# The Bytes of Las Vegas

*JULY, 2009*

## Inside this issue

## President's Message

Hi everybody from here in Colorado Springs. My family and I would like to thank you for all your support and help in making the transition and the move. As I reflect on what has been happening with my family, It seems that change is inevitable and that no matter what we plan change will happen all the time. My son in  law came home the other night and said he had been offered a job with his company in Germany so even though we has just moved here to be closer to our grandsons they may be moving away.

As I though about this I tried to think of ways we could still stay in touch with them and see them grow up. As they would be in Germany for at least 4 years we don't want to lose all the time with them. My wife and I thought about using the internet and the different programs we could be using to see and talk with them. We have used Skype for the Board of Directors meetings and it works for that venue and so I would be asking them to use the web cams they have to stay in contact. We would be using Picasa to post photos to the web and ask them to do the same. We have done this already and you can view them at:

http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=clyde1580&target=ALBUM&id=5359100546 004156545&authkey=Gv1sRgCOivuNGcw4uoaO&feat=email

This is a trip to the Denver Zoo that my grandkids and my wife took. It was easy to post these picture for all of my family to share. You could all use this as I know that you have family that may not live in the same area as you. Picasa is a free program and is available at http://picasa.google.com and you can get help with the WEB ALBUMS FEATURE. I hope all of the members of the Users Group learn how to use these features of this program and have the chance to share with others their fun and kids.

### Membership Questions
**If you have any questions about your membership
Please send email: Membership@LVPCUG.org**

No meetings will be held in  August-----Mark your   calendar

### Next General Meeting to be held
## September 2, 2009 at 6:15 p.m.

## Please contact the website for the latest information.

## Announcements

The Special Interest Groups (SIG) will be meeting at their regular times.  Be sure to check the calendar on the website.  We are looking for a new place for our General meetings and SIGs. If you have any suggestions, please email us at info@LVPCUG.org

Check the website at www.LVPCUG.org for the calendar dates and times.

Would you like to share a computer talent you have or would be interested in learning about a certin topic. We would appreciate your ideas!

### RECYCLING BRINGS REWARDS

The LVPCUG is receiving rebates for recycling ink cartridges and cell phones. The Recycling Committee urges members to set aside those used ink cartridges and cell phones and bring them to the general meeting. You might also spread the word to family members and friends to save them for you too. Their is no cost to the club, only your time in gathering the material and the committee members' time to package it.

If you have any questions, please see Thomas Linn or Judy Ruf at the General Meeting on Sept. 2 at the West Charleston Library.

## Officers and Volunteers    Contact by sending an email to info@lvpcug.org

**Board of Directors**
Clyde Schubarth...............President
Harold Rozinski...............Vice President
Joyce Shore.......................Treasurer
Robert Lynch....................Secretary
Judy Ruf...........................Exective Director

Larry Burgher...............Webmaster
Don Sabatine..................Product Review & SIG Coordinator
Howard Mark................Down the Road Editor
Leland Beel....................Bytes of Las Vegas Editor, Little Bytes Editor

## Website:  www.lvpcug.org

**Membership**
Dues are $30 per year. Dues are collected Annually from your membership date. If you would like to join, a membership form is located at the end of the newsletter.Please complete and forward to our mailing address.
Mailing Address
Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.
1350 E. Flamingo Rd. #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119

**Newsletter**
The Bytes of Las Vegas is published on a monthly basis.
A PDF version is available to members online at the website.
Information in this newsletter was obtained from sources considered to be reliable.
Accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed.
Deadline for article submission:
10 th of each month to editor@lvpcug.org

**Mark your calendar for the September Meeting on the Sep 2nd (Wed) at 6:15 pm.**
Our presenter will be Mr. Al Gibes from the Review Journal newspaper.
Bio: Mr. Gibes is the Online Guy at the newspaper, writing the Online Guy column weekly, since May 1998. More information will follow before the September meeting.

# PICASA

**Picasa is a software application for organizing and editing digital photos. The program is owned by Google and it is free to use. You may get Windows XP, Windows Vista, Linux and Mac OS X versions from Google site or you can get it from Cnet's downloads and other web sites.**

**Transfer, find, organize, edit, print and share images, all with this easy-to-use program. Watch Picasa automatically organize your pictures into elegant albums by date. Having all your photos in one place means no more time wasted searching for folders or files. The program works with JEPG, GIF, BMP, PSD, and movie files and is compatible with most digital cameras; it detects your USB driver and imports pictures into albums. Editing tools include cropping (standard or custom), removal of red-eye, and enhancing—even switching from color to black and white. Create side shows set to your MP3s. Integration with Picasa's free Hello instant picture-sharing software lets you share hundreds of photos in seconds and chat in real time. E-mail photos with Picasa's built-in client to take the guesswork out of compressing images, and order photo-lab quality prints or print at home with no mistakes. You can also make instant backups to CD (or to other hard drives) of your photo collections, to organize your photos using labels and stars (just like with Gmail), to write captions for all pictures and to organize videos as well as pictures.**

**The program now available is 3.1  and the Picasa Web Albums provides 1 gigabyte of free storage   but more is available at a  fee of $20 per year for an additional 10 gigabytes and more at a price for each block of  storage. No ads are shown on the Picasa Web Albums in either the free or paid accounts.**

**Hello by Google Picasa was free but it was shut down on June 11,2008 so this part is not available to use.**
**Check out this program, you will find it useful if you have a digital camera and save your pictures and want to share them with others.**

**ITEMS TO SHARE**
**If your have any web sites or other items you would like to share with the LVPVUG members, send them to the Editor@LVPCUG.org and I will try to include them in a future issue of the Bytes.**
**Thank you,**
**Editor**

## PRODUCT REVIEW
## HeatShift Cooling Pad
## By Robert L. Lynch

**A Better Solution to Keep Your Laptop From Giving You An Unwanted LapDance**

I recently bought a laptop computer with enough oomph to hopefully replace my XP desktop. I soon discovered two problems. One, when running two or three programs and maybe downloading files the laptop would heat up beyond a comfortable temperature. The other was it came with Vista, but that's another story. I don't have to tell you what heat will eventually do to a computer. This is compounded in a laptop that has electronics jammed into a case to make it as small as possible.

The heat coming from the side vent on my laptop was also warming my left hand pinky as I was typing. I looked through all the advertised on-line metal and plastic fan assemblies to help cool the bottom of the laptop. There were all kinds fo configurations, a fan or fans powered by the laptop USB  port, fans on aluminum and plastic plates priced anywhere from about $10 to $50. After rubbing my tired eyes I gave it one more try to find the Nirvana of coolers. Yreka! I found it! A laptop cooler that won't burn or scratch your legs with the laptop setting on them. The pad can even be rolled up! It does't have to use any one of my meager USB ports to power the fans, weights only 4 or 5 ounces. No messy USB wire, no flashing lights, no click-click adjustment knobs, now, will it do the job?

It is called a "HeatShift Cooling Pad" It looks like a kitchen heat pad you use to grab that hot dish out of the oven only larger. It comes in various sizes measured by the size of your computer screen and you can get it in black or white, one site had it in pink. The HeatShift pad has some kind of crystals embedded in the pad that feel lumpy at room temperature. As the computer bottom heats up the crystals slowly turn liquid carrying the heat out over the pad. The cooled crystals "refreeze" back into soft lumps until headed again. the whole pad never become hot; heat is dissipated on the cooler part of the pad away from the hotspots of the CPU and maybe the sound card board.

It was $29.99 with free shippin on http://www.Amazon.com  Or you can order it directly from the company called DataVision, http:// www.datavis.com

If you are a member of LVPCUG that means you are a member of APCUG and you have a great opportunity to use the resources that they provide. Such as the calendar that members may log in and view a meeting of a different club or SIG and see what they are doing.Please go to www.apcug.org and create a users account in the APCUG SharePoint Site so that you can enjoy some of the benefits of membership in the LVPCUG and its shared portals.

## Directory of SIG Groups as of July 2009

**Helping Hands, 1st Saturday, Wengert Room, 10am to 4 pm, Linda DiGiovanni**
**Windows Developers, 2nd Thursday, West Sahara Library, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**
**Richard Rosenheim**
**Genealogy, 2nd Saturday, Family History Center, 10:15 am to 11:15 am, Sam**
**Giordano**
**Office Applications, 2nd Saturday, Wengert Room, 1 pm to 3 pm, Wendy**
**Jaroslawski**
**Software and Product Review, 2nd Saturday,Wengert Room, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm,**
**Linda DiGiovanni**
**Digital Images Techniques 2nd Sunday, Wengert Room, 12 pm to 2 pm, Howard**
**Mark**
**Linux/Open Source Applications, 3rd Sunday, Wengert Room, 1 pm to 3 pm, Don**
**Sabatine**
**Novice(new users) and Internet, 3rd Sunday,Wengert Room, 4 pm to 6 pm,**
**Charles Frederick**
**How-To-Workshop, 4th Saturday, Paseo Verde Library, 9:15 am to 2:30 pm,**
**Dennis Kemper**
**Wi-Fi, 4th Saturday, Paseo Verde Library, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Harold Rosinski**

**all meetings are subject to cancellation by SIG leader or Property Owner. The**
**Calendar page of the LVPCUG web site is kept as current as possable.**

**Print this page only and cut out for a handy reference of the SIG's and the meeting**
**dates.**

### O'Reilly Books and News
**O'Reily is a publisher of computer books and others. The LVPCUG is a member of**
**their User Group program, to see their offers contact: http://oreilly.com and check**
**out their web site.**

**"Judgment is not upon all occasions required,**
**but discretion always is."**
**Lord Chesterfield (Philip Dormer Stanhope, Fourth Earl of Chesterfield**
**(1694-1773), British politician, Letters to his godson, 1776**

## Genealogy SIG

Sam Giordano
452-4037
Samespin1@cox.net
2 nd Saturday
10:15-11:15 a.m.

Family History Center
501 S. 9th Street

Search the internet
for your family history
using software and web
sites.

## How to Workshop SIG

Dennis Kemper
458-0654

4th Saturday
9:30-2:30 p.m.

Paseo Verde Library
280 S. Green Valley
Parkway

Bring your laptops and
desktops for checks or
repairs.

## Office Applications SIG

Wendy Jaroslawski
339-3812
2nd Saturday
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Nevada Engery
6226 W. Sahara Av
Learn Office,Excel,
Power Point,Word,
and more.

## Genealogy

Family Search is website sponsored by the LDS Church to help people find their ancesstors. Family Search Labs is a website that tests new programs that can be used by Family Search.  It is located at www.labs.familysearch.org.  Here are some of current projects:
Record Search This is a quick and easy way to search millions of records.  Click on a map to see what records are available for the area.  You can also enter information on your ancestors and find records.
Family Tree  You and other members of your family can enter information about your family and you can watch it grow. Enter your name and the tree starts with your information.
Check this site out for more projects.
Attend this SIG at the Family History Center and get help for roadblocks that you may run into.

## How-to-Workshop

AVG--Free Software for Virus Protection. AVG protects your computer against virus and spyware.  It is easy to use. Many computer experts recommend and use AVG. Go to www.free.avg.com.
Another freeware is AVAST. It is also a freeware and has over 80 millon users. It can be found at www.avast.com. With AVAST you register a key that is good for 1 year. Then you have to re-do the registration.
A free Spyware program is Ad-Aware. This program has received numerous awards and can be downloaded at www.lavasoft.com
Protecting your computer does not need to be expensive.
Programs that have been checked and rated by PC Magazine are available to you for free. Check these programs out.

Training Programs You can get free Microsoft Office  training. Go to http://www.educationonlineforcomputers.com/blogs/post/category/microsoft_office_training_tutorial.
This site has several tutorials that will teach you how to use Microsoft Office. Microsoft.com also has numerous training tutorials to help you. They have templates, forms, tutorials and many other help programs about their software.
The Office suite has numerous tips to help you produce the items you need.
Our Office Application SIG has people that can help you with using this powerful software.
Come and join them and let them help you.

## Helping Hands

Linda DiGiovani
395-6676

1st Saturday
10:00--4:00 p.m.

Nevada Energy
6226 W. Sahara
(Meeting room at
back of building)

Help for computer
building,
repair amd problems.
Members helping members.

__Why up date your drivers?__ It is drivers that power the devices in or attached to your computer. It is important to check the drivers at least once a year and update them. Your devices may not work properly or at all if they do not have updates on a regular basis. There are lots of reasons why you need to keep your device drivers updated, but the simple one is that if you do not do so, the device may just stop working because of bug repairs and updates that do not have the proper drivers. Device drivers are something you should stay up on.

Schedule a time on your calendar on a regular basis to check your various devices and programs so you have the most up-to-date drivers.

None of us like a broken computer. You can bring your computer to our Helping Hands SIG and get help with your problems.

## Wireless Networking

Harold Rozinski
870-8946

4th Saturday
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Paseo Verde Library
280 S. Green Valley
Parkway

Wireles technology,
benefits, pitfalls.

__Wifi Hot Spots__  You can take advantage of Public WIFI hot spots or start a wireless network in your home.  The first thing your need to do is to make sure your computer has the right gear.  Most new laptops and newer desktops come with bulit-in transmitters. If your laptop does not have the right equipment, you can buy a wireless adapter to plug into the USB port.  Once the adapter is installed and the driver checked, the computer should automatically start and discover any hot spots in the area. The computer will inform you of the existence of a network an ask whether you want to connect to it. You can access the internet, your email, website or favorites.

Having a home  wireless network, allows you to easily connect several computers and to easily move the computers from spot to spot.

### SHORTCUT TO YOUR PRINTER                           TIPS AND TRICKS

Create a Shortcut to your Printer (XP)
To have an easy access to the print options or to stop your Printer, click on"Start," Select "Control Panel", then "Printers and Other Hardware", then click " View installed printers or fax printers", right click on your printer name and select "Create Shortcut". Place Shortcut on your desktop.

### Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.

### Membership Application

New Members or Renewal with Information Changes

**To join the Las Vegas PC User Group, please complete the information below. The form can be mailed with a check or brought to the General Meeting.  Dues are $30 per year per family. More information about the Club can be obtained from www.LVPCUG.org**

**Date**_____     **New** _____     **Renewal** _____

**(Please Print)**

**Name(1):** _____     **Name(2):** _____

**Email (1)** _____     **Email (2)** _____

**Address:** _____

**City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

**Phone:** _____ **Cell Phone:** _____ **Fax:** _____

It is LVPCUG policy to keep your information confidential.

Supplemental Information ( optional, but helpful):
How did you hear about the LVPCUG? _____
_____

Areas of Interest: _____

**Send check for $30 to**:

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.
Membership Director
1350 E. Flamingo Rd #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119-5270

**Club Use only: Memb, No.** _____ **Rec'd** _____

**Amount**_____ **Method** _____