



SCUG REPORT



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Award Winning Newsletter & Website
www.scug.ca

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November 2003

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Pierre Houle



Christmas is just around the corner, and if you're like me, you haven't started shopping yet. If a computer is in the cards this holiday season, you will find this month's topic of special interest. Jim Verdon is going to talk about computer ads, and how to decipher them. He will explain all those Gigabytes, DDR, DVD+ or DVD-, Megahertz or Megawatts and Ethernet. With his help, you can make an informed purchase, and get just the right computer for your needs! The club is flourishing, with (I think) record membership, and better attendance at all meetings. This means we must be doing something right! For all of those who participate regularly, volunteer, and make constructive suggestions, THANK YOU! We will continue to bring you, the members, the most information and value we can for your membership dollar. We are even making friends along the way! During December, the Windows and General meetings are not held, as they are too near Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season. Have fun, and keep in touch!

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Please submit articles for January's SCUG Newsletter before Dec. 16th. to: editor@scug.ca.

**Member of the Association of
Personal Computer User Groups
(APCUG)**
www.apcug.org

SCUG MEETING

St. Bartholomew's Church
718 Cathcart Blvd.
Sarnia, Ont.

Last Wednesday of the month
7:00 p.m. social time
7:30 p.m. call to order

Next Meeting
January 28, 2003

**Sarnia Computer Users' Group
2003-2004 Club Officers**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Pierre Houle | president@scug.ca |
| Vice President | Iain Smy | vicepresident@scug.ca |
| Treasurer | Dorothy Alexander | treasurer@scug.ca |
| Recording Secretary | Tom Deeprise | secretary@scug.ca |
| Membership Secretary | Val Conway | membership@scug.ca |
| Shareware Librarian | Dan Bilger | library@scug.ca |
| Editor - SCUG Report | Greg West | editor@scug.ca |
| Public Relations | Norm Lamoureux | pr@scug.ca |
| Program Coordinator | Bill Colotelo | coordinator@scug.ca |

www.scug.ca

(SIG) Special Interest Group Leaders

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Genealogy Group | - Kathy Witheridge | - genealogy@scug.ca |
| Drop-In Group | - Pierre Houle | - president@scug.ca |
| Windows Group | - Pierre Houle | - windows@scug.ca |

SCUG Advertising Rates

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Full Page | 1x - \$30.00 | 3x - \$25.00 | 6x+ - \$20.00 |
| Half Page | 1x - \$20.00 | 3x - \$15.00 | 6x+ - \$10.00 |
| Business card | \$10.00 per year | | |

*One year = 9 issues, September to June
Full and half page rates are per insertion*

Disk Prices

| CD Only | Members | Non-Members |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Monthly Disk | Free | \$2.00 |
| Utilities | \$1.00 | \$2.00 |
| Additional Disks | \$1.00 | \$2.00 |

NOTE: Some of these programs are Shareware which must be registered and paid for if you like them and decide to keep them on your machine. This is your responsibility!

Please visit: www.scug.ca

*The SCUG accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions in the newsletter.
Advertisements are paid for and should not be considered as endorsements by SCUG.*

Your Secretary Notes

by Tom Deepröse
secretary@scug.ca

*SCUG Executive Committee Meeting-Nov. 3rd/03
The Executive met at St. James' Church, 140
Lansdowne North.*

1. Membership-Val reported that, as of Oct. 31st/03, our membership totaled 121, with 84 members and 37 associates. No new members, but five member and two associate renewals with three lapsed members. Attendance at the October meeting was a gratifying 77, including 12 guests, draw by the wide interest in the "LP to CD" topic. With this number of visitors the printing of 100 Newsletters was not enough to satisfy that evenings needs, but it was decided to stay with this total for the immediate future.

On The Application and Renewal Form, agreement not to use knowledge of the membership's e-mail and phone numbers list for non-club purposes is now required.

2. Treasury - Dorothy presented the Financial Statement as of Oct. 31st/03. The need for a postage category in our e-mail world was queried, but advertisers sometimes need to see a hard copy of our News Letter and Can. Post is the most efficient vehicle.

3. Software Library-Dan's proposal to issue a Christmas Theme plus Games for the November Disk of the Month was carried. A further proposal to issue the 2001-2 Floppy Disks of the Month as a CD was amended to add them and their functional descriptions to the Web site instead and make them down loadable by Members only. Carried.

4. Meeting Program-Bill was firstly congratulated by the Executive on his very popular presentation on "LP to CD". His demonstration was very well received by the audience. The plan to have a 'Computer Lingo Discussion' for the Nov. Meeting was fleshed out. Pierre will approach some local experts in turn (Jim Verdon, Nerds on Call, Computer Doctor etc) to get a speaker who will analyze some current computer adverts for relevance to the club user and be open to answering any other computer lingo questions. January's Meeting is planned to be the demonstration of "Computers for the Blind," by Erik Burggraaf.

5. Newsletter-Editor Greg has improved the quality of the photos in the NL and is looking for a further upgrade with the imminent arrival of a superior printer. Apologies were made on the number of typos in the last NL, but he had run into a time crunch opposite work and proof reading was, of necessity, rushed.

6. Review Program -Bill expects three reviews to be completed by January '04 (Photo Editor 7.5, Harvest Desk Top & Floor Plan 3D Design 8) but is having difficulty lining up Photo Shop 7 for review and will be in touch with Adobe for resolution.

7. Website Master-Iain was disappointed over the low number of hits on the Web site to date and it needs more 'talking up' at our meetings. It was proposed and carried that we publish, with a two-month delay, our monthly News Letters on the Web, with access to all-comers. It was felt that it would advertise the club's wide interests and therefore encourage more members. Iain proposed to set up an archival site on our web page for the Exec. to store Executive committee related files to avoid possible loss. This would be in .ftp format. The OK was given for Iain to go ahead. The fee for retaining the Domain for 2004 was paid (\$35)

8. Public Relations-Norm listed his current Compuprizes. A Calendar Book, Blank CDs, Printer Paper & Mailing labels. His proposal to get a low priced shredder was carried. Norm continues to find that local merchants are 'tough sells' in providing such items. Ideas re a Gift Certificate or % off on a purchase were offered.

9. New and Old Business. · For the record, confirmation of a Constitutional change. An amendment to change the words that limited the interest of SCUG to "IBM format computers only" to "any and all computers" was approved by the membership at the September Meeting.

· Further negotiating by Bill has obtained accommodation for both Exec. and Drop-In Meetings for 2004 at St. James' Church. Provisionally they are:-
Exec. Date (Drop-In Date): Jan5 (7), Feb2 (4), Mar1 (3), Apr5 (7), May3 (5), May31 (Jun2), Aug30 (Sep1), Oct4 (6), Nov1 (3), Nov29 (Dec1)

10. Next Meetings- Annual Exec. Wind-up Meeting Dec.1 at Val Conway's, 7 pm., and the next standard Exec. meeting Jan 5/2004 at St. James'.6

77 Members Attended

SCUG's October Meeting!!!

Bring a Friend next month.

SCUG Welcomes back members:

Pat & Harold Carter, Linda & Jim LaPointe, Bruce Montgomery, Gunter Mueller, and Don Vandervies.

Compuprize Winners

Here are the winners of October's Draw

Lorna Huggett - PhoneWorks

Don Cook - Package of Blank CDs



MEETING CANCELLATIONS???

With winter upon us, weather conditions may cause us to cancel meetings. Members will be notified by email about any cancellations. Please check your e-mail shortly before all meetings. If your e-mail isn't working or you have changed your e-mail address I suggest you phone the leader of the meeting, or an executive member, to check on meeting cancellations.

**Don't forget to sign up at SCUG's
Awarded Winning Website: www.scug.ca**

SCUG REPORT NEWSLETTER Guidelines & Data

SCUG REPORT is published nine times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions and will receive acknowledgment in this paper.

Permission is granted to reproduce any articles within this newsletter, provided that credit is given to SCUG and the individual author(s). Please submit articles to the Editor of SCUG REPORT: editor@scug.ca.

SCUG REPORT is produced using a Datatek Systems designed Intel Pentium 4 CPU 2.80GHz Computer, using Adobe Pagemaker 6.5 publishing software, as well as Adobe Photoshop 5.5 for graphic/photo editing.

Photos taken this month with two digital cameras: a Sony Cybershot P72 - 3.2 Mega Pixels and a Fujifilm Mx-1700 Zoom 1.5 Mega Pixels. Colour photos are taken down to grayscale format for a true black and white image. Picture sizing is taken down from original size to a 3 inch width.

The newsletter's master copy is printed out on a hp laserjet 1012 printer, print mode: "half-tone." Copies of are delivered contributing authors in PDF format and regular post as requested.

The SCUG website runs PostNuke 0.726 on a Dell Poweredge server supplied by Sabre Information Access Group (<http://www.sabregroup.net>) free of charge. Any text files not generated by PostNuke are created using BBEdit on a Macintosh PowerBook G3 running OS X 10.2. Files are uploaded to the site using either BBEdit or Fetch.n.6

Note: Anyone wishing to submit an article, picture, or personal ad for this newsletter, or if you have questions regarding the above mentioned information, please email the editor: editor@scug.ca

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Paul Witheridge

Personal Computer Consultation
Set-up * Software Training
System Optimization * Professional Remote Backup Service
Member Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce

SIG REPORTS

Genealogy SIG

Kathy Witheridge

The meeting was held on Monday, November 10, 2003 at the office of EBtech at 559 Exmouth Street, Sarnia.

There were 12 people in attendance (probably one of the smaller classes we have ever had), which makes me wonder if people are losing interest! This SIG has been going for many years now and it does get really difficult to come up with new materials!

There will be no meeting in December, but we may, as usual, have our Christmas Party and I will give details at the November general meeting. 6

Drop-In SIG

Pierre Houle
president@scug.ca

Eighteen members attended the second Drop-In SIG this month. Pierre brought a computer and some parts, and gave a quick tour of the inside of a P.C.. Several members had questions pertaining to the demonstration, and other questions as well. Hopefully, we provided some answers.

The next Drop-In SIG will be December 3rd, 7:00 P.M. at St. James the Apostle Church, 140 Lansdowne. There will be no assigned topic, so come with some questions and comments. 6

SCUG Calendar January 2003

- 7th - **Drop-In SIG** - 7:00 p.m.
St. James The Apostle Anglican Church, 140 Lansdowne Ave N
- 12th - **Genealogy SIG** - 7:00 p.m.
559 Exmouth St. (Ebtech Bldg.)
- 15th - **Windows SIG** - 7:00 p.m.
Grace United Church, Room 10
- 28th - **SCUG General Meeting**
St. Bartholomew's Church
Social time - 7:00 p.m.
Call to order - 7:30 p.m.

Windows SIG

Pierre Houle
president@scug.ca

A record 32 people attended the November Windows SIG. Pierre started the meeting with some basic computer definitions from the *Whatis* website.



Record turnout at SCUG's Window SIG! SCUG members and a few guests listen to Pierre and Iain demonstrate features in both the Windows and the Mac computer laptops.

Then Iain demonstrated how his MAC computer's interface differs from the Windows interface. Then we had a Q and A session. A good meeting with much discussion!



Iain Smy, SCUG Webmaster demonstrating his Macintosh PowerBook G3 and operating system: Mac OS X 10.2. Pierre uses the Club's laptop, a Sony Vio P3 500 MHz, using Windows 98SE. Iain said of these two systems, "Both use a GUI that is very similar in look and function and the same programs are available for both (with the exception of games)" Pierre agreed that both systems "are more similar than different."

There will be no Windows meeting in December. The next meeting will be the third week of January, 2004. Subject will be announced at the November general meeting.

Did you know that the SCUG Window SIG began in November 1995 and the first leader of this group was Mac Hollingsworth? Thanks to Paul Witheridge for this information on the first Windows SIG. 6

**SARNIA COMPUTER USERS' GROUP
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

| CURRENT | | BUDGET | % OF BUDGET | |
|---------|----------|--------|-------------|--------|
| MONTH | Y. T. D. | YEAR | Month | Y.T.D. |

T

THIS PAGE IS LEFT BLANK - IT IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY (print copy)

Many Reasons to be a SCUG Member

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Special Interest Groups | * Meeting Cancellation Notification |
| * S.C.U.G. REPORT | * Local Discounts |
| * Want Ad | * Earn 1 Month Free Membership |
| * Paid Advertising | * Join in on Software Reveiws |
| * Disk of the Month | * Executive Postions |
| * Utility Disks (Set of 2 Disks) | * E-mail Reminders |
| * Members Only Web Pages | * Special E-Mails |

FOR FULL INFORMATION ON SCUG BENEFITS SEE www.scug.ca

SCUG MEMBERS SAVE - UP TO \$60 AT EBTech

EBTech offers up to \$5/month discount to SCUG Members!

- * Contact Paul Witheridge (336-9272 (kathpaul@ebtech.net) to be on the EBTech Discount List.
- * With your next EBTech renewal, simply identify yourself as a SCUG Member
- * Paul notifies EBTech of eligible members so no further proof of identification is required.

10 hours per month - \$10 per month (\$2.00 per additional hour)
SCUG members save on 6 & 12 month packages

100 hours per month - \$20 per month (\$1.00 per additional hour)
SCUG members save \$5 per month

- * Upgrade your existing account and you can apply the discount immediately!

TID BITS

*Internet sites are born by the minute these days. Here are some interesting, useful and just fun sites to explore. Hope you pick up a few new tips and have a bit of fun learning some of the how-tos. If you have any favourite, interesting sites you would like to share with SCUG members please forward them to:
Greg West - editor@scug.ca*



Google gone - Google back
Greg West - Editor

For many years I have been using Netscape. A few weeks ago I jumped into the world of Windows XP, for reasons to explore the world of multimedia, but honestly I simply bought a new system. With a new system I thought to try something else new; I decided to go back and give Microsoft Internet Explorer a try, ONCE more.

No it wasn't because hardly anyone is mentioning Netscape anymore, it was more because I am looking at the new Microsoft Word 2003 and how well it interfaces with Explorer, leaving Netscape in the dust. Worth a peak anyway.

Well, after all the bells and whistles finished doing what they do when you load a new for the first time, including MS Outlook (minus the Express), I found the search engine on the tool bar was connected to Microsoft - not my choice of search engines. I wanted my Google back, nothing more - nothing less, and in a handy spot as well.

It wasn't long before I got my wish. I stumbled across <http://toolbar.google.com/> and found that a new tool bar distinctly set for Googling was to be had as an add-on to my MS Browser. The program loaded extremely fast, however it took up an entire row at the top, cutting down on my viewing pages. After tinkering with this annoyance I right clicked on the google toolbar and unchecked "Google" and poof it was gone. I dared to attempt the old MS search box that originally came with the MS Internet Explorer, wondering - hoping, it would by some sort of magic change itself to a Google search box - Well to my

surprise it did.

Now I have my google search box back and without the added tool bar. Don't forget the added feature which will definitely lower your blood pressure: "The pop-up blocker in the Toolbar Options menu prevents new windows from automatically opening when you visit a website." In fact the new Google task bar is becoming very sophisticated that soon one will need a course on how to turn it on...just kidding, actually for simple searches where you are just surfing for info it is just that: simple to use. But you can get very detailed with the searches once you get the hang of all the toys that Google is offering.

Oh yes, if you feel somewhat patriotic you can choose the google.ca, a Canadian google...my first choice from when it was first made available.

Happy googling...

<http://toolbar.google.com/>

Features

- Search the web with Google from any site
- New Eliminate pop-up ads
- New Fill in forms with one click
- New Link a web log to the page you're visiting
- New Restrict your search to pages located in a specific country
- Search just within the pages of a site
- Highlight search terms on a page
- Customize the layout of your toolbar

System Requirements

Microsoft Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP
Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or later
the pop-up blocker requires Internet Explorer 5.5 or later.

For more info see FAQ -

<http://toolbar.google.com/faq.html> 6

Microsoft Learning Web Casts FREE

<http://www.officesystem2003events.com/>

"Microsoft will be hosting a series of in-depth, interactive web-based meetings focused on new Microsoft Office technologies that are increasing personal and professional productivity, reducing e-mail spam, keeping corporate data safer, and helping individuals overcome some of their most daunting business challenges." Insert the above URL into

TID BITS Con't...page 8.

Con't. from page 7 - TID BITS.

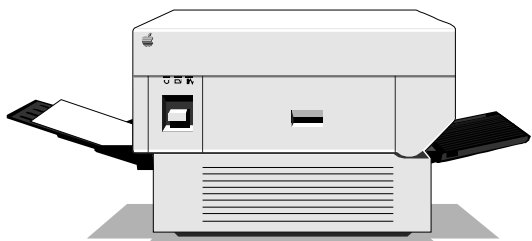
your web browser, once the site loads you will be ready to begin your Web Cam demonstration.

You will then be at the Live Meeting site and then enter your name in the box and click on "VIEW". Next you will be asked for your name and email address (can use a hotmail address if you don't want to give out your home address). Click "SUBMIT". Pick your favourite viewer now (I used: Basic recording with Windows Media TM formatted streamed audio). The site will start its buffering and soon you will be seeing a Web Cam Microsoft Office presentation for home users.

This is a one-hour demonstration and for dialup users there is a download that can be viewed offline...but I didn't check that aspect out. The program starts out explaining for the next hour "you get a first hand look at the new Microsoft Office System."

Also, you learn how to "maximize productivity, communicate more effectively, and reduce Spam." Also, at the end of the presentation you will be eligible for many Microsoft prizes. This Web Cam is the way of future learning and demonstration of software programs.

For anyone using MS word programs this is a MUST SEE site. Beware it starts off slow and takes a quick survey, however the information is well worth the initial questions. See page 14 for more. .6



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The Refill Guys!

SHAREWARE CD

SCUG Shareware Librarian

Dan Bilger
library@scug.ca

Welcome to the new "SHAREWARE CD"

On the CD this month you will find programs to decorate your computer for the holidays: twinkle bulbs to light up your desktop, a decorated Christmas tree, Santa's Workshop Screensaver, Mem Techs Screensaver, a snow scenes screensaver, and Midnight Christmas Screensaver, a game caled Christmas Tale (a very addictive Christmas version of the old favourite game of Sokoban), and a Sea War Game with Sailing ships (similar to Battleship).

PAST PROGRAMS ON YOUR CD

October: "CDRoller" - CD data recovery.
September: "Open Office" - Freeware Office Suite.

Please Note

Next month bring the CD back with you and exchange it for another CD with a new program loaded on it. Repeat this procedure each month. If you forget to bring your CD back next month you can get another CD for the nominal price of \$1.00.

Also, you keep the CD that you get at the last meeting in June. This CD will contain the entire year of the SCUG SHAREWARE LIBRARY programs.

Non-members can purchase a CD for only \$2.00, however when you do become a SCUG member you will then receive the full CD included with the price of your membership. Utility Disks - \$1.00 each diskette

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Spotlight on Shareware

There is a new link on www.scug.ca where you can download any of the programs that were listed in the Spotlight on Shareware in past issues of the Newsletter. Go to the SCUG website under: "Other Areas - DOWNLOADS" 6

Computer News and Updates

by Ira Wilsker
APCUG Region 8 Advisor
ira-wilsker@apcug.org



Ira Wilsker

Ira Wilsker is the Advisor for Region 8, APCUG Representative & Bylaws Chair for the Golden Triangle PC Club, a columnist for The Examiner in Beaumont, Texas, and has two radio shows.

- * **Recalls**
- * **Phony Emails**
- * **Bad Attachments**

Recently I wrote about safety recalls of computers and related products; there has now been another recall. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Sony announced a voluntary recall of thousands of Sony VAIO notebook computers. In a recent CPSC press release, "Users could receive a mild electric shock when the recalled computers are connected to a phone line and the phone rings." The notebooks recalled are model numbers PCG-FRV25 and PCG-FRV27, sold during the summer of 2003.

One symptom of the problem, according to Sony, is unusually slow modem speeds, typically less than 24k, while the computer is powered by its AC adapter. If you have one of these Sony VAIO notebooks you should immediately disconnect the modem from the phone line and contact Sony at (800) 880-9743, or go to the Sony website at www.sony.com/pcsupport. Sony will repair the computer and extend the warranty on the repaired notebooks to two years from the date of original purchase, at no charge.

IBM and LiteOn Technology have expanded a previously announced recall on computer monitors. The recall now covers 119,000 monitors manufactured by LiteOn and sold by IBM. These monitors were manufactured with a circuit board that can overheat and smoke, and may be a fire hazard. According to the CPSC, there have been seven reports of over-

heated monitors emitting smoke, one report of property damage, and one injury. These monitors include CRT monitors with the model number G51, and touch screen monitors with a model number G51t. On the back of the units may be additional model numbers 6541-02N, 6541-02E, 6541-02S, 6541-Q0N, 6541-Q0E, and 6541-Q0S.

These monitors were manufactured in a number of countries, and manufactured between June 1997 and September 1998. The recalled monitors were sold directly by IBM and MicroTouch Systems, as well as retailers such as Best Buy, CompUSA, Office Max, and Radio Shack. If you have one of these monitors stop using it immediately, and call IBM at (866) 644-3155, 8am - 6pm Central time Monday through Friday. Recalled monitors will be repaired or replaced at no charge. The recall information is also on the IBM website at www.ibm.com/pc/g51recall.

With computers and peripherals becoming ubiquitous household and workplace items, it is inevitable that more of them will become the subject of recalls in the future. This is one of the many reasons why it is necessary for all computer users to complete an appropriate warranty registration process with the manufacturer. Warranty registration will enable the manufacturer to contact the user directly in the event of a recall. The CPSC also has a free subscription email alert service for all new recalls available on its website at www.cpsc.gov under the "Recalls / News" heading. In mid-September I wrote about a Microsoft security warning that there were several viruses and Trojans circulating as authentic looking, but counterfeit emails from Microsoft.

These emails appearing to be from Microsoft have again reappeared in large numbers and contain a variety of viruses and Trojans that can wreak havoc with the victim's computer, attack other computers in a "denial of service attack", capture personal information and forward it to destinations unknown, steal email addresses from address books and flood acquaintances with the counterfeit virus laden announcements, and cause a host of other vicious problems.

One of the most prolific of these Microsoft imposters, which has already appeared in several versions, is the Gibe or Swen worm. According to Panda, one of the leading antivirus publishers, about two percent of American computers, which is well over a million machines, are currently infected with this worm. As I type this, Panda rates Gibe/Swen as the

Con't...page 10.

Con't...from page 9 - Computer News.
number one virus infecting American computers. An especially insidious characteristic of this worm, in addition to its near perfect forgery of a security alert from Microsoft, is its ability to disable antivirus software, firewalls, and other protection.
Con't...from page 10 - Computer News.

tive software. This leaves the computer open to hacker attacks and additional virus and worm infections. The worm can propagate not just by impersonating Microsoft, but also via file sharing services such as KaZaA, chat utilities such as IRC, and directly across networks. The worm also disables Regedit, Windows integral registry editing utility. Once infected, a keystroke logging utility captures usernames, passwords, credit card numbers, and other personal information, compromising the security of the computer and its network, and making the victim an ideal candidate for identity theft and other financial crimes.

The shame of the Gibe/Swen worm is that millions of computer users are still oblivious to the many announcements that have been in the media that Microsoft does not send out patches and security updates by email, and that any such email will certainly contain harmful content. This worm is just one of a long series of such malware utilizing "human engineering" to trick the victim into opening the attachment, falsely believing that there is some beneficial content to the email.

Reiterating advice made many times here in the past, it is imperative that all users be suspicious of attachments even though the attachments may appear to come from trusted friends or companies. It is also important to periodically check for viruses utilizing a utility other than the antivirus software installed on the computer, which may have been unknowingly disabled. Free online scans such as those at housecall.antivirus.com, www.pandasecurity.com, or www.bitdefender.com are an excellent way to verify that a computer has not been infected, or to determine that it has become a victim of a dangerous virus or worm. 6

Cooking on the Web

by Ira Wilsker

No, this is not about using the internet to cook your food, but instead as a resource for culinary information. You will likely be reading this either prior to your Thanksgiving feast, or shortly after the last ves-

tiges of turkey end up in a soup. Whether you are looking for some novel way to re-serve your abundant leftovers, or some novel new meal, the internet may be a valuable resource.

A quick review of the Yahoo cooking directory at dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Food_and_Drink/Cooking reveals over 3000 websites with recipes, and thousands of other websites with related topics. The directory is divided into subdirectories with headings such as "By Ingredient", Cookbooks, Cooking Methods, Drinks, Ethnic and Regional, Holidays and Occasions, Humor, Name Brands, Special Dietary Needs, Specific Courses and Dishes, and Web Directories. My oldest daughter recently called asking for help for a housewarming she was hosting at her new condo in Miami. She had special requests for vegetarian, low carbohydrate, Kosher, and other specialty dishes. Not being a gourmand herself, she needed help. This Yahoo directory provided the resources that she needed to meet the needs of all of her guests.

A brief review of the ten most popular recipe sites as determined by Yahoo show the diversity of tastes that can be satisfied by using the web as a resource. The most popular recipe site, according to Yahoo, is allrecipes.com. This site is self-described as "Your home for great recipes, meal ideas and cooking advice." At this single website, in addition to thousands of recipes being directly available are recipes and links to other well known resources and brands, such as Hershey, Borden, Keebler, Kellogg, McCormick, Nestle, Crisco, Herb-Ox, and Smuckers. Recipes from popular magazines including Southern Living, Cooking Light, Sunset, and other magazines and periodicals are also available or linked directly from this site. Additional resources are also available for special dietary needs. With the information available on this site, one could feed his family for years without duplicating a menu.

The website topsecretrecipes.com has a secret recipe of the week, which is only on the site for a week, with a new "secret recipe" appearing every Monday. As I type this, the weekly secret recipe is Olive Garden's excellent Tiramisu, described on the site as, "A delicious combination of mascarpone cheese, cream cheese, lady fingers, espresso and Kahlua". I am getting hungry just reading the page!

Where would our kitchens be today if it were not for the ubiquitous Betty Crocker? Bettycrocker.com has an outstanding and large selection of recipes for every taste. Recipes can be easily browsed by categories.
Con't... on page 11.

Continued from page 10 - Cooking on the Web.

such as appetizers and snacks, breakfast and brunch, lunches, dinners, desserts, beverages, breads, side dishes, and other scrumptious and delectable choices. For those interested in what others are cooking, there is also an updated list of the most popular dishes selected from the site. Bettycrocker.com also offers a convenient free online service (registration required), "Your recipe Clippings", and an electronic file of individually selected recipes. By using this service, a customized web based cookbook can be created. Buried deep in my kitchen are several small file boxes with rough edged clippings from a variety of sources collected over decades. With the online clippings service, these old boxes are approaching obsolescence.

I have frequently been at a restaurant, and liked what I had to eat. I had wondered if these dishes could be easily duplicated at home. A site copyKat.com, which proclaims on its banner "You've tried it in the restaurant; now make it at home" offers this opportunity. As I opened up this site I was greeted with the recipe of the day, "Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Hash Brown Casserole". One of my coworkers is a faithful Luby's patron, and frequently brags about the fine meals she and her family has at Luby's. CopyKat.com has several Luby's recipes, including Hawaiian Pie, Butternut Brownie Pie, Italian Chicken Breast, Macaroni and Cheese, and many others. Nearby in the list under "L" are Luther's BBQ sauce, and Lindy's Famous Cheesecake. A quick look at the "O" category revealed a multitude of recipes from Olive Garden, Outback, Otis Spunkmeyer, and other highly recognizable names. The site is easy to navigate, and a pleasure to browse, except for the popup ads which I found annoying.

A most interesting and comprehensive site is www.recipesource.com, where there is an outstanding collection of ethnic and national foods listed both by region and by type of dish. I have traveled extensively, both domestically and internationally, and it is on this site that I found many of the unusual dishes that I enjoyed. Persian, Indian, and Vietnamese dishes are but a few of the many listed. With Chinese food being very popular, this site has 899 recipes for both authentic and Americanized Chinese foods. French, Greek, Swiss, Mexican, and Italian are but a few of the nationality based directories on recipesource.com. In addition to the ethnic listings, this site also offers a cross-reference based on the type of dish. What I found especially interesting was the section for restricted and specialty diets, includ-

ing baby food, diabetic, gluten free, and vegetarian. Of the many websites I reviewed for this column, this one was my personal favorite.

Enough for this week; I think I gained 10 pounds just fantasizing about the delights I found. Until next week, bon appetite! 6

Ira Wilsker is the Advisor for Region 8, APCUG Representative & Bylaws Chair for the Golden Triangle PC Club, a columnist for The Examiner in Beaumont, Texas, and has two radio shows. He also graciously shares his articles with the APCUG editors.

Editor's Note:

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.



EVER LOSE A REMINDER NOTE?

It's not really the best of Christmas gifts that can score you points with your spouse, kids, and friends, but it is a neat little handy program, free from 3M. Here is what they say about the software: "Create your own notes with pictures and hyperlinks Stick notes on your computer desktop as a visual reminder Add alarms to your notes so you don't forget Subscribe to receive information on a **Post-it® Software Note** from websites that provide this service Attach notes to documents, such as Microsoft Word." If you are like most others, desk areas in total confusion and cannot find where you put your notes, this program is great...the notes stick right to your desktop, or inside the desktop, or however they manage it...but there is no paper to misplace anymore. For more information: www.3m.com/market/office/postit/com_prod/psnotes/#lite

BUYING ON eBAY

By Cathy Margolin

president@noccc.org

North Orange County Computer Club - California

Ebay is the largest global marketplace with a very low entry cost. Tons of new and used and collectable items are bought and sold every day as there are millions of sellers putting up items that you may not be able to find anywhere else! Last year, eBay users exchanged some \$9.3 billion worth of goods. On an average day, there may be over \$1 million in sales occurring.

First off, you should start watching some auctions to get a feel for the process. Once you get used to the process, get an Ebay ID (do not use your e-mail name as your user-id—the spammers will get it!). Then start bidding on small items to learn the process and develop positive feedback. It all runs on feedback. Also, multiple user-ids are still ok. Some people use one for selling and another for buying, so as not to let people know their sources.

How To Find What You Want

You can search titles and descriptions such as:

Haviland -johann -theo* (which means look for haviland with no johann and no theo* which is a wild card to ignore any theo-----).

You can also look under categories to find an item, but remember that not everyone puts their item for sale in the correct category.

When the seller has tons of items and you want to only search Palm Pilot, go to seller search, go to the bottom of the page, enter Palm Pilot, and under Multiple sellers, put the person's eBay id (or several id's).

Bidding

Make sure you check the sellers feedback—too many negatives and neutrals is NOT good. Beware of a seller with no feedback and a large dollar item for sale—they may be good or bad or just not know the ropes yet, but you do not have enough information to trust them with your hard-earned money.

If you have a concern about the seller, ask them a question a few days before the auctions end (such as cost of shipping, do they take Paypal, etc.) to see how they respond.

Use odd numbered cents, such as .99 since the bids go up in increments of 50 cents, \$1 (depending on

the value of the bid)—you may win an item by just one cent.

Think of any auction you have been to—it is only the last price at the close of the hammer that counts! Always snipe (which is bidding at the last minute). In this auction format, it is only the highest bidder at the close of the auction that wins. If you bid during the week, you keep driving up the price, but bidding at the last second masks interest and usually results in a lower cost.

You can use a service (www.esnipe.com, which charges a fee, or [hammersnipe](http://hammersnipe.com) at www.hammertap.com, which does not) or use a program on your own computer.

Bid the maximum amount you want to spend (proxy bidding—the price only goes up to this amount if someone places a bid against you). Be aware of the Terms of Sale (TOS) for each seller. They differ greatly.

What form of payment do they take?

What is the shipping cost, as this can be very high! The Post Office uses zip codes to price shipping, so it is now less complicated.

Check out seller feedback and what type of items they usually sell.

See <http://www.vendio.com/service/tipsandtactics/index2.html> for a **set of tips** at the Vendio site, which also has an online bulletin board about eBay auctions.

How You Pay

To help protect yourself, use a credit card (if possible), PayPal, check, or lastly a money order. If the transaction goes wrong, you can stop payment on your check and it is easier to get reimbursed (chargeback) if you use a credit card.

When the item has arrived, don't forget to give feedback to the seller.

Ebay is where the market is in online auctions. It is an ever-changing marketplace, where change is constant.

Happy eBay-ing! 6

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which TBCS is a member. Cathy Margolin is President of the North Orange County Computer Club in California.

SCUG WINS 2 AWARDS

APCUG Contest in Las Vegas

APCUG Newsletter Award Winner 2003

**3rd. Place Winner:
Sarnia Computer User's Group
SCUG REPORT**

APCUG Website Award Winner 2003

**2nd. Place Winner
Sarnia Computer User's Group
www.scug.ca**

Editor's Note: *SCUG registered its Website and Newsletter with the The Association of Personal Computer User Groups Inc. for their contest at the 18th Annual Fall Conference During Comdex Week, and The Weekend Prior, in Las Vegas, Nevada November 14 to November 19, 2003. This is an annual event. We are proud to announce that after 20 years this is a first for SCUG. Congratulations to SCUG's Executive and especially SCUG members for helping put this club on the APCUG map of winners. Special thanks to Iain Smy for his hard work on the website, his many, many hours spent planning and designing, and also for SCUG's previous editor, Grace Halliday, for the original setup of the SCUG REPORT, including many hours training me. We move into the new year on a very positive note.*

APCUG Fall 2003 Jerry Awards

1st Place -Computers Assisting People, Inc.;
Cleveland, Ohio (\$2500)

2nd Place -San Diego Computer Society; San
Diego, California (\$1000)

3rd Place -Columbia-Baltimore Users Group;
Ellicott City, Maryland (\$500)

APCUG Fall 2003 Newsletter Awards

Small Groups:

1st Place -Colorado River Computer Club; Lake
Havasu City, AZ

2nd Place -Silicon Valley Computer Society; Santa
Clara, CA

3rd Place -Northeast Ohio PC Club; Cleveland,
OH

Medium Sized Groups:

1st Place -The Users Group Network; La
Crescenta, CA

2nd Place -Winnipeg PC User Group; Winnipeg,
Manitoba, Canada

3rd Place -**Sarnia Computer Users Group;**
Sarnia, Ontario, Canada

Large Groups:

1st Place -Melbourne PC User Group; Melbourne,
Australia

2nd Place -North Orange County Computer Club;
Orange, CA

3rd Place -Leisure World PC User Group; Laguna
Woods, CA

APCUG Fall 2003 Website contest:

1st Place - Tampa Bay Computer Society
2nd Place - **Sarnia Computer Users Group**
3rd Place (3-Way Tie) Golden Triangle PC Club
Las Vegas PC Users Group TUGNET

APCUG

**The Association of Personal Computer
User Groups Inc.
18th Annual Fall Conference**

[http://www.apcug.org/events/comdex/fall2003/
index.shtml](http://www.apcug.org/events/comdex/fall2003/index.shtml)

Microsoft Demonstrates its' NEW MS Word 2003

A large crowd of computer enthusiasts packed into the lecture hall of St. Clair College, Michigan, to see a demonstration of Microsoft's new product.

The new Microsoft Word 2003 processing program is generating tons of curiosity world wide, and evidence of this fact was demonstrated at The Computer Operators of Marysville and Port Huron (COMP), as well over 120 people lined up to see the bells and whistles that this program is offering at COMP's general meeting this month. Ron Walters, the club's President was quite pleased with the large turnout and at the onset of the meeting announced that the club's usual business was cancelled in order to allow the full two hours for the Microsoft presentation.



Richard Katz, a Microsoft representative, demonstrates the new MS WORD 2003 program on his MS Tablet PC to a huge audience at the November general meeting of COMP. Richard handed out many prizes, including a MP3 Player, as well as 5 Office Pro (programs) and Windows XP Pro. X-Box was the grand prize. Tons of books and CDs were also handed out, as well as tons of MS T-shirts..

The Computer Operators of Marysville and Port Huron (COMP) www.bwcomp.org/

This computer group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at St. Clair Community College, in Room 201 in the C.E.M. Library in Port Huron, Michigan. St. Clair Community College is directly across from McMorran Place. SCUG members are welcome!

Hackers & Viruses

Linda Gonse
editor@orcopug.org

One radio sportscast announces .The Athlete Arrest of the Day.. Computing may be coming closer to this with .The Virus/Hacker Attack of the Week.. This month, patches, fixes, and virus warnings came in batches. Much of the activity was centered upon Microsoft and its products. Aiding in the proliferation of cyber-nasties are automated virusmaking tools available on the Web.

Plus new ideas for harassment are traded freely on Internet message boards and .black hat. teams work determinedly on finding and exploiting security holes. Spamming, too, is increasing at an alarming rate. In a little over a week, there were more than 10,000 spams in my domain.s mailbox. Naturally, it can no longer be used as a business email address. Estimated 2002 spam-related costs to businesses is \$9-BILLION!

10 million were victims

But, maybe there is hope. Governor Davis signed the first US anti-spam bill, effective Jan. 1, 2004 that allows a state to find spammers anywhere in the US and offshore and to assess fines up to \$1-million per incident! There is less hope for cutting down on identity theft. A study by CSU, Sacramento, and Identity Theft Resource Center in San Diego, says 10 million were victims and the cost was nearly \$300-billion to business last year. Victims average 600 hours and \$1,500 attempting to resolve the crime.

What all these have in common is anonymity. We need a reliable way to trace these activities and we need more help to recover from and prosecute these damaging crimes. In the meantime, we must do our part to ward off hackers and viruses.

Install a firewall and antivirus software and keep your antivirus up-to-date. Finally, apply Windows updates as soon as they are available.

TAKE THE TIME TO BE SAFE! 6

Editor's Note: *Linda is the Editor of the award winning user group newsletter in Florida: Nibbles & Bits. Linda's computer user's group can be found at www.orcopug.org*

**ABOVE THE CLOUDS
WITH CENTRINO™**
by Christopher Sarson

Well, here I am, above the clouds on flight AC 580, just about to land in Toronto, and life is good. Sure, I have a job I enjoy, and sure, I've been happily married for forty years, but that's not the focus of my present euphoria. Fact is, I'm writing this review on my new laptop, which is based on the Intel® Centrino™ technology, and that makes me a happy little computer user.

This morning I arrived at Denver airport at 6:30am, and spent 90 minutes checking my e-mail and sending back some replies using my built-in wireless Wi-Fi connection before the flight was called. On the plane I spent a couple of hours with my video editing program, reviewing scenes from the TV program I'm directing and composing some additional scenes. Now I'm landing, and my battery meter tells me that even after 3½ hours' work, I still have 40% of my battery charge left! Yikes! Short battery life was gripe

“My old laptop (a 500Mhz PIII) was fine for word processing and e-mail, but balked at heavy-duty chores like video editing.”

#1 about my old laptop. Now -- at last -- my battery lasts the length of my journey!

My next biggest gripe concerned power. My old laptop (a 500Mhz PIII) was fine for word processing and e-mail, but balked at heavy-duty chores like video editing. My new Centrino™ handles Adobe Premier with barely a hiccup! And even with its (nominal) 1.6-Ghz CPU, it's actually as fast as my 2.6-Ghz desktop! Bliss!!

And the third magic of Centrino™ is the built-in WiFi connection. At most airports, hotels, Starbucks, there are hot-spots that enable WiFi-compliant 802.11b laptops to access the internet wirelessly at (on my machine) about seven megabits per second. (My Windows Update download of all the patches for Windows XP took 20 minutes on my laptop, about three hours on my desktop with a 52kbps connection! With Centrino™, it's like being connected with

a T1 line!) And no need to find a telephone line, remember a telephone number, and dial in!

This Centrino™ technology that makes me so happy includes three components on a laptop: a Pentium M CPU, an 855 system-board chip set, and a Pro/Wireless 2100 Network connection, all made by Intel®. The Pentium M chip is the first chip built from the ground up to be mobile (most laptop chips are reconfigured desktop parts); it completes more instructions per clock cycle; and it has a level 2 cache twice the size of the current P4 desktop chip - hence its great performance and long battery life. To help battery life even more, Intel® has improved its SpeedStep technology, which adjusts the processor speed to match the needs of the current application; also, the new chips use less wattage. And the third component of the Centrino™ technology is the built-in Wi-Fi technology, which allows the easy wireless connection to the Internet I mentioned above.

But enough of the technology! The bottom line is that I'm more productive, and as a result I can spend my evenings in Toronto relaxing instead of working, and more time at home with family and friends!

As I said earlier, I'm above the clouds with Centrino!

Christopher Sarson is a past Secretary of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG), past President, Windows on the Rockies User Group, Denver, CO, creator and first executive producer of Masterpiece Theatre, and is currently working on Roots of Empathy, a program designed to help young people understand empathy. When he's not above the clouds en route to or from Toronto he lives in Boulder, Colorado. Reach him at c_sarson@hotmail.com. 6

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Business Card

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For information contact Norm [542-5757](tel:542-5757)

SCUG Events 2004

Meeting Dates

Please don't forget to bring a friend...

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------|------|------|------|-------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|-------------|------|
| Executive | 5th | 2nd | 1st | 5th | 3rd 31st | | 30th | | 4th | 1st 29th | |
| Drop-In | 7th | 4th | 3rd | 7th | 5th | 2nd | | 1st | 6th | 3rd | 1st |
| Genealogy | 12th | 9th | 8th | 12th? | 10th | 14th | | 13th | 11th? | 8th | 13th |
| Windows | 15th | 19th | 18th | 15th | 20th | 17th | | 16th | 21st | 18th | 16th |
| General | 28th | 25th | 31st | 28th | 26th | 30th | | 29th | 27th | 24th | |

- * Exec and Drop-In meetings are held at St James Church-170 Lansdowne North
- * Genealogy meetings are held at Ebtech 559 Exmouth
- * Windows meeting are held at Grace United Church, 990 Cathcart
- * General Meetings are held at St. Bartholmew,s Church, 718 Cathcart Blvd.

SCUG Classified Ads (members only)

WANTED

Does anyone have a working monitor that they no longer need or want and would consider passing it along for an unemployed man? My son-in-law has built a computer for this person and is lacking the monitor. Please phone: **Dorothy Alexander at 542-4753**. *Your kindness will be appreciated.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR