



*USA Area 12 & International*      **APCUG NooZ**      — May 2011 —  
Presidents of APCUG—Member User Groups

This edition of *NOOZ* is sent to the President, Vice President, Director, Secretary, Treasurer, APCUG Representative, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Membership & Program Chairs of each APCUG-member User Group.

We urge you to share the information in *NOOZ* by including it in your newsletter, posting it on your Web site, or e-mailing it to members of your group.

**In this edition of *NOOZ*:**

- New Combined Database
- 2011 and 2012 Annual Meetings and Regional Conferences
- APCUG Newsletter, Website and Photo Contests
- Website Re-design
- Gene Barlow Offers Online Presentation
- Region Specific

**New Member Database** – As most of you know, we have not had a member database for the past few months. Well, that is about to change. The programmers have been busy creating an entirely new database, aptly named the User Group Locator Service or UGLS, that will provide much needed functionality for all of our members. It will allow the management of APCUG to track its member groups, provide a central place for vendors to find information on a specific group, and give the Regional Advisors the assets to readily communicate with all of the groups within a specific region or geographical area.

**The Presidents and/or the APCUG Representatives of each of the member groups will soon receive the login and password for the UGLS**, and they can start populating their groups data. It is very important that this be performed by each group, as having the correct data in the UGLS will allow us to help you when contacting vendors and/or potential members. The Advisors for your region will be ready to help wherever possible.

APCUG Plans two Annual Meetings and Regional Conferences - **The 2011 APCUG Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Cleveland Regional in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 15 – 17.** Early Bird Registration is open until May 31st. More information can be found at <http://cleveland.apcug.org>

**The 2012 APCUG Annual Conference** is tentatively scheduled to be held in conjunction with the FACUG Technology Conference Bahamas Cruise.

The Conference at Sea will be held on the Norwegian Sky Cruise Ship, leaving on January 23, 2012 and re-



turning on January 27, 2012. Again, Early Bird Registration is open until August 15th. Conference details can be found at [www.facug.org](http://www.facug.org). Annual

Meeting details will be made available soon on the APCUG website at [www.apcug.org](http://www.apcug.org).

**APCUG Contests** - Time is running out to enter the APCUG Web, Photo and Newsletter contests. Please encourage members of your groups to enter. Information and entry forms are on [apcug.org](http://apcug.org). The deadline for all contests is June 17th. Winners will be announced at the Cleveland Regional Conference 15th to 17th July 2011.

**APCUG Website** – The APCUG website is being completely redesigned to make it easier to find information and to make it much more “user friendly”, and we are looking for volunteers with experience in website design using “Drupal” and graphic designers. If you, or any of your members would like to volunteer to help, and to make an impact on our website, please contact:

David Williams at [dwilliams@apcug.org](mailto:dwilliams@apcug.org) or (515) 957-1339

**Gene Barlow** offers Online Presentations - Gene offers two online



Skype presentations: Moving to Windows 7 using Disk Director and Acronis. You need to have good broadband to host one of his meetings. Contact Linda at [linda@ugr.com](mailto:linda@ugr.com) to find out what is needed and to get on their schedule. II



## What I am Thinking

by Carl Lofstrom, APCUG Advisor USA Area 12 & International, Seagrove Beach, Florida

It is already May 2011 or five months from the time I became the APCUG Advisor for USA Area 12 & International. I am happy to report many of you are using the e-BLAST Tech to your advantage. Some user groups are placing e-BLAST Tech on their web site as is while others are adding pages of their own user group information and news before emailing it to members. We can make it better with your feedback.

What a pleasant surprise to see e-PUSH Tech articles from Gordon Giles and Les Townsing both from the Melbourne, Australia PC User Group and Gregory West Sarnia Computer User Group, Sarnia, Canada.

Would you like to see your article along with your photo in the next e-BLAST Tech? All you have to do is send your article to Judy Taylour, Jtarticles2go@gmail.com. Please include your photo with your article. Note: I used Photoshop on my headshot before emailing to anyone.

The important thing to remember about computer user groups is that not one single thing will keep the groups interest. A combination of technical, non technical activities along with social interaction is a balance that works for many user groups. If you have a success stories that you would like to share with others just email me. We can all benefit from your input.

You may have noticed in the news or tech publications that the pace of change in technology is much faster than just a few short years ago. Some of the new tablets have all of us wondering if that is something we need to stay up-to-date. The new owners of the (US) \$800 tablet are more than happy to make it visible for everyone to see. Just ask the persons about some of the new features and the con-

versation suddenly stops. This is an opportunity for our user groups to offer this training.

We scratch our head more and more often now trying to figure out the best way to help our members learn the new technology without giving up. The text book that you can buy for the iPhone has 438 pages. The learning curve for someone that lives the "GADGET" life might be a little less than most. Our members see that thick book and immediately becomes a negative (why bother) very soon.

Do not give up so easily. Take a page from the professionals who have more time to try different approaches to learning. One tech company who is trying a new approach to learning is switching from the one hour video or lengthy text to simple "Tips & Tricks" videos under five minutes viewing time. All of us should recognize the immediate advantage to this type of learning.

Our brain is designed for short attention spans for survival.



Keep your training simple to the point in bite sizes. When you teach a member something new remember to tell a story or change something like showing a short video every 10 minutes to keep the brain receptive to new information. We learn and remember best through pictures, not through written or spoken words and that is why one reason videos are so popular.

Last week Evelyn Watts, Product Specialist and Roadwarrior, Corel Corporation gave her first webinar on



Corel Video Studio Pro X4. It was a 30 minute session with questions and answers at the end. No buffering, no static just like watching your TV. The Gene Barlow's Acronis online presentation using Skype, see front page) is



another example of the new free training opportunities all of us are looking for but may not be taking full advantage of.

Appoint one of your members to become your webinar go to person. Let me know when you find an outstanding webinar that is 30 minute or less on any subject so we can make it available to our other USA Area 12 & International user groups. **We can expect to see more quality webinars in the near future.**

Don't forget our APCUG Speakers Bureau has 42 remote presentations available for free. Our presenters are waiting for your invite. Once you try one you will want to try another and another never getting enough.

The 2011 APCUG Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the Cleveland Regional in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 15 - 17 is a great way to learn and network. This is the place you can gain new knowledge and ideas that can benefit yourself and your user group. It is possible that the some of the presentations to be made available online for our members who can not make the meeting.

APCUG can host your user group website in Australia, Canada and the USA. It is included in the price of your yearly membership. Why pay someone else use APCUG web hosting service.

I want to thank all of you who have renewed membership for 2011. II .

**Areas:**  
**USA Area 12 & International**  
**APCUG Advisor:**  
**Carl Lofstrom**  
**E-Mails:**  
**clofstrom@apcug.org**  
**sandcloud@embarqmail.com**