



mbug-pc newsletter

Established 1983 / Incorporated 1988

IN THIS ISSUE

MBUG-PC Information.....	2
President's Corner.....	3
Meeting Review	4
Things, Thinglets & Thingassos	5
Genealogy Workshop Anyone?	6
Looking Back at MBUG-PC.....	7
Computer Thoughts	7
Clive's Tips & Tricks	8
Wi-Fi Update	9
Need Computer Help?	9
MBUG-PC Supporters	10
Driving the Frontside Bus	11
The Frugal Hacker	12
MBUG-PC Upcoming Workshops	14
MBUG-PC Calendar	15
Membership Report	16

**Are you signed up for
MBUG-PC / Club Mac's
POTLUCK PICNIC?**



**It's on AUGUST 16
at Indian Village, Pebble
Beach! See details on p14!**

**Kristen
Knutson**

MBUG-PC
Program Chair
mcle@msn.com/
www.mbug.org



New Kids on the Bay's Block: User-Friendly Computing

Our guest speaker for Friday August 1st will be **Tak Maseba** of **User-Friendly Computing**. User-Friendly Computing is a local outfit with locations in Santa Cruz, Watsonville and now in Monterey (for information visit www.user-friendly.net).

Tak will be discussing "Hardware Communications Technology," or, how computers "speak" with each other. His presentation will also give us some more updates on wireless technology (see **John Rowe's** latest on page 9), and for those of you who may have missed **Nick Mertes'** Hardware Workshop on July 23, tell us what's new in imaging, sound cards and peripherals and what these technologies offer today's computer users.

Tak's experience includes stints with **MySpace.com**, **Cupertino Electric** and the IT department of **Kaiser Permanente** where he introduced and administered various imaging and sound technologies in healthcare.

User-Friendly Computing is an established computer service company with roots in the Santa Cruz community and a brand new store in Monterey on Munras Avenue. They provide broad and comprehensive local service and sales offerings, providing on-site service for networks, personal computers, printers and peripherals. User-Friendly Computing was established in November 1993 by **Peter Huemer** and **Valerie Bettenhausen**.

This is a program focusing on some hot new topics, so you really don't want to miss it. Come prepared with questions you may have about stuff you are thinking of trying out or have heard of, or just bring an empty mind and come for a fill-up! Bring a friend and introduce them to MBUG-PC and come welcome User-Friendly Computing to Monterey! ♦

Friday, August 1, 2003 at 7pm
Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove
As always, FREE and open to the public!
Refreshments, fund-raising raffle, great prizes, nice people!

MBUG-PC VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN

Program Chair

We need someone **once a month** to help schedule guest speakers for General Meetings (first Friday of each month). This someone contacts possible speakers and schedules them to come to the Adult Center on the appointed date. Working with the guest speaker they develop our front page announcement to let Members know what the topic will be. This position gets lots of back up assistance from other Board Members and transition time is available from the incumbent (Kristen Knutsen).

Meeting Reviewers

We need one or two people to attend General Meetings and/or other workshops (e.g. Nick Mertes' "Hardware", Phil Shortell's "Windows", Jim Anway's "XP", etc. once a month and write up one-page (500 word) reviews for the Newsletter. Full by- line given and maybe even a cartoon too!

INTERESTED? E-mail or call Vice-President **Don Slaiter** at slaiter@pacbell.net ☎(831) 657-4443

MBUG-PC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Mack	President	622-7669	ahmack@sbcglobal.net
Donald R. Slaiter ..	Vice President	655-4443	slaiter@pacbell.net
	Assistant Treasurer, Membership Chair		
Tom Streeter	Secretary/Treasurer	657-4249	tom223@pacbell.net
	Workshops Coordinator / Newsletter Proofreader		
Regina Doyle	Publishing Editor	375-4496	reginadoyle@aol.com
Ralph Games	Meeting Facilitator	394-8876	gamesri@redshift.com
Jim Hinwood	Features Editor, Columnist	373-7393	ehinwood@msn.com
Kristen Knutsen	Program Chair	375-6072	mcle@msn.com
Carolyn Lake	Publicity Chair	643-2023	lakelyn@ix.netcom.com
S. Jack Lewtschuk	Columnist,	757-0123	blacklion@royal.net
	Immediate Past President		
Clive Sanders	Workshop Leader,	375-5376	simbacli@pacbell.net
	Columnist, Assistant Membership Chair, F1 Help		

MBUG-PC Newsletter is published monthly by Monterey Bay Users Group-Personal Computer, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable, educational corporation, 177 Webster Street, # A-354, Monterey, CA 93940, telephone (831) 373-6245, website www.mbug.org.

SUBSCRIPTION: See back cover for rates. (Subscription is not tax deductible).

DISCLAIMER: No warranty, expressed or implied, is made by MBUG-PC, Newsletter editorial staff, or any individual authors or contributors. This disclaimer extends to all losses, incidental or consequential, from the use of this publication. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent any official position of, or endorsement by, MBUG-PC which is a 501c3 corporation and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor or equipment or software manufacturer. Copyright © 2003 by the Monterey Bay Users Group-PC. Permission for reproduction in whole or in part is hereby granted for other nonprofit use, provided credit is given to MBUG-PC and to the author(s). Other reproduction without prior written permission of MBUG-PC is prohibited.

MBUG-PC VOLUNTEERS

Jim Anway	Columnist, F1 Help	625-5618	janway@redshift.com
Eileen Begley	Workshop Leader	655-4884	eb@spyderbytes.com
Richard Binsacca .	Raffle Sales	678-2518	richard@dedot.com
Bob Brownlee	Newsletter Distribution	372-4757	tttbb@earthlink.net
Norma Cocklin	Canterbury Woods	657-4257	nmchec@aol.com
	Liaison / Newsletter Proofreader		
Bill Hyler	Photographer	624-4456	bhyler@redshift.com
Lee Keely	APCUG Rep, F1 Help	626-8033	leekeely@attbi.com
John Laughton	Legal Advisor	649-1122	john@netlawyers.com
Nick Mertes	Workshop Leader	659-2341	nick@mbay.net
Helga Murphy	Hospitality	633-3018	helgamurphy@msn.com
Pete Petit	Columnist	375-7798	ppetit@redshift.com
John Rowe	Columnist	384-3617	johnr@tolt.com
Rita Sopolsky	Hospitality		ritasopolsky@msn.com
Phil Shortell	Workshop Leader	753-7777 .	pjs@FourthR-Salinas.com
Bob Stephan	Historian, F1 Help	646-1899	bstephan@redshift.com
	Columnist		
Bill Stockton	Recording Secretary	384-6130	
Ed West	Webmaster, Listserv Owner .	372-6200	captain@mobile.com

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

MORE FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE

As you may remember from last month's Newsletter, I reported on my travels around Finland, Russia and Estonia and gave a little idea about what I observed as far as computer use in those parts of the world.

*To continue the report, I am reprinting part of a nice e-mail I got from my Russian tour guide **Slava Nekrasov** who nicely answered some of my questions:*

"Dear Ann,

I was greatly pleased to receive an e-mail message from you and will try to answer briefly the computer related questions you have.

SORRY MAC, IBM RULES

In Russia, all computers are **IBM** compatible. I don't think anybody uses **Macintosh**. Of course, everybody uses **Microsoft Windows** software programs, for example I have Microsoft on my PC.

INTERNET CARDS

To get access to the Internet, the majority of people here use dial-up connection (high speed cable

connections are available but require a special cable and consequently it is rather rare). We usually sign an agreement with one of the numerous Internet providers and pay a monthly fee, although Internet cards are becoming more and more popular (based on a principle similar to that of telephone calling cards).

There are many different Internet card packages: evening, daily, weekend or access at any time (with a limited number of "units", i.e. the money you pay). Some cards can be used for both Internet and telephone use.

Da, trust me, is REAL thing -- Vindows Expee! 100% genuine!



PIRATES AHOY!

Licensed software programs are available in the stores, but the majority of people buy pirated copies. They are sold everywhere and I would guess that 90 percent work just fine, and a CD is US \$2-3.

On the one hand, piracy is illegal in Russia but on the other hand the authorities half close their eyes to the problem. I am sure it will change eventually, like everything else.

CYBERSHOPPING

I don't think many people here pay their bills or shop via the Internet. Russia is still a cash-oriented country for most part. I guess I am one of those exceptions. I buy quite a lot (CDs, DVD, books) via **Amazon.com** and **ebay.com**. With Amazon I simply pay with my Visa. On ebay I often pay using **bidpay.com**, which is an electronic Western Union transfer. I can use it only to pay, not to sell, as the latter is not available as a service here.

MUSIC IN MOSCOW

I know that many people download music from the Internet but I don't — I am a serious collector and I buy the "real" stuff.

But if I wanted to, I could use **QuickTime Player**, **RealOne Player**, etc.

I can't call myself a real expert in computers, so but I hope this information is helpful to you to understand computing in Russia.

Best regards,
Slava Nekrasov ♦

ahmack@sbcglobal.net

MEETING REVIEW

**Regina
Doyle**
Publishing
Editor



photo: B. Hylar, MBUG-PC

At the July General Meeting, **Terry Glasco** of **Virtual Silk Web Site Creations** gave us some good ideas about ways that people with poor hearing, eyesight and other impairments can be helped to have equal access to the Internet. Terry's company specializes in secure electronic commerce for small businesses, but one of their other specialties is helping Americans with Disabilities gain web accessibility in accordance with Federal Regulation Section 508. This regulation requires that websites built or procured by the Government be accessible to the disabled.

Terry (*in photo below*), thinks we all, not just the Government, should think about the way websites are developed



because poor design can prevent readability and use. For example, an obvious problem for the visually challenged, which we all become as we age, lies in typefaces (using small sizes, or too fancy and hard to read, or conflicting colors between the background and the type, or colors the colorblind can't distinguish, etc.). Less obvious are problems caused by animation (flashing icons or moving objects), on those with epilepsy or less rapid eye-tracking abilities, or by odd shaped or unrecognisable "buttons" on those with limited hand or sight function.



Even the fully sighted and unimpaired can be confused or maddened by websites that use too many or non-standard acronyms (words shortened so much that they are incomprehensible), or tables or pages that run way off the edges of the screen (where you have to scroll across and down to see the information). These are things developers should really think about before setting up their websites.

For those of us with limited sight, Terry suggested ideas to enhance our Internet experience:

Reset the font sizes in your browser - In Internet Explorer; go to "view", "text size" and select "largest". In Netscape, go to "view", "text zoom" and then select a larger percentage

setting. Other site layouts may vary a bit, but you can get the idea of what needs to be done.

Use a "screen reader" - These software programs present graphics (names, descriptions of control buttons, menus, text and punctuation) as speech. Terry recommended "Home Page Reader" which actually reads a web page to you. It has a free 30-day trial and if you like it you can buy it for \$142. Visit www.virtualsilk.com or www.dcisc.org to see how it works or go to www.Microsoft.com/enable/

guides/vision.aspx to find good tutorials on adjusting display, keyboard, mouse and sound options.

Terry said that those in the design business can test their web pages under development with "Bobby". It's a software tool which exposes and repairs barriers to website accessibility according to Federal Government guidelines. It allows you to ensure your website is as readable as possible to people with disabilities. Go to www.bobby.watchfire.com/bobby/html/en/index.jsp.

Thanks Terry, for giving us some good tips for developing websites (keep it simple and clean), as well as how to help enhance our own website visits! ♦

ReginaDoyle@aol.com

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

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



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

WHAT HAPPENED TO ATOMICA?

Those of you who have been using **Atomica** (full or abridged/free version) may have noticed that things have changed. Here is the latest information: Atomica is now called **GuruNet**. GuruNet can still be found at www.atomica.com, or at www.gurunet.com. The “full” version costs under \$35, but if you download the trial version, you get to use it for a few weeks and buy it or, it will become the free and abridged version. You can always buy the full version later.

If you have never used Atomica, try it you’ll like it. Atomica products deliver true information at your fingertips. Search engines show you links, but GuruNet goes beyond search to display authoritative definitions and facts for over three quarters of a million topics. The ultimate reference tool, GuruNet gives you quick accurate answers in a nutshell.

Even though it taps into the Internet, GuruNet isn’t accessed through your Web browser. It is a separate, specialized program. You can look up a word, phrase, name, place, company or other term in GuruNet in one of several ways. You can put your mouse cursor on any word or phrase in any screen on your PC — a word-processing document, spreadsheet, Web page, e-mail, etc. Then, just hold down the ALT key and click your mouse button. If you’re online, GuruNet will pop up and rapidly fetch answers from the Web. Or you can type your query into a space at the top of the GuruNet screen, or into a bar that can slide out from the right side of your screen.

Finally, you can launch GuruNet and simply browse through its library of hundreds of thousands of terms organized into categories such as business, government, people, general reference, legal, medical, science and sports.

IS DSL GOING TO BE CHEAPER?

Verizon has dropped its price for DSL connection to \$34.95 per month. Are other DSL providers going to follow suit? We’ll wait and see.

IS YOUR CELL PHONE TOO HEAVY? HERE COME THE WRISTPHONES!

Samsung has said its **GPRS Wristphone** will ship in Europe in time for Christmas. The device, announced earlier this year, is the world’s smallest GPRS phone, claims Samsung.

The phone operates in the 900MHz and 1800MHz bands, and provides **Bluetooth** connections for headsets and PDAs. It has a built in speakerphone, and dialing is voice activated. The screen is a 256-color 96x63 OLED panel. The phone measures 3.8 x 6.4 x 1.8cm and weighs less than 80g.



illustration: R. Doyle with thanks to Chester Gould

Oh, and it offers forty polyphonic ring tones. The 400mAh Li-ion battery provides one-and-a-half hours’ talk time and 80 hours stand-by time. Pricing has yet to be announced.

Not that Samsung’s wristphone will be first to market — Japan’s **DoCoMo** should be out now with its **Wristomo i-mode Phone**. The ¥37,000 device operates on Japan’s PHS system, enabling Internet access as well as voice calls. It also ships with software allowing its internal phone book and diary to be synchronised with **Microsoft Outlook** via a separate data cable. Alas, there’s no Bluetooth support here, unlike the Samsung. However the Wristomo does offer two hours’ talk time.

Dick Tracy, can you hear me now? ♦

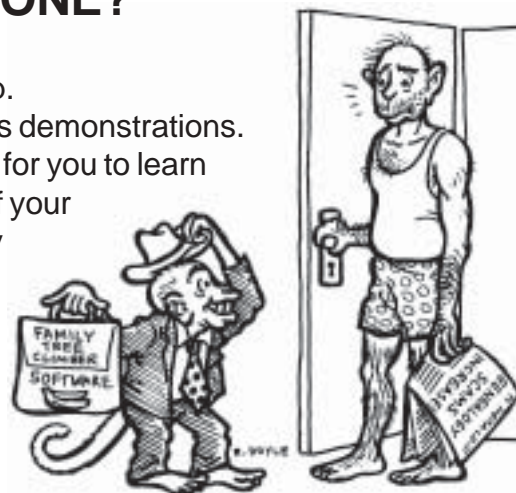
blacklion@royal.net

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP, ANYONE?

Bob Stephan has volunteered to lead a genealogy workshop. He would use **The Master Genealogist (TMG)** software in his demonstrations. Even if you don't have TMG, this would be a good opportunity for you to learn how, in general, computer software can help you keep track of your family history. And of course if you do have TMG, Bob is really THE man to show you how it works.

We need **10 or more people** to express interest in a workshop in order to set up dates & venue.

E-mail Bob at bstephan@redshift.com if you think you would attend!◆



ALADDIN USER-GROUP DISCOUNT DEALS

In the past, user groups have been able to get discounted pricing by using a special code to access **Aladdin's Online User Group Store**. Now, registered user groups including MBUG-PC, will get Aladdin products at 40 percent off retail and you don't have to enter a code to "enter" the store. Just shop at the main Aladdin online store at www.aladdinsys.com/store and enter the discount code "UserGroup" (exactly as shown) in the "discount code" field. A 40 percent discount will be given when you hit "apply". Some of the top-selling PC products you will find at the online store are:

Internet Cleanup 3.0 for \$17.99 (40 percent off the retail price of \$29.99; shipping, handling, and tax added where applicable). Internet Cleanup, formerly owned by **Ontrack**, protects your Internet privacy by erasing your Internet data trail and permanently removing tracking devices left on your computer by websites you have visited. It easily blocks "pop-ups", removes spyware, web bugs, cookies, Active X controls, Internet cache and history files, IE hidden references and IE forms and passwords. It also clears "recent documents" lists.

StuffIt Deluxe® 8.0 for Windows for \$23.99 (40 percent off the retail price of \$39.99; shipping, handling, and tax added where applicable). StuffIt zips your files to a fraction of original size so they e-mail quickly and take up less space. Package photos or other documents into one archive as easy as drag and drop, or right-click! Use it to send a self-extracting archive that expands itself on any PC, even if the recipient doesn't have compression software (WinZip charges \$49 extra for this feature) and open any .zip, .sit, or other compressed file, such as an e-mail attachment.

Easy Uninstall 2.0 for \$17.99 (40 percent off the retail price of \$29.99; shipping, handling, and tax is added where applicable). Easy Uninstall (formerly owned by **Ontrack**) helps you safely remove unwanted programs and files and if you change your mind, use "complete undo" to reverse your changes.

For more information visit www.aladdinsys.com.

And in December of this year, MBUG-PC hopes to have Aladdin as our guest speaker at the **Friday General Meeting** (that's December 5, 2003) at the Adult Education Center in Pacific Grove.◆

LOOKING BACK AT MBUG-PC

Pete Petit

MBUG-PC Columnist



20 Years Ago

Perusing the August 1983 MBUG-PC Newsletter I find that the guest speaker at our July 1983 meeting was **Camilo Wilson**, “the author of the first word processor for the PC – *Volkwriter* (the hottest challenger to the dominance of *WordStar*).” Wilson discussed “How to make a Million in the Software Business.” Wilson’s own software company, **Lifetree**, had been started on a shoestring here in Monterey County. [Note that *WordStar* had been ported to the PC from another platform so the above quotation is credible.]

Brenda Veitch’s *Beginners Corner* discussed how to best use the DOS commands DISKCOPY and COPY to duplicate disks of Public Domain programs in the Club’s library. Similarly, **Keith Highfill’s *Random Access*** column provided instruction on the use of the DIR command.



Newsletter editor, **Gerald Ward**, following a discussion of “cheaper” (non-IBM) diskettes brands, noted that he had written the entire newsletter “onto a five year old single-sided single-density Radio Shack diskette formatted...(reformatted)...with no errors to...(as)...a double-sided double-density diskette.”

For those of you too young to remember, Gerald was talking about **5.25 inch floppy disks** (360-kilobyte maximum capacity), the only storage available on most PCs in the days before home computers were equipped with hard drives. At least by 1983 most came equipped with two floppy drives which permitted the command “copy a: b:” to execute without having to replace the diskette between each read and write.

10 Years Ago

The MBUG Auction, then an annual affair, was held at MPC on Saturday the 28th 1993. Our auction was very popular and a lot of donated and consignment hardware and software changed hands with a commission on each sale going to MBUG-PC. It was a lot of work with volunteers having to check the condition of sale items beforehand and then run the show on the day. As software licensing became more complicated and prices for new hardware fell, the Auction became more trouble than it was worth. But it was a fun affair for several years and makes me wonder if there are any computer swap meets anywhere anymore?

The Presidents Corner was devoted to a report of a shoot-out between **Windows NT** and **OS/2** conducted by company representatives before a very large Houston Area Users Group meeting in Texas. The overwhelming winner according to the 1300 shoot-out attendees was OS/2 v2.1.

Software reviews included **XtraDrive3** (disk compression program), **Q/Media** (multimedia presentation program), **Family Tree Maker**, then sold by **Banner Blue** and now sold by **Broderbund**; and two “memory managers”, **NETROOM 3.0** and **QEMM 7.0**. Back when conventional memory was limited to 640K, memory managers allowed certain drivers and TSRs to load in upper memory beyond the 640K barrier. **QEMM (Quarterdeck Office Systems)** was the favorite of most power users.

Bob Stephan’s *Frugal Hacker* column continued his discussion the DOS Environment block used by batch files and discussed ways to increase Environment size. One favored method used Bob’s own **GET** utility.

AND, it was announced that Bob’s *Frugal Hacker* column and **Jim Robeson’s *Cricket Clatter*** column had both been awarded **Best Column honors** for newsletters 9 to 16 pages long in the **Info World\Lotus** newsletter contest. Ninety user-group newsletters were in the competition! ♦

ppetit@redshift.com



WINDOWS TIPS & TRICKS

compiled by
Clive Sanders
*F1 for Help,
Columnist, Assistant
Membership Chair*



Here's a handy tip from **Doug Ludens CNET** (as mentioned before, one of my favorite places to get computer ideas):

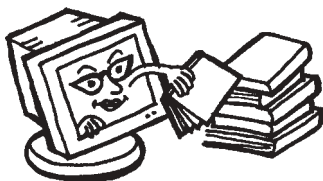
Although favorites, bookmarks, and customized start pages have helped organize and streamline our web surfing experience, every once in a while it is still necessary to type in a website's address by hand. For times when you find yourself in this situation, here is a keyboard shortcut that can save you some typing:

When you type in a web address, just type in the part between the "www." and the ".com", and then press "CTRL-Enter" and Internet Explorer will fill in the rest. For instance, if I want to check on my favorite pro football team, I can simply click in the address field in Internet Explorer, type "nfl" without the quotes, and then press "CTRL-Enter". Internet Explorer will automatically convert this into "http://www.nfl.com" for me. ♦

simbacli@pacbell.net

UPDATED DISCOUNT COMPUTER MAGAZINES

	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS
Computer Games	\$10.95	—	—
Computer Gaming World	\$14.95	\$28.95	\$41.95
Computer Shopper	\$16.97	\$32.95	\$47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	\$15.95	\$30.95	\$43.95
Mac Addict	\$10.97	—	—
Mac Home Journal	\$15.97	\$29.97	—
Mac World	\$12.95	\$24.95	\$35.95
Maximum PC	\$9.95	\$18.95	\$27.95
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
Wired	\$6.00	\$12.00	—



The above prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. A check, cash or Money Order must accompany all orders. Make payable to **Herb Goodman** at:
Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496
Telephone: (561)488-4465 / e-mail: hgoodman@prodigy.net

*Please allow 10 to 12 weeks for your magazines to start.
For renewals you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start of your renewal.
A renewal notice will be mailed to you about 4 months prior to the expiration date.*

Herb has over 300 other magazine title on offer, also at excellent prices. E-mail for a listing.

WIRELESS INTERNET UPDATE

photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC



John Rowe
MBUG-PC
Columnist/
Tolt Technologies

Wireless Internet Access Using the Cellphone Network

I got a chance to try out an **Intermec 760** color handheld computer that runs **Windows Pocket PC 2002**. The unit I tried had a GPRS radio built into it that allows it to connect to the Internet by using the wireless cellular telephone network. It's pretty cool — you can get on the Internet just about anywhere cell phones work.

A couple of downsides are that the connection speeds are usually slow and the service is not cheap. It's supposed to be able to go up to 128K bps but my experience was much slower. I was told that connection speed depends on how strong the cellular network's signal is. And the reason for the high fees is that the service is usually accessed by the minute, so the more you surf, the more you pay.



illustration: R. Doyle MBUG-PC

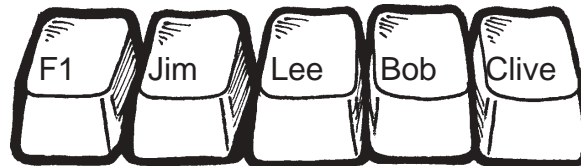
Overall, my take on accessing the Internet via the cellular telephone network is great if you have plenty of dough and time, but for the average user it's too slow and expensive.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but these are a couple of more reasons why Wi-Fi (802.11b) "hotspots" are becoming so popular! ♦

johnr@tolt.com/www.tolt.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 ♦



MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

James W. Anway

Retired IBMer
Computer Consultant

Phone: 831 625-5618
Fax: Call first

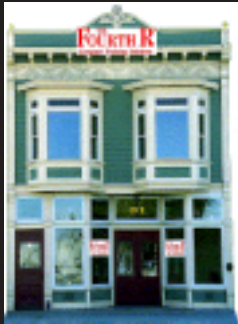


BIZTECH

SHIPPING & COPY CENTER

Richard Pryor, Owner

26544 Carmel Rancho Blvd. Carmel CA 93923
(831) 622-9024 Fax (831) 622-9026
E-mail - bizcopy@aol.com



THE FOURTH R[®]

Computer Training Solutions

Computer Classes Private Tutoring

www.FourthR-Salinas.com

Phil Shortell, MS Certified Instructor and MBUG-PC Workshop Leader
31 West Market Street, Salinas CA 93901
(831) 753-7777

*Pacific Grove
Adult Education
Center*



**Vocational
Education
Computer
Classes**

“Learning for Life”

1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove CA 93950

See PGAEC catalog & web pages for
class descriptions and **FREE** 70th Anniversary classes.

Call: Computer Office (831) 646-6657
or e-mail Bruce Cates: bcates@pgusd.org
<http://www.pgusd.org>

SHURGARD[®]

Storage Space Bulk Storage
Self Storage
Moving & Packing Supplies

Sam T. Branham Manager
www.shurgard.com

709 California Avenue Phone 831 394 4988
Sand City CA 93955 Fax 831 394 4488

COMPUTER POWER

Star Reiersen
star@redshift.com

Fax: (831) 373-0671
1173 Ninth Street

(831) 373-3919
Monterey, CA 93940

Clive R. Sanders

Sanders and Associates

Computer Consultants

636 Spazier Avenue
Pacific Grove
California, 93950

Telephone: 831-375-5376
Cell: 831-521-6676
E-mail: simbacli@pacbell.net

DRIVING THE FRONTSIDE BUS

Jim Hinwood

MBUG-PC Columnist &
Features Editor



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

A “TRILLIAN” USES -- 8 MILLION DOWNLOADS CAN'T BE WRONG!

Recently I was having a hard time connecting with a friend and we decided to use “instant messaging” to stay in touch. He uses **AOL Messenger** while I use **MSN Messenger** and he could not get the MSN Messenger to work for him. I offered to get AOL Messenger on my computer but then I read a review on a software program called **Trillian**, which combines all the instant messaging systems into one easy-to-use interface. It sounded great because I have another friend who uses **Yahoo Messenger** to talk to her son and I never see her Online anymore since she stopped using MSN.

Trillian uses one interface to handle five different messaging systems: **AOL, ICQ, IRC, MSN** and **Yahoo**. I now have seven friends on MSN, one on AOL and one on Yahoo. According to the Trillian website (ceruleanstudios.com), “Traditionally, instant messages sent from your computer are sent in plain text (meaning easily readable by anyone with bad intentions) to a backend server or directly to your contacts. Cerulean Studios has extended existing architecture to encrypt these messages so that your conversations stay secure. Trillian utilizes 128-bit **Blowfish** encryption with a **Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange** to secure your conversations.” Trillian is a secure way to have Internet conversations, it supports skins (modifying the look of the program), and it’s easy to set up and use.

TRY IT, YOU’LL LIKE IT

I like using instant messaging, although at first I resisted it. I’ve noticed that quite a few other people are hesitant to use it too. It can seem like an invasion of privacy at times, but you can set your status at any time to “away” so that you get a notification if a friend is online, but they don’t know that

you are online. You can then decide if you want to “talk” or not. I now like being able to connect with friends and family on a regular basis. It will also prevent you from ever having to take a typing class! Actually you’ll find that your typing improves dramatically after having a few long conversations on the keyboard.

SEE ME, HEAR ME WITH MSN

One thing that Trillian doesn’t cover is audio and video like MSN Messenger does. I have a friend that I stay in touch with on MSN Messenger and he and I have experimented with its video and audio features, the quality of which is surprisingly good. Because of this I run Trillian most of the time and MSN when I want to use audio and video.

And, if you get yourself a web cam (website camera) for about \$49, when a friend is online you can talk long distance with video, audio or both all over the country for free. My son can talk to his Aunt in Washington DC for free and she can see him as well. If you’ve been spending a fortune on long distance phone calls at least experiment with these messaging systems and save a few dollars. ♦

ehinwood@msn.com

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

For each five paid subscriptions Smart Computing receives with our group **source code number 8181**, they 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. ♦



THE FRUGAL HACKER



by Bob *"I Don't Do Windows"* Stephan

hacker / n / a term used by some to mean "a clever programmer" and by others, especially journalists or their editors, to mean "someone who tries to break into computer systems".

DEALING WITH SPAM

SPAM or UCE (Unsolicited Commercial E-mail) has been prominent in the news lately. It does not look as if there will be any solution in the near future, if ever. There are just too many greedy, unscrupulous leeches trying to suck hard-earned money from unsuspecting 'netizens' (Internet citizens) and prey on their ignorance.

So what are we going to do about it? I have found that trying to filter spam out of my e-mail is a losing proposition, like shovelling the proverbial stuff against the tide. The leeches are just too devious in their headers to find solutions that work, even most of the time. **But for now it is up to us, the users, to find our own solutions because it does not appear as if anyone else will be able to stop it.**

Sure, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as **RedShift** do filter a lot of it before it reaches us, but they can't filter too much of it without increasing the risk of eliminating messages that we want to receive. I have already had numerous instances of not receiving desirable e-mail because it was filtered before it reached me, some of it from my very own brother who just happens to be using an ISP that also seems to be friendly toward some spammers.



MY OPT-IN METHOD

I have a solution that works for me. Perhaps you would like to hear my philosophy on the subject? The basic principle of my approach is "opt in" versus the usual "opt out" technique. That is, I try to work a method of accepting the mail that I want to receive and exclude all the rest, versus trying to exclude just the objectionable mail. So, how does it work? Very well, I dare say, at least for me.

First, I subscribe to several mailing lists such as the MBUG-PC list, so I filter those directly to sub-folders instead of having them in my in-box. I have not seen spam in any of these mailing lists. Second, and this is the key to my system, I filter all mail that contains HTML coded messages to my e-mail client's Trash Folder (more about that later). The rest of the mail that gets through my filters consists of plain text messages. Any plain text message addressed to my e-mail address goes directly into my preferred in-box. This is almost 100 percent of the mail that I am interested in receiving, and

I have not received spam in my in-box with this method.

DEALING WITH HTML

Now, what about the HTML messages? Well, almost all spam is in HTML format in order to include special formatting and effects to attract attention. I'm sure that those of you who use HTML-enabled e-mail clients are familiar with

the genre. Almost none of the e-correspondence that interests me needs to be in HTML format because the messages are basically text messages. The main problem is that some of my correspondents do not realize that they are sending HTML. Unfortunately, some Windows e-mail clients automatically default to formatting messages as HTML and require some action on the part of the user to turn off this (to me annoying) "feature".

So, how do I deal with HTML messages from people with whom I want to communicate? First, I try to educate them to turn off the HTML feature. Usually this can be done on a selective basis. For example, check your e-mail address book and see if there is a place to check to send text-only

messages to Bob Stephan if you have his e-mail address in your address book. If you don't know whether you are sending HTML messages or not, send a message to bstephan@redshift.com and I'll be glad to let you know by return mail if your message includes HTML formatting. Don't worry — I'll be polite about it.

However, some people can't or won't turn off this feature, even on a selective basis. In that case I can filter messages from that person's e-mail address directly to my in-box before it reaches the Trash Bin filter. Another solution to that problem is to give them an alternate e-mail address to e-mail me. Many ISPs permit several e-mail addresses on one account at no extra charge. For example, RedShift permits up to five e-mail addresses on an account. I have one private address that I *never* post to any public site or use in any way that could become public. Correspondents can send HTML messages to me on that account without fear of being filtered to the Trash Bin. So, if all else fails, I let them e-mail me at that address and I cope with the HTML formatting as best I can. But I don't like people to put that address in their address books because some viruses can harvest e-mail addresses from Windows e-mail client address books and it would soon get into the public domain, so I am very restrictive on who gets to use that address.

If you are using any version of **Outlook** you will probably never have access to my private e-mail address. So, FWIW, spam has co-opted HTML and one way to fight spam is to get rid of it in our own e-mail unless it is specifically wanted. I think that everyone using e-mail should be aware of what is included in each message they send out, and send HTML only when it will serve some purpose.

GENEALOGY SCAM ARTIST

Speaking of spam, in last month's MBUG-PC Newsletter I mentioned an Internet genealogy scam site. This and other similar sites are operated by a 21-year-old scam artist who has been preying on unsuspecting web surfers since he was 16 years old. **Dick Eastman** in his **Online Genealogy Newsletter** (Vol. 8 No. 27, July 7, 2003) gives detailed information about this unscrupulous person and his scam operations. You can find the issue by going to: www.rootsforum.com/newsletter/index.html#top. Of course, those of you who already subscribe to this useful e-mail newsletter will have already read this interesting and valuable information.

THE SAGA OF TMG 5 CONTINUES

As of this writing there have been no new releases of **The Master Genealogist Version 5** since the article I wrote in last month's newsletter. We are still at Version 5.07 and eagerly awaiting the next incremental release, which may finally be the finished product. In the meantime I have spent a little time getting more familiar with what TMG 5 has to offer. One nice touch that I noticed is that it defaults to start up in "beginners mode".

In this mode many of the more esoteric advanced features are suppressed so that a new user only has to deal with the basic data entry items. Data entry is pretty much like any other Windows program so should not be a problem for most users. Later, beginners' mode can be turned off opening up the more advanced features for exploration. Some good thought has gone into that by the developers.

Another thing that I noticed is that on my 200MHZ laptop, Version 5 is generally somewhat slower than the old Version 4. But on my 900MHZ desktop machine with more RAM it is really a speedy application. All features just instantly pop up at the slightest click of the mouse. This leads me to suggest that, if you have a slower machine with limited RAM, you might consider purchasing a copy of TMG4 to get started. You will also then be eligible to receive a free upgrade to TMG5, which you will be glad to have on hand if you upgrade to a faster machine.

However, your situation may be different. When you get your upgrade you can install it and try it out to see if the performance suits you. If so, you can simply open up your Version 4 data in the Version 5 program. It will automatically be converted to Version 5 format for you and re-saved in the Version 5 library, but keep in mind that you cannot open the converted database in your older Version 4 program. So far I am convinced that **Wholly Genes** has "got it right" in the new version. They know their genealogy and their software. This program will set the mark for other genealogy software developers to shoot for. Check it out at www.whollygenes.com. ♦

Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 38 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that The Frugal Hacker can respond to. He can be reached as bstephan@redshift.com or snail mail at the MBUG-PC address. Bob has a home page under construction at www.redshift.com/~bstephan.



PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPHY

photo: Bill Hyler MBUG-PC



Richard Binsacca

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, August 6

7:00 to 9:00pm

Archer Park Center
Monterey

Come along with your friends and I'll show you how to make dramatic panorama photos using your digital camera. I will bring my 50/50 Olympus, my computer loaded with Camedia software and my printer to show you from start to finish how to set up your camera and shoot; how to download your images; how to stitch the photos together, both automatically and by hand; and then how to print the entire image as a "banner". I'll have some of my past work of landscapes, groups of people and other panoramic photos on hand to give you some ideas. Send questions in advance to richard@dedot.com ♦

Richard

WINDOWS XP



James Anway

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, August 27

7:00 to 9:00pm

Archer Park Center
Monterey

This is the second meeting of MBUG-PC's newest Windows XP Workshop. Whether you already have XP, or are thinking about upgrading, or are still skeptical about it, or are an open critic, come on in and let's talk about it. I'll start the ball rolling with some general thoughts, demonstrations and tips and we'll segue into whatever you want to know or what's hot at the moment. Beginner, intermediate and advanced users are welcome to join us and ask questions, trade answers and generally explore all things XP. Questions? Contact me at janway@redshift.com ♦

photo: R. Binsacca MBUG-PC

Jim

MBUG-PC / CLUB MAC POTLUCK PICNIC

As you may have read in the past few Newsletters or heard at one of our recent meetings, the **2nd Annual Potluck Picnic** will be on **SATURDAY AUGUST 16 2003**.

Like last year, it will be at **Indian Village in Pebble Beach** (see map at right) but this year **Club Mac of Monterey** will be joining us! We're going to have a great computer quiz and raffles, maybe a swap meet, maybe some special interest group activities.

COME ALONE OR BRING SOMEONE

Join us and bring your spouse or family member(s) or friend(s). Let's talk computers, eat some great food and have a pleasant day out in the woods!

BRING A POTLUCK DISH

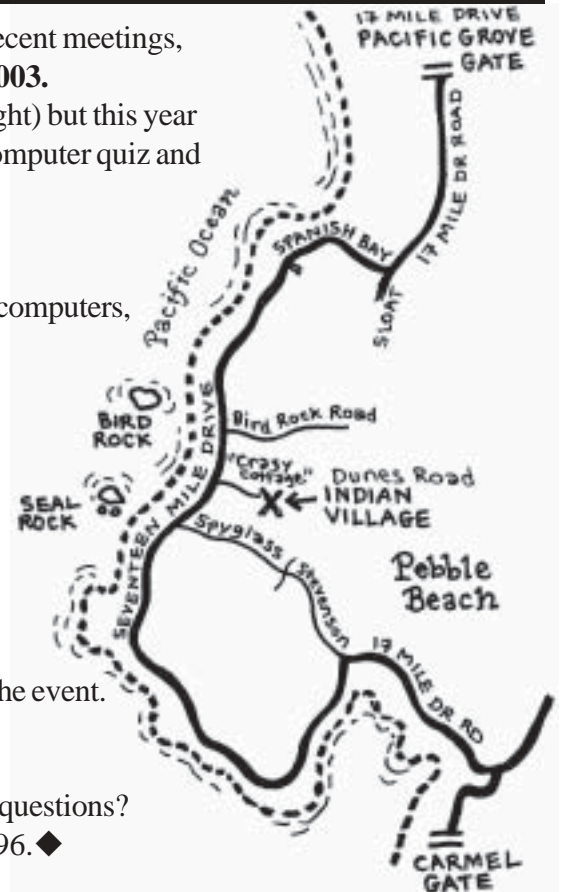
Bring an appetizer, a salad or a dessert (enough for 6 to 8 people). Hamburgers, buns, condiments, paper plates, soft drinks, beer & wine will be provided as at last years' feast!

DONATION IN ADVANCE OR AT THE EVENT

There is a \$3 donation in advance or \$5 at the event, which you can either mail to MBUG-PC or give to any Board Member at any meeting prior to the event.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

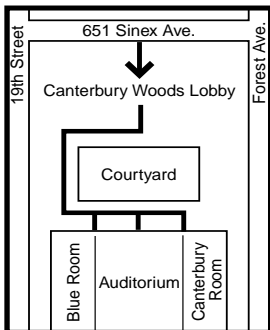
Want to help grill burgers, set up tables, do cleanup or parking? Any other questions? Contact **Regina Doyle** at ReginaDoyle@aol.com or call (831) 375-4496. ♦



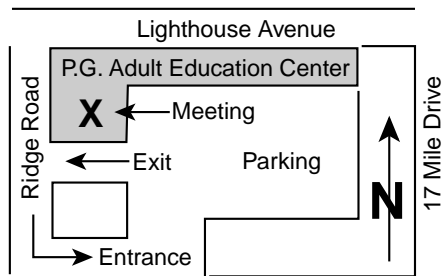
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - August 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Gen Mtg: "What's New in Computing" Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Tak Maseba	2
3	4	5	6 Digital Panoramic Photography Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Richard Binsacca	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 POTLUCK PICNIC Indian Village Pebble Beach 12noon
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 WindowsXP Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Jim Anway	28	29	30

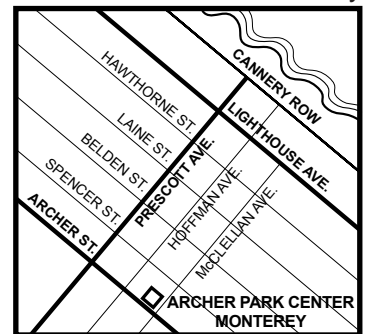
Canterbury Woods
 651 Sinex Avenue
 Pacific Grove



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



Archer Park Center
 542 Archer Street
 Monterey



Tentative Calendar September 2003 *Please Check September Newsletter for Final Dates & Times*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 DIRECTORS MEETING Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm Everyone Welcome!	3	4	5 Gen Mtg: "Ergonomically Correct Workstations" Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm	6
7	8	9	10 "Views From My Windows" Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Phil Shortell	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 "WindowsXP" Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Jim Anway	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Monterey Bay Users Group-PC
177 Webster Street, Suite A-354
Monterey, CA 93940



Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Monterey, CA
93940
Permit No. 273



Keep Those Empty Ink Cartridges Rolling In to MBUG!

Carolyn Lake, Publicity Chair

Thank you all for continuing to bring in your **empty, original-equipment printer ink cartridges** (not compatibles or the remanufactured types).

This has been a real deal, not a scam, for MBUG-PC. We have already been sent at least one reimbursement by the company that accepts our empty ink cartridges. Apparently they use these "empties" in trade shows and demonstrations on how to refill cartridges. All we know for sure is that they send us real money which we turn into educational programs in accordance to our non-profit, educational purpose!

Let's keep the fundraising going—bring your empty cartridges (in plastic bags) and give them to me or any other Board Member at any MBUG-PC workshop. ♦

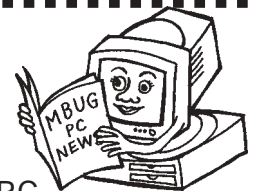
lakelyn@ix.netcom.com

Check your (upside down) label.

Does it say "Exp: August / 2003"?

Don't miss an issue. Renew today!

Check the expiration date of your MBUG-PC membership & newsletter subscription: Electronic \$20, US Mail \$25, both \$35. **Additional tax-deductible donations welcome!** Send name, address, telephone and e-mail address with your check to: Monterey Bay Users Group-PC, 177 Webster Street, #A-354, Monterey, CA 93940.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT


Don Slaiter



Vice President,
Assistant Treasurer
& Membership Chair

Photo by Bill Hylter, MBUG-PC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Mel Ashley 1231

THANKS FOR RENEWING

Mary Boyken 1070
Gisela Canez 562
Nancy Cerullo 1057
Joyce & Ray Denne 1173
Gale Foss 742
Arden Handshy 643
Cliff Hylton 472
Rose Menko 879
John Pitta 657
Michael Pouls, Jr. 854
Star Reiersen 161
Barbara Tyrrell 1120

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

2 Anonymous
Gisela Canez 562
Gale Foss 742
Arden Handshy 643
Rose Menko 879
Star Reiersen 161