

# PALMIA COMPUTER CLUB



**September/October 2009**

**Next Meeting**

**September 9th**

**Open Forum Question & Answer**

*Our September meeting will allow you to address your computer questions in many aspects of computer use to knowledgeable club members*

## USER FRIENDLY

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**President: Shelly Stern**  
**Vice-President: Nick Nicholson**  
**Secretary: Jerry Moore**  
**Treasurer: Bob Ruben**  
**Webmaster: Jerry Moore**

*User Friendly* is an electronic publication for members of the Palmia Computer Club. It is published and distributed during the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

**Managing Editor: Nick Nicholson**  
**Editorial Staff: Eva Schmidler**

*User Friendly* is your newsletter. It's objective is to serve every member. If you have a suggestion for an article for publication, or if you would like information about a specific topic, please contact the Palmia Computer Club President, or the *User Friendly* editor. This newsletter is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn.

#### **Guidelines**

Articles (1) must be submitted to the Managing Editor no later than the 10th day prior to the month of publication; (2) should be no longer than 1,200 to 1,500 words (approximately three columns), although longer articles may be published; (3) may be edited by staff for clarity, spelling, grammar, and space available. Articles should be relevant to the membership of the Palmia Computer Club. The choice of articles to be included in any issue is solely the prerogative of the Editorial Staff.

### **Computer Club Special Interest Groups**

SIGs meet from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M. on the specified Fridays unless noted otherwise:

- 1st Friday- Windows/Vista.....Barry Robbins
- 2nd Friday - Computer Potpourri.....Barry Robbins
- 3rd Friday: Using your digital camera..Harvey Gershenson
- 4th Friday - Photo Editing & Scanning.....Don Yenche

Note: Questions about email and use of the internet will be incorporated into the 1st and 2nd Friday program conducted by Barry Robbins.

*There is also a HELP SIG! This SIG is intended for beginners to answer your basic questions relating to computers (This is not a class). It meets on the first, third and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:00 A.M. The SIG leader is Joe Lebovitz.*

#### **Contacting Board Members and Officers**

All Board members and officers are available for help or information via email addresses as follows:

- Shelly Stern, President - [sk.stern@cox.net](mailto:sk.stern@cox.net)
- Nick Nicholson, Vice President - [npierce@palmia.com](mailto:npierce@palmia.com)
- Jerry Moore, Secretary - [jerryamoore@cox.net](mailto:jerryamoore@cox.net)
- Bob Ruben, Treasurer - [bobaud@cox.net](mailto:bobaud@cox.net)
- Jerry Moore, Webmaster - [jerryamoore@cox.net](mailto:jerryamoore@cox.net)
- Barry Robbins, Past President - [pcc\\_pres@cox.net](mailto:pcc_pres@cox.net)

**Palmia Computer Club meetings are scheduled for 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for Q&A and socializing. Visitors are welcome. For visitors from outside the Palmia community, our address is: 21455 Monterey, Mission Viejo, CA 92692. The parking lot is on the left, just inside the Monterey gate. Telephone: 949-472-5075.

#### **We need you**

**Get active with the computer club. We are always seeking members who would like to contribute their time and expertise. Please feel free to attend a meeting of our board and learn more about the opportunities to participate. Board meetings are held in the Clubhouse Conference room on the first Wednesday of every month.**

## Presidents Letter

By Shelly Stern

Before this year ends we will have two meetings and then a year-end party with the election of 2010 officers. All of these activities should be informative and fun events.

We know our meetings, especially with the expanded focus of the Computer Club (if it has a chip in it, we'll talk about it) are full of useful, and new information. The fun comes from discovering new ways of working with our electronic toys. By the way, "electronic toys" are no longer a "guy thing". Research shows females of the species, already adept with the cell phone, are beginning to learn how to use remote controls, a DVD player, and even a GPS device. GPS and cell phones will be the topic of our October meeting. The September meeting will be a hands-on workshop for our members. More about that meeting in a paragraph below.

That leaves the election of officers. That's fun? Well it can be, and should be. It's certainly NOT fun when the nominating committee has to struggle to get at least six members to agree to be directors of the Computer Club. What IS fun is when members who care about the organization, members who want to help others use technology more efficiently, offer to come to a board meeting once a month and present suggestions, ideas, for programs and activities. That's why we now discuss GPS systems, LCD and plasma television, cell phones. It's fun for the organization to know there are people who want to help fellow Palmia residents use technology more effectively and efficiently. It will be fun for the nominating committee when they call you, to hear you say "yes". This invitation for "yes" is especially directed at our technologically capable and knowledgeable women. We need your input. You represent a major segment of our Palmia population.

Our September 9 program was developed just for you-you personally. Come with your questions about email, the internet, digital photography or Skype. Stations will be set up for each of these topics. Knowledgeable club members will be at each station to answer your questions. This meeting is in response to requests to have an open forum where you can ask questions, and get answers. On October 14 we'll be looking at GPS devices and cell phones. Both devices are advancing their capabilities almost more rapidly than we can keep up with them.

Also in October, we will again be offering Beginner Computer Education classes. Starting on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM, for six consecutive Saturday mornings the program will take students from learning about what a computer is and how it works (totally non-technical) through word processing, spread sheets and into an overview of email and the internet. The Palmia Computer Club has developed its own textbook which will be provided all students. As a member of the Palmia Computer Club "tuition" for this program is only \$10. Non club members enrolling in the program will have a \$25 "tuition" for this six session course. If your Palmia friends and neighbors can benefit from this program, encourage them to enroll. As you know, more and more organizations and publications are turning to computers and the internet to communicate with you. In our own community *Palmia Life* will be going electronic next year. This education program can help prepare computer beginners how to more effectively use the capabilities of their machines.

Fantasy Football is one fun use of computers. Our Computer Club membership chairperson, Harvey Gershenson would like to organize a Palmia Fantasy Football league. Harvey explains it all in his article in this issue of *User Friendly*. Contact Harvey at 600-5774 or email him ([consultme@msn.com](mailto:consultme@msn.com)) to join the league.

## **Editor's Corner**

**By Nick Nicholson**

The following article was received a little late for our previous issue. However, I thought it would still be of interest as there are still some great deals on upgrades to Windows 7 for those who purchase a Vista equipped computer prior to October 22nd of this year.

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### **Act Quickly to Get A Deal on Windows 7**

Written by Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; Radio Show Host Iwilsker (at) apcug.net

In case you have not heard, Microsoft is about to release a new operating system intended to replace Vista, and the almost phased out XP. This new operating system is known as Windows 7, and preliminary reviews indicate that it is far superior in most aspects to Vista, and as stable as XP. While the new Windows 7 will not be in full release or installed on new computers until this fall, Microsoft is offering a short term deal for those who would like to pre-order Windows 7. Anyone interested in partaking of this deal where Microsoft will sell Windows 7 with deep discounts must act quickly, as the promotion will end on July 11. Microsoft and select retailers are offering the pre-order of Windows 7 Professional for \$99.99, which will have a retail price of \$319.99 when officially released. Windows 7 Home Premium is available on pre-order for \$49.99, and will sell for retail price of \$199.99 when officially released. Locally, the offer should be available at Best Buy, Sam's Club, Walmart, and Office Depot, and online from Amazon and other stores, and directly from Microsoft Stores. The projected delivery date for the pre-ordered copies of Windows 7 is October 22.

For those buying a Vista equipped computer with one of the premium versions of Vista (but not Vista Home Basic) after June 26, but before October 22, Microsoft has announced a free upgrade policy to Windows 7 with some qualifications. The upgrades will be available through the PC manufacturer, and not directly from Microsoft. According to a Microsoft release, "Under the program, designated PCs pre-installed with premium versions of Windows Vista will qualify for licenses of the equivalent Windows 7 product." Users purchasing a new PC with Vista Home Premium will get Windows 7 Home Premium; Vista Business will get Windows 7 Professional; and Vista Ultimate purchasers will get Windows 7 Ultimate. While Microsoft is not charging users for the upgrade, some PC makers may charge a fee to cover the cost of shipping the disc. The free upgrade program will expire on January 31, 2010, and eligible Vista users must exercise their upgrade privilege by that date.

For those not purchasing new Vista equipped computers, but considering upgrading their existing XP or Vista computers, Microsoft has made available a free Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor, a small utility that will scan the installed hardware and software on the computer, and display whether or not your computer can run Windows 7. Microsoft designed Windows 7 to be able to run on almost any computer that can successfully run Vista. Any incompatibilities on the current computer with Windows 7 will be displayed, and any drivers that need to be updated in order to be compatible with Windows 7 will be noted, along with a link or other information on obtaining an updated driver that will work with Windows 7. Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor is available directly from Microsoft at [www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/upgrade-advisor.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/upgrade-advisor.aspx).

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The system requirements for Windows 7 are about the same as those for Vista, but Windows 7 offers improved performance and stability over Vista on similar machines. According to Microsoft, Windows 7 has minimum system requirements of a 1 gigahertz speed CPU, either 32 or 64 bit; 1 gigabyte RAM on 32-bit systems or 2 GB RAM on 64-bit machines; 16 GB available hard disk space for 32-bit installation or 20 GB hard drive space for 64-bit systems; and a video card (or integral video device) that supports DirectX 9 graphics with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver. Additional system requirements may be necessary in order to utilize some of the enhanced features available.

Windows 7 Professional and higher versions (but not Windows 7 Home) have an interesting feature that will run XP compatible software that would not otherwise run on Vista or 7, by running the software on a virtual XP machine. This feature is called Mode Virtualization or Virtual PC/Windows XP Mode (sometimes referred to as XPM), and allows Windows 7 to run XP software on the desktop, making it appear that the software running in XP virtual mode (XPM) is running as a Windows 7 program. Windows 7 Home Premium is clearly intended for the common home user, and contains features that Microsoft has determined that home users typically want. Home Premium offers improved desktop navigation, faster startup, watch and record TV (on properly equipped computers), and simplified home networking.

Windows 7 Ultimate, not currently offered for pre-order, has all of the features of Home Premium, plus the XP compatibility mode, automated backup, BitLocker encryption, and support for 35 languages. Windows 7 Professional, available for pre-order, has basically the same features as Ultimate, except for the BitLocker encryption and the multi-lingual support.

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## 20 Windows 7 Shortcuts You Should Know

### From Desktop

1. **Windows Key + #** = Quicklaunch
2. **Windows Key + =** = Magnifier
1. **Windows Key + Tab** = Aero [press Tab to cycle between Windows]
2. **Windows Key + E** = Windows Explorer is launched.
3. **Windows Key + R** = **Run** Command is launched.
4. **Windows Key + F** = Search (which is there in previous Windows versions too)
5. **Windows Key + X** = Mobility Center
6. **Windows Key + L** = Lock Computer (It is there from the earlier versions as well)
7. **Windows Key + U** = Ease of Access
8. **Windows Key + P** = Projector
9. **Windows Key + T** = Cycle Super Taskbar Items
10. **Windows Key + S** = OneNote Screen Clipping Tool [requires OneNote]
11. **Windows Key + M** = Minimize All Windows
12. **Windows Key + D** = Show/Hide Desktop
13. **Windows Key + Up** = Maximize Current Window
14. **Windows Key + Down** = Restore Down / Minimize Current Windows
15. **Windows Key + Left** = Tile Current Window to the Left
16. **Windows Key + Right** = Tile Current Windows to the Right
17. **Windows Key + #** = Quicklaunch
18. **Windows Key + =** = Magnifier

### From Windows Explorer

19. **Alt + Up** = Go up one level
20. **Alt + Left/ Right** = Back/ Forward

# Do You Enjoy NFL Football?

By Harvey Gershenson

Are you glued to your TV during the NFL season? Have you ever dreamt of owning or coaching your own NFL team? What if I told you that owning and coaching your own NFL team is not out of the question?

There is a new hobby that is growing rapidly on a national basis. The hobby is fantasy sports. If you love sports and enjoy using your computer to access the internet, this hobby is for you. **The best part of this hobby is, it is FREE!**

My oldest son got me hooked and now I am addicted. I participate in fantasy football and fantasy baseball. I could do fantasy basketball but enough is enough. My wife, Barbara, calls my computer "Your mistress".

If you are interested in forming a Palmia Fantasy Football League, please get in touch with me. My email address is [consultme@msn.com](mailto:consultme@msn.com) and my home phone is 949.600.5774. There are 4 major providers who will keep score for the league. In my opinion, CBS is the best of the bunch. Other companies that are doing fantasy sports are Fox, ESPN, and Yahoo. We will need 12 people to operate a free league.

I have provided the following information about Fantasy Football to give you an idea of what it is all about. Once again, if you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

**Fantasy Football:** This is a fantasy game in which participants (called "owners") are arranged into a league. The person who creates the league is called the commissioner, and that person invites other owners into his league. Each team drafts a team of NFL players and then scores points based on those players' weekly statistics. **In the Palmia League, we will do an automated draft where the computer service chooses players for each team.** That is a great equalizer and takes away any advantage someone with more knowledge has.

**Competition format:** The kind of competition format in the Palmia League will be Head-to-head, with weekly games played against specific opponents (much like in the NFL). Every week you will play a different team in the league.

**Draft format:** NFL players in the Palmia League will be drafted by the computer in the following fashion. This is the serpentine/snake draft, in which the draft order from the first round is reversed in the second round, then reversed again in every round thereafter, thus creating a snakelike progression.

**Starters:** This is where your coaching ability comes in. Each team owner must designate which players from the team roster will be starters each week. Those are the only players who will "score" any points. The following example is similar to many common formats required for a starting lineup:

- 1 Quarterback (QB)
- 2 Running Backs (RB)
- 3 Wide Receivers (WR)
- 1 Tight End (TE)
- 1 Placekicker (K)
- 1 Team Defense/Special Teams (DST)

There are, of course, many variations of this format.

**Scoring:** Players earn their team points based on their performance in their weekly NFL games; for example, each touchdown counts as 6 points, a certain number of yards gained counts for points, and so on. In almost all cases, players earn points for passing, rushing, and receiving yards. Passing yards (sometimes touchdowns as well) typically earn about half as many points as rushing/receiving yards, since QBs normally get many more. Negative points are also usually given for turnovers, and kickers earn points for field goals and extra points. Team defenses earn points for things

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like sacks, turnovers, safeties, etc.

A typical scoring format follows. Again, there are many variations used:

- 1 point for 25 passing yards
- 1 point for 10 rushing yards
- 1 point for 10 receiving yards
- 6 points for a touchdown
- 4 points for a passing touchdown
- -2 points for every interception thrown or fumble lost
- 1 point for each extra point made
- 3 points for each 0-39 yard field goal, 4 points for each 40-49 yard field goal, and 5 points for each 50+ yard field goal
- 2 points per turnover gained by defense
- 1 points per sack by the defense
- 2 points for a safety by defense
- 6 points for each touchdown scored by defense
- 2 points for each blocked kick

**Strategy:** Many Fantasy Football players are passionate about their hobby and are always looking for ways to gain an advantage over their competition. Magazines, websites, books, and software are available that provide fantasy players with the information they need to make better decisions.

I hope that you have not been confused by all of the information. As I said previously, if you love NFL football, and enjoy accessing the internet, this is really a great hobby.

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## Gaming Tips For Parents & Grandparents

Aside from checking a game's ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) rating, there are other ways you can ensure the video games your youngsters are playing are age-appropriate.

- Carefully look at everything on a title's packaging, including the game graphics.
- Find game reviews, screen shots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use the game's parental controls to restrict inappropriate content.
- Learn about games by talking to other parents and older children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.

Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.

Be aware of nonrated ESRB material a game may contain. "Mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content, and online games often have live player chats as well as other user-generated content.

- **Fitness Gaming:** If it's too hot this summer to go work out outside, take advantage of your video-game console's capabilities. Some consoles offer games that monitor your daily activity, lead you in healthy workouts, or teach you how to cook healthy meals. This way, gaming is fun AND healthy.

- **Connect Your Game Console With HDMI:** Some video-game consoles are Full HD devices, meaning they can benefit from HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) the same way HDTVs and BD (Blu-ray Disc) players do. Much like movies on DVD and BD, most current video games support multichannel surround sound and HD resolutions, up to 1080p, and HDMI is the only cable around that can transport both.