

mbug-pc newsletter

Established 1983 / Incorporated 1988

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A Change of Venue

Starts this Month

**Wednesday
Workshops
are no longer at
Archer Park!**

We are at
**HILLTOP PARK
CENTER**

871 Jessie Street
 Monterey
 In the Main Hall

Parking

- ◆ On Jessie or Divisadero Streets
- ◆ Some pkg stalls on each street
- ◆ Lower level lot (from Jessie)

See map on page 7.

Jim
 Hinwood
 Program
 Chair



Gaming with Jeff on June 4

Jeff Smith will follow up his well-received gaming talk, expanding on what he didn't have time for in his last presentation in March last year. This will be a hands-on interactive evening with some new games to try. He will give tips on some of the best games and how to set up your computer so that you can get the most from gaming with minimal expense. Setting up a good gaming computer will make every multimedia activity work better, from photo and video editing to TiVo-like video capture and VCD. Jeff had his own business in Pacific Grove but has now rejoined *That Computer Place*, working with MBUG's own **Nick Mertes**. Nick is very glad to have him back as Jeff is a very experienced computer technician. This will be fun and an informative meeting that you don't want to miss!

Online Training Tools with Mary on July 2

Mary Adams is a computer consultant, coach and trainer at **New Horizons Computer Training**, Salinas. In July, Mary will show us a great new product, which she is very excited about, called the **Integrated Learning Manager (ILM)**. ILM is a web-based product (learning portal) that provides online tools which help improve your computer skills.

Mary will demonstrate the **Design & Media Library** that includes **Adobe** products such as **Photoshop, Illustrator** and **Acrobat**. She will provide access instructions for MBUG-PC members to enable their use of the Design & Media Library for 1-3 weeks. **Don't miss this as only those who attend will get free online access to these training courses for the trial period!**

Mary sees more and more individuals and companies training with Online Training Formats. Benefits are that they are accessible from any computer with Internet access complete with audio and interactive qualities. You can train from the convenience of your own home. Mark your calendars now!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Friday, June 7, 2004 at 7pm

Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
 1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

FREE and open to MBUG-PC Members
 and the Public! Great coffee, computer info and people!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS: MBUG-PC NEEDS YOU!

We're desperately looking for Meeting Facilitators!

Can you help out once up to three times a month to set up chairs and generally get MBUG meeting rooms ready (and pack up afterwards)? We need a person (or two) to help with physical set-up.

Charlie Mehlert & Gary Stephens are doing a great job and even **Ralph Games**, who has officially resigned the post is still helping out, but we need a real replacement or two as soon as possible!

Meeting Reviewers

If you regularly attend the first Friday General Meeting (or any other ongoing workshops) can you help us by writing 500-word-or-less reviews for the Newsletter?

Workshop Leaders

We really would like to start some new workshops. We need people willing to share their computer knowledge and skills. Maybe even just a general discussion group? If you'd like to create and lead a workshop monthly, every other month or quarterly (as you wish), we want to hear from you!

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

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MBUG-PC benefits:
Computer help, GREAT Newsletter
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Show your MBUG-PC Membership card at time of purchase. For a card, see Don Slaiter at any MBUG-PC General Meeting.

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

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



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

GOOGLE TOOLBAR

Do you Google? Have you heard of the **Google Toolbar**? Read this and then read **Jim Hinwood's** article on the next page! This addition to your browser (Internet Explorer) puts a wealth of search options at your fingertip and makes searching quick and easy (toolbar.google.com). You pick a language and then download the toolbar. When you install it you'll have to agree to both the terms of use and to the toolbar's feature set. Advanced functions require that information about the site you're browsing be sent to Google. You can disable the functions during the installation process if you're concerned about your privacy.

Once you've installed the toolbar you'll find a bunch of useful tools. You can search Google, of course. You can also block pop-ups or fill in forms with one click. As you visit sites, the Google toolbar shows the page rank calculated by Google for each page, giving you an idea of how popular it is.

MORE ABOUT GOOGLE

Now Google contains over six BILLION items! Four billion of these are web pages; more than 880 MILLION are images. Google is by far the world's most popular Internet search engine. It has had a meteoric rise since **Larry Page** and **Sergey Brin** founded the company in 1998. The company now has more than 70 percent of the global market, meaning that seven out of 10 people will click onto Google's webpage when they are looking for information on the Internet. Even its name has become a verb: "to Google", with people using the search engine to check out prospective dates.

Do you really Google? Did you ever get an error message and don't know what it means and rush to call technical support or a friend? Try looking it up in Google. You might be surprised!

USE GOOGLE TO FIND WI-FI HOTSPOTS

Hotspots are places where you can get online using a wireless (Wi-Fi) Internet connection such as in hotels, airports, coffee shops and more. If you need a hotspot with which to access the web whether at home or on the road, Google's new location search can help. Enter "Wi-Fi" in the first box and your ZIP code in the second. I did that and got 337 locations near my home! Check it out yourself at labs.google.com/location.

ARE YOUR FAVORITES SQUEAKY CLEAN?

Have you ever clicked on one of your FAVORITES and received a 404 or 403 error or "The Page can not be displayed" message? Chances are that some of your FAVORITES no longer exist or their URL (Uniform Resource Locator) was changed. There is a solution: a free program called "AM-Dead Link" which you can download from a number of pages such as PC World. Or check with the help of your favorite search engine — I was surprised when I checked my 1600 FAVORITES.

VIRUS MYTHS IV

"If I don't download anything off of the Internet I don't have to worry about viruses."

This is not always true. While you may not be on the Internet you still can be infected by viruses from diskettes and/or CDs. (More Virus Myths will follow in subsequent issues).

blacklion@royal.net ♦

COMPUTER MAGAZINE OFFERS

HERB GOODMAN has great prices on magazines. A few 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 & 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 MBUG-PC gets a free subscription for our fund-raising raffles. PO Box 85380, Lincoln NE 68501-9807, 1-800-733-3809 or fax 1-402-479-2193. ♦

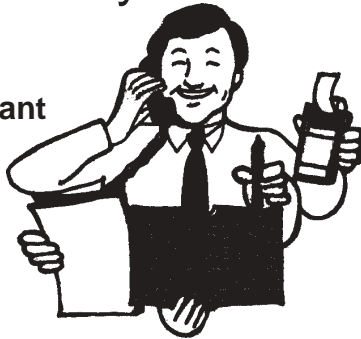


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Retired IBMer
Computer Consultant

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Fax: Call first



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DRIVING THE FRONTSIDE BUS


**Jim
Hinwood**
Columnist
&
Program
Chair



photo: Bill Hoyer, MBUG-PC

personal information if you refuse the customized content.

■ **Yahoo Toolbar** (*companion.yahoo.com*) received four stars and is good for Yahoo users as it provides search tools as well as providing quick access to Yahoo Mail, Shopping, Finance and Travel accounts. This one does collect personal information but promises (trust me) it will not share this outside of the company.

■ **MSN Toolbar** Version 01.01.1501 (*toolbar.msn.com*) got four stars. It also provides direct access to Microsoft services along with its search tools. You can quickly access your **Hotmail** account, launch **MSN Messenger** or go right to your **MSN Homepage**. It does share search history with other parts of the Microsoft family but claims no third party sharing will take place.

■ **Merriam-Webster Toolbar** Version 2.1 (*www.m-w.com/toolbar*) got four stars and is excellent for those who do a lot of writing and need quick access to an excellent dictionary and thesaurus. It has a link to the “word of the day” to improve your vocabulary and it collects no personal information.

■ **Web Ferret** Version 5.0 (*www.webferret.com*), three and a half stars, is the simplest and most streamlined. Its search box uses a number of popular search engines and lists those that find your result. No personal information is collected.

■ **Viewpoint Toolbar** Version 1.0.0.37 (*www.viewpoint.com*), with four stars, is one of the more interesting toolbars. It’s still in beta testing, but already uses thumbnail pictures of the sites found in your query. You can run

your mouse over the thumbnails and they expand to show you a larger picture preview of the site before you click on it. The article said that this toolbar can put a significant hit on your browser performance and you can not reposition the toolbar once it is installed but it may be improved by the time the finished software comes out of testing. I am definitely going to have to try this one even if they do collect anonymous personal search information (which they say stays within the company).

■ **Toolbar Designer** Version 1.0.0.45 (*www.toolbardesign.com*), also with four stars, is the last toolbar listed by PC Magazine. It enables you to design a toolbar to your own specifications. You can create search boxes, buttons, menus, images, etc., with no programming skills and make your own toolbar should none of the previous ones be just right for you.

I’m going to add one more toolbar to the mix as it’s one I like but is not listed in PC Magazine:

■ **ESPN Toolbar** (*espn.go.com/bottomline/*) can be programmed to give you a running live sports ticker with your favorite teams and real-time scores — you can click at any time on the toolbar and it will take you directly to articles of interest that roll across the screen. There’s also a direct link to **ESPN Radio** so if you’re a sports nut like me, or you like to make book and keep up on how you’re doing, this is perfect.

The only problem I have is, with all these toolbars I hardly have any screen space left! You’ll have to pick your favorite ones and run only as many as you’re willing to give up screen real estate for! ehinwood@msn.com ♦

Browser Toolbar Wars

A few months ago I wrote about the **Google Toolbar** (*toolbar.google.com*) and the **Deskbar**. This month **Jack Lewtschuk** had a lot more to say about it too (see previous page).

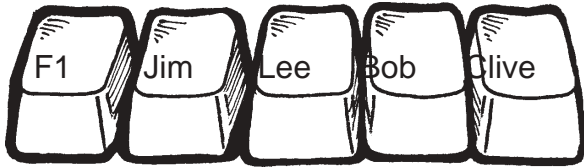
It seems that everyone is trying to grab space on your desktop. This month in **PC Magazine** there are reviews of 161 utilities with recommended choices in each category. In their browser toolbar section they review eight different ones. Toolbars have become common search tools and are indispensable to many of us. The magazine of course covers **Google Toolbar** Version 2.0.108 which gets an **Editors Choice Award** with four and a half stars. I use it daily and it is fantastic — the pop-up stopper works great! They also review seven other toolbars which may be of interest:

■ **Dogpile Toolbar** Version 2.2.0 (*dogpile.com*) ties with Google for the Editors Choice Award with four and a half stars. This metasearch toolbar instantly uses seven popular search engines, white and yellow pages and public records for its searches. It also has a live news ticker which displays hyperlinked headlines from ABC News, Fox News and others as you choose. Dogpile does not gather



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@earthlink.net
or call only between 1pm to 9pm
cellphone (831) 375-5376 ♦

VIEWS FROM MY WINDOWS

Phil Shortell

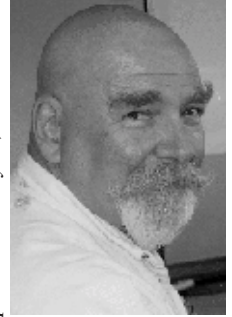
Workshop Leader

Wednesday, June 16

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center
Monterey

photo: Bill Hoyer, MBUG-PC



I'll start us off with PowerPoint basics, tricks and solutions then we'll see where we go according to random questions you may bring along. If you have any questions in advance, or would like to have something specific presented, contact me at (831) 753-7777 or e-mail pjs@FourthR-Salinas.com ♦

Phil

MASTER GENEALOGIST WORKSHOP

Bob Stephan

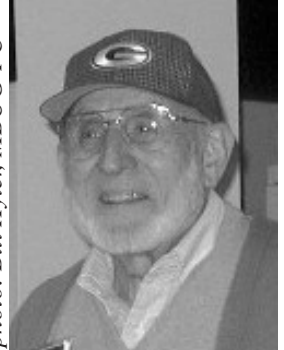
Workshop Leader

Wednesday, June 30

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center
Monterey

photo: Bill Hoyer, MBUG-PC



We will continue to explore The Master Genealogist software. Drop-ins are welcome : you needn't have attended the previous workshops. If you already have TMG, are thinking about getting TMG, or are just curious about TMG, please join us! rstephan@redshift.com ♦

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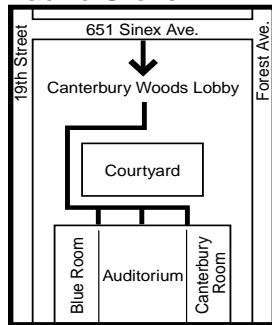
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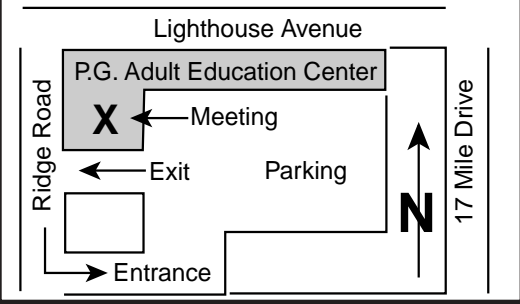
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - June 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE!!! Starting in June, all Wednesday Workshops will be at Hilltop Park Center - See June issue for map</p>		1 DIRECTORS' MEETING Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	2	3	4 General Meeting "Computer Gaming" Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Jeff Smith</i>	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 "Views from My Windows" Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Phil Shortell</i>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Father's Day						
27	28	29 DIRECTORS' MEETING Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	30 "Master Genealogist" Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bob Stephan</i>			

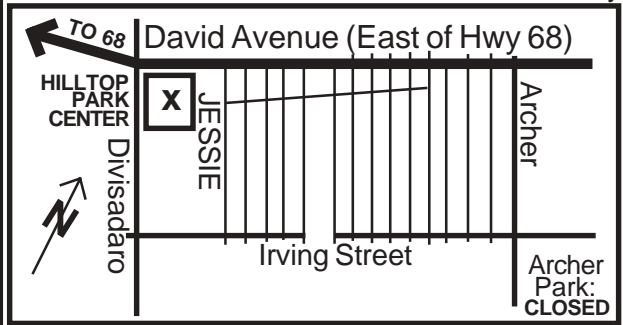
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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




Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 General Meeting: "Integrated Learn. Mgr." Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Mary Adams</i>	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Independence Day						
11	12	13	14 "Hardware" Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Nick Mertes</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 "Digital Cameras" Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bill Hyler</i>	29	30	31

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INK CARTRIDGE UPDATE

**Carolyn
Lake**
Publicity Chair



photo: Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC

MAKING MORE OUT OF LESS
 We all know the saying, "Less is More." If you find you have a lot "less" ink and more empty printer ink cartridges, here's how to make them into "more" for the benefit of MBUG educational programs. Used cartridges sent to our recycler bring in "more" cash!

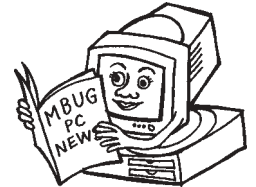
"Is this magic", you ask? No, just gather your (and maybe your neighbor's, your business partner's, your mom's) empty cartridges and bring them to MBUG general meetings or workshops. Put them in the brown box or give them to a Board Member. Each cartridge turns into \$2.00 for our coffers. Remember, only name brand original equipment. No remanufactured or generic brands, please!

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com ♦

Check your (upside down) label.

Does it say

"Exp: June / 2004"?



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Rita A. Sopolsky	1169
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George Szemes	1052
Frank Wasco	888