

SCUG



REPORT

Sarnia Computer User's Group

www.scug.ca

Volume 24, Issue 4

\$1.00 Per Issue - Yearly Membership \$35

January 2007

Executive Meeting

Next meeting is
Feb. 5, 7 p.m.

Dorothy Alexander
President
president@scug.ca

Digital Photography

Next meeting is
Feb. 7, 7 p.m.

Pierre Houle
Group Leader
digitalsig@scug.ca

Genealogy Group

Next meeting is
Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

Val Conway
Group Leader
genealogy@scug.ca

Windows PC Computer

Next meeting is
Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

Pierre Houle
Group Leader
windows@scug.ca

General Meeting

Next meeting is
Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

We welcome all
guests. Come out,
learn and have fun.

Have A Question About SCUG:
Email: president@scug.ca

For All SCUG Information:
www.scug.ca

President

Dorothy Alexander
president@scug.ca

Vice President

Bill Colotelo
vicepresident@scug.ca

Treasurer

Ed Ginn
treasurer@scug.ca

Recording Secretary

Tom Deeprise
secretary@scug.ca

Membership Secretary

Jim Lapointe
membership@scug.ca

Shareware Librarian

Pierre Houle
library@scug.ca

Editor - SCUG Report

Gregory West
editor@scug.ca

Public Relations

Wilfrid Coulter
pr@scug.ca

Program Coordinator

Norm Lamoureux
coordinator@scug.ca

Webmaster

Iain Smy
webmaster@scug.ca

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report	2
Editor's Korner	2
Secretary's Notes 1	3
Secretary's Notes II	4
XP to the Next Level	5
Shareware	6
Windows SIG Report	6
Digital SIG Report	6
Genealogy SIG Report	7
Compuprize Winners	7
TID BITS	8
SCUG Review: Corel Office	9
SCUG Review: eBay	10
SCUG CD/DVD Lable Maker	11
XP Disc Maintenance Tools	12
Dufferdom	13
SCUG Financials	14
Advertising	15
SCUG Meeting Schedule	16

www.scug.ca

What's Happening

Official Notice to all Members regarding voting on the revised SCUG Constitution

"All Members are hereby reminded that a vote on the acceptance of the revised Constitution is to be held on February 28th, assuming the presence of a quorum. The relevant documents are being given to all Members at this Jan. 31st General Meeting. Please contact the Secretary if you do not have your own personal copies." Tom Deeprise, Secretary

Reprint Policy

SCUG reviews and articles in this paper fall under these reprint guidelines: Permission is given to Computer User Groups to reprint, unaltered, non-copyrighted material, with credit to the author and SCUG Report. Please send an email to editor@scug.ca when reprinting SCUG textual matter.



**PRESIDENT'S
PERSPECTIVE**
by Dorothy Alexander

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Perhaps 2007 is the year for exciting computer technology. Microsoft delivered VISTA onto the market for sale this month; thus restricting Google's limelight somewhat.

Google has a competitor that is gaining ground in the search engine field found at ixquick.com. It offers you quick access to International phone

numbers, plus you can find out who made that nuisance call to you, when you were having dinner, simply by typing in their phone number.

Do you want to see some photos: just type in Niagara Falls and you get 28 hits out of 250,109 results on the first page. Want to compare prices of a new monitor: just type in the make and model to get the cheapest price available. After a web search for my teddy bear site my website came up second in line with a three star rating. PLUS the big bonus with ixquick is that they permanently delete all search details when you log off. It is great that a company is more interested in our privacy than gleaning information from our searches and selling data for marketing purposes.

This evening your newsletter comes with **two other documents**.

The pink document is called the ABC, which explains in detail the changes made to the constitution as well as why.

The green document is the final revision of the SCUG Constitution. Please read them carefully.

Kindly return next month, with these documents, as we will vote at that time using paper ballots, assuming we have a quorum, so your presence will be VERY welcome!

Tonight we would like to welcome Sergeant Bill Lee, of the Ontario Provincial Police, who will explain how the Amber Alert program works when a child goes missing.

Editor's Korner
editor@scug.ca



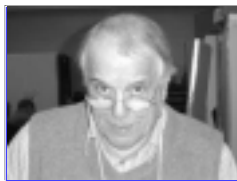
Greg West - Editor

SCUG Goes On TV For New Members

TMI is Too Much Information, a weekly trivia contest of TV COGECO Channel 6 in Sarnia. They offer prizes from various groups and businesses for winners of the trivia contest broadcast on Channel 6 on Tuesdays. Recently SCUG offered a one year membership, in return for on-air advertising for our club. And the winner is Amber Thompson. (thanks to Norm)

SCUG is reaching out to the community. We want our neighbours to know there is a computer club in town. There are too many area residents who have never heard of the Sarnia Computer Users' Group and we need to get the word out. Many organizations have a "Bring-A-Friend" night, wherein each member is asked to bring someone to a meeting so they can view, first hand, what the club is all about.

Many people believe that SCUG is far too advanced for them to come out and enjoy our meetings. Tell them we do not dissect computers and we all do not wear 2 inch thick glasses and never come outside. Nor do we speak only Hi-Tech-Lingo, we are, for the most part, average computer users who are sharing knowledge amongst friends. *Please consider bringing a friend along with you to the next SCUG meeting.*



Your Secretary's Notes

by Tom Deeprise
secretary@scug.ca

Please Note: There are two sets of minutes here, December and January.

SCUG Executive Meeting December 4th, 2006 at St. James' Church. Iain, Jim, Norm and Pierre sent their regrets.

1. Approval Of Minutes of Oct. 30th. Accepted as published.

2. Membership Input: Jim mailed in that, as of November end, membership stood at 118 (82 Members & 36 Associates) with three Members and one Associate renewing plus two new Guests, bringing Guests on record to eight. The disappointing membership trend was noted. The meeting attendance for the Canadian Customs presentation was 57 appreciative Members, Associates and Guests. On the Newsletter, it was decided to print 100 for the January GM.

3. Vice President's Input: Bill said he would save his input for the appropriate spot in the agenda.

4. Secretary's Input: Nothing secretarial to report. All accommodations are status quo, with only the yet to be discussed Jan. Exec Meeting date to confirm. Tom will confer with St. James' Secretary.

5. Treasurer's Input: Ed's November financial statement was approved. A donation to St. James', in lieu of rent, was discussed and approved.

6. Software Librarian's Input: Pierre wrote that the DOM for January is yet to be chosen. Some members are forgetting to bring their previous CD thus causing additional work for Pierre when it comes to the updating. As Bill was occupied at times with the new sound system, some members picked up the monthly CD on their own, causing some confusion and mix-up. This to be corrected at future meetings

7. Newsletter Editor's Input: Greg reported that time constraints, that did not leave time for proof reading, led to some errors. Apologies! In future it would be more productive if all concerns with the NL were directed to the Editor and not other members of the Exec.

8. Program Coordinator's Input: Norm reports that we have fifteen reviews finished and only three outstanding in various stages of completion. Members concerns over the quality of the reviews were discussed. In future, any

member wishing to review software or a book will be given a copy of the appropriate guidelines. It will also be explained that they are indeed guidelines only and brevity is also a worthwhile attribute. A "hurry-up" to late reviewers is also seen as necessary.

9. Public Relations Input: Wilf's suggestion for a wireless router plus a yet to be chosen Tax Program for Jan.'s GM Compuprize was approved. The updated brochure was circulated to the area libraries. The Welcome Wagons need for about 80 copies per month, at a cost of about \$10/month, was discussed and approval given to satisfy this need for a period of three months and then evaluate the response. The donation of a foldable keyboard from Jim Verdon as a Compuprize was noted with appreciation.

10. Webmaster's Input: No input was received from Iain.

11. Meeting Program: - Jan. - Sergeant Bill Lee, OPP - "Amber Alert". We need to hand out copies of the revised Constitution and the ABC document, plus a plan for the details - Feb - Michelle Meed of Inwood will do scrapbooking using the computer, plus a presentation on the making of rubber stamps by the local franchisee. - A decision is needed on taking a vote on the Constitution in February or March. - March - currently open. - April - Jason Hannigan, GIS Specialist at the County will cover the mapping system. - Communications with MS once again via Staples. Not getting far!

12. Old Business -For November: Sharon LaPier, of Canadian Customs, gave us a very informative and amusing presentation on the many facets of the current Custom Officer's duties and their updated computer technology. -Potential Sound Systems. At the comparison at the GM, the wireless system was preferred but was operating close to its upper power limit. A more powerful version of the same model will be explored. - Hi-Speed at St. Bart's was installed with the help of an appreciated crew of Members, with special thanks to the two Jims, La Pointe and Verdon. -Cogeco TV's Channel 6 Trivia Show, shown on Tuesdays 7-7.30 pm, is looking for prizes. Possible interaction on both prizes and taking part in a new show, "Ask the Experts" were aired. In the absence of Norm, no decision was made.

13. New Business - With the imminent resignation of Iain the Webmaster, due to relocation, the offer by Dick Carpani to take over this position was discussed and approved unanimously. Dorothy will follow up with Dick.

Next Executive Meeting was changed to Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at St. James.

Second Set of Minutes Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3 - SCUG Minutes

SCUG Executive Meeting January 2nd 2007 at St. James' Church. Wilf and Pierre sent their regrets.

1. Approval Of Minutes of Dec.4th. Accepted as published.

2. Membership Input: Jim reported that, as of December end, membership stood at 120 (83 Members & 37 Associates) with three Members and one Associate renewing plus two new Guests, bringing Guests on record to eight. On the Newsletter, it was decided to print 100 for the January GM.

3. Vice President's Input: Bill, on behalf of the Exec., welcomed Dick Carpani as our Webmaster designate, soon to take over from Iain who is off to help some less fortunate folks in Nicaragua.

4. Secretary's Input: Nothing secretarial to report. All accommodations are status quo.

5. Treasurer's Input: Ed's December financial statement was approved.

6. Software Librarian's Input: Pierre wrote that the DOM for January is yet to be chosen.

7. Newsletter Editor's Input: Greg reported that efforts to improve the consistency of toner quality, which would give the NL better pictures, were not always successful. He will continue the quest.

8. Program Coordinator's Input: Norm reports that we have sixteen reviews finished and only two outstanding in various stages of completion. The "Flash Website", that Dan Bilger has had problems with, will be passed to Greg to see what he can make of it.

9. Public Relations Input: Wilf's reported that due to prior commitments, he needs a Compuprize stand-in for Jan.31 GM. Iain volunteered to take over. Wilf will follow up on the Welcome Wagon's distribution of the new brochures and will probably order more to fill their expected needs before Jan. end. Brochures were also left at the Lambton Mall Information Booth. Three books are available to boost Compuprizes for the remaining GMs plus a 1gig thumb drive via Norm.

10. Webmaster's Input: Iain reported usage was way up to 400 visits/day, the majority via Google with the most interest in the digital photographic items.

11. Meeting Program: Jan. - Sergeant Bill Lee, OPP - "Amber Alert". -We will also be handing out copies of

the revised Constitution documents-see New Business below. -Feb - Michelle Meed of Inwood will do scrapbooking using the computer, plus a presentation on the making of rubber stamps by the local franchisee. -The taking of a vote on the Constitution in February will depend on the presence of a quorum. - March - currently open. Communications with MS once again via Staples. Not getting far! - April - Jason Hannigan, GIS Specialist at the County will cover the mapping system. - May- a retrospect of SCUG on its 25th Birthday told by some of the original and near original members, with some celebratory additions, is being worked on. -June currently open

12. Old Business - -New sound system re 25th anniversary -Bill has arranged for a bigger wireless system from St. Clair Audio to be demonstrated at the Jan 31st GM, with the view to seeking Member's approval to purchase it. - High speed at St. Bart's completed. Planning to outfit St. James similarly when Jim is up and moving, with the volunteered help of Jim Verdon. - Cogeco Channel 6 TV contacted us, through Norm, re their Trivia TV show and they are looking for prizes. Will SCUG donate a year's membership to it once, for announcement regarding SCUG? The donation was approved. -Cogeco Channel 6 TV is also starting a show called "Ask the Experts". Would someone from SCUG want to do it one day? Tabled for later when more info. available

13. New Business - - January GM -It is planned to hand out copies of the Revised Constitution & the ABC Constitution documents to all Members. Tom will get the approved documents on disc and have them printed. They will be given out from the NL desk, with the help of volunteer Val Conway. A Member's Register will be used to record which Members were issued the documents. Dorothy will make an announcement about the documents and the coming voting process. For February 28thGM, the CRT committee has confirmed that they will be available for a brief question period on the Constitution documents. Votes will be by paper ballot. The Register will be used to record handing out documents to any Members who missed the Jan 31st GM. It will also be used to record the ballots issued to confirm the presence of a quorum. Dorothy volunteered to prepare the ballot blanks and deliver to Tom. They will be counted by a team of volunteer Members who are not currently on the Exec., yet to organized.

Next exec meeting scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2007.

A Search Engine better than Google? Test drive Dogpile: www.dogpile.com - The all-in-one search that uses: Google, Yahoo, MSN, and ASK.

Take Windows XP to the Next Level

With the Free Vista Transformation Pack

by Dave Gerber, Program Chair
Sarasota PCUG, Florida
Member of the Daves Bytes Radio Team
dave_gerber(at)comcast.net
<http://www.davebytes.com>

If you don't want to shell out the cash for a copy of Windows Vista, Windows Vista Transformation Pack (VTP) is an easy and free way to emulate Vista's look and feel. I've been playing around with it for a couple of hours now, and it makes for a nice change after looking at the same old XP icons and UI.

**“free way
to emulate
Vista's look and feel”**

VTP bundles together many different applications that mimic Vista's UI in different ways to

give you transparent windows, a new Start Menu, a Vista Sidebar, and a new Explorer. Overall, your computer should look revitalized after installing VTP. Everything has a bit of Web 2.0 glossy sheen.

Install a Vista wallpaper, and you're basically there. **There might be some stability issues if you install VTP, so you'll want to be sure before you install it.** The good part is that uninstallation is easy: just go to Add or Remove Programs.

Some files are overwritten during the process so **keep your setup CD handy** if you want to undo all the changes.

If you decide to install VTP, you'll have a lot of control over the installation.

Check off the things you want changed like boot screen, process manager, or sounds and leave what you want to stay the same unchecked.

Visit Dave's website at: www.davebytes.com and click on the January 1 link and scroll down to Dave's Cool Downloads.

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.

Another HUGE Thank You goes out to:
Sharon LaPier, of Canada Customs
For sharing here many experiences at
SCUG's November 2006 General Meeting.



Sharon LaPier, of Canada Customs entertaining SCUG members once again. Sharon was here a couple of years back and she was brought back by popular demand.

DEDICATED DUOS



Tom & Bill, always ready for action. Don't forget to get your paperwork for the constitution...See page 14 for website URLs.



Val pitching in, and keeping an eye on Ed, while Jim is away...

Thanks Val...Again!



SHAREWARE
SCUG Librarian
 Pierre Houle
 library@scug.ca

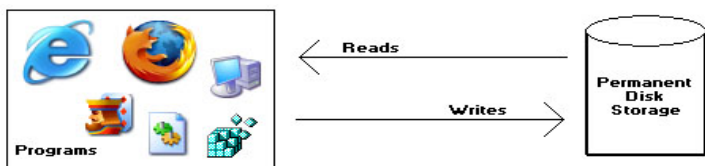


Computer SIG
 &
Photography SIG
 Pierre Houle
 windows@scug.ca

Free Program of the Month

This month's free file is called Sandboxie.

This nifty little program allows you to run any program in a "virtual space" which will not allow any files to be installed or saved to your hard drive.



“When you run a program on your computer, data flows from the hard disk to the program via read operations. The data is then processed and displayed, and finally flows back from the program to the hard disk via write operations.” <sandboxie.com>

This is very handy for anyone trying out new programs, surfing the net or opening questionable e-mails.

Files can be retrieved to save if desired. Sandboxie is free but only works on XP.

Get a new program every month by returning last month's disk for a updated one.

If you have any suggestions for monthly files, please let me know!

NOTE:

All members please return your CD's from past month so you can pick up current ones. It is messing up Pierre when they do not return them as he has to cut extra.

Windows SIG

Twenty Five people attended the January Windows SIG. This is the first in a multi-part series on computer hardware. The purpose of this is to explain what all the numbers mean in computer advertisements. We will take one major component a month. This month it was Video cards. Pierre led the discussion of Video (Graphics) cards. Different types of cards were discussed with relation to slot type, integrated or add-on, speed, memory and manufacturer. For more complete information, check out the notes which can be found on the SCUG website. The second half of the meeting was a Q and A session. Many questions came up and most were even answered! Some of the topics were: unable to open an attachment, problems with Mailwasher not able to connect, deleting pictures from the list of desktop backgrounds, what a CNR slot is, problems with a USB drive from Futureshop among others.

To have your questions answered or to hear the explanations you have to attend the meeting. If you sign in you will receive the meeting notes via e-mail. Ideas for future meetings are always welcome. Please contact me at windows @ scug.ca.

Next Month we will talk about CPUs or the main processor of the computer. Learn what 64 bit, dual core, hyperthreading and cache means. We will also have the usual Q and A. That will be Thursday February 15th at Grace United Church, corner of Indian and Cathcart, 7:00 P.M., room 10.



Digital Photography SIG

We had 24 people attend the January Digital Photography SIG. This month I continued my talk on printing photographs on a home inkjet printer. Just to recap, at the November meeting we talked about what type of file we need to get a pleasing photograph on paper. I usually recommend you take your picture at maximum resolution and size. That way you can always down-size it if you need to. At the January meeting we discussed the different printers everyone in the group had, the price of printers, ink

Continued on page 7

Genealogy SIG

Val Conway
genealogy@scug.ca



Genealogy Report for January:

Our Jan 15 SCUG Beginners Genealogy SIG was cancelled due to bad weather. Members were notified of the cancellation by e-mail and on the web site.

The next Genealogy SIG meeting will be Monday, February 19 at St. James the Apostle Church, 140 Lansdowne North, at Athlone from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Everyone will have a chance to discuss their own genealogy dilemma and ask questions about ways to research.

If we have extra time and internet access in February we will take a look at all RootsWeb.com has to offer.

In the meantime if anyone has any specific questions please e-mail me at genealogy@scug.ca.

SCUG Book Reviewers Wanted

O'REILLY®



SCUG is looking for members to review computer books for O'Reilly Publishing. Anyone interested in doing a book review, please contact:

Program Coordinator
Norm Lamoureux
coordinator@scug.ca

For a complete list of books at O'Reilly's go here:
<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/prdindex.html>



SCUG NAME TAGS

Don't forget to wear your **SCUG name tag** at all meetings. If you have lost it please contact an executive member for assistance.

Continued. from page 6 - Digital Photography Report

Digital Photography SIG

and paper and how this affects print quality. We also talked about printer settings and the cost of making home prints vs those at a photo outlet.

For more information and references, see the SCUG webpage under Digital Photo SIG

For next month, the group decided that they wanted to see how to make a video from their digital cameras. The meeting will be Wednesday, February 7th, 7:00 P.M. at St. James Church, Corner of Lansdown North and Athlone.

Please consider showing your photos on the SCUG webpage gallery!

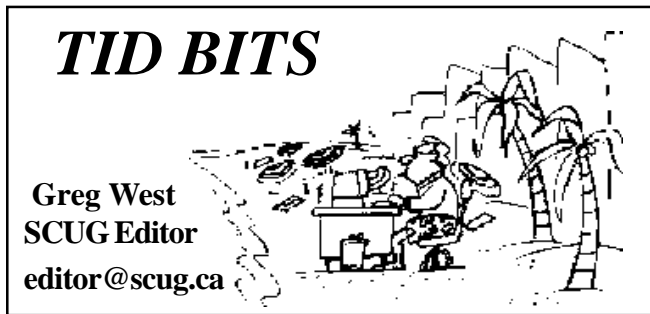


SCUG Compuprize Winner



Ed Ginn won the 50/50 draw

Lorne Longley won a Lexar 512 MB SD Card
(sorry, no picture available)



VISTA Unleashed

According to some in the know, Vista is “Not Slow” (PCWorld, Feb. 2007). In fact PCWorld’s: NEWS & TRENDS reports that in their first tests they found that “Vista’s hardware requirements may be steep.” Something to keep in mind if you want to test drive Vista on your current computer, you should “meet Microsoft’s Premium Ready specifications (1GB of RAM, and a DirectX9 - capable graphics board with at least 128MB of dedicated memory).”

“Aero” is Vista’s secret attraction which is in conjunction with “operating system’s flashy new interface.” However it is noted that this interface might slow your system down “to a veritable crawl.” Although, you have the option of turning off Aero, but PCWorld reports that their testing showed “with Aero off, [they] saw little or no change in the Photoshop and multitasking results on machines that carried discrete graphics systems.” Overall, they claim for Aero is that it’s “impact on performance may not be that great.”

Testing is still ongoing and many people are still developing “Vista-ready benchmarks”. If you must be one of the first to have Vista, it is recommended that “Vista will be a decent performer on any machine with dedicated graphics hardware.”

NOTE: Pierre Houle (SCUG’s Windows SIG Leader) is testing a Beta version that SCUG received from Microsoft and will demonstrate and report to the membership his findings on this new operating system.

The Death of TV?

No wonder people today are unplugging their TV sets and switching over to the Internet in Prime Time viewing hours. Just test drive this site: RIP OFF REPORT - www.ripoffreport.com

You can sit back and read the quite interesting and sometimes very funny reports against “Dead Beat Dads” or some of your favourite and not-so favourite stores.

Ripoff report “is a worldwide consumer reporting Website & Publication, by consumers, for consumers, to file & document complaints about companies or individuals who ripoff consumers.”

Rip off report has sections where you can file a report, update a report, search reports, view picture reports, read various editorials, check out lawsuits and there is even a “Revenge Guide” for those who seek the ultimate in justice.

“Unlike the Better Business Bureau, badbusinessbureau.com / Rip-off Report™ does not hide reports of “satisfied” complaints. ALL complaints remain public in order to create a working history on the company or individual in question; unedited.”

ifilm - The New TV SETTING

Unless you have been living on another planet you have heard of YouTube, yep the site that Google paid out billions of bucks to own. But there is a new kid on the block that is turning heads and turning channels. It is called: ifilm - found at www.ifilm.com

This site is a view-beware website with everything at the click. Once you do click the videos begin to run almost immediately. Super fast!

If you want comedy this is the site for some of the best standup comedy on the planet:

- * many clips from Second City
- * one of my favourites: Rodney Dangerfield
- * Steven Wright * Woody Allen
- * Richard Pryor * George Carlin

and so many more, that you just have to check it out for yourself. And then they offer different stuff such as:

- * commercials * webisodes * extreme sports
- * motorsports * music videos * movie trailers and clips
- * short films * television * political TV * reality TV

Check out a prison break from TV’s “Big Valley” at: www.ifilm.com/video/2816967 - It’s amazingly great.

I know, you are asking, “what is a webisode?” Well, “it is a webcast episodic video show. It is similar in structure to a television series and usually new episodes are published on a periodic basis through a website or some other internet based medium. Typically shows have short runs (about 5 episodes) but some go on for much longer.” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webisode>

How about **British Telly**: www.ifilm.com/collection/649

A SCUG Review

Corel WordPerfect® OFFICE X3 by Val Conway

My WordPerfect® experience goes back to the days of DOS WordPerfect®

5.1 so I was anxious to see what "Corel WordPerfect® Office X3 Standard Edition" suite had to offer. The box comes with three CD's: the installation disk; a training disk; and a resource disk with clipart, photos, True Type fonts, Adobe Reader 7 and MS Internet Explorer 6; and a printed User Guide.

Custom installation made it easy to install only the things needed. The training video from Lynda.com was easy to understand and covered the basics but unfortunately not the advanced features, which is what users would need help with most.

I started working quickly but I was soon plagued with crashes. Since I'm on dial-up, I wasn't happy about the 82 Mg Service Pack that I needed but after installing it, I'm glad to report that the crashes have ceased.

WordPerfect® X3: The word processor is the anchor of the suite and has more bells and whistles than the average person will use. Version X3 allows users the choice of running the program in 5 different modes: WordPerfect® X3, WordPerfect® Classic 5.1, WordPerfect® Legal and MS Word. "Reveal Codes" continues to be one of the program's best features. Hovering over each code will show a balloon providing the command name, which saves remembering the codes. As in previous versions, these codes can be turned on and off, their window size can be adjusted and they can even be printed. Using the codes help in locating and fixing problems quickly while fixes take more time in other programs while the users try to blindly find the place the error was written.

The new feature of working directly in Print Preview mode is a great improvement. It means the whole document changes while scrolling through formatting options such as fonts and line spacing. When copying text from another file with different formatting, it can take on the formatting of your document automatically.

There are new save and send timesaving features. It is now possible to use "Send To" and have your document saved with a shortcut sent to the desktop or e-mailed or zipped or printed to a fax directly from WordPerfect®.

Publishing and saving is possible in HTML, PDF, XML and EDGAR (which consists of a long list of formats

from Ami Pro to XYWrite). With its new ability of publishing to pdf, Corel has also attempted to provide the option to import and change pdf documents. Unfortunately, it works only for the most basic documents. On the plus side, exporting too many different formats allows others with different word processors to view them using their software. Importing is limited to pdf, doc, rtf, txt, and WordPerfect® formats. This still makes it impossible to read files from the many other formats. Importing complicated MS Word documents was a hit and miss procedure but most transferred.

"PerfectExpert" contains templates, which give you choices for formatting many types of documents. Most of these templates such as Memos, Calendars, CD case covers etc. are basic but more complicated templates can be purchased from Corel.

WordPerfect® allows notes to be imbedded in your document for your convenience or sharing for the purpose of editing by others. These comments known as Meta Data can be sent back and forth and when you're done and want to share them with others, the notes in these documents can be deleted with the Meta Data Removal tool, which preserves the original document and saves the cleaned version with a new file name. This is extremely useful for security and privacy.

Quattro Pro: Three modes of operation are offered in this Spreadsheet program: Quattro Pro, Lotus 123, and Excel. Quattro Pro's new CrossTab feature creates reports, which summarize data, and is comparable to Microsoft Excel's Pivot table. Charting tools are easy to use and are available for use in WordPerfect® and Presentations. It also features the PerfectExpert templates, not to be confused with Microsoft's annoying Office Assistant.

The Publishing of the Spreadsheets to pdf files is again a boom to sharing information but importing other formats including Excel isn't perfect probably due to the complexities of macro driven spreadsheets. However, I was happy that it imported my simple old Lotus Revision 9 spreadsheets well.

Corel Presentations: New Features in Presentations are the same as those for the other programs in the suite. Working in Presentation or MS PowerPoint Mode is possible. Creating presentations was easy and especially with the use of the PerfectExpert. Once again, the presentations can be saved in various formats and published to a pdf as well.

Presentations has anti-aliasing (reduction of jagged patterns) for fonts and graphics, and a template browser
Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9 - Corel

called Master Gallery. The Graphics are a separate application with more vector drawing and shape tools. "Show on the Go" intrigued me. This feature creates an executable slide show, which can be shared as a stand-alone presentation with someone who doesn't have Corel Presentations. I had a problem with this feature not saving all my slides to one executable file and still don't have an answer to the fault to that presentation but created others with no problems.

Presentations Graphics X3: Previously an integrated part of the suite it can now also be used as a stand alone program which allows the graphics and photos to be edited and saved in formats that are usable in other programs.

WordPerfect® E-mail: This is a standard e-mail program looking much like MS Outlook. It has built-in indexing which allows searching, R.S. reading, and contains a trainable spam filter which might entice some users to change in order to get full compatibility with the suite.

Pros: WordPerfect® remains my favourite Word processor due in great part to the Reveal Codes, publishing to pdf and operating in print view. On top of this, it doesn't surprise me by taking over my formatting and annoying me with Office Assistant as MS Word often does. The PerfectExpert templates can be helpful, and Print Mode is a big step forward. QUATTRO PRO imported basic, Excel and Lotus 123 spreadsheets without trouble. PRESENTATIONS allowed the creation of slide shows on the first try.

Cons: A valiant attempt was made to allow the importing and editing of pdf files but only the very basic of documents can be imported correctly and many are just too scrambled to warrant correction. For my use of spreadsheets, QUATTRO PRO works well but is still not as powerful as Excel. This presents problems importing. PRESENTATIONS the text and graphics in "Show on the Go" were not as smooth as those in the original slide show. WordPerfect® MAIL is only for a basic user unless compatibility with the suite is the main objective.

Service & Support Users get free, unlimited email support, promising a 24-hour response time and 1 free phone call but long distance charges are paid by user. Future phone help with a toll free number can be costly (1 call for \$25). I received quick responses to my two e-mail inquiries, however the suggested fix for the "Show on the Go" problem which was to return to factory defaults didn't work and I wasn't entitled to ask the ques-

tion again for seven days. It was suggested that I phone for help. There is an online "Knowledge Base" but I found it tedious to search and didn't have answers to my questions.

Space prohibits me from going into all the features but for those wanting to learn more I would recommend downloading the Corel WordPerfect® X3 Reviewers Guide: www.corel.com/content/vpk/wpx3/WPO_X3_reviewer_guide.pdf Corel also offers a the free 233 Mb trial copy of the suite at their web site under Free Trials.

System Requirements: Windows® XP (Home, Media or Professional Edition, Windows® 2000 or Windows® 98 SE, 128 MB RAM (256 MB recommended) 466 MHZ (Pentium® III or equivalent processor recommended) 575 MB hard disk space for a full installation, Super VGA, 16-bit colour monitor with 800 x 600 or greater resolution, CD-ROM drive, Mouse or Tablet, Microsoft® Internet Explorer 5.5. Company Info: Corel Corp., 800-772-6735, www.corel.com Cost: Full Standard Edition: \$249.99 Upgrade: \$134.99

SCUG Review

by Linda Lapointe
SCUG Member

eBay: The Missing Manual

by Nancy Connor
Pogue Press,
O'Reilly Media, Inc.

"Buy and sell with Confidence" is a tag on the front cover of this physical large book. It covers how to buy and sell most anything from this internet giant. A step by step guide to new skills.

This manual opens the door for beginners and the inner passages for those with more experience.

It is well written with black and white illustrations, as well as, blurbs about special topics. Confidence grows as one progresses through the articles helping to navigate some of the difficulties that may arise.

Part One: "Buying on e-Bay" introduces people by degrees to the way to accelerate your buying prowess. Part Two: "Selling on e-Bay". Forming a small business. Part Three: "Finding other e-Bayers and Getting Help". Tips from experience e-Bayers. Part Four: "Appendixes. Additional information for those who are hooked on internet auctions, where to learn more HTML for e-Bayers and other auction sites.

This is not a coffee table book but one that earns a spot with easy reach of your computer. It will be next to mine.

A SCUG Review

CD/DVD Label Maker

by Bill Colotelo
SCUG Member

From Acoustica Acoustica Inc. 40291 Junction Drive
Suite 204 Oakhurst, CA 93644
www.acoustica.com

Acoustica CD/DVD Label Maker can automatically import track information directly from iTunes playlists or from playlist file types, can import track information from CD-Text, and can directly read track/file information from MP3 or data CDs and DVDs. Auto-tracks formatting allows you to format your tracks layout in a variety of styles, including circular and spiral text, with a single click. You can also hide and show specific tracks fields (title, artist, genre, etc.) or hide/show tracks listings altogether with a single button click or menu. In addition Version 3.03, released on Tuesday, Nov 9th, has support for LightScribe direct disc labelling.

General LightScribe Direct Disc Labelling is technology that offers users a simple way to burn professional, silkscreen-quality labels on their CDs and DVDs. Using the same laser that burns data in their disc drives, users burn their data as always, flip the disc over, reinsert it into the drive and burn a precise, iridescent label with their desired text and graphics using the same laser that burns the data - no printer, permanent marker or adhesive labelling is required.

Minimum Operating Requirements PentiumII-400, Win 98/NT/2K/ME/XP, 128 MB Ram, Printer, Requires less than 250 MB of hard disk space

A free 7-day trial of Acoustica CD/DVD Label Maker is available for download at <http://www.acoustica.com/cd-label-maker/download.htm>

Cost- about \$22 Computer Club Member receive a 20% discount when they enter COMPUTERCLUB in the coupon box Tutorial-<http://www.acoustica.com/cd-label-maker/tutorial/index.asp> Support-<http://www.acoustica.com/support.htm>

My Experience I received my electronic copy of the Acoustica CD/DVD Label Maker and within a few minutes, I had it downloaded and running. The software contains a help file, which is comprehensive and easy to understand. I had no problem in making a CD label with pictures of my choice, title of the many songs and a title to the CD. In addition, I was able to create the folder with the list of songs for the interior of a CD container. No problem was encountered in printing the CD label

after I sorted out how to align the CD form with the printer.. Acoustica provides many interesting suggestions for designing your CD background and the interior of the CD folder. I experimented with professional made CDs and CDs that I had previously made and the Acoustica software read the titles of the songs and listed them either as a list or around the CD label.. I tried to use the LightScribe function and I had to seek help from Acoustica as I was not certain of the steps to take. I e-mailed them one morning and received a response within two hours. Unfortunately, I do not have the required CD burner to activate the LightScribe function.

I found Acoustica CD/DVD Label Maker an easy piece of software to get used to and fun to use. As I previously stated you have the full version of this software for 7 days before having to purchase. Give it a try and have fun. It does not cost you a cent for the use of this software unless you purchase.

IS TELEVISION HEADED TO THE SAME PLACE AS THE DODO BIRD?



Man Glued to the TV

What has happened to TV? Where have all the good programmings gone? Are we witnessing the death of the "boob-tube"? Will the Internet completely take the remaining TV viewers away from their sets and onto online programming? What do you think?

Let's discuss this one...

Email your opinions and views to editor@scug.ca

XP Disk Maintenance Tools By Dick Maybach

Member of the Brookdale Computer User Group,
New Jersey
www.bcug.com/
N2nd(at)att.net

Windows disk operations have improved greatly over the years to the extent that we seldom have problems with XP. However, XP does include tools to inform you about your disks, to improve their operation, and, if needed, to repair the data on them.

For general information on your drives, use the Disk Management tool - right-click on My Computer; select Manage; and select Disk Management (under Storage). You will see a table showing the properties of all your partitions as well as a graphical summary. Select a volume in the table or on the graphic, click on the Action menu item, and then click on All Tasks to see a list of the actions you can perform. Be careful, as some of these are drastic and irreversible, e.g., format and delete the volume.

If you suspect that a hard disk is corrupted, double-click on My Computer, right-click on the desired drive, select Properties, select the Tools tab, click the Check Now... button in the Error-checking section, and click the Start button. This will run an updated version of the old chkdsk. Don't select either of the options. If you do find problems, run the program again, but before you click Start, select Automatically fix file system errors. You may have to reboot for the operation to complete. Also, be aware that this may result in the loss of some files. If there still errors, run the program again, but select both options. (You can also run this program from the command line; type "chkdsk /?" in a Command Prompt window to see the options. I prefer the command-line version, because it's more informative.)

With time, Windows collects many unneeded temporary files. To clean these up, double-click on My Computer, right click on the desired disk, select Properties, and click the Disk Cleanup button under the General tab. Windows will take a few minutes to analyze your disk, and then will display a list of actions and how much space each will recover. You can single-click on each name to see its description. I select everything except the last two (Compress old files and Catalog files for the Content Indexer). Clicking the More Options tab shows other ways to recover space by removing Windows components, removing installed programs, or deleting old system restore points. Under the General tab, you will see two check boxes, Compress drive to save space and Allow Indexing Service to index this drive for

fast file searching. By default, the first is not checked and the second is; don't change these. Large disks are very cheap, and if you are running low on space, a much better solution is to install a second disk and keep you user data on it. Compression adds complexity, and I've seen it cause serious problems.

With use, a disk gradually becomes fragmented. That is; long files are broken into parts and scattered over the disk. You can correct much (but usually not all) of this with XP's disk defragmenter. Double-click on My Computer; right-click on the desired drive; select Properties; select the Tools tab; click on the Defragment now... button in the Defragmentation area; and click the Analyze button. Usually, you will be told that there is no need to defragment the volume. If so, take the advice. If you do decide to defragment the disk, bear in mind that there is a small risk of destroying its contents, since many files will be deleted and rewritten - a power failure could be catastrophic. Before you defrag a disk, run chkdsk or, even better, back it up.

A little-known command-line utility is fsutil. To run this first open a Command Prompt window (found in the Accessories group), then type "fsutil" to produce a list of fsutil commands. Usually, you will have to stack up several fsutil commands to do anything useful. For example, typing "fsutil dirty query c:" will show you whether you need to run chkdsk on C:. It can be worthwhile to explore the other features this command, being careful of course that you don't make any changes to your file system.

The recover command will make undamaged portions of a damaged file readable. For example, to recover the damaged file c:\n2nd\junk, open a Command Prompt window and type "recover c:\n2nd\junk". Like most command-line programs, you should be careful when using recover.

A very powerful command-line program is debug, but you can do a lot of damage with it if you are not an expert; I recommend that you avoid it. If you are curious, type "debug /?" in a Command Prompt window to find out more about what it can do.

The NTFS file system is superior to the older FAT32 one. If you are still using FAT32, seriously consider converting it to the NTFS format. For example, to convert your C: drive to NTFS, open a Command Prompt window and type "convert c: /fs:ntfs". There are two caveats: (1) the conversion is not reversible unless you buy third-party software, and (2) if you dual-boot both XP and an earlier version Windows on the same PC, the old version can't read NTFS volumes.

Dufferdom
Tales of the Ordinary User
by David D. Uffer

a member of the Chicago Computer Society, IL
 daviduffer@sbcglobal.net
 www.ccs.org

When you think about it, you may come to the view that there are users and there are abusers of personal computers.

Of course, the direction of the abuse may be at issue: the PC could seem to be abusing the user, not responding as it had and probably should. A techie may find a fine point where the user has not followed the rules and the PC was just responding to some erroneous action or mistaken understanding.

You may believe that. You may believe that machines are always constant and humans variable.

I don't.

Electronic circuits are complex enough in their construction and interaction that they can go corrupt on their own. Ask a techie. Ask Murphy how he found his Law.

I think I have one of Murphy's PCs. And it may be that it does have a mind of its own, or at least an inclination to uphold and sustain Murphy. It has no brand name. It has been multiply upgraded, revised, and enhanced so that any original identity is no longer valid. I've tried various names. I discontinued Mongrel when I felt it was disrespectful, that the PC's ego, if any, would suffer. In view of its heritage, I used Legacy for a while. Then sort of settled on Custom. That's descriptive, respectful, and honorable. But there are times I want to call it Murphy.

Or maybe call up Murphy and ask him to pick up his PC-and thanks for the loan. But maybe he thinks it's mine. And maybe he's right and I'm stuck with it. Maybe it'll get better if I treat it gingerly, or just gently.

But it recently developed this cute trick of getting the screen to go blank and black, not to return until some secret rite is performed upon it by a repair guy who says it's nothing special, just reconnecting. So, I've tried that too and sometimes it does whatever magic is required. The screen comes back and pretends it hasn't been up to anything sneaky.

Then I tried being analytical and have successfully re-

duced the number of cables it took to achieve restoration. I've got it down to just 5 USB connections plus the Ethernet port. Almost gives me some pleasure to anticipate the next blackout and further reduction in cable connections. Almost a game.

The most recent blackout seems to have occurred as a result of accidentally hitting the F12 key. I'll try it intentionally when I get some slack time for fooling around and some courage.

Maybe I'll learn something.

I do have yet to learn another key quirk. While typing a long message or document, I accidentally invoked another kind of vanishing act by touching some key in the bottom row. Immediately, I was back at the basic desktop screen, all message or document image having gone forever bye-bye. That's when I learn and relearn that re-doing a message or document usually makes it better. Authors call it rewriting and it's a royal pain but good for the soul. I've yet to discover what key or combination causes that reaction. Same reason: chickenhearted.

Now then there may be another reason. It might just be another prank Microsoft or its staffers play on users. A colleague of mine some time ago visited Redmond for some genuine learning and came back with some tricky mini-programs that made the keys or mouse pointer behave in tricky ways, like wandering around or appearing to lose data.

You can find subsequent versions of such programs by browsing the Internet, if you value frustration or scaring your colleagues. If you seriously seek and cannot find such items, you can ask me by way of Beata Kernan, who knows how to get in touch with me, at lccsadmin@comcast.net. †

Dave Uffer is a member of some standing, attends occasional Lake Shore and West Suburban meetings, and regrets having missed CCS Mini Expo-V, which he hears was very good, again.

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.

You can now view the listing of all books and their availability at **Sarnia Library online**: www.lclmg.org

Financial Report Section is for Members only.
 This newsletter is for non-members

Official Notice to all Members regarding voting on the revised Constitution.

All Members are hereby reminded that a vote on the acceptance of the revised Constitution is to be held on February 28th, assuming the presence of a quorum. The relevant documents are being given to all Members at this Jan. 31st General Meeting. Please contact the Secretary if you do not have your own personal copies. Tom Deeprise, Secretary
 Here are the URL's for the docs:

ABC document -> <http://www.scug.ca/Final-ABC.pdf>
 Complete -> <http://www.scug.ca/Final-complete.pdf>

SCUG Computer Disc Prices


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

NOTE: Some of these programs are Shareware that come with a trial period, after which, they must be registered and paid for if you like them and decide to keep them on your machine.

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*



**SCUG members
can advertise
here for free.**

Email your ad to:
editor@scug.ca



**SELLING
YOUR VEHICLE?**

Advertise your car for **FREE!**

Visit...
www.SarniaUsedCars.net

**Slide and Film Scanning 35 mm
High Resolution**

Call Pierre for a free quote

Phone: 344-1379
Email: pahoule@sympatico.ca

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

Beginner
Average
Advanced
Computer Owners/Operators/Users
COME OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN

**ALL GUESTS WELCOMED
GENERAL 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

**Meeting Schedule:
see the last page of this paper!**

ISLAND INK-JET



**RON AND KAREN RUPERT
Owner/Operator(s)**

Lambton Mall
1380 London Road
Sarnia, ON, N7S 1P8
Tel: 519-542-0184 Fax: 519-542-5917
lambtonmall@islandinkjet.com

The Cartridge Refillers

**Verdon
COMPUTER SERVICES**

James H. Verdon

Personalized Services Tailored just for YOU.

An Authorized ADP Visual Aids Vendor.
Sales of New and Used Computers,
Accessories and Services.

E-Mail : jverdon@rivernet.net
Tel: (519)336-3307 Fax: (519)336-2032
Mobile: (519)464-7631 Toll Free: (877)371-4505

290 Wellington Street Sarnia ON Canada N7T 1H3
US Mail Address:
P.O. Box 596263 Ft. Gratiot, MI 48059-6263

AUDIT NOTICE

The SCUG audit has been done, as required by the Constitution, by Paul Witheridge who found all accounting was in proper order. Thanks Paul.



SCUG MEETINGS 2006-7
 Guests are Welcome to Visit
www.scug.ca

MEETING LOCATIONS

- * **Executive and Digital** - St James Church-140 Lansdowne North
- * **Windows - PC** - Grace United Church, 990 Cathcart
- * **General Meeting** - St. Bartholomews Church, 718 Cathcart
- * **Genealogy Meeting** - St James Church-140 Lansdowne North

SCUG MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Executive</u>	<u>Digital</u>	<u>Windows-PC</u>	<u>Genealogy</u>	<u>General</u>
Feb 5	Feb 7	Feb 15	Feb 19	Feb 28
Mar 5	Mar 7	Mar 15	Mar 19	Mar 28
April 2	April 4	April 19	April 16	April 25
April 30	May 2	May 17	May 21	May 30
June 4	June 6	June 21	June 18	June 27
July 2				

THREE FREE MONTHS of MEETINGS for GUESTS

Email us today: president@scug.ca or check us out online: www.scug.ca

Everyone is welcome to come to a meeting and receive a **Guest Pass** entitling you to sample our various meetings over a 3 month period. An annual family membership in S.C.U.G. is \$35. This allows you to attend all meetings, a free shareware program each month, and a copy of our monthly SCUG Report.

Come out and meet people like yourselves who want to learn about computers and digital photography. **Go to our website for all details:** www.scug.ca

Many reasons for you to become a SCUG Member

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

