



SCUG REPORT

Award Winning Newsletter & Website
Published for the Sarnia Computer Users' Group

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Pierre Houle

SCUG NEEDS YOU!

We need your help!

First of all, I would like to thank all of our members, who over the years who have stepped forward and volunteered to help in running the club. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated. Some have been doing this for many years. They have earned the right to step aside, and let other members step forward. We now need your help in the following areas: coffee preparation at the general meeting, help with set-up and takedown at the General, Windows and Digital meetings. Each of these "jobs" requires that you come to the meeting fifteen or twenty minutes before and stay a few minutes after. Also, we need a proof-reader for the this newsletter. The more volunteers we have, the less work will be involved. Please talk to Pierre or Iain to set up a schedule.

I would like to Welcome Fred Abma as the new Digital Photography SIG leader and new SCUG member. To learn more about Fred, see Greg's interview on pages 12 and 13 in this issue.

This month's presentation is of Adobe Photoshop Creative Suite, as demonstrated by Jim Greensheids. Jim had the daunting task of reviewing this amazing and complex digital imaging software, and agreed to give us a brief demonstration of it's capability. Many thanks to Adobe for supplying this program for Jim to review. Adobe have supported user groups for many years. If anyone is interested in reviewing any other fine Adobe products, contact Bill Colotelo, our review co-coordinator.

SCUG EVENTS

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

* EBay - *The Inside Look*

Enter the world of Online shopping, buying and selling, as Dorothy, a member of SCUG executive, and almost professional Online shopper, gives out some of her great secrets and the inside info to get the best deals - safely.

FUTURE MEETINGS...

* Learn how to put your old LPs onto a CD disc and play them on your computer or in your car!

* Ebtech will be presenting a demonstration on WIFI, explaining the mysteries of wireless internet - the how tos and the not tos! Join us at our next General Meeting.

For all the details please check inside this paper!

Software Reviewers Needed

Software is currently available for review and it can be seen on our SCUG web site under the heading SCUG PERKS. Other software, can at times, be obtained by your Program Coordinator. If you wish to do a review on any software contact your Program Coordinator and he will get you started. Remember, **any software you review is yours to keep.**

**Sarnia Computer Users' Group Est. 1982
2004 - 2005 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
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Program Coordinator	Bill Colotelo	coordinator@scug.ca

VISIT SCUG ONLINE: www.scug.ca

(SIG) Special Interest Group Leaders

Digital Photography	- Fred Abma	- digital@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*

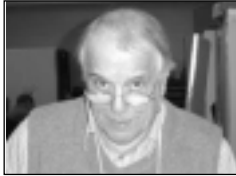
Disk Prices

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 drop by our Website: www.scug.ca-5

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Your Secretary's Notes

by Tom Deeprise
secretary@scug.ca

SCUG Executive Meeting, Oct. 4, 2004
St. James' Church,
140 Lansdowne Rd. North.
Dan & Dorothy sent regrets.

1. Membership Report. Val reported that, as of today, membership stood at 134 (89 Members and 45 Associates) with ten Member and 3 Associate renewals, two new Members and one lapsed Membership. Attendance at the last meeting was 63, including 3 guests, a worthy turnout. Newsletters - it was decided to continue with a printing of 100 for our October Meeting.

2. Vice President's Input: Iain-Nothing from this post at this point, see 8. Webmaster

3. Secretary's Input. At Staples, our printer, we are paying by cheque for the NLs at this time and also for October's printing. Setting up an account and any other negotiations should await Dorothy's return

4. Treasurer's Report. An up to date list of income/expense was accepted in the Treasurer's absence.

5. Software Library Report-Not available due to Dan's absence. Since XP SP2 is freely available from Microsoft it was considered not to be necessary as a DOM. An index will be incorporated in the current DOM CD.

6. Meeting Program. Pierre's SP2, Gutenberg and Seti well received. SP2 is creating lots of interest (See item 11.).

Confirmed for Oct.-Jim Greenshields on Photoshop. Pierre will do a prelim with him on the club laptop to head off any technical glitches.

November-Dorothy on E-bay

January-Repeat, by popular demand, of Bill's LP to CD process.

Ian Hunt with "Floor Plan", Scott Elliot, and EBtech for the future.

7. Newsletter Editor: Happy with quality, price and delivery by Staples. The attachment of the financial page and members' name label on the last page is seen as a benefit for stripping old NLs in the distribution to non-members.

8. Webmaster. Iain reported 103 registered users from across the world but local traffic still lower than we'd

like. However, we are getting 30-35 hits a day. The subject of the on-line availability of the NL created considerable discussion. It was finally confirmed to stay with the two-month delay in publishing on the Website, but that a current copy could be sent via .pdf to members requesting directly by e-mail to the editor. This is intended to accommodate those members unable to attend due to sickness or out of Sarnia for a maximum 3-month period. Greg will keep tabs on how popular this route becomes.

9. Program Co-coordinator & Accommodations-Bill-On the latter, status quo.

Microsoft have replied and asked for an idea of our needs. Bill suggested we ask small for now and scale up later after they have gotten a chance to know us.

10. Promotions. Norm listed current compuprizes.

Two optical mouses, 2 Photoshop CDs, Gutenberg CD, 2 Mail Washer CDs, Display Resolution CD and 2 Adobe plug-ins. Two prizes were kindly returned for recycle, MapPoint CD & Works 7.

The 50/50 draw grossed \$58 and will be alternated with prize draws in the future. Prize for the Oct. Mtg. was decided to be Adobe Plug-Ins and Photoshop and Gutenberg CDs.

11. SIG News and Ideas. Fred Abma has agreed to stand for the leader of the Digital Camera SIG subject to the group's agreement at the next meeting on Oct. 6th. The Sept. Windows SIG was well attended. In October will probably revisit SP2, Firefox & Mozilla due to the high degree of interest.

12. New Business We need a coffee volunteer. Val will ask members for help.

Our help in electing a Canadian Rep. on the APCUG executive was suggested and approved. Pierre, our APCUG representative, will follow up.

The possibility of placing a sign on the church front lawn on the day of our meeting was mooted. Iain will make the sign and Pierre will follow up with Terry North, a Church Elder, for permission.

Ideas to encourage new members and to activate current ones in taking on some responsibilities were discussed. No firm conclusions were reached.

13. Old Business .The APCUG data list has been updated by Pierre. Cupboard inventory completed. It probably needs to be done more frequently!

Next SCUG Executive Meeting. Nov 1st 2004

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Stats as of Sept 30, 2004

89 Members + 45 Associates = 134 Total Membership
 New Members..... 2 Members + 0 Associates
 Renewals..... 10 Members + 3 Associates
 Lapsed Memberships..... 1 Members + Associates
 Guests..... 3 Guests

Total Meeting Attendance..... 63

New Members:

John Barker and Fred Abma

Renewals:

Bruce Allen, Gord Camano, Ian & Julie Campbell, Tom Flint, George Freeman, Lois & Manford Hastings, Vi Henderson, Brian & Judith Matheson, Anne Miller, and Ross Wise



Compuprize Winners

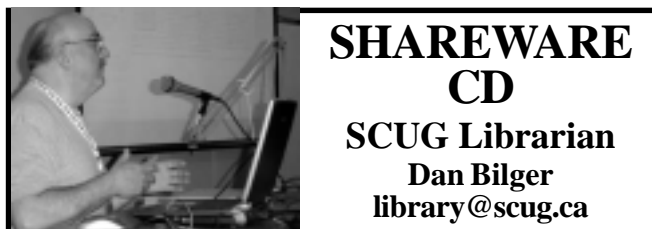
**Here are the winners from
September's Draw**



And the winners are:

Pierre Houle, \$29.00 (he must have fixed it)
 Steve Haywood - Guttenburg text CD

The above picture was taken by Iain, SCUG's Webmaster with his Palm Zire 72 and edited in Photoshop 5.5 increased from 2 to 200 pixels/inch.



**SHAREWARE
CD**
SCUG Librarian
Dan Bilger
library@scug.ca

Welcome to the new year of SCUG.

We have finished the first year of the Shareware CD. I heard one constructive criticism to add a text file to let you know what was on the CD. I will be complementing that this year. If there are other ideas that I have not thought of please let me know along with favourite programs that you think others in the club might enjoy or find useful.

October: Starter 5.6.1.38 Highly configurable and easy to use utility for managing your windows start-up. One can choose which programs are allowed to run when Windows is starting up. Disable an annoying application in one click of mouse! Terminate an unwanted or hanging process, even a Windows service. Freeware among a lot of analogues.

September: on the CD, you will find: Mozilla:(formerly Netscape navigator) Deepnet Explorer: the first web browser to offer fully integrated P2P file sharing capabilities and a built-in RSS/ATOM newsreader.

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 wait until the following month, or you can get another CD for the nominal price of \$1.00.

Please Note: Ta-Da, at the June meeting. This CD will contain the entire year of the SCUG SHAREWARE LIBRARY programs and it is yours to keep.

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.

Spotlight on Shareware

There is a link on SCUG's www.scug.ca where you can download any of the programs that were listed in the Spotlight on Shareware in past issues of this Newsletter.

*Go to the SCUG website under:
"Other Areas - DOWNLOADS"*

Special Interest Groups
SIG REPORTS



Windows SIG
Pierre Houle
windows@scug.ca



Digital SIG
Fred Abma
digitalsig@scug.ca

Introducing:

Our New Digital SIG Leader

The line for the September column was looking for a leader and you found one.

I am Fred Abma and I Like Photography. That was the name of a TV program I had on Channel Six many years ago. I still like photography and I am looking forward to helping people take better pictures with digital cameras as the leader of the Digital SIG.

According to Pierre the duties of a leader include writing a brief synopsis of the last meeting. I did not take any notes but 25 people attended the meeting including four guests. There was no specific program so the group talked about some of the Photo Editing Programs they liked using and ideas for future programs.

It was suggested that many would like to know more about taking pictures and so we will have a workshop type of meeting with some stations set up around the room with lights and items to take pictures off.

So bring your camera with card and a tripod if you have one. Often photographers dismiss a tripod as a nuisance but it is one of the best tools for better pictures. Pierre will bring the projector and a card reader so you will be able to see the results.

It will be helpful if members could give suggestions for programs or activities for future meetings.

There were 27 people who attended the October Windows SIG, including one guest. Windows XP Update SP2 and Firefox web browser.

Many comments were made about SP2. Several general comments capture the discussion: Most people have no problem with SP2. No one could give a concrete advantage to having it installed.

If you are going to install SP2, back up your data, set a restore point, and check the Microsoft website for compatibility issues concerning your applications.

Tab browsing was explained, but many members didn't see any advantage. Those that use Firefox find that it is small, fast and handy. It can block popups, and is very versatile.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to member's computer questions. Some topics included: using Spybot S&D and Ad-Aware to clean adware and spyware, problems with Zone Alarm, problems using CD- RW disks...some readers can read them, while some can't. Is firewire standard on new P.C.s? (not yet) Is an external DVD drive faster than a internal? (no) Are bad CD/DVD's very common? What is the difference between DVD-R and DVD+R?

The next meeting of the Windows SIG will be Thursday November 18th, 7:00 P.M. at Grace United Church, corner of Indian Road and Cathcart Blvd.. The topic will be: Spam: what is it, why do we get it, and how do we control it.

Here are some future meeting subjects, as suggested by the group:

- * removing unwanted files,
- * wireless internet (WIFI),
- * Bit Torrent.



The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at St. James Church, 140 N. Lansdowne, Sarnia, Ontario.

Don't forget to bring your camera next meeting! Also, if you have some pictures that just didn't work, well burn them on a CD and bring them for us to study.

Editor's Note: *Dorothy will be back next month with a full financial report.*

APCUG NEWS

SCUG Executive Supports A Canadian Delegate to the APCUG Board

APCUG elections are coming and SCUG is supporting the retired editor (of 20 years service) of the Winnipeg PC users group: Paul Stephen. This would be a huge plus for SCUG, to have a Canadian voice on the APCUG Board.

Linda Gonse, editor of orcopug.org has prompted us to get behind Paul, as she says, "I personally think it is time that the Canadians have a voice in APCUG and, maybe through the auspices of the international organization, be able to effect some changes in the customs process. If nothing else, to help raise the awareness of all user groups to the problem and perhaps receive their support for changes."

Paul has been the editor for the Winnipeg club for over 20 and has been an active supporter and participator in many APCUG events. He also is well connected in the computer world and states that he was a "vendor rep since 1985 and have negotiated with many software companies."

We give Paul a huge round of applause for taking on this task and are behind him all the way.

Check out the Winnipeg PC User Group's site: www.wpcusgrp.org

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 Val Conway (membership@scug.ca) to be on the EBTech Discount List.
- * With your next EBTech renewal, simply identify yourself as a SCUG Member
- * Val 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

Collected by
Greg West - SCUG Editor



WANTED: Letters and URLs

We look forward to Letters to the Editor, regarding these Tid Bits...and of course, if you have any neat things you have found on the internet that you may have been hoarding, well this is the place to share them. Please email your Tid Bits, or interesting web sites to: editor@scug.ca

We need your help with this column!!! Please send in your neat web findings to editor@scug.ca

Google keeps on giving.

Do you want to keep up-to-date on a topic, a company, or a special interest, but don't want the bother of doing a manual search? Google has a neat little program which emails you when ever there is a report about whatever interests you, without the bother of searching.

All you do is enter the topic you wish to be kept abreast by entering your "Search Term". Next you pick a Type from a choice of three: News, Web, or both News and Web. You can set the limits of notification from "as it happens", "once a day" or "once a week". All that is required is your email address and you have created your very own search engine that works without you lifting a finger or clicking a mouse. I have tried it with the company I work for and some of the reports I get are amazing. Obscure reports that normally you would never see.

You can sign up for a free Google account (Beta) and even manage many alert reports. Of course you can cancel this at any time. "With a Google Account you can:
* Create Alerts without email verification
* Change how often an alert is emailed
* Access other Google products like Answers, Google Groups and more!" To find out more about this amazing little program go to: www.google.com/alerts

UPLOAD Speed Test Performance Test / Toast Net

All you have to do is to "Select a file to upload" and there is a box to BROWSE your picture and text files. Click upload only once, large files may take a few minutes to load.

Here are the selection of tests you can do:
Image (414K photo)
Large Image (1,000K photo)
Text (340K document)
Image & Text (754K)

How to use:

- * Use the browse button to locate your file, file size should be between 250K and 5,000K.
- * Click upload and your file will begin to upload.
- * Once your file is successfully loaded your results will be displayed.
- * The test will timeout if it takes longer then 3 minutes to upload your file.

If you don't have a file to upload, right click on one of the links below and select "save target as".

Sample Picture A (414K)
Sample Picture B (1,000K)

I tested a picture file and it only took a few seconds to check the upload speed. Here are my results:
You uploaded 479,271 bytes in 11 seconds. Your upload speed is 349 kbps.

Go here to run this program:
(<http://performance.toast.net/>)

For more information on speeds and going faster you can go here: www.speedguide.net

About.com offers a full report on this product:
"Overall, Toast.net offers a useful performance measurement service. By providing both text and image download tests, users can accurately gauge the effective speed of their connection on the two most basic forms of Internet workloads...also serves to educate users on the importance of compression in networking and the wide variation to expect in Web "surfing" performance depending on the content of a given page."
(<http://compnetworking.about.com/library/weekly/aa060401a.htm>)

Submitted by SCUG member Paul Witheridge

Computer Show in Toronto November 26-28
www.compusale.ca (Thanks Norm Lamoureux)



Still in Doubt Windows XP Service Pack 2 By Ira Wilsker

APCUG Board of Advisors (2nd term); Past President, Past Vice President Golden Triangle PC Club Presenter on CyberCrime at Spring and Fall APCUG events; Host, computer call in show KLVI; Faculty Senate, Lamar Institute of Technology

In a recent column I wrote about the problems that I suffered after I installed the much ballyhooed Microsoft Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2). Despite following the troubleshooting and problem resolution instructions listed on Microsoft's Knowledge Base (a massive data base of Microsoft software problems and solutions), I was still unable to successfully reboot my computer. While frustrated, I was not in total despair, as I had a full current backup of my hard drive stored safely on my external hard drive, an imperative precaution that can not be understated.

Despite running the XP system restore, and normally reliable third party programs such as one of my favorites, WinRescueXP, my computer would still not boot following the install of SP2. Fortunately, I had the original XP CD that came with my computer, considering a fresh install of XP, and then a restore from my recent backup would be in order, a process that I did not relish. I inserted my original XP CD into the drive, re-started the computer, and booted with the CD. I selected the install option, clicked F8 to accept the Microsoft license, and then had an option of a full install, or a repair install. Since a repair install does not reformat the hard drive and does not wipe out programs and data files, but only performs a fresh install of XP, which was my obvious choice. Thirty-nine minutes later, my computer was up and running normally, with the original XP (Service Pack 1) installed. One note that users should be aware of is that many, but not all OEM versions of XP on CD, typically those provided by a computer manufacturer that may or may not be labeled as XP, but may instead be labeled as "system restore" or "operating system", may not offer a repair install but only a destructive full install.

After successfully reinstalling XP, it was necessary to go to the update site at windowsupdate.microsoft.com and

selectively re-download and install the critical security updates. Now my computer is up and running somewhat normally, with most of the patches downloaded and installed, excluding the SP2.

Now that I am back online and functioning with my primary desktop computer, I decided to see how frequent my SP2 problems occurred. Anecdotal evidence published in a variety of tomes stated that from 5% to 20% of SP2 updates failed for a variety of reasons. As I was preparing to type this column, I received my October "Scot Finne's Newsletter" (www.scotsnewsletter.com), and with not much surprise was greeted with the headline "XP SERVICE PACK 2 DECISIONS" which detailed the many problems that XP users had when installing XP SP2. According to the newsletter, "The two main reasons not to install XP SP2, at least not right away, are:

1. Installation Woes and Other Problems;
2. Web Browsing, Email, and Other Application Inconveniences".

After explaining in detail the advantages and disadvantages of SP2, as well as describing who should and should not install SP2, Scot compiles a list of 60 official Microsoft Knowledge Base documents that acknowledge the situation, and provide tips and patches to allow the successful install of SP2. The list at

www.scotsnewsletter.com/best_of/xpsp2links.htm is comprehensive, and is broken down into a logical series of topics, Pre-Install Must Reading, Installation Issues, SP2 Problems/Solutions, Uninstalling SP2,

Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, Windows Firewall, Networking/Wireless, Miscellaneous, and Microsoft Knowledge Base Searches. I strongly encourage all XP users, whether or not they have installed XP SP2 to review this list, as it contains much helpful information. For example, in the Pre-Install section is a list of programs, including popular name-brand utilities that cease to function properly after SP2 is installed. There are several issues that may need to be rectified prior to installing SP2 in order to improve the chances of a successful install.

The Installation Issues and SP2 Problems/Solutions segments describe in detail, and propose solutions or provide patches for the majority of installation failures, such as the one that I experienced. With the proverbial

**I strongly encourage all XP users,
whether or not they have installed
XP SP2
to review this list**

Con't. page 9

Con't. from page 8 - Wilsker.

20/20 hindsight, I wish that I had seen this list prior to installing my SP2, and had the benefit of its insights. When all else fails, the proper ways to uninstall SP2, and restore the prior versions is described, another valuable piece of information that may save many users a lot of time and aggravation.

After SP2 is successfully installed, many users have problems with the new features and improvements in the newly upgraded XP. Some of the most common problems have to do with the improved and "on by default" XP firewall, which may restrict some legitimate programs from connecting to the internet, and may also conflict with the usually superior third-party firewalls that all of us should be using. Patches, fixes, and workarounds are detailed on Scot's list.

Other documented problems include the inability of Outlook Express to handle attachments and graphics, changes to Internet Explorer, and networking issues. All of these are well covered in Scot's list.

Now that I have information available that I was previously unaware of, thanks to Scot Finnie, and a variety of tips, hints, and patches to ease the transition, courtesy of Microsoft, maybe I will try again to install my SP2 CD. Of course, another full backup is in order, just in case.

...and Wilsker has more problems

**Help! My Computer Is Down
and
I Can't Get It Up**

By Ira Wilsker

I am embarrassed to say this, but I had a major problem with my computer recently. It would only boot to a blue screen that said that it had a problem, and Windows XP stopped to prevent any damage, and gave an error code. It said to uninstall any recent programs or hardware, and recommended starting in safe mode. This can happen to anyone at any time, and has happened to me before. Most of the time, a simple power-off then reboot will resolve the problem, as these blue screens are often itinerant, and may not recur, and

**people who leave their computers on 24 hours,
may not have new restore points**

a simple reboot may rectify the problem. I turned the power off, waited a few seconds, powered on, and attempted to reboot, and that discouraging blue screen reappeared, instead of my desktop. I rebooted again, and selected safe mode, allowing the computer to fully boot in that manner. As designed, since many drivers and programs do not load when booted into safe mode, it loaded normally. Usually, when I had this problem in the past, exiting from safe mode, and rebooting generally rebooted the computer properly, and I could do my work. Not this time, the computer was being stubborn; now I could better sympathize with some of the callers on my show who express frustrations, and even state that their computer hates them.

I went into safe mode again, and uninstalled the Microsoft Critical Update I had downloaded and installed the previous evening. Confident that this was the problem, as there are often such complaints posted online after every critical update, I was sure that this would resolve itself, and my computer would then reboot normally. Feeling twangs of anger, my computer rebooted into the now familiar blue screen of boot failure.

While approaching despair, I knew that all was not lost because the previous evening I had performed an incremental backup (only new or changed files since the previous backup are saved) to my external hard drive, so I was certain that all of my critical data could easily be restored if that option became necessary. Still the frustration of being unable to boot the computer was mounting. Fortunately, in addition to a very current backup which could be restored as a last resort, there are other less stressful and viable options to overcome whatever was creating my problem.

Windows XP and ME have a not very well known feature "System Restore" as an integral function. Ideally, the system restore function should take a snapshot of critical system files and settings at each successful boot, and prior to any major changes. I have been certain to make sure that my system restore is always functioning, and also manually create another restore point prior to making any changes in software, registry, or other critical items. It is important to note that those people who leave their computers on 24 hours, may not have new restore points periodically created automatically by the system, making it quite possible

that a restore may not use the most up to date information. System restore can be located in XP at Start – Programs – Accessories – System Tools – System Restore. When opened, two choices will be presented: create a restore point, or restore the computer to an earlier

Con't.page 10

Con't. from page 9 - Wilsker.

date. By default, unless intentionally changed, XP will save restore information until 12% of the hard drive is used for that purpose. Once the limit is reached, older restore points are deleted using "FIFO" (first in, first out). Other than a few minutes of time, it almost never hurts to create a restore point, unless the hard drive is approaching capacity. Many users are not aware if there has been a recent restore point created, and it is easy to find out by opening the system restore function, and clicking on "Restore the Computer to an Earlier Time". A calendar will appear, and dates that contain restore points will be in bold. Clicking on a date will show the restore points created on that date. To restore the computer to that time, click on the date and time desired, and the automated process will run, rebooting the computer upon completion, and making the computer as it was at that date. Once created, restore points cannot easily be modified, which may create problems if an unknown virus or Trojan is infecting the computer. When this happens, the virus or Trojan is saved along with the requisite necessary data. If such a restore point is selected, then the malware is restored along with the desired data, re-infecting the computer. This is a surprisingly common way of re-infecting a computer after antivirus software deletes active threats.

A system restore function is not included with Windows 95, 98, NT, or 2000, but there is an excellent alternative, that also works well with ME and XP. WinRescue, available at www.superwin.com, creates a separate registry backup each time the computer is booted. With WinRescue, the system registry can be easily restored if problems occur.

Now I have to get back to work, and restore my computer.

Feeling like you are stuck behind this?

Want help? Then all you have to do is go to www.scug.ca and sign up for the SCUG email help listgroup where members share their computer problems and seek answers! Many member's computers have been saved...it's much cheaper than taking your computer into a shop for \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.



For Help: www.scug.ca - sign up today, it's FREE.

**Hoaxes, Chain Letters,
Sob Stories
Check Them Out,
Don't Forward Email Hoaxes
Check 'em Out,
Don't Forward**

By Gabe Goldberg

Gabe Goldbery is an APCUG Advisor, Region 2; and the Columnist for AARP's Computer and Technology Web site: www.aarp.org/computers.

Spam and malware -- nasty virus, worm, spyware, and such software -- turn many peoples' email inboxes into bloated wastelands. Anti-virus and anti-spyware tools help prune the weeds. But another hazard lurks as innocent-seeming email: hoaxes, chain letters, and sob stories, all urgently demanding that you "Forward this to everyone you know, right now!".

Many of them come from well-meaning friends, relatives, and colleagues. Others come from legitimate mailing lists you've subscribed to, and some surely come as spam. They often have a common structure: they tell a plausible story, cite seemingly authentic sources, contain specific details, offer a compelling reward or threaten something scary, and issue a call to action.

Before following the instructions, remember that something isn't true just because it's on the Internet, whether as an email or a Web page article. It was said early-on that the Internet makes everyone a publisher. While that can be true, it doesn't mean that everything published is true or well-intended.

I've seen earnest warnings posted to work-topic mailing lists, such as a story about a new method of carjacking becoming common at gas stations. A five-second Google search on carjacking hoax "gas station" revealed dozens of links such as <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/HBScareChains.shtml> which show the warning to be a hoax. A similar bogus post cautioned not to blink headlights at cars driving with their headlights off at night, lest one become a target for gang violence. Searching on headlights "gang initiation" revealed sites including <http://www.snopes.com/horrors/madmen/lightout.asp>. Another type of hoax masquerades as virus alerts, suggesting searching for a specific file on your PC, warning

Con't. on page 11.

Con't. from page 10 - Hoaxes etc. that its presence indicates infection with the virus, and suggesting deleting the file. No surprise, a simple search on the given filename combined with the word "hoax" reveals the warning's hoaxish nature. A funny parody of such warnings equates following the instructions with banging oneself in the head with a hammer, then sending hammers to everyone you know, telling them to bang themselves in the head. The full text is at <<http://mailman.theapt.org/pipermail/sfobug/2004-March/001080.html>>

Many hoaxes have been around for years; some will soon celebrate tenth or higher birthdays. Just like cicadas -- due in many areas this year on their every-17-year visit -- hoaxes ebb and flow, decline and are rediscovered and rebroadcast. Hardy perennials include myths of Bill Gates paying people to forward email so he can track it, and of a Neiman-Marcus cookie recipe ripoff. Another deals with Congress planning an email tax, urging recipients to complain to their legislators and forward the alert. Sometimes details undermine the claims (the supposed Congressional bill number is invalid), sometimes they're well-crafted. But the important lesson isn't remembering specific debunked hoaxes, it's being suspicious about potentially fictitious news and being able to search for reliable information on such matters.

Remember that Web sites are not equally definitive and reliable. There's a big difference between a niche/hobby/advocacy site -- perhaps newly launched -- and a long-running site committed to factual analysis, concerned about its reputation, and providing updates, clarifications, and corrections when needed. Credible and well-regarded debunking sites include <<http://www.urbanlegends.com/>> and <<http://www.snopes.com/>>. A wonderful reference for all-things-virus-related is <<http://www.vmyths.com/>>; its False Authority Syndrome writeup explains how misinformation spreads and why it's important to consider the qualifications of people and organizations making assertions.

Another type of "forward me now" email is sob stories. The granddaddy of Internet tear jerkers is Craig Shergold. A real boy (eight years old in 1989) had a real brain tumor. People close to Craig used a paper chain letter to solicit get well cards to cheer him up and earn listing in the Guinness Book of Records. They succeeded: the million cards received in less than a year took the record. After 30 million, a philanthropist heard of Craig and paid for surgery. Craig has recovered; he

and his family have pleaded for an end to cards. But with Internet-powered networking and new people constantly discovering this "worthy cause" and forwarding appeals to everyone they know, the torrent is unending. The whole story is at <http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/weekly/aa102997.htm>.

Then there are chain letters -- what can I say? Unless you've signed up for the "chain letter of the day" club, you're probably not happy to see them. Especially armed with dire threats or implausible promises, chain letters are an imposition on the recipient. Perhaps once a novelty, especially if they carried interesting paper letterheads and postmarks, with creative handwritten endorsements, emailed chain letters are simply a modern-day irritant. Just don't do it!

Before forwarding anything to anyone, especially to a mailing list or "everyone you know", consider whether your potential

addressees really want to receive it. If it's a hoax, chain letter, or sob story, they probably don't. A better course of action is to quietly discard sob stories and chain letters, and to research hoaxes and send debunking information back to the sender.

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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.



Be Careful Out There In Cyberspace!

Hey, Bill Gates is paying people to forward Microsoft emails so they can track them!

Our New Digital SIG Leader

Fred Abma

by Greg West
SCUG Editor



Editor's Note: Pictures taken by Greg West, edited by Pam Nichols, Markham Economist & Sun.

The long search is over! Our Digital Photography SIG has an official leader, Fred Abma. Many thanks go out to Ian Campbell who helped get this group off the ground. From the start, Ian agreed to be a chairman of this group, only until we could find a leader. If it wasn't for Ian this SIG may have sunk before it set sail.

Fred has been unofficially involved with SCUG over the years, giving several talks and advice at SCUG's general meetings, and he was also popping in on the Digital SIG meetings to boot. Now, after many months, Fred has jumped in with both feet, several cameras, and many years of experience to offer our members. Fred's style is simple. He runs a tight ship saying, "I am very punctual, I start the meeting on time and end it on time." (7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month). Of course from what we saw of Fred's enthusiasm earlier this month, if someone had a pending question Fred would certainly be there for any lost sailor.

Fred comes packed with cameras, knowledge and a background in photography that speaks for itself.

Fred was born in the Netherlands in the province of Friesland where he and his wife had a chance to visit in April of this year. Fred's fascination with photography

began many years ago as he watched a make "contact prints" in a darkroom.

The year was 1951, a very memorable one for Fred. While on board a cruise ship destined for his new home Canada, he says, "It was my birthday and I convinced my dad that I would really like one (a camera). It was a Coronet F-20 and it accepted 120 and 620 film."

Today, Fred is the proud owner of "five working cameras, three 35 mm cameras and two digital cameras. When asked which was his favourite camera of them all, he replied, "the Olympus C3020 Zoom and the next the Olympus 560 because it is small and easy to take along."

Over the years Fred's love for photography grew, in fact he has "belonged to every camera club in town, says Fred. He quickly points out with a sense of pride that he " was the most active in the Sarnia Camera Club. This was a print club and members had to take, develop, and print the pictures for competition." Fred states that the Sarnia club was "the top club in Canada two or three times."

Not only has Fred's love for cameras and photography gotten him into various clubs and such, but also he has "been in the photographic retail [business] for twenty-five years." Fred was also a photographic instructor for twenty-five years where he began teaching at "Alexander Mackenzie [school] and then on to Lambton College."

When asked what he would consider the most advanced achievement in photography over the years is, he replied, "The single lens reflex camera. It opened up a whole new way of looking at pictures and it conceived a ton of accessories."

“The camera does not take the picture; it is the person pressing the shutter.”

We all have our personal camera/photo fears and bloopers, or rather mishaps. When asked for delicate examples Fred said it was his "Film not advancing in a 35 mm camera." "But it never happened with really important pictures, Fred said, and also pointed out that his biggest fear was when he experienced his "Flash not in sync at a wedding."

I couldn't resist the opportunity to ask Fred what he considers is the cause of poor quality pictures (as many of mine are) and he simply says, "Attitude and carelessness." Fred went on to add, "Some people are fortunate to have talent. The camera does not take the pic-

ture; it is the person pressing the shutter. Often we blame the equipment, but I have seen excellent pictures taken with a simple box camera."

With such a magnificent background in this field, a knowledge that goes way, way back, I asked Fred to predict the future, "Where do you see photography headed, say in the next five to ten years?" Fred shed an interesting light on this one: "Fifteen years ago I predicted that we would be taking pictures and share them with relatives the same day. That time I used the word fax it to grandma because I had not heard of email but the idea was the same. Today I do not know. People do not need more pixels; they do not need larger cards. The speed might increase and cameras will be more like 35 mm. We will be able to send pictures directly from our camera to our computer or the photo lab and be able to pick them up in an hour."

Since 1951 Fred says he has taken "100,000 plus" pictures, although he also points out that today he "actually take[s] fewer pictures now because I do not have any projects. I used to take pictures for teaching ideas. I took a lot of fashion and wedding pictures." Fred says his trend of picture taking has changed, "I do take more useless pictures like flowers, clouds, and grandchildren doing weird things and [of] the dog watching the street." Somehow I don't believe this new picture taking of Fred's is useless venture, in fact I would bet these pictures are a work of art, pictures that would be hard to top by most other photographers.

I thought Fred was stumped when I asked of his goals for the SCUG Digital SIG as he pondered my question. "This is a tough one," he remarked. "My goals in photography have always been to help people take better pictures and I hope that the knowledge I have and the love for the art will inspire the members of the group to take better photographs too," he stated.

There is so much talk and advertising aimed towards bigger is better today, while we often hear people asking, "And how many mega-pixels is yours?" Fred quickly offered his opinion on the matter saying "3.2 pixels are sufficient for most photographers [and] 3.2 pixels will make excellent 8 X 10 prints and good 11 X14 [prints]". But he also warns us "poster size prints will need more pixels". Fred shows off some of his dry humour by add-

ing, "It also depends on personalities. More horsepower in a car does not give you the freedom to drive 220 km per hour, more pixels will not produce better pictures only larger."

Fred hesitates when asked for some quick advice for people who are looking to purchase their first digital camera. He simply offered, "Not really, it depends on a person's needs and purpose for taking pictures". I think this is his way to force people out to his next meeting for sure!

Fred believes that the digital camera will eventually end the film era. "Yes, remember super 8 with sound, it has disappeared. Film sales are declining now and in the future it will be a novelty to use film, similar to using old type 35mm black & white film." Fred commented.



"My goals in photography have always been to help people take better pictures"

I asked Fred that with the onslaught of amateur photographers coming on board with the digital craze if he believes that the overall quality of picture taking will decline. His answer was twofold: "Yes and no". "The number of poor pictures taken will increase, but people will learn to print only the ones they want."

We finished our question and answer session with one final question:

SCUG: "Fred, do you think people will become more fussy about their pictures, in

particular, those who wish to have the pictures developed, because now they can view them before they send them to the print shops?"

Fred answered, "Not really, photography is a mystery to many people and they think that a picture taken needs to be printed or the spirit of the object will be deleted too".

I must say I had to force myself and cut the hundreds of more questions I could have asked of Fred, but I am simply grateful to know that we at SCUG are lucky to have, not only a very experienced and knowledgeable leader in the Digital Photography SIG, but also a very dedicated individual who certainly cares about the art of photography. The only thing I can offer in this is that for the next Digital SIG meeting you'd be wise to arrive early for a seat! **Fred's email:** digitalsig@scug.ca

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by ADOBE**

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Adobe has a FREE Seminar on InDesign® CS, focusing on what makes InDesign CS stand out from the competition and how to migrate from QuarkXpress®.

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Another reason to be a SCUG member!

GPS Units

By Joe Schmitt

Tampa Bay Computer Society

Part 2 of 3

Editor's Note: *Last month we ran Joe's first part on his article about Global Positioning. Several other clubs picked up his article from our SCUG Report which is sent out to many APCUG member clubs. Joe's series article is receiving very good reviews amongst the readers and we hope you are enjoying this very interesting topic, one that certainly will become more of a household name and feature as time progresses. Please let us know how you like this type of series articles and whether you like Joe's personal insight to this great technology: send your emails to editor@scug.ca*

This is the second of a three article series on the Global Positioning System. The first discussed what the system is and how it works. The second and third articles will delve into receivers and uses to civilians.

In my last article I discussed how the Global Positioning System (GPS) works and how it has changed navigation. GPS utilizes a set of 24 or more orbiting satellites broadcasting a coded signal that is used by a ground receiver to pinpoint location, speed, and distance while moving. I would like to delve into the numerous receivers available on the market to the civilian user. Essentially there are four types of receivers available.

The first is the military model. This operates on entirely different frequency than their civilian counterparts. The very accurate military units are on what is known as the P-code and Y-code and should be accurate within a foot or so. They include mapping features similar to consumer models.

The second type is surveying/Geographic Information System (GIS) models. Quite a bit larger than consumer models, they can easily be the size of a small briefcase. They are accurate to within one centimeter. This accuracy is obtained after being in the field through post-processing. The data gathered is stored and analyzed in a lab to compensate for atmospheric errors from the satellites.

The third type, for commercial transportation, is used to navigate ships at sea and aircraft. Often these units are tied into an autopilot system used to maneuver the vehicle. The units are quite large and permanently installed in the control panels of the vehicle.

The fourth type, consumer models, will be the focus of this discussion. The consumer model GPS unit can be permanently installed in a car or be handheld. There are units designed for joggers and bikers, those specifically for boating, and hiking models as well.

There are literally hundreds of different models available for you to choose from. The very basic models start at approximately \$100 and go up from there. Some characteristics are common to almost all GPS receivers. They are able to store a waypoint, which is a location defined by its latitude and longitude marked in the unit's memory. All have a display screen that may contain a digital map and a back light. They also are able to tell you the time, location in coordinates, speed, and distance from waypoints. Some are able to connect to a computer to transfer data, and some display altitude.

Beyond these basic functions is where choosing a receiver can be a mind-boggling mess. The activity you want a GPS for will determine which features to

Beyond these basic functions is where choosing a receiver can be a mind-boggling mess. The activity you want a GPS for will determine which features to look for. There are three major manufacturers of GPS receivers: Garmin (www.garmin.com),

Magellan (www.magellangps.com), and Lowrance (www.lowrance.com). All three of these companies make good products. Garmin has the largest market share with Magellan in second place. Often the brand loyalty of the owners is akin to the IBM and Macintosh debate. But regardless of the differences, all the units operate in much the same manner and it comes down to personal preference more than anything else. The manufacturers have similar products to each other and are reliable and rugged. Most of these models that are designed for outdoor use are, as a result of their intended use, built very well. Most handheld models are waterproof and shock proof.

My receiver is made by Garmin. The model is GPSMAP 60c (www.garmin.com/products/gpsmap60c/). It is a bit larger than a cell phone and has a color display. This model runs on 2 AA batteries – you'll find that most handheld models run on 2 or 4 AA batteries. With normal usage, I can get about 30 hours of use with my rechargeable batteries. The unit has an external power

cord that can be plugged into a cigarette lighter socket to save on those batteries. This model is a mapping unit, so I can upload maps to it and display my location on that map. Additionally, this unit supports auto-routing, which is a feature that allows the unit to give you turn-by-turn directions on the road.

With most units there are some basic features that you should be aware of. First the display screen has several different modes for display. The most common is a satellite page. This displays the satellites in graphical format. As you can see, the satellites are numbered and the ones brightly colored are those the unit is currently receiving a signal from. The bars below show signal strength and status. The higher the bar is the better the signal. The bars that are solidly colored indicate that the unit has locked onto the satellite. The outlined bars indicate the unit is receiving the signal but has not locked onto it yet. This screen in particular displays the latitude and longitude coordinates. Just to left of those coordinates, the accuracy of the unit is displayed. The gray sphere with a red center shows the direction the unit is currently moving.

With most units there are some basic features that you should be aware of.

The next screen shown is also in most models. It is the waypoint management screen. Waypoints are a location in the real world stored in the unit as latitude and longitude, thus allowing you to locate a place to go or show distance from. This image shows the names of some waypoints I have stored in my unit. They can be listed either alphabetically or by proximity. As you can see by the highlighted point, the unit also displays its direction and distance to the selected point.

After selecting the name and hitting enter, the details of the waypoint are displayed. It shows its coordinates and elevation. The highlighted "CAR" point is located in Grand Canyon National park just as I was beginning a hike. Click on this link to see a map. This screen displays the symbol I have selected as well as the direction and distance from the current location. I have options to delete the point, display it on the map, and navigate to it.

If I were to navigate to it, I would get this screen. The giant arrow points to the destination and of course the distance is displayed. The new item we see here is the speed. If I was moving when this picture was taken, you would also see the time it would take to reach the waypoint.

Across the top are several icons. These items are from left to right, the battery strength, 3D navigation status,

USB connection status, and backlight status. The 3D navigation is particular to this model. It indicates that the receiver is getting a strong enough signal to find altitude as well as latitude and longitude. The arrow and compass move as the unit moves. As it is now, you would have to change your direction to the left a bit to head directly to the CAR waypoint. If you were to be moving away from the waypoint, the arrow would point down and the 12 would be at the top showing your heading as 120°.

The next screen displayed is the map screen. This is showing the current location of the unit with a white arrow. The pink line going in the NW direction is the direction to the waypoint, and the line to the waypoint is a little to the left of where the arrow is pointing. The red line is a track or trail. The track displays where the unit has moved. In this case it came down the street to my home. As you can see, it looks like I was driving in my neighbors' yards. The black lines are the streets and in this case the black blotches are ponds. The accuracy of unit displayed me off the street when in actuality I never left the road until I pulled in my driveway. In the lower left is

the scale of the map. Above the map is data that was shown on the previous screen. The data above the map can be hidden as to provide a bigger map area on the display.

The GPS is also able to keep a travel log. As you look at the next screen, you can really get an idea of what kind of data the unit gathers. It has a trip meter and odometer. Also it keeps track of moving data. The max speed the unit has read is displayed. The moving time is blank as this data was gathered on a long trip and eventually it surpassed the field's ability to display. The moving average and overall average speed are great features. Before I had the GPS I would often occupy my mind while driving trying to figure out these very same averages. I doubt I ever got this precise. Elevation is also displayed.

Another useful feature of most GPS receivers is routing. Routing is the ability to string together waypoints to form a path. For example look at the next screen shot. In this route are several points within a preplanned trip. From here in Tampa Bay we are going to St. Louis, Missouri. Each point defines a leg of the trip. When you navigate this route, the first point that the GPS directs you to is Atlanta. When you get to Atlanta, it changes the destination to Chattanooga. This continues until you have arrived at your destination. This is a great feature for driving as it allows you to keep updating the GPS with

the correct directions but frees you from having to manipulate the GPS while driving. Most receivers show you destinations in a straight line, "as the crow flies." A few of the more expensive units, such as this one, can auto-route. Auto-routing is a feature that navigates along roads loaded into the map as opposed to an as-the-crow-flies path. It displays turn-by-turn directions to your destination so that all you have to do is input the final destination. The unit then tells you which highways to get on and where to get off.

So how do you know what unit to buy? There are literally hundreds of different models to choose from. The unit that is right for you depends entirely on what you're going to use it for. If you primarily want it to navigate a boat, airplane, or car there are large screen models that run off the vehicle's electrical system and permanently mount to the console. If you want it to go hiking there are handheld models that can load topographic maps. The models range from very simple receivers that just stream data to large display models that can talk and direct you to the next exit verbally. Additionally there are other features like removable memory cards that map information can be loaded on. For a good place to find models available take a look to Joe Mehaffey, Jack Yeazel, and Dale Depriest's www.gpsinformation.net site.

If you would like to try a GPS without purchasing a unit, go to Lowrance's www.lowrance.com/software/pcsoftware/demos.asp site for a GPS simulator. They are listed by model and will install software on your machine. Although this will not actually lock onto satellites, it offers a great way to get a feel for their features and how they work.

So now you're interested, right? But what would need one these things for? Just to give you an idea of the many uses:

- Find your exact location on a map
- Find where you left the car
- Use to find your way back after getting lost in the woods
- Tie it to the dog and see where he goes at night
- Mark that great fishing spot

- Find out where the cruise ship or airplane you're on is
- Calibrate your speedometer
- Tell exactly how long to you get there
- Use it a trip meter
- Use it as a compass (when moving)
- It's fun to use

So now you're interested, right?

As you see there are tons of ways to amuse yourself. One of my favorite pastimes with the GPS is Geocaching (www.geocaching.com). This is a scavenger hunt with a GPS. A box is hidden in an

interesting location like a city park. Inside a weather-proof box is a logbook and some trinkets. The coordinates of the "cache" are posted on the website providing details on the type of box, terrain, and notes from prior hunters. Because the GPS is only accurate within 10 feet or so, the cache can be quite difficult to locate.

Once found, you sign the logbook and exchange an item inside for one that you brought. The item is often of little monetary value. I often bring matchbox cars or maybe spare batteries for the GPS. Click on the link for the site and enter you're zip code and check out how many are near you!

In addition to the using the receivers as stand-alone units almost all of them can tie into your computer to expand its capabilities. Next month I will show you all the programs that are available to you and some great resources on the web for maps and waypoints.

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.

Editor's Note: DON'T MISS NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER: SCUG Report will publish Joe's final article on this topic next month in our November issue.



Learn the right way to shop online...watch for the upcoming SCUG presentation about the world of **EBay!**

November 24th.
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Book Reviews
SCUG MEMBERS...
WE NEED YOUR
HELP!

Editor's Note: *O'Reilly has many books we can review, go to their site and see if there is one for you!*

Marsee Henon, a representative of O'Reilly Books has sent SCUG a package of six computer-related books. We need some volunteers to do a review on these books. The importance of book reviews is two-fold. First, the club learns about the various new products out there and how they work and therefore can have a better perspective on whether these items will be of a personal value and use. Secondly, by doing these reviews we continue to have the great relationship maintained that we now enjoy with Marsee Henon and O'Reilly Books and other companies.

The plan is simple.

Anyone who does a review on a book gets to keep the book. It is that simple. Without you, the member-volunteer, we will lose this great aspect of our club. Reviewing books and software is what keeps our club going. It keeps us in the mainstream of the computer village, and in touch with the major players who so kindly contribute their products to SCUG and its members.

So please consider doing a review. If you have never done a review before there are many people at SCUG who can help. If you feel you don't want to write out a full review and want to put it down in point form, well there are SCUG members who can help with the actual writing of the review. So there is no excuse now!

Please consider doing a review, not only will you benefit, but your fellow members will too. It is another way to help guarantee the future of your computer club. Any questions please contact either:

Bill Colotelo - coordinator@scug.ca or
Greg West - editor@scug.ca

Here is a list of the latest computer books from O'Reilly's, a value of over \$250.00. Please consider one of the following books we now have:

PC Annoyances by Steve Bass

Adobe Photoshop CS (comes with CD)

Adobe InDesign CS (comes with full training video CD)

Digital Photography Hacks (100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools)

PDF HACKS (Tips & Tools - customizing and editing and much more)

PAYPAL HACKS (a must have for anyone buying online)

HOW TO DO Book Reviews (From APCUG - Guenter Schott)

If this is a book review be sure to include author's name, publisher's name, address, telephone number, and website, if possible. Here are some guidelines for writing the review:

Was the material useful to you? Give specific examples if possible. What is your impression of how clearly the book is written? How easy was it to find information on specific topics? Was the book indexed? What audience is the book written to? If appropriate, were diagrams provided? Were the illustrations helpful? What is the list price of the book? Is it available at a discount?

General Writing Guidelines Our best advice: **Keep It Simple.** Don't use big words, jargon or complex terms. Impress readers with your clarity. For example, if you use an acronym such as "OCR," immediately follow that first use with (Optical Character Recognition), thereafter OCR alone can be used. If you are submitting a review write according to the product level being reviewed: A simple \$10 shareware product might need only 50 words to highlight basic features. A major new product might need a few hundred words.

In general, go for at least 500 words [**SCUG Editor:** *this is not carved in stone, I can work with less*]. Write your reviews as though you are talking to a computer friend who isn't quite up to your experience level...the reason for the "keep it simple" idea. Do expect to feel a bit of pride in seeing your name in print.

Editor's Note: *Remember, there is lots of help at SCUG to do this project...that is what the club is about, computer users helping and sharing with other computer users. SCUG needs your help, please.*



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Sarnia Computer Users' Group
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Email: info@scug.ca
Internet Site: www.scug.ca

Please submit articles for the June
SCUG Newsletter before Oct. 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
November 24, 2004

DID YOU DIGITALLY KNOW?

"Working with your camera's flash can be counterintuitive. Often, you'll capture more compelling indoor pictures when turn off your flash, and get great shots when you activate it outdoors - quite the opposite of what you'd expect." Story, Derrick. *Digital Photography Hacks*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media Inc., 2004: 105.

Join a SCUG Special Interst Group



AND LEARN ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

SCUG MEETINGS
2004 - 2005
GUESTS Welcome - Bring a friend
www.scug.ca

GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO 3 FREE TRIAL MEETINGS

Simply come to a meeting and receive a Guest Pass which entitles you to sample our various meetings over a 3 month period. If you find the group is helpful we hope you will join. An annual family membership in S.C.U.G. is \$35. This includes entrance to all meetings, a free shareware program each month, and a copy of the monthly SCUG Report - check us out: www.scug.ca

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr	May	June
<u>Executive</u>	1/29		3/31	28		4	2/30	
<u>Digital</u>	3	1	5	2	2	6	4	1
<u>Windows</u>	18		20	17	17	21	19	16
<u>General</u>	24		26	23	30	27	25	29



* **Exec and Digital** meetings at St James Church-140 Lansdowne North

* **Windows** meeting are held at Grace United Church, 990 Cathcart

* **General Meetings** are held at St. Bartholmew,s Church, 718 Cathcart Blvd.

Wanted

RAM - 256 mb
 PC 133
 SD RAM

Please Email:
gregorywest@sympatico.ca

FREE SCUG PERKS:

Members can advertise for free in this newsletter.
 Just email editor@scug.ca

Could this be you?



Want to join SCUG?
 Contact: Val Conway
 (membership@scug.ca)

Don't Be Alone!

Need help?

Check us out!!!

Don't sit at home trying to figure out the mysteries of your computer. Come out to a computer meeting and you will find people just like you, ready to help, and also meet other computer users.

SCUG offers new members a 3 month free trial. Come out to a meeting and you will not regret it!