

# Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 26, Number 5

May 2001



**Computer got you stumped?  
ACGNJ can help.**

Visit a meeting or call one of our gurus (page 14).



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

## What Is ACGNJ?

by *Walter DeGroot (wdegroot@ptd.net)*

You may be reading this while you walk through the fleamarket, you may be waiting for a seminar to begin, or you may be watching the volunteers in their baseball caps. You may be wondering — “What is this ACGNJ? Is it a company? Is it like those promoters that put on computer shows and sales? Just what is it?”

ACGNJ is all kinds of people. Not just computer experts, but people of all levels of expertise who are interested in computers. From the office worker using a wordprocessor to the manager of the office network to the housewife balancing her checkbook to the person who just bought his/her first computer (or is thinking about buying it). We are children, teens, students, and senior citizens. Some of us had to build (not just assemble) our first computer and write the software to make it operate and do what we wanted it to do.

ACGNJ has over two hundred meetings a year. We have SIGS (special interest groups) for people involved in all kinds of computer activities — just take a look at the schedule on the back page of this publication. Before ACGNJ was founded, over 26 years ago, the only computer people were the ones who ran the big computers that occupied large rooms and larger air conditioners. Soon a few pioneers built their own computers from scrounged electronic (usually radio) parts.

*continued on page 4*

**Don't miss Trenton Computer Festival — Saturday and Sunday May 5 and 6**

**New Jersey Convention Center, Raritan Center, Edison NJ**

**Opening 9 A.M. flea market, 10 A.M. indoors, closing 5 P.M. Saturday, 4 P.M. Sunday**

**For more information, visit <http://www.tcf-nj.org/>**

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

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

**Tips for reviewers:** Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

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**Publication Exchange:** Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

**Address Changes** should be directed to Charlie Huffsmith ([chaz026@aol.com](mailto: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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# The Internet Corner

Martin Rosenblum ([m.rosenblum@ieee.org](mailto:m.rosenblum@ieee.org))

## Web News

The last issue of the *Internet Corner* was put together under trying circumstances. My desktop started acting up, so I transferred all of my volatile files to “Fujisan,” my (Fujitsu) laptop. The past month has been even worse. I had put what I assumed was an empty floppy in my PC, but didn’t get around to using it. Later, I rebooted my machine and it came up with a strange screen. Sadly, the floppy turned out to be a bootable save of a low level Western Digital utility to permit my old bios — limit 2 Gb hard drives — to address larger devices. I ended up making my hard drives unreadable and with John’s help we installed a new hard drive and got a new system up and running. I had a backup of most of my volatile files from a month earlier, and so I wasn’t completely depressed, but I did have a lot of work to do. I was able to download most stuff like Eudora and Netscape and Cute FTP and PKZip, but had to send email to many of them to help me through the difficulties with new program keys, etc. They were all very cooperative.

**Item:** The Star-Ledger, February 21, “G-Men and E-Mail, FBI’s Internet surveillance plan should worry us.” Here’s another piece warning us about Carnivore, a device which is designed to sift through an individual’s email as it passes through their ISP. Of course, then it’s just a step to sift through all the e-mail passing through that ISP, and so on. Not a subject for a short note.

**Item:** The Sunday New York Times Book Review, March 4, “Robin Hoods of Cyberspace.” A review of “The Hacker Ethic” by Pekka Himanen. Himanen is writing about “good hackers,” the folks who write open source, like Linux. The reviewer wasn’t convinced. While searching for this at [www.nyt.com](http://www.nyt.com) I also came up with this from the December 24, 1984 issue: “HACKERS: Heroes of the Computer Revolution.” by Steven Levy. Sounds like a better read!

**Item:** The Star-Ledger, March 4, “Experts fear new wave of hacking.” Well, yes, there is a lot of propaganda from the anti-virus software folks, but this piece by our own Kevin Coughlin is full of real, New Jersey events and good advice and references. Nice piece.

**Item:** BusinessWeek, March 26, “Rethinking the Internet.” Over 20 pages are devoted to discussing the Net, from a survey of how all kinds of people had thought about it and how these ideas should play out or fizzle out in the future. There are separate pieces on the global aspects, e-business, advertising, subscription services that were or are free, and non-Web uses of the Net. Worth a read. You can see all of the pieces at [www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/01\\_13/B3725magazine.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/01_13/B3725magazine.htm).

**Item:** The Star-Ledger, April 16, “Companies beware: Anyone can be a hacker.” This is a fable of what could happen to an unhappy guy who just got laid off. He’s surfing around on the net and comes across a point and click recipe for getting even. He doesn’t even need to have much understanding of how it all works. He can still wreak havoc on his former employer. It’s a call for people who run computer networks to do so securely.

## Miscellany

I was watching the evening news on PBS one evening during all the to-do about hoof and mouth disease. They showed a road barrier somewhere between England and Wales. It bore a bilingual sign which I just got a brief glimpse of. The English part said “Road Closed.” Of the Welsh part, I got just a glimpse and made out what looked like “fford”. I began to wonder if there was any relation to the word “ford” meaning to cross a stream at a shallow point, but then got distracted by something else.

Next day, our treasurer, Graham Curtis, was over on club business. Since he’s pretty English, I thought I’d ask him. He knew very little Welsh. Just odd facts about the language. I was right by my PC, so I typed “welsh english dictionary” into Google and came up with a live one, just like the Greek-English one wrote about a year or so ago in one of these columns. At least this time I could use the same alphabet in both directions. I typed in “fford” and asked for the English equivalent. “No words found” came back at me. Then I tried “road” on the English side and up came three Welsh words with English definitions. The second was “ffordd” and was translated as “road”. Success! Total time invested: less than five minutes. Satisfaction? Delighted! The dictionary, by the way, is a production of Brown University and can be found at <http://www.cs.brown.edu/fun/welsh/LexiconForms.html>.

Ever have an ingrown toenail? They can be an awful nuisance and can require medical attention! Since a regular doctor won’t touch them, you seek out a podiatrist. That’s where I was this morning. We got to chatting about the Net — I know nothing about feet. It turns out that he’s quite interested in the Net and even has set up a Web site, <http://www.footspecialist.net>, which includes the capability to make appointments from one page, and tells about himself and his specialty and his practice on other pages. He’s even touting a couple of PC/Web programs of general use to his peers. We discussed the lack of ability to converse with the average MD via email — he considers email a means of communication ideally suited to certain doctor/patient discourse.

Well, taxes are over for almost all of us. I did somewhere between 50 and 100 returns for senior citizens under an AARP program sponsored jointly with the IRS. After bugging my leaders to get with it and use computers, this year we got into the program and a few of us were issued IRS laptops and laser printers. I thought everything was going to be a snap. It wasn’t. The mechanics of doing a return was much less stressful, to be sure. One could relax about the arithmetic and most of the numbers would be automatically carried to where they should also go. But to all this was added E-filing. The IRS contracted with a Georgia outfit, Universal Tax Systems, Inc. (You can find them at [www.internettax.com](http://www.internettax.com) OR [www.taxwise.com](http://www.taxwise.com).) When we did only paper returns, we would do the return, help the client with mail preparation and that would be the end. Now we had to keep track of the electronic filing status as well and also the extra forms required for this purpose, both for the client and for us. I was pretty much a wreck by the time April

*continued*

16 was done. The E-filing itself was simple enough. The program generated a transmittal file. These would be batched and the program would dial up the TaxWise service bureau and send the returns. They, in turn, would send them off to the IRS and relay acceptance back to us a day or so later. Of course, New Jersey was always a day or two behind the IRS Center in Andover, MA, so the federal and state acknowledgments would usually be separated. Program update downloads could be handled over the Net or via modem call to TaxWise service bureau. I'm not sure what I'll do next year!

Then there were the government Net resources. The IRS, at <http://www.irs.gov>, was great for retrieving missing tax forms and publications. The New Jersey site was less useful, since many of their forms were already filled in with dummy characters to prevent you from using them as filing copies. You could see them at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/forms.htm> though, if that was of any help, and New Jersey offers online filing using their own downloadable software, as well as the piggyback system adopted by most states which works with federal E-filing.

### Genealogy

Every once in a while I do some snooping around my family tree. My mother's father invented a name when he came to the states around the turn of the century and there are just two small lines of folks with that name. It's an easy family to keep track of! The other day I typed it into Google to see what would come up and there was my aunt Fannie, who had just passed away about a month before her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. It was a genealogy site devoted to the ancestors of a fellow living in Switzerland and a distant relative of my aunt's husband, who was born in Cairo. It was, except for the 20<sup>th</sup> century entries, mostly Sephardic Jews. The author had also a surname list. I counted the number of entries, impressed by the size, and there were over 2,700 family names included, most of them with scads of given name entries. It's all up on the Web, but without vital stats or locations of people still alive. I sent him email with some corrections and the facts of my aunt's death, and he got right back to me. If you want to peek into some Levantine genealogy, check out <http://www.farhi.org>.

From the January AARP Bulletin, "Internet volunteers: Genealogy needs you." This article by Leah Glasheen describes some of the myriad chores that seniors can engage in to help lubricate the tree climbing process for others to come. For example, transcribing census and passenger records to machine readable form. The article lists a number of Web sites worth a visit by volunteers:

<http://www.rootsweb.com>

<http://istg.rootsweb.com>

<http://raogk.rootsweb.com>

<http://www.usgenweb.org/volunteers/volunteers.html>

<http://www.aarplifeanswers.com>

The second URL above belongs to rootsweb's Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, which brings to mind one of the great genealogical events of this week, namely the opening of the Ellis Island archives which have been transcribed and are now available at <http://www.ellisland.org>, although, since it just

opened, it is nearly impossible to get to their servers.

### Investing & Finance

A couple months ago I wrote about Schwab's ventures into the daytraders world. The other day I got this: "StreetSmart Pro has a new feature for Schwab Signature Platinum active investors. Now you can view trading opportunities with real-time, streaming Nasdaq Level II quotes." I've been slinging this phrase, "Level II quotes" around without really understanding it. I called Schwab for an explanation, but I think it's one of those "if you have to ask, you'll never understand it" concepts. This site which looks like the place to go, if you care: [daytrading.about.com/money/daytrading/cs/nasdaqlevelii](http://daytrading.about.com/money/daytrading/cs/nasdaqlevelii). I'm not sure that I shouldn't warn you about going there, so don't say I didn't warn you. ☹

### What is ACGNJ, *continued*

They started ACGNJ so they could help each other solve problems and celebrate together when they found a solution.

Later, when the Commodores, Apples and then IBM PCs were available, the rest of us could have computers. We needed answers to our questions, and the members of ACGNJ were there to help. Sub-groups (SIGs) were formed so those who had similar interests could meet and discuss common interests and problems.

By pooling information and sharing solutions, helping and showing others how things could be done, by taking beginners by the hand and leading them toward computer literacy, we all become more knowledgeable. The wonder is that we're still doing it in an age when many computer groups are shutting down. One of our most recent efforts involves helping a team of high school students take their (and our) first steps into animation and robotics — learning with them. (See the article on page 10.)

In addition, we found friends with whom we could share experiences. We could find out what to buy and what not to buy. (There is one thing you may never learn anywhere else but in a user group like ACGNJ — which companies offer good support and help for users, and which ones don't want to hear from you after they get your money.) **And** we could enjoy computers as a hobby if that was our goal. ACGNJ is people sharing experience and knowledge.

ACGNJ is thoroughly committed to computer education — asking only (although we don't require it) that you become a member and help support us by paying annual dues. If our meetings are not convenient for you to attend, we encourage you to seek out a user group in your area — you'll find a list of them at <http://www.apcug.org>.

I missed the early years, but I have enjoyed talking to those who were there — you might enjoy it too. Computers are much less expensive now and they do so much more, but one thing that has not changed is the need for knowledge and understanding. After you buy a computer, our members are here to support you while you are learning, and they are hoping you will help others when you have become "the expert". We invite you join or visit some of the more than 200 meetings we hold every year. ☹

# From The DealsGuy

Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

I often write about things I don't like, but I also don't hesitate to write about something I do like. When looking for a CD-RW drive for a new computer a friend just assembled for me, I chose the Iomega CD-RW drive because it was the best deal I saw at the time and I respected the brand, but I am **very** impressed with Iomega's tech support. I had minor questions and a slip included in the package with tech support information urged me to call if I had any problems. It was a free call, and in spite of heavy traffic, I only waited 10 minutes to have three questions answered quickly by a very friendly and knowledgeable person. What a nice experience. They'll get my business the next time, even if it is a bit more money.

On the other hand, I bought a Linksys Router with a four-port hub to use for networking my computers, and for the DSL I've just subscribed to. After getting the DSL up and running on it, I had problems uploading my e-mail and any new files to my Web page. I've ended up using the old dialup connection for that. Earthlink's tech support first asked if I had a Linksys router (yes) and suggested that I should get help updating my router's BIOS from Linksys. He said it is a known problem with Linksys routers. I called Linksys tech support and was eventually asked to leave my name and number after waiting 20 minutes. My return call came from Linksys four days later when I was out. Great! Maybe I'm lucky they even took my call, but on the other hand, it was a free call to them. But, my router still isn't working properly and a second call is fruitless so far. Am I expecting too much these days?

## Still Good

The Pockey drive should still be good this month so call 1-877-7POCKEY (1-877-776-2539) and mention "Bob Click." Also, the Laplink PCsync deal should still be good this month. Call LapLink at 1-800-343-8080 and tell them you are an APCUG member.

Last month, a few people wished I had included short descriptions of the MGI products, so I'll do that:

PhotoSuite 4.0 certainly makes it easy to edit, organize, enhance and share all of your photos. When I say enhance, I really mean it. Dave's enhancements had us rolling in the isles at his presentation. UG price - \$30.

VideoWave 4.0, the complete PC and Web video experience. Capture, edit, produce and share your video. All you need to create professional-quality videos with powerful editing and "special effects" tools that are easy to use. UG price - \$50. (Bundle of PhotoSuite 4 + VideoWave 4 - \$60)

PhotoVista 2.0 creates the most impressive 360-degree Web Panoramas, something a viewer will "experience" rather than just look at. I was impressed when I saw it. UG price - \$25.

SoftDVD Max 4.0, a DVD player software delivering maximum performance, total Web integration and superior audio, all with an easy-to-use interface. UG price - \$20. (Bundle of all four titles - \$90).

Order by US mail if paying by check, or by fax or mail if you pay with Visa or MasterCard. Please provide your name,

complete mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. Then list the product(s) ordered and the prices. Total it and include your check, or credit card number with expiration date and signature. Send order to Webworking Services, 653 N 600 E, Springville UT 84663. Or fax your credit card order to 1-801-489-0609. Don't miss this golden opportunity, and now for the deals:

## Aladdin Closeout Sale (Mac & Windows)

I've had this posted on my Web site's Announcement page because of the time frame, but I'm repeating it here because that page hasn't had much traffic. Aladdin is having a closeout sale until April 30, which means it'll be over when you read this. However, I talked to them at the FACUG Conference and they said if an order was not very late, they would probably honor it, so don't delay. Here are the items:

The following Aladdin products are on clearance:

IntelliNews 2.0 (Mac) only \$4.95

MacTicker 1.6.1 (Mac) only \$4.95

Sundial California 2.0 AND Sundial Hawaii 2.0 (Mac). Both only \$9.95 - dazzling desktop scenery that moves with the time of day.

DragStrip 3.7 (Win) only \$9.95 - One click launches applications, files, Web sites and more.

Aladdin FlashBack 1.1 (Win or Mac) only \$9.95 - Add unlimited undos to all your favorite software.

Private File 2.0 (Win) only \$9.95

ShrinkWrap 3.5.1 (Mac) only \$19.95

For complete descriptions, visit (<http://www.aladdinsys.com>). How do you take advantage of these great deals? Go to: <http://www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/> and look for the "UG Clearance Sale Order Form" link. Please download the PDF order form and make as many copies as you need to distribute to your members. Or, you can direct your members straight to this site to download their own order form. All orders **must** be mailed in using this order form. User group officers should be aware of Aladdin's 5% rebate program to an "affiliate" user group which gets user groups a 5% rebate for members' purchases. I doubt this applies to closeout items though. Get more information on the Announcements page on my Web site, or check the Aladdin Web site.

## Help Yourself To A Little Extra Discount

O'Reilly Publishing is offering us a little bit extra off the price of certain books until May 13, 2001. Here is what Denise says: "In celebration of the 1-year anniversary of the O'Reilly/Pogue Press collaboration on the best selling 'Missing Manual Series,' O'Reilly would like to extend a special discount to user group members: Order direct from O'Reilly and receive 25% off all books in the 'Missing Manual Series.' In particular, members might be interested in:

Windows Me: The Missing Manual

Windows 2000 Pro: The Missing Manual

*continued on page 6*

## The Handwriting On The Wall

Burton Shane

My father used to say “A day late, and a dollar short”. Now I have a wonderful Easter story, and (as usual), it will be too late to publish before the holiday has come and gone. I will not waste more time apologizing (unless you are China).

Zipf’s Law is a little-known theory of word distribution that is generally accepted by Linguists as proven by Mathematicians, and believed by Mathematicians to have been proven by Linguists. In actuality, Zipf’s Law has not been proven, and in any case is generally considered to be useless. As one might expect, the word “the” is the most frequently-found word, closely followed by other short articles and connectives. The one outstanding anomaly is the sixth most frequently-found word. “Information”. Why, in the broad spectrum of verbal communication (a universe of 800,000 words) is the word “information” so prevalent, and so important? Perhaps someone is trying to tell us something.

It is generally accepted now that a large proportion of human knowledge resides on the Internet. The current estimate is 800 million Web pages. These pages are hyper-linked together in such a way that it is possible to link from one page to any other in a surprisingly small number of “hops”.

The theoretical conclusion of this model is that you can reach any Web page in 19 hops. My mother was born in the “Show Me” state (Missouri), so the obvious next step is to test the model hypothesis.

Open a DOS box and type the following:

```
tracert www.bethlehem.org
```

Press enter

Nine hops to the other side of the world. I guess 19 hops would get you all the way around, like Lindbergh. Now if you go the wrong way (like Corrigan), you will still circumnavigate the earth and receive a ticker-tape parade, thus proving the world is round, the Barabasi, Albert and Jeong conjecture, and that people love a party.

The powerful search engines (my own personal favorite is <http://www.google.com>) have taken advantage of this apparent linking relationship, and it explains why finding any particular Web page is not the impossible task that it would seem to be. I can find the most obscure of webpages with just a carefully worded search query. Now, if I could just find my reading glasses...

Just point me at the wall.

Well, I got through that article without ever mentioning Negative Binomial Distribution.

Happy Easter. ☹

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

## Dealsguy, *continued*

This is an extra 5% saving above the regular UG discount of 20%! Offer expires May 13, 2001. To order, call 800-998-9938 — ask for Customer Service. Be sure to give the customer service representative this discount code ‘UGMM.’ For product information, go to <http://www.oreilly.com> (this discount not offered on orders placed online).”

### An Old Buddy (Software) Captures Your Screen

Many have used “SnagIt” in the past and liked what it does. I talked to the “TechSmith” user group coordinator recently who offered this discount for my column. There are many uses for capturing all or parts of a computer screen, such as an instructive review of a product, or detailed instructions. SnagIt does all this with ease and outputs it as a graphic, text or video file, and will send the information to the printer, the Clipboard, a file, or as an e-mail attachment from any MAPI enabled e-mail client. A wizard will help if necessary. MSRP is \$39.95, but our user group price is \$35.95

TechSmith’s “Camtasia” is harder to describe since it does many tasks. Camtasia’s suite of tools produces a video of anything you see on your screen and makes it easy to record, edit and publish high fidelity videos. Use them for computer-based training, product demonstrations, presentations, online help, tech support solutions, sales demonstrations, Web site content and much more.

You can move in closer with zoom and pan the capture frame across the screen for more detail. Use ScreenPad to easily annotate your video with text, arrows and callout boxes. Even “brand” your video with a watermark. You create standard AVI files or broadcast your screen live over the Internet. I’m enjoying my review copy and may be a bit over exuberant, so check TechSmith’s site (<http://www.techsmith.com>) for better descriptions. “Camtasia’s” user group price is \$134.95 (MSRP \$145.95). To order call the sales department (800-517-3001), or fax 517-333-1888. Mention your user group’s name. For a better discount, order “SnagIt/Camtasia Bundle” at \$152.95.

### Hey Folks, How’s The OI Ticker?

If you’re into stocks, this program puts a stock ticker across the top of your monitor with only the stocks you want on the ticker. Joe Issac wrote about it in “The Computer File,” newsletter of Central Kentucky Computer Society. WinStock is a powerful stock ticker, client-designed with the serious online investor in mind. US and Canadian stocks, mutual funds, bonds, market index quotes, options, commodities, foreign exchanges and money-market mutual funds can all be tracked and monitored by WinStock. Use it free for 30 days. If you like it, send the guy \$20. No special offer here, I’m just passing it on. See <http://cws.internet.com/coolapp.html> to check further and look in “Previous Coolapps” for it. Full time DSL or Cable would make this work best. Lots of great items on that site.

Meet me here next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage or discourage the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click ([dealsguy@mindspring.com](mailto:dealsguy@mindspring.com)). Visit my Web site at <http://www.dealsguy.com> for past columns. Also, I keep adding to my “articles of interest” page. ☹

# Palm Court #6

## Graphics on the Palm, and a Word About PDB files

Cass Lewart ([rlewart@monmouth.com](mailto:rlewart@monmouth.com))

In this issue of the Palm Court, I will review three graphics applications. I will also show how to associate specific PDB (Palm Data Base) files with Palm applications.

The Palm organizer is thought of primarily as a text input/output device. Its main claim to fame is the ability to keep track of appointments, addresses and phone numbers. However, as the Palm is a full fledged computer, it provides acceptable graphics as well. In fact the new Palm m100 includes NotePad, an application that allows you to draw free-hand notes on the screen, and a desktop application that allows you to view those notes.

The three graphics programs reviewed here are popular, simple applications — Doodle and its successors Diddle and Diddlebug. You can think of these applications as pencils filled with digital ink. In a future issue of the Palm Court I will review other, more elaborate graphics applications, such as TealPaint and Fire Viewer. These applications, unlike those reviewed here, integrate Palm graphics with the desktop and let you transfer pictures and sketches between the Palm and the desktop.

### Doodle, Diddle and Diddlebug

Doodle, one of the first graphics programs for the Palm, by Robert F. Critchlow Jr., lets you draw free style sketches on the Palm screen with the stylus. You can vary pen width and adjust smoothing and filtering. You can paint, smear or erase with your stylus.

Diddle by Mitch Blevins builds on Doodle with additional features:

- A variety of pen widths and shapes, including ones for Calligraphy.

- Sketching of lines, circles, rectangles, ovals, and other shapes.

- 9 different fill patterns (from white to black), that can be applied to freehand sketches as well as lines and shapes.

- Inserting of text (3 different fonts) into sketches.

- Title Bar can be displayed or hidden for full-screen mode.

- Copying and pasting of sketches. When pasting, you are given the choice to either overwrite or merge the current drawing with the Palm clipboard.

- A circular “scratch buffer” for quick doodles, you can also save your sketches with a title and keywords. Saved drawings can use Categories and can be searched with the system Find function.

- Creating of new sketches using the hardware buttons.

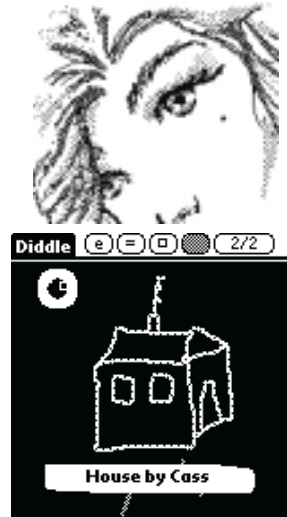
- You can lock sketches to prevent accidental changing or erasing.

Diddlebug, also by Mitch Blevins, adds to Diddle other features, such as Undo, and multiple alarms which ring to remind



you about your notes and sketches. All three programs are freeware, available at: <http://www.palmgear.com>

Search for Doodle, Diddle or Diddlebug, download the PRC application files and user manuals and install the applications on your Palm. For more information check Doodle, Diddle and Diddlebug home pages. Two sketches made with Diddle are shown here. The first was drawn by Douglas Cootey, the second by me.



### Palm Databases

All information required by applications running on your Palm is stored in database files. It could be a list of phone numbers, memos or a spreadsheet. When you sync to your desktop, all of these database files are stored in the PALM/name/BACKUP folder on the desktop. Often you would like to identify the PDB files so that you don't delete current files or keep the obsolete ones. However, the database files can not be easily identified as all of them have the extension PDB and are mostly binary. To find out the application associated with a PDB file, you have to look at bytes 61-68 at the beginning of a PDB file. Most text editors including Windows Notepad will let you do it.

A Palm developer registers his/her application with a central organization at <http://www.palmos.com/dev/tech/palmos/creatorid/> and receives a unique four character “Creator ID”. This ID then appears as bytes 65-68 in a PDB file. Bytes 61-64 give the type of a PDB file. Here are a few examples:

PDB file	61-64	65-68
DOC file	TEXT	READ
DiddleBug DB	Data	DIDB
StockPilot DB	DATA	SPLM
Memo	DATA	memo

If you can't recognize the corresponding application, check the above URL, and search for the four character creator ID. You will get in return the full name of the application and information about the developer. ☺

# Click 'n' Burn Pro

Dick Freymoyer ([dickfrey1@aol.com](mailto:dickfrey1@aol.com))

I just bought a new CD “Burner” and it came with a program called NTI. It cost 7 CDRs to convince me that the program had real problems. I have come to believe that the programs bundled with hardware never work 100% right in order to force us to buy the full program. NTI (New Tech Infosystems, Inc) offers an upgrade that may or may not work for \$69. What to do? I could load Adaptec’s Easy Creator 4.02 and live with that or I could search out a new program! I decided to look for something new and found Click’N’Burn. I will ask NTI for a review copy, to see if the full program works.

Click’N’Burn comes from Stomp.Inc, the makers of CD Stumper, which many of you may use, or at least have heard about. This was one of my more intelligent days; when I chose to contact Stomp Inc and proceeded to get a copy of “Click’N’Burn”. Very smart move!

The kit package from Stomp.Inc comes with everything you need to start burning that data, music or whatever you desire to burn, and then make the label for the newly created CD: Click’N’Burn Pro program, CD Stumper, (used to make labels and jewel case covers), CD Stumper Software and 10 labels — a very nice starter kit. Ok, so let’s get started and see if this is the “Program of My Dreams”!

Click’N’Burn Pro loads very fast. You must use the Serial Number that is issued with the program to load it. Once loaded, it reboots your computer and you are asked to register and look for updates. Before I doing this, I thought I would run the program and see if it would work as is. Surprise! It couldn’t find my “Burner”, an A-Open 12X 10X 32X. Not a good start, but they did suggest looking for a new download patch, so I did the only reasonable thing — I registered the program, found the upgrade patch on their site (V-1.5). This file is called “CKNBURN PRO UPDATE 01-24.EXE”, file size was 2.66 MB, and it took about 10 minutes to download. Then all I had to do was click on the file and within a few minutes it was in place. After the update was installed, the program saw my burner and I was a happy camper!

My first chore was to understand how the program worked, but I found it to be very user-friendly. Click’N’Burn opens with four basic options; **Disk Copy**, **Audio Disc**, **Data Disk** and **DJ Burn**.

## Disk Copy

This is a premier CD-to-CD copy program, in other words you can copy a complete CD Disk from one CD or CD -DVD Reader to your CD Recorder (Burner). What makes this one stand out is that if you have only one CD drive, your burner, you can select it as Reader and Recorder. To start, you click on Disk Copy and you will see the program has identified your reader by brand and model number. Along the side of the reader indication line there are 3 buttons, the first labeled Disk Explorer and Drive Properties. When you press on this button, you see the drive letter, drive description (model number and FirmWare version), and information about the data on the CD in the drive. I was impressed by the fact that it displayed the FirmWare version — what a tool — much easier than going to

Control Panel | System | Device Manager | CD Drives | Settings to get the information needed for upgrades! The next button to the right is the Open Tray/Eject button and the third is the Close Tray. Under the reader’s name is the data model of the disk. To the right you see the disk and what kind it is (and if it is factory-made or not). On the next line is the description of your burner, brand and manufacturer, with its designated drive letter. To the right of that are 4 buttons. Three are the same as those for the reader. The fourth is labeled Erase Rewritable Disk. Below is a description of the target CD — CDRW or CDR, maximum write speed, free space and manufacturer’s name. (I have discovered that the same company made disks for 3 different big name brands.) The next line is where you can set your recording speed; I used the maximum setting. In the next box, you set record function — choices are Test Only; Test and If OK, Record; and Record. I like to use the default, which is Test and If OK, Record. Next to this box is a red button — the one-touch Go button to start recording. There is also a Stop button. I skipped the box which makes a temporary image on the hard drive and copies from there. Now I press Go to make my first recording — and it was a success — my first success with this A-Open Burner.

## Audio Disk

This mode is selected if you want to record any type of audio files like \*.WAV, \*.WMA, \*.MP3, or a music CD (\*.CDA). When you click on this icon, the Audio Disk page opens with the track file information lines, and below are 3 bars: Add Audio File, Find File and a row of small buttons. The next line identifies the recorder and has the same three buttons as Disk Copy. The selectable line also looks like Disk Copy, with its speed setting and recording mode selection. Next is the Start button. On the bottom are three button Bars: Back, Go to Full Application and Close. When recording an audio disk you must use a CDR blank — CDRW blanks will usually not work in hi-fi CD players. To start, we go to either Add Audio File bar or the File Folder bar. I use the Add Audio File bar when recording from the reader to the burner. On this page you select your drive (choose the reader drive for CD to CD), go to the bottom line and change the file type from .Wav, .Wma, .Mp3 to All Files, and you see the tracks on the source CD — you can select all or just what you want. I selected all, since I wanted to make a carbon copy, and dragged them to the menu. Click on the Open bar and you are back to your original Audio page displaying all tracks with their types and length in minutes. Now hit Start button and in a few minutes you have your audio CD duped. I found no flaws in any of the copies I made.

## Data Disc

This is used for creating a new CD-ROM disk or adding data to an existing multi-session CD-ROM. This is easy to do and works like most burner programs. Let’s say you want to make a copy of your MS Word, MS Excel, MS Money and Quicken data files, maybe also some CAD drawing files. Click on “Add Folders” and select the folder where the data you want to copy is located. Click on the folder, click on the OK Bar and

*continued on page 13*

# Auctioneering

## Your Auction Closed — Now What?

Barbara DeGroot ([bdegroot@ptd.net](mailto:bdegroot@ptd.net))

This is the final article in a series on Internet Auctions. If you missed the previous articles, visit <http://acgnj.hypermart.net> to view or download back issues in pdf format. (If you're not an ACGNJ member, you'll have to wait for the newest issues, which become available when they are two months old.)

### You sold it!

Congratulations. We'll hope your ad generated lots of interest and competition, and it closed way above your starting bid. The first step now is to send email immediately to the winning bidder. Most auction sites set a deadline for email exchange between seller and bidder, usually 3 days. If you've set up your winner notification on Auction Watch, it has already been sent, and all you need to do is wait to hear from the winner. Did you sign up with a payment service? If you did, your first notification on a successful closing may be a notification of payment — some bidders are very eager to get their prizes. (Note: Since I started this series, Auction Watch has instituted a listing fee and a fee on successful closing. I think the services are well worth what they charge, but you may not.)

If you haven't already written your winner notification, you'll have to get busy. Remember to review all of your payment and shipping terms — many bidders either don't read the boilerplate in the ads, or forget what they've read.

If you haven't heard from the winning bidder in three days, send a reminder. Make it upbeat and cheerful — "I haven't heard from you — is anything wrong?" is a good way to start. You will find that some bidders never respond to email, regardless of the rules. You will simply find the payment in your mailbox one day — hopefully before the deadline.

Payment has arrived? Package carefully, label clearly and ship promptly. If you've read feedback on other sellers, you have seen that the best feedback goes to the fastest shippers. If you have many successful closings, it's a good idea to package everything immediately after closing so it's ready to go when payment arrives.

No payment after 10-14 days? It's time to send an inquiry. Again, politeness counts — offer some face-saving (your response may have been lost, is there a problem, etc.). You can get a little more heavy-handed if there is no response to your inquiry. When you can't stand the wait any longer, take advantage of the warning system at the auction site. Ebay requires you to send a warning through them before you can collect a refund on their fees. (They will refund their final value fee on a canceled sale, but not the listing fee.) Be sure you know the policies of the site you use.

Sooner or later you will run into a deadbeat bidder. Some people think it's fun to run up the value of an item they have no intention of buying. Some bid hoping they will have the money to pay when the time arrives. These bidders can usually, but not always, be identified by their feedback. I still take a deep breath when an item sells high to a bidder with low feedback. Fortunately there aren't very many deadbeats, and the auction sites all have ways of dealing with them. I usually

remind bidders of the auction site policies on payment in the second reminder. If there's no response to that, I go to Ebay's non-paying bidder page and follow their procedures.

Your last resort is to post negative feedback and claim your final value fee refund. Remember that there is usually a time limit for doing this. Some deadbeats will try to get even, so be careful what you say. I usually limit my comments to something like "After xx reminders, still no payment or response." The fact that it's negative says everything necessary any way.

### No bids!

It could be timing — it could be that the three people in the world who really want your item were off on a business trip. It could be that you asked too much as an opening bid — did you check to see what similar items were going for? If not, do it now. If you can afford to lower the opening bid, do so. Maybe you could improve your auction ad — better pictures, a better title line and rewritten ad copy might generate interest. It could also be competition — check to see if similar items were listed to compete with yours. When all is said and done, and all the corrections and improvements are made, you'll have to decide when or if you should relist your item. On Ebay, if you relist within 60 days and the item sells, the second listing fee is refunded. Policy may differ on other sites. I usually wait at least two weeks to relist unless the item is seasonal, and I usually reduce the opening bid slightly when I relist. I am often surprised to find that the item sells above the original opening bid on the second listing. The trick is to get one bid on your item — for some reason bidders are more inclined to bid on an item that someone else has placed a bid on. I can't explain it — it's just human nature.

If the item doesn't sell the second time around, you'll have to decide if it's worth continuing to offer it. Eventually it won't be worth it. Don't expect everything you offer to sell. You should expect to make enough profit on what does sell to offset the cost of items that don't. I have a last resort clearance page on a photo-hosting site (one that allows personal albums, not just auction photos) which I list in my email signature, in all winner responses and in my auction ad boilerplate. Be careful about advertising off-auction sales sites, though — a discreet link labeled "see more" in your boilerplate will get by, but Ebay can pull your ad if you get blatant about it.

### Housekeeping

Feedback is your most important housekeeping chore. Be sure to give high praise to those who pay quickly. Be cautious about newbies — those with low feedback. Some newbies tend to be hyper-critical and quick to post negative or neutral feedback. A neutral is regarded as a slap in the face — it says "I couldn't justify a complaint, but don't have anything good to say." I have received neutrals from newbies on matters that should have prompted an email requesting an adjustment before a feedback comment was made, and it has happened often enough that I now wait for newbies to post feedback before I

*continued*

post. That at least allows me to defend myself. In such a case, I have said something like “Sellers take care, this one posts neutral without sending email.”

Next on the list of housekeeping chores, if you use AuctionWatch, is cleaning out your Auction Watch closed auctions list. I leave items there until I receive feedback or until it is too late (60 days) for feedback to be posted. Before that happens, I send an email asking if anything was wrong and asking for feedback. For example: “I have posted favorable feedback for you on our transaction #xx — couldn’t help noticing you haven’t reciprocated — was there anything wrong with the item?” Only once did I receive an answer saying that the item didn’t fit, and the bidder thought I’d mis-measured. (I offered an adjustment and got my positive feedback.) Bidders who are really dissatisfied usually don’t hesitate to say so. The usual response to this inquiry is usually either feedback and an apology for having overlooked it or no response at all.

Last to be cleaned out are the photos. I leave photos up until I have confirmed that the bidder received the item. Some sellers remove the photos immediately after an auction closes. It’s up to you. The fewer photos you have at the hosting site, the easier it is to find the correct one to attach to an ad. Some hosting sites limit the space you can use, and some delete photos if they haven’t been viewed in a certain length of time.

### Keeping Records

The last bit of housekeeping deserves its own heading. This one involves paying your taxes — ugh! Nevertheless, it must be done, and keeping records will make it less painful. I use a simple flat-file database (Q&A) to track each item. I have it set up to record what I paid for an item and what it sold for and add shipping charges to yield a final payment amount for the bidder. It also has fields which calculate fees charged by Ebay, PayPal and AuctionWatch, add them to the cost of the item and produce a profit/loss figure. A report form calculates profit/loss for the week, month or year. Unfortunately, this is a 16-bit program which is no longer available or supported, so I am at a loss as to what to recommend for such record-keeping. Possibly a spread sheet would do the job, but I haven’t done any research on the subject, so I am not qualified to make any recommendations. Whatever record-keeping software you choose, remember to track everything that’s deductible — postage/shipping fees (if you pay it), shipping materials, mileage, storage materials, photo expenses, and don’t forget the cost of your ISP, etc. Last of all, if what you are selling is subject to sales tax and you sell locally, you’ll need to obtain whatever is necessary from your state to satisfy their requirements. Again, I am not qualified to offer advice on this subject — my thing is clothing, which is not taxed in my home state.

That’s all folks — I’ve tried to tell you everything I’ve learned about auctioneering. If you have a question or think I’ve left out something, please feel free to ask me — happy selling! ☐



## Starting an Animation SIG

*Bill Farrell (wfarr18124@aol.com)*

Scott Vincent, John Raff, Evan Williams and I visited the North Brunswick high school for the first meeting of what may become the ACGNJ Animation SIG. It’s a new venture into the robotics world. The students work hard raising monies so they can enter national and regional competitions. They gave us a dynamic presentation of what they are going to do at TCF. They have some help from Squibb Corp., but for the most part they go it alone. I don’t see any other groups with a robotic or animation SIG yet, and I hope this will be a first. All 20-30 kids participating want to join ACGNJ.

The meeting of the “Rogues Animation Team” was held on Thursday, April 19. The agenda included an introduction of the group, a brief description and demo of the 3-D Studio Max program and discussion of a major project concept. At this point students from several “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology” (FIRST) teams are attending as well as ACGNJ members. The following is a review of the meeting and a rundown of the events planned for the next few weeks from the leader of the team.

The Rogues Animation Team will consist of students from regional FIRST teams and interested members of ACGNJ. The group will attempt to train the members in the use of 3-D Studio Max and use the program to construct a 2-3 minute animation based on the FIRST competitions. This will be presented in December if all works out. The intent is to make a serial cartoon with a new chapter each year, all relating to the FIRST competition.

At the first meeting we took a look at past animations from the Autodesk contest, team leader Wayne Cokeley discussed a potential storyline for the big project and we examined the program. Copies of the program were distributed. Upon leaving several assignments were given out for the next few weeks: All members are to work through the tutorials for the program as provided by Autodesk, creating a list of questions such as “how do I do this....” or “how can I fix this....”. The questions will be discussed at the next meeting (in 3 weeks). Cokeley will contact Autodesk and FIRST to seek training/instruction in use of the program. We also plan to ask the Rutgers engineering department about a local trainer.

The team will meet again at noon on Saturday, May 5, at TCF. The kids will discuss their progress, and possibly get some ideas from the vendors and experts presenting at the festival. Representatives from the FIRST teams involved, and others, will be showing their robots at the festival. The next meeting will be 7 p.m on Thursday, May 10 at the high school, and a camera crew from ACGNJ may be there, so the kids have been instructed to wear their team colors. We will discuss developments to date, Q&A as possible and start to assign sections for development of the project.

The team will also develop a Web page with the help of Rick Elbanna, Mario Azar and others. This is expected to have on-line manual resources, some sort of bulletin board and be a resource for the group. I came away feeling that we have the start of something good. I hope everybody agrees. We’ll keep communication open through e-mails in the meantime. ☐

# SIG News

## Main Meeting

Scott Vincent ([scottvin@optonline.net](mailto:scottvin@optonline.net))

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

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 ☐

## Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda ([som359@aol.com](mailto:som359@aol.com))

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

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

## LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer ([lunics@acgnj.org](mailto:lunics@acgnj.org))

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

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. ☐

## VBA & Excel

Jim Ditaranto ([fryr92a@prodigy.com](mailto: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. ☐

## Symposium

John Raff ([jraff@home.com](mailto:jraff@home.com))

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

**May:** to be announced. Watch our Web page. ☐

## Random Access

Scott Vincent ([scottvin@optonline.net](mailto: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. ☐

## Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow ([mwb@injersey.com](mailto:mwb@injersey.com))

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

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

## Java

Mike Redlich ([mike@redlich.net](mailto:mike@redlich.net))

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

The new Java Users Group made its debut in February. It is a forum for discussion of beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is 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. ☐

## PC Users Group

Steve Rodriguez ([help72@bigfoot.com](mailto: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.

**May:** Marty Fries will speak on MP3s. Please see below for details. (Rescheduled from Feb.) His book has been called “The Bible of MP3” and is widely recognized as the most user-friendly, 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> ☐

## Web Development

Jim Wong ([webdev@acgnj.org](mailto:webdev@acgnj.org))

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

A new SIG on web development (WebDev?) had their kickoff meeting in March 19, 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.

Next meeting **May 21** — watch our Website ☐

*continued*

## **C/C++ Programming**

*Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)*

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

The goals of the C/C++ User's Group are to be a forum for discussion about programming in general, to discuss beginning and intermediate level C, C++, and C-Win programming, to demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, and to discuss hardware, software, code, algorithms, operating systems. We strive to present the complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper.

An example of the presentations at our meetings is DLLDUPS (picture on opposite page), a tool which searches your hard drive for redundant DLL files in order to help you fix problems caused by DLL file conflicts and to provide general auditing of computer files. The utility was presented first as a 16-bit application, then for the following month's presentation, was changed into a full blown Windows 32-bit application which used most of the routines from the previous program. Visit our web page for detailed descriptions and sample code. ☐

## **MCP**

(Preparation for Microsoft Certification Exams)

*Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)*

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

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

## **Macintosh Users Group**

*Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)*

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

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

## **Genealogy**

*Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)*

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

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

**April 26:** The topic was Family Tree Maker 8.

**May 24:** To be announced.

In addition to our Web page, we also have an electronic mailing list. Messages to the list should be addressed to [gensig@webwarren.com](mailto:gensig@webwarren.com). To subscribe, include the line "subscribe gensig" in the body of the message. ☐

## **Internet**

*Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)*

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

**March:** After the usual discussions of Web issues, we demonstrated our new projector, sound system and high-speed Internet connections. Then I finally got to demo a subject I had spoken of at several meetings. Bill Joy, one of Sun's founders, had written an article for Wired magazine, claiming that computers could get out of our control. It inspired many others, and eventually Douglas Hofstadter convened a symposium at Stanford on "Spiritual Robots", at which Bill Joy gave a talk. ([technetcast.ddj.com/tnc\\_program.html?program\\_id=82](http://technetcast.ddj.com/tnc_program.html?program_id=82).) I played Joy's talk and was surprised that everyone found it interesting — no one left early, and the equipment behaved flawlessly. Joy's article, entitled "Why the future doesn't need us," is at

[www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy.html](http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy.html).

**April:** We spent a little time on random access and even less on Web news, because we had a *speaker*. Dana Zangrillo came from Comcast@home to tell us about their latest offers and answer questions from the group. She brought a colleague and between the two of them could answer most of our questions. We talked about routers and firewalls used with cable connections, hazards accompanying fixed IP addresses, bandwidth limitations and the lack of availability in rural areas. We talked about DSL vs. Cable. Even before we turned the meeting over to them, we discussed the demise of Northpoint Communications, the major wholesale supplier of facilities to all the non-telco (and possibly some of those) DSL suppliers.

**May 3:** No meeting because of proximity to TCF. ☐

## **Investing**

*Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)*

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

**April:** The first thing we did was take a survey of those present about their feelings on market direction and when it would make a move. Opinions ranged from optimistic to pessimistic. After we looked at quite a bit of market statistics, I surveyed the group again. I was delighted to find that all the information presented did not basically change any opinions. I interpreted that as an indication that each has developed an investing style that suits them best and isn't easily swayed by outside information. We also took a quick look at historical data vendors as surveyed by AAIL. There was much discussion on how various members "gauge" the strength of the market, and much expression on opinions and reasons for future market direction. A good meeting.

**May 10:** Ms. Kelly Pan from Pantheon Partners L.P. will speak to our group. Ms. Pan manages one of the funds. Pantheon Partners is a conservatively managed value oriented technology fund. They specialize in finding "diamonds in the rough". Come to the meeting and meet a live fund manager.

Members range from would-be buyers of computers to programmers who started by soldering/building their own computers. Investing experience varies from "I'm just getting interested" to those with 40 years of experience. The most common thing is an interest in investing. All are welcome. ☐

the folder is added to the list of what you want to copy. This is an easy and safe way to save your data. If you use a CDRW disk, you can update the data any time. Remember all those floppy disks we used for our data? Forget about them. Now for an important "Track At Once (TAO), Not Closed". This setting allows you to add updated data later, and is in Edit|Recording Options. Other options are self-explanatory.

### D J Burn

This is much like Audio Disk mode with a few added features. You can copy from a Music CD, a DVD, record live music through your sound card, and record to many burners at the same time. You can keep the CDR open after each session, so allow adding tracks later. To start, you click on the DJ BURN icon and the first window opens with the audio data box and the Recorder line with all its information. The next line is the important one, with a speed setting box and 3 small red buttons. The first button is Browse or File Finder; next is Record Audio Tracks from another CD, and the third is Record Live. Just think of all the things you can do with this feature! Depending on what sound card you have, you could plug into your DVD player, a microphone, tape deck, radio, keyboard, etc. Again the great thing about this is that you can keep adding to the recording, until the disk is full.

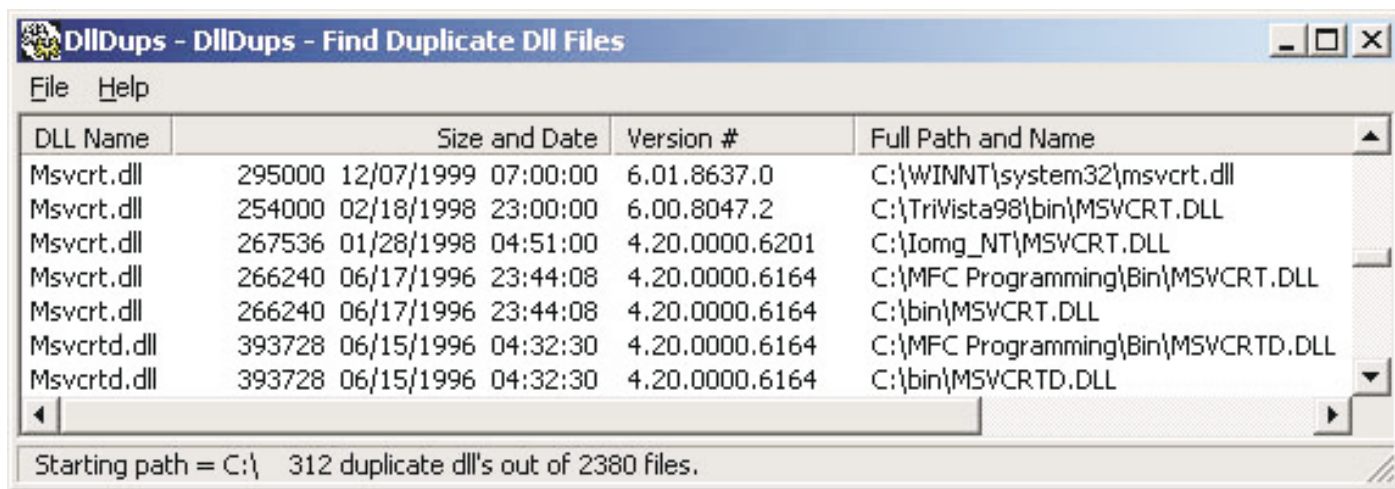
### Pro Tools

There are several innovative tools to help us get that perfect recording. The first is **Warp Drive**, a way to turn up to four CD Recorders into a low-cost duplication system. Record or erase four CDs at once, run multiple jobs at the same time, a different job assigned to each recorder. Not all of us would use this, but I am sure there are many who would love to have this feature. The second perk with the Pro version is **Disk Explorer & Drive Properties Utilities**. This utility gives you a graphical view of drive details. You can explore a CD in any drive, perform tasks such as extraction of audio tracks, building Global Images and Drive Diagnostics. You can test Audio Extraction Speeds and the accuracy of the CD Recorder. You can also perform a self-test on your CD recorder (I never saw this included in a program). Under the **Options Menu**, found under **Tools** on the main program, are most important program settings. Under **General** Tab the settings are items you

would expect to see, plus one called **Auto Shield**. Auto Shield is device driver (PX-HELPER) to defeat the Auto Insert Notification from Windows. Did you ever try to record a disk and have Auto-Run kick in and it messes up or stops the recording? With this enabled, you don't have a problem. You can also disable Auto-Ryb in Control Panel| System Properties| Device Manager| CD| Settings. Under **View** tab, are 7 settings which are self-explanatory. The next tab is **Data Disc**, which has 6 settings for your default paths. **Temporary** Tab allows you set the location of Temp file. **Blank Size** is last and is important. Here you have 3 settings: **Use The Exact Dimension Reported By The Disk**, **Overburn** for the following Amount and a space to type in a number (default is 5,000 sectors). **OverBurning** is a technique some CD Recorder Manufacturers use to squeeze more data onto a CDR. It fools the Recorder into thinking your CDR disk is larger than reported. Some Recorders do not support OverBurning, but you will know when you run the test part of the program. When using this feature, you risk getting recording errors and the recording may not work on CD Players or your CD-ROM. The third setting is **Use The Following Blank Disk Arbitrary Dimension**. Here you can set the disk size 80 Minutes or 703.1 MB. I suggest using the default setting under this tab until you have done a few recordings successfully, .

### The Bottom Line

Click'N'Burn is a professional mastering program for CD and DVD Recorders, Towers and Autoloaders. It has many options available only in professional packages. You can set up several jobs to run one after another, or create a job while another is running. **Disk Image** is great for making several copies of a disk — it saves time because you don't have to read from the source disk. I have nothing but praise for the developers. The manual is well written and help is complete. I give it a 5-Star+ rating. The Pro Kit sells retail for about \$69, Click'N'Burn Pro alone is \$49.99. Users and groups can get the kit from Chuck Denney at Nextrend for \$39.99 (888-426-2914, [cdenny@thenextend.com](mailto:cdenny@thenextend.com)). (Mention my name, it helps to get us better prices!) Click'N'Burn was developed by Stomp Inc, 1012 Brioso Dr #105, Costa Mesa CA. 92627. Thanks to Mike Moriarty and Stomp Inc. for providing my review copy. ☺



# 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.


	<b>Hardware</b>	
	Scott Vincent	973-361-5793
	<b>Software</b>	
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++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	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
	<b>Operating Systems</b>	
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
	<b>Macintosh</b>	
Mac O/S	Keith Sproul	(732) 821-4828

## Return the Junk

Here's the deal, When you get those pre-approved letters in the mail for everything from credit cards to 2nd Mortgages, and junk like that, you know most of them come with postage paid return envelopes, right?

Well, why not get rid of some of your other junk mail and put it in these cool little envelopes! If you didn't get anything else that day, then just send them their application back! Just make sure your name isn't on anything you send them. You could send it back empty if you want. Keep 'em guessing!

Let's do this! Eventually, The banks will begin getting all their junk back in the mail. Let's let them know what it's like to get junk mail, and best of all — *they're* paying for it! Twice! [*Too bad this won't work for junk email!*]

*Thanks to Leonard Thomas* 

## Crunching the Numbers

*Michael P. Redlich*

I just read the article entitled, "What were you doing in 1971?" by Scott Vincent [*February 2001*]. I have to admit I was only 10 years old back then. I enjoyed reading about the early history of the Intel chip. Scott asked a question: "Care to take a guess at the equivalent number of cubic feet of vacuum tubes?" Well, assuming a direct ratio of transistors to vacuum tubes exists, there would be 74,347,826 vacuum tubes with 9.5 million transistors. Now let's assume that a direct ratio of vacuum tubes to cubic feet exists. That would mean 74,347,826 vacuum tubes would require ~12,391,304 cubic feet! That's a square box measuring ~231.5 x 231.5 x 231.5 feet! OK, so I had some fun. What can I say, I almost minored in Math. I couldn't help myself. :-)

## 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:  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ URL \_\_\_\_\_

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

Other Local Computer Groups		
<b>Princeton Macintosh User Group:</b> 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, Princeton U. (609) 252-1163	<b>NY/NJ/CT Relational Database User Group:</b> Corporate and independent users. (212) 839-0125	<b>New York Personal Computer Club:</b> For information call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC
<b>Computer Education Society of Philadelphia:</b> 7:30 pm, 2nd Wednesday, St. Asaph's Episcopal Church. Lee Le'mon, (717)786-2260	<b>Brookdale Computer Users Group:</b> 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Forums 103 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. Andrea Tarr (732) 229-2959.	<b>Macintosh User Group:</b> Third Tuesday, Dickson Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (201) 893-5274 <a href="http://www.njmug.org">http://www.njmug.org</a> .
<b>WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey:</b> 2nd Tue., Queen of Heaven School, Cherry Hill; 4th Wed., Cherry Hill Library. (609) 354-1159.	<b>Hunterdon Computer Club:</b> 8:30 am to noon 3rd Saturday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington. (908) 995-4042	<b>PC Club of South Jersey:</b> 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday, Holy Cross HS, Route 130, Delran NJ. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759
<b>Philadelphia Area Computer Society:</b> 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel Univ., Philadelphia. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759	<b>Central Jersey Computer Club:</b> 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, Trenton St. College. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	<b>NJ PC Users Group:</b> Bergen County Community College, Paramus NJ. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432
<b>Morris Micro Computer Club:</b> Bill Traywick, (201) 635-5393.	<b>Fairlawn Computer Club:</b> Last Monday, Fairlawn Senior Citizen Center. Joe Mathias ( <a href="mailto:fair.lawn.computer.club@juno.com">fair.lawn.computer.club@juno.com</a> )	<b>Princeton PC Users Group:</b> 2nd Monday, Lawrence Library, Rt 1 & Darrah Ln, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (609) 466-1530, <a href="http://pluto.njcc.com/~ppcug">http://pluto.njcc.com/~ppcug</a>
<b>Workshop, Hands-On:</b> 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](mailto:bdegroot@ptd.net). Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



<http://www.apcug.org>

### Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, 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.

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

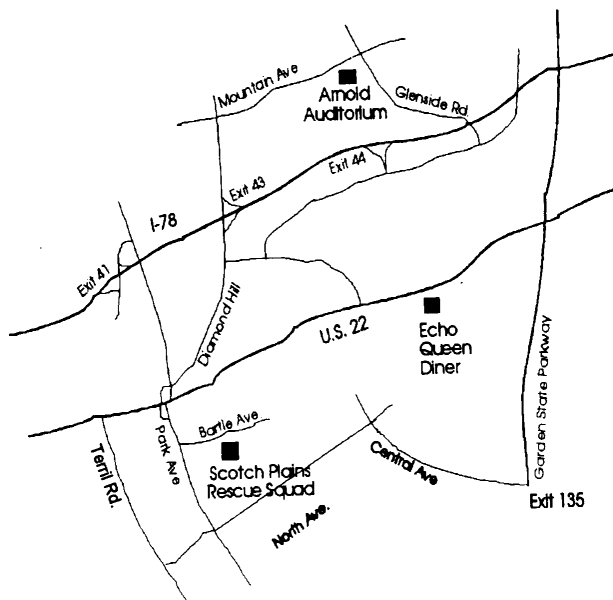
### KGP Computer Shows

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

**May 5-6:** Trenton Computer Festival, NJ Convention Center, Edison, NJ

**June 9-10:** New Jersey Convention Center, Edison, New Jersey

**June 16:** South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, NJ



### 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

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# ACGNJ MEETINGS

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

### Tuesday, May 1, 2001

7 P.M. - Board of Directors Meeting

### Wednesday, May 2

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

### Thursday, May 3

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

### Friday, May 4

8 P.M. - Main Meeting is cancelled in favor of preparations for TCF

### Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6

Trenton Computer Festival at New Jersey Convention Center,  
Raritan Center, Route 514 - NJ Tpke. Exit 10, Edison, NJ. Opening  
9 A.M. flea market, 10 A.M. indoors, closing 5 P.M. Saturday, 4 P.M.  
Sunday. Visit <http://www.tcf-nj.org/>

### Monday, May 7

8 P.M. - Lunics. Andreas Meyer ([lunics@acgnj.org](mailto:lunics@acgnj.org)).

### Wednesday, May 9

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

### Thursday, May 10

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

### Friday, May 11

8 P.M. - PC Symposium, John Raff ([jraff@home.com](mailto:jraff@home.com)),  
973-533-0664

### Monday, May 14

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

### Tuesday, May 15

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

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

### Wednesday, May 16

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

### Friday, May 18

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

### Monday, May 21

8 P.M. - Web Development, Jim Wong ([webdev@acgnj.org](mailto:webdev@acgnj.org))

### Thursday, May 24

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

### Friday, May 25

8 P.M. - Random Access, Computer Q&A, Scott Vincent  
([scottvin@optonline.net](mailto:scottvin@optonline.net)), 973-361-5793


### Tuesday, May 29

7 P.M. - Board of Directors Meeting

### Wednesday, May 30

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

### Friday, June 1

8 P.M. - Main Meeting, Scott Vincent ([scottvin@optonline.net](mailto:scottvin@optonline.net)) 

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