The DataBus

Volume 31 Issue 6   **www.DMA.org**   November 2006

> **Location for meeting & map inside …**
> **Parking Permits Available …**

October 31 General Meeting Topic
Fairborn Camera & Video
Mike Petros - Guest Speaker

As the holidays approach, the search begins for the hottest items for Christmas. We generally look for some high-tech gadget that could make our lives easier, more productive, or just plain fun. The latest in camera equipment has always been a favorite and the choices this year are impressive.

There seem to be a half dozen models for every application. Credit-card sized "point and shoot" cameras fit easily in a pocket and travel well. Those best suited for sports photography are the ones marked "single-lens-reflex". They tend to be more responsive and accept interchangeable lenses. Cameras of all sizes offer digital viewfinders. Models for close-ups, stop-action and panoramic views are all within reach.

The number of mega pixels is skyrocketing. Many cameras offer a choice of file formats for storing images. JPEGs fit more photos onto a memory card. Their size is also handy for sharing photos or sending out for prints. RAW format allows the option of manipulating details with photo-editing software on a PC. It's a good thing that memory cards hold more data than ever before.

Mike Petros, Store Manager at Fairborn Camera & Video, has agreed to demonstrate several of this year's latest digital cameras and help make sense of their many features. Mike draws from 30 years of experience in the business. He often gives presentations to local organizations and once wrote articles for the Midwest PC Review magazine.

Although he would not give away any details on the specials they will be running this year, he did say to watch for announcements near the end of November.

Mike says that Fairborn Camera & Video is just what you'd expect from a hometown store. The staff are very knowledgeable and always willing to answer a question or offer advice: "We're here to help".

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CONTACT INFORMATION

GENERAL

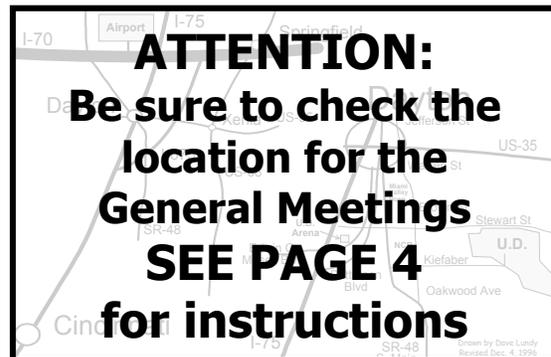|		
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A=Trustee 3 yrs from 9/03 **B**=Trustee 3 yrs from 9/05 **C**=Trustee 3 yrs from 9/04

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DMA® MEETINGS

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. Visit us on the web at www.dma.org or email to info@dma.org for information or directions.

Our monthly General Meeting consists of a brief opening, SIG and committee reports, announcements, and a 60-90 minute program by a guest speaker, followed by door prizes for members. After the meeting, the group adjourns to a local eating establishment to socialize.

Due to construction at UD, our meeting will be held on the campus of Wright State University (see map next page.) For last minute announcements always check www.dma.org

ATTENTION:
Be sure to check the location for the General Meetings
SEE PAGE 4 for instructions

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The DataBus is published monthly by the Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc. (DMA®).

The deadline for submitting material is the first Monday of the month of publication. Submit files to the editor (**Editor@dma.org**) by "attaching" them to email in one of the following formats: (in order of preference) MS Word, Wordperfect, or .TXT (with line breaks). The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, length & style, and to hold or reject any portions of submitted copy.

Advertisements and want ads are accepted for publication. Non-commercial credit-card size ads are free to DMA® members. Commercial Credit-card size ads are $15.00 per issue for members. Our circulation is targeted to computer users, technicians, & IT Managers, and is currently 500 copies. To receive more

information about advertising, please contact our Editor at: The DataBus, P.O. Box 4005, Dayton, OH 45401-4005 or email to: Editor@dma.org.

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Best User Group Coverage - Large Newsletters, '98 & '99 InterGalactic Conferences

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DMA® SIGs

DMA® sponsors numerous Special Interest Groups (SIGs) catering to the individual interests of its members.

Want to start a new SIG? Contact a DMA® Officer or Trustee!

Amateur Radio SIG meets the 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at 119 Valley St. Contact Todd or Shawna Collins (937) 299-9685 toddc@woh.rr.com sjcollins@woh.rr.com

Apple-Dayton SIG meets the 3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Booster Center, 5367 Fishburg Rd, Huber Heights. Contact Dan Forshaw AppleDaytonSIG@dma.org www.dma.org/appledaytonsig

Classic Computer SIG meets 1st and 3rd Saturday. of each month, 3:00 p.m. at the Sugar Grove Church, 7875 Kessler Frederick Rd, Tipp City, 45371. Contact Gary Ganger, (937) 849-1483 gangerg@dma.org

Digital Photography SIG meets the 4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at 119 Valley St. Contact Nancy Christolear, (937) 439-1735 njc@dma.org www.dma.org/photosig

Gaming SIG meets the last Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m. for a 24-hr LANparty at 119 Valley St. Contact David Neely nherzhul@hotmail.com or Frank McClain sonicboom86 @ aol.com for more information. www.DaytonLANfest.com

Genealogy/Family History SIG meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at 119 Valley Street. Contact Darlene Sye, genelady@gemair.com or Jay Finley, jotaito@aol.com

Hands-On-SIG meets the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at 119 Valley St. Contact Elliott Lake, (937) 376-4581

Software Development SIG meets the 2nd Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. at 119 Valley St. Contact SIG leader: Keith Wire (419) 634-3650 Program Coord: Mark Erbaugh (740) 845-1877 mark@microenh.com More info: Dale Childs (937) 276-3786 dalechilds@earthlink.net

Linux SIG meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. in Wright State's Russ Engineering Center. Contact Gary Turner (937) 313-2487, or Tony Snyder (937) 275-7913 or DLUG-contact@dma.org www.dma.org/linuxsig

Perl Mongers meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at 119 Valley St. Contact Paul Ahlquist pea@ahlquist.org http://dayton.pm.org

Pizza SIG - The unofficial snack or meal of the computer enthusiast is enjoyed following each DMA® General Mtg. at **CiCi's Pizza,** 2750 N. Fairfield Rd near Fairfield Commons Mall. Open to all, it is the "Pizza SIG". Come join us!

More SIG information is available online at www.dma.org/sigs.shtml.

Map to Meeting Location

DMA will be meeting in Room 101 of Fawcett Hall on the campus of Wright State

If coming via I-675, take the Fairfield Rd Exit, and turn LEFT off the exit ramp if coming up from the south (e.g., from Kettering or Centerville), turn RIGHT off the ramp if coming from the north (e.g., Springfield --). Fairfield Rd dead-ends into the WSU campus, but to avoid the Nutter Center, turn left and go to the main entrance. WSU is on the #13 and #1 bus lines, with service to 9:45 PM. Please check www.dma.org for last minute announcements. To see more maps of the campus go to: http://www.wright.edu/aboutwsu/maps/
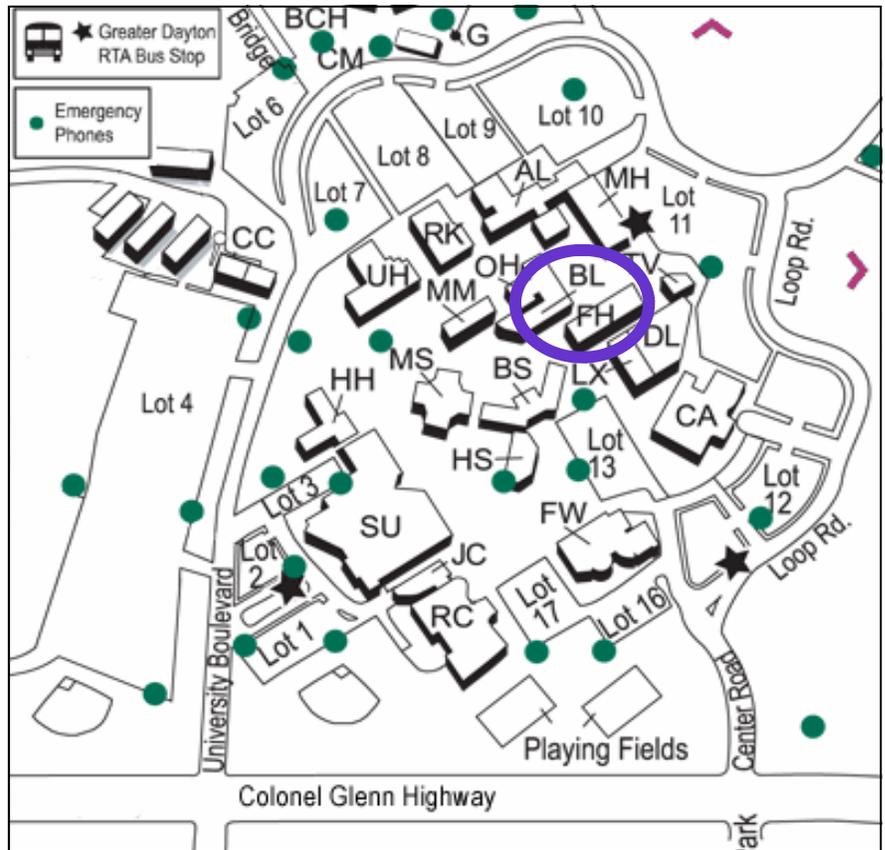
Main Campus Area

Visitors to main campus may park in visitor lots 2, 6, or 16 (shaded grey) for an hourly fee. **Parking areas shaded green are permit-only lots.** For more parking information, visit the Web site: www.wright.edu/admin/parking/

SEE "PARKING RESTRICTIONS" BELOW

For an "active" version of the map below visit www.wright.edu/aboutwsu/maps/map_bw1.html

Once at the web page… Click on a building for a photo and more information.

CA Creative Arts Center

DL Paul Laurence Dunbar Library

FH Fawcett Hall

FW Fred White Health Cntr

HS Health Sciences Bldg

MH Millett Hall

MS Medical Sciences

OH Oelman Hall

SU Student Union

RC Russ Engineering Center

Parking Restrictions

When school is not in session, parking regulations are lightly (or not) enforced. In general, you can park with relatively little risk where you wish except for zones designated as follows:

"No Parking" (duh!),

"Handicapped Parking" (unless you have a Handicapped license plate or sticker on your vehicle),

"University Vehicles Only," or

"Reserved." (Reserved parking spaces have a brown sign in front of them designating them as such.)

Parking Permits

October $2
November is FREE

WSU has agreed to issue temporary parking permits for DMA Meetings. Permits are $2 per month while school is in session. The alternatives are to park in the visitor's lot or take a chance and park illegally.

Before the meeting, see Martin Abagi to purchase a hang-tag for your car.

You do not qualify for the permit if you are a WSU student, faculty, or staff member! You should have your own parking pass. All applications will be checked against the WSU student and employee data base.

Although parking regulations are not enforced as stringently after 5:00 p.m., there is some enforcement. Two dollars is cheap insurance.

Boardroom Banter

Three New Trustees

Last month, Ron Williamitis and Jim Bellan were elected to the DMA Board of Trustees. One week later, during the Trustee meeting, Todd Collins stepped forward and was appointed to the open position. Congratulations to all three. We expect to see great things from this board!

DMA Computer Museum

For more than a few years, Gary Ganger has been collector, curator, and demonstrator of the DMA Computer Museum. He has shown the collection at Computerfest and Techfest each year.

Soon Gary and his wife will be moving to a smaller home and need to find new storage space for the museum. If you or your SIG members have ideas on how best to preserve this collection, please talk to one of the Trustees.

It's a Boy!

John and Holly Daniel announced the arrival of their son, Duncan Viktor on Friday, October 6. John is a longtime member of DMA, Computerfest, and DaytonLANfest. Congratulations!

Microsoft and DMA

Matt Hester, from Microsoft, will be coming to Dayton in November to talk to the DMA membership about Vista. This new operating system is reported to be a big improvement over past products, with updated features and many changes to the user interface. We will move our meeting to Wright State's Medical Sciences building to accommodate the expected crowd.

Microsoft in Beavercreek

Matt Hester will also be giving a Tech-Net seminar in November on Active Directory and Microsoft Exchange Server 2007. This is a free, all-day event, but requires registration online or by phone in order to receive a ticket.

Microsoft has not been scheduling these events for the Dayton area recently, putting the local tech community at a disadvantage. Matt is working to turn things around. If we fill the seats for these events, Microsoft may send more events our way.

DMA Holiday Dinner

December is the time for our traditional Holiday Dinner. Good food and good friends make for an enjoyable evening. And everyone who attended last year can attest that Jim Ullom knows how to plan great a party. Ask any Trustee for tickets. See you there!

Genealogy SIG

Jay Finley, SIG Leader

October Meeting
The Genealogy SIG met Thursday, (first Thursday of the month -- the new meeting date). Attendance was lower than usual again this month.

Leadership of the Genealogy SIG is transitioning to Mr. J. M. "Jay" Finley who has been a member of the SIG for the past year and who has already taken over the responsibility for the postings on the website. Mrs. Sye has done an excellent job since the initiation of the Genealogy SIG and will continue to provide help to the new chairman. The SIG will continue to build upon the foundations she has set in place. Mrs. Sye has agreed to review her trip to Salt Lake City's genealogical facilities last May for the November meeting.

Last months' suggestions were reviewed and discussed with more additions added to the list. It is generally agreed that the SIG will focus on the many different ways the computer can be used to enhance the pursuit of genealogy and family history. Several field trips to various nearby libraries were among the new suggestions. It was also suggested that better management of the webpage postings might not only attract new members but attract additional participants on field trips.

The Chairman noted that the Ohio Genealogical Society-Montgomery County Chapter (OGS-MCC) has had several very worthwhile presentations at the Montgomery County Library recently and urged members to be aware of these programs. An excellent presentation on the use of

"Maps in Genealogy" by Mr. Mike Kennedy was presented at their August meeting. It will be presented *again* at the *2007 Jamboree,* sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Whipp Road, in February, 2007. Members are encouraged to see this presentation. Other forthcoming presentations include "Appalachian Research" (Oct 14) and "Using Technology To Enhance Digital Images and make Biographies More Interesting" (Nov 11).

The SIG will try to build membership by selecting topics of interest to new members in an effort to help them get started. This will include available software, sources and sourcing materials, organization of information, preservation of historical material and photos, maintaining a database.

Club Purpose and Membership

The Dayton Microcomputer Assn., Inc. (DMA®) is an Ohio non-profit organization dedicated to the education of, and providing information to, microcomputer users and the general public. DMA® members use and own a wide variety of computers and possess various levels of computer experience.

Annual dues are $25 for regular members, which includes a subscription to *The DataBus* newsletter, and $12.50 for associate members living at the same address. Associate memberships must run concurrently with a regular membership. A membership application is located on page 23, or can also be downloaded from our web site at: www.dma.org/dma-app.shtml.

OTAP Bridging the GAP

Ohio Technology Access Project is a rather long name for a very worthy cause. OTAP is part of DMA's effort to "bridge the digital divide". We are one of only a few Microsoft Authorized Refurbishers in Ohio. We operate under DMA's 501c(3) non-profit designation. This is a group of devoted volunteers who generously gives of their time and talents to rework old hardware into usable PCs. The work is sometimes challenging but always rewarding.

Bridging – Our mission is to place computers and internet access into the hands of those with the most need and the least opportunity. We place computer systems with schools, churches, charities, individuals, and families. Most of our clients are disabled or financially disadvantaged. Each tells us how a computer system would improve their education, opportunities, even quality of life.

Refurbishing – Many of the computer systems we work with are donated by individuals, some are from organizations or companies. They come in all speeds, shapes, and sizes. The equipment is evaluated and tested for functionality. Repairs and modifications are made if necessary so that the system matches our standards.

Recycling – We are able to reclaim and reuse many of the computer parts. Hardware that is below speed or not repairable is disassembled and the pieces are sorted and recycled. We work hard to avoid adding any materials to local landfills.

Donating – For individual donors, OTAP offers a second life for that slightly out-dated system that is taking up valuable space on your desk or dining room table. We handle each system with care and find it a good home. For corporations, we ease the upgrade process, help avoid landfill costs, and provide and great opportunity to contribute to the community.

Training – The best kept secret of OTAP is the training. For those who are computer-phobic, we provide easy procedures and plenty of assistance while you learn to take apart and rebuild computers. Students working towards certification can get that valuable hands-on ex-

OTAP Surplus

The Ohio Technology Access Project surplus items in good working condition that we would like to make available to the members of DMA. For more information on these items, visit

www.old-computers.com

OTAP.

- Cables as low as 40¢
- Monitors as low as $5
- CD-ROM drives as low as $1
- Keyboards & Mice as low as 25¢
- Zip Drives $5 and up
- Travan Tape Drives as low as $2
- NIC's
- SCSI Cards and cables
- SCSI Scanners
- Printers
- Servers

New OTAP Hours of Operation
Tues-Wed-Thurs 9am-5pm
Friday by appointment only
Saturday 9am-5pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

Linux SIG

Dave Lundy, Linux SIG

At our September meeting, Paul Visscher handled both the newbie and advanced portions of the program. For several months, we've been intending to devote the first half of the meeting to some sort of instruction for Linux newbies, but the best we've done so far is a Q & A session. This month, Paul discussed and demonstrated several commonly used Bash shell commands, such ls, cd, mount, uname, cat, man, apropos, less, sudo, and others. He also demonstrated using the Tab key for command line completion. Paul gave some simple examples of using pipes to pass the output of one command into another. While discussing those commands, we also touched on Linux kernel version numbering, how to determine the version you're running on a Debian system, partition types and naming conventions, and more. There was a minor skirmish about vi / vim vs. Emacs (text editors), although it was generally agreed that everyone should know at least the basics of how to use vi, since it's virtually guaranteed to be installed on all systems, whereas Emacs may not be available – sort of like knowing edlin on DOS systems.

For the main presentation, Paul demonstrated OpenWrt, a replacement firmware for wireless routers based on Linksys. In spite of some technical difficulties, Paul successfully installed OpenWrt on a router provided by Ken Phelps.

Next SIG Meeting

Our next meeting will be 7 pm Thursday, October 19 in room 145 of Russ Engineering Center, Wright State University, where Paul will discuss network QoS (Quality of Service) and why you might be concerned about or need it.

LinuxFest

More than a dozen folks from our SIG attended Ohio LinuxFest on Saturday, September 30. Total attendance was 1061. The first time, four years ago, only three of us attended from Dayton. The show has grown and improved each year. Jeff Waugh (GNOME & Ubuntu), Chris DiBona (Slashdot / Google), Richard Bowen (Apache), Jay Pipes (MySQL / Author), and Jon 'maddog' Hall (Linux International) were just a few of the well-known speakers featured this year. The Columbus Zoo even brought a couple penguins! This was the first year the event included LPI tests, held on Friday, which our own Don Corbet helped administer. I attended all of some of the presentations and portions of a few others. The show has been free each year, thanks to generous sponsors, but this time they added an optional "all-conference pass" for $65 that included a box lunch, a T-shirt, and a few other perks. I was pleased to see several from our SIG participated in that. I'm looking forward to trying some of the techniques I learned about the Apache web server.

Hands-On SIG

Elliott Lake, SIG Leader

"Certification", "Hands-on", or "Hands-on Certification" SIG?

Someone recently suggested to me that the Hands-on SIG should go back to calling itself the Certification SIG since the group has returned to studying computer and network material.

Our group will finish chapter two of the Network+ Guide to Networks in just a few days. We look forward to finishing chapter three by the October 25, after which we want to pick up the pace to two chapters between meetings. We also hope to add more video presentations and start having planned hands-on projects, case projects, and review questions.

But the Hands-on SIG has more going on than just the studies. An interesting question was asked during the open question session of our last meeting, concerning how one particular bank uses authentication over the Internet. Apparently they use a new method, authenticating their clients in part by identifying the system being used. The discussion focused on how this could be done in a secure manner and exactly how secure the method could be. We considered options like requiring a software download that would identify the system by MAC address, or the use of cookies or IP addresses.

The SIG is also working a hands-on project which involves moving the online user-group experience beyond use of the mailing list. NetMeeting on the Internet? Yes, the Hands-on SIG has been evaluating group collaboration software and operating systems in an attempt to create a virtual meeting space. One of our members has too long a drive to make it to our meetings on time. He is keeping up with the training using our email messages. Even though we haven't yet decided on a specific group collaboration software or operating system, we may soon be able to better support SIG members who can't physically make the meetings.

"Certification", "Hands-on", or "Hands-on Certification", no matter what the SIG is called, we invite you to join us every second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday at 119 Valley Street for face to face meetings, and on-line by using the mailing lists.

Amateur Radio SIG

Todd Collins, SIG Co-leader

Introduction to PIC Programming

Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 7:00 pm, at 119 Valley Street, Dayton.

Mark Erbaugh, N8ME, programmer, Ham, and DMA member, will demo the PIC chip at the meeting this week. PIC stands for "Programmable Integrated Circuit" or "Peripheral Interface Controller",

though the company that makes them just calls them PICmicro programmable chips. These RISC PIC chips are rewriteable, inexpensive, and easy to use.

Whatever you want to call them, a PIC chip can be easily programmed to perform any number of useful tasks. From controlling relays, to serial communications, to digital signal processing,

these chips can open up a new world to the "home-brewer" ham. I am wondering if this chip can be the core of a new type of A/B switch I am envisioning for my shack? Or a new SDR receiver or a Tiny-Tracker clone?

Everyone is welcome to attend the Amateur Radio and Computers SIG meeting.

Is This Genealogy?

By Jay Finley, Genealogy SIG

Well, no! What I am about to share with you is not, strictly speaking, genealogy. But it is another example of how computers can be adapted to complement almost any hobby. And, I can see where some folks will be quite entertained by the results.

Recently, the Dayton Daily News (Monday, 7 Aug 2006, p. D16) carried an article by Jake Coyle describing a new capability on the MyHeritage.com website (an Israel-based site). The suggestion is to use a picture of yourself and see what celebrities you resemble most via a facial recognition algorithm of some sort.

While I am very leery of posting pictures of myself on the internet for a lot of reasons, I did take a picture and test the sys-

tem to see the results of the comparison. Should you decide to take My Heritage up on its "free" offer, be advised that after you enter the picture and run the program, you will have to register yourself on the site in order to see the results. This program is a facial recognition program that compares some basic facial characteristics from your picture with those in a database of celebrities (i.e. if you choose to make the comparison to their entries in their celebrities database).

My results (and they are returned in rank order) indicated that my male subject had characteristics most similar to eight different women (actresses) and only two men (actors). This was a little surprising at first; but after thinking about it I decided that it could happen. Gender would

not necessarily be reflected in feature measurements of a face. I also tried using a hand-drawn caricature of another person and the system rejected it entirely. Anyway, it was an interesting experiment and started me thinking about how else it might be used.

Is this really genealogy? Well, not in the traditional sense; but with such technology developments, I can just see some genealogists with lots of family pictures (and time on their hands) using some type of facial recognition algorithm sorting family characteristics among family members. Similar studies are being made using DNA. Not quite the same but who knows what the next fad will be?

See you at the next Genealogy meeting!

DMA Volunteer Of the Month

The Volunteer of the Month award for November goes to Todd Collins. Just a few months ago, Todd gave a great presentation on VoIP for the DMA general meeting. Todd and his wife Shawna also stepped into the lead positions for the Amateur Radio SIG. But earlier this month, Todd really went and did it. He approached the DMA Trustees to request appointment to a seat on the board. We welcome Todd to the board, promise to support his efforts, and wish him many successes in this new role.

Digital Photography SIG

Dave Lundy, Photo SIG

At our September meeting, we shared some of our favorite photos from the summer. Dean Miller showed some really neat photos of birds in his birdbath, the moon, and others. Dave Lundy showed some of his hummingbird photos and videos, some of a hot air balloon glow, and various others. Tom Thorpe showed some excellent photos of the Blue Angels he had taken at the Vectren Dayton Air Show and some awesome sunsets. Bill Taylor showed some photos of his smoking pipe collection and asked for help with his lighting setup. See www.billietaylor.com/problems.html for details. We offered some suggestions, including using a light cone. See www.snipurl.com/ydu6 for info about light cones and other lighting methods. We also showed him how to enhance the contrast and detail of a photo using the histogram and gamma tools in Paint Shop Pro or other photo editors and he was very pleased with the result.

Original photo

Adjusted using histogram and gamma

Nancy passed around a copy of the book *PC Photo Best Tips & Techniques for Digital Photography* that she liked. She showed some test photos she took using an exposure technique described in the book.

Our next meeting will be 7 pm Thursday, October 26 at 119 Valley St. and it will be a "Show Your Rig" night. Bring in your camera and accessories and be prepared to talk about them. Discuss what you like and don't like about your equipment, etc. The November meeting will be postponed one week to avoid conflicting with Thanksgiving Day and the topic hasn't been set yet. If you have any suggestions for topics, or would like to do a presentation, please let us know.

The Deals Guy

by Bob "The Cheapskate" Click
Greater Orlando Computer User Group

I read about a Florida company (CellAntenna) that makes some interesting products. One of them is called the CJAM 100 Portable Personal Cellular Jammer that is capable of blocking cellular communications in a relatively small area. I understand it's against the law to jam cellular signals, but this product is only sold to government agencies. Wouldn't it be nice to have such a device activated when you are sitting in a restaurant with people around you talking on their cell phones as though the other party can't hear well? You've probably been there, but maybe I am more unlucky than most in that regard. I can think of a few other situations where that product might be handy. Embedded in the highways might be nice so drivers could concentrate more on their driving than talking with their friends. On the other hand, it wouldn't keep drivers from all the other bad habits we've all seen such as eating, drinking, applying makeup, reading (I've seen that) and many other things while driving down the road. Check the article in Information Week magazine.
<http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=RL5XSD3YKDHTKQSNDLRSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=191901845&queryText=IT+Confidential>

Something else I read about is "LifeShirt" which was created by VivoMetrics a few years ago and has been tested and researched by various companies for different purposes. It is capable of measuring some 30 biometric readings for people who might be severely ill. It keeps the data on a flash card for whatever use is needed so that vital data for a patient can be tracked. However, I didn't see anything about measuring hormones, but I guess if you were critically ill, that might not register. I think my wife should get me one for our anniversary so she will know my moods. However, at this point in my life, it is doubtful much of anything will affect my heart rate unless the doctor says I will probably stick around for an-

other three months. (until my next appointment) <http://www.vivometrics.com/>

*Out With The Old, In With The New (And Better)

You all know Dave Whittle. He has presented products at your meetings and entertained you in the process. He has a new and different deal for us and is offering me the first opportunity to spread the word about the special offer on new laptops. I have noticed a trend for some people to even use them for their desktop so perhaps that way you only have to invest in one computer, but a versatile one. Since you all know him, I asked him to tell it in his own words below:

"Good news for those of you in the market for laptops. I've arranged for DealsGuy readers and user group members everywhere to get a 6% discount on genuine Thinkpads! Most of us remember them as IBM Thinkpads but IBM sold that division to Lenova so now they're called Lenovo Thinkpads, but the engineering, quality and service are still the same. People prefer Thinkpads because they have great human factors (such as elegant design, lightweight, battery life, and durability) and offer such nice features as spill-resistant keyboards, a built-in keyboard light, choice of a Trackpoint or Touchpad for controlling a mouse, the Active Protection System (which prevents hard disk damage from shock or dropping), dual antenna for better wireless reception, and a variety of great system software to make life easier, which IBM calls 'ThinkVantage Technologies.'

"Also, be sure to get the integrated fingerprint reader as well if you care about keeping your laptop data secure. Thinkpads are more reasonable than you might think for the quality you get (prices start at under $680), especially considering you can get 6% off the web site prices (see below). What's more, the Gartner Group estimates that Thinkpads save you 20% to 30% compared to other brands on

the total cost of ownership over the life of the laptop, due to factors such as better testing and easier maintenance, durability, and usability. Here's how to get this special 6% discount on the Thinkpad configuration of your choice. Simply call Lenovo's user group inside sales rep, Isaac Williams, directly for help in configuring your system, or to get answers to your questions. Call 1-877-338-4465, Option 1, Extension 6322. Just tell him the name of your user group and give him the discount code for user groups, which is 42390. Alternatively, for fastest response, you can just go to <www.lenovo.com/products/us/en> and click on 'Thinkpad notebooks', and then on the Series you'd like to configure. After you choose all of the options you want, click Add to Cart, and then click on E-mail this Page. E-mail it to <dave.whittle@usa.net> and he will quickly forward it on to Isaac, who will contact you to confirm the order, answer questions, and get your payment information. That's all you need to do to save between $40 and $210 on your new laptop while ensuring that you get the very best laptop available, customized just for you, and as quickly as possible."

I asked Dave about them being Vista compatible and they are except for perhaps the low priced ones. If you might upgrade to the Vista operating system in the future, ask when ordering. He gave no deadline for the deal, but I wouldn't wait too long for this great saving.

*Are You Into Mapping?

ArmCode has released Arm Map Explorer, which recreates all the functionalities of Google Maps while adding new ones like viewing a map with a coordinate grid on it, getting precise coordinates of any location on a map, moving to a needed location based on specified coordinates, and more. This software brings Google Maps to your desktop and lets you find any location on the planet like cities, borders, roads and other carto-

The Deals Guy (cont.)

graphic objects and view them as dynamic interactive maps. You can drag such maps so you won't have to click and wait for graphics to reload each time you want to view adjacent parts of a map. Basically, Arm Map Explorer 1.0 allows you to work with interactive maps in much the same way as you would with a regular street map.

However, Arm Map Explorer 1.0 goes beyond the feature set offered by Google Maps. You can move to a needed location on a map based on the coordinates you specify. Using the object tree, you can easily locate and view capitals of states, large cities, world's landmarks, monuments, international airports and other interesting buildings and locations. You can also save a map as a file or print a map to take it with you on a trip, and use it as a regular paper map. It can, for example, help you study geography, both physical and economic. The program will display a satellite view for any locations such as hydroelectric stations, cities and other large objects. You can zoom the view in and out and pan in any direction.

Arm Map Explorer 1.0 runs under Windows 98/NT/XP/2000/2003 and you can get it without any payment or registration. Additional information on Map Explorer, as well as its installation distributive is available from <http://www.armcode.com>
ArmCode is a software developer that specializes in cartographic software. Along with XMAP, the company is the author of Alien IP and ZIP Pointer. Alien IP locates a computer on a map based on a specified IP address. ZIP Pointer locates a city in North America on a map based on a specified ZIP or postal code. For more information, visit the ArmCode Web site.
Product page: <http://www.armcode.com/map-explorer/index.htm>
Direct download link: <http://www.armcode.com/downloads/map-explorer.exe>
Postal address:
Pacific Business Centre,
Att: ArmCode, #101 - 1001 W. Broadway,
Suite 381, Vancouver, BC V6H 4E4,
Canada Tel: +1 (206) 338-6423

That's it for this month. Be aware that I have recently posted some new announcements, recently received, on the New Product Announcements Page on my Web site. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click <bobclick@mindspring.com>. Visit my Web site at <http://www.dealsguy.com>

You are cordially invited to the
DMA Holiday Dinner
at the
Presidential Banquet Center
4572 Presidential Way, Kettering Ohio
On Wednesday, December 6, 2006

6:00 Conversation & Cash Bar
7:00 Holiday Buffet
8:00 Awards & Prizes

Roast Prime Rib of Beef
Baked Chicken
Filet of Sole
Au Gratin Potatoes
Choice of Vegetables
Salad
Fresh Fruit
Assorted Desserts

Tickets $25 - Parking is Free
Tickets are available now from any DMA Trustee or Officer, by calling 222-4DMA, or by email to DMA-board@dma.org

Join the DMA family for an evening of good food, and good friends. Our SIGs, Project teams, Trustees, and Officers will all be there.
Family and friends are welcome. Dress is casual.

*This is a platform non-specific event

Digital Resolution Made Confusing

By Dave Chrestenson, Fox Valley PC Association

There seems to be a plethora of articles on the number of pixels required to create your photos to their full glory. Many of the articles disagree with each other and some are mystifying (to say the least); occasionally a few are wrong. So here I will approach it from a different point of view, I'll give you the knowledge and let you decide what you need. Ready? Here we go!

Let's start with some facts. (I'll reconsider these later, but we have to start somewhere.) First, the average eye, relaxed, focuses at a distance of about fifteen inches. So that's about the distance people view their prints.

Second, the angle of comfortable vision (not acute) is generally agreed to be about fifty to fifty-five degrees. Beyond that is peripheral vision. Now, fifty degrees at fifteen inches subtends a distance of about thirteen inches, just covering the diagonal of an 8x10. Is it any wonder that size is so popular?

And third, the typical eye has a resolution of about one minute of angle. This works out, at fifteen inches, to about .004 inches, or approximately 229 dots in an inch. (For purposes of clarity I will use the term pixels when referring to the camera sensor and dots when referring to the print. But in this discussion they can be considered equivalent. (Don't compare this with the resolution (normally also referred to as dots) of printers. They are completely different animals. (Subject for another article?)

For convenience and to assure a tolerance, for now let's round that up to 300 dpi. This means that we need 300 dpi (at 15 inches) on the paper to assure that we won't see individual dots. Now, it's easy enough to work backwards from there. Assume that we wish to print an 8x10. Ten inches across at 300 dpi is 3000 dots. Eight inches down at 300 dpi is 2400 dots. So we need a camera of 3000 x 2400 pixels, or 7.2 meg. (This is assuming a camera with square pixels, not all have that, the Fuji S3 for example has hexagonal pixels, two sizes, no less.

(Subject for still another article?) Simple huh? Maybe.

But let's try another example first. Assume you just want to print a picture half that size, 4 x 5 is more com-mon. Then 4 times 300 equals 1200 and 5 times 300 equals 1500, so our camera need only be 1.8 meg. That's not so bad, is it? But before you dash right out to buy a 2 meg camera on sale, let's take a look at some of those original figures.

I said that the average eye views an image at 15 inches. That's an "average" eye. It can vary from that... a lot. Depending on age, it can go from 3 inches (a youngster) to more than 6 feet. (An old timer.) And that's for an eye that's working well. Near-sighted? You'll hold the picture closer. (Assuming you don't wear correction lenses, of course.) Far-sighted? Further away. Have astigmatism? A mess! So, if you hold your picture at 7.5 inches, you will need twice the number of pixels, or 600, per inch. An 8x10 would require a 28.8 meg cam-era. Good grief! Thirty inches viewing distance is a lot easier, a 1.8 meg one will do the job. Also, some eyes can see significantly better than one minute of angle, some can reach ½ minute. That's even worse, you need 600 dpi at 15 inches, which means we're back to a 28.8 meg camera for an 8x10, and a 7.2 meg one for a 4x5. But you can do the math. And do you really need to have the dots as small as theory suggests? Well, to make it more confusing, there are other considerations that affect that. Bright lighting needs higher resolution, dim lighting needs less. Glossy paper? Higher resolution. Matt paper, less. High contrast image, more, low contrast, less. Ad infinitum.

Finally, what if you have taken the definitive photo of Yosemite, the one to equal Ansel Adams, and you want to have it printed at, say, 16x20 and frame it. Do you still need 300 dpi? Probably not. After all, peo-ple don't normally hold a 16x20 in their hands and look at it from 15 inches. Remem-ber the 50 degree vi-sion. So, you'll probably be hanging it on the wall, where they will view it from a distance. Experience shows that people will move backward or forward when viewing a picture until it subtends that 50 degree angle. So you might well get away with 150 dpi.

But, getting back to the more normal usage, handheld prints, do you need 300 dpi there? Again, maybe. In many cases you may get away with less. But if you go below 150 dpi you are almost certain to get obvious visual pixilation at that distance. Of course, Photoshop to the rescue, you can resample upwards and in-crease the number of pixels to what works. You're not adding detail, but at least you're getting rid of those annoying "jaggies."

Clear? I didn't think so. Remember, I said "Made Confusing." But at least you are now confused on a much higher plane! Good luck.

Editor's comments: Dave has presented several programs over the years that have gone into great detail on various aspects of digital photography. From cameras and lenses and from basic photo software to the flagship of the genre: Adobe Photoshop. His knowledge has always impressed me and we always enjoy his point of view on this topic. He presented a program last month: "Pursuing the Path From Pixels to Pictures," which could have easily gone late into the afternoon. All present enjoyed his program. Thanks Dave!

Jon Jackman

Should Your System Be RAIDed

By Vinny Bash, Sarasota PC Users Group

You may have heard fellow computer enthusiasts brag about their new fast RAID system as if it were a high performance sports car. If you wondered what they were talking about, you are not alone.

Just what does RAID stand for? The source of the RAID acronym can be credited to three University of California Berkeley professors named Patterson, Gibson, and Katz. In 1987 they published a paper named "A Case for Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Disks (RAID)". The fundamental concept of RAID was to combine multiple small disks into an arrangement yielding greater performance than a Single Large Expensive Drive (SLED). If you can see the potential to combine the acronyms to make bad jokes, again you are not alone.

The main objection to RAID was that two or more disk drives are inherently less reliable than a single disk drive. The professors overcame the objection by showing that disk arrays can be made more reliable by storing data redundantly in various ways across multiple disk drives.

The paper defined five types of RAID arrangements, each offering different trade-offs in features and performance. Over time, more RAID configurations were added to the mix. The corporate world gradually adopted RAID, but it never took the PC world by storm because until relatively recently, disk drives were not "inexpensive".

At the core of RAID is a process called "striping". With several hard drives connected to a controller card installed in a motherboard slot, you can juice up read and write speeds by breaking the data into blocks (stripes) and storing these blocks across multiple disk drives. This allows data to be either recorded or accessed in multiple blocks simultaneously across multiple drives in parallel. Without going into technical detail, the parallel operation provides the increase in performance. Of the many RAID configurations developed since 1987 only two are likely to be incorporated into a PC, and one of those isn't really RAID at all because it has no redundancy. The other is true RAID, but does not use striping.

We'll start out with RAID 1, also known as Disk Mirroring. The title gives it away. In a two disk array you mirror the contents of one disk onto the other. With 100% redundancy, there is no need to do any kind of data restoration if one of the disks should fail for any reason. A few simple instructions allow you to use the mirrored disk until you can install a replacement for the failed drive. Reactivate your array, and you're back in business with no down time. The trade-off is that a second disk doesn't give you any additional disk space, nor does it appreciably affect performance one way or the other. If reliability and preservation of data are all important to you, then a RAID 1 array can make good sense. RAID 1 is relatively cheap, easy to use, and costs about the same as most conventional backup solutions. Turn to RAID 1 when data integrity is more important than performance. To set up a RAID for your internal drives, you will need support on your motherboard or add-in card. Finally, you must still keep current drive backups to protect against user errors, viruses, and other problems that affect both drives.

Hard core gamers and other performance obsessed nut cases are almost always referring to RAID 0 when they brag about their PC speed demons. Most of them either don't know or care that RAID 0 is not true RAID as it has no redundancy. Data is spread out among all the drives in the array, which means that if any one of your drives fail, all your data is lost. This is not important if you use your system solely for game playing, but how many of us do that? If you have important data stored on your system, RAID 0 can be a dangerous implementation that may ultimately trash every byte of information on your system.

A better way than RAID 0 is to install a hard drive with a disk cache of at least 8 Megabytes of RAM. Because computers can access data from RAM much faster than directly from a disk, caching can significantly increase performance though it won't match RAID 0. Many cache systems also attempt to predict what data will be requested next so they can place that data in the cache ahead of time. This will never stop performance crazy freaks from using RAID 0. They all backup their systems regularly, don't they?

RAID 0 is for those enamored of performance where loss of data is of little concern. As an alternative, you can approach RAID 0 performance by installing drives with at least 8 megabytes of disk cache.

While it does not obviate the need for backup, a RAID 1 array can provide additional protection for those whose main consideration is preservation of data.

There are many different types of RAID configurations which we have not discussed. We have confined our dialog to RAID 0 and 1 because they are the most common arrangements on home computers. Most technical details have been left out for simplification.

For a complete description of RAID, including animated diagrams of how data is actually stored, go to
http://www.acnc.com/04_01_00.html

There is no restriction against any nonprofit 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.

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Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Disks

Downloading a File

Dave Gerber, Sarasota PC Users group

Step 1: Create a Download Folder

The first step in downloading from the Internet, is to create a folder where you will always save your downloaded files. This will help you to locate the file once it is downloaded into your computer. To create a new folder (directory) called C:\Download using Windows Explorer, highlight your C: drive, and then click on these menu items, one after the other: File | New > Folder. When a folder entitled New Folder is created, rename it "Download".

Note: A word about distinguishing between the Windows Explorer and Microsoft Internet Explorer. The Windows Explorer is the system tool that helps you examine and access your entire computer; files; directories; drives; desktop, etc. In contrast, Microsoft Internet Explorer is the browser you can use to surf the Web.

Step 2: Download a File Using Your Browser

Microsoft Internet Explorer (MSIE), Netscape Communicator, Opera, and other browsers work in similar ways. After you click the Download Now button, a small window will open and ask you, "What would you like to do with this file?" or something similar. Simply click on the "Save it to disk" or "Save" choice, and then click OK. When the familiar "Save As" window appears, use it to navigate to your newly created C:\download folder and click "Save." Watch and wait until the file has finished downloading. Problems? Some older versions of MSIE may require that you right-click on "Download Now," and select "Save Target As" to be able to begin the process described above.

Step 3: Prepare Your File for Installation

Although some files end in .exe and automatically install or explode into many files, many of the files you will download end in .zip. Since programs almost always include more than one file, think of the trouble it would be to download many files just to get one program to install. A zip file, also referred to as an archive, is an individual file that has files stored within it. When multiple files are combined into

one zip file, they are also compressed in size, which has the further benefit of saving hard drive space and shortening download time. To open a .zip file, you will need a program that will unzip the file for you. The most common program for this is WinZip. If you do not already have WinZip, follow these instructions to install the proper version.

Step 4: Download and Install WinZip

Go to www,winzip.com and download the shareware version of WinZip. (Note from Dave: This version of WinZip is shareware; registration costs $29.) Put it in your computer's C:\download folder. The WinZip file is in the form of an .exe that can be run and installed without any additional steps.

Congratulations!

You've successfully downloaded a file, and a whole new world is available to you now! The Internet is a great source for finding software gems. By tapping into the Web's motherlode of software, you can try programs to see if you like them before laying out that hard-earned cash, and keep your favorite programs up to date by learning to download and install their latest versions.

Step 5: Install your file

Double-click on winzip81.exe to install WinZip, then follow the easy step-by-step installation instructions. We suggest you take all of the suggested default settings and scan all your drives for favorite folders. WinZip can then easily access your C:\download directory for the next step. STOP when you reach the "WinZip Wizard - Welcome" window, and proceed with the next instruction. WinZip has probably been set up to launch using wizards, which are interfaces designed to make it easier to use new programs. They present each step in a series of separate windows, with options and decisions for you to make before you click Next to proceed.

Step 6: How To Handle .exe Files

As we mentioned at the beginning of Step 3, you will find files ending in both .zip and .exe. You will find that .exe files are

even easier to handle than .zip files! If you downloaded and installed WinZip earlier in this exercise, you know exactly what we mean.

The .exe files that you download are ready to be run -- the only thing is, they can act in one of several different ways. Here are a few examples of what may happen when you double-click on an .exe file that you have downloaded.

An installation routine may begin immediately. In this case, all you need do is follow the instructions that are presented to you.

A small window may appear that explains that the file will extract to a particular folder. You may wish to change the folder, or at least make a note of where the files are being placed. At the conclusion of the file extraction process, an installation process may begin. If it does not, use Windows Explorer to navigate to the folder where the files have been placed. Once there, you can look for a Readme.txt, File_id.diz, Vendinfo.diz, Productname.txt, or other file that may help you install the program. Typically, a Setup.exe or Productname.exe will be there for you to click upon.

All of the files within the .exe will be expanded into the current folder. Fortunately, this older method of packaging is not used very often.

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Downloading a File

Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor and HCIL Fellow

We all know people who cherish tiny details but never quite grasp the big picture. They're figuratively unable to see the forest for the trees, missing the landscape's glory while obsessing over whatever grows in front of their nose.

Sometimes searching the Web feels like this. Google or any favorite search engine can cheerfully deliver a thousand -- or two million -- search result hits yet not reveal patterns, groupings, or gaps in what it quickly but mindlessly displays. Making things worse, hardly anyone looks at search results beyond the first screen or two; we either settle for one of the first few links, or add search words to prune our results. But this runs two risks.

First, we may miss a key Web site that for some reason isn't highly ranked by our search engine. Not everyone knows that search engines rank results using proprietary criteria; even worse, ranking methods often change without notice, so identical searches days or weeks apart may yield very different results. Second, there's no clue or cue about search result patterns. And the human mind can't grasp a thousand – let alone two million -- links to see what they might collectively reveal.

Enter Bill Kules and Ben Shneiderman, respectively Graduate Research Assistant and Computer Science Professor at the University of Maryland. They're investigating how organizing the display of search results provides contextual and visual cues that make searches more powerful.

Their technology, partially supported by an AOL Fellowship in Human-Computer Interaction, is ideal when searchers are unsure of the target or goal. This is a variation on the famous Supreme Court quote: searchers may not know what they're looking for, but they recognize it when they see it.

Results, arranged in meaningful and stable categories using structures created by Kules' SERVICE program (as opposed to the ad hoc clustering used by some commercial search engines), are shown in a compact listing in the left side navigation bar. Important text (title, snippet, URL) is arranged for efficient scanning and skimming. SERVICE retains benefits of the traditional ranked results list, while adding an overview.

The list allows efficiently scanning and skimming title/snippet/URL -- which remains a critical task. The categorized overview adds another perspective on results, showing their distribution across categories. The overview also lets users explore results, narrowing them to a single category or subcategory.

Categorizing results is proving to change peoples' search style. For some searchers, the categorized overview simplified formulating queries. They issued a somewhat broad query and then browsed the appropriate category. Others used the overview to organize exploration of results, first perusing results in the Business category, then Science, Health, etc. Other users only used categories when frustrated by normal searching.

An interesting surprise is that empty categories -- which might have been expected to include results -- are in fact meaningful in some searches. For more information visit http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/categorizedsearch.

gabe(at)gabegold.com

Some people cherish details without grasping the big picture. They can't see the forest for the trees, always miss the landscape's glory. Searching the Web can feel like this. Search engines cheerfully deliver millions of search result hits without revealing patterns or gaps in the data. Even worse, hardly anyone looks beyond the first screen of search results. Researchers are investigating how organizing search results provides contextual and visual cues that make searches more powerful.

"I didn't do anything!" Part 1

By Charles W. Davis, Sun City Anthem Computer Group

In working to help Club members and others with their computer problems during the Thursday morning Computer Talk sessions, or more often when making "house calls," I often hear strange tales that usually involve acts of some gremlin like creature. However, gremlins are more closely related to mechanical problems in aircraft.

Generally the caller's comments start with "all of a sudden" or "suddenly" and end with "I didn't' do anything." I can only surmise that it was probably one of cartoonist Bill Keane's ghostly imps "Not Me." "Nobody" or even "Ida Know."

Some recent examples:
"Suddenly…"
One morning a couple of weeks ago, I received a call and the person on the other end of the phone connection was obviously very upset. She exclaimed: "Suddenly all of my desktop icons are gone! I didn't do anything! Please help me!"

This situation seemed to be serious. I had never heard of this happening. I didn't have anything on the calendar for another two hours so I hopped in my 1999 "Sapphire Blue Mica" (marketing division color name of course) Miata for the short drive up the hill to her Tall Mesa Village home. She was right, the icons were indeed missing. A simple right click on the blank desktop, hover over Arrange Icons by: and then click on Show Desktop Icons. This was definitely an act by the "little people." As I said, I hadn't heard of this situation before. Therefore, it must have been "Not Me" wishing to get off the hook by whispering in my ear how I might arrive at the solution. Since the club member was in the back room and the house girl had let me in, I quickly left the scene.

The next day the same lady called and said that her "My Computer" Icon was missing from the desktop. Realizing that it wasn't the normal desktop shortcut icon, I was puzzled. Not thinking things through, I again slid onto the seat in the Miata and shortly arrived on the scene. Sure enough most icons were visible, but the "My Computer" icon was not in its normal position.

It wasn't immediately visible. I later noticed the top edge of the icon protruding just above the task bar. Once again, I moved the pointer to a blank spot on the desktop, a right click on the mouse and chose Arrange Icons by and chose Name. The My Desktop icon again assumed its prominence at the upper left. She said that she didn't drag and drop it down there. As I picked up a $20 donation to the Club, I assumed that it must have been "Nobody" and left for home.

"Suddenly…"
Monday morning is usually the time for the phone calls to begin. On a recent Monday, the caller sheepishly states that "suddenly I can't access the Internet." I recognized that the person speaking to me is the same one whose 18 year old granddaughter had placed hundreds of malware programs on his laptop two weeks before. At that time I had suggested a router/firewall so that she could plug her laptop directly to the router with Internet access. He had immediately gone out and purchased and installed one. Oh yes, the granddaughter had been there over the weekend and had brought her own laptop computer.

The blue Miata once again headed up the hill (from our home in the Valley View Village all destinations seem to be "up the hill.") to their home in Arroyo Vista Village. In just a few minutes, I found that the dear child didn't plug the cable into the router as instructed, but had used grandpa's computer. Since she was an AOL user, she attempted to change Gramps' Accounts from Cox Cable to AOL dialup and failed. It would have been so easy for her to have just gone to AOL using Internet Explorer. She left for school Sunday evening and didn't mention a thing to Gramps. That way, she didn't have to tell on either "Ida Know" or "Not Me." I picked up the $20 donation to the club and was soon on my way.

An admonition: Set up a Guest Account without Administrative rights. Place a User name and password on the Administrative (your's) account.

"All of a Sudden…"

"All of a sudden" turns up many times a month and in some unusual situations. Last week, I received a call from a member that was using Microsoft Office Outlook. It seems that she had been entering information into a new contact when "all of a sudden" she couldn't enter information. She explained that she had been using Outlook and contacts for years and had never had this problem. Since this didn't seem (to me) that this required immediate attention, I arranged an appointment for the next morning. My Miata and I arrived at her Golf Mesa Village home just as the Grandfather clock guarding the entry was announcing that it was 10:00. Grandfather clocks that I am aware of don't announce "a.m." or "p.m."

She met me at the door and we proceeded to the office and she took her place in front of her computer to show me what was happening. She began keying in the house number, using the numeric key pad and just as she had said, nothing worked as expected. I immediately saw why this had happened so "suddenly." Apparently "Nobody" had pressed the Num Lock key thereby turning it off. So as she would enter a house number, things went wild as the 2,4, 6, and 8 keys acted as direction keys, 7 & 9 were Home and Page Up respectively and 1 & 3 were End and Page down. I asked her to press the Num Lock key and "all of a sudden" the problem was resolved. I collected the $20 donation check to the club and was homeward bound — downhill of course.

"Suddenly…"
On another Monday, I received a call from a member stating that she had recently upgraded to MS Office 2003 and a short time later, suddenly she could no longer access MS Publisher files. This was the result of someone else messing with functions that they should have stayed away from. Support teams at Norton will vow "Not me." But when the lady was directed to an article titled "How to use Office programs with the Norton Anti-Virus Office plug-in" she was able to resolve the problem as I watched. This article can help you extricate yourself and may be found at:

"I didn't do anything!" (cont.)

http://support.microsoft.com/kb/329820/en-us

It is maddening to think that one, nay thousands upon thousands, must jump through hoops because a bunch of programmers at Symantec (Norton) can't get it right.

I have never understood their automatic plug-in installation. At least they should tell the user, including a list of possible problems and their resolution, and let them make a decision as to whether to install the plug in. Who needs viruses when "reputable" software manufacturers can do things like this to you?

A long time ago, in computer time, but actually just over a year ago, I stopped paying the extortion money for antivirus software and have used the free AVG antivirus, which is available from http://free.grisoft.com/doc/1

"Suddenly..."

"Suddenly" you can't open Word or most other Microsoft Office products. This happened because you owned a Hewlett Packard multi-function printer with a flash memory card reader. It seems that a security update messed with the logic for these systems and caused much havoc around the world. A follow-on update was released to affected computers during the 4th week in April. If you are still having the problem, go to Start then Windows Update, download and install all Critical updates. It seems that "Ida Know" visited Microsoft's Redmond campus…

Suddenly…"

Last week, one of your neighbors in the Valley View Village went to his neighbors stating that his phone went "dead." On investigation, it was learned that he had ordered and installed a new Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system. Some of the equipment had arrived, but due to a transposition of digits when entering the credit card number, the important "Silver" box did not get shipped. "Ida Know" didn't know how the mix up occurred. "Who Knows" stated that the customer probably discarded the silver box with the packaging. However, the land line telephone provider had been notified to

discontinue the service. "Dead line!"

An admonition: Always check the contents of packages to make certain that all components are included before installing anything!

The Federal Communications Commission has a web site that explains most aspects of VoIP:

http://www.fcc.gov/voip/

Not so "Suddenly…"

This particular call arrived on a Tuesday, so I was surprised to hear: "Suddenly I can send e-mail but I can't receive any messages. Everything times out. I've called Cox Communications and since I use Office Outlook 2003, they weren't much help." This phone call came in at a time that Vickie was out and wouldn't return for a while, so I slid behind the wheel of the Miata and headed for Ridgecrest Village to see what had happened so "suddenly."

It took several minutes of attempting to send messages to the owner's e-mail address. Sure enough the message would be sent, but no incoming messages. After some time it would all time out. The first inbound message would never arrive. I found that there was no Internet access using Internet Explorer. I installed Firefox from my USB Flash memory and was then able to access the internet. At this time clues began to appear one-by-one.

Norton Internet Security was warning of Firefox accessing the Internet — twice!

ZoneAlarm was warning of Firefox accessing the Internet!

Oops! Only one program firewall at a time is allowed. Since the member's Norton subscription was about to expire, I downloaded AVG antivirus to his desktop (free at http://free.grisoft.com), shut off the cable modem, went to uninstall Norton SystemWorks and discovered two versions. I uninstalled both. When I attempted to install AVG antivirus, the program indicated that the version of the Roxio CD creator contained code that was incompatible with AVG, and it provided a link for an update. I installed the update and then suc-

cessfully installed the AVG antivirus. Then I turned on the cable modem and downloaded updates. I was grateful to the AVG programmers to make that test and inform the user. Suddenly, I decided that I like the AVG antivirus program and its creators even more than in the past.

Now I felt that I could address the original problem. I opened Office Outlook, and it proceeded to download a monstrous movie clip — 9.87MB! It was able to complete the download due to the fact that Norton wasn't scanning inbound e-mail messages.

"Suddenly" wasn't really all that sudden. The second and third firewall programs were installed over a period of time, but the problem didn't manifest itself until the arrival of the large file. As an aside, it was a clip from a newscast relating the story of an autistic youth that had been the go-fer for a high school basketball team. On the last game of his senior year, the coach (dad) suited him up put him in to play. I believe that I saw through the tears that welled up in my eyes over 21 points racked up — all three pointers. I'm not a sports fan, but am a fan of the underdog! $20 more for the Club's treasury.

This article was originally published in Bits, PCs & Macs. Bits PCs & Macs is the newsletter of the Sun City Anthem Computer Club. All copies are available online at: http://www.myscacc.org/newsletters.htm

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.

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Getting Ready for Windows Vista

Gene Barlow, User Group Relations

The next few months promise to be an exciting time for PC users as Microsoft rolls out their new Windows Vista operating system. While some business systems may be released late this year, most of the action will take place shortly after the beginning of the new year. Now is the time to start planning how you are going to take advantage of this new technology.

This is the first new version of Windows in over five years and is a major change in how PC user will interact with their computers. Lots of new function has been added to Vista to make it the most exciting new Windows since Windows 95 was first introduced. You will want to be a part of this major step forward in technology.

Some of the new features added to Windows Vista include:

• A complete redesign of the graphical user interface that you see and interact with. Windows Vista has a fresh new look and is a lot easier to use.

• Finding things on your Vista computer is going to be much easier. Files can be stored in one location, but retrieved in many different ways.

• New multimedia tools will now be part of Vista . This will help you to better work with your images, music, and videos files.

• Communications between computer systems has also been greatly enhanced. Connecting with other computers can now be done quickly and easily.

• System security has also been enhanced. Vista will provide you with more security features than older Windows systems did.

These are just a few of the hundreds of new features you will find in Vista. To read about more of them download the *Windows Vista Product Guide* found on the Microsoft's web site at http:// www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/ getready/preview/.

Interested and excited about Windows Vista? You should be. This is a very important change in how we use our computers. So, what do you need to do to get your computer ready for Windows Vista?

Microsoft suggests two ways to move to Windows Vista. They are as follows:

• Do a Clean Install of Vista on top of your old WinXP operating system. This replaces your WinXP system with a new Windows Vista system. You will have to save all of your data files and settings from your old system before installing Vista and then put them back on your hard drive after Vista is installed. You will also need to reinstall all of your application programs from their original CDs. This is a lot of work, but it should give you a cleaner Vista system. Unfortunately, in the process you will destroy your old WinXP system. I consider this approach too risky for my use.

• Do an in-place upgrade of your old WinXP operating system with Windows Vista. This will install Windows Vista on top of your old operating system, but will keep all of your application programs and data files from your old system in the Windows Vista replacement. This is an easier way to go, but if things don't work, you have just destroyed your old working WinXP system in the process. Again, too risky for my liking.

So, how can you get to Windows Vista and still have the protection of your working WinXP system while you are getting use to Windows Vista? The secret is that you setup your computer's hard drive to run multiple operating systems. That will give you the ability to run both your current WinXP operating system and the new Windows Vista operating system on the same computer. This is easy to do with the right software tools.

First, you need to set up a logical Data partition on your main hard drive to hold all of the data files. Then you can access those data files from either of the two operating systems you are using. To do this, you need a partitioning utility like *Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0* . More about this excellent utility later.

Once you have moved all of your data files from your WinXP partition to this new Data partition you will be ready to install Vista . You can do this in the following ways:

• Multiple Operating Systems with a Clean Install of Windows Vista. Using the top rated partitioning utility, *Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0*, you set up a second primary partition on your main computer. Then you install a Clean version of Windows Vista in this second primary partition on your main hard drive. When you are done, you can switch back and forth between your WinXP operating system and your new Windows Vista operating system using the *OS Selector* utility that comes with *Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0* . This lets you keep your working WinXP system while you are building your new Windows Vista system. You will need to install any application programs in the Windows Vista partition that you want to run under Vista. This will give you the cleanest installation of Vista possible.

• Multiple Operating Systems with an Upgrade Install of Windows Vista. Also using the partitioning utility, *Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0*, you set up an empty space on your main computer where your Vista primary partition will reside. Then you copy your WinXP operating system partition into this empty space on your hard drive. This gives you two primary partitions, each with WinXP installed in it and running. Next, you do a Windows Vista upgrade install into the partition with the copy of WinXP. This will replace WinXP in that one partition with Windows Vista, but still keep your application programs and settings. You can switch back and forth between the two operating systems using the *OS Selector* utility that comes with *Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0* . This is the easiest way to get to Windows Vista from WinXP.

Windows Vista (cont.)

By using multiple operating systems on your computer to run both WinXP and Windows Vista, you do not risk having to burn your WinXP bridges before you are comfortable with Windows Vista. This gives you the time to test out your application programs and get everything working on your new Windows Vista system before you commit to using it exclusively. Once you are satisfied that Windows Vista works perfectly for you, then you can discard the old WinXP system and only use Windows Vista. It may be several months before you finally get rid of WinXP. You do not need to get rid of it the day you first install Windows Vista like the two Microsoft options suggest.

To help you move to Window Vista, we are putting several things in place. First, you will need a copy of the excellent partitioning utility, *Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0*. This product normally sells for $50, but we offer it to user group members and their friends for a discounted price of $29 in our Fall Special bundle. You will also get a copy of our tutorial, *Getting*

Ready for Windows Vista in the Fall Special bundle. Both of these for only $29 is an outstanding bargain and one that you won't want to miss. Order yours today from our web site at www.usergroupstore.com. Look for the Fall Special and use the order code of UG-FAL06 to complete your order.

To help you understand and use *Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0* to get ready for Windows Vista, we have just completed a new tutorial titled, *Getting Ready for Windows Vista*. You can view it on our web site at www.ugr.com/tutorials.html. This will help you to better understand the steps needed to set up multiple operating systems on your computer. Those ordering our Fall Special on a CD will receive the tutorial CD with their order. Finally, we are working on a detailed step-by-step technical paper titled, *Using Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0 to Install Windows Vista*. This paper should be available around the end of October on our web site. We want your move to Windows Vista to be successful, so we are offering you all of these tutorials and papers to help you get

there as planned.

Be one of the first to use the exciting new Windows Vista operating system on your computer and share this information with your friends. We will help you get to that point safely and easily with our excellent products, tutorials, and prices. If you have any questions about this article or *Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0*, please send them to gene@ugr.com. I look forward to helping you if I can.

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Are You "Compuliterate?"

By Berry F. Phillips, Computer Club of Oklahomea City

"Compuliteracy" Test
(unknown author)

1. Who invented the computer? Mr. Chips, E.T., Marquis de Sade.
2. What are microchips? What a herd of micros leave on the prairie,What you eat with a microdip, The reason you had to take all those computer literacy courses.
3. What is a floppy disk? A painful lowerback condition, An album that didn't sell, A great Frisbee.
4. What is the first thing you associate with computers? Bill Cosby commercials, Eyestrain & headaches, Annoying beeps, Three tons of printout where once there was a 3-page report, All of the above.
5. What is FORTRAN? Between 3 and 5 tran, How to get computers excited before interface, Ridiculous.
6. What is Pascal? A leafy vegetable, A foot fungus, A city in southern France, None of the above.
7. When you need consulting help in deciding what to do with your computer, which organization do you think of? IBM, FBI, PLO?
8. What is the most important computer peripheral? Bill Gates, Someone to operate the computer for you, Aspirin.

Some years ago, I was staring at a demo game computer with that blank stare of a computer illiterate in a large computer store. I felt a tug on my sleeve and there was a small lad who asked me rather impatiently, "Why don't you do something?" I confessed with great difficulty being an adult that I did not know what to do. This mini computer user said, "I will show you because I have this game at home." He began killing monsters right and left as I slunk out of the store in humiliation. I vowed from that day forward I would become computer literate because no eight year old was going to be more computer literate than I was!

I suspect you have some hands on computer experience since you are reading my column. Computer literacy is today a necessity when entering the job market. I remember when Time Magazine awarded the computer, their coveted Man of the Year which dramatically illustrated the incredible impact the personal computer has had on our contemporary society. Computer literacy does not mean you need to know everything about a computer but you should master the basics and understand how a computer works. I remember thinking that just because a person used a computer in a business that they must be computer literate. I discovered that many computer users only knew how to do limited applications necessary for them to do their specific work. Further, I noticed that many computer users due to lack of computer literacy were very limited in their use of their computers. Limited computer literacy usually translates into limited use of the computer never experiencing the full potential of the computer and maximizing their return on their computer investment.

What alternatives are available to accelerate one's level of computer literacy? Basic computer courses are offered by most continuing education programs. They are usually reasonably priced and conveniently scheduled. They can be found in your local school district, or community college on evenings and weekends. There are career retraining programs that often offer computer courses through your local Labor Department Office. There are also online courses and tutorials available and the public libraries have computers available to their patrons with Internet access.

I have found that computer clubs are an excellent choice for developing computer literacy since they are economical, and less theoretical and are more focused on how to operate the computer using various applications. Computer users helping other computer users move to the next level of computer literacy is an incredible learning and motivating experience. All of those who obtain computer literacy were once computer illiterates. As they were helped to reach computer literacy, they enjoy helping others as they were helped. You are never alone in your journey to reach computer literacy in a computer club; there is always another member to ask a question or to get hands on help. Many computer clubs have computer labs as does the Computer Club of Oklahoma City, www.ccokc.org (405-843-4300) which is also affiliated with the national Senior Net Users Group and the Association of PC Users Groups. If you are not in the Oklahoma City area, please contact the Association of PC Users Groups, www.apcug.org (800-558-6867) to check on an affiliated computer club in your area .

The sole objective of computer clubs is to help each other to reach computer literacy. We often hear from our members who have achieved computer literacy how when they started they wondered how they would ever use a computer and now how they will ever get along without a computer! The transition from computer illiteracy to literacy is truly amazing. Our mission is to help each other reach computer literacy with a variety of proven classes that will get you up too speed as soon as possible. The Computer Club of Oklahoma City believes the only unintelligent question is the unasked question! Obtaining computer literacy is not a luxury but an absolute necessity in our rapidly evolving technological society.

I hope that I remain "compuliterate" because those eight year olds are getting more and more "compuliterate" especially the older I get!

Author Berry F. Phillips is a member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City and a regular writer for the CCOKC website and the eMonitor.
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BASICS - Software With New Computers

By Hilton Kaufman, Chicago Computer Society

When a typical consumer buys a computer, some software or programs normally comes with it. Just what is included will vary with price and brand, but usually includes an operating system as a minimum. It is possible to get a custom built machine without any software if this is actually wanted.

I recently bought an HP Media Computer, that I consider an overkill machine, for home use. A lot of software comes with it. There are several separate programs for working with audio-visual files and DVDs, two money management programs, several games, two internet browsers, two office suites plus an extra word processor, a security program, and probably a few other small programs.

In the vast majority of computers delivered today, the operating system that is included is some version of Windows XP. This includes a number of possibly useful programs in a folder or directory called Accessories. For many people, this will be all that is needed to get good use out of a computer.

The manufacturer of the machine very likely included some additional programs. Maybe this brings you up to your required level of software. If you do need more, the included programs may provide deals or better prices on the others that you need.

Check out what you have before rushing out to buy more.

Microsoft Windows Media Player should be adequate for playing most music and video files and comes with the operating system. The major competing program, *RealPlayer,* also seems to have come with the operating system. (I believe there is some sort of legal requirement that it be included.) In addition to playing music, you can also do things like listen to the hourly online BBC news headlines.

I personally do not use either of the money management programs, *Microsoft Money* and *Quicken*. I may be a bit paranoid but I do not put personal financial data on a computer that is regularly connected to the Internet. Spyware gets on computers too easily, even with good defenses.

I find several of the games to be fun to play, as well as good to kill time when I don't want to do anything serious. The virtual pinball machine comes complete with arcade noises and has the same motif as the last real one that I had a chance to play some years ago. *Free Cell* is a thinker's card game with most deals possible to win. There is also a straight solitaire game that is quite popular among long-time computer users.

Both *Internet Explorer* and *Netscape* are included. My Internet service provider seems to prefer to work with Internet Explorer. The default setting that came with my machine was *Netscape*. Other browsers can be downloaded if wanted.

There is a minimal level word processor, called *WordPad*, that comes with Windows operating systems. For many computer users, it is perfectly adequate. It will do letters and small plain text documents, such as an article for publication in a computer club newsletter, quite well. There is a choice of font styles and colors. A common starting document, such as a letterhead, can be saved and renamed when used for another document.

Microsoft Works and *Office* are collections of related software or suites of programs for office purposes, with *Office* being the one for professional users and large offices. Both have word processors that are more powerful than *WordPad*. Most home and small business users have no reason to use anything more powerful than *Works*.

Without getting into a lot of details, I can say that *Microsoft Office* is a very powerful and versatile office suite. There are increasingly expensive versions available with programs of interest to limited numbers of users. I received a 60-day free demo of the bottom of the line version of *Office* with my computer. If I upgrade during the trial period, I need only to pay the upgrade price for even the most expensive version.

Some sort of security program came with the program that would be good for a limited time unless I paid a subscription fee. Windows XP also has an adequate firewall for most users. I removed the security program since I am subscribing to an excellent one through my Internet service provider.

While the included programs you get can vary greatly with the brand and price of the machine, those that come with Windows XP remain constant. You can have a machine built to order with hardly anything in it or fully loaded. The default word processing suite from Dell seems to be a *Corel WordPerfect* one, but you can order a Microsoft suite for a slightly higher price. An off-the-shelf Media Center machine will routinely come with a lot of stuff.

While each machine is different, you should learn what you already have before adding more programs. You may already have something that will do what you want or will enable you to get a discount on what you want to add. ∎

Hilton Kaufman serves as the technical support person in the procedures writing unit of the Illinois Department of Employment Security. As such, he uses the software provided to him to create forms, convert documents into PDFs, advise members of his unit as to how to use the available software, and similar tasks.

For his home computer, he can go all out and get a powerful machine that allows him to do things like playing games and surf the web without getting in trouble. He has prepared a number of articles aimed at novice users on the basics of standard computer programs.

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DMA® Board Minutes - September 11, 2006

By Martin Arbagi, DMA Secretary

Call to Order & Attendance

President Gary Turner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Trustees present: M. Arbagi, J. Bellan, C. Gelm, J. Hargreaves, D. Tasch, G. Turner, and J. Ullom were present.

Visitors: G. Campion, M. Carr, Barb and Bob Pfeifer.

Officers' Reports

PRESIDENT *(Gary Turner)*

No report.

VICE–PRESIDENT *(Vacant)*

TREASURER *(Ed Jones)*

Presented the financial report.

There was considerable discussion about maximizing the return on DMA's remaining investments.

SECRETARY *(Martin Arbagi)*

Chuck Gelm moved approval of the Minutes of the August meeting. Seconded by Jim Bellan. Passed unanimously.

Martin sent a letter to Peter Hess, requesting an accounting of monies allocated by DMA for Wireless Dayton Days. Although Mr. Hess had turned in a full report of the activities of the Wireless Dayton Day Committee, the Trustees still do not have a financial report.

Dan Tasch moved, and Chuck Gelm seconded a motion to have the address to which bank statements are sent changed from Peter Hess's home address to 119 Valley Street (or our post office box, whichever is more appropriate), and to add Gary Turner, Ed Jones, and Martin Arbagi's names to the list of authorized signatures for the account. Passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

LANfest *(Glady Campion reporting unofficially)*

LANfest was a success, covering all its expenses and making a small profit of $200. The next LANfest will be next spring. The LANfest committee recently held a LAN party strictly for console games.

Membership *(Glady Campion)*

Our current membership stands at 384.

Programs *(Jim Ullom)*

The speaker for September will be Sgt. Lee Graf of the Springfield Police Department. He is in charge of the unit that captures child molesters and other sexual predators via the Internet.

Jim observed that <u>all</u> Trustees should be involved in recruiting speakers for our General Membership Meetings, and moved that each Trustee be required to propose a speaker by the Trustees' meeting of January '07. Seconded by Gary Turner. Passed, unanimously.

OTAP and 119 Valley Street *(Mike Carr)*

We have a better idea of what OTAP's inventory is.

OTAP has until now, offered donated computers to qualified recipients with Windows '98. It is now changing over to Windows 2000.

Old Business

Nominations and Officers

Jim Bellan wishes to run for (re-) election for a full three–year term as Trustee.

Ron Williamitis has expressed an interest and turned in his paperwork.

John van Alden has not yet turned in his paperwork.

Chuck Gelm is interested in serving as Treasurer when Ed Jones's term runs out.

Executive Session

Jim Ullom moved that Trustees go into Executive Session at 9:05 P.M., seconded by Chuck Gelm. Passed. Chuck Gelm moved that we leave Executive Session at 9:25, seconded by John Hargreaves. Passed.

New Business

DMA Pub

Some question had arisen as to whether or not DMA should continue to offer "enhanced service" to subscribers of DMA Pub. This question has become largely academic. Enhanced service — *i.e.,* access to Usenet and to FTP — used to cost us extra, and we passed the cost on to those DMA members who wanted the enhanced service. Mike Carr informed the Trustees that this service is offered by Donet,® our current Internet Service Provider, at no extra cost. One DMA member still pays extra for this service. Dan Tasch moved that we refund the money he paid over and above his regular membership dues. Martin Arbagi seconded. Passed, with Jim Ullom abstaining.

Volunteer of the Month

Elliot Lake was named Volunteer of the Month for taking up leadership of the "hands on" Special Interest Group.

Adjournment

Chuck Gelm moved to adjourn at 9:55 P.M. Second by Jim Ullom. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martin Arbagi

Name: _____   Birth date:_____/_____/_____

mo.   day   yr.

Address: _____

City: _____   State: _____   Zip: _____-_____

Phone: (Home) (_____) _____-_____   Phone: (Work) (_____) _____-_____x_____

I wish to have my name and address published in the club roster: YES [ ]   NO [ ]   E-mail address _____

Name of DMA® member who recruited me: _____ (only new regular memberships)

Current or recent DMA® Member: Yes [ ]   No [ ]   Change of Address Only [ ]   Today's date: _____/_____/_____

Membership number (from your *DataBus* mailing label) _____

Type of Membership

Application is for: New Membership [ ]

Membership Renewal [ ]   Associate Membership* [ ]

If applying for free student membership, please give school name and student ID number: Available **only** for students under 22 years old.

School Name: _____   Student ID#: _____

* A family associate membership is an additional membership for a member of your immediate family that

is living in the member's household. If this is a family associate membership, give name of regular member: _____

Dues/Fees   (Dues and Fees are subject to change without prior notice)

Membership (one year - New or Renewal)	1.) [ ] **$25**	[ ] Cash [ ] Check Check # _____
Family Associate Membership (must live at same address as regular member)	2.) [ ] **$12.50**	
Free* Student Membership	3.) [ ] **FREE** *for students under 22 yrs of age	
Please assign me a user ID for E-mail and Usenet news access	4.) [ ] **$10** one-time setup fee for new accounts.	
Total - - - Lines (1 **or** 2) (+4 if checked)	5.) $_____	

Make your check payable to   **Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc.** DMA®, then send the check and application to: - - - - - -
- - - - - - - - - ->**PO Box 340402   Beavercreek, OH 45434-0402**

DMA® Use only: Membership # _____   Exp. Date: ____/____/____   Processed by: _____   REV: 01Nov05

Friends of DMA

The "Friends of DMA" program is being established to facilitate direct contributions from both groups and individuals to help cover expenses and opportunities. DMA will gratefully accept any amount you or your business can afford.

All contributions made to "Friends of DMA" are tax deductible: 501(c)(3) . DMA was founded on the principle of keeping membership fees as low as possible in order to allow all those wishing to join, participate, and share in the many benefits and rewards that membership provides.

In spite of decreasing sponsor donations, the expenses of DMA do continue and shortfalls must be realized from sources such as membership dues and direct contributions such as the Friends of DMA Program.

Become a Friend of DMA and contribute to the support of our organization. You may contribute any amount to the General Fund or designate your contribution to a specific target need. All contributions will be acknowledged with a signed receipt certificate.

Enclosed is my (our) contribution in the amount of:
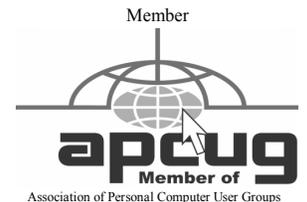**( ) $25   ( ) $50   ( ) $100   ( ) $250   ( ) $500**
The desired target of this donation is:
( ) General Fund – Allocate to most needed area within DMA
( ) Hardware and On Line Services – Allocate to help the DMA infrastructure
( ) Administrative – Dues Assistance, Administrative, Publications and supplies
( ) Other:

_____

DMA® Events for October 22 - December 2, 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24	Oct 25 **Hands-On SIG** 6:30 pm 119 Valley	Oct 26 **Digital Photo SIG** 7:00 pm 119 Valley	Oct 27	Oct 28 **OTAP** 9AM-5pm **Gaming SIG** 4:00 pm - Midnight
Oct 29 Daylight Saving Ends **Gaming SIG** Midnight-4:00 pm	Oct 30	Oct 31 Halloween **Main Meeting** 7:30 pm 101 Faucett WSU	Nov 1	Nov 2 **Genealogy SIG** 7:00 pm 119 Valley	Nov 3	Nov 4 **OTAP** 9AM-5PM **Classic SIG** 3:00 pm
Nov 5	Nov 6 **DMA Board of Trustees** 7:00 pm 119 Valley	Nov 7 **Amateur Radio SIG** 7:00 pm 119 Valley	Nov 8 **Perl Mongers** 7:00 pm 119 Valley	Nov 9 **Software Dev SIG** 7:00 pm 119 Valley	Nov 10 Veterans Day (Observed)	Nov 11 Veterans Day **OTAP** 9am-5pm
Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14 **Hands-On SIG** 6:30 pm 119 Valley	Nov 15	Nov 16 **Linux SIG** 7:00 pm 145 Russ Engineering Center, WSU	Nov 17	Nov 18 **OTAP** 9am-5pm **Classic SIG** 3:00 pm
Nov 19	Nov 20 **Apple SIG** 7:00 pm Huber Heights Athletic Ctr., 5367 Fishburg	Nov 21	Nov 22 **Hands-On SIG** 6:30 pm 119 Valley	Nov 23 Thanksgiving	Nov 24	Nov 25 **OTAP** 9am-5pm **Gaming SIG** 4:00 pm - Midnight
Nov 26 **Gaming SIG** Midnight-4:00 pm	Nov 27 DataBus deadline is first of each month	Nov 28 **Main Meeting** 7:30 pm Medical Sciences Building, WSU	Nov 29	Nov 30 **Digital Photo SIG** 7:00 pm 119 Valley	Dec 1	Dec 2 **OTAP** 9am-5pm **Classic SIG** 3:00 pm

Remember:
- **October 31, 2006: Fairborn Camera & Video**
- **Room 101 Fawcett Hall., WSU**
- **Send membership applications & renewals to:** **PO Box 340402, Beavercreek, OH 45434-0402**

DMA ™

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