

April, 2012

Volume 16, Issue 04



TAPPING THE

K . E . G . S .

KOMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS OF GREATER SEATTLE

Prez Says:

Jon Mercer

With the coming of April, our thoughts turn to spring and eventually summer. There are many new things that have been announced for the next couple of months to be on the lookout for.

In the phone world the big thing is Nokia's return to the Americas phone market, first with their Lumina 710 which was kind of a lackluster release of a phone but did wet people's appetite for the 900 which will be coming out later this month with AT&T and Sprint. If you are in the market for a new phone and you are with either of those carriers or considering switching, the 900 would be a phone to look at. It is a larger phone for those of us with not so good eyesight and larger hands. It will be offered in a couple of different colors.

In the camera world there is a new type of digital camera system coming out on the market from Lytro that will completely change how pictures are taken. They have moved the focus area from pre-shutter to post-shutter. This allows using their software to edit photos in ways never possible before while using a digital camera. You can find out more about their systems at <https://www.lytro.com/camera#>.

With Windows 8 Consumer Preview having been released for a month now, it has received both good and bad reviews, most of which are deserved and expected for a beta product. Windows 8 is designed for touch so does work better with that feature but will work just fine with a mouse only system. Do remember though that there is a large learning curve. There hasn't been this big a change in the interface since Microsoft went from Windows 3.11 to Windows 95.

As Solid State Drives (SSDs) get larger and cheaper, more and more people are buying them. They are faster and use less electricity than a standard platter drive. If you do plan on going out and getting one, there are a couple of things to remember. Most computers are only designed to interface with the standard 2.5 inch SATA drives. There are SSDs out there that are classified as 1.8 inch which use a different voltage level. Because of this, they require a different power connection. Where the tab on a standard SATA is on the edge, on the 1.8 inch it is near the middle. It will not work in a system that is not designed for it. So be sure to verify what your system will support.

On the slate side of SSD drives there is a new even smaller standard called mSATA which isn't much bigger than a wireless card. A lot of the slates have them, and currently the biggest I have seen are 120GB. Most though are in the 64GB and smaller range. They should get larger and cheaper the same as the standard SSDs as we get closer to Christmas and more slates come out on the market. To see what they look like, go to places like www.newegg.com and do a search for mSATA. They have a couple from OCZ, Intel, and Kingston.

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In the world of Microsoft Office, Office 15 is in early limited beta, so I haven't seen too much of it. For the most part (mind you I have had limited viewing) it seems to be that Office 2010 is going to be designed to work better with touch systems and with larger icons. It could go public beta the middle or end of this year, so it might be something to consider if you are planning to buy a system with Windows 8 that has touch capability.

A reminder to everyone that the Auction is only two months away, and we are in need of items. We are in need of donations of hardware, software, and other computer related items that you believe may be of use to other KEGS' members. In order to help ensure that the items donated would be of interest to the general membership, the Board of Directors has developed some guidelines for items being contributed. If you have any items to donate, please give them to either a board member or SIG leader, and they will be passed along to the people that are setting up the auction. Make sure to label the item with your name and a brief description of the item.

Our auction donation guidelines can be found on the next page.

Jon Mercer – President



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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 bidder. 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 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 ink/toner cartridges should be available. USB connections are preferred but not required.
7. No CRT monitors will be accepted.

KEGS GENERAL MEETING AND ASSOCIATED SIGS

KEGS T-shirts/Vests

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.

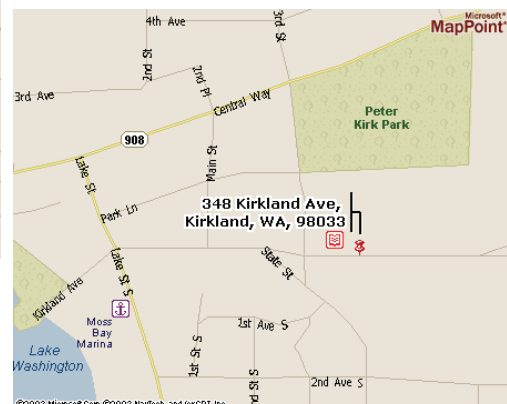
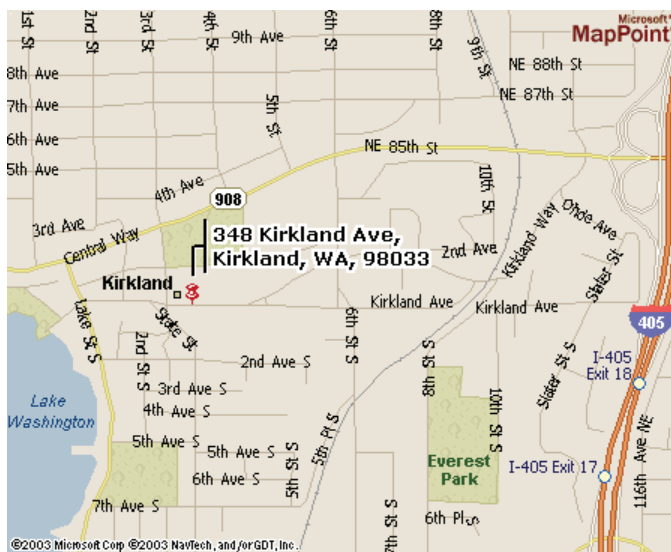
General Meetings at the Kirkland Teen Union Building - 348 Kirkland Ave., Kirkland, WA 98033

| 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.

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 |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1st Tuesday | 7 PM - 9 PM | Conf. room D | HTML SIG jackbewitch@comcast.net | Jack Beslanwich 206-723-9960 |
| 1st Wednesday | 7 PM - 9 PM | Conf. room D | Seattle Internet User Group seasigi@kegs.org | Marianne Wilkins |
| 2nd 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 |
| 2nd Wednesday | 7 PM - 9 PM | Conf. room D | Computer Use and Optimization ctheprof@aol.com | Carl Von Papp 425-643-1398 |
| 3rd Tuesday | 7 PM - 9 PM | Conf. room D | Servers, Networks and Storage daviddodge1@compuserve.com | David Dodge |
| 3rd Wednesday | 7 PM - 9 PM | Conf. room D | Small Office / Home Office (SOHO) r_cowger@prodigy.net | Ron Cowger |
| 4th Tuesday | 7 PM - 9 PM | Conf. room D | Digital Imaging SIG sallyannmowrey@msn.com | Sally Ann Mowrey 206-996-5635 |
| 4th Wednesday | 7 PM - 9 PM | Conf. room D | KEGS Board Meeting r_cowger@prodigy.net | Ron Cowger |

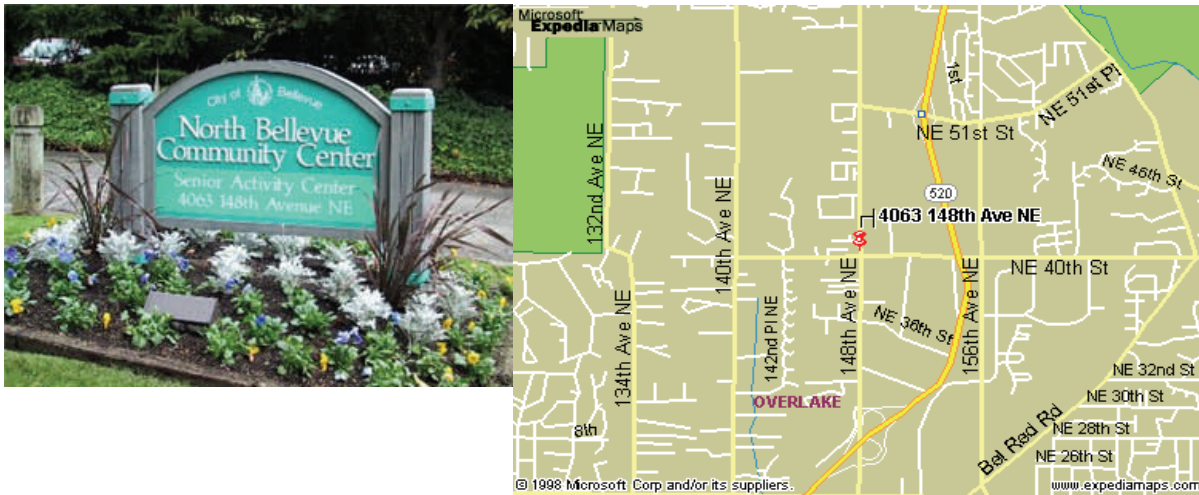
SIG MEETING LOCATIONS:

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 The North Bellevue Community / Senior Center - 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA Conf. Rm D, 7-9 PM on the 4 Wed. of the month (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
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