and trusted experts

You won't want to miss out on the chance to win cool stuff and learn about new ways to get more out of life!

BIO:

Dave Whittle is an author and technology expert who has been one of the most popular and highly rated user group speakers in the country for over 15 years. Over that time, he has given almost 1,000 presentations to audiences of over 80,000 in 45 states. He has consistently been a leader in introducing user group audiences to the latest and best that technology has to offer, including digital photography, digital video, WiFi, mobile computing, Internet safety and PC care, and social networking.

Working Woman magazine quoted him alongside Google CEO **Eric Schmidt** as "one of America's most original technological thinkers." He was widely recognized for his pioneering social media work at IBM in the early '90s, and became IBM's first online representative, triggering one of the first social media viral explosions with a group he founded called Team OS/2.

Dave spent 12 years in IBM, quickly becoming one of its leading national experts on PCs and OS/2. He's a father to 9 children and grandfather of 6, with another on the way. He lives with his wife Kathy and daughter Emily in Springville, Utah.

In this Issue....

Special Thanks to those that help put this newsletter together and edit the content:

David Franke
Joli Ballew

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Special Interest Groups (SIGs) ...

Sessions with presentations, discussion, and exchanges of information

Building Web Sites — 8:00 am

Alan Lummus
Alan@bkmts.com

Beginning in June, "**Building Websites**" and "**Making Money on the Internet**" are combining into a single SIG titled **"Making Money on the Internet**" that will run from 9-10 am. See the SIG Notes below.

HTML5/CSS3/JavaScript SIG *10 am - 12pm*

Tuc Goodwin
tgoodwin@ntpcug.org

Chris Morgan
chris.morgan@ntpcug.org

The HTML5/CSS3/JavaScript SIG (the combined .NET Development and Web Development SIGs) will be meeting at the normal time 10:00 – 12:00.

Digital Photography — 10:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
harold.smith@ntpcug.org

With our ever rapidly ever-changing photo industry, what can we expect?

- There are always some new additions made to all camera models
- There will be deletions made on new equipment to make room for the additions.

Our discussion will include new features which are added. It is then up to us to evaluate these as to whether they are beneficial and worthy of replacing on our present equipment.

Our job isn't complete until we also consider which features have been deleted on those new models and how will we miss them?

Digital Photo Editing Software — 11:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
harold.smith@ntpcug.org
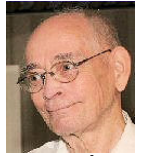
Updating photo editing software becomes necessary to provide new features that will make us more productive. Our precaution then is to evaluate whether a new learning cycle will be worth replacing our present system.

I have different photo and imaging editors on three computers. It just happens that the photo edit system I use the most is three versions behind the latest available. Yes, I do have all the later versions for evaluation purposes. My newer versions just do not add anything that makes my work any better or easier.

This month, we will look over new editing concepts as we find them and evaluate whether they warrant us to update at this time. Even with the free editors available, we may prefer not to upgrade especially when having these slow us down while learning where commands may have become relocated. We can always come back later when some other new features may help improve our performance.

We will review an imagery system created used for artistic work.

HTPC/Home Automation SIG – 8 am

Home Theater (or Media) PCs and Home Automation come in an endless range of capability, complexity and price. It may just be setting the home thermostat remotely, routing audio and/or video to different rooms, and more. Come join us as we cover this new & exciting area.

Internet — 11:00 am

Glynn Brooks
glynn.brooks@ntpcug.org
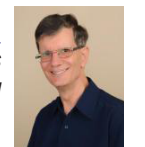
No meeting due to a special presentation during this time.

Investors - 1:30 pm

Gil Brand
gbrand@ntpcug.org

We will have our usual Q&A session. Bring your questions and experiences in investing and share with the group.

Linux Installation Project – 9:00 am

The Linux Installation Project helps users with their Linux installs and any configuration problems. Bring your machine and we will help you get it running.

Making Money on the Internet — 9:00 am

Alan Lummus
Alan@bkmts.com

In June, **Georgene Harkness**, author of Making a GREAT Living with Fulfillment by Amazon and owner of the popular Amazon news site Amazopia.com, will speak about the Fulfillment by Amazon (FBA) program. She will cover how the program works, why it works, and how you can use FBA to make a good income without a website of your own, or an e-mail list, or most of the other trappings of the usual Internet business. In addition to the positive aspects, Georgene will also address the pitfalls of FBA.

Microsoft Access SIG —11:00 am

Larry Linson
larry.linson2 @ntpcug.org
Jim Wehe
jimwehe @gmail.com

On **June 15, 2013** Access SIG Co-Leader **Larry Linson** will present **Practical Database Design,** subtitled **Structuring Your Tables**. Larry says the first step on many of the database applications discussed by attendees in May is to review the tables and layout and this will be a start. Time permitting, we will also look in more detail at how we can be of most assistance to the attendees.

In **May, 2013** we began to formulate our roadmap for the Access SIG in coming months. Several people came, as we requested, with a list of their needs. We will delve deeper into those needs and, as we can, help with suggestions, examples, and discussions at later meetings.

In **April, 2013** we celebrated **Twenty Years of the NTPCUG Access SIG** at the main NTPCUG meeting from 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. **Teresa Hennig** came all the way from Seattle to be our **guest speaker** – to appeal to the wider audience in the NTPCUG, she spoke on **Managing Complex Projects** and her presentation was well-received. And, in keeping with our tradition of "valuable prizes", there was a prize for everyone (some from Teresa, some from Larry, and most from Microsoft).

Why you should join us: If you have an Access application and need some guidance, assistance, or just encouragement, come to our meeting and let us know. If you have a need for a computer application, we may be able to help you determine whether Access is the right software to use. We can't teach a class in just one hour per month, but we will discuss issues, perhaps solve some immediate problems, and identify resources you can use.

Valuable prizes: We had lots of prizes at the April Anniversary meeting, but we will have a drawing for prizes in June, too. Remember that value like beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Microsoft Application Development Study Group SIG - 1:30 pm

Tom Perkins
tomperki@gmail.com

Topic to be announced.

Look forward to seeing you in the session
Questions or comments?

Contact Tom Perkins (tomperki@gmail.com) or Chris Morgan (chris.morgan@ntpcug.org)

Microsoft Excel – 8:00 am

Frank Tubbs, SIG leader
ftubbs @sbcglobal.net

The subject of lists keeps raising its head, so we will go over list management again. In the past, we have looked at PivotTables and simple filtering, so now let's delve into Subtotals and possibly look at special formulas and

functions. If we have time, we can see how SUMIF, COUNTIF, and other such functions can yield insight into what our data reveals.

Salesforce.com – 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

The **401 study group** meets 11:00 to 12:00, and the **501 study group** meets 12:30 to 1:30.

Additional notes: If you are studying for either the 401 or 501, you are welcome to the other section as well. No tests, just great support and camaraderie.

Powershell – 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Josh Miller
jmiller76@gmail.com

Larry Weiss
lfw@airmail.net

Topic to be announced.

Windows Inside Out — 12:30 pm

Glynn Brooks
glynn.brooks@ntpcug.org

Interesting Features in 7-zip

I thought it would be worthwhile to look at some of the advanced features of the open source utility 7-zip. Most folks think of it as just a free alternative to WinZip, but I've discovered a number of features that really help me to work with .ISO, .EXE, and .DLL files. Come to the meeting and I'll show you how it works on Windows 7 and Windows 8.

Windows Tips & Tricks — 9:00-11:00 am

Gil Brand
gbrand@ntpcug.org

Chuck Stark
chuck.stark@ntpcug.org

Open Q&A this month. And if you have a 'troubled' system, contact Chuck or Gil for a possible 'live, no net' troubleshooting session.

Wireless Communications — 12:30 pm

Birl Smith
birl.smith@ntpcug.org

Software Defined Networking

Word — 10:00 am

Sharon Dorsey
Sharon.Dorsey@ntpcug.org

References Group

Table of Contents, and Inserting Captions.

Raffle Winner

Congrats to longtime member **Doug Scott**, who won the April-May raffle for a one-of-a-kind PC, a dual core Dell Precision 690 tower with 8GB of ram, etc. Thanks to TCVC for all the parts, and to **Chuck Stark** for lovingly (?) assembling it all.

NTPCUG NEWSLETTER AD RATES AND DESCRIPTION

Paid advertising is available within the North Texas PC News at reasonable rates. The online Newsletter is published monthly and is distributed in PDF format to approximately 200 registered members.

SIZE	Price / One Issue	Price Each - Six Issues
Full Page	$120	$ 85
Half Page (vertical)	$ 75	$ 65
Half Page (horizontal)	$ 75	$ 65
Quarter Page	$ 50	$ 40
Business Card	$ 35	$ 25
NTPCUG Members	Half Price	

Policies & Mechanicals

- Commercial ads –
  - o   repro form, final size, ready for printing
  - o   JPEG or approved format
  - o   300 DPI minimum
- Text ads should follow most commonly used font styles
- No ads on front page
- Related only; suitable at discretion of NTPCUG
- Payment in advance
- Send requests for information, contacts, or orders to: **Advertising@ntpcug.org**

By Teresa Hennig

COMMUNITY DOWNLOADS -- Score Points for our User Groups!

Share these links - Help your colleagues and friends learn about new technologies

* indicates double points for downloads through June 30

Downloads, Updates and Other Good Stuff

* Windows Azure Free 90-Day Trial- Download by June 30-earn DOUBLE POINTS for the group

http://www.microsoft.com/click/services/Redirect2.ashx?CR_CC=200132165

* Windows Server 2012

http://www.microsoft.com/click/services/Redirect2.ashx?CR_CC=200132168

* Hyper-V Server 2012

http://www.microsoft.com/click/services/Redirect2.ashx?CR_CC=200145058

* System Center 2012 Suite

http://www.microsoft.com/click/services/Redirect2.ashx?CR_CC=200132167

Virtual Academy

http://www.microsoft.com/click/services/Redirect2.ashx?CR_CC=200132169

Your App Adventure Starts Here: Downloads, Training, Expert assistance

http://www.microsoft.com/click/services/Redirect2.ashx?CR_CC=200132163

Register to embark on an expert-guided 30-day voyage of app development. Sign up now and you'll receive the tools, help, and support you need to get your Windows 8 and Windows Phone 8 apps developed. Already have an app? We have resources to help iOS developers get started building Windows Store apps**.**

Office 365 - Home Premium - $99.99/year for five devices (June 2013)

Get the 30 day trial or sign up for the monthly or annual subscription.

http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/free-trial-try-microsoft-office-2013-and-office-365-products-FX102858196.aspx

Check out Office 2013   -- Downloads available for Office 365 and Office 2013

Download Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013 – (Sept 2012)

http://technet.microsoft.com/en-US/evalcenter/jj192782.aspx

Get the full featured version for a *60 day trial* period.

RESOURCE TIPS:

Access MVPs – Sharing code and resources

Several Access MVP share resources and links through the website hosted by Crystal. You will find the tools offered during Crystal's presentation on her page.

http://www.AccessMVP.com

Doug Steele, Access MVP and author of "Access Solutions" shares tips and links to other resources. http://www.accessmvp.com/djsteele/AccessIndex.html

Access Blog – by the Access Team --- one of the top blogs on MSDN!!!

Stay tuned to the community … The team shares insights into their schedule, their favorite features, new features and how to use them. This is also an ideal venue for the team to talk about issues that are of interest to the Access community. You'll learn about the people and some of the factors that are helping to shape the future of Access. Whether you're a seasoned developer or just learning about Access, you'll find invaluable information and techniques. From creating a database template to getting help when you need it, The Access Blog covers the gamut. http://blogs.msdn.com/access/default.aspx

A couple of good sites to search for information and programming assistance are at

www.mvps.org and Office Developer Center on MSDN. And, we've been mentioning the newsgroups. You can search and drill through thousands of threads. Visit http://search.microsoft.com/en-us/CommunityResults.aspx?q=office%20community to search through Microsoft community and support options.

You may also find what you are looking for by using http://groups.google.com or by setting multiple search criteria at www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en.

Utter Access Discussion Forum

Touted as the number one Access community forum! This is a great place to get answers to your questions. And, you'll see several familiar names as some of our members are prolific posters. Hey, there are even photos from the MVP Summit, so check it out! www.utteraccess.com/forums/index.php

A compilation of links to Access Resources

This site provides an impressive array of links to a variety of resources for Access developers and users: www.cbel.com/ms_access/.

Access Developer Portal MSDN

For database samples and tutorials provided by Access MVP and other experts, see
http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/office/aa905400.aspx.

Database Issue Checker

Access MVP, Allen Browne offer tips and utilities for casual users through expert developers. The Issue Checker can be used during development or to troubleshoot legacy files. Allen's site provides a host of other tips and resources, including a compilation of reserved words. http://allenbrowne.com/ or http://allenbrowne.com/AppIssueChecker.html

Mr Excel – Excel tips and support and … Learn Excel from Bill Jelen (May 2012)

Mr Excel represents an entire community of Excel power users how are sharing their expertise, experiences and time through blogs, podcasts, tips, forums and links to a wealth of other reference materials. Among the links you'll find Bill Jelen's podcasts and books – including several that can be invaluable tools in Access projects – such as the random number selector. Visit the website, www.mrexcel.com or go to http://learnmrexcel.wordpress.com for a blog and videos.

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NOTICE: If you are one of the several who indicated to our guest speaker Teresa Hennig at the Twentieth Anniversary meeting of the Access SIG you'd send pictures and/or comments, she's eager to have those to pass on to the sponsors who donated valuable prizes. Her e-mail address is:

Teresa@DataDynamicsNW.com , and she sends her thanks in advance.

NTPCUG Member Websites

Are you an NTPCUG member? Do you have a website that you would like to share with other members? Here is your opportunity to publicize your hobby, personal interests or a business.

NTPCUG now permits each member to post their name along with <u>one</u> website at www.NTPCUG.org and in our newsletter.   Member links to be posted are subject to Board approval, and cannot contain inappropriate content or promote illegal activities – all the usual conditions that responsible persons expect. Send us your links now!

Here are our current member sites:

Member & Website	Member & Website

Howard Lee Harkness
    http://amazopia.com
	Bob Hawkins
	    www.fairviewmicrowave.com

Bill Parker
    www.Partec.net
	Doug Gorrie
	    www.JanetGorrieInteriors.com

Larry Weiss
    https://sites.google.com/site/powershellsig
	Fred Willians
	    www.JFHequipment.com

If you wish to post as shown above, just e-mail *webmaster@ntpcug.org* with your name, member number and the URL of your desired website. We'll post your name and URL on our website

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GLASBERGEN

"THE COMPUTER SAYS I NEED TO UPGRADE MY BRAIN
TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH ITS NEW SOFTWARE."

Spike Smith, NCE
harold.smith@ntpcug.org

Those Big Cameras

An entertaining few moments for a photographer while waiting on his clientele is often used by browsing through professional photography catalogs and magazines. Ah yes, a pleasure indeed! A wish book. But how often can we afford a new $15,000.00 camera? Or, even those $800.00 to $8,000.00 assortments? Perhaps we can carefully dream on and still not prematurely purchase even a lowly new $550.00 model.

As long as overindulgence is avoided, I find it enlightening to note what is new and any trends that will make our lives easier. Then track which of several improvements that will eventually trickle down into the medium-priced and economy cameras.

While we peruse several admirable improvements we find it easy to see what is developing in the industry. Taking heed of model changes in the prosumer and professional range is not an exhausting pastime as they do not rapidly change their models nor do they increase their volume of hype into exhaustive obfuscation. After all, we invest $1,000's instead of $100's and our large expenditures are then timed into three- to six-year intervals. Marketing philosophy for those voluminous $150.00 to $300.00 (throw-away) models require: glittering generalities published by aggressive marketing on a monthly basis. In retrospect, big camera marketing earns glowing testimonials.

What are some of those great features we admire in the high-end models? Oh yes, every one of these are dSLR and have optical or LCD viewers to allow shooting out-of-doors in sunlight.

The uppermost ends of these high performing models use replaceable 35mm (full-frame) premium glass lenses. These are time-proven to take manufacturing advantage to be as flawless as practical. Canon uses these 35mm proven lenses even on their prosumer line using the smaller sized (APS-C) sensor. Several other prosumer camera manufacturers are trying conversions to more economically match smaller sensors.

Due to the cost of manufacturing large lenses, their inherent weight, and physical size the industry trend will likely be reduced for matching the sensor sizes. As we note for our camera and lens stock we are not in a hurry to make experimental changes with our proven designs. Canon, Nikkor, and Sony have great lens and also we rely upon Sigma, Tamron, and others to supplement standard needs beyond the OEM.

When I browse my Rangefinder magazines I spend as much time looking over ads for: Canon, Olympus, Nikon, Sony, but I notice another in the big class that has been absent for a while – Pentax.

The Pentax K-5-II is a prosumer model ($1,000 w/o lens) and is rated at 16.3 megapixels resolution. Wear it and shoot with it in the rain and blowing sand. How about its amazing low-light auto focus ability? You can't see what you're doing but camera still auto focuses well even in moonlight.

Would you believe they call it light-weight while weighing in at three pounds with a typical zoom lens mounted?

In those early days we marveled at an ISO (film speed rating) of 800, and thought that was super. Now let's look at the Pentax perhaps having an award-winning shot at ISO 12,800.

This Pentax decides to make your JPEG format pictures look like they have already been through your photo editor. You can preset its output enhancement for values of your choice. After all, you may want to customize your architectural shots different from soccer kids or brides. Now you can immediately shoot and send a tremendous looking photo to friends that can be printed and framed at 3' x 4' but likely will be viewed on a 3" display on a cell phone before being discarded (or just automatically forwarded to multi-name list. If the Pentax 5 were yours and you do not wish to go to your deluxe editor you may easily make your own good looking 8" x 10" prints from your home printer.

Megapixel Resolution is one of the highest touted values and perhaps the most misunderstood. It is interesting for us to follow as newer systems are constantly trying to improve this value in order to improve their rating. Those big cameras generally have great resolution. We always see resolution mentioned in ads as we are to believe nothing can be better but the highest available.

If we were to compare five fine cameras from model year 2000 thru 2010 we will note improvements made to resolution. These models shown below are typical for the industry. All are prosumer models with cropped APS-C sensors

(2000)   Canon EOS 30D with 8.2 MP

(2003)   Canon EOS 10D with 6.3 MP

(2004)   Canon EOS 20D with 8.25 MP

(2009)   Canon EOS 7D   with 18 MP   CF only

(2010)   Canon EOS 60D with 18 MP has pop up flash & articulated LCD.

If we were to look at megapixel resolution only, we would say the above cameras are progressively better by year. Should we buy on pixel values alone? Take a closer look at 7D above, and note that it accepts CF cards only. It has traditional LCD. Now if we looked at the 60D that follows it, that one accepts both CF and SD memory cards. One outstanding feature in the 60D is an articulated LCD allowing viewing from any angle.

About that Megapixel resolution –

Pentax K-5 II   = 16.3 MP

Canon T4i   = 18.0 MP

(2013) Nikon D7100   = 24.1 MP   (1.3 crop factor)

Nikon Coolpix D3200   = 24.2 MP   (DX format, 1.5 conversion)

These camera makers like to tell us different values for "specmanship" confusion. The K-5 II states an Auto ISO of 100-6400. That's nice. They also state an equivalent ISO be-

tween 80 and 51,200. Oh yes, they then state ISO standard is 100 – 12,800. Since these values are purposely written to confuse you – please do not let this happen. When you can find a camera that meets ISO values between 100 and 6,400 you will likely never find a use for any higher value. However, no two sensor outputs are taught to treat ISO values the same. What is important to us (the user – not the lab) is what the resultant image looks like in the final user form.

There is a normal ISO value and when a higher ISO is created it is by amplifying the sensor outputs (desired signal plus an unwanted inherent noise) according to proprietary programs. This proprietary treatment of ISO is the secret to usability of expanded ISO values. This is a secret because it is a very complex treatment. An oversimplified idea of what happens is samples are taken of the inherent noise and this is inverted and fed back to the amplified composite to nullify the noise content.

What we have seen from the past decade is that an improvement from an 800 ISO has been extended to probable 8,000 and a marginally usable ISO extended to 51,000.

Why do most pictures of real people in camera ads shot in natural light? Because that what the sensors, lenses, gimmicks, and software are designed for. They show a pretty woman as: she, flowers, the background, and her makeup, as they are meant to look.

An example of when we look for useful clues in magazines and blogs

An example for a (2010) camera:

STM Lens Support for Quiet AF in Movies

Doesn't this insinuate that others out there have a problem with this?

Make yourself a 13" x 19" print at ISO 6,400 and you will see degradation in quality. However, if it is small you may still want to use this value – at least for these conditions. When you get to the nitty-gritty you will find that manufacturer's testers select certain colors and textures to promote bragging rights for their super ISO values. Just don't go buy that super ISO rated camera to take those coveted wedding photos without external lighting. Instead, keep your old camera and buy some lighting kits. Oh yes, bring along a couple of assistants.

At one time decades ago, I was told I should read monthly magazines like: Look, Life, and various photography magazines. I don't know why but I tried it like I was supposed to. After becoming an avid reader, I discovered I never bothered looking at the pictures but did enjoy those cartoons. What I am looking for in the next decade is to keep the photo magazines coming so I can keep up with techniques but please have them there publishing guys add cartoons.

Monthly NTPCUG Meeting Flyer – Can You Help Distribute?

Each month, we send members a flyer listing the upcoming second and third Saturday SIG meeting information. We work to fit it all on one page so it can be easily printed and posted in offices and public areas. It can also be sent by e-mail to family members, friends, colleagues, etc.

With your help we hope to generate increased interest in User Group activities, thereby helping us grow. We rely on members, SIG leaders, Board members and volunteers to share this information with others. We also need you to consider new options beyond the obvious – bulletin boards, etc.

We ask you, our members, to think of places where you can post the monthly flyer and to e-mail it to anyone you know who may be interested.

We try mightily to get this out before the weekend preceding the second Saturday of each month so you have time to "do your thing".

With your help we can grow our Group and reach others who can "Share what you know, learn what you don't."

> **Where have you sent the June flyer?**

Volunteering

Every board member, officer, chairman, and SIG leader is a volunteer. No one in this organization receives any payment for their work. Without our volunteers, NTPCUG would not exist.

Please consider volunteering for one of these important jobs:

Information Desk — Charles Rem
crem@ntpcug.org

Assist with check-in process at 3rd Saturday. One or more hours, even periodically, will make a difference.

This is an ongoing need. YOU can help, and it's not difficult. Training provided, so you really have no excuse not to assist - right?

Mentoring — Tom Sweet
tom.sweet@ntpcug.org

Communicate with new members to ensure they are aware of the benefits, SIG opportunities and help them in numerous ways to feel welcome and to know that we care about them.

Newsletter — Doug Gorrie, David Franke
doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org
davef81@gmail.com

We need someone to step forward to help request and collect articles from SIG Leaders for the monthly flyer and the newsletter. No experience required -- training provided.

NTPCUG Elected Officials
for 2013

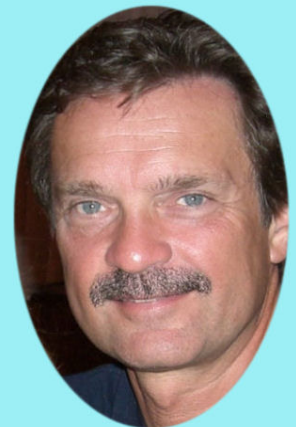Jesse Hastcoat
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Bill Drissel
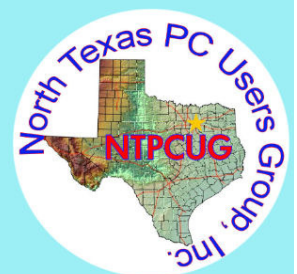*President-Elec*

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Spike (Harold) Smith

Chuck Stark
Treasurer

Sharon Dorsey

Stuart Yarus

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
NTPCUG

Calendar

June 2013	July 2013	August 2013
June 15 8:00 am—2:30 pm	**July 20** 8:00 am—2:30 pm	**Aug 17** 8:00 am—2:30 pm

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