



# mbug-pc newsletter

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### NO-NO'S IN YOUR SYSTRAY?

*Banish them with a little help from Jim Anway (see page 14)*

*Calling all volunteers: I need a replacement! It's been fun being Program Chair but I've done it for 2 years and I'm too busy with my regular job! Please HELP!!!*

**Kristen Knutson**

MBUG-PC  
Program Chair  
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## Wireless Communications

At our first MBUG-PC General Meeting for 2003, guest speaker **John Rowe** of **QRSWeb** ([www.QRSWeb.com](http://www.QRSWeb.com)) will reveal the mysteries of the new world of wireless communications. You can now get Internet access at 11 megabits per second, more than *a hundred times faster* than a 56K dial-up or 3G connection. With a laptop or Pocket PC, a "Wi-Fi" card, a "*Boingo WirelessT*" service plan and free software, you can access hundreds of Hot Spots (networks at airports, hotels, convention centers, cafes and more).

*Boingo* uses the most popular standard for wireless networks worldwide, known as 802.11b technology, or "Wi-Fi". Normally, connecting to the Internet via these networks can be very difficult. Boingo makes it easy by using multiple existing networks connected with free, easy-to-use software. It searches all available networks, lets you know when you're in range of a high-speed service signal (or tells you where to find the closest one), and connects you to the Internet in seconds.

Come hear John speak about these and other new software features:

- **Wi-Fi Sniffer** "Sniffs" the airwaves for available commercial, private, and free wireless networks
- **One-Click Connect** Connects to wireless signals with one click of the mouse
- **Location Directory** Easily finds *Boingo* locations throughout the country
- **Online Account Access** Manages your account online with *Boingo* self-care application
- **Customer Service** Provides free and friendly support by e-mail or phone
- **VPN** Virtual Private Network connects wirelessly and securely
- **Signal Profiles** Saves and manages security keys and network settings for private wireless networking ♦

**Friday, January 3, 2003 at 7pm**  
**Pacific Grove Adult Education Center**  
**1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove**

*As always, it's FREE and open to the public!*  
*Invite your friends! Win great fund-raising raffle 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	—
<b>Mac World</b>	\$12.95	\$24.95	\$35.95
<b>Maximum PC</b>	\$9.95	\$18.95	—
<b>Microsoft</b>			
<b>System Journal</b>	\$21.95	\$39.95	\$57.95
<b>PC Gamer</b>	\$12.95	—	—
<b>PC Magazine</b>	\$25.97	\$48.95	\$68.95
<b>PC World</b>	\$16.95	\$27.95	\$40.95
<b>Publish</b>	\$17.95	\$33.95	\$48.95
<b>Wired</b>	\$6.00	\$12.00	—



Prices for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must include check, cash or money order payable to **Herb Goodman**. Mail to Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496. Telephone: 561-488-4465 e-mail: [hgoodman@prodigy.net](mailto:hgoodman@prodigy.net)

*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.*

## WE STILL HAVE 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 ad rates 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



Ann  
Mack

## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL YOU COMPUTER BUFFS!

Thinking back BC (Before Computers), I used to think it would be fabulous to be alive for the turn of the Millennium and here we are three years into the new century! Wow.

## GAMING ... MAYBE???

We may be coming up with some exciting plans for 2003. First off, MBUG-PC Columnist **Jim Hinwood** is investigating setting up a Gaming workshop (see his article on page 5). He assures us that "gaming" does not equate to Free Cell, Spider Solitaire or Honeymoon Bridge. Real gaming is an interactive experience on your computer with a hoard of players world wide. Several of us confessed to being "closet gamers" and others are very interested in an introductory workshop. Watch the next newsletter for more details and contact Jim at [ehinwood@msn.com](mailto:ehinwood@msn.com) if you're interested in seeing it happen!

## ATTENTION SOFTWARE JUNKIES!

Another area we're exploring is forming our own "Product Evaluation Team." Software and some hardware businesses are interested in having group members use their product and review it for

club newsletters. The reviewer then gets the product free! Lots of other user groups avail themselves of this arrangement, to their benefit. We would like a team of 3-4 members to do this. It should be fun and you can be on the cutting edge of new software. Let me know if you want to participate.

## RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED

We encourage you to donate useful items to our monthly raffles. Last month, Microsoft Mindshare came through with WindowsXP Professional version and OfficeXP, plus manuals, mouse pads and other souvenirs. But Microsoft comes only twice a year. Can you help with computer-related donations?

## IT'S A GOOD THING

I've had occasion to watch some daytime television lately and hung out with Martha Stewart for an hour each day. The good news is that her website, [marthastewart.com](http://marthastewart.com) posts her daily recipes, craft and decorative projects. Worth a look, especially as it's without all the "perfect" comments.

## OUT OF THE KITCHEN, NOW

I know Immediate Past President Jack has recommended "*Smart Computing*" magazine. It's excellent as it describes new stuff in plain English! Really. If they use a letter abbreviation, they follow it with real words, so there's no guessing what it means. The magazine is useful to expand your computer vocabulary, if nothing else. They also have monthly columns on popular software questions. The January issue has individual pages on Windows XP, Quicken Deluxe 2002, Microsoft Word 2002, Print Shop 12 Deluxe,

Microsoft Excel 2002 AND Word Perfect 10, (which is still alive and well). If you subscribe, please use the blank on our web page, [www.mbug.org](http://www.mbug.org). MBUG-PC will get credit and gift certificates to raffle off. Though it's too late for a Christmas present, you could make it a New Year's resolution to become more knowledgeable about your computer.

## DO YOU GOOGLE?

"*Newsweek*" (December 10, 2002) featured an article on Google, the fastest growing search engine. Did you know that Google is now an acceptable verb? It means the number 1 followed by 100 zeros (isn't that a fascinating conversational gambit)? The article is worth reading. Clive Sanders prefers [www.atomica.com](http://www.atomica.com) to answer queries, do pop-up spelling and even translate phrases. The download is free. A true search engine, [www.Copernic.com/desktop/index.html](http://www.Copernic.com/desktop/index.html) has a free download. Copernic are proud of their filtering ability that in turn saves search time. Another favorite comes with the unlikely name of "*dogpile*" at [www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com). It comes down to, "What works for you?" What's your favorite? Let me know.

## CHEAP INK

Finally, a friend sent some data on cheap printer inks (pre-filled cartridges, not the do-it-yourself kind). My Epson C-80 gulps ink and I needed a source of inexpensive refills. Tyler Martin Co. in Marysville, KS (1-800-652-2937) has very reasonably priced cartridges. They also sell on e-Bay, but haven't gone there yet. If you want to try it, the sellers name is [tylertmartin1](http://tylertmartin1). I have their black ink in my printer and it's working fine ... so far. ♦



## WINDOWS 98 & OTHER TIPS

**Clive Sanders,**  
Workshop  
Leader/ F1  
for Help



### Where's the Clipboard Viewer in WindowsXP?

Click the Start Menu button and open Windows Explorer. Open your C:\drive. Double-click on the Windows Folder then on the System32 folder (remember, to open the folder click on the plus sign next to the folder). Scroll down until you locate a file titled "Clipbrd". Drag and drop it onto your Start button. (let go of your mouse button when it is hovering over the Start button). This will add your shortcut to the Clipbook viewer, the old and well-used Clipboard of old.

When you open your Start Menu the "Clipbrd" program icon will appear near the top. To review what's on the Clipboard, click the new icon in Start Menu. Unlike Windows 2000 that will retain up to 12 images, this clipboard loses the image as soon as a fresh image is taken. ♦

*simbacli@pacbell.net*

## Vector Graphics

by Regina Doyle  
Newsletter Editor

**Markus Lewtschuk** of **Jagged Earth**, a local full-service graphic design company ([www.JaggedEarth.com](http://www.JaggedEarth.com)) really "wowed" us at the December general meeting. Markus explained the difference between rasterised files (in which images made up of tiny little "tiles" or pixels start becoming bigger and bigger chunky squares of color when you enlarge them), and vector graphics (in which images are automatically enlarged proportionately by the software). Talk about a picture being worth a thousand words! When we saw the vector logo zoom up on the projector screen, there was a collective, appreciative gasp! No wonder Jagged Earth can produce a logo tiny enough to fit on a business card yet easily enlarge it or reduce it again for use on stationery, brochures, banners, websites (including flash animation) as well as on sides of trucks up to huge billboards.

## MEETING REVIEW



*Immediate Past President Jack and son Markus Lewtschuk.*

The other "wow" factor (beyond his obvious graphic design capabilities) was the skill with which Markus can manipulate Adobe Illustrator (which uses vector graphics). He went rapidly through the ways he creates logos, technical drawings and other images, layering various parts of illustrations so they can be disassembled and used elsewhere; changing gradients and colors; using various tools to create shapes and then blending them together; turning strokes into fills (and also giving them gradients); using guides to control curves; placing text along pathways, distorting it, filling it, changing its color, and so on and so on. It was a whirlwind of possibilities reminding us that the software is only as good as the human being using it.

And vector files are so small too. Markus doesn't have any problem sending files across the Internet, it's just that if the receiver hasn't got Adobe Illustrator, the only way they can see his work is in a pdf file (which reduces all those lovely smooth curves back and crisp lines into pixels)! Altogether it was a well-attended, captivating evening. Thanks Markus! ♦

*ReginaDoyle@aol.com*



*Photos by Regina Doyle, MBUG-PC*

# What in the World is “Gaming”?

**Jim Hinwood**  
MBUG-PC Columnist  
(and self-confessed  
“gamer”)



Some of us in MBUG-PC may have heard the word but still have no idea what computer “gaming” is, let alone seen or played one. Others may just think they “game” occasionally (solitaire, anyone?), while those in the know are actually truly, madly addicted to the real thing. Maybe you still think your computer is just a business and word processing machine. Maybe you use a computer for work and can’t handle the idea of looking at that boring screen another moment.

But most “gamers” like me use it to relax (some games help you unwind), escape (some draw you in to an alternate creative world), find vicarious excitement (you can assume other identities), learn (many games are used for virtual reality skills training), think (some are as challenging as a good game of chess) and, oddly enough, connect to other people (I “game” with my 8 year old son, people my own age and my Mom)! An added bonus is that gaming is an escape from what Dennis Miller calls the “brilliantly horrific programming of network TV”.

## What Types of Games are Out There?

I’ll list the categories used by gamespot.com (where I recommend you go to look at what’s available in gaming):

**Action** This category gets the most press. These are games where you participate in battles or shoot-outs and the object of the game is, well, to kill and win!

**Adventure** This genre was very popular for a while (I liked games like “Myst” and “Riven”), but has lost ground except maybe in Europe. It is the stories within these games that make them interesting: you play characters within constructed tales to advance into more and more complicated situations.

**Driving** For these games you need a joystick or steering wheel. Obviously the object is to virtually steer a vehicle of some sort around or through obstacles (a race track, city streets or other terrain) and you may have potholes, hairpin turns, drive-by shooters, giant dinosaurs or other things to contend with, depending on the game.

**Puzzles** These games are probably the ones most well known by casual gamers and which require the least powerful hardware. Classic cards games such as bridge, solitaire and hearts, word puzzles like Boggle and Scrabble, board games like Monopoly as well as chess and hundreds of others are included here.

**Role Playing Games (RPGs)** A very popular category and well suited to online play. You can go online and team up with 5-10 players to go on cyber adventures together. You become a character that you have created down to the color of your hair and appearance.

**Simulation (“sims”)** These are also very popular, represented best by flight simulators where you can fly a 747, a stealth bomber or the Enterprise from Star Trek. You can do straight forward “real” flying or participate in World War II.

**Sports** These are probably second only to the action games in popularity as more and more companies look for a way to put you inside the action of a football or soccer game.

**Strategy** This type of game is represented by the likes of “Roller Coaster Tycoon” and “Age of Empires”. They can be turn-based like chess: you make a move and then the computer makes its move, or Real Time Strategy (RTS) where you play against the computer or a real person online. You can build a civilization in a game like Pharaoh or command armies of hundreds of soldiers in battle in games like Shogun-Total War.

## Hardware Requirements

Looking at the hardware requirements for most top games, they are modest in comparison to the power of most computers being sold. You really don’t need a tremendously powerful computer to run even the most demanding games. Most can be played on a Pentium III 600 MHz – 750 MHz, with 128mb of RAM, and a video card with 32mb of graphics memory (most computers sold today have at least double this). If your PC is one or two years old you shouldn’t have any problems but if it’s



a little older you might be restricted from playing the newest games. You will still have a tremendous number to choose from. Remember, those requirements I listed are for the top games and most can be played with half that much power.

If you want to see real detail, such as water rippling beneath helicopter blades in “Comanche 4” you might need more in a graphics card. If you want to hear the ear splitting whine of the engines and the splatter of machine guns, surround-sound speakers start at \$60 and will give a more enjoyable gaming experience. The largest monitor you can afford will also help: 19" monitors can now be bought for under \$300. Generally LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) monitors don't give as good a result with games as the pixel response times, and color saturation is still not good enough to handle the action as well as Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) monitors.

Any of these “gaming systems” will of course be fantastic for any other media application. If you want to use your computer as a jukebox for all your music you can get fantastic sound for much less than what you'd pay for any decent stereo system. The power used for games is also great for photography and for streaming audio and video over the Internet.

The biggest investment is probably the games themselves. I have found that by reading the reviews on game sites and looking for games that are highly regarded but a little older, you can get highly discounted games.

### Fun in February (Hopefully)

In February, MBUG-PC hopes to conduct its first gaming workshop. We're trying to convince **Jeff Smith** of **Computer Connection** in Pacific Grove to lead a “LAN (Local Area Network) party” where we connect several computers and have MBUG-PC members play games against each other. Jeff will demonstrate some of the hot gaming computers that are his specialty. This will be a chance for you to come and see some of the latest technology in games and computers. You'll be amazed at what is out there so we hope that many MBUG-PC members will turn up for fun and fellowship. We'll keep you informed about the date as we are still in the planning stages but we need to know if anyone's interested. Send me an e-mail if you'd like to attend. ♦

**Jim Hinwood** [ehinwood@msn.com](mailto:ehinwood@msn.com)

## THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS



**S. Jack Lewtschuk**  
MBUG-PC  
Columnist & Immediate  
Past President

### Microsoft Phasing Out Support For Older Products: A Reminder

Microsoft is phasing out support for older versions of Windows. For example, at the end of December 2002, Microsoft totally pulled the plug on MS DOS, Windows 3.xx, Windows95 and Windows NT3.5x. Six months later, Microsoft will begin shutting down support for Windows98 and NT4: no more free security patches and updates for these products starting in June 2003.



This has been known for some time (about two years), but if you missed that announcement, a number of computers related publications, conventional and electronic (langalist is an excellent example), are reminding us again. For example, Windows 98 is in its final days. See: <http://www.langa.com/newsletters/2002/2002-10-17.htm#4>.

You can also see Microsoft's full plan for all its major products at: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/lifecycleconsumer.msp> and look up specific product life-cycle plans at: <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=fh;en-us;lifecycle>.

Lack of support doesn't mean the older operating systems will cease working, of course, but there will be no security bulletins, updates, patches and technical support. Should you have problems, you'll have to depend on your own knowledge, manuals and yes, fellow MBUG-PC Members and the **MBUG F1 for Help** group.

## More About Anti-Virus Programs

Most of us have an anti-virus program to protect us from some 60,000 viruses. Should you be one who likes the thrill of living dangerously on the edge of disaster, I am sure that you will change your mind after the first attack. When shopping for an anti-virus program, you are not restricted to just a few manufacturers, such as Network Associates (McAfee) and Symantec (Norton Antivirus).

A current list includes: Aladdin Knowledge Systems – e-Safe ([aks.com](http://aks.com)) Alwil Software - Avast ([asw.cz](http://asw.cz)); Anyware Software - Anyware AntiVirus ([helpvirus.com](http://helpvirus.com)); AVG AntiVirus - AVG Anti-Virus([grisoft.com](http://grisoft.com)); Cat Computer Services - Quick Heal ([quickheal.com](http://quickheal.com)); Central Command Software - Vexira Antivirus ([centralcommand.com](http://centralcommand.com)); Command Software, Inc. - Command AntiVirus ([commandsoftware.com/index.cfm](http://commandsoftware.com/index.cfm)); Computer Associates – eTrust([ca.com/virusinfo](http://ca.com/virusinfo)); Cybersoft – waVe Antivirus ([cyber.com](http://cyber.com)); DialogueScience - SpIDer Guard ([dials.ru](http://dials.ru)); Frisk Software - F-Prot Antivirus ([f-prot.com](http://f-prot.com)); F-Secure – GeCAD ([fsecure.com](http://fsecure.com)); GeCAD - RAV AntiVirus ([rav.ro](http://rav.ro)); H+BEDV Datentechnik - Funktionen und Eigenschaften (AntiVir.de); HAURI - ViRobot, DataMedic, LiveCall ([hauri.co.kr](http://hauri.co.kr)); Hiwire Computer and Security - WinProof and ExcelProof ([hiwire.com.sg](http://hiwire.com.sg)); Ikarus - Die Klinik ([ikarus-software.at/index.html](http://ikarus-software.at/index.html)); Kaspersky Labs - Kaspersk Anti-Virus (AVP)([kaspersky.com](http://kaspersky.com)); Leprechaun Software - VirusBUSTER II ([leprechaun.com.au](http://leprechaun.com.au)); Messagelabs - global email scanning (provide service no product)([messagelabs.com/viruseye](http://messagelabs.com/viruseye)); MicroWorld Software – eScan ([microworldtechnologies.com](http://microworldtechnologies.com)); MKS - MKS Vir ([mks.com.pl](http://mks.com.pl)); Network Associates - McAfee Anti-Virus ([mcafee.com](http://mcafee.com) or <http://www.nai.com>); NetZ Computing - InVircible AV ([invircible.com](http://invircible.com)); Norman Data Defense Systems – Norman Antivirus ([norman.no/products\\_nvc.shtml](http://norman.no/products_nvc.shtml)); Panda Software - Panda AntiVirus ([pandasoftware.com](http://pandasoftware.com)); Per Systems - Per AntiVirus ([persystems.com/antivir.htm](http://persystems.com/antivir.htm)); Proland Software - Protector Plus ([pspl.com](http://pspl.com)); Safetynet - VirusNet PC and VirusNet LAN ([safe.net](http://safe.net)); Softwin - BitDefender ([bitdefender.com](http://bitdefender.com)); Sophos - Sophos Anti-Virus ([sophos.com](http://sophos.com)); Sybari Software - Antigen for Microsoft Exchange([sybari.com](http://sybari.com)); Symantec - Norton Antivirus ([symantec.com](http://symantec.com)); TREND Micro - Trend Virus Control System ([trendmicro.com](http://trendmicro.com)); VirusBuster Ltd. – VirusBuster ([vbuster.hu/index.en.ie.shtml](http://vbuster.hu/index.en.ie.shtml))

Pick one that suits you and update it regularly!

## THANKS!

I was surprised and touched by the “retirement” I received at the December general meeting. I appreciate all the kind comments, the cake, card, orchid and cap. Praise for MBUG-PC successes in the past four years must be directed at all who volunteer to help with the many chores it takes to make things work.



I accept your positive remarks on behalf of all who are honored on page two of every issue of our Newsletter.

## Apple Offers Challenge to Microsoft Tablet PC

Apple, the company known for making the complex simple, announced in November that it was rolling out its challenge to the new Microsoft Tablet PC just in time for Christmas (*see Helma's article on page 13*).

The new **Apple TerraTab** is about the same size and shape as Microsoft's machine, but claims that it never needs batteries, is completely wireless, accepts any kind of handwriting and is so easy a child can use it.

While some critics charge that the new device is little more than a small slate chalkboard, Apple is high on the potential for TerraTab.

*“This is a robust technology that is scalable,”* said one Apple sales representative, *“and yet anyone who can hold a piece of chalk can begin creating immediately. You don't even need to turn it on. And college students will love the funky white-on-black display.”*

Apple, which is historically strong in the education market, expects school districts to buy thousands of TerraTabs, since it is *“compatible with existing classroom technology.”* ♦ *blacklion@royal.net*



# Looking Back at Monterey Bay User's Group – Personal Computer

By Pete Petit, MBUG-PC Member



*In observation of MBUG-PC's 20<sup>th</sup> Year, we present the first of a regular column gleaned from our Newsletter archives. We hope you enjoy this amusing "blast from the past".*

## 20 Years Ago

In 1983 several small-computer enthusiasts in our local area decided to form the "Monterey Bay Users Group for the IBM PC." At that time IBM was the sole "PC" manufacturer. Its top-of-the-line model was a dual-floppy unit with 64KB of memory. The IBM-Microsoft venture into personal computing was thought to be a risky undertaking. After all, there was other equipment with considerable market share. Radio Shack had its line of small computers, as did Atari and Kaypro. Unix was an established environment and the most popular and powerful operating system on small, "home" computers was CP/M, a product of Digital Research Corporation of Pacific Grove, CA.

The name MBUG-PC was not the new group's first choice. Quoting from an early Newsletter (Volume 1, Issue 3, August 1983), Editor **Gerald Ward**, said: *"As many of you may have noticed, the club's name on the several flyers and newsletters that we have distributed since the start of the club, has been different. Well, fear no more the curse of indecisiveness and bad luck; the club has an official name. It is MBUG-PC, which stands for, of course, the Monterey Bay Users Group for the IBM PC. For those of you that were not in on the problem of naming the club here is a short synopsis. Originally we had no name, only the problem of selecting one. The organizing*

*committee burned many hours away trying to find a name that would be original, eye-catching, and of course easy to remember. The result was MBUG, an acronym for Monterey Bay Users Group. The only snag to that selection was that MBUG already existed, as a Radio Shack computer users group that had been around for quite a few years. The old MBUG group politely informed us that they were already using that name, but they would be willing to talk about it. So it was finally agreed by both groups that the name MBUG-PC would not be an infringement on the name the Radio Shack users had been using. I think the Radio Shack group deserves a lot of credit for allowing us to share in part such a great club name."*

In '83 you could consider selling your own programs to IBM. The company's "External Submissions Department 765 PC" in Armonk, New York in its guidelines said (among many suggestions) that coders should:

- Design their programs to use both Monochrome and Color/Graphics display adaptors
- Allow users to enter either upper or lower-case letters
- For 48 characters displays, leave columns 1,2,39 and 40 blank
- Not make messages cute or humorous
- Not use the following words in messages to the user: abort, access, available, factor, floppy, "hit a key", implement, invalid, output, PC, RAM, Return key, terminate, valid

In a few short years the IBM open architecture and the MS-DOS operating system would take over the desktops of corporate America and leave most competition behind. Clone makers like Compaq, NEC and Dell would proliferate and "PC" would become a generic term. But, in 1983 the only PC was the "IBM PC" and MBUG-PC was just getting organized.

None of the club's first officers and steering committee members (**Bill Kinard, Brenda Veitch, Dave McKinney, Liana Gillette, Gerald Ward, Keith Highfil, Walt Atkinson, Camilo Wilson, Mike Gill and Gini Gill**) appear in our current Membership Directory but we certainly owe them our thanks for getting us organized and on our way to 20 years, so far, of happy computing.

## 10 Years Ago (January 1993)

New MBUG-PC President, Michael Hager, wrote in President's Corner, *"With powerful multi-tasking operating systems like OS/2 and Windows-NT, the death knell for workstations is beginning to toll, as it did for mainframes and then minicomputers in past years."*

Program Director, **Bob Shanteau**, announced that the January meeting program would be provided by the Brown-Wagh Company who would introduce us to their Studio Magic, PC Animate Plus, 3D Workshop and Curtain Call products, the ultimate in multimedia applications.

**Hugh Bayless**, MBUG-PC Treasurer, reviewed Ami Pro 3.0 by Lotus and pronounced it *"ahead of any other of today's word processors and into the realm that was once reserved for desktop publishing, including features like style sheets."* He said that the program required a 286 based PC or higher, Windows 3.0 or higher, a minimum of 2MB of RAM, a hard disk and a mouse but that he would recommend a 386 with VGA and 4MB of RAM. Hugh was very busy 10 years ago. The Newsletter also printed his reviews of the Automap program, five computer-related books and a videotape software review offering.

**Jim Robeson**, sysop of the Cricket BBS, devoted his column to virus checking ... how and why. In those days we downloaded our virus scanning and cleaning software from Jim's BBS and other similar sites. [Remember SCANV97B.ZIP and CLEAN97.ZIP?]

**Karl Van Lear**, sysop of NiteLog BBS, writes in his column about "computer shopping" at Fry's Electronics and Bay Area swap meets. [Remember swap meets? And, yes, that is the same Karl Van Lear who is now CEO of Redshift which is the logical successor of the NiteLog BBS which began in a closet in Karl's home.]

**Lee Keely** announced that he would be leading a new SIG (Special Interest Group) on Quattro Pro 4 for DOS and Kevin Minkoff volunteered to lead a Quicken SIG; both beginning in January. C++ was the hot programming language and three books on the subject were offered for member review. ♦

[ppetit@redshift.com](mailto:ppetit@redshift.com)

## MBUG-PC Attends 2002 COMDEX & APCUG

By Harold Gordon, MBUG-PC Member

It all started with a phone call from then MBUG-PC President Jack Lewtschuk. He said, *"Harold, how would you like to represent us at COMDEX (global technology marketplace)? We'll pay your registration"*. It was late October and I was going anyway so I said, *"I'll do it"*. Then Jack said, *"It's not the same convention — it's APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups)"* I still said, *"OK"*. I thought I could attend both conventions the same time, but that was not to be. I got an APCUG bulletin and checked their web site to get more information.

To my disappointment I learned that the APCUG convention would be held far from where my wife Joyce and I, already had reservations. And to my dismay I learned that most of the convention would be over by the time we planned to get there and that we would have to drive all day, 10 hours, from Salinas to make it in time. But a breakfast was planned at the convention hotel where I could meet many of the APCUG members.

Because of a previous engagement we could not get to Las Vegas until it was almost dark. We went right to our hotel hospitality suite to find someone from APCUG and were



*MBUG-PC Member Harold Gordon with his lovely wife Joyce (and robot) at the November 2002 Comdex*

*Photo by H. Gordon, MBUG-PC*

informed that there might not be a breakfast meeting at all. The sponsor, MacAfee, backed out because of financial reasons. But then **The National Cristina Foundation** came forward (see box below). I never heard of them before but they turned out to be the highlight of my entire trip.

After the breakfast meeting, with more than 300 people in attendance, we went to the COMDEX at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Attendance was off by more than 60 percent — the crowds were much smaller than the year before and the expositions were not much to brag about. All digital manufactures were pushing their cameras with little changes from last year's models. The software companies were trying to make their products more exciting, but not much new was really being offered.

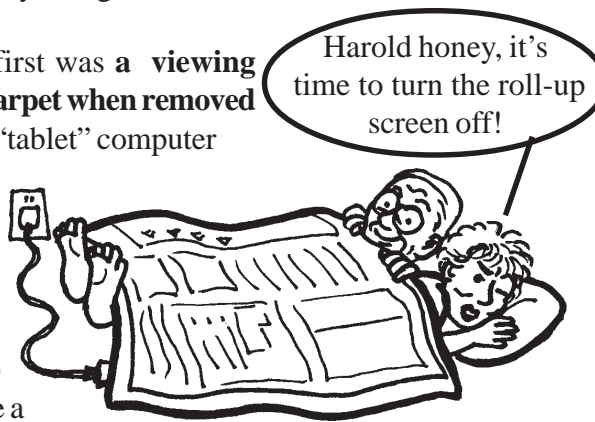
A few things caught my eye: the first was a **viewing screen that can be rolled up like a carpet when removed from the wall**. The second was the "tablet" computer and every manufacturer had one on display. I thought the most practical one was Toshiba's: the LCD display was mounted to a laptop on a swivel or pivot. You could spin the screen around 180 degrees and close the top so when the lid is closed, it looks like a

tablet computer. Another item was flash drives, which to me were the most exciting product. Most computer manufacturers such as Dell, Iomega, Toshiba, HP, KTI, Networks Inc, BUSlink, Global Channel Solutions, EasyDisk, and many more now offer them. Flash drives look like little pocketknives and come in different memory sizes from: 16mg, 36mg, 128gm, 256mg, 1gig, 2gig. The 128mg type costs about \$65.

On a non-computer note, after three full days of meetings and exhibitions we were totally exhausted. We took our last day in Las Vegas to visit the Red Canyon National Park, 25 miles from the City. The colors of the rock formations were spectacular, the air was fresh, it was

quiet and peaceful and a welcome change from the hustle and bustle of the city. I recommend that everyone going to Las Vegas devote a day and take the 13-mile Loop Drive through the Canyon! ♦

*Harold-g@pacbell.net*



## The National Cristina Foundation



In 1981, Bruce McMahan donated a computer to his daughter Cristina's special education class. Cristina has cerebral palsy. That first computer had such a positive effect on the students that Cristina's Father and her teacher Yvette Martin went on to co-found an organization in Cristina's name to get more computers into schools, charity organizations and hospitals where people with disabilities, students at risk and the economically disadvantaged can use them. **The National Cristina Foundation**

([www.cristina.org](http://www.cristina.org)) has been "recycling" used computer equipment in this way since 1985. They are a charitable organization (individuals and corporations are eligible for IRS tax deductions when they donate property and inventory) whose goal is to give opportunities and training to people with special needs, to lead more independent and productive lives.

Individuals are welcome to contact the National Cristina Foundation (500 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich CT 06830, phone (203) 863-9100, e-mail [nf@cristina.org](mailto:nf@cristina.org)) to find out more about how donations of used and excess computer equipment can be made.

Also, MBUG-PC would like a volunteer to find out more about what the Foundation does, how it works locally, how equipment gets to them and is used, who is eligible for what kind of tax deductions and make a short presentation to our Board and/or at the General Meeting letting us know whether we as a sister non-profit can help. Please contact Harold Gordon ([Harold-g@pacbell.net](mailto:Harold-g@pacbell.net)) if you're interested.

# My Favorite Websites

by Pete Petit, MBUG-PC Member 475

*All MBUGgers have their favorite websites, old friends we “visit” daily for our flavor of headline news or on occasion when we need an obscure fact. Whether our interests include music, cars, cooking or sports, a few sites are friendly, easy to use and keep calling us back. Pete kindly agreed to be our first contributor. If you want to tell us about your favorite website, send a paragraph or two to [ReginaDoyle@aol.com](mailto:ReginaDoyle@aol.com) describing it and why it warrants a peek by the rest of us.*

**PC Magazine** When it comes to computers, my long-time favorite website is [pcmag.com](http://pcmag.com). I expect you are already familiar with PCMagazine, perhaps the oldest and most respected of the periodicals devoted to personal computing. If not, go to the nearest library or newsstand for a thumb through. But, you may not know that their website is every bit as informative and entertaining. Nearly all of the magazine’s content is available online from back up to the latest issue.

**Overview** The PCMag homepage provides leads and links to current articles, columns, reviews and breaking info-tech news. It provides links to website sections: First Looks, Reviews, Downloads, News & Analysis, Solutions, Tips, Opinions, Internet Business, PC Labs, Personal Technology, Special Reports, Discussions and a Career Center. Current and back issue information is in all sections. I particularly like “Reviews” which provides comparison and a first look on everything from desktops and printers to gadgets, games and software, including “editors choices”. “Opinions” (editorials) is well worth a stop. You can offer counter opinions in appropriate discussion forums and have it out with, for example, regular columnist John Dvorak who is known to actively participate in these online exchanges. Note: There is also a link to **ExtremeTech**, a more tech-professional, cutting edge oriented and a great place for Linux and Unix information.

**Search** If you need to know a little bit or a lot about an info-tech product or subject, PCMag’s search capability is most useful. “Search” is an option at the top of all pages and permits looking in PCMag or in PCMAG and its companion publication sites (Baseline, CIO Insight, eWeek and ExtremeTech) for a word or phrase. Chances

are you will be served up a long list of articles, reviews, opinions and discussion items. “Advanced Search” option directs you to a particular publication(s); category(s) such as news, review, download or discussion; author; and/or timeframe of publication or posting.

**Downloads** Veteran users will remember when PCMagazine published utility programs in assembly language and the modemless readers typed the code into their own computer for assembly. They were worth that much effort then and they still are; but now they are quickly and easily downloaded. You can search the Download section for a particular utility by name or subject, or you can browse an alphabetical list of all utilities from the past 5 years. Here you will find programs together with detailed program descriptions and documentation as published in the magazine.

**Discussion Forums** These can be wonderful time savers and terrible time consumers! If you have a particular problem a keyword search will likely turn up a previous discussion on the subject and perhaps a solution. Failing that, a detailed post to the appropriate forum will usually result in a response from a knowledgeable person. You may well get an answer from one of the PCMagazine editors or contributing editors like Sheryl Canter or Mark Sweeney since all the forums are monitored by staff. If your question involves a popular and highly professional PCMag utility, you may find yourself conversing with the program’s author. Or, if you just wish to have fun for a few minutes, or hours, or days (!), start monitoring a few of these very lively discussion groups. You will learn a lot by just lurking and may eventually want to add your own two cents. There are 14 PCMag forums. The three most active are listed below in popularity order with a brief description and the number accessible postings in that forum on a recent day.

■ **General Discussions:** General computing topics. (23,271)

■ **Tips and Solutions:** For specific computing problems. (19,093)

■ **Utilities Help:** Question about [pcmag.com](http://pcmag.com)’s unique utility downloads. (11,886)

**Summary** The [pcmag.com](http://pcmag.com) site will aggravate you from time to time with popup advertisements, but it will never bore you. Beginner or veteran, it will help you better understand your computer, answer questions and improve your computing ability. ♦ [ppetit@redshift.com](mailto:ppetit@redshift.com)



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Fax: 831-375-1446  
E-mail: [simbacli@pacbell.net](mailto:simbacli@pacbell.net)

# MBUG-PC Checks Out Microsoft's Tablet PC

by Helma Zeuge, MBUG-PC Member

In mid-November, I went to the Santa Clara Convention Center where **Microsoft** introduced **WindowsXP TabletPC**, their version of the “notebook” PC. It was truly a state-of-the-art presentation: excellent speakers gave a fast paced program using large screens for graphics and text. Presenters talked or interviewed other lecturers, showed film clips and slides with background music. Their key words:

- Low-powered yet powerful
- Versatility and flexibility
- Lightweight and portable
- Connectivity
- Pen-based with handwriting recognition

## So, what's a Tablet PC?

It's a little desktop computer if you anchor the tablet in a docking station on a desk and use it with a keyboard and mouse. It's a laptop or a desktop if you take it out of the docking station and attach it to a keyboard. It's a Tablet PC when you use it without any attachments and, with a digital pen, handwrite directly onto the tablet screen (like a Personal Digital Assistant). No keyboard, no typing. Thus, the PC tablet is a combination of all of the above, with a price better than the sum of all of the above (starting at about \$2,200).

## Using PCs to their fullest potential

The goal for the developers was to find ways to help people interact with their PCs more naturally and more comfortably. It meant letting people take advantage of the full power of their PCs where, when and how they wanted to. The operating system for the Tablet PC builds on WindowsXP Professional, which has been extended to support pen-based technologies and is able to run all of a user's existing WindowsXP-compatible applications.

The Tablet PC has the following technological advances:

- Better, high resolution XGA display making it a great reading platform
- Higher-capacity hard drive saves space and weighs less
- Smaller, powerful low-powered processors that consume 40 percent less power, adding to battery life

- Cooler running, requiring no fans and that can be held in comfortable writing positions
- Better battery life, deeper sleep mode, extended up to 75 percent and useable for more than half a working day
- Wireless communication
- Handwritten notes that can be formatted, searched and managed
- Handwriting recognition based on hundreds of samples from around the world

## How can the Tablet PC be used?

- To enter merchandise data directly into their Tablet PCs with a digital pen during store surveys or field inventories, enhancing data flow from stores to company networks
- As a Virtual Office Environment (VOE) by offering mobility, flexibility and security, it breaks down barriers and offers a corporate environment without limits
- To obtain digital signatures on important contractual documents, reducing the time to close contracts and saving days tracking down signatures, cutting down on meeting travel
- To save time on data entry by reducing the need to enter data twice or fill out paper forms and later entering the information into a computer database.
- To perform heavy number crunching and keep track of assignments and due dates in meetings, classrooms or lectures (compact and unobtrusive, Microsoft and MIT have been collaborating on the iCampus research project to examine how technology can enhance the educational experience)

Other stories about the Tablet PC came from a big law firm that says it got the competitive edge by penning, gathering, storing, sharing and managing information better and faster. A home healthcare service cut down on its paperwork as clinical records, claims, benefit forms and documentation were filled out directly onto the tablet.

## Thumbs Up or Down?

My conclusion is that the Tablet PC is a productive tool for businesses and nice for individuals. “All” you need are a few extra thousand dollars to spend! Maybe you can put it on your wish list for the next holiday season?◆

**Helma Zeuge, MBUG-PC Member 1107**  
**helma\_z@worldnet.att.net**



# No-no in your Systray?

by Jim Anway, Columnist,  
F1 for Windows98/ME/XP

I got the following email from a friend of mine: "On the bottom right hand side where all my icons are, an ugly one showed up last week. When I clicked it on, it showed a German language XXX Chat service. Have no interest in chatting with Germans or any porn-type. Tried to right click it but to no avail. Can you help me destroy this? This must have occurred when I experimented with different levels of privacy. Guess this came from a hole somewhere."

Looks like some virus e-mail or a nasty web site (probably a nebulous looking site) using some java script downloaded and installed some no-no application program. How to get rid of it? Well, it is not so easy. You need to locate it first. You are running some program that was installed on your PC that runs at startup and puts the sub-app. in the systray.

Do Ctrl-Alt-Delete and see if you find the name of what is running and "End the Task". The icon should go away. To stop it from ever starting again, do START, RUN, type MSCONFIG. Then under the "Startup" tab, look for it. The app. is started by something put in one of the following: Registry, Common Startup Group, Startup Group, Win.ini.

In MSCONFIG you can un-check what looks like the culprit and re-boot and see if that was the no-no. If not, try un-checking something else and re-boot again. When you know for sure what it is - delete the program.

Note that you also should be running an up-to-date virus scan program and have a firewall program installed and activated. You also might want to download and install Lavasoft [Ad-Aware] "is a free multi spyware removal utility that scans your memory, registry and hard drives for known spyware and scumware components and lets you remove them safely." (<http://www.lavasoft.de/>).

Also download the RefUpdate Add-on, which keeps your Ad-aware reference file up to date. It checks if an updated reference file is available, downloads and installs it. **Good luck!** ♦ [janway@redshift.com](mailto:janway@redshift.com)

## COMPUTER HARDWARE

**Nick Mertes**

**Wednesday, January 8**

7:00 to 9:00pm

Archer Park Center, Monterey

**Nick Mertes, Workshop Leader**

telephone: 659-2341

e-mail: [nick@mbay.net](mailto:nick@mbay.net)



My first hard in 1988 was 20megabytes and cost \$500. Two years later I bought an 85meg drive for \$300. I still have that one and yes, it still runs in my old 80286 Tandy computer. I've had other drives over the years but my current systems run with 20gig drives as the primary and a 10gig drive as the slave for storing data. Hard drives have grown by leaps and bounds. Operating systems have had a hard time keeping up with the latest monster capacities. In this workshop, we'll discuss hard drives: types, sizes, what to consider when buying one, etc. Once again I'll have a real live computer there to demonstrate. ♦

*Nick*

## INTERNET, E-MAIL & BEYOND

**Clive Sanders**

**Workshop Leader**

**Friday, January 17**

7:00 to 9:00pm

Adult Education Center,  
Pacific Grove



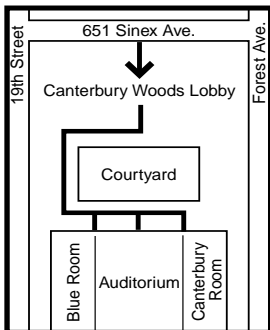
Whatever you need to know about the Internet, search engines and web sites, we are willing to explore. We welcome beginners up to advanced Personal Computer users and highly encourage your active participation. Bring your questions as well as your answers regarding e-mail, anti-virus, SPAM ... and beyond!

Have a clever idea? Want to get answers to a particularly pesky problem? Contact me at [simbacli@pacbell.net](mailto:simbacli@pacbell.net) or call (831) 521-6676 if you have any specific concerns you'd like me to bring up at this workshop. ♦ **Clive**

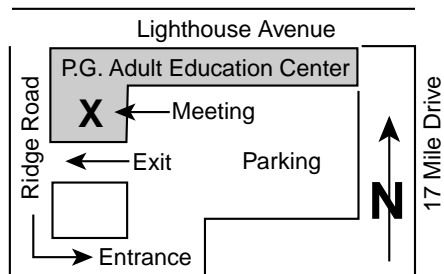
# MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - January 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>New Year's Day</b>	2	3 <i>General Meeting</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Topic &amp; Speaker to be announced</i>	4
5	6	7 <i>DIRECTORS MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	8 <i>"Computer Hardware"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Nick Mertes</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>"The INTERNET, E-MAIL &amp; BEYOND"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Clive Sanders</i>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

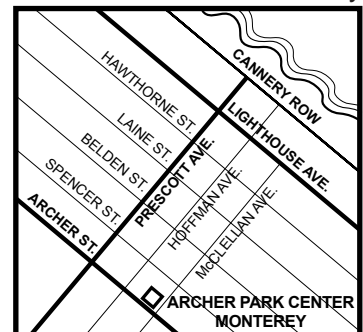
**Canterbury Woods**  
651 Sinex Avenue  
Pacific Grove



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



**Archer Park Center**  
542 Archer Street  
Monterey



## Tentative Calendar February 2003 *Please Check the February Newsletter for Final Dates & Times*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 <i>DIRECTORS MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	5	6	7 <i>General Meeting</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Topic and Speaker to be announced</i>	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <b>President's Day</b>	18	19	20	21 <i>"The INTERNET, E-MAIL &amp; BEYOND"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Clive Sanders</i>	22
23	24	25	26 Watch this space! A GAMING workshop might come up, who knows??? (See page 5)	27	28	



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## NEED HELP? CALL MBUG F1

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 (Windows98/Me/XP)**  
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

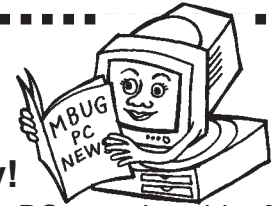
■ **Clive Sanders (Windows95/98/2000)**  
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or call only between 1pm to 9pm  
cellphone (831) 521-6676  
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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



### Don Slaiter

Vice President, Assistant  
Treasurer & Membership Chair  
[slaiter@pacbell.net](mailto:slaiter@pacbell.net)

**Our current MBUG-PC  
Membership is 223**

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

name	number
Blake Thomson	1220

### THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

2 Anonymous	
Richard Eldred	1198
Harry Hamilton	819
Jack Lewtschuk	914

### THANKS FOR RENEWING

name	number
Michael Arpajolu	470
Dorothy Berry	1078
Bill Donaldson	54
Richard Eldred	1198
Harry Hamilton	819
Jim Hinwood	188
Nicholas Mertes, Sr.	420
Frank Pierce	172
Gary Stephens	1200
William Walden	1145