

vol 27 / number 2 / February 2008

# mbug-pc newsletter

Established 1983 / Incorporated 1988

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**What's the correct  
way to ask your  
COMPUTER TO  
SAVE?**



Check out Guest Writer  
**Bruce Jacobs' (Phoenix  
Computer User's Group)**  
review on the ins and outs of  
speaking properly to your  
computer (page 9).

## XP REVIEW: WINDOWS XP IS ALIVE AND WELL

Computer Consultant and MBUG F1 for Help Team Member **Jim Anway** (seen at right during last month's "Random Access" computer question and answer session), is preparing a presentation to update us on why **Windows XP** is still alive and well. Although the new **Microsoft Vista** O/S has been on the market for just over a year, the older

Windows XP operating system continues to have a satisfied and determined user base, including some who insist that it be loaded on their new machines.

Here's a chance to find out why the **eXPerience system** remains a popular and user-friendly O/S. More than six years and three Service Packs later, since its release for the general public in October 2001, XP has demonstrated greater efficiency and stability than its predecessors, and greater software management capabilities. It introduced us to a re-designed, colorful user interface, and also introduced the concept of product activation, both of which had their opponents "way back then." There was definitely a learning curve, with early difficulties with updates and service pack installations, but now more than 400 million users have adapted, and many seem to want to stick with it.

Jim will refresh us on XP operations and review how to get the most from your XP machine and keep it in good order. Please, no questions in advance, but he will include an open question and answer session in the presentation, so bring both old topics for review as well as your new XP questions. For information, contact Jim at [AnwayJ@comcast.net](mailto:AnwayJ@comcast.net). ♦

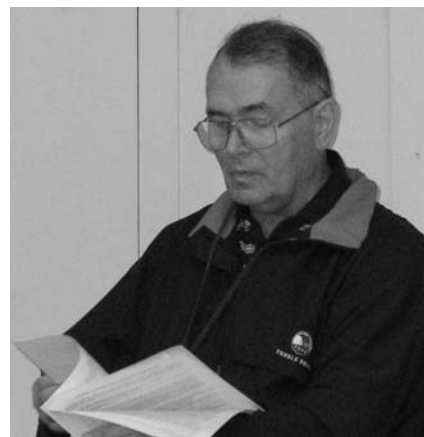


photo: Nelson French, MBUG-PC

**February 1, 2008 at 7pm**

**Pacific Grove Adult Education Center  
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove**

**FREE to MBUG Members and the General Public.  
Great coffee and snacks, and very bright people!**

## Open Volunteer Positions Available Now at MBUG !

**Association of Personal Computer User Groups Representative**

More about APCUG at [www.apcug.org](http://www.apcug.org). Or e-mail [Lee@leekeely.com](mailto: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 **Jack Lewtschuk** at [blacklion@royal.net](mailto:blacklion@royal.net)

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**MBUG-PC Newsletter** is published monthly by Monterey Bay Users Group-Personal Computer, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable, educational corporation, PO Box 51611, Pacific Grove CA 93950, telephone Don Slaiter (831) 655-4443 or 657-4154, website [www.mbug.org](http://www.mbug.org).

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**SUBSCRIPTION:** See back cover for rates.

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**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. For advertising information contact Regina at [ReginaDoyle@aol.com](mailto: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

## PRESIDENT'S MUMBLINGS

### Computer User's Group Philosophy (and What We Can Do About It)

As I understand it, the User Group philosophy is primarily people-to-people education in the use and enjoyment of computers and related equipment. During the years of learning and my attempts to help others to learn about computing, I am convinced that every computer user knows something that some other computer user does not know.

I'm sure that you've had the same experience: I've never left a classroom without learning something, whether asking or answering questions; either about the subject, about people, or both.

During my years with MBUG, I've found that any meeting that gave the audience an opportunity to ask and answer questions was successful. I suggest that MBUG offer more of these opportunities so that we can all be students and teachers at the same time. I guarantee that we will all benefit if we keep a receptive attitude.

A factor to consider: we need a good representation of people at all skill levels at our meetings. **Let's all be participants, not just spectators!** Get off the bleachers and out of the dugouts: join us in the field (and let me know what you think about this and any other matter).

## TT&T

### "Print Screen?" Easier Ways to Copy the Screen

The "Print Screen" key confuses a lot of people. When you press it, it copies the entire screen to the clipboard.

It doesn't appear that anything has happened, but you can then paste it into a blank Word document or photo program.

If you don't want to copy the whole screen, but only the window which is open, hold down the "Alt" key and then click the "Print Screen" key. Of course, if you want to crop or edit the "capture" (the bit of the screen you have copied), you'll have to do that in your favorite photo editing program.

There is an easier way to copy the screen. If you're using **Windows XP**, you can try **Snippy** at [www.bhelpuri.net/Snippy/default.htm](http://www.bhelpuri.net/Snippy/default.htm). With Snippy you can select a particular region of the screen to copy, and then go ahead and paste it into a document or photo file.

**Vista** has a built-in screen capture program offering more options. Click "Start," type "snipping" (minus quotes) into the "Search" dialogue box, click "Snipping Tool" on the list, and click "New."

Your screen will dim slightly. Click and drag over the area you want to copy. When you release your mouse, the clip will appear in a new window. You can then use the pen and highlighter tool to annotate your clip. To save the clip, click on the "Save" button and then save in a variety of

popular formats. Now that's easy!

### Easily Manage Your Thumb Drives

Thumb drives (USB port flash drives, also known as jump drives, pen drives, key drives, tokens and USB drives) have become the new floppy disk. Some people keep a handful of them for backups or archives. Once you start using more than one thumb drive, organization can become a problem. Fortunately, there is free help to keep multiple drives in order.

**Microsoft's USB Flash Drive Manager (FDM)** puts all the features you need to work with thumb drives in one place. From the FDM, you can give each drive a name. Then you can associate each drive with a folder on your PC's hard drive. The FDM lists any thumb drives plugged into your computer. Select a drive and you'll have one-click options to swap data with its folder. One

### Just a Bit of Trivia

We checked our archives and found that since he started writing for MBUG Newsletter (first as "President's Corner"), this February 2008 column is Jack's 108<sup>th</sup>! He credits his never-ending supply of writing to the ever-changing computer industry. *MBUG Newsletter Editor*



click pushes the data either way. You can also drag files into the FDM window to save them on you thumb drive. FDM provides a “wizard” (a [utility](#) inside an [application](#) that helps you to use it to do a particular task) to help you save network configurations on thumb drives. This is useful if you use the same laptop with different Wi-Fi networks or hotspots.

Find out more about FDM at [www.microsoft.com/downloads](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads) or, directly at [www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=94991901-bfc4-485e-bcae-c9df0accdaae&DisplayLang=en](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=94991901-bfc4-485e-bcae-c9df0accdaae&DisplayLang=en).

### WindowsXP Service Pack 3

You may have heard that **Microsoft** will release **WindowsXP SP3** in the not-so-distant future. Here are a few opinions based on information I have gathered.



First, let me say that most people should *not* install WindowsXP Service Pack 3 ... yet. Wait until it has been officially released. It's likely we'll see virus messages inviting you to download and install it, but if you see them, you should know that they are bogus. I am sure that SP3 will be made available via Windows Update and Windows Automatic Update. There probably will be a downloadable version available via the Microsoft website—don't trust any other location.

And because it will be big, my guess is that Microsoft will offer a CD version, much like they did with SP2. SP3 will supersede SP2 and most all of the patches issued since SP2. In other words, SP3 will include all of the fixes in SP1, SP2 and since, along with additional updates we haven't seen yet. SP3 will release sometime early this year. I hope that Microsoft has learned a lesson with SP2 and will make sure that the SP3 installation will not be as problematic as its predecessor.

There is a good chance that IE7 will be part of SP3. I suggest that you get used to it. I like it better than IE6 (after I got used to it). There is a good chance that some or all of the bugs will be eliminated before SP3 becomes available. I intend to install SP3, unless I hear something new between now and then. Stay tuned!

### Have You Heard of “Windows Seven”?

You may have read or heard of “InformationWeek,” a magazine geared for professional computer users. A recent IW blog (a website that chronologically displays comments by one or more individuals, with links to specific postings), contains opinions about the success of Windows Vista and has a link to the next scheduled Microsoft operating system. The URL is rather lengthy so I suggest you copy it from the e-version of the MBUG Newsletter and paste it into your browser: [www.informationweek.com/blog/main/archives/2008/01/willwindowsvi.html;jsessionid=WIRU3FI0J2A5KQ\\_SNDLPCKHSCJUNN2JVN](http://www.informationweek.com/blog/main/archives/2008/01/willwindowsvi.html;jsessionid=WIRU3FI0J2A5KQ_SNDLPCKHSCJUNN2JVN).

### NOVICE CORNER

#### Keyboard Shortcuts

Keyboard shortcuts can save time. A comprehensive list for Vista and XP can be found at: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/301583>

PS:

*“But what is it good for?”*

*Engineer, IBM Advanced Computing Systems Division, commenting on the microchip in 1968* ♦  
[blacklion@royal.net](mailto:blacklion@royal.net)

### MBUG LIBRARY

#### New Additions



#### Visual Design for the Modern

**Web**, by Penny McIntire, New Riders (Peachpit), 352 pages, Beginning/Intermediate level.

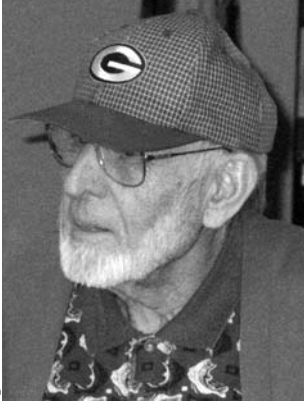
Ask us for a complete list of Library titles. Current computer books in good condition are gratefully accepted.

#### MEMBERS MAY CHECK OUT BOOKS FOR ONE MONTH

Contact Library Coordinator **Carolyn Lake** for details at 643-2023 or [lakelyn@comcast.net](mailto:lakelyn@comcast.net). Peachpit will give the MBUG Library one free book each month: suggest a title from The Bookstore at [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com) and send your request to Carolyn.

# THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST

photo: Nelson French, MBUG-PC



by Bob “I Don’t Do  
Windows” Stephan

with photographs by  
Nelson French

## WHERE TO FIND FREE SOFTWARE

For those of you who were unable to attend the **MBUG General Meeting** on January 11, here’s a synopsis of what I presented.

The crown of free software is **theOpenDisc**, a collection of high quality open source (i.e. FREE) software for Microsoft Windows at [theopendisc.com](http://theopendisc.com). See [theopendisc.com/programs](http://theopendisc.com/programs) for the complete list and full descriptions. The jewel in the crown is [OpenOffice.org](http://OpenOffice.org), a complete office system which can open and save files in **Microsoft Office** formats as well as others. Open Office includes a word processor, spreadsheet, database, presentation program, math and drawing modules. I have been using versions (originally **Star Office** for OS/2) for over ten years and have had no compatibility problems. My OpenOffice masterpiece was a book of my grandmother’s poems including old family photos and a bit of family history.

### **Bonus: Her’s one I did NOT cover at the Meeting**

For a free firewall and antivirus go to [www.pctools.com/firewall/](http://www.pctools.com/firewall/).

For free HTML Editors, Web Editors, and WYSIWYG Web Editors and Site Builders go to [www.thefreecountry.com/webmaster/htmleditors.shtml](http://www.thefreecountry.com/webmaster/htmleditors.shtml).

According to [www.picasa.com](http://www.picasa.com), “Picasa is software that makes it easy and fun to view, organize, edit and share digital photos on your PC.” It is available from **Google**.

**PhotoPlus 6** is an excellent program for photo restoration and other purposes on a Windows computer. PhotoPlus 6 is not quite as powerful as the \$90 **Photoshop**

**Elements**. Then again, with a price tag of zero, many of us will accept a program that has 90 percent of the capabilities of the more expensive program.

You can download the free Photoplus 6 at [freerisifsoftware.com](http://freerisifsoftware.com). While at the site, you might want to look at the other free programs the company offers. **Pageplus SE** is a great way to get into desktop publishing and easily design professional-looking documents. **WebPlus 6** lets you quickly design and publish stunning websites—no HTML or previous web design experience required! **DrawPlus 4** has all the power and tools you need to create attention-grabbing logos, striking text and artistic masterpieces. **3DPlus 2** can help you add a new dimension to your website graphics, presentations and desktop publishing projects.

**IrfanView** is a very fast, small, compact and innovative freeware (for non-commercial use) graphic viewer for **Windows 9x/ME/NT/2000/XP/2003/Vista** at [www.irfanview.com](http://www.irfanview.com). It works with over 80 different formats including video/audio.

**Audacity** is a free, easy-to-use audio editor and recorder for **Windows, Mac OS X, GNU/Linux**, and other operating systems. You can use Audacity to:

- Record live audio
- Convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs
- Edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3, and WAV sound files
- Cut, copy, splice, and mix sounds together
- Change the speed or pitch of a recording
- And more! See the complete list of features at [audacity.sourceforge.net/download/windows](http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/windows)

There is more software available at [sourceforge.net](http://sourceforge.net), but much is of a more technical nature.

The world’s most popular open source database is [dev.mysql.com/downloads/mysql/5.0.html#win32](http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/mysql/5.0.html#win32).

Luckily, there’s a good anti-virus program available free of charge. **AVG Free Edition** is available to home users. This is not a trial version or a free introduction to something that will later ask for money. AVG Free Edition is free forever. AVG Free Edition is created by **Grisoft**, a producer of both free and commercial anti-virus programs. Get the latest version at [free.grisoft.com](http://free.grisoft.com).



**ClamWin** is another free antivirus for Microsoft Windows. It provides a graphical user interface to the **Clam AntiVirus** engine. **ClamWin Free Antivirus** comes with an easy installer and open source code at no cost. The latest version of Clamwin Free Antivirus is 0.91.2, and judging by the version number is still in beta. Get more details at [www.clamwin.com](http://www.clamwin.com).

Don't forget the excellent free genealogy program at [www.legacyfamilytree.com](http://www.legacyfamilytree.com) version 6.

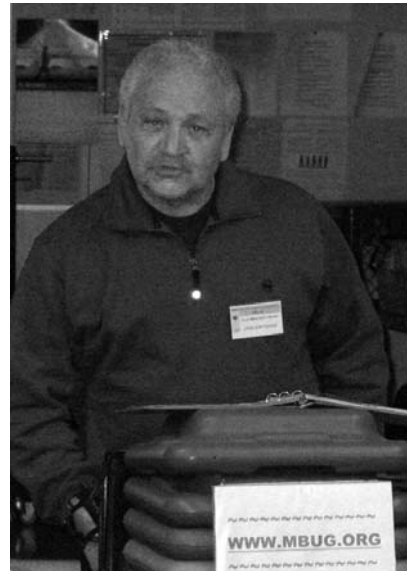
And, of course, the excellent free email system from Google at [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com). Virtually unlimited storage, excellent spam filtering, and no advertising messages attached to your e-mails.

Speaking of Google, how about **Google Alerts** at [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts) for e-mail updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic. Some handy uses of Google Alerts include:

- Monitoring a developing news story
- Keeping current on a competitor or industry
- Getting the latest on a celebrity or event
- Keeping tabs on your favorite sports teams

**Google Checkout** ([checkout.google.com](http://checkout.google.com)) is a new service that makes online shopping faster, safer and more convenient. Shop without revealing your credit card number or e-mail address.

If you have a **PayPal** account (recommended), PayPal has partnered with **MasterCard** to release the **PayPal**



**AT LEFT:** MBUG President **Jack Lewtschuk** leading discussions at the January meeting.

**Secure Card.** It's a virtual credit card that generates a unique card number for each transaction.

Here's how they work: you sign up for the program (**MBNA**, **Citibank**,

**Discover** and **PayPal** all have them) and download their software. Enter your credit card info, and generate a new number whenever you want to make an online purchase.

At [www.enginsite.com/Download.htm#Freeware](http://www.enginsite.com/Download.htm#Freeware) you can download a free FTP (File Transfer Protocol) program for Windows. I use it to transfer files to my website when I need to add or update.

This is only scratching the surface. Google for the functionality that you want and you may find many more. Let me know which ones you like and use or don't like! Send me e-mail to [stephan.bob@gmail.com](mailto:stephan.bob@gmail.com).

### **For Mobile Devices**

**Opera Mini 4** is a **Java**-based mobile web browser. According to **Opera**, you can use it on just about any cell phone that has been made in the past five years,



**AT LEFT:** MBUG Members and Guests listening to announcements before **Bob Stephan's** Alternative Software presentation. Afterwards, participants engaged in "Random Access," an informal question and answer session on computer topics.



**AT LEFT:**  
 MBUG Vice  
 President **Don  
 Slaiter** sells  
 raffle tickets.

**AT RIGHT:**  
 MBUG Program  
 & Publicity and  
 Hospitality  
 Team Member  
**Gary Stephens**  
 pitches in  
 during the  
 "Random  
 Access" Q&A  
 session.



provided you have an appropriate data plan. It also operates on **Palm**, **Windows Mobile**, and **Portable PC** handheld PDAs. Best of all is the price tag: FREE.

Opera works much faster than does **Pocket Internet Explorer**. There are two ways to get Opera Mini 2.0: either go to [www.operamini.com](http://www.operamini.com) from your phone's browser, where you can click a link to download it, or send an SMS message to 96077. In the latter case, you'll receive a text

message back with the tiny applet attached. The application will download, and you'll be set to go.

Also, Google recently released **Google Reader** for reading **RSS** news feeds on the go. The interface is basic, but suitably slim for mobile devices, and each feed item includes a "See original" link that will take you to a mobile version of the originating web site. This isn't the only means of reading RSS news feeds on a handheld or cell phone, but it does work well. The price tag of "free" is tough to beat. You will need a free Google account to use this. You can learn more at [www.google.com/reader](http://www.google.com/reader).

**AT LEFT: Dan Presser**, long-time MBUG Member, and Commander, American Legion Post 41, Monterey, thanks MBUG for the donation\* of a laptop for the Legion; **AT RIGHT: MBUG** Program & Publicity Chairperson **Carolyn Lake**, announces upcoming events.

\*See how to donate to MBUG on page 13. Find out how to join MBUG Listserv to buy, sell and donate, on page 10.

### The Open Disc Descriptions

For a full list of programs go to [theopendisc.com/programs](http://theopendisc.com/programs) for complete descriptions and direct links to all 37 programs. ♦

*Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with 40+ years of computing experience. Send comments and questions for **The Frugal Computerist** to [stephan.bob@gmail.com](mailto:stephan.bob@gmail.com).*

*Bob's home page is at [www.bobstephan.net](http://www.bobstephan.net).*



# Recording AUDIO

by Bart Koslow,  
Software Review

Coordinator, Thousand  
Oaks Personal Computer  
Club, Thousand Oaks CA

## Better Cheaper Alternative

Nowadays it is no problem to record video from a TV broadcast, VCR or other source using a digital video recorder. When I began to look into recording music broadcasts off the air, I found that there were external audio recorders, but they were expensive, beginning in the \$250 range and up. This is twice as much as a similar video recorder.

Since I wanted to create CDs from the broadcast music, and I had DVD/CD burners on my computer, I decided that using my computer was a better and cheaper alternative.

One possibility was a TV/FM card for my computer which may be purchased for \$30 to \$40 and up. However, I found a cheaper method. My stereo system was only a few feet from my computer, so I connected an audio output from my audio receiver to the line in on my computer sound card. I happened to have a cable with two RCA connectors on one end going to a single stereo connector on the other end—just what I needed. I connected the RCA connectors to “audio out” on my receiver and the stereo connector to the “line in” on my sound card on the computer. Now all I needed was a program that could access the sound card and record the input. I hit the jackpot.

## Sounds Like the Right Program

Roxio Easy Media-Creator has just the program. Not only that, but once you complete your recording, Roxio has a basic sound editor that enables editing the sound files, and programs to burn the files to a CD or DVD.

The Roxio program will access a number of inputs besides the “line in.” You may access your phone line, CD player, microphone input, and other inputs including Internet Radio broadcasts received on your computer. You may also decide which type of file format to record, WAV, MP3, or WMA, what fidelity to record, and where to save the recorded file. In addition, there is a recording level meter and control.

Once I turned on my stereo receiver and accessed the Roxio recording program, everything went well. I recorded a long broadcast for a few hours and then my computer told me I had a problem and had to close the Roxio program. I lost my whole recording, but now I knew it worked and tried again. This time I closed all the programs I did not need and disconnected from the Internet to get less interference when I recorded. After editing the recorded audio file, I successfully burned it to two CDs.

If you have music cassettes or even VCRs with music, you may use this technique to transfer music to CDs. If you have cable or satellite TV service with accompanying radio, you may use the above procedure to record from your set top box to your



computer. I have satellite service with SIRIUS radio, and am now recording live and historical music broadcasts that interest me.

## Simple is Best

I next discovered that in many cases I could bypass an external stereo receiver, set top box, or recorder by using **Internet Radio** which may be played using **Windows Media Player, iTunes Player, Real Player** or other free media players. All you do is find a radio station broadcasting music you wish and then enter the URL for its streaming audio broadcasts into the Player software. I did a search using **Google** and found there are numerous Internet radio station locators, found the station I wanted and entered the URL. Now I had the music coming in directly to my computer from the Internet with no intermediary device. In order to save the music, I again resorted to Roxio's **Capture Audio from Sound Card** program and changed the input from “line in” to “stereo mix,” and recorded the broadcast to a file. I edited the audio file, burned it to a CD, and I was finished. It all worked like a charm.

Now, I don't need a stereo receiver, external recorder or even have to add a TV/ FM card to my computer. The simple solutions are always the best ones. ♦ [review@topcc.org](mailto:review@topcc.org) and <http://topcc.org/>

*This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups such as MBUG. All others require the permission of the author (e-mail addresses above).*

# Look Ma, NO HANDS

by Bruce Jacobs,  
Newsletter Editor,  
Phoenix Computer User's  
Group, Phoenix AZ

**This Article Was Not Typed**  
I dictated it using the **Speech Recognition** feature in **Windows Vista Ultimate**. I have been using this feature on and off for certain applications for a while, and it has its good points and its bad points. The intent of the software is to allow the user to

the words "please

save me," the computer must decide whether to add the words to the document I am editing as if I had typed them, or add the word "please" to the document, and then bring up the "save" dialog box to save the document with the name "me".

The program that is attempting to do this has two major hurdles to conquer. It has to recognize



the spoken words correctly. This is helped by the training exercises, but it has its limitations. It must also understand "in context" which of those words are commands and which of those words are to be

part of my document.

As time goes on, you learn to pause before speaking a command. So in the above example of "please save me," I would say the words all together and relatively quickly in order to enter them in my document.

If I wanted to add the word "please" to my document then save the document, I would speak the word "please", then pause for a few seconds, then say the word "save." This would bring up the "save" dialog box and I could continue as if it was a command.



## Faster Than Typing?

As far as the good points are concerned, if I'm working off printed list, or when I know for sure what I want to say clearly, it can be a much faster way of inputting text than for me to type it. Some of that is due to my typing speed (being somewhat slow). I am a faster typist than most "hunt and peck" folks, but I would never be able to keep a job as a secretary (it is also much better at spelling than I am).

If I don't know what I'm going to say in advance, the program does not



## FREE BOOKS FOR REVIEW

This is a 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 at [ReginaDoyle@aol.com](mailto:ReginaDoyle@aol.com) (for publication in the MBUG-PC Newsletter with a copy to me so I can verify for O'Reilly that you've done it).
4. Keep the book.

WHAT A DEAL! For a list of books which O'Reilly offers for review go to [www.oreilly.com/store/newreleases.csp](http://www.oreilly.com/store/newreleases.csp). ♦

S. Jack Lewtschuk, [blacklion@royal.net](mailto:blacklion@royal.net)

facilitate my speaking and then recomposing it later. Some of this may be my fault. I find that I can type up an article by hand and maintain enough control so that in the end I have something coherent. When I just say what I want to, it doesn't always make sense—I spend way too much time revising.

### Training Your Computer

One of the disadvantages is that you need to spend a little bit of time training the voice recognition system. The system works best when you are running a very simple application such as **WordPad** or **Notepad**. It can even be used to some extent in **Microsoft Word**. However, when using an application such as **PowerPoint**, the program spends so much time trying to figure out what possible commands you might want to perform, and not enough time actually recognizing that you are trying to enter words.


Another problem is homonyms. These are words that sound the same but they have different meanings in


English, but for the possibility of some contextual clues. There is no way for the speech recognition software to know whether I want “2”, “two,” “to,” or “too.” During “setup” the program asks you if they can look at the contents of documents on your hard drive to help you determine what word you used most often and in what context. This does help it guess which homonym you want.

### Fixing Mistakes

The final problem is the “editing” feature. Whenever I create a text document, I will want to fix mistakes. There are some commands in the software that will help fix mistakes, but they are limited and clumsy. Some of them, in theory, help prevent mistakes by the voice recognition software in the future. That being said, I still find that editing documents using voice recognition software very frustrating. I always resort to using the arrow keys and the mouse to navigate through the document.

### Mixed Reviews

 Vista Speech Recognition is a helpful tool when transcribing printed text or when words have been spoken into a tape recorder.

 However, for initial composition of documents or editing, I don't find it useful. I don't believe that I could ever learn to use it as a complete, 100 percent substitute for the keyboard and mouse. I would not consider it a replacement if I was disabled. ♦

*[editor@pcug.org](mailto:editor@pcug.org) and [www.phoenixpcug.org](http://www.phoenixpcug.org)*

*This article was provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by member groups such as MBUG. All others require permission of the author (see address above).*

### Register with MBUG Listserv!

Join MBUG Listserv—send messages to all other Members and have them reach you **securely** (monitored to ensure computer-related, virus-free messages sent by Members only). **Get current MBUG announcements** (workshop dates, cancellations, additions), **up-to-date virus & scam warnings, ask and answer computer-related questions, and make computer-related announcements** (buy, sell, or donate stuff)

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



# Peachpit

*Essential books for the creative community*

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The Peachpit User Group Partner Program gives hefty discounts on books ordered online! Click the Bookstore link at [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com), to view books on graphics applications, business productivity, operating systems, digital lifestyle, and more. Discount at point of purchase using group discount coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case sensitive).

# Smart Computing

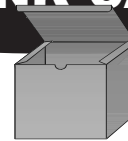
## FREE tech support

to both subscribers and non-subscribers.  
 1 (800) 368-8304 Mon-Fri 7am to 8pm CST  
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 or any time on the Internet:  
[webhelp@smartcomputing.com](mailto:webhelp@smartcomputing.com) or  
[www.smartcomputing.com](http://www.smartcomputing.com)

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 and for every five subscriptions, we get one free for  
 our raffle to fund our educational activities.  
**12 issues for \$29.00 / 24 issues for \$48.00**  
**36 issues for \$64.00**

To subscribe and renew with credit to MBUG, follow  
 the instructions on page 6 in this issue.

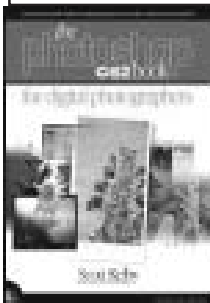
# RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES



## Go Green, Give to Charity, Support Local Industry

Recycling empty computer ink cartridges through  
 MBUG helps prevent non-degradable plastic and  
 metal waste from polluting our landfills. At the  
 same time we make money for our educational  
 programs by selling them to a local (Monterey) ink-  
 refill company. We make it easy for you, too: 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](mailto:ellias@msn.com)



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

## O'Reilly Books and PDFs!

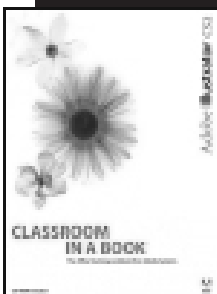
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Want to know  
 more?

Contact:

Jack Lewtschuk  
[blacklion@royal.net](mailto:blacklion@royal.net)



## HERB GOODMAN DISCOUNT COMPUTER MAGAZINE PRICE LIST

	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs
Computer Games	\$15.95	—	—
Computer Gaming World	\$14.95	\$28.95	\$41.95
Computer Shopper	\$16.97	\$32.95	\$47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	\$15.95	—	—
Mac Addict	\$10.97	\$19.97	\$28.97
Mac Life	\$10.97	\$	
Maximum PC	\$9.95	\$18.95	\$27.95
Microsoft System Journal	\$21.95	\$39.95	—
PC Gamer	\$12.95	\$23.95	\$33.95
PC Magazine	(22/44/66 issues per yr.)		
	\$25.97	\$48.95	\$68.95
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Videomaker	\$11.95	\$21.95	—
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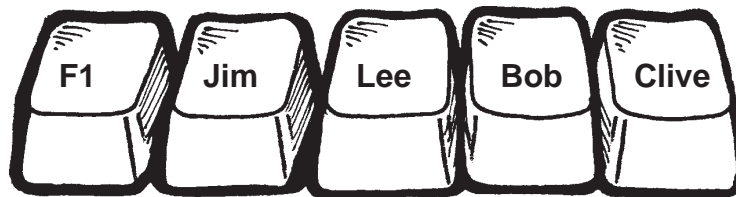
**Herb Goodman** 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton  
 FL 33496 / phone (561) 488-4465 / [hgoodman@prodigy.net](mailto:hgoodman@prodigy.net). Allow 10 - 12 weeks for magazines to  
 start. **Renewals:** Send address label from your  
 present subscription to ensure correct start.  
 Herb will mail a renewal notice 4 months prior to  
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Lee@leekeely.com)  
or call 626-8033

### ■ Bob Stephan

e-mail to [stephan.bob@gmail.com](mailto:stephan.bob@gmail.com)  
or call only between 9am-5pm  
646-1373

### ■ Clive Sanders

e-mail to [simbacli@pacbell.net](mailto: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!)*

## Computer Classes - Winter 2008



### PACIFIC GROVE ADULT EDUCATION

1025 Lighthouse Avenue  
Pacific Grove CA 93950  
(831) 646-6580  
Fax (831) 646-6578

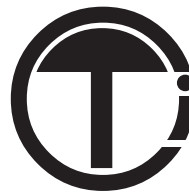
We offer classes and workshops that are designed for the busy adult learner: Dreamweaver, MS Access, Exel 1 & 2, Photoshop Elements, Selling on EBay, Genealogy Online, Picasa, Windows Vista, and more. Online registration available now: [www.pgusd.org](http://www.pgusd.org)

# MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

## James W. Anway

Computer Consultant  
Retired IBMer

Phone: 831 625-5618  
Fax: Call first



**Bob Weisensee**  
Production Supervisor  
bob@ctimls.com

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## COMPUTER POWER

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*Lakelyn*  
graphics

### Carolyn S. Lake

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Monterey, California 93940

phone: 831-643-2023  
email: lakelyn@comcast.net

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- Special projects: document preparation, graphics
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Excel	Publisher	WordPad	E-mail	CD Burning

# FourWinds Travel

Where the good times begin <sup>SM</sup>



Dan Presser, Four Winds Travel

*Dan Presser in Borneo discussing conservation awareness with a local Headman.*

■ **Dan Presser, Owner**

**26080 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Suite 103**  
**Carmel CA 93923-8757 ■ (831) 622-0800**

**Fax (831) 622-9467 ■ CST #1000683-40**

[info@fourwindstravel.com](mailto:info@fourwindstravel.com)

## raffle items wanted

### Cleaning House? Reorganizing? Getting A New PC?

- (1) Donate new or nearly-new computer-related items—books, hardware, or software—all gratefully accepted.\* Call **Don Slaiter** (655-4443) if you have questions, or bring items to any MBUG function through October 10.
- (2) Contact, or tell us about, suitable vendors from whom MBUG might get raffle items.
- (3) Save your lottery ticket money and buy lots of tickets at raffles!

All proceeds benefit our educational activities.

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



## FEBRUARY

### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



**Eileen Begley**

*Workshop Leader*

**Wednesday, February 13**

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center,  
Monterey

Eileen, of RE Sales / Coldwell Banker Del Monte, will treat us to another useful, motivating and creative session using **Photoshop** and **Photoshop Elements**. As always, step-by-step instructions on retouching, enhancing and publishing digital images (just in time to doctor those holiday snaps). Questions in advance? Contact Eileen at 582-9336; e-mail [eb@spyderbytes.com](mailto:eb@spyderbytes.com); or see her great website at <http://www.spyderbytes.com/art.html>. ♦

### HOME NETWORKING

#### SIG 1



**Jeff Helm  
& Joe Asling**

*SIG Leaders*

**Wednesday, February 27**

7:00 to 9:00pm

Canterbury Woods,  
Pacific Grove

Jeff, **Electronics Technician from the National Weather Service**, and Joe, **MBUG Video Projects Coordinator**, will coordinate the first in a series of Special Interest Group meetings on **Home Networking**. They will start by explaining how to set up a basic TCP/IP Network quickly, cheaply, and easily. They will discuss wired and wireless printer sharing, security hierarchy, and move up in complexity and expense to bridging routers and basic troubleshooting. They'll keep it simple and point out common pitfalls. Bring your networking questions (and your own hardware if you wish).

Questions in advance? Contact Joe Asling at [jhasling@comcast.net](mailto:jhasling@comcast.net), or call 641-9560. ♦

## COMING in MARCH

### WEB CONFERENCING

**Nelson French,  
Markus Letwschuk,  
& Jack Lewtschuk**

**Wednesday, March 12**

7:00 to 9:00pm

Canterbury Woods, Pacific Grove



**MBUG's own Nelson French (Program/Publicity Team and Photographer) and Jack Lewtschuk (President-Once-Again)**, will team up with **Markus Lewtschuk (Jagged Earth Graphics)** to introduce us to web conferencing. This is the process of conducting live meetings or presentations over the Internet. Participants connect to each other through downloaded applications on their computers, or through a website meeting address (URL) through which they "enter" live meetings.

Our team will discuss: typical web conferences, how they are sold as a service, ways they are hosted on web servers, estimates of costs, and examples of products (**Adobe Acrobat Connect, Lotus Sametime Connect, Microsoft LiveMeeting, Net Meeting, GoToMeeting, WebEx** and others).

Will web conferencing be a way to schedule more MBUG speakers, unwilling or unable to make the trip to the Monterey Peninsula? Contribute to this exciting discussion! Questions in advance? Contact Nelson at [nfrenchjr@aol.com](mailto:nfrenchjr@aol.com) or call 626-4551. ♦

### HOME NETWORKING

#### SIG 2

**Jeff Helm & Joe Asling**



*SIG Leaders*

**Wednesday, March 26**

7:00 to 9:00pm, Canterbury Woods, PG

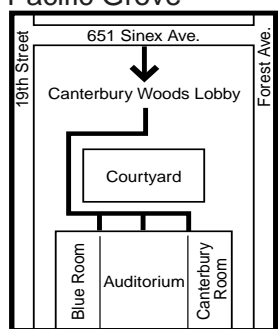
Follow-up to the SIG of February 27 (see information at left). Questions in advance? Contact Joe at [jhasling@comcast.net](mailto:jhasling@comcast.net), or call 641-9560. ♦

# MBUG-PC Calendar of Events - FEBRUARY 2008

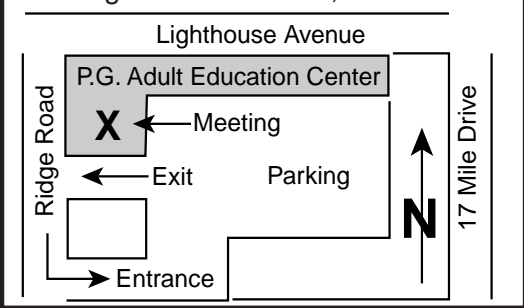
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>JANUARY 29</b> <b>DIRECTORS' MEETING</b> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>			<b>1</b> WindowsXP Review Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Jim Anway	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> "Digital Art & Photography" Hilltop Park, Monterey 7:00 to 9:00pm Eileen Begley	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Home Networking: SIG 1 Canterbury Woods, PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Jeff Helms & Joe Asling	<b>What's a SIG? How can you schedule one? See page 16 for details!</b>		

**NOTICE  
LOCATION  
Hilltop, not CBW!**

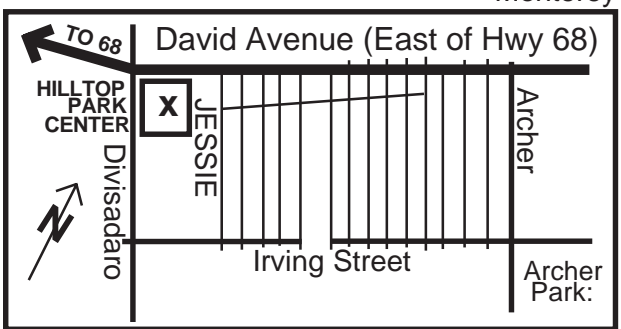
**Canterbury Woods**  
651 Sinex Avenue  
Pacific Grove



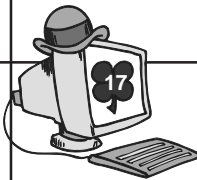
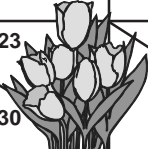
**General Meeting Location  
Adult Education Center, PG**  
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove



**Hilltop Park Center**  
871 Jessie Street  
Monterey



## Tentative Calendar March 2008 *Check the March Newsletter for Final Schedule*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>DIRECTORS' MEETING</b> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> General Meeting Topic & Speaker To Be Announced Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> "Web Conferencing" Canterbury Woods PG 7:00 to 9:00pm French, Lewtschuk & Lewtschuk	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> "Home Networking: SIG 2" Canterbury Woods PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Jeff Helms & Joe Asling	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					



# mbug-pc newsletter

Vol 27, No 2, February 2008

PO Box 51611  
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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

photo: Nelson French MBUG



**Don Slaiter**  
Membership  
Chairman

### THANKS FOR RENEWING

name	member number
Dorothy Berry .....	1078
Richard Binsacca .....	673
Bill Bowles .....	535
James Emery .....	1259
Mary Faulkner .....	1301
Sadri Musavi .....	302
Pamela O'Brien .....	1190
Tony San Filippo .....	1199
William Walden .....	1145
Ed Whitworth .....	1256
Donald Wunsch .....	1261

## MEMBERS CHOICE: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

MBUG now offers 2nd and 4th Wednesdays as "Available for SIG" unless otherwise scheduled. **Special Interest Groups** are a long-standing concept in computer clubs to focus on a specific aspect of computing by holding meetings on one topic over a number of weeks or months.

Now you have a chance to: ■ **Get together in a SIG** (at least six people needed), or ■ **Lead a single workshop** (you're welcome to speak on a computer-related topic yourself, or find a speaker of your choice for a single meeting). All meetings will be open to the public and get full MBUG publicity. Other, or additional, times and locations may be made available.

### Interested In Setting Up a SIG?

Coordinate with MBUG President **Jack Lewtschuk**, at [blacklion@royal.net](mailto:blacklion@royal.net).

### Interested In Holding a Single Topic Workshop?

You can present topics and introduce speakers of your choice and interest. Coordinate with Program & Publicity Chairperson **Carolyn Lake**, at [lakelyn@comcast.net](mailto:lakelyn@comcast.net).

### Monthly General Meetings to Continue as Usual

Additional meetings throughout the year depend on member participation—we hope to hear from you! ♦