

# Scug News

January 2010

Newsletter of the Sandwich Computer Users Group

# WWW.SCUG.ORG

## Last Month

Last month was our annual SCUG Christmas Party complete with song, prayer, good food, Santa Claus and his helper. In addition to the party we held elections and elected officers for 2010/2011.

## January Program ~ Facebook and FarmVille

If you are interested in a social networking web site then Facebook is the site for you. Learn the basics on starting and using an account on Facebook. Learn how to setup what information about you is on the site and what you want to share with everyone.

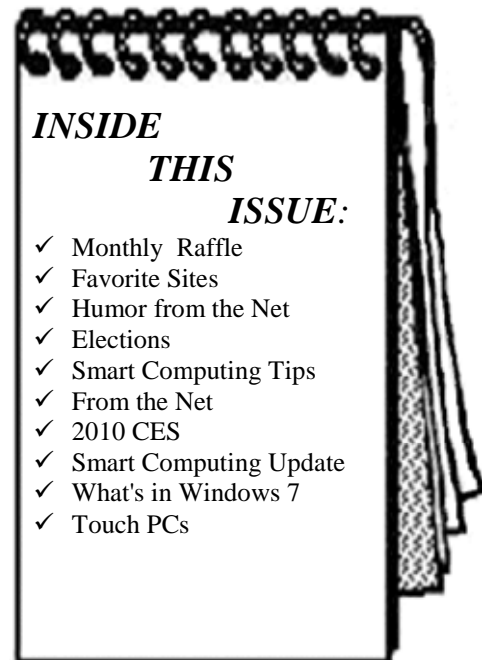
FarmVille is a social networking game that is fun and lets you interact with people on your friends list in Facebook. After you start this game you will never get your work around the house done again.

We meet at the Federated Church in Sandwich 403 N. Main Street on the third Thursday of each month. The meeting is a great place to learn about computers and meet new friends. Next meeting is January 21, 2010. Visit our web site at [www.scug.org](http://www.scug.org) for more info. Membership forms are available at: [http://www.scug.org/About\\_us.htm](http://www.scug.org/About_us.htm)

## Upcoming Programs

Next Month Smart Computing is scheduled to be back with another fine program (it's been over 3 years since they have been here). Chris Spera, who writes the weekly column *"Technically Speaking"* that appears in Thursday's edition of The Beacon-News, will be our March presenter. Be sure to check out Chris's site [www.iTechGear.org](http://www.iTechGear.org). April's program will be on uploading videos to YouTube.

Looks like we are off to an exciting/informative year.



Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.

Sat 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Closed

## THE OFFICE WORKS

*"Doing Whatever It Takes..."*

630-552-4255

Fax 630-552-4551

Toll Free 800-831-6878

5 E. Main Street

PO Box 173

Plano, IL 60545

[www.the-office-works.com](http://www.the-office-works.com)

## January Birthdays

1/12 Marlene Hundt  
1/15 JoAnn Harkins  
1/15 Dottie Olson

1/14 Bob Olson  
1/15 Cindy Kaminky  
1/27 Myrna Skopek

## February Birthdays

2/17 Mary Swynenberg  
2/20 Dorothy Smith  
2/24 Danielle Pearson

2/18 Larry Knobloch  
2/21 Jim Weekly  
2/28 Joan McEachern

2/29 Julie Pearson

---

## Monthly Raffle

---

### Monthly Raffle

Thank you very much for a successful 2009 year with the monthly raffle.

The January Raffle will be a surprise. We will again be offering 6 tickets for \$5.00.

Buy early; buy often!

*Debbie Olson  
The Raffle Queen*

---

## Favorite Sites

---

### Free printable material

Here's a website that has a lot of free printable material. You can print (a little late) Christmas tags, make your own graph paper, kids rewards certificates, just to name a few .

You will be asked to join (free) to receive their newsletter. Once confirmed (after reading the sales pitch to buy software) you have access to whatever you chose to print. It has something for everyone !

[www.freePrintable.net](http://www.freePrintable.net)

*Louise Dieden*

### Free, online classes, available 24/7:

[www.hp.com/go/learningcenter](http://www.hp.com/go/learningcenter)

### Facebook and Twitter: getting started (quick lesson) NEW!

Sites like Facebook and Twitter are everywhere these days. You hear about tweets and writing on walls, and yet you wonder if the world of online social networking is for you.

This quick lesson will help you understand what social networking is. Then we'll introduce you to the online social networks Facebook and Twitter, followed by instructions on how to get started and how to keep yourself safe.

<http://tinyurl.com/yhkpajq>

*Debbie Olson*

---

## Humor from the Net

---

A cowboy named Bud was overseeing his herd in a remote mountainous pasture in California when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced toward him out of a cloud of dust.

The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, RayBan sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out the window and asked the cowboy, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, Will you give me a calf?"

Bud looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, "Sure, Why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg , Germany.

Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer, turns to the cowboy and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves," says Bud. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on with amusement as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then Bud says to the young man, "If I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a Congressman for the U.S. Government", says Bud.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required," answered the cowboy. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of dollars worth of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about how working people make a living - or about cows, for that matter.

This is a herd of sheep . . .

Now give me back my dog."

*These really work!*

*I checked this out on Snopes and it's for real!*

### Amazing simple home remedies:

1. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetable by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
2. Avoid arguments with the females about lifting the toilet seat, by using the sink.
3. For high blood pressure sufferers ~ simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to use a timer.
4. A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
5. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives. Then you'll be afraid to cough.
6. You only need two tools in life - wd-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the wd-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
7. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

### Daily thought:

Some people are like slinkies - not really good for anything but they bring a smile to your face when pushed down the stairs.

---

---

## Elections

---

---

Newly elected officers are as follows:

<b>President</b>	Jerry Kell
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Bob Olson
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Tom Smith
<b>Secretary</b>	Theresa Bagg
<b>Treasurer</b>	Myrna Skopek
<b>Board Member at Large</b>	Louise Dieden
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	Jake Dykstra
<b>Standby Officer</b>	Bill Hacker

*Jerry Grommes*  
Election Chairman

---

---

## Smart Computing Tips

---

---




### Smart Computing Tips

As a member of the Smart Computing User Group Program, you are welcome to reprint these tips in your user group's newsletter.

- **5GHz Frequency:** Most wireless networks use the 2.4GHz frequency, which other gadgets also use. Too many competing devices can cause signal interference in the form of slowdowns and dropouts. If your router supports it, use the 5GHz frequency instead - it's less crowded.
- **Choose 802.11n:** Wi-Fi, whose technical label is 802.11, uses four possible standards: a, b, g, and n. The latest standard is 802.11n, which provides the best combination of transmission speed, range, security, and flexibility. If you have a choice, go with 802.11n.
- **Stop Pop-ups:** If you've ever tried to close persistent pop-up ads, you know it can be a futile effort. Instead of clicking the red X located in the upper-right corner of most windows, press ALT and F4 on your keyboard to close a selected pop-up ad. Alternatively, you can use the Windows Task Manager to close pop-up ads, but be careful not to close critical Windows processes or legitimate applications that are currently in use. If you're receiving constant pop-up ads, you may have a security breach. Run anti-malware software if you think your PC may be infected.

Reprinted with permission from *Smart Computing*. Visit: <http://www.smartcomputing.com/groups> to learn what *Smart Computing* can do for you and your user group!



**Indian Valley Computer Services**

704 E. Church St. • Suite B • Sandwich, Illinois 60548

Brad S. Shelton  
*Network Administrator*

Phone: 815-786-6814  
or 888-508-5550  
Voice Mail: 888-931-4384    E-Mail: [bradnetad@indianvalley.com](mailto:bradnetad@indianvalley.com)

---

# From the Net

---

## Winter Tips

Keep your headlights clear with car wax! Just wipe ordinary wax on your headlights. It contains special water repellants that will prevent that messy moisture from accumulating on your lights - lasts 6 weeks.

Squeak-proof your wipers with rubbing alcohol! Wipe the wipers with a cloth saturated with rubbing alcohol or ammonia. This one trick can make badly streaking & squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence and clarity.

Ice-proof your windows with vinegar! Frost on its way? Just fill a spray bottle with 3 parts vinegar to 1 part water & spritz it on all your windows at night. In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess. Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water preventing water from freezing!

Prevent car doors from freezing shut with cooking spray! Spritz cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors and rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber.

Fog-proof your windshield with shaving cream! Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield and wipe it off with paper towels. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.

De-ice your lock in seconds with hand sanitizer! Just put some hand sanitizer gel on the key and lock & the problems solved!

A sealed envelope - Put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed. (hmmmmmm..)

For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dish washing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze. (wish I had known this for the last 40 years!)

~~~~~

Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?  
A. Their birthplace

Q. Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested?  
A. Obsession

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?  
A. One thousand

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?  
A. All were invented by women.

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?  
A. Honey

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?  
A. Father's Day

~~~~~

## YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2010 when...

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee
11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. : )
- 12 You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list .

---

# 2010 CES

---

CES (Consumer Electronics Show)

## 2010 INTERNATIONAL CES LAUNCHES NEXT DECADE OF INNOVATION

### Record Number of New CE Products Generates Opportunity for Global Economy

Las Vegas, Nevada - 1/10/2010

More than 2,500 technology companies introduced more than 20,000 new products this week at the 2010 International CES®, kicking off the next decade of technology innovation. With a record 330 new exhibitors, major technology trends unveiled on the 2010 CES show floor included 3D TV, mobile DTV, connected TV, green technologies, tablets and apps. Owned and produced by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)®, the 2010 International CES, the world's largest tradeshow for consumer technology, concluded today in Las Vegas.

*“The innovations unveiled this week at the 2010 International CES brought new optimism and opportunity to our industry and the global economy,”* said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO, CEA. “This show exceeded expectations with its innovation, optimism and excitement. What a great way to kick off the new decade.”

Cutting-edge technology trends wowed crowds throughout the 2010 International CES show floor including advancements in 3D technology, mobile DTV, tablets, netbooks, eReaders, apps, connected TVs, embedded internet technologies and green technology. Major innovations creating a buzz from CES included the Android OS, Lenovo's IdeaPad U1 Hybrid, Microsoft's Project Natal and Sprint's 4G network.

### Record number of new exhibit areas

*“The 2010 CES featured a record number of new exhibit areas on the show floor highlighting cutting-edge technology trends that will redefine our industry,”* said Karen Chupka, senior vice president, events and conferences, CEA. *“The iLounge Pavilion included 100 companies and featured the latest apps and accessories for iPod, iPhone and Mac products – the largest display of its kind in CES history – and areas such as Living in Digital Times unveiled the next generation of innovation for consumers of all demographics.”*

### Dynamic keynote addresses

In addition to the innovative gadgets, the 2010 International CES featured dynamic keynote addresses from industry leaders including Microsoft's Steve Ballmer, Ford's Alan Mulally, Intel's Paul Otellini, Nokia's Olli-Pekka Kallaluvuo, Qualcomm's Dr. Paul Jacobs and Hisense's Zhou Houjian.

### 250 + conference sessions

More than 250 conference sessions took place over the four days of the 2010 CES spanning industry topics ranging from distracted driving to social media. The new conference program focused on entertainment content, Up Next at CES, featured content industry executives and actors Richard Dreyfus and Jason Bateman, who announced DumbDumb, a sponsor-driven advertising and production company.

### Attendance 120,000 +

At show close, preliminary registration figures indicate more than 120,000 industry professionals attended the 2010 International CES, up from the 2009 CES which hosted 113,085 verified attendees. International attendance also increased over the 2009 CES by more than 1,000 attendees. More than 5,000 reporters, analysts and bloggers attended the show, generating significant global media coverage of the 2010 CES. CEA conducts an independent audit of International CES attendance and the final verified figures will be released in the spring.

The 2010 CES welcomed government officials from the U.S. and around the world, including U.S. Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski and FCC Commissioners Meredith Atwell Baker, Mignon Clyburn and Robert McDowell. Some 100 other government officials attended CES.

The 2010 International CES was a celebrity-filled event with entertainment and sports figures on the CES show floor, including Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, Dr. Dre, Drew Carey, P.Diddy, Tommy Lee, Joba Chamberlain, Prince Fielder, author James Patterson, Bette Midler and CBS Sportscaster James Brown.

An additional press release will be issued later this week highlighting the innovative technology products launched at the 2010 International CES. The 2011 International CES will be held in Las Vegas, January 6-9, 2011.

2010 International CES exhibitors said of this year's show:

*“There is only one place to experience the breadth of innovation in the consumer technology market,”* said Jay Buchanan, Electronics Division Director, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Inc.

*“This is where we chose to showcase two fundamental innovations,”* said Henry E. Juskiewicz, CEO, Gibson Guitar Corp. *“At CES we get opinion leaders, press, bloggers and influencers. No other show or event allows us this exposure and ability to brand build.”*

**Editors Note:** With more than 20,000 new products introduced, I anxiously await to hear from all of you who have purchased new toys.

---

---

# Smart Computing Update

---

---

Dear Sandwich Computer User Group,  
We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sandwich Computer User Group for taking part in the Smart Computing User Group Program. We've appreciated your efforts to bring Smart Computing and our sister publications to your user group and would like to reward your group for its participation! Over the years, this program has helped us develop lasting relationships with a number of wonderful people throughout your organization. And, just as we hope your club has grown and ventured in new directions, we too are continuing to find new ways to better serve the readers of our publications. As of December 30th, 2009 we will be discontinuing the Buy 5 Get 1 Free program.

However, your club and its members have worked hard to earn these free subscription credits and we will not be taking those away.

We would like to continue our support of the user group program as we move forward into 2010. If your club has an upcoming event, etc please feel free to reach out to Smart Computing as we would be happy to offer whatever support we may be able to supply.

Regards,  
Smart Computing User Group Team (800) 334-7458  
[user-groups@smartcomputing.com](mailto:user-groups@smartcomputing.com)  
[www.smartcomputing.com/groups](http://www.smartcomputing.com/groups)

---

---

## What's in Windows 7

---

---

### What's in MS Windows 7

By Randy Esdon,  
member of Big Blue & Cousin, Canada  
[www.bbc.org](http://www.bbc.org)

*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).*

Hopefully you've heard of the new version of MS Windows called Windows 7. So what is the home user getting should they wish to upgrade their computer? In this article I'll try to highlight some of the basic home user features. This is not a complete highlight of everything that has been added or improved upon, but explains those items the average user might notice.

First off, the core applications that got an update are Windows Media Player, Internet Explorer, Paint, Calculator,

and Wordpad. The first two programs I listed usually do get updates and are already available for Vista and XP.

The other three are basic programs that haven't seen any updates in a while. Basically their User interface (UI) and some functionality have been improved. The UI of each program now has the ribbon style of interface, like that of Office 2007. MS Paint added some more brushes, and can now use 'shapes' within the drawings. The best improvements are in the calculator, where they have added selectable tools or modes such as a mortgage calculator, a gas mileage calculator, a statistics mode, and even a programmer mode.

The next item Microsoft worked on was the desktop management area. They added several user friendly features, such as 'Snap to Docking', 'Aero Shake', an updated 'Taskbar', 'Jump Lists', 'Aero Peek', and 'Gadgets' wherever you want them.

### Snap to Docking

'*Snap to Docking*' has three functions:

- to maximize a window, drag it to the *top* of the screen,
- to restore the window, drag it *from* the top of the screen,
- to compare two windows side by side, drag them to the *opposite sides* of the screen.

### Aero shake

'*Aero shake*' is simple, and provides a great way to focus on just one application. Grab the 'Title Bar' of the screen you have open, shake the mouse, and all the other applications that are open will disappear.

### Taskbar

'*Taskbar*' has been updated to include the ability to switch the order of the screens that are open. For those who multi-task, this is good when you want to prioritize your work. You can also point to a Taskbar icon to see a thumbnail preview of open files or programs. Then move your mouse over a thumbnail to preview the window as a full screen.

### Jump Lists

'*Jump Lists*' are smart lists of links specific to each application, such as:

- a history of pages visited - Internet Explorer or Firefox.
- opened files - MS Word.
- Frequently played songs - Media Player. Whenever you open a program, an up arrow becomes available next to the program icon. Click the list, and save time navigating to where you want to start within that program.

### Aero Peek

'*Aero Peek*' gives you the power of X-ray vision so you can peer past all your open windows, straight to the Windows 7 desktop. Simply point to the right edge of the taskbar and watch opened windows instantly turn transparent, revealing all your hidden icons and gadgets.

## Gadgets

'Gadgets' can now be placed anywhere on your desktop, as opposed to just in the docking bar, as is the case in Vista.

## Home Networking

'Home Networking Features' has been updated to make it easier to securely share files between computers. When you save a network as a home network, Windows pops up a dialog box which lets you decide what you want to share at home. To connect a second Windows 7 computer to the same network, enter the key given to you by the first machine, and you have instant secure file sharing. Microsoft has also included the ability of the computer to use different printers depending on what location you're at. This will simplify things for those people who take their laptop from home to the office, and use a printer at both locations.

## Program Compatibility

'Program Compatibility Troubleshooter' has been added to help with using older programs within Windows 7. Basically this feature will ask you a series of questions to help you get a piece of incompatible software working. This has been much more streamlined than in Vista. Simply select the software that is giving you issues, list the problems associated with the software, select the operating system it does work with, and run the test. If the software works, save the settings and you should be set up to use that program in the future.

## Biometrics

'Biometrics' features of Windows 7 have been enhanced. This allows users to use fingerprint biometric devices to log on to computers, grant elevation privileges through User Account Control (UAC), and perform basic management of the fingerprint devices.

## Tablet PC

'Tablet PC' has many improvements for handwriting recognition. Support for handwriting recognition, personalization, and text prediction in new languages has been enhanced. Support for handwritten math expressions, and personalized custom dictionaries for handwriting recognition have been added.

## User Access Control

'User Access Control' (UAC) functionality improvements are some of the biggest from a user's perspective. Basically Microsoft has changed the UAC to have a slider bar the administrator can access, from four levels of security. By doing this, the number of tasks the average user can perform, that do not prompt for administrator approval, have been increased. This has dramatically reduced those unwanted pop up messages that ask you if you really want to do this.

## Other items

Other items that have been improved include:

- Common tasks are easier and faster. For example with the built-in Windows Search, finding documents is much quicker.
- Less power consumption through better sleep/hibernate support. This provides longer battery time for laptops.
- Improved built-in CD Burning and DVD creation. This includes the ability to burn ISO images.
- For those who are gamers, there is better 3D hardware accelerated graphics support through an updated DirectX.

A Windows backup program has been added that will do a complete image of a drive. This will allow for easy recovery should a computer have a complete hard drive failure.

The 'Problem Screen Recorder' is a new feature in Windows 7. This allows you to capture and record the steps you are taking to produce a problem. Then you can email this file to a tech to explain the problem. It can also be used to generate a file with step by step pictures that can be edited so you can make a tutorial on how to use a program.

Overall, the new Windows system runs significantly quicker than Vista. It is also better equipped, with improved features and security functions.

Windows 7 is less demanding in terms of hardware than its predecessor, and has better support for hardware drivers than Vista was when it was released.

Overall I see many benefits to upgrading to the new version of Windows.

Yes, there is nothing outstanding that requires a user of Vista or XP to jump on the band wagon and do the upgrade, but for those who are fed up with the problems Vista presents, and those who are worried that XP has been dropped from Microsoft's supported OS list, i.e. no more updates, Windows 7 seems to be a good choice.

---

---

# Touch PCs

---

---

## Windows 7 Helps Bring Touch PCs to the Tipping Point

LAS VEGAS — Jan. 7, 2010

Will PCs with touch screens soon be as *de rigueur* in America's kitchens as the ShamWow? General Mills hopes so. The food company has made available a free PC application called the Betty Crocker Kitchen Assistant that provides not only recipes, but also cooking tips, personalized recipe suggestions based on what ingredients users have on hand, programmable kitchen timers, and a highly intuitive recipe search interface. And it's all optimized to work with the features of Windows 7, like touch.

Read the full story at <http://tinyurl.com/ye8d5cy>