



mbug-pc newsletter

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Should you just throw your PC away when it gives you trouble?



Ad Hoc Bytes' Bill Bowles says you might want to "think again" when planning to fix something.
(see page 10)

Jim
Hinwood
Program
Chair



Wireless Computer Security

Our speaker this month is **Michael Stewart**, owner of **@Your Service Mobile Computer Repair**. Michael will be talking about a very timely topic: ways to make your wireless computer more secure. Because of its wonderful convenience (being able to use your computer anywhere in your house or anywhere away from home near a Wi-Fi "hotspot"), a lot of people already have or are thinking of migrating to this less restricting, less messy mode. But does everyone know that wireless computing is also inherently less secure than your standard wired model? It's intuitive when you think about the fact that, instead of running down secured wires and into your machine and back, with wireless technology all your data, messages and stuff is beamed back and forth into the air. This leaves you open to thieves who can deliberately snag information in midair, potentially catching bank, credit and identity codes, trade secrets and other valuables, or just personal junk (including gossip about other MBUG members)!

Of course there are basic ways that all wireless data is encrypted (scrambled into secret code before it is sent out), but Michael will tell us about the different levels of security available beyond this, what's right for your needs, how to set it up in your computer and where to get it. You need to know this!

Michael has been in the computer business since 1989, including 8 years as manager of the IT team at **Cal State University Monterey Bay**. For the past couple of years he has been running his mobile service where he comes to your house to diagnose and treat your computer. From helping you take it out of the box and hook it up, to teaching you how to turn it on and run it (one-on-one training, 100baseT/wireless networking), up to diagnosing and repairing physical or software errors and crashes, **@Your Service Mobile** does it all. Questions? Requests? Contact Michael at (831) 206-9929 or backonline@comcast.net. ♦

Don't miss this important talk!
FIRST FRIDAY GENERAL MEETING

Friday, October 1, 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. Great coffee,
truly useful computer information and interesting people!

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE: MBUG-PC NEEDS YOU!

Workshop Leaders

We need people willing to share their computer knowledge and skills to run regular workshops. If you'd like to create and lead a workshop monthly, every other month or quarterly, call us!

Publicity Chair

Incumbent Carolyn Lake will be shifting jobs soon: we will need someone who can spare a few hours a month publicizing MBUG in local publications and to members on the Listserv.

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?

We would appreciate additional Meeting Facilitators!

Can you help out a few times a month to set up/fold down chairs and generally get MBUG meeting rooms ready? **Lead Facilitator Don Slaiter** capably aided by **Charlie Mehlert & Gary Stephens** are doing a great job, but they can always use extra hands.

INTERESTED? E-mail or call Vice-President **Don Slaiter**

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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 Hoyer, MBUG-PC

GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

I'm back from the wilds of the Balkans after leaving no extra blood in the forests of Transylvania. It's a most interesting area and I highly recommend doing the river cruise.

THIRD ANNUAL MBUG-PC/CLUB MAC POTLUCK PICNIC

The annual picnic in August was a huge success, thanks to **Don Slaiter, Regina Doyle, Carolyn Lake, Kristen Knudson** and all the Potluckers (see photo album on pages 8 and 9). I was especially impressed with the friendly, helpful staff of **Canterbury Woods, Pacific Grove**. Not only did they volunteer the "big room" for our indoor picnic, but helped set up and knock down all the tables, chairs and grills. Administrative Chef **Robert Kershner** donated several large bowls of salad, in addition to all the condiments for our burgers and dogs. Many thanks to everyone who made this year's event so nice!

NICK & PHIL WILL BE SORELY MISSED

Several sad things have happened in MBUG in September. First, **Phil Shortell**, MBUG Member 1175, stalwart Workshop Leader, and Instructor/Owner of **The Fourth R** in Salinas, left town for the wilds of Arizona! Phil ran very

practical workshops on big name applications and always left the audience wanting another class! He will definitely be missed, but we do wish him and his wife the very best in settling in to their new home.

This moving thing seems catching. Second, **Nick Mertes**, MBUG Member 420, innovative Workshop Leader, and Sales/Service Associate at **That Computer Place**, Monterey, heard the siren call of Oklahoma of all places, and by 1 September, was out of here. Again, Nick would always draw a crowd for his "hands on" workshops. Who can forget how easy he made it seem to open up your computer and dust away? His clear logical tips for maintenance and adding drives and other goodies were legion. Last spring, the "Build Yourself a Computer" workshop capped his popularity. He raffled the computer off and was most generous to donate half the proceeds to MBUG! Now who do I snivel to about why my computer doesn't work, and where will I find such a sympathetic ear? How we all will miss you Nick, but we have to wish you and your wife a smooth and happy transition from CA to OK!

MICROSOFT LOWERING PRICES?

One interesting note to end on: for the first time **Microsoft** is lowering the price of an **XP Operating system** to computer manufacturers — but only in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in their local languages. The program is called **Starter Edition** and is sold with the new machine. **Mike Langberg** of the **San Jose Mercury** finds the concept fascinating (see his column 9/17/04 at www.langberg.com).

SEE YOU FRIDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 1ST

Don't miss our monthly programs — the last one was excellent!◆

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BITS & BYTES & XP SP2

Siles Bazerman

APCUG Representative, Orange County
IBM PC Users' Group

I've been using **SP2 RC2** for several weeks, but held off writing about it until several issues were resolved. The rumor of **Microsoft** allowing any computer running **WindowsXP** to install SP2 was just that, rumors. Microsoft decided that it is more important to prevent upgrades to "pirated" versions

than to prevent the spread of viruses, Trojans and spyware. Not only will the new update not recognize these keys, but it also blocks out a number of perfectly legitimately purchased CD keys or more accurately Product Identification keys. However, it did my heart good to see that one of Usenet's self-proclaimed experts, whose answer to almost any XP problem involving patches or upgrades, is to accuse the poster of having a pirated copy of Windows XP and telling them to buy a legitimate copy, had the exact problem on one of his three computers. Microsoft is working on the solution, but I am sure that the hackers and crackers out there will have the solution first. (continued on page 11)



THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

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



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

DO FLAs* AND OTHER COMPUTER LINGO CONFUSE YOU?

So, you're an English major, but reading some computer manuals, computer literature, error messages, etc. is Greek to you? You could purchase a "hard copy" computer dictionary at your local bookstore, but it was obsolete before it was printed.

Better to Google. Go to www.google.com, click on "Advanced Search", type in "computer dictionary" (without the quotes) in the "exact phrase" text box and with one click, you get 946,000 results. Chances are, you'll find a couple of dictionaries you like, and you can add them to your desktop or to your "favorites". If you go through the same procedure and replace "computer dictionaries" with "computer acronyms", you should see about 7,290 places where you can start your research.

LONGHORN

Remember **Longhorn**, the name of the next **Microsoft OS** (operating system) which was scheduled to appear in 2005? I hope you didn't plan on it.

It's now scheduled to surprise us in ... 2006. And you thought Microsoft was always on time. We are told that Redmond is cutting some fat off that beast. Let's hope that at least it will be a more secure system.

GOOGLE FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE

Do you like to Google? Try searching from a different point of view: <http://www.soople.com/>.

**That's a three-letter acronym for "a four-letter acronym".*

RUMORS, HOAXES, GOSSIP

Recently I've received an unusual amount of messages containing "interesting" information. Some unbelievable and some which I've receive numbers of times over the last ten years. Just imagine thousands and millions of people receiving this junk, believing it to be true and passing it on to the rest of the world. Even people who normally tend to be sceptical of rumors, often take things they read on the Internet as the Gospel truth. I suggest we all examine our information and weed out the rumors, hoaxes and gossip. How? Ask yourself:

1. Who is informing us?
2. Is the source reputable?
3. Who/what is the original source?
4. Does it sound probable?
5. Does it sound possible?
6. Should I check into the information?
7. Is it important or necessary to pass it on?
8. If so, to whom should I selectively pass it to?

We should all know this by now. Why should we treat Internet information different than what is spoken or printed, especially when the source is anonymous and could have originated anywhere on earth? Even receiving the same information from two or more Internet sources (called "double confirmation" in military and civilian intelligence parlance), doesn't mean that it's not fake – it may all stem from one source.

There are legitimate websites you can access to double check and verify information. I recommend snopes.com/snopes.asp, otherwise known as the **Urban Legends Reference Pages**. **REMEMBER:** If information is worth passing on, then it's worth checking out!

VIRUS MYTH VIII

"You can contract a virus by reading your e-mail."

Not entirely true. By just opening an e-mail message to read its contents you can not contract a virus, unless that e-mail message contains an attachment, and you save that attachment to your hard drive or another storage media. To help prevent getting viruses through e-mail, don't open files that contain attachments from individuals you do not trust or know. **EXTRA NOTE:** A virus like the **Bubble Boy** can infect computers by a user just opening their mail; however it requires the use of **Internet Explorer 5.0, Windows98, and Microsoft Outlook**. ♦

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WINDOWS TIPS & TRICKS



Clive Sanders
F1 Help & Assistant
Membership Chair

MEA CULPA

Last month I passed on an **Ed Bott** tip about making repairs to **Internet Explorer** (*MBUG-PC Newsletter*, September 2004). I neglected to mention that this handy function does NOT work in **WindowsXP**. Sorry for the inconvenience!

FIREWALL - ANTIVIRUS CONFLICT?

From time to time if you use **Zone Labs ZoneAlarm** firewall, there will be a sort of disconnect between the normal function of one of the **Norton AntiVirus** applications. You will get messages like “*ccApp.exe wishes to access the Internet*” and others. “*ccApp.exe*” belongs to Norton AntiVirus, runs auto-protect and e-mail checking facilities. It starts automatically if you enable the “autoprotect” box. If this happens, just click “OK” and let it access the Internet and do its job of protecting your incoming e-mail from viruses.

MYSTERIOUS RESTART – SHUTDOWN MESSAGES?

On occasion you may get this message during computer restart or shut down: “*ccApp.exe is not responding*”. Situation: **Symantec Europe ID doc 2***080112421906** informs us that when you restart or shut down your computer, you see the Windows dialog box displaying the message “*ccApp.exe is not responding*” sometimes Windows closes the program and you can restart or shut down. At other times you must click “End Now” to close *ccApp.exe*.

This message does not indicate a problem. The main Norton AntiVirus (NAV) host file, *ccApp.exe*, is in the process of closing all running services. The *ccApp.exe* file can take some time to close, especially if the computer was shut down before it finished its last startup process. Be patient. If Windows does not close the application in a few seconds, then click “End Now” to close the program and allow the restart/shut down process to continue. ♦

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THANKS
Louann Hinwood

We always appreciate the fine coffee service and great snacks that you provide at First Friday General Meetings. In addition to the intellectual stimulation of our Guest Speakers and the companionship of fellow Members, your sweet, salty and caffeinated offerings are reasons to keep us coming back month after month!

MBUG-PC Members & Board

ARE YOU GETTING ALL THE BENEFITS YOU CAN OUT OF YOUR MBUG-PC MEMBERSHIP?

It appears that there are a sizable number of MBUG-PC Members who are still not benefiting from our Listserv. A Listserv is like a private e-mail service where you can send out messages to all other MBUG Members and have other Members reach you. This service is secure because it is monitored by MBUG’s own Web Master who ensures that the message is computer-related, virus-free and is passed on by members only (no spammers allowed)!

But to use MBUG’s Listserv you must register. Instructions appear at the bottom of our website (www.mbug.org) or go to <http://listserv.redshift.com/mailman/listinfo/mbug>. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call on a veteran MBUG-PC member.

MBUG-PC Listserv Benefits

1. Current announcement of immediately upcoming MBUG programs
2. Frequent notification of new viruses, worms, scams, etc.
3. Opportunity to ask and answer computer-related questions.
4. Announcements looking for or offering computer-related software and hardware
5. NO SPAM
6. Reasonable number of messages: although any member can post messages, we assure you, the number of messages will not crowd your inbox



THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST

photo: Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC



by
**Bob “I Don’t Do
Windows” Stephan**

Note: Bob has no financial interest in any of the programs mentioned in this article.

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR GENEALOGY PROGRAM

So now you have finally bought, borrowed, stolen, or downloaded a genealogy program. What do you do next? How do you get started using such a program? Let me provide a few ideas to help you get started if that is what is keeping you from using your new genealogy program. By the way, if you do not already have a genealogy program I can recommend downloading the free **Legacy Family Tree** from www.legacyfamilytree.com. “Free” does not mean limited in functionality. Legacy is a full-featured genealogy program that matches or exceeds the capabilities of the most popular payware programs. You can read about the additional features of the professional version and if you feel you need them you can upgrade for just \$19.95.

Data entry is of course the main feature of any application program that is based on storing data. The first thing you will want to do is to enter your own name to start a record of data for yourself. Depending on the program you have chosen it may be as simple as clicking the mouse in the Name field and typing in your name, or it might involve finding something called “Add a Person” or the ilk. In some programs you will enter your entire name with any prefix and suffix titles in one field. In other programs there will be separate fields for titles, given names, surname, and suffixes such as Jr., III, etc. In programs which use a single field you may have to use special markers such as slashes to identify which part of the entry is the surname, especially if the surname consists of more than a single word, such as “von Schmidt” or if it is followed by Jr., II, etc. I much prefer the separate fields to clarify which parts of the name are which. It seems much cleaner to me.

Most modern genealogy programs then let you enter any number of events in the life of the person whose record you are transcribing, in this case your own. The most basic events are vital records such as birth, baptism, marriage, and for some other entries death, and burial. But your life consists of many other kinds of events - education, illnesses, awards, name changes, occupations, divorces, to name just a few. Enter every event you can think of over your whole life. In this manner you can outline or fully document your life to the extent that you want to do it. After all, you are the person that knows yourself better than anyone else. Of course, document your entries to the extent possible entering such sources as birth, baptism, and marriage certificates, diplomas, licenses, and any other documents that you know of or possess. This should keep you busy for a good amount of time and help you become familiar with your selected program. It will be great preparation for subsequent steps.

Just about every event will be associated with a date and a location. Most modern programs will accept dates in several formats and automatically convert them to the preferred format. Enter place names carefully and as fully as you can. Do not use abbreviations. Use full state names. For counties enter the word County as in Monterey County. In some states there may be other names such as parishes so you will want the proper designation to print in reports. For locations in other countries find out and use the proper designations. Here again I much prefer a program that provides separate entry fields for the various levels of place names vice entering the entire location in one field which I think can be confusing and is not very clean looking.

To check the completeness of your entries find out how your program lets you publish a personal narrative report to the screen. Checking to see how your entries will look when printed in a report will give you guidance as to how you will want to make those entries. As you enter your personal data and check it with the narrative report you can actually build an autobiography that can be as complete as you want to make it. Verify that the sources associated with the events appear appropriately as footnotes, endnotes, or embedded notes.

Family Tree Branches

When you are satisfied with your own entries enter your immediate family. Of course, as you do all the entries above you will naturally include marriages, births of children, divorces, deaths of spouses or children, adoptions, and any

number of other events. Hopefully there will not be too many sad ones, but be objective and enter everything. If there are things that you do not want to print in reports check the documentation for exclusion markers that you can insert in many programs.

But for every member of your family enter as many events as you can think of and enter the sources for the data. In many cases the source entry will simply be your own or other family members' personal knowledge, but where there is a document make a source entry for it. Continue to check your entries with the narrative reports as you go. By doing so you make sure that when you print a report it will appear as you want it to look. Be sure to check the footnotes or endnotes to make sure that you have entered the sources so as to print properly.

Those of you who are just starting this endeavor have advantages I never had. I started with much less capable DOS programs, then 16 bit **Windows** programs. The data entered back then in cruder formats has come forward through several different genealogy programs and now I am stuck with all those old entries many of which were not properly documented. Now with over 7,000 people in my data base it is too late for me to go back and fix every single insufficient entry, but I am gradually working on fixing the entries for at least my direct line ancestors. Those of you who are just starting have the advantage of doing it right from the get-go with all the advantages of modern genealogy programs. I hope you take advantage of this opportunity. And with the excellent free program: Legacy, there are few valid excuses for not doing at least this much.

Next, enter your extended family—aunts, uncles, cousins, grandchildren, grandparents, your spouse's family and so forth to the extent you can. Up to now you will not have to do much library research because it is all family information which you have or can get directly from family members. By now you should be getting very familiar with data entry in your program. I would caution you to NOT just start out with a database that you might get from someone else such as another family member, at least not without checking it thoroughly for accuracy and proper documentation. Start with your own as above. Later you can import selected portions from other sources to fill in sidelines as you see fit.

After you have exhausted your family resources doing all of the above it will be time to start doing research to learn

about your more distant ancestors and cousins. The cardinal rule is to work from the known to the unknown, so first you must do all of the above to exhaust the "known" portion of the data. For reference purposes provide yourself with a printout that includes the earliest ancestors that you have been able to enter above. Depending on where the data came from, don't discount the possibility that it contains errors. For example, the information I got from both my parents contained numerous errors that I was able to fix later through my research. Include in the printout or in your notes as much information about your "end-of-line" ancestors as you can, especially dates and places of the events in their lives. This will arm you with the proper ammunition to conduct your genealogy research.

CAUTION

From this point on you can be confronted with extremely bad data. In my estimation there is more bad data floating around in various archives than reliable data. Be very cautious about the data you use, and always verify it for yourself before accepting it as fact. Occasionally I have heard of a person locating his or her family history in an archive or on the Internet from another researcher. In my experience this is rare and for most of us there is just a lot of grunt work to do—much reading of books, microfiche, microfilms, and information that might be found on the Internet. As you go back in time you will have to rely more and more on documents such as church records and there are very few of the old hand written church records just sitting out there on the Internet waiting for you to download them. It is a fascinating quest that requires a certain amount of work but can be very rewarding.

Later I will suggest places and methods to do some of the research. For starters look at the page I have uploaded to www.bobstephan.net/tmgws called **Genealogy Resources in the Monterey Bay Area**.

And by the way, do not forget to backup your data. You will invest a lot of time and effort in putting your genealogy together. Do not take a chance on it getting lost in a disk crash. Backup, backup, backup. ♦

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Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan is a genealogical computing enthusiast with over 38 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that The Frugal Computerist can respond to. Bob has a home page under construction at www.bobstephan.net.



MEETING REVIEW

by **Ann Mack**

MBUG-PC
President

Great Digital Photos



Question which photograph is superior today, and you'll find yourself deep in a discussion about the pros and cons of digital vs film cameras. MBUG-PC hosted **Kirk Kennedy** from **VectorPoint**, Salinas, last month, who offered his own beautiful opinions.

Kirk's true interest is landscape photography: the work of **Ansel Adams** has greatly influenced his style. He's been a professional photographer for three years and has used digital photography for two and a half years. Early digital cameras sacrificed clarity to make them a very poor second to the print quality of a "real" camera. But in the last 18 months, new digital techniques have emerged and an ability to stitch images together are helping digital professionals create images, techniques and photos that rival some of the best of traditional film work.

We were entertained and awed with a primer in choosing a subject, arranging the shooting time, checking light and setup. Kirk feels that the prime time for landscape photography is a 10 to 15 minute window of "yellow light" close to dawn or dusk — it's a time that brings out details from the shadowed areas better and produces almost magical effects. He says that October in Yosemite is very special for lighting.

After doing the shoot you have to choose which image, what details to highlight, analyze how the shot came out and decide what result you're after. Many times, the picture itself guides the print. Kirk said that cameras do not capture what you think your eyes see — you have to remember what you saw and work to bring the vision back to the shot.

How is this wonderful process accomplished? Patience, patience and more patience. Kirk uses **Adobe Photoshop** and as many as 60 "masks" on a shot. A mask is like a screen on which a change of image is made. The original image is unchanged and one is able to experiment with highlights, brightness, contrast, etc. As Kirk flipped through layers and layers of masks on one photograph, we could see the painstaking time and effort spent

in making the end results, which were spectacular. Kirk displayed over a dozen large landscapes that were truly awesome! Following the step-by-step process to the final the image gave us new insight into photographic art and a base to evaluate the work.

The September program was very good. If you missed this presentation, take some time and visit Kirk's studio in Salinas — you will certainly enjoy it. Visit www.VectorPoint.ws or write to Kirk@vectorpoint.ws. Thank you, so much, Kirk. The printing process is another full presentation for which we hope to lure Kirk back! ♦

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photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC

*Kirk Kennedy of VectorPoint
waxes rhapsodic about Photoshop.
We can't do justice to his
marvelous landscape photos here
so check them out on his website!*



Potluckers
(left) **Carolyn Lake, Richard Binsacca, Bob Stephan, Gary Stephens & Ron Brunet;**
(right) **Maria Beck and Bruce Belknap.**



3rd Annual MBUG-PC/Club Mac POTLUCK PICNIC

Sunday 29 August 2004 - Photo Essay



(left) **Bruce Belknap** and **Jack Lewtschuk** run the Computer Quiz. Men's Team (under Captain **Will Locke**) won this year, but were those questions fair???.; (center) Grill Masters **Gary Stephens** and **Ron Brunet** did an excellent job turning out perfect burgers and sausages; (right) **Bob Brownlee** and **Richard Binsacca** dig in!



(left) **Regina Doyle**, **Kristen Knutson** & **Robert Moselle**; (right) **Lorraine & Bob Brownlee**, **John Chalmers** and **Bruce Belknap**. We all agree that **Canterbury Woods** was a nice alternative to Indian Village! Thanks to **Don Slaiter** and the staff of CBW (not pictured) for comfy, picture perfect arrangements.



(left) **Margaret Bradbury**, **Ann Mack** and **Tom Streeter**, taking care of business; (center) **Joyce & Harold Gordon** celebrate Joyce's birthday; (right) **Mac McCann**, **Charlie Mehlert**, **Renati Mannan**, **Louann Hinwood** and **Jack Lewtschuk** — good food, good company!



(left) **Joe & Jay Aisling** (Grandparents of Men's Team Captain **Will Locke**), **Jack & Evelyn Starr** and **Kimiye Kendall** (one of our Silent Auction Winners along with **Barry Binns** and **Dave Powell**, not pictured), (right) **Maria Beck**, **Helga Murphy** and **Carolyn Lake**.

Text and photos by Regina Doyle, MBUG-PC



**INTRODUCING
BILL BOWLES
and AD HOC BYTES**

NEW

**AD HOC
BYTES**

Ad Hoc: For the specific purpose, case, or situation at hand and for no other. Unplanned, informal, impromptu, improvised, extemporized, etc.

Byte: A sequence of adjacent bits operated on as a unit by a computer. The smallest addressable unit of storage in a computer.

MBUG's newest columnist has been around long enough to know what an **IBM 1401**, a **360**, a **Hollerith Code Card** and a **patch area** is. He says "*the 360 was a huge advancement over the 1401 and took up the equivalent of about two big living rooms to accommodate the CPU, its tape and disk drives.*" His desktop computer today is exponentially faster and smaller.

A Graduate of the **University of Minnesota**; a programmer at a data processing service bureau in Minneapolis; a systems analyst in Santa Clara for 16 years (and witness to the eventual birth and explosion of Silicon Valley); highly experienced in the field of startup companies, starting up companies, contracting to support ventures and going-broke-but-surviving (with the love and support of his wife **Jane**, two kids and nine grandchildren), Bill is imminently qualified to provide us with Ad Hoc Bytes of information on a regular basis!

photo: Bill Bowles, MBUG-PC



**Bill
Bowles**
MBUG-PC
Columnist

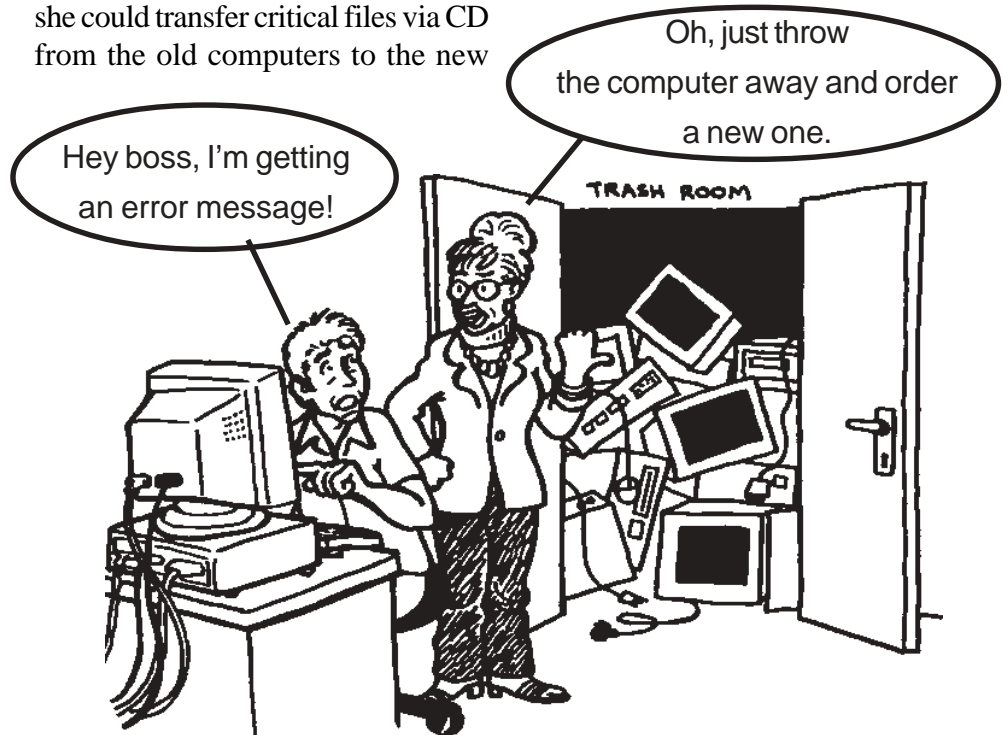
**It's Broke, So Fix It.
Or ... Maybe Not!**

A few years ago a proprietor of a local store behaved in a way that seemed very strange at the time. Every two to three years she would accumulate a lot of "stuff" on her computer that would eventually start causing problems. At that point, she would put the computer in her garage and buy a new one. Everyone who observed this thought the same thing: "That's a very odd way of dealing with computer problems." Four cycles resulted in three computers in the garage. She was smart enough to learn how to use a CD burner so she could transfer critical files via CD from the old computers to the new

ones. But that level of sophistication can be dangerous.

The area between novice and expert is dangerous because that's when new areas are explored, new things are tried and bad things happen as a result. She was definitely in the danger zone, which accounted for the condition of the computers after a couple of years. This lady eventually sold the business and retired to another state. She gave me the three computers in the garage with the understanding that I would wipe the hard drives before doing anything with them, which I did. Then I proceeded to try to make them operational so they could be of some use.

They were proprietary (**Compaq**), which prevents a simple slam-dunk of an operating system onto the computer. When big companies compete, they lower costs by cutting corners. For example, maybe they get a good deal on some device but have to write their own drivers for it, but those drivers will not likely be compatible with newer



operating systems, etc, etc. Suffice to say a lot of hours were spent getting them working.

They sold for less than \$100 each. They were old technology, slow by current standards and had small hard drives. Not worth much. It made me feel good to make inexpensive computers available, but I began to realize during this process that the buyers were getting a lot of value in labor at a bargain. Even an expert at 'reviving' machines would charge more than the computer hardware was worth.

Hmmm. Maybe the lady was smarter than I thought. During the time her machines were getting relegated to the computer graveyard in the garage, technology was going crazy and low-end computers were getting more robust and very competitive, pricewise.

For a modest amount more than the cost of fixing the old machine, she got a new machine, a faster CPU, a bigger hard drive, state-of-the-art software preloaded and, it all worked perfectly. Also, it was a business write-off, further lowering the cost. All hassle free.

So I learned a lesson from this foxy female: think again when planning to fix something that's "broke". What are the alternatives and what do the real numbers look like?◆

B@Bowles.com

Siles Bazerman

(continued from page 3)

The full released-to-manufacture (RTM or Gold) download will be installable over SP2 RC2. The download will be installable over SP2 RC2 according to sources within Microsoft. If you want to uninstall RC2, be sure that the "Show Upgrades" box is checked in

WI-FI UPDATE

**John
Rowe**
Columnist
&
Workshop
Leader



photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC

AAA WI-FI & PRONTO CUT TIES = FREE WI-FI AT THE WHARF & BEYOND

On August 9th, **Pronto Networks** and **AAA Wi-Fi** cut ties due to Pronto Networks desire to focus on larger WISPs (Wireless Internet Service Providers). What this means is I no longer have the ability to collect revenue using Pronto Networks system at my hotspots. So, for a limited time, Wi-Fi is free to the wharf in Monterey and beyond.

Thank you **Bill and Joanie Hyler** at the **Wharf's General Store!**

NEW DOUBLE WI-FI ANTENNA AT THE WHARF'S GENERAL STORE

On August 13th, the day I unplugged the Pronto controller and started free Wi-Fi at the wharf and beyond (limited time offer), I also installed a new high-power dual antenna array and new access point at the **Wharf's General**

Store. The two new antennas and access point provide much better Wi-Fi coverage on the boats in the harbor and surrounding environs. This is because the new access point uses a feature called *diversity* (which requires two antennas). Diversity helps compensate for a problem called *multipath*. Multipath is when the RF signal coming from your laptop or mobile unit's Wi-Fi card bounces off of a metal object on the way to the access point's antenna.

With diversity, the access point can tell which signal got there first (and thus didn't bounce). Usually you don't need diversity in outdoor applications, but the metal masts on sail boats cause a lot of multipath, so diversity helps the system work much better!

Now's the time to get Free Wi-Fi at The Wharf & Beyond (limited time offer)!

EXPANDED T-1 AT HILLTOP PARK, MONTEREY

The **City of Monterey** is going to run a T-1 extension line from the Teen Room at **Hilltop Park Center** to the room where we hold MBUG-PC workshops. Though we're not sure when this event will take place, some day soon you can expect to have laptop access to another high speed Internet hotspot at Hilltop!◆

johnr@tolt.com or www.tolt.com

"Add or Remove Programs". Of course, it still will not protect users who insist on downloading everything they see offered for free or insist on clicking yes on pop-ups without reading. Build an idiot-proof program and nature will build a better idiot.

Are there any problems with SP2?

Yes, a few, but most seem to be systems or individual program-specific. The biggest complaint is that third party software is not using the built-in hooks. Most software developers will not release patches until RTM is firm, as last minute changes may negate all their work, as happened with Windows 95, 98, 98SE and Windows ME.◆

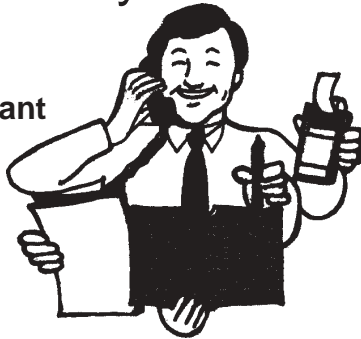


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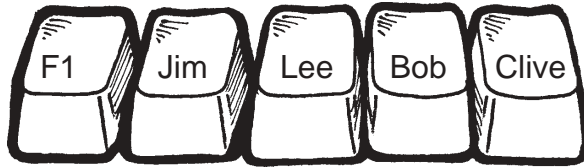
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Computer Help is Just a Click or Call Away with MBUG F1



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 ◆

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

Pacific Grove

Adult

Education

Center



Vocational
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1025 Lighthouse Avenue

Pacific Grove CA 93950

See PGAEC catalog & web pages for
class descriptions.

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



DIGITAL vs FILM CAMERAS

photo: Ann Mack, MBUG-PC

Bill Hyler

Workshop Leader



**Wednesday,
October 13**
7:00 to 9:00pm
**Hilltop Park Center
Monterey**

We'll continue discussing how to move digital images from camera to computer; move photo files into editing programs, edit photos and create slide shows. Bring your own camera and we'll help each other learn about the world of digital images. Send questions in advance to hyler@comcast.net. ♦ *Bill*

O'Reilly Discounts for MBUG-PC Members

MBUG members get a 20% discount on O'Reilly publications. Just use code **DSUG** when ordering. Group purchases with better discounts are available: please let me know if you are interested and I can put you in touch with their sales department. O'Reilly catalogues will be available at general meetings.

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THE MASTER GENEALOGIST

photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC



Bob Stephan

Workshop Leader

**Wednesday,
October 27**

7:00 to 9:00pm
**Hilltop Park Center
Monterey**

This is the last in the series of **The Master Genealogist** workshops I have been running since March of this year. Up to now, I had been holding general genealogical computing workshops. I hope those of you who have been attending regularly will see why I decided to concentrate on TMG for a time. Of course it's just the tip of the iceberg: topics that remain to be covered are the Project Explorer, the research log, Visual Chartform, image exhibits, slide shows and tools such as text editor, text macros, timelines, match and merge, relationship calculator, date calculator and calendar. In my opinion, no other software for the price has anywhere near the number of features in TMG.

Whether you use TMG or not, and even if you haven't come to previous sessions, join us to learn something new about computer software or genealogy. Copies of previous workshop handouts are at www.bobstephan.net/tmgws ♦

Bob

UPDATED DISCOUNT COMPUTER MAGAZINE* PRICE LIST

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Microsoft System Journal	\$21.95	\$39.95	—
PC Gamer	\$12.95	—	—
PC Magazine (22/44/66 issues)	\$25.97	\$48.95	\$68.95
PC World	\$16.95	—	—
Wired	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$17.00

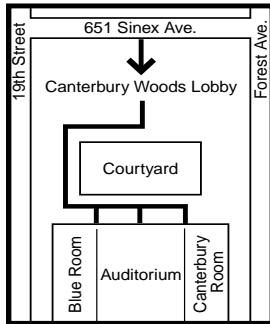
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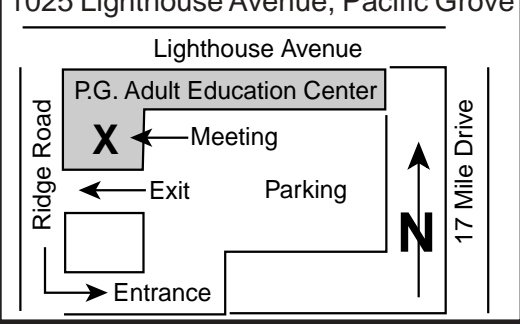
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - October 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		September 28 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>			1 <i>Gen Mtg: "Wireless Computer Security"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Speaker</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 <i>"Digital Cameras"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bill Hyler</i>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 <i>LAST IN SERIES</i> <i>"Master Genealogist"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Bob Stephan</i>	28	29	30
31						

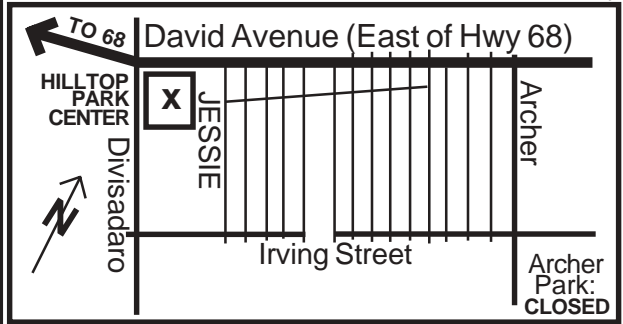
Canterbury Woods
 651 Sinex Avenue
 Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
 871 Jessie Street
 Monterey



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

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>Topic & Speaker</i> <i>to be announced</i> Adult Ed Center 7-9pm	6
7	8	9	10 <i>"WindowsXP"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Jim Anway</i>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 <i>"Personalise Greetings"</i> Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Margaret Bradbury</i>	18	19 <i>"Wi-Fi"</i> Adult Ed Center, PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>John Rowe</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>				



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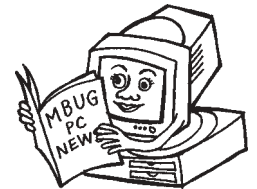
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INK CARTRIDGE UPDATE

Carolyn Lake
Publicity Chair



photo: Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC

MAKING EVERY CARTRIDGE COUNT

Those empty, used printer ink cartridges can still give value as a source of income for MBUG-PC educational programs. We ship them off to a

company that uses them for trade show demos and training, and we receive a reimbursement for each cartridge. **Whether you donate one or several, each donation is appreciated** and they build up in no time to another shipment.

Just drop empty cartridges (wrapped in plastic or in the original cardboard wrapper) into the brown box or give them to a Board Member, either at our general meeting or at any workshop. Remember, we can collect only original name brand equipment; no remanufactured or generic brands, please! ♦ lakelyn@ix.netcom.com