Prez Says:

Ron Cowger

Ah, March has arrived. Even though the weather is still wet and chilly, I am encouraged by the knowledge that spring is scheduled to arrive later this month. Of course, I have lived in the northern part of our great nation for enough of my life to know that spring does not always follow the calendar as we wish that it would. However, we have already seen some of the early flowers like daffodils poking their leaves out of the ground so there is hope for warmer, nicer days ahead. Also, remember that we "spring forward" on March 8th. Boy, that date is coming up quickly. We will lose an hour's worth of sleep on the 7th but gain more useful daylight hours in the afternoon through the summer. If your computer is a few years old, you may have to manually adjust the clock to Daylight Savings Time. As you may recall, the government changed the start and end dates for DST a few years ago and older BIOSes may not change automatically on the new dates.

I want to thank Phil Mark Davis and David Dodge for the two presentations that they gave during the General Meeting last month. Phil showed us an excellent way to re-wire the sound system so that sound from the presenter's laptop could be connected through the meeting room's sound system. Also, the pre-amp/mixer device that he demonstrated would give us more control over the volume of the various input sources at the front of the room rather than having to use the mixer board at the back. The members of the Board discussed the proposed changes and are evaluating the pre-amp/mixer method versus a cheaper method that might give us similar results.

David Dodge's presentation on recent advances in computer technology was also very interesting. I found the new, inexpensive Intel CPU that is designed for use in really small PCs especially interesting. It seemed to lend itself very well to those situations where one only needed limited power to do light office work and surf the net.

I have volunteered to give a presentation at the March meeting on our visit to the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas this past January. We saw some exciting new gadgets that I think you will find interesting. I hope to see you at the General Meeting on March 9th.

Prez Says: continued

Have you renewed your KEGS membership for 2009? I hope so. According to our Treasurer, only fifty folks had renewed as of February 26th. That number represents quite a drop from where our membership was at the end of last year. I encourage you to renew your membership as soon as possible. We need your participation and interest.

During the February General Meeting, Bob Baxter went over the proposed guidelines that we will apply to better control items donated for the KEGaBuck$ Auction. We greatly appreciate all of the items that are donated but don't want the Auction to become a disposal method for items that will not receive bids at the Auction. Here are the guidelines with the addition of printer information.

- Software that runs on operating systems older than Windows 98SE will not be accepted. (We are considering changing the oldest acceptable Windows version to Windows 2000.)
- No computer add-in cards that plug into an ISA bus will be accepted.
- Donated items need to be complete enough to be easily used by the buyer. Each item should be in the original box if possible. If necessary, a substitute box may be used. Items that came with installation software and documentation should have those items in the box with the item.
- Items that do not receive bids during the Auction will not be held over to the next Auction. Members who donate items are requested to put their names on the items and to take any items not receiving bids home with them at the end of the Auction.
- Any PCs that are donated should be based on at least a Pentium III with a speed of 1 GHz or higher.
- Printers must have drivers for Windows 98SE or newer operating systems. Also, ink or toner cartridges must still be available for purchase. A USB connection to the PC/laptop is preferred but not mandatory.

I recently discovered an unexpected compatibility problem on my PC that I would like to share with you. For some time, most of the knowledgeable folks in KEGS have been telling us that we can safely run two anti-spyware programs on our computers without any problem. (Not two anti-virus programs.) I have found that this is not always the case. For some time, I have been using Webroot's Spy Sweeper as my primary anti-spyware utility. It has gotten lots of good press and seemed to be doing a great job.

Prez Says: continued

Then, a few weeks ago, I upgraded to Norton Internet Security 2009 to my PC. It seemed to work well for a couple of weeks but then my PC began to suffer from unexplained lockups from time to time. At first, I couldn't relate them to any particular action or recent change that I had made on the PC. Finally, I detected that the lockups seemed to occur right after Spy Sweeper loaded and when I tried to use Internet Explorer. As a test, I uninstalled Spy Sweeper and all of the problems disappeared. I guess this shows that not all anti-spyware programs can co-exist on a computer. Some can but not all of them. Be careful.

That's it for now. I hope to see each of you at the General Meeting and at your favorite SIG soon. Happy and safe computing!

Ron Cowger
President

KEGS General Meeting
And Associated SIGs

General Meetings at the Kirkland Teen Union Building - 348 Kirkland Ave., Kirkland, WA 98033

Day of Month	Time	Location	SIG / Email contact	SIG Leader
2nd Monday	6 PM - 7 PM	Kirkland Teen Union Building	Technology Corner betacode@hotmail.com	Steve Fondren
2nd Monday	7 PM - 9 PM	Kirkland Teen Union Building	KEGS General Meeting	
2nd Monday	9:30 PM - ? PM	Outback Steakhouse 12120 NE 85 th, Kirkland	Pig SIG sallyannmowrey@msn.com	Sally Ann Mowrey 206-996-5635

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: From I-405, take the N.E. 85th ST. exit (exit number 18) toward KIRK-LAND (headed West). Immediately move to the center lane and take a left at the first light onto Kirkland Way (If you went right you would be on 114th Ave NE). Just stay on Kirkland Way and it will turn into Kirkland Ave.

The Kirkland Teen Union Building is part of a string of connected buildings. Right at the street is Kirkland's Performing Arts Center, then comes the Kirkland Senior Center and farthest from the street is The Kirkland Teen Union Building.

There is a parking area to the West of this building but you can also park in the Kirkland Library's covered parking area just a little farther to the West (1/4 block past the Performing Arts Center).

KEGS SIG Meetings:

NEW SIG CHART

Notice that this SIG chart no longer lists actual dates. Please check our KEGS calendar (at http://www.kegs.org/Calendar.html) for actual dates AND POSSIBLE CANCELLATIONS of the upcoming meeting that you want to attend.

Contact the SIG leaders to find out what presentations that they have planned for their upcoming meetings.

Meetings at the North Bellevue Community / Senior Center - 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA

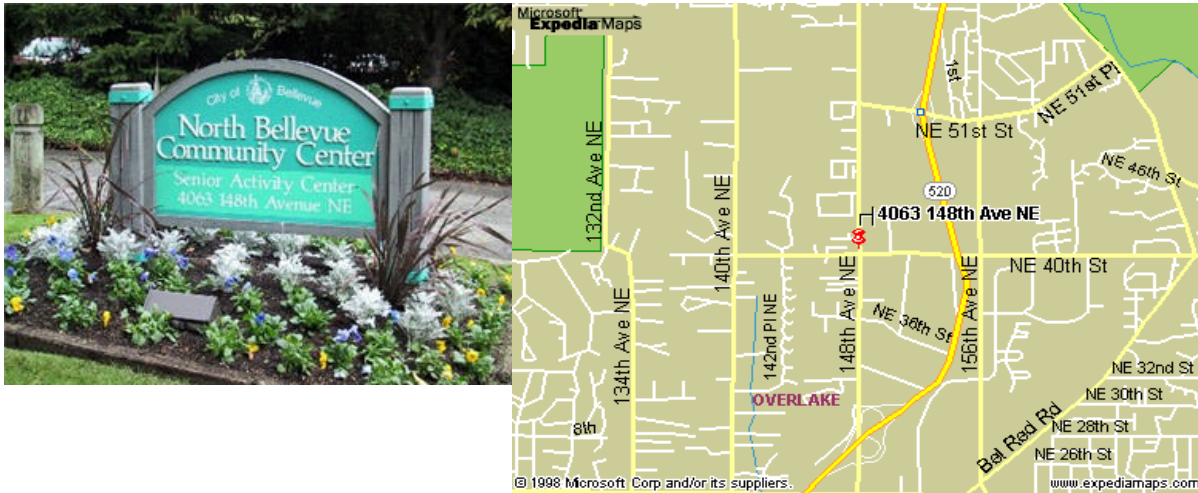| Day of Month	Time	Location	SIG / Email contact	SIG Leader
1st Tuesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Computer Lab	NBCSC Computer Lab Support j_m_mraz@hotmail.com	Joe Mraz 425-747-2433
1st Wednesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Computer Lab	Seattle Internet User Group seasigi@kegs.org	Judy Panjeti & Marianne Wilkins
2nd Tuesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Conf. room D	WIN 95/98/XP/?? daviddodge1@compuserve.com	David Dodge
2nd Wednesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Conf. room D	Laptop SIG ctheprof@aol.com	Carl Von Papp 425-643-1398
3rd Tuesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Computer Lab	Computer Support SIG - N. Bellevue j_m_mraz@hotmail.com (Computer repair & maintenance)	Joe Mraz 425-747-2433
3rd Wednesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Conf. room D	Small Office / Home Office r_cowger@prodigy.net	Ron Cowger
4th Tuesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Computer Lab	Digital Imaging SIG sallyannmowrey@msn.com	Sally Ann Mowrey 206-996-5635
4th Wednesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Conf. room D	HTML SIG jack@webwitch.com	Jack Beslanwich 206-723-9960

SIG Meeting Locations:

Please note that the KEGS Board meetings are not held at our General Meeting or SIG meeting locations
- KEGS Board Meetings are currently held at Executive Real Estate's Bellevue office at 20 Lake Bellevue, Bellevue, WA. (Board meetings are public and open to anyone who wants to attend.)

Finding our primary SIG meeting location

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: Thanks to the improvements to SR 520, you may now use the new NE 40th St exit. If you are driving towards Redmond, exit and turn left to go over the over-pass. If you are coming from Redmond, exit and turn right. Go to 148th Ave NE, and turn right. In very short order, you will see the North Bellevue Community / Senior Center sign on the left side of the roadway.

History & Contact info:

KEGS was formed in late 1996 to meet the needs of personal computer users in the Greater Seattle Area. KEGS is a nonprofit organization that holds its general meetings on the second Monday of each month.

In addition, KEGS sponsors a number of special interest groups (SIGs) that meet regularly to share common interests, learn new techniques, and resolve questions about the use of personal computer hardware, accessories, or software.

For a detailed listing of our SIG's, updated information about KEGS activities, and more, please see our web site at: http://www.kegs.org.	Contact us at: 2616 171st Ave SE Bellevue WA 98008 425-747-2433 info@kegs.org

To submit articles or software reviews for incorporation into this Newsletter, please send them to: newsletter@kegs.org