

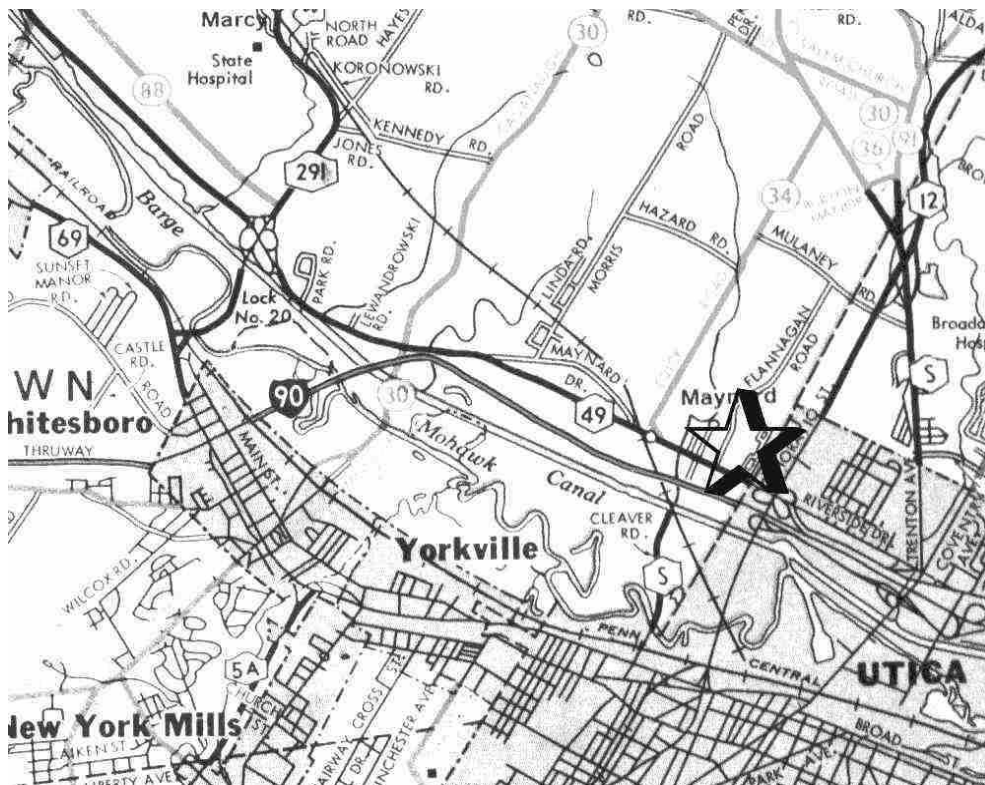
Annual "Ask the Guru" Night

Bring your questions to our panel of experts . . .

- **Lisa Britt** — Vice President/software-hardware
- **Bill Gorrell** — Treasurer/hardware
- **Joe Madeira** — Past President/software

Once again it's time for our annual "Ask the Gurus" night where you get the chance to bring your questions to a panel of knowledgeable people who will attempt to demystify the computer for you. No matter what your question might be, the panel will attempt to give you a satisfactory answer.

NOTICE: This meeting will be held at the Utica Maennerchor Hall, 108 Flanagan Rd, Marcy.



Smart Computing Offers Free "Help Service"

This is a repeat of an article that appeared in a previous issue of Explorer.

Try out this remarkable opportunity to obtain free technical support courtesy of *Smart Computing*. It's something new they are offering to both subscribers and non-subscribers.

They provide **free tech support** for anyone! So share this info with family and friends.

Call *Smart Computing* representatives at 800-368-8304 and they'll provide answers to computing questions **at no charge!**

If you have any questions about this or any of the other benefits offered by this company feel free to call them at their 800 number.

Bob Schaffer, your *Explorer* editor, is very interested in hearing about your experiences with this free tech support service.

Email: rdschaffer@adelphia.net
 Phone: 853-5984 ❖

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



explorer

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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

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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
- Batch Files Tim Clinehens
- Excel Bob May
- Money Bob Schaffer
- Troubleshooting Tim Clinehens
..... Bill Gorrell
- WordPerfect Bob Schaffer

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

Name _____

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Please mail with a check payable to MVPCUG to

MVPCUG
PO Box 586
Marcy NY 13403-0586

Minutes of June 1, 2004
 — Marsha Thayer, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro High School. President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Business Meeting

There will be no general meeting in July and August. The September meeting place is under investigation. The club membership will be informed by e-mail and by Newsletter. The Newsletter will not be printed in July and August.

A Utility CD Survey is available for folks to fill out. Tim created the survey to find out what people want on CDs. Tim announced that those that fill out a survey would get a free CD. However, since the Board has not discussed this and it involves expense on the part of the club, free CDs are not available.

We are now creating CDs for the club at no cost (a quantity of 7 per month). We voted to charge \$3.00 for the Utility CDs (both old ones and new ones).

The Treasurer's Report for May shows \$237.91 in income and \$241.81 in expenses with a balance of \$4629.21. For the June Newsletter we printed 225 copies. In the Fall that will be reduced to 175 copies.

Bill reported on the results of survey for the on-line versus printed copy Newsletter.

- * There was a total of 61 responses out of 134 e-mails sent.
- * Response to the On-line vs. Printed copy question: 44 satisfied with on-line Newsletter; 17 would prefer paper.
- * Would you discontinue your membership if only on-line Newsletter was available? 4 yes; 43 no; 3 possible.
- * Would you be willing to pay more dues for a hard copy Newsletter? 19 yes; 6 yes if limited to \$5.00; 26 no.

Beware of e-mail from IRS. It's probably bogus. Question: What's the difference between .net and .com? Answer: We're not sure. A lot of Internet Service Providers use .net.

What sort of presentations would the club members like to see for the meetings starting in the Fall?

- * Word Perfect (Donna said the company would not come out for a presentation).
- * Web Conferencing
- * Computer security & encryption

- * Spyware and AntiSpyware
- * Photoshop
- * Use the computer to make phone calls over the internet
- * Wireless networking
- * Networking in general
- * HTML - Java Script

Program

At 6:50 the main program began. Jeff Berman from Syracuse presented a program on Digital Photography, "Digipics 101". He teaches a digital camera class at OASIS. (See www.oasis.org or call 315-464-6555). Jeff can be reached at 372-4628.

Jeff recommended the following software related to digital photography:

- * To view full sized pictures: ACDSee 6.0; www.acdsee.com; \$49.99
- * To edit photos: Ulead Photo Impact XL; www.ulead.com; \$89.95
- * To print pictures: Arc Soft Photo Printer; www.arcsoft.com; \$39.95
- * To create a photo album: Flip Album; www.flipalbum.com; \$19.99
- * To store pictures on a server: www.ofoto.com; free

Jeff recommended the following web sites for digital photography:

- * For information: www.shortcourses.com
- * For reviews: www.epinions.com
- * For reviews and cheapest prices: shopper.com
- * For camera information: stevesdigicams.com
- * For camera memory: www.newegg.com
- * For cheap lithium batteries: sabahoceanic.com

At 8:40 we drew door prizes.

Door Prize Drawing Winners

(The following prizes furnished with club funds)

- 10-pack CDRs with cases **Joe Madeira**
- 15-pack CDRs with cases **Robert McMillan**
- CD label paper **Howard Estey**
- PCI sound card **Dan Evans**
- Neato CD/DVD Labeling System **John Hunter**

(The following prizes furnished by Judy Wenner)

- Norton Antivirus 2004 **Dave Askew**

(The following prizes furnished by Jerry Finkelstein)

- 24 pack Postits **Ray Tryon**
- Book: Using HTML4 **Stu Culp**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Thayer, secretary



Word Processing Tips

— by Bob Schaffer

WORD — Using Formatting Marks

Word's formatting marks are not displayed by default. However, you might want to consider displaying them to help you better see the structure of your documents.

For example, with all the formatting marks displayed, you can see how many spaces there are between words, you can see the paragraph marks, and you can see the tabs.

To turn on the formatting mark display:

- * Choose Tools/Options.
- * When the Options dialog box opens, click the View tab.
- * Under "Formatting marks" select the check box labeled "All."
- * Or you can select only those check boxes that represent the marks you want to see.
- * After you make your selection, click OK to close the dialog box.

[Note: WordPerfect's most often quoted point of superiority over Word is its Reveal Codes feature. It provides a vast number of formatting clues when compared to Word.]

WORDPERFECT —Appending text to the Clipboard (8/9/10/11)

If you need to copy several items from a document to paste into another file, there's no need to copy and paste repeatedly. You can copy and append text to the Clipboard, instead of replacing what's already there. Then, you only need to paste once into your target document.

To append text to the Clipboard contents:

- * Select the first block of text you need to copy and select Copy from the Edit menu or press Ctrl+C.
- * Then, select the next block of text and choose Append from the Edit menu.
- * Append all the text you need, then simply paste it into the destination document as you normally would.

Sign up for weekly WordProcessing Tips to be emailed to you.

Send your request to rdschaffer@adelphia.net.

CD COLLECTION SERIES

Each month utilities in categories such as: admin tools, anti-virus, backup, browsers, drive cleaners, game tweaks, mail utilities, mobile, spyware tools and system info are collected and a CD is produced. Each CD is packed full, 600 meg or greater. The list is too large to print in the newsletter, however, you can find a complete list in PDF that you can print on the web-site at www.mvpcug.com.

Each CD in the collection is available at the general meeting for \$3.00. ❖

CAUTION!

Make sure you download AND INSTALL the latest Microsoft updates.

It has been advised by many knowledgeable computer specialists that Internet Explorer is extremely vulnerable to security leaks. The gurus advise that you install a different browser to keep your computer safe.

Netscape, Mozilla, and Opera are just a few of the choices that you can make. All can be downloaded for free.



5158 State Route 233
Westmoreland, NY 13490

(315) 853-5151



HOURS:

Monday4:30 - 7:00 pm
 TuesdayOn Site By Appointment
 Wednesday4:30 - 7:00 pm
 Thursday4:30 - 7:00 pm
 FridayOn Site By Appointment
 Saturday9:00 - 12:00 noon

Did You Know . . .

— Donna Gorrell

. . . that you can add buttons to the Links or Personal Toolbar of your Internet browser? In Internet Explorer, this toolbar is called the Links bar, which is situated in the upper-left corner of your browser window. If it's not on your toolbar, you can select View | Toolbars | Links and make sure that Links is checked by selecting it from the menu. To add a site as a button to the Links bar, click any link to that site, then drag and drop it onto the Links bar.

. . . In Netscape, you can add buttons to the Personal Toolbar located below the Location and Navigation Toolbars at the top of the browser window. If the toolbar isn't showing, select View | Toolbars | Personal Toolbar and select Personal Toolbar from the menu. To add a button to the Personal Toolbar simply drag and drop the URL from the address bar to the Personal Toolbar.

* * *

. . . that when you copy something from the Web or another document and then try to paste into Word or WordPerfect, the formatting, tables, and other unwanted items are also copied? Pasting will also copy the font and size into the new document. To prevent this from happening, choose Edit from the menu and then Paste Special. Use the Unformatted Text option to insert only text without other items or the original fonts.

* * *

. . . that you can use the keyboard to shutdown the computer? Press Alt+F4; the Shut Down Windows dialog box will appear. Press U or click on Shutdown. Pressing Ctrl+Alt+Delete will also bring up a window that will show you what is running and is handy to close a program when it stops responding or hangs up your computer. Pressing Ctrl+Alt+Delete a second time will bring up the shutdown dialog box.

* * *

. . . that you can keep a diary of all the automatic installs that you've done (from Microsoft) along with a record of all your other installed programs? From the Start Menu, select "Windows Update" icon. Once in Microsoft's site, select "Installation History". Go to

<http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/default2.html>

follow the links to "Product Updates", then "Installation History". Cut and paste this information to your word processor by selecting All (Ctrl A), then Copy (Ctrl C). Start your word processor and Paste (Ctrl V), saving as Program History. You can then edit the file and remove all extraneous graphics, etc. Insert the date so you will have a dated record of the program updates.

* * *

. . . that you can use the keyboard instead of mouse for right-click menus? Press Shift-F10. This will pop up the right-click menu. Once the menu is displayed, use the arrow keys to navigate to the option you want, press Enter or the shortcut letter key (the underlined letter in each menu option).

* * *

. . . that browsers keep a record of the web pages you visit in a history list? To open your history in Internet Explorer, click the History button in the toolbar. In Netscape, type Ctrl-H. Once the history window appears, double click a page to view it in your browser.

* * *

. . . that when you want to send the same email to a number of people but do not want them to see each other's email address, and thus to keep the addresses private, you can use the BCC: field? This means Blind Carbon Copy. Each person on the list will get a copy of the email but will only see his own address, no one else's address will appear. Most email programs will allow you to leave the To: field empty and Undisclosed Recipients will be inserted in this field. However, some older programs will display the whole BCC list when you leave the To: field empty. To avoid this problem simply enter your own address in the To: field.

All email programs have a BCC field, but you may have to search for it. In Outlook, if BCC isn't showing, create a message and from the View menu, click BCC Field. In Outlook Express, click View>>All Headers. IN Netscape, click the To button, then double-click BCC. In AOL, put the BCC addresses in the Copy To Box, using parentheses. In Eudora, just put the addresses in the BCC line separating them with a comma. ❖

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

On the next to the last day of June I am at my computer wondering what to write about that will be relevant when you read this during the last week of August. By the end of August, both major political parties will have had their respective nominating conventions with the likely candidates being President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry.

To start, I googled “democrats” and immediately received a list of 4,280,000 web sites. I then typed in “republicans” and received 2,830,000 web sites connected to the word republican. Democratic web sites outnumber Republican sites by 1.4 million. I have no idea what the significance of this statistic is, but the Democrats seem to be more active in this regard than the Republicans.

I clicked on the Democratic National Committee web site, the first one on the list. There are the inevitable statistics provided that trumpet the purported failures of the Bush administration. The site also provides individuals the opportunity to sign up for email announcements. And, the site provides at least three ways to contribute money. Surprise. Anti-Bush cartoons are posted daily for those interested in Bush bashing.

On the Republican National Committee web site, you find the same kinds of items only the bad guys are the Dems. No surprise. And the site provides a Flog or Fact Log. This link offers answers to Democratic charges of unemployment increases, manufacturing job losses, outsourcing, and boasts of the positive effect produced by the most recent tax cuts. All very predictable. Like the Democrats, Republicans offer many ways for individuals to donate to the campaign.

The Green Party web site is reminiscent of the counter culture of the 1960s. The Green Party affiliates with similar groups worldwide. That probably accounts for the fact that Google reports 7,670,000 web sites for this group. A news post announces that David Cobb rather than Ralph Nader received the party nomination for president at their convention on June 25. Like the two major parties, the Green Party offers opportunities for those who support them to donate money. One interesting aspect of the site, however, provides specific tools for organizing at the grassroots level. Talking points are

provided on grassroots democracy, social justice, ecological wisdom, non-violence, decentralization, and so on. Yada, yada. Just like 1968 and 1972.

The Socialist Party USA, www.sp-usa.org, is much smaller than the parties listed above. Google reports only 236,000 web sites for this group. According to the web site, the party nominated Walt Brown and Mary Alice Herbert for president and vice president respectively. This site is much more issue oriented than some of the others with concerns about civil rights and civil liberties and anti-detention demonstrations to free the detainees in Cuba with a link to www.freethe detainees.org. Also listed are a number of conferences scheduled for the summer. The party is celebrating 100 years of ineffective social activism this year and though small, is long-lived.

Another interesting site is the Yahoo Directory of political parties at <http://tinyurl.com/3hmx5>. The list begins with the America First Party followed by America's Party, The American Conservative Party, the American Reform Party, Christian Alliance, Communist Party USA, Confederate Party of America, all the way down to the Workers World Party and Young Democratic Socialists.

The most interesting site on this directory is www.politics1.com/parties.htm. This site provides a very complete listing of political parties and the candidates and/or political ideas they espouse. The party descriptions are factual and appear unbiased. The site purports to be the “most comprehensive guide to American politics on the web.” In addition to descriptions of political parties, the site provides a cornucopia of other topics for the political junky. You can surf state and national candidate lists, political parties calendar, campaign products/services, issues, blog archives, campaign buttons [for all the collectors out there], and so on.

If by now you are at the point of sticking your head in a bucket of beer and ignoring politics altogether, here are several other sites to consider. With the recent focus on raising reading and math scores in public schools, art, music and social studies programs in many places have been cut. California teachers, however, will soon be able to strengthen these subjects by linking curricula to a renowned museum collection.

A \$210,000 donation from Mouli Cohen, a San Francisco philanthropist and biotechnology

(continued on page 7)

(Sites . . . continued from page 6)

entrepreneur, will pay for a series of curriculum guides for grades 1 through 12 produced by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, reports Education Week. The guides will feature lessons related to the collections of the newly renovated de Young Museum, the city's oldest. The guides, entitled "Get Smart With Art at the de Young", will be available for free on line. For more information, click on www.thinker.org. The guides will be available in October 2005. Maybe something like this could happen at Munson Williams in Utica. It's just a thought.

For those suffering morbid thoughts brought on by the political season, go to www.asylumelectica.com. The homepage for this site features a picture of a very spooky old building with a list of topics to pursue such as: Morbid Fact Du Jour, All things Dark and Gruesome, and The Morbid Sightseer . . . just to name three. I clicked on The Morbid Sightseer and found a list entitled The United States of Morbidity. Not all of the states have links at this time, but if you click on one of the available links—Idaho, for example—there is a link to the Old Idaho State Penitentiary, built in 1870 and in use until 1973. This link is actually a travel guide for the restored penitentiary which can be toured 10 am to 5 pm daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The site is actually interesting and informative and will appeal to tourists seeking an unusual experience.

The other Idaho link goes to Massacre Rocks at American Falls. This web site for the Oregon Trail commemorates a skirmish between Indians and settlers in 1862 during which 10 settlers died. History buffs should enjoy clicking on this. Until next month . . . ❖

Don't forget!
September 7th
General Meeting
will be held at the
Utica Maennerchor Hall
108 Flanagan Road
Marcy

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Welcome back from your vacations, from your summer holidays, your time off from your usual life, and your summer days of catching up with whatever you had let go all year long for tune up.

Time for a PC tune up? Interested in helping out the economy and getting yourself a brand new, but relatively inexpensive, computer? Interested in the next new thing? The new camcorders are featuring straight to DVD technology. The various camcorders offer different features, for about the same buck. You might want to do some serious checking before buying. Laser color printers have come way down in prices. Grayscale need not be your only financially affordable option. How often have we complained about spending cheap for the inkjet printer but getting hit hard on the expense for the cartridge. The toner prices may seem expensive, depending on the printer, but the laser printer toner lasts longer than the ink jet cartridge and page by page it is the laser product that is less expensive.




Business news and computer magazines have been sounding the death knell for tape cassettes. We are being alerted to their death and burial in five years. Yes, five years is the time frame that is being mentioned. So, if you have tons of cassettes stacked away with your other priceless stuff, you might want to start now transferring them to CDs or DVDs. Well, maybe not to the ordinary, currently used CD and DVD.

Already available and ready to knock these two storage media disks off its popular track is the double layered DVD. The advantage of this new DVD is that it doubles, at least, the storage capacity of the DVD. You'll know it by the DL added to the DVD-R packaging. And you thought you were being smart buying up hundreds of blank DVDs on recent sales, hoarding them so that you'd be able to back up your movies on the cheap for years to come. Well, if you are feeling generous we can always use them as club door prizes.

Longhorn, the next Windows OS is just around the corner; it's already being reviewed. Do I hold off buying my next home computer until it's on the market? Of course not, I'll buy now while the prices are hot. They're always hot. And by the way, I help the economy. ❖

explorer

“Ask the Gurus” — Our Annual Q&A Night
Tuesday ★ Sept 7, 2004 ★ 6:00 PM ★ Maennerchor - Flanagan Rd

what's.com/ing				September 2004		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	Labor Day	7 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM	8	9	10	11 
12		14 Board of Director's Mtg 6:30 PM St. John's	15	16  ה'שופר	17	18
19		21	22 	23	24	25  Yom Kippur
26	27	28	29	30		