



mbug-pc newsletter

Established 1983 / Incorporated 1988

IN THIS ISSUE

MBUG-PC Volunteer Positions..... 2
 MBUG-PC Information..... 2
 MBUG Membership Benefits..... 2
 Things, Thinglets & Thingassos 3
 Write Your Own Computer Review 4
 Register with MBUG Listserv..... 5
 MBUG-PC Supporters 6
 How to Donate Raffle Items..... 6
 Need Computer Help?..... 7
 PG Adult Ed Computer Classes 7
 Create Secure Passwords..... 8
 Wireless Meeting Review 10
 Smart Computing Tech Support 10
 Upcoming Meeting Information..... 10
 Run your own SIG 10
 MBUG-PC Calendar 11
 Membership Expiration Information. 12
 Membership Report..... 12

**DISCOVER
HIDDEN MBUG
TREASURE**



**Jack Lewtschuk
and Star Reieron**
 provide an accurate
 map to guide you to our
 gem of a benefit!
 See page 5!

Virus Detection & Elimination with a Real Star!

You THINK you practice safe computing habits. You only open attachments from people you know ... but, your computer seems to be running slower and slower. Are you virus free? As **Jack Lewtschuk** has been warning MBUG Members via **Listserv** (see page 5), one in nine computers have recently been compromised by the **Conficker/Downadup** “Trojan.” Is there any way to be sure you aren’t infected?

Longtime MBUG Member (card carrying since 1982), Workshop Leader, and stellar teacher/trainer, **Star Reieron** will explain how you can test for the Conficker and other viruses and eliminate them. Star will demonstrate programs she uses in her Computer Power business to eliminate software that slows down computer operation and explain how to download, configure, and run free anti-spyware products including **SUPERantispyware** (www.superantispyware.com), **Malwarebytes** (www.malawarebytes.com), **Ad-aware** (www.lavasoft.com), and **Spybot Search and Destroy** (www.safer-networking.org). She will explain the results produced by each program and what actions to take to eliminate computer pests.

Star has a Master’s in Teaching and a Lifetime California Community College Credential for Computer and Related Technologies. She is an independent consultant, a licensed instructor, a tutor in Internet usage, custom installation support, and in **Microsoft, Corel and Symantec** products among others. She has years of experience at **Monterey Peninsula College** and the **Burroughs Corporation** and has been the successful owner of **Computer Power** (1173 Ninth Street, Monterey) for over 25 years. She’s also been married to a heckuva nice guy for over 40 years (Star says he’s a saint)!

BONUS: in addition to bringing along a friend, bring a memory stick/travel drive/thumb drive/flash memory to the meeting and Star will load it with current versions of the four free programs she uses! Questions in advance? Contact Star at star@computerpowerstar.com or phone (831)373-3919.

**FRIDAY May 1st, 2009
7:30 to 9:30 pm**

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

FREE to MBUG Members and the General Public.

Open Volunteer Positions Available Now at MBUG !

Workshop /SIG Leaders

Run workshops or Special Interest Groups monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly.

Assistant to a Board Director

Back up or assist Programs/Publicity, Newsletter, Hospitality, Membership, etc.

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/any ongoing workshops; write 500-word-or-less reviews or write a regular column on hardware or software review, favorite website, etc.

E-mail or call President **Jack Lewtschuk** at blacklion@royal.net

☎ (831) 757-0123

MBUG-PC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

S.Jack Lewtschuk . . . President 757-0123 blacklion@royal.net
Donald R. Slaiter . . . Vice President, 655-4443 slaiter@pacbell.net
Membership Chairman & Meeting Facilitator
Tom Streater Secretary 657-4249 tom223@pacbell.net
& Newsletter Proofreader
Tony San Filippo Treasurer 655-3225 sanfillipof@sbcglobal.net
Regina Doyle Newsletter Editor 375-4496 reginadoyle@aol.com
Nelson French Program/Publicity 626-4551 nfrenchjr@aol.com
Team & Photographer
Debbie Jones Director-at-Large 402-1810 debbie@debbteaches.com
Carolyn Lake Program/Publicity 643-2023 lakelyn@comcast.net
Charlie Mehler Hospitality 375-0316 mehler@sbcbglobal.net
Team Leader

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, or e-mail info@mbug.com.

DISCLAIMER: No warranty, expressed or implied, is made by MBUG-PC, Newsletter editorial staff, or any individual authors or contributors. This disclaimer extends to all losses, incidental or consequential, from the use of this publication.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent any official position of, or endorsement by, MBUG-PC which is a 501c3 corporation and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor or equipment or software manufacturer.

Copyright © 2009 by the Monterey Bay Users Group-PC. Permission for reproduction in whole or in part is hereby granted for other nonprofit use, provided credit is given to MBUG-PC and to the author(s). Other reproduction without prior written permission of MBUG-PC is prohibited.

SUBSCRIPTION: See back cover for rates.

MBUG-PC VOLUNTEERS

Jim Anway Workshop Leader/F1Help 625-5618 AnwayJ@comcast.net
Joe Asling Video Project Coordinator 641-9560 jhasling@comcast.net
Bill Baumgardt Workshop Leader 372-5500 ww2@comcast.net
Eileen Begley Workshop Leader 582-9336 eb@spyderbytes.com
Bill Bowles Columnist 375-3954 B@bowles.com
Norma Cocklin Canterbury Woods 657-4257 cocklin@att.net
Liaison & Newsletter Proofreader
Joyce Elisha Video Project Team 646-9603 j.elisha@att.net
Ralph Games Meeting Facilitator 394-8876 gamesri@redshift.com
Carole Harris Hospitality Team N/A N/A
Bill Hyler Photographer 624-4456 hyler@comcast.net
Mack Jacobs Photographer 394-6975 mackjacobs@comcast.net
Lee Keely F1 Help 233-6995 Lee@leekeely.com
John Laughton LegalAdvisor 649-1122 john@netlawyers.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 N/A
David Thorp Video Project Team 373- 4623 N/A
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. For advertising information contact Regina at ReginaDoyle@aol.com.



Benefits of MBUG-PC Membership:
Free Computer Help (see page 7 for details),
Monthly MBUG-PC Newsletter,
and a 15 to 20% Discount on
Computer Books at Borders and Walden-
books with MBUG-PC Membership Card
(see Don Slaiter for a card).

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: Secrets of Youth Archives

How Is Your Memory?

Right now you can remember things, but sooner or later this may change. I thought I'd suggest several programs which may help your memory.

Pick any one, or all four, download them ... and try to remember where you put them!

- ◆ www.mozilla.org/projects/calendar/sunbird/download.html
- ◆ www.rainlendar.net/cms/index.php
- ◆ <http://reminderfox.mozdev.org>

Remember, Microsoft Outlook also has a calendar.

Internet Crime

Internet crime is flourishing and MBUG members should be prepared to avoid becoming victims. I know of one member who received a check for a pretty large sum from someone whom he didn't know, and for a reimbursement he wasn't expecting. I'm glad to report that our savvy MBUG member realized at once that it was a scam, and did not cash or deposit the check.

If you are targeted by an Internet criminal, what should you do? Report it at the **IC3 (Internet Crime Complaint Center)** website by going to: www.ic3.gov/default.aspx. This scam prevention website is a joint venture of the **FBI**, the **National White Collar Crime Center**, and the **Bureau of Justice Assistance**. On the IC3 site, you can easily report scams. Once you report it, IC3 will review your complaint, and then forward it to the appropriate international, federal, state, or local agency. In fact, the IC3 will forward it to every agency that has jurisdiction over the particular crime. Though there is no guarantee that every complaint will be investigated, if you do, you should include your telephone number in case IC3 needs to contact you for more in-depth information.

Windows XP Support Ends

As I told you via **MBUG Listserv** (see page 5 if you aren't already signed up), **Microsoft** has ended mainstream support for **Windows XP** as of mid-April. This puts the company in a weird position: XP, which debuted in 2001, is still being sold on PC Notebooks. So, what does this development mean to you? Not much. Mainstream support is used to correct bugs in Windows. XP is going on eight years old. How many bugs can it have by now (that you haven't figured out how to fix with MBUG's help)?

Anyway, Microsoft will continue to close security holes until 2014. Until then, continue to use XP if you like. I'm sure you have it all figured out!

NOVICE CORNER

Watch Out for Active-X

The World Wide Web (www) is becoming more interactive all the time. But that interactivity comes with potential hazards. Some of the biggest are associated with **Microsoft ActiveX** controls.

ActiveX is a plug-in used in **Internet Explorer**. It's used to add interactivity to otherwise static Web pages, so that they can act more like a program than a website. To do this, websites are granted control over parts of Windows. ActiveX allows pages to open **Word** in a browser window. Or a page can play music with **Windows Media Player**. There are thousands of ActiveX controls: they can run virtually anything.

The problem is that criminals can also use ActiveX. They can create their own malicious ActiveX sites; or they can hijack the ActiveX components of legitimate sites. This is a serious security issue for Windows users.

What can you do to protect yourself? You can change or disable your ActiveX settings. The settings to do so are pretty easy to find, and ActiveX is only supported in Internet Explorer.

First, open "Internet Explorer." Next, click "Tools," "Internet Options," then select the "Security" tab. Click on the "Internet" zone, and click "Custom Level." This will open a new window where you'll see a list of settings. Find the "ActiveX controls and plug-ins," and disable all seven of the ActiveX options beneath it.



At your discretion, you can decide to check “prompt” for “Download signed ActiveX controls,” and “Run ActiveX controls and plug-ins and Script ActiveX controls marked safe for scripting.”

Backing Up

How do you back up a car? You shift in reverse, check your mirrors, turn your head to check your blind spot and, gently depress the accelerator, that’s how.

Well, as we all know, computers are more complicated than automobiles. To make it simple, you can backup your hard drive three different ways:

Full Backup

A full backup backs everything on your C-drive, all the files folders. It might include the entire contents of all the drives connected to your system. It is a snapshot of your machine at a particular point in time. You might choose to restore files from that snapshot, or restore the entire machine to the exact state it was in at the time that snapshot was taken.

A full backup has everything, but it can be huge undertaking, and take a long time to accomplish.

Incremental backup

An incremental backup includes only those things that have changed since the previous backup and saves those things into a separate, additional, backup

file or location. So, the first incremental backup is a full backup, just like the full backup, because there is no “previous backup” to compare to. The second incremental backup backs up only those files that have changed since the previous backup was taken.

Because most files on your machine actually never or seldom change, an incremental backup can result in much smaller backup time.

The problem in using incremental backups is one of management. Each incremental backup relies on the backup that preceded it; in order to restore your computer to an arbitrary point in time all the incremental backups must be available to perform the restore.

For example, if you want to restore your machine to a point in time ten days into a month, then you need the initial full backup plus the ten incremental backups to reach that day. Each incremental backup must be restored “on top of” the prior backups until the tenth has been processed.

This could be a lot of work; however, most backup software makes this easier to do. Usually you set it to perform all the backups, full and incremental, and the software will do the work for you. You will use less disk space, but the initial “full backup” and all subsequent “incremental backups” must be available.

Differential backup

Differential backup is a sort of a combination of “full” and “incremental,” but with a fixed starting point. Rather than backing up only the changes from the previous day, each differential backup includes all the changes from the baseline’s full backup. Day two’s backup would include changes from day one to day two. Day three’s backup would include changes from day one to day three. So, each day can be restored from only two backups (the initial full, plus that day’s differential). The only problem is that the differentials grow in size from day to day.

Pull-Down Menu

A “pull-down menu” is a graphic user interface (GUI) that is opened by placing your cursor over the title and

Write a Hardware, Software, Service, or Website Review

Do you have a computer-related experience, good or bad, to share with MBUG?

Your hardware or software experiences with a favorite or most-hated website, program, OS, piece of peripheral equipment, cellphone, digital camera, or “toy” are welcome.

Contact **Regina Doyle**,
Editor MBUG Newsletter
at ReginaDoyle@aol.com.

clicking a mouse button. A list will appear below the title on which you have clicked, and you then select options from that list — like choosing something from a menu. Click around, as this is a good skill to practice. You will be pleased with what you can learn!

Microsoft Virtual PC 2007

So, your operating system is **Vista**, but some of the programs and hardware you ran on XP do not work anymore. This doesn't mean you can't use Vista. Using **Virtual PC**, you can install both operating systems on your computer. Go to: www.microsoft.com/windows/products/winfamily/virtualpc/default.mspx.

However there are some restrictions. Virtual PC runs on **XP Professional, XP Tablet PC, Vista Business, Vista Enterprise, and Vista Ultimate**. And, both Vista and XP must be legitimate copies. If you try it, let us know

how you like it.

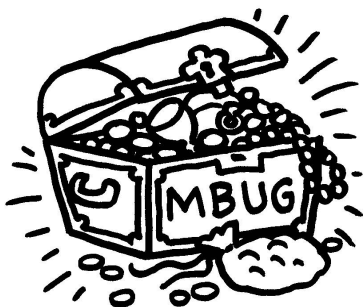
Network Problem?

One of the simplest ways to fix a network connection problem is to let Windows repair the connection by right-clicking the network icon and selecting the option from the menu. In Windows XP you simply click on the “Repair” button, while in Vista you select “Diagnose and Repair” from the pop-up menu. The operating system will go through a series of steps to diagnose and repair your connection if possible, or offer advice if it can't fix the problem.

IMPORTANT: The “network icon” mentioned here is NOT the one on your desktop; it is the one you find in the system tray (information area).◆

blacklion@royal.net

MBUG Listserv: A Hidden Treasure



At our April General Meeting **President Jack Lewtschuk** said that, “*MBUG Listserv is a gateway to a wealth of information.*” Information from the Listserv is previewed by an MBUG member (the originator of the message), and then vetted by **MBUG Webmaster Ed West** to ensure that it *isn't* spam, is computer-related, and that your information is *never* shared. It's like having a secure clipping service for free!

Only MBUG members are eligible for Listserv. Instructions are at the bottom of the first page of the MBUG Website (www.mbug.org) and at <http://listserv.redshift.com/mailman/listinfo/mbug>.

After signing up, whenever you find timely information about a particularly good topic in the **New York Times, San Jose Mercury, Monterey Peninsula Herald**, or whatever source, upload the link, along with a message, in plain text only, to Listserv.

Your e-mail will then be sent to all MBUG Listserv members.

The topics we get from Listserv are timely—like how to tell if you have the **Conficker virus** (see page 1), where to recycle electronics, and information about the latest virus threats, meeting announcements, and scam alerts. Members have found “homes” for leftover ink cartridges and parts for obsolete machines and have provided useful information about the end of **Windows98** updates, the end of **WindowsXP** support, bugs in popular programs (like **Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader**), and other “must know” information to keep safe and up to date.

Listserv members can also ask computer-related questions, get help with specific problems, and give away computer hardware, peripherals, and supplies. If you haven't checked it out yet, here is a nudge to do so. You won't regret it!◆

Star Reiersen star@computerpowerstar.com



MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

James W. Anway

Computer Consultant
Retired IBMer

Phone: 831 625-5618
Fax: Call first

Windows XP & Vista
Trouble shooting, tuning,
& training

Adobe Photoshop & Premiere
Tuning & training



Bob Weisensee
Production Supervisor
bob@ctimls.com

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

Printer of the MBUG-PC Newsletter

(941) 371-2743 / 1-800-533-1031
FAX (941) 379-2933



Star Reiersen

star@computerpowerstar.com

1173 Ninth Street
Monterey CA 93940

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



Carolyn S. Lake

798 Lighthouse Ave, #194
Monterey, California 93940

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

In-home Computer Coaching

- Practical guidance to make your computer work for you
- Sessions geared to the older adult (beginner/intermediate)
- Special projects: document preparation, graphics
- Learn the basics of popular Microsoft programs and more

Word	Outlook	PowerPoint	Internet	Scanning
Excel	Publisher	WordPad	E-mail	CD Burning

FourWinds Travel



Where the good times begin SM



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

raffle items wanted

Cleaning House? Reorganizing? Getting A New PC?

Donate new or nearly-new computer-related items (books, hardware, or software)*

Call **Don Slaiter** (655-4443) or bring items

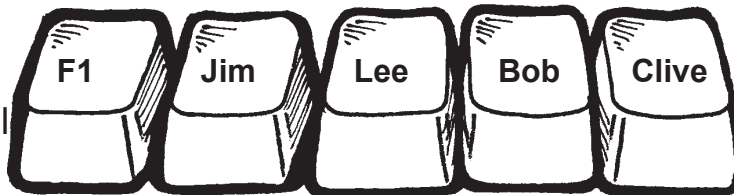
to any MBUG function. **Contact**, or tell us about, suitable vendors from whom MBUG might get raffle items. **Save** your money and buy lots of tickets at raffles!

All proceeds benefit our educational activities.

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

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;
- (2) Ask questions during any MBUG-PC meeting break or Q&A session;
- (3) Leave a message for **Don Slaiter** (831) 655-4443 (voicemail) / or call 657-4154;
- (4) Send 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 233-6995

■ 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).

Computer Classes - 2009



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, Excel 1 & 2, Photoshop Elements, Selling on eBay, Genealogy Online, InDesign, Picasa, Windows Vista, and more.
Online registration available now:
www.pgusd.org



My PayPal's Been Hacked!

(or, "How to Create Stronger, More Secure Passwords")

by Steve Bass,

former Contributing Editor with PC World, Veteran of PIBMUG, Founding Member of APCUG

This article is used by author's permission for APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author.

The e-mail from PayPal said I'd sent \$400 to a gaming firm in Germany. "It's a *dopey phishing expedition*," I thought, and authentic-looking, for sure, but nothing to worry about. The trouble was that when I logged on to PayPal, I really *did* have a \$400 withdrawal. It was clear that someone had my password.

Quick Password Tips

Here are essential things you need to know about password security:

- ◆ Use a password generator, a program that will create a long, complicated password.
- ◆ Don't ever use dictionary words, even if you stick in symbols, like bill\$gate\$. They're very easy to break using simple hacker programs (LOL—thanks, Rod).
- ◆ Use a different password for every important site. Using the same password on every site, especially critical ones, such as banking, is risky. Imagine using your one password on an unsavory, and possibly unscrupulous site. With that golden password, and a few

guesses on your login name—stevebass, steve_bass, sbass—and they're in like Flynn.

Who's Got My Password?

I contacted PayPal (1-888-221-1161), supplied the details, and they opened up a case. My account is frozen and I don't doubt PayPal will credit me for the loss. (As I started editing this newsletter, PayPal reversed the charges.) PayPal is investigating, but I don't think they'll ever find out how someone got into my account, though it was clear the person had my password. The rep said I probably fell for a well-crafted e-mail spoof.

That's a blow to my ego. I see myself as suspicious—verging on paranoid—when it comes to phishing e-mails. What better prize than bragging rights to hacking a **PC World** guy, right? So I'm as vigilant as my dog is when I try to get her to take a pill wrapped in peanut butter. ("Hey, you can't fool me, pal," she probably thinks ...)

If an e-mail—suspicious or not—refers to any of my important accounts and provides a link to click, I ignore the offer. It's safer to manually type the URL into my browser's address field. And yes, I'll cover phishing hassles—and ways to guard against it—in a future newsletter. Password: z24x680uBS4!44

I'm also careful with my passwords and, at least until now, thought they were super stealthy. For example, on PayPal I used four numbers, a symbol, and three letters. According to **Microsoft's Password Checker**, my standard password pattern—1600%wtf—is strong. But it could

be better.

Microsoft says that the most effective passwords are 14 characters and have a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and a symbol or two. For example, z24x680uBS4!44 is strong enough for them to call it "best."

Test your passwords on Microsoft's site and see how well they stand up. Then browse Microsoft's excellent strong passwords: How to create and use them. I promise you'll learn something (<http://tinyurl.com/2e7tmw>).

Password checker

Your online accounts, computer files, and personal information are more secure when you use strong passwords to help protect them.

Test the strength of your passwords: Enter a password in the text box to have Password Checker help determine its strength as you type.

Password:

Strength: **Best**

Note: Password Checker can help you to gauge the strength of your password. It is for personal reference only. Password Checker does not guarantee the security of the password itself.

Use Microsoft's Password Checker (<http://tinyurl.com/ypc3dc>) to test your password's strength. You might be surprised.

Generating Strong Passwords

Creating a strong password is easy, provided you don't try to think one up on your own. There are dozens of Websites that'll create passwords, but I don't use any of them. The last thing I'll do is trust someone online watching me create new passwords. Instead, download **Password Generator**, a freebie at <http://tinyurl.com/4j8e8>, and crank out all sorts of 14-character passwords.



Keeping Track of Your Passwords

I just looked and counted roughly 220 sites I use that require a password. Some site passwords, however, are immaterial. For instance, I use a simple-to-remember word for spots I rarely visit, places such as newspapers that force you to register and log in just to read articles, or tech sites with forum messages.

However, ever since the PayPal fiasco, I've changed every significant password on my system to a 14-digit gorilla.

Remembering all those passwords is a PITA, so you ought to consider using a password management tool. There are lots available. Many people like **KeePass**, a freebie; others swear by **LargeSoft's \$30 Password Manager**. I anticipate easily 100 e-mails—no make that 200—kvetching that I haven't mentioned your favorite. But as far as I'm concerned, **RoboForm** is the best one around, and I've used it since it was first introduced.

RoboForm: Master at Passwords

RoboForm is a \$30 program with more features for password management, privacy, and password

identification than any other program I know. You provide RoboForm with all the vitals you might need to complete a site's form--name, address, phone numbers, and even credit card numbers. When you click the "Fill Forms" button, the program does just that.

I've created multiple identities, each with different info. For instance, I have one with **MasterCard** info, another with **VISA** accounts. I have another identify I call "anonymous" that I use to fill in forms on sites that I'll never visit again.

Click a Website from the **RoboForm Passcard** screen, and RoboForm transports your Web browser to the site, logging you in if necessary. Need an industrial-strength password? RoboForm will generate one for you. And don't worry about security: RoboForm is itself password-protected. The program will also safely send an encrypted password through e-mail to another RoboForm user. (I was recently discussing with my wife the fact that neither of us can function without it.)

BTW, RoboForm foils "keyloggers" (programs that watch keystrokes) because instead of typing, RoboForm inserts characters into form fields.

A summary of RoboForm's features is at www.robiform.com/features.html, a comprehensive FAQ is at www.robiform.com/faq.html, with answers to your most technical RoboForm questions, and a way to compare the free and Pro versions at

www.robiform.com/why-pro.html.

If you need portability, **RoboForm2Go** gives you the same protection when you carry your passwords on a flash drive and use it outside the office. Both the RoboForm program and your password files reside on a USB key, so you can take them from one computer to another. The tool costs \$40, but if you buy it at the same time you get RoboForm, the price drops to \$20. If you dig around, you'll occasionally find discounts at **Google RoboForm discount**.

Siber Systems offers a 30-day trial of both products. They work in all versions of **Windows** and support **IE** and **Firefox**, but not **Google Chrome**, **Opera**, or a few other browsers. Take a look at the compatibility list at www.robiform.com/browsers.html

There's lots more to say about password management, but I'm almost out of space. So while you're hot on the topic, read **Bitmill's** smart series of **Password Security 101** articles. They're less basic than you might imagine, at www.thebitmill.com/articles. ♦

Steve Bass is author of "PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer," **O'Reilly Press** (www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0596008821/ref=nosim/pibmug-20)

This column originally appeared in **Bass's TechBite Newsletter**, a free weekly newsletter, and **Bass's Blog** at www.snurl.com/techbiteblog. Contents copyright 2009, **TechBite, LLC**.



MEETING REVIEW

photo: Nelson French, MBUG-PC



Carolyn Lake
Program & Publicity
Chairperson

**WirelessN, WiMAX,
4G Mobile Networks &
More with John Rowe**

MBUG wireless network specialist **John Rowe** gave us an update on wireless technology at the **April 3 General Meeting** using an interesting visual aid: a website created for the meeting, which we can now all access to review and further explore the detailed presentation. John discussed steps in setting up a wireless network, pros and cons of upgrading to routers with the new 802.11n standard, some intriguing uses of wireless chips in household gadgets, and sources for wireless networks.

To learn more, see the site at <http://www.aaawifi.com/MBUG/>. There are many additional embedded links to follow for more product and network information and interesting discussions of wireless household applications. And if you need expert advice on wireless or any other computer network issue, John is accepting new customers at johnr@aaawifi.com. ♦

lakelyn@comcast.net

Smart Computing

FREE tech support

to both subscribers and non-subscribers.

1 (800) 368-8304

Mon-Fri 7am to 8pm CST

Saturdays from 8am-4pm CST (Nebraska time)

or any time on the Internet: [webhelp@](mailto:webhelp@smartcomputing.com)

smartcomputing.com or

www.smartcomputing.com

Subscribe to *Smart Computing* to benefit

MBUG-PC: use source code **8181** when ordering.
For every five subscriptions, MBUG gets one free to fund educational activities.

**12 issues for \$29.00 / 24 issues for \$48.00
36 issues for \$64.00**

MAY

HOME NETWORKING & SECURITY SIG



Jeff Helms

SIG Leader

Wednesday, 27 May

7:00 to 9:00pm

Canterbury Woods, PG

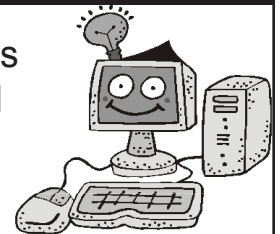
After completing a full SIG series last year, **Jeff Helms**, electronics technician from the **National Weather Service**, returns to present an overview session on basic concepts for setting up both hardwired and wireless home networks. In 2008, with the able assistance of **Joe Asling** (**MBUG Video Projects Director** and **SIG Co-Leader**), Jeff held a series of seven Home Networking and Security Special Interest Group meetings.

This discussion will include TCP/IP connectivity, use of routers, security issues, basic troubleshooting, and avoiding common pitfalls. You need not have attended previous SIGs, and all levels of experience (and curiosity) are welcome.

Jeff has a wealth of information to impart, so bring your networking questions (and your own hardware if you wish). Questions in advance? Contact Jeff at kook@mbay.net or call 899-4805. ♦

*RUN YOUR OWN SIG!


2nd and 4th Wednesdays
are available for **Special
Interest Groups (SIGs)**.
See calendar page 11.



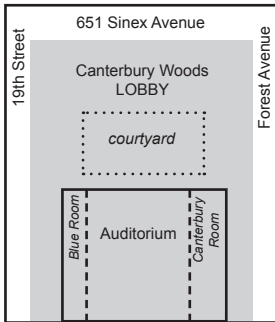
Present topics, conduct discussions, or introduce speakers of your choice and interest in the format of your choice: lectures, demonstrations, tutorials, or discussion of general computer-related topics.

Contact **Jack Lewtschuk**, blacklion@royal.net or
Carolyn Lake, lakelyn@comcast.net.
We'd love to hear from you! ♦

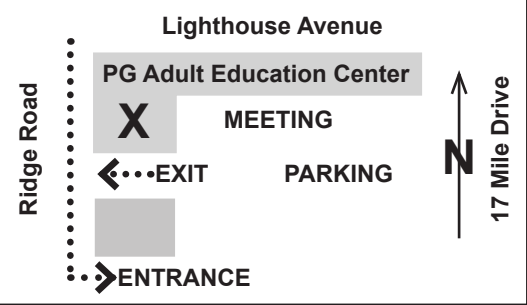
MBUG-PC Calendar of Events - May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* 2nd and 4th Wednesdays open for Special Interest Groups (SIGs) . Your choice of topics, speakers, meeting style on anything computer-related (see details page 10). Contact Jack blacklion@royal.net or Carolyn lakelyn@comcast.net .					1 "Virus Detection & Elimination" Adult Ed Center PG 7:30 to 9:30pm Star Reiersen	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12	13 This date is available for a SIG * at CBW 7-9pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 \	25	26	27 "Networking & Security SIG" Canterbury Woods PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Jeff Helms	28	29	30
31						

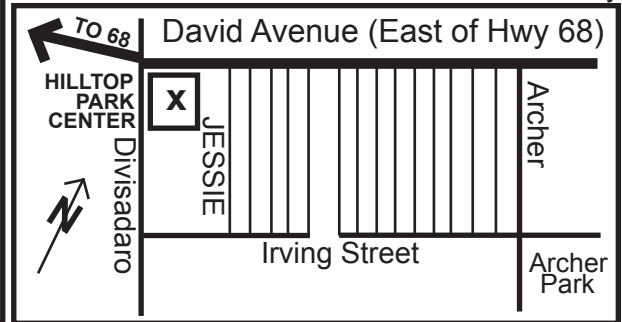
Canterbury Woods
 651 Sinex Avenue
 Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
 871 Jessie Street
 Monterey



Tentative Calendar June 2009 Check the June Newsletter for Final Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 DIRECTORS MEETING Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm Everyone Welcome!	3	4	5 "General Meeting TBD" Adult Ed Center PG 7:30 to 9:30pm Speaker TBD	6
7	8	9	10 This date is available for a SIG * at CBW 7-9pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 This date is available for a SIG * at CBW 7-9pm	25	26	27
28	29	30 DIRECTORS MEETING Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm Everyone Welcome!				



mbug-pc newsletter

Vol 28, No 5, May 2009

PO Box 51611 / Pacific Grove
California 93950
info@mbug.com

MBUG-PC is a member of



Check your Membership expiration date above.

Does it say "Exp: May 31, 2009"?

If so, renew your subscription today!

Enjoy the many benefits of MBUG membership and don't miss an issue of this fine, locally-produced publication. Membership and Newsletter: Electronic \$20, US Mail \$25, both \$35.

Additional tax-deductible donations welcome! Send your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and check to:

Monterey Bay Users Group-PC,

PO Box 51611, Pacific Grove CA 93950

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

photo: Bill Hoyer, MBUG



Don Slaiter
Membership
Chairman



Joe Hognander	1147
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101
Jack Wulfmeyer	963
Michael Zambory	1248

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING

Michael Arpajolu	470
Al Babbit	969
Margaret Bradbury	1162
Ralph Games	884
River & Diana Gurtin/Case	1006
Elbert Hinson	1003
Jim Hinwood	1188
Joe Hognander	1147
Joanne Kelly	970
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101
Gary Sprader	964
Gary Stephens	1200
David Thorp	1241
Tony Vella	1313
Jack Wulfmeyer	963
G. E. Young	1321
Michael Zambory	1248

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

name	member number
Michael Gilmore	1323

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS: YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED

Al Babbit	969
Margaret Bradbury	1162
Ralph Games	884
Elbert Hinson	1003