



March, 2010

Volume 14, Issue 3

TAPPING THE

K.E.G.S.

KOMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS OF GREATER SEATTLE

Prez Says:

Ron Cowger

As I sit at my wife's laptop to write this column, my computing life is in a bit of turmoil. My primary PC has been in a repair shop since about February 8th and there are some items in its files that I need and miss very much. Yes, I have a fairly current backup of most of the files but it's the email records that I find I miss the most. Some of you may wonder why I didn't repair the PC myself since I built it a few years ago. My primary way of trouble shooting an inoperative piece of equipment is to replace suspect parts with known, good parts and see if the substitution solves the problem. Well, since I no longer work in a computer repair shop, I don't have access to a wide selection of known, good parts so I can't trouble shoot in this manner. Therefore, I was forced to turn the PC over to an expert. After a couple of days, he reported that my motherboard was bad. I ordered a new motherboard and about eight days later it arrived. He installed the new motherboard but was unable to make the PC work. Further testing with different CPUs and power supplies showed that the new motherboard was inoperative, DOA. I ordered a replacement motherboard and had it expedited to us. When it arrived about three days later, the technician tested the second new board with one of his power supplies and found that it worked. However, after installing it in my case and connecting it to my power supply the new motherboard failed. Wow, it appears that my power supply is blowing out motherboards! Now we have a second dead, replacement motherboard on our hands. The plan now is to get a third motherboard, replace my power supply and see if the new motherboard/power supply combination will finally solve this difficult problem. Boy, I hope so. After three weeks without my PC, my frustration level is rising. Now I remember one of the two main reasons that I got out of the computer repair business...really tough trouble-shooting challenges with the limited test equipment that we had available. The other reason, the primary one, was the killer commute.

Enough on my problems, let's move on to happenings in KEGS. As was announced at the last General Meeting, Jack Beslanwitch is starting a new SIG focused on handling video content. The first meeting of this new SIG will be at 7:00 PM on March 2th in Room D of the NBCC. If you work with video files or just want to know more about working with them, I encourage you to attend.



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Prez Says: continued

I hope that each of you found the information that Herb Johnson presented at the February General Meeting on taking good vacation pictures to be helpful. I know that I learned several new things that one should consider when composing a “shot to remember.” We all need to thank Herb for agreeing to fill in rather quickly when the members of the Board were scrambling to find a presentation for the February meeting. He did a great job on short notice. Thanks very much, Herb.

The vender’s presentation at the March meeting will be by Gene Barlow via Webinar over Skype. Gene will be talking to KEGS members from Utah about the latest Acronis product. He will talk about the new features and improvements in Acronis True Image Home 2010. The new version of this fine product is designed to work with both types of Windows 7, 32-bit and 64-bit. I’m sure that you will all enjoy and learn a lot from the presentation although I will miss it due to being out of town on a trip to Maui.

So far this year, fifty-two computer enthusiasts have joined or renewed their memberships in KEGS. Thanks very much for your confidence in the organization. We finished 2009 with sixty-three members in our group. We still need to focus on building our membership throughout 2010. I encourage those of you who have not yet done so to renew your memberships as soon as possible. Renewal forms are available from John Tate, our Treasurer, or you can fill out the form on the KEGS web site, print it out and send it along with your check to the address shown on the form. An even easier way would be to bring your completed form and your check to the next General Meeting and give it to John there.

In addition to whatever door prize Gene Barlow offers, we will again have two special door prizes at the March General Meetings. Sandhill Publications, the company that publishes Smart Computing magazine, is discontinuing their user group support program under which we earned one free subscription for every five member subscriptions that were purchased. However, in appreciation for the subscriptions that our members have purchased through the years, they have given us four one-year subscriptions to give away by April 1st. We will be including the last two one-year subscriptions as door prizes at this KEGS General Meetings. I understand that these subscriptions can be either for new subscribers or as extensions on subscriptions already held by our members. Good luck. I hope you win one.



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Prez Says: continued

The folks who support the computer labs at Peter Kirk Community Center and Kirkland Teen Union Building will be busy updating and configuring the computers there on March 4th. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Joe Mraz who will be the on-site leader for this project.

That's it for now. I hope to see each of you at your favorite SIG. I wish you happy and safe computing!

Ron Cowger

President

KEGS GENERAL MEETING AND ASSOCIATED SIGS

KEGS T-shirts

Remember, you score extra KEGABUCK\$ when you wear your KEGS shirts to SIGS and the General Meetings! (NOTE: This extra credit is not honored at the PIG SIG.)

We still have a few left of various sizes. Then we will order more. So why wait? Pick yours up at the next general meeting.

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 KIRKLAND (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.

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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 Wednesday	7 PM - 9 PM	Computer Lab	Seattle Internet User Group seasigi@kegs.org	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 jackbewitch@comcast.net	Jack Beslanwich 206-723-9960

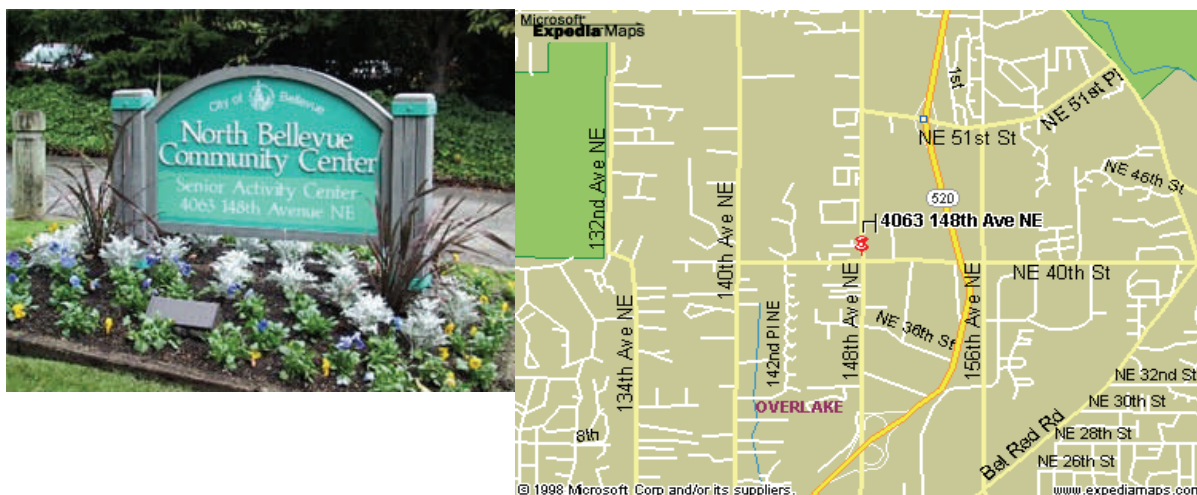
SIG MEETING LOCATIONS:

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 overpass. 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