



mbug-pc newsletter

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**He says he wasn't
GROPING, he was
GROUPING!**



Read about it on page 13!

**Kristen
Knutson**

MBUG-PC
Program Chair
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www.mbug.org



Stuff, Catch & Clean with Aladdin

Aladdin Systems software engineer **Arnoldo Miranda** will discuss top software titles: **SpamCatcher**, **Internet Cleanup** and **StuffIt Deluxe**.

StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 for Windows

StuffIt Deluxe makes it easy to access and send StuffIt, Zip, and other archives quickly and securely with best-ever compression, 512-bit encryption, and data integrity protection.

SpamCatcher

SpamCatcher blocks 99 percent of your unwanted e-mails, making sure you get only the e-mail you want. Patent-pending technology is adaptive, learning which e-mail is friendly. Real-time filter updates provide on-going protection against ever-changing spammer tactics. Integration with **Outlook 2003** and easy import of address books makes SpamCatcher effective and easy to use.

Internet Cleanup

Protect your privacy and put the fun back into web surfing. Internet Cleanup removes spyware, blocks pop-ups, banner ads and more.

Bring your questions and learn how to zip, stop spam and clean up in more ways than one --- all Aladdin products are available at a 40 percent discount to MBUG-PC! Shop at www.aladdinsys.com/store and enter the code "UserGroup" in the discount field in the shopping cart to get your discount.

HUGE, END-OF-YEAR HOLIDAY RAFFLE, TOO

In addition to a sure-fire presentation, we will be holding an extra special raffle on this date (see page 5 for the list of prizes), so come on along, bring several friends and a few extra dollars. ♦

Friday, December 5, 2003 at 7pm
Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

FREE and open to MBUG-PC Members and the Public!
You are welcome to join MBUG-PC at any time!
Darn good coffee, up to date information, smart people!

JOIN OUR GREAT LINEUP OF MBUG-PC VOLUNTEERS!

We need a Meeting Facilitator

Starting in May 2004 we will need someone to do the physical set up of MBUG-PC meetings (before meetings begin, ensure that the room is ready and equipment is working and afterwards that the room is tidy and secure). Whether you can help out one meeting a month or all (up to three meetings a month are normally scheduled), we'd be pleased to hear from you.

We need Meeting Reviewers

We need you to attend General Meetings and/or other workshops (e.g. "Hardware", "Windows", "XP", etc.) and write up one-page (500 word) reviews for the Newsletter.

We need Workshop Leaders

If you'd like to share your knowledge about a particular computer program or feature or know someone who can, how about creating and leading a workshop for MBUG-PC? You can give a workshop monthly, every other month or quarterly, as desired.

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

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**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

Ann H.
Mack



photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS ...

I'm delighted to report that new Directors were elected at our November Board meeting: **Bob Brownlee** (Newsletter Distributor), **John Rowe** (Wireless Internet Columnist) and **Gary Stephens** (Director-at-Large). Thanks for supporting MBUG with your interest and active participation: we welcome new ideas and fresh opinions. We're only as good as our interested working members and welcome any others who wish to join us!

... THEN THE BAD NEWS ...

Kristen Knutsen and **Ralph Games**, who have been on the Board since 1998, will resign effective the first of the year and end of April, respectively.

Kristen has been a great Program Chair! She always got major industry speakers for our First Friday General Meetings, accessed local talent and kept us abreast of the newest products and trends in computing. Kristen has done an incredible job and we are very grateful for her dedication.

Ralph is our Workshop Facilitator par excellence! Since 1998 he has set up and taken down more chairs, tables and

projectors than you really want to know. He's the master of making computer connections with the projector, the screen and the power. I don't think he's missed a single workshop during his entire time. He's been an outstanding volunteer and we thank him so much!

...THEN THE GOOD NEWS

Jim Hinwood (our regular "*Driving the Frontside Bus*" columnist) has agreed to be our **new Program Chair**. He has some great ideas but is always open to suggestions, so if you have any about guest speakers, let Jim know!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MBUG-PC LISTSERV

This is a message service run especially for our Members by **Moderator/Owner Ed West**. Ed monitors *all* messages, so only those pertaining to computers or MBUG are sent on to you as a listserv subscriber. You will *not* be bothered by unsolicited advertisements (spam). Ed ensures that good hints and up-to-date information about virus alerts, protection and prevention are sent out by Members and received only by fellow Member/Subscribers. Your e-mail address is hidden from anyone other than the owner/moderator and is not distributed in any manner. Subscribe now at www.MBUG.org. Select the "Listserv" button and follow the directions.

NEW 'ZINE ON THE BLOCK

In his **November Hardware Workshop**, **Nick Mertes** brought *Smart Computing's* new quarterly reference magazine *PC Novice*. It's full of the great hints we've come to expect from *Smart Computing* and

is available at **Borders Bookstore**. Remember, if you subscribe to *Smart Computing*, use our code 8181 to help earn goodies and prizes for MBUG-PC!

Nick also mentioned a drug interaction information site (www.epocrates.com), with a free 30-day trial version download. It is compatible with **Palm Pilots**, **PDA's**, **Windows** and **Macintosh** and sounds as if it is worth a look.

SLAM DOWN THOSE POP-UPS

Finally, a solution to my own particular problem: **great gray screen pop-ups**. These annoying screens advertise ways to prevent spam, graduate you from a PhD program in six months and in general, solve all your woes, except how to get rid of pop-ups! **Michael J. Himowitz** of *The Baltimore Sun* says visit the **Gibson Research Corporation** website (www.grc.com) and download *ShootTheMessenger*. Save it to your desktop and run it to disable the "Windows Messenger Service" that allows the gray screens to creep in. *Voilà!* Pop-ups gone forevermore. The website, run by **Steve Gibson**, has a collection of security tools (this is *not* **MSN Messenger**, the chat tool, which is another program).

PERSONALISED GREETINGS WITH MARGARET

It's never too late to send out holiday messages: Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year's, Epiphany. Come to **Margaret Bradbury's** workshop on December 10 and learn to personalise your messages for all the upcoming events of this and the New Year 2004. **Happy Holidays!** ♦

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MEETING REVIEW

**Barbara
Tyrrell**
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: B. Hyley, MBUG-PC

WHOA! BACKUP!

Gene and Linda Barlow came to tweak our consciences and revise our habits with a fine presentation on “*Approaches to Backing Up Your Hard Drive.*” Gene’s smooth, well-organized talk highlighted **PowerQuest** programs designed to maintain pristine computer order, by mopping up extraneous remnants of “deleted” documents or restoring order from chaos in the event of the unspeakable—a hard drive crash.

First, however, we learned that **Symantec** has bought PowerQuest, a \$150 million dollar cash deal, and approval is expected by the end of the year, merging staffs and products. Notable is the comparison of Symantec’s *Ghost* and PowerQuest’s *Drive Image* for backup and recovery. *Ghost* is two years behind in technology and the development project may be moved to Utah. It is not certain whether Symantec will offer User Group presentations such as Gene’s, so this may have been his last appearance with us.

Gene estimates the life of a hard drive to be two to three years, often failing from surface weakness or head crashes, while software may fail from viruses, operator error, or a bad installation. Rebuilding is painful, but data files and the work spent

organizing photos, e-mail folders, databases, etc., are lost forever.

Some of the maintenance and recovery programs Gene described were:

■ **Wipe Drive** Completely obliterates everything on a hard drive, making the drive a blank on which to rebuild and reformat. This should be used when giving your hard drive to someone, leaving no data detectable, even by special tools.

■ **Secure Clean** This utility scans deleted information and wipes around active files, preventing buildup of deleted information. It is designed for monthly drive maintenance, scanning for personal data or cleaning the computer. “Deleted” items can be recovered and restored. The program meets **US Department of Defense** standards and obliterates with three passes by overwriting with zeros, ones, and random 01s.

■ **Drive Image 7** This tool allows copying partitions and files from an old hard drive to a new one. You can copy all partitions to a second hard drive, or you can create a condensed image file of partitions and store it in different places on your computer. External USB, “firewire” hard drives, network drives, JAZ and ZIP external drives and DC or DVD burners can be used. Managing and restoring are handled by a browser utility.

■ **V2i Protector** Probably the most powerful backup protection is offered by this utility, which differs from Drive Image by offering incremental image backups. Only those sectors on your hard drive that have changed since the last backup are added,

making the step very quick. These small increments are automatically reconstituted to their original positions in the document.

Two training CDs have been developed by Gene to navigate the backup procedures: one on setting up and organizing a hard drive; the other leading you through current backup approaches, showing advantages and disadvantages of each. The latter also shows many external devices available for storage. His own preference is a small, slim external drive attached to his laptop computer, but he also showed a little 1 gigabyte “thumb” drive and warned not to attach a USB2 to an old USB1 port (13 times slower speed!). He tipped us off to street prices of hard drives of different capacities. Because Gene presents only to User Groups, the products he offers are at special group prices, available for 30 days, with refunds given on products returned within 30 days.



Gene Barlow donates a great prize for MBUG-PC’s December raffle!

Let’s hope that something will work out for you, Gene! MBUG-PC wants you back again!◆

tyrrellb@earthlink.net

DRIVING THE FRONTSIDE BUS

Jim Hinwood

MBUG-PC Columnist &
Features Editor



photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

to do without it. The latest version is 2.0 and it is finally past the beta stage.

The *Google Deskbar* is installed on the taskbar and it does take up some space, but if you're not running ten windows at a time like me it won't be an irritation. You type in the item you wish to search for in the window in the taskbar and click on the little owl eyes. A small window will open on the taskbar with a preview of your search page and you can open the page in a full window by clicking in the left corner of the page. When you click on your next item the little window will automatically close. You can use the search page even if your browser isn't open. If you want to access the window from any application you can use the shortcut (Ctrl-Alt-G) and the cursor will automatically set up in the search window ready for you to type. You can also use other keyboard shortcuts to access other *Google* searches, *Google News* (Ctrl-N), *Google Images* (Ctrl-I), or *Froogle* (Ctrl-F). *Froogle* is the shopping search engine that *Google* provides for shoppers, you go to the home page, type in what you're shopping for and it will use "bots" to search the Internet for a merchant carrying your product. *Froogle* accepts no payment for page ranking nor do they rank merchants higher for being an advertiser, so you get a legitimate search by relevance only.

With these tools I can navigate around the Internet more easily. With less time finding things I can cut my time and my blood pressure. ♦

ehinwood@msn.com

BIG END-OF-YEAR RAFFLE: GENERAL MEETING DECEMBER 5, 2003

Come to the meeting and buy some tickets for a chance to win:

- **Smart Computing** magazine subscription
- **NotePager Pro** messaging software (send messages to unlimited number of recipients)
- **Phone extension cords** (roll-up like a tape measure)
- **HP ScanJet5p Scanner**
- **Drive Image 7** (PowerQuest) back up system
- **Secure Clean** (PowerQuest) software to permanently eliminate files
- **Maxtor Hard Drive** ATI IDE 20GB 7200RPM
- **Canon Color Printer** BJC 1000
- **Gateway 2000 14 inch Monitor**
- **Ansel Adams Screensaver** (National Park photographs)
- **Encyclopaedia Britannica** CD ROM

All proceeds benefit MBUG-PC's fund to educate the general public in personal computer use!



THE FRUGAL HACKER



by Bob "I Don't Do Windows" Stephan

hacker: "Original meaning of the word: a person who fixes things — makes them work better." National Public Radio (NPR), August 1991

PRESERVING YOUR DOCUMENTS

In this throwaway society there are some things that we do want to preserve. If the information is on your computer this can be a problem. Perhaps it is writing or graphics of your own creation, or as in my case a lot of family history and genealogy. Earlier we put it on floppies but they are going the way of high button shoes (did I see that they might be coming back in high fashion?). Now many of us have been hoping that putting it on CD-R will preserve it indefinitely.

WRONG!

Data stored on CD-Rs may not last more than a few years, certainly not long enough for future generations. For more information about the archival qualities of CD-Rs you might be interested in reading the article at www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=15800263&pgno=1. Then, of course, there are not only concerns about the archival qualities, but also concerns about future generations having the equipment to read the old media. When's the last time you saw a computer with a 5.25 inch floppy drive (other than at my house, I mean)? For anything that can be put on paper, a good quality acid-free paper is still the best guarantee for long life for your documents.

HOME MOVIES

What about things that cannot be put on paper? I had quite a few old standard 8mm home movies but the projector was old, no new ones were available, and I could not even get a new bulb for mine. I thought I had better do something before the projector became completely useless.

I tried two professional local services to convert the movies to VCR tape. I was terribly disappointed in both and decided it was too expensive to try any more for such poor quality. I only had each of them do one tape to try it out so was not out too much, but to do them all would have cost a bundle and we would not have been satisfied with the quality.

I tried one of those do-it-yourself-in-a-box gadgets, which project the movie on a small frosted screen. The results were bad, especially the hot spot in the center of the image. I hated it. It was basically the same procedure the professional services were using and worked only slightly better.

So I decided to bite the bullet and do it myself and have been extremely happy with the results. First I tried it on my beaded home movie screen. The hot spot was not good at all — too much reflection from the beads. Then I came up with a *perfect* solution that worked so well that I just have to tell everyone about it! I bought a piece of white cardboard, about 18 inches on the long side that had a perfectly flat (non-glossy) surface. The local stationery store called it "railroad board" but it may go by other names at other shops. The rest was simple enough.

I taped the cardboard on a wall with masking tape. I put the projector on the organ bench and my video camera on a tripod right next to it. I disabled the microphone in the camcorder with a plug so it would not pick up the projector noise. The films are all silent anyway. After a bit of adjusting and focusing I gave it a try and was ecstatically happy with the results. The videos were every bit as good as the movies themselves, which because of their age and various occasional problems were really not all that great. But they were family and we wanted to keep them.

I did not use the entire area of the cardboard "screen", but probably used an image of around 6 to 9 inches in the horizontal dimension. A little experimentation will soon determine what works well. Perhaps I should also mention that I did not actually edit as I was copying from the 8mm projector to the camcorder. I found that too difficult, so just made a straight copy from the projector to the camcorder.

WHERE DOES THE COMPUTER COME IN?

What has all this got to do with computers, you may very well ask? Well, I created titles and some special effects on my laptop computer when I was transferring the movies from the camcorder to VCR tape. The LCD screen was just perfect for doing that and was easy to film with the camcorder. With commercial conversion I could not have included very many titles and no special effects at the right places. This way I had the exact titles that I wanted exactly where I wanted them. I could also edit out the really bad places in the films. Overall I came up with seven videotapes, 14 hours of home movies that the whole family enjoyed immensely! I also used the computer to print both spine and top labels for the tapes.

If anyone has any questions about the details of doing this, I would be glad to respond by e-mail. It was extremely inexpensive. The cardboard was only a buck or two, and the rest of the cost was just the cost of the videotapes. I bought them in bulk at **Costco** so even they did not cost all that much even though I bought the best quality that they had. Of course, it did take a lot of time but it was well worth it. My biggest expense after that was the purchase of a VCR with some basic editing features that I used for editing and adding special effects when copying from my camcorder to the videotape cassettes. As I mentioned, it did take a lot of time, but I was far more satisfied with it than with the other methods I tried, professional or otherwise. It was well worth it to us, and the appreciation expressed by our daughters and other family members was ample reward for the effort. Since I now have the movies on video, the next step will probably be to transfer them to DVD. I'm already looking at some of the devices for doing that, but it should be much simpler than transferring them from film. The next question is what will be the archival qualities of DVD disks?

EXPRESS THUMBNAIL CREATOR

On a somewhat related subject, I have received a copy of *Express Thumbnail Creator* for evaluation and writing a review. I hope to have the review ready for next month's newsletter, but want to mention it briefly here in time for Christmas. You can read more about it at www.express-soft.com. I have been scanning and putting family album photos and other historical information on CDs for our family. Last year these were part of my Christmas package to selected family members.

This year by using *Express Thumbnail Creator* I hope to put together a more professional looking CD (I should mention that after reading the article mentioned at the beginning of this column I am quite concerned about the archival qualities of such CDs, especially if I put paper labels on them.) My initial look at this product was very favorable. I was able to point it at a folder of family photos and almost automatically generate pages of thumbnail indexes. These pages on CD can be viewed with a browser like a website or they can be put online. Simply click on a thumbnail and view the image. One can also caption the images so that the information appears with the image when viewed. This is exactly what I have been wanting to do but so far have not found the software that really suited me. From my first looks it appears that *Thumbnail Creator* just might fill the bill for me. I'll let you know.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

I am planning on holding a **series of four Genealogy Workshops starting in January**. Several people have expressed interest and I expect quite a few more will be interested in attending. Although in the past I have said I would like to do a workshop for *The Master Genealogist* software, this upcoming workshop will be more general and will cover some of the excellent free software that is available. For those who are interested and want to do some preliminary preparation (recommended), I suggest visiting www.familysearch.org and downloading the free Personal Ancestral File (PAF) software. Click on "Order/Download Products" then on "Software Downloads-Free." Then "Download" for *Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18.0 - Multi-Language* (9.7 MB). If that is too big a download for you contact me and I can get it to you on CD. I recommend also downloading the PAF Lessons. When you click on "Download" to download PAF 5, follow the links and enter the requested information, then on the same download page for PAF 5 you can find a place to download the lessons. After installing the software be sure to run the excellent tutorial in the Lessons. You can run it from the "Help" menu in PAF. ♦

Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 37 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions for The Frugal Hacker. E-mail rstephan@redshift.com or snail mail the MBUG-PC address. Bob has a home page under construction at www.bobstephan.net.



COMPUTER THOUGHTS

James Anway
MBUG-PC
Columnist,
F1 for Help,
Workshop Leader



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

SCRIPT ERRORS

Script errors are caused when something goes wrong when surfing some web pages. It is caused by VBScript or JavaScript code that is embedded within certain web pages. These errors are mostly due to connectivity problems, though can occasionally be caused by browser incompatibilities.

So if you are having problems in that area, these are some things to try:

- In **Internet Explorer**, “Internet Options”, “Advanced” tab you need to check “disable script debugging”
- Also uncheck the following item, “Display a notification about every script error”
- For Windows Script 5.6 for Windows 2000 and XP download go to www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=c717d943-7e4b-4622-86eb-95a22b832caa&DisplayLang=en
- Go to **Microsoft Knowledge Base** - How to Reinstall or Repair Internet Explorer and Outlook Express in Windows XP at <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;318378&Product=ie>

WHERE ARE THE SCREEN SAVERS?

This is a follow-up on my last **Windows XP Workshop** as to “Where do they hide the Screen Saver files?” Well, the file names do NOT match the name shown in “Display Properties”, “Screen Savers”. But the main file for each Screen Saver ends with a file type of SCR and they are in `C:\WINDOWS\system32*.scr`

START MENU

The list of programs on the “Start” menu is divided into two parts:

Programs displayed above the separator line (also known as the “pinned items” list)

The programs on the pinned items list remain there and are always available for you to click to start them. You can easily add programs to the pinned items list. Just right-click the program you want displayed on the pinned items list (in Windows Explorer, in “My Computer”, on the “Start” menu, or on the desktop) and select “Pin to Start” menu.

- You can remove programs from the pinned items list by right-clicking the program and selecting “Remove” from this list.
- You can change the order of the pinned items list by dragging a program to a new position.
- You cannot pin or unpin items using the classic “Start” menu.

Programs displayed below the separator line (also known as the “most frequently used programs” list)

Programs are added to the most frequently used programs list when you use them. Windows has a default number of programs that are displayed on this list. When that number of programs is reached, programs you have not opened recently are replaced by programs you used lately.

To change the default number of programs displayed:

1. Right-click the “Start” button, and then click “Properties”
2. On the “Start” menu tab, under “Start” menu, click “Customize”
3. On the “General” tab, under “Start” menu items, change the “Number of programs” on the “Start” menu (note that if you also change to “Small icons” from “Large icons” in this same “General” tab section, then you can display more icons/programs)

To show “My Recent Documents” on the “Start” menu:

1. Right-click the “Start” button, and then click “Properties”
2. On the “Start” menu tab, click “Start” menu, and then click “Customize”
3. On the “Advanced” tab, select the “List my most recently used documents” check box

Aren’t computers fun?◆

AnwayJ@comcast.net

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

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



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

MORE ON SPAM

For many of us, cleaning spam out of our inboxes is one of the most unpopular chores. A recent survey conducted by Yahoo revealed that most of us would rather clean our bathrooms. We know that spam filters vary in their efficiency. What then, is our government doing about protecting our inboxes from the ever-increasing assaults? Can this problem be resolved by passing laws? Do you have any ideas on this subject?

To keep up with laws, court decisions and other spam related news, I suggest the following websites:

- **Spam News** - www.petemoss.com/blog/spamNEWS/index.html
- **Spam Laws** - www.spamlaws.com/
- **Spam Abuse** - www.spam.abuse.net/
- **Broadband Report** - www.dslreports.com/shownews/30719
- **Anti-Spam Home Page** - www.arachnoid.com/lutus/antispam.html

Another source is your Senator and Congressman:

- **US Senate** - www.senate.gov/
- **US House of Representatives** - www.house.gov/
- **California State Senate** - www.sen.ca.gov/~newsen/senators/senators.htm
- **California State Assembly** - www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset7text.htm

Get involved or don't complain!

EXPERT INFORMATION

A major component of user groups is "peer-to-peer" information exchange. When we have computer related question or problem, ask your fellow MBUG members.

Granted, some know more about computers than others, but we all know something somebody else does not know. The dictionary defines an "expert" as "A person with a high degree of skill in or knowledge of a certain subject". Consequently, we are all experts, to some degree.

Some of those who might be able to resolve your "impossible" dilemma are just people who do research, for themselves or for you, or those who subscribe (usually without cost) to computer related newsletters.

Here is a short list of web sites with the help of which you can subscribe to such a newsletter. I found these very helpful:

- www.scotsnewsletter.com/
- www.langa.com
- www.NeatNetTricks.com
- www.woodyswatch.com
- www.komando.com
- www.thenakedpc.com/
- www.pcworld.com/resource/newsletters/
- www.smartcomputing.com/messages/question.asp?guid=t1mj00w0 (full use of this site is for Smart Computing subscribers only)

Try going to Google and search for "newsletters" and you will find about 64,000,000 newsletters listed, on any subject.

OK experts; broaden your field of expertise!

INTERNET TAXATION

The moratorium on Internet taxation has expired! Maybe it's a good time to "take pen in hand" and let your state and federal legislators know how you feel about this issue, they are mulling it over now. Some claim that this will be a 150 billion dollar decision.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NEWSLETTER!

Did you notice? This MBUG-PC Newsletter is "Volume 22, Number 12", 264 issues!

Monterey Bay Users Group – Personal Computer is about to begin its 21st year of existence and its 16th year as "Inc." ♦

blacklion@royal.net



LOOKING BACK AT MBUG-PC

Pete Petit
MBUG-PC
Columnist



20 Years Ago

There is no December 1983 Newsletter in our archives. Perhaps the Editor took a well earned holiday, but the January '84 issue included, "*Thanks to Mike Yea, Joe Mateo, Armando Solis, and Mike Gill for making the (MBUG) Christmas Party a success ... The club must do it again in 1984.*" And peeking ahead in the files I see that a second party was indeed held December 20th, 1984 in the **Monterey Savings Adobe Room**. But they did not have August picnics in Pebble Beach back then!

10 Years Ago

At the December 1993 General Meeting, **David Dilworth** of **Dilworth Software** in Carmel presented his Outstanding Contact Management Program, *Instant Office*. **Calvin Demmon** (remember him?) who writes the *User Friendly* column for **The Monterey County Herald** wrote a glowing review. *Southwest Computer and Business Review* called *Instant Office* the "*BMW of Contact Managers.*" *Instant Office* retailed for \$395 but MBUG Members were offered the program for \$99 during the week following the meeting demonstration.

The Newsletter noted the passing of **Robert "Patt" Paterson** from injuries received in an automobile accident. Patt had conducted MBUG's "Writers SIG" (Special Interest Group) for many years.

At the December Steering Committee Meeting "*the Board of Directors unanimously re-elected the incumbent MBUG Officers to succeed themselves for the coming year.*" These dedicated people were: **Michael Hagerty**, President; **Joe VanDyke**, First VP; **Nels Larson**, VP-Membership; **Hugh Bayless**, VP-Newsletter Editor; **Bob Stephan**, Secretary; and **Hugh Bayless**, Treasurer.

Looking Back on Looking Back

A year ago it was mentioned that 2003 would be MBUG-PC's twentieth year and maybe the anniversary should be noted. When I suggested a column such as this I was told to "go to it" and so I did. In the early months of the year I reviewed the personal computing hardware and software world, as it existed in the early Eighties and extracted bits and pieces from the Newsletter archives as those became available. It has been fun for this old geezer to relive some of the early and Middle Ages of home computing and to share those times with you, but the last few monthly columns have, I fear, become less interesting. Black and white monitors, Batch Files and OS/2 discussions lose their edge after a while. **Consequently, this twelfth column of the year will be my last.** Perhaps someone else will wish to do something similar in five or ten years, when 2003 will be ancient computing history!

Random Thoughts in Closing

MBUG was organized in the **Floppy Disk Era** when 180 or 360KB 5¼ inch floppies were the medium of information exchange. That was a time of "computer fairs" and swap meets; when the MBUG Library of diskettes was used to exchange application programs, utilities and games; back when monthly issues of *BYTE Magazine* and *PC Magazine* printed the source code for simple programs and utilities so that the readership could type the code into their own machines. After all, most computers came with an assembler and/or a BASIC interpreter and in the early 1980s all but the most sophisticated "segmented" applications required 64K or less of computer memory. You might want to check out the *VisiCalc* download I mentioned in my June Column.

In due course MBUG entered the **Bulletin Board System (BBS) Era**, the time of 300, 1200 and, eventually, 2400 and 4800 baud/bps external modems, when the diskette library could be abandoned and members could exchange utilities and their opinions of the latest memory manager program by posting on **Cricket** or some other local BBS. This was the time of competing operating systems (remember **DR DOS?**), word processors (remember **WordSTAR?**), spreadsheets (remember **Lotus 123?**), database programs (remember **dBase?**), utility packages (remember **Norton?**) and languages (remember **Turbo Pascal?**) Your weekly *Computer Shopper* magazine listed dozens of brands of Taiwanese and Korean IBM PC clones. Motherboards were being populated with 2,

4 or even 8 megabytes of RAM and processor speeds had increased to 300MHz. In the early Nineties nearly everyone had a 40 to 80 MB hard disk and some MBUG members were starting to ask question about those new Windows machines and multimedia applications.

Today we are in the **Internet Era** when we can exchange information on a global scale at DSL and cable modem speeds. Processors speeds are measured in GHz and disk space memory are measured in Gigabytes. BBSs have been replaced with search engines, desktops with laptops and laptops with PDAs. Everything is faster, less expensive and more complex.

Through the years MBUG has continued to serve its Members well by providing a forum to address common

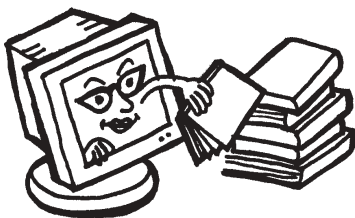
interests, to share ideas and to learn of developments in personal computing with monthly meetings, workshops and a superb newsletter. More important the club continues to be a source of help for the “new to computers” or the “new to the application.” For years there have been dedicated, volunteer “F1” helpers and now we have listserv@redshift.com where a member can address a question to the membership at large and reasonably expect an answer by return email. That would have boggled the minds of our members 20 or even 10 years ago.

Speaking for the over 1,000 past members of MBUG-PC and the over 200 current members: many thanks to all who have volunteered their time and shared their talents through the past 20 years!◆

ppetit@redshift.com

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| Mac Addict | \$10.97 | — | — |
| Mac Home Journal | \$15.97 | \$29.97 | — |
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James W. Anway

Retired IBMer
Computer Consultant

Phone: 831 625-5618
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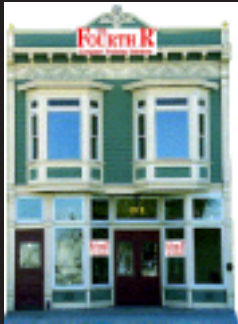


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WINDOWS TIPS & TRICKS

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

SENDING GROUP MESSAGES

To e-mail several people at once (instead of sending the same message to each person on a list, one message at a time), you can list several e-mail names, create a group name and send the message once. This is useful if you belong to a club or business organization and repeatedly send e-mail to the same people, or want to send the same news to a constant group of friends or family members. Simply create a Group name (e.g. “*MBUG Directors*”, “*Foundation Newsletter Editors*”, “*Sanders Family*”) and add individual e-mail addresses to the Group.

CREATING A GROUP

In “Address Book”, select the folder in which to create a Group. Click “New” on the toolbar, and then click “New Group”. In “Group Name”, type the name of your Group. Create as many Groups as you want or subsets of the same Group, (e.g. “*Hospice Fundraising*”, “*Hospice Publicity*”, “*Hospice Finance*”, etc.).

“ST.” NICK MERTES’ CHRISTMAS TOYS

We got an early visit from “St. Nick” at the November Hardware workshop. He showed us quite an array of toys from **That Computer Store**:

USB 2.0 connector Windows98/2000/ME/XP compatible. Runs scanners, external hard drives, CD burners etc., up to 40 times faster than USB 1.1 (actually they run 12 times faster now, but have the capacity to handle faster transfer), and is backward compatible to 1.0 devices. Price: \$60

Video Cards All sizes and qualities from G force MX440 8X thru FX-5200 with 128 mg memory and beyond. Price: start at \$79

FireWire A must for the digital camera buffs. Transfers 400 mg/sec for video, external hard drives, etc. Price: \$40

Pen Drive Incredibly small, like a flat fore finger, sized memory storage device that fits into a USB 1.1 drive.

ADDING PEOPLE TO YOUR GROUP

Add people from your Address Book list: click “Select Members” and choose names from your existing Address Book. Or type in addresses individually. From now on, you have a Group and do not have to put each individual address in the “TO” box anymore. Better yet, instead of putting the Group in the “TO” box, send it in the BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) box. If at first you cannot see your “BCC” box, in the “create mail” mode go to “view” and click “all headers”; the BCC box appears and will now always be visible. Sending to a Group in the BCC mode causes each person receiving the message to see only his or her own name, not all the people in the Group. This not only saves bandwidth but also prevents others from obtaining your e-mail list (potentially preventing spam) and gives the individual receivers the feeling they have been sent a personal message, not a mass mailing!

TROUBLESHOOTING THE BCC GROUP

If you find that your server refuses to accept your Group in BCC, just give up and put it in the “TO” box. Some servers (such as Mindspring and Earthlink) think that without a name in the “TO” box, that you are sending spam (and of course if you *are* just passing on a load of nonsense that no one else really needs, it *is* spam)!◆

simbacli@pacbell.net

Comes in various sizes starting with 64 mg at \$60 and up to 512 mg and 1 gig. Put it in your pocket and transport data anywhere.

Computer Cases Outstanding, high-end tech! Traditional-sized CPU towers with clear sides and sleek aluminum fronts. Perfect for bringing the computer into the living room. The pièce de résistance is a small 12x8x8 “lunch box” model for travelling gamers with a top handle, clear sides, USB and motherboard, power supply and case. Add an “all in wonder” video card to run TiVo on it. Prices: from \$60 up to \$139

KVM Switch For keyboard/video/mouse (monitor and speaker) switching. Price: \$89

Logitech Wireless Keyboard & Mouse Price: \$79

Wireless Broadband Router & Wireless 4 Port Switch For the home network, handles up to four computers. Price: \$109

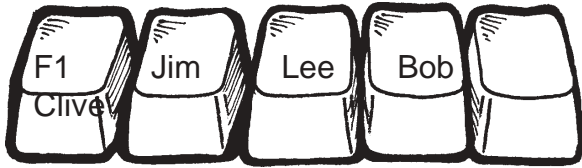
14 foot Extension Cord: Everyone needs one, maybe a dozen! Plugs into your surge protector and accepts the transformer black box plug, freeing up all sorts of space on your surge strip! Price: \$4(!)◆

ahmack@sbcglobal.net



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 rstephan@redshift.com
or call only between 9am-5pm
646-1373

■ **Clive Sanders**

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

PERSONALIZED GREETING LETTERS IN WORD



Margaret Bradbury
Workshop Leader

**Wednesday,
December 10**
7:00 to 9:00pm
Archer Park Center Monterey

Make decorative, personalized Christmas or other seasonal, holiday letters with Microsoft Word! Come to my special workshop to find out how to add colorful borders, place cut-and-paste pictures, photos and other graphics, make "drop capitals", change, enlarge and skew fonts, and even do some original art work, all with your existing, basic word processing program.

bradbury@mlml.calstate.edu◆

Margaret



COMING IN JANUARY

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Bob Stephan

Wednesday, January 28
7:00 to 9:00pm **Archer
Park Center Monterey**

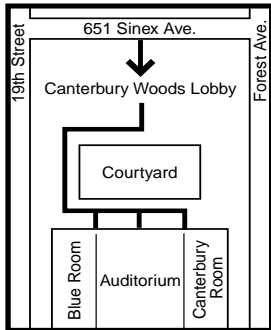


This first in a series of four workshops will be a general overview of how to do genealogy on your home computer. I will cover some of the free genealogy software available and recommend you do some preparation ahead of time by visiting www.familysearch.org and downloading the free **Personal Ancestral File (PAF)** software and lessons (see instructions on how to do this in my column on page 7). Contact me with any problems or suggestions for this series of workshops at rstephan@redshift.com◆ **Bob**

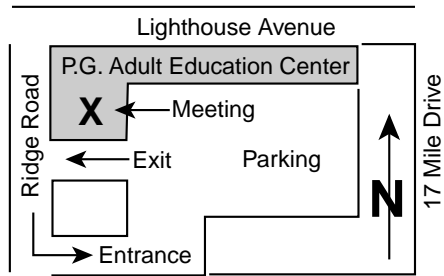
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - December 2003

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|--|--|--|--|----------|
| | 1 | 2 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i> | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>General Meeting</i> <i>"Aladdin"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 <i>"Personalized Greeting</i> <i>Letters in Word"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Margaret Bradbury</i> | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | January 1, 2004 HAPPY NEW YEAR | <i>NOTE: The First General Meeting for 2004 will be on the Second Friday of the month: January 9th</i> | |

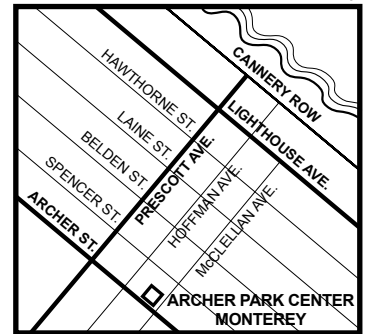
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Archer Park Center
542 Archer Street
Monterey



Tentative Calendar January 2004 *Please Check the January Newsletter for Final Dates & Times*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|--|--|----------|--|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i> | 7 | 8 | 9 <i>"Digital Cameras"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Speaker to be Announced</i> | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 <i>"Genealogy"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bob Stephan</i> | 29 | 30 | 31 |



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Used Ink Cartridges Go South



**Carolyn
Lake
Publicity
Chair**

Thanks to all of you who contributed used ink cartridges this last month. October was especially productive for donations, and added to all the contributions from the months before. Another package is on its way to Los Angeles, where it gets converted to dollars for MBUG-PC!

Our educational programs benefit from the results. Some of you have been really creative scroungers, getting cartridges from work, friends and even other organizations!

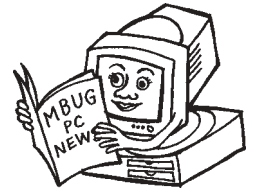
So, yes, we still want empty, original-equipment printer ink cartridges (no compatibles or remanufactured, please). Just bag your empties and bring them to any meeting. ♦

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com

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Additional tax-deductible donations welcome!

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT



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Slaiter**

**Vice
President,
Assistant
Treasurer
& Member-
ship Chair**

THANKS FOR RENEWING

Jim Hinwood 1188
Milt Kegley 976
Gary Stephens 1200

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roger Bartels 1235
Hunter Delatour 1238
John Dolan 1234
Bill Randolph 1237
Mark Burger 1236

AND AS ALWAYS, WE APPRECIATE THE EXTRA EFFORTS OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Dorothy Berry 1078
Hunter Delatour 1238
Milt Kegley 976

Photos by Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC