



mbug-pc newsletter

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**"... and the damn things
won't burn!"**



Pete Petit uncovers bizarre
events from real life,
20 Years Ago
(see page 6)

**Kristen
Knutson**

MBUG-PC
Program Chair
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It's Multimedia in May

If you are a dedicated audiophile, or conversely, don't know the difference between an MP3 and an Ogg Vorbis file, you will learn a lot from **Dean Karengin of Phydeaux Multimedia** at our May General Meeting (thanks to **John Brankford** and **Richard Allen** of **PC People** for referring him to us). Phydeaux Multimedia is Dean's computer consulting business where he provides complete custom systems, website development, network design and support, and specializes in Unix and Windows integration. Check out their website in advance of the meeting at <http://www.phydeaux.com>.

Dean told me, "I'm probably not the guy to do a multimedia presentation -- I only have about 40GB of music." I thought I misheard him say "4GB of music" because 40GB is a *very* large amount. He repeated the figure and I realized he was the perfect guy for this presentation. Dean has a dedicated 36GB SCSI hard drive for each *type* of music! In comparison, I have about 200 CDs on about 6GBs of space on mine, while Dean runs a server with a T1 line out of his house. When I mentioned our April gaming presentation, Dean said he would like to give one too as he hosts LAN parties for 40 people, setting up 40 computers to his server in order to face off for a game called **Unreal Tournament**. Maybe we can talk him into giving a gaming workshop later?

Some of the topics Dean will cover on May 2nd: different audio compression formats, how to set up a jukebox, how to rip a CD (convert it to another audio compression format, MP3, WMA etc.), how to burn music CDs and what quality kbps (kilobytes/second) to use. He will also tell us how to set up TV out from sound cards and how to download music to a portable MP3 player. I have to say that after talking to Dean for a few minutes I started to get excited and I really think this is going to be a winner. Dean will bring down some of his high-end custom computers for the presentation so you don't want to miss it! (J.H.)◆

General Meeting:

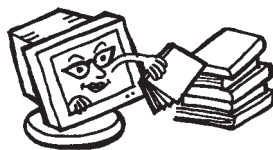
Friday, May 2, 2003 at 7pm

**Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove**

**As always, FREE and open to the public!
Join us, bring a friend and enter our great
fund-raising raffle for nifty prizes!**

DISCOUNT COMPUTER MAGAZINES

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Computer Games	\$10.95	—	—
Computer			
Gaming World	\$14.95	\$28.95	\$41.95
ComputerShopper	\$16.97	\$32.95	\$47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	\$15.95	\$30.95	\$43.95
Mac Home Journal	\$15.97	\$29.97	—
Mac World	\$12.95	\$24.95	\$35.95
Maximum PC	\$9.95	\$18.95	—
Microsoft			
System Journal	\$21.95	\$39.95	\$57.95
PC Gamer	\$12.95	—	—
PC Magazine	\$25.97	\$48.95	\$68.95
PC World	\$16.95	\$27.95	\$40.95
Publish	\$17.95	\$33.95	\$48.95
Wired	\$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

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.

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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.

3 good reasons to join MBUG-PC?
Free computer help, a GREAT Newsletter and a 15 - 20% Discount on all Computer Books at Borders Bookstores!
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

photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC



**Ann H.
Mack**

SPRING CLEANING WITH NICK

Nick Mertes held a great Hardware Workshop last month on general “spring cleaning” for your computer. He used points from *PC Magazine* by **Winn L. Rosch** (see the Report on page 9). If you’ve never attended one of Nick’s workshops, you should, because there’s always something new to learn for beginners up to advanced PC users.

As I write this, the April 22, 2003 issue of *PC Magazine* is on line for your review. They do a good job of updating your computer knowledge base. Pick and choose from among all those goodies. You can read them online, not feel guilty if you don’t read the entire issue, and if you don’t save files of old issues there are absolutely no storage worries and you save paper!

TAKE ME OUT TO A WORKSHOP

However, it’s more fun to come to the MBUG-PC monthly workshops. This month the second week will be a busy one: we have **Eileen Begley** with her photo magic on Wednesday, May 14th and **Clive Sanders**’ last (for a while?) “*Internet, E-Mail and Beyond*” on Friday, May 16th. We are very lucky

to have talented and devoted leaders for these workshops, so take advantage of them.

COMPUTER SHOPPING?

If you are in the market for a new computer, WAIT! In June we are having a panel of our homegrown experts that will thoroughly investigate these burning questions: should I upgrade my computer? Should I buy a new computer? How can I get rid of my old clunker? Sounds like a winner!

SCAM ALERT

The latest addition to the scammers box of tools is “cloned web sites.” These sites look like legitimate commercial sites but ask for sensitive data if you want to order something. If you order online, be sure to check the URL designation of that site: clones only have to have one (1) digit different. Know your site before you use your credit card number and *never* give out your bank account number online.

IT’S GREEK TO ME

Wired Magazine has an array of interesting computer-related articles. The May 5, 2003 issue featured a paper by **Oliver Martin** on the work of **Steve Booras**, a computer professional who devised a revolutionary method of photographing buried, burned papyrus scrolls from the ancient library at Herculaneum. The consequence of this tool for scholars’ work is immeasurable. Many believe that the scrolls found so far are but a small fraction of the library’s total holdings. Imagine bringing to light another play by Aeschylus, more poetry by Virgil and many other lost treasures.

So far 25,000 images have been transcribed onto 345 CDs. They were made with a high-speed digital camera

(950-nanometer band) using infrared filters. Already copies have been dispersed to researchers all over the world.

As with *PC Magazine*, archived issues of *Wired* are available at www.wired.com if you want more details on this project.

And regarding magazines online in general, is this a pattern? If we don’t have to be on the cutting edge or read time-sensitive information, it seems that all of last month’s computer magazines can be found on line.

GAMING IS GOOD FOR YOU?

Don’t be too upset that your children or grandchildren are playing a lot of computer games. The latest theory from reading specialists is that computer games force children to adapt, evolve, connect and manipulate facts. **James Paul Gee** promotes this ideas in “*High Score Education*,” *Wired Magazine*, May 5, 2003. It may change your mind about the value of gaming.

MORE FUN WITH MEDIA

To help out MBUG-PC Program Chair **Kristen Knutsen** (who is *still* looking for a replacement), **Jim Hinwood** arranged for **Dean Karengin** of **Phydeaux Multimedia** to speak at the May General Meeting (see front page article).

Thanks to good teamwork we will get to hear Dean highlight many of the new media formats available: how to set up juke boxes, get music from everywhere, burn CDs and set up TV on your video card!

Sounds really great, and I know you’ll all want to be there!◆

ahmack@sbcglobal.net



MEETING REVIEW

**Jim
Hinwood**
MBUG-PC
Features
Editor



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

“The Spot” for the Keyboard Challenged

If you are not one of those people whose fingers dance across the keyboard using all the available keyboard shortcuts, then this month's presentation by **Bob McGonigal** of **The Spot** was very helpful.

Nobody's been as bad as me on the keyboard since Susan Dey was in the Partridge family. At first I was a little worried when Bob started out showing us how to use the mouse. I thought to myself, “*Uh oh, here we go*”, but he quickly went on to more advanced topics. Bob was probably correct to start with the basics, as many of us probably don't use a right click for information as often as we could.

Then when Bob started to plumb the depths of Microsoft Word, he used keyboard shortcuts to move quickly around a document. He used shortcuts to jump around from the beginning to the end of a document and to jump from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph. He showed us how to quickly highlight various different quantities of text, and how to copy formatting from one place to another.

Photo by Bill Hylter, MBUG-PC



MBUG-PC President Ann Mack (right) in apparently serious discussion with Bob McGonigal of The Spot at April's General Meeting.



MBUG-PC VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PROGRAM CHAIR

Schedule guest speakers for First Friday General Meetings, once a month. Requires a few hours of time, good personal relations (calling

potential speakers on the phone) and a little bit of organization but you get a lot of backup support from the MBUG-PC Board members!

MEETING REVIEWER

Attend First Friday General Meetings once a month and write up a one-page review of what took place (similar to the article on this page). Can be done by two as an alternating Team if desired.

Interested? e-mail or call President **Ann Mack** at
ahmack@sbcglobal.net ☎ 622-7669 ♦

knowledgeable speaker and I'm sure that everyone there would like to have him back for another session.

After the presentation was the big raffle, with a terrific array of prizes: the **CD burner** was taken first (by someone whose name we didn't catch). Then a copy of **Office XP** went to **Barbara Mash**, lucky MBUG-PC Member #1229.

Thanks go to **Roy Hilts**, MBUG-PC Member 1049, who generously donated the two big items but also thanks to the other donors who also make our raffles worth showing up to General Meetings!

Once again, thanks to Bob McGonigal of The Spot. Anyone interested in knowing more from the source can virtually visit Bob at <http://www.thespotinc.com>. We hope to have Bob back again in real life soon! ♦

ehinwood@msn.com

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

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



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR CHAINS

I don't know if you have been deluged with **chain letters** lately, but I have. I have received them from strangers and friends. The senders have begged, asked and ordered me to forward these letters to everybody, every name in my address book, all my friends and my family.

I have been threatened with loss of money, loss of friends, loss of health, eternal damnation and loss of my firstborn should I decide to break the chain.

At last count, Google had 78,200 web sites listed under "Chain Letter", I read a few. Here is a link to a site that covers the subject well: <http://www.kith.org/logos/things/chain.html>

(P.S. Forward this message to every person you know: failure to do so will result in the immediate failure of all your drains and the Roto-Rooter bill will put the national debt to shame)!

HOAXES AND URBAN LEGENDS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you have never received a **hoax** via your e-mail account, you don't have an e-mail account. Most hoaxes and urban legends prompt you to forward the message to "all your friends, relatives, every address in your address book" etc.

I have accumulated a number of great web sites, which seem to keep track of these pesky messages and reveal "the rest of the story" about their authenticity. This web site is one of the better sources of information related to this subject: <http://www.ih2000.net/ira/hoaxes.htm>

YAHOO AND OTHER PRIVACY POLICIES

There has been a lot of talk about the affiliation of SBC DSL with Yahoo. I **strongly** suggest that all of us read and digest the Yahoo Privacy Policy at <http://privacy.yahoo.com/privacy/us/>.

While we on the subject of privacy, may I suggest that before you use anything the Internet offers which requires any information about you, that you carefully read the appropriate privacy policy.

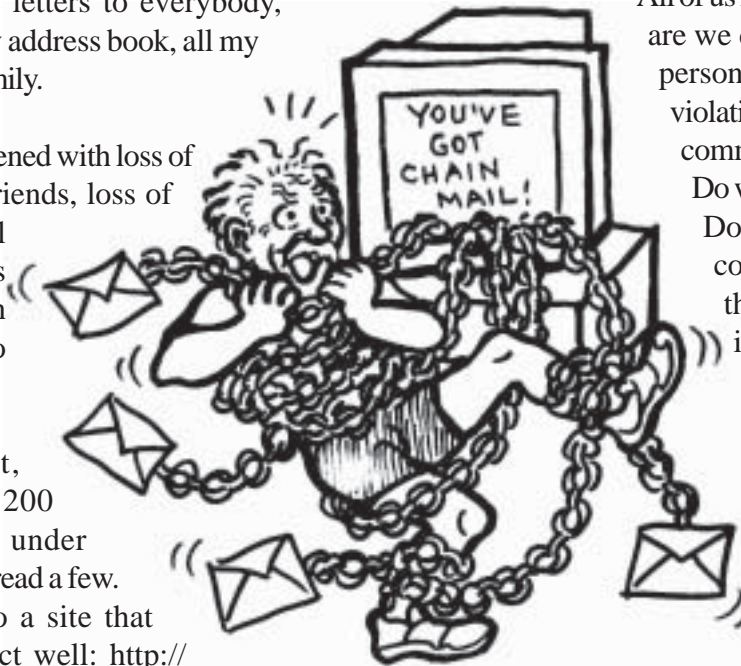
All of us hate spam and fear identity theft, but what are we doing to combat it? Do we protect our personal information? Do we complain about violations to the appropriate authorities? Do we communicate our thoughts to our legislators? Do we write to the editors of our local papers? Do we complain to the corporations who contribute to spam and who make identity theft easier? Do we protect the personal information of others (e-mail Address, etc.)?

POWERLINE NETWORKING

Do you recall, when years ago, the industry started offering gadgets which would permit you to add extension phones by plugging them into an electrical outlet? I tried that and it works. For some time now, the computer related industry has been developing hardware that will permit you to plug your computer into your electrical system and share your Internet connection with other computers in your home. The system is not as portable as the wireless networking system, but it is more secure in a single dwelling environment. Although this has been available for some time, it is now much more affordable. Check out two of the companies that produce and sell these devices: www.speedstream.com and www.phonex.com. ♦

blacklion@royal.net

illustration by R. Doyle, MBUG-PC



LOOKING BACK AT MBUG-PC

Pete Petit
MBUG-PC Columnist

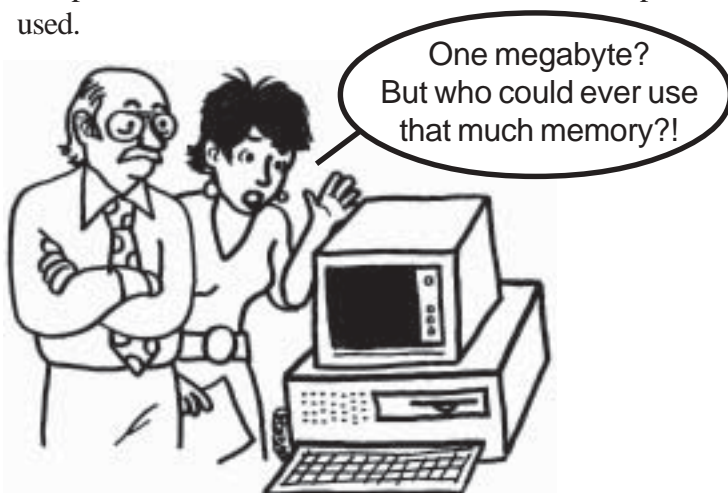


20 Years Ago

In the last two “Looking Back” columns, we looked back at PC operating systems, DOS and Windows. This time let’s recall some of the early PC hardware.

The Original IBM PC (Model 5150)

This was introduced in August 1981 with a 4.77-MHz Intel 8088 CPU. The 8088 could address up to 1 megabyte of memory - 16 times more than the then popular 64K CP/M computers - more than what most mainframe computers used.



A basic 5150 had one 160K full-height 5.25 inch floppy drive (expandable to two), 1 parallel port, 1 serial port and a keyboard. The system had a built-in cassette tape interface but was designed to use the 5.25-inch floppy disk drive(s) and to have monochrome graphics. The Basic language was in a ROM chip inside the computer, and you had your choice of 3 operating systems - the new PC-DOS (1.0), CP/M-86, or the UCSD P system. Several application software programs - including a modified version of VisiCalc (the first electronic spreadsheet) - were offered.

Configuration prices ranged from about \$1,600 for a 16K RAM mono system to over \$6,000 for a 320K RAM system that included the new color graphics card (640x200 resolution, 16 colors). Monitors were sold separately. What

really made the IBM PC unique from previous IBM traditions is that it was built from off-the-shelf-parts --- “open architecture”, available to anyone. And computer dealers, not IBM salesmen, marketed it. The market acceptance was phenomenal! Software for it seemed to grow on trees. A new spreadsheet program called **Lotus 123**, written to take advantage of the 8088, soon became a reason to buy the new IBM PC. Quality word processing and database programs emerged. Demand was so high that stores had lotteries for the chance to buy an IBM PC at grossly inflated prices.

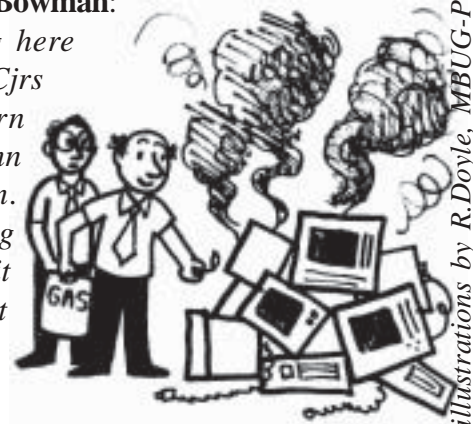
Within 18 months, by early 1983, IBM was forced by market demand to introduce a **PC-XT** that had 128KB RAM, a 10 MB hard disk, a 360KB floppy drive and the new 2.0 version of DOS. It cost \$5,000.

Business demanded more RAM and storage. The unheard of 1MG of memory was soon eaten up by the demands of huge spreadsheets. Tricks, such as the **Above Board** and the **LIMSpec** (expanded memory specification) were created to fool the systems into being able to use resources that theoretically weren’t there. So incredible was IBM’s success that the October 3rd, 1983 issue of Business Week magazine ran a cover story entitled “*Personal Computers - and the Winner is - IBM*”, which went on to explain how IBM had gone from zero to market domination in two years.

IBM PCjr (Model 4860)

Announced in March ’84, it came with an Intel 8088 CPU, 128 KB RAM, one 360K half-height 5.25-inch floppy drive, 2 cartridge slots, one “chicklet” keyboard, and 1 parallel port. Price: \$1300 (monitor extra). In mid-1984, IBM introduced a new keyboard for the IBM PCjr, offering a free upgrade to all who wanted it. In March 1985, IBM announced that it would cease production and promotion of the IBM PCjr. A quote at the time from Spinnaker Software chairman’s **William Bowman**:

“We’re just sitting here trying to put our PCjrs in a pile and burn them. And the damn things won’t burn. That’s the only thing IBM did right with it - they made it flameproof.”



illustrations by R.Doyle, MBUG-PC

Yeah Ma,
it's the latest
thing!
A **portable**
computer!



IBM PC Portable (Model 5155)

This was introduced in February 1984 with an Intel 8088 CPU and equipped with 640K of RAM, two 320K half-height 5.25 inch floppies, 1 parallel port, 1 serial port, an RGB graphics card and a built-in 9" amber screen (80 columns by 25 lines). It was discontinued in April 1986. Price: \$2,900 and clearly too much for this luggable model.

IBM PC AT

In 1984 IBM also announced the PC AT, a 6MHz 80286 computer using PC-DOS 3.0, a 5.25-inch 1.2MB floppy drive, with 256KB RAM, for \$4,000, which did not include hard drive or monitor/card. Or, with a 20MB hard drive, color card and monitor it cost \$6,700. At the same time IBM announced the Enhanced Color Display and Adapter supporting 640x350 resolution in 16 colors (Display \$850, Adapter w/64K \$524 and the required 64KB RAM expander for the PC \$200)

The Clones

The PC marketplace changed radically after the introduction of the **IBM PC** in 1981. Because the IBM PC was built from commercially available off-the-shelf parts - a concept similar to the original Altair microcomputer - companies began trying to clone it. This created a generation of MSDOS computers which called themselves compatible, but which weren't 100 percent compatible and caused many headaches for unsuspecting end users. Some systems offered the capability to run both CP/M and MSDOS.

The first 100 percent compatible IBM PC clone was the **Compaq Portable PC** introduced in November 1982. They called it a "portable", but its size and weight made it barely luggable. (Price \$3,000, CPU 4.77 MHz Intel 8088, RAM; 128KB, 9" monochrome monitor built-in, one 320KB 5.25-inch disk drive, color graphic card, display 80 col. x 25 lines, ports: 2 parallel, 1 serial).

Then other companies followed with true IBM compatibles, mostly built overseas in Taiwan. By 1985 a typical compatible clone would come equipped with an Intel 8088 CPU, 640K RAM, two 360K floppies, a 40MB hard drive, an RGB Graphic card, color monitor (80 col. by 25 lines), 1 parallel port, 1 serial port and MS-DOS 3.1.

Modems

In 1981 **Hayes Microcomputer Products** brought out the **Smartmodem 300** to the market for PCs. The modem (MODulator/DEMODulator) had been invented at **AT&T Bell Labs** in 1960 to connect mainframes and minicomputers. This 300-baud Hayes modem allowed PCs to communicate with each other and access **CompuServe** and **The Source**, the online services that had started up in 1979. CompuServe showed people what to do with their modems by offering them an array of services and databases to connect with. Other manufacturers would follow with their own external and later internal modems of increasing speed, but Hayes set the standard. At COMDEX in December, 1984 several companies introduced 2400-baud modems priced at \$800-900

Expansion Cards

In the early and mid-'80s, third-party hardware companies began creating drop-in, expansion cards such as the **Hercules** and other graphics adapters and the **SixPack** card which provided parallel and serial i/o ports, a clock and I can't remember what else, all on the one card (anyone remember all six)? Also, the previously mentioned AboveBoard expanded memory card was a huge success. In May 1983 the **Microsoft Mouse** that required a mouse port on an expansion card was introduced. The mouse, the card, and supporting software cost \$200.

[*Note, the discussion above relies extensively on several online sources including DigitalCentury.com and PCBiography at fortunecity.com/marina/reach/435/.*]

10 Years Ago

The MBUG-PC General Meeting featured a pre-release demonstration of **Studio Magic** by **Brown-Wagh**, a Los Gatos firm that had previously brought out **SoundBlaster**. Studio Magic could enhance videotapes with titles, voice-overs, music and special effects. It permitted the display of VGA computer output on a standard TV and could capture still-frame video images. I wonder if it ever made it to market? Did any reader ever own one?

MBUG President **Mike Hagerty** used his column to encourage active club participation from the members. The club needed people to step forward and help organize meetings, assist with publicity, manage the shareware library, etc. Sound familiar, **Ann Mack**? You may want to reprint that 10 year old copy: few words would need changing!

In 1983 when PC programs tended to be smaller, the Internet was not ubiquitous and few applications singly dominated the marketplace; MBUG had a very active shareware SIG and an extensive software library. The library consisted of the files available on the **Cricket BBS** whose SYSOP was MBUG member and Newsletter columnist **Jim Robeson**. Jim made the many files on Cricket available to all members with modems. Those without modems could request files from the Club Librarian who, for a small fee, would download them, write them to a disk and deliver the disk to the member at the next Shareware SIG (Special Interest Group) or General Meeting or by mail. In those days the club had an MBUG Disk-of-the-Month with software chosen by the Librarian. Copies were available at our meetings. A related fact: In May 1993 there were 5,647 files downloaded from the Cricket BBS, 146 files were uploaded by persons other than the SYSOP and the single file most popular download that month was SCANV104.ZIP (an anti-virus program) which was downloaded 40 times.

The **Frugal Hacker, Bob Stephan**, suggested our members consider using DR DOS 6.0 instead of the newly released MS-DOS 6.0. He thought the former was more tried and true and had a few extra features. Bob also discussed disk-caching programs and continued his discussion of BATCH files.

Software reviews included various multimedia applications and reference CDs by **Mark Stotzer**, **Quicken 2.0 for Windows** by **Hugh Bayless** and **SmartPics for Windows** by **Bing Perry**. Book reviews included "2001 Window Tips" and "How Computers Work", both reviewed by Hugh Bayless, "Hot Links: The Guide to Linking Computers" by **Ed West**, and two books for the desktop publisher also reviewed by Hugh Bayless. Wow...would you note those loyal contributors!

Enough for now ... next month we will look back on some early PC application programs. ♦

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Subscribe to or Renew Smart Computing Magazine and Benefit MBUG-PC!

For each five paid subscriptions they receive with our group **source code number 8181**, *Smart Computing* will give MBUG-PC a free subscription. In turn we raffle this donation at our General Meetings and raise more money for computer-related community educational activities.

Get 36 issues for \$64, 24 issues for \$48 or 12 issues for \$29 by subscribing to: *Smart Computing*, PO Box 85380, Lincoln, NE 68501-9807 or call toll free 1-800-733-3809 or fax 1-402-479-2193. ♦

**WIN great prizes!
Enter MBUG-PC
General Meeting Raffles!**

Come on Friday, May 2, buy a raffle ticket and you could go home with a

**Maxtor USB 2.0
PCI Internal Adaptor Card!**

Every first Friday of the month we bring in a special guest speaker to introduce new services or products, give updates on existing programs, systems or security warnings.

General Meetings are always worth attending, and you could be the **lucky winner** of some great computer prizes too!

DONATE COMPUTER- RELATED PRIZES TO MBUG-PC

We rely on your generous donations to educate the general public in personal computer use.

If you have *new* software or *working* equipment that you can't use, MBUG-PC would be pleased to accept items for its fund-raising raffles.

Consult **Clive Sanders** regarding acceptable items and tax-deduction information

at *simbacli@pacbell.net*

or call (831) 375-5376 ♦

WORKSHOP REPORT

**Jim
Hinwood**
MBUG-PC
Features
Editor



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

Speeding Up Your PC

In Nick Mertes' latest **Hardware Workshop** (April 8th), he covered a recent article in **PC Magazine**. The name of the article is "**Speed Up Your PC**". When I went to the PC Magazine website I typed in "32 turbocharging tips" as Nick suggested and got no result. I then typed in "32 ways to make your PC blast off" and the second listing for "Speed up your PC" by **Winn L. Rosch** was the one we were looking for. This is definitely an article worth checking out and even printing out the highlights of the article.



UNSTUFF YOUR COMPUTER

The article starts out with the **e a s y** things, as did Nick, that you can do to speed up your computer. The first was keeping your hard drive below full capacity. Nick said anything over 90 percent was going to really bog things down. I try not to run over 60-70 percent as I've found that that last 1/3 of your hard drive doesn't really belong to you. First on a 40GB hard

drive they only really give you 37.2GB and then you can't really use the last third of that. It's kind of like not running your car down to the last 1/3 of the tank — most mechanics recommend that you only use the top 2/3 of your tank so that sediment doesn't get run through the system. You don't really own that last 1/3 of the gas but I always try to use it. The easiest way to free up space on the hard drive is to run "disk cleanup". Go to "My Computer", right click on the "C disk", then "Properties". Click on the "General" tab, and then hit the "Disk Cleanup" button.

*Not deFRUG
you idiot,
deFRAG!*

DO THE DEFRAG

The next easiest thing you can do is to defragment on a regular basis. Once again go to "My Computer", right click on "C disk", and choose "Properties", then the "Tools" tab, and "Defragment Now". Nick mentioned other disk defragging programs that were faster than the one provided with Windows (Norton SpeedDisk, Diskkeeper, etc.).

DUMP THOSE HEAVY UTILITY PACKAGES

One of the many important things that Nick mentioned was that many utility packages very often slow your system way down. If you have Norton System Works, turn off "Uninstall", "Cleansweep", and "Crashguard" as these are system resource hogs. I had an experience with "Ontrack", a similar utility package with these features and ended up resetting up my system

because a Cleansweep-like utility wiped out important files and then Crashguard then came on, constantly warning me of a crash that it had created!

GET RID OF THE TEMPS

Another quick way to speed things up is to clean out the "Windows Temp" file on a regular basis as many temporary files (no longer needed) reside there. They can take up a huge amount of space if not cleaned regularly. You can also go into "Tools" in "Internet Explorer", then "Internet Options", and delete the "History", delete "Files", and delete "Cookies".

UPGRADE, INDEX, TUNE-UP

Nick had many more good suggestions such as upgrading to USB 2.0, using NTFS instead of FAT32, indexing your drive for faster searches, DMA your disks, and eliminating unnecessary autoloading programs in the Systray. Things like tuning up the BIOS should be approached with caution and there are step-by-step instructions on the website. The website address is <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,887980,00.asp> and is extremely helpful. Due to limited space we can't cover it all here.

One *great* suggestion by **Jim Anway** (MBUG-PC Columnist and F1 Help) at the meeting was to **print out a copy of your BIOS settings** before making changes so that you can easily restore them if problems occur.

Thanks once again to Nick Mertes for turbocharging us. You can contact him at "That Computer Place", 1103 Del Monte Avenue, Monterey CA or e-mail nick@cfmg.com or visit <http://www.thatcomputerplace.us> ♦

ehinwood@msn.com

MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

James W. Anway

Retired IBMer
Computer Consultant

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Wireless Internet Update

John Rowe, AAA Wi-Fi
MBUG-PC Member 1223

Wi-Fi at Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey Harbor, Portola Plaza and ... Beyond!

Wi-Fi, or 802.11b Wireless Internet Service is now available to all boats in the harbors north and south of The Wharf's General Store, Fisherman's Wharf, many stores and restaurants on Fisherman's Wharf, Wharf #2, and the Coast Guard Pier. The Wi-Fi system antenna is located on the roof of MBUG-PC Member and Photographer **Bill Hyler's The Wharf's General Store**, and is in an excellent position to provide extended Wi-Fi coverage (Bill's system was designed and installed by yours truly).

Aye, matey weigh anchor somewheres close to here and fire up me laptop! I wants to e-mail me Mum and ask what treasure she'll be wantin'!



Wi-Fi is also available at areas near the Customs House, Portola Plaza, Heritage Harbor, many rooms at the Double Tree Hotel (with windows facing The Wharf's General Store), and the public areas between Wharf #2 and the Coast Guard Pier. All locations that have line of sight to the antenna (near the flagpole on The Wharf's General Store) will have adequate Wi-Fi coverage.

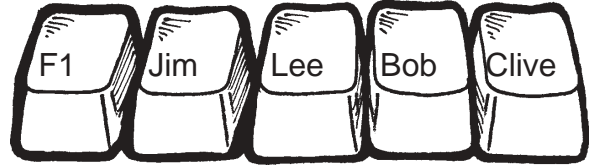
Update for Pacific Grove

We hear that **The Bookworks** in Pacific Grove is working on a wireless setup and will be up and running soon. We'll report on this in future updates. ♦

johnr@aaawifi.com

Computer Help is Just a Click or Call Away with F1

You know you push the "F1" button on your computer when you need help. But do you also know that you can call or e-mail MBUG-PC "F1 for Help" with your computer questions?



Our expert team of helpful volunteers is willing and able to share experience on software and hardware. And if they don't know the answer, they'll direct you to someone who does.

To get computer help:

- (1) Contact any of the people listed below; or
 - (2) Ask questions during any MBUG-PC meeting break or Q&A session; or
 - (3) Leave a message at MBUG-PC's Answering Service (373-6245) ; or
 - (4) Broadcast a message to all members through the MBUG-PC Listserv (mbug@listserv.redshift.com)
- in plain text only** (NO html, please)!

Services are 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).

■ Jim Anway

STRICTLY Wednesdays & Fridays
from 2pm to 5pm at 625-5618

■ Lee Keely

Prefers e-mail at leekeely@attbi.com
or call 626-8033

■ Bob Stephan

E-mail to bstephan@redshift.com
or call only between 9am-5pm
646-1899

■ Clive Sanders

E-mail to simbacli@pacbell.net
or call only between 1pm to 9pm
cellphone (831) 375-5376 ♦



SOFTWARE REVIEW

photo: B. Hyster, MBUG-PC



Jim Hinwood
MBUG-PC
Columnist

This is the start of a new series of software reviews from me, and what better beginning than continuing the discussion of security?

After talking with our Publishing Editor, who admits she doesn't use spyware or a firewall despite dire warnings from **Jack Lewtshuk** and **Clive Sanders**, I realised two products need a more thorough explanation. Since both can be had for free, there is no reason that everyone in MBUG-PC shouldn't be using them. *PC Magazine's* cover story this month is on spyware and I highly recommend your reading it as it covers one of the indispensable programs.

Yes, there was a time when antivirus software was enough, but now a firewall and a spyware removal tool are necessities.

WHAT IS SPYWARE?

First of all spyware is *"local software that surreptitiously tracks your behavior."* The article in *PC Magazine* mentions the case of a man who got what is called a "drive-by download". If Internet security controls aren't set right, just visiting a website or clicking on a web ad will allow the installation of an application without your permission. The article talked about "Xupiter", which is an advertising and marketing program that is put on your computer, and then launches advertising pop-ups. It adds bookmarks to your "favorites" menu, it hijacks your home page, and most objectionable of all, *"to serve ads and sites tailored for you, Xupiter transmits information about your PC and your surfing habits to Xupiter.com."*

This is only one of many types of "malware." Most of us know about "cookies" (small files which are placed on your

computer to track you online), but there are "key loggers" (which let others see every key stroke you make), and worst of all "trojans" like **Back Orifice**, and **Net Bus** where hackers can not only monitor you but also can take over your computer!

HOW DOES SPYWARE REMOVAL WORK?

So what can you do about spyware? I have been using a program called **Ad-aware** (www.lavasoft.de/) for about two years to remove such spyware programs. I have used it on many of my friends' computers and usually find at least 15-20 bugs. *PC Magazine* mentions a case where an Albuquerque law firm found over 300 bugs on their computer system. Though Ad-aware was a little slow to update and people were complaining that it wasn't quite as good as it used to be, I think it is an excellent program. Recently they have come out with Ad-aware 6.0. The two software programs that *PC Magazine* rated most highly were the ones that are free: Ad-aware 6.0 and **Spybot Search & Destroy** (www.security.kolla.de/). Spybot got 4 stars and Ad-Aware got 3.

I already had Ad-aware 6.0 on my computer so I downloaded and installed Spybot. After a day or so of Internet surfing I ran Ad-aware and it found six spyware bugs. I then ran Spybot and it found nine more including "dialers" that Ad-aware had missed. The nice thing about Spybot is that it also has an "immunization" feature (that prevents spyware from being installed) which none of the other programs do. The others remove spyware only after it is already installed. Spybot also creates an automatic backup so if you remove something that negatively affects another program, you can undo it, the same as with the "quarantine" feature in Ad-aware.

I like the ease of use of both programs: Spybot only needs two clicks, one to scan and one to fix what it finds. One thing to watch for, it can sometimes affect programs with which you have agreed to use mild spyware, most of the time without knowing it, another reason to always check the fine print when installing programs (such as the **Google** toolbar, the **Myway** toolbar and custom "newspapers" like **Crayon**, etc.). You have to look for such items when you remove bugs with spyware, but if a program doesn't work afterwards, you can go back. A friend I recommended Spybot to said it inactivated his Google toolbar and he was able to go back and fix it easily. I think these are fantastic programs and everybody should have one, either Ad-aware

or SpyBot, though I prefer SpyBot (as does *PC Magazine*).

WHAT'S A FIREWALL?

The next programs I want to cover are “firewalls” which I was first introduced to through MBUG-PC. **Jack Lewtschuk** and **Ralph Games** both recommend **ZoneAlarm** (www.zonelabs.com/store/content/home.jsp) as the highest-rated software firewall. A software firewall prevents and also notifies you of any attempt at intrusion into or out of your computer. If you haven't used one before you'll be amazed at how many intrusions you become aware of in the first hour of use!

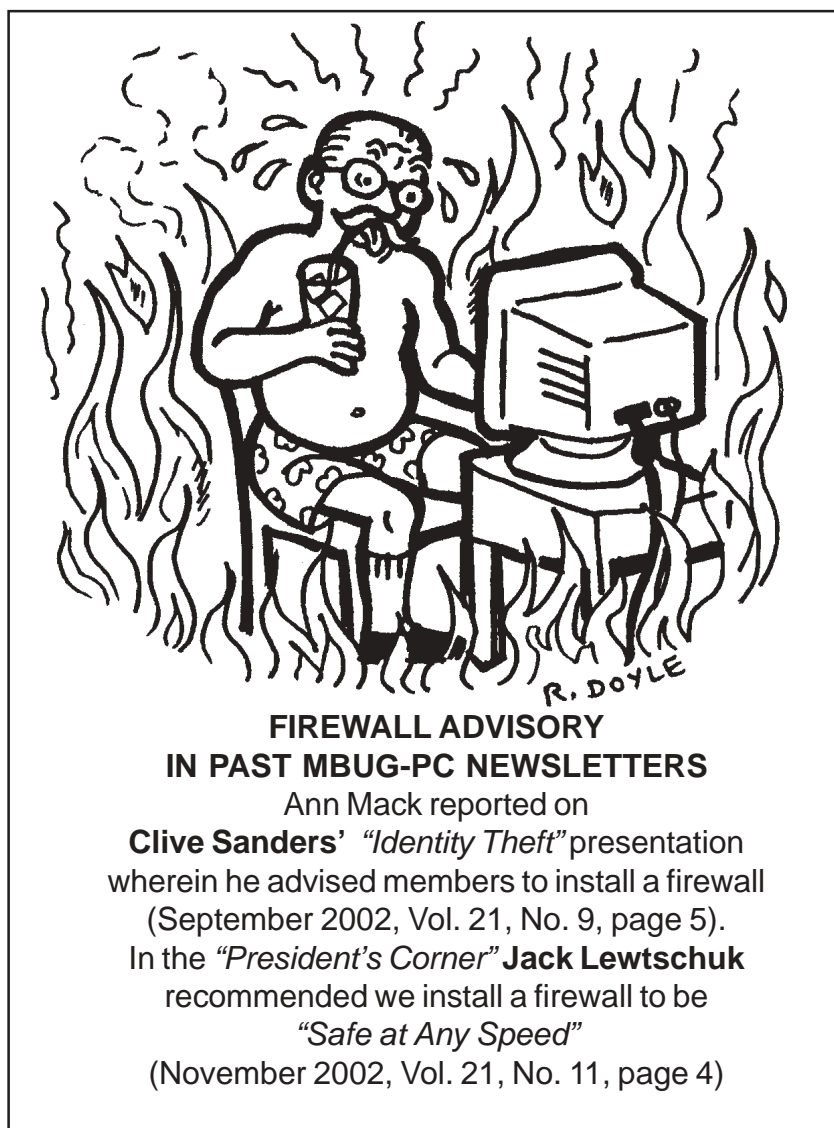
Without a firewall, hackers can access your computer for credit card numbers, bank account information, passwords, documents and photos. Hackers can access your computer and then leave a “back door” open so that they can come back into your computer without your knowledge, turning your computer into a “zombie” to attack *other* computers while hiding their own address. You may think you don't have anything valuable on your computer but the use of your address is often enough.

WHY ISN'T JUST HAVING AN ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE ENOUGH?

Antivirus software monitors viruses but doesn't monitor the *ports* on your computer. For example, port 80 allows you to browse web pages, port 1863 allows you instant

messaging with friends, port 443 allows access to secure web pages, etc. You could manually look up all the ports you have each time you install a piece of software, but there are 65,535 ports on your computer! A firewall will monitor and configure your ports safely for you and will hide your address from hackers, making your computer less visible on the Internet.

To repeat what Jack, Clive and Ralph have already said, **“If you have DSL, a firewall is absolutely necessary”**.



More important a firewall like ZoneAlarm monitors *outgoing* traffic since malicious code goes out through the Internet, very often from your computer to all your friends and **business** acquaintances. Even if you get a virus you can keep it from going out to everyone on your e-mail address list. With a firewall program, you can see when a program tries to access the Internet without your permission and be alerted that something unauthorized is inside your computer.

The best thing about both spyware and firewall programs are that they are free and very easy to use. If you use the default settings on both, they configure themselves.

So stay ahead of the hackers: get and use an antivirus program, a firewall and a spyware removal tool. Since the last two are free there's **no** excuse not to have all three. **Regina Doyle**, are you finally convinced? ♦

ehinwood@msn.com

DIGITAL ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



Eileen Begley
Workshop Leader

Wednesday, May 14
7:00 to 9:00pm
Archer Park Center
Monterey

This month's session in our continuing series on digital photography will continue to focus on "*People and Portraits*". I will cover such topics as:

- A quick four- step method to focus attention on your subject
- How to do the "soft edge" look that is popular in photos
- How to create a "studio" background
- And other photo manipulation techniques as time permits

I will be using **Photoshop 7**, but most techniques that I demonstrate can also be done using **Photoshop 5.5** and **Adobe Elements**.

All levels of digital photo enthusiasts are welcome, no experience necessary. But if you have been doing some photo work, come on in with your questions.

For a more detailed outline, visit my website at www.spyderbytes.com. If you have any questions in advance, e-mail me at eb@spyderbytes.com. ♦

INTERNET, E-MAIL & BEYOND

LAST
WORKSHOP

**Clive
Sanders**
Workshop
Leader



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

Friday, May 16
7:00 to 9:00pm
Adult Education
Center, Pacific Grove



Well friends, as they say, "*all good things must come to an end*", including "Internet, E-Mail & Beyond" ... at least for now.

In this continuing series of workshops we have been exploring the various uses of your personal computer to surf the **Internet** (get connected, stay connected, look up websites, find out about various search engines, etc.); discovering how to use **e-mail** (the basics of setting up an account, sending and receiving mail, opening and attaching files, sending photographs, video clips, sending instant messages and attempting to block junk mail); and going **beyond** the basics to address many of your queries regarding personal computer use.

Well, after so many sessions, I need a little break, so come along to my **last workshop on May 16** (until further notice).

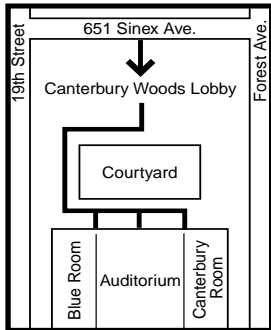
As usual I'll start the ball rolling with an Internet/e-mail/beyond topic and we'll segue into wherever you want to go. Bring your questions as well as your clever solutions to share with others. Beginners, intermediate and advanced computer users are all welcome.

And as before, you are welcome to call or e-mail me in advance if you have a particular problem/issue/question so I can come better prepared. Contact me at simbaclive@pacbell.net or call (831) 375-5376. ♦

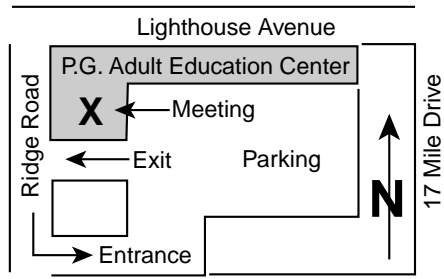
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - May 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>General Meeting</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm "Multimedia" Dean Karengin	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <i>"Digital Art & Photography"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Eileen Begley	15	16 <i>The LAST "INTERNET, E-MAIL & BEYOND"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Clive Sanders	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>Memorial Day Observed</i>	27	28	29	30	31

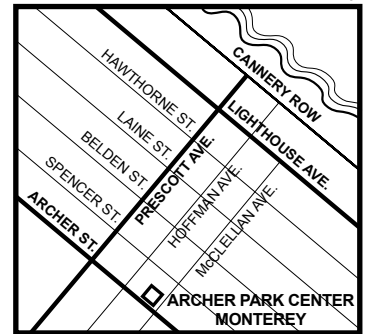
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Archer Park Center
542 Archer Street
Monterey



Tentative Calendar June 2003 Please Check the June Newsletter for Final Dates & Times

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <i>DIRECTORS MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	4	5	6 <i>General Meeting</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm "Buy, Upgrade or Recycle?"	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 <i>"Views from My Windows"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Phil Shortell	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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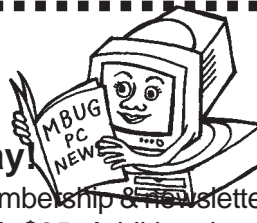
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Used Ink Cartridges Still Wanted

Carolyn Lake,
Publicity Chair



We've been getting a good steady response from our members regarding used ink cartridges. We want all of your **empty, original-equipment printer ink cartridges** (no compatible or remanufactured, please) because they are worth money to MBUG-PC. The funds we raise go towards educating the public about personal computer use, and you are doing your part to save the planet by keeping those used cartridges out of the landfill (at least for a little while longer)!

So keep saving those used cartridges, put them into a plastic bag, bring them along to the monthly General Meeting or to any workshop and hand them to me or any other Board Member. So far there's no time limit on this project, so keep recycling with MBUG-PC! ♦

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Don Slaiter

Vice President, Assistant Treasurer & Membership Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

name	number
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Harold Woodward	1230

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Gary Kallweit	57
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101
Blake Thomson	1220

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Regina Doyle	1103
Ralph Games	884
River & Diana Gurtin/Case	1006
Sarah Haller	1105
Charles & Clarice Kahr	610
Tom May	1155
Arnold Seibel	289
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Glenn Chee	621
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Gary Kallweit	57
Joanne Kelley	970
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101
Leroy Schwab	717