

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 26, Number 2

February 2001



*Need a wizard to help you solve a computer problem?
Help is a phone call away at our new Guru Corner!*

See page 13.

The ACGNJ SIG lineup has been revamped. Be sure to check SIG News to see what's new and what's been retired.



www.acgnj.org

Founded 1975

From the President

What were you doing in 1971?

Scott Vincent, (right before New Years 2001)

I was attending DeVry Institute of Technology in Union, NJ. (Prior to its move to Woodbridge and then later to its current location on US Rt. 1 in Edison). In September of that year, I packed up and continued school at another branch in Columbus, Ohio because the state of New Jersey at that time would not recognize a Bachelor of Science degree from a "technical school".

There I was, busy learning about basic circuit theory, the amplifying capabilities of a vacuum tube and the beginning of integrated circuits on chips here on the East Coast. But out on the West Coast, the electronics industry was on the brink of major breakthroughs in integrated circuitry. The transistor, originally developed in 1947 at Bell Labs in Murray Hill (about three miles away from the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, home of ACGNJ), marked the beginning of micro circuits and a smaller, much less power consuming and heat generating alternative to the vacuum tube. However, the single transistor was soon to be outdone dramatically in Santa Clara, CA.

One of the largest semiconductor companies, Fairchild Semiconductor, had many talented engineers who were looking for somewhere else to work in the late 1960s. Silicon Valley ex-

continued on page 10

On Friday February 2, Microsoft comes to the ACGNJ to present on WindowsME (Millennium Edition). There will be raffles, giveaways, and a contest. The meeting starts at 8 PM at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. Please come!

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

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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?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 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.

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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.

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.

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Microsoft Streets & Trips 2001

Dick Freymoyer (dickfrey1@aol.com)

Microsoft Streets & Trips 2001 is a program much like DeLorme's Street Atlas, for creating a trip map or just locating an address. I had seen it in the stores and had to buy it to see how Microsoft handled this type of program. It has the normal Windows look, as far as the tool bars are concerned. There is no book or hard copy instructions, a bad thing for users who like to read first and see how it works.

Installation & Requirements: Pentium 90MHZ, Win95 or better; 20 MB RAM, 150-205 MB storage space, Quad speed CDROM; 14.4 or better modem, and if you intend to use a GPS receiver, it must be a NMEA-0183-Version 2.0 type (NMEA = National Marine Electronics Assoc.). The program comes on two CDs (one disk for program installation, the other contains the database). You have the option to install the total program, including the data on the second disk, which will require almost 850 MB of storage space. It installed quickly and without problems. Directions are displayed at the top of the screen and the map of routes you are traveling at the bottom (DeLorme displays them side by side). After I got used to it, I decided that this isn't bad — you can read all the directions on each page. The database has more than 6.3 million miles of streets and roads (a lot!), all kinds of attractions, over 400,000 restaurants, 68,000 motels and hotels, 41,000 gas stations, 1200 rest stops and about 600,000 general points of interest, not just in the USA but Canada as well, which is really outstanding.

Exploring the Program: It took me a while to find out how to zoom into the area I wanted to work in. You drag a box around the point you want and then click inside the box. This zooms into the area you drew the box around. Before I found this feature, it was difficult to find a certain point on the map by using F5 (zooming out) and F6 (zoom in). You move up, down, right or left or on an angle by moving your mouse to the edge of the map. This works very smoothly and you don't have to have to refresh the map. Another feature I have never seen before on a mapping program is what Microsoft calls "PushPin", and that's exactly what it means — you pick a point and that becomes a PushPin, just like shoving a pushpin into a corkboard. To use PushPin, go to the draw menu, which is located on the bottom of your map and click on it, the rest is easy to follow. You use a PushPin to locate any item, like a Motel, a Diner, etc. I used a PushPin to mark my home and labeled it.

The Menu bar at the top includes the usual File, Edit; View, Format, Tools, Help and a special one called Route. We will not visit all the menu items, since most are standard and easy to understand. Under **File**, I found "Send to Mail Recipient" which enables you to use MS Outlook to send your map and trip by e-mail to a friend or family member — a nice addition. Under **View** are Legend and Map Overview options. For example, roads under construction are shown in yellow with parallel lines. (Of course, if it's a new road repair or rebuild since the issue of the program, the map will not show it.) The **Format** menu lets you change map items, fonts and map styles. Under **Tools**, you find what MS calls Location Sensor,

which displays latitude and longitude coordinates as you point to the map. This would come in handy if you were trying to find Satellites with your GPS Receiver or if you know the coordinates of a place and want to get to it fast. The GPS menu is also under **Tools**, and I will cover this subject below.

The **Route** menu contains the Route Planner (covered below) and More Options, where you set up road profiles (speed on major highways, regular roads, streets etc.), trip starting time, estimated end of driving day and your flexible time, like ½ hour of your end of driving day. Neat! You set miles per gallon (for city or highway), size of your fuel tank, and how much fuel you start with, then set at what level of fuel left in your tank you want the program to give you a warning to refuel. The next item on this menu is Costs, where you set the current price of fuel — it wants to do your thinking for you! Segments is the last item on this menu. Here, you choose whether to take the fastest or shortest route, or to follow your preferred roads.

Planning a Trip: I used the Route Planner to plot a trip and see how this works. The first thing I did was to set up my defaults under "More Options". Then I went to the first pushpin (my home) and right-clicked on it, then down to **Route**, and "Add as Start". Then I went to the box that opened on the left side of the screen, typed in a friend's address in York PA, refined this location and placed a pushpin there. Then I right-clicked on this point and added it as my Stop Location. I have some short-cuts (roads/back roads) that I prefer to use, so I added them with stop designations. To do this, I zoomed in on the shortcut road I wanted, right-clicked on it, and added it as a stop. Under **Road Planner**, which is located on the left side of the display, I clicked on **Add to Route**, and it redrew the map and updated the directions. After I was sure all directions and roads were what I wanted, I clicked on the box marked **Optimize Stops**.

Now I have my first trip all planned out and I am ready to go. The directions summary block tells me that the distance is 76.1 miles and it should take me 1 hour 54 minutes. In directions summary you see a description of the roads, with the turns and other data listed. In a column, you will see what time you should be at each point of the trip. (I had entered a start time of 8 A.M.) At the bottom of the directions is a summary, which lists your driving distance; total travel time; driving time; and cost (calculated from the information about MPG and fuel cost, which you set up under More Options). I like this feature and I don't know of any other program that gives you the estimated cost of gasoline for the trip. You can print your trip five different ways: driving directions only, the map only, turn-by-turn map with driving directions, or strip map with driving directions and any highlighted places on the map.


GPS: In Streets & Trips, you must install your GPS Receiver as a unit of hardware. Microsoft provides support and drivers for three brands of receivers: Rockwell (6 models), Socket Communications (2 models) and Timble (2 models). Nothing for DeLorme's Earthmate. What to do do now? First you fire off a call to DeLorme and see if they could provide you with a driver. Second, search Microsoft's site for a driver for

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DeLorme's GPS Receiver. When these failed, I sent an e-mail to Microsoft's Technical staff for help. Meanwhile, I got an answer from DeLorme technical staff telling me their Receiver only supports DeLorme's programs. (With DeLorme programs you never install the GPS as hardware in your Control Panel, so they don't supply a driver.) The reply from Microsoft was that they don't support DeLorme's GPS Receivers, because it's a propriety device. Great, now what! I have the program and a GPS receiver but they won't dance together. I have tried all the drivers I could find on the web and none would work. I sure wish I could have used my GPS Receiver on the program, but that is the way it goes — it's black mark against both companies. I can understand DeLorme's position, they have their own software so why support other software, but they sell a product that doesn't work with any other mapping programs. A note of interest — I had a personal call from one of Microsoft's software/hardware engineers, who explained the problem with DeLorme's receiver and told me he hopes Microsoft will correct the problem in the future.

The Bad & (Not Too) Ugly: The absence of a Tutorial is bad. You can go from subject to subject and find what you are looking for in the Help files, but it's time consuming. If they don't want to include a Tutorial, there should be a booklet to read. (I never thought I would look for a book on a program.) The lack of support for all GPS Receivers is bad. If a popular piece of hardware like the DeLorme Receiver is not supported, the outside of the box should say so. On the box it does say it does support GPS Receivers that are NMEA 2.0 or later, how many prospective buyers would know what that means? I would suggest they install the GPS receivers the way DeLorme does, from within the program and not as a piece of hardware. DeLorme supports most GPS Receivers within their programs, so this can't be or shouldn't be a problem for Microsoft. I found planning a trip to be more difficult than other programs I've tried, and I think they must do better.

The Good: It found my house, locating it only about 500 feet from where it really sits. It seems to find street addresses easily as we expect such a program to do. I liked the PushPin option — it's a great idea and a time-saver. I love the way you can print out directions and bit maps. The printed directions out are about the best I have ever seen — the details are as complete as if I'd written them myself, with every turn and how many miles you will be on each road. I can't see any way to improve this. The personal contact from the Microsoft engineering department was certainly a surprise; large companies usually don't do this.

I bought the program for \$29.95 with a \$20 rebate. I can recommend you buying it with some big ifs: If what you want is something that gives you good directions, this is the program for you. If you have one of the brands of GPS receivers listed, it's a great choice. The database for finding a location is fairly good, and with a \$20 rebate, it's a good price. If you want to use a DeLorme GPS receiver, don't even think of buying it! I would try it again in a few years to see if they have corrected the things I see as problems. I welcome your questions or comments via email. 

New Product Alert

Bill Machrone (PC Magazine and ZDNet Reviews)

Undeleting files — and Preventing Undeletion

You can go home again! It's no secret that PCs don't really erase files that you delete. Even if you empty the Recycle Bin, you still have an excellent chance of getting an unintentionally-deleted file back. Back in the bad old days, you had to go in with a disk editor and manually reset entries in the File Allocation Table (FAT), then piece the file together again if it wasn't stored contiguously. Then Peter Norton gave us the first Unerase utility.

Operating systems and file storage systems have changed a lot since then, but the underlying principles remain largely the same. Our overview and tutorial, written by utilities guru Neil Rubenking, takes you down the sometimes-twisty path of file recovery, so that you understand the issues, what's possible, and what's not.

Sometimes, of course, you really want a file to be gone forever, such as that ill-advised blistering memo you had the wisdom not to send to your boss. Or you might want to wipe a system clean before you donate it to a school or charity, or even put it out for the trash collector. Rubenking's got you covered with info on how the file overwriting programs work and where to get them. I like the euphemism he uses: "recovery prevention utilities."

Me? If I'm disposing of a system, I drill a series of 3/8 inch holes through the entire disk drive. Canceled! And a great stress reliever if you've had a bad day.


Read PC Magazine's Special Report on Undelete and Overwrite Utilities. <http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?74883:2139974>

System migration utilities — more than cloning

System Migration utilities synchronize, clone, and more. How long did it take you to set up your last new system, to get all the applications installed, to move all the data files, to get everything just the way you like it? Last time I did it, it took me two days, and I still kept the other system around for a couple of weeks in case I'd missed anything (I had.)

System migration utilities make things a lot easier, picking up and moving entire installed software packages from one machine to another. That's not so hard to do if you're cloning disks, but disk cloning has its limitations, especially if you're changing operating systems at the same time. Also, part of getting a new system is leaving the old junk behind. So the utilities have to be smart about what they move and what they don't move.

We've reviewed system migration utilities in the past, but here are three new or updated reviews for your consideration. You pay more for a good migration utility than you would for most utility software, but they can be well worth the price in the time saved, even if you're only breaking in a new laptop.

Read PC Magazine's Review of System Migration Utilities. <http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?74884:2139974> 

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Spam, Spam Everywhere

Tom Anderson, Sacramento PC Users Group

My mailbox seems to be harvesting a very large crop of spam lately. If you're a new member of our user group, or new on the Internet, you might not know that spam refers to unsolicited commercial e-mail (in some definitions, unsolicited bulk e-mail, whether commercial or not) — rather like those junk phone calls that are also soaring in frequency. Spam got its name from a classic Monty Python comedy bit, back in the days when it seemed more common to be explaining the term than to be receiving actual spam.

New e-mail users sometimes don't realize how passionate we oldsters can get about spam. Some dedicated e-mailers consider spam to be higher on the scale of wrongdoing than breaking and entering, or even assault and battery. This is a holdover from the time when you had to pay by the minute for e-mail, and spam literally cost the recipient money.

Whether it's postage due or just a waste of time, though, spam is almost universally held to be colossal bad manners at best, money-grubbing sleaze at worst.

The Flow Goes On

Spam seems to ebb and flow, and at the moment it seems to be flowing more than usual. In fact, the flow into my e-mailbox has been great enough lately to stir me to look for remedies.

I'm not the first to be so inspired, of course — lots of Web sites offer more information and help to the besieged. Here's a roundup of the best current information I could find about how to avoid spam in your own mailbox.

Spam is almost by definition an e-mail trying to sell you something you don't want, from a company you didn't ask to send you e-mail. You can find a lot of information from the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) listed at SpamFree. There's a ton of useful information at Death to Spam, also, but note that this site is illustrated with "indecent" images from classical art.

There are people who consider it spam if a site that you've bought from sends you unsolicited e-mails, but because that list would leave off very few companies these days, we'll overlook that group in favor of the real nasties.

How Do They Get My Name?

You become a victim of spammers, generally, in only a few ways. First seems to be posting to a Usenet newsgroup with your real e-mail address. Newsgroups are discussion groups, something like chat boards but not "live." You type in your comments and send them as a message, while other people are doing the same around the world. The messages are collected in newsgroups that you read with special software. Your Internet service provider will usually have a special news server that holds these messages.

Some companies have developed software that goes through these messages reading and collecting the e-mail addresses that show up in people's messages. They then sell the addresses they've found to people who want to send out junk e-mail sales pitches.

These automated programs are apparently not too smart. Many people camouflage their e-mail addresses in a rudimentary fashion (e.g., myname@NOSPAM.aol.com), which makes it easy for a person to read the actual address (myname@aol.com) and send e-mail. An automated program, however, will send mail to a non-existent address.

If you choose this path, remember that your address can be posted as the "reply to" address and as the "posted by" address. You should check your newsreader or other software to make sure you're not posting your true e-mail address in parts of the message that your software doesn't display.

Another source of e-mail addresses is Web pages. Software has been developed that scours Web pages looking for e-mail addresses. This "harvesting" software, like that for the newsgroups, just reads pages and collects the names and addresses.

You can't very well put phony addresses on a Web page, because you won't get the mail you presumably want to get from those who visit the page. One alternative here is to use a (free) service like Memo.to, which gives you an address in the form of Memo.to/TomAnderson. This routes your e-mail to their server, which takes out the spam, then sends on to you the non-spam e-mail. You'll presumably want to check what's left on their server periodically to ensure you don't overlook mail they accidentally sidetracked.

Another alternative is to use something like Wpoison. Wpoison is a CGI program that automatically generates false Web pages for the robot address harvesters, causing them to reap multiple phony addresses instead of the real ones. There are other, similar tools available at SpamFree.

Spam in the Box

When spam starts showing up in your mailbox, it's probably too late to take preventive measures like those above. There are a couple approaches you can use here. There are services like Pop3 Scan Mailbox (free) which can delete spam, or let you view a few lines of it, before you even download it, without interfering with your regular e-mail program. Other programs, some of them fairly expensive, are available through SpamFree.

Bounce Spam Mail (free) creates a bounce message to make it look like your e-mail address is invalid. This won't do much for real spammers who don't give a valid return address, but it might help to get you off some lists.

When the spam actually gets through all your defenses and reaches your e-mail inbox, there are a number of resources you can use to complain. One of the most widely known is SpamCop. SpamCop is a free complaint service that will send your complaint to the administrators of a spammer's ISP. You can do that yourself, but it's easier to use SpamCop.

You'll find many spammers these days are claiming that what they do is legal, and some quote S. Bill 1618 as if it were the second commandment. The bill died in conference and never became law, and there are no laws legalizing unsolicited com-

continued

mercial e-mail. In fact, the only laws that might apply are those that outlaw unsolicited fax messages, which might cover e-mails as well. Don't let the spammers fool you into thinking you've got no defense against them.

In fact, if you get a message threatening you with the FBI if you complain, you know the complaints are getting through. The louder these bums yell, the harder they're getting stuck. Keep at it!

Filters

Once you start getting mail, possibly the quickest way to limit its impact on you is to begin filtering your e-mail.

I don't know of any e-mail program that doesn't have some facility for filtering incoming mail and routing your unwanted e-mail to a trash mailbox. In Outlook and Outlook Express, it's under Message/Rule, in Eudora it's under Filter, in Calypso it's under Add Filter. Usually, you can choose to filter e-mail based on a word or phrase that appears in a specified part of the e-mail header or message. For example, you can filter out particular e-mail addresses (spammer@spam.com), particular domains (spam.com), particular words or symbols in the subject line (Make Money Fa\$\$\$t), particular recipients ("Undisclosed Recipients" seems a favorite).

A number of sites host lists of known spammers you can add to such a filter, and some even offer pre-written filter files for various e-mail programs.

General Resources

There are a number of tools that can let you trace spam messages back so you can find where they came from. You can find a selection of tools at SpamFree.

One of the organizations fighting the war against spammers is SpamHaus. Their Web site includes some entertaining threatening e-mails from spammers who have been shut down multiple times by ISPs whose policies they've violated.

There are many resources you can access at Abuse.net and at Elson's Anti-Spam Page to help you fight spam. Many of these deal with reading e-mail headers to find out where mail really originated; tracing owners of IP addresses so you can complain to a spammer's ISP; listings of known spammers you can add to an e-mail filter; and much more.

There are so many resources I can't list them all. To find them, go to any of the big search engines and type in "spam filter" or "spam defense" or something similar, and you'll get enough references to spend several days increasing your knowledge of the subject. ☞



The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook

This book by Marty and Bruce Fries has been called "The Bible of MP3" and is widely recognized as the most user-friendly and comprehensive book on the subject. Topics covered are:

- * Downloading music from the Internet
- * Listening to Internet radio
- * Recording and playing music on a PC
- * Creating compilation music CDs
- * Converting vinyl records to CDs
- * Legal issues surrounding online music

Marty Fries (pronounced freeze) is a technology consultant, audio engineer and blues pianist, based in Laurel, Maryland. He has designed and built studio equipment and is the founder of Imagimedia.net, a CAD and network services company.

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 founder of several high-tech companies.

Bruce and Marty recognized the potential of MP3 in late 1998, when it was closing in on sex as the most popular Internet search-term. There was little information available about MP3, so they decided to write a book to teach others about the benefits of this exciting new technology. The result was The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook, which has been adopted as a textbook by several universities, including UCLA and Cal Poly.

The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook addresses the need for reliable information and cuts through the hype and confusion surrounding MP3 and other digital music technologies. It explains the benefits of downloadable music and Internet radio in simple, easy-to-understand terms, and includes over 100 charts and illustrations, along with tutorials for the most popular digital music software.

Included are step-by-step instructions for finding music on the Internet, listening to Internet radio, creating and playing MP3 files, recording music on a computer, recording custom CDs and connecting a PC to a stereo system. The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook also includes lists of popular Internet radio stations and downloadable music sites, and complete coverage of the issues related to copyright laws and digital music.

Bruce and Marty are conducting a 100-city "missionary" tour to teach people about the benefits of Internet music and the MP3 encoding format. Bruce will be presenting at the February 16 PC Users Group meeting, and is expected to cover:

- * MusicMatch Jukebox
- * Working with playlists
- * Automatic crossfading
- * Visualization and other effects

The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook, Your Guide to the Digital Music Revolution! Bruce Fries with Marty Fries TeamCom Books, March 2000 Trade Paperback; 302 pages \$24.95 (List) ISBN 1-928791-10-7. Available at most Bookstores and from TeamCom Books, P.O. Box 1251, Burtonsville, MD 20866 Web site: www.MP3Handbook.com ☞

Sun, Surf, & Song

Burton Shane (bshane39@yahoo.com)

In my last article, Sun Over A Beach, I described a delightful get-away to sunny Jamaica with my bride. The sharp-eyed among you may have noticed that the sunny idyllic beach-scene (<http://www.geocities.com/bshane39/beach.gif>) was Kailua in Hawaii. We loved Hawaii too, but our trip to Jamaica was indeed the impulsive flight to sun and surf, and retreat from snow and cold that I related.

Hawaii was a playground for our daughter, and I confess that even a beach palls when attendance is obligatory day after day. We stayed in Waikiki, and I mention Hawaii only because as I sit snowed in, in our snug warm little house, typing this article, I am watching the animated gif mentioned above (multi-tasking windows don'tcha know) while listening to Radio KRTR from Kailua, live on media player.

I clicked on the beach URL, then File, New, Window to get a fresh window, went to (<http://www.yahoo.com>), then RADIO, selected Contemporary Adult music, and found KRTR in the list. Minimize the player and the Browser windows, and lay back and enjoy. Maybe turn down the volume a bit (now you know I'm an old coder).

I don't see a beach-boy serving drinks. Honey, can you bring me a cool one? (Don't believe everything I write.) The truth is I just dropped my Trackball, and jumped out of my lazy-boy to let my mother-in-law in from Day-Care (she's 93 with Alzheimer's). My bride is napping upstairs as we are both suffering with nasty winter colds. Come to think of it, the flight to Hawaii was interminable. Spring will come. I'd better get busy. When the weather breaks, I won't be as eager to explore Cyber-Space on my PC. Surfing is a particularly appropriate term for the exploration of human knowledge, technology, science, and communication. We need not apologize because it is fun — ride the wave!

Email

This delightful e-mail brightened my holiday season. I share it with you who helped make it possible, in the hopes that it will brighten your season too.

Lee W. wrote: Burton, I happened to come across your article while here at work the Friday before Christmas. I had been wrapped up in trying to get my year end activities done as I have for the past 40 years that I have been in sales, and feeling stressed that I had not been able to get things done yet for Christmas. Your article put things in perspective for me. I had worked for IBM for twenty years and have been in the telecom industry for the last 15 learning how to send data over phone lines. I never quite understood or appreciated that we were making a contribution. Have a happy holiday.

Re: Thank You To: Lee W.

Dear Lee, Thank you so much for your expression of appreciation. I try to inform, empower, amuse, and inspire my readers, and it is gratifying to receive a response such as yours. You have good reason to be proud of a lifetime of significant service to your community. We senior citizens know that little else really matters. Your e-mail has made my holiday season a little brighter. I hope you enjoy a happy holiday season too.

Broadcasting (sic)

The avowed purpose of most computer groups is to share and distribute computer information in the interest of computer literacy. Sometimes, those who participate in, contribute to, and administer those groups are privileged to see just how effective these efforts can be. I believe the following dialogue demonstrates the beneficial results of these efforts.

Name suppressed wrote: Dear Burton: I enjoyed your article about the importance of personal computers. I recently became diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and am struggling with trying to stay independent. I have contacted the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and they are currently working with me. I have a PC of my own, however I am unfamiliar with the logistics of learning how to manipulate it. I know how to use word processing applications and spreadsheets, email and the Internet. But how did you learn so much about programming? I hope to hear from you soon, Nancy

Burton Shane wrote: Dear Nancy, I am glad that you were able to receive and understand my message. When you are not yet challenged, you may tend to be unaware of the importance and necessity of effort and achievement. After being challenged, these activities become much more difficult, and much more rewarding.

When I first became ill, I was bedridden for a year. The PC had just arrived, so my bed-partners were the keyboard, programming books, and magazines. I owe most of my programming skill to the practice of reading, copying, and using program listings printed in the various programming magazines. Learn by doing. Each computer in the early '80s had a machine-specific version of BASIC. Now, I would recommend QBASIC as a beginning programming language. It works on any Windows PC with the Qbasic.exe file installed. It operates in a Dos window. If you wish to go straight to the popular and commercial VISUAL BASIC, that would be a reasonable alternative. I started with BASIC, so I am prejudiced in favor of the Qbasic route.

Assuming you wish to acquire programming skills, and are willing to start with Qbasic, then you can start with the tutorial I attached to this e-mail. Then go to <http://www.progsharehouse.com> and click on Tutorials, then click on Qbasic where you will find about 50 more tutorials to get you started. Unfortunately, most of the machine-specific magazines that I used 20 years ago have withered away. Good luck!

The Internet is a giant community, and access (even with assistive technical devices) means you can communicate, interact, and share your experience with others. There are innumerable chat rooms of every description as well as informal groups on the "undernet". You must download and install an IRC client program to access the "undernet". There are affinity groups for people who share common interests and/or problems. Life is enriched by interaction. Information on IRC and where to download free clients can be found (along with most other information) on my favorite search engine: <http://www.google.com> Let me know how you're getting along. Burt ☺

Palm Court #5

A Palm Database, And What To Do When Your Palm Fails

Cass Lewart (rlewart@monmouth.com)

In this issue of the Palm Court, I will review a database program and describe my experiences when my Palm had to be repaired.

HandBase

I have been working with database programs for many years, starting with the venerable dBase II. I was therefore quite pleased to find a Palm database program with many features I would expect to find only on the desktop. The program HandBase from DDH Software, similar to the spreadsheet program Quicksheet reviewed in the Palm Court #2, conveniently integrates the desktop with Palm. A database table can be created, edited and filled with records on the desktop or on the Palm. During the next HotSync the databases will be synchronized.

When creating a database the HandBase allows for 15 different field types. The first few choices are such mundane field types as Text, Integer, Floating, Date and Time with pop-up tables. Then it really gets interesting — there is the Pop-Up field type where you can select from a list of values (e.g., “black”, “brown” or “green”). There is also the DB Pop-Up field type, where the list of values is a field in another database. Several databases can also be linked on a field thus creating a relational database. For example, a doctor may have a database of Patient info, which would include a field that is linked to a Visits database. When the “Visits” link button is pressed under a patient record in the “Patient” database, the Visits database would be opened and would show the visits that Patient had made.

Other field types are “Image”, where you can store little sketches, “Unique” which generates a unique record identifier used for linking, “Check Box”, which can be checked or unchecked. You also have calculated fields, which are a function of other fields in the same record and you can attach a note to each record. Records can be exported to the Palm Note Pad or to a delimited file on the desktop. They can also be imported from a delimited file on the desktop.

Records in a table can be filtered according to various criteria depending on the field type, e.g., range for a numerical field; a table can also be summarized in a report. Users of HandBase can select from hundreds of downloadable databases applets ranging from Human Anatomy to Mixed Drinks and Grocery Shopping. The two screen prints shown below were taken from an elaborate expense tracking applet called Work Days contributed by Kevin McCord.

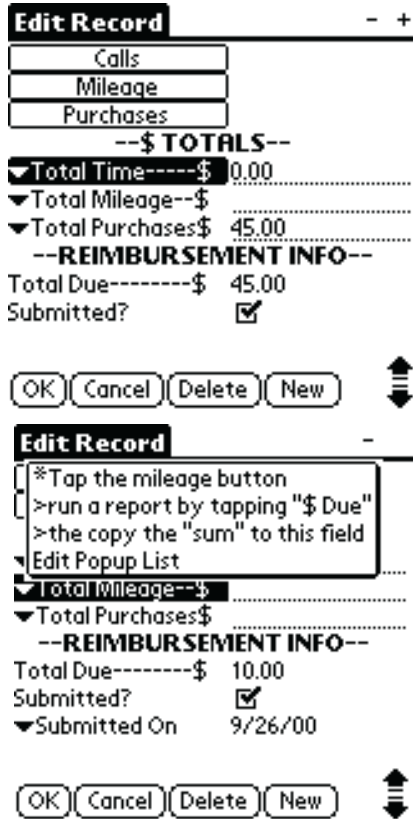
The HandBase program comes with an 86 page manual and is distributed as shareware with a 30 day free trial period. It can be registered for \$25. Developers can also distribute applications with a free standing run-time module of HandBase. For more information, and to download the program with the manual go to: <http://www.ddhsoftware.com/software.html?view=handbase>

What To Do When Palm Breaks Down

Nothing lasts forever, and my Palm, after seven months of continuous service developed some hardening of the arteries — the Time/Date button, the one next to the On/Off switch would not move freely. After I sent e-mail to the Palm support site and got no answer, I called Palm directly — there is a not well publicized toll-free number: 888-956-7256. After 25 minutes on hold I got connected. As my Palm was still under warranty I was offered a new or refurbished unit. I had to give my credit card number as guarantee that I will return my damaged unit within 15 days. A new-looking Palm arrived 3 days later via Airborne Express. The box included a return prepaid Airborne Express shipping label.

Instructions for backup from the old unit and restoring data to the new unit were quite sketchy. To be on the safe side I used the BackupAll program before running HotSync on my old Palm. BackupAll makes sure that all databases are backed up during HotSync. The program was written by Mattias Jordan and is distributed free with source code under the GNU license. For information and download, go to: <http://yanoff.sourceforge.net/backupall/backupall.html>

After backing up my original Palm IIIxe data, I put my new Palm in the cradle, customized the HotSync manager to sync from desktop to Palm, pressed the Hot Sync button on the cradle and waited ... and waited. It took nearly 30 minutes, while assorted messages were flashing on the Palm screen. Finally the Palm beeped and the backup was completed. I was pleasantly surprised to see that all of my 60+ programs with their associated data moved to the new Palm. The only thing which was not correct was that the programs were not filed under the correct categories. It took only 5 minutes to fix that and my new Palm had all the programs from the old Palm working flawlessly. I erased all data from the old Palm by holding the On/Off switch while pressing the Reset with a pin and then pressing on prompt the Up button. All I had to do now was to call Airborne Express for a pickup. ☺



From The DealsGuy

Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Eatin' Some Crow!!

In a past column I commented about a lack of voice tech support from Creative Labs, among others. Glen McLamore from Central Florida Computer Society e-mailed me to say that I was wrong about Creative Labs. He had talked to a technician for advice only a few days before, although he said he had problems negotiating the phone system. He forwarded their phone numbers to me to use. Perhaps I missed what I was looking for, but I did hear a distinct message saying they no longer took voice tech support calls when I tried it last summer. Good to know you can still get help.

More Crow, or Victim of Circumstances??

Last month I wrote about Address.com, a free ISP. I was originally going to write about 1stup.com, but when I looked it over, it was more of a network hosting service for free ISPs so I decided to write about Address.com. 1stup.com closed their doors shortly after I looked it over and I don't know which ISPs they were the network for.

Wouldn't you know, the very day I released my column, unknown to me, Spinway.com closed their doors and they are also a network hosting service for free ISPs, in fact, for Address.com and Bluelight.com. To survive, Bluelight.com bought some of the assets of Spinway.com to continue operating. Address.com emailed me to say they were shut down, but were negotiating for a new network provider. Things happen fast in the free ISP world and I'm sorry for inadvertently giving you a bum steer.

Still Good

Your user group should have received a package of order forms for PowerQuest users group specials from Gene Barlow as mine did. Ask your special offer coordinator about them.

CAD Software For The Price Conscious

Do you own, or know somebody that owns, popular CAD (Computer Aided Design) software? What was the cost for that package? Plenty if they have a certain brand, but I have a cheaper solution if you do that kind of work. According to "Upperspace," DesignCAD will handle that type of drawing needs with ease and it's easy to learn and use. It's also a much better bargain, even at its regular price, but I have a "deal" for DesignCAD. You can actually own DesignCAD at about the price for only an upgraded version of that other famous CAD program.

Drawing and editing commands are intuitive and FAST. Drawing shortcuts, such as a right-click for snap and object menus, horizontal and vertical cursor mode, and cursor step sizes, allow you to make faster and more reliable drawings. 3D support is greatly enhanced and animations can be saved in .avi format.

This product offers so much that you should go to <http://www.designcad.com> to get the details. They're offering a great discount from February 1 through March 30, 2001. Thanks to Jody Wallace, Public Relations Director. She recommends

taking advantage of the "Bob Click Special" from Upperspace to enjoy 40% off your order. * DesignCAD 3000 — normally \$299 — Bob Click special \$179.40. DesignCAD 3000 combines powerful 3D solid modeling with easy-to-use 2D drafting. * DesignCAD 3000 Express — normally \$129 — Bob Click special \$77.40. DesignCAD 3000 Express offers easy-to-use 2D drafting and has all the same powerful features of DesignCAD 3000, minus the 3D solid modeling. * ViaPage — normally \$49.95 — Bob Click special \$29.97. ViaPage makes designing your personal web page or small business page simple!

Prices are in US funds. Uses Windows 9x/NT4 platform. Not sure about Win2K or ME. Order by phone/fax/email/mail. Phone: (800)233-3223 or (918)825-4844 Fax: (918)825-6359 Email: sales@upperspace.com Mail: Upperspace Corp. 600 SE 49th Street Pryor, OK 74361

Liven Up Your Web Graphics

Caligari Software has introduced "iSpace." At this writing I have purchased it, have not yet tried it, but I have used Caligari's "TrueSpace," also an excellent product for giving graphics an impressive new look. I'll include some of their description below.

"For web designers and developers who want to differentiate the look of their Web site, iSpace provides a Web graphics tool that enables the creation of stunning 3D graphics. Working with traditional Web design tools, iSpace delivers the full range of 3D capabilities in a familiar drag-&-drop environment. Unlike other 3D tools, iSpace works seamlessly with your main HTML editor (such as Front Page, Dreamweaver or Adobe GoLive) and uses a standard HTML format for input and output of the entire fully formatted page. 3D workspace is revolutionary ... the rendering results breathtaking."

Check out <http://www.caligari.com> if you want more details on iSpace. I had a better special posted on my Web site that ran out December 15, 2000. However, they agreed to offer my readers iSpace at \$199, which is \$100 off the MSRP, from January 1 through February 28, 2001. Go to <http://www.caligari.com/ispace/is1dg/> to order. It uses Windows 95/98/2k/NT4 platforms. Win ME?? Be sure to check their recommended hardware.

Hey Browser — Don't Do As I Do — Do As I Say

Last month I wrote about Conversa's voice powered browser software. Now I'm introducing you to "Ivan," (Intelligent Voice Animated Navigator). I enjoyed their demonstration at Comdex with an "Ivan" walking around the booth. I watched as a demonstrator talked to his browser, asking for various types of Web sites, and even products. The browser responded saying "I'll get that" and listed sites catering to his request. Sometimes IVAN asked for more information.

IVAN is also said to think, understand what word sounds mean, learn your preferences, search by concept instead of just keywords, and is easygoing when spoken to in common

continued on page 18

perienced a sharp increase of startup companies; many of them founded by former Fairchild employees, who were referred to as “Fairchildren”. Among them were Robert Noyce and Gordon Moore, who in 1968 started and became the first two employees of a company they named NM Electronics. This was actually their second choice for a name. Originally, they planned to call their new company “Moore and Noyce Electronics”, but it sounded too much like “more noise electronics” — not a good concept. A San Francisco venture capitalist, Art Rock, who helped start Fairchild, took only two days to bring together \$2.5 million for Noyce and Moore. They later decided on the name “Integrated Electronics Company”. They bought the rights to the already registered name Intelco and shortened it to Intel. (Andy Grove, former CEO and current Chairman of the Board was employee #4).

In 1969, Intel, which was primarily a memory chip producer, announced its first product: the 3101 Schottky bi-polar 64 bit static random access memory (SRAM) chip. It did fairly well, but another product line was needed to support the young company, and Busicom, a Japanese calculator company, needed twelve custom-designed chips but could not afford the expense of development and manufacture. Intel engineer Ted Hoff suggested that instead of twelve separate chips, it would be better to create a single chip capable of twelve functions internally. Intel funded Hoff’s research, and in just 9 months Hoff, with help from two other Intel engineers and an engineer from Busicom, produced a chip that did not need to be “burned” like Read Only Memory chips. This would reduce manufacturing costs significantly. The chip was the first “programmable” chip capable of holding instructions given to it through software. The chip held circuitry measuring 1/8“ by 1/16” and contained 2300 MOS type transistors. Its computing capacity was equal to that of the ENIAC computer, which took up 3,000 cubic feet of space and used 18,000 vacuum tubes.

This was the birth of the microprocessor. Unfortunately, the rights to this incredible invention belonged to Busicom, so Intel went to Japan and negotiated with Busicom to purchase the rights to the 4004 microprocessor. (Busicom went bankrupt shortly thereafter.) But what did Intel really have? Nobody knew anything about Intel or their product. Intel set out to educate engineers about the 4004 in the hope that useful software would be developed for it so it could be used to control devices such as traffic lights automatically. Intel ran ads in engineering publications, and soon many devices were being designed implementing the controlling capabilities of the 4004 microprocessor.

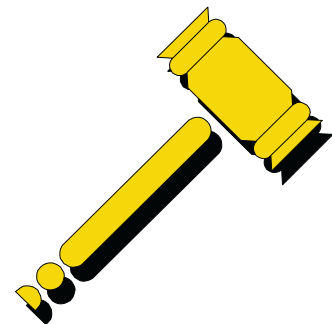
The 8008 processor, with twice the computing capability of the 4004, was introduced in 1972 and was used in “dumb terminals”. Two years later Intel introduced the 8080 chip, which was offered in the MITS Altair hobbyist kit computer, which cost \$395 in 1975. That was followed in 1979 by the 8086, a 16 bit processor designed to work on a 16 bit wide bus. A less expensive “16 bits on an 8 bit bus” version processor called the 8088 soon followed and became “the brains behind the PC” when IBM brought out the “Personal Computer” in August of 1981.

IBM followed its Personal Computer (PC) and Personal Computer-Extra Technology (XT) in 1984 with Personal Computer-Advanced Technology (AT), which used Intel’s 80286 processor, developed in 1982. Known as the “brain dead processor”, the 80286 failed to properly solve an addressing problem to surpass the 1 megabyte barrier of Intel’s segmented memory scheme. Although the 80286 could address 16 MB of RAM, it had limited use except within environments such as Windows. However, the now rapidly growing PC industry really got moving when the 80386 was introduced in 1985, appearing first in the Compaq Deskpro in late 1986. The 80386 contained 275,000 transistors, and was the first 32 bit, true multi-tasking processor. This is the processor that finally made the PC a real business tool and already existing environments such as Windows could finally work as intended. At that time even Windows was somewhat awkward.

In 1987, IBM and Microsoft started development of Operating System 2 (O/S 2) to work in the new, more stable 386 machines as a true multi-tasking, multi-user operating system to replace DOS and the Windows environment. (This of course, later led to Windows NT)

Intel continued to dominate the microprocessor industry despite competition from several other companies. The 80486 came out in 1989 and then the Pentiums appeared throughout the 90s. The form factor of the Pentiums is considerably different and larger than the previous generations due to the increase in transistor count and the need for cooling the processor. There were 5.5 million transistors in Pentium Pro, 7.5 million in the Pentium II and a whopping 9.5 million in the Pentium III. Care to take a guess at the equivalent number of cubic feet of vacuum tubes?

The year 2001 marks the thirtieth anniversary of Intel’s 4004 microprocessor and the beginning of the microcomputer generation. Intel paid Busicom \$60,000 for the rights to the 4004. Add to that the \$50,000 that Bill Gates paid Tim Patterson, another (former) Intel engineer for his “Q-DOS” (Quick and Dirty Operating System) about 8 years later. What you have is the beginning of the PC-driven business world, and the real reason for the economy we have today. (Thanks anyway and goodbye, Bill.) ☹



Dispelling Upgrade Myths and the Not So Ugly, Naked Truth of Win ME

Fred E. Kagel (fkagel@freeholdcomputer.com)

To all who dare slay the upgrade dragon, you must first conquer the following myths:

Myth #1: Win ME requires a Pentium class machine.

Myth #2: Win ME requires a minimum CPU of 150 Mhz, and you really can't do anything with ME with less than 300 - 400 Mhz.

Myth #3: You need 64 - 128 MB of RAM for ME.

Myth #4: You must upgrade to the latest audio, video, sound card, and CD-ROM drivers before upgrading to ME.

Myth #5: You can't run DOS apps in ME.

Myths #6 - #10: If you can't meet requirements #1 - #4, then you surely can't run Office 2000 on that old bugger.

Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! Times10!!! I have just upgraded to Win ME on an AMD 586-133 Mhz machine with 32 MB RAM, a non-IDE 2X Panasonic CD connected to a "no-name" SB16 compatible soundcard, and with a crappy SIS video card.

Yes, Virginia, it can be done! And it works just fine; no worse than before, and actually, Microsoft Office 2000 seems optimized to run more efficiently on ME even though O2K arrived on the scene first.

First of all, why bother? "If it ain't broke, ..." Well, in this case, it was broken. The machine had been around the Windows neighborhood for some time: 95 and 98 both worked just fine, but SE never quite lived up to its name. Reinstalls, System File Checker, tweaking never quite fixed missing icons, missing file associations and relatively sluggish Office 97 performance.

What if your system is already plodding along? Still consider the upgrade for the same reason we have been sheepishly uttering since 96, "Greater Performance and Greater Stability." And we will still be at the mercy of Microsoft to repeat the same mantra probably until around 20 something. I agree with the critics who claim that we are paying for what really amounts to an SR, albeit a major SR in the case of ME. But consider the alternative, the real cost of developing and improving software. Would you be willing to lease software and the operating system with an annual maintenance contract, which is the way it used to be done or pay as you go and just call it an upgrade? In the end it really doesn't matter — there ain't no free lunch.

Now for the how. My first attempt was simply to take a hard drive with ME on it from another machine and swap it in the box, but no can do. I knew the registry would crap out, but it was worse than that. Boot up indicated disk I/O error. Jumpers were set properly, BIOS detected drive okay, LBA was appropriately set to LBA off (540 MB drive), FDISK was a normal FAT16, partition was active, and the initial boot up screen indicated that the drive was assigned a letter. Still, no valid drive was accessible. So, I was at a dead-end. My guess was that ei-

ther the Master Boot Record (MBR) or the operating system apparently made the hard drive somewhat system dependent well before the registry kicked in.

Next, I put the original drive back in the system as the master and connected the ME drive as the slave. All worked fine — the ME slave was recognized. So I thought about cloning the slave over to the master. However, I wasn't quite ready to abandon the existing SE Master drive in case the procedure failed.

So basically, I kept the half-alive/half-dead SE drive in the system, and deleted as much of the Windows folder as possible to make room for ME. Fortunately, Windows will not allow you to delete files which are running, so even if you attempt to delete all of the Windows' folder files, you will be forced to skip over those active files. In any case, I planned to keep all of the files in the System folder until the upgrade was complete. That way, all of my drivers and old registry would stay pat. At some point, I would have to run Regclean to clean up the registry, but that was another issue.

Next, I ran E:\SETUP /NM directly from Windows! The /NM switch bypasses the required 150 Mhz minimum. I previously reported that this was an undocumented switch but not confirmed by my testing. Well, now I can happily confirm that ME never even gave the 133 Mhz machine a second thought! Running setup directly from Windows allowed me to access my CD-ROM. Otherwise, I would have used a startup boot disk with the CD-ROM DOS drivers on it. I feared that if I hung up in DOS, I would lose access to the CD-ROM altogether.

Running setup directly from Windows, however, has two disadvantages:

- 1) You cannot do a custom install — that option never pops up.
- 2) You cannot do a clean install to a new folder — because Windows is running and is considering the install as an upgrade over the existing Windows.

The advantage of upgrading from Windows is to keep CD-ROM Windows drivers intact, and it works! By the way, I did try both the Win98 and ME startup disks, and they both failed to recognize my ferkachta CD-ROM.

The question of upgrading my CD-ROM driver was a non-issue. I don't think there was a snowball's chance in hell of finding one. They don't make the drives that way anymore. Admittedly, I didn't even try to find one. Yes, I know, I could have picked up a 40X or a 50X for a song and did so for ten bucks recently, but you know, I hate to throw away working hardware.

The upgrade took over an hour, and in the last two minutes, my heart skipped a beat as I got an error message that Windows may not work properly. Some VXD for some device was complaining. This was the same message that I had been getting from SE. I believe that the "proprietary" SB16 card

continued

was causing the error message. I pressed OK, my only choice, and away went the message. Up came ME. Whew!

A check of System Devices showed that I still needed to either reinstall or upgrade the video driver, but I was accustomed to that from my experiences with the other ME upgrades that I have done on Pentiums with built-in AGP video. While ME complained about the existing driver, it happily listed a dozen alternatives. While several worked, the only one that did away with the error messages was the one that came with the card. This is an important point, for although drivers which were dated more recently were available and were automatically installed by ME, the early boot warning they generate, that "your display adapter is not configured correctly," became an annoyance beacon. The older original drivers worked and yielded no error messages. Thank you, ME.

I ran MSConfig and deleted all non-essential startups. I also disabled PC Health and State Manager on this particular machine. If the system went, so be it — no biggie on this machine. Incidentally, by removing the startups, the registry got cleaned up a little. ME has a nasty habit of bringing old startups out of the woodwork during its installation, so this cleanup is both useful and necessary.

The real surprise came after I installed Office 2000. All office apps worked flawlessly and with some noticeably improved snappiness — especially after a little caching kicked in.

Obviously, if you have a Pentium class machine you can take full advantage of ME's multimedia features, but if you use your computer for typical home/office/Internet apps, a lesser machine need not be ME-less! I will, however, definitely up the RAM!

Oh, I almost forgot about DOS apps. This machine doesn't run any, but I do have another ME machine running a DOS-based database. Most databases need what are called file handlers to process read/writes to the hard disk. In DOS, there is a command, Files = nn, which is placed in the Config.Sys.

By default, ME limits open file handlers to 32, which was insufficient for the database. ME also does away with Config.Sys. The solution was to edit the [386Enh] section of the System.Ini file with the following:

```
PerVMFiles=99
```

That did the trick!

I realize that one exception doesn't make a rule, but I'm a 60s kind of guy, living at a time when rules were made to be broken. Windows ME can be installed in a less than high speed, centa-MegaRAM machine, and more importantly, can actually improve the performance of your older machine.

Fred Kagel, Director of the Freehold Computer Training Center (<http://www.freeholdcomputer.com>). ☐

Moments from Your Possible Near Future

Timothy Everingham (tim@apcug.org)

In an increasingly interconnected world, you may experience this in the near future.

Just before you head off to work in the morning, you start your dishwasher.

During your commute, a plate falls down onto the heating coil of the dishwasher. When the drying cycle begins, the plate begins to burn and melt. The dishwasher picks up the burning plate via its chemical sniffer and heat sensors. It then shuts off the heating coil and discharges its CO₂ fire extinguisher. It then detects there is no more fire danger.

The dishwasher uses its Internet connection to enter a voice paging service. It calls you on your cellular phone and informs you what it detected, its actions, that it detects no further danger, and is on standby mode. It leaves a copy of this message on your voice mail.

As you are walking from your car to your office, you get a call from an appliance repair place you have a service contract with. The service rep informs you that they have received email from your dishwasher informing them of what happened this morning. They activated the netcam inside the dishwasher and saw the burned plate on the heating coil. She says they should come out to service the dishwasher (remove the plate, clean the heating coil, and check for any other damage). You say you will get back to her in a few minutes.

When you reach your office, you log into your dishwasher's website. It confirms what the voice mail said earlier. You activate the netcam and see the burnt plate.

You call the service rep and tell her to go ahead and send someone to service the dishwasher. You are logged into your home security system's website, so you give the service rep a code received from the website that will allow someone to enter your house only that afternoon.

In the afternoon, you receive a voice mail from your home security system that the repair person has arrived.

Later you receive an instant message from the dishwasher that repairs are completed and asking whether you want it to start again to wash the dishes you put in this morning. You reply yes, and it does so.

A few minutes later you receive another voice mail from your security system that the repair person has left. It also informs you that it was informed by the refrigerator and kitchen cabinets that the repair person took a bottle of soda and some cookies. Thinking that it was probably okay, you don't do anything about it. You log into your grocery delivery website and add soda and cookies to your current order.

When you arrive home, you find the dishwasher repaired and the dishes washed.

About an hour after your arrival, the grocery delivery arrives with the items you have ordered, including the soda and cookies. You could have had them put into your cabinets and refrigerator while you were at work, but you like to do this yourself. ☐

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Auctioning

Start with AuctionWatch

Barbara DeGroot (bdegroot@ptd.net)

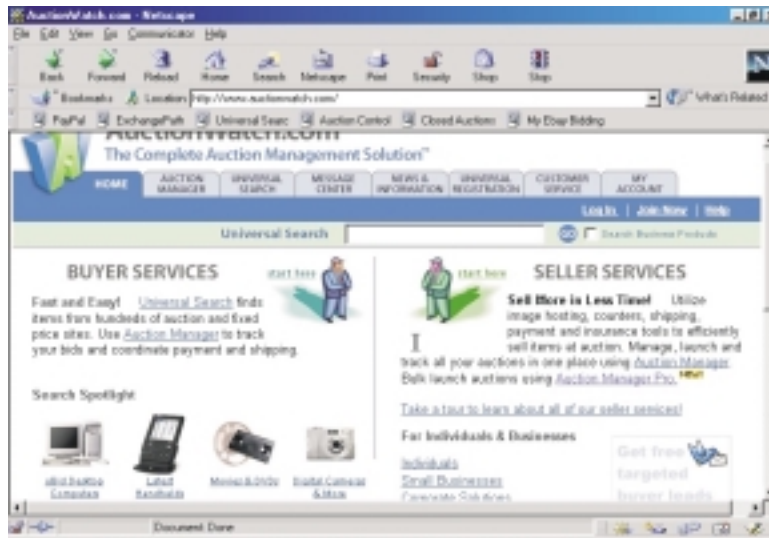
Who can resist the lure of an auction — the thrill of the contest, the hope of a bargain. Online auction sites are growing fast. Major sites are so busy during peak shopping hours that they get sluggish and sometimes crash because of overload. Online auctions are making entrepreneurs of ordinary folks like you and me, who have never set foot in a live auction. Let me introduce you to one of my favorite sites, AuctionWatch

(<http://www.auctionwatch.com>), as the beginning of a tutorial for those who are interested in getting into auction selling. AW is not an auction site, but its multiple services are necessary tools for the seller, and helpful for the auction browser/bidder.

Market Research

The first steps toward selling should be market research and gaining knowledge of the available tools but first, of course, you must join. Before you do, look over the AW home page, which is divided into Buyer Services and Seller Services. Tabs at the top of the page offer easy entry into the various services, but until you are registered or signed in most of them take you to the registration page. The tabs are visible wherever you are at AW, as are the commercial advertisements. AW is free (so far), and is supported by advertising. Occasionally there is an ad that is distracting because it blinks like a neon sign, but most are tolerable.

Buyer services are Universal Search and Auction Manager. You can try out Universal Search without signing in, but the Auction Manager link will take you to the registration form. Once you fill it out and submit it, you must wait for your password to be emailed before you have access to all services. If you



Search tab. Whatever you were thinking of selling, try a search for it to see what others are offering for sale. (If you don't know what you want to sell, you can browse categories until you find something that interests you.) Search results are returned in three panels. The top is featured auctions (the seller paid the auction site an extra fee to get prominent placement), next is auctions, and the third is fixed price (these are not really auction sites, but sometimes offer better prices), which can be turned off by clicking on "show auctions only". Results in the Auctions panel are sorted with auctions closing first at the top, but you can change that to new listings first, lowest price first, least bids first or a several other options. Each auction is listed by title with current price, auction site (Ebay, Yahoo or Amazon), number of bids and closing

time/date. A camera symbol indicates if there is a picture. The current price field may not be up-to-date — sometimes the bids come in too fast for the search utility to keep up.

Pick an auction that interests you and click on it. Another browser window will open, displaying the auction ad. If you are still interested, (and if you have signed in with your password) you can close the win-

Track	Pic	Item Title	Site	Price	Bids	Ends
<input type="checkbox"/>		NEW VALENTINE SPECIAL BIRDS IN HEART PIN	eBay	\$29.95	--	within 4 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		LEGO PLANET PLUSH VAL & TYNE the Valentine Beanie Bears 1:1400 000 MANT	Amazon.com Auctions	\$9.99	--	within 5 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		GYMBOREE DE MY VALENTINE ROMPER+HATND	eBay	\$2.00	--	within 7 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		Valentine Gorilla Plush NEW Adorable	eBay	\$2.99	--	within 7 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		VINTAGE VALENTINE INK BLOTTERS	eBay	\$5.00	--	within 7 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		VALENTINE JUMPER - AMERICAN GIRL DOLL 1/8	eBay	\$17.50	1	within 8 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		TO MY VALENTINE POSTCARD 1910	eBay	\$1.00	--	within 8 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		Vintage Valentine Red Lace Bra NWT 36D	eBay	\$11.99	--	within 8 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		World of Marianne Bears VALENTINE Day Bear	eBay	\$12.00	1	within 9 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		Valentine Valentines Day Tin Cupid Heart Love	eBay	\$1.99	1	within 9 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		Valentine Gorilla Plush NEW Adorable	eBay	\$2.99	--	within 9 mins
<input type="checkbox"/>		Girl's 24 mos VALENTINE JUMPER LEGGS #	eBay	\$4.00	--	within 10 mins

continued

dow and check the box next to the item in the search results. Continue down the list, and when you reach the bottom, push the “track” button. You will be returned to search results in a few seconds and you can then go to the next page of search results. You must push the track button before moving to the next page or lose the check marks. One disconcerting feature of this is that it always returns you to the first page of search results, so if you were on another page, you must use your back button to regain your place. When you are done, click the Auction Manager tab, and you will see your choices listed in the active auctions panel. Whether you bid on them or not, they will move to the closed auctions panel as they close.

While you are browsing the auctions, note ad features that “grab” you and those that turn you off. If you intend to sell, you should aim to make your ads more attractive than those you are looking at now. It’s a good idea at first to track some auctions with unattractive ads, just to see how well the item sold (or didn’t sell). You should also check closed auctions for pricing — whether buying or selling, you need to know the going price for the sort of item you are interested in.

AW also offers what amounts to a course in auctioning in its beginner’s guide. If you still have questions after going through the guide, there are message centers where you can post a question, but browse the postings first — someone else may already have asked your question and received an answer. The regular participants of these message centers are usually very helpful. If you don’t get an answer, you can also email your question to AW by way of its “contact us” link in the small print at the bottom of almost every page. AW seems to be very interested in your questions and your feedback and suggestions on the way things work. They do frequent upgrades of their system, and several things I have suggested have been implemented at upgrade. (In one case they responded that they had tried what I suggested and it had interfered with another function, but they were still trying to find a way to make it work.)

Choosing an Auction Site

Universal Search is helpful for exploring the three major sites (Ebay, Yahoo! and Amazon), but for some merchandise, you might do better on one of the specialized sites. AW lists them and evaluates them to make choosing easy. While you are checking them out, make note of the closing prices on your kind of item. (I have seen some items selling for low enough prices on Amazon and Yahoo!, that I could have turned around and sold them for a profit on Ebay — and sometimes I did just that.)

Down to Bidding

By now you should have your password for AW, and you are ready to start bidding. Universal Registration at AW will submit your registration information to your chosen auction sites and payment services (more about payment services later) and keep track of them for you. Even if your interest is in selling, you should start with buying in order to build a reputation. Each auction site has a rating/feedback system of some kind

— buyers rate sellers and sellers rate buyers — and the higher your rating, the easier it is to sell. If you have a very low rating (or none at all), bidders will be cautious, so you need to build a reputation for dependability. As a bidder, you should check the rating comments on a seller before placing a bid. You want to make sure the seller has a reputation for accurate descriptions and prompt shipment. When you win, make sure you email the seller promptly with your shipping address and don’t delay sending payment. When a transaction is complete, be sure to post feedback — it’s what makes the system work. It is especially important to post feedback on a bad experience — be sure you exhaust all other remedies first, then say what you must. Feedback is the only way bidders can be warned away from careless or unscrupulous sellers.

Bidding Strategy

You may be surprised to find that attractive items with low starting prices still have no bids although closing time is near. Some may indeed close without bids, but the use of auction tracking is helping savvy bidders to keep their interest in an item secret. They track the auction until just before closing, then swoop in with their bid in the nick of time (this practice is called sniping). Sometimes this works — and sometimes there are other snipers who are interested in the same item so it comes down to frantic last-minute or last-second bidding. (I’ve been told there is such a thing as sniping software, but I have no experience with it. I suspect that a dedicated sniper would find automatic software decreases the fun of the battle.) Other bidders will bid the minimum early in the process, then place a higher back-up bid later. Because each bidder’s maximum bid is concealed until after the auction closes, it is hoped that the presence of the backup bid will discourage other bidders. Another strategy is to bid your maximum plus an odd number of pennies. Because most bidders tend to bid in even increments, an auction can be won (or lost) by a penny or two. None of these strategies is foolproof against a determined and/or experienced opponent — that’s what makes the whole process fun. Be careful you don’t get so absorbed in the fun that you bid more than an item is worth!

Paying for Your Wins

There are many payment services available for your use so you can pay for your winnings with a credit card or “instant check” without exposing your account numbers to individual sellers. As far as I know, all of these services are free to bidders, but most charge fees to sellers. Each auction site has its own service and there are some that are free-standing, such as my personal favorite, PayPal (<http://www.paypal.com>). There’s no harm in signing up for as many as you want. All use secure servers to protect your registration information and account numbers. Before you start selling at auction, you will have to decide whether to use one (or several) of these services to receive payments or to stick to the old slow and reliable check or money order (or maybe just money order).

Coming up: Necessary Equipment, Photo Hosting, Auction Templates, Writing Ad Copy, Timing. ☐

SIG News

Internet

Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

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

For those who are interested in exploring the facilities available via the Internet. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8 P.M. ☐

Symposium

John Raff (jraff@home.com)

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

February 9: This group will go into hibernation until we can come up with some new speakers. The first meeting of the Java SIG will take this time slot.

January 12: Rick Elbanna, President of Online Marketing Network was scheduled to speak on creating online exams with Trainersoft and managing the scores with custom Microsoft Access 2000 and VBA. Unfortunately Rick had a traffic accident while driving to the club, so we held a Random Access Q&A session. ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

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

The Java Users Group is a new SIG that will debut on Friday, February 9, 2001 at SPRS. The group will be a forum for discussion of 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 object-oriented programming and software design issues. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 PM with a short random access session followed by the main presentation.

February: The main presentation will consist of a brief history of Java followed by a review of a demo applet from the Java Development Kit (JDK) from Sun Microsystems. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)

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

We discuss issues of interest to novice users or those who are planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates. ☐

MCP

(Preparing for Microsoft Certification Exams)

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)

<http://www.scottsville.net/mcp.htm>

We meet on 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 information, reading assignments and course schedule, visit our website. ☐

February 2001

Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)

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

Meetings are held at the offices of Bright Ideas Software in 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 also posted on our Web page. ☐

PC Users Group

Steve Rodriguez (help72@bigfoot.com)

<http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html>

We focus on any topic that touches on personal computers. Some meetings are fairly technical and some are oriented to newbies. Our members reflect this mix. Come out and get to know us — we're friendly. See news of previous meetings at our Website.

February 16: Marty Fries, co-author of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook, will conduct a presentation about digital music on PCs and the Internet. His book has been called "The Bible of MP3" and is widely recognized as the most user-friendly and comprehensive book on the subject. His presentation includes a discussion of how MP3 and the Internet are revolutionizing the music industry and a live demo of recording and playing music on a PC, using MusicMatch Jukebox, Winamp and CoolEdit. See more details at <http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/mp3.html>

January 19: Steve Rodriguez introduced MGI's new PhotoSuite Deluxe and demonstrated it to the group. This initiated a several-month series in the serious use of this software. Steve plans to show everyone how to use it. The software has a lot of features, and one night is not enough. ☐

Multimedia & Mobile

Steven Rodriguez (help72@bigfoot.com)

<http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html>

This Activity has been combined with PC Users Group. ☐

Web Development

Jim Wong (webdev@acgnj.org)

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

A new SIG on web development (WebDev?) will have their kickoff meeting at 7 PM on Monday, March 19, 2001, and will meet 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.

This SIG is intended for those who have written HTML and been involved in some type of development. Our objective is open ended but primarily revolves around technologies related to web development on the Microsoft platform. This may include things like IIS, ASP, tools, utilities, CSS, JavaScript, XML, VB, and database. We can get a better sense of direction after the kickoff meeting.

Agenda for kickoff meeting: organizational and directional issues, Intro to Writing Batch Files (Windows Script Host) ☐

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. We meet at 8 PM the first Monday of the month.

February 5: Subhendu Ghosh will present "Using NetSaint for systems and network monitoring". ☞

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 Word and PowerPoint. Anyone interested in using any one of the Microsoft Office products and VBA is urged to attend. We meet at 7 PM on the third Monday of even-numbered months.

February: Microsoft Spreadsheet Component (9.0) for Web Pages ☞

Visual Basic/Access 2000

Rick Elbanna (rick@nobella.com)

<http://www.mastersofthecode.com>

We meet at 7 PM on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at the offices of Online Marketing Network, One Austin Avenue Iselin, NJ. Refreshments are served. If you have special food requirements (kosher, vegetarian) please email your needs. The 2nd Monday meeting is dedicated to Microsoft Access 2000 VBA and the 4th Monday meeting is dedicated to Microsoft Visual Basic.

January 8: There were 5 attendees at the first meeting. Rick provided soda and a double decker sub (thanks Rick!), then showed the group some Access VBA he had been working on. We discussed the future of VB and VBA and seemed to agree that VB.Net and XP would be the best approach to get their feet wet. ☞

Genealogy

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

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

The Genealogy SIG is for genealogists interested in computers and computer users interested in genealogy. We provide a forum to assist members in furtherance of both computing and genealogical endeavors. Meetings usually focus on genealogy more than on computers. We meet at 8:00 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. ☞

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

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

This group is devoted to discussing programming languages in general and C, C++, and C++ for Windows programming in particular. Each month a small but hopefully useful program (complete with source code) is presented for discussion.

Our January subject, "Win Hayes 32", is a 32-bit reincarnation of a program that I presented about five years ago. The basic idea of the program is to send command strings to a modem and then decode the results that the modem sends back. For example, if the modem sends back an L3, it means that the speaker volume is set on high. The program is now a 32-bit visual C++ utility using Microsoft's MFC, foundation classes. It also uses a serial class developed by Tom Archer and Rick Leinecker. At the meeting we discussed the Serial class, source code included, and the application as well as other serial communication topics. ☞

Macintosh Users Group

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

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

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

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

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

January: Brian Langerman questioned members about their knowledge of how the market worked, then demonstrated his program SPECTRE LEVEL IV. This program for day traders has only recently become available. We were all amazed at how much information is available in this astonishing program. Even non-day traders received a good insight into how the NASDAQ market really works. We found Brian to be a most enthusiastic and talented individual. He suggested you visit www.WALLSTREETDAYTRADERS.com to learn more about this intriguing and profit aiding program. He also invited any serious day trader to join him in New York for training in the use of his program. You can contact him through the WallStreetTraders site above, and his bio is available at http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig/pages/langerman_bio.html There you will also find links to the complete program description. Mr. Langerman's 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!!!! This was one of the most interesting and well attended sessions that we have ever had. ☞

continued

Guru Corner

Jo-Anne Head

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	973-361-5793
	Software	
HTML	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
CSS	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
C++	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
ASP	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
Perl	John Raff	973-533-0664
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
e-Commerce	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Networking	Scott Vincent	973-361-5793
Home Automation	Charlie Huffsmith	732-549-1734
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Operating Systems	
Linux	Andy Meyer	908-382-4297
Unix	Andy Meyer	908-382-4297
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

Tips & Tricks

ZDNet Smart Business

PROBLEM: The Back button on Internet Explorer sometimes doesn't respond when you click on it.

SOLUTION: This can happen when the IE refresh settings are set to automatic. First, open IE and choose Tools, Internet options. On the General tab, click on Settings, then select either Every Visit To The Page or Every Time You Start Internet Explorer.

PROBLEM: You just created your first Web page. When you tested the page, though, the background image displayed in Internet Explorer but not in Netscape Communicator.

SOLUTION: Since Netscape does not support bitmap (.bmp) images, convert the bitmap image to a .jpg or .gif file.

PROBLEM: You want to print a hard copy of your Netscape Communicator Address Book.

SOLUTION: Open the Address Book and choose File, Export. Select one of the available formats, then open the saved file with a word processor and print it.

PROBLEM: You want to find out what city or region corresponds to a particular area code.

SOLUTION: Check out the free Area Decoder at <http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?31746:2139974>. Enter an area code and up pops the matching city or region;alternately, enter a city and get back the area code.

PROBLEM: You often make long-distance business calls to unfamiliar cities. Is there a site on the Internet that lists the current times in cities around the world?

SOLUTION: Instant city-based time information is available at <http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?31754:2139974>.

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SIG News, *continued*

Main Meeting

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/main2k-1.htm>

February 2: Microsoft presents Windows ME (Millennium Edition), giveaways. Host Jo-Anne Head.

March 2: Building a Computer. Host Ted Martin.

April 6: Use of Scanners, Transmitting Scanned Data via Email. Host Jerry Entin.

May 4: No meeting due to TCF 2001

June 1: Web Technologies (Dynamic HTML, Cascading Style Sheets, XML, XHTML, SSL) and the use of these technologies to do "neat" things to a website with very little effort. Host Mike Barlow.

Changes and updates will be posted to our website ☐

Random Access

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)

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

Those of us who have been involved in computer user groups for a long time remember when the Random Access Session was the only source of information about your particular computer. Although PCs and the software that runs on them are pretty much standardized now, users occasionally have problems or want more information. Random Access is for everyone. There is no such thing as a dumb question. Everyone usually benefits from the discussed topics regardless of their level of expertise. Many of the regulars can help you solve your problem, or at least get you started in the right direction. This is an official "Newbies too" group. ☐

everyday language. My wife sometimes tells me she is like that. With her though, I just keep saying “yes dear” to play it safe — no commands! They say that VoiceSite is the One Voice technology that can actually make your Web site talk and be interactive, and is an easy-to-use Windows-based applet. It doesn’t affect your existing HTML code, no tagging or special codes required and it’s a GUI interface.

Find out more at <http://www.myivan.com> and <http://www.onevoicetech.com>, where there may be free downloadable software, but it looks like PC only. The way they make their money is by registering a company’s Web site to their search engine. I believe their browser voice software is free, but you need your own headphones. Check their system requirements. They’ll also send disks for your user group if you ask.

When Ya Gotta Go, Ya Gotta Go (More Trivia)

You’re walking on the sidewalks of New York and suddenly, you really have to find a bathroom, fast. What do you do — What do you do? I’m not talking about the American Express card for this one though. No, I’m talking about asking the net, that is, if you have a wireless Internet phone with you. Just use it to search out the closest bathroom in about 30 seconds.

Actually, your search is only possible in about a dozen major cities, but I look for the service by YadaYada.com to get better. You can thank <http://www.besttoilets.com> for putting this information together. However, I suppose it will be a while before you could ask about restrooms in YeeHaw Junction, FL. Best to use your “Road Whiz” for that one. You do have a Road Whiz for auto travel, don’t you?

Get a Family For Free

My thanks to Lou Harris of Alamo PC Organization Inc., for forwarding this to me through Clark Bird, their editor. It is a news release from Ken McGinnis of Millennia Corporation. Check further, but I only saw it listed for PCs.

“Legacy 3.0 is now FREE! Yes, you read correctly. Legacy Family Tree 3.0, the most comprehensive and easy-to-use family history software, is now free for the taking. This is the entire program. Nothing has been held back and there are no restrictions. Everything is there, from world-class merging, search-and-replace and spell checking, to powerful research logs, reports, and sources.

“Legacy overpowers the competition with an unbeatable feature list. Beginning December 12, 2000, you can download the Standard Edition of Legacy from our Web site at <http://www.LegacyFamilyTree.com>. There are no strings attached. It is our gift to the genealogy world. Please come to our web site and read all about this great program. You can also read about the new Deluxe Edition that is now available ... Legacy Family Tree — Changing the World of Genealogy.”

That’s it for this month. Meet me here again 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. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click dealsguy@mindspring.com. Visit my Web site at <http://www.dealsguy.com> for past columns. ☺

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

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, 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. (201) 893-5274 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 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 (609) 466-1530, http://pluto.njcc.com/~ppcug
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.



Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, New York, Wednesday 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.

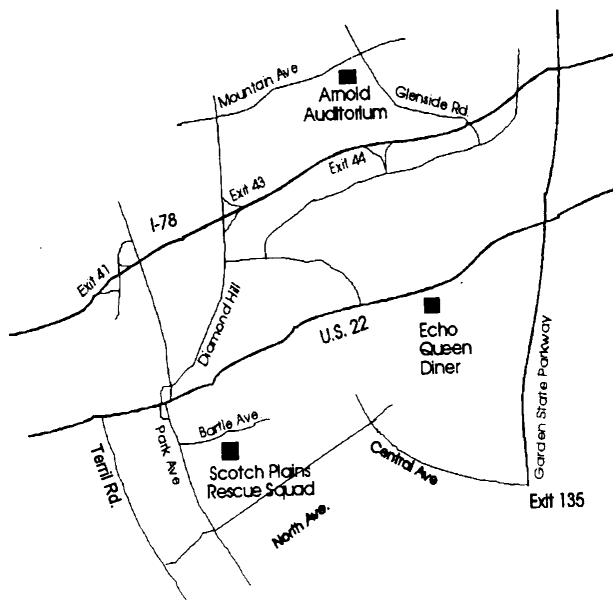
KGP Computer Shows

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

Feb. 10-11: Pennsauken, NJ

Feb. 17-18: Raritan Center, Edison, NJ See website for admission deal

Mar. 3-4: National Guard Armory Morristown, NJ See website for info on admission rebate



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, February 1, 2001

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

Friday, February 2

8 P.M. - Main Meeting. Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-361-5793. Microsoft presents Windows ME (Millennium Edition), giveaways. Host Jo-Anne Head.

Monday, February 5

8 P.M. - Lunics. Andreas Meyer (ahm@spies.com), 908-382-4297.

Wednesday, February 7

MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-361-5793

Thursday, February 8

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

Friday, February 9

7:30 P.M. - New Java SIG replaces Symposium. Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net). History of Java plus demo of an applet from Sun Microsystems Java Development Kit (JDK).

Monday, February 12

7 P.M. - Visual Basic, Rick Elbanna (rick@nobella.com), (800) 323-7575. New group meets twice a month in Iselin. See SIG News for details.

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

Wednesday, February 14

MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-361-5793

Friday, February 16

8 P.M. - PC Users Group, Steve Rodriguez (help72@bigfoot.com).

Monday, February 19

7 P.M. - Visual Basic for Applications, James Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com), 973-772-7171

Tuesday, February 20

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

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes, Mike Barlow (mwb@infi.net). Meets at offices of Bright Ideas Software in Iselin. See SIG News for details.

Wednesday, February 21

MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-361-5793

Thursday, February 22

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

Friday, February 24

7 P.M. - Apple/Macintosh, Rutgers Univ., Piscataway, NJ, 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

Monday, February 26

7 P.M. - Visual Basic, Rick Elbanna (rick@nobella.com), (800) 323-7575. New group meets twice a month in Iselin. See SIG News for details.

Tuesday, February 27

7 P.M. - Board of Directors Meeting ☐

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.