



mbug-pc newsletter

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Fun in the Sun and Computers Too?



Will YOU be the lucky Member to represent MBUG at the 12th Annual Southwest User Group Conference in San Diego, with registration fees paid by MBUG-PC?

See page 7 for details!

Windows Handy Keyboard Shortcuts and Computer Tips

We are pleased to announce that **Debbie Jones**, Founder and CEO of the computer training service *Anything Is Possible* ... will return as guest speaker for the **June 3 General Meeting**. As many of you will remember, Debbie provided an excellent summary of everything you could possibly need to know about upgrading **WindowsXP** with **Service Pack 2** back in December.

This time Debbie will talk to us about **keyboard shortcuts and handy computer tips**. If you need a general reminder about basics as well as professional "tricks," this presentation will show you various things you can do on the computer, and how to do them better with less effort. From using the right click on the mouse to combinations of keystrokes to get what you want done faster, this will be useful to both the novice and the pro (you're never too old or experienced to learn new tricks). If you've ever found a need to cut and paste, or navigate your way around a document, or change fonts and text sizes, or link documents, or generally rework them, you'll find that Windows is a whole lot more powerful and useful with an array of easy shortcuts at your fingertips! Debbie will run though as many as she has time for, leaving time for a question and answer session after the presentation.

Debbie has over 20 years of computer and training experience to back up her talks. At *Anything Is Possible* ..., she and her staff teach people of all computer skills and levels to use computers ... or use them smarter. They specialize in training with the personal touch, customizing training specifically to each individual's needs. They know that people retain more through positive experience, so their philosophy is that learning needs to be fun! We anticipate that Debbie's presentation will be that, and useful too.

Questions in advance? Call Debbie at (831) 402-1810 or e-mail anythingispossible@comcast.net ♦

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2005 at 7pm
Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove
IT'S FREE! It's open to MBUG-PC Members &
the General Public! It's packed with nice, smart people too!

MBUG-PC NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS!

Program Chair

Find and schedule First Friday General Meeting Guest Speakers.

Publicity Chair

Publicize MBUG in local publications and to members on the Listserv.

Workshop /SIG Leaders

Share your knowledge: run workshops or Special Interest Groups monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly

Meeting Reviewers

Attend General Meetings (or any other ongoing workshops) and write 500-word-or-less reviews.

Hospitality

Provide coffee service at First Friday General Meetings
(store equipment and supplies, bring the needful and set up for coffee and goodies).

E-mail or call Vice-President **Don Slaiter** at slaiter@pacbell.net ☎ (831) 655-4443 and 657-4154

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MBUG-PC benefits: Computer Help, the Newsletter and 15 - 20% Discount on Computer Books at Borders and Waldenbooks with MBUG-PC Membership Card (see Don Slaiter for card).

CAROLYN'S VIEWPOINT

Carolyn Lake
President



photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC

- Special system and hardware requirements
- Use simple terms to tell about what you liked
- Use simple terms to tell about what you didn't like

So it's really very straightforward; an article of 500-600 words would suffice and would be a welcome addition to our Newsletter! For more reviewer tips and examples, check out the Orange County IBM PC Users' Group online review program at www.orcopug.org. Also, this is another neat website with lots of interesting information.

HAVING YOUR SAY

One of the lesser known benefits of MBUG membership is the opportunity to acquire software and books for FREE by providing a written review of the item. A reviewer gets to keep the product, in return for a few hours effort, and the review is yet another way to make your fellow members aware of products and to share something about their value.

Software

We occasionally receive requests from software companies for user group members to review new software. These requests are screened by the Board, and if it appears appropriate, a notice is put out through the Listserv mail. Vendors are aware of the value of user-to-user communication about software products. They will send you a free copy of the software with the condition that you try it out and then write a short review for publication, for example in the group's newsletter. Posting on a website or giving a verbal report to your group may also be requested.

At past meetings we have occasionally had short reports or demos, followed by an article in the Newsletter. This would be a worthwhile practice to reinstate, if opportunity arises. If software review seems of potential interest to you, let me or any board member know and we will see that you definitely receive vendor requests whenever they come in.

You don't need to be a super user to be a reviewer. Don't be intimidated - if you can install your own applications and follow directions, you are qualified! **The Orange County IBM PC Users' Group**, which has an ongoing software review program, offers the following helpful hints regarding facts to include in reviews:

- What is the product category (graphics, utility, etc.)?
- Product name and version
- Product cost, rebates, special offers
- Company/manufacturer's name
- Company URL, phone or contact information

Books

The other option for sharing product information is through book reviews. MBUG regularly receives the **O'Reilly Publications** newsletter, which contains a list of books available for review. Also see **Regina Doyle's** Book Review article in the MBUG-PC Newsletter, March 2005, for a good example of how to approach this type of project.

Copies of books to review are available on request by e-mailing O'Reilly with the book's title and ISBN number. They caution that shipping may take four weeks, but will try to provide books faster if needed by a certain date. They request an e-mail copy of the completed review and, of course, we would want to publish it in our Newsletter. For tips and suggestions on writing book reviews, go to: ug.oreilly.com/bookreviews.html.

I must admit, many of the O'Reilly titles appear to be for programmers and more sophisticated users, but there are always a few titles that appear to be for us ordinary folks. Also, their website has a more extensive list of books available for review. Here are a few that appealed to me as possibilities from their latest newsletter:

- **Photoshop Elements 3: The Missing Manual** (ISBN: 0596004532)
- **PC Annoyances, 2nd Edition** (ISBN: 0596008821)
- **iPod & iTunes: The Missing Manual, 3rd Edition** (ISBN: 0596008775)

If book reviewing looks like it may be your cup of tea, **Jack Lewtschuk** (blacklion@royal.net or phone (831) 757-0123) is our O'Reilly contact, and will help you get in touch. Again, it's another way to participate in MBUG computer education! ♦

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com



THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

THE GOOGLE GROWTH

Did you know that **Google** is now searching 8,058,044,651 web pages? As of end of 2004, 81 million folks use Google to search, each month. If you would like to have a little help searching Google, try: www.google.com/help/cheatsheet.html.

HOW MUCH RAM IS ENOUGH RAM?

Will adding more memory make your computer run faster? Memory is probably the most important component when you're trying to speed up a computer, but adding memory only works up to a point.

When you work with huge files, such as video, you need lots of memory. Otherwise, parts of the files will be stored in virtual memory, an area on the hard drive. Retrieving them is a slow process. If you can get all that stuff into RAM, things go a lot faster.

However, if all you do is write in Word, surf the Internet and read e-mail, 512 MB should be more than enough. If you're doing lots of audio or video work or playing intense games, 1 GB (or more) may be needed.

If you're having problems, you might check your 'virtual memory' settings. To access this, click 'Start', then 'Control Panel', double-click 'System', select the 'Advanced' tab and under 'Performance', click 'Settings'. Select the 'Advanced' tab. Under 'Virtual Memory', click 'Change' and click 'Custom Size' (this procedure may vary depending on your operating system). In the 'Virtual Memory' drop down box, check 'Let me specify my own virtual memory' and reset 'initial' to three times your system memory size, and 'maximum' to twice that of your 'initial' size setting. If this adjustment does not eliminate the problem, the shortage of virtual memory could have other causes.

Lack of virtual memory is caused, among other things by:

- Too many programs running at the same time
- Improper 'minimum'/'maximum' virtual memory settings
- Insufficient RAM
- A full hard drive
- One or more programs not releasing memory after use

What about "memory optimizers" and other such utilities? I have tried several, none of which worked for me.

ANOTHER SHORTCUT

Do you know a quick way to get to 'System Properties'? Hold down the 'Windows' key (yes, that little thing on the lower left of your keyboard with a Windows logo on it), and click on the 'Pause/Break' key — you are there!

YOU THINK YOU HAVE SPAM PROBLEMS?

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer claims that **Bill Gates** is the most spammed person in the world. Bill Gates is said to receive 4 million e-mails a day, most of it spam. How does Bill handle this? He hires enough staff to clean up his inbox.

Now you know how to take care of your spam problem!

A CHANGE IN THE ATTACK

"We don't see many directly destructive viruses nowadays; most viruses just try to silently take over your machine instead". This quote from a major manufacturer of anti-virus software means that, more and more our computers may be infected, yet we don't realize it. As I never tire of saying:

- Make sure that your anti-virus program is updated, even if it is set to automatically update itself. Run the program weekly, or more often
- Check your computer for spy program infestation
- Do not open "strange" mail, even if it arrives with a familiar return address: if you are suspicious, call or e-mail addressees and ask, because your friend may be infested without their knowledge

HEAVING TRABLE WITH YOR SPELING?

Try www.spellcheck.net/. It's a spellchecker, but it does much, much more (math and language too).

You don't have to install it and yes, it's free! ♦
blacklion@royal.net

THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST



by Bob "I Don't Do
Windows" Stephan

photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC

WEB AUTHORING ON THE CHEAP

We had an excellent presentation on web site authoring at the May meeting. The presenter, **Terry Low of Byte Technology** (www.byte-technology.com), was a good speaker and very well versed in web site authoring, as well he should be since that is his business. I enjoyed the presentation and picked up a few pointers along the way.

What Terry did not cover was some of the less expensive web site authoring tools, or as the frugal person inside me suggests, FREE tools. Many of us would like to put up a personal web site but are reluctant to invest the hundreds of dollars in one of the sophisticated web authoring programs. For many of us this is a great deal of overkill, providing many nice-to-have tools that might well be much more advanced than we need. Why can't we get started on a web site less expensively to stick our toes in the water to see if it is right for us to proceed? Why spend hundreds of dollars on a simple site that can be used to share information among families and friends with no commercial use? I am happy to report that getting started with free software and free web space is now not only possible, but actually quite easy, even for beginners!

Netscape has long had a built-in component called **Netscape Composer**. Most of my own web site and others that I authored were developed and edited using Netscape Composer. It was not as sophisticated nor quite as WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) as the expensive tools, but it worked fine and it was free.

There is a version of Netscape called **Mozilla** on the CD of free Windows programs that I wrote about in the May Newsletter. It is a full featured browser, mail and news suite that includes the Composer component. You can read more

about the CD at www.theopencd.org/index.php?option=com_static&staticfile=mozilla.html or you can download the Mozilla suite at www.mozilla.org.

Now there is a new program that works even better for you to create your own Web pages. While very powerful, it is still free. **Nvu** (pronounced "in view"), available as a free download, is a greatly enhanced version of Netscape (or Mozilla) Composer.

After Netscape was abandoned, several open-source groups started working on the browser, turning it into the sensational **Firefox**. Still other programmers continued on Netscape's e-mail program improving it to eventually be released as a free-standing version called **Thunderbird**. And now Composer has been greatly improved and is released under the name Nvu.

Check out the long list of features and see screenshots for Nvu at www.nvu.com! Here is a summary taken from the web site:

- WYSIWYG editing of pages, making web creation as easy as typing a letter with your word processor
- Integrated file management via FTP (simply login to your web site and navigate through your files, editing web pages on the fly, directly from your site)
- Reliable HTML code creation that will work with all of today's most popular browsers
- Jump between WYSIWYG editing mode and HTML using tabs
- Tabbed editing to make working on multiple pages a snap
- Powerful support for forms, tables, and templates
- The easiest-to-use, most powerful Web Authoring System available for Desktop Linux, Microsoft Windows and Apple Macintosh users

It has been said that if you can use a word processor you can create Web pages with Nvu. Why not get started on your web site development with a free program? It makes sense to me. Oh, and did I mention that it is FREE?

FREE HOSTING ALSO

It is also possible to host your web site without spending a dime! If you have an e-mail account with an ISP, you undoubtedly have enough web space to host your web site at no additional charge. That's what I do. Just check with your ISP on the procedures and URL to be used.



And by the way, web sites do not require a large amount of disk space. My entire web site including several pages and images can be copied to a single floppy disk. Another one that I webmaster at www.mbay.net/~mbcsar/ is only 250K. This, by the way, is an example of free email and hosting for non-profit organizations. Of course, if you want to post an entire family album of large photographic images, you will use more, but still probably well within the 5-10 MB that usually go along with an e-mail account. No need to pay additional monthly or yearly fees for a personal web site. You have these resources at your disposal, why not use them? I do.

Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 38 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that The Frugal Computerist can respond to. He can be reached at bob@bobstephan.net. Bob has a home page under construction at www.bobstephan.net. ♦

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Use **source code 8181** when ordering and for every five subscriptions MBUG gets a free subscription which we raffle for funding educational activities.

VIDEO PRODUCTION WITH MBUG & AMP



by **Joseph Asling**
MBUG Video Team
Leader

UPCOMING DIGITAL ART & PHOTOGRAPHY ON VIDEO

photos: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

The MBUG Video Project is continuing to record events for our members. **Eileen Begley** has given two excellent workshops recently on improving old family photos using your computer. She demonstrates her techniques with **Photoshop** and **Photoshop Elements**, but they are applicable to many other graphics programs. We have taped both her and the output of the projector, so you will be able to follow what she describes on the screen. Unfortunately, NTSC television resolution is limited, so the screen videos aren't as clear as Photoshop would look on your computer. Our plan is to edit the combined workshops into one videotape (or maybe even a DVD-R if we get super-ambitious), which will then be available to members.

We shall also produce these programs to show on AMP (**Access Monterey Peninsula, Public Access Television Channel 24**), but they will be more tightly edited. As I started to edit the material, it occurred to me that none of this was of much use unless we could show people how to get their family pix *into* their computers. We are hoping that Eileen will give a workshop on scanning later this summer, which we would use as an introduction to the editing tape.

The **Alliance for Community Media** is meeting in Monterey July 6th through 9th. This is the national support organization for community television such as AMP Channel 24. It costs big bucks to register for the conference, but you can attend the workshops in which you are interested for FREE, if you volunteer! Interested? Go to www.ampmedia.org, and click on the big 'ACM' icon. Check out the Program Workshops and download a PDF (portable document format) version of the "Early Bird Brochure." Then fill out the online volunteer registration form. If your computer is down, phone **Dawn** at AMP (831) 333-1267. ♦

**MBUG Offer to Pay Fees
for One Lucky MBUG Member
for 'Fun in the Sun
& Computers, Too'!**



**Represent MBUG at the 12th Annual
SouthWest User Group Conference and
we'll pay your
\$40 early (before July 15) registration fee.**

Fee includes: six meals, vendor presentations, workshops, conference T-shirt and Welcome Bag, fun-filled days packed with vendor presentations, workshops, chances to talk with other UGs, and much more.

Where: San Diego, California

When: Starts Friday evening, August 5, ends with lunch, Sunday, August 7.

Location: Town and Country Resort Hotel & Convention Center

(you pay your own travel and \$99/night, single or double, rate guaranteed for three days prior and three days post conference if reserved by July 14, with UG code).

Events: Vendor sponsored meals; 20 workshops/presentations to choose from for UG Leaders, Members and for enhancing attendee computer knowledge; Vendor Faire where you meet suppliers of the latest computer stuff; Hospitality Suite to meet and chat with other UG Leaders/Members; forums in which to share UG ideas, problems and/or successes; outside activities for guests/spouses (including shopping, tours, spa, swimming, gardens)

**Interested? Contact Carolyn Lake at
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O'Reilly catalogues are available at general meetings. Let me know if you are interested and I can put you in touch with their sales department!

S. Jack Lewtschuk blacklion@royal.net



ARE YOU A REGISTERED MBUG LISTSERV MEMBER YET?

Join the MBUG listserv and send messages to all other MBUG Members and have other Members reach you with important information:

- **It's secure** (messages are monitored by MBUG's Webmaster ensuring messages are computer-related, virus-free and sent by Members only — no outsiders, no spammers!)
- **You get current MBUG announcements**
- **You get up-to-date virus & scam warnings**
- **You can ask and answer computer-related questions**
- **You can make computer-related announcements**

Register at www.mbug.org or go to <http://listserv.redshift.com/mailman/listinfo/mbug>

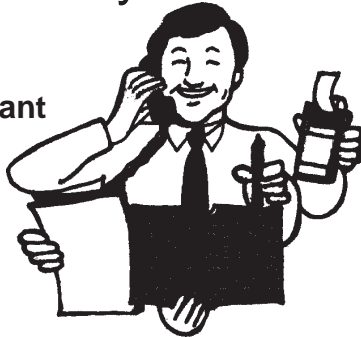
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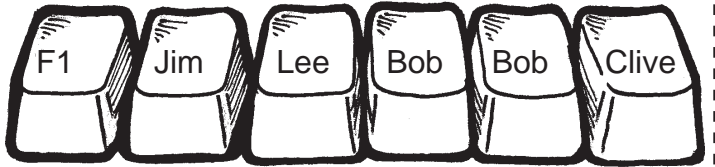
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Computer Help - Just a Click or Call Away with MBUG F1

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 F1 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 with Vice President **Don Slaiter** (831) 655-4443/657-4154 ; 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 Shanteau

e-mail to shanteau@iname.com
or call Monday - Friday 10am-5pm
394-9420

■ Bob Stephan

e-mail to bob@bobstephan.net
or call only between 9am-5pm
646-1373

■ Clive Sanders

e-mail to simbacli@pacbell.net
or call only between 1pm to 9pm
phone (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.

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

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

<http://www.pgusd.org>



OUTLOOK & OUTLOOK EXPRESS



Debbie Jones

Guest Speaker

Wednesday, June 8

7:00 to 9:00pm

**Hilltop Park Center
Monterey**

Want to know the difference between Outlook/Outlook Express and how to use them to organize your e-mails, contacts and calendars? Debbie knows. Questions? (831) 372-4401 Debbie@debbieteaches.com. ♦

SIG UPDATE

Adobe Illustrator SIG meets every 3rd Monday of the month at **Carmel Foundation**, Computer Learning Center, Lincoln between 8th and 9th, Carmel

Fee: **\$3.00** (pay at the meeting)

Next meeting: **MONDAY, June 20, 2005**

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Previous knowledge of Illustrator not required.

For SIG mailing list (receive information and announcements): (831) 643-2023 or e-mail lakelyn@ix.netcom.com



Advance reservations strongly recommended as space is limited.

PICASA: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



Bill Hyler

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, June 22

7:00 to 9:00pm

**Hilltop Park Center
Monterey**

Come drag and drop with Bill! Find and enjoy the pictures on your computer in seconds using the popular, free **Picasa** software from **Google**. Find, edit, sort and share pictures on your PC (e-mail, blog, website, CD, print) in visual albums organized by date, with folder names. Questions? (831) 624-4456; hyler@comcast.net. ♦

NOTICE TO ALL MBUG MEMBERS:

The annual MBUG Members' Directory, listing all current Member names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails will be published in the July 2005 Newsletter per our usual custom. The Directory is an additional benefit of membership to encourage member-to-member contact, and is available *only* to Members with their printed newsletter. This Directory is not available in e-Newsletters, on the MBUG website or to non-Members in any other form.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE LISTED IN THE DIRECTORY

or if you wish to have your address, telephone and/or e-mail unlisted, please notify MBUG President Carolyn Lake by Wednesday 15 June 2005 (publishing deadline) at lakelyn@ix.netcom.com or phone (831) 643-2023.

NO COFFEE SERVICE DUE TO SHORTAGE OF HOSPITALITY HELP!



Dear MBUG Supporters:
We would like to resume our tradition of serving coffee and goodies at regular First Friday General Meetings.

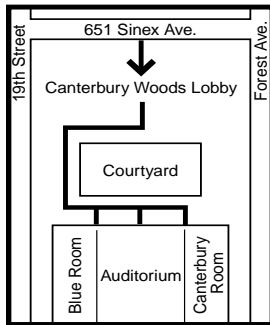
But we are short of volunteers.

If no Hospitality Volunteer is forthcoming, (see page 2 for job description) we regret to announce that there will be **NO COFFEE SERVICE** until further notice!

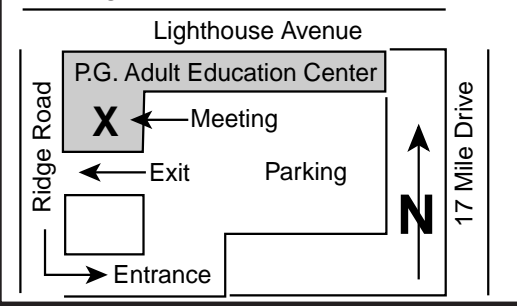
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - June 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		MAY 31 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	1	2	3 General Meeting <i>"Keyboard Shortcuts"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Debbie Jones	4
5	6	7	8 <i>"Outlook/Outlook Express"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 to 9:00pm Debbie Jones	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>"Organizing e-photos with Picasa"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 to 9:00pm Bill Hyler	23	24	25
26	27	28 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	29	30		

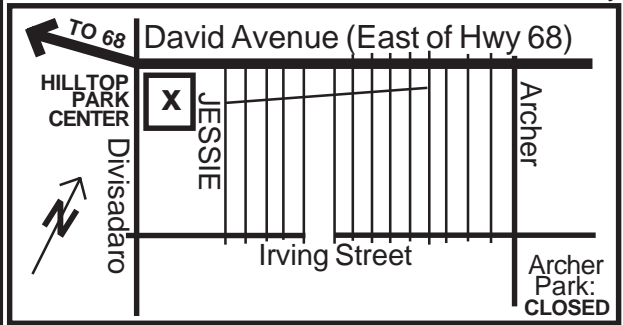
Canterbury Woods
 651 Sinex Avenue
 Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
 871 Jessie Street
 Monterey



Tentative Calendar July 2005 *Please Check the July Newsletter for Final Dates & Times*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		JUNE 28 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>			1 NOTE: July General Meeting is on the SECOND FRIDAY	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8 General Meeting <i>"New Trends in Digital Photography"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm David Albrand	9
10	11	12	13 <i>"To Be Announced"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 <i>"To Be Announced"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm	28	29	30
31						

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Vol 24, No 6, 2005



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

photos: Bill Hoyer, MBUG-PC



Don Slaiter

Vice President,
Asst Treasurer
and Membership
Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Cath Tendler Valencia 1268

THANKS FOR RENEWING: GLAD YOU'RE WITH US!

Al Babbitt 969
 Robert Cortes 1005
 River & Diana Gurtin/Case 1006
 William G. Odom 1166
 Gayle Robbinette 1251
 Arnold Seibel 289
 W.W. von Christierson 1250
 Glenn Chee 621
 Elbert Hinson 1003

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

John Chalmers 1027
 Glenn Chee 621
 Elbert Hinson 1003
 Milt Kegley 976
 Gayle Robbinette 1251
 Bill Stockton 387

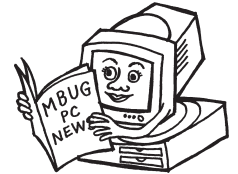
Check your (upside down) label.

Does it say **"Exp: June / 2005"**?

Don't miss an issue. Renew today!

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, phone number, e-mail address and check to: Monterey Bay Users Group-PC, PO Box 51611, Pacific Grove CA 93950



INK

UPDATE

Joyce Elisha

Video Team &
"The Ink Lady"



AN INKY EDUCATION

We have a nice bundle of used ink cartridges to send off, and the revenues will continue to help the MBUG-PC's educational projects.

The brown box will be at the next meeting, ready to accept more empty, original-equipment brand names such as **Sharp, Xerox, Dell, Canon,**

Lexmark and Hewlett Packard (HP).

Regarding HP cartridges (i.e. 51626A and 29A), **Inkjet Facts** reports that HP uses an 'aerator system': this means that inside the cartridge is a ball that works like a snorkel. They open and close as air is needed to function properly. HP also uses cartridges with bags inside to hold the ink prior to firing. All other cartridges (over 75 percent), use a 'sponge system' that holds the ink. As the ink is fired, a vacuum is created and, along with gravity, the ink is brought to the resister firing chamber for the next firing of ink.

Now you know more than ever before about how part of your computer works!◆ ellias@msn.com