This Month's LIVE Presentation
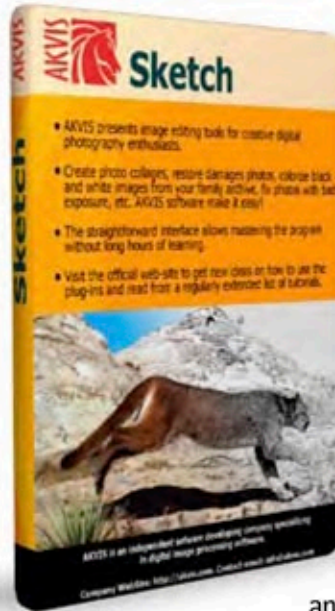### by Tom Watson, Program Director

Hello Everyone. This months meeting demo will bring a whole new concept to your photography. I have demonstrated many different filters and actions and plugins before but nothing, NOTHING, like AKVIS Sketch.

I discovered this stand alone application (it also works as a Photoshop CS3 and 4 as well as Elements plugin) while researching a way to help me be able to produce drawings for an upcoming children's book on Castles.

I wanted to be able to take a photograph and make my own drawings. Now since I am far from an artist /illustrator, I depend upon the magic of the applications I knew someone somewhere had to be making. This is where the AKVIS Software company comes in.

When I saw the samples on their web site (http://akvis.com) I had to see for myself. This is the most completely Stunningly True Sketch application I have ever come across. With a little study and playing with it to get used to the features and many tools it has with it, I found it to be the BEST. I have been looking and trying many different sketch type plugins but there is nothing that is going to surpass this.

Within minutes I was creating the most incredible drawings in both B/W and colorized drawings I could ever do. Not only does its colorization powers beat everything but its ability to determine which direction the pencil angle slants to make a more authentic hand drawn effect.

I have shown this to illustrators and fine artists and they have all said this is remarkable. And one artist who specializes in pencil art said it is as close as it gets to hand drawn.

Colorization is not the only thing it has in its bag of tricks. Charcoal effects, Background, and even Text abilities are all a part of Sketch. It also gives you the capability to generate Watercolor works as well.

Depending on the size of the photo and the amount of RAM you have in your machine Sketch will have not problem producing beautiful drawings of family and friends, or places you saw on holiday.
I will be showing AKVIS's Sketch this next meeting. And if you have a favorite photo bring it on a flash drive and lets see what Sketch can do with it. I will demo different types of photos, landscapes, faces, wildlife, and some with no backgrounds.

As a creative type I can see that there is no end to what Sketch can do for your own (for instance) greetings cards, framed photos, and almost anything else you want to try.

Sketch comes in a MAC and a Windows version. Either Standalone or as a Plugin for Photoshop that also works in Elements.

I run it on my G5 PPC 8.5 GB Ram and my Intel G5 Imac with only 2 GB Ram. Both have Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Photohop Elements on them. You do need an appropriate Photo Editor to use the Plugin version.

If you order now from AKVIS.com the price is a fantastic $72 (dollars).

And if you come to this months meeting you have the chance at this months raffle to win a Copy of Sketch. Akvis has very generously given MacChug.org a serial number for Akvis Sketch Deluxe and that will be raffled off this month.

I am excited about this brilliant application, and I give this the maximum Mice of 5. Outstanding Akvis!

You do not want to miss this meeting!

Mac system requirements: OS X 10.4-10.6; Intel/G4, 1 Gb RAM, 100 Mb HDD; screen resolution 1024x768 Intel/G5, 2Gb RAM, 2 Gb HDD; screen resolution 1280x1024. Runs on Windows too, if you must.