



June, 2010

Volume 14, Issue 6

TAPPING THE

**K . E . G . S .**

KOMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS OF GREATER SEATTLE

Prez Says:

**Ron Cowger**

The calendar on my desk says that it's supposed to be spring but looking out my window I see more of the rain and chilly weather that we have been tolerating for the last two or three weeks. I'm certainly glad that I'm not among those hundreds of folks who are off on Memorial Day Weekend camping trips around our state. Camping in rainy weather has never been one of my favorite activities. It reminds me too much of a week many years ago when I went through Air Force Survival Training near Fairchild Air Force Base in eastern Washington. The soles of my feet peeled for about three weeks after I got home from a week of slogging around in the constant rain that we endured during the escape and evasion portion of the training. That was one of my least enjoyable training programs during my military career. Where's the sun?

The presentation at the May General Meeting on PC Security by Eric Burt from Microsoft reminded each of us that we must be vigilant about protecting our computers from the many threats that exist on the Internet. There are so many different types of threats that one has to not only install and maintain good software defenses but should also consider a hardware firewall and be a skeptical surfer on the Internet. It's just too easy to get malware from an email attachment, a contaminated web site or by responding to an email that could lead to a phishing attack. As the old line in the TV drama used to state, "Be careful out there."

Obviously, the big event for the June General Meeting is the KEGaBuck\$ Auction. Sally Ann and her helpers have been working hard at collecting items and arranging the evening's event. We will also have a few snacks and beverages for your enjoyment before the Auction and during the break. So it's time to dig through all of your desk drawers and files to find all of your accumulated KEGaBuck\$ so that you are ready to bid. The KEGaBuck\$ that you earned during the past year will be ready for you to pick up as you check in to the Auction. Remember, if you attended at least nine of the last twelve General Meetings, you will receive extra, bonus KEGaBuck\$ for your use at the Auction. There will be time for viewing the items available for bid from 5:30 until 6:30. The bidding will start at 6:30! Plan on having a short break in the bidding from 7:30 until about 7:45. I hope that you all have a good time at the Auction.

Some members of KEGS have suggested adding member-provided tips and tricks for computer/software use to our web site. I think that's a great idea! If you have tips that you would like to offer for this use, please forward them to me. I will act as a clearing function to try to organize the tips and to avoid duplicates. Joe has suggested that he will set up a special email address to which tips can be forwarded and I will provide that address to you soon. In the meantime, if you have tips to offer, you may send them to me at the email address [president@kegs.org](mailto:president@kegs.org). Thanks.



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## Prez Says: continued

This month there are two new tips from Sharon Parq Associates added to our monthly newsletter. There is one for using Word and the other for Excel, each designed to expand our knowledge of these applications. If you want access to additional tips from the company, you can go to their websites at [word.tips.net](http://word.tips.net) or [excel.tips.net](http://excel.tips.net). I think you'll find the information interesting and useful.

So far this year, fifty-eight 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.

That's it for now. I hope to see each of you at your favorite SIG and at the Auction on the 14th. I wish you happy and safe computing!

*Ron Cowger*  
*President*



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Prez Says: continued

## AUCTION DONATION GUIDELINES

1. Only software that runs on operating systems of Windows XP or newer will be accepted.
2. No computer add-in cards that plug into an ISA bus will be accepted.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Any PCs that are donated should be based on at least a Pentium IV with a speed of 1.6 GHz or higher.
6. Printers need to have Windows XP or newer drivers and cartridges should be available. USB connections are preferred but not required.
7. No CRT monitors will be accepted.



## Excel Tip of the Month - Also see next page

### *Counting Unique Values*

When working with a Microsoft Excel worksheet, you sometimes need to know the number of unique values in a range of cells. For instance, suppose that an instructor was teaching the following classes:

```
104-120  
104-101  
104-119  
104-120
```

In this case there are three unique values. There is no intuitive worksheet function that will return a count of unique values, which makes one think that a user-defined function (a macro) would be the logical approach. However, you can use an array formula to very easily derive the desired information. Follow these steps:

1. Define a name that represents the range that contains your list. (This example assumes the name you define is MyRange.)
2. In the cell where you want the number of unique values to appear type the following formula, but don't press **ENTER** yet:

```
=SUM(1/COUNTIF(MyRange,MyRange))
```

3. Instead of pressing **ENTER**, press **CTRL+SHIFT+ENTER**. This informs Excel that you are entering an array formula. The formula shown in the formula bar should now appear as follows (notice the addition of the surrounding braces, indicative of array formulas):

```
{=SUM(1/COUNTIF(MyRange,MyRange))}
```

That's it! The cell now contains the number of unique name values in the specified range. This approach is not case-sensitive, so if you have two values that differ only in their capitalization (ThisName vs. THISNAME), they are both counted as a single unique value. In addition, there can be no blank cells in the range. (Having a blank cell returns a #DIV/0 error from the formula.)

If your particular needs require that your list contain blanks (but you don't want them counted as a "value") and you want the evaluation to be case-sensitive, then you have no choice; you must turn to a macro. The following VBA macro, CountUnique, will do the trick:



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## Excel Tip of the Month — continued

```
Function CountUnique(ByVal MyRange As Range) As Integer
    Dim Cell As Range
    Dim J As Integer
    Dim iNumCells As Integer
    Dim iUVals As Integer
    Dim sUCells() As String

    iNumCells = MyRange.Count
    ReDim sUCells(iNumCells) As String

    iUVals = 0
    For Each Cell In MyRange
        If Cell.Text > "" Then
            For J = 1 To iUVals
                If sUCells(J) = Cell.Text Then
                    Exit For
                End If
            Next J
            If J > iUVals Then
                iUVals = iUVals + 1
                sUCells(iUVals) = Cell.Text
            End If
        End If
    Next Cell
    CountUnique = iUVals
End Function
```

Simply put an equation similar to the following in a cell:

```
=CountUnique(MyRange)
```

The value returned is the number of unique values, not counting blanks, in the range.

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## Word Tip of the Month

### ***Finding Related Words***

Finding just the right words to say what you want to say can sometimes be a challenge. Fortunately, Microsoft Word can help in this regard. One of the tools that Word provides is a full thesaurus. You can use this tool to find alternate words with the same meaning (synonyms), words with the opposite meaning (antonyms), or related words. Related words are typically similar words based on the root of the word you specify. To find a related word, follow these steps:

1. Position the insertion point in the word you wish to check.
2. Press **SHIFT+F7** or choose Language from the Tools menu and then Thesaurus from the submenu. If you are using Word 97 or Word 2000, you see the Thesaurus dialog box. If you are using Word 2002 or a later version, you see the Research task pane, with the thesaurus information displayed.
3. If related words are available for the word, you will see the Related Words choice in the dialog box or the task pane. Click on Related Words.
4. In the Related Words list, select the desired related word.
5. Click on Replace (if using Word 97 or Word 2000) or click the down-arrow to the right of the related word and choose Insert (if using Word 2002 or a later version).

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# 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 <a href="mailto:betacode@hotmail.com">betacode@hotmail.com</a>	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 <a href="mailto:sallyannmowrey@msn.com">sallyannmowrey@msn.com</a>	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.

## KEGS T-shirts

Remember, you score extra KEGABUCK\$ when you wear your KEGS shirts to SIGS and the General Meetings! We still have a few left of various sizes. Then we will order more. So why wait? Pick yours up at the next meeting.

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

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



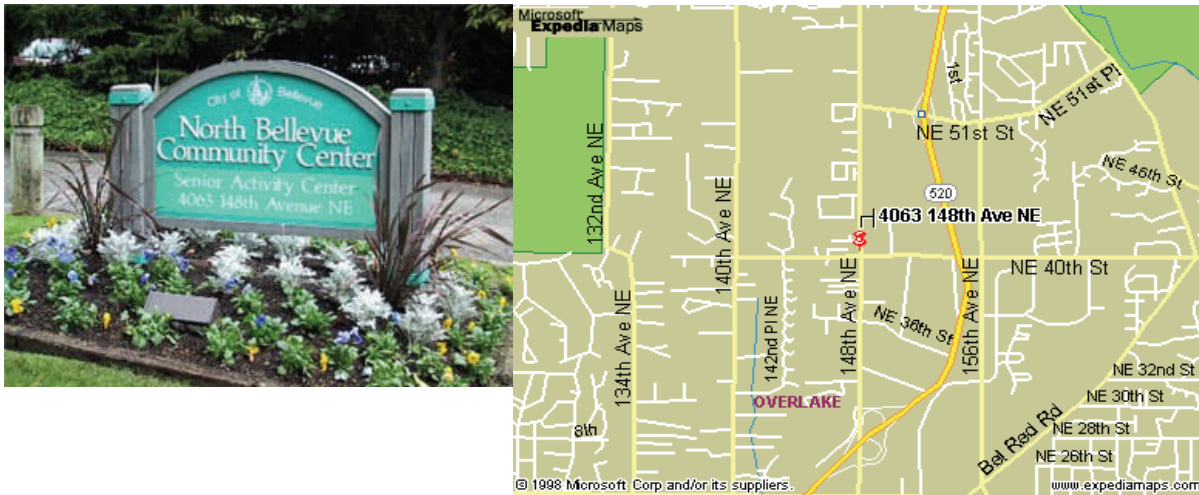
## SIG MEETING LOCATIONS:

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: Email: [info@kegs.org](mailto:info@kegs.org)  
The Komputer Enthusiasts of Greater Seattle  
PMB# 195  
677 120th Ave NE, Suite 2A  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
Or call 425-747-2433 before 9 PM

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