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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 582-9336 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

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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 Tom Streeter for card).

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: Mack Jacobs, MBUG-PC

ARE YOUR “FAVORITES” AND “BOOKMARKS” STILL FUNCTIONAL?

Would you believe that I’ve saved just under 2,000 “favorites” and “bookmarks”? “Favorites” is a list of website addresses which I want to return to. A “bookmark” is a way to mark web pages so they can be referenced at a later time without my having to remember the address.

No matter how many favorites or bookmarks you have on your lists, the question is, are they all still functional? Here’s a good way to find out—and for free! **AM-DeadLink** at <http://aignes.com/deadlink.htm>, detects “dead” links (websites which have “gone out of business”) and duplicates in your browser bookmarks. If a bookmark has become unavailable, you can verify it in the internal preview and delete it from your browser.

AM-Deadlink works with **Internet Explorer, Opera, Mozilla** and **Firefox**.

BEFORE YOU DONATE ...

Not that I’m a Scrooge, but there are a lot of fraudulent organizations out there eager to take advantage of your good intentions. Before you pledge money by phone, mail, online, or in front of a shopping mall, check charity credentials at: www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/telemarketing/tel01.shtm, www.give.org/reports, and/or www.charitynavigator.org. It’ll help ensure that your dollars really do go to a genuine, good cause.

SECURITY REMINDER

If there’s a new computer for a Hanukkah gift, or under the Christmas tree this year, remind the lucky recipient that the very first task on their agenda after installing the new machine should be to make it secure.

Every computer needs the following minimum necessities: an updated **anti-virus** program, an updated **anti-spy** program, an updated **firewall**, an update of their **Windows** program, a good **UPS or surge protector** plugged in between all sensitive equipment and the outside world (including phone and cable wires), and a **schedule of when to perform the next update** of all of the above!

Now [insert drum roll here] ... GO!

TERABYTES

Terabyte hard drives have been available for some time. What’s a terabyte, you ask? Well, remember when you got your first computer? If you had a hard drive, how big was it? Then along came a new operating system, a bunch of MP3 music files, and a bunch of videos, and that “big” hard drive started creaking under the load. Enter the terabyte.

One terabyte is a trillion bytes (characters), which is also 1000 gigabytes. Or if you prefer, 1TB = 1000GB. So how much storage is that, really? Let’s do some comparisons: 1GB of memory is the equivalent of 500,000 typewritten pages, or about one pickup truck of books. So you could say that a terabyte is a thousand librarians driving **Ford F150**’s stacked with literature.

Or in digital terms, the biggest **iPod Classic** stores 160GB, or about 40,000 songs. Six of those iPods would hold almost one terabyte, enough space to store a quarter-million songs. If you had a shiny new 1-terabyte hard drive, you could potentially stash 300 feature length films, or 40,000 faxes on it. But you’d still need 20 of those 1TB drives to hold the entire print collection of the US Library of Congress.

Large companies, universities, hospitals, the military and other institutions that store large amounts of data are already gobbling up these bigger, badder hard drives. But do *you* need a terabyte worth of storage? Maybe if you’re a serious gamer, or deal with multimedia files (music or video) then those gigabytes can fill up pretty fast. If you are a videographer making a documentary, if you design websites, or if you want to digitize your audio/video collection in hi-def, one terabyte might not be enough. And having a few terabytes would be a nice way to keep a backup of all the computers on your home



network in a single location. And some day soon, an external TB drive might also prove useful for those who upgrade to a new computer every few years. You would just copy the contents of your PC or Mac hard drive to your TB drive via USB or Ethernet and not have to worry about leaving your data behind.

Today, this information is a bit of trivia. Tomorrow ... who knows? Think about this: a **zettabyte** is a unit of measurement equal to 1,180,591,620,717,411,303,424 bytes, 2 to the 70th power bytes, or roughly 10 to the 21st power. It's also the equivalent of 1,024 exabytes which is 1,024 petabytes, and of course you know that a petabyte is 1,024 terabytes.

STOPPING SCREEN FLICKER

One of the causes of "screen flicker," especially on CRT (cathode-ray tube) monitors is a low "screen refresh" rate. In general, it's best to set the refresh rate to the highest possible setting. In WindowsXP right-click the desktop, click "Properties," choose the "Settings" tab, click the "Advanced" button, and choose the "Monitor" tab. If you see a "Hide Modes That This Monitor Cannot Display" checkbox, select it. In the "Screen Refresh Rate" drop-down menu, select the highest possible rate available. Click "Apply," and if prompted, click "Yes" to keep the new settings. Click "OK" to close the dialog boxes and save your settings. In Windows98 right-click the desktop, click "Properties," choose the "Settings" tab, click the "Advanced" button, and choose the "Adapter" tab. Select the highest refresh rate from the drop-down menu, click "Apply" and "OK."

FEEDING YOUR ERRORS TO MICROSOFT

Are you tired of WindowsXP asking if you want to send error reports back to Microsoft each time something goes wrong with your system? You can disable or customize this feature. Click "Start," right-click "My Computer," and select "Properties." Click the "Advanced" tab and click the "Error Reporting" button. From

the resulting dialog box, you can choose to disable "Error Reporting" entirely or select the programs for which you want to create and send reports.

NOVICE CORNER

How to Open an Attachment

Have an attachment you can't open? All is not lost. Try this: hold down the "Shift" key while right-clicking an image; choose "Open With," and in the list click on "Windows Picture" and "Fax Viewer." To always open that way when double-clicking an image, be sure to put a checkmark in the box at bottom left. Do this with each image format you want to associate with that program.

Fixing a Sticky Keyboard

Your keyboard is very likely dirty. To clean it, shut down and turn off your computer and disconnect the keyboard. Turn the keyboard upside down and shake it to dislodge some of the debris. Then get a can of compressed air, and while holding the keyboard at an angle and the can upright, blow out any debris from between the keys. Next, dip a cotton swab into a bottle of rubbing alcohol (only until it's slightly damp) and use it to wipe the keys individually. Or, if you wish, you can use common antibacterial and disinfecting wipes to get the job done.

Do You Have a "Stupid Question"?

Too embarrassed to ask a computer-related question to a live human being? Surf <http://www.rinkworks.com/stupid/>. It's a sure cure for what ails you. But also keep the principle MBUG rule in mind: when it comes to computers, there's no such thing as a stupid question!

PS

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

Thomas Watson, IBM Chairman, 1943

Enjoy the holidays! ♦

blacklion@royal.net

Register with MBUG Listserv!

Send messages to all MBUG Members and have others reach you. **It's secure** (monitored to ensure computer-related, virus-free messages sent by Members—no outsiders, no spammers!) **Get current MBUG announcements, up-to-date virus & scam warnings, ask and answer computer-related questions, and post computer-related messages.**

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



MEETING REVIEW

photo: Nelson French, MBUG-PC



Carolyn Lake
Vice President/ Programs
& Publicity Team
Chairman/
Library Coordinator

WINE NOTES MEETING REVIEW

The **Wine Notes 2.0 workshop** on November 14 was both fun and informative. **Pat Landee**, retired systems engineer, and son **Greg Byers**, computer programmer, treated the group at **Canterbury Woods** to an informal sipping of a nice Pinot Noir while stepping us through the use of the wine evaluation software. The program, originally developed by Greg to help Pat organize her notes while at wine tastings, runs on **Windows XP** and is designed for use on a **Pocket PC**. The concept is to use the software while in a wine-tasting setting to make on-the-spot evaluations to determine wines to purchase. A future version is already in the works that will run on a PC, so that evaluations of successive bottles of the same wine can be made over time for comparison.

Pat has developed a clever lanyard “sling,” worn looped around the neck, to hold her tasting glass, giving her both hands free to make entries on her PDA. The program starts with a main screen to select a completed review or start a new review. In a new review, the user enters the basic information of the wine to be evaluated, such as type, vineyard, and price, and then proceeds through a series of screens to enter descriptive information. Many of the parameters have drop down lists for selecting descriptions, but the lists can be edited by the user to add or delete values. There is also space for free-form notes and reminders.

The evaluation covers wine aspects such as visual (color and clarity), nose (aroma, bouquet, acidity), taste (sugar and balance), aftertaste, typicality, and general quality. The user enters a numerical score for the various aspects, which compares against a 100-point scale when completed. Pat recommends against purchase of any wine that scores under 85 total points. There appears to be a large amount of subjectivity in the evaluation of

any given wine, but the program offers a method of determining which wines actually appeal to you, the user, and why. Experience both in tasting and in using the software probably aids in consistent comparisons.

Pat has a special fascination with Pinot Noir wines and maintains a website on the topic, **Patty’s Pinot Closet**, at www.pinotnoirs.com/. She also publishes a monthly newsletter with restaurant reviews, tasting results, recipes, and more, which is e-mailed to a group that started out a few years ago with a thousand wine stores, vineyards, distributors, and friends, and now reaches 14,000 subscribers. If wine tasting is your “cup of tea,” you can subscribe by e-mail to pat@pinotnoirs.com. Many thanks to Pat and Greg for sharing this novel application. ♦

lakelyn@comcast.net

VOLUNTEER COMPUTER COACHES/TEACHERS NEEDED

**Sally Griffin Senior Center
in Pacific Grove**

needs computer coaches for their
Technology Access Program for Seniors.

The center provides older adults an
opportunity to learn and practice in a small
lab, one-on-one and in small classes.

If you have the time, ability and patience,
contact **Andrea Fuerst** at (831) 375-4454 or
e-mail alcdir@mowmp.org

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<http://www.pgusd.org>



THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST



by Bob **"I Don't Do
Windows"** Stephan

I Can't Believe It's December Already!

Happy Holidays to all. Have a safe holiday period and come back safely next year. I need all the readers I can keep.

Follow Up

As you may recall, last month I reviewed **Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0** (MBUG-PC Newsletter November 2007, p7), which I found was a very nice product. I expect to get a lot of use out of it. When I submitted my review to **Gene Barlow** of **User Group Relations** (www.ugr.com), he had some information to add.

You may remember I partitioned my hard drive into an operating system partition, a program partition and a data partition. This is my preference and I think it will work for me, but Gene had another suggestion which others may want to consider:



ABOVE: Gene & Linda Barlow, frequent and highly popular MBUG Guest Speakers.

"One philosophical difference I might mention. A few years ago I preached the three partition organization of hard drives, one for the OS, one for the application programs, and one for the Data files. At the time, when hard drives were smaller and more expensive, wasting space on the drive with large partitions was a problem. With 500GB drives now

selling close to \$100, that problem has gone away. Also the problem of keeping your OS partition and the applications installed on it in synch is more of a concern than the wasted space. So, now I still recommend three partitions, but slightly different ones.

First, the operating system and application programs should be in the same partition. Second, your data files still need to be in a separate partition from the OS and apps. Safer from crashes and viruses and such. Much easier to backup and keep organized too. The third partition must be on a separate hard drive to store your backup images in. I recommend using a dedicated external hard drive for your backup storage.

One of the problems of separate OS and apps partitions is keeping them in synch. You need to backup both of these partitions at the same time and restore them together. Otherwise, they will get out of synch. That added with the fact that all apps want to install in your c: drive, I've decided it is easier and safer to just keep them together. As I said, this is just a philosophical difference and not really important to change your article for.

Today, I recommend using an external hard drive for all of your backups. They are faster than DVD and do not require that you be present to feed another DVD. They are a more reliable media than the DVD which may be easily scratched. External hard drives are not that expensive today, so you can get a 350GB external drive for \$59 if you look carefully.

Since the drive is reusable, it may end up being less expensive than a bunch of DVDs. More important, you can create incremental backup images on the external hard drive where you can only create full images on the DVDs. Also, you can use the external hard drive to retrieve individual files from the backup image that you can't if you have an image on more than one DVD. Time to get an external hard drive for your backup needs. Bye."

I certainly thank Gene for the input and think that he brings up some valid points. I agree with him wholeheartedly about using an external hard drive for backup

these days. I recently purchased a 160GB external drive for \$59, which is quite good even though it is not as great a deal as Gene says can be found. For now that size will handle everything that I might want to put on it while I wait for prices to drop even more.

Since DOS days I have used floppies of various capacities, Iomega removable media of various kinds, a couple kinds of tape drives, CDs, DVDs, and now an external hard disk for backup. The hard disk is certainly the fastest, most versatile, and most convenient; however, remember that any type of media can fail in one way or another. If your information is important to you, best not rely on just one device to hold it all.

Coming Soon

In the meantime I have obtained an evaluation copy of *Acronis True Image 11.0 Home* which I have started to look at. I am really floored by this product! It is a veritable **Swiss Army Knife** utility with so many features that it will take me another month or more to give it an honest evaluation. For now I will whet your appetite with a list of just a few of the available operations:

- Backup and restore data including system disks/partitions
- Validate backup archives
- Schedule backup or validation operations
- Activate Acronis Startup Recovery Manager
- Restore archive contents and restore individual files
- Mount and unmount partition images

- Transfer system to a new hard disk
- Format partitions on a new hard disk
- Securely destroy personal information and erase confidential files
- Clean up all your Windows activity traces
- Try&Decide mode to virtually make changes and decide whether to keep them
- Create bootable rescue media

And the list goes on. I don't even understand what is meant by some of the operations but there is an excellent 119-page manual to explain them to me. My primary interest is to create backup images in the manner of the older **PowerQuest Drive Image** which I am accustomed to using, but the Acronis product has so many more features that it will take me some time to learn about them. Stay tuned for more.

In the meantime should you be in the market for a disk utility you can purchase an Acronis product at a special user group price from www.usergroupstore.com. Use the special price code of UGEVAL07 with your order.

Disclaimer: I have no financial connection with Acronis or User Group Relations.◆

*Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 40 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that **The Frugal Computerist** can respond to by email to stephan.bob@gmail.com. Bob's home page is at www.bobstephan.net.*



FREE BOOKS FOR REVIEW

Just another reminder that **O'Reilly Books** offers free computer-related books to anyone willing to write and publish a review in the MBUG-PC Newsletter within a reasonable amount of time.

The procedure is simple:

1. Let me know which book you would like to review.
2. Write the review.
3. Send the review to Regina Doyle **for publication in the MBUG-PC Newsletter** with a copy to me (I verify for O'Reilly that you've done it).
4. Keep the book.

WHAT A DEAL! For a list of O'Reilly books offered for review go to <http://www.oreilly.com/store/newreleases.csp>◆

S. Jack Lewtschuk, blacklion@royal.net



MBUG SURVEY RESULTS

XP, Maintenance, Software, and Security are Survey Leaders by Carolyn Lake

Twenty members and four non-members responded to the October-November MBUG survey of program interests. The 24 participants came from three distributions of the survey, starting at the **Annual Get-Together of Members and Friends** on October 24.

Question 1 asked respondents to identify the operating systems to emphasize in MBUG meetings, and **Windows XP** was the clear preference. Fourteen preferred Windows XP with a few meetings about **Vista**, seven preferred Vista with a few meetings about XP, one indicated both, one indicated non-Windows, and one did not respond.

Question 2 offered various ways in which volunteers can support MBUG. We frequently announce these opportunities at meetings: joining the Board, assisting a Board member, leading a workshop, writing an article for the Newsletter on favorite hardware or software, writing a short meeting summary or review, or assisting with a special event. Volunteers are encouraged to speak at any time to our president, **Don Slaiter**, or to other Board members, about their interest in participating.

The survey received 17 responses distributed among those possibilities, with most responses to three items: joining the Board (4), assisting a Board member (4), and writing a Newsletter article (3). Anyone who indicated these or other interests on the survey should contact Don Slaiter as soon as possible at slaiter@pacbell.net or by calling (831) 655-4443, so that we may facilitate your participation.

Not everyone is comfortable with leading a workshop, but one of the

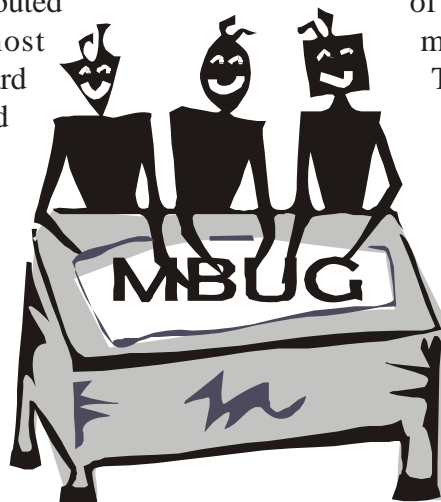
easiest ways to become involved in meeting presentation is by participating in a panel discussion. If you have a topic or area of interest to share with others, this could be a way to get started. However, only a few people responded to **Question 3** on panel participation, with two identifying specific topics and two indicating a willingness to try.

Maintenance, software, and security ranked the most frequently among the top five interests of respondents to **Question 4**, which asked for 11 meeting topics to be ranked in order of preference, with "1" being the strongest preference. The following table shows the **number of times** each topic ranked either among the top five or the lower six interests. There were only 136 total responses, as not all respondents ranked all items:

Preferences	Ranked 1-5	Ranked 6-11
Software	16	0
Hardware	9	2
E-Mail	7	5
Search	3	6
Backup	11	3
Safety/Security	13	2
Identity Theft	6	5
Maintenance	18	1
Peripherals	9	3
Shopping	0	6
Travel	6	5

The open-ended **Question 5** asked for comments on directions for MBUG in 2008, and that yielded a wealth of great ideas for meetings. There was much discussion at the October 24 Get-Together on the role of alternative software in the PC world, such as **Linux O/S** and **Open Source** applications, and this was reflected in many comments recommending programs on such topics.

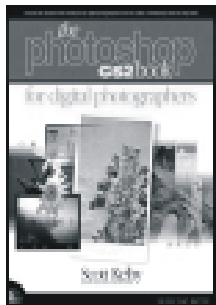
Also, interfacing PCs with the Internet and with other devices received several comments, with suggestions for programs as diverse as downloading technical podcasts,



VoIP (Voice over IP—an Internet phone technology), Instant Messaging (IM), **iTunes** and **iPods**, **eLearning**, on-line banking, desktop conferencing, cell phone camera use and downloading, pocket digital cameras and PC's, and speech-activated applications.

Respondents also reminded us not to forget the basics, with interest expressed in programs on PC basics, reviews and shortcuts for the most frequently used applications, beginner classes, file organization, and basic security and backup procedures.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill out the survey. It provides a useful insight into “the mind of the members” and many useful ideas for future program planning. To see a complete **Summary of Responses**, check the MBUG website at www.mbug.org/ or request an electronic copy from me. ♦ lakelyn@comcast.net



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



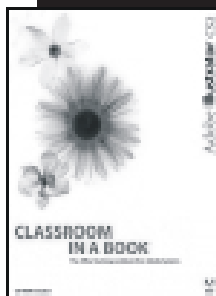
O'Reilly Books and PDFs!

Our Members can now get a 35% discount on all books from O'Reilly as well as their “No Starch”, “Paraglyph”, “PC Publishing”, “Pragmatic Bookshelf”, “Sitepoint”, “Syngress” and “YoungJin” publications. Use the same code “DSUG” when ordering books online or by phone at 1-800-998-9938. We still get free ground shipping on orders of \$29.95 or more (in the US). Go to www.oreilly.com/store/ and see what's new!

O'Reilly catalogues are available at general meetings.

Want to know more?

Contact:
Jack Lewtschuk
blacklion@royal.net



WI-FI UPDATE



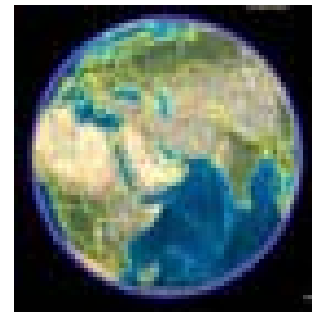
John Rowe
Columnist /
Workshop Leader

MEETING SUMMARY

photo: Bill Hoyer MBUG-PC

In November, I finally managed to get away from work long enough to give a brief update on wireless technology and new wireless devices to my fellow MBUG members and their guests at our General Meeting. In case you weren't able to attend, in summary I talked about the different types of wireless networks, and how new WiFi standards like 802.11n and **WiMax** and the new cellular offerings compare to each other. In my opinion the 802.11n standard is great for both home and office users as it has excellent signal range and throughput.

I also demonstrated and explained why I love my **Verizon** wireless card. It works almost everywhere I go, and allows me to download **Google Earth** maps whenever and wherever



I need them for my work (setting up wireless networks at remote customer sites). You can download Google Earth for free at earth.google.com. Being connected through this technology has saved me a ton of time and it gives me the edge on creating highly professional site survey reports. Plus, I can use the Google Earth maps with my GPS unit—I don't have to click on the map to record my location in the survey software, the GPS unit does it for me.

If you'd like more information regarding any of these subjects, contact me to discuss or I can send you e-copies of a comparison table of WiFi by types, speed, range, and costs; **Computerworld's** excellent FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) sheet on 802.11n wireless networking; and an article on WiFi standard testing. ♦

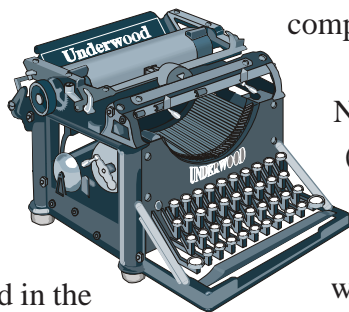
john@aaawifi.com or (831) 384-3617



The *QWERTY* Keyboard and *Microsoft Office 2007*

by **Bob Schneider**
Editor, The PC Keyboard,
Spring Hill Teaching Computer Club,
Florida

Back in the mid 1800's, when the first practical typewriter was built, inventor **C.L. Sholes** arranged the keys in the QWERTY layout for a practical reason. He had to separate the most common letters to prevent the hammers from jamming. So many people knew this layout, that although it was no longer necessary, it was maintained with the advent of electric typewriters.



A much better (in terms of ease-of-learning and speed-of-typing) is the **Dvorak keyboard layout** developed in the 1920's. It puts the most commonly used keys under your eight "home" fingers. Once millions of people started with computers using the old QWERTY layout, better alternatives were doomed. Changing to a new keyboard layout involves the most difficult of human learning tasks. The technical term from memory researchers is "proactive interference." That means an old memory (such as an old cell phone number you used before) interferes with your ability to learn a new memory (your new cell number).

In layman's terms the most difficult task is to unlearn something you know well in order to learn something new. That is why we standardize some procedures, such as operating a standard transmission in a car. You will never find a car with the brake on the left pedal and the clutch on the right pedal, and you already know the gearshift sequence and location. Airplane pilots will always find the altimeter in the middle of their visual field.

I've been a fan of and using **Microsoft Windows** for some time, starting with **Windows 2.0** in 1989. There are surely many people who have been using it longer than I have, although I have not yet met one. For most of those years, Microsoft advertised the strength and beauty of following the Windows format. Using its standard Graphical User Interface (GUI), all programs would have the same look and feel. Learn one program and you could quickly learn to navigate around in any similar software. Microsoft required that look and feel, with common menu items, before it allowed a program to have the Windows logo. That was a giant advance from the haphazard layout and menu systems of early DOS programs. As a college professor and software teacher, the advantages for student learning and computer novices were quite obvious.

Now we have **Office 2007**. I suspect that if **Corel (Word Perfect)** had released that office suite, Microsoft would have denied them the right to use the Windows logo. The common Windows GUI was thrown out in **Word** and **Excel**. Traditional menu items were removed, unfamiliar icons and menus appeared, and familiar processes were moved to obscure places. The better you were at using earlier versions, the more you will have to first unlearn to use Office 2007. The brake pedal is on the left, first gear is on the right, and the altimeter is hidden behind the co-pilot!

I am a power user of **Microsoft Office**. Actually, I *used* to be a power user. Now I must constantly go to the help menu (sorry, it is not a "menu" any more) to find the location of even the most basic procedures. I know how to do them—I just don't know where they are. It is time consuming and frustrating. There are some really nice features in Office 2007. One of them, unfortunately, is not "make it like the earlier versions." ♦

drbob1012.new@hotmail.com and www.shtcc.net

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raffle items wanted

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(1) Donate books, hardware, or software (new or nearly-new computer-related items).* Call **Don Slaiter** (655-4443) if you have questions, or bring your items to any MBUG function for evaluation. (2) Contact, or tell us about, vendors who might give MBUG computer-related raffle items. (3) Save your lottery ticket money and buy lots of tickets at the next raffle! All proceeds benefit our educational activities.

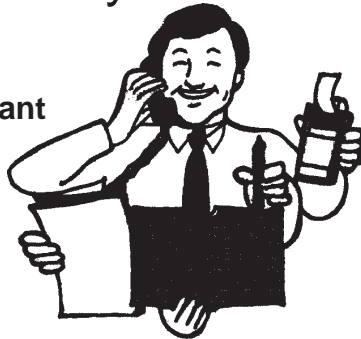
**(Items will be sorted for the raffle, the "freebies" shelf, or responsible recycling)*

MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

James W. Anway

Retired IBMer
Computer Consultant

Phone: 831 625-5618
Fax: Call first



Bob Weisensee
Production Supervisor
bob@ctimls.com

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY
of Sarasota, Inc.
5969 Palmer Boulevard
Sarasota FL 34232-2841

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COMPUTER POWER

Star Reierson

star@computerpowerstar.com

1173 Ninth Street
Monterey CA 93940

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

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my favorite WEBSITES

Stop the Catalog Avalanche via the Internet

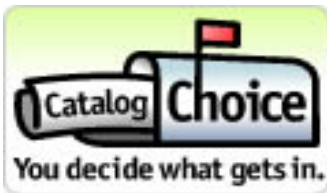
It may be too late to have stopped the excess of “holiday,” “sale,” “bargain,” “end-of-year,” “last chance,” “winter” and other catalogues from reaching your mailbox. Hopefully you have at *least* thrown them into a recycle bin and not the trash, but still, what a literal waste! However, any time is a good time to put a stop to this irresponsible use of our natural resources.

Catalog Choice is a great website to help you unclutter your mailbox. You have to register at www.catalogchoice.org, but to quote MBUG’s

Bob Stephan, “...best of all, it’s FREE!” You provide your name, address, e-mail contact, and create a login name and PIN code. You then choose from a list of over 1,000+ catalogs you no longer want to receive. Unfortunately you can’t cancel all catalogs in one click of the mouse—you do have to choose each publication one by one, and you can’t opt out of all junk mail, just catalogs. And you also need to enter your customer number (printed on your mailing label), as well as the name as it is addressed. But Catalog Choice cleverly lets you include all variations of your own name, your pseudonyms, “Resident,” “Occupant,” or the name of your spouse, or anyone else at your

address without having to reregister as or for someone else.

Don’t worry if you’ve already thrown the latest issue of that catalog out—you can log on again when the next issue arrives, get the information and have it zapped. If you can’t find a particular catalog on their list, click on the “Suggest a catalog” button, and fill in the catalog name—Catalog Choice will notify you when its added to their database. And if by any remote chance you change your mind and want to start receiving a particular catalog again, you can go back any time and revoke your request to opt out. (But why would you do that when you can look at the catalog online?)



HOW Much Waste?

In a Catalog Choice review, **Dave Mosher** of *LiveScience* (www.livescience.com)

said that every year over 19 billion catalogs are mailed in the US, in turn using up 53 million trees (about 3.6 million tons of paper), and power equivalent to supply 1.2 million homes for a year, while generating 5.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions (about as much as two million cars), and producing 53 billion gallons of waste water. The numbers were crunched using the **Environmental Defense’s Paper Waste Calculator** (www.environmentaldefense.org/papercalculator/). Environmental Defense links science, economics and law to create solutions to urgent environmental problems. You can try calculating your own paper waste using their methodology.

Links Around the Planet

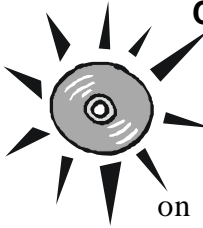
Catalog Choice is linked to a lot of ecologically-minded organizations that you might want to explore. It is sponsored by the **Ecology Center** (ecologycenter.org), which provides information, tools, technical assistance, referrals, political strategies, and models for sustainable living; endorsed by the **National Wildlife Federation** (nwf.org) whose mission is to “inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future”; and by the **Natural Resources Defense Council** (nrdc.org), an environmental action organization using law, science, its members and “online activists” to protect wildlife and wild places to ensure a safe and healthy environment. Catalog Choice is funded by the **Overbrook Foundation** (www.overbrook.org) (improving lives by supporting projects that protect human and civil rights, advance the self-sufficiency and well-being of individuals and their communities, and conserve the natural environment); the **Merck Family Fund** (www.merckff.org), (restoring and protecting the environment, ensuring a healthy planet for generations to come, and strengthening the social fabric and the physical landscape of the urban community); and an anonymous donor known as the **Kendeda Fund**.

I encourage you to use Catalog Choice as soon as possible and pass on this website to friends and family. It’ll be satisfying to know that in about 10 weeks, that “waste paper” will stop arriving! As a once-famous woman who has a catalog on the list (*Martha Stewart Signature*) once said, “It’s a good thing.” ♦

ReginaDoyle@aol.com



SMART COMPUTING TIPS & FUN FACTS



Clean Your DVDs

DVDs are best cleaned with a lint-free, nonabrasive cloth. Dampen the cloth in clean, lukewarm water. If your water is especially hard (e.g. you live anywhere on the Monterey Peninsula), or contains excess minerals, use bottled or filtered water. Start at the center of the disc and wipe in a straight line to the outside rim; don't use a circular motion. Repeat until you've cleaned the entire disc. For stubborn messes, try water with a mild, nonabrasive soap or isopropyl alcohol. Commercial DVD cleaning solutions are also available.

Never use compressed air to blow a DVD clean. Compressed air can be very cold and may thermally shock the disc, causing separation or cracks, either immediately or down the road.

Big Format, Better Pics

Always take landscape photos at your camera's highest quality setting, meaning its uncompressed RAW file format, if your photo-editing software supports it. Your photos will take up a lot more memory card space, but they'll be much, much sharper and better looking in large prints. And if you find that you want to blow up and keep just a small portion of a photo—such as a bald eagle soaring through the enormous canyon you shot—it won't look as fuzzy or jagged as it would if you enlarged it from a low-quality image. If the RAW format isn't an option for you, high-quality JPEG or TIFF files from a camera with 3MPs or more look very good, too.

Delete Files in Vista

If you want to bypass the "Recycle Bin" and have deleted files removed from the hard drive immediately, right-click the "Recycle Bin" and click "Properties." Select the "Do Not Move Files To The Recycle Bin" radio button, select the "Display Delete Confirmation Dialog" checkbox if you want Windows to prompt you for permission each time you delete a file, and click "Apply." ♦

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DECEMBER

VISTA

CHALLENGES

Star Reierson

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, December 12

7:00 to 9:00pm

Canterbury Woods Auditorium,
Pacific Grove



Star of **Computer Power**, will demonstrate some of Vista's new O/S features (sidebar "Gadgets," transparent windows, taskbar thumbnails) and how some features can be disabled (if you want a FAST machine). She'll discuss versions (five!), system requirements, security enhancements, and networking. If you have Vista, you know "Search" has disappeared, the icons have all been redesigned, and some old programs won't work.

Come compare notes, share workarounds, and challenges yet to be conquered. Questions? 373-3919 or star@computerpowerstar.com. ♦

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Tom Streeter
Membership
Chairman





THANKS FOR RENEWING We appreciate your support!

name	member number
Dick Gamble	1016
Milt Kegley	976
Vaughn McIlrath	342
Sean L. McCabe	1186
Donald Slaiter	1016

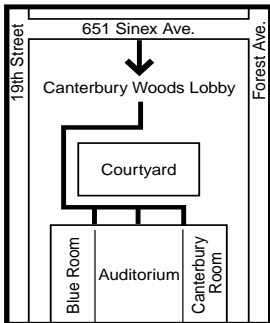
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name	member number
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Vaughn McIlrath	342

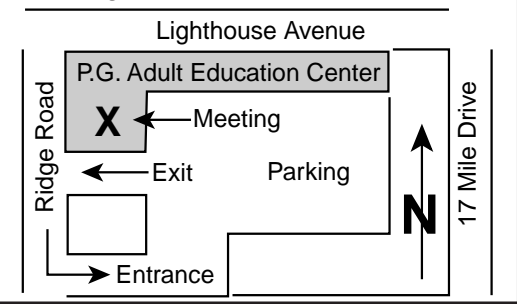
MBUG-PC Calendar of Events -DECEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 MBUG's First General Meeting in 2008 will be on the SECOND Friday, January 11, 2008 – Check upcoming calendars for Topic & Speaker						1
2	3	4 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	5 <i>First Day of Hanukkah</i> 	6	7 <i>"Home Networking"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Richard Allen	8
9	10	11 NOTE LOCATION!	12 <i>"Vista Challenges"</i> Canterbury Woods Auditorium PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Star Reiersen	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26 NO MEETING: HAPPY HOLIDAYS!	27	28	29
30	31					

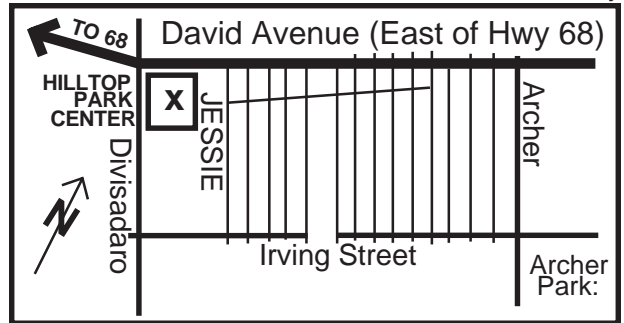
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



Tentative Calendar January 2008 *Check the November Newsletter for Final Schedule*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	9	10	11 GENERAL MEETING Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm <i>Speaker & Topic To Be Announced</i>	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s BIRTHDAY	22	23 <i>Workshop</i> <i>Speaker & Topic To Be Announced</i> Canterbury Woods PG 7:00 to 9:00pm	24	25	26
27	28	29 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	30	31	FEBRUARY 1 GENERAL MEETING Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm <i>Speaker & Topic To Be Announced</i>	



mbug-pc newsletter

Vol 26, No 12, December 2007

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

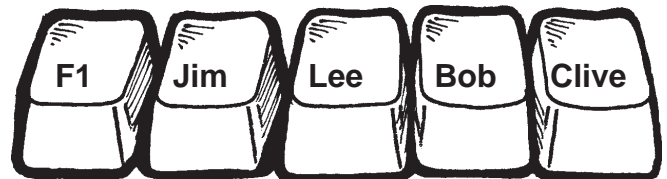
You know you push the 'F1' button on your computer when you need help. But do you also know that you can call or e-mail **MBUG-PC**

"F1 for Help" with computer questions?

Our expert team of F1 Volunteers will share their experience on software and hardware:

- (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) Send a message on 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/outcome!



■ 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 646-1373 only between 9am-5pm

■ Clive Sanders

e-mail to simbacli@pacbell.net
or call 375-5376 only between 1pm to 9pm ♦