



# North Texas PC News

www.ntpcug.org

North Texas PC Users Group  
King of Glory Lutheran Church  
6411 Lyndon B. Johnson  
Freeway Dallas, Texas

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## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

As the 2015 year comes to a close, our Board of Directors want to convey our hopes that *all* our members and their families have a truly great Holiday season. The Board and the entire membership are also very appreciative of the ongoing efforts put forth by all our SIG Leaders and numerous volunteers in making NTPCUG a success. *Lots* of User Groups around the USA have come and gone, yet NTPCUG is still here, thanks to the steadfast support of our members and volunteers. **Thanks to you all !!!**

As the new 2016 year begins, don't forget that we are finalizing our list of candidates for next year's Board of Directors. That candidate list will be e-mailed to our membership before Christmas, and we ask that you do a quick review of their names and short biographies in preparation for voting in early January. A ballot and instructions should be in your hands shortly after the New Year, and we ask that you plan on voting prior to the January 16th meeting, where the votes will be tallied and announced.

Thanks to everyone that has submitted their name as a candidate, **or plans to in the next very few days**. We are always in need of fresh ideas and perspectives, and as a Board member, you will gain invaluable insight as to how the organization runs and what is needed to remain successful. *Prior experience is not required – we provide on-the job training*. ☺ Remember, we are an all-volunteer group!!

## 'Tis the Season (To Be Scammed ...)

As we enjoy the Season and all the associated activities, it's sometimes easy to let our guard down. But, in a word ...**Don't**. Sadly, scams are a routine par of life these days, but the scammers *really* come out in droves during the Holidays. It's to your benefit to monitor sources that can help you avoid being a victim, both behind your PC and out in the open.

CERT (Computer Emergency Readiness Team) provides routine tips and reminders to individuals and businesses about security risks and scams of all sorts. Recent ones in the past week have advised of security update releases to Firefox and Chrome browsers that many of us use. Another recent advisory discusses the risks inherent in using routers in your home and small business, reminding you to look at and tweak the security (*Cont'd on Page 8*)

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

- **David Franke**
- **Joli Ballew**

# 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

*We are not meeting this month,*  
but join us in January 2016.



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.

## Making Money on the Internet — 9:00 am



**Alan Lummus**

Alan at bkmts.com

This month, as we celebrate the holidays, we'll visit one of our SIG member's developing websites and work through their questions. As time allows, we'll explore various plugins for WordPress and consider the new Drupal 8 platform. Is it ready for prime time, or should you stay with version 7 a little longer?

Bring your experience, questions and know-how. We've a lot to learn together. And be sure to bring along someone and some libations to help make the season bright...



## Powershell – 8:00 am - 10:00 am

**Larry Weiss**

LFW at airmail.net

**Josh Miller**

jmiller76 at gmail.com

This month, we will have a PowerShell general discussion.

## Microsoft Excel – 8:00 am

**Frank Tubbs**, SIG leader

Ftubbs at sbcglobal.net

I think it is time to try a formula or two. Last month, I showed some items I used at work, and I am leaning toward more ideas to glean data results from dirty data input. Maybe one of you has a problem we can solve. Bring it in and I'll put my project aside to work on your question.

That is the fun of our group, sharing and helping to solve the problems encountered out in that nasty real world.

## Microsoft Application Development Study Group SIG - 10 am to Noon



**Tom Perkins**

TomPerki at Gmail.com



**Chris Morgan**

Chris.Morgan at ntpcug.org

## Object Persistence – Theories, Techniques, Pitfalls, and Gotchas

For December, **Stephen Johnson** will be presenting a talk on Object Persistence. The definition and History of Object Persistence; and various methods for object persistence including INI Files, Registry, and XML files.

Stephen will also discuss Pitfalls and Gotchas that he has experienced over the years and how to avoid and work around them, in addition, he will describe new techniques that he has developed.

## Windows Tips & Tricks — 9:00 - Noon



**Chuck Stark**

chuck.stark at ntpcug.org



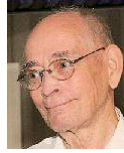
**Gil Brand**

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.

## Digital Photography — 10:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE  
Harold.Smith at ntpcug.org



We have heard about many features associated with modern digital cameras. However, do we know how to make full use of them?

With today's cameras whether a point and shoot for less than \$200.00 or elaborate systems with over \$1,000 price tags, we can now exploit settings of: ISO (film speed), shutter speed, anti-shake, automatic focus, white balance, bracketing, priorities – timing, aperture, to name a few.

We have many automatic features designed for camera to overlook the situation and then assumes the best average setting up for a good exposure. This is great for snapshots where we do not have time to decide a perfect setup. Auto features are great for a new user to let the camera do the setting up for the operator.

All cameras (from cheapest to highest priced) can be set to operate as a point and shoot and give you excellent results.

Since our goal is *to take better pictures* we need to understand just what typical conditions the camera is trying for. With this knowledge, we can modify the settings or use priorities or using exacting manual settings.

When we decide to use an auto setting of sorts, we most know how close we can assume which preset best meets our requirement.

Today's cameras will do a fair job without us figuring out the presets. With understanding the camera's features we can then make excellent pictures under any situation.

Can you identify with histograms? Do you know the camera will use these to automatically make all camera adjustments? Also, would you realize that using this particular method can be most unreliable?

Okay, come join us beginners and professionals too, come on in and join us for a better understanding of your camera operation.

If you are ready to buy a new camera, it is good for you to learn how the features work and if the camera you may be looking at contains your feature.

Bring in your questions, your camera, your friends and enjoy.

## Digital Photo Editing Software — 11:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE  
Spike at spike-info.com



Our 10:00 o'clock session may spill into this hour. Since our modern cameras also add a number of editing features, we need to find them and (1) learn how to use them and (2) learn how to avoid their taking over.

As for about 95% of everyday use, those free editors on the market along with our camera's abilities is all most people need.

If we do some publishing and make a book, we will find a medium priced editing program a necessity. If we are working for a company that uses Adobe Photoshop then you already know what you need (and perhaps your employer should pay for your home copy).

Come on in and enjoy learning and using our NTPCUG motto.

## Word — 10:00 am

Sharon Dorsey  
Sharon.Dorsey at ntpcug.org



### **Word 2013 – Tables – Substitute for Excel and other uses.**

Do you need to organize text and data? Do you think you need to use worksheets in Excel to organize text or data? I'll show you how you can use tables in Word to accomplish the same thing. Word tables allow you to manipulate information such as sorting data and performing calculations. We will also discuss converting existing text into a table, using a Quick Parts table and using Excel within Word.

Join us at the December meeting and learn how to make your tables functional, distinctive and . . . ***all that pizzazz!***

## Internet — 11:00 am

Glynn Brooks  
Glynn.Brooks at ntpcug.org



***The Internet SIG will not be meeting in December***, but we will see you in January.

### **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.

### **Windows Inside Out — 12:30 pm**

**Glynn Brooks**  
glynn.brooks at ntpcug.org



*The Windows Inside/Out SIG will not be meeting in December, but we will see you in January.*

### **Wireless Communications — 12:30 pm**

**Birl Smith**  
birl.smith at ntpcug.org



**TBD**

### **Investors - 1:30 pm**

**Gil Brand**  
GB9130 at Gmail.com



*The Investors SIG will not be meeting in December, but we will see you in January 2016.*

## **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 one website at [www.NTPCUG.org](http://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](mailto: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:

<b><i>Member &amp; Website</i></b>	<b><i>Member &amp; Website</i></b>
<b>Howard Lee Harkness</b> <a href="http://amazopia.com">http://amazopia.com</a>	<b>Bob Hawkins</b> <a href="http://www.fairviewmicrowave.com">www.fairviewmicrowave.com</a>
<b>Bill Parker</b> <a href="http://www.Partec.net">www.Partec.net</a>	<b>Doug Gorrie</b> <a href="http://www.JanetGorrieInteriors.com">www.JanetGorrieInteriors.com</a>
<b>Larry Weiss</b> <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/powershellsig">https://sites.google.com/site/powershellsig</a>	<b>Fred Williams</b> <a href="http://www.JFHequipment.com">www.JFHequipment.com</a>
<b>Peter Bendel</b> <a href="http://www.codekitchen.com.au">www.codekitchen.com.au</a>	<b>Sharon Dorsey</b> <a href="http://www.organizingelements.com">www.organizingelements.com</a>



# Digital Photography – Tips and Tricks

## ***The Digital Camera Lens Kit***

By Spike Smith



Do you buy yourself just a new camera system, or a new camera system complete with a lens kit?

When you have located that fine camera and are ready to buy, have you shied away from the *Big Deal* offered by the reputable supplier? This package usually includes: the *Kit Lens*. Does this make you feel uncomfortable?

Kit lenses usually bring to our minds about suppliers that grouped deficient lenses in packages solely to reduce costs (control profit margin). They may contain seconds, rejects, and fakes, excludes warranty, designed for Europe, Asia, or other undesirable characteristics. This leads a buyer to search alternatives.

Let us look at a typical very high quality camera with its special features that have been under development for several years. When the camera itself, Canon EOS 70D, was released, the original manufacturer offered a lens kit that does not appear to stimulate any lowered street pricing. The Canon EOS 70D is worthy of consideration with its totally new and excellent lens kit.

The 70D itself contains several exciting innovations not previously released. Utilization was given for advancing engineering with newest computer chips, and concepts.

What the engineers accomplished while creating this highly versatile camera was speed, stability, compactness, best use of real estate, along with features that we have been asking for?

When I decided to buy my newest cam-

era, I had placed the Canon EOS 70D lowest on my wish list. I was seriously adding two or three full-frame models. Each of the full-frame systems were very good and very expensive. I wanted great performance and the heavier weight and size of the full-frame system were acceptable. The pricing of two or three lenses initially would be a very high dollar expenditures and cause lenses to be bought incrementally. I discussed my pros and cons with others and ignoring that the costs were significant. The smaller (APSC) lenses and sensors appeared a dominant factor.

Low and behold, due to wonderful new engineering advances included with the APSC sized totally-redesigned sensor would perform equally as well in the 70D as the contending full-frame models. Why? New innovations on those large cameras were now outdated. (These cameras were periodically updated with improvements but not with new advanced designs as with the smaller but much more efficient and innovative sensor package.

Just as the camera computer and system design engineers were updating their features, the optical personnel were re-vamping their glass configuration designs for the newest today's system. This new lens system takes full advantage of current processor designs and applications

The improved smaller image sensor has better utilization of and increased numbers of pixels that in turn allowed greater sized images in this smaller space. The lenses were redesigned not just for the APSC sensor but for ability to accurately track and provide a more accurate color scheme.

As you see, the lens too being rede-

signed gives optimum performance.

I used the Canon 70D as an example here showing a combination of when the redesigned camera is used with lenses redesigned specifically for the 70D then fullest advantages are realized within the system.

Our duties for the majority of kit lenses offered is usually confined to marketing (first and third party) and hopefully avoiding inferior product substitutions.

Okay, with the Canon EOS 70D, you should strongly consider buying the kit lens. You will know the price is right when you pull the model number of the kit lens and compare it to the single pricing available.

Let's examine cameras and lenses available for your update kits.

1. Standard kit 18-55 VR lens. (Seems inadequate for most people on a single lens system)
2. Kit lens 18-105 VR lens. (Seems to be one I was angling towards at the moment, mostly due to the direct adaptability of polarizing filters (the non rotating zoom part)

3. Kit lens 18-140 VR lens. (Might be too big, I usually plan on a dual/multiple lens system in future, and I don't believe in the "one lens for all" philosophy).

Our concerns are preclusion of containing: seconds, rejects, fakes, warranty exclusion, or other undesirable traits. This leads a buyer to search for legitimate alternatives.

When I decided to buy my newest camera, I placed the Canon 70D lowest on the list. I then got serious with two or three full-frame models. Each of the full-frame systems were very good and very expensive. I wanted great performance and this heavier weight of the full-frame would be acceptable. The pricing of two or three lenses initially would be a very high dollar expenditure and would lenses may need to be bought incrementally. I discussed my pros and cons with others and ignoring the fact that the costs were significant. The smaller lenses and sensors appeared a dominant factor.

Yes, we need to consider the value of the Kit Lens packages.

**CodeKitchen** offers fully fletched MS Access databases, no locked code, all available to use by developers for their own purpose and as templates for new database development projects. Each database only costs a charitable \$25!



Check it out at [www.codekitchen.com.au](http://www.codekitchen.com.au)

# 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 December 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!



## Access News from the Northwest

by Teresa Hennig

*Happy Holidays!*

*Tis the season to enjoy the holiday cheer and spend time with family, friends, colleagues and ... EVENTS galore.*

### Tips and Discussions

#### Access Support Team Blog

The Microsoft Access Support Team has a blog to share frequent topics and issues that they have encountered. Please visit their blog and share with others ... [http://blogs.technet.com/b/the\\_microsoft\\_access\\_support\\_team\\_blog/](http://blogs.technet.com/b/the_microsoft_access_support_team_blog/)

#### Access Web and Desktop Advice at vb123.com by Garry Robinson <http://www.vb123.com>

Garry hosts one of the best and biggest collections of articles, tips and demonstrations for Microsoft Access. Garry has provided a wealth of information and resources ... over 600 pages, 150 pdf and 1000's of pictures. So delve in and check back often! In addition to his collection, Garry has the EXCLUSIVE rights to distribute the content from Smart Access -- "THE" Access magazine from 1996 - 2006.

#### Access MVPs – Sharing code and resources

Several Access MVP are sharing resources and links through the website hosted by Arvin Meyer. <http://AccessMVP.com>

#### Sites to search for information and programming assistance

[www.mvps.org](http://www.mvps.org) and [Access Developer Portal MSDN](http://Access Developer Portal MSDN) (<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/office/aa905400.aspx>) -- these provide database samples and tutorials provided by Access MVP and other experts.

[Office Developer Center on MSDN](http://Office Developer Center on MSDN) --aka: [Office Developer Documentation](http://Office Developer Documentation). And, we've been mentioning the newsgroups. You can search and drill through thousands of threads.

#### Utter Access Discussion Forum

Touted as the number one Access community forum! This may be a great place to get answers to your questions. And, you'll see several familiar names as some of our members are prolific posters. [www.utteraccess.com](http://www.utteraccess.com)

Enjoy the holidays, make some New Year's Resolutions and ...

Share Smiles with those you meet...  
... my BEST to each of you!!

*Teresa Hennig*

*Data Dynamics Northwest  
Access MVP 2006 - 2014*

*(Tis the Season ... Cont'd from page 1)* settings of the new 802.11ac router you are getting for Christmas, else it may provide hackers with a way into your banking activities and such. You can subscribe to CERT notifications at the bottom of their [home page](#).

If CERT wets your whistle about security risks, you may be interested in reviewing the annual [Data Breach Investigations Report](#) (DBIR) put out by **Verizon**. You can download the 2015 report for free, then review the 64 page analysis of security breaches that occurred in 2014, broken out by such things as indus-

try, country, etc. A 2016 version should be out in the next few months.

So what does 2016 offer for cybersecurity risks? Coalfire has issued their [top three predictions](#) of what will impact the cybersecurity landscape in 2016, noting that more CEO's and CIO's will be fired if they don't ensure that their firms are well protected (think of Target and Home Depot). Cybersecurity is a top issue in 2016.



# Renew Your NTPCUG Membership For “FREE”?

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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 membership 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 review/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 appeared. 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

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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](mailto:Advertising@ntpcug.org)

# *NTPCUG 2015 Elected Officials*

*Jesse Hastcoat  
President*



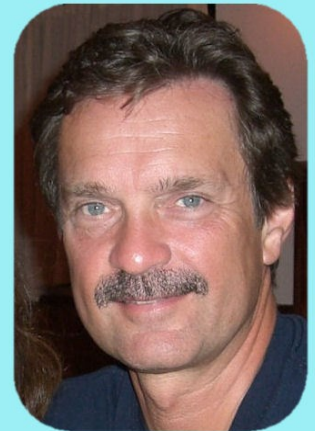
*Bill Drissel  
President  
-Elect*



*Tuc Goodwin*



## *Directors*



*Chuck Stark  
Treasurer*



*Sharon Dorsey*



*Lisa Katzenstein*



*Spike (Harold) Smith*

## Emeritus Members

John Pribyl (1924 – 1993)  
Reagan Andrews ( - 2006)  
Connie Andrews ( - 2008)  
Phil Chamberlain  
Jim Hoisington  
Guy Andrews  
Stuart Yarus  
Timothy Carmichael  
Mark Gruner  
David McGehee  
Tom Prickett  
Kathryn Loafman  
Fred Williams  
Andy Oliver  
Alex Lilly  
Doug Gorrie  
Claude McClure  
Robert McNeil  
Gil Brand  
Bill Parker  
Diane Bentley

## Thank you!

from your 2015

### Board of Directors and Officers

President        Jesse Hastcoat  
*jesse.hastcoat @ ntpcug.org*

President:-elect    Bill Drissel  
*Bill @ Drissel.US*

Directors:        Sharon Dorsey  
*Sharon.Dorsey @ ntpcug.org*

                      Tuc Goodwin  
*tgoodwin@ ntpcug.org*

                      Lisa Katzenstein  
*Lisa.Katzenstein @ ntpcug.org*

                      Spike Smith  
*harold.smith @ ntpcug.org*

                      Chuck Stark  
*chuck.stark @ ntpcug.org*

Secretary:        Kathy Lee Brown  
*KathyLeeBrown @ live.com*

Treasurer:        Chuck Stark  
*chuck.stark @ ntpcug.org*

Program  
Director:         *Programs @ ntpcug.org*

# Calendar

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## December 2015

**Dec 19** 8:00 am—2:30 pm

## January 2016

**Jan 16** 8:00 am—2:30 pm

## February 2016

**Feb 20** 8:00 am—2:30 pm

**North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 70055**  
**Dallas, TX 75370-0055**

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