

# COA Computer Center

Newsletter - Spring 2009

There are several new offerings at the Colin Campbell Computer Center that might interest you. Camera to Print is a great way to get ready for your Photo outings this Summer season. Our Computer 102 takes you into using a USB Flash Memory to take pictures and information when you visit with your family, it introduces making Music CDs to play in the car as you go there and even make a DVD that will play on a regular DVD player.

Our latest offering coming later this season is 201 which gives you a one day sample of many popular programs: Word, Excel, Power Point, Skype, Netscape, and several other popular programs. Not enough time to be an expert but enough to make use of these great programs. Sign up at 945-9800.

Remember, our classes are open to all. You don't need to be a Chatham resident or a Senior. Maybe you are only here for the summer!! Expand your knowledge.

Dick Kraycir

## Need help with typing?

Are you still having difficulty typing? Many of us did not have formal typing classes and tend to just pick at the keys. Well, there is a very nice free (as a Yankee, that appeals to me) typing course at [www.sense-lang.org/Typing](http://www.sense-lang.org/Typing) Open the typing program and start right at lesson one. (Repeated from last winter!)

**Have you tried watching TV on your computer?** PBS and NBC have many programs you can watch on your computer if you missed them on TV. And, if you have a laptop, just connect an S-Video cable between

the Computer and the TV and watch just as you would a broadcast. I had fun watching some old 'Alfred Hitchcock' programs on [WWW.NBC.com](http://WWW.NBC.com). It is free and fun. You can see [Masterpiece Theater](#) or [Nature](#) on [WWW.PBS.Org](http://WWW.PBS.Org). Try it out. And don't forget to tap the F11 key when using Internet Explorer to make the picture bigger. Just tap it again and the tool bars will return!

Check out the many good hints and helpful links on Jim Fallon's website He has some great tutorials there. Go to [www.mainstreetchatham.com](http://www.mainstreetchatham.com) and help yourself. Don't forget there are many great tutorials on [www.Microsoft.com](http://www.Microsoft.com) with their many training videos and tutorials regarding Office Products and the programs included in Vista (or XP).

## Advanced users Corner

### Remote Backup !

Hey you advanced users, have you seen Microsoft's [Windows Live Skydrive](#)?? It is a free service to back up 25 Gb of files and pictures for free. It is encrypted so nobody else can get them without your password. This is a great way to back up your important documents away from your home. Search on [www.Microsoft.com](http://www.Microsoft.com)

Having trouble emailing large files? There are now several free services that will handle some very large files. GigaSize.com and SendSpace.com will handle 300mb files free, and [www.YouSendIt.com](http://www.YouSendIt.com) will handle 2Gb files for a small charge.

**Improving your Photography Skills-Pay attention to the Light**

## Dancing with light



- Light from the side brings out shapes, textures and structures. That's why early morning and evening are rich times to photograph.
- With the sun behind your subject, you get some of the most dramatic visual effects ... but exposure could be tricky to get right. Try it anyway!
- When the sun is high and the light is hard, don't fight it. Concentrate on exposing the bright parts properly and work with the shapes of shadows.
- For light and shadow effects you need the sun, of course, but colors are often more intense on half-sunny or overcast days.

## Choosing your time



- Low or cross lighting at dawn or dusk produces wonderful lighting and colors.
- At dawn and dusk there are natural shadows to help give depth and form to your subject.
- For early evening shots, you will need longer shutter times I.e. Longer exposure to make up for the low light. This makes it likely your photographs could be blurry due to camera shake, so lean your camera on something - anything steady - to keep still during exposure.
- Don't be afraid to point the lens at a setting sun, but whatever you do **avoid looking at the sun directly**, especially through the viewfinder of your camera.

## The best light is free



- Bright sunlight gives colors a more intense or 'saturated' feel.
- Midday light is bluer, which can give photos a harsher feel.
- Try to place strong colors against large areas of even tone or color - this helps bring out their intensity
- Look for color contrasts - red with blues and greens, for example.
- Photographs taken at the beginning or end of the day will have a warmer tone due to the natural orangeness of the light.

## Composition essentials



- It's best to keep your horizons level in your photographs, otherwise your shots will appear crooked (unless that's what you want!).
- Keep the main points of interest away from the center, and from the extreme edges - better, still, try placing them in different parts of the image and see which works best.
- Don't shoot everything from a standing position. Look for unusual angles by changing yours (and the camera's position).

## Depth of feeling



- Use your zoom lens to shorten the 'depth of field' (depth sharpness) in your photograph, and throw the background out of focus. This adds emphasis to your subject.
- Use your zoom lens to fill your photograph, rather than leaving your main point of interest floating in space.
- Zooming in will flatten perspective, which generally produces a more flattering shot of your subject.
- In this picture, a zoomed-in setting focuses on the girl, throwing the foreground objects out of focus.

**Take lots of pictures. With digital cameras shots cost you hardly anything at all.**