

20th Year of People Helping People!

May 2007 Issue

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<http://gtbpcug.org/protect/>

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Although there are "Back to Index" links on some pages, you can tap the HOME button on the keyboard to return to top of the newsletter at any time.

If you have a later version of Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can have any pages read out loud. Click on "VIEW" on the menu bar and select "Read Out Loud" for choices. Repeat these steps to Pause or Stop. Also notice the shortcut key selections if you would like to use these.

If you are having trouble viewing PDF files, especially ones that have been saved on your hard drive, then download and try this program. - Foxit Reader 2.0 is a free PDF document viewer and printer, with incredible small size. - Read the info on the site. On the menu bar under HELP should be a choice to "Set to Default PDF Reader" if you want.

[http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/rd\\_intro.php](http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/rd_intro.php)

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[http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/pe\\_intro.php](http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/pe_intro.php)

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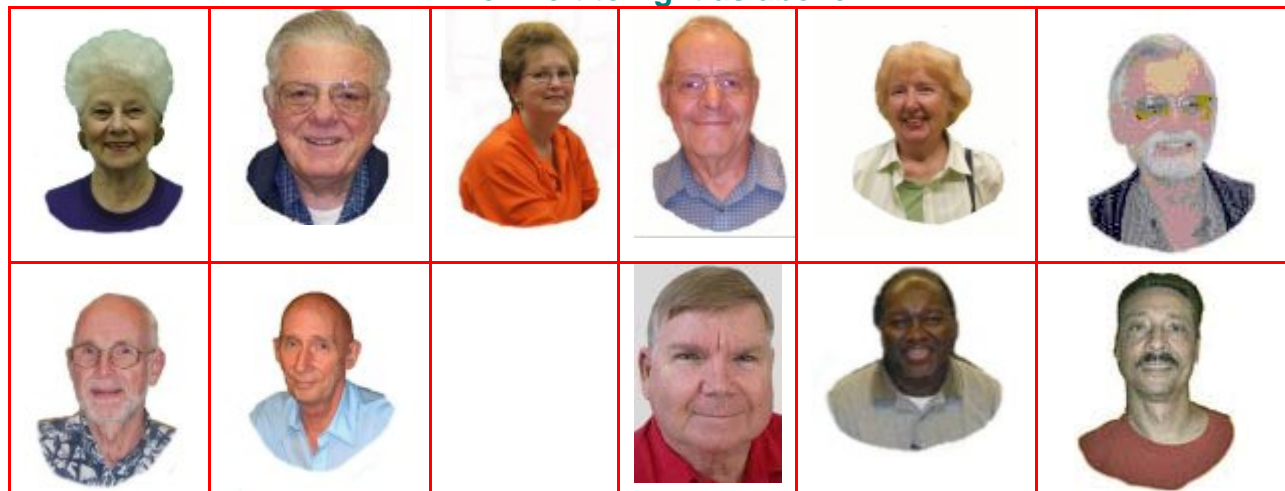
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**2007 Officers and SIG Leaders**

- PRESIDENT:** Jo Ann Brawner [president@gtbpcug.org](mailto:president@gtbpcug.org)  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Al Miller [vicepresident@gtbpcug.org](mailto:vicepresident@gtbpcug.org)  
**TREASURER:** Charlotte Howard [treasurer@gtbpcug.org](mailto:treasurer@gtbpcug.org)  
**SECRETARY:** Myron Magedanz [secretary@gtbpcug.org](mailto:secretary@gtbpcug.org)  
**PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Sherry Foecking [program@gtbpcug.org](mailto:program@gtbpcug.org)  
**MEMBERSHIP:** JB Hickey [membership@gtbpcug.org](mailto:membership@gtbpcug.org)  
**WEBMASTER:** Parker Monroe [webmaster@gtbpcug.org](mailto:webmaster@gtbpcug.org)  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Don Miller [editor@gtbpcug.org](mailto:editor@gtbpcug.org)  
**Special Interest Group Leaders**  
**New Users SIG:** Darry D. Eggleston  
**Windows SIG:** Marvell Harris  
**Internet SIG:** Jerry Harris



From left to right as above



**Our GTBPCUG Web Site** <http://gtbpcug.org>  
**And our Newsletter Page** <http://gtbpcug.org/baybytes.htm>  
**About our Group** <http://gtbpcug.org/pcuginfo.htm>

**Visit our Member Sites**

<b>DarryD's Home Page</b>	<a href="http://darryd.com">http://darryd.com</a> Check out his <b>FastFacts</b> – <b>ExcelNet News</b> – <b>Lessons</b> and all the other pages for info.
<b>Darrell Manns' Home Page</b>	<a href="http://www.dmanns.org/">http://www.dmanns.org/</a> See his <b>Games</b> – <b>Pictures</b> – <b>Tips/Downloads</b> and other pages.

[Information for Smart Computing Magazine and O'Reilly Book Reviews](#)

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[Click here to see what other APCUG newsletter editors are doing](#)

## 40 Digital Photography Techniques

Book Review for **40 Digital Photography Techniques, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition** (2007) by Y. Dick Evans, Greater Tampa Bay PC User Group (GTBPCUG)

If you are new to digital photography, **40 Digital Photography Techniques, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition**, is a great start. It was “written for new digital camera owners.” [inside flap] [208 pages]

The book begins comparing digital and film cameras and suggesting what to look for when buying, accessorizing, and caring for a digital camera. “For both urban and rural landscapes, you will need a wide-angle lens or a conversion lens (35mm or wider film equivalent, preferably 28mm) in order to fit the entire scene into your picture.”; “To shoot close-ups of small objects such as insects and flowers, look for a camera with a minimum focusing distance of 4cm or less.” Then “The Basics of Taking Photos” chapter discusses preparation for shooting, preventing blurred pictures, using lenses, exposure, and composition. A chapter about “Advanced Features” investigates light, use of flash close-ups and fill flash, continuous shots, action shots, using white balance, selective focus, and creating black-and-white sepia images. The conclusion discusses organizing/managing photos, developing them, and setting up a photo gallery within Photoshop Elements 5.0 or similar programs.

Combining techniques for automatic and digital cameras, it offers technical instruction through themes and scenarios: people, landscapes, panoramas, flowers, weddings, food, pets, rain, snow, from a moving vehicle, and night. Instruction includes interesting pictures/examples incorporating **A**rchitecture to **Z**oo scenes.

The advice is honest, straightforward, and easy-to-comprehend, but the experienced photographer may be bored by some basics covered. “*Image size* and *image resolution* mean the same thing.”; “Poor lighting will produce noise (unwanted specks, grain, etc.) in the image.”; “Sensitivity is measured in ISO. A low ISO rating means that it is less sensitive and needs more light...Unfortunately, a raised ISO only boosts the electronic signal from the shot [sic] and this can create graininess in your images.”; “One of the biggest advantages of JPEG is that it can compress image data at a ratio of 20:1 or higher, resulting in small file sizes that are great for the web. The downside of this popular format is that it uses a lossy compression scheme: it throws away image data during compression.”; “The best time to shoot is about half an hour before or after the sun rises or sets...when the sky is bathed in a warm, golden hue.”

The variety of topics is fine; the instruction is good. “When you take continuous shots using the Continuous function, the images are stored temporarily in the camera’s buffer memory, which is small in most digital camera brands. Therefore, only low-resolution images are taken with the Continuous function.”; “An aperture size of f/1.8 is considered very large for popular digital cameras. For most of us, an aperture of f/2.8 or smaller is good enough.”; “A large aperture creates a shallow depth of field, while a small aperture creates a deeper depth of field.”; “Select the + values (for example, +0.3, +0.7) to increase the exposure and make the image brighter...”; “In order to get a good close-up, the focal length should ideally be 10cm or less. Cameras with a good macro feature will allow you to get within 2cm of the object.”; “You have to set your exposure manually or adjust the exposure to (-) to take silhouette photos. If you set your exposure to automatic, it will take bright pictures...”

Overall, the book is a good review for the experienced photographer and a very good introduction for the novice digital user. While explaining many complexities, it offers shortcuts to help make picture-taking “fun.” Isn’t that what using cameras should be?

ISBN:978-89-314-3369-2

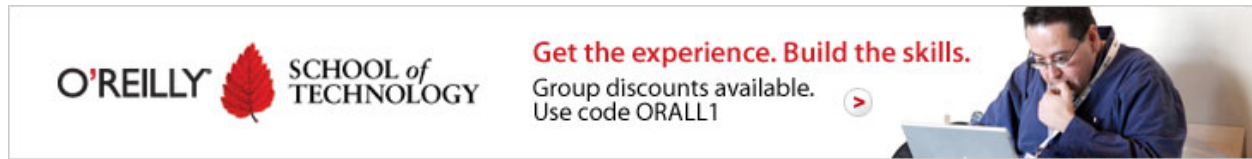
<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/893143369/>

Distributed through O’Reilly Press

\$16.99

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## O'Reilly School of Technology



### See the information below about enrolling

Hi,

We're excited to release the following news. Please share with your members if you think they will be interested:

The O'Reilly School of Technology has officially opened its virtual doors with educational offerings for students looking to further or launch their IT careers, whether they aspire to become alpha geeks or not. The school is a unique partnership between O'Reilly Media and the University of Illinois.

Students can earn a Certificate for Professional Development from the University of Illinois Office of Continuing Education upon completion of a selected series of courses. Certificates are currently offered in Client-Side Web Programming, Linux/Unix System Administration, Web Programming, Open Source Programming, and .NET Programming.

Courses are offered at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. Whether students take the courses individually or with a certificate in mind, the completion of each course earns Continuing Education Units from the University of Illinois, and count toward the certificates that include that course.

For more information about the O'Reilly School of Technology, including a current list of certificate and courses, see:

<http://www.oreillyschool.com/?CMP=BAC-ostug>

### And UG Members Receive a 30% Discount!

**As an O'Reilly User Group member, you save on all the courses and certificate series. To redeem, use Promotion Code "ORALL1," good for a 30% discount, in Step #2 of the enrollment process. Each course comes with a free O'Reilly book and a 7-day money-back guarantee. Register online:**

<http://www.oreillyschool.com/?CMP=BAC-ostug>

--Marsee Henon

**NEW - O'Reilly FYI - Are you listening?** "listen" to our articles and blogs.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/fyi/blog/>

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## SanDisk u3 4gig Smart drive

Written by Parker Monroe – Webmaster of <http://gtbpcug.org/>

I use my SanDisk u3 4gig thumb/flash/smart drive to carry around several portable applications, but mainly to have with me a lot of utilities, as well as a document that holds a lengthy list of links to useful Web sites. Among the various free apps I installed was a portable version of Firefox, just in case I needed to have a Web browser to access the Web from/through another pc, esp. one that might have a corrupted IE.

A couple of nice features of the SanDisk thumb drive (and other brands may also have them) are that there is no cap to lose – the male USB plug simply slides in and out of the small case using one's thumb. When pushed out, it locks in place, so that one can insert it into a USB port without the USB plug sliding back into the case.

Secondly, the SanDisk drive is always lit up when plugged into a live USB port. It also flashes when one is copying anything to it. If it doesn't flash when moving or copying a file or files to it, then one knows the transfer did not occur.

One can view the contents of the thumbdrive by simply using Windows Explorer if one wishes, and one can store not only folders on the thumb drive but also sub-folders, and sub-sub-folders, and so on.

If one is going to store anything on any thumb drive, I strongly recommend keeping an identical copy of the files/folders on one's pc, just in case the thumb drive is lost or becomes corrupted. At 4gigs, the SanDisk thumb drive can hold a lot of "stuff," which would be very time consuming to replace if needed.

When the SanDisk thumb drive is inserted into a USB port, an icon is placed in the Notification Area/Systray (down by the clock). Right-clicking on that icon brings up a short menu, one item of which is "Open U3 Launchpad," an attractive and useful menu.

An important note: when one wants to remove the thumb drive from the USP port, one should always right-click on that small icon, and select "Safely eject U3 smart drive." A message will then come up and advise that it is Safe to Remove U3 smart drive, or other messages may come up indicating that there are one or more open applications or menus.

Failure to do this before removing the drive can result in corruption of the drive. And, on some pc's, failure to properly remove the thumb drive might result in those pc's not knowing or realizing that your thumb drive has been removed, which could affect future use of that USB port.



## Portable Program Applications

### Some Brand Names u3 flash drives



Check your local stores for availability

<a href="#">Comp USA</a>	<a href="#">Best Buy</a>	<a href="#">Staples</a>
<a href="#">Circuit City</a>	<a href="#">Costco</a>	<a href="#">Office Depot</a>

The main web site for u3 Portable Apps. You can download the program from here or check the next four links below this one to see what will be available to you.

<http://portableapps.com/>

u3 Software Central - There are several tabs at top of page for more information.

<http://www.u3.com/>

The Portable Apps Suite™ is free. It contains no spyware. There are no advertisements. It isn't a limited or trial version. Check the different categories on the left of page.

Some Free, Free Trials and Paid. Notice the >NEXT on right for more in that category.

<http://software.u3.com/softwarecentral.aspx?skip=1>

USB flash drives adhering to the U3 specification are termed "U3 smart drives".

<http://help.com/wiki/U3>

Use your u3 drive to launch free OpenSource programs such as Gimp, Audacity

<http://u3apps.sourceforge.net/indexen.html>

### Other Free Portable Applications for Flash Drives

The Portable Freeware Collection

<http://www.portablefreeware.com/all.php>

Absolutely Free Software - Best Free Portable Windows Freeware

Scroll down and/or check the categories on left of page.

<http://nedwolf.com/Freeware-Portable.htm>

**This tool lets you format a flash drive.** From Charlie Vanderford

A flash drive is terrific for use as an emergency boot device. Use this tool to format the drive. (Careful -- everything on the flash drive will be deleted.)

Then copy three system boot files from the root of your hard drive (usually c:\) -- boot.ini, ntldr, and ntdetect -- to the flash drive. Then set your BIOS to allow booting from the flash drive.

Download this free tool at:

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid.64963/description.html?tk=nl\\_hsxdown](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid.64963/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown)

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## Firefox and Thunderbird E-mail

**Firefox 2 - The award-winning Web browser is now faster, more secure, and fully customizable to your online life.**

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

### **Firefox Add-ons**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/>

### **Mozilla Firefox for U3 (PortableApps.com)**

[http://software.u3.com/Product\\_Details.aspx?ProductId=89&Selection=6&Lang=en-US](http://software.u3.com/Product_Details.aspx?ProductId=89&Selection=6&Lang=en-US)

**Mozilla's Thunderbird 2 email application is more powerful than ever.**

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird/>

### **Mozilla Thunderbird for U3 (PortableApps.com)**

[http://software.u3.com/Product\\_Details.aspx?ProductId=196&Selection=6&Lang=en-US](http://software.u3.com/Product_Details.aspx?ProductId=196&Selection=6&Lang=en-US)

**Top 10 Extensions for Firefox - from Smart Computing Magazine.**

**If you are not a subscriber, see what all it can do for you at**

<http://www.smartcomputing.com/>

### **Adblock Plus: Element Hiding Helper**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/4364>

### **All-in-One Sidebar**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1027>

### **Answers**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/735>

### **Duplicate Tab**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/28>

### **FireFTP**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/684>

### **Forecastfox**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/398>

### **FoxyTunes**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/219>

### **Gspace**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1593>

### **IE Tab**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1419>

### **New Tab Homepage**

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/777>

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## Widgets and Gadgets

**What are Yahoo! Widgets?** <http://widgets.yahoo.com/info/>

**Yahoo Widgets.** You will have to download the program before using the Widgets.

<http://widgets.yahoo.com/>

**Yahoo Gallery** – Check the categories on the left of page. At the bottom of categories list is a “Search the Gallery” for your interests. There are thousands of Widgets to get.

<http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery/>

**Watch the quick Demo.** <http://help.yahoo.com/tours/ygo/widgets/index.html>

**Yahoo! Widgets Help** <http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/widgets/>

When you first install and open the program this is the default view on your desktop to continue. Your icons will still be showing. Right click the new icon on task bar for many selections.



### Also Google Gadgets for Webmasters.

What are gadgets powered by Google?

You will have to be able to copy and paste the code they give into your web page for the next two links.

<http://www.google.com/webmasters/gadgets/>

And - Google Gadgets For Your Webpage. Notice the More> at right of page.

<http://www.google.com/ig/directory?synd=open>

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## Miscellaneous

### A Brief History of Type

[http://nwalsh.com/comp.fonts/FAQ/cf\\_28.htm](http://nwalsh.com/comp.fonts/FAQ/cf_28.htm)

### This is a simple and fast font browser

<http://www.snapfiles.com/get/fontglancer.html>

### Bay Area Laser Printer and Fax Repair. Discounts for GTBPCUG members.

<http://www.bayarealaser.net/>

### Printer Tips from Tina Clingan, Bay Area Laser, by Darry D Eggleston.

<http://www.bayarealaser.net/pdf/Tina-Clingan-Wows-Crowd.pdf>

### The History of Computing Project

<http://www.thocp.net/index.html>

### The Homebrew Computer Club

<http://www.digibarn.com/history/05-VCF8-HomeBrew30/index.html>

### The UVa Computer Museum

<http://www.cs.virginia.edu/brochure/museum.html>

### Computer Stupidities

<http://www.rinkworks.com/stupid/>

### Google Services & Tools

<http://www.google.com/intl/en/options/index.html>

### Google Web Search Features

<http://www.google.com/intl/en/help/features.html>

### Google Voice Local Search

<http://labs.google.com/goog411/>

### Welcome to Google Page Creator

<http://tinyurl.com/fr5wj>

### Requesting removal of content from our Google index.

<http://tinyurl.com/yva3dz>

### ConsumerSearch Named Best Expert Product Review Site on the Internet!

<http://www.consumersearch.com/>

### Over 350 categories of free, first-rate, family-safe online tutorials

<http://www.wannalearn.com/>

### Two tips from Kim Komando's web site. For many, many more, visit her site at

<http://www.komando.com/>

### Are you part of a botnet?

<http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=3086>

### Using Windows Event Viewer

<http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=2346>

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## Internet Fraud - Government

**FTC - Federal Trade Commission**

<http://www.ftc.gov>

**National White Collar Crime Center**

<http://www.nw3c.org>

**Better Business Bureau**

<http://www.bbb.org>

**Welcome to the Identity Theft Resource Center.**

<http://www.idtheftcenter.org/index.shtml>

**National Fraud Information Center**

<http://www.fraud.org>

**Computer Crime & Intellectual Property of the Department of Justice**

<http://www.usdoj.gov>

**FBI - Federal Bureau of Investigations**

<http://www.fbi.gov>

**U. S. Department of Justice**

<http://www.CyberCrime.gov>

**U.S. Secret Service**

<http://www.treas.gov/>

**Internet Scam Busters**

<http://www.scambusters.org>

**Netcheck Commerce Bureau**

<http://www.netcheck.com>

**Secure Florida Information**

<http://www.secureflorida.org/>

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement**

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/>

**Florida Citizen Information Center**

<http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/>

**Hillsborough County Florida**

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/>

**Tampa Government**

<http://www.tampagov.net/>

**Tampa Bay Area**

<http://www.tampabaystart.com/>

## April Meeting Minutes

### Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of GTBPCUG – April 3rd

The monthly meeting of the General Membership of the GTBPCUG was held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2007 at the BHS meeting room. President JoAnn Brawner opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Vice-President Al Miller announced that we have been promised the use of our meeting room through 8<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Following is a breakdown of when the room will *NOT* be available to our Group.

#### 2007 -- July

BHS closed for summer... There will be five Tuesdays in July where the room is not available.

July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.

#### 2007 -- August

School closed on the first Tuesday, August 7<sup>TH</sup>. The room is available on August 14th and for the rest of the year until the Christmas holidays.

#### 2007 -- Christmas break....

Room available the first two Tuesday's, then closed for the holidays.

#### 2008 -- January...

Room available on January 8 thru to Spring break. The room will *NOT* be available on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Room is available after Spring break thru May and June.

He then introduced Member Patrick T. Courtney, a Registered Professional Guardian, who gave a very interesting demonstration of Voice Recognition Software using the "*Dragon Naturally Speaking*" program by Nuance Corporation. The program is basically a "you-speak and it types" what you say. Mr. Courtney has many years experience using this program to document reports in his job as a Professional Guardian.

### April 17 Meeting

The meeting of the TBPCUGP was called to order at 7:00 P.M. April 17 2007, by Vp. Al Miller.

David B. Whittle gave a presentation on Invisus P C Security Solutions and Muvee Auto Producer.

Fred Thorn was the winner of the drawing. A very nice Backpack Laptop Carrier.

Myron Magedanz Sec.