



mbug-pc newsletter

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IN THIS ISSUE

MBUG-PC Volunteer Positions.....	2
MBUG-PC Information.....	2
Computer Power: Software Review...	3
Meeting Notes: Cell Phones.....	4
The Frugal Computerist.....	5
Hardware Resources: Ken Schipper.	6
Things, Thinglets & Thingassos	7
How to Donate Raffle Items.....	8
Google Tech Care Package.....	9
Peachpit Book Discounts.....	9
Subscribe to Smart Computing.....	9
Board Issues: April 2011 Update	9
MBUG-PC Supporters.....	10
Register with MBUG Listserv.....	10
Free Computer Help for Members....	11
PG Adult Ed Computer Classes	11
Software Versions: Star Reiersen....	12
Southwest Computer Conference ...	12
Powermat Wireless Charging.....	13
MS Word & Excel Tips	13
April Raffle Prizes.....	14
Board/General Meeting Schedule ...	14
Coming in May: E-Readers & More.	14
Write a Hardware/Software Review.	14
April/May Calendar	15
Membership Expiration Information.	16
Membership Report.....	16
Run Your Own SIG	16
MBUG Mission Statement.....	16

EVERYTHING HARDWARE

The April General Meeting brings us **Chris Czomba**, owner of **Computer Corner** in New Monterey, for our annual review of hardware trends. Chris says, "Not much new this year, unlike 2010 that brought us the **Intel** I-series of CPU chips." Therefore, there will be a bit more emphasis on terms and processes; we can learn what is meant when machines have "hyperthreading" or are described as "dual-channel" with a "front side bus." Is "multicore" just bafflegab or do we really want it? Chris welcomes questions from the audience, so bring the specifications of the purchases you are considering and let him comment on criteria you might want to consider. He will let you know the best ways to spend your money and what is overkill or sales hype.

Chris will also give us a list of the major players in every category: CPUs (brains), chipsets, hard drives, monitors, external hard drives, and RAM. Ask him about USB ports: how can you tell whether you have USB2 or USB3? What size hard drive is now standard in a desktop computer? How about replacing the small hard drive in your laptop? What is a "safe" swap size?

Or you may have questions about upgrading your Windows Vista laptop to Windows 7. What should you be aware of that might make you change your mind? Is 64-bit Windows really that much better than 32-bit? Can you use your 32-bit Office 2003 programs on a Windows 7 64-bit platform? What programs are incompatible with 64-bit Windows? What peripherals won't work with a 64-bit machine? If you have questions like these, this is a meeting you won't want to miss.

Chris is a "home-grown" expert on hardware; born in Ohio but raised in Pacific Grove, he worked a support desk in Silicon Valley for many years then returned to the Peninsula, where he worked with MBUG member Nick Mertes at PCI Tech. With over 20 years in technical support and computer repair, Chris now runs his own maintenance, repair, and sales shop at 535 Foam Street. Questions? E-mail Chris at chris@computercorner.us. ♦

FUN IN THE SUN! at the 18th Annual



**Southwest Computer
Conference**
June 3 - 5, 2011
See page 12 for details.

WEDNESDAY April 13, 2011

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Hilltop Park Center

871 Jessie Street, Monterey

FREE to MBUG Members and the General Public

IDEAS, SPEAKERS, WRITERS – WANTED!

Want more variety? You can make it happen!

Contribute your ideas for speakers, topics, special workshops.

Workshop /SIG Leaders

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

Meeting Reviewers and Columnists

Write a 300-400 word review of a General Meeting.

Write an article on hardware or software, review a favorite website, etc.

Interested? E-mail **Star Reierson** at star@computerpowerstar.com.

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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 Carolyn Lake at lakelyn@comcast.net.



Benefits of MBUG-PC Membership:
Free Computer Help (see page 11 for details),
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).

COMPUTER POWER SOFTWARE REVIEW

Star Reiersen
President

BEWARE OF SCAREWARE



photo: Nelson French, MBUG-PC

The bad guys are getting more and more clever. They grab our attention by offering us “free” scans, which find copious infections, and over time, we have to admit our computer is running a bit slower. It is understandable that people are tempted because these products have names like **Windows Efficiency Manager**, **Internet Defender**, and **Windows Performance Manager**, which are quite reassuring. If we take advantage of the “free” scans, they try to sell us a solution for “just a few dollars.”

Some products sound so helpful. How could **Antivirus 2010** be a virus? Well, it is. In fact, it is one which lured many into its trap. First, it warned us that our computer was infected with spyware and adware. Then it asked us to register our Antivirus Protection. If we still resisted the trap, it next warned us that it had not found any registered antivirus product. After assuring us that their product “helps protect against viruses and other security threats,” they offered to make “recommendations” if we just clicked a Recommendations button. Unfortunately many trusting souls fell into the trap offered by this bogus antivirus program.

The cleverness of the bad guys does not stop at outright lies. Looking at **Lavasoft’s** list of malware, just in the first 150 A’s of their alphabetical list, I found **Adaware Alert** and **AdProtect** and **AdArmor**. Such alluring names. Looking further I found **Malware Protector**, **Spyblaster**, **Spyeraser**, and **Spyguard**. The LEGITIMATE good guys named their software **Spybot Search and Destroy** and **Malwarebytes**. How can you keep them straight?

One policy that I have found to be particularly effective in avoiding rogue security software is to NEVER believe

claims made on-line by the maker of the software. Unless I read about the software somewhere else, I don’t jump at the chance for immediate “protection.” Fortunately, we have many fine sources of information. My favorites include **Consumer Reports**, the **Wall Street Journal** technology section, the **San Jose Mercury** columns, and **Smart Computing** reviews. For even more up-to-date information, you can use **Lavasoft’s Rogue Gallery**, which lists recent threats and lets you type in names that you want to check out. Find the list by going to <http://www.lavasoft.com/mylavasoft/rogues>.

Another defense is to use a legitimate disseminator of quality FREE software, such as <http://www.download.com>. Software from that site is guaranteed to be virus free. CNET sponsors the site and has a good reputation for writing legitimate reviews. They maintain a count of how many people have downloaded each offering and give each software program a rating of up to six stars. One rating summary is the number of stars the editors give the program while another is a summary of the average users’ rating. The site does have ads for software that offer free trials and opportunities to purchase, but many programs are free for home use. Often the free version is fully featured or only slightly crippled with a requirement like manual updates.

My current favorites are **Spybot Search and Destroy**, **Malwarebytes**, and **SuperAntispyware**. I used to use and recommend **Lavasoft’s Ad Aware** and **Webroot’s Spy Sweeper** but for various reasons have found them less satisfactory in their recent editions. What I look for is effective, speedy operation. So many excellent products are free that I now rarely pay for antivirus or antispyware programs.

With legitimate tools in your arsenal and commonsense skepticism about virus alerts that may really be scareware, you should be able to resist the fraudulent promises. In fact, regular use of the legitimate products should keep your computer free of the fake offers. Happy computing! ♦ star@computerpowerstar.com

.....
The Dell Portable setup screens include the following information to urge users to create Data Recovery Disks.
.....
According to Dell, here is why we have data loss:
.....
56% Hardware or system problem
.....
30% Human error or computer virus
.....
9% Software corruption or program problem
.....



MEETING NOTES: CELL PHONES

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY BENEFITS FOR THE HOME USER Star Reiersen Reviewer

At the March General Meeting, **Ken Schipper**, technology services manager at **Graniterock**, shared some of the studies and choices his company has made to increase the safety and efficiency of employees. What came as a surprise to some of us is that apparently one of the corporate goals of Graniterock is also to have FUN. Some of the tools Ken demonstrated for our meeting surely looked like FUN!

With over 300 users to support—30% using desktop computers, 70% using laptops, and as many as 30% using mobile devices every day, Ken's department is always evaluating products that offer services needed by a company that operates in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Monterey counties. One recent evaluation updated their 2006 study that rated cell phone coverage. Once again, **Verizon** emerged as the winner over **AT&T**, **Sprint**, and **T-Mobile**. With test phones "loaned" by companies who want to do business with Graniterock, employees rated such things as coverage, ease-of-use, battery life, ruggedness, dropped calls, etc. Ken shared some interesting details from their research—apparently cell towers are directional and can be "tweaked." Also, **Apple** does not loan **iPhones**. You want to test 30 iPhones? You BUY 30 iPhones.

For safety's sake, Graniterock employees use the **BlueAnt S4** hands-free speaker and microphone combination. It can be mounted on the visor of any vehicle and is completely voice controlled. Just think: no more tickets or near misses for using a cell phone from your car. The BlueAnt S4 sells for \$99 at **Best Buy**.

Other details Ken mentioned are that Sprint offers a "Push to Talk" feature. Verizon's version was renamed "Push-Wait-Talk" by the evaluators. According to Ken, both AT&T and Sprint have improved their service areas since Graniterock's earlier study, but Verizon still has the best coverage.

Verizon and AT&T's iPhones are still being studied with approximately 25 criteria under investigation. The list includes battery life and performance in bright sunlight—apparently this can be an issue with some units.

When asked what he personally uses, Ken commented, "I LOVE my iPhone." When an audience member said, "Yes, but what about the **Droid**," Ken said, "You never hear anyone say, 'I LOVE my Evo.'" Another deeply entrenched corporate tool is **Research In Motion's (RIM) BlackBerry** line. The fact that the BlackBerry requires a \$5000 additional server seemed to be a turn-off for Ken, but Graniterock still has about 15 diehard BlackBerry users.

Another gadget Ken described as making his life more organized and easier is the **Visioneer RoadWarrior** scanner, which allows him to scan in every piece of paper that he would otherwise have to file. Ken showed us how he uses this scanner and a netbook running **Microsoft's OneNote** to convert handwritten notes into searchable text documents that are immediately filed away in "cabinets" that can easily be backed up. Quite impressive! The RoadWarrior is listed at \$176 on **Amazon**. It is about the size of a 3-hole punch. OneNote sells separately for \$80, and netbooks by **Dell**, **Asus**, **Samsung**, and **HP** range \$300- \$400 with realistic amounts of RAM. (Fully accessorized, ruggedized netbooks can run more, of course.) Think of all the filing cabinets that could be eliminated if we all had this combination . . . and knew how to implement the tools.

Ken's demonstration surely opened our eyes to some new possibilities. Thanks, Ken! Hope you will come back soon. ♦

star@computerpowerstar.com

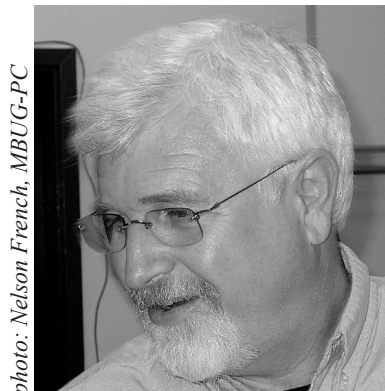


photo: Nelson French, MBUG-PC

Ken Schipper of Graniterock discussed cell phones and cellular modems at the March 9 General Meeting. See page 6 for list of hardware Ken reviewed.

THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST

photo: Bill Hyster, MBUG-PC



Bob
"I Don't Do
Windows"
Stephan
Columnist

THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST

Can You Help Me?

Recently I came across the need for a video editor. I have home movies that have been transferred to DVDs. Some of those are ones my immediate family and I have taken over our lifetime and others are ones that were sent to us by other family members. They are, of course, priceless, but they will lose their value over the generations unless they can be documented and family members identified in some way. Many of these are from old, silent 8mm cameras so looking at them does not give much of a clue as to who is being seen and where they are. There is a certain amount of documentation on paper that goes along with the movies, but it is sketchy and prone to being lost or misplaced as well as difficult to follow while watching the video.

I am the patriarch of our family and probably have the most extensive and accurate family history and memory in my own head FWIW. I want to impart at least some of that memory to the videos so that they will have some identification for as long as they last, and hopefully to be transferred to more modern media as times change. However, this is mostly a one-time project that I don't expect to be doing over a lengthy amount of time. It will also be a simple project as it will not involve anything fancy in the way of special effects. Consequently, and due to my frugal nature, I don't want to buy an expensive, complicated software package to do this work. All I need to do is add in some screens of text to explain when, where, and who, and perhaps edit out some of my glitches in handling the cameras.

I have always been able to find free or low cost software for most of my other projects. That has worked very well for what I have wanted to do, so I started looking for that type of video editor. It's not that there aren't any such available, it's just a question of which one to try as quite a few show up when Googling. This is where I would be glad to hear from you if you have any ideas or experience with such software. The operative word is free or low cost as well as easy to use.

I have found one that sounds good but have not had time yet to try it out. One I found that sounded good on the company web site is VideoPad at tinyurl.com/4qeuppg. It is a commercial product but is free for non-commercial use. There are versions for current releases of Windows as well as Windows 2000 and older versions. My desktop computer, a home-built one, is running Windows 2000, so I downloaded the W2K version but have not had time to get into using it yet. I hope to do so RSN (real soon now).

So, if you have had any experience with this product, or know of one that you would personally recommend, I would be glad to hear from you. Remember, I want to keep this a simple project and am not at all interested in creating a Hollywood production, so a program that will easily do some of the basic editing chores is all I need.



This month I present here brief précis of several articles so that you can preview the subject matter and decide for yourself if you want to read the full article. If you do, I give you a link to use to get there quickly. Some of these articles have photos and videos that are inconvenient to republish here. The following articles are from Eastman's *Online Genealogy Newsletter* and are copyright by Richard W. Eastman. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at www.eogn.com.

The Best Way to Archive Anything: L.O.C.K.S.S.

First posted online on Sunday, March 13, 2011, at tinyurl.com/45vvez5.

In recent years, dozens of articles have appeared in this newsletter and in all sorts of other genealogy



publications claiming to tell how to preserve documents, family photographs, and other information. I don't think that any of the articles are "wrong," but it strikes me that very few of them ever described the most effective storage method of all: **LOCKSS**, an acronym for "**Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe.**"

Video: The Flip-Pal Portable Scanner

First posted online on Sunday, March 13, 2011, at tinyurl.com/4g3oxtx.

At the recent **RootsTech** conference in Salt Lake City, the busiest booth in the exhibits hall usually was at the company selling a one-and-a-half-pound battery-operated scanner called the **Flip-Pal**. This scans up to 4-inch-by-6-inch photographs or documents. In fact, you can scan larger photos and documents by making multiple scans. The included software for **Windows** and **Macintosh** will automatically "stitch" the images together into one. The scanner doesn't even need an attached computer when scanning. The images are stored on a tiny **SecureDigital** memory card which can then be later removed and inserted into or connected to your computer for processing.

How to Save Time Reading This Newsletter and Other Web Sites

First posted online on Tuesday, March 8th, 2011 at tinyurl.com/4je6ldv.

Using an **RSS** newsreader will save a LOT of time when reading this newsletter [reference is to Eastman's newsletter] as well as saving time on thousands of other web sites.

Almost all blogs are available in RSS format, as are thousands of news sites, weather reports, stock market services, sports reports, and other web sites that provide information that changes or is updated frequently.

Accuracy of Genealogy Information on the Internet

First posted online on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at tinyurl.com/6287nmg.

I will be the first to agree that there is a lot of inaccurate **SECONDARY** information on the Internet. But let's not overlook the fact that the Internet also brings us

images of **ORIGINAL** source records as well.

Want to see the record of your great-great-grandparents in the U.S. Census? Click with your mouse and look at the **IMAGE** of the original entry without leaving your home. Want to see a naturalization record? **IMAGES** of many of them are available online. Would you like to see granddad's World War I Draft registration form that lists information about parents? The **IMAGE** of the original document is available online. Want to see an obituary? Several online services provide **IMAGES** of the newspaper obituaries. And how about the Southern Claims records, many of which were never available before on microfilm? **IMAGES** of each record are now available online. ♦

Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan has over 40 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that the Frugal Computerist can respond to by e-mail to stephan.bob@gmail.com. Bob's home page is at bobstephan.com.

Ken Schipper's Hardware Resources

(See also page 4.)

Visioneer RoadWarrior Scanner: \$176 Amazon.com

Bluetooth Blue Ant S4: \$99 <http://www.myblueant.com/index.php?siteversion=en-us>

Drive Case Sans Digital USB 3.0/eSata drive case: \$65 <http://www.sansdigital.com/mobilestor/ms1utp.html>

Extra Case For Above: \$40 <http://store.sansdigital-shop.com/accmstraycase.html>

Verizon MiFi 3G: Free with contract <http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/store/controller?&item=phoneFirst&action=viewPhoneOverviewByDevice&lid=//global/plans/mobile+broadband+plan>

Kensington Universal Docking Station: \$99 http://www.amazon.com/Kensington-Universal-Notebook-Docking-Ethernet/dp/B002EREH74/ref=sr_1_sc_2?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1299800519&sr=1-2-spell

Kensington Universal Multi-Display Adapter: \$65 http://www.amazon.com/Kensington-Universal-Multi-Display-Adapter-Black/dp/B002F9NSMQ/ref=sr_1_sc_1?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1299800519&sr=1-1-spell

AT&T MicroCell: Visit AT&T store.

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist &
Past President



photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

The United States No. 1 in Spam

Sophos reports in its recent “Dirty Dozen” report that the United States is the world’s leading source of spam, accounting for 18.6% of spam during Q3 2010, or roughly one in five junk e-mails. That is 2.5 times more than second-place India (7.6%) and represents a 3.4% increase from the 2010 Q2 total. Sophos points out that nearly all spam comes from botnets.

Botnet

Also called a “zombie army,” a botnet is a large number of compromised computers that are used to create and send spam or viruses or flood a network with messages as a denial of service attack. The computer is compromised via a Trojan that often works by opening an Internet Relay Chat (IRC) channel that waits for commands from the person in control of the botnet. There is a thriving botnet business selling lists of compromised computers to hackers and spammers.

High-speed Internet Use Increases in the US in 2009

At home on broadband	64%
Don't use the Internet	23%
Use Internet not at home	8%
Use Internet at home with dial-up	5%

USB (Universal Serial Bus) 1-2-3

USB 1.0 was developed in 1994 and became readily available in 1998. The current generation is USB 2.0. It has been around for more than nine years—how time flies!

Now USB 3.0, or SuperSpeed USB, was released in 2008. While it isn't commonplace yet, it has a lot of potential. USB 3.0 has a transfer rate of up to five gigabits per second. That's nearly 10 times faster than USB 2.0. Speed isn't the only difference, but it is certainly the most noticeable.

If you are big into digital media, this is a no-brainer. With earlier versions of USB, transferring large files can take a few minutes. With USB 3.0, you can transfer large files in a few seconds.

Your USB Devices and USB Plugs

How many USB devices do you use? How many USB plugs does your computer have? Are some of your USB plugs in the back of your desktop computer?

A USB HUB might be what you want; it will provide you with multiple plugs and can be placed within easy reach. If you intend to plug in a large number of USB devices, then it is worth considering a powered USB hub.

Powered USB hubs:

Some (but not all) devices will draw power from a USB port. This is great because it means the device will not need to use its own power lead. The downside to this is that the device will need to draw power from the computer's own power supply unit. While this is not normally a problem with one or two USB devices, if you attach several power-thirsty gadgets to a computer, then you might run into power supply issues. This may result in erratic behavior of your computer or the USB devices attached to it!

A powered USB hub solves this issue by having its own power source so that it can power the most electricity-hungry USB devices. A powered USB hub also generally offers much higher data transfer speed between the USB device and the computer. When buying a powered USB hub, make sure it has enough USB ports for your requirements! Most powered hubs contain either four or seven ports, which is probably enough for most users. Here is more information about choosing a 7-port USB hub.

Unless you have a very, very old computer and have not changed the USP card to USB 2.0, your computer is probably USB 2.0 configured (USB 3.0 is coming, but it will be a while). Now all you have to do is make sure



that the power cord is the proper length for your setup.

Pew Internet & American Life Research Project

More at <http://pewresearch.org/topics/internetandtechnology/>.

Gadget ownership:

14 Oct 10: The cell phone—by a wide margin—is the most commonly owned piece of personal technology. Three-quarters of the public own a computer and nearly half own an MP3 player, while e-books remain a niche item. The average adult owns three of the seven gadgets asked about in the survey.

Attention shoppers: online product research:

29 Sep 10: Fifty-eight percent of Americans have researched a product or service online. Nearly six-in-ten adults have done research online about the products and services they buy, and about a quarter have posted comments or reviews online about the things they buy.

Laptops Be Prepared

According to the FBI, millions of laptops are stolen every year (almost 7 million in 2005 alone). With mobility comes danger. When a laptop is stolen, the loss of the machine is just part of the problem; your laptop likely has tons of personal information.

This is why **Prey** (preyproject.com) was developed. It is a free program that works to track your laptop should anyone try to steal it. As soon as the thief turns on the laptop, Prey will try to broadcast its location. Even if it is not connected to the Internet, Prey will try to find the nearest open hotspot. All you need to do is send the laptop a message from your phone or another computer.

Prey gives you a slew of other features as well. From

another computer you can take screenshots to see what is happening on the screen of your laptop. You can hide personal information like stored passwords remotely. You can even activate the webcam to get mug shots of the criminal. Cost: Free. System: Windows XP, Vista, Win7, Mac OS X.

NOVICE CORNER

Handy MS Word Keyboard Shortcuts

Frequently used:

CTRL+C copies a highlighted section of text.

CTRL+V pastes a copied section of text.

CTRL+X cuts any highlighted text; generally, the next step would be to paste the cut section somewhere else.

How about these?

CTRL+D brings up the Font window; from here you can modify font, text size, character spacing, and styles.

END moves the cursor to the end of a line.

CTRL+K brings up the Hyperlink window.

SHIFT+F7 brings up the Thesaurus window.

CTRL+S saves the open document.

Dust = Heat = Enemy of Electronics

Even if your business or home is not in a dusty area, your computers can still fill up with an amazing amount of dust, hair (especially if pets are around), and dirt, thanks to the intake fans. It will blanket the PC parts and act as insulation, preventing hot chips and drives from dissipating heat as they are supposed to do. Carefully open your computers and blow out the dust with compressed air every six months or so. While you are at it, buy some filters made expressly for computer fans. Common sizes are 80mm, 92mm, and possibly 120mm (measured top to bottom or side to side, not corner to corner). ◆

blacklion@royal.net

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.

Spotted in the

AARP™ Bulletin

Google Tech “Care Package” for Mom and Dad

The March 1, 2011, issue of the *AARP Bulletin* includes a great tip for those of us who prefer to take our computer instruction visually and in concise, step-by-step doses. On pg. 4, Cathie Gandel, a freelance writer in Bridgehampton, N.Y. reports on TeachParentsTech.org.

To quote Gandel, “Every time Jason Toff, a product marketing manager at Google, went home to Pennsylvania, his parents gave him a “tech to-do” list. “Then I discovered

it was a common situation among my coworkers,” he says.”

She writes that the solution became “a website created by Google that offers more than 50 two-minute videos with step-by-step instructions on everything from how to cut and paste copy to creating a blog.”

You may enjoy these short tutorials yourself, but the site is set up so the user can also click on topics to create a tech support “care package”; then the selected videos can be e-mailed to parents, friends, whomever it is who keeps asking us those computer questions! ♦

*Thanks to Nelson French for spotting the AARP article
See also www.aarp.org/bulletin.*



DISCOUNT DEALS FOR MBUG MEMBERS

Peachpit Press gives MBUG Members 35 percent off the list price of its books.

At checkout, before entering your credit card information, enter coupon code **UE-23AA-PEUF** (case-sensitive).

This is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other offers.

For books, e-books, training aids, reviews, and more, go to www.peachpit.com.

Smart Computing

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MBUG recommends *Smart Computing* to our members. It's a great source of information and has been a generous donor to our educational program for many years.

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7 am to 8 pm; Saturday, 8 am to 4 pm CST.

BOARD ISSUES:

APRIL 2011 UPDATE

Change is a part of life, right? That includes a couple of changes to the Board; here is the current plan as we go to press. Say “Hello” to our Board members (the ones with the pink badges) at the next meeting and let’s get acquainted. ♦ lakelyn@comcast.net

MBUG-PC Board of Directors

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FYI: MBUG members are always welcome to attend Board meetings; it’s a good way to give your feedback and to check out volunteer opportunities. See the schedule on page 14.



MBUG-PC SUPPORTERS

James W. Anway

Computer Consultant

Retired IBMer

Phone: 831 625-5618

Fax: Call first

Windows XP - Vista - Windows 7

Trouble shooting, tuning,
& training

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Tuning & training



Bob Weisensee
Production Supervisor
bob@ctimls.com

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COMPUTER POWER

Star Reierson

star@computerpowerstar.com

1173 Ninth Street
Monterey, CA 93940

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

FourWinds Travel



Where the good times begin SM



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

Lakelyn
graphics

Carolyn S. Lake

798 Lighthouse Ave, #194
Monterey, California 93940

phone: 831-643-2023

e-mail: lakelyn@comcast.net

In-home Computer Coaching

- Sessions geared to the older adult (beginner/intermediate)
- Special projects: document preparation, graphics
- Learn the basics of popular Microsoft programs and more

FREE: MBUG LISTSERV

If you are an MBUG Member, you are entitled to **JOIN MBUG'S LISTSERV.**

Send messages to all MBUG Members.
Receive current MBUG notices and virus
and scam warnings.

Ask computer-related questions.

Make computer-related
announcements.

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



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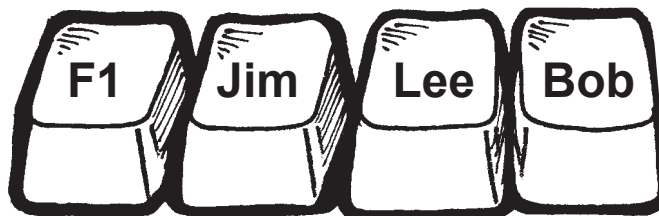
*Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Weddings, more!*

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 (voice mail) 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 2 pm to 5 pm 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 9 am-5 pm
646-1373◆

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).



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

Computer Classes - 2011

Classes and workshops designed for
the busy adult learner:

Picasa, Beginning Photoshop,
Photoshop for Photographers, Digital
Cameras, Dreamweaver, MS Access,
Excel 1 & 2, Photoshop, Selling on eBay,
Genealogy Online, InDesign, Windows
Vista, and more.

Register online: www.pgusd.org



COMPUTER POWER SOFTWARE VERSIONS

Software Versions Summary

*	Program Name	Version
*	Adobe Flash Player	10.2
*	Adobe Reader	9.4.3 or X
	Adobe Shockwave Player	11.5.9
*	Apple iTunes	10.2.1
	Apple QuickTime	7.69
	Belarc Advisor	8.1
*	Google Earth	6
	Malwarebytes	1.5
	Microsoft Defender	1.1
*	Microsoft Security Essentials	2.0
*	Mozilla's Firefox	4.0
	Secunia's PSI (Personal Security Inspector)	2
*	Skype	5.1
*	Sun/Oracle's Java	6.0.24
	SuperAntiSpyware	4.47

* Indicates a change this month

Why Bother?

This information is provided to MBUG members because patched and updated software is often less vulnerable to viruses and malware. Recently, hackers have been particularly inclined to attack Adobe Reader, Adobe Flash, and Sun/Oracle's Java.

Not sure what version you have?

Remember, most programs reveal their version number if you launch them and then click their "Help" menu. One of the items in the drop down list that results will be a line that starts "About" followed by the program name. That is how you can tell what version number you have. However, this method doesn't work for Adobe Flash and Sun Micro/Oracle's Java versions because they don't run as separate programs. You may have a clue that you need to update one or both if you are not able to open certain web pages. They are both programs that run along with your web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, etc.) to "enhance your web experience" by providing animation and

interactivity on web pages. Java's claim to fame is that it works on phones AND computers—in other words, it is cross-platform so that web pages look and operate the same no matter what device you use to access them. One way to tell what version you have of Flash and Java is to note what the control panel lists in the Add/Remove program list (Windows XP) or Programs and Features list (Vista and Windows 7). ♦

star@computerpowerstar.com

FUN IN THE SUN & COMPUTERS, TOO

Are you ready for SW 2011?

18th Annual Southwest Computer Conference, June 3, 4 & 5, 2011

*Town and Country Resort & Convention
Center, 500 Hotel Circle North,
San Diego, California*

Early Bird Registration: \$75 by May 16
Registration: \$100 from May 17

Hotel special group rate: \$103/room,
single or double occupancy, before May 1;
rate valid for May 30 - June 8.

Discounted parking \$4 for attendees.

For reservations call 800-772-8527

(mention Southwest Computer Conference)
or register online at our website

www.theswcc.org.

Enjoy a mini-vacation & get a great computer education!

Join us for the premier networking and
education event for technology users -
Windows, Mac, Linux - all are welcome
for a weekend of fun, camaraderie and
education. We look forward to seeing you in
June at Southwest 2011!

Questions? See www.theswcc.org or
JudyTaylour@theswcc.org.

*Interested in being the MBUG-sponsored
Representative? Contact Star Reiersen at
star@computerpowerstar.com*

Wireless Charging with Powermat

by **George Harding**,
Tucson Computer Society, AZ

March 2011 issue, TCS eJournal
www.aztcs.org
georgehardingsbd@earthlink.net

You probably carry at least one portable device, a mobile phone. To keep it charged, you need a charger for a home outlet or one for the car. When you travel, either locally or away from home, you must remember to carry one or both of these chargers. It's cumbersome, but that's the price of a mobile device.

Or maybe not! **Powermat** has a solution for any of your mobile devices, and it doesn't require a charging cord. How do they do this? You charge a Powermat unit, and then carry it with you wherever you might be.

Just set your mobile device on one of the panels of the Powermat and your device is charged wirelessly by induction. What does that mean? You don't need to know. It just works.

I received a Powermat for evaluation. It is a small 3" x 3" tri-fold device. It unfolds into three connected panels, two of which are charging panels. The third section is the storage battery that allows the device to be used wirelessly.

You first charge the Powermat with a wall outlet. Then fit your mobile phone or other device with a receiver tailored for your specific type of device. Then simply place

the mobile device on the Powermat. You'll hear a beep to indicate that connection is made and that your mobile device is charging. Another beep sounds when your device is removed.

The tri-fold Powermat I received is one of several styles available. Some are smaller, some come with a **Power Cube**, a unit that connects to your mobile device and is what is placed on the Powermat.

I tried out my wife's **BlackBerry** on the Powermat. The unit comes with a Power Cube which you connect to the BlackBerry, then place it on the Powermat to charge. The Power Cube is about one and a half inches square and has a white, smooth surface. One corner of it has a wire attached with a connector with adaptable heads for almost any receptacle available today. The wire fits neatly into a groove around the edge of the Power Cube when not in use.

I also received a receiver for my **iPhone**. A receiver is a shell into which the iPhone fits. It has a compatible plug in its base and a unit on its back similar in function to a Power Cube. Once the iPhone is in the receiver, you need only place it on the Powermat to charge it.

Powermat announced at **CES** an agreement that will provide wireless charging capabilities in airports, through the installation of Powermat units in terminal seating. Airports are difficult environments in which to obtain recharges. This solution will benefit the many travelers with mobile devices that need charging in an airport. In addition, Powermat will be working

with **GM** to incorporate in their cars, starting with the **Chevy Volt**. Powermat is a charging solution for most mobile devices, without the use of wires. Price: tri-fold \$130, receiver \$40. For more information see www.powermat.com. ♦

Microsoft Word & Excel Tips

Inserting the User's Address

Word automatically maintains several items of information about you, as a user. One such item is your address, which is changed on the User Information tab [see Note] of the Options dialog box. If you want to automatically insert the user address in your documents, you can follow these steps:

1. Position the insertion point where you want the address inserted.
2. Make sure the Insert tab of the ribbon is selected.
3. In the Text group, click Quick Parts. You'll see a drop-down menu.
4. Choose Field. Word displays the Field dialog box.
5. In the Categories drop-down list, choose User Information.
6. In the Field Names list choose UserAddress.
7. Click on OK to close the dialog box and insert your field. ♦

[**Note:** Click File tab > Options > Advanced > General; enter address in Mailing Address box.]

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RAFFLE PRIZES

Wednesday
APRIL 13,
2011



👉 **WIN GREAT PRIZES** 👈

Cross Cut Shredder
 Logitech Shredder
 Mobile Headset/Mike LifeChat LX2000
 MS Web Cam VX2000
 Photo Card 8 GB SDHC
 Monitor Wipes & Dust Destroyer
 2 Reams of Paper
 Scan Jet Scanner 5270 (used—not
 usable for Windows7)
 ...plus giveaways...

*Tickets \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 15 for \$10. Raffle
 proceeds benefit MBUG educational activities*

MBUG MEETINGS 2011

GENERAL MEETINGS
Hilltop Park Center
 871 Jessie Street, Monterey
 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

*The Board of Directors meets at Canterbury Woods
 at 7:00 p.m. in the Canterbury Room
 (next to Auditorium).*

Meeting Schedule 2011

MONTH	BOARD Tuesdays	GENERAL Wednesdays
April	5	13
May	3	11
May	31	
June		8
July	5	13

Board meetings have moved to **Tuesday** nights.

Coming in MAY

ELECTRONICS: E-READERS & MORE

**Travis Byers &
 Travis Petrica**

Wednesday, 11 May

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey

At the May General Meeting, **Travis Byers**, a computer specialist, and **Travis Petrica**, mobile specialist, from **Best Buy**, will update us on some of the latest electronic devices in their nearby Marina store. They will discuss and demonstrate the **Apple iPad 2** (just released for sale March 25), **Motorola XOOM**, **Samsung Galaxy Lineup** (there are many), e-readers, and time permitting, laptop home networking.

Birthday coming up? Know someone graduating? Here is a great opportunity to do a little comfortable comparison shopping and make your own wishlist. ♦

👉 RAFFLE IDEAS WANTED 👈

Is there a computer accessory you would like to see offered at an MBUG Raffle? Contact Don Slaiter at 655-4443, or e-mail slaiter@pacbell.net.

Write a Hardware, Software, Service, or Website Review



Have a computer-related
 experience, good or bad,
 to share with MBUG?

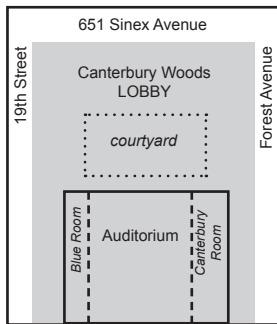
Your hardware or software experiences with a favorite or most-hated website, program, OS, piece of peripheral equipment, cellphone, digital camera, or "toy" are welcome.

Contact **Carolyn Lake**
 Editor, MBUG Newsletter
 at lakelyn@comcast.net.

MBUG-PC Calendar of Events - APRIL 2011

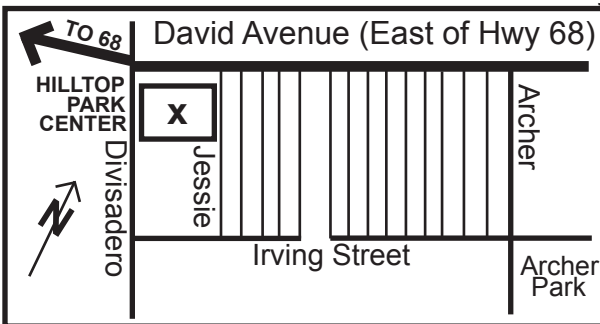
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 <i>DIRECTORS MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Canterbury Room Begins at 7:00 pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 "New Hardware Trends" Hilltop Park Center Monterey 7:00 to 9:00 pm <i>Chris Czomba</i>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 <i>This date is available for a SIG * at CBW 7:00-9:00 pm</i>	28	29	30

Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



General Meeting Location

Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



Driving Directions to Hilltop

From **Hwy 1**, take Hwy 68, which becomes Forest Ave. In PG, go to the second signaled intersection, Forest & David; turn right on David. The second street on the right is **Divisadero**; turn right for street parking and easy access to the Community Room. For **parking lot**, continue one more street to **Jessie** and turn right, then into the first driveway on the right. The parking lot is lighted well at night, and there are walkways to each end of building. Coming from **Monterey** along Lighthouse Ave., turn left at David Ave., go up the hill and several more blocks to either Jessie or Divisadero St., and turn left.

Tentative Calendar May 2011 Check the May Newsletter for Final Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <i>DIRECTORS MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Canterbury Room Begins at 7:00 pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 "Electronics" Hilltop Park Center, Mtry 7:00 to 9:00 pm <i>Travis Byers & Travis Petrica</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <i>This date is available for a SIG * at CBW 7:00-9:00 pm</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31				



mbug-pc newsletter

Vol 30, No 4, April 2011
 PO Box 51611 / Pacific Grove
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

photo: Nelson French, MBUG



Heidi Funes-Fonseca
 Membership
 Chairperson



THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN 2011

name	member number
Nelson French	1284
Gil Preston	1092
Jim Robeson	336
John R Sanders	1140
Gary Sprader	964
Bill Stockton	387

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Nelson French	1284
Bill Stockton	387

* RUN YOUR OWN SIG!

4th Wednesdays are available for **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**. See calendar on pg 15.



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

Contact **Star Reierson** at
star@computerpowerstar.com ♦

The MBUG Mission Statement

To educate, to assist, to offer a forum for computer users and enthusiasts to meet and exchange information.