



mbug-pc newsletter

Established 1983 / Incorporated 1988

IN THIS ISSUE

MBUG-PC Volunteer Positions	2
MBUG-PC Information	2
Carolyn's Viewpoint	3
Clive's Tips & Tricks	4
Things, Thinglets & Thingassos	5
Frugal Computerist	6
My Favorite Website	8
Expect Unexpected when Travelling ..	8
Upcoming Raffle Prizes	11
MBUG Discounts	11
Need Computer Help?	12
MBUG Supporters	13
MBUG-PC Upcoming Workshops ...	14
MBUG Election Results	14
MBUG-PC Calendar	15
Ink Cartridge Update	16
Membership Report	16

What's got Santa all burned up?



Read Jack's
"TT&T" column,
starting on page 5,
to find out!

Even More on Computer Security with ZoneAlarm

As we've been hearing from recent First Friday speakers (**Scott Coté** on **Identity Theft** in October and **Gene and Linda Barlow** on **Internet Security & Organization** in November), Internet hacking has gone from mostly "fame-driven" to positively criminal in just the last eighteen months. Computer crime is now a major part of organized crime, and the signs are everywhere: identity theft rings, systematic allocation and sale of "botnets", wickedly clever social engineering such as "phishing", technological advances such as "rootkits" and "pharming", and serious criminal acts such as illegal porn trading, spamming, spying and identity theft. In this new hacking climate, do hackers now have the upper hand?

Not if **Jordy Berson** can help it — come to the December 2nd meeting to learn more about these threats and how **Zone Labs'** technology, including an all-new firewall layer, can address them. Jordy is well-qualified to speak to us about security: he's a senior product marketing manager at Zone Labs and has guided the design of the **ZoneAlarm** product line since 2000. He is a graduate of Colorado State University in technical journalism with a mechanical engineering concentration.

Jordy will speak to us about ways in which you may be vulnerable to computer crime, and how the new **ZoneAlarm Security Suite 6.0** is the best solution. This all-in-one software firewall, antivirus program, and anti-spam filter now comes with anti-spyware scanning and Windows OS kernel protection (it received **Editors' Choice** awards from both **PC Magazine** and **CNET**). With the ZA Security Suite, there's no longer any reason to purchase separate antivirus, anti-spam, and software-firewall applications.

Questions? Contact jberson@zonelabs.com or call (415) 633-4818.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2005 at 7pm
Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove
FREE, educational and always interesting!
Great Raffle Prizes to be won (see page 11)!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THESE GREAT MBUG-PC POSITIONS!

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

MBUG-PC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carolyn Lake President 643-2023 lakelyn@ix.netcom.com
& Video Project Team
Donald R. Slaiter .. Vice President, 655-4443/657-4154 slaiter@pacbell.net
Assistant Treasurer, Membership Chair
& Lead Mtg Facilitator
Tom Streater Secretary, Treasurer 657-4249 tom223@pacbell.net
& Newsletter Proofreader
Regina Doyle Publishing Editor 375-4496 reginadoyle@aol.com
S.Jack Lewtschuk. Columnist 757-0123 blacklion@royal.net
& Immediate Past President
Charlie Mehlert Workshops Coordinator .. 375-0316 mehlert@sbcglobal.net
Clive Sanders Advisor / F1 Help 375-5376 simbacli@pacbell.net
Gary Stephens Workshops Coordinator.384-2440.. garykstephens@sbcglobal.net
& Vice-Photographer

MBUG-PC Newsletter is published monthly by Monterey Bay Users Group-Personal Computer, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable, educational corporation, PO Box 51611, Pacific Grove CA 93950, telephone Don Slaiter (831) 655-4443 or 657-4154, website www.mbug.org.

DISCLAIMER: No warranty, expressed or implied, is made by MBUG-PC, Newsletter editorial staff, or any individual authors or contributors.

This disclaimer extends to all losses, incidental or consequential, from the use of this publication.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent any official position of, or endorsement by, MBUG-PC which is a 501c3 corporation and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor or equipment or software manufacturer.

Copyright © 2005 by the Monterey Bay Users Group-PC. Permission for reproduction in whole or in part is hereby granted for other nonprofit use, provided credit is given to MBUG-PC and to the author(s). Other reproduction without prior written permission of MBUG-PC is prohibited.

MBUG-PC VOLUNTEERS

Jim Anway Workshop Leader/F1 Help .. 625-5618 AnwayJ@comcast.net
Joe Asling Video Project Coordinator .. 641-9560 jasling@pacbell.net
Bill Baumgardt Workshop Leader 372-5500 www2.comcast.net
Eileen Begley Workshop Leader 655-4884 eb@spyderbytes.com
Richard Binsacca . Raffle Sales 678-2518 .. rjbinsacca@sbcglobal.net
Bill Bowles Columnist 375-3954 B@bowles.com
Margaret Bradbury Workshop Leader 657-4119 .. mgradbury@redshift.com
Norma Cocklin Canterbury Woods 657-4257 nmchec@aol.com
Liaison & Newsletter Proofreader
Joyce Elisha Video Project Team & 646-9603 ellias@msn.com
Ink Cartridge Coordinator
Ralph Games Meeting Facilitator 394-8876 gamesri@redshift.com
Jim Hinwood Columnist ehinwood@msn.com
Bill Hyler Photographer 624-4456 hyler@comcast.net
Lee Keely APCUG Rep & F1 Help 626-8033 Lee@leekeely.com
Kristen Knutson ... Special Projects 375-6072 mcle@msn.com
John Laughton Legal Advisor 649-1122 john@netlawyers.com
John Rowe Columnist 384-3617 johnr@tolt.com
Bob Stephan Historian, F1 Help, 646-1373 bob@bobstephan.net
Columnist & Workshop Leader
Bill Stockton Recording Secretary 384-6130
David Thorp Video Project Team 373-4623
Ed West Webmaster /Listserv Owner .. 372-6200 captain@mobile.com

SUBSCRIPTION: See back cover for rates. (Subscription is not tax deductible). **NEWSLETTER AD RATES:** Special rate for local business card ads (approximately 1/10 page) is \$30.00 for 6 issues or \$50.00 for 12 issues. Full and partial page ad rates are available upon request. MBUG will publish at no charge classified ads for individual subscribers who have computer hardware or software for private sale. Advertising information contact: Regina at ReginaDoyle@aol.com.

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 Hyley, MBUG-PC

MORE ON SECURITY

At November's General Meeting, **Gene Barlow** of **User Group Relations** gave a talk about serious hackers — not only are they criminals, their operations are frequent, insidious, and generally undetected. Gene says the average PC is tested 17 times a day by hackers checking for weaknesses, and users can't tell this is happening. Hackers look for ports in firewalls, weaknesses in applications and browsers (such as **Internet Explorer**), and use available PC hard drive space to upload their hacking tools. They may then fix the weaknesses to protect themselves and program a "back door" to get into the captured computer whenever they wish. After collecting hundreds of such "zombie" computers in this manner, they then use the power of multiple private computers to set up and send messages all at once to large mainframe computers, overwhelming them, causing them to crash and creating a "denial of service" condition. Serious identity theft is aimed at corporate computer databases more than at individual PC users and can cost as much as \$20,000 to repair.

Gene gave us a review of some of the latest security software products available through www.usergroupstore.com. If you want to be a Software Santa, there may still be an opportunity to utilize the discount code provided our members and guests (UGNOV05) although discounts may vary from the distributed list after November 30.

Gene discussed products in four categories: organization, backup, security, and Internet products. One highly-rated Internet product is **Optimal Desktop Pro 4.0**, a powerful browser set up with tabs to organize hard drive folders and files, favorite Internet sites and streamed website summaries. It has the capability to read RSS feeds such as newscasts and blogs and other interesting features. To view a movie clip on the software go to www.snapware.com and do a search for "optimal desktop pro."

Of course, security is all about choices and Gene proposed several. First is ... "do nothing". After all, if serious hackers are after your computer rather than what you have on it, couldn't you just ignore them, let them use it and maybe they'll leave your personal stuff alone? Not a good approach!

Then there is the "free products" approach. This method is better than the first, but will leave major gaps. "Free" products include some anti-virus ware, anti-spyware products (**Ad-Aware** and **Spybot Search & Destroy**), the built-in **WindowsXP** firewall (especially with SP2), and Windows updates. Another approach is to buy end-user security products, such as **Norton Anti-virus**, **Acronis Privacy Expert Suite 8.0**, and **Zone Alarm Pro**. An array of such products may cost \$200-300, and additional costly tech support may still be required.

In approximately the same cost range, the **Invisus PC Security Solution** approach reviewed by Gene presents yet another dimension of service, and is clearly a sign of the times. Derived from corporate security programs, the Invisus package includes identity theft insurance! Described as a comprehensive Internet protection service, it has all the necessary software, updates and upgrades, and regular security checkups and access to unlimited expert assistance by phone and e-mail. The program is set up on a monthly subscription basis with a one-year minimum. This level of protection may not be viewed as necessary by all, but may provide a higher level security for small businesses or those with significant personal data to protect.

Gene's advice on the perfect backup approach underlined the importance of three elements: hardware, software and timing. Hardware may include a network drive, an additional internal hard drive, CD/DVD media, cartridge drives, or (recommended) an external hard drive. The obvious advantage: the external drive is not at the mercy of a system crash, and can also be removed to another location for safe keeping. Gene recommended the use of software that can do complete hard drive imaging backup, such as **Acronis True Image 9.0**. This product has options for full, incremental or differential backup. Gene favored the incremental approach, using an initial full backup and subsequent backups of additional material at intervals. And of course, the best hardware and software require the use of a consistent, scheduled backup plan, to give the needed restore capability when things go bad. ♦

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com



WINDOWS TIPS & TRICKS

by **Clive Sanders**
F1 Help & Assistant
Membership Chair

More Tales from the Dark Side of Norton AntiVirus or: The Intelligent Updater at Your Service

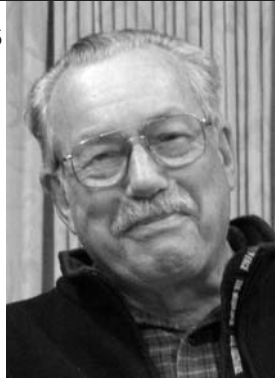


photo: Bill Hyster, MBUG-PC

Well, how did you get on with **Symantec's Norton AntiVirus Chat Program**? The trouble with writing articles like this (**MBUG-PC Newsletter**, October 2005, page 4) is the absence of any feedback. Did anyone try it out? If so please let me know how you got on.

Did I choose a subject that only I, in the whole-wide world of MBUG-PC, have had a bad experience with? That would be wonderful news for **Symantec** whose stock "tanked" at the end of October after their acquisition of **Veritas** (<http://www.veritas.com/>). Either that or you tried it and found it more troublesome than you need to contend with.

Well, this month we have a new scenario.

Having spent some considerable time chatting with Kumar last time, we were well pleased to see that our **LiveUpdate** was once again alive and well. This lasted about a week and once again we had error messages coming out of our ears, and not only message "LU1804", but also "1821", "1806" and "1804". Most of these messages tell you what you already know — that the LiveUpdate did not work, or another LiveUpdate is working at the same time as you initiated an update. Then "LU1812" pops up and tells you that "installing subscription services 1 of 1 failed" when it ran. This update was not applied. By now you are tearing out the last tufts of hair remaining on your head!

What do we do now? Go through a complicated uninstall and then a re-install all over again. No, those Norton guys are now very helpful. Why they made us go through the re-install process and the chat program is not clear.

Go once again to the Norton icon in the System Tray. Right click first, then left click on the "Help and Support" icon;

now left click on "Symantec Security Response", which opens "Latest Virus Threats" on the left side. Scroll down to "Virus Definitions".

Take a deep breath — this is the hard part: below "Virus Definitions" there are six lines of type. Left click on "Download Virus Definitions Manually". A new web page opens up. Just ignore all the black type and scroll down to "Download Virus Definitions" (Intelligent Updater Only), which is colored yellow, and links you to another webpage. Now don't get *too* excited and start double clicking where you should be single clicking — you'll see information on various updates. Scroll down a bit more — you're almost done. You could take advantage of any of 12 languages here, but I suggest you don't bother, stick with English and deliver a brisk left click on the "Download Updates" box.

I know you won't be surprised, but yet another webpage appears with lots of information (again) on updates etc.. Ignore everything except a link that refers to an "exe file" (such as "20051107-019-132.exe Nov 7 2005") and the files size (such as "9.11MB"). Again, do a left click, then sit back and rest while it downloads the file. By the time you read this page the definitions will have been updated and will, of course, be different.

You are asked if you wish to "Run" or "Save" the file. If you are using a dial-up connection, I suggest you "Save" the file to "TEMP". This way, if you lose your connection, there's a good chance that Norton will pick up where it left off. Click "Run" if you're using a DSL or Cable connection. Then follow the instructions to update your definitions. You should soon see your "System Status OK" splash and notice that your definitions are now up to date.

Hopefully, the next time you get an announcement about definition updates, the LiveUpdate will work on its own. If it doesn't, I'm afraid you'll have to go through the above process each time an update announcement appears! If this happens, I personally will persuade Norton AntiVirus to let you download a brand new installation program that will automatically uninstall any vestiges of the original program or refund the cost of your last upgrade. Copies of my previous articles on this subject will accompany my request. My only fear is that there is no way of delivering such a request, even by making a personal visit to the office of Norton's President!◆

simbacli@pacbell.net or www.mbug.org

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist

Happy Holidays!



photo: Bill Hyster, MBUG-PC

NOVICE CORNER

Why do I need a firewall?

Using a firewall is one of the most highly recommended cyber-security practices today. A good firewall, combined with up to date security patches and antivirus and anti-spyware software, will protect you from many Internet scams and threats that may come your way, including identity, credit card and other personal information theft.

Independent tests show that without a firewall a standard PC that is connected to the Internet can be compromised in 10 to 20 minutes!

In the past, businesses have generally been more concerned about protecting their information, but now home computer users should use a firewall as well, since “spyware” (software that surreptitiously monitors the user), “Trojan horses” (malicious programs disguised as legitimate software), and virus e-mails are widespread and dangerous. For instance, if you have your financial records stored on your computer, someone could access them and get all your credit card and banking information.

What is a Firewall?

A firewall is a barrier that protects a computer or network from anyone who tries to access it from outside without authorization. The firewall scans everything that goes

through an Internet access point and filters it based on customized settings.

There are two varieties of firewall — hardware and software.

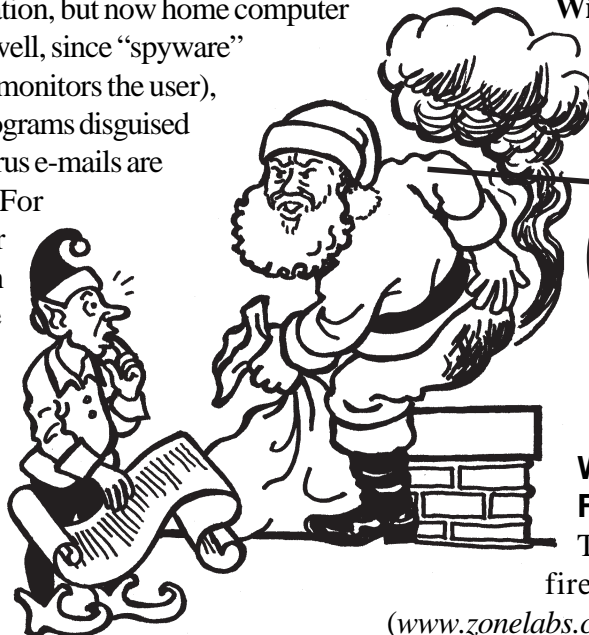
- Hardware firewalls are actual pieces of **electronic equipment**. They are generally used by businesses with large networks.
- Software firewalls are **computer programs** that scan traffic going in and out through Internet connections and stop anything that looks suspicious. Most home computer users use software firewalls.

However, hardware firewalls are generally more secure, and since prices are coming down, some home users have chosen to set up one of these in addition to a software firewall.

Is There Anything a Firewall *Doesn't* Do?

Having a firewall installed does *not* mean you are permanently safe from all Internet attacks. Firewalls can't stop all virus e-mails, or adware or spyware from attacking your computer. To protect yourself from these you need to have up-to-date antivirus software installed, a good spyware checker running and the latest updates of your programs installed.

However, a good firewall *will* go a long way towards protecting your computer and all your personal information from unauthorized access. The free **ZoneAlarm** personal firewall is a very popular download — and it scans both incoming and outgoing traffic (whereas, for example, the **WindowsXP** firewall scans *incoming* traffic only).



Never mind the
Naughty or Nice List!
Get me the list of
who has a **FIREWALL**
that stops
incoming traffic!!!

Where Can I Get the Free ZoneAlarm?

To download the free ZoneAlarm personal firewall, go to the **Zone Labs** website (www.zonelabs.com). Look under the heading for personal and home business use, and you'll find a link to download the installation file.

Illustration: R. Doyle MBUG-PC



How Do I Install and Configure ZoneAlarm?

Once you download the free ZoneAlarm application, install it just like you would any other application. Once the installation is finished, it will ask you to register the program so they can keep you up to date on product developments, but remember, you can always opt out of their promotional e-mail offer.

When you open the free ZoneAlarm application for the first time, it will walk you through the steps to configure the program. This is one of the things that make ZoneAlarm a popular choice among home users, because it's easy to do it correctly. Once you complete the simple setup questions, you can be almost certain that your firewall is configured properly.

How Do I Use ZoneAlarm?

After you install and configure ZoneAlarm, you will likely have a lot of "firewall messages" pop up when you start using your computer with the firewall running. Each time a new application tries to access the Internet, it will ask you if you want to allow it.

Although this is bothersome at first, once all the programs you use have been recognized by ZoneAlarm and you tell it whether or not to allow them to access the Internet, the program will settle down and pretty much run in the background.

There are a lot of reasons the free ZoneAlarm application is very popular. The free ZoneAlarm application is a good option for firewall protection — and you can't beat the price!

Note: Zone Labs recently started marketing their new **Internet Security Suite**, which includes:

- **Triple Defense Firewall™**
- Integrated Anti-Spyware/Antivirus
- **SmartDefense™** Service
- ID and Privacy Protection
- E-mail Security
- Phishing and Spam Blocker
- IM Protection/Parental Control
- Wireless PC Protection

I highly recommend you attend **MBUG's December 2nd General Meeting** to find out more about ZoneAlarm and other ways to secure your computer!◆

blacklion@royal.net

THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST



by Bob "I Don't Do
Windows" Stephan

photo: Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC

More Freebies

MBUG-PC had an excellent meeting on November 4th. The presenter, **Gene Barlow** from **User Group Relations**, provided much useful information on Internet Security and Organization as well as on a few software products available at user group discount prices. More information is available on the User Group Relations web site at www.ugr.com.

One product that got my attention was **Optimal Desktop Pro**, a web browser claiming to have better features than **Windows Internet Explorer**. In particular Gene emphasized its capabilities of tabbed browsing and organization of bookmarks into folders for easy access. As I listened to Gene, I realized that there is a free product that provides very similar features. It is a free browser in the **Mozilla** family called **Firefox** — for information go to www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/. Hint: To download, click on "Other systems and languages" and download the version for your operating system and preferred language. Check it out and compare features with Optimal Desktop Pro, then decide which one suits your requirements.

Gene also emphasized backup of your hard drive and mentioned products to aid in that task. I don't have any free products to suggest to replace those, but for backup of up to 30 megabytes you can get free online storage from **Yahoo**. Check it out at briefcase.yahoo.com. 30MB isn't all that much by today's standards, but it would provide secondary backup for your most important work files such as, for example, your genealogy data, possibly financial data (if you trust online storage for that) or anything that is so important to you that you absolutely can't afford to take chances with it. All you need is your web browser to store and retrieve files, and you can share specific files with selected friends and family members if you so desire.

Speaking of Genealogy

The following article is from the October 31 issue of **Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter**, copyright 2005 by **Richard W. Eastman**. It is republished here in part with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at www.eogn.com.

Finding Genealogy Gems Online

A while ago I had an enjoyable experience: I introduced a casual acquaintance to genealogy research. When I mentioned that she should research her family tree, she first replied, "Oh, I could never do that. My parents and grandparents are all deceased. Nobody in my family knows anything about their origins. All four of my grandparents were Jews from Russia, so there won't be any information available. They all immigrated around the year 1900. Besides, the family names were changed at Ellis Island."

WRONG!

While she stood and watched, I went online and quickly found immigration records for three of her four grandparents, as well as the 1920 and 1930 US Census records for all of them and the village of birth in Russia for one of them. In the census records I uncovered the names of their children who were living with them, including one child who was an aunt that my friend had never heard of (I suspect that the child died young although that is not yet proven). I also was able to show my friend that one grandfather was named Rupert in several records, not Robert, as she had been told. I also found the original immigration records in the **Ellis Island online database** and showed her that the family names certainly were NOT changed at Ellis Island, as she believed. I found her grandparents' occupations and also uncovered the fact that one of the four was illiterate.

I then instructed my friend on how to go back another generation. She can obtain the names of her great-grandparents by writing to the **Social Security Administration** and paying a fee. I even printed out four letters to the Social Security Administration, one for each of her four grandparents. All she had to do was write checks, put the checks and letters into envelopes, and attach postage. She did that later the

same afternoon, noting my caution that she will not receive a reply for several weeks.

My friend is now hooked. Every day since this discovery she tells me about a telephone conversation she has had with an elderly aunt or some other record or old photograph that she has discovered. She is eagerly waiting for responses from the Social Security Administration. She will visit a local **LDS Family History Center** next week. She also obtained a genealogy program for her computer. Not bad for someone who claimed four days ago that she would never be able to research her family tree!

This was so easy and the rewards so great, I feel like an ice cream vendor at an August **Red Sox** game. My total time expended was less than 30 minutes. You could do the same.

To be sure, I am experienced at using these online resources. If you have less experience, you might need more than 30 minutes. I also pay for access to **Ancestry.com** in order to look at their census records and other sources of genealogy information. If you do not pay for that access, you still can view the same records for free or nearly free by looking at microfilm copies at a genealogy library or at a Family History Center near you. That excursion will take you more than 30 minutes, but you will still find it easy to uncover similar information.

In my friend's case, all four of her grandparents emigrated from Russia to the United States as children or young adults between 1900 and 1910. However, the techniques about to be described will work well for almost any ancestors who arrived within the past 100 or so years, whether from Russia, Europe, Central or South America, or even the Orient. Results will vary, but you often can find more than you ever expected.

So, would you like to know how Dick Eastman accomplished that remarkable feat? You can read the rest of the article detailing his techniques at eogn.typepad.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2005/10/finding_genealo.html#more. Facilities for accomplishing similar "magic" are available right here at the Family History Center on Noche Buena between Kimball and Plumas in Seaside. Entrance is in the back of **The Church of Jesus**



Christ of Latter Day Saints. It is open and free to the public and no religious affiliation is necessary or expected. Hours are Tuesdays-Wednesdays 9am-9pm, Fridays 9am-5-pm, Saturdays 11am-3pm, but call (831) 394-1124 to verify before going there as there are occasional variations. Expert free assistance is available for learning about and doing genealogy research. There is an extensive library on-site with additional access to worldwide genealogy records on film, fiche, CD-ROM, and the Internet. ♦

**Old Frug wishes all
MBUG-PC Members a
Very Happy Holiday Season
and all the best in 2006.**

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's home page is www.bobstephan.net.

**MY FAVORITE
WEBSITE**

by S. Jack Lewtschuk

MBUG Columnist / Immediate Past President

NASA Brain Bites

- What time is it in space?
- How long would a round trip to Mars take?
- How do you scratch your nose in a space suit?
- Why do astronauts practice under water?
- Would you hear a space ship fly by?

All of this and more: videos, history, news, etc. If you have not been in space, here is your chance for a virtual visit. If you intend to visit space, here is some information to prepare you. If you want to space out, well, you already know how to do that!

Take a look and listen at: www.spaceflight.nasa.gov/brainbite/home.html. And it has many more interesting links. ♦ blacklion@royal.net

Expect the Unexpected When Traveling Abroad

*by Lynn L. Kauer, Editor
Saginaw Valley Computer Association*

Since the holiday travel season is upon us, we thought we'd reprint an excerpt of this pertinent article, courtesy of the Association of Personal Computer Users.

My wife and I recently went on a river cruise from Vienna, Austria starting with the Danube River. As we continued our trip on the Danube through Germany, we connected with the Main River that allowed us to travel over the mountains and connect with the Rhine River. The trip ended in Amsterdam in the Netherlands (Holland). This trip was for a period of three weeks and was on a boat that only held 150 persons, including the crew. We are more accustomed to the 'big' ships with upwards of 2,400 passengers plus crew containing all the amenities like an onboard shop to download the photos from the digital memory cards onto CD's. I knew that this service would not be available on the riverboat and became a bit concerned with respect to what I would do if I 'filled' all of my digital storage.

My camera is a Sony DSC-F717 and uses "Memory Sticks" for digital storage. (Other cameras may use Secure Digital, Compact Flash Cards or XD cards depending on the manufacturer.)

Although the camera is capable of taking photos at five mega pixels (2,560 x 1,020 JPEG image size), I adjust the settings downward to (2,048 x 1,536 JPEG image size). I also adjust the setting to 'fine' mode instead of 'standard' mode. This allows me to save approximately 80 photos on a 128MB stick instead of only 50 if I were to shoot at the five-mega pixel setting.

I own ten 128MB plus three 256MB memory sticks. Doing the simple math, they are capable of storing 1,280 photos. While it may seem like a lot, it really is not. I used almost all of their storage capacity on our last two-week trip to the Mediterranean while visiting Italy, Greece, Turkey and Croatia.

On that trip, we sailed miles off the coast and there was no opportunity to take photos until we landed ashore. On the

river cruise we would be traveling through the scenic vistas of three countries plus having stops along the way. I was concerned with having enough storage because we would be traveling for three weeks.

After the first day I quickly learned that there are a lot more things that one should worry about than digital storage. Some of the things contained in this article will surprise you and hopefully give you some insight as to what you should think about when traveling abroad whether on ship, train, bus or car.

Resolution

As stated above, I lower the resolution to approximately three mega pixels on my camera. One of the passengers had a camera like mine. As we chatted, he told me that he had recently purchased the camera for the trip and was finding it easy to use. He previously owned a 35-mm film camera. We somehow got on to the subject of storage and I asked him how many 'sticks' he had. His reply, "Just the one that came with the camera. I can get all of the photos on the stick that I expect to take while traveling. I can get almost 800 photos on the stick."

This is when I learned that the salesperson had changed the resolution on his camera to the lowest possible setting. In other words—Internet resolution. When I asked him if he intended to make prints he replied, "Oh yes. But none larger than 8 x 10." He was the type who knew everything about everything so I found a way to let him snap away and disappeared into the crowd.

I also bumped into another poor fellow who really had a problem. He bought his camera real cheap in a pawn shop a week before the trip. The camera stored everything on a permanent chip inside the camera. The salesperson had told him that all he had to do was to go into any photo store and they would be able to transfer his photos to a CD with no problem. At this point, only three days into a sixteen-day cruise, his camera was full. Worse, he could not find a store that could provide the service for him. Onboard the 'big' ships the service is readily available for a fee. On the riverboat, they had no provisions for this service. The crew attempted to help him by downloading the photos onto their computer but they too bumped into a brick wall. He never received the instructions or the CD that contained the necessary software with which to unload the photos to a computer. His photo shooting days ended early.

Power

As stated earlier, I was concerned with having enough storage space for photos. (Incidentally, I shot almost 1000 photos.) The first option I thought about was to get an adaptor that would allow me to download the photos onto a laptop computer. However, this idea was short lived because carry-on luggage space is limited. International flights limit the passenger to one piece of carry-on luggage and the size is restricted. Secondly, carrying laptops through airport security is a royal pain. Therefore, I decided that I would become a 'selective' photographer and not try to capture every photo opportunity I saw.

When traveling in Europe one must keep in mind that 110-volt power is not available. All of the electrical power in Europe is 240-volt and not all of the plugs are the same from country to country. My first purchase was to buy a transformer to adjust the voltage for a 110-volt external battery charger. It's about the size of a small flashlight, costs less than \$25 and allows me to use it in any country.

This is where I bumped into the first problem. I didn't read all of the instructions that came with the transformer. The first occasion I had to use it was while in the hotel in Vienna. That is where I learned that the voltage was 240-volt and 50-cycle. The instructions clearly stated to not allow it to be plugged into the outlet for more than an hour or it would become overheated and possibly damaged. Therefore, I plugged the transformer into the outlet and let the battery recharge for shorter periods.

When we boarded the ship the only outlet available was in the bathroom. There were two outlets available. One noted for use with an electric razor only—110-volt. The other outlet was for 240-volt appliances. I used the 240-volt outlet with the transformer for one hour time periods to recharge the camera batteries without a problem.

Alas, two of our shipmates were not so lucky. One plugged his charger into the 110-volt outlet and failed to pay attention to the time. Two hours later, when he entered the cabin, he found his charger smoking. The problem is the 50-cycle current. It burned it up. The other shipmate was less fortunate. He plugged the cord into his camera to recharge the battery. It also caused damage to the built-in charger and he now had a dysfunctional camera. I make it a practice to never use the camera to recharge the battery unless it is absolutely necessary.



Internet Café's & Keyboards

While in our hotel in Vienna I found a computer that one could rent for Internet access. The rental rate for Internet access was three euros for fifteen minutes. This means \$4.95 per quarter hour or about twenty bucks an hour.

Because of the committees Crystal and I are involved in, we wanted to know what the latest information was. This is when we learned that attachments do not get transmitted overseas. This was very frustrating because we attempted twice later in different cities with the same result.

The interesting thing I learned on the first attempt was when I tried to send an e-mail to the sender that had the attachment. When I typed the message a lot of the letters were mixed up. For example, the S key would be displayed as a "&", the "P" key would display as an "X" and the "R" key would come up as a ">". The keyboard layout doesn't match that of ours!

When I got it cleaned up and attempted to send it I received an error message that I had been logged off meaning that I had spent five bucks for nothing. This wasn't unique to the hotel's computer. It was common at other sites as well. The result was that we were out of contact with anyone online for a month because things just don't interface as we expect them to.

I had bumped into the keyboard layout problem a couple of years earlier in England but it wasn't as complex as being in Germany. Imagine what it would be like in China or some other remote country. The connection speeds were a step back in time. While some sites boasted cable and broadband access, the speed was similar to 56KB modems. I should have realized what the speed differences were as almost every home had an antenna on the roof!

How Do You Spell Relief?

What does one do when they get sick in a foreign country? You call your doctor, right? Nope! Our shipmate had quadruple bypass surgery a couple of years earlier. About half way through the trip, he got a sore throat and a severe cold. He failed to bring medication along to take care of this condition. This became a big problem for him.

Since the time differential was six hours, and he got sick on a weekend, he was unable to contact his doctor in the states. He sent a fax to his doctor's office to learn that the office

staff turns off the machines when they leave work. Thus, for us it was noon and his doctor's office was already closed because it was 6:00pm.

While ashore he tried to make a phone call but his doctor's answering machine told him to call another number in the event of an emergency. The other number had a message to the effect, "the doctor is not in right now. Please leave a phone number where he can contact you." Since we were "at sea" (so to speak) there was no way for the doctor to call back.

After two days, the ship managed to contact his doctor who faxed a prescription to the ship via a satellite link while tied up in port. However, when he took it to the pharmacy, the pharmacist refused to fill it because it was written in English and not from a doctor recognized as being in Germany. So, what's the point? When traveling abroad try to anticipate the unexpected for medications that may require a prescription.

In my case, I became ill during the second week having caught the 'cold' of the fellow trying to contact his doctor. My only alternative was to talk to a pharmacist for some 'over the counter' medication. It didn't work very well.

When I arrived home I found myself unable to sleep in a bed. The first night was spent dozing on the recliner. The next morning I met with my doctor and took the medication I had purchased with me.

He pulled out the instructions from the package and exclaimed, "Everything is written in German. Why don't they write in a generic language (English) so that we could understand what they are telling us?" I replied, "Doc, we were in Germany. How many 'over the counter' medications in our country are written in German?" He looked at me with a sly grin and realized the folly of what he had asked.

From now on, when we travel abroad we will take some of the 'over the counter' medications that we use from time to time with us. We found aspirin a bit difficult to find as it was 'blended' with other unpronounceable things. The rule to follow is the same as going to a cheap party—BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle). In this case, BYOM (Bring Your Own Medicine).◆

llkauer@chartermi.net

GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE PRIZES

TRY YOUR LUCK

DECEMBER 2



- ◆ Iomega Zip Drive (with cables and zip discs)
- ◆ McAfee Internet Security Suite 2005
- ◆ Microsoft's "Windows Plain & Simple"
- ◆ O'Reilly Book's "Home Networking Annoyances"
- ◆ Quicken97 Personal Finance
- ◆ SanDisk 512 MB Flash Drive
- ◆ StudioLine Photo2 digital photo software

Smart Computing

Anyone who's ever picked up a copy knows that there's more to Smart Computing magazine than meets the eye!

But did you know that Smart Computing gives **FREE tech support** to both subscribers and non-subscribers?

Check it out by phone:

1 (800) 368-8304

Mon-Fri 7am to 8pm CST

Saturdays from 8am to 4pm CST

(Nebraska time)

or any time on the Internet:

webhelp@smartcomputing.com or

www.smartcomputing.com

To subscribe to Smart Computing:

12 issues for \$29.00 / 24 issues for \$48.00

36 issues for \$64.00

PO Box 85380 / Lincoln NE 68501-9807

Phone: 1-800-733-3809 / Fax: 1-402-479-2193

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

HERB GOODMAN DISCOUNT COMPUTER MAGAZINE* PRICE LIST

	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs
Computer Games	\$10.95	\$20.95	\$29.95
Computer Gaming World	\$14.95	\$28.95	\$41.95
Computer Shopper	\$16.97	\$32.95	\$47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	\$15.95	\$30.95	—
Mac Addict	\$10.97	\$19.97	\$28.97
Mac Home Journal	\$15.97	\$29.97	—
Mac World	\$12.95	—	—
Maximum PC	\$9.95	\$18.95	\$27.95
Microsoft System Journal	\$21.95	\$39.95	—
PC Gamer	\$12.95	\$23.95	\$33.95
PC Magazine	(22 / 44 / 66 issues)		
	\$25.97	\$48.95	\$68.95
PC World	\$16.95	—	—
Videomaker	\$11.95	\$21.95	—
Wired	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$17.00

Prices above are for new subscriptions & renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check, cash or money order payable to:

Herb Goodman

8295 Sunlake Drive

Boca Raton FL 33496

phone (561) 488-4465

hgoodman@prodigy.net

Allow 10 - 12 weeks for magazines to start.

Renewals: Send your address label from your present subscription to ensure correct start of renewal. As an extra service Herb will mail a renewal notice 4 months prior to expiration date.

**For over 300 more titles at excellent prices, contact Herb by e-mail.*

MBUG-PC Members now get 30% O'Reilly Discounts

Our Members get a 30% discount on all O'Reilly,

No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing,

Pragmatic Bookshelf, Sitepoint and Syngress publications: use code **DSUG** when ordering books.

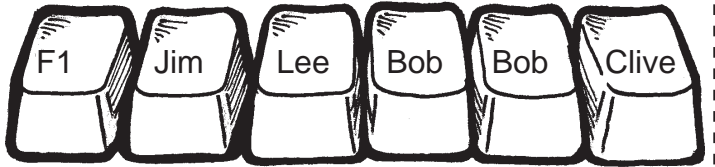
Group purchases with better discounts are also available. O'Reilly catalogues are available at general meetings. Interested? Contact:

S. Jack Lewtschuk blacklion@royal.net



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

*Pacific Grove
Adult
Education
Center*



Vocational
Education
Computer
Classes

"Learning for Life"

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

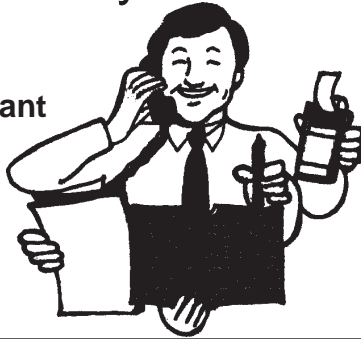
<http://www.pgusd.org>

MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

James W. Anway

Retired IBMer
Computer Consultant

Phone: 831 625-5618
Fax: Call first



BIZTECH

SHIPPING & COPY CENTER

Richard Pryor, Owner

26384 Carmel Rancho Lane, #101
Carmel CA 93923
(831) 622-9024 Fax (831) 622-9026
E-mail - bizcopy@aol.com

COMPUTER POWER

Star Reierson

star@computerpowerstar.com

1173 Ninth Street
Monterey CA 93940

Phone: (831) 373-3919
Fax: (831) 373-0671

C Sanders

Sanders and Associates

Computer Consultants

636 Spazier Avenue
Pacific Grove
California 93950

Telephone: 831-375-5376
Cell: 831-521-6676
E-mail: simbacli@pacbell.net

lakelyn
graphics

Carolyn S. Lake

798 Lighthouse Ave, #194
Monterey, California 93940

phone: 831-643-2023
email: lakelyn@ix.netcom.com

In-home Computer Coaching

- Practical guidance to make your computer work for you
- Sessions geared to the older adult (beginner/intermediate)
- Special projects: document preparation, graphics
- Learn the basics of popular Microsoft programs and more...

Word	Outlook	PowerPoint	Internet	Scanning
Excel	Publisher	FrontPage	WordPad	CD Burning

Four Winds Travel



Where the good times beginSM

■ Dan Presser, Owner

26080 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Suite 103

Carmel CA 93923-8757 ■ (831) 622-0800

Fax (831) 622-9467 ■ CST #1000683-40

fourwinds@redshift.com/www.fourwindstravel.com

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>



DECEMBER

MICROSOFT WORD: POWERPOINT



Debbie Jones

Guest Speaker

**Wednesday,
December 14**

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey

Debbie, Founder and CEO of *Anything Is Possible* computer training service, is rapidly becoming one of our most popular speakers! In December she'll continue to help us understand the power of PowerPoint: more basics on this presentation graphics program which improves your ability to create, present, and collaborate on presentations for fun and work.

Debbie will present tips, tricks, shortcuts and, time permitting, hold a question and answer session to help you deliver creative slide presentations with more impact. For beginners up to advanced users. Questions? (831) 402-1810 or debbie@debbteaches.com ♦

ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR SIG UPDATE



This Special Interest Group (SIG) meets every 3rd Monday of the month at **Carmel Foundation**, Computer Learning Center, on Lincoln between 8th/9th Streets in Carmel.

Fee: **\$3.00** (payable at the meeting).
Next meeting: **MONDAY, December 19, 2005**
10:30am -12 noon. Previous knowledge of Illustrator not required.

To be placed on the SIG mailing list (receive information/announcements), call Carolyn Lake at (831) 643-2023 or e-mail lakelyn@ix.netcom.com.

**Space is limited:
advance reservations are strongly
recommended.**

2006 MBUG-PC Board of Directors ELECTION RESULTS

In accordance with MBUG-PC's Charter, the 2006 Board has been elected with the following results:

President

Carolyn Lake

*Vice President / Assistant Treasurer /
Membership Chair / Lead Meeting Facilitator*

Donald R. Slaiter

Secretary / Treasurer

Tom Streeter

Newsletter Publishing Editor

Regina Doyle

Newsletter Columnist

S.Jack Lewtschuk

Workshops Coordinator

Charlie Mehlert

Advisor / F1 Help / Newsletter Columnist

Clive Sanders

Workshops Coordinator / Vice-Photographer

Gary Stephens

Last Chance for a Volunteer to go to LAS VEGAS in JANUARY 2006! MBUG-PC Representative Wanted!



We *still* need someone to represent MBUG-PC at the upcoming **APCUG Annual Conference** January 2 through 5, 2006 at **The Stardust Hotel and Casino** in Las Vegas, Nevada. **MBUG-PC will pay your registration fee.**

You pay for transportation and room, but APCUG has a great

deal for conference attendees - Room and Suite

Rates are:

	Sunday 1/1/06	Mon/Tues 1/2-3/06	Wed-Sat 1/4-7/06
West Tower	\$150	\$67	\$112
Spa Suites	N/A	\$110	\$175

Interested? Contact MBUG-PC President **Carolyn Lake** at (831) 643-2023 or e-mail

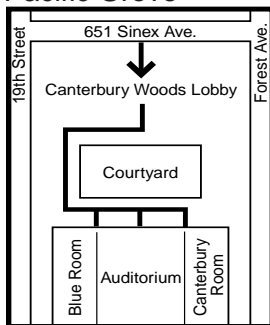
lakelyn@ix.netcom.com ♦

Illustration: R. Doyle MBUG-PC

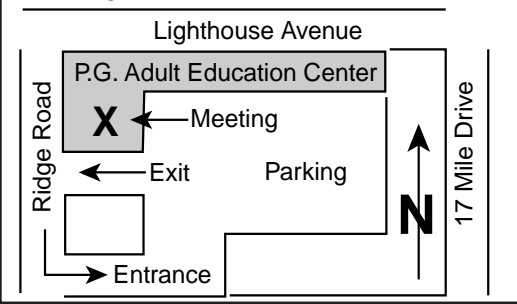
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 General Meeting "Zone Alarm Security" Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Jordy Berson	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 "More About PowerPoint" Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 to 9:00pm Debbie Jones	15	16	17
18	19 "Adobe Illustrator SIG" Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	20	21	22	23	24
25 CHRISTMAS	26 HANUKKA KWANZAA	27	28 <i>HOLIDAY RECESS</i> <i>No Workshop</i>	29	30	31

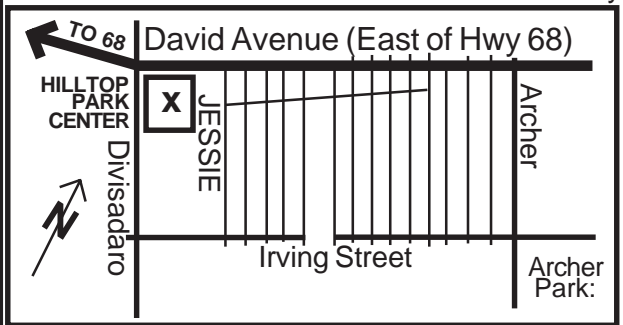
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



Tentative Calendar January 2006 *Please Check the January Newsletter for Final Dates & Times*

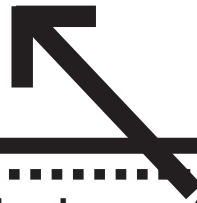
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NEW YEARS' DAY	2	3 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	4	5	6 "General Meeting" Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Speaker To Be Announced	7
8	9	10	11 "Where to Go for Help" Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Clive Sanders	12	13	14
15	16 "Adobe Illustrator SIG" Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 "Computer Security" Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Scott Coté	26	27	28
29	30	31 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>				



monterey bay users
group-pc
PO Box 51611
Pacific Grove CA 93950



Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Monterey, CA
93940
Permit No. 273



INK UPDATE

**Joyce
Elisha**
Video Team &
"The Ink Lady"



RED BOW

If you lift the lid on a printer and remove the paper before it moves through the heat fusing rollers, you can brush off the toner with your hand. Once the paper goes through the heating unit, the toner melts and runs together, resulting in smooth-edged characters that are fixed to the paper.

When the toner has been expended and the empty cartridge is ready for disposal, please think of donating it to MBUG's brown box with a red bow for Christmas. We send off the gathered cartridges for reimbursement, and the revenues help support our educational programs. Remember, only name-brand, original equipment empties are acceptable. No remanufactured or generic items please. Merry Christmas to All! ♦

ellias@msn.com

Check your (upside down) label.

Does it say "Exp: December / 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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Best Wishes for 2006!

**Don
Slaiter**



photos: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

Vice President, Assistant Treasurer
and Membership Chair

THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIPS

name	member number
Walter G. Beam	1146
John Meagher	1239
Tom Streeter	1062
Dick Gamble	1132
Sean L. McCabe	1186

THANKS VERY MUCH TO THESE, AND ALL OF OUR DONORS IN 2005

name	member number
2 Anonymous Donations	
Dick Gamble	1132
Jack Lewtschuk	914
Charles Mehlert	1211