



mbug-pc newsletter

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3rd Annual MBUG/Club Mac BBQ Picnic



Food, Intelligent Company,
& the annual Men vs Women
Computer Quiz!

Indian Village, Pebble Beach

SUNDAY AUGUST 29

(see details on page 5)!

Jim
Hinwood
Program
Chair



Washing e-mail clean with Clive

Is spam driving you crazy? Junk e-mail is set to increase exponentially over the next few years and has already become a worldwide problem. According to **Jupiter Research**, unwanted e-mail (or spam) now forms around 50 per cent of e-mail sent!

Come to MBUG-PC's **First Friday General Meeting on August 6** to learn from our own **Clive Sanders** (long-time Member, Tips & Tricks Columnist, Assistant Membership Chair, F1 for Help Guy and Director of Clive Sanders & Associates, Computer Consultants) about the easiest and most powerful way to stop unwanted e-mail from getting to your computer. He will walk us through one of the newest software programs designed to deal with senders of junk e-mail so you receive only the e-mail you want.

Clive has recently evaluated the full-featured version of **MailWasher Pro** and thinks it's a good answer to time-wasting junk mail problems. As well as letting you preview and delete your e-mail before it gets to your computer, MailWasher Pro also enables you to interact with the **FirstAlert!** spam database. Clive will tell us how FirstAlert! users report spam messages and watch as spam disappears from not only their own inboxes, but the inboxes of all other FirstAlert! subscribers (a first year subscription to FirstAlert! is included in the purchase price of MailWasher Pro).

Clive will explain how MailWasher Pro learns and adapts to your personal preferences by letting you teach it the kind of e-mail you want to receive. Its intelligent filters use **Firetrust's** advanced learning filters (Bayesian statistics) to deliver a robust and efficient approach. If you have any questions in advance, contact Clive at simbacli@earthlink.net. ♦

FIRST FRIDAY GENERAL MEETING

Friday, August 6, 2004 at 7pm

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

FREE and open to MBUG-PC Members

**and the Public! Come along and bring a friend for great coffee,
truly useful computer information and interesting 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 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:
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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.

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

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



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

These are just some of the areas we should consider when thinking of our security and the security of others. Many users may have additional and even opposing views. But this is not meant to start arguments — I suggest that if you care about computer security that do your own research and set your own standards, just as long as you all remember that your lack of security may affect others.

NOVICE CORNER: MAIL TEST

If you decide to make some changes in your mail client (mail system) and want to know if all is functioning well, or if you have not received any messages for hours (and this is unusual), what is the easiest way to test your e-mail system?

- You could send messages to friends and wait around until they respond or call you.
- How about sending a message to yourself? You can do this by adding your own address to your address book.
- Some ISPs (Internet Service Providers) have an address to which you can send a message to see if all is functioning well. The reply will be automatic (for example SBC subscribers can send a message to test@sbcmailtest.com).

IS YOUR COMPUTER SECURE?

It is never too often to remind all of us to keep our computers secure.

A secure computer is not only a benefit to our self but also to all of our correspondents whose address we have in our address book and *their* correspondents and on and on, ad infinitum.

How secure should you make your computer? That depends on you. However, keep in mind that the security of your computer affects the security of all your correspondents. The Internet is full of ideas about security; all you need is some time and a search engine.

Here are some areas to consider:

1. A constantly updated **anti-virus program**
2. A **firewall**
3. Turn e-mail **preview panel off**
4. **Disable file & printer sharing**
5. **Disable Windows Messenger Service**
6. Manage cookies with an **anti-spyware program** (see *Clive's Tips & Tricks* on page 7)
7. Keep your operating system's **critical updates current**
8. Keep your **program security updates current**
9. Be aware that **many incoming warnings are hoaxes**
10. Use **caution in opening strange mail, especially attachments**
11. Be aware that **viruses can arrive in a message from an unprotected computer** from trusted correspondents without their knowledge
12. Be intelligent in the manner in which you **configure your privacy and security settings**

VIRUS MYTHS VI

"If I don't go on the Internet I don't have to worry about viruses."

This unfortunately is not the case — over 90 percent of computer users contract viruses from floppy diskettes, the rest get them over the Internet. (More *Virus Myths* will follow in subsequent issues). ♦

blacklion@royal.net

**THANKS as always to
Our MBUG-PC
"Refreshment Lady"
Louann Hinwood**

Though many months may pass without our seeming to bother to say THANK YOU for coffee service and goodies at First Friday

General Meetings, we'd like to remind you that we sincerely appreciate your (and other unsung donors) for keeping us caffeinated, sugar-loaded and carbed while we have our brain cells simulated by guest speakers.

Sincerely, MBUG-PC Members & Board



WI-FI UPDATE

**John
Rowe**
Columnist
&
Workshop
Leader



photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

there are problems associated with giving Wi-Fi service away for free.

The first problem is: who pays for that “free” Internet access? Most hotspots have a back office that shares an Internet connection with a Wi-Fi Hotspot (the hotspot operator). This works great as long as demand on the system is minimal. But if word got out that free access was available, increasing demand on the system, a higher speed Internet connection might be needed at significantly higher cost or the affected office would start to have very slow connections or lose access to the Internet altogether. This would be bad!

Another problem is: what about security? With pay Wi-Fi Hotspots, there’s always a controller device that takes care of all the AAA (Access, Authorization, and Accounting) and also acts as a firewall, keeping the

wireless devices using the Wi-Fi hotspot separate from back office internal network. To protect themselves, free Wi-Fi hotspots would have to hire an expert to install and maintain a firewall to keep the Wi-Fi users separate from their internal network. If you simply connect an access point to your existing network and offer free Wi-Fi service without a firewall, you’ll be inviting hackers into your network. This would be **very** bad.

At least one solution has been worked out. Some pay Wi-Fi hotspots are giving away limited service in the form of promotional coupons. For example, the **Staff of Life Grocery-Café** in Santa Cruz has a program where for a minimum purchase, one hour of free Wi-Fi Internet access is yours for the asking.

See you at my new Wi-Fi workshop on August 20! ♦ johnr@tolt.com

WI-FI FOR FREE OR FEE?

There’s been a lot of discussion lately about whether Wi-Fi Internet service should be given away for free or should you have to pay? If there was free Wi-Fi access everywhere I’d strap my laptop to my body so everywhere I would go I’d be online!

Just kidding.

But seriously, looking at this from the Wi-Fi Hotspot operator’s perspective,

Recycle your Computer Hardware FREE with Office Depot and HP

Now through Labor Day bring unwanted computer hardware to any **Office Depot** and they’ll send them to HP’s recycling plants to be processed into material that will be used to make new products.

MBUG-PC members’ nearest location is 850 Playa Avenue, Sand City.

Each person may turn in one (1) piece of approved equipment to an Office Depot retail store per day.

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No TV consoles, furniture, laptop batteries, rechargeable batteries or electric appliances, please. Program available in the Continental U.S. only. Office Depot will not accept and reserves the express right to reject all other types of electronic equipment, including, but not limited to, stand alone VCRs, TVs (greater than 27" measured diagonally), DVDs, and any product that presents a hazardous condition, including monitors with broken glass. Customers will not receive compensation from Office Depot for Approved Equipment.

Thanks to new MBUG-PC Member Ms Gayle Robinette for calling our attention to this deal!

3rd ANNUAL MBUG-PC/CLUB MAC POTLUCK PICNIC

Note the date: **SUNDAY 29 August 2004**

(yes, that's right -- **SUNDAY** not Saturday)

It's time for our annual get-together with Club Macintosh of Monterey! As in the past two years it will be held at **INDIAN VILLAGE in Pebble Beach**

COME ALONE OR BRING SOMEONE

Join us by yourself or bring your spouse, family members or friends. Let's talk computers, eat some good food and have a pleasant few hours out in the woods!

BRING A POTLUCK DISH

Bring an appetizer, a salad or a dessert. Hamburgers, buns, condiments, paper plates, soft drinks, beer and wine will be provided by MBUG/Club Mac!

DONATION IN ADVANCE OR AT THE EVENT

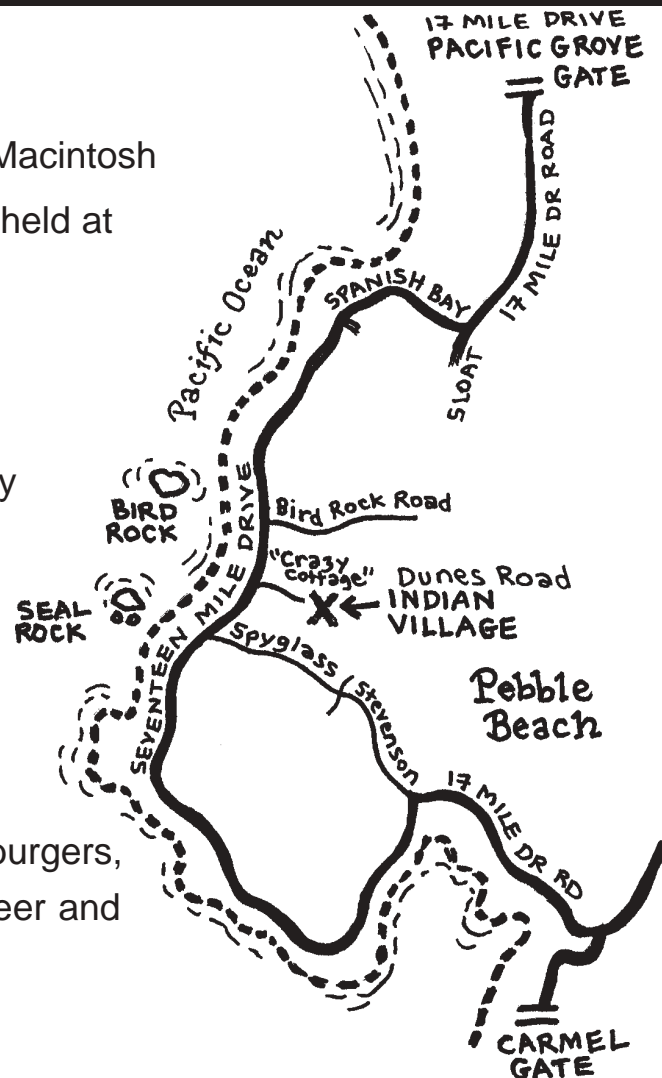
There is a \$3 donation per person in advance or \$5 at the event, which you can mail to MBUG-PC or give to any Board Member at any meeting prior to the event.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

We need a few good people to help grill burgers, set up tables, clean up and organise parking.

CONTACT

Regina Doyle at ReginaDoyle@aol.com (831) 375-4496 or **Carolyn Lake** at lakelyn@ix.netcom.com (831) 643-2023 or **Kristen Knutson** at mcle@msn.com ♦



DRIVING THE FRONTSIDE BUS

**Jim
Hinwood**
Columnist
&
Program
Chair



photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

COMPUTERS EXPANDING THE USE OF ROBOTS

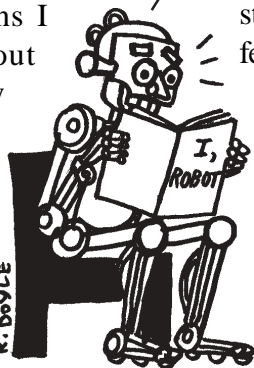
So many articles I've seen lately have been about robotics — it's the newest hot topic. Last month's *Technology Review* and this month's *Wired* magazine have articles on robotics. When I see the **Roomba** vacuuming a house automatically on TV it reminds me of **The Jetsons** cartoon series where the home of the future is all automated and housework is a thing of the past. Many of the cartoons I remember as a kid were about automated houses that went crazy and started to attack the cat or the dog: its robots would come out and start sweeping or vacuuming at the slightest indication of dirt. As computers become more powerful, who knows what time-saving devices may be invented?

In the *Technology Review* article, the author makes a prediction that robotics will take off the way computers took off ten years ago. The more powerful computers we have today will be the brains for this new class of servants. These robots may not look like the anthropomorphic types we see in movies and TV. Many may just be simple-looking box-shaped machines (like the Roomba) with one specific job. But some will certainly be more complex with a multitude of functions

and a human-like shape. **Honda** has recently been advertising a robot which is complex and can do many things.

Robots have been used in manufacturing for quite awhile now. One of the reasons we Americans fell behind the Japanese in the auto industry is because they had the largest number of automobile plant robots in the world. Part of the future mechanization of our manufacturing plants will be heavily dependent on robots. The computing power of the latest CPU chips is in the trillions of operations per second. In ten years we will no doubt have plenty of chip-powered intelligence to drive robots to unprecedented capabilities.

Human beings attacking the poor robots!



R. DOYLE

Isaac Asimov wrote *I, Robot* in the 1950s and there is a current film with the same name starring **Will Smith**. With these stories always comes the fear of artificial intelligence and whether it may someday have the ability to take control from humans.

This is a recurrent theme in everything from *2001: A Space Odyssey* with the computer Hal, to the current *I, Robot*. This fear of our inventions taking over may not be as important as how we feel about the egos of those who use the technology.

I recently read about some robotic legs which could give the wearer the ability to carry a much larger load in battle, similar to a pair of bionic legs from *The Six-Million Dollar Man* TV show. How long will it be before robots fight it out as seen in the movie *The Terminator*? There are probably

many battlefield applications for robots and many are probably already in the making.

The real problem is not the artificial intelligence but the human intelligence behind it, directing robots to do good or evil. I hope that like the computer, robots will become powerful tools for the benefit of all mankind.

My first thought after reading many of these articles recently is that this would be a great time to invest in this fledgling science. In the movie *Frequency*, **Dennis Quaid** plays a character that goes back in time to change his past. While he is there he mentions one word to his friend. When he gets back to the present he runs into this friend who remembered the word and is now rich and has the word, **Yahoo**, on the license plate of his Mercedes. How many of us would like to know what the next big investment is going to be?

Maybe in the future, one of us will be driving that Mercedes around with "robots" written on our license plate!♦

ehinwood@msn.com

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WINDOWS TIPS & TRICKS

Clive Sanders
F1 Help, & Assistant
Membership Chair

attributed to Lee Gomes
Wall Street Journal,
July 12th 2004



Spyware: Easy to Get, Difficult to Remove, Increasingly Malicious

Spyware is a bigger problem than Spam. Spyware (Internet jargon for advertising supported software) is a broad term covering all software that runs in connection with web browsers and cookies. Some cookies (pieces of information generated by a Web server and stored in your computer, ready for future access) act like “spyware”, collecting and sending information on where you go on the Internet. Some types of spyware install tracking software on your system, continuously using your Internet connection to report statistical data, information about you and your surfing habits to a remote location.

Watch out where you go with your browser: avoid free downloading sites such as **Grokster** and **Kazaa** — you get what you pay for! Sites like these use a form of spyware. They indicate to their owners where you have been and settle on specific advertising formats.

There is now a malicious breed of spyware enveloping the Internet. **Lee Gomes** refers to them as “scumware”. They might reset your home page to a porn site or an unknown search engine and some go further such as secretly recording your keystrokes when you type out your bank account and other such financial numbers.

Most of us accuse our friends of bringing this trouble on themselves by visiting sites which should be left well alone. We have all seen popup ads that teeter across the screen, re-appear at the bottom and start the journey again. Nowadays you can innocently visit a webpage devoted to a benign subject and find yourself well and truly embroiled in all kinds of strange antics over which you have no control. These spyware devils hide themselves or disguise themselves in DLL files. DLL files can not be erased if they are active.

My solution is to use two freeware programs: once a week I run **Lavasoft’s Ad-Aware** (lavasoftusa.com) first followed by **Spybot – Search & Destroy** (safer-networking.org). Ad-Aware can be instructed not to seek out and remove friendly cookies like those of your favorite banker. Why use two programs? From experience and intuition I think that when one spyware program is on the move it manages to hide itself from say, Ad-Aware. When I run Spybot immediately after this it usually finds one or two more spyware devices.

Don’t be surprised when you run Ad-Aware for the first time – you may find 50 or more bugs, data miners and other baddies. You can “kill” them all at the touch of the key but it’s better to quarantine what you find for a week just in case removing something causes a problem in your registry. If one of your programs plays up you can selectively restore the needed item and delete the rest (this way you can eliminate the bug without screwing up the registry). If you get in trouble, it may be best to call in the MBUG cavalry — call **F1 for Help** (see listing on page 9). ♦ simbacli@earthlink.net

DISCOUNT COMPUTER MAGAZINE PRICE LIST

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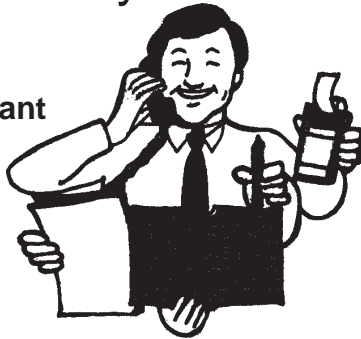


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VOLUNTEER COMPUTER COACHES/TEACHERS NEEDED

Sally Griffin Senior Center in Pacific Grove

is in need of additional “computer coaches”
and instructors for their

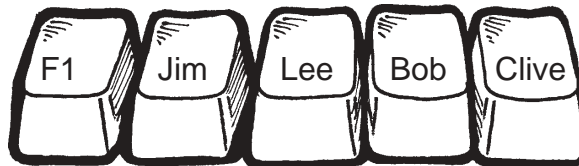
Technology Access Program for Seniors.

The center provides older adults an
opportunity to learn and practice their
technical skills in a small lab, working one-on-
one and in a small class format with a
volunteer computer coaches and instructors.

If you have the time, ability and patience to
tutor beginners in a relaxed setting, contact
Kimberle Herring at the Sally Griffin Senior
Center at (831) 375-4454 or e-mail
kherring@mowmp.org

Computer Help is Just a Click or Call Away with F1

You know you push the “F1” button on your com-
puter 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 soft-
ware 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 under-
standing that MBUG-PC, its Board of Directors,
and the F1 Volunteers themselves are in no way
responsible or liable for the accuracy or the out-
come 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 ♦



DIGITAL vs FILM CAMERAS

photo: Ann Mack, MBUG-PC

Bill Hyler

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, August 11

7:00 to 9:00pm

**Hilltop Park Center
Monterey**



We will discuss how you move digital images from your camera or card holder to your computer; how to move your photo files into editing programs such as **Adobe Photoshop**, **Minolta Camera** programs, **Kodak** or **Microsoft Image Suite**; and how to edit your photos and show them in slide show presentations.

You are welcome to bring your own camera to this session and we'll help each other learn about the world of digital images. If you have specific questions send them to me in advance at hyler@comcast.net or just show up and let's talk! ♦

Bill



ALL ABOUT WI-FI

John Rowe

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, August 20

7:00 to 9:00pm

**Adult Education Center
Pacific Grove**



photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC

At the first in our new series of Wi-Fi workshops we'll look at different types of gear, how to set up a home or small office network, and setting up basic security using WEP or WPA, and or MAC address authentication.

We'll also cover how to set up a peer-to-peer or ad-hoc network (without an access point), how you can share a printer at home or work, and how to share files using Wi-Fi networks. So bring your Wi-Fi enabled devices, and let's connect!

Questions in advance? Contact me at johnr@tolt.com. ♦

John

continuing workshop series MASTER GENEALOGIST WORKSHOPS

photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC



Bob Stephan

Workshop Leader

**Wednesday,
August 25**

7:00 to 9:00pm

**Hilltop Park Center
Monterey**

The Master Genealogist Workshop on August 25 will review data entry and explore that subject in greater depth than we have looked at it before.

Other subjects on the agenda are match and merge, the Project Explorer, the relationship calculator and the date calculator. If time permits we'll add other items. Shoot in your questions by e-mail (rstephan@redshift.com) and we'll cover those too.

Bob

Wednesdays in

September / October 2004

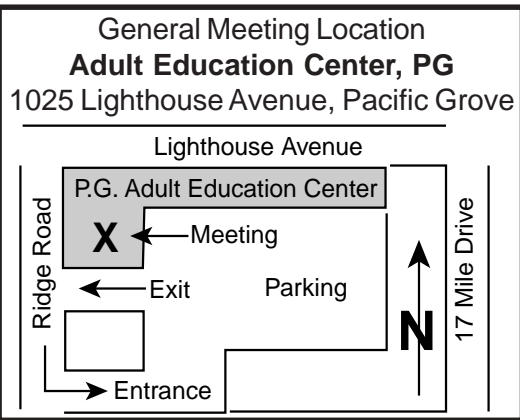
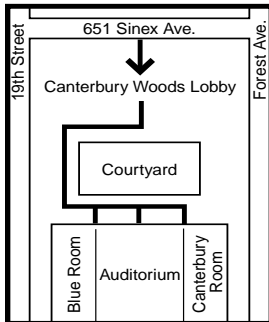
The Master Genealogist workshops will continue on **September 29** and **October 27**.

Topics that remain to be covered are the extensive reporting system, the Project Explorer, the research log, Visual Chartform, image exhibits, slide shows and many tools such as text editor, text macros, timelines, match and merge, relationship calculator, date calculator and calendar. There is probably no other software program for the price that has anywhere near the number of features that are found in The Master Genealogist. Whether you already use TMG or are just interested in finding out what computers can help you do to trace and track your family tree, join us and learn something new about computer software or genealogy. ♦

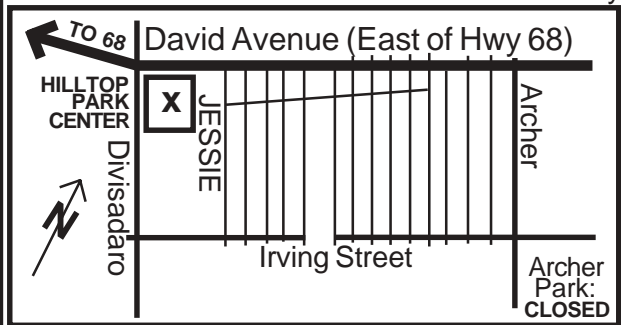
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - August 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	4	5	6 <i>General Meeting</i> <i>"Mailwasher"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Clive Sanders</i>	7
8	9	10	11 <i>"Digital Cameras"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bill Hylar</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>"All About Wi-Fi"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>John Rowe</i>	21
22	23	24	25 <i>"Master Genealogist"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bob Stephan</i>	26	27	28
29 MBUG-PC/ Club MAC Annual BBQ/Picnic Pebble Beach	30	31 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> NEW WORKSHOP </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>Starting this month: Bring your Wi-Fi enabled laptop and connect through the new PGAEC access point while solving the mysteries of WiFi with John Rowe!</p> </div> </div>			

Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <i>General Meeting:</i> <i>"To Be Announced"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Speaker TBA</i>	4
5	6	7	8 <i>"View from My Windows"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Phil Shortell</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>"Master Genealogist"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bob Stephan</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 <i>"WindowsXP"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Jim Anway</i>	30		



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Don Slaiter Vice President, Assistant Treasurer, & Membership Chair

THANKS FOR RENEWING

Mary Boyken	1070
Leo Clarke Leo	1117
Norma Cocklin	1063
Connie D'Attilio	1064
William Fisher	450
Bill Hyler	462
Renati Mannan	1214
Leo Poppoff	754
Michael Pouls, Jr.	854
Tom Streater	1062
Alberta Sullivan	6

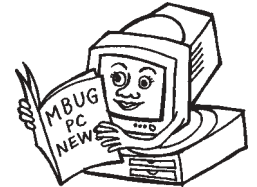
THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Mary Boyken	1070
Norma Cocklin	1063
William Fisher	450
Bill Hyler	462
Leo Poppoff	754
Tom Streater	1062
Alberta Sullivan	6

Check your (upside down) label.

Does it say

“Exp: August / 2004”?



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Check the expiration date of your MBUG-PC membership & newsletter subscription: Electronic \$20, US Mail \$25, both \$35.

Additional tax-deductible donations welcome!

Send your name, address, telephone and e-mail address with your check to: Monterey Bay Users Group-PC, 177 Webster Street, #A-354, Monterey, CA 93940

INK CARTRIDGE UPDATE

Carolyn Lake

Publicity Chair



photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC

saved up several, every contribution is welcome!

Bring in the empties, either to our general meeting or to any workshop; drop them into the brown box or give them to any Board member. The cartridges are sent to a business in the L. A. area to be used in trade show demonstrations, and MBUG receives a small reimbursement.

RECYCLING WITH A PURPOSE

Donations of your used printer ink cartridges continue to support the MBUG-PC education programs. Whether you have just one or have

Remember, we can collect only original equipment, name brands; no remanufactured or generic brands, please! ♦

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com