



mbug-pc newsletter

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Need Some Tricks to Improve Your Cat (and Human) Digital Photos to make them Cute, Cute, CUTE?



Check out Regina's O'Reilly Book Review on page 7!

Debbie Jones on Microsoft Office 2007

Debbie Jones returns to share her knowledge of **Office 2007** with us. She will show us the changes in this newest incarnation of **Microsoft's** productivity suite, which comes in eight different combinations that all contain familiar applications such as **Word, Outlook, and Excel**, while some versions also include **PowerPoint, Access, Publisher**, and other business-related applications. Debbie will address applications primarily of interest to the home and small business user, with the main emphasis on using **Word**.

If you need help understanding and navigating around this strange new-looking world of "Ribbons," "Office Buttons," "Live Previews," "Smart Art," and other unfamiliar stuff, Debbie will give us lots of hints and to warm us up and ease us into Office 2007 with confidence!

Debbie is a professional computer trainer and speaker. With degrees in Electronic Engineering Technology and Business Administration, she brings with her more than 20 years of computer experience. Her down-to-earth approach to training will give you an edge on learning. Debbie is a source of knowledge for many different computer programs, and additional subjects such as leadership, communication, and assertiveness training. Her excellent communication skills and open passion for what she does makes her one of the best computer trainers and public speakers on the Peninsula and throughout the United States. Her energetic, positive style of teaching will empower you to conquer any hesitation you may have to understand and use Office 2007.

Questions in advance? Contact Debbie at Debbie@debteaches.com, or phone (831) 372-4401 (cell 402-1810).◆

Friday, August 3rd 2007 at 7pm

Pacific Grove Adult Education Center

1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

FREE and to MBUG Members and the General Public. Great coffee, yummy snacks, and interesting people!

Open Volunteer Positions Available Now at MBUG !

Association of Personal Computer User Groups Representative

More about APCUG at www.apcug.org. Or e-mail Lee@leekeely.com

Meeting Reviewers and Columnists

Attend General Meetings or any other ongoing workshops and write 500-word-or-less reviews. Or become a regular or occasional columnist on any computer-related subject (hardware or software review, favorite website, etc.)

Workshop /SIG Leaders

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

E-mail or call President **Don Slaiter** at slaiter@pacbell.net

☎ (831) 655-4443 and 657-4154

MBUG-PC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donald R. Slaiter .. President, 655-4443/657-4154 slaiter@pacbell.net
Membership Consultant
& Workshop Facilitator
Carolyn Lake Vice President, 643-2023 lakelyn@comcast.net
Programs/Publicity Chairman & Video Project Team Member
Tom Streeter Secretary/Treasurer, 657-4249 tom223@pacbell.net
Membership Chairman & Newsletter Proofreader
Regina Doyle Editor, 375-4496 reginadoyle@aol.com
& Board Member-at-Large
Nelson French Board Member-at-Large 626-4551 nfrenchjr@aol.com
S.Jack Lewtschuk. Columnist, 757-0123 blacklion@royal.net
& Board Member-at-Large
Charlie Mehlert Hospitality Chairman, 375-0316 mehlert@sbcglobal.net
& Programs/Publicity Team
Gary Stephens Board Member-at-Large, 384-2440 garykstephens@sbcglobal.net
Vice-Photographer, Programs/Publicity Team, & Hospitality Team

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SUBSCRIPTION: See back cover for rates. (Subscription is not tax deductible).

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 wwwb2@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
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
Carole Harris Hospitality Team N/A N/A
Jim Hinwood Columnist ehinwood@msn.com
Bill Hyler Photographer 624-4456 hyler@comcast.net
Mack Jacobs Vice-Photographer 394-6975 . mackjacobs@comcast.net
Lee Keely 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 john@aaawifi.com
Clive Sanders Advisor/F1 Help, 375-5376 simbacli@pacbell.net
& Membership Consultant
Bob Stephan Historian, F1 Help, 646-1373 ... stephan.bob@gmail.com
Columnist & Workshop Leader
Bill Stockton Recording Secretary 384-6130
David Thorp Video Project Team 373-4623
Ed West Webmaster /Listserv Owner . 372-6200 captain@mobie.com

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 Tom Streeter for card).

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: Mack Jacobs, MBUG-PC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PC!



The First Computer Available to the General Public

Type: Personal Computer

Released: August 12, 1981

Discontinued: April 2, 1987

Processor: Intel 8088 @ 4.77 MHz
Memory: 16 KiB ~ 640 KiB
Operating System: IBM BASIC / PC-D OS 1.0 CP/M-86 UCSD p-System

By the way, this computer and I share birthdays—well, perhaps a couple of years apart ☺!

TALKING ABOUT BIRTHDAYS ... THE PDA IS ELEVEN YEARS OLD

The first commercially successful personal digital assistant (PDA), the **Palm Pilot**, was manufactured by

Palm Computing, (originally a division of **US Robotics**) eleven years ago this month. A trademark infringement suit filed by the **Pilot Pen Corporation** against the company resulted in the hand-held devices being referred to as **Palm Connected Organizers** from 1998 on. However, the term “palm pilot” has become synonymous with PDAs, be they Palm or any other brand.

AND PERHAPS YOU’VE HAD A FEW BIRTHDAYS YOURSELF?

For the two or so MBUG members who might be old enough to need this information, here is a website which gives you a few suggestions about having a safer home from the American Association of Retired Persons: http://www.aarp.org/families/home_design/rate_home/

HOW TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF A PHOTO

There are many ways to reduce the file size of an image. However you do it, you should always copy your original photo at a smaller file size and use this copy to e-mail. You can also use a smaller version of a photo to put onto portable devices (**Video iPod**, pocket PC device, flash drive, etc.), to save space. Also, I suggest you first save your original photos in **JPG**, which is the most common format used by digital cameras. If you have **TIF** or **RAW** images, use the “Save As” or “Export” features in your photo editing software to convert them to the much smaller JPG format.

NOTE: Whenever you edit an image, be careful NOT to overwrite your original full-sized, high quality file. It’s easily done so make sure you have a backup of all your pictures.



Many of us have compression options already installed on our computers as part of **Microsoft Outlook** or **Office**. Any photo editing program will be able to do these actions, including the software that came with your digital camera. If necessary there are free tools you can download.

Before we start, let’s settle some definitions—this gets confusing because when you hear “size,” it sometimes means the **dimensions** of an image (e.g., 640 x 480 pixels, 6 x 10 inches, etc.), or it can mean the **file size** of



the image (1MB, 4.4MB, etc.). To be consistent throughout this article “dimension” means the height and width of an image, while “size” refers to the file size of the image.

Reducing File Size with Outlook

Recent versions of Outlook have a quick and easy way to reduce the file size of images you want to e-mail without changing the original photo. Find the images you want to send in **Windows Explorer**, right click on one or more of them and choose “Send To,” and “Mail Recipient.”

You’ll see an option pop-up that offers to make all the pictures smaller or keep the original sizes. Click on “Show more options” to see dimension choices: “Small 640x480,” “Medium 800x600,” or “Large 1024x768.”

When you click “OK,” a copy of the image is made with the reduced dimensions, and then added to your e-mail message as an attachment. The file name stays the same as the original, but the size will be smaller. From this point, it’s just like sending any other e-mail—you add your message and address, and click “Send.”

Reducing File Size with Other Programs

If you don’t use Outlook, there are tools in recent versions of Office and other photo editing programs that will help you reduce the file size of an image.

Microsoft Picture Editor comes with **Office 2003** and has a basic set of tools that you can use to shrink an image. Most other photo editing programs have similar options, with slightly different names and varying options. Right-click on an image and choose “Open with Microsoft Office Picture Manager.” Or open the program, and then open the image. The first thing you should do is click on “File,” “Save As,” so you know you’re working on a *copy* of the file not the original.

Three features you can use to reduce the size of an image under the “Picture” menu are:

Crop - this lets you remove unwanted elements from the sides of an image.

Resize - use this to change the dimensions of an image to a smaller form. You can change the image to a pre-defined size, a set height/width or as 50 percent of the original. It’s best to retain the proportions of the original (otherwise you can get some screwy-looking people and objects), so I usually stick with the “Percentage of original” option.

Compress - this is a combination of reducing the image quality and forcing the image to a pre-defined size. It’s good for a quick job, but best avoided if you want to have more control over the result.

File /Export - lets you save a copy of the image and change the JPG quality settings to a lower standard which will reduce the file size.

Microsoft Word also offers options to crop, re-size and compress photo images. You can write an e-mail message in a Word document then copy it to your e-mail program. Or create your message in Outlook using Word as your e-mail editor.

QT (QUICK TIP)

How to get to “System Properties” quickly: press the “Windows” and the “Pause” key (keep looking).

298 MILLION BROADBAND USERS

According to the market research group **Point Topic**, the number of broadband Internet subscribers worldwide has hit 298 million, as of March 2007. In the United States alone, there are 60.4 million broadband subscribers, making us the largest broadband community in the world. ♦

blacklion@royal.net

ARE YOU A REGISTERED MBUG LISTSERV MEMBER YET?

Join the MBUG listserv and send messages to all other MBUG Members and have other Members reach you with important information: ■ **It’s secure** (messages are monitored by MBUG’s Webmaster ensuring messages are computer-related, virus-free and sent by Members only — no outsiders, no spammers!)

■ **Get current MBUG announcements** ■ **Get up-to-date virus & scam warnings** ■ **Ask and answer computer-related questions** ■ **Make computer-related announcements**

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

MEETING REVIEW

photo: Nelson French, MBUG-PC



**Carolyn
Lake**
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STAR REIERSON ON PREVENTATIVE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

At the General Meeting on July 6, MBUG Workshop Leader **Star Reierson** covered a variety of ways to maintain our PCs in good working order. For basic security, she advised having a good antivirus program (one), a software firewall (one), a hardware firewall (one), and antispyware programs (two). For those who missed her handouts with specific recommendations, Star will soon make them available on her website.

Star's instructions on basic maintenance provided me a challenge and a good use of time on a foggy day off. I am now the proud (and somewhat confused) owner of a new PC with **Vista Home Premium**, but I have retained my old PC with **Windows 98 SE** to support some older applications not compatible with Vista.

Encouraged by Star's clear remarks on disk cleanup, error checking, and defrag, I decided to try those functions on the old PC. Her directions are based on a **Windows XP** system, but they work approximately the same on systems with Windows 98 SE or **Windows ME**. Until now, I hadn't completed a successful defrag on the 98 SE system in the last four years.

First, I Deleted Unneeded/Obsolete Programs

Go to "Start," "Settings," "Control Panel," and "Add/Remove Programs." On the "Install/Uninstall" tab, click on a program name to select it, then click the "Add/Remove" button. The program will either simply uninstall, or an Uninstall Wizard will appear. Just follow the prompts; if uncertain about removing "shared" files when asked, leave them and continue. Of course, only remove programs that you can recognize and are certain you do not need.

Next, I Deleted Files that Accumulate in the Background When I Use My PC

Go to "Start," "Settings," "Control Panel," "Internet Options." Under the "Temporary Internet Files" heading, click the "Delete Files" button and "OK" the deletion in the next window. The "Delete Cookies" button allows you to delete all cookies. To inspect the cookie list first, close "Control Panel," then right click on the "Start" button, left click on "Explore," and in the folder list, go to: "C:\Windows\Cookies." Highlight the files to delete and hit the "Delete" key.

Some cookies are useful, so you may wish to leave those with your bank or brokerage name in the file name. However, you can delete all cookies and the next time you visit an important site, re-enter requested information so that the site recognizes your computer.

With the folder list still visible, also go to: "C:\Windows\Temp." In the right hand window, locate files ending in ".tmp." These can be safely deleted; if a message appears that a file is in use and/or cannot be deleted, just skip that file and continue. To select a number of files to delete, click once on the first file in a group, hold down the "Shift" key, and then click on the last file in the group. All files in between are selected; hit the "Delete" key.

Then I Emptied the Recycle Bin

Right click on the recycle bin icon, and then left click on "Empty Recycle Bin." Also, if a screen saver program is used, turn it off by going to "Start," "Settings," "Control Panel," "Display," and on the "Screen Saver" tab, set the selection to "None"; click "OK."

Then I was Ready for the Main Cleanup Work

It's best to start this part when the computer isn't needed for several hours, as defrag especially may take a while. Star advised doing these operations in Safe Mode. To enter safe mode, go to "Start," "Restart," and when the computer has shut down and is starting up again, while the screen is black, tap the "F8" key lightly a few times. A list of choices appears; use the keypad arrow keys to select "Safe Mode" and then hit the "Enter" key. When back on the desktop:

For Disk Cleanup: Double-click the "My Computer" icon, right click the "C:\:" drive, and left click on



“Properties” on the fly-out menu. Click the “Disk Cleanup” button, check the types of files to clean if prompted, and then click “OK,” then “Yes.”

For Error Checking (SCANDISK): After performing “Disk Cleanup,” check the “Tools” tab in the same window. Under “Error-checking status,” click the “Check Now” button. Select either “Standard” or “Thorough” cleanup, and click the “Start” button.

For Defragmentation: When “Disk Cleanup” is completed, on the “Tools” tab under “Defragmentation status,” click the “Defragment Now” button and let it run! Take a break, have coffee, read a book ... this could take some time. My old system took several hours, with the program restarting itself several times, but it finally got though! When all is finished, restart your computer and it will come up in Normal Mode.

Of course, a system guru would find many more things to check, but I was very satisfied with the result of these few simple operations. Moreover, it was fun to apply practically the good tips from Star at an MBUG meeting. ♦ lakelyn@comcast.net

GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE PRIZES



Get Lucky on August 3rd

- ♦ **Adobe Photoshop CS Software with Users Guide and Reference Books**

(Photoshop CS Studio Techniques, Classroom In A Book, and One on One)

- ♦ **Smart Computing Magazine**
(one year subscription)

- ♦ **“Fix Your Own PC” from the Smart Computing Reference Series**

♦ ... and more!

Donations in cash, and of software, equipment or supplies for raffle are also welcome!

Contact lakelyn@ixnetcom.com

STAY UPDATED SO WE CAN UPDATE YOU!

Have you updated your MBUG membership information lately? If you have a new e-mail address, phone number, or address we may not know about, please contact **Membership**

Chairman Tom Streeter at tom223@pacbell.net or call 657-4249.



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

After the May General Meeting presentation by **Brynn Birtwistle, Smart Computing Representative**, a number of MBUG-PC members either subscribed for the first time or renewed their subscriptions to what we think is the best all-around computer magazine. Because of our special relationship with Smart Computing, our score in the “Buy-Five-Get-One-Free Program” is:

- ♦ 7 Subscription Credits Carried over from 1st Quarter of 2007;
- ♦ 15 Subscription Credits Earned during 2nd Quarter of 2007;
- ♦ 22 Total Credits and **4 FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS!**

Many thanks to everyone who subscribed and provided credit to MBUG. The free subscriptions will be raffled off at future meetings, and proceeds will go towards our educational activities.

TO SUBSCRIBE TO SMART COMPUTING

To subscribe to Smart Computing with credit to MBUG go to www.mbug.org, click on the Smart Computing banner (bottom left). On the left (blue), click “User Groups”; on the right (yellow), click “Subscribe or Renew Today!” Select Smart Computing magazine and complete the rest of the form; under “Give your group credit for your order! User Group:” select “Monterey Bay User Group - PC, Inc. - Pacific Grove, CA.” Complete the form and “Send.”

All subscriptions count—members, non-members, gifts, etc., as long as you give credit to MBUG. You’ll get an great, easy-to-read, informative magazine! ♦ blacklion@royal.net

BOOK REVIEW

photo: Nelson French, MBUG-PC



**Regina
Doyle**
MBUG-PC
Newsletter
Editor

40 Digital Photo Retouching Techniques with Photoshop Elements

by Zach Lee

Third Edition 2007

ISBN 978-89-314-3370-8

"Youngjin Go Digit @I Series"

200 pages, \$16.99

(available at a 35% discount
from **O'Reilly Publishing** to

MBUG Members:

see page 8 for details)

I got this nifty little book from **O'Reilly Media** as an unsolicited surprise in the mail about two months ago. I suppose I must be on someone's list since I've reviewed a couple of O'Reilly publications in the past. Anyway, since I don't do very much with **Photoshop Elements**, I just kind of flipped through the book and made a mental note of what was in it. I thought: "Well, I have no obligation to review it since I didn't ask O'Reilly to send it to me." I just sort of glanced at it.

But the book is full of great color before-and-after photos on every page, which made it easy to read and understand, even though I wasn't studying the step-by-step instructions closely. I made a rapid, superficial assessment of each technique, and rated them as follows:

"Useless"—I couldn't think when I would ever have a reason to touch up a photo in this manner, e.g., brightening up a specific spot; completely changing a color of an object (say, turning a blue car into a red one); colorizing black and white photos; applying makeup to a face; creating bigger eyes and a sharper chin; separating scanned images; adjusting image shape and size; adding motion blur; and adding snowfall.

"Might Possibly Come in Handy"—I thought I wouldn't have too much use for these touchup techniques, but they looked interesting, e.g., correcting backlighting; creating a sepia-tone picture; opening closed eyes; altering perspective; and combining images.

"Wow, That Looks Like a Good Trick"—I thought if I ever did any photo retouching, I might give these a try (e.g., removing red eye; removing facial blemishes; cleaning

up backgrounds; adding type effects; and stitching panoramas).

I made my rapid evaluation, put the book on my reference shelf, and kind of forgot about it. That is, until last week, when I got copies of some photos from my friend **Doris Uyeda**, who is an absolutely wonderful digital photo snapping maniac! Four of us took a trip to **San Francisco's Japantown** and she took pictures of us in front of shops, monuments, and fountains, eating lunch, shopping, strolling, and looking at exhibits at the **SF Asian Art Museum**.

One *very* cute picture was of **Tomoko Ogaki** and myself posing behind one of those painted plywood cartoon figures (that you find everywhere in Japan). This one was of us as traditional "lucky cat" figures, and would have been a great photo except that, as you can see below, Tomoko (on the right), had her eyes shut. Like most people, Doris didn't stop to check every photo she took in order to do retakes.



Digital Photo Retouching Techniques to the Rescue!

I immediately thought of that O'Reilly book and pulled it off the shelf. I told myself I had a lot of work deadlines to complete and should not be even *thinking* about retouching frivolous photos when I'm so busy. I was sure this was going to eat up hours of my time and be very hard to learn, but I just *had* to take a peek.

What I needed, in addition to my "closed eyes" photo, was another photo of the same person in generally the same position (e.g. in both photos the person is looking forward, or both in three-quarters profile, or both from the side, etc.). The headshot didn't have to be at exactly the same angle, contrast, or distance, but I knew these factors would help make retouching easier.

Fortunately Doris supplied me with a good shot of Tomoko looking forward with her eyes open, as seen below: that's **Katie Potter**, me and open-eyed Tomoko having lunch.



Here are roughly the steps I followed using **Chapter 3: Enhancing Portraits - Section 19 Opening Closed Eyes** (page 98):

1. Open both photos on the same page in Photoshop Elements.
2. Select the "Lasso" tool and set the "Feather" feature to 7 pixels.
3. "Lasso" the open eyes.
4. Select the "Move" tool from the toolbox. Click and drag the "open eyes" on top of the "closed eyes" photo.
5. Select "Image > Rotate > Flip Layer Horizontal" to flip the open eyes if needed. (*I figured out on my own that you only do this if your "open eyes" are oriented slightly in the opposite direction of your "closed eyes" face*).
6. Select "Image > Transform > Free Transform" from the menu bar.

7. Place the pointer over a handle of the "Free Transform" bounding box, hold down the "Alt" and "Shift" keys and drag and skew until the "open eyes" fit the "closed eyes" face.

8. Zoom in and use the "Move" tool to further adjust the position of the "open eyes".

9. If the new "open eyes" are brighter than the rest of the image, use "Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels" to darken the new eyes. (*I had the opposite problem from the example in the book: my "open eyes" were darker than the rest of the "closed eyes" image, but I figured out how to use the "Adjust Lighting Levels" to remedy it*).

10. Select the "Eraser Tool" from the toolbox. In the options bar, set "Size" to "30 pixels" and "Opacity" to "50%".

11. Use the "Eraser" tool to erase as much of the skin as possible, leaving the eyes untouched.

12. Zoom out to check the whole image. (*And, as I assumed, adjust as needed*).

13. Select "Layer > Flatten Image" from the menu bar to combine the two layers into one.

Following the above instructions, I managed to retouch the original photo in about half an hour! I think the final results (on the opposite page) were amazingly good for a first try, don't you?

As you may also notice, I was so thrilled by the results that I went on to crop the photo, fill in the missing



Original
"closed eyes"
Tomoko (left),
was blended
with "open
eyes"
Tomoko
(middle) ...



... to become
the final
version of
"open eyes"
Tomoko
(right), using
Photoshop
Elements.



corners of the plywood cutout, erase the graffiti on the top left corner, and (ahem), give myself a little face lift (ironed out a few wrinkles).

Obviously I revised my opinion about "40 Digital Photo Retouching Techniques with Photoshop Elements," and the usefulness of each technique. I found that it has a nice introductory chapter ("Warming Up to Photoshop Elements 5.0") which explains key features, understanding pixels, resolution, and file formats, and a tour through the welcome screen, and editor and organizer windows.

My only complaint is that the step-by-step instructions focus very

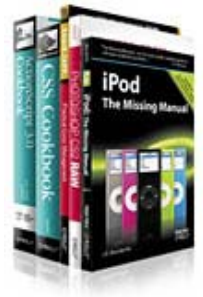
narrowly on how to achieve *specific* results for the illustrated sample (a practice CD for which comes in a pocket in the back cover). I wanted a general how-to-use guide for each tool, but that's asking too much from this otherwise wonderful little book!

Thanks to Zach Lee for great tips, clear layout and easy-to-understand writing. And thanks to whoever at O'Reilly Media sent this to me!

Interested in getting a free book in exchange for writing a review? Read the next column on this page, visit the O'Reilly website, choose a title, and contact **Jack Lewtschuk**. ♦

ReginaDoyle@aol.com

O'Reilly New Releases: Books, Short Cuts, and Rough Cuts



Did you know you can request a free book or PDF to review for the **MBUG Newsletter**? Ask **Jack Lewtschuk**, O'Reilly Liaison, for more information at blacklion@royal.net or call (831) 757-0123.

For book review writing tips and suggestions, go to <http://ug.oreilly.com/bookreviews.html>.

A Few of the Newest Titles

- iPhone: The Missing Manual
- 3ds Max 9.0 (*Young Jin*)
- Dreamweaver CS3: The Missing Manual
- Dynamic Learning: Photoshop CS3
- Excel Hacks, Second Edition
- Learning Flash Media Server 2
- Learning Web Design, Third Edition
- Low Budget Shooting (Hard Cover) (*Rocky Nook*)
- Music Projects with Ableton Live (*PC Publishing*)
- Network Warrior
- Photoshop CS3 Photographer's Handbook (*Rocky Nook*)
- Photoshop Lightroom Adventure
- Podcasting Tricks (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)
- Windows Vista Accelerated (*Young Jin*)
- Windows Vista Administration: The Definitive Guide ♦



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www.smartcomputing.com

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36 issues for \$64.00

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 drop your empties (any brand, any type) into the
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 General Meetings or workshops. ♦

ellias@msn.com

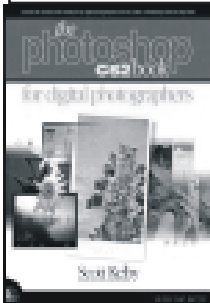
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A TIP FROM JACK: Before subscribing or
 renewing through the above, check if the
 publisher has a current special price (which
 happens periodically). ♦ blacklion@royal.net



UPDATE: MBUG-PC Members now get 35% off all

O'Reilly Books and PDFs!

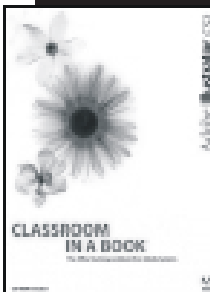
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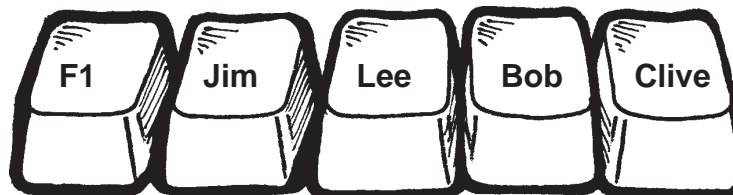
Contact:

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 F1 Volunteers will share their experience on software and hardware. 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 **Don Slaiter** (831) 655-4443/657-4154 a message; or
- (4) Broadcast a message to all members through the **MBUG-PC Listserv** mbug@listserv.redshift.com **in plain text only** (NO html, please)!

■ 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 Stephan

e-mail to stephan.bob@gmail.com
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 ◆

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!)

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

Andrea Fuerst at the Sally Griffin Senior Center at (831) 375-4454 or e-mail alcdir@mowmp.org

*Pacific Grove
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Pacific Grove CA 93950

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class descriptions.

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

<http://www.pgusd.org>



raffle items wanted

Cleaning House? Reorganizing? Getting A New PC?

MBUG needs **new** or **gently used**, **working** computer software, hardware, supplies, and peripherals, for fund-raising raffles (and cash donations too).

Call ahead to determine if your items can be put to use.

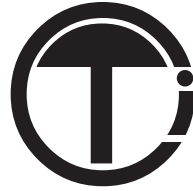
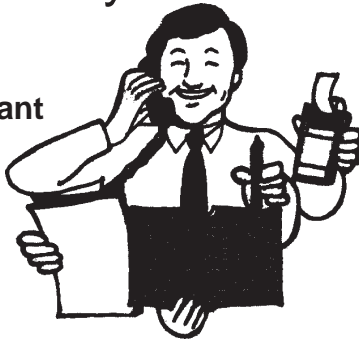
Contact **Don Slaiter** slaiter@pacbell.net

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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my favorite WEBSITE

by Alan Phelps,
Smart Computing

Avoid Traffic with Online Maps

How-to web-based mapping sites can not only point you in the right direction, but they can also give you an idea as to whether everyone else is heading in that same direction.

Real-time traffic updates on three of the top online mapping sites—**Google Maps**, **Yahoo! Maps**, and **Microsoft's Live Search Maps**—are far from perfect, but they might save you some time and aggravation next time you plot your route through the metropolis. In this article, we take a quick look at what these sites offer and how to use them.

Google Maps

Google Maps recently became the latest web-based mapping site to add live traffic conditions. Head to maps.google.com and access traffic data by clicking the "Traffic" button next to the three other view buttons in the upper-right corner. If you're zoomed way out, you'll just see traffic lights denoting cities where traffic information is available.

Zoom in closer on one of those areas, and you'll see color-coded double lines superimposed atop major highways and other roads. Generally, green means no problems, yellow indicates slower traffic, and red means there are folks moving at less than 25 miles per hour.

Gray lines mean no data is available at the moment for those roads. Unfortunately, there are a lot of gray lines; how many depends upon the city you're viewing. Los Angeles for example, was lit up like a red-and-green Christmas decoration the day we looked. Philadelphia on the other hand, was almost entirely gray.

Microsoft Live Search

Point your browser to maps.live.com to see Live Search Maps, Microsoft's feature-filled (at least for Internet Explorer 7 users) map site. Like Google, traffic information shows up as color-coded lines that represent roads after you click the "Traffic" link at the top of the map.

Rather than Google's bold lines, Live Search Maps uses slightly more subtle highlighting. Both look fine, although Google makes it a bit easier to tell which color belongs to which side of the road.

Live Search Maps adds another layer of data in the form of icons

representing accidents, construction, and other incidents. Yellow, orange, and red icons denote minor, moderate, and serious incidents.

Hover your mouse pointer over an icon and a pop-up window displays a summary of information about the incident.

Yahoo! Maps

Instead of lines or highlighting, Yahoo! Maps at maps.yahoo.com tacks small colored dots next to roads that indicate the situation at specific spots. The dots aren't always easy to find, and it's hard to tell how far heavy traffic extends from either side of a red dot.

Like Live Search, Yahoo! Maps includes icons pinpointing various incidents, such as accidents and road construction. In some jurisdictions, however, incidents include a slew of relatively minor events. Our neighborhood had a few icons for incidents that in reality wouldn't have slowed down any drivers.



Unlike Live Search, Yahoo! Maps does not include a way to remove all of the icons without turning off traffic information altogether.

Jammed Up

Real-time traffic maps are great in theory, but there are some limitations: most of the data is for freeways, leaving other major roads out in the cold. Second, too many roads simply report no data. We mentioned some gray spots on the Google maps; Microsoft and Yahoo! Maps exhibit the same problem.

Perhaps more troubling is the accuracy of the traffic data. For instance, at one point Yahoo! Maps reported slow-going on I-395 through Arlington, VA. Views of that same road using various live traffic webcams, however, showed cars zipping along. A driver who decided to avoid I-395 would only have wasted time. Another day, Yahoo! Maps reported severe backups on highways leading out of Washington, DC, whereas Google Maps and Live Search showed clear, green color-coded roads.

In other words, what you see on the live traffic maps is not always as up-to-date as it claims to be. Check your favorite online map before you head out the door and maybe even consider alternative routes, but don't be completely surprised if the situation on the ground isn't quite what the maps said it would be. ♦

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WINE NOTES 2.0 EVALUATION SOFTWARE

Jud Grubbs & Pat Landee, Guest Speakers

**Wednesday, September 26, 7:00 to 9:00pm,
Canterbury Woods Auditorium**

Interested in organizing wine by more than just "red" and "white"? **Jud Grubbs** and **Pat Landee** of **Groundspace Corporation**, Pebble Beach, will demonstrate their product **Wine Notes 2.0**, a **wine evaluation and selection tool**, for use by the casual collector or connoisseur. Designed for managing a wine cellar, the software runs on PDAs or PCs using **Windows XP** (soon to be Vista-compatible). Interested? Contact Pat at 655-9907; pat@pinotnoir.com; or www.groundspace.com/.

AUGUST

ADOBE

PHOTOSHOP CS2

Jim Anway

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, August 22

7:00 to 9:00pm

Canterbury Woods
Auditorium, Pacific Grove



Jim will review some of the new tools in **Photoshop CS2** and provide tips and tricks for enhancing photos old and new. For advance questions and information, contact Jim at 625-5618 or e-mail AnwayJ@comcast.net. ♦

COMING in SEPTEMBER

DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT

Andy Marken

Guest Speaker

Friday, September 14

7:00 to 9:00pm

Adult Education Center,
Pacific Grove

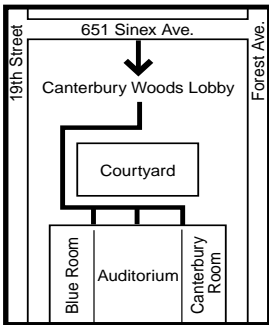


Andy of **Marken Communications** will provide an insider's look at **Digital Rights Management** and what it will mean for the industry and anyone who works with a PC or watches videos, meaning everyone! Questions? www.markencom.com or andy@markencom.com. ♦

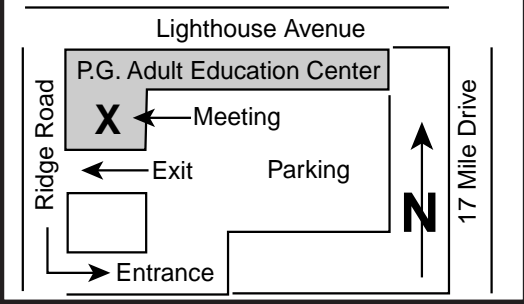
MBUG-PC Calendar of Events - AUGUST 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		JULY 31 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	1	2	<i>"Microsoft Office 2007"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm <i>Debbie Jones</i>	4
5	6	7	8 MBUG Holiday: NO WORKSHOP	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>"Adobe</i> <i>Photoshop CS2"</i> Canterbury Woods 7:00 - 9:00pm <i>Jim Anway</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

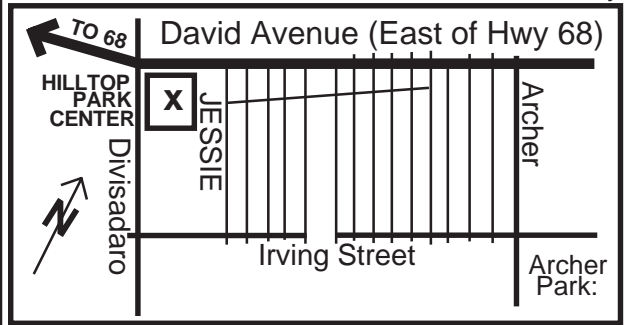
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



Tentative Calendar September 2007 Check the September Newsletter for Final Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	4 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 MBUG Holiday: NO WORKSHOP	13	14 <i>"Digital Rights</i> <i>Management"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm <i>Andy Marken</i>	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 <i>"Manage Wine Cellar w/ Wine Notes 2.0"</i> Canterbury Woods 7:00 - 9:00pm J. Grubbs & P. Landee	27	28	29
30						



mbug-pc newsletter

Vol 26, No 8, August 2007

PO Box 51611

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

photo: Regina Doyle MBUG



Tom Streeter
Membership
Chairman

WELCOME BACK, AND THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

name	member number
Jim Anway	841
Phil Butler	1233
Martha Craig	1065
Connie D'Attilio	1064
Joanie Hyler	1295

William G. Odom	1166
Bill Randolph.....	1237
Tom Streeter	1062
Sarah Haller	1105

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

name	member number
Tom Streeter.....	1062



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