

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 26, Number 9

November 2001



ACGNJ Nominations Chairman Frank Warren seeks volunteers to serve as Officers or Directors of ACGNJ for the following year(s). To volunteer, send email to kb4cyc@webwarren.com. Please!



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

Election Slate for 2002

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

It's that time again! Once again we are appealing for volunteers to serve as Officers or Directors of ACGNJ. Elections take place on December 7, 2001. The meeting begins at 8 P.M.

The slate for 2002 as it now exists:

President	Scott Vincent
Vice-President	John Raff
Treasurer	Dr. Graham Curtis
Recording Secretary	open
Corresponding Secretary	open
Directors	

Arnold Milstein
Charlie Huffsmith
Martin Rosenblum
Sheldon Koepf

Please note, the two Secretary positions may be combined into one, depending on the result of the vote on the Bylaws changes, which will also take place at the December meeting.

We strongly urge anyone who is interested in serving to step forward now. Send email to kb4cyc@webwarren.com or telephone (908) 756-1681. You may nominate yourself, and nominations will not be closed until immediately before the vote is taken on December 7, 2001. ☐

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**Important issues are coming up for vote at the December Main Meeting.
Mark December 7, 2001 on your calendar now, and plan to attend.**

Back issues of ACGNJ News are available in PDF format with hyperlinks at <http://acgnj.port5.com/>

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be included as separate files. Fax or mail hard copy and/or disk to editor; OR e-mail to Editor. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone *and* name, address and phone of 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?

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

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E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (<http://www.acgnj.org/officers.htm>).

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The Internet? I Can't Live Without it!

Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

The computer was off (really!) and I was sipping coffee and reading the Sunday funnies. There's Cathy searching for airline tickets on the Internet. In one panel, a friend describes spending an hour juggling flight schedules on screen, trying to find the best time and price. Another friend tells about finally giving up after experiencing the World Wide Wait at every airline site. Cathy pokes around the Web and after four hours online, finally finds the perfect, discounted ticket. When she finally gets on the flight, the passenger next to her explained how his ticket cost him \$20 less than Cathy's.

The punch line? He apparently doesn't own a computer and got his ticket by making a ten-minute phone call.

Of course the guy missed the point. I mean, why in the world would anyone want to do something by phone when you could use modern technology?

Okay, I'll admit I've done it. I'll invest 20 minutes using a dozen search engines trying to find a phone number for a restaurant. Oh, sure, I know it's in the Pasadena Yellow Pages. And the book's sitting just across the room. But that's the point, right? It's not within reach and I'm already logged on.

Seriously, used judiciously, the Internet's a tremendous tool. In the last few weeks, I've been able to use the Web to get an obscure part for a camera lens, find replacement vinyl straps for a lawn chair, buy discounted wallpaper (50 percent less than the local shop), learn more about Home Theater devices than I could at a local store, find an out-of-print book, and hire a fencing contractor. Here are some other examples:

Improve on This The fencing guy came by way of ImproveNet, a web site that hooks me up with a contractor. You plug in the details of the job and they find a contractor in your area who is qualified to handle the job. The site reports whether the contractor has a general liability insurance certificate on file with ImproveNet, has a license in good standing, a clear financial history, and a clear legal history. Each item is updated quarterly. So far, I've had good luck twice: first with a concrete job and again with the fencing contractor. Check it at <http://www.improvenet.com>

Beam it to me, Scottie Last year I had a satellite dish installed and subscribed to DirecTV. It's terrific—the picture's digitally and stunningly crisp, the signal's never failed (Hello? Charter Communication? How's your cable doing?), and the available programming is excessive. We're getting the basic channels, a few premium channels, and Independent Film Channel for a little less than cable. (<http://www.directv.com>)

With all that high-tech beaming into the house, I don't want to sit in front of the TV and stare at DirecTV's on-screen scroll to keep track of what's playing. Instead, I use TV Grid, a nifty Internet service that jumps through hurdles for me. (<http://www.tvgrid.com>) It offers what every other TV service has, a grid listing your favorite stations. So far, no big deal. But when I move the cursor on top of the movie or show, a description appears in another frame. Click on the link and another Java-based window pops up, letting me quickly jump to one or two movie review sites (<http://www.mrge.com> or <http://www.imdb.com>). Then the film's title is inserted into the search engine saving me keystrokes. Very cool. It gets better:

If I want to watch a specific movie, say, the Producers, I can create a Perpetual Reminder. TV Grid searches every morning, e-mailing me if they find a match.

Inside DVD Do you have a DVD player? Then sign up for a free DVD of Infinity, a 1996 movie starring (and directed by) Matthew Broderick. It's an account of the personal life of Manhattan Project scientist Richard Feynman. First read some reviews here: <http://us.imdb.com/TUrls?COM+0116635>

I discovered the free DVD from Inside DVD, the DVD Entertainment Magazine on the Web. <http://www.insidedvd.com/>. Log on and register, and they'll send you a DVD. Free. No hooks and no obligations. And nope, I haven't received any e-mail or junk mail, and I've been signed up for six months. That's because the DVD's advertiser sponsored. Nonetheless, it's loaded with movie trailers, music, previews, and other stuff (and, because it's DVD, you can blithely ignore anything you're not interested in viewing).

Shopping for a DVD or Anything Else? If you haven't tried comparison shopping on the Internet, you're missing a ton of fun. Even if you don't buy anything, these resources take the hassle out of comparing products and features. The very best site at feature comparisons is <http://www.compare.net>. I started by searching for a DVD player. Once the models came on screen, I could click a few DVD models and in a few seconds, I had a grid on screen showing each product feature compared to the others. You can also drill deeper and get pricing.

There are loads of sites that'll check for low prices, but the two most comprehensive I found: Excite's Product Finder (<http://www.jango.com/xsh/index.dcg?>) and Bottom Dollar (<http://www.bottomdollar.com/>). But it doesn't stop there. As I began shopping for an A/V receiver, two PIBMUG members told me about Audio Review (<http://www.audioreview.com>). I searched the site, found the A/V unit I was interested in, and found 75 independent reviews.

People rate themselves as audiophile dweebs, casual users, or audio enthusiasts, and then post a review. The value is tremendous; I soon learned that the model I chose was both underpowered and had problems with high-range frequencies. It was a bad choice for me. I figured the reviewers were on the same wavelength as I so I sent e-mail to a number of them, asking for recommendations. The replies were equally valuable. I read the reviews of another receiver and it helped with the buying decision. Better than relying on a Circuit City salesperson? You bet!

In the meantime, I've got to go online. A new Cathy's just been posted. www.uexpress.com/ups/comics/ca/index.html

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World Magazine, frequently writes for Forbes ASAP, and is the president of the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He often writes with his tongue in his cheek. Write to him at stevebass@earthlink.net. There is no restriction against any non-profit group using the article as long as it is kept in context, with proper credit given to the author. This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs. ☐

Basic Windows Maintenance

Vic Laurie, Princeton PC Users Group

Over the last few years Windows maintenance has been a pet theme of mine. I have given a variety of presentations and lectures and written a number of articles on the subject. Here I am going to get on my soapbox again. I know from experience that many ordinary home PC users would benefit greatly from just a modicum of basic knowledge on the subject. I also know from experience that there is a lot of inertia and considerable reluctance to learn that basic knowledge. It's a shame because I have encountered many instances where a PC user tells me about a problem that could have been fixed in 10 or 15 minutes with a little basic knowledge. Instead he or she loses many days waiting for a friend or relative to fix it or spends a fair amount of money for a technician. (Or in some cases even buys a new computer.) In this article I outline the basic things I think would be of use to all PC users, whatever their technical background. You could go through life and never need any of this stuff. On the other hand, a little preparation might save you from a peck of trouble. (There are other relevant articles and PowerPoint presentations available for downloading at <http://www.vlaur.com>. Both the Windows 98 Tools and Maintaining the Computer pages pertain.) Another reference is <http://www.extremetech.com/article/0,,s%3D2&a%3D10855,00.asp>.

Updating Virus Protection

Most computers now come with an anti-virus program, but many people fail to keep their database of virus definitions updated. All major anti-virus programs come with an update feature that should be used regularly. New viruses appear daily so updating every two weeks is not too often. Unfortunately, the major companies no longer provide unlimited updates but have started charging after one year's (or less) usage. Depending on your version, subscriptions range from \$5 to \$15 per year. There are still some free services but these are subject to change at any time. If you need to buy a new anti-virus program, it may be better to buy a utility suite. For little additional cost they include many other useful utilities.

Information about anti-virus software can be found at

<http://www.zdnet.com/products/stories/reviews/0,4161,2768351,00.html>

<http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/filters/subfilter/0,7212,6003257,00.html>

<http://www.pcmag.com/article/0,2997,s%253D1474%2526a%253D2736,00.asp>

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q49/5/00.ASP>

<http://www.peworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,55803,00.asp>

I have not tried it, but some people recommend the free program at http://www.grisoft.com/html/us_index.cfm

Preparing for Disaster

Unfortunately, hard drive failure is not all that uncommon. If it occurs, everything that is on the drive is lost (unless you resort to an expensive recovery service). If you get a virus, a lot of your disk may be wiped out. In a variety of other ways, files may be corrupted or lost. Botched software installations, system crashes, or just plain carelessness can lose valuable data. Backups are essential. Ideally, the whole system should be backed up to some external storage device. At a minimum, all files such as passwords, favorite places, address books,

financial and tax records, important documents and correspondence (including e-mail), and any other personal data that has more than transitory value should be backed up to some place other than your hard drive.

Windows 98 comes with a backup accessory in Programs|Accessories|System Tools|Backup. It may not be installed by default so you may have to add it from the Windows disk. The Windows disk also contains a tool called System Recovery Wizard. An article on how use it to do a full system restore is at <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q187/5/26.asp>. I prefer other ways of backing up, such as Norton Ghost, but this may be more than the beginner or casual user wants to cope with. At the very least, regularly copy essential files using a CD-RW, Iomega drive, or other storage medium. If you *really* don't have much that is important on your system, you could conceivably use diskettes, but at a capacity of 1.44 Mbytes each you won't get much storage, even with some form of file compression. For information on backup media and software, see

www.pcmag.com/article/0,2997,s%253D1474%2526a%253D2800,00.asp

http://windows.about.com/c/ht/00/07/How_Back_System0962932997.htm

In addition to providing a way to restore the entire system, backup software generally provides a way to replace individual files.

In general, restoring a system may require some sort of boot disk. Norton Ghost and other software create their own versions of a boot disk. Whichever form of backup you use, be sure to create the appropriate boot disk. The process of creating a Windows startup disk is described at www.microsoft.com/windows98/usingwindows/maintaining/tips/beginner/Bootdisk.asp.

Restoring the Registry

Less catastrophic than a hard drive crash, a corrupted Registry is still a major matter for the unprepared. Most Windows 95 home users I have known never backed up their Registry and had a serious problem if anything happened to the Registry. Windows 98 makes backup copies once a day for each of the last 5 days that the system has booted. (Of course, if you never reboot, you will not have this protection.) Restoring one of the five is easily done with the system tool, Registry Checker (scanreg.exe). It requires going into DOS but the process is painless even for a novice. If one day your computer informs you that it won't boot into Windows because the Registry is corrupt and you are staring at a black and white DOS screen, type "scanreg /restore" (without quotes) and enter. You will get a screen asking which of the five Registry backups you wish to restore. They will be dated. Pick one from a date when you know everything was functioning. For more info, see <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q183/8/87.asp> or <http://216.167.71.32/windows98/start-145.shtml>.

In Windows Me (and sometimes in Windows 98) you will have to use a boot disk because DOS is not available. It is imperative, therefore, to make a boot disk to have handy for any such emergency.

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From The DealsGuy

Bob Click (Bobclick@mindspring.com), Greater Orlando Computer User Group

Hats Off To The Editors

I get about 30 users group newsletters and I'm always impressed at work performed by editors. Some I receive as printed newsletters, others are sent as PDF. Two are ZIP files. A few are newsletters in PDF format that editors notify me as being ready to download by clicking on a URL. Electronic newsletters are rapidly becoming more popular as printing and mailing costs go up. Poor delivery by the Post Office is also a major factor and complaints to them about delayed delivery mostly fall on deaf ears. I take my hat off to those unsung heroes, the editors, and some do it year after year with rare thanks from the members they do it for.

For what it's worth, an editor's life is usually one of continuous frustration because of deadlines, and articles that rarely arrive on time. Many user group writers are notorious for their procrastination, which helps burn out editors. Please remember to thank your editors for all their hard work. Many of these newsletters are real works of art, which takes time, research and considerable effort. Many are a variety of informational articles while others lean more toward news and information about the group, but a users group's newsletter is always a major part of the "glue" holding the organization together.

Fast Connections Can Bring Fast Problems Also

Willem "Pim" Borman (swipcug@lycos.com), Web Site Editor for SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc. made me aware of this very unusual experience, and I thought my readers should also be aware of it since many of you are cable-connected. Here is what he told me:

"I recently found SirCam on my computer — not sure where I got it, but consider the following: Norton Antivirus suddenly, one evening, alerted me, while I was NOT reading e-mail or such. I had it remove the worm. But it kept coming back every evening, sometimes twice. I was beginning to wonder if Norton was seeing ghosts. Instead of removing the worm again, I decided to shut down and restart the computer. That generated a warning that I was about to shut down "Terri" on my network. I don't know of anyone like that, but it gave me a clue."

"I have a cable connection and had 'disabled file and print sharing' right after I got it. Somehow, I got reconnected to a network with at least a dozen other users of the local cable. I suspect that one of them has/had the virus and that it transmitted itself to others on the cable network (that were accessible) every time "Terri" turned on his computer! After I disconnected myself, again, from the cable network, I have not heard from SirCam again. I have never heard of this way of getting a virus, but it certainly is worth watching out for if you have cable access to the Internet! SirCam is known to propagate itself across networks."

New To The Column

JB Hillard, president of Chautauqua Cyber Club, Inc. asked about occasionally using the column. In an exchange of e-mail, he mentioned many projects that group is involved in, and I was amazed. This is one of the busiest groups I know of

for its size. — Charles Hajdu of Philadelphia Hub PC Users Group also e-mailed me about getting the column. This group is also interesting since they consist of Air Traffic Controllers of a hub area. Check their unique Web site on my distribution page. Welcome to the Deals column.

Still Good

Modem Booster (<http://www.inklineglobal.com/register>) (code "MB-DEALSGUY-1001") and Redbook Organizer 4.1 (<http://www.inklineglobal.com>) (code RBODEALSGUY) are still good. Cresotech PocketSafe 1.16 for Windows CE (for Pocket PC) is also still good. Use password "dealsguy" at <http://www.regsoft.net/purchase.php3?productid=36402&pc=M6M64>. The Keystone Learning products have expired, but if you are still interested, who knows what they will say if you call (888-299-3647, EXT. 7002)!

Unbelievably, I had two requests to feature products in my deals column, but after multiple requests for more information on the deals, they have not yet responded.

Forgot Your Password?

ElcomSoft Company is offering a product to help you with lost or forgotten passwords for ZIP/PKZip/WinZip, ARJ/WinArj, RAR/WinRAR and ACE/WinACE archives. It supports the customizable brute-force attack and is effectively optimized for speed (up to fifteen million passwords per second for ZIP). It has a very fast and effective known-plain-text attack (ZIP and ARJ only), and dictionary-based attack. Multilanguage interface is provided. Application Category: Utilities - Security & Encryption - Password Utilities - File Tools.

The normal price for Advanced Archive Password Recovery is \$60.00, but my readers can buy it for \$40.00 at the discount URL below.

Company Email: dharchenko@elcomsoft.com

Company URL: <http://www.elcomsoft.com>

Discount download: <http://www.elcomsoft.com/ARCHPR/archpr.zip>

Or <https://www.regnow.com/softsell/nph-softsell.cgi?item=1170-74>] Not sure which. Filesize: 735369 Bytes / 719 Kb / 0.7 Mb.

Check this product's capabilities at their site thoroughly before you decide.

Clean It Up Please

Here is multifaceted software that will do a lot to clean up your Windows and browser. Cleaning up the history of your activities can be a tedious chore of manually removing each history file or entry. If privacy and disk space are to be maintained, this process should be performed every time you use your computer.

Window Washer can automatically clean up your browser's cache, cookies, history, recent document list, and much more, and it can run in the background cleaning up your tracks when you are done surfing the Internet, or any other time you choose. Window Washer cleans the tracks left behind on your computer by today's latest browsers, including...

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Vinyl LP to Audio CD or MP3 Files

Bruce Fries

With a good sound recording and editing program you can take those old scratchy LPs and 78s record them through your sound card, filter out all those clicks and pops, and then burn the music to an audio CD or store it as an MP3 file. The following process also works for recording audio from other external sources, such as cassette tapes and microphones.

Use a program like CoolEdit 2000 (<http://www.cooledit.com>) for the PC or Peak (<http://www.bias-inc.com>) for the Mac. Demo versions of both programs can be downloaded for free.

Connect Your PC to Your Stereo

The first step is to connect an adapter cable from the tape out (or record) jack of your stereo receiver to the line input of your sound card. These cables can be purchased from most consumer electronics stores, such as Radio Shack, Best Buy and Fry's Electronics. Newer turntables with line-out jacks can be connected directly to the sound card.

Set the Sampling Rate and Resolution

The next step is to create a new file in the sound editing program. If you intend to create an audio CD, you must choose a sample rate of 44,100, two channels (stereo) and a resolution of 16 bits. This will create a file that takes up approximately 10MB of space for every minute recorded, so you will need plenty of free disk space. For voice or music to be embedded in a Web page, you can use a lower sample rate, a single channel and 8 bit resolution to create a much smaller file.

Set the Recording Level

Now play part of the track and use the Volume Control program to set your recording levels. In Windows, the first screen of the Volume Control program is for playback levels. To get to the Recording Level screen, choose Properties from the Options menu and select the checkbox for Recording. Make sure the checkbox for the Line-In volume control is also selected. Click OK and the Record Level screen will appear.

Set the Monitor Record Level option in your recording program to On, and, as the track plays, adjust the adjust the slider for Line-In so the level meter shows a strong signal, but not so strong as any peaks cause the meter to go into the red area.

Record the Audio

Lift the stylus and queue up the beginning of the track. Click the Record button in your recording program and then lower the needle. Make sure no other programs are running while you record. When the track is finished, click the Stop button and lift the stylus.

Remove Clicks, Pops or Hiss

Play back the track to hear how it sounds. Trim off any silence at the beginning and ends of the track. If you have an audio clean-up plug, use it to automatically remove any clicks, pops and hiss. If you don't have an audio clean-up plug-in, you can zoom in to each click or pop, select an adjacent cycle of the waveform at the zero crossing points, copy it to the clipboard, and then paste it over the cycle that contains the click. Listen to the track again and run the hiss removal if necessary.

Normalize the Volume

Normalize the track to adjust the volume up or down so that all tracks will play at a similar level. A value of 97% usually works well if your software normalizes by peak level. More advanced programs, such as CoolEdit Pro, can normalize by average levels, which is much more accurate. At this point, you may want to add a fade-in or fade-out. Some CD recording programs, such as Nero (<http://www.nero.com>) can automatically crossfade tracks as the CD is recorded.

Save to WAV or MP3 File

If you intend to record the track to an audio CD, save it to a PCM format WAV file (PC) or an AIFF file (Mac). Save the file to MP3 format if you want to play it from your computer or on a portable player.

It pays to experiment with a short clip before you record and clean-up an entire album. Find out which settings work best for different types of recordings and write these down for future reference.

Many of these old 78s and LPs are irreplaceable, so it pays to preserve them in a digital format. If you ever have recorded a cassette or reel-to-reel tape, you should be comfortable with this process and delighted with the ability to improve the quality of the audio.

For more information on recording from vinyl LPs to audio CDs or MP3 files, pick up a copy of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook (\$19.95) from <http://www.TeamComBooks.com> or read it online for free at <http://www.MP3Handbook.com>.

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCom Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet, and author of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook. ☺



ACGNJ Webmaster seeks paid part-time work in ColdFusion, HTML, or website maintenance (webmaster). Please call Jo-Anne Head at 908-769-7385 evenings/weekends or write tinarock@aol.com.

Disk Maintenance

Windows comes with two system accessories, ScanDisk and Defrag, that should be used regularly to keep the file system healthy. Access them in Programs\Accessories\System Tools or by entering "scandisk" or "defrag" (without quotes) into the Run line. ScanDisk can be run in "Standard" or "Thorough" modes. The latter takes a while and need not be run very often. Microsoft suggests running Standard once a week, and Thorough once a month. I think the average home user could get away with one month and four months, respectively, but the number is arbitrary. In any case, ScanDisk Standard should always be run after any system crash. More on ScanDisk is at

www.microsoft.com/windows98/usingwindows/maintaining/tips/beginner/scandisk.asp

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q186/3/65.ASP>

Heavy users should defrag once a week, but once a month is probably adequate for average home use. It is best to run Defrag right after ScanDisk. The first time that Defrag is run it may take several hours, depending on disk size and condition. At about 10% defragmented the system will seem to hang for many minutes but it will eventually go on. More info at www.microsoft.com/windows98/usingwindows/maintaining/tips/beginner/diskdefrag.asp and

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q186/1/71.asp>

Ron Badour has good pages on ScanDisk and Defrag at

<http://badour.freewebsites.com/html/scandisk.html>

<http://badour.freewebsites.com/html/defrag.html>

An important consideration in running either of these tools is to have nothing else running in the background. You can do Ctrl-Alt-Delete to bring up the list of running programs or (easier) use the neat program EndItAll from PC Magazine See <http://pages.zdnet.com/hampsi/Articles/Hurry2.htm> .

File Maintenance

A certain amount of housekeeping will help your system to be more efficient and stable. Windows programs use a lot of temporary files, which can accumulate at an alarming rate. In particular, the folders \Windows\Temporary Internet Files\ and \Windows\temp\ can really build up. These folders should be cleaned out periodically. To do this, to go to My Computer and right-click on the icon for the C: drive. Open the Properties sheet and be sure the "General" tab is selected. Then click "Disk Cleanup." You will be given a choice of temporary folders to clean, including Recycle Bin. More on Disk Cleanup at <http://216.167.71.32/windows98/start-141.shtml> and <http://pages.zdnet.com/hampsi/Articles/clean.htm>. Incidentally, if you click on the "Tools" tab in the properties sheet, you can access ScanDisk and Defrag from here as well as Microsoft Backup (if it is installed).

Conclusion

The procedures outlined here are not onerous. Nor do they require any special knowledge. However, a PC user who carries out these minimal basic steps on a regular basis is likely to have a better computer experience. Things may still go wrong but the prepared user will have much less trouble overall. ☐

Cache, cookies, history, mail trash, drop down address bar, auto complete data forms, downloaded program files. Also cleans recycle bin, registry streams, Windows run history, Windows find history, CHK scan disk files, recently viewed pictures, recently opened documents, MS Office 97 and 2000 tracks, Windows temp files folder. Purchase Window Washer or Mac Washer at <http://www.webroot.com/ugrebate.htm> where you can get a \$5 discount from the \$29.95 regular price. Check <http://www.webroot.com> for more info on Webroot products.

Time For a New Suite

This was an APCUG announcement and I am making sure everybody knows about it. Gobe Software's developer team is introducing "GobeProductive" which will be introduced at Fall Comdex. This is the same team that developed ClarisWorks. GobeProductive was first developed for the BeOS. Now it has been adapted to Windows or Linux and if you are ready for a new office suite try this one.

Here is an excerpt from their message: "What sets GobeProductive apart from other productivity suites is a single key insight. Why have an integrated office package that uses different document formats for word processing, spreadsheets, vector illustration, image editing, and presentations? In Productive, you just do what you need to do. If you're in the middle of writing a report and want to insert some spreadsheet data, you don't have to open a separate app. Just insert a spreadsheet 'part' and keep working. Flow your text around it, insert graphics, share data between parts, and keep it all together in one document."

To find out more, go to <http://www.gobe.com>. The normal price will be \$124.95, but a pre-introduction order price of \$39.95 is available at <http://www.gobe.com/preorder> until the product is officially shipped. They say introduction should be about November 15, 2001. If you miss that one, they will have another users group offer after that, but this is their best offer. They will be sponsors at the APCUG fall Comdex events.

Still Procrastinating on AV Because Of The Price?

A friend suggested that I include F-Prot, absolutely free antivirus software, in a column. Actually, only their DOS version is free to home users. This one will take some experience because you must download, and then unzip, to use it. The same for updating signatures. It can be run from a floppy, although I have not done that as yet. The DOS version is kind of clunky (can't use mouse), but it works. I wish they had updates more often though. They do have a Windows or Linux version, but they are not free. Point your browser to <http://www.frisk.is/f-prot/download> to download F-Prot antivirus. Of course, you will also need WinZip or another decompression product to unpack the file. Just don't forget to keep updating signatures periodically at the same URL.

Meet me here next month if your editor permits. 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. Visit <http://www.dealsguy.com> for past columns and interesting articles (taken from user group newsletters) on my "Articles of Interest" page for viewing or downloading. ☐

USB Could Mean “User’s Super Buddy”

Ken Fermoye

Officially, USB stands for “Universal Serial Bus.” Unofficially, I think it could translate to “User’s Super Buddy” for PC and Mac users. Anybody who tried to install and configure a peripheral device in the old pre-USB days likely will agree. Back then, the chore was a major one, especially with PCs.

It required a ton of computer savvy and no little amount of luck. First, you had to figure out which port to use from a bunch of confusing possibilities. Then, in most cases, you had to pull the cover off your computer (always scary, for either Mac or PC) to install an add-in card. For PCs, this often required setting pesky DIP switches. Next came the job of finding and configuring an available IRQ, not always easy. Basic system components used up some IRQs; serial devices already installed used up still more.

It was a fun job, yessir! I can recall blowing the better part of a day trying to install a single new peripheral in computers ranging from the venerable XT through a variety of X86 machines, even into WinTel systems of the ’90s. (Mac users had it easier but USB has been a boon for them, too.) Windows Plug’n’Play eased the problem, when it worked, but it took USB to solve it completely.

With USB, a computer automatically recognizes the device connected and installs the appropriate drivers. It enables computer users to “hot-plug” computer peripherals to their PCs. (“Hot-plugging” means you can plug in and unplug peripherals without having to power down and reboot your computer, no small benefit.)

Not that there weren’t difficulties at first. I heard many complaints from people who tried to install USB ports and devices in the early days of the technology. The problems usually arose from trying to use USB in hardware or software systems that weren’t ready for it; i.e. older systems that hadn’t been built with USB compatibility in mind. I do not recall getting any similar complaints during the past year. Lack of USB devices was a problem at first but now they’re everywhere.

USB offers many more benefits than simple installation. First, USB (Version 1.1) can carry data at up to 12 megabits per second (Mbps), 100 times faster than any serial port. This broad category includes digital cameras, modems, keyboards, mice, printers, digital joysticks, some CD-ROM drives, tape and floppy drives, digital scanners and specialty printers.

USB’s data rate also accommodates a whole new generation of peripherals: MPEG-2 video-base products, data gloves, digitizers and computer-telephony, expected to be a big growth area for PCs and Macs. (In addition, USB provides an interface such business-oriented technologies as Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) and digital PBXs.)

The latest version of USB, Version 2.0, introduced late in 2000, offers even faster communication, with bandwidth up to 400 Mbps. It easily accommodates high-performance peripherals, such as monitors, video conferencing cameras, next-generation printers, and faster storage devices. Happily, USB 2.0 is backward-compatible with Version 1.1

Next, one or two USB ports can support many peripherals. In theory, up to 127 devices can be “daisy chained” from a single port. There are practical limitations, power supplies among them, and most of us will never use anywhere near that number. The ability to plug a USB hub into a USB port and then connect four or more peripherals to it is a real convenience. You can place a hub anywhere on your desktop for easy access; no more crawling under the desk to connect or disconnect a mouse, digital camera or any other USB-compatible device.

Frosting on the cake comes in the form of an impressive hardware package from Belkin: the USB BusStation. This versatile docking station not only serves as a hub that gives you up to seven USB ports, but by using optional adapters, it can accommodate many non-USB peripherals. It also offers a laundry list of other features:

- Innovative modular tower with three slide-out modules that fit into the palm of your hand.

- Configure your own low-cost universal docking station; choose whatever module combination is right for you, whether you are a PC or Mac user. (Compatible with Windows 95 rev. B, Windows 98, Windows 2000, Mac OS 8.1 or higher)

- 7-port hub (standard configuration) connects seven devices to a single USB port on your PC.

- Freedom to Connect keyboards, mice, joysticks, speakers and more to a single USB port on your computer.

- 4A (Ampere) power supply provides true 500-mA (milliAmp) power to each port.

- Modules available for Ethernet, SCSI devices, serial, parallel, PS/2 and additional USB ports.

- Illuminated green LEDs for easy access to port status.

- Supports all high-speed and low-speed USB devices.

- Includes a Belkin Pro Series 3 ft. USB Device cable for a quality connection, lifetime Belkin warranty and USB Wizard to make configuration even easier.

I’ve been using a BusStation for many months now and find it invaluable. (Faithful readers know I don’t report on a service or product until it has proved itself over a reasonable length of time and I have become thoroughly familiar with it.) Even before installing it in my main computer, I vowed never to buy another non-USB peripheral again. With BusStation, I’ve found it easy to connect some of my older devices, including one of my several scanners and a digital camera with only a serial interface. This rates as an especially valuable feature for those of us who can’t afford to replace all of our currently owned peripherals with new USB products.

One caution: The BusStation User Manual clearly states that the 4A power supply is more than enough to supply adequate power to all ports in normal configuration. At 500mA per port, the power draw would be 3.5A. (Low-power devices such as mice and keyboards draw only about 100mA However, adding a 4-port hub as one of the modules would overtax

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Click'n'Burn Pro Version 2.0

Dick Freymoyer (dickfrey1@aol.com)

Click'N'Burn Pro Version 2.0 (suite) comes boxed with five programs and five DiskSavers CD Jewel Cases this year. The Click'N'Burn Pro program looks & feels the same as last year's original issue (reviewed in May 2001 ACGNJ News), with all the simple, friendly user interface modes. I will just touch on what I found different, since I went into lots of detail on my first review on this outstanding product from Stomp Inc. The five programs bundled into this year's release of Click'N'Burn Pro V-2.0 include Click'N'Burn Pro, Click'N>Edit Sound LE, Click'N'Design 3D Silver, Veritas Simple Backup and Veritas DLA.

When you open Click'N'Burn Pro Version 2.0, you see the "Starter Page" with four basic functions: Disk Copy; Audio Disk; Data Disk and DJ Burn. The Starter Interface screen is a shortcut to the different modes of CD recording and is easy to understand. Next to each of the four functions are brief descriptions of what each mode does. I have found two items that are different since Version 1. There is now support for the CDR capabilities of a DVD Recorder, and now you can adjust the amount of silent time between songs or tracks when you create an audio CD.

DJ Burn

DJ Burn allows you to burn a standard audio CD that is playable in any standard CD player. You can add single tracks from any source and by keeping the session open, you can keep adding other tracks until the CD media disk is full. You can record from MP3, WAV, WMA, or CDA. I have recorded some of my Big Band 33-RPM LPs successfully, removing much of the surface noise, hisses, etc. Until I got this version of Click'n'Burn, it was necessary to use another program like "Cool Edit" or others to edit the saved audio files on the hard drive. This time I used Click'N>Edit Sound LE.

Click'N>Edit Sound LE

I have seen a lot of articles lately about making recordings from external sources, so I will not try explain every move. The main item you need is a patch cable from your Stereo Amp output to your SB Live or (better) input jack of your sound card. LPs are analog recordings, and for the best sound you must convert them to Digital. It would be easy; but hisses, scratches and imperfections your LP's and they must be removed to make a good Digital recording. This is a job for "Music Match Jukebox or "Cool Edit " or the new Click'N>Edit Sound LE.

Click'N>Edit Sound LE is a full featured audio recording and editing application. It allows you to record music from any external source, by the way of your sound card, to your hard drive. You can trim the silences between tracks on the old LP's, increase or decrease the volume, and add effects like reverb, etc. Once the cable connections are made between the Amp and the computer, you just click on the Click'N>Edit Sound LE Icon and get started. The program launches with two open boxes — the Main Controller screen and a floating Playback/Recording Controller. The Main screen is what you

use to view and edit your sound files. I wanted to record something fast, so I patched through an external CD player and hit the record button in the Controller Box. The graphs displayed showed that it was working. I recorded only one song from the CD player and then played it back, to make sure it worked properly. I checked the file and found it was a 34,103 KB .DGS format file. I recorded the same song using SB Live's sound card program and made a 35,838 KB .WAV file.

Click'N>Edit Sound LE has 18 customizing features on the Effects tool bar: Level; DC Offset; Normalize; Reverse; Smoothing (A); Insert; Mute; Fade In / Out; Envelope; Graphic EQ; Compressor; Noise Reduction; Delay; Reverb; Pitch Shift; Time Stretch, Mixer; and Attributes. After you use one or more of the customizing functions, you can play back. If you are not satisfied, just hit the Undo Tab and you are back to your original recording. I played around with Noise Reduction, Graphic EQ (Equalizer), and a few other settings until I felt I had my finger on the pulse of the program. This program is easier to understand than CoolEdit 2000 and it accomplishes what most of us require. Next, I started recording some selections from one of my LPs. I played it back on the computer and sure enough the background hisses, etc were there as expected. Working through the customizing functions to remove the imperfections took lots of time before I got what sounded to me like the perfect recording. The program works great, and as I use it more, I am sure the job will become quicker and easier. Click'N>Edit Sound LE also allows you to take videotape and add to or clean up the audio. This is a very deep, involved professional type of program and as a result, probably has a very long learning curve. It is one that people like me have waited for.

Click'N'Design 3d Silver

Click'n'Design is for making labels for CD disks and Jewel cases. Last year's package contained "Sure Thing CD Labeler", which was good, but lacking some of the features included in this new package. Your labels will now look more professional because of all the things you have at your fingertips to customize them. You can add clip art or pictures (some are provided), 3D letters and numbers; bar codes, etc. The program supports most label companies (CD Stomper, Neato; Avery; Memorex; Hp; Kypro; Expert, etc.). Other label-making programs I have tried just give you templates for their own labels.

You select your template from the opening screen. I use CD Stomper labels I buy from Sam's Club, but many other brands are listed. The next screen is the "Quick Designer" page, where you can change the basic layout with over 30 different designs. You can change the background, add clip art or pictures, change the color scheme and the font. When you are happy with what you see, click on the Transfer Tab and your design is transferred to the template. Next, click on CD Title text and type in the title you want on the label. Several formatting changes are available for the text. When finished, hit the Transfer 3D Text tab. Next, on that area for disk contents and input the information. You can also change the colors of the

continued

background, mixing whatever combination of shades you like. When you are pleased with your creation, you can print it out and finish the job. I save labels I really like so I can use the design again by changing the title and contents. I tried to import some labels I created under "Sure Thing CD Labeler" and was amazed to find it couldn't read the files. I just found out that Stomp Inc, sold its CD Stomper and supporting label line to Avery. They have the best label applicator device that I have ever used.

Veritas Simple Backup

This is exactly what its name implies, a simple backup program. There are five parts to this program; Full System Backup; Custom Backup; Disaster Recovery Diskettes; Complete System Restore; and Custom Restore. **Full System Backup** does a backup of your whole computer, and Veritas suggests you do this as soon as you load the program. Simple Backup does file compression, allowing you to double the capacity of a CDRW or a CDR disk. **Custom Backup** allows you to use an Explorer-like window to select the Folders or files you want to back up. **Disaster Recovery Diskettes** makes up a set of boot disks so you can recover from a system crash. **Complete System Restore** restores your computer to the way it was when you did a complete (Full) System Backup. **Custom Restore** lets you select folders or files to restore from your backup disk.

Veritas DLA

Veritas DLA allows you to use your CD or DVD recorder just as you would any other drive in your system. You can write files to your CDR media, delete files and even reformat the disks, just like you can do with your hard drive or floppy drive. Pretty Slick! When the program opens, you have 6 button boxes: Format, Make Compatible, Preferences, Eject, Properties and Explore. Under the **Format** box, you can do either a Quick Format or a Full Format. This must be done with any disk (CDR, CDRW, DVD-RW, DVD+RW and DVD-RAM) before it can be used with this program. Under the options tab, you select Quick or Full Format and, if desired, enable compression. The compression ratio is about 2:1. **Make Compatible** makes the uncompressed data on your CD-R media readable by any CD-RAM drive, but don't use it until you are finished writing to the disk. **Make Compatible** closes the CD disk so you will no longer be able to write. **Preferences**, allows you to add the Media Icon to the Taskbar or remove it, nothing else. **Eject** does just that. **Properties**, allows you to label the CD disk, insert what type device, use the compression mode, and it tells you how much space is used and how much free space is left. **Explore** allows you to view the disk using your Windows Explorer screen.

The Good and the Bad

I don't like the documentation. The printed manual has been cut down to almost nothing, with the most high tech program in the package, Click'N'Edit Sound LE, allotted only 3½ pages. If you are not up on how to clean up recordings, you are in trouble. Many of the customizing features are not covered in the help menus. Improvement is needed either in the manual or the online help.

I like being able to listen to the results before writing to the disk and undo any changes that I don't want, and I like getting all of the necessary software bundled into one package. Stomp really gave us a bargain by adding the two Veritas programs. Veritas has a very good reputation.

The Click'N'Design 3D Silver labeling program is the best I have seen to date.

Click'N'Burn Pro Version 2.0 sells for \$49.99 and there's a \$20 competitive upgrade coupon, which brings it to \$29.99. I think it's a great bargain. All you need to collect the \$20 is the UPC from the Click'N'Burn Pro box, a copy of the register receipt, and the cover from almost any "Burner" program.

I sent some questions to Stomp's Tech service and got answers in a day, so support seems to be good. Click'n'Burn is on my must-have list. For more information on this software and other products from Stomp Inc., <http://www.stomping.com>.

USB, *continued from page 8*

the BusStation. In such case, the 4-port hub must have its own 2.1A power supply, supplied with optional 4-port hub modules. I like the fact that the BusStation includes built-in "Overcurrent Protection," which shuts off a port if it draws too much current, protecting the connected device and BusStation from damage. At the usual price of \$79.99, I consider this Belkin product a good value. The cost is higher than two standard 4-port USB hubs, but you get more versatility. The price is competitive with multifunction hubs, even when you add the cost of an adapter module or two (adapters range from about \$50 an up.) and, again you have greater choice in integrating USB into your system.

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A Word of Thanks

From Scotch Plains Rescue Squad
To Scott Vincent, President ACGNJ
11 September, 2001

On behalf of the officers and members of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, we would like to thank the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey for the donation of two new computers to our organization.

It is most rewarding to our volunteer organization to know that the time and efforts they expend for emergency care to the citizens of Scotch Plains is greatly appreciated by caring organizations such as yours.

Again, thank you for your generous donation.
Sincerely, Jean Lozowski, Secretary

Secure Internet Access: SSH

Cass Lewart (rlewart@monmouth.com)

Last year I wrote an article about using Telnet as means to access your e-mail, Usenet news groups and other Internet services. Unfortunately Telnet is not secure — passwords and all other traffic are transmitted as clear text. Therefore many ISPs, including Monmouth Internet, are discontinuing Telnet access to their servers in favor of programs using the Secure SHell (SSH) or its variation, the SSH-2 protocols. Such programs encrypt passwords and all data exchanged between the ISP server and your computer.

Why use Telnet or programs based on SSH? Telnet and programs based on SSH are tools to access your server, similar to those you once used to connect to a BBS. The Love Letter and other viruses could not infect your computer if you would only look closely at the ILOVEYOU message on the server before downloading it to your computer.

You are already familiar with GUI (Graphic User Interface) browser programs such as Netscape Communicator, Opera, or Internet Explorer. An SSH based program performs a function similar to a browser, but most programs are strictly text oriented — no pictures and no sounds. You will be able to use SSH only if your ISP provides you with a so called shell account and supports SSH. Most ISPs, except for the big ones, such as AOL or Worldnet, provide shell accounts as part of the basic subscription. Once you reach your server's shell account with SSH, you have access to all Unix utilities and commands on the server. You can manage your e-mail with standard Unix utility programs, such as Pine, download files with FTP, or scan through news groups with Rtin. All these operations are extremely fast — it is like having a T1 system at your disposal. Only when you transfer files from the server to your computer or vice versa, will your telephone line and modem will slow you down. While you work on the server your home computer can not be infected by a virus. You can display your e-mail and attachments on the server and delete those which look suspicious.

A basic Telnet program (TELNET.EXE) comes free in your Windows directory, courtesy of Microsoft. Like other free Microsoft utilities (remember DEBUG and EDLIN?) its functionality is severely limited. With TELNET.EXE you can not scroll, every time you login to the server you have to type your username and password, and the program does not provide hot key assignments or the security required by many ISPs. Because of these limitations, I have been looking for a more capable program for quite a while, and I have finally found one. It is a commercial product called SecureCRT from Van Dyke Technologies, Inc. (<http://www.vandyke.com>). The SecureCRT program has all of the features TELNET.EXE lacks. It allows emulation of various terminals, scrolling, automatic login, shortcut key assignments and font selection. It provides scripting capability and security. Security can be implemented with protocols such as SSH and SSH-2 with a choice of encryption algorithms.

A fully functional evaluation copy of SecureCRT can be downloaded and evaluated for a period of one month. Once you pay the license fee (regular price is \$99, \$50 for students,

The Naked Truth

Burton Shane

I have just read a wry article on the tribulations of installing a USB peripheral on a Windows ME system. The article was hauntingly familiar, recounting the irritating, humorous, and inevitable problems that anyone who has wrestled with the PC will immediately recognize.

I have spent the last 20 years earnestly promoting the empowerment and enrichment that PC literacy brings, but I fear I have failed, in my enthusiasm, to present not just the truth but the whole truth.

If my car proved as bug-ridden and difficult to maintain as my PC, I would have long since have taken it to the junk yard, and waited around for the satisfaction of seeing it compressed into an inert cube of lifeless metal. If my car, so much as hesitates in starting or accelerating, I go directly to the dealer and demand perfect performance. My mood is darkened until my car is restored to problem-free operation, waiting at the curb for its next mission.

My PC crashes, slows down, locks up, and I patiently re-boot, tweak settings, and re-install software and hardware until I can again limp along with some degree of regularity.

The simple truth is that my PC is not like my car. I can live without my car. The PC is more like my wife. I could live without her, but I wouldn't want to.

There are thousands of Windows applications. I am going to try them all. I load them, learn them, try them, and sometimes I even keep and use them. They are creating new applications faster than I am trying them. It is a never-ending story.

Then there is hardware. I can download free demonstration software, but hardware costs money. Whether it works or not. I buy peripherals that I actually need (or believe I need). Which brings me back to the USB article that started this. I have a USB TV tuner, a USB portable hard-disk, and a USB CD burner. They all work, but sometimes require re-booting.

USB sucks. Actually, USB will be pretty good when complete compatibility of computers and peripherals and software is achieved. As this desirable state will likely not occur before the sun goes super-nova, we will probably limp along with the problems until fire-wire (the next high-speed serial standard) becomes more wide-spread. Maybe fire-wire will work as smooth as silk. Don't hold your breath. ☹

Secure Internet, *continued*

with discounts for multiple copies) you can unlock the time limit and get support and updates for one year.

After reading all this you may wonder if I got the ILOVEYOU bug myself. Well, I did. I did not follow my own precautions. Although I always check my e-mail first on the server, I did it only in a cursory way. After I downloaded the virus and clicked on it, it took me over an hour to clean my system. After studying the virus source code I erased all suspect .vbs files which overwrote my .jpg files, restored registry with SCANREG and restored the preferences on my Netscape browser. As they say "Do as I say and not what I do"! ☹

SIG News

Main Meeting

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)

October: Was there a meeting? Was there a presentation? If so, nobody told the Editor.

November: To be announced. As speakers become available, they will be announced here. ☐

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)

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

This is a group for those who share an interest in Linux 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. We meet at 8 PM the first Monday of the month.

November: Clifford Leong will present his Ripley wearable computer. ☐

VBA & Excel

Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com)

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

VBA is currently implemented in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Project and Microsoft Access, and will be implemented in Word and PowerPoint. Anyone interested in using any Microsoft Office product and VBA is urged to attend. We meet at 7 PM on the third Monday of even-numbered months.

October: Using Excel 2002 to Read and Write XML Files. Excel 2002 now supports the loading and saving of XML data. XML is emerging as the data exchange format of choice for many business applications because it gives data from different applications a standard format.

November: To be announced ☐

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

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

The goals of the C/C++ Group are 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, and to discuss hardware, software, code, algorithms, operating systems. We strive to present the complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper, and sample code is posted on our Web page after each demonstration.

October: Mike Redlich presented on object-oriented analysis and design based on a two-part article published in May and June 1998 issues of C/C++ Users Journal. The demo application was a coffee machine in which a total of four designs were developed and implemented. Each design and interaction diagram was presented and evaluated, and the source code was reviewed. See details on our Web page. ☐

Macintosh Users

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

Although this group is no longer meeting, Keith is still available to help Mac users via telephone or email. ☐

Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)

<http://www.njlnug.org/njlnugweb.nsf/pages/homepage>

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the offices of Bright Ideas Software, 1060 Amboy Avenue, 2nd Floor, Edison NJ and start at 7 PM (Random Access starts at 6:30). Bright Ideas has graciously provided us with a voice mail line for information on future meetings, locations, directions, etc. Call (732)417-5778 for last-minute changes, cancellations, etc. Directions are posted on our Web page.

October: Preview of Lotus Notes/Domino Rnext

November: To be announced. Watch our Web Page. ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

<http://www.redlich.net/~redlich/javasig/>

The Java Users Group is a forum for discussing beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Topics will primarily focus on developing useful/practical applets and applications, but can include related topics such as Java I/O, JavaBeans, Reflection, object-oriented programming and software design issues. Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad second floor meeting hall starting promptly at 7:30pm. The agenda for each meeting is as follows:

Random Access	7:30 - 8:00
Java Q&A and/or short Java API Presentation	8:00 - 8:30
Main Presentation	8:30 - 10:00

October: Source code review of a Java clock applet that can be used in Web pages.

November: To be announced — watch our Web page. ☐

Web Development

Jim Wong (webdev@acgnj.org)

<http://member.apcug.org/acgnj/webdev/>

Our newest SIG kicked off on March 19, and meets on the third Monday of odd-numbered months. On the even-numbered months, the Excel/VBA SIG, led by Jim Ditaranto, will hold their meetings. They are redirecting more of their activities toward the Web, so the two groups should have much in common.

September 17: Ron demonstrated JavaScript's power by using it and DHTML to solve the 8 Queens chess problem on an HTML page.

November 19: To be announced. Watch our website. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)

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

We meet on the second Monday of the month (except July and August) to discuss issues of interest to novice users or those who are planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. ☐

*Ted Martin, Chairman***Investing***Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)*<http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig>

October: Your Chairman presented the various reasons that brought about his opinion that the market had passed bottom. Assuming this is true, this is a very good time to buy more stocks. Members mentioned some of their favorite stocks. We used MetaStock to look at recent price action and discussed why favorites were “good buys” now or should be avoided. About 35 equities and the major indexes were examined. We found that many had the same overall pattern which reinforced my opinion. Two that showed extremely strong patterns were General Electric - GE, and Citicorp - C. We also found similar patterns in about 12 other stocks.

There again was a very lively discussion on the pros and cons of specific equities and the probability that the market had passed its recent bottom. I got a strong feeling that attendees found this session both stimulating and very useful.

Whether your portfolio is doing poorly or well, visit our meetings and learn about simple techniques which will help increase your investing profits. Save the second Thursday of the month on your schedule for our meetings. ☐

Internet*Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)*<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/inetsig.html>

November 1: Our next meeting. Be there! Meeting will start at 7:30 for newbies and 8 PM for the old timers.

October 4: We discussed some of the thoughts brought up in Internet Corner. ☐

Genealogy*Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)*<http://www.webwarren.com/kb4cyc/gensig.html>

No November or December meetings due to holidays.

Genealogy SIG is for genealogists interested in computers and computer users interested in genealogy, and is a forum to assist members in furtherance of both endeavors. Meetings usually focus on genealogy more than on computers. We meet at 8 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month.

In addition to our Web page, we also have an electronic mailing list. Messages to the list should be addressed to gensig@webwarren.com. To subscribe, include the line “subscribe gensig” in the body of the message. ☐

MCP

(Preparation for Microsoft Certification Exams)

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)<http://www.scottsville.net/mcp.htm>

We meet Wednesdays from 7 pm to 10 pm except the fourth Wednesday of the month. We review typical exam questions. Attendees are encouraged to bring a PC properly configured with NT, 10BaseT network card, and Netmeeting 2.1. Most of us have the 4-volume set of Exam Cram books. We do not teach, but help prepare for the exam. Meetings are hands-on and everyone is expected to participate. For more info, reading assignments, course schedule, visit our website. ☐

The committee presents to the Board of Directors that the following revisions may be needed to the Constitution and Bylaws of the ACGNJ as found at <http://www.acgnj.org/const.htm> and that the appropriate items at http://www.acgnj.org/od_resp.htm may need to be amended accordingly.

These changes have had various degrees of discussion over the past couple of years and some of them are deemed critical to the operation of the club. Several Board meetings have failed to take needed action due to a lack of quorum as specified in the bylaws for one example. The size and needs of the club have also changed along with the computer industry and computer usage. We urge the board to consider these revisions at the November meeting and then publish and discuss the agreed upon revisions at SIG meetings prior to the December meeting when the membership can vote to adopt or not adopt them accordingly.

1. Add Article 1, Section 1.3

“Since 1975” shall be added to all public displays of the club name. This suggestion is in response to the objections to “Amateur” in the club name.

2. Article IV, Section 1

Change “Recording Secretary” and “Corresponding Secretary” to “Secretary” creating only one Secretary as the need no longer exists for two.

All further references shall read “Secretary” to replace “Recording” and “Corresponding”.

Section 4.7.3 & 4.7.4 shall be combined to Section 4.7.3 and read “Secretary: The Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Board and shall be responsible for causing all of the duties incident to the office of Secretary to be performed including the receiving and acting on requests for membership and the issuing of meeting notices and agendas, the recording of the minutes of all Executive Board meetings and business meetings, the keeping/filing of the minutes, keeping/filing of all reports, statements and other documents required by law. The Secretary shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board or by the President.”

Section 4.7.4 shall read “none” in that future events may require the reinstatement of two Secretaries.

The words “and the maintenance of a current membership list” shall be deleted as this is now being done by the membership committee.

3. Article IV, Section II shall be Article V, Section IV as it is obviously in the wrong place. The words “at least seven percent of” shall be deleted here and in Section 5.6.

4. Article IV, Section 4.3 shall be deleted. Originally to protect the membership from one group maintaining control, this is not workable with the present lack of candidates.

5. Article IV, Section 4.8.2 shall be amended with respect to the number of directors as the lack of candidates has created voting and quorum problems. However, this would also decrease the talent pool available at board meetings.

6. Article IV, Section 4.8.3 shall be amended to read “1 year terms” in the hope of attracting more talent.

continued

Guru Corner

Jo-Anne Head (tinarock@aol.com)

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

	Hardware	
	Scott Vincent	973-539-8169
	Software	
HTML	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
CSS	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
Perl	John Raff	973-533-0664
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
e-Commerce	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Networking	Scott Vincent	973-539-8169
Home Automation	Charlie Huffsmith	732-549-1734
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Operating Systems	
WindowsNT	Scott Vincent	973-361-5793
Windows95	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Windows98	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Windows3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
	Charlie Huffsmith	732-549-1734
	Macintosh	
Mac O/S	Keith Sproul	(732) 821-4828

Bylaws, *continued*

7. Article IV, Section 4.8.4 shall be amended to read "Seven directly elected members" instead of nine.

8. Article V, Section 5.6 shall delete "of at least seven percent (7%)" and change the number of directly elected members of the Executive Board from two to five.

9. Article VII, 7.3 shall read "will have a seat and a vote on the Executive Board" or we shall delete "and vote" from 4.8.2.1.

10. Add Article XII, Advances in Technology

The ACGNJ shall adopt and incorporate technological advances into its operation as they come into common usage, by a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Section 12.1

All references to mail, notices and publishing shall be deemed to include electronic means, including e-mail and web publishing, that leave a tenable message at the address or tenable access to the membership.

Section 12.2

Executive Board and other meetings may be held electronically provided all the members of the group have the capability of participating.

(E-mail, web publishing, etc., did not exist at the time of the last revision of the bylaws and some of the wording of the bylaws is restrictive in what we are allowed to do and how we may do it. These additions are designed to allow us to keep up to date with new technologies.) ☺

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at http://www.acgnj.org/membership_update.htm and pay dues with PayPal.

	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

New Member Renewal Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

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, NAS 100 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. (732-739-9633) www.bcug.com	Macintosh User Group: Third Tuesday, Dickson Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org .
WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 2101 Chapel Ave., Cherry Hill NJ after 7pm Main Meeting. http://www.pcugsj.com	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 Monday, 2101 Chapel Ave, Cherry Hill NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360. http://www.pcugsj.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel Univ., 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, (201) 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) 218-0778, 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.		

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



<http://www.apcug.org>

Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia.

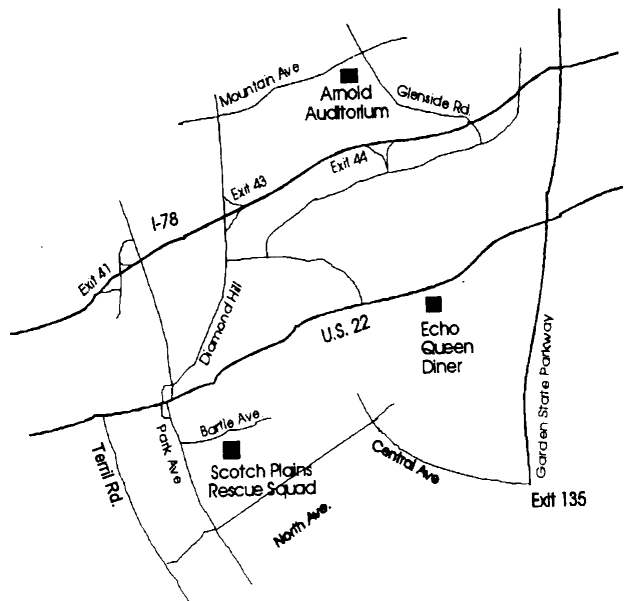
KGP Computer Shows

(For more information visit <http://www.pcshow.com>)

Nov. 10-11: NJ Convention Center, Edison. Free seminar on Digital photography Sat. and Sun. 11 AM and 2 PM

Nov. 24-25: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken.

Dec. 15-16: NJ Convention Center, Edison. ☒



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

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take 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, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use 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). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, 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.
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ACGNJ MEETINGS

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

Thursday, November 1, 2001

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

Friday, November 2

8 P.M. - Main Meeting (combined with old PC Users meeting), Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net).

Monday, November 5

8 P.M. - Lunics. Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org).

Wednesday, November 7

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-539-8169

7 P.M. - Robotics/Graphics — at North Brunswick High School. See <http://www.acgnj.org/groups/robot.htm>.

Thursday, November 8

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com), 201-741-2489

Monday, November 12

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

Tuesday, November 13

7:30 P.M. - Java, Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net) 908-537-4915.

Wednesday, November 14

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-539-8169

Friday, November 16

8 P.M. - Window Pains, John Raff. Combined Symposium and Random Access meeting.

Monday, November 19

8 P.M. - WebDev, Jim Wong

Tuesday, November 20

8 P.M. - C/C++ Users, Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net), 908-735-7898

Wednesday, November 21

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-539-8169

Thursday, November 22?

8 P.M. - Genealogy. Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com), 908-756-1681 (No meetings November or December. See you in January!)

Monday, November 25

8 P.M. - VBA, Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com)

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes, Mike Barlow (barlowm@bright-ideas.com), (732) 417-5778 ext 5. Meetings at Bright Ideas offices.

Wednesday, November 28

7 P.M. - Robotics/Graphics — at North Brunswick High School. ☐

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