



mbug-pc newsletter

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What visionary invention made the laptop LAP-FRIENDLY?



Check out Jim
Hinwood's amusing (and
fascinating) historical
musings on page 5!

An Overview of eBay

OK, you asked for her, so heeere's SIRIE! **Sirie Thongchua**, an **eBay Trained Education Specialist** was our overwhelmingly popular Guest Speaker in February 2005. This time Sirie will give us a detailed eBay overview, covering "Free Tutorials," "Navigating the Site," "How to Start Buying and Selling," "Security Concerns," "How to Join Local eBay Discussion Groups," and other items that come up in the Question & Answer session.

Sirie is truly an expert in the eBay field — she says she registered on eBay in 1999, but didn't really start actively buying and selling on the site until 2003. A former stock broker, she left the corporate world in 2002 to be Nanny to her sister's newborn while continuing to work full time. Sirie loved to shop, but with a drastically reduced income, she found the eBay solution. Friends invited Sirie to sell stuff under their ID while she learned the basics of selling. At first she used proceeds from eBay auctions to finance her own eBay purchases. But in 2003 her hobby grew into a real business with a difference: Sirie says she's no longer interested in a high-pressured financial sales career since with eBay she's achieved an increase in the quality of her life. Today she earns income from eBay as an Education Specialist, Trading Assistant and as a Seller. eBay satisfies her entrepreneurial drive and sense of community, while allowing her time to pursue other interests in life.

A native of the Monterey Peninsula, for the past 10 years Sirie has been a **Meals on Wheels Volunteer Board Member** focusing on development and fundraising. She teaches "Basics of eBay Selling and Buying" workshops; offers one-on-one, home eBay coaching; and provides consultation to businesses/non-profit agencies on using eBay for income and product sourcing.

Sirie says, "I enjoy and profit from my eBay experience. I want to make your eBay experience fun and rewarding too!" Don't miss what is sure to be a big MBUG event. Questions? Phone (831) 658-0211 or e-mail siriet@yahoo.com◆

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006 at 7pm

Pacific Grove Adult Education Center

1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

FREE, educational and always interesting!

Interesting people and darn good coffee!

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

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

CAROLYN'S VIEWPOINT

Carolyn Lake
President



photo: Bill Hayer, MBUG-PC

SUPPLYING THE DIGITAL HOME

Guest speaker **David B. Whittle** provided the February General Meeting audience with a look at software for the management of digital media (pictures, music, and video). His comments emphasized how our daily lives are built more and more around the use of digital electronics. We have only to think about those things that have and are continuing to change our world: TV, PCs, the Internet, digital cameras, and portable devices such as cell phones, PDAs and handheld music and video players. Dave gave special emphasis to the following three new software packages:

muvee autoProducer 5

From **muvee Technologies**, **muvee5** uses fairly straightforward dialog box layouts to download and assemble video cam clips or digital photos. Add favorite music clips, select a style from the many provided with the program (or purchased separately and added in), and the software automatically creates a “muvee.” Titles and credits can be added, as well as various transition effects and backgrounds. Authoring software is integrated, so that the user can burn “muvees” directly to DVDs or Video CDs. The software supports use of many video (MPEG2, MJPEG, etc.), audio (MP3, WAV, etc.), and picture (JPG, BMP, etc.) formats. For demo and more information, see www.muvee.com.

3D Album PicturePro DVD Suite 3.1

This software from **Micro Research Institute** has easy-to-use toolbars, workspace, and dialog boxes to help the user select digital images from any computer folder that has pictures and assemble them into photo presentation albums. It also provides tools to organize and manage photos, edit, add graphic styles, and print. The program has dozens of showcasing styles with fun animations. Also, it can be used to create DVD-ready video files, and can be used in

conjunction with muvee autoProducer. More information is available at the product website, www.3d-album.com.

PhotoVista Panorama 3.5

This one from **iSeeMedia** was really fun to see. The intuitive interface makes it easy to acquire images from a digital camera, open them for selection, and then vertically stitch together a series of selected photos to make great panoramas. The result can be printed across two pages for a large-scale photo, or it can be e-mailed, or it can be viewed with a browser and rotated for a full 360-degree interactive view! Of special interest is the way in which the program evens out the light level between the individual photos to give a more even-toned lighting to the final panorama. A publishing function is included so that images can be uploaded to a personal website. Check the Website at www.myphotovista.com for more information.

Dave offers these items and others to user groups at discounted prices, so if you are interested but missed the opportunity at the General Meeting, special prices are available for a limited time. He can be e-mailed at dave@webworkingservices.com, or call (801) 489-0605.

SIGNIFICANT O/S CHANGE COMING

As we all know, operating systems come and go — and it's now time to look ahead seriously to the upcoming **Microsoft O/S** changes. At his recent **Windows XP** workshop at Hilltop Park Center, MBUG member **Jim Anway** helped us get our minds around some significant dates. Microsoft is targeting this Fall, probably before Thanksgiving, to roll out their new **Vista** operating system, and at that point, just in time for holiday buying, Windows XP will no longer be sold. In fact, as of September 17, 2006, support will no longer be available for WinXP machines with only Service Pack 1. Moreover, Microsoft will finally, for sure, probably, at last, end all technical support, including security updates, for **Win98**, **Win98SE**, and **Windows ME**, as of July 11, 2006. To check out more information on system phase-outs, see <http://support/microsoft.com/lifecycle>. Vista will be a major change from the current XP system, and will include an integrated **Internet Explorer 7** (now downloadable separately in Beta 2 Preview version), and also **Windows Defender** (now downloadable in Beta 2 version for Windows XP). Windows Defender is a new security technology with two-way firewall and spyware protection. See more details about Vista at www.microsoft.com/windowsvista. ♦ lakelyn@ix.netcom.com



DRIVING THE FRONTSIDE BUS

**Jim
Hinwood**
Columnist



photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

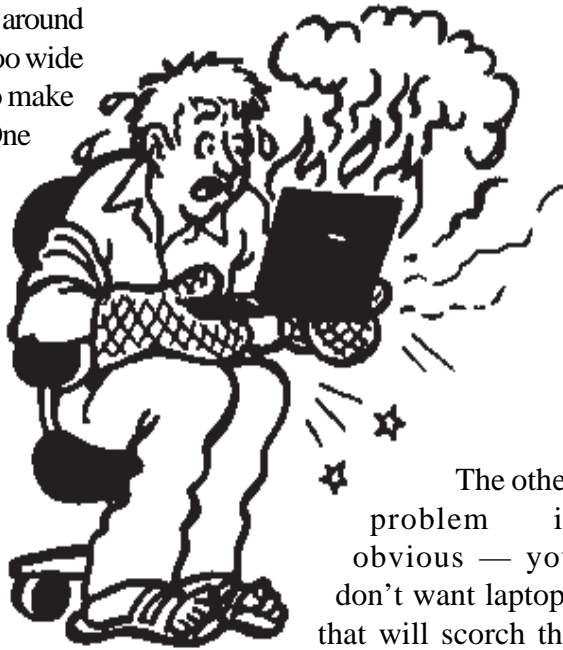
AMD'S VISIONARY GAMBLE

We computer enthusiasts have been the spectators in what I like to think of as a grand race. Leaving all the David and Goliath analogies aside, I like to think of the computer revolution like a car race. Different technologies race around the track — if one pulls a little too wide on a turn, it falls behind, only to make it up on the straightaway later. One “spinout” and you can be permanently out of the race.

There have been some grand reversals in this past year, quite unlike what I've seen in any other business. Quick and decisive changes leading to *huge* differences in market share. When I first started to play with computer hardware, **Intel** was king. For 35 years **AMD** (Advanced Micro Devices) was the “Beta” to Intel's “VHS”: a lot of people would only buy computers with Intel chips even though in many ways AMD was the better value. The problem that Intel ran into was the buildup of heat, and the gamble by AMD on the 64-bit processor. Intel ran their chips as close to 4 GHz as they could, but they couldn't seem to crack the 4 GHz ceiling. A lot of gamers did, by going to water cooling, but nobody in the

mainstream wanted to deal with water cooling.

Then, multimedia computers came in as the next best thing. With **Microsoft** wanting to make headway into your living room, they came out with a new operating system, **XP Media Center**. Now we had an operating system strictly for a media center PC in your living room, but without a solution to the heat problem, we had water cooling, or a computer with a CPU fan that sounded like a leaf blower. You don't want to watch a movie when the computer running all of your media devices sounds like someone starting a two-cylinder motorcycle!



Illustrations: R. Doyle, MBUG-PC

foolish enough to use it on their lap (and eventually you won't be calling it a “laptop” anymore)! Intel found a solution in the **Pentium M** for the laptop, reducing clock speeds and heat, and increasing battery life. AMD focused on 64-bit computing. When AMD presented 64-bit architecture, there weren't going to be any applications to really take advantage of 64-bit computing for a long time and no operating system in sight, but the

The other problem is obvious — you don't want laptops that will scorch the gonads off anybody

“Glossary Bits”

bit = binary digit: the smallest unit of information on a computer

GHz = Gigahertz: 1 billion cycles per second; the speed of microprocessors, called the clock speed, often is measured in gigahertz

GB = gigabyte: 2 to the 30th power (1,073,741,824) bytes; one gigabyte is equal to 1,024 megabytes

motherboard = the main circuit board of a computer

RAM = Random Access Memory, computer memory that can be accessed randomly; that is, any byte of memory can be accessed without touching the preceding bytes

terabyte = 2 to the 40th power (1,099,511,627,776) bytes; approximately 1 trillion bytes

AMD chips had immediate and substantial gains in performance for gamers and they started to trounce the Intel chips in any performance face-off.

Also, clock speed doesn't remain as important when you have a 64-bit pipeline. Instead of continuing to increase clock speeds, 64-bit computing doubles the amount of data that can be processed per clock cycle. 64-bit architecture also means exponential amounts of memory that can be addressed. The best home computers can address 4 GB of RAM if the motherboard can handle it, but with 64-bit computing you can run 1 terabyte (1,000 GB of RAM). RAM is very fast and this adds substantial gains to the whole package. AMD then went to a true dual core processor which put two chip cores on the same

die, the equivalent of two microprocessors in one. Then you need fewer clock cycles to process the same information — speed can remain the same with double the processing power and running 250 times the RAM.

With the addition of dual core processors and the expected increases in performance that come from splitting the processing of information between chips, AMD has again raised performance without increases in heat. These three things: 64-bit architecture, larger amounts of RAM, and splitting the processing between dual lower clock cycle cores have, for the moment, catapulted AMD from a distant second to an over 50 percent market share in personal computers. AMD is in first place for the first time in their 35-year history.

Does this mean the end for Intel? Not anytime soon, with Intel being seven times as large as AMD and with 34 billion dollars in revenue. Intel earns in 11 days what AMD will earn all year. Intel also sits on 14 billion dollars in cash, to AMD's 1.1 billion. This gives them a huge advantage in research and development and in building state-of-the-art production facilities. AMD's surge in market share is due as much to the stumbling of Intel as it is to its own genius. The only thing that seems to be holding AMD back is the refusal of **Dell** to use AMD chips. If consumer demand becomes great enough for AMD chips and Dell makes a reversal, it could mean huge gains for AMD. It remains to be seen if Intel can soon regain the summit on which it once stood firmly! ♦ ehinwood@msn.com

[Coming in the April **MBUG-PC Newsletter**:
Part 2 - "ATI vs Nvidia"]

GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE PRIZES

TRY YOUR LUCK MARCH 3



- ◆ Microsoft Internet Keyboard
- ◆ Muvee4 autoProducer
- ◆ Zone Alarm Internet Security Suite
- ◆ Zone Alarm USB Computer Vacuum
- ◆ CD Jewel Cases
- ◆ ... and more!

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

TEN TIPS FOR FINDING INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

Sometimes looking for quick information on the Internet can be like searching for a needle in a haystack. With so many billions of Web pages in cyberspace, finding specific information can be a daunting task. To make your search experience easier and better, I recommend following these ten tips with your favorite search engine:

1. Use the 'Advanced Search' field

Almost all search engines have an 'Advanced Search' area that provides Web surfers with more specific options. Here, you can search by an update date, look for Websites with a specific domain like ".net," or find Websites in a preferred language.

2. Search with a phrase

To better help the search engine find what you're looking for, offer a sequence of words in a specific order, using quotation marks around the phrase. For instance, if you're looking for information on the TV show "Saturday Night Live", type "Saturday Night Live" (including the quotation marks) into the search window. Without quotations on each end, a search engine will likely look for Websites containing any of the words separately: Saturday, night, and live.

3. Be specific

If broad search words like "car classifieds" yield too many results, try more specific words such as "used car classifieds", "Mercedes classifieds", or "Salinas car classifieds".

4. Use alternative search words

If your keywords do not produce the results you want, try synonyms. Use a thesaurus like "Roget's Interactive Thesaurus" or "Merriam-Webster OnLine" to find alternative



search words. After all, a dog is also a “canine”, a “pooch”, a “mutt”, a “hound”, a “pet”, and “man’s best friend”!

5. Insert a plus or minus sign

This trick usually works in most search engines. Put a plus sign (+) in front of a word that must be included in the search window. For example, “city guides + New York” will help you narrow the search for city guides for New York only. Similarly, place a minus sign (-) in front of a word that you do *not* want to appear in the search results. Typing in “python -Monty” will allow you to come up with results for snakes and not the British comedy troupe.

6. Just search the “domain name”

If you know the Website that you want to search, but aren’t sure where the information is located within that site, you can tell your search engine to only search that domain. Enter what you’re looking for in the search field, followed by the word “site” and a colon, and then by the domain name.

For example, to find admission information for the **University of Toronto**, enter: “admission site: www.utoronto.ca.”

7. Explore “best of” sites

If you’re after quality and not quantity, a few search engines provide access to hand-picked “best of the Web” sites. One example is About.com.

8. Eliminate inappropriate content

If you prefer not to have adult sites included in your search results, activate ‘SafeSearch’ on **MSN Search’s** settings page or on **Google’s** advanced search page. While not 100 percent accurate, this function will eliminate sites that contain explicit sexual content from the search results.

9. Save time with a ‘Search’ toolbar

If you do a lot of searching on the Web, consider downloading the free **MSN Search Toolbar** or **Google Toolbar**, which always sit near the top of your **Internet Explorer** browser window. This way, you do not need to leave the Web site you’re on to type in a new query.

10. Specialize your search engine

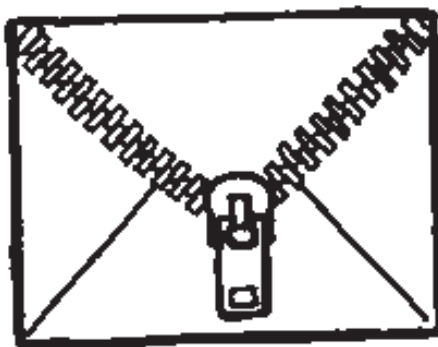
Lastly, keep in mind that there are many specialized search engines. MSN Search, for example, has **MSN Image Search** to search for pictures, **MSN Shopping** for shopping-related Web sites, and **MSN News** for published

news articles from around the world. Many more specialty search engines can be found at **Search Engine Watch** (searchenginewatch.com).

NOVICE CORNER

How is Your Zipper?

The “zip file” is one of several compression types. Sending big files is very slow; also some ISPs (Internet Service Providers) may place a limit on the size of messages. “Zipping” a file can reduce it in size to a great degree.



Zip files date to 1989. They use a compression algorithm (a step-by-step problem-solving procedure, especially an established, recursive computational

procedure for solving a problem in a finite number of steps) that looks for redundancies in a file. For instance, it might find a phrase repeatedly. It can substitute a number for that phrase. And in fact, it finds many redundant words and phrases that can be removed.

After downloading a zip file, you have to decompress it. **Windows XP** now includes a ‘zip decompressor’ — in earlier Windows versions, you had to use another program. The best-selling independent decompression program today is **WinZip**. But the first and most famous was **PKZIP**. “PK” stands for **Phil Katz** who developed PKZIP in the 1980s after an acrimonious lawsuit over another program, **PKARC**. PKZIP quickly became the standard for compression programs. However, Katz was slow to develop PKZIP for Windows, and it was surpassed by WinZip.

There are many zip programs around today — Windows XP includes built-in support, thank goodness! If you’re using an earlier version of Windows, WinZip (\$29 at www.winzip.com) and PKZIP (\$39 at www.tinyurl.com/7m694) can be used to create as well as open zip files.

If you just want to open files, try **StuffIt Expander**, which is free (from www.stuffit.com/win/expander/index.html). button. ♦

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VIDEO PRODUCTION



by **Joseph Asling**
MBUG Video Project
Coordinator

Holding the Future in Your Hand

photos: Bill Hyster, MBUG-PC

In 1953, when I was a boy I spent Christmas in Mainz, Germany. One day, my father and I climbed up a rickety staircase to a dingy room filled with old printing presses and fonts. This was the Gutenberg Museum, which held Johannes Gutenberg's original equipment. Exactly 499 years before, a world revolution had begun with the publication of the first book printed with moveable type. The museum docent poured some molten lead into one of Gutenberg's letter molds, cooled it off, and gave the piece of type to me. I can still hold in my hand a piece of metal which changed the world.

In "The Earth is Flat" (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2005), **Thomas L. Friedman** writes that we are seeing a comparable revolution today. What printing did for the written word, electronics are doing for visual and audio information. I have written in previous columns that, as the Internet was the computer "killer app" of the 1990's, so video is the "killer app" of this decade. I understated the case: films and TV production of the last century are the equivalent of a scriptorium with monks (or technicians and artists) scurrying around to produce an immensely expensive product. This is changing: instead of **Technicolor** and an **Arriflex**, indie producers are making full-length movies with \$5,000 videocams on \$3 tapes.

But that's not the revolution: the real revolution is personal media. I can make a video with a \$500 camcorder and a \$1,000 computer. Wait, I don't even need the camcorder — I

can make a video with a digital camera. Wait, I don't even need the digital camera — I can make a video with images from a cell phone!

And television and movies are easier to watch than ever — I can watch any TV program at any time with **TiVO**. I can project TV from my home to my computer anywhere in the world with a **Slingbox**. With a cellphone or an **iPod** I can watch movies and TV wherever I go. Portable video isn't the next big thing — it is here and it is exploding. Cellphones, PDA's, iPods, and portable computers are converging (MBUG's January General Meeting speaker **Ken Schipper** gave us an introduction to that in his talk "The Future of Wireless Data Access").

Five or so years from now, the audio/visual world is going to be completely different. Instead of being broadcast, movie and television content will be supplied to you on demand, just as you can now watch short video clips on a website. It won't much matter whether the signal arrives via DSL (Digital Subscriber Line), cable, dish, wireless, or even your natural gas line (yep, as **Jack Lewtschuk** said in his **TT&T** column last month, a company in San Diego says they may soon start transmitting broadband through natural gas pipelines)!

There will soon be little or no difference between a television and a computer. Computer video cards can already connect directly to high definition digital television (HDTV) sets. What's the difference between running a HDTV off your computer and watching your HDTV which has a cable box on top, a hard drive, a remote, and a wireless keyboard?



OK people! QUIET on
the set! Look into the cellphone
and ... ACTION!

So, in the fairly near future, all your communications — videophone, TV, radio, messaging, information searches, GPS locations, whatever — will all be transmitted via TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) or similar protocol. You'll be able to download content easily to whatever piece of hardware you wish and view it whenever you want. You too can hold in your hand a device which is changing the world. Just go buy yourself a video iPod! ♦ jasling@pacbell.net



Anti-Spam Programs – Do They Really Work?

by Vinny La Bash,
Sarasota Personal Computer
Users Group

Among the most effective anti-spam programs are the ones that use some kind of “approval-based” e-mail management system. They work by constructing a “white list” of permitted e-mail addresses, accepting mail from anyone on the list, and rejecting everything else. The program initially sniffs through your contact list, inbox, and other e-mail folders, organizes the e-mail addresses it finds, asks you if you want to add or change anything, and the list is complete.

From that moment on, any incoming e-mail that is *not* on the list is considered to be “spam” (unwanted e-mail), and is automatically exiled to a quarantine folder or wherever you decided it should go during installation.

These programs do work as advertised, which is both their greatest strength and their greatest weakness. Here’s what you need to know before installing one of these puppies:

Scenario 1

A friend you have lost contact with over the years sends you an e-mail. That friend’s e-mail address is not on your white list. Unless you have a quarantine folder where unapproved e-mail is sent without automatically deleting it, you will never see this e-mail. You have to check your quarantine folder at least occasionally to see if there are any “false positives” residing in with all the junk. How much time will this take? Who knows? None of the programs mention this in their promotional material or specification lists.

Scenario 2

You install a new program or device and run into difficulties. The troubleshooting guide sends you to an e-mail address where you can get a solution to your problem. You remember to add the e-mail address to your “white list.” You wait for a reply ... and wait ... and wait. What happened?

Your problem was given to a technical representative who has an e-mail address different from the general support address. You won’t see the reply unless you check the quarantine e-mail folder, assuming that in your efforts to rid

yourself of all spam, you did not specify that anything *not* on your white list be automatically deleted.

Scenario 3

You order something from an online merchant and before your order is shipped the merchant e-mails you to ask whether you want the white one or the black one. The query has been rerouted to the quarantine folder because the person trying to contact you has an e-mail address that is not on your white list.



Scenario 4

Your spouse sets up a **Yahoo!** e-mail account for the sole purpose of sending you a surprise Valentine’s Day e-mail. For no apparent reason you are getting the silent treatment. You ask, “What’s wrong?” Your spouse replies, “Nothing.”

Scenario 5

Your granddaughter just got an e-mail address of her own. She sends you a message, and can’t understand why you won’t answer. She asks her parents “Why doesn’t grandpa love me anymore”?

We could go on and on, but you get the general idea. 99.99% of all real spam will be banished from your sight, but the very few legitimate e-mails identified as spam will very likely be the ones you most want or need to see. Some anti-spam programs have a “sender confirmation feature” that automatically sends a personalized notification to anyone whose message has been quarantined. Simply replying to the challenge causes the original message to be moved to your inbox, and allows their e-mail address to be added to the white list. Legitimate senders can respond to these challenge messages, but suppose that for whatever reason they don’t? Does a seven-year-old grandchild really understand why she needs a grandparent’s permission to send an e-mail?

What you end up with is a time-consuming process of back and forth e-mails. Why should every e-mail first contact have to be sent twice? What a waste of time. This might be acceptable if your e-mail volume is very low, but who are we kidding? Simply establishing an e-mail account anywhere will get you a boatload of spam. ISP-level filters are a joke. How many essays do you want to compose explaining why someone needs “permission” to send you an e-mail? I don’t

respond to challenge e-mail. Why should anyone respond to mine?

You can check your quarantine folder regularly, but with the huge quantity of genuine spam generated and thrust upon us daily, it's too easy to overlook a legitimate message. When you finally delete the spam, there is a good chance that among the junk a valuable note is lost forever.

After using one of these programs for several months, I decided that I would much rather delete spam manually than run the risk of missing an important, legitimate e-mail. No computer program, no matter how expertly crafted or trained, can ultimately determine what e-mails I do or don't want to read. Even after being married for 38 years, my wife still can't read my mind. How do I expect a dumb computer to do it? ♦ vlabash@home.com.

[Reprinted from the "Sarasota PC Monitor", February 2006 (www.spcug.org) with the permission of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) of which MBUG-PC is a Member]

Smart Computing

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

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MY FAVORITE WEBSITE

by *Mike Morris*

*Front Range Users Group,
Fort Collins, Colorado*

*"Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? ...
The Shadow knows."*

How many readers remember that phrase? Or remember listening to the show on the radio? Recent headlines have described the availability of TV shows on the internet — at a price. No headlines however for "The Shadow" or other radio programs from the 1930's and 1940's. The copyrights to a large number of the old radio shows have expired, and you can now download (or order) these programs in a variety of formats and listen to them through your computer or other audio equipment.

Whether your interest is historical research, for the nostalgia value, for a hobby, or for the simple entertainment value, the variety of programs and information about these old radio programs is astonishing. I originally searched the internet using **Google** and the phrase "old radio programs". That search returned over 20,000 hits over 6 months. The correct phrase should have been "old time radio". That search returned over 1 million hits from the past 6 months.

These Websites provide an incredible wealth of information. I have checked a very small number of Websites, and offer my comments on them. There are episodes of "The Shadow", "Sam Spade" and "The Thin Man" (as you can see, I like mysteries). There are comedies, westerns, music, and much more.

By the way, how many readers remember the origin of **Sam Spade**? Do you recall the movie "The Maltese Falcon" with **Humphrey Bogart**? The movie was based on the novel of the same name by **Dashiell Hammett** (originally published in 1929), which introduced the world to Sam Spade. Another novel by the same author, "The Thin Man," (originally published in 1933) was turned into a movie starring **William Powell** and **Myrna Loy**. Here is a trivia question for you: who *really* was "The Thin Man"?

(Answer at the end of this article).



As you might expect, the audio quality of these old radio shows varies. Some Websites allow you to listen to short samples of selected shows using either **RealPlayer** or **Media Player**, both of which are bundled with the **Windows** operating system.

“It is Thursday night, July 31, 1930. The time is 9:40 PM. Radio listeners tuned to CBS hear the first appearance of ‘The Shadow’ ...” Thus begins the history of “The Shadow” as provided by the **Old-Time Radio Program Guide** (www.old-time.com/toc.html). This Website has links to historical information on a number of old-time radio programs and to other Websites that include soundbites and stories, and to Websites that offer programs on cassettes, CDs, DVDs, or direct downloads to your computer.

More history is available at **Radio Days: A Soundbite of History** (www.otr.com/index.shtml). There are links to history by category (“Mystery”, “Private Eyes”, “Comedy”, “SciFi”) and to histories of selected programs (“Captain Midnight”, “Terry and the Pirates”). This Website also provides an historical timeline with important dates in radio broadcasting with descriptions of relevant programs. Selected downloads (soundbites) are included. There is a link to a schedule of old-time radio on the airwaves (and on the Internet).

At **It Seems Like Only Yesterday** (www.yesterdayradio.com/), old radio programs are offered for sale on cassettes. Categories include: “World War II” and “Civil War History”, “Big Band Music”, “Comedy”, “Westerns”, “Science Fiction”, and “Sherlock

Holmes”. The “Big Band” category includes **Glenn Miller**, **Benny Goodman**, **Tommy Dorsey**, and other broadcasts from the 1940s.

The **Radio of Yesteryear** Website, (www.originaloldradio.com/), claims to have 50,000 old-time radio programs available on CDs in various formats. There is a category called “Radio’s Best 1000,” and “single subject” CDs such as “Abbott and Costello”, “CBS Radio Mystery Theatre”, and many more.

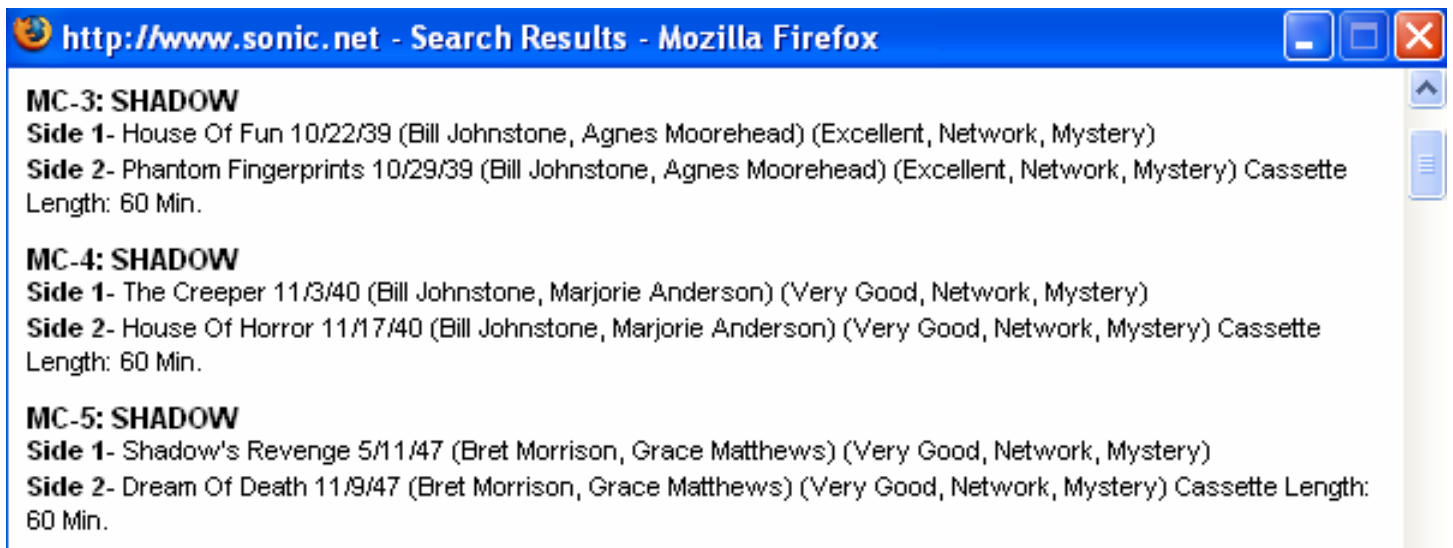
Meanwhile, back at old-time.com, there is a link to a Website called “Radio Showcase,” (www.old-time.com/sponsors/rad_sho.html). This site offers an excellent searchable database, with “actor credits, recording sources, story categories, and program notes”.

Here is a sample of a search:



The results of the search at left [after clicking on the ‘Go Find It’ button], can be seen in the “search results” in the box below.

In the interest of objectivity, I call your attention to the “RadioLovers.com” Website, (radiolovers.com). This site claims to offer individual old-time radio program



downloads. However, I did not pursue the offer. I found the site's use of pop-up ads objectionable (the ads appeared despite having the pop-up blocker enabled in my **Firefox** browser). But that is my personal prejudice. For those with greater tolerance to such ads, you may find this site useful.

Glossary Bit

Pop-up ad = A type of window that appears on top of (over) the browser window of a Website. In contrast to a "pop-under ad", which appears behind (in back of) the browser window, a "pop-up" is more obtrusive (and annoying) as it covers other windows, particularly the window that you're trying to read!

As I listened to these old radio programs, and read about their history, I realized that there was one program that I wanted to locate above all others: the original radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds". This program, created by **Orson Welles** from the 1898 **H. G. Wells** novel, and broadcast in 1938 is famous (or infamous) for the real panic it created. A search using **Google** on the phrase "war of the worlds" provided the result "EarthStation1.com", (www.earthstation1.com/wotw.html). Success! I listened to the entire program (slightly less than one hour) using RealPlayer. My brain soaked up certain phrases: "... these creatures have scientific knowledge far in excess of our own ..."; "... a vanguard of an invading army from Mars ..."

OK, so point your finger at me and laugh, while you enjoy the latest movie version with its extraordinary computer-generated special effects. I thoroughly enjoyed the hour I spent listening to this classic radio broadcast. Even the 1930's audio quality added to its menace. While you are watching the movie, I am going to dim the lights, turn off the TV, unplug the phone, and settle into my favorite chair. It is time to listen to "The Shadow". Even in the 21st Century, it is comforting that there is an answer to the question: "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? ... The Shadow knows."

And the answer to the trivia question? No, the Thin Man is not detective **Nick Charles** — it is the extremely eccentric inventor **Clyde Wynant**, who remains missing until the last chapter of the novel when it is revealed that he is the victim of a gruesome crime. ♦ ml_morris@jymis.com

[Reprinted from "k-Byte", January/February 2006 (www.frpcug.org) with the permission of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) of which MBUG-PC is a Member]

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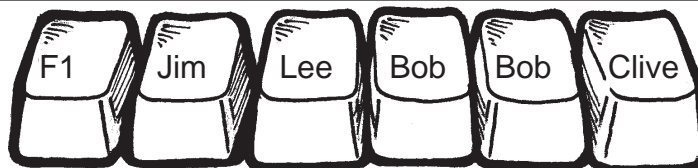
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Computer Help - Just a Click or Call Away with MBUG F1

You know you push the 'F1' button on your computer when you need help. But do you also know that you can call or e-mail **MBUG-PC** "F1 for Help" with your computer questions?



Our expert team of helpful F1 Volunteers

is willing and able to share experience on software and hardware. And if they don't know the answer, they'll direct you to someone who does. To get computer help:

- (1) Contact any of the people listed below; or
- (2) Ask questions during any MBUG-PC meeting break or Q&A session; or
- (3) Leave a message with Vice President **Don Slaiter** (831) 655-4443/657-4154 ; or
- (4) Broadcast a message to all members through the **MBUG-PC Listserv** (mbug@listserv.redshift.com) *in plain text only* (NO html, please)!

Services are free of charge

(with the understanding that MBUG-PC, its Board of Directors, and the F1 Volunteers themselves are in no way responsible or liable for the accuracy or the outcome of any advice or suggestions!)

■ Jim Anway

STRICTLY Wednesdays & Fridays
from 2pm to 5pm at 625-5618

■ Lee Keely

Prefers e-mail at Lee@leekeely.com
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■ Bob Shanteau

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■ Bob Stephan

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■ Clive Sanders

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or call only between 1pm to 9pm
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Sally Griffin Senior Center in Pacific Grove

is in need of additional "computer coaches" and instructors for their

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

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

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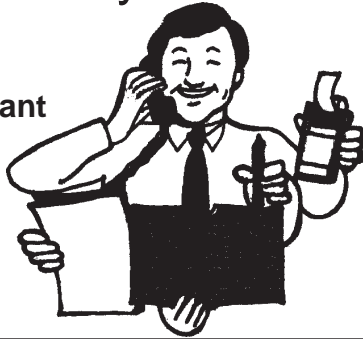
<http://www.pgusd.org>

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- **You can make computer-related announcements**

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



MARCH

WINDOWS OFFICE XP: OUTLOOK



Debbie Jones

Guest Speaker

Wednesday, March 8

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey

Popular MBUG speaker and computer training expert Debbie, CEO and founder of **Anything Is Possible**, is back with tips on **Outlook**: manage your e-mail, organise your work, schedule appointments, and store personal information. Save time, work faster and stay in control. Questions? Phone (831) 402-1810 or debbie@debbteaches.com ◆

EUDORA E-MAIL

Bill Hyler

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey



MBUG's own Photographer and Workshop Leader will run us through the basics of Eudora, the popular Windows-compatible e-mail software. Learn how it compares to other programs (such as Outlook), tips on tricks on using it and customizing it to work better for you. Questions? (831) 624-4456 or hylar@comcast.net ◆

ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR SIG UPDATE



◆ This Special Interest Group (SIG) meets every 3rd or 4th 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, March 20, 2006** 10:30am -12 noon (the 4th Monday of the month due to the holiday schedule).

◆ 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 APRIL

WINDOWS OFFICE XP: BASIC WORD



Carolyn Lake

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, April 12

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park, Monterey

Just learning Microsoft Word? Had it for a while but need a brush-up? Sort of familiar with it, but could use a few more tips and tricks? This is the basic workshop for you! Carolyn (computer coach, graphic designer and *very* patient teacher), will gently review the ABCs of this great word-processing program. Questions in advance? E-mail lakelyn@ix.netcom.com or phone (831) 643-2023 ◆

RUN YOUR OWN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)!

Do you know a computer-related subject that you'd love to teach to others?

Or, would you just like to get together with other users of a particular program or piece of hardware to share ideas and solutions?

Why not start your own SIG?

MBUG has 1st/2nd/4th Mondays available from 10:30 to 12 noon at Carmel Foundation Computer Lab (equipped with nice new PCs).

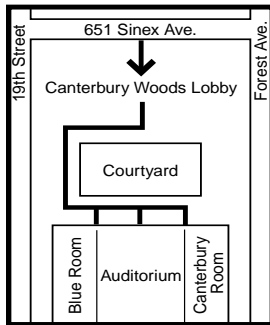
For information on fees, schedules, hardware/software available, etc.,

contact **Carolyn Lake**
lakelyn@ix.netcom.com.

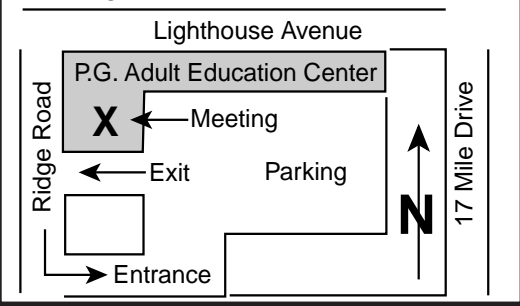
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - March 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <i>"Selling on eBay"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm <i>Sirie Thongchua</i>	4
5	6	7	8 <i>"Windows Outlook"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Debbie Jones	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 <i>"Adobe Illustrator SIG"</i> Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	21	22 <i>"Eudora"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Bill Hyler	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

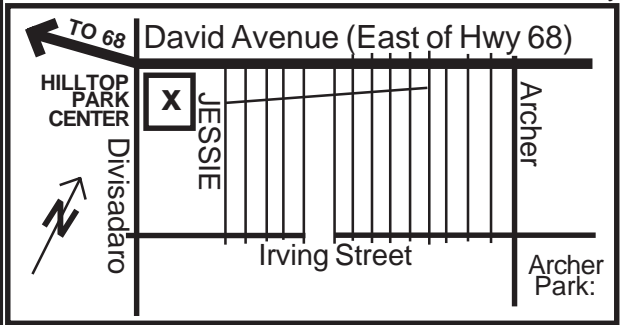
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	5	6	7 <i>"Topic to be Announced"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Speaker TBA</i>	8
9	10	11	12 <i>"MS Word Basics"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Carolyn Lake	13 PASSOVER	14	15
16 EASTER	17 <i>"Adobe Illustrator SIG"</i> Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 <i>"Topic to Be Announced"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Tom Lorenz	27	28	29



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Vol 25, No 3, March 2006

INK UPDATE

photos: Bill Hyler, MBUG-PC



Joyce Elisha
Video Team &
"The Ink Lady"

THANKS FOR SHARING

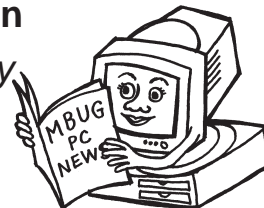
Nowadays, we know that many of the major office supply stores are offering a tiny bit of store credit, or a free pack of printing paper for your empty ink cartridges. So we highly appreciate all of you who think of MBUG's educational programs first when deciding where to donate your empties!

Just drop your cartridges into the brown box or give them to any Board member at general meetings or workshops. Though our recycler is selective about brands they accept (original equipment **HP, Sharp, Xerox, Dell** and **Lexmark** only), don't worry - we'll sort it all out for you. Bring us anything you have!

And remember, if you have any computer information you'd like to share in this space, contact me any time. ♦ ellias@msn.com

Check your Membership expiration date on the label above. Does it say "Exp: March / 2006"?

Don't miss an issue. Renew today!



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REPORT



Don Slaiter
Vice President,
Assistant
Treasurer and
Membership Chair

THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIPS

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Margaret Bradbury	1162
Francis Cartier	205
James Emery	1259
Harold Gordon	965
Walter E. Gourlay	1164
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Bill Stockton	387
David Thorp	1241
Sonja Ullman	1021
Jim Van Vorhis	1094
Michael Zambory	1248
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

name	member number
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Mary Taylor	1282

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