
Blogs and Wikis

Beverly Choltco-Devlin, Reference and Electronic Resources Consultant for the Mid-York Library System, along with Ruth Cosgrove, Circulation and Reference Services person for the Kirkland Town Library, will once again bring us an excellent learning experience.

As always, Beverly is a fountain of information and she will show us how a blog can be used for an extension of MVPCUG service to our members, as well as for your personal use. Come and bring a friend!

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This will be our last meeting for the summer months. We will resume meetings in September on a special date— *Thursday*, September 4, at the Whitesboro High School cafeteria. In October we resume our normal first Tuesday of the month meeting day.

The program in September will be our annual “Ask the Guru” night. Appearing on the panel will be Lisa Britt and Bill Gorrell. Bring your questions to this special meeting. Invite a friend!

As things happen in our area that might be of interest to members, Patricia Bruno will continue to inform us via email so watch your inbox.

The *Explorer* will be back at the end of August.

Happy Summer!



HELP HOTLINES

Corel Draw
Patricia Bruno pbruno315@gmail.com

Hardware
Bill Gorrell lwgorell@roadrunner.com

WordPerfect/Graphic editing
Donna Gorrell donna.gorrell@yahoo.com

Tuesday, June 3, 2008- 6PM
Whitesboro High School cafeteria



explorer

The MVPCUG *EXPLORER* is published monthly from September through June by the Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc.(MVPCUG), PO Box 586, Marcy NY 13403-0586.

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The 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.

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open

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Meeting Agenda

5:30	Meet and Greet
6:00	Business Meeting
6:30	Program, Part 1
7:10	Break
7:20	Program, Part 2
8:00	Drawing for Prizes
8:15	Adjournment

Editorial notes . . .



Bon Voyage, John Hunter!

As I write this, John is moving to his new home in PennYan, on Keuka Lake. Although he resigned as our secretary, John says he will try to continue writing his column, "Sites on the 'Net".

We have all enjoyed reading John's column over the years. The board of directors has been richer for his having been a contributing member, making sure that decisions are recorded, as well as assuming extra duties. He has been an asset to MVPCUG.

We wish him well in his new home.

John, you will be missed!

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 _____
 E-mail _____

Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
 M V P C U G
 PO Box 586
 Marcy NY 13403-0586

Minutes of May 6, 2008
 — John Hunter, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. There were 36 persons in attendance.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order and greeted visitors and members. Jerry indicated that the evening’s topic would be video editing. Jerry then said that the Mac Group had two announcements and asked if any Mac Group members were in attendance. None were.

Jerry also announced that the September meeting would be held at the high school on Thursday, September 4, 2008. The program will again feature “Ask the Gurus.” The October meeting will return to the regular meeting night, the first Tuesday of the month.

Jerry then distributed cards from Cartridge World that will give club members a 10% discount on remanufactured printer cartridges.

Jerry told the group that Secretary John Hunter will be moving out of the area on May 17th and indicated that a new secretary will be needed.

When called for a treasurer’s report, **Bill Gorrell**, indicated that for the period April 1 to April 30, the club received \$385.80 in revenues and spent \$114.95, leaving a net income for the month of \$270.85. Account balances as of April 30 include \$483.81 in the checking account and \$2792.25 in the money market for a total of \$3276.06.

Bill then shared with the club the management letter provided by the auditor of the 2007 accounts. Club member **Bill Wilson**, a former auditor for General Electric indicated that club finances are in good shape and offered suggestions for several improvements. Bill Gorrell offered to let any member who wished to read the full audit letter.

Bill Wilson made one suggestion that provoked some discussion: the club should bond the treasurer.

After some discussion, the members did not say that bonding was unnecessary, but that they thought it was a matter for the board to discuss and report back to membership. **Lou Barile** moved that the board of directors consider bonding and bring back a recommendation to the membership. The motion passed.

Under Old Business, a member suggested that the club initiate a club blog accessed through the club web page. Jerry indicated that the June meeting will feature a presentation on blogging. In addition the board has discussed this for several months and **Patty Bruno** has volunteered to head a small committee to investigate how the club can implement a blog.

Lou Barile said that he had a personal blog and gave the URL as <http://cnyurbanguy.blogspot.com/>. The blog group will meet just before the June general meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Finally, Bill Gorrell announced that the June Q & A will be cancelled and will resume again in October.

PROGRAM

At 6:30 p.m. Jerry introduced Matt Sudol who presented a program on video editing. At the very beginning of Matt’s presentation, one of the custodians began vacuuming a carpet in the cafeteria and the program was interrupted for several minutes.

As Matt began, he indicated that video editing is very easy using computers. Matt then described minimal hardware needs as well as various software available for use. Matt used Ulead software in his presentation. During the course of his presentation, Matt addressed a number of questions regarding hardware and software issues.

After a break at 7:20 p.m. the program concluded at 8:07. The members found Matt’s presentation to be very interesting and helpful.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

9x12 Photo Paper **Bob Humphrey**
 1 GB Thumb Drive **Fred Cole**

[donated By Sams Books]

Vista Management **Nelson Robinson**

[donated by Judy Wenner]

10,000 Clipart CD **Lou Barile**
 Photo Explosion Deluxe **Jerry Finkelstein**

[donated by Smart Computing]

One year subscription **Hart Anway**
 One year subscription **Rod St.Clair**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

John Hunter, secretary



Bits, Bytes and the Best . . .

—Donna Gorrell

Scott Dunn of Windows Secrets suggests sources for “best Freeware.” He lists the following:

“25 Free Downloads You Need Now” from the May 2008 [<http://tinyurl.com/5tmkaa>] issue of Computer Shopper.

“101 Fantastic Freebies” from the May 2008 [<http://tinyurl.com/33eahx>] issue of PC World.

“The Best Free Software” from the March 2008 [<http://tinyurl.com/3d7rf6>] issue of PC Magazine.

On this web page, there is a list of most popular software. AdobeReader, Audacity, Firefox, GIMP, OpenOffice, iTunes, and Skype are some of those.

Audacity is an excellent program for those of us who would like to alter music files. It is simple to use and FREE. OpenOffice is an alternative to Word and it has all the components such as word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, and databases. Firefox is the browser of choice of many Gurus. It’s not tied to the operating system as is Internet Explorer and it’s much less vulnerable to virus and hackers. GIMP is a graphic manipulation program similar to Adobe’s \$600 Photoshop software, but again, it is FREE. You have nothing to lose in trying these programs and everything to gain. With the price of gas and food climbing higher and higher, isn’t it a good thing to find something useful—for FREE?

“46 Best-ever Freeware Utilities,” and “The Extended List — 71 Additional Best-ever Freebies” updated in April [<http://tinyurl.com/2nk2tc>] and March, respectively, by Gizmo's Tech Support Alert site. [Note that the extended list is available only to the service’s paid subscribers.]

Each website will list the software in categories or alphabetically, sometimes both. Looking for something specific, use the ‘search’ feature.

<http://WindowsSecrets.com/comp/080515> will take you to Scott Dunn’s column about WindowsXP; scroll down to “Keep XP fresh until Windows 7 arrives” or click on *Top Story*.



Helping others is what this club is all about and several of our members have really come through . . .

We’ve gotten information from **Rod St. Clair**, **Bob Humprey**, **Don Pianka** and **Jim Pease**. Don and Jim have supplied info about refilling ink

cartridges at *CartridgeWorld* and *Walgreens*, which Patricia Bruno has relayed through email.

Rod supplied me with a list of FREE software:

Mint syncs with your bank and credit card accounts and monitors your spending habits. www.Mint.com

GoogleDocs offers online shared word processing, spreadsheets and presentations. docs.google.com

KompoZer is a web page builder similar to Dreamweaver. www.kompozer.net

Thunderbird, a fast and easy e-mail program. www.mozilla.com/thunderbird

Avast is an antivirus. www.avast.com

NanoScan analyzes all processes on your computer + identifies malicious programs. www.nanoscan.com

Hotspot Shield protects you from snoops when you log onto WiFi. www.anchorfree.com

Ccleaner gets rid of junk left behind in Windows. www.ccleaner.com

Eraser will do away with a file or folder forever. www.heidi.ie/eraser

NetStumbler detects any WiFi network in your vicinity. www.netstumbler.com

Paint.NET is considered the closest thing to *Photoshop*. www.getpaint.net

Blogger is one of the best blog publishing tools. www.blogger.com

Geni.com is a genealogy site that helps family members build their family tree. www.geni.com

Kongregate offers over 2500 free games. www.kongregate.com

PrinterAnywhere will send files to any printer regardless of its location. www.printeranywhere.com

WindowsLive Photo Gallery makes it easy to import, organize, edit and share your photos. Getlive.com/photogallery

YouConvertIt turns just about any file into a different kind of file. www.youconvertit.com

Rsizr incorporates smart resizing for your photos. www.rsizr.com

Plaxo offers the ultimate online address book. www.plaxo.com

Skype provides free domestic and international calling plus video-conferencing. www.skype.com

Bob sent me a .pdf that he downloaded from TechRepublic. The topic is “How to Secure Your Computer and Protect Your Privacy with Free Software.” More about that at a later date.

Lou Barile wishes to share his blog site. Check it out at: <http://cnyurbanguy.blogspot.com/>.

Thank you for all the help—keep it coming! ❖

What's Happening !!!

— by Patricia Bruno

Biking Biking Biking Biking Biking Walking

The summer time in the Mohawk Valley is a great time to ride a bike. My first stop in this adventure is www.dicksonnes.com. They have a nice selection of bicycles and accessories and they can also tune-up your old bike. Or if you have a question, you can email them at sonne@dicksonnes.com Dick Sonnes is located in New Hartford , NY



Next Stop: Map your Ride

Herkimer - Oneida County Bicycle Touring Map

This documents pops up as a pdf file and has maps and monthly events throughout the Mohawk Valley. oneidacounty.org/hoctsmpto/images/bikemapside2.pdf

Parks and Trails New York -Trail Finder Maps & Canalway Trail Celebrations ~ Check out this great website for events!!! www.ptny.org and www.nyscanals.gov.

If you are a power rider or runner and looking for new routes in the Mohawk Valley ~ you may want to check out : www.mapmytri.com or www.mapmyrun.com.

New York Department of Transportation

Go to www.nysdot.gov and click on the bike icon. You can find bicycle routes and events, bike safety traffic laws, bicycle etiquette and much more . . .



on the routes bicycle



Heading north for the summer?

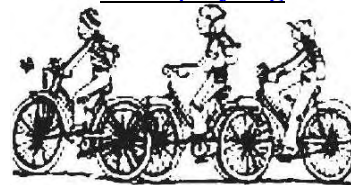
Check out ~ www.adirondacks.com or www.bikeadirondacks.org

One last website search for bikekinetix.com pick your state and region ~ and you're good to go!!!

Cycling the Erie Canal

July 6-13, 2008

www.ptny.org



Great Hudson Valley Pedal

August 12-18, 2008

www.ptny.org

www.walktoschool-us.org

October 8, 2008

The New Hartford & Whitesboro Philip A. Rayhill Memorial Trail

is a 4 mile, handicapped accessible, paved trail that parallels the new Judd Road Connector, Route 840, which connects NYS Routes 5, 8, and 12 in the Towns of New Hartford and Whitestown.

The Mohawk Valley walkers and bicycle riders can find information about the Rayhill Memorial Trail at the following web address: oneidacounty.org/hoctsmpto/bicycle/bicyclepedestrian.html Click on the **Bike Atlas Narrative** ~ This lovely pdf file pops up and walks you through the biking and walking path literature.

Vacationing in Washington, DC ?

Check Out ~ SMARTBIKE.com

The Utica Public Library is offering Free Computer Classes

Introduction to the Internet and Email

Learn the basics of how to use the internet as well email

(Mon., Wed., and Fri.) July 7th, 9th, and 11th 10:30-12:00

Introduction to Excel

Learn the basics of how to use Excel to create spread sheets and tables

(Tues. and Thurs.) July 15th, 17th, and 22nd 10:30-12:00

Call **Utica Public Library (735-2279)** or visit and sign up at the Information Desk! ❖

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Free Books

Recently, I downsized my personal library culling books I had not read or touched for years. This heartrending disposal does not mean that I have given up possessing books, it means I have found a new way to handle the once-read tomes I have accumulated.

Bookmooch.com membership makes it easy to get new books while keeping my book collection under control. This is very simple to use. Membership is free. The only cost to you is the cost of sending your book(s) to someone else. The way it works is simple as well: First type in membership information and then list the titles of books you wish to give away as well as the titles of the books you want to read.

You will be shipped titles on your wish list as they become available. And you may keep them or put them back in the mix for someone else to read. Points are earned for each book donated and you can even donate your points to charities such as African Literacy or to children's hospitals. This service covers the world so you may request books in other languages.

Another free book and DVD swapping web site is Bookins.com. You don't have to find a trading partner and although the books themselves are free, there is a \$4.49 shipping fee for one book or any number of books. This site touts easy of use and fairness when services provided by rival swap sites are compared. You can even trade books for DVD's.

Finally, a visit to paperbackswap.com will let you pick from more than two million books (hardcover as well as paperback) offered for free by fellow readers. Membership is currently free, but the site suggests that at some future time there may be a modest \$10 or \$20 annual fee. As with the previous site, this club offers printable postage so you can skip long lines at the post office. All you need is a valid UPS mailing address and a current e-mail address. These three swap choices should allow you to read widely and cheaply while keeping the clutter of book ownership under control.

Sports Trivia and More Sports Trivia

Those of us addicted to college sports need to watch ESPN 24 hours a day in order to keep track of scores, standings, recruiting and scandals in the

NCAA. If you don't have all that time, visit rivals.com. This site will keep you informed about every bit of trivia related to college football, basketball, baseball and NFL and NBA draft info for all 140 NCAA big time college sports schools.

This is a site for sports diehards. If you live on statistics and minutia, you'll love this web site.

Business Jargon or Words to Obscure Meaning

The Human Resource Executive Online Journal recently printed an article regarding the state of business English. As expected, HREO found that business English serves to obscure meaning rather than enhancing communication in the business world.

Promiscuous use of terms such as: *granularity*, *best of breed*, or *visualized front-end solutions*, serves to obstruct meaningful expression because corporate types don't want to admit they do not know what such terms really mean. If you want to keep track of jargon, corporate or otherwise, visit double-tongued.org.

A visit here reveals that *granularity* means "a measure of the size of the components that make up a system. Granularity is the relative size, scale, level of detail or depth of penetration that characterizes an object or system." Does this make sense? No? Think of a list of nations in the United Nations; a list of states or provinces in those nations and so on. In other words you can *drill down* into specific data sets ad nauseam.

Visiting the site will also treat you to other slang or jargon with which you might be unfamiliar such as: **AMW** "a pretty woman whose career in some way derives from her appearance." **A Baltimore Wrench** "a chisel and a hammer" or any tool when used as an implement of brute force. **A mahogany reef** "a place where alcoholic drinks are served, especially in a seaside community."

Blogs and Blogging

MVPCUG will be featuring an upcoming program on blogs and blogging. To get a head start on the topic visit blogger.com. This site will explain what blogs are and how to start your own. The site is free and provides easy tools you can use to design your blog or determine if you really want to start one. All you have to do to start your own blog is to create an account, name your blog and pick a template. All in five minutes. Enjoy.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you can have a folder show up at the top of a folder list? Because Windows alphabet begins with characters instead of ABCs, use an underscore [_] or asterisk [*] at the beginning of the name and it will appear at the head of the list. This also applies to files within a folder.

. . . that in Word you can insert a landscape page into a portrait document? Select Insert | Break, then double click Next Page, select File | File Page setup, click the paper size tab, then double-click Landscape.

. . . that you can copy a screen image? Press PrintScreen button and then you can paste the image into most any software program, or open it in Paint to make adjustments as you desire. To capture only the active window and not the full screen, press Alt+PrintScreen button.

. . . that if Internet Explorer opens when you click on a link in a newsletter, even though your default browser is Firefox, the problem isn't with either of the browsers? Even though Firefox is set as the default browser [if your smart you will have switched from IE to Firefox by now], the computer sets file type associations. In Windows XP, click Start | Control Panel. Double-click Folder Options and open the File Types tab. Select URL: Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. Then click Select Program. Choose Firefox if you see it. Otherwise, click Browse and locate Firefox.exe on your computer. It should be in Program Files\Mozilla. Click OK. Check "Always use the selected program to open this kind of file." Repeat the steps for these file types and protocols on the File Types tab: URL: Hyper Text Transfer Protocol with Privacy, HTM and HTML. When you're done, click Apply and OK.

Things are different in Vista. Click Start | Control Panel. Double-click Default Programs. Click "Associate a file type or protocol with a program." In the list that appears, select .HTM and click Change Program. In the box that opens, select Firefox. If it isn't listed, click Browse. Again, Firefox.exe should be located in Program Files\Mozilla. Check "Always use the selected program to open this kind of file." Click OK. Repeat the steps for .HTML, .HTTP and .HTTPS. When you're done, close Control Panel. ❖

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

These days a lot of talk is about the rising cost of living. The talk becomes very personal when you pay more for food at your local Price Chopper and you are paying \$30 to fill a quarter of a tank of gas. I know some people are rearranging the expenses on their summer vacation plans. Some are only recently discovering what we've been plugging for a long time now, free access to online versions of their favorite newspapers, newsweeklies, monthly magazines. And they're finding there's more to the online product than to the printed version. The news is constantly updated throughout the day, there are more columns of your interest and, of course, you have access to their archives — think of an archeological dig that is catering to your particular interests and you've got it, for free. Well, there are some archeological digs that will cost you a bit. But much of the access to the archives is free. Think of it, aside from saving money you become a citizen of the world of the informational highway network.

A friend of mine no longer buys CDs. He gets his stuff from iTunes. He and others are spending a lot of time listening to/viewing podcasts of shows they missed on radio or TV. A lot of people are saving money at the bars by finding the loves of their lives on the social networking sites. I know four people who met their dreamboats and current spouses on the Net. A recent New York Times article reported that social networking sites are now being used for job hunting; Facebook is one site that is used for both social and professional ends. LinkedIn is designed expressly for business networking.

If you are hanging out at home these days you might want to check out the new online programs of old and very old TV shows. Remember Twilight Zone? Again, The New York Times reported, under the banner of "The Golden Years of Television Find New Life on the Web," that ". . . television distributors have opened up their libraries of classic content online, making thousands of episodes of programs available free."




Of course you can take the money you've saved from your more efficient car, from downsizing on take out, eating out or just from going out, and invest in a GPS so you'll know exactly how to get where you want to go instead of wasting all that gas driving around, figuring out how to get there. ❖

explorer

Blogs and Wikis

Tuesday ♦ June 3, 2008 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ Whitesboro High School



what's.com/ing				June 2008		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM Whitesboro HS	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 FLAG DAY 
15 	16	17	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	D-Day June 6, 1944 US Army founded June 14, 1775 Summer begins June 20 Pledge of Allegiance recognized by Congress June 22, 1942				