

Horizons



Volume 26 Number 11
November 2008

The Official Journal of the Computer Users of Erie

Founded 1982

In This Issue

- 3.....Calendar of Events
- 4.....Secretary Reports
- 5.....Book Review
- 6.....Genealogy SIG
- 7.....Ubuntu & Linux Software
- 9.....BUG SIG
- 10.....Mac Hints & Tips
- 14.....CUE Marketplace



Next Meeting

November 20, 2008

Mystery Nought

Halloween may have been last month, but the November CUE meeting is shaping up to be another night of mystery.

As of press time, the agenda for the meeting had yet to be finalized. Initially it was hoped to have a guest speaker this month. Another idea that was tossed around was for another of our Q&A sessions, where you bring in your hardware or software questions or problems, and see if the 'experts' in the group can solve them for you.

What will take place? It's anybody's guess right now. Why not come and join us to see how the Mystery of the Meeting turns out!!



7 pm, Holy Rosary School

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Digital Photo (HR)	6	7	8 Mac (HR)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 BUG (TK)	19	20 General Meeting (HR)	21 Newsletter Deadline	22
23	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30						

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Genealogy (DH)	3 Digital Photo (HR)	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Mac (HR)
14	15	16 BUG (TK)	17	18 General Meeting (HR)	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 			

Meeting Location Finder

DH Dave Howell • 3904 Myrtle • 866-7308 • dhowell63@neo.rr.com
 HR Holy Rosary • 1012 E. 28th (park behind school) • Contact Lou Cioccio • 868-1320 • lcioccio@mac.com
 TK Tom Kuklinski • 3699 Dogleg Trail • 814-746-9165 • tkuklinski@gmail.com
 LC Lou Cioccio • 5753 Glenview Dr. • 868-1320 • lcioccio@mac.com
 BE Bill Ellis • 1502 Winslow Dr. • 868-2680 • willardellis8@gmail.com

All meetings begin at 7 pm, except for Mac SIG, which is 9 AM (UNLESS otherwise noted by SIG leader).
 PLEASE RSVP for all SIG meetings, to allow for planning changes or meeting postponements.

Secretary's Reports

BOARD MEETING

October 16, 2008
Thursday
Holy Rosary School
6:20 pm

Olen Seidler
Lee Williams
Lou Cioccio
John Fair
Sam Fletcher
Mark Matson

Olen: Brought up the need for email addresses for 4 members. He read Dave Howell's report on Genealogy SIG's discussion of funding magazine subscriptions.

Lee: Made the point that all SIG's need to be treated equally if funding support is to be given from CUE to its SIG's. Since no other SIG had requested funding, perhaps the Genealogy SIG members should consider the cost impact. If that SIG's members shared the \$120, the individual cost would be \$120/18 members or \$6.67 per member of the Genealogy SIG. If each SIG is supported equally at the same level, the individual cost to every CUE member would be \$120 per SIG x 4 SIGs/40 members or \$12 per member of CUE. So the Genealogy SIG members would pay more if the \$120 came from CUE instead of the individual SIG members absorbing the cost.

John: Suggested the above point be made to the Genealogy SIG before bringing the subject before the membership and expressed concern about potential copyright infringement if emailing copies of articles from magazines to SIG members.

Olen will bring the subject up to the Genealogy SIG.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Fair

GENERAL MEETING

October 16, 2008
Thursday 7:12 PM
Holy Rosary School

Members in Attendance: about 10 plus 2 guests

Olen Seidler: Opened the meeting at 7:10 PM

Reports and Readings:
September minutes were published in the newsletter. No additions or corrections. Motion to accept as published made by Lee Williams. Sam Fletcher seconded the motion.

Web Site Committee: Mark Mattson described how Tom Kuklinski has taken over as webmaster but Mark will continue to work with Tom.
Nomination Committee: Olen reminded the committee members that elections would be coming up in a few months and they should be considering who might be on the slate.
Publicity and Awareness Committees: Since both Scarlett Skarupski and Tom Kuklinski were absent, there was no report.

SIG Reports:

Genealogy SIG: Dave Howell was absent, so there was no oral report on the October meeting. September's report was published in the newsletter.

Basic Users Group (BUG) SIG.

Tom Kuklinski was absent, so there was no oral report on the September

meeting. The October meeting will take place on October 21.

Digital SIG: The October meeting planned upcoming activities. The group will continue working on PSE 6 emphasizing Layers. Lou Cioccio requested members bring a "lousy" JPEG photo, either under or over exposed, for the group to work on.
Mac SIG: Lou talked about his latest project, a Hackintosh. For educational purposes Lou had begun assembling an Intel based machine to have PC parts running a Mac OS. If the project didn't work out, he would give it to his son to use as a PC. The parts were off the shelf, mostly from eBay.

Newsletter: Mark has articles from the Genealogy and BUG SIGs and a book review for the October issue. He still needs more local articles. Books are now available from a new vendor, Focal Press, at reduced prices or for no cost if the member is willing to write a book review. Focal Press is a well regarded publisher in the area of photography and graphic arts.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Guests introduced: Tom Sapola of Erie and John Kreger of Erie.

50/50 Drawing was for half of an \$18 pot and was won by Gene Meeks.

At 7:34 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Debora Cole, seconded by Greg Ames.

Respectfully submitted,
John Fair

Book Review - How to Cheat in Photoshop Elements 6

By Tanya Mattson, Computer Users of Erie

How to cheat in PHOTOSHOP Elements 6 works with Elements versions 3 to 6. It is published by Focal Press and is written by David Asch & Steve Caplin. The book includes a CD-ROM that is for PC and MAC users.

This book is the book you want if you would like to see and learn step-by-step methods on how to do the “Magic” so many people associate with Photoshop, but is available with Elements.

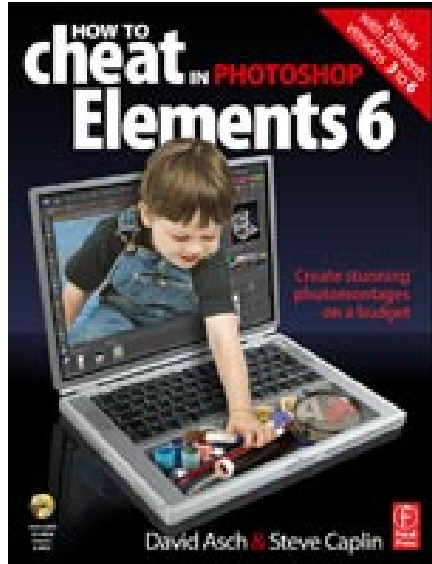
The book is broken down into 12 very easy to understand chapters:

Selection techniques pg 4
Montage essentials layers pg 20
Hiding and showing pg 38
Image adjustments pg 56
Light and shade pg 78
Transformation & distortion pg 98
Materials and textures pg 120
Working with text pg 148
People and animals pg 168
Shiny surfaces pg 196
The third dimension pg 212
Print and the internet pg 230

The “cheating” of this book is actually **SHORTCUTS** that help you do the “exercises” presented in the book faster, better, and smarter.

The book comes with a website and a reader forum if you have any questions or problems with anything presented in the book. The CD includes all the photographic material in the book. Plus some QuickTime movies showing specific techniques in action...so many of us see something

done better than we understand reading about. We all can't always visualize everything the way the author intended. The CD also includes custom Shapes and Layer Styles to import in to Elements to apply to your own work.



Now for the “cheating”...

In chapter one under Selection techniques you learn about the Magic Selection Brush. Personally I have heard about

the Magic Wand. But the Magic Selection Brush and how to use it was interesting stuff.

In chapter three under Hiding and showing you learn about creating effective photomontages. You also learn how to blend and arrange the montages so they appear more convincing.

In chapter four under Image adjustments you learn about the perfect respray, changing skies, and going 0-60 in ten minutes.

In chapter seven you learn how to lie on a bed of satin and the art of paper tearing.

One of my favorites, was under working with text. I always wanted to know how to do this “trick” and had tried to do myself before... writing in the sand.

This is the book you want to read would like to learn the in's and out's of Elements and the shortcuts and how to use them.

Ed. Note:

As mentioned, this book is available from Focal Press, either direct from them at their website (www.focalpress.com), or from your favorite book store.

List price is \$34.95 plus shipping, if ordered online.

Focal press is now one of CUE's partners, providing our members with a special user group discount.

To take advantage of this discount, order from them direct either online or phone, and mention the discount code 92995 to receive a 20% discount on your order.

There IS a banner on our website pointing you to Focal Press. HOWEVER< the link actually takes you to their parent company home page. To access the Focal Press site, look for the link to it along the left side of the page you are taken to. This is NOT a mistake with the link associated with the banner, but it is the one they require us to link to.

Focal Press has been in business for 70 years, and publishes many photography, video, and graphics related titles, among others. Be sure to check them out to see what they offer.



October 2008 Genealogy SIG Notes

By Dave Howell, Computer Users of Erie

The first order of business was the distribution of genealogy articles ordered by members of the SIG.

Dave reported the reaction he got from the CUE Board regarding the budget request we made that is earmarked to defray the costs of providing genealogy reference materials to SIG members. The Board indicated that CUE is operating on a "bare bones" budget based on an annual dues of \$20 - down from \$25 in past years and that if they provide a budget for us, they would also have to offer same to other SIGs thus resulting in an increase of our annual dues.

The group present tonight decided to look at less expensive ways to provide those articles. If Dave is successful with updating his scanning software, he might be able to upload the requested articles to the SIG membership without cost. The group advised Dave how this might be done. Dave will try this approach using his older SCSI-based scanner and Windows 98 FE desktop.

The CUE Board also asked Dave to research the issue of providing "copyrighted" articles to members of our group. Knowing that getting advice from an attorney might prove expensive, Dave accessed the U.S. Copyright website and obtained material that dealt with the issue. Since CUE is an "unofficial" non-profit organization and essentially an educational one at that, the law permits limited distribution of materials to its members provided the material is not published to the general "public" and that the author(s) are identified in the article(s). The group decided that changing the subscription from Dave's name to "Genealogy SIG of C.U.E." will further legitimize the educational intent of our activities.

Since all payments for the Ancestry.com Subscription have been received, Dave will send the new password to all those who have paid.

The remainder of the evening was spent viewing the second Legacy tutorial CD brought to the meeting by Bill. (The first tutorial for the "Beginner" is already available to everyone through Millennia's website.)

The second Legacy tutorial CD discusses the techniques of entering (1) Names, (2) Dates, and (3) Places. Legacy 7.0 is so vast and detailed that to master everything in the software is a daunting task even for experienced genealogists. The narrator proceeds through the basic steps for entering names, dates, and places. There is no doubt that these tutorials are like those blockbuster films such as "Gone With the Wind." Everytime you view it, you pick up new information or see other details you failed to see the first time around! The same is doubly true with the Legacy tutorials. Many of us will need to view the tutorial more than once to really grasp the protocols used in Legacy.

The one saving grace, however, is that by viewing the tutorials or using the "help" window, we become more aware of what can be done in each

given situation and where to look to get it done. In this regard, we should note a few places in Legacy (besides "help") where one can find the different choices, variables, and options available. They are usually listed under "Options" or "Customize" in the window where you are working. These items can also be seen in the "Options" tab in the toolbar. The group was dumbfounded at the myriad of "options and choices" available to meet practically any genealogical situation!

While viewing these tutorials is a good way to learn how to do things in Legacy, the best teacher, of course, is the actual hands-on experience of entering, manipulating, and displaying your family data. The hard part is being aware of all the techniques and choices you have and when and where to use them! Perhaps these tutorials will eventually expose those options and choices.

As this tutorial proceeded this evening, we stopped occasionally for questions and observations. As the hour approached 9 PM (in the interest of those wishing to watch the Presidential Debate), we stopped the CD in the middle of "Places." We shall continue where we left off at our next session, 7 PM, Tuesday, December 2nd at Dave's house.



COMPUTER USERS of ERIE
A Computer Club for People

PC - MAC - LINUX
For Beginner and Expert

Digital Photo and Genealogy Groups
A Beginners Group, Newsletter
Help in Troubleshooting
PUBLIC WELCOMED TO MONTHLY MEETINGS
Call: 814-746-4784
cuerie@gmail.com
www.cuerie.com

Ubuntu & Linux Software

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida www.spcug.org bwsail@yahoo.com

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

I suppose some of you might be wondering why I have been writing about the Ubuntu Linux operating system and Linux software. As I noted in last month's article my laptop is now my sole computer. Although it has a Pentium 4 processor it only has 512 MB of RAM. Naturally, that means it is incapable of running Windows Vista. But it does easily run Ubuntu with more than enough memory to do multi-tasking with no reduction in speed. I also know that there are a number of the members of the SPCUG that use computers that are running Windows 98 or Windows XP. The point is, that it is not necessary to try to upgrade these computers to run Vista or to buy a new computer. Instead you have the free alternative of installing Ubuntu or another version of Linux. This article will discuss some of the range of free Linux software and how easy it is to install it.

The original installation CD of Ubuntu included the OpenOffice software. OpenOffice includes a word processor, spreadsheet and presentation applications. These are fully compatible with the components of Microsoft Office. I frequently receive documents prepared in MS Word and they open directly into OpenOffice Writer. I can edit, comment and save a copy in the OpenOffice format. Then I can return the modified document to the originator in MS Word format with all the edits and comments intact. The same is true for spreadsheets. The OpenOffice presentation application (Impress) reads, writes and modifies

PowerPoint files as easily as Writer works with documents. OpenOffice also includes a Drawing application. Drawing is an application that I haven't used.

Other included software with Ubuntu are Ekiga (internet phone software), Pidgeon (internet messenger), Evolution (e-mail), and a remote desktop viewer. Graphics software includes the F-Spot photo manager, GIMP Image Editor and Xsane scanner software. Also, there is a CD burner, movie player for DVDs and two music players.

I grant you that the included software doesn't always meet all the needs for many users. So Ubuntu has several ways of installing additional software. I mentioned last month about installing the drivers for my printer, scanner and the wireless modem. This month I will continue with other applications that are the equivalent of those that I used under Windows. The installation of these applications was much easier than installing drivers for the accessory hardware.

The first step in installing any application is to go to the Applications – Add/Remove menu. When this application runs it provides you with a list of all the software available through Ubuntu and its third-party providers. On the left side of the window are listed various categories that you can highlight and the appropriate applications are then listed on the right side. When you highlight a specific application, a description appears in the lower portion of the window. There is also a search box that you can use to find a specific program or a group of programs.

Since I maintain my financial records on my computer I wanted a

financial program that ran under Ubuntu. Not knowing the specific name, I just searched on the term "finances". This brought up a list of financial software. One of the interesting aspects of the Add/Remove application is that programs are rated based on feedback from users using 1 to 5 stars. There was a 5 star application listed, GNUcash, which can import files in the Quicken format. So I put a check mark in the box by the application name and then clicked on the "Apply Changes" button. This brought up another window for verification of the changes to be made. After clicking on "OK", the application was downloaded from the Internet and installed on the hard drive without any further action on my part. A shortcut icon was also added to the Office portion of the applications menu. There was no reboot required to complete this process. After the installation, the "Add/Remove" application reported the successful installation and remained open in case I wanted to use it further.

My Windows financial software was Microsoft Money. Supposedly it will export its data files in the Quicken format. I did that and then copied the files from the Windows partition to the Ubuntu partition. However, the import into GNUcash was not really successful. I'm not sure why but I suspect there was information missing which resulted in misidentification of some of the accounts. Anyway, I selected an arbitrary date and entered opening balances for that date. So now, it is working perfectly and is in agreement with my bank balances. Using it is even somewhat easier than working with either Money or Quicken. Plus, the price is right.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Another application that I needed for Ubuntu was a genealogy program. Here again I was able to find a five star program, GRAMPS. (Very appropriate name I thought.) It was also available through the "Add/Remove" application so installation was completed quickly. GRAMPS imports GED files as do many genealogy programs. So I exported my files from my Windows software in the GED format then copied the GED file to the Ubuntu partition. The import into GRAMPS was essentially a two-click operation. Everything, including notes and references, were now available in an Ubuntu application. GRAMPS also has more report formats than my Windows software included. So I consider it a very successful replacement.

For quite some time I have used a PDA, specifically a Sony Clie which runs Palm Pilot software. The Sony CD loaded the Windows version to the hard drive and also included software to synchronize with the PDA. Since I have considerable contact information in the Clie along with many memoranda, I really wanted to be able to run this under Ubuntu. In the System-Preferences menu there is a selection for PalmOS devices. Now that sounded like it would be quite simple to install the applications necessary to run the Clie. Clicking on the selection runs the Gnome-Pilot application which helps the user to determine the settings for synchronizing with the Clie. Unfortunately, it could not find the Clie PDA. So I had to go back online to the Ubuntu forums to see if I could find the secret. It turns out that getting a PDA recognized and synced with Ubuntu is not always simple. After spending considerable time reading various solutions I came across a command line entry that showed the entries where my Clie was being recognized by Ubuntu. The PDA was properly identified by vendor and product ID's. Now all

the information I had gathered indicated that the PDA should be listed as using a USB connection and usually ttyUSB0 and ttyUSB1. Much to my surprise my printout showed the Clie as using ttyUSB9 and ttyUSB10. The Gnome-Pilot software refused to accept either of these as valid locations. However, another application, J-Pilot, accepted ttyUSB10 and synced with the Clie when the sync button was clicked. The synchronization transferred all of my information directly into the J-Pilot software. This software works on the desktop in a very similar manner to the Clie and Pilot software I had used under Windows. Successive synchronizations have also been successful. So that was one less application that would need to run under Windows.

There has been one big disappointment in the hardware setup. I have a multi-function media card reader built into the laptop. It reads SD cards as well as xD, MMC, and memory sticks. This reader works great under Windows as a way to transfer photos from my camera to the computer. However, there is apparently no driver available for this to work under Ubuntu. The card reader is manufactured by 02 Micro and they apparently don't believe Linux is here to stay so they have no plans to create Linux drivers for any of their products. At least that's the quotation from a response to a query from a Ubuntu user. So when I have photos to transfer to my computer I can either reboot into Windows, or I can connect the camera with a USB cable. The USB cable works fine as Ubuntu recognizes the camera right away. It also opens the F-Spot Photo Manager which allows me to choose the pictures and the location where I want them saved.

One of the applications included with Ubuntu is Brasero, a CD/DVD burner. When I first tried to use it, it refused to recognize my DVD+R discs. It would read and write DVD-

R/RW with no difficulty. Since I had a supply of the +R discs I decided to look for other DVD burning software. In the ADD/Remove application there were several CD/DVD burners listed. One of them was five star application called K3B. It was written primarily to work with the KDE desktop that is an alternative to the GNOME desktop. The KDE desktop comes with Kubuntu and has an interface that is closer to the one found in Windows. Anyway, K3B will work with GNOME, so let ADD/Remove install it. Any software that you add through Add/Remove can be removed simply by locating it in the list and removing the checkmark that indicates it has been installed. So now I have both Brasero and K3B installed. I also found, the next time I wanted to burn a DVD, that Brasero would now work with my external burner and the +R discs. I do like the interface for K3B better than Brasero, but they both work.

As you can see one of the nice attributes of using open license software is the ability to install it and use it at no cost. If you don't like it, you simply remove it. It's certainly not that simple in Windows. So, if you want to try a Linux OS on your computer download a "Live CD" and try it out. Also check out the online help forums. I think you'll find them easier to understand than much of the material Microsoft makes available. Whatever you decide, enjoy your computing!

Dr. Lewis is a former university and medical school professor of physiology. He has been working with personal computers for over thirty years, developing software and assembling systems.

August BUG SIG Notes

By Tom Kuklinski and Dave Howell, Computer Users of Erie

This meeting could easily have been called a "MultiSIG SIG" because the discussion covered Internet websites, PCs, MACs and Genealogy in depth! Check it out....

Tom demoed various sites available through Google - e-mail, word processing, maps, chrome, HEPA, patent searches, blog sites, translators, view translate, etc. He showed us his G-mail account which avoids junk mail and spam. Through Google you can get the free Norton Security scans.

Olen told us of his problem with his Quicken accounts - how to keep his business account separate from his personal account. Solutions to his dilemma were suggested.

We discussed Winbeam, cable broadband, DSL and other bundled plans for RoadRunner and HDTV.

We viewed the latest Seinfeld-Bill Gates ads found on recent TV broadcasts. Also visited were various sites showing parodies about the Apple-PC rivalry. The discussion mirrored what goes on at a Mac SIG session.

Later Carole brought up her problems trying to work on her family history on her MAC laptop which she brought to the meeting. She showed us her collection of gravestone images. She wanted to know how to enlarge each image. We went to "Findagrave.com" and learned what information is available on that site and how to add information to it.

Ed. Note:

This article was inadvertently omitted from the issue it was received for. Although late in publication, it is presented here to give you an insight into what happens at our BUG SIG meetings.

My apologies to Dave and Tom for the delay in publishing this.



Editor's Notebook

As noted earlier in this issue, CUE has a new vendor partner on-board, namely Focal Press.

All CUE members are eligible to take advantage of their UG discount of 20% off all titles they sell by use of the coupon code 92995 when ordering.

They publish a wide range of titles, but those most interesting to you will probably be the ones dealing with digital photography, Photoshop and Photoshop Elements, and other imaging and graphics programs. They also have a variety of video and audio related titles.

Check out their catalog at www.focalpress.com. There is a link to them on our website. Click on the

banner ad on the home page to reach their site. NOTE, however, that the banner ad takes you to their PAR-ENT site...the Focal Press link is on the left side of that page. I have an inquiry in to our contact to see if the banner can be set to take you direct to the Focal site, but for now, it needs to follow their guidelines.

The Review Software listings page is back online (or will be shortly after you read this). It is slim pickings right now, with only two titles up for offer at this point.

Remember, writing a review of any software title offered OR requesting a book from one of our vendor partners and reviewing it here, earns you that item to keep, **FOR FREE!!** If

there is something you would be interested in reviewing, please contact me and I will see about obtaining it. If it is NOT on the software review page, just ask me...many times vendors allow review copies to be obtained, they just don't advertise it heavily, and you need to dig for them.

The holidays are fast approaching. Due to the dates involved, please get me any items for the December and January issues as quickly as possible, and as close to the deadline dates as you can.

Mac Hints-n-Tips

By Paul Taylor, *Mac Hints and Tips*, www.mac-hints-tips.com paul@mac-hints-tips.com

Taking Better Photos

It never fails. Someone gives you a picture of yourself from a recent get-together but the top of your head is cut off (or in the case of my grandmother, most of my body is cut off!). Too often when taking a picture people just point and shoot and think they'll make the photo better in a photo-editing program.

Sure, you can change a lot of things in a program like Photoshop, but why not take advantage of the digital camera's LCD and create a great shot when you take it? Here are some pointers from a class I taught a few years back:

Learning to See

Decide how you can best capture the shot by choosing a suitable viewpoint and controlling what appears in the final picture. A photograph is merely a two-dimensional image of what we saw/see. Our eyes work in completely different ways; each eye offers a slightly different view. The two views together gives a strong impression of depth and spatial relationship.

Example: Focus on something in the room, close your left eye, and look at the object. Repeat with the right eye. Note the different perspective you get from each eye. Successful composition is dependent on your ability to look at a scene and decide exactly what to point the

camera at so the images recorded can capture the drama and grandeur of the broader view. The human eye is drawn to specific things. Here are the items that will capture the attention of your viewer, listed in order of importance:

Movement

Our eyes naturally go to even the slightest movement in a still frame. If there are several moving objects, our eyes jump among them. A good rule is to have just one new thing happening at a time to lead the viewer's eye around the frame.

Color Differences

One small patch of bright color against a dark background draws the eye into it. In general, warm colors attract the eye more than cool ones. Weight of Objects in Frame Objects with more size get more attention, but this can be manipulated. Big objects in the distance have less weight than smaller objects in the foreground that take up more screen space.

Creating Balance

Where you position the focal point in the frame is important because that will determine if the picture appears visually balanced. Use the rule of thirds: divide your camera's viewfinder using two imaginary horizontal and vertical lines so a grid is formed. The focal point may be positioned at one of the four intersection

points created by the grid. The rule of thirds can be applied to any subject: portrait, still life, wildlife photography, architecture, and landscape.

A slight tilt of the camera will shift the balance. Move downward to emphasize the landscape and foreground; move upward to make a feature of an interesting sky. The horizon is generally best positioned either a third up from the base of the image or a third down from the top to give a more balanced image. Never try to force a picture to comply with the rule of thirds, but more often than not you will find that it can be applied in some way.

Leading the Eye

Look for and find lines. Lines can be used to divide, to add a strong graphic element, or even as the main focus of composition.

Horizontal lines echo the horizon and the force of gravity. Vertical lines are more active than horizontal. They produce dynamic compositions with a stronger sense of direction. Tip: To maximize the effect, shoot in the upright format so the eye has farther to travel from the bottom of the frame to the top.

Diagonal lines have great directional value and add depth by suggesting distance and perspective. They can also contrast strongly with

(Continued on page 11)

Remember to check the CUE Website at www.cuerie.com for a listing of Review Software.

Contact the Editor to request a software title to review; test it, write a review for the newsletter, and it's yours to keep...for FREE!!!

(Continued from page 10)

the previous types of lines to create dynamic compositions that catch and hold the eye. Converging lines are the most powerful. When included in a photo, they add a very strong sense of depth.

Example: Railroad tracks. If you stand in the middle and look down in the distance, the parallel lines appear to move closer together until they eventually seem to vanish.

Filling the Foreground

By exploiting the area of a scene closest to the camera (the foreground), you can create a strong composition. Anything can be used as foreground interest: roads, fences, rivers, streams, paths, rocks on the shore, a flowerbed. Natural features tend to make the composition more interesting. Shadows can be used as foreground interest.

Composing for Impact

Take a few steps closer. Get in the habit of asking yourself if moving closer to the subject would improve the composition. Photos of people will be more intimate. Action shots will be full of drama. Landscapes will lack empty space. Explore your subject from all angles — don't assume your photos have to be taken at eye level. Take photos at an elevated position. Bend down/stretch out on your stomach. Compose with color, which lends strong aesthetic power. Example: Bold, contrasting colors such as blue and yellow, or red and green, will produce a photo that's exciting to look at.

Use your camera on its side. By using the camera in a vertical position, you can include much more foreground or sky. This makes the eye travel farther from the top to bottom, leading to an active composition.

Web Site Resources

BetterPhoto.com features online photography courses, digital camera ratings and reviews, great tips for improving photographic technique, camera comparisons, photo contests, Q&A, free email newsletters, and expert help with all aspects of beginning photography.
<www.betterphoto.com>

Shortcourses.com is a complete guide to digital cameras, digital photography, and digital video.
<www.shortcourses.com>

Photojojo.com — A website and newsletter dedicated not only to taking better photos, but doing cool and useful things with them. They say "We find the most kick-ass photo tips, DIY projects, and gear and bring them to you." <www.photojojo.com>

~ Holly Buttura
Small Dog Electronics

If you have already installed the new Mac operating system, OS 10.5 (Leopard) you are probably enjoying some of the great new features. If you haven't, you might be interested in some of those features and how you make them work.

Incidentally, if you do have Leopard installed, be sure you keep up with the software updates and install them as soon as you are aware of them.

Since Leopard is a brand new operating system Apple will be releasing updates as they find any problems and you will find that your system will run better with each update. 10.5.1 is already out.

To check on updates click on the Apple menu > Software Update. It is hard to pick out the best new features, but here are three that I really like that I think have universal appeal.

The Mail application has added a number of new features. You can now add stationery with built-in templates for invitations, announcements, etc.

These templates allow you to include photos. You can also now add

(Continued on page 12)

Leopard

Cool Leopard Tips

Membership News

Current Membership: 43

New Members: none last month

Renewals Received: Ken Fosco David Szymanski Bruce Carter
Bill Ellis

Renewals Due: Bob Huber Hadley Jones Carol Repoff Art Delano
Don Grim Dave Howell Mark Ellis Sam Fletcher Gene Meeks
Santa Merrifield Olen Seidler Lee Skywark Judy Lyons

Remember, a CUE Membership makes a nice present!!

(Continued from page 11)

numbering, bullets, indentations, and colored text to your messages.

Mail Tip One

Choose a stationery template for your email that can be read by both Macs and PCs. The add stationery button is on the far right of the toolbar. When you click the button, your stationery choices open for you and you just click one to choose it. You can even make a choice after you have created your text and Mail will fit your content into the stationery.

Mail Tip Two

Add an image to a stationery Template in a designated spot. Make sure that your image is in a format that does well across the Internet (.jpg, .pdf, gif, etc.)

- Drag and drop the image into the designated space.

Or

- Click Photo Browser in the toolbar to view available images in your iPhoto files and then drag an image from there.

Or

- Click the Attach button in the toolbar or choose File > Attach File, and then select an image from wherever it might be on your computer.

Mail Tip Three

Use numbering, bullets, indentations, and colored text in your emails. While in the process of creating a new message select the Formats Menu.

- Choose “lists” to get bullets or numbers.

- Choose “Indentations” to indent. For colored text choose the color icon from the menu bar and select the color you wish to use. You will be required to check a box making your document a “Rich Text” document to proceed.

Another cool new feature include in Mail is the ability to create a new

address card in Address Book from information included in the content of an email message. (This only works if you are receiving your mail through the Mail application.)

- Click on the address in the body of the message. A box forms around the information with an arrow in the bottom right corner.
- Click on that arrow. You are given the option of creating a brand new card, adding to an existing card, viewing a map for that address, or viewing the information in larger type.
- Click on “Create New Contact” and a card will be created containing the information. If there is a name included the card includes the name. If no name is included, the card is created using the name of the sender. The card will be opened for you so you can change the name if necessary.
- Click on “Add to Existing Contact” and the information will be added to an existing card. If there is a name with the address then you are done. If there is not, the information will be added to the sender’s card and you will be given the opportunity to change the name.

Note: If you already have an address in place for the individual that address will remain and the new address will be added as a second listing.

Note: If additional addresses or phone numbers are included without name identifiers, they might be picked up as well. If that happens, just delete them from your card before you save.

Preview now gives you the ability to print several different images on a single sheet of paper. They can be the same or different images. Print several different images on a single sheet of paper. Or print multiple copies of the same image to cut out and share with friends.

- Open your image using Preview 4. (Right-click on the image

icon, select “Open With,” and then select “Preview,” or open Preview 4 and drag the image across the Dock icon). Select View > Sidebar

- A sidebar will open containing an icon of your image. Drag additional images onto the sidebar. You can drag different images, or drag images of the same picture if you want to print multiples of the same photo. Drag as many as you want to fit on one page.
- When you are ready to print click on the first icon in the sidebar and then Command/click on each of the other images.
- Select File > Print Selected Images
- Mark your settings and click Print.

These tips, and many more are included in the revised version of Nancy Gravley’s new manual, Tips, Hints, and Solutions For Seasoned Beginners Using Apple Macintosh Computers With Mac OS X 10.4 and 10.5.

Entire table of contents and sample pages available for review from <http://www.capmac.org/%7Enancygravley/bifocalsbooksample.pdf>.

The book is available as a black-and-white, spiral-bound printed book (\$17.15 plus shipping), as a color pdf (\$9.85, download) or as the color PDF on a CD with hyperlinks for the various topics covered.

~ Nancy Gravley
MacObserver via Mouse Tales,
NorthCoast MUG, Berea, OH

iPhoto Library Rescue

In the past week I have had to rescue or revive three clients’ iPhoto Libraries, which leads to the question of how this is done.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

The most common problem in recent versions of iPhoto has been one in which the thumbnail images in the main catalogue window are replaced by grey squares. Sometimes double-clicking these reveals the full-size photo, but sometimes that has also been replaced by plain grey.

In general, no photos have been lost — what has been damaged is the index information that iPhoto uses to keep track of their location. Foreseeing that this might occur for a variety of reasons, Apple has provided iPhoto with an internal library rebuilding routine.

[Note that this kind of problem is frequently caused by a user's attempting to add to, extract from, or otherwise manipulate the contents of the iPhoto Library folder, normally found in your Pictures folder. It is not intended that you ever access the contents of this folder directly, and iPhoto '08 actually turns it into a 'package' — a single large file that severely inhibits tampering. If you want to revise the content of the iPhoto library in any way, you must do it via the main iPhoto catalogue window.]

Before undertaking the rebuild process though, make sure that you are using the latest update available for your version of iPhoto. You can check this using Software Update. The built-in rebuilding routine is accessed by holding down a particular pair of keys while opening iPhoto. In versions 4 and 5 the keys are the Option and Shift keys, while in version 6 and later they are the Command and Option keys.

Holding down the appropriate pair of keys will halt the iPhoto opening process before any photos appear, and you'll be asked about the kind of rebuild you want to perform. If in doubt, simply tick all the boxes and proceed, recognizing that the process

can be a long one if you have thousands of photos.

Sometimes this rebuild routine works, but often it doesn't. The next step is to try the repair function included in iPhoto Library Manager (free for this function), which is different in that it attempts to build a completely new library, resolving problems as it goes. Sadly though, it will often be tripped up by the same problems that cause Apple's method to fail.

When all else has failed, your only option is to extract the photos from the damaged library and re-import them into a new library. Since an iPhoto Library contains all manner of folders, thumbnail images and support files, it helps greatly if you have a utility that can extract just the full-size photos and leave the rest behind. The one I use is iPhotoExtractor (free) that is effective, though rather slow as it's AppleScript based. Be prepared to wait hours if you have thousands of photos.

Also make sure you have enough free disk space to accommodate the extracted (actually copied) photos. When the process is finished, import the extracted photos into a new library — hold down the Option key while opening iPhoto in order to create one with a name and location of your choosing. Again you'll need plenty of free disk space, as iPhoto actually copies the photos into its library.

[An alternative method is to search the old Library folder, or its subfolders in turn, for all files larger than about 72KB, which should filter out the dross. This method has the advantage that you can drag the found items directly into a new iPhoto window, avoiding the intermediate copy process.]

Unfortunately you will have lost all your albums, your photo ratings and keywords, though iPhotoExtractor does give you the option of saving titles rather than the original file names. At least you will have the photos with their EXIF data including dates, which will help with your reconstruction of the library.

AUSOM News, Melbourne, Australia

Ed. Note:

For more of these hints and tips, be sure to visit the website at www.mac-hints-tips.com.

This is by no means the complete listing of tips received each month...space restrictions and content balancing makes use of all of them impossible...they would make a full newsletter by themselves.

Want YOUR Business card here??

Please mail inquiries concerning advertising rates to
CUE, PO Box 8941, Erie, PA 16505-0941 Attn: Advertising.

OR

Email cuerie1@verizon.net

Advertise in **HORIZONS** to increase your sales traffic!!

CUE Marketplace

Horizons Classifieds

FOR SALE:

ADVERTISE YOUR ITEMS HERE!!!

Remember, CUE members may advertise any item they wish to sell or buy in this space, free of charge. Please be sure to get any listings to the Editor by the monthly issue deadline.

Please note that all transactions are between private individuals, and CUE is not responsible for any issues that may arise. CUE is just providing the ad space.

User group members
SAVE 35% on all titles

ENTER DISCOUNT
CODE: DSUG

O'REILLY



Spreading the knowledge of Innovators

oreilly.com

For the latest CUE news visit our website at
www.cuerie.com

OR

Join the CUE email list. To do so, send an email to
cuelist@szy.com, and use
SUBSCRIBE as the subject.

Want an ad here, to get the word out about your
company or its services?

Contact the editor as cuerie1@verizon.net and ask
for a copy of the latest advertising rates.



Focal
Press

User Group
Members
SAVE 20%

learn · master · create

www.focalpress.com

Peachpit

User Group Program Member



Remember, all CUE members receive a

30% Discount

on all book purchases.

You may order online at www.peachpit.com

Use the coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF at check-out (note it is CASE SENSITIVE).

Smart Computing
In Plain English

Need to subscribe or renew an existing subscription?

Visit www.smartcomputing.com, and give CUE credit fro your new or renewal subscription.

Use the User Group link on the left menu, and follow the links from there to the subscription page. By doing so, CUE receives credit towards free subscriptions to use as door prizes or raffles.

Tell all your friends!!

Computer Users of Erie Membership Application

Please Print

Application Type: New Renewal Info Change Today's Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP+4: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____ Referring member: _____

It is CUE's policy to keep your information confidential. However, for contact regarding SIGs, meetings and a possible Help Directory, may we release the following to other members:

Home Phone: Yes No and/or Email Address: Yes No

Please indicate how you wish to receive your monthly newsletter issue. **Please note that if you choose US Mail delivery, there will be a \$10 surcharge added to your dues to help offset the rising postage costs to mail your newsletter.**

E-Mail US Mail Pickup at meeting

		Skill Level		
X	Computer Interest	Low	Med	High
	Office Applications			
	Digital Imaging			
	Graphics			
	Internet			
	Operating Systems			
	Macintosh			
	Programming			

		Skill Level		
X	Computer Interest	Low	Med	High
	Advanced Technology			
	Hardware			
	Networking			
	Financial			
	Genealogy			
	Beginner's Group			
	Other:			

X	Volunteer Interests
	Greet Guests and Members
	Newsletter Reporter
	Software / Book Review
	Photographer
	CUE Demonstrations

X	Volunteer Interests
	SIG Leader
	Present Programs
	Publicity Activities
	Solicit Advertising
	HELPLINE Resource

X	Computer Platform(s)
	Windows 9x/ME
	Windows 2000 / XP
	Macintosh
	Linux
	Other:

How did you hear about CUE? _____

Dues Rates

Regular membership: \$20.00 / year
 Newsletter by US Mail: \$30.00 / year
 Student membership: \$15.00 / year

*Student members **MUST** present proof of student status*

Mail completed application and check to:

Computer Users of Erie
 Membership
 PO Box 8941
 Erie, PA 16505-0941

Directions to Holy Rosary School

CUE Members and Visitors

Arriving at the school, turn into the drive between the Church and the School building.

Proceed through the chain poles at the rear of the drive into the main parking lot.

Turn **RIGHT** in the lot, and proceed to the far end of the parking lot.

Park anywhere near the ramp and steps. Enter through that doorway, the meeting room is to your **LEFT**.

****If the chain is up at the rear of the drive, go around the corner and into the lot from 27th Street****

Finding Holy Rosary

From the West

Take 26th St. (Rt. 20) to the intersection of Parade Street. Turn right, go to the next light. Make a hard left turn onto 28th St. Follow to the school, which will be on your left.

From the South

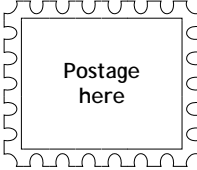
From Rt. 19 (Peach St.), Rt. 97 or Rt. 8, follow that street to 38th Street. Head east on 38th street. Turn **LEFT** onto East Ave. from East 38th street (first traffic light east of the intersection of Rt 8 (Pine Ave.) and East 38th St. The school will be immediately in front of you when you reach the T-intersection of East Ave. and 28th St.

From the East

Follow Rt. 20 WEST to Broad Street. Follow Broad street until you see Wal-Mart and McDonalds on your left. Turn **LEFT** onto Burton Ave. When you reach the end of the street, turn **RIGHT** onto 28th St. School will be on your right in approximately 3 blocks.



Horizons
Computer Users of Erie
PO Box 8941
Erie, PA 16505-0941



Postmaster: Address Service
Requested

Address label here