North Texas PC News

Tips and Tricks – Digital Photography

By Spike Smith

A Peculiar Wedding

There is reason why we should be familiar with the tricks played within our trade. Here are a few items of interest I used while myself as the photographer and client were both *bending the rules.*

Every bride and her mother want to have the grandest of all weddings. It costs big money, but lots of brides don't stop wanting when their budget is found to be a bit meager.

The Grandeur Wedding on a Shoestring

I know one bride that envisioned a a wedding with more grandeur than she could realistically afford. She wanted her man and his groomsmen to be fully attired. But… where does the money come from? Regardless, she wanted a ceremony that would last a lifetime. She wanted everything those society people enjoy in *their* weddings.

The bride-to-be and I were both working out of the same engineering office, so I just couldn't refuse to help her achieve her goal. I would just charge her costs for the film and any processing of album prints (and she was sworn never to tell anyone it was a freebie).

Now, let's allow her eager mind to get started.

How about those tuxedo rentals? Trousers are black, aren't they? Most guys have one pair of black shoes around somewhere, and maybe at least one white shirt is available. But it still costs money. Couldn't the groomsmen buy and wear something reusable?

Aha! She hit on that one. Trousers – no penalty-to-be for bride or groom. Off to the store they go, and they purchase a new set of jeans. Nope, not traditional blue jeans, as they have a few of those already. Black jeans. Yes, perfect!

Now, bride and groom search tux rental agencies to rent just the jacket, and now the guys are all set.   And they keep their trousers (the black jeans) as everlasting memories when they plow, excavate, drive the truck, etc. This is what they call no-waste (recycle, or something).

Whoops! There were no cummerbunds or bow ties rented. (If your client should try this sometime – those cummerbunds will hide those (ugh!) jean waistlines.

There should be a church at a reasonable price and within driving distance. Yep, three

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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

All SIG meetings at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 6411 LBJ Fwy in Dallas (between Preston & Hillcrest, north side of LBJ), *normally* the third Saturday of each month.

HTPC/Home Automation – 8:00 am

Bill Parker
Bill.Parker at ntpcug.org

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, or performing other, similar tasks. We are not meeting this month.

Powershell – 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Larry Weiss
LFW at airmail.net

Josh Miller
jmiller76 at gmail.com

From 8 to 9 am, we will have an informal hour covering topics and demonstrations that come up in discussion. The second hour starting at 9 am will begin with a discussion of advanced NTFS topics including discovering hard links and compressed files and also using NTFS alternative file streams.

If anyone has a script that they would like to share please bring it to the meeting. Discussion about scripts and "what I did" situations are a driving force of the PowerShell community.

Microsoft Excel – 8:00 am

Frank Tubbs, SIG leader
Ftubbs at sbcglobal.net

TBD

Windows Tips & Tricks — 9:00 - Noon

Chuck Stark
chuck.stark at ntpcug.org

Gil Brand
GB9130 at Gmail.com

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

Making Money on the Internet — 9:00 am

Alan Lummus
Alan at bkmts.com

November 7th and 14th, our SIG will meet from 8 am until 5 pm each day at Irving facilities provided by a SIG member, with the intent for each of us to design and deploy at least one new website within those focused 16 hours.

At October's SIG meeting, we'll finalize our plans, assign preliminary tasks that will help assure successes, and listen and feedback on one another's website plans. Come and bring your experience and ideas, as we all work to make money on the Internet.

Microsoft Application Development Study Group SIG - 10 am to Noon

Tom Perkins
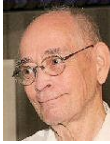TomPerki *at* Gmail.com

Chris Morgan
Chris.Morgan *at* ntpcug.org

This month, the AppDev SIG will provide an introduction to ASP.NET 5.

Digital Photo Editing Software — 10:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
Spike *at* spike-info.com

We will discuss what many users are presently purchasing. These users may have been curious of certain new features and specialty cameras. You too may have considered but would like to know how to effectively use them.
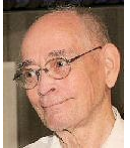
Two months ago, we displayed and discussed a super unbreakable camera. Maybe it will reappear from the Kreshtool bag this Saturday. Possibly one feature of this small but rugged fine picture taker can be as a defensive weapon fending off hoodlums as you pick up resources from an ATM.

If you have picked up a camera loaded with a fine feature or two, bring it with you for show and tell. If it is an older camera, bring it along too.

I have several gadgets and not all work as advertised. We will observe a few of these common gadgets and tools while observing what is salvageable.
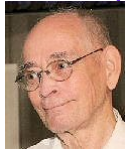
Digital Photography — 10:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
Harold.Smith *at* ntpcug.org

This month is devoted to beginners Q&A. Why use compact and then why move to DSLR.

Digital Photo Editing — 11:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
Harold.Smith *at* ntpcug.org

Is free software good enough? When and if we will need to advance to costly software. Q&A invited. Beginners and advisers welcome.

Word — 10:00 am

Sharon Dorsey
Sharon.Dorsey *at* ntpcug.org

Word 2013 – Formatting Pages

In October, the Word SIG is going back to the basics. We are going to review the section on the Home Tab called Font.

I know everyone who attends our session has changed the font type, size and color. Perhaps you have been bold and made your type **BOLD**. If you are curious about all the other icons in the Font Group, come on Saturday and learn what the other icons do. You may discover your creative side and start making your plain documents fancy.

Also, I will demonstrate a shortcut to selecting font options and I will show how to save your favorite font options.

Be seeing you soon.

Internet — 11:00 am

Glynn Brooks
Glynn.Brooks *at* ntpcug.org

Managing Your Digital Assets: A "big picture" look at how to get a handle on your online accounts, keep records on all your software "agreements", and how to arrange for someone else to take over when the need arises.

Windows Inside Out — 12:30 pm

Glynn Brooks
glynn.brooks *at* ntpcug.org

Videos and discussion of the new gadgets, phones, and equipment Microsoft announced on October 6.

Salesforce.com – 11:00 am; 12:30 pm

Salesforce.com offers two major certifications for Force.com Developers: The Developer Certification (DEV401) and the Advanced Developer Certification, (DEV501).

Dallas Salesforce Developers Group is pleased to offer FREE classes each year to candidates.

All, remember, this is the study group for 401 and 501 (aka the study group). Not to be confused with our 4th Wednesday meeting held at the Improving Enterprise (which is more mischief, no studying). The objective is for each of us to take the respective exams at the end of the sessions, so we will keep up the pace. Ask questions. These are not easy exams, but I am convinced that we can get everyone past the finish line.

Wireless Communications — 12:30 pm

Birl Smith
birl.smith *at* ntpcug.org

TBD

Investors - 1:30 pm

Gil Brand
GB9130 *at* Gmail.com

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

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!

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 and in the newsletter for as long as your membership remains current.

Here are our current member sites:

Member & Website	*Member & Website*
Howard Lee Harkness	**Bob Hawkins**
http://amazopia.com	www.fairviewmicrowave.com
Bill Parker	**Doug Gorrie**
www.Partec.net	www.JanetGorrieInteriors.com
Larry Weiss	**Fred Williams**
https://sites.google.com/site/powershellsig	www.JFHequipment.com
Peter Bendel	**Sharon Dorsey**
www.codekitchen.com.au	www.organizingelements.com

participants were within three miles and the rest of us drove *over hill and over dale* and (you bet – the dusty trail,) wherever those many lanes led one. Most person's drive (using three maps) spent over an hour's windshield time.

Why did we all do this? Well, the bride was a very charming and efficient drafter in the engineering office. Groom-to-be was a material expediter and one who loved the fastest of racing stock cars. (They hooked up with one another at one of those 190 mph tracks).

A very nice formal ceremony was accomplished. Lots of traditional ceremonial pictures plus close friends and family were captured. Finally, the time approached for the long journey to their home for the reception. (Bride-to-be had pre-made servings to handle 35 people.)

I figured it was time to capture traditional pictures but … golly, gee whiz ... something is missing. Bride noticed the same as she muttered, "Oh 'S..t'. The cake was delivered to the church and she forgot to pick it up on the way out. Bye, see you all shortly."

This gave us all (considerable) time to relax, play basketball, football, tapping another beer keg or two.

About an hour and a half later, I see the empty-handed bride with (almost) a tear in the eyes. She explained that the custodian finished his duties and locked up the church soon after the wedding – thus no cake and candles.

Well, by now, all of the sportsmen have tired themselves out in the front yard and were ready for less strenuous whatevers.

The immaculate dinner was unveiled, my camera became active, and the party had begun.

I was pleased there was that great food because the delay playing games in front yard had wiped out three kegs of beer and a little sobering-up would help.

Gifts were opened, acknowledged, and admired.

Many good photographs made their way into her system.

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 email 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 September 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 has a Facebook and Twitter account.

Join us!

Renew Your NTPCUG Membership For "FREE"?

The Board has established a new NTPCUG benefit that permits renewing of memberships without the usual membership fee.

Simply put, any member that writes three articles for our newsletter, subject to the following criteria, can renew without cost. In this manner, we are encouraging our membership to share their expertise with other members, as well as providing an opportunity for members to re-search issues and share the results with others.

The current requirements for the program are as follows:

1. You must be a current member.

2. Requires at least three articles/year, submitted during the member's current member-ship year.

3. Articles must be at least a couple pages long in the newsletter, excluding any pictures, diagrams, etc. NOTE that the length is determined after editing, if needed.

4. Longer articles may be broken up across two months, and consideration will be given to counting it as TWO articles. However, length by itself may not count as more than one – it's meaningful content we're after.

5. Articles must be submitted at least two weeks prior to publication to allow time to re-view/edit. However, if the content is clean and readily understood, and requires only minimal review, and we have time to go over it, we might take it with less notice.

6. No plagiarizing, except for "small" amounts where credit is given to the actual author or source.

7. Articles must be relative to the goals and topics of our User Group. If in doubt, check with the Editor before writing it up.

8. At time of membership expiration, it is the member's responsibility to contact the Editor to request that their membership be extended, and list the months in which their articles ap-peared. We will confirm the details and have the Membership chairman extend you another year.

Please give this new program some thought, and come up with some good material we can use. Share your knowledge, in line with our motto –

"Share what you know, learn what you don't."

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**
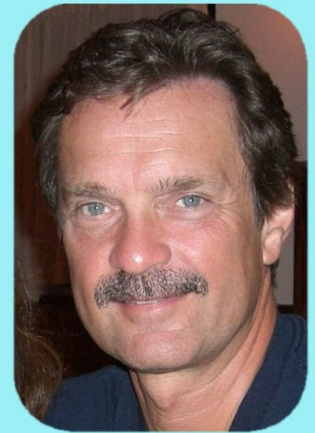
NTPCUG 2015 Elected Officials

Jesse Hastcoat
President

Bill Drissel
President -Elect

Directors

Tuc Goodwin

Chuck Stark
Treasurer

Sharon Dorsey

Lisa Katzenstein

Spike (Harold) Smith

Calendar

October 2015	November 2015	December 2015
Oct 17 8:00 am—2:30 pm	**Nov 21** 8:00 am—2:30 pm	**Dec 19** 8:00 am—2:30 pm

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