



mbug-pc newsletter

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COMPUTER AUCTION WON BY FRANK WASCO

MBUG's own hardware expert Nick Mertes built a computer in his Feb 11 Workshop, then ran an auction for MBUG-PC.

MBUG-PC Member Frank Wasco won the AMD Athlon 2100 with 40 GIG Western Digital hard drive, 512 MG RAM, 10/100 network interface card, 56 K modem, ATI Radeon 7000 video card, 6 USB ports, CD ROM & burner and WindowsXP. Half the proceeds went to MBUG. Thanks Nick and congratulations Frank!

Jim
Hinwood
Program
Chair



Digital or Film Camera? Your Choice, Both Have Advantages

Our speaker this month is Nelson W. "Bill" Hyler, former teacher, school principal, instructor at the graduate school level in physics, geology, microbiology and including photography. A student of photography for decades, Bill has been on a first name basis with many of the Monterey Peninsula's famous photographers, including **Glenn Heidrick, Beauford Fisher, Ray Ruppel, Ted McKay, William L. Morgan, Ansel Adams, Edward Weston** and his son **Cole Weston**. Bill's interest in photography dates back to the early 1930's when **Kodak** first produced Kodachrome film speed 6!

The digital experience is the newest technology to the 150-plus year old photography story. Bill will give us a brief overview of his experiences with digital photography. He will bring a number of digital photographs to illustrate his talk. And he will show and explain the pluses and minuses of four different digital cameras. An early **Kodak** digital, a 5.2 megabyte **Minolta Dimage 7**, a **Minolta A1** and an advanced **Nikon D100** single reflex digital camera.

Additionally Bill will show, for comparison, and demonstrate a late model Minolta single lens reflex film camera. He will touch on how he saves and stores his photos, a bit about editing of photos, and some of the popular photo editing software available today.

In 45 minutes we can hardly scratch the surface of the subject, but Bill will entertain a question and answer session at the end of his presentation to cover as much as possible. ♦

ahmack@sbcglobal.net

Friday, April 2, 2004 at 7pm
Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

FREE and open to MBUG-PC Members and the Public!
Damn good coffee, truly useful computer information
and knowledgeable, friendly people!

MBUG-PC IS AN VOLUNTEER EFFORT: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Meeting Facilitator

Starting May 2004 help with the physical set up of MBUG-PC meetings (before meetings begin, get room ready and afterwards see it is tidy and secure). Volunteer for 1 up to 3 meetings a month.

Meeting Reviewer

If you regularly attend the first Friday General Meeting (or other ongoing workshops, e.g. "Hardware", "Windows", "XP", "Genealogy", etc.) help us by writing 500-word-or-less reviews. Unfortunately Barbara Tyrrell's current piece (page 4) is her last for a while!

Workshop Leaders

Share your knowledge about a particular computer program or feature. Create and lead a workshop monthly, every other month or quarterly, as desired.

INTERESTED? E-mail or call Vice-President **Don Slaiter**
at slaiter@pacbell.net ☎ (831) 655-4443

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SUBSCRIPTION: See back cover for rates. (Subscription is not tax deductible). **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. Advertising information contact: Regina Doyle at ReginaDoyle@aol.com.

MBUG-PC benefits:
Computer help, GREAT Newsletter
and 15 - 20% Discount on all
Computer Books at Borders!

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**
President



photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC

THANKS, JOHN!

Board Member/Columnist/Workshop Leader **John Rowe** has donated and installed an 802.11d wireless access point (hot spot) with router in the Pacific Grove Adult Education Community Room (where MBUG holds its first Friday General Meetings). There is a T-1 connection available there, so the door is now open for all sorts of workshops using wireless technology, teaching with laptops and handhelds. Thank you John!

A BIG HAND FOR NICK AND CONGRATS TO FRANK!

The "MBUG-Made-Machine" was a success! Workshop Leader **Nick Mertes** donated computer components and the expertise necessary for building a brand new PC at his February workshop. It was a successful, magical operation for spectators. Nick then ran the auction for the machine, generously donating half of the proceeds to MBUG-PC. After a spirited month of bidding, MBUG-PC Member **Frank Wasco** won the Athlon, 1.73 ghz, 512 mg RAM, 40 gig hard drive, Sony 52X CD-Rom and Sony 52X CD-RW drive, with 6 USB ports, audio 10/100 LAN on-board and Windows XP! Frank got a good deal, MBUG got a huge donation and Nick had a lot of fun! He has even hinted that

he might try to do it again! E-mail him at nickSR@mbay.net if you think it's a good idea to have another "computer build & auction" (count me in, because my computer is now three years old)!

WAY TO GO, TOM, JIM AND CHARLIE AND GARY!

Your workshop team is trying to get a speaker to talk to us about converting vinyl records and "ripping" CDs on a regular basis. Do we smell a new workshop series??? With the enhanced capabilities at PG Adult School's new Wi-Fi connection, and the highly capable scheduling & schmoozing talents of **Tom Streeter, Jim Hinwood, Charlie Mehlert** and **Gary Stephens**, anything is possible. Stand by for more news!

CAROLYN & LISTSERV, WHAT A PAIR!

Watch your mailbox for new MBUG Listserv announcements. **Carolyn Lake** does a great job with publicity, but we have to compete with hundreds of other non-profit groups and every workshop/meeting doesn't necessarily make it to the outside press, despite Carolyn's heroic efforts. This brings up the real advantage of Listserv for our members — check messages regularly for upcoming meetings and "Jack's Jottings" on viruses, scams and the other evils of e-mail.

TAKING STOCK

When trying to find a decent stock to buy, I saw **Microsoft's Slate Magazine** and found **Michelle Leder**, author of a provocative new book, *Fine Print: Uncovering a Company's True Value*. She expanded these data into a dandy

article, *The 10K Run* (March 19). So many companies have shed their slick, multi-colored annual reports for multi-page, fine print, footnoted declarations of corporate financial health. What's in these reports? What are the exact retirement benefits for a CEO? What can you find in those huge documents? Michelle points out the most obvious "loopholes" and updates her "blog" (web log) at www.footnoted.org often. In the wake of **Enron, WorldCom** and **Martha Stewart**, you might be interested ... I was.

FISH FOR DINNER?

Fish ... how many times a week? Whom can you believe? The *Environmental Defense Solutions* for March and April had several articles by noted scientists on those questions. Get thoughtful insights and a line on healthy fish at www.environmentaldefense.org/gp/seafood.

PHOTO FINISH

Remember that on April 2nd, **Bill Hyler** will discuss conventional film vs digital cameras at the Friday General Meeting (see the front page). It should really be a good one. See you there! ♦

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Sara Heller & Yvonne Clemons stunned us with the great March meeting "nibbles". Future refreshment volunteers, don't be put off -- bring what you can, you're not obliged to outdo them!



MEETING REVIEW

**Barbara
Tyrrell**
Columnist



photo: B. Tyler, MBUG-PC

VINYL TRANSFORMATION

Recently it has been hard to tell whether we are in another magic show or an MBUG monthly meeting again. Another David Copperfield, disguised as a systems analyst named **Mark Burger** for the **Pebble Beach Corporation**, appeared at our speakers table for the March gathering.



*Mark Burger, our "magic"
March guest speaker.*

Mark's major trick? Turning vinyl records into contemporary CDs—or capturing their music on your computer for infinite ramifications and recombination to select as perfect background for that special party, that cocktail mixer, that tedious task which needs musical accompaniment, or that boring daily commute in traffic.

For Mark, it all started when he received an MP3 player free with rebate. This "pressed vinyl-disc data device" goaded him to search for the right programs and connectors to use in converting analog signals of the stereo system to digital to 1's and 0's, which the computer accepts and convert for your ears. Over the years, he tested different kinds of music with varying combinations of components and came up with a "formula" which covers a wide range of musical types.

You have to realize that the sound which travels from vinyl to computer requires wires with input and output connectors linking the computer's sound card to the record player. Quite often, if a stereo system is grounded with a three-pronged plug, the equipment will pick up the household background hum or the undertone of the turntable, a distraction to the listener which can be filtered out.

The device for that is a short, cylindrical accessory called a *ground loop isolator*, which is linked between the sound card and the stereo. It is a reasonably priced at **Radio Shack**. There are also different types of sound cards. Mark uses an external sound card and better quality hard- and software.



*Bob Stephan and Jim Anway as
the "F1 for Help Duo", answering
random audience computer queries*

We were struck by the patient and thorough way Mark explained each step and the reason for it, describing and playing the same music sampled three ways, so we could hear the differences in quality. He reminded us that the computer samples music in increments so tiny the ear cannot distinguish, at 44,000 per second, and that the music can be played as a wave file or an MP3 file, which are different ways of sampling. By comparison, the wave file, at 50 mgs, each requires more space than an MP3 file, at 3 mgs each, so hundreds of MP3 files can fit a CD. He briefly touched on how to manage the database which lists selections and how to name them.

The type of music you record may influence your choice of equipment. Rock and roll generally has a small range of frequency; but the same equipment recording singers, violins, and classical orchestras with full sound amplitude may not duplicate the full range the performers produced. The pitch of a violin's concert A tone, for orchestras to tune to, is 440 cycles per second; of the human voice, 500-4000 cycles per second; and of our range of hearing, 20-20,000 cycles per second. Most music is below 10,000 cycles per

second. True audiophiles, who seek perfection, work in acoustically-oriented rooms—hardly the requirement for entertainment in your old Ford behind a cattle truck at rush hour.

By this time, the MBUG attendees surrounded the front desk, firing specific questions, trying to see connectors, drawing out schematic diagrams of the basics—full of wonder. It was just not enough—the 9 o'clock witching hour, shuffling and folding chairs, packing food leftovers, and reluctant departure meant only one thing, expressed by President **Ann Mack**, “We’ll just have to have Mark back for a workshop!” Hear! Hear!

I was reminded of an MBUG speaker, a couple of years ago, named Bruce Fries, who spoke to us on “The MP3 and the Internet.” His fine book by that title (2000) is an



Regina Doyle, Newsletter Editor and Don Slaiter, Membership Chair: see her if you have any articles you want to write; see him if you want to join MBUG or get your Borders Books discount card.



No card tricks: a full house for Mark Burger. If you weren't there, see the May calendar when Mark will begin a new workshop with the same LP-to-CD theme (pages 15 and 16 in this issue).

audio handbook which explains very clearly the different aspects of equipment, recording and managing your music files. Some of that information is obsolete now, with the passing of free music files exchanged through users of the old Napster program, but one key statement is important:

“The CDDB (www.cddb.com) is a comprehensive Web-based database with information on thousands of

audio CDs. Before the CDDB, when you played a CD on your computer there was no way for the player software to display the album and artist name and song titles unless you manually entered the information” (page 102).

It might be worth your time to see if this site is still viable—or necessary in today’s technical changes. It could make generation of your database a lot easier.◆

tyrrellb@earthlink.net



THANKS FOR THE “SNACKS”!
Sara Heller (left) and Yvonne Clemons (right) volunteered to bring so-called “refreshments” for the general meeting -- truth be told it was a feast! Thanks so much for the yummy spread!



THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

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



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

consumer's computer. "It's self-defeating to bombard. It doesn't make sense," Dain said. "Should our clients be shut down from their best marketing tool and from the tool that best serves the customer, whether they're annoyed or not?"

D-Squared Attorney **Frederick Taylor** said the ruling would come as a relief to his clients, who are college students at the University of California, San Diego. He said attorneys would consult with the owners before deciding whether to resume the pop-ups. Neither Dhingra nor Davis was in court Monday.

NOW THIS MAKES SENSE!?

(AP Report) BALTIMORE - A Federal Judge ruled Monday that a California company can send "pop-up" Internet ads that regulators have called "high-tech extortion" — at least until the matter is decided at trial. US District Judge **Andre Davis** said there was insufficient evidence for him to grant a preliminary injunction sought by the **Federal Trade Commission**. Regulators wanted to stop San Diego-based **D-Squared Solutions LLC** from selling its ad-blocking software. "It's not clear to me ... if there's substantial injury to consumers," said Davis, who set a trial for March 8. "The case had the odor of extortion as it was originally prosecuted ... but it certainly doesn't look like extortion to me."

The FTC said *D-Squared* improperly used a technology built into most versions of Microsoft's Windows operating software to display intrusive messages on computer screens. The messages offered software to block the same types of ads the company was sending. The FTC said *D-Squared* unlawfully exploited Microsoft's Windows Messenger Service feature by sending the unwanted ads to Internet users as frequently as once every 10 minutes.

FTC Attorney **Mona Spivack** said *D-Squared's* advertisements caused "substantial injury" to consumers, citing lost data, crashed computers, frustration, annoyance and harassment. "They clearly knew that this practice was in fact causing consumers' computers to crash," Spivack said. "The defendant's own marketing material said this."

D-Squared Attorney **Anthony Dain** said the company's owners **Anish Dhingra** and **Jeffrey Davis** created the pop-ups with the intent of sending only one a day to a

Windows Messenger Service is unrelated to Microsoft's instant-messaging software that uses the same name. It allows network administrators to display messages on a user's computer screen, such as a warning that a company's Internet connection might be having problems. But some Internet marketers use the technology to display ads for software and pornography. It takes seven mouse clicks to disable the messenger service; the FTC said typical consumers don't know how to do this.

COMPUTER MAGAZINE OFFERS

HERB GOODMAN has great prices on subscriptions. A few of the magazines on offer are:



PC Magazine, Wired, Computer Gaming World, Computer Games, Maximum PC, PC World, Computer Shopper, PC Gamer and **Microsoft System Journal**. Further discounts for two or more year subscriptions. Full listing and up-to-date prices from Herb: hgoodman@prodigy.net, or 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496 or (561)488-4465.

SMART COMPUTING MAGAZINE (12 issues \$29.00; 24 issues \$48.00; 36 issues \$64.00) benefits MBUG-PC with every five subscriptions. Use **source code 8181** when ordering and we get a free subscription for our fundraising raffles. 12 issues \$12.95. Contact PO Box 85380, Lincoln NE 68501-9807, 1-800-733-3809 or fax 1-402-479-2193. ♦

Karl Albrecht 41, of Milford, Michigan said his home computer was bombarded with pop-ups from *D-Squared* when he tried to establish Internet service. *"I think there's a fine line between extortion and advertisement, and this clearly crossed the line,"* said Albrecht, who complained about the company in an e-mail to The Associated Press. *"They're offering to fix the problem they created."* The software, which *D-Squared* advertised as blocking *"these unwanted and illegal pop-up messages forever with the click of a button,"* costs between \$25 and \$30.

"The FTC is trying to hoist up warnings for people who they think are taking advantage of the freedom of the Net to misuse it," said David Farber, a professor of computer science and public policy at Carnegie Mellon University. *"The message that's being sent out is that if you're going to do this, expect to see us on your doorstep."*

[NOTE: Disabling messenger service differs depending on the operating system (OS) you use. Go to Google and type in *"disconnect messenger service."*]

VIRUS MYTHS II

"If I buy sealed software I don't have to worry about viruses." This is not always true just because the program may be surrounded in plastic doesn't mean that it cannot be infected with a virus. When the software is written to the diskette is when the virus will be attached to the diskette. While this does not happen frequently it is still a possibility. *(More Virus Myths will follow in subsequent columns).* ♦

blacklion@royal.net

RAFFLE PRIZES **2nd** April 2004

Meet fellow MBUG-PC Members and ask general computer questions from our "F1 for Help" panel of experts at the General Meeting on April 2nd. **Bill Hyler** will explain the differences (pros and cons) between conventional and digital cameras ...
and you could WIN a great raffle prize!

See **Richard Binsacca** at the meeting for tickets: \$1 for 1 ticket, \$5 for 6 tickets or \$10 for 15 tickets.

Prizes to be won include from a Microsoft donation:

■ **Microsoft Flight Simulator 2004: A Century of Flight Experience** (dynamic weather system, automatically generated scenery, detailed visual effects, air traffic control functions, interactive cockpits in historic and modern aircraft)

■ **Microsoft e-book Systems Flip Album Suite 4.0** (software to create/distribute 3D page-flipping photo albums with audio and annotations on CDs or on the Internet)

Personal donations from MBUG Member **Tom Pelican**:

■ **ACECAT III 5x5 Graphics Tablet** (small as a mouse pad, ultra light, tethered pen graphics tablet for web page layout, graphics and HTML design)

■ **MTV Music Generator™** (music creation for PlayStation game console to create music magic with homemade tracks)

■ **Power Quest Drive Image** (premier backup solution using SmartSector imaging to create an exact image of a hard drive or partition where your operating system, applications and data resides)

■ **Microsoft Encarta Reference Suite 2001** (reference library combining five products into an integrated reference library and research tool for your PC and the Internet)

■ **Books:** *"Photoshop 5/5.5 WoW!"* and *"Photoshop 6"*

YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO BUY TICKETS AND TO WIN!

All proceeds benefit MBUG-PC's educational programs.



THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST

photo: Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC



by Bob “I Don’t Do Windows” Stephan

Bob is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 37 years of computing experience who welcomes comments and questions at rstephan@redshift.com or snail mail via MBUG-PC.

Home Movies Continued

As I mentioned in my recent article on home movies my next project was to get them onto DVDs. This would have the advantage of getting them into digital format which would from then on be able to reproduce perfect digital copies. Even if the DVDs don’t last longer than the tapes, they can at least be reproduced over and over again on the same or newer media depending on the then current technology.

Since I already had all the films on VHS tapes and edited to my satisfaction the question was how to copy them from the tapes to DVDs. The information that came with my DVD burner indicates that this can be done with the software that came with the drive, but it gives me no indication of what hardware I might need to connect a video tape deck (VCR) to my computer to play them and how to actually make the copies. However, even if it did I was definitely not in the mood to take on the project myself because I could just envision the hours and hours it would take to get it working and to do the transfers with all the setup and editing that might be involved. For the most part this was going to be a one-time procedure and it seemed to me that outsourcing the work held much more appeal. But that might also depend on how much it was going to cost.

I had heard of a **Hewlett Packard** (HP) device that might be of use. When I inquired about this product I received the following reply from HP, “*I believe that you are looking for the HP DVD Movie Writer dc3000 (Q2114A#ABA). The HP DVD Movie Writer dc3000 is an external DVD writer with built-in analog video-capture. It lets you quickly and easily transfer home video*

directly from tape (via camcorder or VCR) to digital format on your PC and to DVD+R/+RW discs. Here at hpshopping.com, it is available for \$299.99.”

It sounded just like what I would need to do the job but the price (plus tax) still put me off even though they were offering free shipping at the time. Seemed like a lot to pay for something that might only be used a few times. Due to my frugal nature I decided to investigate further. (Note: Since I already have a DVD burner in my computer there may be input cards or other USB devices that I could use to accomplish the same thing. I did not research such items, mainly because I was not sure I wanted to get into the business of doing it myself.)

YesVideo

Someplace, I don’t recall where, I read about an online service that sounded like it might do the job. I went to <http://www.yesvideo.com> to take a look and liked what I saw there. They will copy just about any video, audio, or still photo format to DVD. For example, you can go directly from 8mm home movies to DVD without having to go through the video tape step first. In order to use this service one has to buy a “kit” from a retail outlet. The kit consists of a padded mailing envelope and an explanatory DVD which also provides samples of their work.

The web site lists several retail outlets in the local area. Basically, just about any store that provides photo developing service should be able to provide the **YesVideo** service, but I found that every store in the local area which I contacted had never heard of the service. All right, this meant some more emailing to support@yesvideo.com. They apologized, saying that since it was such a new service many employees had not processed any orders for it and were not familiar with it. They also gave me a URL for online sources at <http://www.yesvideo.com/Code/buyonline.htm>. Maybe it is just me, but I could not find such information by just browsing their web site, and I ran into a few other “Page not found” problems on their site. Having such problems raises a caution flag in my mind about dealing with a company, but I continued to pursue the quest.

Now that I had a direct URL I found that the online sources consisted of imagestation.com, Amazon.com, Circuit City, and [Fry’s Outpost](http://Fry's Outpost) with varying prices. The

first link, *Imagestation*, did not work at all. The price at the next two was about \$30.00 for the mailing kit to copy a 2-hour tape to DVD, but I found a good price of \$19.95 at Fry's Outpost, <http://shop4.outpost.com/product/3697525>. With S&H and tax it came to about \$27.00. I decided to give it a try and received the "kit" in about a week.

The Kit is Simple to Use

It is just a DVD with video explanation and examples and a padded mailing envelope in which to enclose your VHS tape and the order form. You can send more than one tape in the envelope as long as the total time to record is two hours or less. Based on the contents of the demo DVD it looked very interesting. I filled out the order form listing the title I wanted for the DVD and some other information, slipped in my first 2-hour home movie tape, and dropped it in the mail. About ten days later I received my tape back along with the DVD and eagerly inserted it into my DVD player. I was and am extremely pleased with the results! I can recommend it highly.

What was nice was that it was not just a raw copy of my tape. It is organized into 54 "chapters" with a thumbnail image index on the label and which shows up on the menu when it loads in the DVD player or on my computer. Not only can you play it straight through if you want to, but you can jump to any of the 54 locations on the menu to view favorite segments. It was very nicely done and I have no idea how I could have done it that nicely if I had tried to do it myself. In addition there are three, count 'em three, music videos added at the end.

These are cute and clever and interesting to watch. They consist of short clips jumping from one scene to another while pleasant music is played. Each of the three music videos uses a different selection of clips and music and it is quite surprising how well the music complements the video, although I am sure it is just randomly done by machine with no human intervention.

Where Does the Computer Come in on all This?

Other than the online shopping and email, the computer has not come into play so far; however, I did use my computer to view the DVD and to burn copies for other family members, so it has not been a completely computer-free process.

Follow-Up

What about local services? I called the three or four services listed in the phone directory and asked about copying to DVD. The price for one tape to DVD ran from \$30.00 to \$35.00 from one service to another. Not too bad, but they do nothing more than make a straight copy of the tape - no thumbnails, no menu, no "chapters" and no music videos. Since I could get it done more elegantly and less expensively online, I placed an order for four more kits. In quantity it did not cost four times as much for the shipping so that came out to about \$23.00 per kit. However, it also costs two to three bucks to mail the tape for servicing, so you can figure a rough ball-park figure of \$25 - 30.00 per DVD at the best prices.

I only have seven or eight video tapes of home movies, so I should be able to get them all copied for about \$200.00 or less. That is about \$100.00 less than the \$300.00 the HP device would have cost. Some may think this is false economy because by buying the device I would still have it to do other things after completing the home movies. I wouldn't disagree with that philosophy but there is also the consideration of the investment of time to do the work and whether it can be done as elegantly.

You will have to weigh the pros and cons for yourself and choose the method that suits you best. I also discovered that my DVD player does not like the DVD+R format and the HP device only specifies that it does DVD+R/+RW; however, this may just be an omission in the description and I would have to check if it did the DVD-R/-RW formats as well. It also required Windows 2000 or later which I did not have, so it was pretty much out of the question anyway.

So What about the Four Additional Kits I Ordered?

They were on back order at Fry's Outpost but came in and I have received them. Perhaps I should order the remaining ones I need so that I won't have to wait so long next time. By the way, each kit comes with the demo DVD so now I have several of them and I am willing to make them available to anyone who is interested. See me at the meeting. ♦

Bob has a home page under construction at <http://www.bobstephan.net>



**“ARE WE SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE?”
JACK LEWTSCHUK’S THOUGHTS ON COMMUNICATION**



I am a firm believer in the “User Group Philosophy”, members helping members.

As a ten-year veteran of MBUG-PC, I came to realize that without the help of its members, I would be nowhere near where I am on the eternal computer learning curve.

What makes computers so interesting to me, is that we never learn everything; there is always more to learn. The greenest “newbie” knows something, which somebody else does not know.

When sharing you knowledge with other individuals (which is the case most of the time at MBUG) or groups, it is very important to communicate, which must include both sending and receiving. If one of the two components is missing, we stop communicating.

In my career as a teacher, I found very early that because my subject is technical (not related to computers), it was very important to make sure that I (sender) knew the technical background of the audience (receiver).

This is not very difficult when communicating with one individual, more difficult when communicating with multiple individuals with similar backgrounds and extremely difficult when attempting to communicate with a group consisting of individuals who have varied technical backgrounds.

There is a tendency of the “sender” to forget that if the “receiver” were able to understand all the technical concepts and language, he/she would have no reason to pay attention.

The first time the “sender” utters some strange technical term or concept, the confused “receiver” may stop listening, thinking, “this is over my head, I’ll never understand this” – end of communication!

Even worse, the “receiver” may perceive that the “sender” is showing off his/her knowledge – end of communication! A state perceived remains a fact, true or not, until the “receiver” is persuaded otherwise.

It is true that the “receiver” might ask for an explanation that usually works, if a short explanation is possible, as long as the “sender” does not forget that there are other people in the audience.

As we know, computer language is unique, constantly changing and richly peppered with acronyms and other alphabetical and numerical terms. The “sender” knows what these mean, but to a “receiver” it might be all “Greek”. ♦

Jack

SMART COMPUTING

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PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS IN WINDOWS XP

(continued from March MBUG-PC)

16. Problem: An application crashes once or twice, then won't restart

Solution: Check to make sure it's not still running. When you can't restart an application after it crashes, it's often because the application is still running (even though it crashed). Press CTRL-ALT-DELETE to display the Task Manager. In the Processes Tab, look for the program you're trying to start. If it's listed once or more, right-click each listing and choose End Process. Once you eliminate all of the listings, you should be able to restart the application.

17. Problem: You run out of memory, even though you don't have that many programs open

Solution: Keep Windows from loading programs you don't need at startup. Click Start, choose Run, type msconfig, and click OK. This starts the System Configuration Utility. Click the Startup tab to display a list of the programs your system currently loads at startup and uncheck any you don't need. If the name in the Startup Item column is cryptic, try to get an idea of the software or hardware with which it is associated from the corresponding Command and Location fields. (Note to Microsoft Office users: You don't really need the Microsoft Office startup item.) When you're finished, click OK and restart your computer. A dialog box may appear telling you that because of the changes you made, Windows needs to start the System Configuration Utility; check Don't Show This Message . . . to keep this from happening and prevent this message from appearing again. ♦

Tips to be continued next month, starting with Printer & Peripheral Problems!

WINDOWS TIPS & TRICKS

Clive Sanders
Columnist,
F1 Help,
& Assistant
Membership
Chair



BATTLING THE VIRUS PROBLEM

Generally speaking, whether you are working in Windows98 or updated systems, as long as your anti-virus and firewall are functioning and really up to date, it is safe to download an application file and if it is configured to open the file and let it install itself. It is best to set your anti-virus program on "seek and search" and automatically download the new definition files.

However, if you are not sure of the source, particularly if someone unknown has sent or purported to have sent you a file, adopt the following procedures:

Examine files for viruses BEFORE opening them

Download the attachment into C:\temp. Open your anti-virus program to examine the file for viruses before it is unzipped — even if your virus program was updated 18 days ago and it is unlikely that there would be a virus, forget it and be careful. It only takes a second for the Trojan horse or worse to escape from the genie's bottle!

Do a full scan of all fixed hard drives on a regular basis

I am told that viruses can get into your computer directly from downloaded graphics and viruses can even be embedded into messages now. Zone Alarm, which I have used for years, also helps with detecting messages or files with an embedded virus. Apart from talking to people on F1 for Help (an exclusive bonus of being an MBUG-PC Member), most of my professional work time as a computer consultant is spent downloading virus antidotes or tools to kill viruses that no one knows how got into their system!

(continued on page 13)

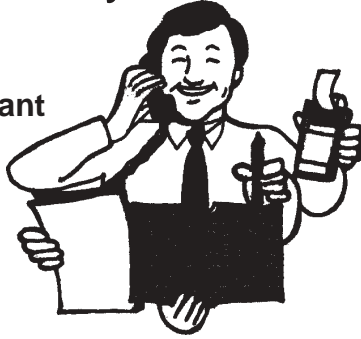


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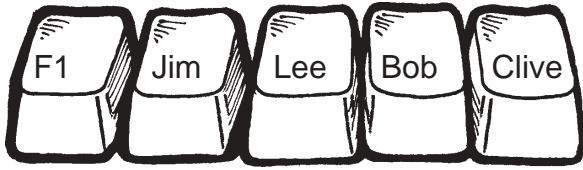
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California 93950

Telephone: 831-375-5376
Cell: 831-521-6676
E-mail:

simbaeli@pacbell.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 Lee@leekeely.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 ◆

Windows Tips & Tricks (continued from page 11)

KNOW YOUR KEY WORDS

What do you do when your mouse freezes up and you wish to reboot your computer? Or what if you are not familiar with the use of the right-hand button on the mouse? This is when a little knowledge of the keys on the keyboard comes in handy, particularly that top row of mysterious “F” buttons. Depending on what program you are using, the keys may perform a different function, but the following seem to work well in Windows98 SE, Millennium, 2000 and XP (can't recall if it is the same for Windows95, but it is worth a try). Here are some Windows Explorer shortcuts (Internet Explorer uses some of the same shortcuts):

F1 - Help

F2 - Rename currently selected items

F3 - Find files in currently selected folder

F4 - Drop-down list for disk drives

F5 - Refresh current folder display

F6 - Switch focus to different parts of window

F10 - Switch focus to menu bar

The following are very useful to close down a malfunctioning program if the drop down menus will still perform (either tab or just use F10):

Shift+F10 - open context menu (also opened by right-clicking the mouse)

Shift+right-click - on a file or folder which opens a different context menu allowing you to alter file view, rearrange icons or create a new file or folder

F11 - toggle full-screen (“kiosk”) mode on and off (not in Windows95 unless you've got the IE4 Desktop Update)

Ctrl+W - shuts down Explorer altogether (also works with a My Computer window) ◆

simbacli@pacbell.net



WINDOWS XP

photo: R. Binsacca MBUG-PC



James Anway
Workshop Leader

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

This month in the Windows XP Workshop, we will be reviewing more of its basic features. I will have some demonstrations and tips, and of course, Q&A time. What will be presented and discussed, will in part depend on the mix of the attendees and what is hot at the moment. ♦

AnwayJ@comcast.net

DIGITAL ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



Eileen Begley
Workshop Leader

photo: E. Begley, MBUG-PC

Wednesday, April 21
7:00 to 9:00pm

Archer Park Center, Monterey
eb@spyderbytes.com

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Bob Stephan
Workshop Leader

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

photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC



This Genealogical Computing Workshop will be the last in the current series. We will wrap it up by picking up any loose ends and discussing genealogical items of interest. We will take a brief look at *Legacy Family Tree* which is designated as the replacement for the ever-so-long time favorite *Personal Ancestral File*. We will continue discussing methods of publishing your family tree in various formats such as web sites, books, charts, and other types of reports by using various programs. All interested would-be genealogists are invited to the continuing workshops focusing on *The Master Genealogist*. Watch this space for details.
rstephan@redshift.com ♦ **Bob**

CONVERTING LPs TO CDs



Mark Burger
Workshop Leader
Wednesday, May 19
7:00 to 9:00pm
Archer Park

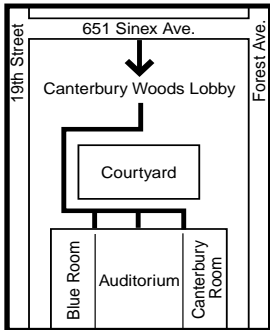


Following a reSOUNDing success in his March General Meeting (see Barbara Tyrell's Review on page 4), **Mark Burger** will start a new workshop to continue the explanation on how to convert Long Playing (LP) vinyl records and audiotapes into Compact Discs (CDs). Mark, a Systems Analyst for the Pebble Beach Corporation, has been involved with computers and electronics for years, is a ham radio operator, and possesses a network of computers in his home that manage a multitude of multimedia tasks. Whether you missed his first workshop or were there, you'll want to MARK your May calendar. Questions? Contact Program Chair Jim Hinwood at ehinwood@msn.com. ♦

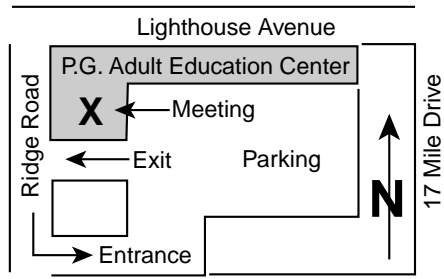
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		March 30 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	March 31	1	2 <i>General Mtg: "Digital vs Conventional Cameras"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bill Hyler</i>	3
4	5	6	7 <i>"WindowsXP"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Jim Anway</i>	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <i>"Digital Art"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Eileen Begley</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 <i>LAST IN SERIES</i> <i>"Genealogy"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bob Stephan</i>	29	30	

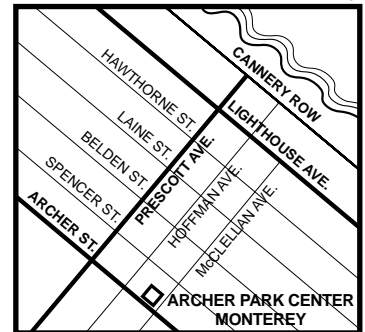
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Archer Park Center
542 Archer Street
Monterey



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	5	6	7 <i>"General Meeting"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Topic/Speaker To Be Announced</i>	8
9	10	11	12 <i>"Hardware"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Nick Mertes</i>	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 <i>"Convert LPs to CDs"</i> Archer Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Mark Burger</i>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



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INK CARTRIDGE UPDATE



Carolyn Lake

Publicity Chair



photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

MORE HOURS TO PRINT THESE DAYS?

Springing forward into April's longer days, we expect showers of ink cartridges to keep flooding in!

Bring your empty, original equipment printer cartridges to our workshops and general meetings and bail them into the brown box or give to any Board member (no remanufactured or generic brands, please)!

We will float them on down to Southern California where they are then re-distributed for re-fill demonstrations at trade shows. A deluge of dollars will cycle back to us to support MBUG-PC educational programs! ♦

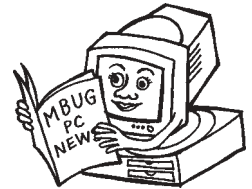
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