



mbug-pc newsletter

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What mistake did this man make when TRAVELING WITH HIS CAMCORDER?



Get the full picture in Joe Asling's article on page 7!

NO PUBLIC GENERAL MEETING THIS FRIDAY 5 MAY 2006

The May "First Friday" Meeting has been replaced by a special equipment training session for Board Members and meeting facilitators as well as anyone interested in joining the Board, becoming a Guest Speaker, or simply curious about **DLP**. **Jim Anway** will demonstrate MBUG's new **NEC LT30 Projector** which uses **Digital Light Processing** technology (developed by **Texas Instruments**) with 2600 lumens brightness display. This projector puts the older **LCD** (Liquid Crystal Display) in the dark!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 2nd of JUNE: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Huntington Witherill, nationally and internationally recognized professional photographer, will give an "**Introduction to Digital Photography**" at which time he will explain how he uses **Photoshop** to enhance his images. One look at his stunning work at www.HuntingtonWitherill.com will make you definitely want to come hear this award-winning artist and teacher to see how good digital can get, and to pick up some valuable digital photography tips for yourself.

JULY 7th GENERAL MEETING: WEBSITE DESIGN

Greg Hyde, Creative Consultant and owner of **Assimilated Multimedia**, which specializes in Internet Marketing and Website Design, will talk about basic principles of website design. Visit his very clever website at www.assimilatedmultimedia.com, then come and see what he can do for yours (and bring a friend or two).

Questions? Contact **Carolyn Lake** lakelyn@ixnetcom.com ♦

**Next General Meeting Friday
JUNE 2nd 2006 at 7pm**

**Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove
FREE, educational and always useful!**

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

MS WORD WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP



photo: Bill Hoyer, MBUG-PC

Of course one can never say *everything* in one brief meeting, so here's a follow-up to my April 12 session on **MS Word Basics**. If you're interested in more on Word after reading this page, come to my next workshop on May 24 (see page 14). Here are notes on functions that often worry, annoy, or confuse those who are still getting used to the rich variety of Word:

Handling the Lightning Bolt (Auto Correct Options)

There are certain operations in **Microsoft Word** that cause a small "lightning bolt" icon to pop up at the point in the text where an entry is being made. This icon is more properly named the "Auto Correct Options" button. For example, when one hits the "Enter" key and fails to start the next line with a capital letter, the first word will be automatically capitalized, even if not wanted. As we start to move the pointer to change to lower case, this pesky little icon may appear. Of course, the program is merely trying to be helpful by offering choices related to an action.

According to **MS Help**, the "Auto Correct Options" button first appears as a small blue box when you rest the mouse pointer near text that was automatically corrected, and changes to a "button" icon when you point to it. Roll the pointer over the button, click the "down arrow" that appears to get a small menu, and make an appropriate selection such as "Undo Automatic Capitalization."

For those who are *really* annoyed a more permanent solution is to select "Control Auto Correct Options" from the drop-down menu or go directly to "Tools," "Auto Correct Options," and on the "Auto Correct" tab, click to uncheck "Show Auto Correct Options buttons" at the top of the box. Click "OK". Automatic corrections will still be made, but the lightning bolt is gone. The button can always be restored when desired.

If I Could Only Remember... (Format Painter)

When working on a document it is often a good approach to put first your thoughts down on paper (that is, on screen), then go back and apply formatting. The more advanced user will want to experiment using styles, but a quick and simple way to format titles, words, and phrases is with the "**Format Painter**" icon on the toolbar. It looks like a paint brush, usually in about the middle of the Standard Toolbar. If you don't recognize it, roll the mouse pointer over the icons slowly and read the various tool tips.

To use it, first select and format some text, say a section title, as you wish it to appear, with the desired font, font size, color, bolding, etc. While the text is still selected, click on the "Format Painter" icon. Then click and drag on another title or phrase to apply the same formatting. It will work for only one repetition. To make "Format Painter" repeat multiple times, double-click it instead, and then click and drag over the desired number of phrases, titles, etc. Double-click "Format Painter" again to turn it off.

Another Pesky Pop-Up (Paste Options)

Another icon that some typists find annoying or confusing is the "Paste Options" button. Similar to the "Auto Correct Option" button, "Paste Options" is a small icon that suddenly appears unbidden, this time near a point where text has been pasted after cutting or copying. The process starts when we select (highlight) text, then either cut (Ctrl+X) or copy (Ctrl+C) it, and then paste it (Ctrl+V) in another location in the same or different document. This is when the "Paste Options" button appears slightly below the text.

There is no need to do anything about the button; just continue typing and it will disappear, or hit the "Esc" (Escape) key to get rid of it quickly if it's in the way. More permanently, it can be turned off altogether. Go to "Tools," "Options," and select the "Edit" tab. Click on the "Show Paste Options buttons" to uncheck the box and deselect the function.

However, if you want to use this button to provide a useful shortcut to formatting text, roll the pointer over the icon and click the down arrow to get a drop-down menu with options, such as "Keep Source Formatting" (when you want the text you are adding to keeps its original font, size, etc.), or "Match Destination Formatting" (when you want the text you are adding to match the look of what you're adding it to). Using this tool will save time in correcting fonts and other formatting of the moved text. ♦ lakelyn@ix.netcom.com



THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

WHAT'S A .PHP FILE?

Did you run across a file with an extension you don't recognize? How about a file you can't open? You can try: "List of file extensions and the programs used to open the files" at www.sharpened.net/helpcenter/extensions.php.

You might find your answer there. If not, **Google** has about 100,000,000 websites, if you look under "extension".

IDENTITY THEFT – FRIGHTENING STATISTICS

The Identity Theft Resource Center, a nonprofit organization, shares these chilling facts about identity theft:

- 13.3 people become victims of identity theft every minute.
- It takes an average of 600 hours to fix your credit history after ID theft.
- Victims face higher interest rates on loans, increased credit card fees, higher insurance premiums, battles with collection agencies, and difficulties finding a job.
- It can take more than 10 years to clean up your credit after ID theft.

Please be vigilant — do everything you can to avoid becoming a victim of Identity theft! If you weren't paying attention before, dig out your past issues of the **MBUG-PC Newsletter** and re-read: **April 2006** (page 4 on "pharming"); **February 2006** (page 10 on eliminating private documents from your hard drive); **January 2006** (page 3 on Internet security programs and page 6 on Firewalls); **December 2005** (page 3 on hackers and page 5 on Firewalls); and ... well, we can't warn you enough!

SYSTEM RESTORE

So you ran into a sudden problem. **Windows** has just the thing for these circumstances. It's a built-in tool called

System Restore. System Restore debuted in **WindowsME**. It is also part of **WindowsXP**. It takes snapshots of your system. Do you know that **Windows98** has a similar program? (More about this later).

You can return your system to the way it was before problems started. By default, System Restore may keep restore points for the last 90 days. Choose a date and Windows will become its former self. Restore points are made automatically every 24 hours. That's assuming the computer is turned on. Otherwise, the restore point is created when you boot up. Restore points also are created when you install a program or download an unsigned driver. Drivers tell Windows how to use devices like printers. Unsigned drivers are those not certified by Microsoft.

To find System Restore, click "Start," "All Programs," "Accessories," "System Tools," "System Restore". To choose a restore point, select "Restore my computer to an earlier time." Then click the "Next" button.

System Restore will display a miniature calendar. Select any day emphasized in bold. Look for the day that you installed the game (or at whatever point you think caused the problem). That day's restore points will be listed beside the calendar. Each restore point also bears a short description to help you choose. They typically look something like "Windows Update" or "Installed iTunes".

Select a restore point and click the "Next" button. System Restore will prompt you to confirm your choice. Click the "Next" button again. Your computer will automatically shut down and restart using the restore point.

System Restore does not disturb your e-mail or other documents. In fact, it leaves the entire "My Documents" folder untouched. And a new restore point is made when you use System Restore. It ensures that you can undo the restore if you're not satisfied.

System Restore is handy but it involves a trade-off: it uses a lot of space. It can use up to 12 percent of your hard drive. But you can adjust the amount of space allowed for System Restore:

In WindowsME, click "Start," "Settings," "Control Panel". Double-click "System". Select the "Performance," "File System," then "Hard Disk". Under "Settings" you'll

find a slider to adjust System Restore's allowed space. But don't be too stingy — System Restore requires at least 200 megabytes to continue making restore points; and the allowed space determines how far back you can restore your computer.

In WindowsXP: click "Start," "Control Panel," double-click "System", and select the "System Restore" tab. You'll see the slider to adjust the space reserved for System Restore.

In Windows 98: To restore to a previous date, reboot to "Command Prompt Only", type "scanreg /restore" (without the quotes and with a space between "scanreg" and "/"), and click "Enter". Choose the date to which you want Windows restored; then reboot.

Do not rely on System Restore as a general backup! It won't recover old versions of your documents. Neither will it recover documents that you've deleted. It simply restores Windows to an earlier state.◆

blacklion@royal.net

THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST

by Bob
"I Don't Do
Windows"
Stephan



photo: Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC

ONE USE FOR AN OLD COMPUTER

Got an old computer lying around the house? Don't know how to get rid of it in an environmentally friendly manner? Or is it just too much trouble to research proper disposal methods? I share your confusion. I have a couple of those orphans taking up storage space in my house waiting to be taken to **Last Chance Mercantile** (the recycling drop-off center of the **Monterey Regional Waste Management District**). I'm not sure they would even make good boat anchors. (continued on the next page)

THEN AND NOW

Technology Sound Bites



"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication.

The device is inherently of no value to us."

Western Union, Internal Memo (1876)

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"
David Sarnoff's Associates in response to his urge to invest in radio (1920s)



"I think there is a world market for maybe, five computers."

Thomas Watson, IBM Chairman (1943)

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."
Popular Mechanics (1949)

"I have travelled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."

Prentice Hall Business Book Editor (1957)



"But what is it good for?"

IBM Advanced Computing Systems Division Engineer commenting on the microchip (1968)

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

Ken Olson, Digital Equipment Corporation President, Chairman & Founder (1977)

... and you know about "NOW"!◆
Collected by S. Jack Lewtschuk

So, why not put that old computer to use again? Wouldn't it be nice to have a speedy backup storage device to save your valuable data for recovery if your main computer crashes? Wouldn't it also be nice if you could do that for FREE? All of that might be possible with **FreeNAS** which stands for **Free Network Attached Storage** or **Free Network Accessed Storage**.

The free part is a file that you can download and burn to a CD-ROM. When you boot that CD on your old computer it provides all the software you need to set up the backup storage system. We don't have space here to go into all the details, but you can read a hands-on description at www.ez-nets.com/2006/01/build_your_own.html. After you read the author's experience and you want to learn more, you can check out www.freenas.org. To get a better idea of what is involved click on DOCS and read some of the manual. I was impressed by the quality of this documentation. It looks very professional and is quite easy to understand, unlike some other manuals I have seen.

In addition to the downloaded software, what else will you need? If you already have a home network you are in business, otherwise you will need some method of networking computers. A router such as I wrote about several months ago would be ideal, or a simple network hub would do the job, along with network cards in the computers. This equipment is ridiculously inexpensive these days, especially if you are an **eBay** shopper and can find it there. You might also want to upgrade the old computer with a larger hard drive to be able to hold all the stuff you will want to store on it. Large hard drive storage is also cheap these days.

Of course, if your old computer has a bootable operating system on it and is set up for networking, you can probably just use it as is instead of using FreeNAS. But go ahead and check out FreeNAS to see if it has any features that you would not otherwise have that might be useful to you.

I'm going to cut this short and spare you some of my long-windedness this month because I am rushed for time. I had intended to try FreeNAS for myself before writing about it so I could give firsthand experience. But we are in the last stages of building an addition on our house and over the past few months it has been a massive time sink! Perhaps some of you might have wondered where my column went during that time (I know, many of you didn't even notice that it was gone). Well, that was the reason, but I hope to

be back next month with a review and update on some of the free software that I wrote about last year.

ONE LAST SHOT

Did you notice the story in **The Monterey County Herald** on Monday April 20th headed, "*Dotcoms may have to pay extra for speedy service*"? The article talked about Internet congestion and the possibility of charging some heavy users for Internet usage.

Well, speaking of Internet congestion I think there is one simple thing that could reduce the Internet load by half or more! How many MBUG-PC readers are aware that every e-mail you send may actually be two copies of the message with one of them in HTML format? That's right. Many e-mail clients tack on an HTML copy to your plain text message whether it enhances the message or not. This can cause your simple message to use up to four times as much Internet bandwidth as if it was just the plain text copy.

Here is a typical example: I recently received a message that was 25,153 bytes long. After I detached the HTML attachment it was only 6,739 bytes. From the remaining plain text portion I got exactly the same message as I would have from the HTML portion. That extra 18,414 bytes was just superfluous redundancy.

HTML messages can serve useful purposes when necessary to dress up a message, but to unknowingly send HTML out with every e-mail is just plain wasteful of our Internet resources. Check the settings of your email client: the default setting for e-mail should be plain text. If you receive a plain text message and reply to it, the reply should default to plain text, not plain text plus HTML. You can specify HTML for any message that requires it to get your point across.

If you are not aware that your outgoing e-mail may contain a redundant HTML attachment send me an e-mail and I will let you know how it came through. If you need to know how to set your e-mail client to send Internet and user friendly plain text messages I will be glad to let you know where to find the information.◆

*Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 39 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that **The Frugal Computerist** can respond to. Send e-mail to bob@bobstephan.net or visit his home page at www.bobstephan.net.*

VIDEO PRODUCTION



by **Joseph Asling**
MBUG Video Project
Coordinator

TRAVELING WITH A VIDEO CAMCORDER

photos: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

Summer is coming and it's time to go somewhere interesting and photogenic. Many people carry cameras when they travel and not a few of us take camcorders. Here are a checklist and a few suggestions for coming back with better video.

Pre-Departure Equipment Checkup -

Make sure your camcorder is in good shape. Run a few minutes of tape and see that it looks and sounds OK, otherwise take it in for cleaning. Allow at least two weeks for turnaround.

Camcorder Size - If you haven't bought your camcorder yet, consider the following: if you plan to do candid shots of people, buy a small, unobtrusive camcorder. Not only will it fit better in your carry-on luggage, but it will attract less attention. Also, some museums allow them in where they will reject larger camcorders because the big ones look professional.

LCD Screen - I usually shoot through the viewfinder, but an LCD screen is useful.

Computer Connection - Make sure your camcorder has an IEEE-1394 ("Firewire") or USB2 connector, whichever you need to capture to your computer.

Say honey, I think you'll have to ride the camel again tomorrow! The tape just ran out!



DVD vs Tape - Some newer camcorders record to a DVD instead of tape; since it is more difficult to do computer editing with these, I recommend a camcorder which uses mini-DV tape.

Filters - ALWAYS keep a filter on your lens – a scratched filter is cheaper than a scratched lens. A transparent or UV filter is fine for most uses; tinted lenses are of less use because the auto-white balance of the camcorder tries to compensate for it. For sunny days I like a circular polarizer to suppress reflections on glass and water and to make the sky appear bluer. It also doubles as a neutral density filter. Pay the extra for good double-coated glass filters.

Sunshade - If your camcorder has a sunshade with an atypical connector, buy a sunshade which screws onto the front of the filter (I use a round rubber collapsible one).

Camcorder Stand - Tripods are big, heavy, and slow to set up. A monopod gives you much of the stability of a tripod, and if you buy one with a quick-release extension it takes only five seconds to set up. Plus, it doubles as a walking stick on difficult terrain. Spend an extra \$20 for a quick-release for the camcorder.

Lights - I don't recommend you travel with any lights. Unless you're on a professional shoot they aren't worth the trouble.

Tape Supply - Take plenty of tape – I take at least 10 hours' worth! Buy good quality brands such as **Sony** or **Panasonic** (people I trust have said bad things about **TDK**).

I buy Sony at www.taperesources.com but there are other reliable websites which will sell packs of five for as little as \$3 per tape. (As an aside, NEVER record with the extended time setting on your camcorder – you may not be able to play it on any other camcorder.)

Head Cleaner - Carrying a head-cleaning tape is probably a good idea, although I've never had to use it in the field.

Illustration by R. Doyle, MBUG-PC

Batteries - If you run out of power you are going to be distinctly unhappy. Buy *at least* one high-capacity extra battery. And don't forget to pack your recharger. If you are going abroad make sure you have *two* plug adapters (research what type of adapter you need for where you'll be), and that your recharger is multi-voltage.

Headsets – These are nice to have but not essential. If you have a microphone monitor output, take a compact headset (like **Walkman** earphones) for monitoring music. Make sure the plug is compatible.

Weatherproofing - Bring some paper adhesive tape — if you are going to be in a dirty or sandy environment seal the tape door with it so you don't get sand into the works. If you may be in the rain figure on bringing some kind of plastic cover (maybe large plastic zip lock bags).

When You're There

Rule 1: tape is cheap! - If you *might* want a shot, shoot it! Every shot should be at least ten seconds long if possible and if you are going to zoom, shoot several seconds before and after the zoom. You'll thank yourself when you're editing.

When you put a fresh tape in your camera, run about a minute of "throwaway" video. Most dropouts occur at the beginning and the end of a tape, and some capture programs can't handle the first few seconds of a tape.

Watch the Background - Many a shot has been ruined by a telephone pole growing out of someone's head or a distracting item behind the subject. Often moving a few feet to one side will fix the problem. A corollary to this is to find a good angle: one with clear sight lines and no-one in the way. And don't get in the way yourself. Years ago, I was in Chichicastenango and a funeral procession happened by. The mourners stopped in front of the Church – and a German tourist with a big camcorder shouldered them out of the way and started videotaping the coffin and the deceased! I cheered when the locals drove him away with rocks.

Tricks for Big Crowds- If you are in a crowd which you can't see over, hoist the camcorder up on your monopod. If you open the LCD screen and tilt it down you can see what you're shooting (so, there *is* a use for that screen).

Tricks for the Kids - One more use for the LCD screen — see if you can reverse it so that the people you're shooting

can watch themselves while you are recording. You'll get terrific reactions from kids.

Candid Camera - If you are trying to take candid shots, hold the camera at waist level and watch the subject through the LCD screen. Before you do that go into the menu and turn off the red recorder indicator light so your subject won't know you are recording. It doesn't always work — in Morocco, one sharp-eyed fellow noticed from 30 feet away what I was doing and came over with his hand out for money. I paid him, of course.

In the Rain - Check the lens frequently when shooting in the rain. Raindrops on your video are understandable but disconcerting.

Narration - If you are shooting something which needs describing, just dictate in a low voice while you shoot; your voice will be audible on the tape. Of course you'll have to cut out the audio when you edit, so you don't want to do this over anything you will want to hear as well as see.

Consider what you will say on the voiceover when you edit the video, and make sure you have names and events correctly. I write them down in a little journal every night.

Music - Think about the music you'll use with the video and record it if you hear local musicians. I have sometimes let a tape run most of an hour just to capture live music (another reason to have plenty of tape).

Background "Chatter" - When traveling with friends, I delicately remind them that anything they say will be picked up by the camcorder. It cuts down on extraneous conversation and four-letter words in your audio!

Documentation - Make sure you label each tape with the trip, location, and tape number. When you put it back in the plastic cover, slide the little switch to lock it so you can't accidentally record over it. I keep camcorder, tapes and critical accessories in my carryon baggage. The accessories I can't fit in the carryon go in the checked luggage.

X-Ray at Security - The X-ray machines at security checkpoints have never hurt my videotape, but I'm not sure about the more powerful X-rays of checked luggage.

Bon Voyage! ♦

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BOOK

REVIEW

by **Joseph Asling**

MBUG Video

Project Coordinator

Adobe Encore DVD: In the Studio by Douglas Dixon

Published by O'Reilly 2004

ISBN: 0-596-00600-4

320 pages, \$39.95

www.oreilly.com

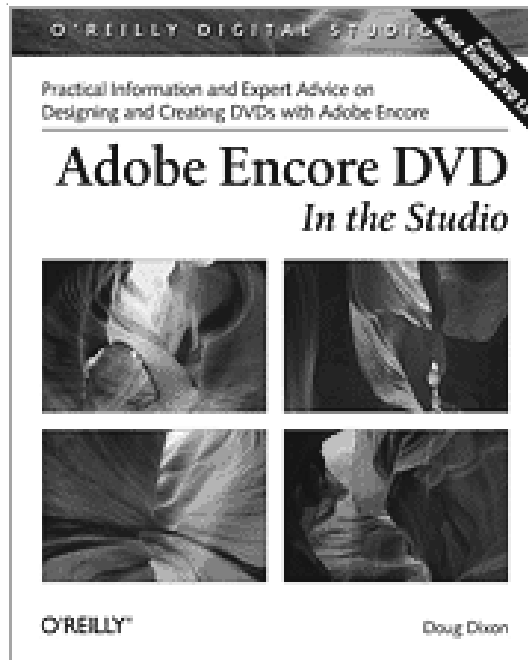
If a picture is worth a thousand words, this book is huge. That's because its strongest feature is its color illustrations. Is this good? You bet!

Encore is **Adobe's** DVD authoring program. Its function is to take edited video, audio, and graphics files, add menus and introductions, and turn them into a form which can be written to a DVD. It is one of the more adaptable and configurable authoring programs, which means it is not easy to learn. The integration of graphics and text makes this book the best I have seen at explaining confusing concepts and instructions; many of the illustrations are screen shots of the Encore window being described in the text.

The first chapter is an overview of Encore: what the windows look like and how to navigate through them, the basics of menus and buttons, and building DVD files. The author then takes a break from Encore and spends 42 pages discussing how DVDs work. Unless you are already familiar with the subject, it's something you need to know.

Then you get into the nuts and bolts of Encore: projects, assets, timelines, subtitles, menus, buttons. Each is described with clear, specific instructions on how to use it. Encore has numerous "gotchas": little quirks that, if you don't know them, can completely stymie you. There are hints and warnings in the margins of almost every page to explain how to handle the "gotchas".

Perhaps Encore's greatest advantage is that Adobe's programmers have integrated it with **Photoshop**, **Premiere**, and **After Effects** – indeed, Encore menus and buttons are actually



Photoshop files, and you can flip back and forth between the programs to achieve a remarkable degree of customizability. One chapter is devoted to the basics of using these other programs to create custom menus.

Once your DVD's elements are in place, they need to be linked and the menu navigation system created. After describing the basics, the author introduces more advanced techniques

which allow you to customize the way menus and buttons work. An example is the "Override Link" which changes the action option performed at the end of a clip, depending on which button your user activates (it's confusing even to describe it). This book's illustrated explanation of overriding is much easier to comprehend than those of other books I've read. There is also a description of how to check your links and navigation and preview the project.

Once you have built a project, you'd think that you could just push a button and make your DVD. No chance! Transcoding files to DVD-compliant MPEG-2 and choosing the right audio format are also customizable in Encore. When a project is more than an hour long, you approach the capacity of a DVD disc. You must then make compromises in transcoding. A higher degree of video compression, constant vs. variable bit encoding, audio encoding rate, all influence the file size of the project and must be calculated. Chapter 8 leads you step by step through the process, discussing each option of every window. Finally, you get to burn a DVD, or create a DVD folder or a DVD image; the book describes the advantages of each.

The last chapter leaves the "cookbook" approach for a discussion of how to use your new knowledge to improve your projects further. You need to have finished a few projects to comprehend it, but there are ideas and hints with which you can create truly professional looking projects.

Adobe Encore DVD: In the Studio is designed for the reader who has not used Encore or has created only basic

MY FAVORITE WEBSITE

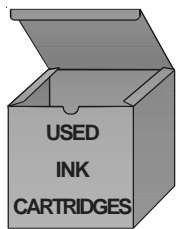
projects with it. After applying its information by designing and building several projects, the reader will be competent, even adept at the program. The format of many illustrations and wide margins necessarily requires compromises; for example, 20 pages are devoted to integration with other Adobe programs, whereas another Encore book I own devotes 125 pages to the subject. If you are planning to use Encore professionally you need to find one of the “Encore Bible” type of reference books, but short of that you will find this book has everything you need for a long time.

Note that *Adobe Encore DVD: In the Studio* was published in 2004 and covers up to version 1.5. **Encore 2.0** is now out and I hope that **Douglas Dixon** is revising his book — I’ll certainly look for it when I upgrade! ♦
jasling@pacbell.net

RECYCLE YOUR INK CARTRIDGE

Go Green, Give to Charity, and Support a Local Industry all at the same time!

When you recycle your empty ink cartridges from your computer printer through MBUG, you prevent non-degradable plastic and metal waste from polluting our landfills. At the same time we make money for our education programs and now we do it by selling the empties to a local (Monterey) ink-refill company.



And we make it so easy for you: just drop your empties (any brand, any type) into the brown box or give them to any Board member at General Meetings or

workshops. ♦ *ellias@msn.com*

SAVE FUEL: FIND LOWEST GAS PRICE BEFORE YOU GET IN YOUR CAR

by *Bill Baumgardt*
MBUG-PC Member 134
and Workshop Leader

Here’s something I found on the Internet that might save you a few cents and some time this summer, especially as gasoline prices soar to an all-time high. The **MSN Autos** website has a **Local Gas Prices** page which receives pricing data from over 90,000 gas stations across the nation. Go to:

<http://autos.msn.com/everyday/gasstations.aspx?zip=&src=Netx>.

Press “Ctrl” and click on the “http” portion of the address. Enter your ZIP code at the right side of the screen and it will display local gas stations on a map, ranked numerically indicating the cheapest to the most expensive price per gallon. Although prices are within the last few days of being current, check the dates in the “Unleaded” column to be sure you select stations with the most current dates.

MSN Autos’ disclaimer says it doesn’t receive prices every day from every station. In partnership with **OPIS** (Oil Price Information Service), it gets data from participating credit card transactions, direct feeds from participating retail chains, and other survey methods. So in times of extreme price volatility (such as now), their collection methods may trail the latest prices at some stations.

Nevertheless, it may give you some inkling of what’s happening at the local level! ♦

wwb2@comcast.net

SEND LARGE FILES THAT ARE TOO BIG TO SEND BY E-MAIL

by *Regina Doyle*
MBUG-PC Member 1103
and Newsletter Editor

If you’ve ever had trouble sending large files to other people through e-mail (such as messages with attachments that contain lots of graphics, photos or just a lot of data), here’s a nifty solution. A filmmaker friend, who creates and then sends really big chunks of animation to others, turned me on to **YouSENDIt.com**. This “file delivery service” can solve the problems of getting big files to others without e-mail limits, firewall constraints, esoteric FTP or “briefcase” contortions. It is simpler than e-mail, yet as secure and dependable as FedEx and as such is in the “real” world. And what’s really great is that, up to 100MB (YouSendIt Lite), it is FREE.

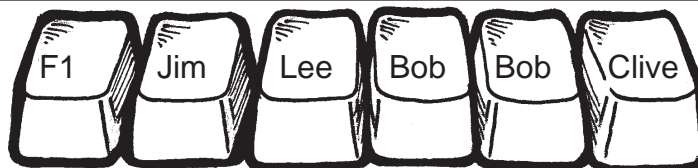
Go to yousendit.com and register; enter the name(s) of the recipients you want to send the file(s) to; write a brief message (optional); select the file you want to send from your computer; and click on “Send”. The file will be available for downloading by your recipient for 7 days. If you need to send more than 100MB, there are three other levels up to 2GB for which you pay fees from \$4.99 up to \$29.99 per month. These services include longer file posting time, more file upload capacity and the ability to track downloads.

No more bounce-back messages because the file is too big to fit in someone’s e-mail box! ♦

ReginaDoyle@aol.com

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
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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>



The Reports of Club Mac's Death Are Greatly Exaggerated!*

Club Mac (**Club Macintosh of Monterey** or CMoM), is alive and well! However, it could be said they are "in transition" since their eviction from the Pacific Grove Adult Education Center. Their new meeting site is **Canterbury Woods** which has a wireless connection to the Internet, a bright video projector and a 40-inch LCD screen. Regular meetings are on the second Friday of every month. CMoM welcomes novice up to expert users of Macintosh computer users as well as the simply curious who want to know more about them. They do not discriminate against PC users (although they poke as much fun at them as PC users poke at Mac users)!

CMoM website (www.clubmacmonterey.org) announcements are still sometimes posted late and may give the impression that they are lost in space, but really, they are "open for business". Recent meetings have been very down to earth as members demonstrate how they use the latest **Apple** applications coupled with **Panther**, the latest Mac Operating System.

CMoM always has room for more members and guests. Questions? Contact President **Ron Brunet** ronbrunet@mac.com, PO Box 2107, Monterey CA 93942, (831)375-1313. ♦

Bruce Belknap bcbelknap@redshift.com
*with apologies to Mark Twain

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Use **source code 8181** when ordering: for every five subscriptions, MBUG-PC gets one free for its raffle (which funds educational activities).

MBUG-PC Members 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

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

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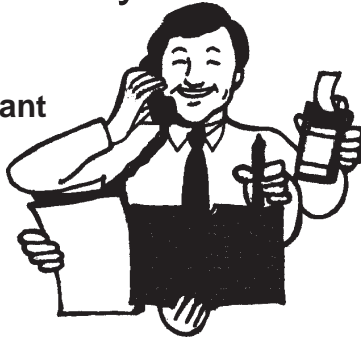
MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

James W. Anway

Retired IBMer
Computer Consultant

Phone: 831 625-5618

Fax: Call first



Bob Weisensee
Production Supervisor
bob@ctimls.com

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Sanders and Associates

Computer Consultants

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Pacific Grove
California 93950

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

lakelyn
graphics

Carolyn S. Lake

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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>



MAY

HOW TO IMPROVE PC PERFORMANCE



Star Reierson

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, May 10

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey

Learn how the professionals troubleshoot computers and get them back on track. Star has great experience from **Computer Power** and will reveal a few “trade secrets” to keep your machine in tip-top shape plus save time and money! Questions? E-mail star@computerpowerstar.com or phone (831) 373-3919 ♦

MORE ON MS WORD BASICS

Carolyn Lake

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, May 24

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey



Following on her popular workshop in April, Carolyn will run through some more tips on using Microsoft Word. With her experience as a computer coach, graphic designer and teacher, Carolyn is your best bet to help you get the best from your program. Questions in advance? E-mail lakelyn@ix.netcom.com or phone (831) 643-2023 ♦

Coming in JUNE

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



Huntington Witherill

Guest Speaker

Friday, June 2

7:00 to 9:00pm

Adult Education Center, PG

This internationally recognized photographer will share some of his insights about his work and on using **Adobe Photoshop** to create breathless works of art. This is a rare opportunity you can't afford to miss. Questions? Take a look at www.HuntingtonWitherill.com. ♦

ACTUAL DOWNLOADING

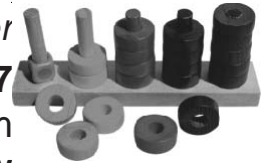
Tom Lorenz

Guest Speaker

Wednesday, June 7

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey



Tom, owner and manager of **Network Solutions of California**, returns following his great presentation on “What to Back Up and How” in April. This time he will offer tips and tricks on actual downloading. Questions? tom@networksolutionsca.com; call (831) 901-9114. ♦

NEW PRODUCTS



Ken Schipper

Guest Speaker

Wednesday, June 21

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey

After his great talk on “The Future of Wireless Data Access” in January, Ken of **Graniterock** returns to update us on the newest gadgets, toys, and tools used to e-mail, download music and data, phone, work and play. Questions? kenschipper@hotmail.com; call (831) 262-4222. ♦

ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR SIG

♦ Meets every 3rd Monday at
Carmel Foundation, Computer Learning Center
(Lincoln between 8th/9th Street).

Advance reservations recommended.

♦ Fee: **\$3.00** payable at meeting.

♦ Next meeting: **MONDAY, May 15, 2006**
10:30am -12 noon

♦ Previous knowledge of Illustrator not required.

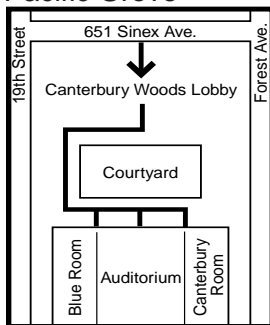
♦ To be on the SIG mailing list (receive information/announcements), call **Carolyn Lake** at (831) 643-2023 or e-mail lakelyn@ix.netcom.com.



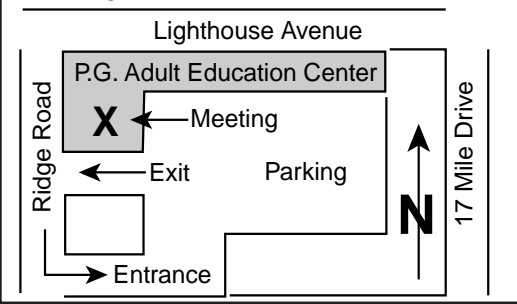
MBUG - PC Calendar of Events - May 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	3	4	5 <i>NO GENERAL MEETING</i> See front Page for Special Session Details PG Adult School 7:00 to 9:00pm	6
7	8	9	10 <i>"How to Improve Computer Performance"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Star Reiersen	11	12	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY	15 <i>"Adobe Illustrator SIG"</i> Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <i>"More on MS Word Basics"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Carolyn Lake	25	26	27
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	31			

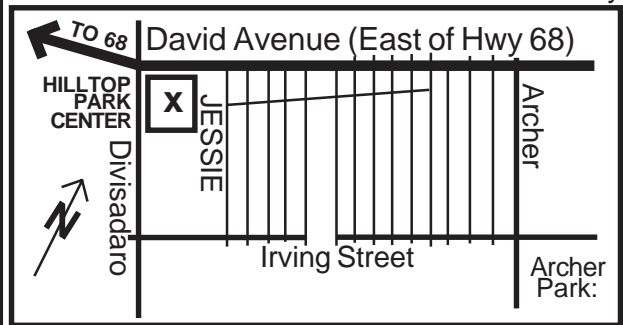
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>"Introduction to Digital Photography"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 - 9:00pm Huntington Witherill	3
4	5	6	7 <i>"Actual Downloading"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Tom Lorenz	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY	19 <i>"Adobe Illustrator SIG"</i> Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	20	21 <i>"New Products"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Ken Schipper	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



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Vol 25, No 5, May 2006

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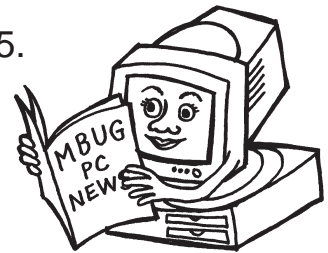
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**Don
Slaiter**

Vice President,
Assistant
Treasurer, and
Membership
Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

name	member number
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Jeri Devlin	1287
Nelson French	1284
Mary Ann Goethals	1288
Thomas Rainwater	1283
Roni Rubinstein	1286

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Gary Kallweit	57
John Rowe	1223
Jack Wulfmeyer	963

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Gerard Beatty	873
Robert Cortes	1005
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Blake Honeyman	1035
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Gary Stephens	1200
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Jack Wulfmeyer	963
Joanne Kelly	970

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