



mbug-pc newsletter

Established 1983 / Incorporated 1988

IN THIS ISSUE

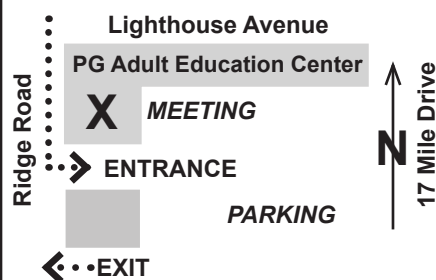
MBUG-PC Volunteer Positions.....	2
MBUG-PC Information.....	2
Things, Thinglets & Thingassos	3
MBUG-PC Calendar.....	3
Your Membership Expiration Date.....	4
Membership Report.....	4
Upcoming Meeting.....	4

WHA-AT??!!



No, you aren't seeing things, and no, you didn't lose part of your Newsletter! This is a special edition of only 4 pages. The May issue will return with the usual great collection of articles, tips, ads, and computer information as Jim Hinwood begins his service as MBUG Newsletter Editor.

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



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BENCHMARKS

Are you getting what you paid for in the speed of your computer? How about your Internet connection—is it fast? Do you suspect that a RAM chip may be flaky or that your hard drive is making that whining sound to tell you it is getting “tired”? Well, there is a program to test for that. In fact, there are quite a few programs, collectively known as “benchmarks,” that measure whether all computer components and services are performing as planned.

At our April General Meeting, **Star Reier**son of **Computer Power** will demonstrate a few of these programs that measure the efficiency of your computer and your Internet connection. Using MBUG’s portable as well as her own, she will demonstrate what **Belarc Advisor** does, as well as the hardware analysis programs available from **Microsoft**, **Passmark**, and **Fresh View**. She will also measure Internet connection speeds with **Speak Easy** and **DSL Reports**. All of the programs Star will demonstrate are free, easily available, and provide a wealth of information about how efficiently your computer is operating.

Star has been in business over 25 years as the successful owner of Computer Power (1173 Ninth Street, Monterey), providing guidance to those who want to get the most from their computers. She is an independent consultant, a licensed instructor (with an MS in teaching), and a tutor (in Internet usage, custom installation support, and in **Microsoft**, **Corel**, and **Symantec** products among other specialties). Her background includes years of experience at **Monterey Peninsula College** and the former **Burroughs Corporation**.

Here is an opportunity to learn about programs you can use to test hardware components, such as the CPU, hard drive, video card, and RAM, and to find out actual (not advertised) Internet speed. Questions in advance? Contact Star at star@computerpowerstar.com or phone (831) 373-3919. ♦

FRIDAY April 2, 2010

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 !

Program Director

We urgently need someone to fill this position: it takes just a couple of hours every month. Former incumbent Carolyn Lake is willing to show you the ropes!

We're looking for a reliable person to contact and schedule speakers for monthly General Meetings.

Workshop /SIG Leaders

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

Meeting Reviewers and Columnists

Attend General Meetings/ongoing workshops; write reviews or 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 Streeter Secretary, APCUG 657-4249 tom223@pacbell.net
Representative
Tony San Filippo Treasurer 655-3225 sanfilippof@sbcglobal.net
Regina Doyle Senior Newsletter 375-4496 reginadoyle@aol.com
Advisor
Jim Hinwood Newsletter Editor 402-2468 ehinwood@msn.com
Nelson French Program/Publicity 626-4551 nfrenchjr@aol.com
Team & Photographer
Carolyn Lake Program/Publicity 643-2023 lakelyn@comcast.net
Team & Newsletter Advisor
Charlie Mehlert Hospitality 657-4125 mehlert@sbcglobal.net
Team Leader

MBUG-PC VOLUNTEERS

Jim Anway Workshop Leader/F1Help 625-5618 AnwayJ@comcast.net
Joe Asling Columnist 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
Ralph Games Meeting Facilitator 394-8876 gamesri@comcast.net
Jeff Helms Workshop Leader kook@mbay.net
Bill Hyler Photographer 624-4456 hyler@comcast.net
Lee Keely F1 Help 233-6995 Lee@leekeely.com
John Laughton Legal Advisor 649-1122 john@netlawyers.com
Gil Preston Library Coordinator 657-4111 gildix@mbay.net
Clive Sanders Consultant 375-5376 simbacli@pacbell.net
Bob Stephan Historian, F1 Help, 646-1373 stephan.bob@gmail.com
Columnist & Workshop Leader
Bill Stockton Recording Secretary 384-6130 N/A
Ed West Webmaster/Listserv Owner 372-6200 captain@mobie.com

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 mbug-pc@mbug.org.

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 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 © 2010 Monterey Bay Users Group-PC. Permission for reproduction in whole or in part is granted for 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.

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 Jim at ehinwood@msn.com.



Benefits of MBUG-PC Membership:

**Free Computer Help,
Monthly MBUG-PC Newsletter,
and a 15 to 20% Discount on
Computer Books at Borders and
Waldenbooks with MBUG-PC Membership
Card (see Don Slaiter for a card).**

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: Bill Hyster, MBUG-PC

TIPS FROM THE NOVICE CORNER

Proper Use of a Thumb Drive

Step 1: Determine the exact amount of data storage needed; use a thumb drive (aka memory stick or flash drive) with sufficient capacity (2, 4, 8 or more gigabytes).

Step 2: Note that a majority of thumb drives are plug-n-play on the latest PC operating systems. Plug the thumb drive into a USB port on your CPU. Wait until the system detects the drive.

Step 3: If you do not get a window with an option to open files on the drive, go to "My Computer." Locate the thumb drive icon and click on it. Doing so will display the contents of the drive. (Note the drive letter.)

Step 4: On your computer, open the location of the files/folders you wish to share using the thumb drive. Copy

or drag the files you wish to store on the thumb drive into its folder.

Step 5: Look for the plus sign (+) on the thumb drive icon if you are transferring files without opening the drive's folder. Release the mouse as soon as the plus sign (+) appears. This signifies that the data has been copied to your thumb drive.

Step 6: Verify that the data/file is stored by double-clicking the file name in the thumb drive Explorer window.

Step 7: Do not disconnect the drive directly from the machine after you have finished storing the files because that may distort the data.



Step 8: Click on the "Safely Remove Hardware" icon situated at the bottom (usually lower right) of the Window's tray. If a list of choices is displayed, click the "Safely remove USB Mass Storage Device" with the same drive letter as your thumb drive. Click "Eject" or the "Remove the Hardware Safely" option when finished.

Step 9: Click on "Stop" if that option appears. Wait until the "It is now safe to remove the hardware" message appears.

Step 10: Unplug the thumb drive from the USB port; the files/folders have been properly stored. ♦

blacklion@royal.net

Tentative Calendar May 2010 Check the May Newsletter for Final Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>"Better Mobility, Sight, Hearing w/Computers" Adult Ed Center PG 7:30 to 9:30pm Alexis Copeland</i>	8
9 	10	11	12 <i>This date is available for a SIG at CBW 7-9pm</i>	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 	25	26 <i>This date is available for a SIG at CBW 7-9pm</i>	27	28	29
30	31					





mbug-pc newsletter

Vol 29, No 4, April 2010

PO Box 51611 / Pacific Grove
California 93950

mbug-pc@mbug.org

MBUG-PC is a member of



Check your Membership expiration date above.

Does it say "Exp: April 30, 2010"?

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



Don Slaiter
Membership Chairman

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

name	member number
Bill Baumgardt	134
Michael Gilmore	1323
Beverly Lewis	1205
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101
Bill Stockton	387
Michael Zambory	1248

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING

Bill Baumgardt	134
Francis Cartier	205
Michael Gilmore	1323
Walter E. Gourlay	1164
Beverly Lewis	1205
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101
Gary Stephens	1200
Bill Stockton	387
David Thorp	1241
Michael Zambory	1248

Coming in MAY

BETTER MOBILITY, SIGHT, HEARING W/COMPUTERS

Alexis Copeland
Friday, 7 May - 7:30 to 9:30pm
Adult Education Center, PG

As we age (and who among us is getting younger?), more of us want to know if there are any computer-based resources out there to help us get around, see better, and hear more clearly. Help is as close as our own **Monterey Peninsula College** in the form of **Alexis Copeland**, Adaptive Technology Specialist. Alexis will explain what the MPC Adaptive Services Program does, and why he uses **Linux** and other programs to enhance learning and living. For questions in advance, e-mail Alexis at ACOPELAND@mpc.edu. ♦

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Frank Stayduhar 1329