

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 26, Number 1

January 2001



Front: Scott Vincent, John Raff, Bill Farrell

Back: Evan Williams, Dr. Graham Curtis, Ted Martin

Election Results

New officers of ACGNJ were (re)elected unanimously at December Main Meeting after opposing nominees withdrew. President Scott Vincent, Vice President John Raff, Treasurer Dr. Graham Curtis, Recording Secretary Charlie Huffsmith, Corresponding Secretary Evan Williams. Newly (re)elected Directors are Bill Farrell, Jo-Anne Head, Ted Martin, Samuel Hecht and Malthi Masurekar.



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

From the President

Scott Vincent

Happy New Year. Just as the rest of the world has thrown out the old and rung in the new, ACGNJ is starting a new year too. We have some new faces on the Board on the Directors as well as some very familiar ones. It's a good mix of experience and new blood to help better our club.

I have been a member of BOD since 1990 when I became a member of ACGNJ. I represented the old Heath/Zenith Users Group of NJ "activity" group. We were originally based at the Heathkit store in Fair Lawn, NJ before Zenith Data Systems, Heathkit's parent company, was bought out and we became homeless. Many current members of ACGNJ were members of HUG-NJ as the two groups started roughly the same time in the mid-seventies.

It was at HUG-NJ that I learned the value of a user group. Primarily due to the time frame in the history of microcomputers, both clubs were somewhat technically oriented groups, as were most clubs back then. Both of these groups were in existence prior to the arrival of the IBM PC and were the only source of information about what to do with your very intriguing new "love interest" including simply getting it turned on. (Pardon the pun). Heathkit, of course, was a very well known electronic kit company. The education packages that came with the kits really gave you a good close up look and understanding of your machine and they guaranteed that "they would not allow you to fail".

Let me tell you how it feels to know nothing about computers and plop down \$3500 and commit yourself to not failing to successfully build a computer ... from parts. I mean little parts. Some of the boards came completely assembled but others were just neatly packaged in clear plastic or paper packets of resistors, capacitors and other electronic gizmos. After staring at the pile of stuff in shock for 10 minutes, you want to jump in and get started while at the same time, you're

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most word processors or ASCII text are acceptable. Fax or mail hard copy and/or disk to Editor; OR e-mail to Editor. **Always confirm by voice.** Date your review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone *and* name, address and phone of the product manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it? If you include graphics, they should be separate files.

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are welcome. Commercial ads are 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4½ x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a their newsletters to Editor at the ACGNJ address above. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be directed to Charlie Huffsmith (chaz026@aol.com) and/or to his attention at the ACGNJ address above.

Membership, including subscription: 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student or Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Family of member, without subscription, \$10 per year. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: The ACGNJ News is produced using Corel Ventura 8. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Ariel (TT) for headlines.

The Internet Corner

Martin Rosenblum

Web News

This issue of *Internet Corner* is being put together under trying circumstances. My desktop started acting up, so I transferred my volatile files to “Fujisan,” my (Fujitsu) laptop, and am writing this on Fujisan, with its 56Kbaud modem, which makes the whole process drag. I try to do surfing pieces on the desktop, where I have cable access, but sometimes it freezes and has to be rebooted. Very aggravating!

Item: ZDNet News, December 22: “Egghead cracked by credit-card hack.” Not good news! “Up to 3.7 million credit cards are believed to be stolen from the online retailer’s servers. Could the e-commerce company have been over-easy on security?” But then, “Egghead.com has discovered that a hacker has accessed our computer systems, potentially including our customer databases,” said the company in a statement early Friday. “As a precautionary measure, we have taken immediate steps to protect our customers by contacting the credit-card companies we work with.” Sounds like ZDNet was engaging in some hyperbole! But, then again, there an awful lot of amateurs out there setting up Web sites!

Item: The Washington Times, December 20: “Library Group, ACLU Fight Net Filter.” (Couldn’t find the original on the Web. This fragment can be found in the ACM TECHNews service at www.acm.org/technews, source of many of these notes.) Sen. John McCain has sponsored a new Children’s Internet Protection Act which he hope will get around objections by library groups and the ACLU.

Item: The Wall Street Journal, December 19: “‘Honeypots’ Let Security Officials Track a Hacker’s Every Move.” Keith Johnson reports on a venture by Lance Spitzner, an ex-US Army tank commander and computer geek to trap hackers and study their methods. They seem to have had a measure of success, though some skeptics think they will just escalate the hacker arms race. Spitzner’s group, currently numbering around 30, can be checked out at project.honeynet.org.

Item: Infoworld, December 19: “W3C releases XHTML Basic spec for mobile devices.” HTML is too big to implement on handheld devices (pagers to Palms,) so the Consortium has issued a Basic version designed to better fit that more restricted environment. In other word, no Flash, and maybe even no Java on their Web sites.

Item: Wired, December 15: “German Hate Law: No Denying It.” A German Judge has ruled that Germany’s hate laws apply to all Web sites, no matter where hosted! I’m not sure he understands the problem, but I wonder if we’ll ever find a happy way to allow censorship on a segment of the Network, say Germany. China certainly has similar problems, as does France. Read the article on Wired’s news Web site at www.wired.com/news/print/0,1294,40669,00.html.

Item: Internet World, December 15: “The Year in Net Law.” in this piece, Doug Isenberg reviews the years legal wrangles related to the Net. He gives a brief overview of privacy, domain names, and content regulation. You can read it at www.internetworld.com/121500/12.15.00policy.asp.

Item: Washington Technology Online, December 11: “Election Controversy Raises Prospects for Online Voting.” In this article by William Welsh, he relies heavily on reports by Forrester Research. One of their quotes: “In the aftermath of the election, Forrester Research reported that the tight presidential election and the ballot irregularities that surfaced during the vote counting will accelerate online voting development.” You can read the whole article on their Web site: www.wtonline.com/vol15_no18/cover/15010-1.html.

Item: Houston Chronicle, November 25: “Hewlett-Packard Settles Music Case” In a German version of the Napster legal maneuverings, Hewlett-Packard was ordered to pay fees for making CD burners to “lift music off of the Web” in Germany. “The company agreed to pay a fee of \$1.54 for each burner it sold in Germany since 1998, and \$5.16 for each unit sold in the future. German law protects authors and musicians by outlawing the manufacturing of equipment that could be used to violate copyright laws.” I suppose everything from pencils up could be affected by this ruling. “GEMA, Germany’s main licensing group, targeted HP because it is the market leader of CD burners in Germany.” (Sue the guys with deep pockets — but that’s not unique to Germany.)

Miscellany

Maria and I went to Lisbon just before Thanksgiving. This was a family business trip, so there wasn’t much time for fun. We did manage to drop over to CyberBica, but our old friends Paula and Hugo were out, presumably earning big bucks. Paula’s brother, Fernando, a would-be soccer player, was minding the store. He seems to have given up playing soccer for earning a living. The Internet Café is still looking good and still paying the rent. Like the New York café I reported on last time, its main business comes from tourists and business folks dropping in to check their email.

I had a very discouraging time trying to get online this trip. Before I left I checked out AOL, which has a Lisbon POP, but found that it has been updated and now uses its own TCP/IP stack in place of the standard Winsock. This means that when I get connected, I cannot run either Eudora or Quicken on the AOL stack. I tried loading the latest CompuServe (they also have a POP in Lisbon — the same one, I think) but I couldn’t get that to work at all. Bah! Humbug! The hotel we stayed in, the Tivoli Jardim, had a small room near the reception area which had a PC and a modem connection to the Net. It worked fine for email through Yahoo! email, which permits downloading mail from any POP3 site with or without deletion. I chose without, so I could collect everything into Eudora when I got home. I could do my trading with Schwab in spite of the fact that they were running 56-bit encryption on their browser. (If I’d used my laptop, I would have had 128-bit encryption, but it didn’t seem to matter.) Every time I had a trade, I would run upstairs and recalculate my buy/sell thresholds on my laptop and then run downstairs to update my orders.

continued

Some excitement: As we boarded the bus to go to my mother-in-law's place, I was a bit confused managing the tickets and also found my way blocked by a bunch of guys who seemed to be arguing. When I finally got by and sat down, another passenger pointed to the floor where I saw my check book and change purse. I retrieved them and checked my other pockets. Sure enough, I had been relieved of my Palm Pilot! I never felt a thing. By then the pickpockets had left the bus and disappeared. Two days later the hotel concierge warned us, as we were about to depart on our day's errands, to watch out for pickpockets.

The only other Net-related news from the trip was that I had gone to our Lisbon bank to inquire about online banking. The only thing they had involved placing an encrypting/authenticating device between the keyboard and the PC. I guess they're more paranoid than we are, although after the pickpocket incident, I think perhaps they have reason!

Survival

Some months ago I started raising alarms which had their origin in an article Bill Joy published in *Wired*. Now that august publication is considering the other side of the question. In the December issue you can find an article by Jaron Lanier, "One-Half of a Manifesto" or "Why stupid software will save the future from neo-Darwinian machines." You can read it at www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.12/lanier_pr.html. Ahah! But what if computers start writing good software themselves?

Books, eBooks, audio Books & MP3

We've mentioned books and e-books from time to time here. A few years ago, my eldest daughter sent me a reference to something she wanted me to hear which was available from audible.com for download as a compressed audio file for a cost of about ten cents. A 1Mb file holds about 20 minutes of radio broadcast. *Marketplace* (the weeknightly NPR business report) broadcasts are available from audible for \$0.95 per 1/2 hour segment, 1 month (~22 days) for \$6.95 and 1 year (~260 days) for \$49.95, or about \$0.40 per hour.

Recently, a friend of my mother gave her an audio cassette of a Grisham novel and Maria and I have enjoyed listening to it on long rides. Now there's MP3 and other formats which can bring down the media cost and bulk. I picked a book for a price comparison of different media. The first one I found on enough variety of media to make a comparison is the children's book, "Black Beauty" by Anna Sewell. Here's the list:

Paperback	\$5.35
Hardcover	\$5.99
Illustrated	\$14.36
Audio Cassette	\$36.00
Abridged Cassette	\$15.29
Audio Download (audible.com)	\$9.95
PDF eBook	\$3.49
Instant eBook	\$3.49
Microsoft eBook	\$3.49
Palm eBook	\$2.99

(The last four prices are from www.ebookmall.com, the others are from amazon.com.)

The reading experience is not so great on eBooks, so I'd like to see much lower prices there, at least on the legacy stuff. Another problem with eBooks is that they're encrypted, so you can't loan them out or share them with a friend or two. They work only on the reader or PC you set them up on. (Unless, of course, you're a hacker.) The same holds true for downloads of audio versions from audible.com. You can loan or copy regular cassettes. This is a perfect example of the growing copyright mess and all the contradictions.

In addition to audio books, famous speeches and current and historic radio programs, Audible offers annual subscriptions (\$49.95) to audio digest editions of NY Times, Wall Street Journal, LA Times, San Jose Mercury News and Slate magazine. I don't know if you can pick and choose articles, but if you can, it should be an interesting way to get the news you want while driving, etc.

These audio files can be played on the Rio MP3 player. Audible advertises the player on its site and occasionally has a good discount on the product, which lists for about \$200 with a 64Mb memory, good for more hours that you can stay awake. The ebooks can be read on devices which look like an oversized Palm, which cost \$300 to \$700. If you already have a Palm, there are versions for it.

Yesterday I ordered Christopher Morley's "The Haunted Bookshop" for Palm from the eBook Mall, www.ebookmall.com. (It was cheap enough for this experiment.) It was delivered as an email attachment today. I downloaded the reader, CspotRun (a free 22Kb GNU Palm program) to my PC through a link on eBook Mall, clicked on this file and the email attachment and both files were set up for transfer to the Palm on my next hotsync. The book is 200Kb, so the 8Mb of my Palm IIIxe would hold a few of them. (A student could keep all his textbooks in one pocket-sized device.) I ran the sync and there they were. I clicked on CspotRun and the book appeared, easily readable. It has a cassette type of control which starts or pauses scrolling. When scrolling, page up and down buttons control the speed; in pause mode, they move a page (screen) at a time. If you lose your place, you can only jump to increments of 10% of the book and then scroll from there. Not exactly great, but it's free, works on the Palm, and it's a new technology. I'll let you know if it works as a reading experience when I've read the book.

Elsewhere on the copyright front, MP3.com, which has made agreements with the five major recording companies and thought they could finally rest and make some money, now finds that emusic.com, one of the smaller companies (of which there are thousands) has started a copyright suit against them.

Security

If you object to people looking over your shoulder, there's SafeWeb, at www.safeweb.com. They claim:

- "SafeWeb Always:
 - encrypts and protects content
 - sanitizes dangerous scripts

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Palm Court #4

Cass Lewart (rlewart@monmouth.com)

Palm and GPS — A Great Combination

In this issue of the Palm Court I will show how, with the help of some clever software, a Palm PDA and a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver can work together.

In the past I wrote articles about various aspects of Palm and GPS, and found it quite exciting to see how in a symbiotic relationship, Palm and GPS supplement each other's capabilities. A typical Palm/GPS application will let you download a map of the area where you are traveling into the Palm. Then, when you connect a GPS receiver to the Palm, you see on the Palm map display your current location, altitude, speed and direction of travel. You will also see a diagram showing the active GPS satellites. Although the more expensive GPS receivers have built-in map displays, the Palm/GPS combination lets you follow a map even with an inexpensive "map-less" GPS receiver.

A GPS receiver interprets signals from a constellation of dedicated satellites, all equipped with precise clocks. From the known position of each satellite and the time it takes for signals to travel from satellite to receiver, the receiver calculates its location to within 50-100 feet. From successive measurements it derives your speed and direction of travel.

GPS receivers, in general, are equipped with a serial interface through which they exchange data with any computer including the Palm. Most GPS receivers use the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) protocol for serial transmission; some use proprietary protocols.

Hardware — Connecting the Palm to the GPS

First, you need a special GPS serial cable connecting at one end to your GPS and having a female DB-9 plug at the other end. You can make it (lots of work) or purchase it from your GPS manufacturer.

Next you need a way of connecting the GPS cable to your Palm. There are two ways to do it: You can buy a serial cable made specifically for your Palm model. Plug one end into your Palm, and connect the other end, the male DB-9 jack, to the GPS serial cable. Or, you can use the cable coming from the Palm cradle. Connect the female DB-9 plug to a null modem and the other side of the null modem to the GPS serial cable. You may need gender changer and 9/25 pin converter plugs in between. GPS cables and Palm serial cables sell for \$15 to \$30 each.

Software — Making Palm and GPS Work Together

In preparation for this article I worked with a simple GPS monitor program for the Palm, several commercial mapping programs from DeLorme, and with DeLorme Earthmate and Magellan 315 GPS receivers.

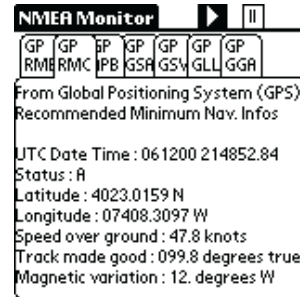
1. NMEA.prc

A Simple Program to Display NMEA Signals From a GPS. This 24 Kb program written for the Palm by Christian Claveleira is great to test your Palm/GPS interface. Download it free from <http://www.palmgear.com/software/showsoftware.cfm?sid=40153520001105113139&prodID=9928>

If your GPS sends NMEA sequences to the Palm you can select specific "phrases" and review them on the Palm screen. A tab for each received NMEA phrase will appear on the Palm screen. Click on a sentence to view. For correct interpretation you should download the NMEA specifications for your GPS from the GPS manufacturer. The program worked with the Magellan 315, which uses NMEA, but not with Earthmate, which uses a different protocol.

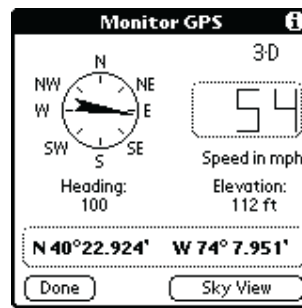
2. Mapping Software and Earthmate GPS from DeLorme

DeLorme Corporation, a major publisher of maps, atlases and mapping software makes several software products which can be used with the Palm. Some of their mapping software is



also bundled with a simple GPS receiver called Earthmate. Earthmate, a small yellow box, has no built-in display or controls. It is used with one of the DeLorme mapping programs and a PDA or laptop computer.

The first DeLorme program I tried was Solus 2.0. The program installs on the desktop and on the Palm. Though the program does not include any maps it lets you connect to the DeLorme web site and download to the desktop free a map of any area in the US as a Palm PDB file. During the next HotSync operation the map will install on the Palm. The



downloaded maps are in vector rather than in raster format. Vector map files are not only smaller than they would be in raster format but they are also searchable for street names and any other listings appearing on the map.

Solus gives you the basic software interface between the Palm and the GPS. Rather than going online to download maps in PDB format you can purchase some of the other mapping programs. I tried Street Atlas 8.0, Street Atlas Road Warrior Edition and Topo USA. These three programs let you

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scared to death that you may have just thrown away three and half mortgage payments on “a step to the future of my business, hon”. My wife bought the line. She also bought into the title of “Computer Widow”. Well, at least it would be a great tax write off for the year. Amazingly enough though, it worked and my education in computers was started.

Religiously, I would go to the user group meetings and sit there, quietly, listening to everyone talking about their older model machines. I was in a unique situation. I was surrounded by engineers and people who had been working with mainframes at their jobs for years. They knew what they were talking about, but since my machine was new and an unfamiliar generation to them, they could speak in generalities but it was up to me to interpret what I heard and go home and play.

Back then, machines were extremely manufacturer specific and this particular model was Heathkit’s kit version of Zenith’s first big commercial box vying for a piece of the school and business world market against IBM’s PC. Basically, the machines did the same thing the same way but not interchangeably. But with patience and the personal promise of getting into the PC service business (all machines break — just ask Murphy), I listened and I experimented.

For two years I played and upgraded and did all kinds of bizarre things to that poor machine. One upgrade described in the national Heathkit User Group magazine, Remark, guided me through 110 trace cuts, swapping probably as many chips and soldering new wire patches all over the motherboard to convert the memory from 16Kb to 256Kb. Talk about scared to death! I was doing open-heart surgery and a frontal lobotomy on “my child” all at the same time. But I had faith! It simply had to work! And so it was.

The spirit and support of a computer user group can be very rewarding and helpful. Helping others succeed in learning about their machine is even more rewarding and it helps better your understanding when it comes to explaining the concepts to others.

For those of you who are new to computers, be patient. It will happen. Far too often, I see people walk away in disgust because it all just seems “too technical”. It is technical — that’s why it’s called “hi tech” — but it is possible to understand it. It just takes a concerted effort to get through it. So sit there, quietly if need be, and sponge it all in. Suddenly, one of those inspirational moments will come along while you’re sitting at your PC. Suddenly, your mind will experience a major breakthrough and one more block (and often more than just one) in the wall is removed. It is easier to learn now than ever before. Everyone’s machine does the same thing the same way interchangeably now. The learning curve isn’t vertical anymore.

There will always be questions and there will always be answers to them. There’s just more of it to discover. Just ask and someone can probably help you to the answer. There is no such thing as a dumb question, just chronically confused people.

To those of you who have been ACGNJ members for years but aren’t as active as you could be, I invite you to come back.

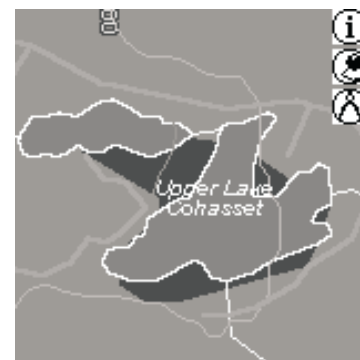
Man (or woman) cannot live by newsletter alone. There are always new areas of computing and perhaps there is one that you may know about and can share with us. I challenge you to leave without having learned something new yourself. It’s your club. Make it grow! ☐

Microsoft Seminar

On Thursday, January 18, 2001 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aelita Software will co-host a Windows 2000/Exchange 2000 seminar on “Zero Impact Migration” in the Berkeley Heights office of Microsoft. For details, contact Mari Sese, Aelita Software Marketing Coordinator, 3978 North Hampton Drive, Powell, OH 43065, msese@aelita.com, <http://www.aelita.com>. ☐

Palm Court, *continued*

produce maps of any area in the US in Palm friendly PDB format. Maps produced by Street Atlas are in raster format, and are not searchable. The other two programs produce vector maps. Topo USA generates topographic maps with contour lines which are great when hiking. To make Topo USA work with the Palm you have to download a 4 Mb add-on file and install it. The program also lets you upload and download routes and waypoints to and from your GPS. The two Atlas programs can also generate travel directions between any two points in the US, which can then be downloaded to the Palm.



All three mapping programs have a GPS interface. Thus when you install one of the mapping programs on your laptop without Solus and connect your GPS, you can trace your progress on the map as you travel. Solus lets you do the same on the Palm.

On the DeLorme site the prices are as follows, though special pricing is available if you buy more than one program: Solus 2.0 \$39.95 Street Atlas 8.0 and Street Atlas Road Warrior Edition \$44.95 each, Topo USA \$99.95. Earthmate GPS with cable and software add about \$100. ☐



From The DealsGuy

Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Comdex is history, but I enjoyed it while my wife trudged along. People were shoulder to shoulder and I was whopped often by people swinging around with bags on their backs. My feet were smashed by people dragging carts full of stuff behind them, and heavy paper bags were dragged across my neck as people plunged through the crowd with force. When a booth presenter threw out a tee shirt, somebody might rip it out of your hand if you caught it. You have to really love shows to put up with all that. It was exciting, but we barely covered it in the four days we attended. With 220,000 attendees, vendors were difficult to talk to unless you had time to wait, and I assume my follow-ups will not be that fruitful, as usual. However, I'll give you what I can put together over the next couple of months, which will be slim-picking.

My buying restraint excelled this year and the only thing I acquired was a neat little portable USB drive. Called the Pockey, it is 3" x 5" x 5/8" with a capacity of 6 gigs. It fits in my tee shirt pocket with room to spare. They're available in 6, 10, 15 or 20 gigs with a MSRP of \$249 for the 6-gig model. I was unable to get us a deal because it is just being introduced. It works on my desktop PC, but so far I haven't been able to get it to work with my laptop. See <http://www.pockeydrives.com> for info. There was a smaller product of the same nature at the show, but they only had display product.

The APCUG event came off beautifully with 327 attendees representing 134 user groups. Many hard-working APCUG volunteers made it a huge success. Vendor support has waned again this year, but vendors that were there really showed us a great time. The Microsoft dinner was especially outstanding with an Improv group's sidesplitting entertainment after the presentation. MS table reps asked us what MindShare could do to help our groups. Our table asked for a discount on the MSN service and our rep wrote it on his list.

Many APCUG attendees thanked me for doing the column. My highlight of the weekend was when Jeremy Dunn of Connecticut PC Users Group thanked me for the column, saying his members love it and warned they would lynch him if he ever left my column out of their newsletter.

Other Comments

Last month I complained about lack of voice tech support from Symantec and two other vendors, saying Microsoft gives lifetime support on some products. Little did I know that I was lying through my teeth/keyboard while writing that. I've since read that MS had already posted notice that the lifetime tech support was discontinued and replaced with a maximum of two tech support calls, citing survey results — yeah-right! I guess that's why agreements contain clauses to renounce promises to the customer.

Now The Deals

Linda & Gene Barlow announced that PowerQuest released major new versions of PartitionMagic 6.0 and Drive Image 4.0 this fall. PartitionMagic 6.0 has new support for Windows ME and Windows 2000 Professional, ability to undelete partitions, new Copy Partition Wizard, ability to split partitions

and view & modify pending operations. Drive Image Version 4 has CD-R and CD-RW Support, supports Windows ME, Image Size Estimator, Image Integrity Checker, create images on hidden partitions, improved Drive Image File Editor and includes DataKeeper Utility.

Prices: PowerQuest bundle (PartitionMagic 6.0, Drive Image 4.0, SecondChance 2.07 supports Windows ME, Lost & Found 1.0 for \$99 plus \$5 S&H. Individual prices are:

PartitionMagic 6.0, \$30.00 plus \$5.00 S&H

Drive Image 4.0, \$30.00 plus \$5.00 S&H

SecondChance 2.07 \$25.00 plus \$5.00 S&H

Lost & Found 1.0 \$30.00 plus \$5.00 S&H

For Mail Orders, send to: Gene & Linda Barlow, User Group Relations, PO Box 275, Orem UT 84042. Phone 801-796-7370. For faster service, use their secure Web site at <http://www.ugr.com/order/> and use the Code UGDEALS00.

Get This One Fast

Adobe's LiveMotion lets you quickly create vector-based Web sites with motion, sound and interactivity. Enhance your productivity and streamline your workflow through superior integration with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and GoLive. This offer saves you \$200 (US) if you take advantage of it before Feb. 28, 2001. Order at <http://www.adobe.com/offer/71401> to buy for just \$99 or call 1-800-967-7853 and mention offer 71401. I am told you can even beat that price on the Web. I noticed there is an update on the Adobe Web site to download if you are a registered owner. I also found some free music downloads.

Hey, Scan These Prices!

ScanSoft offered special prices on their products at the APCUG vendor's party Sunday evening. Their user group coordinator said I could pass them on to my readers. If you are not familiar with their products, visit their Web site <http://www.scansoft.com>. Here are the products and prices:

OmniForm 4.01 - MSRP, \$149.99, APCUG \$104.99

OmniPage Pro 10 - MSRP, \$499.00, APCUG \$349.00

PaperPort Deluxe 7.0 - MSRP, \$59.99, APCUG \$41.99

PhotoFactory - MSRP, 29.95, APCUG \$20.95

Prices are plus tax (CA, GA, IL, MA, NY, OH, NC) and S&H of \$9.95 US or \$15 Canada. Visit their online store at <http://www.digitalriver.com/scansoft/usergroup> for user group special pricing or get the order form from whoever handles them in your group.

Talk To A Web Site, Sort Of!!

The "Conversay" booth at Comdex had a demonstrator telling his computer to find things for him on the Web and it acknowledged his request, then did as he asked. It was a fascinating demonstration and you can download the software absolutely free. Voice training is simple. "Conversay Web" is a voice browser that allows users to surf the Web by voice using MS Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher, and is the object of this item, but they also have the following products.

continued

System Suite 2000: New Kid on the Block

Part 2 of 2

Dick Freymoyer

This is the second part of a review of System Suite 2000 by Ontrack. We will continue looking at the functions and utilities within this suite.

Easy Uninstall, the eighth Group, looks like “Clean Sweep” and appears to do all of the same things. (Note: “Clean Sweep” used to belong to Quarterdeck, and has always been my favorite of all uninstallers.) There are seven items under Easy Uninstall, the first being Uninstall. Like “Clean Sweep,” Uninstall must scan your computer’s registry to see what programs are in there. Interestingly, it does four scans—I guess it wants to make sure it gets things correct. It looks and acts differently from what I am accustomed to using, in that you can see the programs on the Desktop, Start Menus, Executables or Monitored. (Executables is not included in Clean Sweep, although you can search for a program by its executable file.) I started with **Install Monitor**, which monitors installations for easy program uninstall later. I don’t like that you have to type in the name of a program before you install it for the install to be monitored. The real meat of Easy Uninstall is **Uninstall**. I installed a new Kids program (Magic School Bus), then selected it under Desktop, hit next and it did a sweep of the computer and came up a list of folders. Click on Select All, click next, and it did a backup of the uninstalled files and said 17 files were deleted. This was similar to Clean Sweep, except that it doesn’t say how many bytes were deleted. I don’t see this as a big problem, but knowing how many bytes you recovered could be useful if you are looking for space. I found that it deleted the files, but left the empty Folders. I will try to find another utility within System Suite 2000 to see if it will delete the empty folders. **Transport** is the next part of Uninstall group. You would use this to move an application to another computer. It creates a self-extracting Zip file without removing the program. **Move** allows you to move a program, folder or files. You must give it a destination, and it will create a new folder or you can select an existing one. **Archive** is interesting and with it you can backup and uninstall an application. I tried this feature at length and it works just fine, but I don’t know yet what the advantage is over using the Uninstall utility. **Backup** is what you would expect and it works just fine. **Restore** is the engine you would use after using the Backup.

Disk Cleanup has some powerful tools to clean up your hard drive. **Internet Cache** is important since the cache could use up lots of space. Every time you visit a web site, a cache file is created to save time loading that Web page when you go back to it. The data is left behind, using up disk space, even if you never revisit that page. **Internet Cookies** sounds like something you could eat, but is a file that speeds connection with specific sites. You can select and delete cookies you no longer want. **Internet History** is a log of Web pages you have visited. Your browser sets dates when these files should be deleted, but some of these files are good for a long period of time. In this mode you can select the ones you want to delete. **Internet ActiveX** is something most people don’t un-

derstand so I will explain. It is a technology used to make Web Pages interactive so they behave like programs. If it were not for Active X, the page would be a static page that you can’t do anything with. The files are usually small and I don’t delete them myself, but they are safe to delete if you wish to do so. **Internet Plugins** give your browser the ability to display different types of video or audio messages. Again, these files are very small and I don’t delete them. The next icon is **Quick File Cleanup**. I always want to do things fast and this is. It will clean out Temp Files, Recycle Bin, Web History and Cache, lost clusters, broken shortcut links and a raft of other things you really don’t need. Again, you can select what you wish to delete. When I ran this, I eliminated 96 files that I really didn’t need, in no time flat! **Advanced File Clean** found 1,112 files that I could select to delete. I deleted 22 empty files. It did not remove the empty folders. The last in this group is **Custom Cleanup**. Under this icon you can find most files and delete them by checking the box in front of the file. I selected some .txt files I will never use and deleted them. I like this feature, but could live without it.

Virus Scanner is the last group of items, with six types of Virus Scans available, mostly “No Brainers”. The six modes for Virus Scans are **Quick Scan**, which checks your boot sectors and memory; **Fast Scan**, which scans for common viruses, if there is such a thing; **File Scan**, which scans files you select; **Floppy Disk Scan**, which tells it all; **Deep Scan**, which really digs in deep in looking for a virus. The last one is **Custom Scan**, which lets you choose the type of file you wish to scan. As with any anti-virus program, this is only as good as your updated downloads off the web site of that company. In less than 3 minutes, the Anti-Virus scanned 3112 files, which was fast. It looks good, but who knows, some of these viruses are really bad.

The Bad and Ugly

Under **Easy Uninstall**, the Install Monitor is confusing and very weak. Unless you type in the name of the program before you install it, your installation will not be monitored. You would think that setting the default to “Monitor all changes made on my system, until I press stop,” would sense the installation of a new program, but it doesn’t seem to work that way. Symantec’s “CleanSweep” watches all programs you install, so the uninstall is clean. If installations are not monitored, you could have problems in some other utilities such as Transport, Move, and Uninstall.

Under **Uninstall**, when you uninstall a program, it leaves empty folders behind. This lowers the standard of such a great program.

The Good

Under the **System Registry** group, I found “Win Customizer”, to be just great. I loved what I could do in the mode; it makes customizing your windows so easy.

continued

“Conversay Web Conversation Developer Kit”, a toolkit for voice-powering Internet sites. It enables Web site developers to add voice-elements to interact with site visitors.

“Conversational Server” is an NT server-based environment which utilizes telephony hardware, software, and standard Windows components to provide a visual-free interface to networked content through a telephone conversation.

“Embedded Applications” is better explained on their Web site, so visit <http://www.conversay.com> to read about products and get the free download (need your own headset). Then you can just **tell** your computer what you want on the Web. I have not tried it yet. Next month I’ll write about another of these products that intrigued me.

Free Clipart and Animations

Interested in such things? Microsoft has plenty absolutely free for the download. Visit the “Microsoft Clip Gallery Live” at <http://www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/pfclipgal.htm>, for free downloads of over 120,000 graphic images and sounds, including photographs, Web animations, and clip art.

Also visit <http://www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/pfmusicdwn.htm>, where you will find free, downloadable programs for music students. Start with the basics — chord structure and famous composers — and work your way up to ear training and composition. If that isn’t enough free stuff, try a few puzzles from Pandora’s Box and experience the visually stunning, intricate world this game has to offer. Download them free today at <http://www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/pfpanboxtri.htm>.

Another FREE ISP

Bob Dooley, editor for Broward Personal Computer Assn., told me about 1NOL (One Nation OnLine), a free ISP, but before I could write it up, 1NOL passed its users over to “One World OnLine” with the following instructions: “Simply re-register at <http://www.1nol.com/signup.htm>. Once your new account has been established, visit <http://mail.1nol.com:8383> and click on the ‘Change Forwarding Information’ link and follow the instructions.” That’s all I know, so check it out for yourselves. Bob said he liked the service when it was 1NOL.

Here is another free ISP. “Address.com” uses Spinway.com to supply its nationwide network. I liked their home page, which displays news items and flowing stock reports. The selection of nationwide phone numbers looked good, and even had a couple of access numbers for 321, a new area code overlaying our present 407. I saw requirements for Win98 or NT, no Mac info. They offer e-mail, Web pages, personalized home page, URL forwarding, Web searches, personalized stock ticker, news, sports, weather and horoscope, free instant messaging and free chats. Check further info at <http://www.address.com>. Download the software or have a CD sent. I have not tried it.

This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click (dealsguy@mindspring.com). Visit <http://www.dealsguy.com> for past columns and an unedited version of this one. ☐

In the System Diagnostics group, **System Updates** takes you to Updates.Zdnet.com. This Web Site checks your computer for drivers and program updates — a great plus for System Suite2000.

The **Zip Magic Wizards** group is wonderful. All items under this group work great and were easy to understand. I think this has greatly enhanced the Suite.

Suggested Improvements

Defrag Plus: I’d like it better if the “Swap Files” could be put at the end of the Free Space on the hard drive. That would help cut the defrag process time down. There should be a way to tell this utility where you want certain programs, folders or files located on the drive. What I am talking about is taking a utility program, which doesn’t get revised too often, like System Suite for example, locating it in a position where things don’t change much.

Win Customizer: A short cut should be added to allow a fast way into Windows System Configuration Utility.

Users should be advised that when you run some of System Suites 2000 utilities, you should close TSRs (Items running in the background) to make it run better and more efficient.

Somewhere, possibly in System Diagnostics, there should be a benchmark utility to test the speed of your computer. I looked for something like this and couldn’t find one.

Conclusion

I like the suite and I think in time it will be on the same level as “Symantec’s System Works”. System Suite 2000 does have some weak points that I am concerned about, but so does every program. I rate System Suite 2000 as a 4 star program and I wouldn’t hesitate recommending it. OnTrack has been in business for many years, putting out programs that configured your hard drives — this program is a natural for them.

System Suite 2000 is a program made by OnTrack Data International Inc., 3030 Sterling Circle, Bolder, Co 80301, (303)245-8000. Their web site is www.ontrack.com.

I want to thank Mr. Clifford J. Holly III, Account Manager and OnTrack Data International Inc., for allowing me to evaluate System Suite 2000. The program sells for \$59.95 from the company, but I have seen it selling for \$44 at computer shows. I hope to be writing a follow up article on their second program called Power Desk Utilities, included in this suite. Questions or comments are invited, and should be addressed to dickfrey1@aol.com ☐

Anti-Spam Tip: *If you receive unsolicited junk email that says something like “Click here to be removed from our mailing lists,” Do not click! This is a scam. Your email address will not be removed, but will be put on the spammer’s most valuable list — the list of confirmed email addresses of trusting souls. They will sell your email address, and you will be flooded with spam.*

ACGNJ Upgrades

Bill Farrell

Broadband Access

For quite a while ACGNJ Officers and SIG Leaders have been looking for ways to obtain Broad Band cable access for our facilities. Repeated efforts were fruitless because we meet in a building that the providers told us they cannot install a line into for various reasons — it is a commercial building, or it is not ours, or it is a city building to name a few.

When one of our very resourceful members, Natlit (Pat) Patel, inquired as to why we did not have Broadband access, he was told of the various reasons that we have encountered problems trying to get ComCast to install a line for us. Pat's response was that he could make it happen, and he was true to his word. Within several days a ComCast installation crew called to make sure someone from the Group would be at the Rescue Squad building so they could install the line.

Needless to say the Rescue Squad will benefit with three taps for their use as well as TV service paid for by the ACGNJ. The cost to ACGNJ is about \$100 per month which we will consider rent. The service is called ComCast @Home Plus Service. Thanks to Pat on behalf of the whole group.

In addition to the installation, ComCast sent a Technical Representative who gave a great Technical presentation at our Symposium meeting. Another benefit given to the ACGNJ by ComCast is a commission for every Comcast account referred by ACGNJ. If a member wants to subscribe to ComCast @home at \$40/ month, should get in touch with one of the officers. ACGNJ will receive a \$40 commission for each account they get through the ACGNJ.

New Projector

Ted Martin, one of our Directors, was requested by the Board of Directors to head up the new projector committee. Ted and his group did a great job. For more than two months they evaluated projectors and displayed them at Board meetings. Then, with the consent of the Board, the committee purchased a Proxima 6150 projector for approximately \$5000. Not bad when you know that five years ago we paid approximately \$12000 for our old Proxima projector. Any one want to buy a used Proxima Projector ? ☺

**** Call For Speakers ****

TCF 2001 The 26th Annual Trenton Computer Festival

Saturday & Sunday, May 5th & 6th, 2001

The New Jersey Convention Center, Edison, New Jersey

You are invited to speak, organize a forum, or lead a user group meeting at TCF 2001. TCF is the world's oldest Personal Computer Show with an attendance of over 12,000. There will be over 100 talks, forums and User Group meetings as well as other activities for personal computer users, consultants, and hobbyists. There will also be more than 500 indoor exhibitor spaces and over 1,000 outdoor flea market spaces. TCF is sponsored jointly by four Personal Computer Clubs, the Princeton Section of the IEEE and its affiliated ACM/Computer Society Chapter and the Engineering Department of The College of New Jersey. The income supports the operations of these clubs, local IEEE/CS/ACM programs and the Engineering Scholarship Fund at The College of Engineering. For more TCF information go to <http://www.tcf-nj.org>.

The Speaker Program is a very important part of TCF. We are seeking speakers on topics such as the Internet, multimedia, networking, desktop publishing, CAD, word processing, database management, spreadsheets, operating systems, programming, business and home applications. At TCF26 we are planning to put special emphasis on talks and exhibits dealing with Linux, Multimedia Communications Via the Internet, and Robotics. We are also interested in talks on high speed Internet connection, as well as any other computer-related topic. We are looking for people to lead hardware and software forums and user group meetings.

If you would like to present a talk, or lead a forum or user group session, please fill out the TCF Speaker Application form. Submission of your speaker application via the World Wide Web is preferred: http://www.tcf-nj.org/spkr_reg2001.html. Although the deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 1, 2001, it would be very helpful if your submission was received as soon as possible.

For more information:

Allen Katz, TCF Speaker Program Chairperson

email katz@ieee.org

phone (609) 771-2666 or 584-8424

fax: (609) 631-0177

US Mail: Dr. Allen Katz Department of Engineering, The College of New Jersey, PO Box 7718, Ewing NJ 08628-0718

Georgia Court Deems Port Scanning Not a Crime

J.D. Abolins

... but don't take it as a license to do cyber door-knob jiggling per se. A recent posting on the Politech (politics & technology) maillist mentions a Georgia court case on port scanning. The posting is at <http://www.politechbot.com/p-01574.html>. The case is *Moulton v. VC3*, N.D. Ga., Civil Action File No. 1:00-CV-434-TWT, 11/7/00, and the text of the court's opinion is available at <http://pub.bna.com/eclr/00434.htm>.

Essentially, the court deemed that the port scanning did not result in "damage" to the probed network in a way that fits federal or state computer crime laws. The impact of scanning was an imperceptible slowdown of network performance. More significant for other computer cases, the court deemed that unless the integrity of the network was damaged, the money spent to investigate the defendant's activities could not be considered "damages."

Side Note: While the "exploratory" systems crackers will claim that their break ins cause no damage as they "merely look around" and, therefore, are not a big deal, there is a cost in determining the nature of the incursion, to determine if it any severe damage was done, and to fix any damage. In computer crime cases, this cost is factored in. Sometimes, this and other costs get hiked up in order to make the case that the intrusion was a significant offense. (After all, courts are better equipped to understand financial costs and tangible damages than the abstract concept of the integrity of a system.)

Reading the background of the case in the court's opinion document, I see that this was a counter-suit case following the arrest of a computer service provider person on computer crime charges, so when you read the court document, keep in mind that the plaintiff, not the defendant, is the one who did the port scanning.

An interesting factor is that the case did not involve strangers nor does it involve any indication that the goal of the scanning was to crack and exploit the network. The claimed basis for the scans was to check the security of a system newly connected to one's client's system. It is a good example of how "doing a favor" security analyses can backfire if overt consent is not obtained.

One of the most famous of such good intentioned workplace system security checks resulting in criminal charges is *State of Oregon v. Randal Schwartz*; Washington County Circuit Court C94-0322CR; Complaint brought by Mr. Schwartz's client, the Intel Corporation. Mr. Schwartz is a well known expert in computer programming; he is recognized for his work with the the PERL language. Basically, Mr. Schwartz ran a password cracking program to ensure that adequate security existed for the systems he was working on.

The prosecution rested heavily upon the extent of activities that can be deemed as "unauthorized" activities on a system and, therefore, criminal under an Oregon computer crime law. Thus, installing security checking utilities on a workplace computer *without the employer's authorization* is a crime. (Theoretically, installing an unapproved word processor or screen saver could have been deemed a crime under

this law, but that would have lacked the sinister connotations to successfully prosecute. A password cracker or a packet sniffer, on the other hand, carries a sinister connotation even if the use is intended to be beneficial.)

More information about this case is available at <http://www.lightlink.com/spacenka/fors/>.


Cases such as the Oregon and Georgia ones point to the importance of establishing relationships and communications in workplace security checks. As businesses and prosecutors are trying to send a "get tough" message concerning computer misdeeds, it is easy for good deeds to get punished as well as the blatant crimes. The fact that some security checking techniques and tools can overlap in part with the same ones used to attack makes confusion all the more likely. Add to this the likelihood that some criminals will claim that that their trespass was intended as a favor to the system's owner.

Also, and I am going to sound a tad cynical here, many employers see the doing-a-favor security checks as problematic organizationally as well as technically. There is no properly delegated authority for such checks. These favors are something they don't want to see emulated by others. There is the thought of how the employee could have been doing assigned work. There is the "surprise factor" for the managers (including being shown how easy it would for an employee to get into their files). Then there is the thrusting upon them a package of new responsibilities. If the volunteered security check documents numerous loopholes, it can add to the "management knew" type of liabilities. Etc.

I empathize with the people in the two cases and can see how easy it is for bright, conscientious techies to fall into such predicaments. This is why I emphasize the need for communicating with system owners and getting consent, preferably in writing, for these checks. Sometimes no consent is given. If this the case, document it with an internal memo just in case the system gets cracked by another later on and move on to something else.

Even though the court judged in favor of the person doing the port scan, it not a license to willy nilly port scan every network in sight. It does however moderate the claims and charges that could be brought against a person for port scans and other activities that do not result in a successful breach or significant impairment of the network. The judgement deems that the "identify friend or foe" investigative costs cannot be claimed to be damages to the network. But if the scans are followed by a successful, breach then this restriction is off.

Other courts may have different views or other laws could be found to apply. Also, the court decision says nothing about ISPs prerogative (and sometimes the real or perceived obligation) to boot out clients doing things that seem to be suspicious. The bottom line is that it is wise not to port scan without consent of the system's owner.

From Meyda Online Info Security & Privacy Studies, <http://www.meydabbs.com/> (to be overhauled soon) 

Avoiding ME Loading Problems

Rich Levin

Backup Your Personal Data

Turn your PC on, and backup any personal data that's critical to you. Make at least 2 complete backups of your personal data. When done, perform a test restore on one of the backups. This makes sure you really backed up the data, and can recover it in the event of a disaster. If you don't own a backup device, buy one. See my Blatant Products Plugs page for backup hardware (CD-RWs) and software (CD-RW) recommendations.

Freshen Firmware Drivers and Applications

Hit the Web, and download **all** the latest updates for **all** of your installed hardware, and **all** of the software you use regularly. That means you need to download and install the latest firmware (flash BIOS) updates for your motherboard, modem, vidcard, CD, DVD, etc., and download/install the latest software drivers for the hardware. If a particular piece of hardware offers both a firmware update and a software driver update, do the firmware update first, followed by the software driver installation. Lastly, download the latest printer, scanner, digital camera, and USB drivers, if you use those types of devices. Install the firmware and software updates as you download them. Doing so will bring your installed hardware and software base completely up to date. After you have updated your firmware and device drivers, download and install any updates that have been posted by your favorite application software vendors. In all cases, if the vendor doesn't offer a Windows Me update, grab the latest Windows 98 update.

Note: In the rare event you experience problems with your PC after flashing (upgrading) the motherboard BIOS, fret not. Your motherboard is **not** fried — even if your PC vendor's tech support people tell you so (that's how they get you to buy a new motherboard, folks!). To fix flash BIOS issues, (1) power off, then power on the PC; (2) go into the PC's CMOS setup (hardware setup) program; (3) find and use the "Reload setup defaults" option; and (4) save the new (default) settings and exit the CMOS setup program. After the PC reboots, all will be well.

Create a Startup Disk

Go into My Computer|Control Panel|Add/Remove Programs|Startup Disk. Have a few new 3" floppy disks ready. Put one floppy disk into the floppy disk drive and, after it's securely inserted, click the Create Disk button. Windows will create a bootable MS-DOS disk that you will soon use to run the Windows Me setup program. Create at least 5 of these DOS boot disks. Store 3 of them in a cool, dry place, off site. Keep 2 of them near your PC, in the event you ever have to reinstall Windows ME.

Reboot Your PC Using the Startup Disk

Power off your PC. Put the DOS boot disk you just created into your floppy drive. Power on the PC. Your PC will boot to DOS. (Note: If your PC doesn't boot to DOS, check your

CMOS hardware setup and make sure it's set to boot the A: drive first, followed by the C: drive.) If the Windows Startup menu appears, use your keyboard's arrow keys to select the command-prompt only option, and press Enter. (Note: **Do not** select any of the "Safe Mode" options, or your CD-ROM drive will not operate.)

Run Windows ME Setup

After your PC completes it's DOS boot, the classic DOS A prompt will appear on your screen. Open your CD-ROM drive door. Insert your new Windows Me CD-ROM. Close the CD drive door. At the keyboard, type D:\SETUP, and press Enter. (Note: If D:\SETUP doesn't work, try E:\SETUP, F:\SETUP, etc., until you find the correct drive letter for your CD-ROM drive.)

Have a Cup of Coffee

Windows Me Setup will run. You've been here a zillion times before; it's your basic installer. Just accept all the defaults or, if you know what you're doing, customize the features as you go. After you answer Windows Me's basic setup questions, you can leave the PC and return in 30 to 60 minutes. Windows Me setup is fully automatic, and will continue uninterrupted until it's complete.

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Sun Over A Beach

by *Burton Shane*

One bitter cold winter, my one-and-only and I took a jet plane to Jamaica to have some fun in the sun. We got off the plane, checked through customs, and an hour later we were walking hand-in-hand into the warm surf.

Microsoft likes to say, "Where do you want to go today?" As the sun and the temperature wane, I begin to think about that beach.

Click on <http://www.geocities.com/bshane39/beach.gif> to see what I mean. What's unusual about what you're seeing is that it is an animated gif that I made from a virtual reality, 3d, interactive, Quicktime movie. In Quicktime, you get to pan and zoom in the scene as if you were there with your video-cam.

Click on <http://www.geocities.com/bshane39/kailua.qt> to see the actual Quicktime movie (if you have the free Quicktime player from <http://www.apple.com>). You get to use your mouse and/or arrow keys and control your own meanderings. Don't get your mouse wet.

Now click on the next link for a group of interactive virtual reality movies of interesting sites around the globe. <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/qtvr>.

The free Quicktime player is the new standard for movies on the Web. 3D Virtual Reality is an enhancement that people are starting to notice. The next time you are looking for a million dollar home, the odds are good that you'll be able to take a virtual reality tour through it from your desktop or laptop. Speaking of real estate, try <http://www.greatbuildings.com> for a walk-through of some of the world's outstanding examples of architecture. Just click on 3D Models, and pick from the list. The only hitch is you have to download the free 3D Architectural drawing program first. The difference between this 3D program and Quicktime VR is that the Architectural drawing program allows you to roam inside the building, wander corridors, and go through walls.

The gamers among you will no doubt recognize this virtual reality experience. They can't have all the fun. Armchair travelers want to roam too. Sometimes that "real" world is just as exciting as the fantasy ones.

And you don't need any sun-block. ☞



First Bluetooth Headset

Ken Fermoye

You may or may not have heard the name "Bluetooth" in the past, but you are sure to hear it a lot in the future. Reason? Bluetooth is expected to be the jumping-off point for a giant leap forward in wireless communications.

To understand why, you need only recall the story of the Tower of Babel. Inability to communicate stymied its builders. That's been true of wireless communication devices. Until now. An industry-wide Special Interest Group developed the Bluetooth standard to ensure interoperability between wireless devices such as cellular phones, computers, and PDAs (personal digital assistants).

Nokia, Ericsson, 3Com, IBM, and Lucent Technologies are among the more than 100 companies that make up the Bluetooth Special Interest Group.

Interestingly, a small New Hampshire company beat mobile phone biggies Nokia and L.M. Ericsson out of the Bluetooth starting gate. GN Netcom has announced one of the first officially qualified Bluetooth devices, its GN 9000 Bluetooth wireless headset.

Now a new headset might not seem like a big deal, but releasing one of the first Bluetooth devices is a "milestone" both for GN Netcom and for Bluetooth technology, according to Michelle Boockoff-Bajdek, the director of marketing communications at GN Netcom.

The product underwent the extensive testing required by the Bluetooth Qualification Body to ensure interoperability with the standard, Boockoff-Bajdek said. This is a crucial step, because "the success of Bluetooth as a standard hinges on interoperability," she said.

The headset will require a Bluetooth host device — either the base station, which GN Netcom sells, or a Bluetooth card for a PC or PDA — to operate. When such a device is present, the GN 9000 Bluetooth headset will offer users a mobile range of up to 30 feet (900 centimeters). The device will retail for \$299, and a package including the base station and headset will cost \$499.

Although this price level puts it out of the reach of small office/home office (SOHO) users, which includes most Ken's Korner readers, I agree with GN Netcom's Boockoff-Bajdek that the headset is a significant milestone. It is the harbinger of things to come, the "first robin" of a wireless communications spring, as it were.

We must put the cost into context, notes Paul Mahoney, the director of product marketing at GN Netcom. The idea of Bluetooth "is to allow [the consumer] to use a single device instead of six or seven," he said, adding that \$299 for a single product is not expensive compared to buying multiple items for multiple devices.

A Ken's Korner NewsByte

Spamcop Busts Junk Emailers

Daniel Greenberg, Gannett Newspapers

Some of the slimiest characters lurking on the information superhighway are spammers. These are the people who glut the Internet with unsolicited e-mail trying to sell you stock scams, pyramid schemes and porn, and hide behind forged return addresses to keep you and your Internet service provider (ISP) from finding them or filtering out the unwanted trash.

In the real world, stamps cost money, which limits people's ability to send junk mail, but email is virtually free, which gives spammers free rein to smother the Net in trash. They can send millions of emails in the hope of tricking a tiny fraction into responding. Furthermore, it costs money for your ISP to receive these mudslides of junk email -- costs that get passed on to all of us. Most of the junk mail that flies around cyberspace would be illegal in the real world. Scams with fraudulent addresses are dealt with severely when they come through the US mail. But spammers, when caught, often get off lightly.

Fortunately, there is something you can do about the problem. Call a Spamcop.

Spamcop (<http://spamcop.net>), a Web service, can cut through the maze of bogus return address information to

uncover the identities of the spammers. It's amazing to watch it chew through the forged email address headers, discarding fakes and turning meaningless strings of data into readable return addresses -- fingering the guilty party, listing its true email address.

Spamcop sends a warning to the ISP used by the spammer, demanding it take action. The offending ISP tells the spammer to quit, but if he doesn't, the ISP usually fines him — and if that doesn't stop him, the ISP usually cuts off his access. The spammer can easily start again at another ISP, but if the fines become too great, he'll probably quit.

If you send your spam to Spamcop within two hours of receipt, Spamcop says, "Yum, this spam is fresh!" Fresh is good, because if Spamcop reaches the ISP while the spammer is flooding the Internet, he's not only caught red-handed, but he could lose Internet access in mid-barrage.

To use Spamcop, just copy the offending email, paste it into a window on Spamcop's site and click the "Process Spam" button.

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Ken's Korner: Flash Memory Gains Ground

Ken Fermoye

Perhaps "flash memory" is not part of our daily vocabularies, but the technology is rapidly becoming part of our lives, even if many of us don't realize it. Flash memory, you see, is used in cell phones, digital cameras, MP3 music players and other portable devices we all use more and more these days. It also plays a big role in unseen areas, such as networking devices from companies like Cisco.

Perhaps the most visible use of flash memory to consumers currently is in the little memory cards or sticks that slip in and out of digital cameras. Familiar brand names include SmartMedia and CompactFlash. Many other devices have built-in flash memory, so we aren't even aware that it's there.

But it is, and in growing numbers. Sales for 2000 are expected to hit \$10 billion or more, more than double the total for 1999. Manufacturers such as Intel, AMD, Atmel and Fujitsu will reap substantial profits as a result. And companies continue to announce new products or developments almost weekly.

For example, Intel Corporation in October 2000 introduced a new flash memory chip designed to enhance the performance of next-generation Internet phones and wireless devices. Intel claims that the new 1.8 Volt Wireless Flash Memory is the "highest performance flash chip available, carrying out key functions up to four times faster than existing flash solutions."

The increased performance will result in higher data throughput rates to speed up data-intensive Internet phone applications such as browsing, data streaming and text messaging, the company reports. Energy savings of up to 60 percent are also claimed for the new low-voltage memory.

In another indication of flash memory growth, AMD earlier announced that it has entered into an agreement with Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) to supply flash memory products over the next three years. Under the contract, AMD will provide HP with flash memory products designed to support a broad range of products including its inkjet printers and various print servers.

"Our high density and Page Mode flash memory devices offer an ideal complement to HP's innovative products," said Walid Maghribi, group vice president of AMD's Memory Group.

AMD produces a broad spectrum of flash memory products, including the award winning

Simultaneous Read Write (SRW) product family, Super Low Voltage 1.8V flash memory devices, and Burst and Page mode devices. Significantly, all of AMD's flash memory products are guaranteed for a minimum of one million write cycles per sector and 20 years data retention, "making them the most reliable non-volatile memory devices offered in the industry," according to AMD claims.

Lunics (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (ahm@spies.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.htm>

This is a group for those who share an interest in the Linux operating system and its relatives (UN*X, BSD, Coherent, AIX, etc.). Currently there is a strong interest in Linux as an alternative to other operating systems, especially since there is no charge for the system. It and its source code are freely distributable. Meetings the first Monday of the month. ☐

VBA & Excel

Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com)

<http://www.excelvba.homestead.com>

VBA is currently implemented in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Project and Microsoft Access. In the future, Microsoft will implement VBA in Microsoft Word and in Microsoft PowerPoint. Anyone interested in using any one of the Microsoft Office products and VBA is urged to attend. Meetings start at 7 P.M. on the fourth Monday of the month.

At the November meeting the subject was: "Introduction to Emacs" presented by Doug Lewan. There will be no meeting in December ☐

Multimedia & Mobile

Steven Rodriguez (help72@bigfoot.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/multi.html>

The MultiMedia and Mobile Computing Activity meets at 7 P.M. the same night as PC Users Group, and often introduces the topic being discussed at PCUG. ☐

Macintosh Users Group

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

<http://dorm.rutgers.edu/~ksproul/acgnjmug.html>

The Macintosh group generally meets on the fourth Friday of the month in Hill Center, Room 114, Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. In June, November, and December, the meeting is usually pushed to the third Friday. The meeting starts at 7 pm. We meet in the Busch Campus Student Center Food Court for supper around 5 PM for those people that come to the meeting straight from work. ☐

Genealogy

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

<http://www.webwarren.com/kb4cyc/gensig.html>

The Genealogy SIG is for genealogists who have an interest in computers and computer users who have an interest in genealogy. We provide a forum to assist members in furtherance of both computing and genealogical endeavors. Meetings generally focus on genealogy more than on computers. We meet at 8:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad

In addition to our Web page the SIG also has an electronic mailing list. Messages to be sent to the list should be addressed to gensig@webwarren.com. Subscription requests should be addressed to gensig@webwarren.com and include the line "subscribe gensig" in the body of the message. ☐

C/C++ Users Group

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

<http://www.blast.net/barnold>

The C/C++ User's Group was founded several years ago to be a forum for discussion about programming in general; to discuss beginning and intermediate level C, C++, and C-Win programming; to demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way; to discuss hardware, software, code, algorithms, operating systems; and to present the complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. Each meeting is divided into three sections: random access question, answers, and discussion; standard library functions, Windows API functions and other topics of a narrow and simple scope; and a main presentation which is normally a small program, 300-1000 lines, which actually performs some useful function. The program is discussed and demonstrated in terms of its philosophy, algorithm, flow, code, challenges, options, improvements, etc. This case study provides a forum for additional questions and audience participation. Source code for the program is handed out and is also available on the ACGNJ FTP Server: <ftp://ftp.acgnj.lrg/pub/acgnj/cug/>. ☐

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

<http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig>

December 14, 2000: We used the new ACGNJ cable modem and downloaded the SIG links page. Both the modem and page worked well. A few members were amazed at how quick the connections were made to the net. Some already have either DSL or cable connections, but were still amazed. I explained the organization of the new links page. We looked at the various types of sites available and their utility to investors. We concentrated on the Computer & Software, Government, Learn About Investing, and News links. Discussions covered what attendees found useful and not useful about various sites. It was a very entertaining meeting.

January 11, 2001: Brian G. Lanerman will show us his program, SPECTRE LEVEL IV. **Don't miss this most interesting session!!!!** This program is for day traders and has only very recently become available. It has the capability of looking in detail at the current market for a stock. You will be amazed at how much information is there. Currently, there is no cost for using the program or the data sources that support it, so you should try it!!! Whether you day trade or even trade infrequently, this will give you a great insight into how the NASDAQ market really works. Brian is a most enthusiastic and talented individual. Come and meet him in person.

I suggest you visit www.wallstreetdaytraders.com to learn more about this program. You will need a fairly recent version browser, but the effort to upgrade your browser will be repaid many fold after you see what is there. See more details at (http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig/laner_bio.html). You will also find a few more links to the complete program explanation. His bio may sound a bit like hype, but I see this as a result of his enthusiasm and brilliance. His description of the software and its capabilities are extremely accurate. There is nothing else with these capabilities available anywhere!!! ☐

- masks your computer's [IP] address
- SafeWeb Lets You:
 - block profiling cookies
 - profile the profilers
 - disable pop-up windows

You can even modify your browser to start any home page securely. It seems to be free, but you know I'm a skeptic. The site was mentioned on TechTV's Digital Avenue. I'm not sure of the significance of that, since they seem to be somewhat independent of TechTV.

Browser Wars

I did a little checking into Netscape 6.0, which I presented at our last meeting. Here are some of my personal observations:

Installation: Went smoothly on my home PC. I had seen announcement that it was smaller than previous versions, so I peeked at the ftp directory. All-in-one file was around 30Mb. We just downloaded this and ran it at the club, where there's a new, commercial grade cable hookup which let us do the download in just 2½ minutes. Cool! There is a Navigator only file which runs to 6Mb, but I use Composer a lot, so I installed the whole package at home and at the club.

Navigator new features:

Skins (*Classic* and *New* — like AOL) — neutral. Others will, I am sure, proliferate like crazy on the Web.

Can't eliminate icons on *Classic* — negative.

Sidebars (like IE, but more configurable) — positive.

Occasional erratic behavior on scroll bars — negative, but I'm assured it's rational, just takes getting used to.

It used to be that when you landed on the location field, the whole URL would be highlighted, making it easy to cut and paste. This is gone! — negative.

I once got a browser window with nothing but wallpaper — negative, weird, but it hasn't recurred.

Composer new features:

Looks more like final Web Page — numbers expanded in outline — positive.

You can cut from Web page and paste into new page without losing links — very good, saves lots of work.

Lists seem much easier to generate, but almost impossible to change — good and bad.

Everything falls apart when you try to edit a list — very bad.

Used to be able to insert links by highlighting text and pulling up link dialogue box by <CTL><SH>I, but this no longer works. Have to use Insert/Link or click on Link icon — bad. Note: this is unfriendly to folks with some disabilities, as well as slowing down my work.

Science

I have included notes from *Nature*, *Science* and *Scientific American* here in the past. The Josenhans remind me that there are other magazines worthy of note; in particular, *The American Scientist*, publication of Sigma Xi, the science honor society. It is intended more to communicate ideas to

other professionals, rather than colleagues (as with *Science*), or the curious public (as with *Scientific American*). They brought along a few back issues, and I must agree — it is an excellent magazine. What's more, it seems to be free and open on the Web site, www.americanscientist.org. There is an archive of online issues, many available in full text form, while others are restricted to abstracts. Sep-Oct 1998 even has an article entitled "Free Internet Access to Traditional Journals." Although this is a very good read on the Net, it doesn't have a Net column or regular Net features.

From *Science's* Netwatch, December 22: If you're interested in brains, from mouse to human, check out the UCLA Web site, www.loni.ucla.edu. There are some super images of the brain and neurological structures. If archaeology's your bag, check out the Teotihuacan Home page put up by Arizona State University at archaeology.la.asu.edu. If you're into hard stuff (physics), the American Physical Society (www.aps.org) has a new educational site called PhysicsCentral located at www.physicscentral.com. Finally, remember all my excitement about genomics? *Science* has put together a general interest site called "Functional Genomics" at www.sciencegenomics.org.

As you know, I visit *Nature's* Web site from time to time and lately have had to vent my frustration at their tight control regarding non-subscribers. I have complained to them about my inability to report on their articles if I couldn't read them, but they are published by Macmillan and the Web site is truly a .com and not a .org site. There is hope, however. They have a new subsite for the press and just maybe, some day...!

January *Scientific American* has some nice stuff this month at www.sciam.com. (In spite of its being a .com, it's still delightfully open!) This month's *Web Features* is a piece on why emperor penguins waddle, another on a plant genome project which "promises to revolutionize crop science," and one of sure interest to us, "Collectable Calculators." There are two Web enhanced articles, one on fiber optics and broadbanding the Net and the other on cosmology. In addition, there's the *Cyber View* column, "2001: A Scorecard," which this month speculates on how far we have come toward realizing Arthur Clark's futurist view of computers such as HAL in 2001.

Investing & Finance

I've been trading on Schwab online for some years, now. The process started with a private network, run by Tymeshare, and a DOS program, called "The Equalizer." When Windows came along, they came up with a new product called "Street Smart." Both these products could download either your portfolio, account by account, or transactions, and upload trade instructions. The intention was to keep your accounts on your PC and download transactions and prices to keep your portfolio up-to-date, checking to see that you and Schwab agreed. At no time did they accept that secure information transfer could be trusted over the public network, the Internet.

With the advent of secure browser transfer protocol (https), they obtained an online system that would work via the World Wide Web. This worked fine for normal investors who had no interest in playing games with the data on their PCs. The whole operation gradually migrated to the Net and the

continued

Internet Corner, *continued*

original client-side orientation was replaced by the server-side view used in www.schwab.com.

Two other forces were at work, however. The first was the development of the OFX standard for financial data transmission over the Net by Check Free, Intuit, Microsoft and others. This enabled use of the Net for data exchange, while keeping a complete view of your financial universe on your PC, with all your financial accounts, bank and brokerage, under one program, such as Quicken or Microsoft Money. (I miss the old warhorse, *Managing Your Money*.) The second force was the growth of day-trading, in remission since the great depression. Trading rooms with banks of workstations sprang up giving customers almost instant access to the trading floors or the markets. This Wall Street version of the OTB parlor was at once amusing and scary.

With the Web being bad-mouthed as the "World Wide Wait" and investors convinced they needed faster response to maximize profits, Schwab came up with "Velocity," advertised as super-fast, allowing streaming of price data. One reason their browser-based system was so slow was that all the formatting information their "look" required was transmitted with the data. Transmitting only data with a minimum of parsing information could result in lightning fast response. Second, someone had sold them on using Java for platform independence, making it slow as molasses to load and almost as slow to

move between functional views. Although the system is certainly better at watching the market, trading activities are still clumsier than with old DOS and Window products.

Unable to satisfy the horse-betting day-traders, they came up with still another solution, purchasing CyberCorp, www.cybercorp.com, which uses Bruce Lee as the company mascot. It is not only fast, but also optimizes your profit by scanning the markets for the best price, where every 'steenth makes a difference.

Another venture keeping up with latest images in CNBC takes them into Webphone, a TCP/IP based cell phone that handles text and audio (two-way) and video, so is able to handle trade communications. For pager fans there's the RIMM pager, trading outfitted, from www.rim.com.

This is only what Schwab is doing, but they are one of the more active in the online area. I have an account with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, and they have been painful to watch as they move from dragging their feet to clumsy ventures into the online world. If anyone can give us a summary of, say, Fidelity's or DLJ's efforts as well as some of the newbies who started out in the online world, the contribution would be greatly appreciated. ☞

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

	US/CANADA	FAMILY OF MEMBER (No Newsletter)	Dues	FOREIGN	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25	\$10		\$55	\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40					
3 Years	\$55					\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

Date _____ New Member Address Change Renewal of (Membership #) _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

Do not list me in the Membership Directory. (Street addresses are not listed in the directory.)

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups

Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, Princeton U. (609) 252-1163	NY/NJ/CT Relational Database User Group: Corporate and independent users. (212) 839-0125	New York Personal Computer Club: For information call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: 7:30 pm, 2nd Wednesday, St. Asaph's Episcopal Church. Lee Le'mon, (717)786-2260	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm,3rd Friday, Forums 103 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. Andrea Tarr (732) 229-2959.	Macintosh User Group: Third Tuesday, Dickson Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (973) 655-5274, http://www.njmug.org .
WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey: 2nd Tue., Queen of Heaven School, Cherry Hill; 4th Wed., Cherry Hill Library. (609) 354-1159.	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am to noon 3rd Saturday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington. (908) 995-4042	PC Club of South Jersey: 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday, Holy Cross HS, Route 130, Delran NJ. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel U., Philadelphia. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, Trenton St. College. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC Users Group: Bergen County Community College, Paramus NJ. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432
Morris Micro Computer Club: Bill Traywick, (973) 635-5393.	Fairlawn Computer Club: Last Monday, Fairlawn Senior Citizen Center. Joe Mathias (fair.lawn.computer.club@juno.com)	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrence Library, Rt 1 & Darrah Ln, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 281-3107, http://www.ppcug-nj.org
Workshop, Hands-On: 2 P.M. to Midnight on last Saturday of the month. First United Methodist Church, Church and Atlantic Streets (one mile from GSP exit 117A), Aberdeen NJ. Bring your project, computer and extension cord. For information call Burke Mawby, (908) 566-7445.		

Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, New York, Wednesday 8-9 p.m.

Software Review TLC Sat.10 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 227-7770.

Computer Talk, WPHT 1210 AM, Saturdays 11 a.m-1 p.m.

Free Help Line

Dell Computer: Sundays 1-4 P.M. (800) 677-0874. Call with your questions.

KGP Computer Shows

(More at <http://www.pcshow.com>)

Jan. 6-7: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, NJ ☹

ACGNJ Hotline

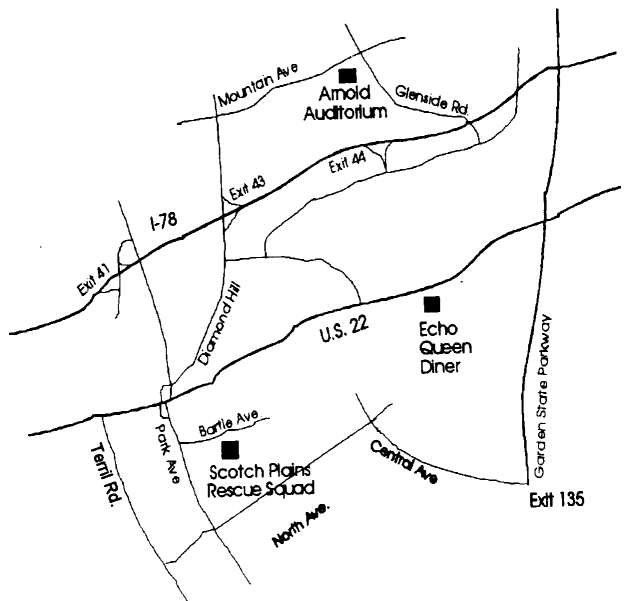
(908) 322-4654

ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

The ACGNJ Bulletin boards were shut down in April due to lack of interest. Of all the other bulletin boards previously listed in this spot, only one is still in operation.

(732) 739-3693 Dave Wrobel

For a comprehensive listing of NJ bulletin boards, look for and download GSBBS???.ZIP (Garden State BBS List).



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take either Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp and follow circle under Parkway. Bear right onto Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light onto North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right onto Martine (which turns into Park Ave.). Right onto Bartle Avenue in middle of shopping district. The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is located on the right. It is a two-story brick building. Please do not park in the row next to the building.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit for Scotch Plains (Exit 41) and follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross over low US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. The exit is after a McDonalds Restaurant on the right, diagonally opposite the Scotchwood Diner on the left, and immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use the overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is located on the right. It is a two-story brick building. Please do not park in the row next to the building. We normally meet upstairs, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.

ACGNJ NEWS

AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
P.O. BOX 135
SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

FIRST CLASS MAIL
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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DO NOT DELAY

TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ACGNJ MEETINGS

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings visit the ACGNJ Web Page (<http://www.acgnj.org>)

Monday, January 1, 2001

8 P.M. - Lunics — No Meeting: Andreas Meyer, ahm@spies.com, 908-382-4297

Tuesday, January 2, 2001

7 P.M. - Board of Directors meeting.

Wednesday, January 3

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

Thursday, January 4

8 P.M. - Internet, Martin Rosenblum, m.rosenblum@ieee.org, 973-376-8965.

Friday, January 5

8 P.M. - Main Meeting: Frank Warren, kb4cyc@webwarren.com, 908-756-1681. Microsoft presents Windows ME (Millennium Edition), giveaways. Host Jo-Anne Head.

Monday, January 8

8 P.M. - Layman's Forum, Matt Skoda, som359@aol.com, (908) 359-8842.

Wednesday, January 10

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

Thursday, January 11

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf, sheldonk@intac.com, 973-740-2489.

Friday, January 12

8 P.M. - PC Symposium. John Raff, jraff@home.com, 973-533-0664

Tuesday, January 16

7:30 P.M. - C/C++ Users, Bruce Arnold, barnold@blast.net, 908-735-7898.

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes, Mike Barlow, mwb@infi.net. Meeting at offices of Bright Ideas Software, Edison NJ. Info Line: (732) 417-5778 ext 5.

Wednesday, January 17

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

Friday, January 19

8 P.M. - PC Users, Steven Rodriguez, help72@bigfoot.com.

Monday, January 22

7 P.M. - No meeting of VBA (Visual Basic, Excel) Merry Christmas! James Ditaranto, fryr92a@prodigy.com, 973-772-7171.

Thursday, January 25

8 P.M. - Genealogy. Frank Warren, kb4cyc@webwarren.com, 908-756-1681.

Friday, January 26

7 P.M. - Macintosh Users Group, meeting at Rutgers University, Piscataway. Keith Sproul, ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu, 732-821-4828.

8 P.M. - Random Access, Computer Q&A, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

Tuesday, January 30

7 P.M. - Board of Directors meeting.

Wednesday, January 31

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

All club meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, N.J.
Directions and map inside back cover.