

# Syracuse Guru to Spill the Beans

## Al Fasoldt

comes to the MVPCUG for a third visit this April 6. This outspoken authority on innumerable

aspects of computer technology and software does not hesitate to call it as he sees it. He'll respond directly to your questions during his presentation.

As an editor and columnist at The Post-Standard newspaper in Syracuse, he has written about computers and consumer technology since 1983. Gene Wolf and he hosted the popular call-in show, Random Access, on Syracuse radio stations for nearly 10 years.

Al was a war correspondent and bureau chief for "Stars and Stripes" in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967. You can see some of his war photos at [www.stripes.com/photoday/mekong/index.html](http://www.stripes.com/photoday/mekong/index.html).

He is the author of "Technofile" (consumer technology), "The Road Less Traveled" (Mac OS X), and also wrote the internationally recognized advice column, "Dr. Gizmo."

*He will talk about trends in personal computing and discuss tips and techniques for digital photo editing. Al is very comfortable taking questions and comments from the audience.*

*We suggest that you write out in advance the details of your question on a 3x5 card or a piece of paper and bring that with you. We can then read your questions over the microphone for all to hear.*

## Meeting Agenda

- 5:30 ..... Meet and Greet
- 6:00 ..... Business Meeting
- 6:30 ..... Program, Part 1
- 7:00 ..... Break
- 7:15 ..... Program, Part 2
- 8:15 ..... Drawing for Prizes
- 8:30 ..... Adjournment

## Election Results 2004

- President ..... Jerry Finkelstein
- Vice President ..... Lisa Britt
- Secretary ..... Marsha Thayer
- Treasurer ..... Bill Gorrell
- Director-at-large . Bob Schaffer

**Our Meetings  
are open to the  
public.**



**No admission  
charge!**

FOR ARTICLES BY AL FASOLDT  
IN THE POST-STANDARD AND ONLINE SINCE 1983:

<http://aroundcny.com/technofile>

The Post-Standard online: <http://www.syracuse.com>



# explorer

The **MVPCUG EXPLORER** is published monthly from September through June by the Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc., PO Box 586, Marcy NY 1403-0586.

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The Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc. (MVPCUG) was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers. This non-profit organization consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the Whitesboro High School, Route 291, Marcy NY. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Initial membership fee for an individual is \$25. Annual renewal dues are \$20.

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

**Editor**  
Bob Schaffer

### Columnists

Jerry Finkelstein  
Donna Gorrell  
John Hunter

The *Explorer* is printed by

## The Gallery

4780 Commercial Drive - New Hartford

315-768-7851

Our Internet presence is at  
<http://www.mvpcug.com>

## The Web Team

Dan Evans  
Lisa Britt

## ADVERTISING RATES

¼ page — \$25 ❖ ½ page — \$45

## HELP HOTLINES

Help is limited to times indicated:

- ★ Day calls: 9am to 4pm.
- ★ Evening calls: 6 to 9pm.

If your problem isn't urgent, please try email.

Disclaimer: The individuals listed here provide voluntary services and information. Please be considerate when you call. Our Help Hotline members reserve the right to limit the amount of advice and number of calls they will accept. Use these services and information at your own discretion and risk as they and the MVPCUG do not assume responsibility for any software or hardware failures that may occur. The club does not assume responsibility for any agreements made by participating parties.

AOL	..... Dave Askew
Basic	..... Mike Smith
Batch Files	..... Mike Smith ..... Tim Clinehens
dBase	..... Mike Smith
Excel	..... Bob May
Money	..... Bob Schaffer
Troubleshooting	..... Tim Clinehens ..... Bill Gorrell
WordPerfect	..... Bob Schaffer

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	..... Jerry Finkelstein
Vice President	..... Lisa Britt
Treasurer	..... Bill Gorrell
Secretary	..... Marsha Thayer
Directors-at-Large	..... Dave Askew ['05] ..... George Bracken ['06] ..... Bob Schaffer ['07]

## Smart Computing Special

MVPCUG members can now enjoy special benefits and pricing from the publishers of *Smart Computing*, *CPU*, *PC Today*, and *CE Tips*. Subscribe to one magazine and have access online to all four publications!

- ★ *Smart Computing* — For all skill levels, the plain-English writing style will help you improve your PC productivity and get the most out of your computer. For more info, visit [www.smartcomputing.com](http://www.smartcomputing.com).
- ★ *Computer Power User* — For the high-end power user with a taste for cutting-edge products and for those who enjoy the challenge of mastering and implementing new technologies. For more info, visit [www.computerpoweruser.com](http://www.computerpoweruser.com).
- ★ *PC Today* — Filled with practical Windows advice that PC users can put to work immediately. Step-by-step tutorials, the latest operating system news, hardware and software reviews, and PC gaming. For more info, visit [www.pctoday.com](http://www.pctoday.com).
- ★ *CE Tips* — Covers the world of consumer electronics from HDTV to your digital camera. For more info: [www.cetips.com](http://www.cetips.com).  
For every five paid subscriptions MVPCUG will receive a free subscription. Members family and friends can order subscriptions. The unique code numbers to use when calling (800) 733-3809 to order are:  
★ Smart Computing: 12659  
★ CPU: 935  
★ PC Today: 570  
★ CE Tips: 415

## GET A FREE MVPCUG MEMBERSHIP

- ◆ It's easy to do and you'll save \$20.00!
- ◆ Just sign up two *new* members and you receive a one-year membership extension.
- ◆ You have 90 days in which to sign up your two new members.

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG  
Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.  
\$25 for initial sign-up - \$20 for renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ NY

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail with a check payable to MVPCUG to

MVPCUG  
PO Box 586  
Marcy NY 13403-0586

**Minutes of March 2, 2004**  
— **Marsha Thayer, Secretary**

*The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro High School. President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.*

**Business Meeting**

Parking for the Trapp Show is free. Admission to the show is \$3 for club members and \$7 for others.

Que/Sam’s Publishing is sponsoring a contest. Participants are requested to write 500 words or less on the topic of what food reminds you of Que/Sam’s Publishing Company and Sam’s Club. An example would be: “Do you go bananas over our books?” If interested send your entry to **Donna Gorrell** or **Bob Schaffer**. The club could win a prize consisting of a speaker from Sam’s and prizes.

The Open Box activity meets on the 3rd Thursday after the 1st Tuesday of each month at A-Z Auto. In March it will be on the 18th.

Marsha will no longer be making coffee for the meetings. We are looking for a volunteer to take that job.

Jerry reminded us to clean up after ourselves at the end of meetings.

Jerry reported that the Board is recommending purchasing a laptop for the club for up to \$2000. He sought a motion to that effect. After discussion it was decided that this motion would be tabled until a set of requirements can be generated for this equipment including need and configuration. This will be discussed again at the next general meeting.

The Treasurer reported February income of \$208.31, expenses of \$228.22 and an ending balance of \$4114.53.

Bill read the club audit report generated by Cathy Dougherty. A copy is available for members to read.

Jerry asked for any further nominations for club officers. None were made. The nominations were closed with the following slate of officers:

- President - Jerry Finkelstein**
- Vice President - Lisa Britt**
- Secretary - Marsha Thayer**
- Treasurer - Bill Gorrell**
- Board member - Bob Schaffer**

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously for the secretary to cast 1 ballot for the slate. Said ballot was cast.

**Program**

Christine Seidsma, Program Manager of the Forensic Research and Development Center at Utica College gave an interesting presentation on two topics: ATM Fraud and High Tech Crime Investigation.

From 7:15 to 7:25 we took a break.

Dave Askew and Tim Clinehens conducted an auction of computer-related items offered by attendees. It was a spirited auction with lots of participation.

At 8:00 we drew door prizes.

**Door Prize Drawing Winners**

(The following prizes furnished with club funds)

- 15 CDRs . . . . . **Don Jennings**
- Gel mouse pad . . . . . **Donna Watkajtys**

(The following prizes furnished by Mindshare)

- Book: Office Step by Step . . . . . **Dave Askew**
- T-shirt . . . . . **Howard Netzbund**
- Game: Flight Sim. 2004 . . . . . **Fred Schmandt**

(The following prizes furnished by Que/Sam’s Publishing Co)

- Lighted key chain, pen & cup . . . . **John Neustadter**
- Book: Teach Yourself ASP.net . . . . . **Sherm Stein**

(The following prizes furnished by Jerry Finkelstein)

- Computer paper . . . . . **Art Yagoda**
- 10 CDRs . . . . . **Stu Culp**
- 10 CDRs . . . . . **Jim Pease**
- 6-pack Post-its . . . . . **Marsha Thayer**
- 8-pack Post-its . . . . . **Joe Piccione**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marsha Thayer, secretary*



A very special **THANK YOU** to two of our members who donated their profits from the computer equipment auction to the MVPCUG.

**John Neustadter** made \$15 on the sale of a printer and scanner and turned that over to the treasury.

**Rod St. Clair** made \$5 this year, a bit less than his donation from last year. He gave that to us . . . with an apology for it being so small.

## Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Classroom in a Book

Adobe Press, published by Peachpit Press at \$45.00.

— Reviewed by Donna Gorrell

*“Adobe Acrobat Classroom in a Book contains 16 lessons. The book covers the basics of learning Adobe Acrobat and countless tips and techniques to help you quickly become an Acrobat pro.”* This promotional statement appears on the back cover of the book along with some other info. After reading the book I can only say that it is an understatement.

Because we have decided to post our newsletter on the club website I purchased a copy of Adobe Acrobat in hopes of making that task a bit easier. We use WordPerfect to create each page of the newsletter. WordPerfect versions 10/11 have the capability to convert files into Adobe PDF format and this has been the method we’ve been using.

Even though Adobe Acrobat is installed on my computer, I have yet to attempt using it to create the files needed for printing or for web content. I tend to use programs that I am familiar and comfortable with. New programs take time to learn and manuals are often skimpy or non-existent. My opinion of “help files” is that they are mostly useless. Give me a book that I can read while I attempt to carry out the instructions in the program and I can learn much more easily than by trial and error. This book does that and more.

Classroom in a Book contains a CD of lesson files that you download to your computer so you apply the lessons in a practical manner to the sample files.

The book assumes you know nothing and guides you through the very basics, step by step. By the time you get to Lesson 4, you are well on your way to converting files and each lesson progresses, showing you how to accomplish more advanced techniques. I can hardly wait to apply some of the things I’m learning to our newsletter or to documents for my brother-in-law who uses a Mac. By the way, the book gives instruction for both PC and Mac users.

You may not want to use the Adobe Acrobat program, but if you’re looking for an old-fashioned, hand holding, superior teaching guide—look to Adobe Press for other Classroom in a Book titles.

This book lists for \$45—and club members can get a 20% discount from Peachpit—but it can also be purchased online for around \$27. We received this book as a freebie from Peachpit Press and would like to thank them for donating this and other titles to us.❖

## Word Processing Tips

— by Bob Schaffer

### WORD — Internet Links in Documents

When you send someone a Word document via email, it’s very easy to embed any Internet links that you would like the recipients to view.

All you have to do is type in a URL (use http://). Notice that the link appears in underlined blue. If you (or your recipients) click the link, your system will dial the ISP (if necessary) and navigate to that link.

If this fails to work for you, then that Word option has been disabled. To enable it:

- \* Choose Tools/AutoCorrect.
- \* When the AutoCorrect dialog box opens, click the AutoFormat As You Type tab.
- \* Select the check box labeled “Internet and networks paths with hyperlinks.”
- \* Click OK to close the dialog box and record your selections.

### WORDPERFECT — Selecting text using the keyboard (8/9/10/11)

You probably know several ways to select text with a mouse, but did you know you can use the keyboard too? And if you need to select text while recording a macro, you’ll have to use the keyboard. Here are some tricks to making a selection without leaving the keyboard. To select text:

- \* Hold down the [Shift] as you press the arrow keys. This extends the selection from the insertion point.
- \* You can use the [Home] key to extend the selection to the beginning of that line or use the [End] key to select the text from the insertion point to the end of the line.
- \* Pressing the [F8] key puts WordPerfect into a selection mode.
  - \* To extend the selection to the end of a sentence, press the Period (.) key.
  - \* By typing a letter, you select the text from the insertion point until the next occurrence of that letter.
  - \* Press [Enter] to select a paragraph.
  - \* Press [Ctrl][End] to extend the selection to the end of the document.
- \* Just remember to turn off this feature by pressing [F8] again. When you do, the selection is deselected. ❖



# PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MVPCUG BYLAWS

## ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

- A. The purposes of the MVPCUG are as follows:
  1. To provide a forum for members of the IBM-compatible computer community for their mutual benefit, increased understanding, and utilization of the IBM PC, hereafter referred to as the PC.
  2. To provide an opportunity for all users of the PC to exchange ideas, knowledge and experience for the enrichment of all concerned.

### CHANGES:

Eliminate current 1. and 2.

- 1. To benefit the community by providing a forum for PC users to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experience for the enrichment of all concerned.

Renumber remaining items from 3, 4, 5, and 6 to 2, 3, 4, and 5.

## ARTICLE VIII. GENERAL MEETINGS

- A. General meetings shall be held monthly. If a meeting is canceled, the business agenda of that meeting will be postponed to the next general meeting.

### CHANGES:

- A. As a minimum, General Meetings will be held monthly September through June.

## ARTICLE XIV. ELECTIONS

- A. General elections for officers and Directors at Large shall be held annually, in March or as soon as possible if meeting is canceled.

### CHANGES:

- A. General elections for officers and Director at Large shall be held annually, in November or as soon as possible if meeting is canceled.

- B. Elected members will take office on January 1.

Items B. and C. become C. and D.

## ARTICLE XV. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- A. The MVPCUG shall be a non-profit organization according to Section 501c3, Social Welfare, of federal law.

### CHANGES:

- A. The MVPCUG shall be a non-profit organization according to Section 501c3, Type B, Social Welfare, of federal law.


**Attention!**  
**To be discussed on April 6**

The vote on the proposed bylaw changes will take place at the May 4, 2004 general meeting. The original bylaws are available at [www.mvpcug.com](http://www.mvpcug.com) under "business". If there are any amendments you would like to see made, make note of them and send your comments to Dave Askew.

**COMPUTER DOCTOR** LLC

5158 State Route 233  
 Westmoreland, NY 13490

(315) 853-5151



**HOURS:**  
 Monday .....4:30 - 7:00 pm  
 Tuesday .....On Site By Appointment  
 Wednesday .....4:30 - 7:00 pm  
 Thursday .....4:30 - 7:00 pm  
 Friday .....On Site By Appointment  
 Saturday .....9:00 - 12:00 noon

## Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

It is still winter. According to the TV weather guy yesterday, this winter is not as cold or as snowy as winter last year. Can you believe that? It seems to me that winter started about August 1st and has continued since. For those of you interested in weather facts, try [www.nsidc.org/snow/facts.html](http://www.nsidc.org/snow/facts.html). This site will provide you with enough trivia to keep even the most manic weather-nut happy. For example, the greatest snowfall ever reported in Phoenix, Arizona occurred on January 20, 1933. The snow total was one inch. This record was repeated four years later on the same date. Another fact: Rochester, New York averages 94 inches of snow annually.

My friend Doug, sent me the following URLs for those of you interested in the NASA Mars mission. I know. I know. I have presented this topic on a number of occasions, but that doesn't mean the Mars mission is less exciting the third or fourth time around. For those of you who wish to view Mars pictures in 3D, you will need special glasses to get the effect, just like the movies in the 1950s. Here are several sites where 3D glasses can be ordered. For free glasses go to [www.rainbowsymphony.com/freestuff/html](http://www.rainbowsymphony.com/freestuff/html). At this site, you can also order anaglyph 3D glasses used for viewing Mars in 3D, 3D comics, 3D websites, 3D movies, and games, etc. Colors include red/blue and Red/Cyan. You can also get fireworks glasses suitable for viewing fireworks displays, laser light shows and for the study of light and color. Additional types of glasses include 3D TV glasses, but you cannot use these to view Mars pictures. You may also order eclipse Shades suitable for direct solar viewing of sun spots and solar eclipses. Glasses for a price may be purchased at [www.timstradingpost.com](http://www.timstradingpost.com) and also at [www.3dglASSES.com](http://www.3dglASSES.com).

Great pictures of Mars in 3-D may be viewed at [www.rainbowsymphony.com/mars\\_gallery/index.htm](http://www.rainbowsymphony.com/mars_gallery/index.htm). Another site for viewing spectacular pictures is [www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image\\_feature\\_109.html](http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_109.html). These are fantastic pictures. Enjoy.

The most selective and expensive colleges in the U.S. charge students \$40,000 + per year. Simple arithmetic indicates that a four-year-degree at such an

institution will cost parents and students in excess of \$160,000, a very hefty sum. And yet this appears to be a bargain compared to the cost of training young military officers at the three service academies.

According to the General Accounting Office, found at [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov), and clicking on the A to Z agency list, the cost per graduate for the three military academies is much more expensive by far than the most expensive private institution. The Military Academy at West Point costs \$349,327 per graduate. The Air Force Academy costs \$322,750 per graduate, and the Naval Academy cost is a bargain at \$275,000 per graduate. Why are West Point and the Air Force Academy more than twice as expensive as Harvard? It's a mystery.

The cost of gasoline climbs ever upward. The legislature ponders more user fees, and taxing Internet purchases. If your budget is strained, consider clicking on [www.betterbudgeting.com](http://www.betterbudgeting.com). This site provides a wealth of money saving tips and money-making ideas. You can even sign up for a free newsletter. Consider the following links on the homepage: frugal living, frugal crafts, frugal recipes, household tips and so on.

Another financial site provides a selection of articles devoted to retirement income. Find them at [www.aarp.org/financial-planning/retire/](http://www.aarp.org/financial-planning/retire/). Recent articles include "Funding Your IRA", "Calculate Your Retirement Needs", and "Are Mutual Funds a Worthwhile Investment?" Given the recent court cases brought by Elliot Spitzer against the mutual fund industry, you may wish to read this last article very carefully.

News junkies listen-up. If you are a person who cannot go even an hour without a news update, try this site, [www.topix.net](http://www.topix.net). This site offers more than the Google news links on the Google task bar. The site promises 3,600 sources with 150,000 topics. Tabs include Front, Local, Business, US/World, Health, Sci/Tech, Life and so on. If you can't find what you're looking for here, it may not exist.

Finally, for those of you interested in Linux and Linux news, go to [www.knoppix.org](http://www.knoppix.org), a Spencer Katt special site. This site offers news about Linux operating systems in English, German, Spanish, French, Polish, Japanese and Russian. You can download, license, order, and talk about Linux and various software add-ons for Linux. Until next month . . . ❖

## Did You Know . . .

. . . that there is a list of keyboard shortcuts for Microsoft products? Go to:  
[microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboardassist.aspx](http://microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboardassist.aspx)

\* \* \*

. . . that you could alter your "Send To" file? If you want to add folders to the list, go to My Computer and find the folder named "Send To" within the Windows directory. Open another My Computer window and find the folder you'd like to add. Right-click and drag this folder to the Send To folder in the first window and create a shortcut. Close the windows. Find and right-click a file that you want to copy to the folder you just moved to "Send To." You should see the folder in the list. Select this folder and your file will automatically be moved to this location.

\* \* \*

. . . that if you want to access the Send To folder quickly, you can either create a shortcut on your desktop or follow this simple procedure. Click the Start menu; Select Run; Type "SendTo" (all one word—no quotes) in the box and press Enter. The Send To folder should now appear on your desktop.

\* \* \*

. . . that you can add a program to your Start Menu? Left-click on the program's icon and drag it to the Start button. Don't let the button go. Within seconds, the Start Menu will open, and you can drag the program or file. Release the Mouse button. Now click to different menus and sub menus until you find the right spot and drag your program to its new home. Once done, click the Start button to save your changes. To remove the program or folder, simply right-click it and select Delete.

\* \* \*

. . . that you can resize the Taskbar? Unfortunately the buttons on the taskbar are automatically sized to fit. You cannot click and drag a button on the taskbar to make it bigger. You can, however, expand the taskbar by clicking and dragging the taskbar up. If you have ever had many applications open at the same time, then you know how crowded the taskbar can get. Many a new Windows user has assumed that like most other windows, you can resize one of the buttons to make it easier to use. This gives Windows more space, and makes your taskbar buttons bigger. ❖

## Byting Remarks

— Jerry Finkelstein

PC Newswatch. *Smart Computing* reports that 31% of American PC users "qualify as highly tech savvy." *US News & World Report* reports that PC users are not backing up their hard to replace files on their hard drives. Apparently, the so-called savvy aren't so savvy. The magazine recommends to backup on a mobile hard drive. These free standing drives are getting smaller, less expensive but are loaded with gigabytes of storage. Our own **Donna Gorrell** has been pressing the point of backup since forever. Do you back up, and how often? Or do you think PC catastrophe happens only to other people? *Smart Computing's* Feb 2004 smart choice is Backup Now! 3.0.

The PC magazines are reporting the news from the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. New technology usually was first introduced for businesses and only later passed on to the consumer. Things are different now. New technology is reaching consumers first. Bigger screens are now the news, smaller and cheaper; hard drives, smaller, cheaper and with huge storage capacity; a new generation of processors and chips are already on the way. *Smart Computing* headlines one of their lead articles, "Tiny Chips Invading Retail Seller."

Some of our members are burning DVDs with mixed success. The pitfalls of burning DVDs are described in the February 17 issue of PC Magazine. According to Bill Machrone, DVD drives older than one year old may not be able to read some of your newly burned DVDs. And here's a kicker: "more DVD players can read DVD-R than DVD+R."

According to *Smart Computing*, be smart and visit [www.BookCrossing.com](http://www.BookCrossing.com) on the Web. It's more than a site about books. More about *Smart Computing* in May at our General Meeting. ❖

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# explorer

**Al Fasoldt Unfolds Fascinating Computer Facts!**  
**Tuesday ★ April 6, 2004 ★ 6:00 PM ★ Whitesboro High School**

what's.com/ing				April 2004		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Passover April 6				1	2	3 Peter Trapp Computer Show Syr Fairgrounds 10 - 4
4 	5	6 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM	7	8	9	10
11 	12	13 Board of Director's Mtg 6:30 PM call for location	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	