



mbug-pc newsletter

Established 1983 / Incorporated 1988

IN THIS ISSUE

MBUG-PC Volunteer Positions	2
MBUG-PC Information	2
Carolyn's Viewpoint	3
Things, Thinglets & Thingassos	4
Picture in Tip Top Shape?	5
Frugal Computerist	6
My Favorite Website	8
Another Good Travelers Tip	8
Video Production with MBUG & AMP	9
Rebate Games	10
Upcoming Raffle Prizes	11
MBUG Discounts	11
Need Computer Help?	12
MBUG Supporters	13
MBUG-PC Upcoming Workshops ...	14
MBUG-PC Calendar	15
Ink Cartridge Update	16
Membership Report	16

What new software is
making SPIDERS
celebrate?



Read all about it in
Bob "The Frugal
Computerist"

Stephan's
column starting on page 6!

The Future of Wireless Data Access

Our "First Friday" General Meeting of the year on January 6th will feature guest speaker **Ken Schipper**, who is eager to let us know what we can expect now and in the near future, from Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's), laptops and wireless data access in general.

Ken is well-qualified to give this presentation: he has been involved with computers since the days of the two-floppy drive original **IBM PC**; once owned and ran training courses at **Upgrade Information Management** (a software training and development company in Stockton, California); taught at the **University of the Pacific** in Stockton (database design and web **Active Server Page** development); and has developed over 200 custom database applications using **Visual Basic, Access and SQL Server**. He now works in the IT Department of **GraniteRock** headquarters in Watsonville where, among other duties, he continues to actively utilize up-to-date wireless technologies.

Ken will share his real life experiences of the capabilities of all things wireless. Those of you who just got some nifty new "toys" from Santa (PDA phone, **Palm Pilot, Blackberry**, etc.) or who have made a New Year's resolution to find out more about wireless technologies for your business, home office or personal use will not want to miss this presentation.

Ken will help you sort out the marketing hype from the reality, including the low-down on hardware, software, wireless service options, the all-important issues of wireless speed and some inside information on what wireless carriers have planned for the upcoming months and years. Bring along your technical questions for the question and answer session or contact Ken ahead of time.

Questions? Contact kenschipper@hotmail.com or call (831) 262-4222. ♦

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2006 at 7pm

Pacific Grove Adult Education Center

1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

FREE, educational and always interesting!

**Start the New Year right: learn something new!
Try your luck at the Raffle (Prize list on 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 Streeter 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 © 2006 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 Hyler, MBUG-PC

THE NEW BAD GUYS

Our December General Meeting speaker **Jordy Berson** of **Zone Labs** painted a very convincing picture of the need for upgraded security software. His basic message: the threat landscape has changed, so the quality of security has to change to meet the new challenges.

Malware ('mal' = malicious; 'ware' = software) is unfortunately an every day fact of computer life. We either have it on our computers, are about to get it, or are fighting a constant battle against it. Jordy emphasized that 2003 was a turning point – the year the Internet became positively criminal. As broadband Internet access became more widely used, the nature and motives of hackers started to change. Previously, hackers used malware such as viruses and worms to gain notoriety, for grandstanding and possibly for revenge. These programs were annoying, but relatively easy to detect and clean with a good anti-virus program.

But today's hackers have a profit motive in mind. Malware such as viruses, worms, and Trojan horses are designed to take control of computers and remain as quiet and hidden as possible. They are often placed as "rootkits" ('root' = the highest level of administration; 'kit' = a collection of tools) at the kernel level of the operating system, where they go undetected. Smaller, targeted attacks also make it difficult for anti-virus companies to become aware of such malware. Hackers create "botnets" ('bot' = robot; 'net' = network) of controlled computers and can then black market the coordinated systems to push spam, distribute pornography, and make "denial of service" attacks on businesses. Even if you are an infrequent computer user and have no significant personal data on your computer, your system may still be taken over for such purposes.

Spyware, a type of malware, is the major source of profit for the modern hacker that has gained prominence since 2003. Jordy pointed out that, unlike viruses, spyware is

supported by well-funded companies who can employ many developers. Spyware programs are often unknowingly installed when the user installs other desirable applications. They are used to monitor Internet browsing habits, to send out pop-up ads and to redirect searches to advertising pages. These all become sources of profit for the hacker, who will continue to update the hidden software and protect the system for his own use.

In several states, including California, malware such as spyware is known in law as a "computer contaminant". Programs containing spyware may contain a vague end-user license agreement in an attempt to gain some legality, but these EULAs have not yet been upheld in court (according to Wikipedia.com). The distinction between software classified as malware and reputable software that can malfunction because of programming bugs is important, as the former is subject to legal action.

Jordy outlined the effectiveness of the new **ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite** in dealing with spyware and hackers today. Containing an integrated antivirus program, it is designed as an all-in-one anti-spyware and firewall software to provide a layered approach against the invasive stages of spyware:

- If spyware attempts to get on your computer, the "stealth mode" of the ZoneAlarm firewall makes your computer invisible to the hacker.
- If spyware does get in and attempts to install itself, the new ZoneAlarm detects and halts the installation.
- If spyware attacks other programs and the operating system, ZoneAlarm's **Triple Defense Firewall™** blocks the hijacking of good programs and detects down to the kernel level to stop attacks.
- For spyware that does get into the computer and burrows in, ZoneAlarm provides traditional scanning and removal and keeps the computer updated against new spyware threats.

Our thanks to Jordy for providing insights on rootkits, botnets, spyware, keylogging ('key' = keystroke + logger), splogging ('spam' + 'blog' = splog) and other modern hacker practices and terms. Our thanks also to Zone Alarm for providing MBUG with several sets of the new ZoneAlarm Security Suite for the December and January raffles! ♦

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com



THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC

HAPPY 2006

Small is Big!

Just think back a few years — remember how information was stored on paper tape, cards and “big” floppies? Then came several varieties of “small” floppies, not to mention magnetic tape, etc. We just can’t seem to get enough — the entire body of well-established data storage methods are evolving to accommodate our needs for ever more storage space. You might have noticed, as far as storage is concerned, that “small is big”. Storage is becoming more compact and taking on more data, even as developers are planning the next generation, and the one after that.

“**Blu-Ray**” disks (blue, instead of red, laser disks which will hold as much as 25GB per layer, and possibly five times that) are set to be the next generation after DVDs. Even as this latest generation of spinning optical disks are being launched, some experts are already planning a successor — optical disks holding hundreds of hours of television are already on the drawing board.

Small is Beautiful!

A CD works by having 1s and 0s stored as “bumps” that deflect or reflect a laser beam. Future disk players will not just pick up deflections; they will also measure the angle at which the laser is deflected so that instead of just a 1 or 0, each “bump” will be used to store much more data.

Of course, in the world of technology, small is the new big. The ultimate engineering challenge is to fit everything into ever more truly tiny spaces. The distant target is to get to the same sort of scales that the human body is built on, that is, individual molecules doing sensible things. So the great leap forward recently made by **Hewlett-Packard** has been to lay, at the intersections of wires, almost single molecules on

which to store computer data. We hear they are down to about 1,000 molecules now, which respond to currents going from one wire to another and which can be flipped from one state to another.

We’re talking about manipulating individual molecules as bits of data here, on a nanoscale (that is, relating to or occurring on a scale of nanometers). A nanometer, if you remember your high school science lessons, is one billionth (10^9) of a meter. Of course, this is still the stuff of lab research.

Potential is Fantastic

But developers are confident that before too long we will have a wealth of nanoscale storage devices at our disposal. One method currently in development is **Project Millipede**. **IBM’s Dr. David Watson** says: “*Millipede uses a grid of 80x80 stylus-like pins, which are extremely small, to punch holes into a polymer surface. This is a read/write technology, so you can write a hole as a 1 and then pop it back out as a 0. This offers fantastic storage potential. A single Millipede device could hold something in the order of 600,000 digital camera images on something the size of a postage stamp.*”

Dimension is New

Most storage methods today store data in one long line, such as a reel of tape or the spiral track on a CD, which are only one-dimensional. Some, like flash memory and the forthcoming Millipede, store data across a two-dimensional surface. Some of the newest projects in the pipeline go even further, with plans to stack data in three dimensions. As long as twenty years ago, holograms were the must-have art to hang on the wall — three-dimensional pictures stored inside a seemingly two-dimensional photograph. It turns out data can be stored in a similar way.

Adrian Mars says, “*Holographic storage is essentially writing images - holograms - into a sugar cube-sized block. The plan is that you’ll be able to get at least a terabyte (1024 gigabytes) of information into a single sugar cube. Obviously it’s not made of sugar! Experiments so far have used either a light-sensitive polymer or a special light-sensitive crystal.*”

It has become staggeringly easy to zap spots inside a crystalline structure. Of course, all of these new and emerging technologies still face hurdles, and not all will make it to the data storage market. But one thing is certain: we are always

going to need more storage, and the storage devices we will use in the future may look very strange indeed.

perhaps weigh 1.5 tons.”

Author Unknown,
“Popular Mechanics”, March 1949

Predictions are Tricky

“Where a calculator on the *ENIAC* is equipped with 18,000 vacuum tubes and weighs 30 tons, computers in the future may have only 1,000 vacuum tubes and

Computers *did* become much smaller, as we all know. The first true portable computer, the **Osborne I**, made its debut in 1981. The machine weighed 24 pounds and cost \$1,795, including software. ♦ blacklion@royal.net

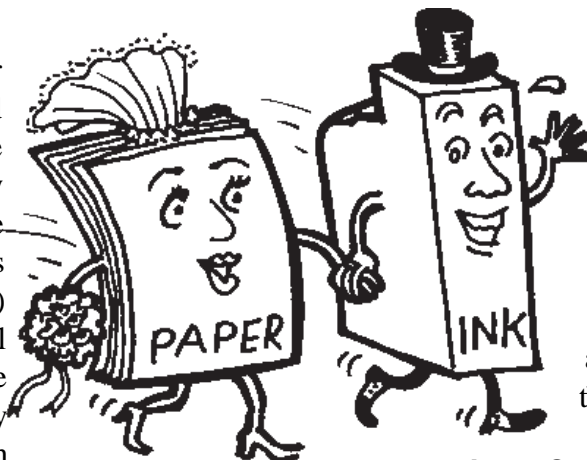
What Comes After You Have Your Pictures in Tip Top Shape?

by Donald Cummins, APCUG
Representative, Fresno Personal
Computer Users Group, California

Paper and Ink are a Team

One without the other is just paper or ink. Paper is one of the least understood or overlooked items. Paper should be used with care. A wedding picture may be a total loss if you put it on the incorrect type of paper. If the picture is taken on the soft side (not very sharp) and printed on very glossy paper, it will make it look out of focus. It would be much better if it is printed on less glossy paper or, even better, on a matte-finish paper. Many of the wedding photos may need to be printed on a number of different types of paper to find the best results. At the same time, the ink cartridges may need to be changed from one group of photos to another.

Illustrations: R. Doyle, MBUG-PC



Does the ink bleed through or run or take forever to dry and cause the paper to cup up? Some will lay down the ink in a number of passes and others may lay the ink down in one pass. One may require the paper to move through a number of rollers and others will pass straight through.

Printer Capabilities

One item which can affect the finished photo is how thick the paper is. You need to check how the paper moves through the printer because the way it moves will control how thick the paper can be.

Printers now have many more capabilities than four or five years ago. They have more ink colors, ink placement size, and speed than ever before.

For detailed printer information, check the following websites for their information on printers, ink and paper information:

- **Epson** – www.epson.com
- **Canon** – www.canon.com
- **Hewlett-Packard** – www.hp.com ♦

Where ink comes into play

There are two types of ink: dye and pigment. Dye inks produce somewhat brighter colors and are prone to fading. They now may last 10 years or longer. Pigment inks are less bright and last longer than dye ink on photos.

directorlarge2@fresnocomputerusers.org
Article courtesy of the Association of
Personal Computer Users.

THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST



by Bob “I Don’t Do
Windows” Stephan

photo: Bill Hyster, MBUG-PC

The other thing that got my attention in that article was the sentence that said, “... for us it was noon and his doctor’s office was already closed because it was 6:00 pm.” Seems to me that this is just “bassackward”. It would be more likely that noon in the Mediterranean area would have been 6:00 am in the doctor’s office in the States if there was a six hour time difference. That is probably easier for us westcoasties to grasp from experiences communicating with people farther east than, perhaps, people living farther east who don’t often communicate over different time zones. That difference has occasionally been emphasized to us by being awakened early in the morning by a family member or acquaintance in the East who did not consider the difference.

TRAVELING WITH YOUR EQUIPMENT

I feel compelled to comment on some things that I read in last month’s newsletter. First off is the article from **Saginaw Valley Computer Association** about traveling abroad (“*Expect the Unexpected When Traveling Abroad*” by **Lynn L. Krauer**, MBUG-PC Newsletter, December 2005, page 8). It reminded me of the story about the guy that did everything the hard way as the people on that trip seemed to be destined to do. It really doesn’t have to be that difficult. My wife and I have traveled some all over Europe. We never carried one of those heavy, bulky transformers. All of our electronic and electric traveling equipment is designed to handle different types of electrical service, and we did not go out of the way to obtain that capability. My shaver, my wife’s hair dryer, and our camcorder all simply use 240-volt, 50 cycle current with no problems and these items are 10 to 15 years old, so it is nothing newfangled. I would think most other modern equipment might very well also be designed to do the same.

Before going to all the trouble that those people in the above article went to, check out the specifications on your equipment to see what types of electrical service it can handle. Since so much of today’s stuff is made overseas and is destined for many different countries, it would not be unusual for it to be designed to work in many places in the world. In fact, it would be unusual for it not to be. All we had to carry when we travelled was one or two plug adapters so we could plug our equipment into the different styles of outlets.

I really wonder if those people had looked at the specs on their appliances whether they might have seen that they would be able to handle the types of service they encountered and could have saved themselves all that grief.

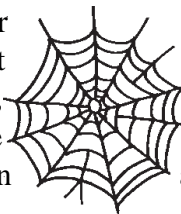
FIREWALLS

I would also like to comment on the excellent suggestion in **Jack Lewtschuk’s** article to have a firewall (“Things, Thinglets & Thingassos”, MBUG-PC Newsletter, December 2005, page 5). Several years ago I picked up a router on **eBay** for \$20, and that was one of the best twenty bucks I ever spent on computer equipment. The router is, of course, an excellent hardware firewall, but it is much more than that. It has ports that I can network up to four computers so they can talk to each other, exchange data, and can all simultaneously access the Internet over the same connection. They are very easy to set up using any web browser. My router also has a printer port so my printer can be accessed by any of the computers connected to the router. In addition, printers attached to any individual computers can be accessed by the other computers over the network.

Perhaps Jack is living in the past if he thinks routers are only used by “... *businesses with large networks*” (grin). Many homes these days have more than one computer such as, for example, a desktop and a laptop and perhaps more for other members of the family. Networking of some kind lets them talk with each other and share files, Internet access and printers. You can back up your laptop to your desktop or keep files such as address books and appointment schedules synchronized on more than one machine. And now wireless routers are also available to work where it might be difficult to run network cable.

The hardware firewall makes your computer completely invisible to anyone on the Internet so they cannot try to break into it if they cannot see it. Of course if you have a reason to let someone access your system, you can specify that in your router setup and you have full control over such access.

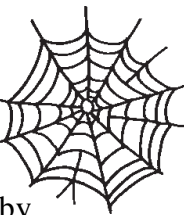
Perhaps you might want to be able to access your system remotely from another location. You can set your router to let you do that. It is really a very useful, versatile device and highly recommended for anyone with high-speed internet access, and it doesn't cost an arm and a leg.



you want to save a copy of all the information available on the site. You can then disconnect from the Internet and peruse the site at your leisure while disconnected. In fact, you can read the pages of a web site while on a train or airplane.

EASTMAN'S SECURITY TIPS

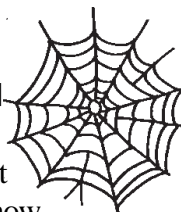
Speaking of Internet security, the following articles are from **Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter** (Vol. 10 No. 49 - December 5, 2005, copyright 2005 by **Richard W. Eastman**). They are republished here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at www.eogn.com.



HTTrack is a powerful and easy-to-use tool that can backup your entire web site for off-line browsing and archival purposes. The program will make a mirror image of an entire site or (optionally) of part of a site. The program will recursively build all directories, getting HTML, images, and other files from the server to your computer. As part of the process, HTTrack arranges the original site's relative link-structure.

Internet Explorer Flaw Now Rated "Extremely Critical"

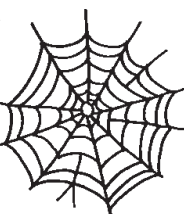
Here is another reason to never use Internet Explorer. The security-riddled web browser has now earned a very rare "Extremely Critical" advisory notice. Microsoft was notified of the problem in March 2005 but has done nothing to modify the program or fix the flaw. In the meantime, rip-off artists can steal information from your computer if you are using Internet Explorer.



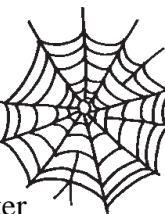
The best part of HTTrack is its price: *free!* For more information about HTTrack for **Windows, Linux, and UNIX**, or to download the program, go to www.httrack.com.

There are several limitations and cautions about using HTTRACK so read the documentation and check out the rest of Eastman's detailed article at www.eogn.com. But I might mention that Firefox (see above) has similar capabilities. If you select "Save Page As . . ." Firefox will save the page you are viewing and all its linked items so that you can view it offline with all images, etc. For most purposes it is not necessary to install a separate program to do this.

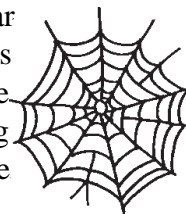
Details may be found at www.security.ithub.com/article/Unpatched+IE+Flaw+Is+Worse+than+Expected/166164_1.aspx.



Luckily, the problem is easy to fix. Simply switch to either **Firefox** at www.mozilla.org or **Opera** at www.opera.com. Both of these are better web browsers and, unlike **Microsoft's Internet Explorer**, both have very few security problems. Both are available free of charge.



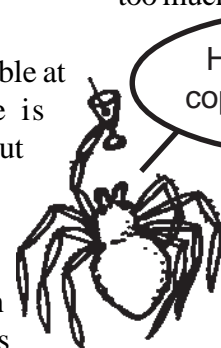
Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy, and Successful 2006! For us we are looking forward to finishing and being able to use an addition we are building on our house. We started running out of room several years ago when the computers came to live with us. It has taken us a year to get this far what with all the permit process hoops that we had to jump through, but we are finally seeing the progress of the framing going up. Hope we get the roof on before too much more rain. ♦



The latest release of **Firefox Version 1.5** is available at www.mozilla.com/firefox. This next article is republished here in part. For the full story check out www.eogn.com.

Copy an Entire Web Site

There are a number of reasons for copying an entire web site to your own hard drive. Perhaps



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.

Illustrations: R. Doyle, MBUG-PC

MY FAVORITE WEBSITE

by Star Reiersen,
MBUG Member 161

How to Find a Real Human Being

Anyone who has ever been frustrated by those awful automated telephone “answering” services (and who hasn’t?) will want to visit www.paulenglish.com and check out **The IVR Cheat Sheet™ by Paul English**. ‘IVR’ stands for *Interactive Voice Response*, a quite often unresponsive, smarmy-sounding, computer-generated ‘person’ you reach when you call to ask for information, file complaints or track orders at most toll-free numbers.

This wonderful listing, updated regularly on the website, gives you the 1-800 phone numbers of common companies and organizations with instruction on how to bypass the machine to cut straight to a human operator.

For example, if you want to talk to someone at **MasterCard**, the IVR Cheat Sheet advises you to call the number, and then dial “000” on each menu. Or for **Safeway**, call your local store, then as soon as the prompt starts, dial “1200”. Or for **FedEx**, at the start of the message, say “representative”. Or for **United Airlines**, dial the number then: “do nothing, wait for a human”.

The IVR Cheat Sheet lists almost a hundred finance, government, insurance, pharmacy, product, retail, shipping, technology, telecom, travel and tv/satellite companies. In a few instances, you find you can’t actually bypass the system (e.g., the listing **AT&T Wireless** Paul English reports “no easy escape”). But for the majority of cases, there is a way to get a live agent.

I just hope that **Medicare** (1-800-MEDICARE) doesn’t figure this out when people start calling about the new **Prescription Drug Plans**. As it stands, Paul English advises that you dial the number, then, “... when recording begins say “Agent” 5+ times”! ♦ star@computerpowerstar.com

Another Good Traveler’s Tip

by Francis Cartier, PhD
MBUG-PC Member 205

In the previous issue (as already mentioned by **Bob Stephan** on the previous pages), **Lynn Kauer** wrote about the difficulties of getting a prescription abroad (MBUG-PC Newsletter, “*Expect the Unexpected When Traveling Abroad*”, December 2005, page 8). I think that everyone who travels abroad should join the **International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers**. It’s free (though I usually send them \$10 when I renew each year). They will send you several pamphlets including an updated list of fully licensed, English-speaking

physicians in virtually every country in the world, pledged to assist travellers at reasonable fees.

Write to: **International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers**

1623 Military Road #279
Niagara Falls NY 14304-1745.

♦ FCar889755@cs.com

*When Fran isn’t traveling abroad, among other things he is composing poetry (check it out at www.TASCommunicating.com), and researching and writing a column in the **Mensa Research Journal** (mostly devoted to websites about research into intelligence and gifted children’s education).*

COMPUTER SECURITY

Jordy Berson, Senior Marketing Manager at **ZoneLabs**, (pictured at left) gave a **MBUG-PC December 2005 General Meeting** presentation. Jordy emphasized that computer security ultimately depends on you and advised a proactive strategy: educate yourself, protect your own networks, tell your friends about steps to take, demand security from your financial institutions and ISPs, and demand strong and useable security from your software providers. Good practices to avoid hacker attacks: don’t click on website links within e-mail, avoid unvalidated freeware, and avoid sites with questionable content. Most importantly: keep O/S and security and other software updated with the vendor fixes against potential hacker entry points. ♦

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com

photo: Bill Hyster, MBUG-PC



VIDEO PRODUCTION WITH MBUG & AMP



by **Joseph Asling**
*MBUG Video Team
Leader*

WHAT'S NEW IN EDITING AND HDTV

photos: Bill Hyster, MBUG-PC

Comparing Editing Programs

PC Magazine, in its November 22, 2005 issue, compared two consumer video editing programs head-to-head — **Adobe Premiere Elements**, now in version 2, and **Pinnacle Studio Plus**, version 10. Each costs about \$100. Studio Plus has some nice ease-of-use features not found in Elements: in particular, there are “theme packs” which help build videos for weddings, sports events, etc. Studio Plus also includes image stabilization, which Adobe only includes in **Premiere Pro**. This effect shifts jerky frames so that their content doesn't move as much, at the expense of magnifying and softening the image.

The review also discusses which effects are better in each program. The biggest drawback to Studio Plus 10 is installation problems; some of PC Mag's testers and numerous users complaining in the Usenet video forums haven't been able to get version 10 to work on their computers. PC Magazine gave Premiere Elements 2 a slight edge over Pinnacle Studio Plus (4.0 vs 3.5). I should also note that Adobe packages Premiere Elements 2 and **Photoshop Elements 4** in a very capable graphics/video tandem — and the price for the set is only \$150!

Incidentally, I asked **Matrox** recently why they don't bundle Premiere Elements instead of Premiere Pro with the **RT-X10**, their less expensive video hardware board. Apparently the two programs are different enough that Matrox would have to rewrite their drivers and integration software, and it isn't worth doing.

High Definition TV Gee-Whiz Department

Last month I attended a presentation at **AMP (Access Monterey Peninsula, Public Access Television Channel**

24) by **Matrox and JVC** of prosumer HD (High Definition) equipment. This stuff isn't cheap yet — the **JVC GYHD100U Camcorder** costs over \$5,000 and the new **Matrox Axio Editing System** (which uses Premiere Pro) runs about \$14,000 as a turnkey system (including a dedicated video computer running dual **AMD Opterons**).

HD comprises approximately fifteen digital video standards. On average an HD frame has about 7 times the information of SD (standard definition) TV. During the demo we saw some uncompressed HD — the data stream was 95mB/second (that's 95 megaBytes!). But the JVC camcorder compresses this down to 3.5mB/sec, just what my SD camcorder outputs. How do they do it? A standard DV camcorder compresses each frame about 7:1 by a technique similar to JPEG. The HD camcorder compresses directly to MPEG-2. In the JVC GYHD100U, only one frame in five is a complete image; the intervening frames are highly compressed data which describe only the changes in the video. The camcorder does this computation-intensive process in real time. I could hardly believe my eyes, but I couldn't tell the difference between the uncompressed and the 25x compressed video!

Of course, Hollywood uses uncompressed HD video for their theater-grade work, but for the rest of us, the quality is good enough to create commercial-grade HDTV. Few of us have HD television sets yet, and HD DVDs won't be practical until **Blu-Ray** or another high-capacity standard is common, but it will happen (see **Jack Lewtschuk's** article on page 4). If the past five years are any indication, by 2010 we will be able to afford quality HD equipment. ♦

jasling@pacbell.net



*MBUG President **Carolyn Lake** (left) and Newsletter Editor **Regina Doyle** (right) hard at work giving away great prizes at the December 2005 General Meeting raffle. All proceeds from our raffles benefit our educational activities, so buy lots and LOTS of tickets!*



Don't be a Loser at the Rebate Games

by Jim Sanders, Editor,
North Orange County Computer Club

*Here's another interesting article courtesy of the
Association of Personal Computer Users.
Hope it's in time for all the rebates you are planning
to redeem from your Christmas purchases!*

Most of us have bought something that sounded like a great value — “After Rebate or Rebates.” Everywhere from a great price to FREE! Most are legitimate. Most require a fair amount of work to claim. Most are never claimed. Most say you will have to wait 6 to 10 weeks for a check (for some that turns into 6 to 10 months). Many have tricky fine print. A few are outright scams!

Below are a list of things that you should do, as opposed to just think about, if you're going to buy an item with a rebate and have any real intention of claiming the rebate and actually getting it.

Start the Rebate Process at the Store

If you are going to buy an item with a rebate, while you are at the checkout stand, **not after you get home**, do the following:

- Write down the sales clerk's name then ask him to show you that you have all the items needed to claim the rebate. Ask him to put an 'X' on the correct UPC barcode.
- Make sure you have a copy of the correct rebate form(s). Some are inside the box. You just paid for the item, it is yours, open the box and read the terms.
- If it is an upgrade rebate, it is better to find out if your old product qualifies BEFORE you go to the store. Check the vendor's website, call the store and ask!

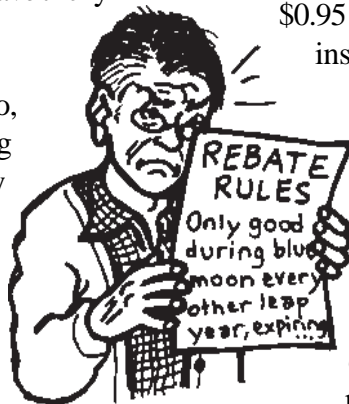


Illustration: R. Doyle MBUG-PC

- Some stores provide a “Rebate Receipt.” Make sure that matches the requirement list.
- Check the postmark requirement, I have seen one that gave you only three days to get it postmarked. Don't wait till the last day to mail it.
- Make sure a website address and/or telephone number is included that you can use to contact the rebate center about your rebate. Most of the upscale rebate centers include an 800 number.
- Make two copies of ALL documentation submitted. If a cheesy rebate center decides to tell you they never received your request, without copies, you're up the proverbial creek. I am working on an article about using your scanner for this purpose.
- Include one of the photocopies with the submission to make the point that you have copies. Mark it “CC: Vendor, My Files.” On the larger rebates, buying the \$0.95 proof of delivery service at the post office is cheap insurance. Having a witness to the mailing doesn't hurt.

Don't Err on Your Side of the Game

- If it says 6 to 8 weeks, check at 6 weeks, don't wait three months. Be reasonable with phone calls but check the website as often as you like. Mark your calendar to remind yourself to check on the rebate. Keep a folder for all of your rebates. Move completed ones to another folder.
- Once you get your rebate check, read how long it is good for. Some are good for 6 months. Most are void after 60 days. A few are void after 30 days. I got one that was expired when it was delivered.
- When you think you have been shafted, don't just grimace and bear it: complain. Complain to the retailer. Complain to the vendor. If all else fails, file a complaint with the **Federal Trade Commission** at www.ftc.gov. You can also file a complaint with the **Better Business Bureau** at www.bbb.org. Taking the retailer to **Small Claims Court** is an option. ♦

jwsanders@pacbell.net

Read the Fine Print! Then Read It Again!

- Read the “Proof of Purchase” requirement list.
- Does it require the original “Sales Receipt” or is a copy OK? If the original is required, ask the store for a duplicate original that is acceptable for a product exchange if there is a problem with the product.

[Editor's Note: Jim Sander's original article concludes with a two-page e-mail exchange between BFG Technologies, Inc. and Jim Sanders, resolving the issue of a denied rebate claim for the North Orange County Computer Club President Elise Edgell. Anyone interested in the complete text can contact me at ReginaDoyle@aol.com]

GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE PRIZES

TRY YOUR LUCK

JANUARY 6



- ◆ ZoneAlarm: *Internet Security Suite*
- ◆ H&M System Software: *StudioLine Photo 2*
- ◆ SanDisk: *Titanium USB Flash Drive*
- ◆ Computer Vacuum
- ◆ O'Reilly Books:
 - "Home Networking Annoyances"
 - "Windows XP Plain & Simple"

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Free subscriptions to **Smart Computing Magazine** have recently been won at MBUG-PC General Meeting raffles by the following lucky people:

★Samantha Elias★

★Barbara Scheele★

★Gary Stephens★

★Sheridan Stephens★



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

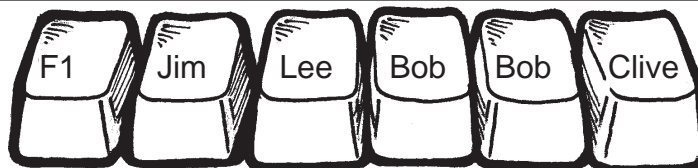
Our Members get a 30% discount on all O'Reilly "No Starch", "Paraglyph", "PC Publishing", "Pragmatic Bookshelf", "Sitepoint" and "Syngress" publications. Use code "DSUG" when ordering books.

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

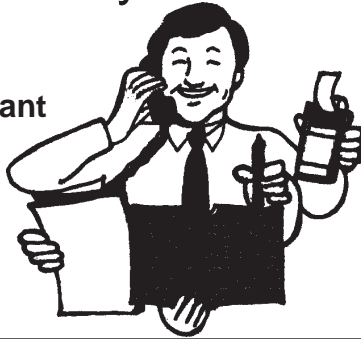
<http://www.pgusd.org>

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

Clive R. 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



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>



JANUARY

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP



Clive Sanders

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, January 11

7:00 to 9:00pm

**Hilltop Park Center
Monterey**

Is your computer acting strangely (stopping, starting, noisy, hiding files, displaying strange messages)? **Advisor, Workshop Leader and F1 for Help** guy Clive, will explain what to do, where to go for software, hardware and technical help! By arrangement, bring your computer with you. Questions? (831) 375-5376 or simbacli@pacbell.net ♦

COMPUTER SECURITY

Scott Coté

Guest Speaker

Wednesday, January 25

7:00 to 9:00pm

**Hilltop Park Center
Monterey**



Scott, a **Naval Postgraduate School** lecturer, gave us a great information-packed presentation in October on identity theft. But there's so much more we need to know to protect ourselves from this and other dangerous computer scams and larceny. Don't miss what is sure to be another useful learning session! Questions? (831) 656-2519. ♦

ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR SIG UPDATE



- ♦ This Special Interest Group (SIG) usually meets every 3rd Monday of the month at **Carmel Foundation**, Computer Learning Center, on Lincoln between 8th/9th Streets in Carmel. **Space is limited: advance reservations are strongly recommended.**
- ♦ Fee: **\$3.00** (payable at the meeting). Next meeting: **MONDAY, January 23, 2005** (4th Monday of month due to Foundation holiday schedule) 10:30am -12 noon.
- ♦ Previous knowledge of Illustrator not required.
- ♦ To be on the SIG mailing list (receive information/announcements), call **Carolyn Lake** at (831) 643-2023 or e-mail lakelyn@ix.netcom.com.

Coming in FEBRUARY

WHITTLE'S PICKS FOR THE DIGITAL HOME



David P. Whittle

Guest Speaker

Friday, February 3

7:00 to 9:00pm

**Adult Education Center
Pacific Grove**

David, a technology book author and writer for **Smart Computing**, will give us a "mini-trade show" of the latest gadgets, goodies, software and services available for the digital home. See what's new in video, music, home theatre & sound, digital photography and more. Here's your chance to win great raffle prize or buy at discount prices. Questions? (801) 489-0605 or kathy@webworkingservices.com.

To: Don Slaiter
MBUG Membership Chair

From:

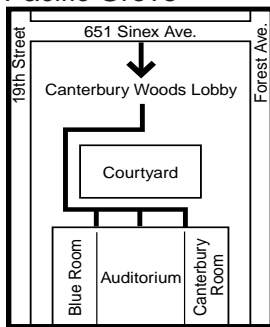
Dr. John & Rosemary Rhodenbaugh
MBUG Membership 1101

Please accept this \$200 contribution to MBUG in honor of all the volunteer workers and officers of our great chapter. This contribution is in lieu of serving on the Board of Directors and with thanks to **Clive Sanders** [for F1 Help services rendered]!

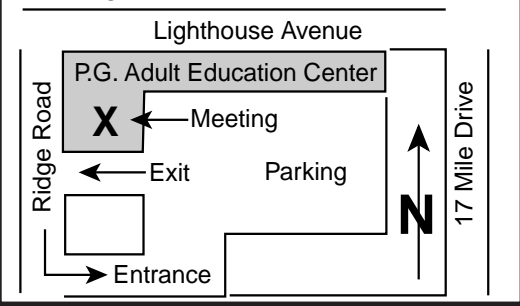
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - January 2006

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 <i>"Future of Wireless Data Access"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Ken Schipper	7
8	9	10	11 <i>"Where to Go for Help"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Clive Sanders	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 <i>"Adobe Illustrator SIG"</i> Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	24	25 <i>"Computer Security"</i> 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>				

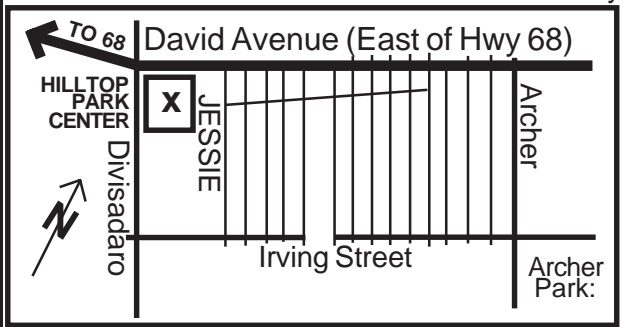
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <i>"Whittle's Picks for the Digital Home"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm David Whittle	4
5	6	7	8 <i>"Google Earth"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Clive Sanders	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>"Topic TBA"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 to 9:00pm Speaker TBA	23	24	25
26	27 <i>"Adobe Illustrator SIG"</i> Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	28 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>				

Vol 25, No 1, January 2006



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"



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I want to take this opportunity to thank **MBUG-PC** and its newsletter for the very helpful information that they shared last year. On their recommendation, I subscribed to the **Smart Computing** magazine. The January 2006, Vol. 17 issue has a fabulous "how to" article on inkjet cartridge refills. If you decide to do this, you can reuse your cartridge four to eight times before it wears out. Then ... please recycle your empties to MBUG! The famous "brown box" (found at General Meetings) accepts **HP, Sharp, Xerox, Canon** and **Lexmark** brand name cartridges which we send in for reimbursement to help support our educational programs.

Also, you can e-mail me any helpful tid-bit of computer information that you would like to share with other readers in this space! ♦ ellias@msn.com

Check your (upside down) label.

Does it say "Exp: January / 2006"?

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

**Don
Slaiter**



Vice President, Assistant Treasurer
and Membership Chair

photos: Bill Hylet, MBUG-PC

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEW MEMBER OF 2006!

Lynna Hilts 1279

THANKS VERY MUCH TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

name	member number
Mac McIntyre	909
Charlie Mehlert	1211
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101

THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIPS

name	member number
Samuel Gales	1023
Douglas Honma	1079
Mac McIntyre	909
Robert Paravicini	129
Tony San Filippo	1199
Allen Wasylychyn	983