



# mbug-pc newsletter

Established 1983 / Incorporated 1988

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How can you spot a potential genealogy SOFTWARE SCAM before you buy?



Read all about it on page 10!

Kristen  
Knutson

MBUG-PC  
Program Chair  
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## MBUG Meets MBAY

November's Friday General Meeting speaker will be **Matt Hudson** of **MBAY.NET** ([www.mbay.net](http://www.mbay.net)), a local ISP provider. Matt will discuss issues relating to local Internet services, the World Wide Web in general and services offered by MBAY.NET, for both home and the business users.

Matt will explain the following options available from ISPs:

**Dialup Internet (56Kflex & ISDN)** where you have an Internet account (PPP connection), access to a "shell account", a storage area for a personal World Wide Web page, and access to an FTP Server, allowing both 56K modem and 64K ISDN connections and full access to the Internet.

**128K Dialup ISDN** where you get all of the above, as well as use of both ISDN channels to connect at the same time, for a combined speed of 128Kbps to the Internet.

**Dialup Network** where you have more than one computer that you need to connect to the Internet at once. A router or a computer with routing software can connect your entire LAN (local area network) to the network at once.

**Full Time Internet (56Kflex)** where businesses who are not ready for the cost of higher speed connections get a "a dedicated line" and a 56Kflex modem. Centrex lines are available in some areas to avoid metered business line costs.

**Leased Line Services** where you need bandwidth.

**Virtual Web hosting** where a World Wide Web server appears as [www.yourcompany.com](http://www.yourcompany.com) so as to have a presence on the Internet without the start-up costs of a complete server and high-speed connection.

**Server Collocation** where you connect your server to an ISP company's internal network and put it on the Internet. This way you can mail relay deliver as many messages as you can send in one day, usually for a flat fee.

**Domain Registration** where you register your "domain" and maintain it in on your ISP's name server databases. ♦

Friday, November 1, 2002 at 7pm  
at the Pacific Grove Adult Education Center  
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

Free and open to the public! Invite your friends!  
Enter our fund-raising RAFFLE for great prizes!

## DISCOUNT COMPUTER MAGAZINES

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
<b>Computer Games</b>	\$10.95	—	—
<b>Computer</b>			
<b>Gaming World</b>	\$14.95	\$28.95	\$41.95
<b>ComputerShopper</b>	\$16.97	\$32.95	\$47.95
<b>Dr. Dobbs Journal</b>	\$15.95	\$30.95	\$43.95
<b>Mac Home Journal</b>	\$15.97	\$29.97	—
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*Allow 10 to 12 weeks for magazines to start. Renewals: you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start. As an extra service I will mail a renewal notice about 4 months prior to the expiration date.*

### MBUG-PC VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

**PROGRAM CHAIR:** Have a few hours a month to spare? Good at personal relations? We desperately need someone once a month to schedule speakers for our Friday General Meetings.

**FEATURES EDITOR:** Good at writing short articles? Interested in reviewing computer-related magazine/Internet articles? We need someone for our newsletter once a month.

Interested? For more information call any Member of the Board of Directors below.

#### MBUG-PC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**NEWSLETTER AD RATES:** Special rate for local business card ads (approximately 1/10 page) is \$30.00 for 6 issues or \$50.00 for 12 issues. Full and partial page ads are available upon request. MBUG will publish at no charge classified ads for individual subscribers who have computer hardware or software for private sale. For information on advertising, contact Regina Doyle at [ReginaDoyle@aol.com](mailto:ReginaDoyle@aol.com).

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**15 - 20% Discount on all Computer Books at Borders Bookstores to MBUG-PC Members**

**Show your MBUG-PC Membership card at time of purchase. For a card, see Don Slaiter at any MBUG-PC General Meeting.**

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Jack  
Lewtschuk

## GAMING WORKSHOP?

MBUG-PC may be able to schedule a gaming workshop **if there's enough interest**. If you are interested, please send me an e-mail specifying if you would like the workshop to be a "one time event", a "quarterly event" or a "monthly event".

## CALCULATORS GALORE

As you know, you can use a calculator for more than just your monthly check book-balancing act.

- How about a complicated scientific or engineering task?
- How about a calculator to check your chances while playing blackjack?
- You are not a gambler, how about a calculator for your agri-business?
- Would you like to convert the Gregorian calendar to an ancient Persian or Islamic?
- Is a Pixel Scale calculator of use to you?

These and about 17,000 other calculators and terabytes more can be found at: <http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators.html>.

## SAFE AT ANY SPEED or How To Stay Safe Online if You Use High-Speed Internet Access

If you listen to the news, you've heard about hackers and viruses. But

unless one has targeted your computer, you may not know how they could affect you. If a hacker or virus attacks your computer, you could lose important personal information or software stored on your hard drive. You also could lose valuable time while you try to repair the damage. Without your knowledge, your computer could even be used to attack other computers, including those that protect our national security.

**The best protection against hackers and viruses is your personal commitment to online safety.** If you use a high-speed connection to access the Internet, you can take precautions to better protect your time, the information on your computer and the security of our nation's computer networks.

Almost all of these precautions are also a must for dial-up connections.



**What is high-speed Internet access?** Most Americans who use the Internet from home connect to it through a "dial-up connection" using a modem to call into a server over a regular telephone line. Many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) offer high-speed Internet access, also known as broadband access, usually through a

DSL connection (a Digital Subscriber Line) or a cable modem (via your TV cable).

High-speed Internet access can cost more than a dial-up connection, but an increasing number of consumers choose it because:

- It's faster than a dial-up connection, which reduces the time you spend waiting for web pages to load and lets your computer work faster.
- It can connect your computer to the Internet with no dialling and no busy signals.
- It lets you make and receive voice calls over your phone line while you're connected to the Internet. That's because DSL technology can handle data and voice on a single phone line at the same time and cable technology uses a separate wire from the telephone.

**What are the risks?** Along with their benefits, high-speed Internet connections can be an inviting target for hackers and computer viruses. A "hacker" is a person who uses the Internet to access computers without permission. A "virus" is software that is planted in your computer to damage files and disrupt your system.

When you connect to the Internet, an Internet Protocol identifies your IP address --- a string of numbers that identifies your machine. If you use a dial-up connection, your IP address changes every time you log on. Some high-speed connection users' IP addresses may remain fixed, making it easier for a hacker to access their computers repeatedly.

*One reason a hacker might want to access your computer is to steal the personal information stored on it.*



A hacker could use that information to commit identity theft. Hackers who discover your credit card numbers, Social Security number or bank account numbers may use the information to run up charges in your name. Or they may sell the information to other identity thieves.

Your DSL or cable modem stays connected to the Internet unless you turn off the computer or disconnect your Internet service. These “always on” connections can make a computer vulnerable to attack any time. Unless you take a few precautions, hackers can leave a virus or other software code on your computer that could be released later.

This technique has been behind distributed “denial-of-service” attacks. That’s when hackers spread a virus that tells many individual computers to send messages simultaneously to the same server. The flood of messages can overload the system at, say, a bank, a government agency or another website. The systems then become swamped processing useless information or crash altogether.

If you use a high-speed connection to access the Internet, here are some tips that can enhance your protection against hackers and viruses, and help you stay safe online:

#### ■ Use anti-virus software

Most viruses enter a computer hidden in a seemingly innocent program, often as an attachment to an email. Then the virus software code attached to the program produces copies of itself and inserts the copied

code into other programs. A virus can result in lost data or require costly repairs to your system. You can avoid these risks by installing and using software that scans your computer and your incoming email for viruses, and then deletes them. You can download anti-virus software from the websites of software companies or buy it in retail stores. Look for anti-virus software that recognizes current viruses, as well as older ones; that can effectively reverse the damage; and that updates automatically.

#### ■ Regularly update anti-virus software

To be effective, anti-virus software must be updated routinely with antidotes to the latest “bugs” circulating through the Internet. Most commercial anti-virus software includes a feature to download updates automatically when you are on the Internet.



#### ■ Install a firewall

A firewall is software or hardware designed to block hackers from accessing your computer. A properly configured firewall masks your IP address, making it tougher for

### ***A firewall is different from anti-virus protection***

**Anti-virus software** scans your incoming communications and files for troublesome files.

**A firewall** helps make you invisible on the Internet and blocks all communications from unauthorized sources.

hackers to locate your computer. Firewalls are designed to prevent hackers from getting into your programs and files.

Some recently released operating system software and some hardware devices come with a built-in firewall. It may be shipped in the “off” mode. Make sure you turn it on and set it up properly. Check your on-line “Help” feature for specifics.

If your operating system doesn’t include a firewall, buy a separate software firewall that runs in the background while you work, or install a hardware firewall - an external device that includes firewall software. Like anti-virus software, a firewall needs to be updated regularly to be effective.

Some firewalls block outgoing information as well as incoming files. This stops hackers from planting programs called “spyware” that cause your computer to send out your personal information without your approval.

#### ■ Don’t fall for a fibbing e-mail

Most viruses won’t damage your computer unless you open the e-mail attachment that includes the virus. So hackers often lie to get you to open

the attachments. The e-mail may appear to come from a friend or colleague, or it may have an appealing file name, like “*Fwd: FUNNY TEXT*” or “*As per your request!*” It could appear to link to a website or promise to clean a virus off your computer if you open it. Don’t open an email attachment, even if it appears to be from a friend or co-worker, unless you are expecting it or know what it contains. If you send an email with an attached file, include a text message explaining what it is.

**■In addition, don’t forward any e-mail warning about a new virus.**

It may be a hoax and could be used to spread a virus! If you receive a chain letter or hoax virus alert, let the sender know so they can stop spreading the virus.

**■If your computer is infected, take action immediately**

If your computer has been hacked or infected by a virus, immediately unplug the phone or cable line from your machine. Then scan your entire computer with fully updated anti-virus software and update your firewall.

Before you reconnect to the Internet, think about how your computer could have been accessed and what you could have done to avoid it. Did you open an e-mail attachment and let loose a virus? Did a hacker bypass your outdated firewall?

Take steps to minimize the chances of it happening again.

**■Use strong passwords**

Hackers may try to steal your passwords to gain access to the

personal information stored on your computer. To make it tougher for them, use passwords that have at least eight characters and include numerals or symbols. Avoid common words: some hackers use programs that can try every word in the dictionary. Don’t use your personal information, your login name or adjacent keys on the keyboard as passwords.

**■Don’t share your passwords online or over the phone.** Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) should never ask for your password!

**■Take advantage of your software’s security features**

Chances are your web browser and operating system software give you some options for increasing your online security. Check the “Tools” or “Options” menus for built-in security features. You probably have several choices for what types of files you want to accept from other computers. If you don’t understand your choices, check them out using your “Help” function.

Similarly, your email software may give you the ability to filter certain types of messages, such as some unsolicited bulk email, or spam. But it’s up to you to activate the filter.

**■Turn off software features that you don’t use**

You may want to turn “off” some software features - instant messaging, printer sharing or file sharing - that typically are “on” when a computer is shipped. File sharing allows several computers (connected through a network) to use the same file at the same time. Because it facilitates the passing of information between

computers, this feature is an excellent point of entry for hackers. A firewall won’t block files sent to you this way. If you’re not on a network, turn the file-sharing feature “off.” Your operating system’s “Help” feature will show you how.

Another software feature that could leave you exposed to a virus is an e-mail “preview pane” that lets you view attachments automatically. The preview pane could allow a virus to be launched even if you never click on the attachment.

And if you’re not using your computer for an extended period, you can turn it off or unplug it from the phone or cable line. When it’s off, the computer doesn’t send or receive information from the Internet and isn’t vulnerable to hackers.

**■Back up important files**

If you follow these tips, you’ll reduce the chances of falling victim to a hacker or virus. But no system is completely secure. If you have important files stored on your computer, copy them onto a removable disc, and store them in a safe place (see the September 2002 MBUG-PC Newsletter for more on this).

**■Report serious incidents**

If you think you’ve been hacked or infected, e-mail information, including from your firewall log file, to your Internet provider and the hacker’s provider if you can tell what it is. Often the ISP’s email address is *abuse@yourispname.com* or *postmaster@yourispname.com*. Do this to let the ISP know about the problem on their system and help them plan for the future.

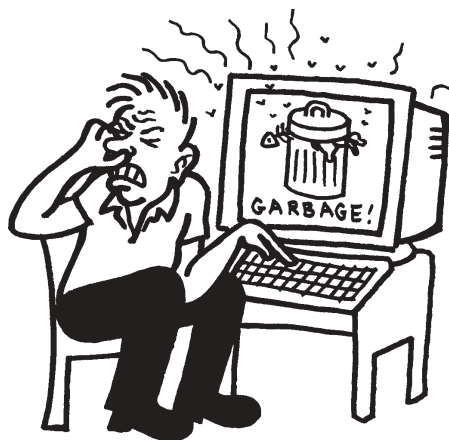


Recently, our own **Gardner Hutchins** gave me several copies of "PC Post", the newsletter of the Modesto PC User Group (MPCUG). The September 2002 issue contained an article by **Claude Delphia**, who, because he is from out of town, could be considered a "consultant" and, therefore an authority! With Claude's permission, I offer it to you as a "guest nag":

### Respecting Privacy in E-mail Forwards

It's time for all savvy email users to start protecting your valued friends e-mail privacy. I just got an email forward that contained hundreds of e-mail addresses of each person who had forwarded it to all their friends. And each of those friends is now forwarding my e-mail address to their friends. My e-mail address could be added to thousands of e-mails just because those doing the forwarding don't observe the simple practice of sending the forward BCC.

The forwarder also doesn't make the simple effort to clean up all the previous forwarded addresses by just using a simple highlight and "Cut" or delete before sending it on. There is no reason to force your friends to scroll down through endless pages of unknown e-mails unless you really don't like those of us you sent the message to.



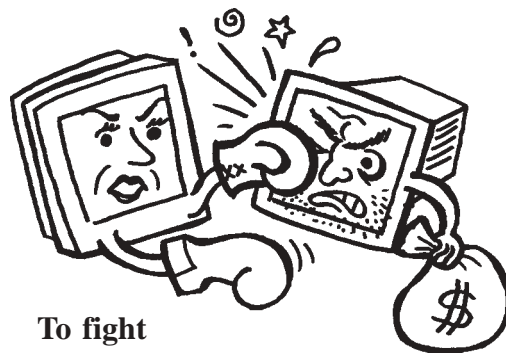
**Of course if you really don't like your friends and want to irritate them, then don't bother to remove all the garbage.** Also if you really don't want them to read the forward, then it's also best to leave it cluttered. That way they won't bother to read it or forward it.

In too many cases, the message ends up to either be a fake or was as simple as turning your auto lights on September 11th. What that one means, I don't know since most autos come with headlights set to be on during normal operation.

However there is more sinister aspect to these e-mails. I think there are people out there harvesting these emails with all the names and mining the e-mails for future spam lists. So in my opinion, these forwards just help the spammers with valid email addresses. Is that what you really want to do to your friends? Enemies maybe, but to your friends?

**When we expose multiple addresses to the spammers, these addresses include the address of the sender (you) and the receiver (me).**

*Jack Lewtschuk, MBUG-PC President*



**To fight computer criminals you should also report incidents to the FBI at [www.ifccfbi.gov](http://www.ifccfbi.gov).**

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft and other fraud-related complaints into **Consumer Sentinel**, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad. Federal Trade Commission for the Consumer 1-877-FTC-HELP [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov). (This information is based on the "AARP Consumer e-Newsletter").

### NAG, NAG, NAG

I and others have been nagging about e-mail being forwarded with multiple addresses, exposing all to the harvesting of spammers. The results were rather checkered. Many messages are still being forwarded with several sets of multiple addresses. Frequently a text message is forwarded as an attachment and thus causes suspicion from the receiver who is alert for unwelcome attachment containing a virus.

## THE TIME HAS COME

After four years as MBUG-PC President, it's time to retire and give someone else a chance. New energy, new ideas, new enthusiasm is always a shot in the arm of any organization.

I have enjoyed the support and interaction of all board members and volunteers past and present and I am thankful to all members who kept MBUG alive for almost 20 years.

There are still some openings among the ranks of volunteers, and I wish that enough of you would be willing to stand up and volunteer your time to keep MBUG-PC on an even keel.

The December 3 Board Meeting and December 6 General Meeting will be the first time for **Ann Mack, our new MBUG-PC President**, to preside. Please give her all the support possible! ♦

*Good-  
Bye from  
Jack!*

*Outgoing  
MBUG-PC  
President  
S. Jack  
Lewtschuk*



*Hello  
from  
Ann!*

*Incoming  
MBUG-PC  
President  
Ann Mack*



Photos by Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC

## MEETING REVIEW



**Ann  
Mack**  
Features  
Editor

## The "Low" Down on a Clean Computer

**Clarence Low**, Project Manager of **Byte Technology** gave a great program for the October meeting. He is co-founder of Byte, a local website design and networking firm. Byte works with individual users in addition to small and medium sized companies. The business was started in January 2001 and already has the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce 2002 Excellence Award!

Clarence laid out a set of steps for a PC preventive maintenance checklist that every user can follow. His examples used Windows XP, without Service Pac #1 upgrade. But many of these suggestions will be valid for Windows98, ME and 2000 as well.

### Computer Tune Up

Let's see what you can do to "tune up" your computer and to get top performance out of it:

#### ■ Empty the Recycle Bin

Those programs and files you dragged to the bin are still there, taking up space and stuff.

#### ■ Delete ".tmp" files

These are temporary files created by periodic file saves of a word processor and other applications. Search your C drive for all files and folders for "\*.tmp". This may take some time but when you see how many and how old they are, you can determine just which ones to delete. Do NOT delete any System32.dll or Norton Anti Virus files!

*(continued on page 13)*



*Eager participants line up to ask questions of Clarence Low (far right) of Byte Technology during a break in October's General Meeting presentation.*



# SPOTLIGHT on MBUG-PC MEMBERS

## Presidential Profile

by Ann  
Mack



**H**e was the tallest student in his German First Grade (at age 10-11). He has read “War & Peace” three times...in three different languages. He could read and do sums before starting school in Kyiv, Ukraine. The first book he read was “Tom Sawyer” followed by “Huckleberry Finn”. And he was hired by the United States Customs Service to process refugee and displaced persons’ imports ... at age 16. He had his own private office, spoke five different languages and ate in the post war equivalent of an “executive” dining room.

Obviously, “He” is our President, **Jack Lewtschuk**, who has devoted so much of his time to MBUG-PC over the past six and a half years. Jack was Program Chair for two and a half years and has served as President for four years. There can’t be more than a handful of workshop meetings that Jack has missed in those four years; the only volunteer with a better attendance record is Ralph Games! Jack has given most generously of his time and expertise to make MBUG-PC what it is today.

### A Very Historical Background

Getting a “bio” out of Jack is a bit daunting. He side-steps questions on his past – both his accomplishments and abilities. We did hear, however, he was born in Kyiv, the capital city of Ukraine and then part of USSR. His father was a lawyer and his mother was a draftsman. They lived in a one-bedroom apartment and shared the kitchen with another family but his father was not an advocate of Communism. Jack said the town welcomed the Germans as liberators, when

they arrived, until the next day when they rounded up a group of people to execute.

Jack and his family left Kyiv after the siege of Stalingrad, which marked the turning point of the war when he was about five. The small family made their way across Romania, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Slovakia by any transportation possible, moving where the freight trains went if they were lucky.

As Jack says, this was not a trip that you went down to the train station, bought a ticket and got a scheduled train. Their train journeys were unpredictable and uncertain and unnerving. The trains were targets for strafing, bombings and re-routing by the Resistance fighters. One time, two ammunition trains were switched to the same track and a large explosion followed. Jack still remembers the huge hole, four miles by one mile and deep in the ground and a few remaining parts of train cars scattered around. While trying to cross a bridge in Yugoslavia, his father was captured by Tito’s men and taken to their cave headquarters. Jack and his mother waited by the side of the bridge ... there was no place else to go. Luckily, the partisans got a message about a coming troop train and lost interest in his father.

But another time in Slovakian border, his father, while searching for food, was not so lucky and was picked up in a “sweep” of the town square by Nazi military and disappeared. Jack was sent to try to find his father and found him under military guard in a schoolyard, en route as a forced laborer to dig German fortifications. A young man was executed “while trying to escape” during that encounter, but Jack was successful in smuggling a blanket into his Dad.

Jack and his Mother continued on toward the West eventually being sent to a camp. One day as Jack was playing with homemade arrows (copper bullet jackets on twigs), shooting them in the air, his landed close to the camp administration building where a group of prisoners were being processed. There was his father!

Finally, the family was re-united. They managed to get out of the camp and went further into Germany,



where his father got a job that involved travelling. Jack was sent to a Roman Catholic orphanage where he started first grade, where, indeed he was the tallest one in class. He soon learned German and was able to skip grades up to high school. Not only did he read “War and Peace” three times but he had Algebra and Geometry several times in several languages also.

### **Coming to America**

Several months before the end of the war, Jack’s mother grew weaker from tuberculosis and died

in southern Germany. At that time the Americans and the British were allowing the Russians to “repatriate” their own back to the USSR, but this was not what the Lewtschuks wanted at all, so Jack was given a beautifully forged birth certificate from the local priest with a brand new birthplace.

They made their way north to Bremerhaven to await permission to emigrate to either Argentina or the United States. The American papers came through first and Jack and his father set sail in October 1951 from Bremerhaven, across the North Sea on a troop ship. The weather was so bad the ship considered returning to port. Not a relaxing cruise! Jack still has vivid memories of that voyage. Finally the sun came out and they saw the Statue of Liberty and were processed at Ellis Island. When they left the island, they were issued \$1 apiece. This dollar could be changed into coin and used to get 5¢ candy bar from a machine! Welcome to America!

### **A Colorful Career**

While waiting five years for their papers in Germany, Jack got the job with a private office working for the customs service of the army, since by this time he spoke five languages. Émigrés were allowed to take in certain amounts of goods and money with them. Jack’s job was to make sure they were informed of

the law and had their customs declarations filled out properly. Finally, their lives took on some semblance of normalcy. Philadelphia has a large Ukrainian population, which made it easy to get settled and feel at home. Jack went off to High School with a transcript of his grades in three languages. After the German schools where he had five years of Latin, two of Greek, French, German, Ukrainian, Art, History, Biology, Sciences, Geography and Mathematics, High School was a breeze. It is interesting to note that in the middle of one of the most devastating wars of all time, the German schools were continuing their job and turning out high calibre students.



Jack took several years at Drexel University in Philadelphia, but entered the army for six and a half years. During that time, he was constantly taking extension courses to finish his education. He served several years in Germany attached to a unit in Frankfurt seated in the I.G. Farben headquarters, the same complex where Eisenhower had commanded the Occupation Army years before and at an outpost close to the Iron Curtain.

### **Arrival at the Monterey Peninsula**

Jack ended leaving the service at Ft. Ord and started to look around for some “life after the service” and found an advertisement for the Sheriff’s Department. He liked interaction with people and had a strong belief in law and order; this job would fill the bill. To make a long story short, he took a written test, oral interview and came out as top man tested. He was given leave from the army and started immediately on the force.

Within a short while, Jack had talked them into having specially trained instructors to break in new recruits after they completed the police academy and he became the first “Instructor” (later called Field Training Officer in the Monterey County Sheriff’s



Department. Over the years, Jack moved from recruit to Lieutenant, currently reclassified as "Commander." One of the most interesting assignments Jack had was attending the FBI National Academy for Law Enforcement for three months in Quantico, VA. This prestigious school has students from all the major countries of the world and most of the emerging nations. College level courses are offered in all phases of modern law enforcement and allied subjects. There is a great value in the associations made there; the alumni form an international network among agencies and their command staff of alumni. They continue to meet on an annual basis.

Jack has had a long and honored career in law enforcement and is justifiably proud of his work. He is still asked for special assignments overseas to assist new countries set up a reliable police force. However, he didn't stop with a career in law enforcement, he got a upper division teaching credential from UC Berkeley and has designed and taught many courses at Gabalan, Hartnell, MPC, California State Park Rangers Academy, Fire Academy and an impromptu US Army Military Police School. He continues to lecture for short courses, says he doesn't want to get tied up for a semester any more. However, if you are "working off" a ticket with traffic school, watch out, Jack may be your teacher!

### **MBUG-PC and Beyond**

What's after MBUG? He has promised to stick around and give counsel along with some really bad jokes and take on no-deadline tasks. We are very glad that he will.

Jack says, "After being homeless, hungry, orphaned, shot, degraded, buried alive, imprisoned and ridiculed, facing the MBUG-PC Board of Directors was not too bad ... I think."

Now, the really important question: why does he wear shorts so often? "Well, I wore suits and uniforms for all my working life and I just want to be comfortable." And MBUG-PC has been very comfortable with Jack, thank you for being such a great President. ♦

*Ann Mack (ahmack@sbcglobal.net)*

## THE FRUGAL GENEALOGIST



by Bob "I Don't Do Windows"  
**Stephan**  
**MBUG-PC**  
**Historian**  
**& F1 for Help**

### **A New Surname Scam?**

"Your family is in it!" proclaims a recent mailing I received. "The 2003 International ... Family Yearbook" from The Family News, Denver CO. "Factual Information about ... marriages, ... births, ... records, ... gathering places, PLUS A complete revision of the classic ... Family History" "PLUS!! EXTRA!! PLUS!! FREE!!! The ... Family CD ROM".

Sounds good, doesn't it? Now why didn't I jump at this chance to have my entire family history laid out for me? First a little background. As some of you know, I have a home office business with a business name registered in California. I do various kinds of computer consulting and programming. Business has not been very good lately, and as is the case with many businesses at this time, I have even had to consider laying myself off because I can no longer afford my own services.

But that is not what this article is about. What this is about is that the registered name for my SOHO business is "Moby Disk". Now you might be getting the idea what the first paragraph above is about. That's right! Go back to that paragraph and wherever you see the ellipses just substitute the name Disk. Now do you realize why I think that this is most likely a scam? Why should I have any confidence in an ad that tells me that my business name has been researched as a surname? It made no sense to me.

### **Too Good to Be True**

Many of you probably remember the original surname scam mailings that ostensibly came out of Bath, Ohio from a company that called itself Halbert's, Inc. A

member of my family (hey, not me) purchased one in 1984 called “The Complete Registry of the Stephans in America” by Sharon Taylor. It turns out that is all that it is, a registry, essentially an outdated telephone book of Stephans. There is zero family history or genealogy in it — zilch! But, included at no extra charge, was a Stephan coat of arms, which, under the rules of heraldry, was useless to my family. All in all a \$40 scam for that family member.

So, is this one from Denver yet another of the same ilk? I suspected that it was. It promised a full refund if not satisfied and I was tempted to take a look at it and return it, but decided that the hassle of trying to get a refund would probably not be worth the effort.



I do not see how anything they could tell me about a Disk, or a Stephan, or any other family would be of any use to my carefully researched family history.

### Scams Aplenty

“Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter” reported the good news in

September 1999 that Halbert’s was going out of business. But beware; in April 2000 Eastman reported that a Gary Halbert is now selling stock market advice. This Gary Halbert brags about his previous association with Halbert’s, Inc. Read more about it in Vol. 5, #18 at <http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/eastman/eastman.asp>. Read additional follow-up information in the subsequent two issues also. Vol. 5, #20 reports on sites you can use to check before you spend money on so-called family history publications.

More recently Eastman has reported on other cases including spam e-mail and web sites that offer similar

## Thanks Leo!



MBUG-PC has lost a very valuable Member, Board Member and Chair of the Publicity Committee. Due to pressures from both a serious illness in the family and job-related duties, **Leo Poppoff** had to resign.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of sharing Board meetings with Leo enjoyed his relaxed and cooperative attitude and his great sense of humor. Although we expected his resignation, MBUG-PC is very thankful that Leo did not leave until his replacement was in place. We thank Leo for his service and hope that he will continue to stay in contact and support MBUG-PC in the future.

At the same time, we welcome **Carolyn Lake**, Leo’s replacement as Publicity Chair. Carolyn has already been doing an excellent job in this capacity. As you read this, Carolyn will be nominated as MBUG-PC’s newest Board Member.

*Jack Lewtschuk for MBUG-PC*

questionable family history information. At the same location you can view Vol. 6, #16, 16 April 2001, Vol. 6, #29, 16 July 2001; and Vol. 7, #9, 4 March 2002. This last article details exactly the offering I received as I mention in the first paragraph above. Thanks to Dick Eastman’s reporting, I don’t have to risk my own \$40 to check up on this company. It is clear that it is modeled after the Halbert’s scam operation and offers us no more valid information than any of the others.

### Caveat Emptor! ♦

*A computing enthusiast with over 37 years of computing experience, Bob Stephan welcomes comments and genealogical questions at [bstephan@redshift.com](mailto:bstephan@redshift.com) and [BobStephan@compuserve.com](mailto:BobStephan@compuserve.com). Bob has a home page under construction at <http://www.redshift.com/~bstephan>.*



## MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

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Computer Consultant

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Fax: Call first

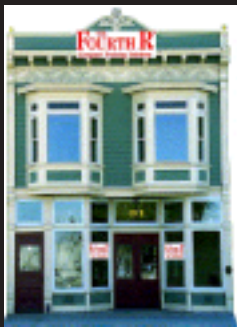


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E-mail: [simbacli@pacbell.net](mailto:simbacli@pacbell.net)



*October's General Meeting kept participants interested. New Hospitality Volunteers, Rita Sopolsky & Helga Murphy (below) were all ears.*

■ **Delete files that begin with a tilde (~)**

Close all of your application programs, word processors, spreadsheets, graphics, etc., then run a search for files with “~\*.\*” which should give you a list of all of them. If you have closed your applications, it's safe to delete files starting with a tilde from the search list.

■ **Delete old zip files**

Large files are often sent in a “.zip” mode. WindowsXP automatically “unzips” these, but also keeps the zipped file. After a while they tend to take up a lot of space. Go to Find, files and folders, search for (“\*.zip”) and get rid of them.

■ **Run ScanDisk and Disk Defragmenter on your C drive**

You can set up your Task Scheduler to run ScanDisk and Disk Defragmenter automatically if you wish. A moderate user should “defrag” about once a month. Scanning takes less time and should be done weekly. Go to Start/Programs/Accessories/System Tools/Scheduled Tasks.

■ **Delete Internet browser “history” and “cache files”**

Reset your history to a maximum of seven days and set your cache setting to around 50 megabytes. This should accelerate your downloading speed.



■ **Clean out Temporary Internet Files**

If you use Internet Explorer or Windows Explorer, cleaning out files is quite simple. Go to



*No matter how often we're told how and when to maintain our PCs, we STILL want to be told again. MBUG-PC Members and Guests listen, takes notes and swear they'll update their anti-virus programs regularly!*

“c:\\Windows\\TemporaryInternet Files” and delete them all.

■ **Confirm that backups are indeed being done**

A regular backup plan is very important! Back up all the data you generate and save it to a different physical location. Backup! Backup!

■ **Update your anti-virus software**

The anti-virus or firewall program you use is only as good as its last update. New fixes are coming on-line all the time. Don't miss them and put your system at risk.

■ **Check your connections**

Make sure all the plugs are secure and that you have a good surge protector. If you are really adventurous, make sure all your expansion cards are seated properly. Replace any cords that are not in good condition and don't overload any plug or use a lot of extensions.

■ **Take Inventory**

Make a special file that contains all your computer components, serial numbers, dates of purchase, size, guarantees etc. And keep it current.

■ **Set Up A “Cleaning Day”**

Set aside some time to physically clean your screens, keyboard, CD-Rom drive, floppy drive and mouse which all need occasional cleaning. There are special cleaning sheets that



*Really? You mean even I can get a virus?!!*

work on the screens and professional products for cleaning the drives, but you can use regular household products too (contact MBUG-PC "F1 Help" **Jim Anway** [janway@redshift.com](mailto:janway@redshift.com) or Hardware Workshop Leader **Nick Mertes** [nick@mbay.net](mailto:nick@mbay.net) if you have any questions about this).

Unplug your keyboard, turn it over, slap it several times and watch the cracker crumbs fall out. Disassemble your trac-ball mouse and clean out the accumulated lint. Check both your fan's airflow and system power sources. Good general housekeeping habits go a long way to keep your computer happy.

Clarence Low's presentation was very clear and concise and very helpful to the membership, thank you. He led such a comprehensive Q & A following his talk that people were reluctant to leave.

Byte Technology offers, in addition to a complete Web site design and maintenance, a special anti-virus package for the home user. [www.byte-technology.com/mpcc](http://www.byte-technology.com/mpcc) or (831)-656-9178. ♦



*There's something for everyone at General Meetings!*

## MICROSOFT WORD 2000

**Margaret Bradbury**

Workshop Leader

Telephone (831) 626-3573

[mgbradbury2@earthlink.net](mailto:mgbradbury2@earthlink.net)



**Wednesday, November 20**

7:00 to 9:00pm

at Archer Park Center

MS Word graphics are limited but effective for emphasizing and decorating text. We'll experiment with the Drawing and Picture toolbars, with Borders, and with WordArt to suggest decorative letters and notes for the holidays or other special events. MBUG-PC workshops are free and the public is welcome. We depend upon your questions and comments to help plan workshops, so please call or e-mail me ahead of time if you have questions about MS Word 2000.

*Margaret*

## INTERNET, E-MAIL & BEYOND

**Clive Sanders**

Workshop Leader

Telephone (831) 375-5376

e-mail [simbacli@pacbell.net](mailto:simbacli@pacbell.net)



**Friday, November 15**

7:00 to 9:00pm

Adult Education Center,  
Pacific Grove

We will cover ways to browse the Internet, using various search engines and exploring web sites of interest. Continue building your Personal Computer proficiency in using e-mail programs and anti-virus utilities.

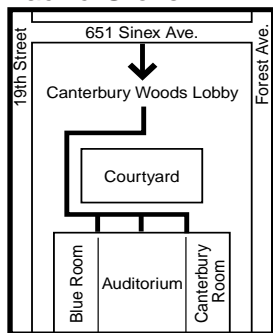
Interaction is highly encouraged! Share your problems as well as your tips, tricks and solutions. Participants at all levels of PC experience, from beginners to advanced are welcome. MBUG-PC meetings are free and open to the public. Contact me in advance at [simbacli@pacbell.net](mailto:simbacli@pacbell.net) or call (831) 375-5376 if you have any specific concerns you'd like raised at the session. ♦

*Clive*

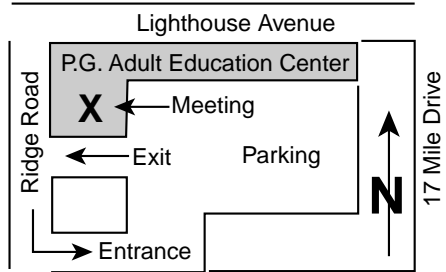
# MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - November 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		29 October <b>DIRECTOR'S MEETING</b> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>			1 <b>General Meeting</b> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Topic & Speaker to be announced	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 <b>"The INTERNET, E-MAIL &amp; BEYOND"</b> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Clive Sanders	16
17	18	19	20 <b>"Microsoft Word"</b> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Margaret Bradbury	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	29	30 <b>Hanukkah</b>

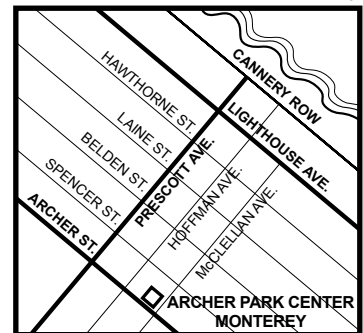
**Canterbury Woods**  
 651 Sinex Avenue  
 Pacific Grove



General Meeting Location  
**Adult Education Center, PG**  
 1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove



**Archer Park Center**  
 542 Archer Street  
 Monterey



## Tentative Calendar December 2002 *Please Check the December Newsletter for Final Dates & Times*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <b>DIRECTOR'S MEETING</b> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	4	5	6 <b>General Meeting</b> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Topic & Speaker to be announced	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 <b>"Windows 98/ME"</b> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Phil Shortell	19	20 <b>"The INTERNET, E-MAIL &amp; BEYOND"</b> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Clive Sanders	21
22	23	24	25 <b>Christmas Holiday</b>	26	27	28
29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>Date of Next MBUG-PC Director's Meeting</b> <b>January 2003</b> to be announced			

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Just as your computer keyboard has an "F1" button to push when you want help, MBUG-PC "F1 for Help" volunteers will respond to your specific computing problems. Come to us with your questions during MBUG-PC meeting breaks -- look for our "F1" name tags. Or contact the **F1 for Help** team by e-mail. We offer our services free of charge with the understanding that MBUG-PC, its Board of Directors, and the F1 volunteers themselves are in no way responsible or liable for the accuracy or the outcome of any advice or suggestions. Leave a message at our **MBUG Answering Service** (373-6245) or contact:

■ **Jim Anway (WindowsXP)**  
STRICTLY Wednesdays & Fridays  
from 2p.m to 5pm at 625-5618

■ **Lee Keely (Access)**  
Prefers e-mail at [leekeely@attbi.com](mailto:leekeely@attbi.com)  
or call 626-8033

■ **Bob Stephan (Genealogy)**  
E-mail to [bstephan@redshift.com](mailto:bstephan@redshift.com)  
or call only between 9am-5pm  
646-1899

■ **Clive Sanders (Windows95/98/2000)**  
E-mail to [simbacli@pacbell.net](mailto:simbacli@pacbell.net)  
or call only between 1pm to 9pm  
375-5376

*Pretty good at solving pc problems?*  
**Join our MBUG-PC F1 for Help Team. Share your knowledge!** ♦

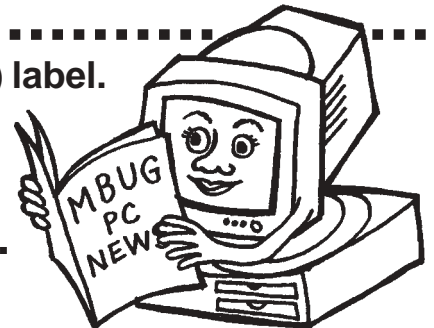
### Check your (upside down) label.

Does it say

"Exp: November / 2002"?

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



[slaiter@pacbell.net](mailto:slaiter@pacbell.net)

### Don Slaiter

VP &  
Membership  
Chair

**Current MBUG-PC  
Membership is 191**

### THANKS FOR RENEWING

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Richard Best .....	520
Anthony P. Bober .....	1191
Audrey Bullock .....	248
Richard Fleming .....	635
LeRoy Martelli .....	397
Harry Nicholson .....	1072
Ben Norwood .....	1075
Janice Roberson .....	1183
James Rotter .....	5671
Lory Schluenz .....	178

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

name	number
Aurelie Chinn .....	1215
Marcella S. Stull .....	1216

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