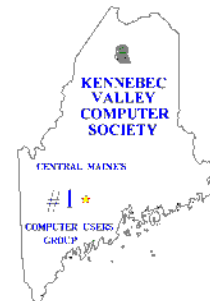


# The Newsletter of the Kennebec Valley Computer Society



**JUNE 2011**

**As you will notice, this month's edition of the newsletter is LATE.**

The June 9th meeting will be history by the time you read this. The Board meeting will not be history though. We will be meeting on June 15 as noted below (lower right on the page).

For a variety of reasons this one is late getting to you. I won't bore you with the details, except to say, I was quite busy

**HP's TOUCHPAD tablet to debut July 1 with first WebOS system**

Hewlett-Packard says its TouchPad tablet will make its debut on July 1 in two versions, for \$500 and \$600.

It's the first tablet that uses the WebOS operating system, which HP bought along with Palm Inc last year for \$1.8 Billion. Hewlett-Packard has previously made tablets based on Windows, but WebOS is a cellphone operating system making use of the TouchPad more like the Ipad than a PC.

The price of the TouchPad also matches that of the Ipad. The two versions come with 16 or 32 gigabytes of memory and connect to the Internet only with Wi-Fi.

**RESEARCH FIRM slashes forecast for sales of PC's**

International Data Corporation expects sales of personal computers to grow 4.2 percent this year, down from a previous forecast of 7.1 percent. The latest projection comes after the research firm's tally showed PC sales fell by 11 percent in the first quarter compared with last year.

The company says the slow economic recovery, competition from smartphones and tablets and the fact that most households in the developed world already have PC's are holding back sales.

**Have you tried a tablet?**

They are fun and quite useful. They are not and never will take the place of a laptop but they are driving the netbook out of contention as device of choice at the compact end of things. The prices are a bit high and will remain so until things start to heat up with new releases through this year. Right now the entry level cost is \$500 with two exceptions, the Acer Iconia which is selling for \$449 and the Color Nook that currently sells for \$250. The Nook is a nice unit and gets you into this sector with minimal investment.

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## **KVCS MEETINGS** **General Membership**

The program for this month's meeting will be a presentation by Steve Pooler on React OS  
**Thursday, June 9, 7:00 PM**  
**Baker Community Center on**  
**Armory Street, just off**  
**Western Avenue near the**  
**National Guard Armory in**  
**Augusta.**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

The next meeting will be  
**Wednesday, June 15,**  
6:30 to 8:30 PM at  
Lisa's Restaurant,  
15 Bangor Street, Augusta.

**The Newsletter of the  
Kennebec Valley Computer Society**

Volume 28, Number 6  
June 1, 2011

Published monthly in Augusta, Maine.  
Send copy to the Editor:

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You may upload copy via E-Mail or bring to the KVCS general membership meeting. **Deadline for submission of copy for the newsletter is the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue and will be run on a space available basis.** Copy is subject to editing.

All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors only, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of KVCS, its Officers, Board of Directors, The Newsletter of the Kennebec Valley Computer Society or its Editor. KVCS does not guarantee the accuracy or the correctness of articles in the Newsletter nor does KVCS intend to endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available.

Readers are cautioned to rely on opinions expressed exclusively at their own risk.

**KVCS WEB SITE**

[www.kvcs.org](http://www.kvcs.org)

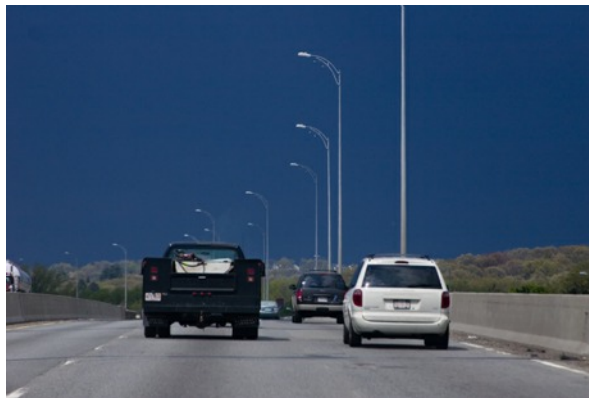
*Click the link for more information about KVCS. Bob Wells, our webmaster is suggesting you make it the opening page for your web browser so you get the latest announcements.*

**KVCS**

**Since 1984 - Central Maine's  
First Computer User Group**



Member of  
The Association of  
Personal Computer User Groups



**GEEKS ON WHEELS**

This tour was very interesting.... Well they all are, but this one was more so.

The pictures (courtesy of Brian Boudreau) are of an approaching thunderstorm somewhere in Southern New Hampshire,



followed by a torrential downpour with lots of lightning bolts. All very exciting, especially for the driver!

Brian set up his camera to capture some 'squiggles' to add to the photo gallery.



We found our way to the usual stops in Cambridge, MA where some money was spent. However, there was restraint. No very expensive cameras or lenses this time. After we got back into Maine the skies were clear the rest of the way home. No more excitement for the rest of the day.

The Geeks are taking July off. No tour. Maybe there will something in August but not sure right now.

For those of you who are interested in photography in the central Maine area. Check this out. [www.capitalareacameraclub.com](http://www.capitalareacameraclub.com)

# Image Resizer

By Lynn Page, Editor, Crystal River Users Group, Florida

December 2010 issue, CRUG newsletter

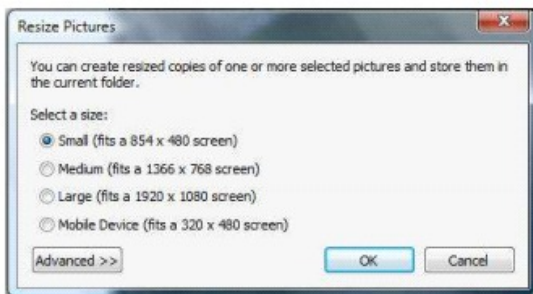
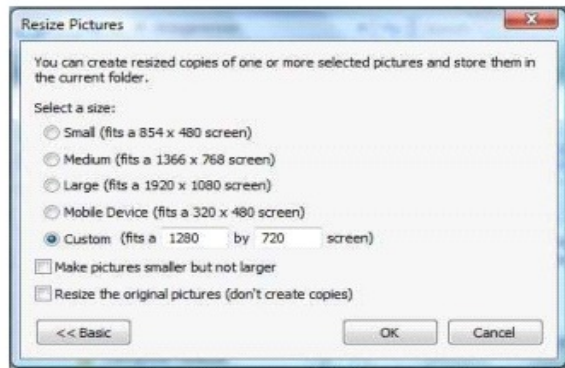
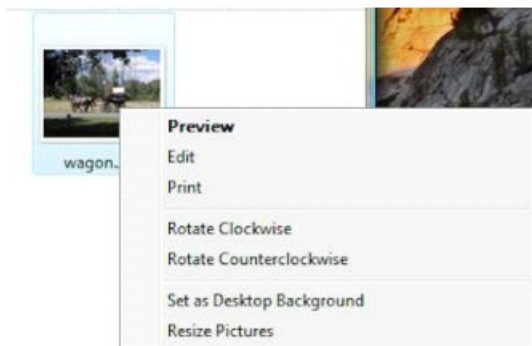
[www.crug.com](http://www.crug.com)

Newsletter@crug.com

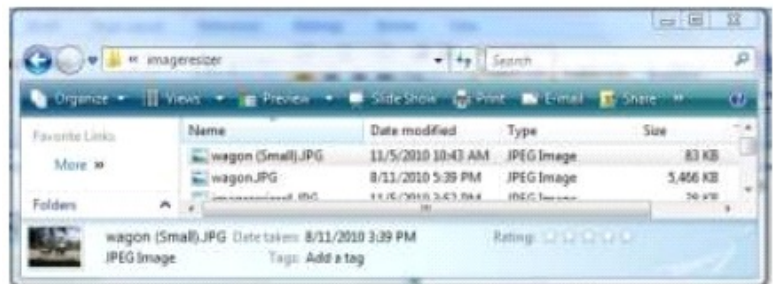
If you upgraded from Windows XP to Vista or Windows 7 you may miss the XP Powertoy Image Resizer. It was great when you needed to quickly create different size images of a photo. Maybe you need a small image to email or a special size for desktop wallpaper. There are many reasons to create of a particular size image. Images can be resized in a photo editor. My choice is Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo. I use it to edit and size my digital photos. But then if I want a special size edited photo it is quicker to use Image Resizer. Download from [imageresizer.codeplex.com](http://imageresizer.codeplex.com).

Image Resizer is a clone of the Image Resizer Powertoy for Windows XP. To use Image Resizer locate the photo or photos in Windows Explorer. Select the photos to resize and then right click on the selection.

In the resize Pictures dialog box select from the predefined sizes. To specify a custom size click the Advanced button. The advanced area also contains two other selections. Toggle them on or off. I recommend leaving the Resize the original pictures unchecked. You don't want to inadvertently resize a large image to 854 x 480.



The new images are saved indicating a size.



## Converting Slides to Digital Images

Written by Bruce Preston, president, West Mountain Systems, Inc., long-term board member of DACS and conducted the Random Access sessions at the General Meetings as well as chaired the Microsoft Access SIG.  
[www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org)  
Bpreston@mags.net

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Author's Note: This article best appreciated if read while listening to Paul Simon's Kodachrome.

By my estimate, over the last 40 or so years, I have taken about 6,000 slides. Topics include such things as family get-togethers, Formula 1 and Can-Am races at Watkins Glen, SCCA races at Lime Rock Park, bike tours in Vermont, the U.K, Western Europe, and steam locomotives in Colorado, Vermont, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For all of these I much prefer the color fidelity and permanence of slides over prints.

Unfortunately, slides also require either setting up a projector and screen or using a hand-held viewer, and don't easily lend themselves to sharing. Years ago I had a Polaroid SprintScan 35 film scanner, but it required a SCSI adapter card and Polaroid went under without delivering drivers for Windows 2000 or XP. It was also somewhat slow taking about 2 minutes per scan. I will grant you that it delivered high

quality images. My brother in law has scanned a few slides using a flatbed scanner with a light box cover, but the resolution was not great. It was acceptable for distributing by e-mail or posting on a web page, but not satisfactory for full screen viewing.

A few months ago I discovered Ion Audio's "Slides 2 PC" 35 mm Slide and Film Scanner. It is a nifty compact device that consists of housing containing a fixed-focus USB 2.0 camera, a white-balanced light source and a pair of carriers – one that can hold 3 mounted 35 mm slides, the other for 6-exposure 35 mm negative strips. System requirements are minimal – Windows XP or Vista, and a USB 2 port. *(If you only have USB 1.1 you will need to add a USB 2 card to your desktop or get a USB 2 PCMCIA card for your notebook. I tried it on my old notebook and the driver refused flatly stating that it needed USB 2.)*

Slides 2 PC comes bundled with ArcSoft's Photo Impressions 6, a consumer-friendly image capture/editing/cataloging program commonly bundled with digital scanners and cameras. The scanner appears as a TWAIN device, I happen to prefer the free (for personal use) IrfanView as I have used IrfanView for years. <http://www.irfanview.com/> One thing I disliked about the ArcSoft package was its insistence upon loading an always resident module.

I don't know if the device will work with a Mac – next time Scott is around with his Mac we'll see if it recognizes it. Since it is a TWAIN device there is a good chance as long as your bring your own software.

Operation is simple; I'll describe the process when using IrfanView. Select the TWAIN source from the FILE menu, and then select ACQUIRE/BATCH. The first dialog box asks for a target folder, a root filename, the starting number and the number of digits. I created folder “\My Documents\My Pictures\VBT Tours\1972” as the folder, “VBT\_” as the filename root, 1 as the starting number, and 3 as the number of digits. I clicked OK and the scanner loaded with a real-time preview. In this case of a blank white area since I hadn't loaded a slide. Note that since it is a video camera rather than a moving scanner mechanism there are essentially no moving parts within that can get out of calibration.

The carrier is hinged along the long side – open it, place 3 slides in the slide carrier or a film strip in the film carrier and close it. Slide the carrier into the scanner until you feel it click at the first positioning notch. In about a half second the image will appear, then reappear once the auto-exposure kicks in. Tap the top of the scanner and the image is captured to memory. A thumbnail appears above the preview image. Slide the carrier to the next notch and repeat the process. Reload and repeat until you have up to 12 thumbnails. Click on the first, shift-click on the last one to select them all, then click on the 'Transfer' button on the screen and they will be written to disk. Resultant JPEG images are 2592x1680, 24 bit color depth. They average about 2.5MB in size.

If you use Photo Impressions 6 as part of start up you get a configuration screen for the scanner where you may select image size,

-continued on next page-

**-Slides to Digital-continued**

color depth, JPEG or TIFF, and specify whether you are scanning transparencies (slides), color or B/W negatives. IrfanView just uses the defaults of JPEG at 24 bit color depth.

As far as speed is concerned, on this lazy Sunday afternoon I scanned 60 slides in 33 minutes without rushing. This included taking the slides out of the Bell & Howell 'Slide Cube' and reloading them. I have yet to go into the JPEGs to rotate the images that need to be turned from landscape to portrait orientation – IrfanView can do that with a single key-press.

For those who like spec sheets:

- 5 mega-pixel scanner
- USB 2.0 interface
- f/6.0 four element glass lens
- Fixed focus, auto-exposure and color balance

More information at

<http://www.ionaudio.com/slides2pc>

Sources – I did a little web searching while wrapping up this article. The average eBay auction over the last 60 days closed at \$85 including shipping. J&R has it for \$79.99 plus shipping which I suspect will put it right about \$85. If you like rolling the dice, from time to time a factory refurb shows up on eBay at about \$65.

If you have many slides or negatives that you'd like to convert to digital, give this unit some thought. I'm very happy with it.

---

**SUMMER WILL SOON BE HERE** but it sure doesn't feel like it today (June 12). The high temperature today is 56 degrees and it has been rainy overcast all day.

**Verbatim PhotoSave  
BackUp DVD**  
**Reviewed by Bill James, Editor,**  
**Computer Club of  
Oklahoma City**  
[www.ccokc.org](http://www.ccokc.org)  
**wijames @sbcglobal.net**

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Every so often a new product hits the markets and literally blows your socks off. Such is the case with Verbatim's PhotoSave DVD which the company is promoting as 'the effortless way to preserve your memories. Digital cameras today afford you the opportunity to amass huge amount of pictures. You want to keep these precious memories in a safe a secure place. When was the last time you were looking at your favorite pictures on your hard drive and thought about backing them up but wish you did not have to buy an additional HD and mess with complicated backup software?

Now there is a product that takes all the work out of making archival DVDs without using any additional software. Verbatim PhotoSave DVDs are recordable DVDs that makes finding and saving photos absolutely effortless – even if you have never burned a disc before. Verbatim PhotoSave DVDs feature integrated software that launches automatically when the disc is inserted into a DVD-R drive. The process of searching for photos on your hard drive is automated so you only need to click on the record button to save your photos from a PC. The PhotoSave

DVD also allows manual so you can search and burn photos from a digital camera or other devices that is connected to a PC.

I found the whole process effortless. It is a 1-2-3 step process. There is no software to install. Insert the DVD, the software searches for the photos and click the record button. I tried the manual mode to consolidate photos that I had saved on various flash and USB drives. It's just a matter of navigating the easy to use interface to the appropriate drive, select the photos you want to save and press the record button. The Photo Save DVD supports multiple recording sessions allowing you to add more photos later. The disk recognizes more than 80 different photo file formats and you can store approximately 2000 photos.

You know how vulnerable photos can be on a hard drive, with the PhotoSave DVD you can make multiple copies of your photos easily and affordable. The disks come in 3 and 28 5 packs at \$9.99 and \$14.99 respectively. Verbatim PhotoSave DVDs can be used with Windows 2000, XP and Vista systems. You will not be sorry about your investment.



I have been asked, after a hard drive has crashed and data is not recoverable, short of sending the drive to a data retrieval service, 'how could this have happened? All my pictures are on there'..... -editor-

KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY

Presents

# REACT OS

**An operating system to  
run Windows applications  
that is not from Microsoft**

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Presented by

**Steve Pooler**

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**Thursday June 9 th 2011 - 7 PM**

**Social Time 6:30 to 7 PM**

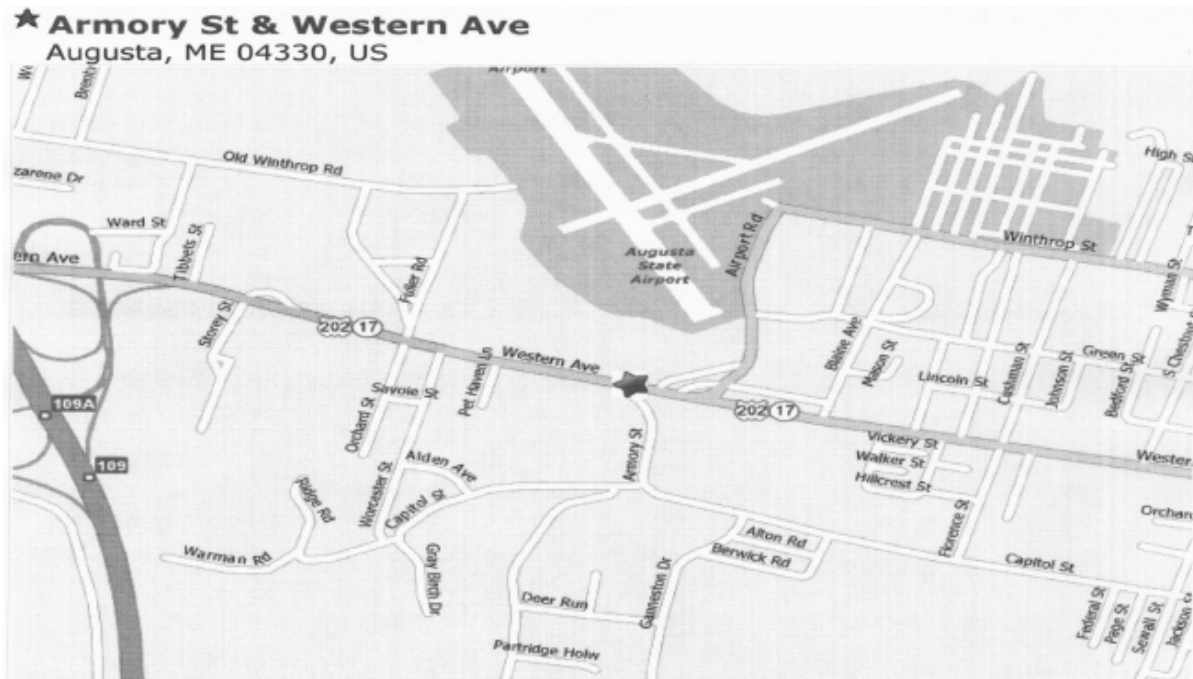
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**Lou Buker Community Center  
Armory Street  
Augusta, Maine**

**The Public is Cordially Invited**

**Bring a friend, meet a friend**

# KVCS MEETING LOCATION



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## MELUG-Central Maine Linux Users Group Meeting

The Next MELUG-Central Meeting - No meeting in June

For more information [www.melug-central.org](http://www.melug-central.org)

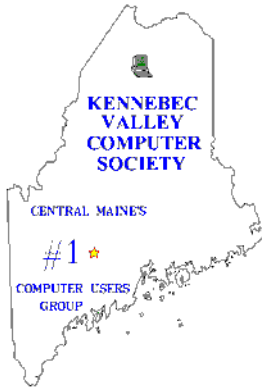
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So Sayeth Maxine.....



**KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 2791**  
**AUGUSTA, ME 04338-2791**



**KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY**

**Post Office Box 2791, Augusta, Maine 04338-2791**

Change of address

I would like to see more. Please send me a complimentary issue of the Newsletter.

I would like to join KVCS / renew my membership.

Annual Renewal (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

FOR KVCS USE

New Member (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

DP \_\_\_\_\_

Family (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

CH \_\_\_\_\_

Student (Full time status - Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

CA \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Your Interest in Joining KVCS? \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

**11/06** Signature: \_\_\_\_\_