

Our Annual “Ask the Guru Night”

“Ask the Guru Night” will again be held at the Maennerchor on Flanagan Rd in Marcy.



Please note the changed venue!

Bring all your questions—whether they are about hardware or software—for we have the experts ready to handle just about anything. And maybe *you’ll* help answer someone else’s question. Yes, we’re members helping members!

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Guru #1 | Lisa Britt |
| Guru #2 | Bill Gorrell |
| Guru #3 | Joe Madeira |
| Guru #4 | Tim Clinehens |

We’ll have paper and pencils available for you to jot down your questions, but if you’ve got a detailed issue, you might want to type it out in advance of the meeting.

It’s the beginning of a new year. It’s a great time to bring a friend to the meeting. Many people are helped to solve computer problems when they attend this kind of an open question and answer program. Yes, bring a friend!

There is never any charge for a non-member!

On our website
— **Links of Interest** —

Go to:

mvpcug.com/index1.htm

* <http://malektips.com/>

* <http://help-site.com/>

Click on the links to find out more about these subjects.

Smart Computing provides terrific PC support

April 3, 2007 is the date for the second visit of the folks from *Smart Computing Magazine*. To make sure that MVPCUG gets credit in SCM’s User Group Program for a member’s subscription, make sure you subscribe and renew through the User Group portion of the Web site at: smartcomputing.com/secure/membership.asp and select the appropriate group to credit in the drop-down list. Or you may phone (800) 334-7458 to subscribe or renew and say you want our MVPCUG to get credit for our subscriptions or renewals. Every 5 subscriptions earns us a FREE one to give away at a meeting.

Tuesday, Sept 5, 2006 - 6PM at the Maennerchor



explorer

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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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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

Editorial notes . . .

Welcome new member
Nelson Robinson



The following programs may be obtained FREE at
<http://freeserifsoftware.com>

- PhotoPlus6.0 Photo & Image Editing
- PagePlusSE Desktop Publishing
- WebPlus6.0 Web Site Design
- DrawPlus4.0 Graphic Design & Vector Drawing
- 3DPlus2.0 3D Animation

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 this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
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Minutes of June 6, 2006
— John Hunter, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. There were 30 persons in attendance.

BUSINESS MEETING

Treasurer **Bill Gorrell** reported that income was \$301.68, expenses were \$109.95, and there is a balance of \$4104.41 as of May 31, 2006.

Bill noted that summer membership renewal that come due during the summer may be sent to him or he will collect them at the September meeting.

Jerry indicated that this program was the last club meeting until September. When asked where the September meeting would be held, Jerry indicated that it has been tentatively scheduled for September 5 at the Utica Maennerchor site on Flannigan Road in Marcy.

Jerry also noted that Lisa Britt, club webmaster, had sent him a URL link for a photo site that offers a free download: www.photobucket.com

Before the program began, speaker Dave Whittle, answered a question about his projector. Dave said that his projector had 2000 lumens and that accounted for the bright picture on the screen.

Doug Walsh then asked a question about changing the placement of his favorites list in his browser. No one could answer that question, but the consensus was that it was a program error on his computer.

Another question asked whether or not USB 2 connections were backward compatible. Dave Whittle said that they were but would function at the slower USB 1 speed.

Another question concerned high speed Internet connections: which is better, DSL or Cable Broadband. Member were satisfied by both.

PROGRAM

At 6:23 PM, Jerry introduced the speaker, Dave Whittle. Dave’s presentation included showing attendees examples of software and hardware that proved to be the most useful in a variety of situations. Dave indicated that today we use any number of digital devices. These devices include TVs, cameras, Internet, handheld devices such as PDAs and IPODs.

Dave demonstrated several devices which help make life easier for digital device users such as: zipling, a connection cable that reduces cable tangles. (Dave indicated that members could purchase a variety of zipling cables from him directly or from his website at www.whats4me.com.)

Dave also demonstrated two pieces of software to help digital photography buffs perform special edits of single pictures or videos taken with digital equipment.

The first software item was Vista Panorama 3.5. This program allows still photographers to take a number of pictures which are seamlessly stitched together to form 360 degree panoramas. The second piece of software demonstrated was Vista MUVEE. This program helps photographers deal with video sequences and provides the ability to insert still photos into video presentations.

During the first part of his presentation, Dave answered many questions from the audience.

During the break, members purchased items from Dave or submitted bids on the items the club was selling in the silent auction.

The second part of Dave’s presentation featured a web-hosted Internet security tool. Dave discussed the many kinds of security problems computer users face and discussed how these problems could be effectively addressed by the Invisus PC security solution. The program concluded at 8:10 PM.

DOOR PRIZES

[donated by Mindshare]

T-Shirt **Helen Russell**
[donated by Dave Whittle]

MUVEE **Fred Schmandt**
[furnished with club funds]

56K modems **Bill Gorrell and Doug Walsh**
Surge Protector **Louis Barile**

4 X 6 photo paper **Dave Salsberg**
Internet Security Suite **Don Jennings**

15 CDRs **Donna Gorrell**
10 8X DVD+Rs **Ed Dembowski**

[donated by Rod St. Clair]

CD Magic School Bus - Rainforest **John Dylis**
[donated by Peachpit Press Co]

How to Build a Sweet PC **Howard Estey**
[donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

File folders **Nelson Robinson**
81/2 X 11 printer paper **Dick Dudish**

RESULTS OF THE SILENT AUCTION

Helen Russell successfully bid on the CD storage case; Bo Wozniak successfully bid on the scanner; and Nelson Robinson successfully bid on the overhead projector and the keyboard storage unit.

Items not purchased were donated to high school tech classes for use.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.

John Hunter, secretary



Book Review

— by John Hunter

Everyware: The dawning age of ubiquitous computing by Adam Greenfield. New Riders, Berkeley, CA, 2006. \$29.99.

Twenty-plus years ago I traveled to Orlando, Florida to visit the newly opened EPCOT center at the Disney complex. I marveled at the view of the future I expected to experience in just a few years: genetically engineered plants growing pest and disease free, complete recycling of all waste, video phones, speed-racer automobiles that responded to voice commands and drove themselves and so on. In short, a Disney-positive view of a technology driven world at everyone's finger tips.

Needless to say, twenty years later, and hopefully wiser, I realize the future I imagined then didn't turn out the way I expected it to. But I don't claim to be prescient.

Adam Greenfield, author of *Everyware: the dawning age of ubiquitous computing*, does claim prescience. And he comes to the party with plenty of credentials to back up his claim.

Greenfield is an internationally recognized technology user experience consultant and critical futurist with clients ranging from global businesses like Toyota, Capgemini and Sony to local nonprofit organizations. In addition, Greenfield was lead information architect for Web consultancy Razorfish. More recently, Greenfield organized the first international Moblogging Conference, a symposium devoted to web publishing from mobile devices.

The view Adam Greenfield presents of the computer-enabled future in *Everyware* falls nicely between two forecasting approaches: (1) that "every day in every way, things are getting better and better;" and (2) an Orwellian vision of a mind-controlling, technology-based dictatorship in which individual action disappears.

The introduction clearly states Greenfield's thesis: "[it] is an attempt to describe the form computing will take in the next few years. [The book is] about a vision of processing power so distributed throughout the environment that computers *per se* effectively disappear."

Greenfield goes on to discuss the enormous consequences [disappearing computers] will have for the tasks assigned them, the way they are used and our understanding of what computers have become.

Greenfield believes that ubiquitous computing, will

become something called Everyware. In Everyware, clothes, the room, the street [and virtually everything in the environment] become sites for computing called "mediation." Greenfield argues that technology and vision will be able to make this technology a reality in just a few years.

Already, manufacturers have brought to market refrigerators with video screens and Internet hookups. Thus, it is only a matter of time before coffee pots, toasters and other household items are reimagined "as places where facts about the world can be gathered, considered and acted upon."

Does this raise the specter of big brother? Yes, says Greenfield, particularly if technological innovation progresses unmonitored and unchecked. Greenfield notes that people are able address problems only when they become aware of them. Thus, his book.

Fortunately for us, Greenfield says everyware requires a broadband network much larger and more fully distributed than is presently the case. Nearly as an aside, however, Greenfield notes that computer chips powerful enough and inexpensive enough to power everware already exist.

Greenfield's vision and his arguments are compelling. For those readers who slogged through Marshall McLuhan's media analyses some 30 or so years ago, this book is refreshingly clear. Greenfield adopts a very personal tone, one where the reader imagines Greenfield talking directly to him.

To achieve this, Greenfield divides the book into small numbered chapters titled "Thesis", each beginning with a statement that is then thoroughly examined. For example, in the short chapter "Thesis 07", Greenfield states that, "Everyware isn't so much a particular kind of hardware or software as it is a situation." Greenfield's discussion of this idea then follows for 1½ pages.

The only complaint I have with Greenfield's writing style is his penchant for inventing words or giving personal meanings to established vocabulary, such as "deep complementarity." Or his coining of the term "automobility" which I assume from the context means the ability of individuals to get about a physical location by themselves.

Greenfield carefully documents his ideas with current research published by established experts. As Greenfield assembles his support, the book presents a valuable caveat to the view that a technological future holds the potential for universal "good."

I recommend that anyone interested in the direction technology is heading in particular, and society is heading in general, read *Everyware*. ❖

Email tips

— by Kim Komando

Editor's Note: With identity theft and phishing attacks so prevalent these days it is important to protect your friends from having their email addresses exposed. They will appreciate your consideration when you forward email without using all prior addresses.

PROTECT FRIENDS WHEN FORWARDING E-MAIL

Q. When forwarding e-mail, how do you delete all the previous addressees so their e-mail addresses don't show to others? I have Windows XP.

A. A forwarded e-mail message can gain a lot of mass. Most e-mail programs include addresses of previous recipients and senders automatically. Messages can become cluttered after only a couple generations of forwarding.

The included information is supposed to be helpful. The idea is that you can see who has already seen the message, and avoid sending it to them. But more often than not, all those addresses are really just clutter. Furthermore, all those e-mail addresses are shared with recipients. And messages can eventually make their way to complete strangers.

There are a couple of simple ways to keep e-mail addresses out of your forwarded messages. First, you can highlight and copy the text of the original message. But don't copy the addresses! Then paste the text into a completely new e-mail. This is the easiest solution.

You could also erase the addresses as you forward. After you select the option to forward, highlight the addresses and delete them.

Some e-mail programs are set to forward messages as attachments. In that case, you can't copy or make changes to the message. You'll need to change your program's settings. These settings might also be listed under "composing" or "sending."

Choose to include forwarded messages within the e-mail text or "inline." You'll still have to erase names or addresses from the text.

And since we're on the topic, consider using your e-mail program's BCC function to send a mass e-mail. When you use BCC, put your own address in the To: field. Put the rest in the BCC: field. Everyone will be able to see that you got the e-mail. But the rest of the addresses will be hidden. We love that part!

If you're not sure how to use BCC with your e-mail program, follow these steps. In MSN's

Hotmail:

- * Start by clicking New Message.
- * In the To: box, enter your own address. That's probably a waste, of course, but it means that the other recipients will see that you are the only other person who received the message.
- * Enter all of the other addresses in the BCC: field. Separate each address with a comma. Everyone there will get the message, but they won't know who else received it. Only your address will appear in the To: line.
- * Do not use the CC: line. It works the same as BCC:, but the list of recipients in CC: is visible to everyone.

In some cases, you have to hunt for that BCC area. Start a new message and then:

- * 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 and separating each address with a comma.
- * In Yahoo!, click Add BCC.
- * BCC is immediately available in Eudora.

STOP ADDRESSES FROM APPEARING IN OUTLOOK'S TO FIELD

I frequently get calls and e-mails from frustrated Outlook users. When you begin typing in the To box in a new e-mail message, Outlook tries to complete the address. If you're not careful, you can send a message to the wrong person.

This feature is intended to help you. But it can become a real hassle. Many people believe that Outlook pulls the addresses from the Contacts list. In reality, they come from the AutoComplete list.

Each time you send a message, the address is added to the list, if it isn't there already. To remove an address from the list, highlight it; press the Delete key.

Or, you can disable AutoComplete. In Outlook, click Tools | Options. On the Preferences tab, click E-mail Options. Click Advanced E-mail options. Deselect "Suggest names while completing To, Cc & Bcc fields." Click OK to close out each dialog box.

Look for other email tips at komando.com/tips ❖

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Blocked

Rarely have I experienced problems finding topics to write about. That is, until the time came to write this column. Having tried my usual trick of reviewing folders containing scads and scads of URLs, I googled “writers’ block.” Much to my surprise I found 30,900,000 individual URLs related to this condition. Obviously, this problem proves to be a pretty common event in writers’ lives. Encouraged, I clicked on the first entry, www.TheInfiniteMind.com.

Definitions and Treatments

The homepage of The Infinite Mind defines the term for me. But since I’m blocked, I already know what I’m facing. Next, the URL offers examples of famous authors suffering from *wb* [writers’ block], from Flaubert to Joyce Carol Oates, from satirist Fran Lebowitz to actor Stanley Tucci. No help. But, for \$54.00 I can order a CD about writers’ block, or for \$8, download an MP3, or for \$15 order a print transcript. I don’t think so.

More Research

Purdue University’s online writers’ lab, owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_block.html, offers downloadable handouts starting with “Coping with Writing Anxiety” that among other suggestions advises writers to “focus the task in your head,” “replace non-productive thoughts with productive ones,” [easier said than done], and “using personal writing ‘rituals’ to unblock the word flow such as using a favorite pen or getting up and walking around. (I know that Ernest Hemingway began each day’s writing session by sharpening up to 100 pencils until the word-flow started.) OK. Not much help here, either. And besides, I am using a computer not pencil and paper.

Still More Research

I clicked next on writersblock.com. Appropriately, the page that came up proved to be blank. Scrolling down the black screen, I found a link to the homepage which informed me that this site has served musicians, poets, writers and songwriters since 1991.

Unfortunately, the site is more about buying and selling than it is about curing *wb*.

Help At Last!

My third try focused on the next- to- last link on the first Google page titled “Get Into It” at www.sff.net/People/LisaRC/into2.htm. The homepage provides a spreadsheet-like display of terms such as “What is it?” “Why is this happening to me?” and “What not to do.” At the bottom of the sheet, links to other pages such as exercises, and resources for blocked writers get right to the point.

Practice What She Preaches

1. Self-Dialogue. Talk to yourself. But make sure no one else hears you.
2. Compose lists of thoughts that keep you from working on a project; lists of reasons to work on the project; and lists of enthusiastic feelings to help keep on struggling.
3. Poor first draft. Stop being hyper-critical about first attempts.
4. 1" frame. Focus on each tiny part of the project, not the whole thing.
5. Improvisation. Try choosing three words at random and then try writing about them. Practical suggestions all.

More Useful Advice

Under the link “Resources for Writers” blocked scribblers are advised to join a web chat for writers and share the frustration with others in a similar position. After all, if you’re miserable, why not chat with others who are miserable as well. This section also provides a short, annotated list of writing books that deal in part with writers’ block. Titles include: “On Writers’ Block” by Victoria Nelson; “Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life” by Anne Lamont; and “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff... and it’s all small stuff” by Dr. Richard Carlson.

Further Help

Melissa Michaels’ “article “Stalled Careers, Writers’ Block, and Monsters Under the Bed” found in the SFWA bulletin is highly touted by the web-mistress as well. Maybe I’ll look up some of these works and report on them in another column. But as you can see, I’ve managed to fill the page in spite of myself.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that most people who shop on eBay are looking for a bargain? If you are looking for an even bigger bargain try fatfingers.com. This web site will find items that you may desire but do not show up in the listings due to misspellings. When you use the search box in eBay, only those items that match your spelling will be returned. I did a regular search at eBay for Rock Island lighthouse and found many postcards under the correct spelling. I then went to fatfinger.com and typed in Rock Island lighthouse again and it found a postcard from 1960 that did not appear in the initial search. There were no bids on this item. It had been misspelled [lighthouse]. For the buyer this can be great as there may not be any competing bids. For the seller, this could mean the items will not sell. Ebay does not spell check the listings so if you submit items for sale, make sure you look over your copy very carefully and run a spell checker. This may not catch every error, but it will help.

. . . that *Smart Computing* had an excellent article with tips on how to use eBay? It was titled *Going, Going, Gone* in the February 2003 issue; page(s) 44-46. You can find the article online at: <http://tinyurl.com/fhzzt>. I found this website by typing “tips on using eBay” [with quotes] on Google. It had several sites listed so you can also check out other sites for more information.

. . . that if you want to sell your own products and goods online using an eBay store is the best way to go? Check out: www.2createawebsite.com/money/sell-on-ebay.html for information on how to set up your own web site in conjunction with eBay.

. . . that CDs can scratch easily? If a scratch has made your CD unreadable you might be able to use a household product to minimize the damage. A mildly abrasive toothpaste [not the gel type] can be used to reduce those scratches. Be sure to rub the scratch from center hole to outer edge. Place some toothpaste on a soft cloth and rub across the scratch and then buff with a clean cloth, always going in the direction from center to outside [or outside to center] but not along the circle. For deep gouges, try using a pencil eraser before the toothpaste polishing. ❖

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Welcome back to the Club. I hope you all had a swell summer break but reserved some of your dog day afternoons to thinking about your handy computer and how you might get even smarter working with it. Smarter like in improving your PC skills, smarter like in discovering all the wonderful informational highways on the Internet. The latest news reports are literally at your fingertips. You’ve got them before they hit the newsstands and you don’t have to wait a week to read them as hard copy of your favorite weekly magazines. Have you seen the online version of Newsweek lately? It’s a snazzy bit of business with plenty of Web exclusives and links to MSNBC TV programs. You missed Chris Mathews’ Hardball? No problem. Just click on the link and there on your PC is the video of his show. Missed Meet The Press? You can access that show as well. You can get to the CNN programs too. Try the NPR radio shows. All there. All free. I like Slate, the e-magazine. They’re all updated daily, the news parts of their reports are often updated by the hour. They all offer archeological digs into their past articles, reports, blogs, programs. The wealth of information to be accessed is staggering but we do control it by our own active interests and, yes, even by the limits of our own imagination.

I just got hooked on Su-Do-Ku, Bill Gorrell, a whiz at the game, pointed me to some helpful strategies gained on the Internet.

Did you see that PC World reviewed WordPerfect Office superior to Microsoft Word? Our own Donna has been saying this for years. You know, of course, that this Newsletter comes to you by way of WordPerfect. Not one word of this Newsletter is a Word product. You might want to go to the June issue of PC World to read the review. You can get it online.

I hope you are looking forward to Guru night, our usual September program. I’m hoping too that the interactive nature of such a program will carry forward to our future programs. Donna always promoted the interactive aspects of SIGs. We’ll try again to set up Workshops and SIGs that our members are not only interested in but that they will also be active participants in the sessions. The beginning of our general monthly meetings can measure the members’ interest in certain PC matters, digital photography for instance. A workshop may come out of it. Or a SIG, depending on the members willingness to go interactive, to be an active participant, contributing to the welfare of the SIG.

Again, welcome back to the Club, glad you can all be here. ❖

explorer

Annual "Ask the Gurus Night"
 Tuesday * Sept 5 * 6:00 PM * Maennerchor, Flanagan Rd, Marcy



what's.com/ing			September 2006			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Rosh Hashanah - September 23-24 <small>ה'שנ"ז</small>					1	2
					3	4 LABOR DAY
10	11	12 Board of Director's Mtg 6:30 PM	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 
24	25	26	27	28	29	30