http://www.mvpcug.com

September 2008

"Ask The Guru" night

Once again we offer our annual September program so that you may ask questions of our club gurus.

Please notice that this meeting will be held at our usual meeting place, Whitesboro HS cafeteria, BUT on a special day – *Thursday*, September 4th.

Once again it's time to ask your questions and pick the brains of our gurus. Bring all your questions —whether they are about hardware or software— for we have the experts ready to handle just about anything. Heading the guru list will be Lisa Britt and Bill Gorrell. Maybe you can help answer someone else's question. Remember—we're members helping members!

Paper and pencils will be available for you to jot down your questions, but if you've got a detailed issue, you might want to write it out in advance of the meeting.

It's the beginning of a new year of club meetings, a great time to bring a friend to learn what we're all about. Please come and bring a friend! ❖

WHAT'S NEW

Starting in October, Patty Bruno, our new Program Chair will be offering a new slate of programs. If you wish to offer suggestions, please contact Patty at pbruno315@gmail.com

John Hunter served as our Secretary until May when he moved out of the area. Helen Russell has been filling in, but we need to elect a full-time permanent secretary. Consider offering your services. The club relies on volunteers–do your part to keep us going!

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008- 6PM
Whitesboro High School cafeteria

Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc.
PO Box 586 ♦ Marcy NY 13403-0586

explorer

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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 . . .

At our June meeting Patty Bruno showed us how to use goog-411. For those of you who missed it, check out her detailed explanation on page 5.

Also on page 5, Patty lists some of the classes that will be given at BOCES this fall.

On page 4, Kim Komando answers some questions about iPods and Hibernation vs Sleep. These may just be the answers you are looking for.

Check out page 7 for some facts about WindowsXP SP3. I have not installed that on my computer and most of the experts recommend that you don't. Reason—it causes more problems than it solves.

See ya Thursday, Sept. 4

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
M V P C U G
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Minutes of June 3, 2008
— Helen Russell, Acting Sect.

*The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President **Jerry Finkelstein** called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. There were 21 persons in attendance.*

BUSINESS MEETING

President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order and greeted members and visitors. Jerry also indicated that a club secretary is needed to record the minutes of the meetings till the end of December 2008.

A treasurer's report was given by Bill Gorrell for the period of May 2 to May 31, 2008. The club received $280.83 in revenues and spent $231.51 leaving a net income for the month of $50.32. Account balances as of May 31 includes $533.30 in the checking account and $2,793.08 in the money market for a total of $3,326.38. Bill also indicated that he is checking on the renewal Liability Insurance coverage for the club. Bill reminded the members that the next Q & A session will resume in October.

Jerry reported to the members that at the May's Board of Directors meeting it was voted down on the bonding of the treasurer. Jerry reminded the members that there will be no meetings in July and August. The next meeting will be held at the Whitesboro High School on Thursday, September 4th. The topic will be "Ask the Gurus" with any questions that you may have.

Lou made a video of Jerry Finkelstein advertising the MVPCUG club. This will be imported into the club's website, check it out. [http://www.mvpcug.com]

Next Patty Bruno gave an interesting talk and demo on a service that is provided for free by Google, by dialing 1-800-GOOG-411. They will dial a business connection in any city and state once you give them the name or genre of the business that you request.

PROGRAM

At 6:30 Jerry Finkelstein introduced the evening's presenters: Beverly Choltco-Devlin from the Mid York Library System and Ruth Cosgrove from the Kirkland Library. The return of the Duo-Librarians gave an excellent and informational PowerPoint presentation on Blogging. Beverly and Ruth handed out pamphlets on the "how's & why's" of blogging and how to create a blog, They answered many questions from the members and also invited the members to come to the Mid York Library for a hands on experience in creating a blog on your own website.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]
2gb Flash Drive . . . . **Bob Humphrey**
5x7 photo paper . . . . **Bill Gorrell**

[Donated by Smart Computing]
One year subscription . . . . **Jim Schmandt**
One year subscription . . . . **Bob Angelhow**

[Donated by Microsoft Mindshare]
book, Money . . . . **Nelson Robinson**
book, XP networking . . . . **Howard Netzband**
Tshirt . . . . **Don Jennings**

[Donated by Beverly Choltco-Devlin]
Book, Wineries . . . . **Fred Schmandt**
Book, Hugger-Mugger . . . . **Donna Gorrell**
Book, Lit.of cartoons . . . . **Jerry Finkelstein**
Book, The Notebook . . . . **Sal Carollo**

[Donated by Peach Press]
M/S office 2007 Book . . . . **Lou Barile**

[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]
Package of Post-it notes . . . . **Patty Bruno**

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.
Helen Russell, acting secretary   ❖

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HELP HOTLINES

Corel Draw
 Patricia Bruno . . . . pbruno315@gmail.com

Hardware
  Bill Gorrell . . . . lwgorrell@roadrunner.com

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

HIBERNATE VS. SLEEP / iPODs
— by Kim Komando

HIBERNATE VS. SLEEP: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
Q. Hibernate and Sleep seem mighty similar. Is there a notable difference? A friend suggested that prolonged use of Hibernate can damage a PC. Is that true?
A. Hibernate and Sleep (called Standby in XP) are both power-saving features. You'll find them on both PCs and Macs in some form. I'm not surprised they have you confused. They appear to do the same thing.

When you shut down your computer, you turn everything off. All of your applications, windows and documents have to be closed. Starting up your computer again can take some time. And then you have to reopen everything you want to use.

To save time, you can use Hibernate or Sleep. Both of these save the exact state of your computer. You don't have to close anything. All your windows, programs and documents are stored as-is.

When you start up the computer, everything is restored. All your windows are just as you left time. They're even in the same place on your desktop. And you can pick up right where you left off.

They both still seem the same, don't they? But each offers a different level of power saving and convenience.

Sleep

When using Sleep, your computer's state is stored in RAM. The display is turned off. Your hard drive is stopped. Other components are shut down. But a minimal amount of power is still applied to the RAM. This allows RAM to hold on to your computer's state.

So, your computer isn't completely off. Starting the computer from Sleep is almost instantaneous. That's really convenient. You can jump right back into what you were doing.

The downside of Sleep is that it still requires some power. If you lose power for any reason, the RAM is wiped. You'll lose your computer's stored state. That could also mean losing any work you haven't saved.

Hibernate

When using Hibernate, your computer's state is stored on the hard drive. Your hard drive doesn't require power to hold on to that information. So, your computer can turn off power to everything.

Starting from Hibernate has the same result as from Sleep. Your computer is restored to exactly where it was before. But coming out of hibernation takes longer. So, it's less convenient.

But you don't have to worry about losing power. Even if power is cut, the computer's state is still stored. Nothing will be lost.

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iPODs

Joan just got an iPod. She needs help getting up and going. She wants to know how to turn the iPod on, also help transferring music from CDs.

iPod controls have been simplified to eliminate extraneous buttons. This is great when you're accustomed to using your iPod. But it can be disorienting, too. I assume you're not using a shuffle. It has a power button on the bottom. That one's easy to figure out!

On an iPod touch, press and hold the Sleep/Wake button on top. Release it when the Apple logo appears. To turn it off, press and hold the button again. When the red slider appears, simply drag it.

With an iPod classic or nano, press any button to start. If you haven't used the iPod recently, hold the button. Press and hold the Play/Pause button to turn off the iPod.

Getting music onto your iPod is more difficult. First, you'll need to get the CD tracks onto your computer. Open iTunes. Insert a CD into the CD or DVD drive. The CD's contents should appear in the iTunes window. Make sure you're connected to the Internet. iTunes will download the track listing. Then, click Import CD in the bottom right corner of the window.

Once you've imported some CDs, you can synchronize your iPod with iTunes. Connect the iPod to your computer. iTunes will recognize it. Click on your iPod in the left side of the iTunes window. The options for managing your iPod will appear.

In the Summary pane, make sure "Manually manage music" isn't selected. On the Music tab, select "Sync music." Then, you can select "All songs and playlists" or "Selected playlists." If you choose "Selected playlists," select the ones you'd like to synchronize.

You may need to eject your iPod before synchronizing your music. If so, press the Eject arrow to the right of your iPod in the iTunes window. If prompted, save the changes to your iPod settings. Then, disconnect and reconnect your iPod.   ❖

What's Happening!!!
— by Patricia Bruno

Summer is fading fast and there is so much more to do!! With the high gas prices this year it's about time we looked in our back yards for the local entertainment, and I don't mean watching Larry, your neighbor!

The area is full of fun stuff and you have access to all of them via the internet. One that comes to mind is the **Garlic and Herb Festival** in Little Falls, NY. On September 13, 2008 you can join the festivities, for more information go to www.littlefallsny.com. Little Falls, NY is a quick 30 minutes down the NYS Thruway! Check it out!!

If you have always had the desire to ride the train, **The Adirondack Scenic Railroad** is offering Buffalo Head Dinner Trains. The schedule for the train rides that are offered, is located at www.adirondackrr.com, click on Utica, and special events. There are plenty of events for the fall, so....Check it out!!

If you are a **Guinness World Record** watcher head up to 4th Lake, Inlet, NY on September 13, 2008 and watch the kayakers and canoeist make the longest raft by holding hands. This fund raiser will benefit the **Susan B. Komen for the Cure**. You can find the details at www.onesquaremileofhope.com. Check it out!!

And, if you attend the **Remsen Barn Festival** each year, then you know it's always the 4th full weekend in September. It features Music, Food and Arts & Crafts. This festival is held on Main Street in Remsen, NY. For more info go to www.villageofremsen.org and Check it out!!

Have you all heard about **GOOG-411**? It's Google's free service to connect you with a business phone number that you are looking for. Say you are in White Plains, NY on vacation and you need to find the IMAX theater, Call 1-800-GOOG-411 and they will ask you: City and State? You say; White Plains, NY. They will then ask you the name of business or category, I then would say; IMAX theater, they will list the top locations with addresses and ask you if you would like to call them, you can either tell them to call or hang up.
P.S. You can call anywhere to find a business, you don't have to be in the same city or state.

New York State Travel Alert
Visit www.nyalert.gov to find the delays you may incurr traveling on the roadways in New York State. You can sign up for an alert email to be sent to your computer. If you have a PDA or phone that can retrieve emails, you can be alerted while on the road. This web site has allot to offer as well as many interesting links. Check it out!!

Now Back to Class!
BOCES Adult Education has its fall schedule up on the website, located at www.moboces.org. They have plenty of computer classes to choose from as well as a few free classes.
This year they have a listing of some $20.00 ~ 3 hour classes which include:

- DVD - Learn to Burn DVD's
- Email Express
- Google
- Ebay -Learn to buy and sell
- How to Download free software
- Which computer class is for me? This is a free class to help you find the right class.

These are just a few of the classes offered for the fall semester. Some start right away, others start throughout the fall. Check it out!!   ❖

Sites to Visit on the 'Net
— by John Hunter

Food For The Soul

Summer is over, or will be in a few weeks. For those of you who did not travel to Maine this summer and who can't bear the thought of another year without a Maine lobster, this site is for you. For a home cooked lobster dinner you need only click on Trentonbridgelobster.com. Trenton Bridge Lobster Pound is located just before the bridge to Mount Desert Island (Bar Harbor and Acadia for most of us). If you can't make the trip, let your fingers do the typing and have the succulent crustaceans sent overnight to your home. The web site indicates that you can purchase lobsters, sea scallops, softshell clams and crabmeat which the company will send you in a box clearly labeled "Live Lobsters." [That's what the site says.]

Another site that you may visit offers New England Clam Bakes and a variety of fresh seafood in addition to the aforementioned lobster. Contact this site at qualityfreshseafood.com.

It Isn't Easy Being Green

Like Kermit, those of us worried about the condition of the planet wonder what we can do to promote ecologically friendly behavior. One way we can help is to purchase products that reduce pollution. Several sites fit this bill. One site is qcollection.com. The home page proclaims [products that are] "Better for you, your home and our planet." The company mission is to provide comfort, design top quality construction using Forest Stewardship Council certified products and fabrics.

If you are looking for organic fabrics, modgreenpod.com offers organic hand screened cotton fabrics printed with water based inks processed by machines that finish fabrics using a mechanical process that eliminates chemicals and heat. The company also produces vinyl-free wallpaper for those interested in wall products that do not produce outgases of harmful toxins. Purchase these products by Internet and through stores in a number of large cities that include Atlanta, Chicago and Boston, just to name a few.

Is Education Relevant in the 21st Century?

The National Council for the Social Studies recently partnered with The Partnership of 21st Century Skills to develop a series of content maps and project models that can improve achievement for students in grades 4, 8, and 12 who study social studies. When I visited the site using the URL 21stcenturyskills.org/ I found that the 21st Century Partnership has produced a number of curriculum maps for various curricula including Social Studies, English, Math, Science and Geography. The maps provide concrete examples of how 21st Century Skills can be incorporated in core subjects. Given the reluctance of educators to adapt to new technology and new delivery systems, this program may take longer to implement than the originators hope.

Tick-Tock For the Rich Gent

If you think that Rolex is the penultimate of personal time pieces, here are a number of manufacturers who give Rolex a run for its money. At www.eterna.ch. The Eterna watch company offers the KonTiki Diver that stays waterproof to depths of 3,280 feet. Of course, at that depth you'd be dead of the water pressure, but it's nice to know that the watch will work even if you don't. Price: $9,200. Glub, Glub.

WWW.AuthenticWatches.com offers the Oris watch. This watch regularly retails at $3,600, but at the time of my visit, the sale price for this timepiece was only $1,900. A steal, no? Why not buy two? The clock face is meant to be set to the time zone of your travel destination.

Watch Out, Google, Something Cuil is Coming

First there was Yahoo and Alta Vista. Then there was Google. Now, there is Cuil, pronounced cool. This new search engine dares to challenge Google to a contest in web searches. Two Stanford University graduates started the company. CEO Tom Costello and his wife Anna Patterson, president and COO developed search engines at Stanford and IBM. Patterson was the architect of Google's large search index.

Both felt limited by Google's link analysis and traffic ranking. Cuil presents its search results in three columns across the page. Cuil's biggest claim in comparison to Google is 120 billion pages versus Google's 40 billion pages. I will try to use this search engine and report how it works in another column.

Until next time . . .   ❖

Did You Know . . .   — Donna Gorrell

. . .   that you can alphabetize or print your book marks? In Firefox, click on the bar across the top of the Bookmarks Manager where it says Name - Location - Description. Click on Name to sort alphabetically and/or right click on each folder and click Sort by Name. If you export the entire list it will output it as an html page which you can then print.

. . .   that there is a cure for WindowXP SP3's never-ending reboots? If you have an AMD-based PC constantly reboot after applying XP SP3, here's what to do: When the system is first booting, press F8 to enter Windows' Safe Mode. Log into the Administrator account, click Start | Run, type cmd, and press Enter. When the command window opens, type the following command [don't forget the space after the equals sign, which is required]:

sc config intelppm start= disabled

   The problem is caused by the presence of Intel drivers on AMD-based systems. Follow the above steps *only* if you know your PC uses an AMD processor; doing so on an Intel-based machine could render the system unusable. To determine which processor your system uses, open the Control Panel's System applet and click the General tab. If the processor listed in the window is "Intel," do *not* enter the command shown above. An Intel-based system that constantly reboots may be having an unrelated problem. Conflicts with antivirus products, or something as yet unidentified might be the cause.

. . .   that you can find out how much space Outlook 2007 mail files are occupying on the server? On the upper menu bar, click Tools | Mailbox Cleanup. A dialog box should appear. Click View Mailbox Size. In that dialog box, you can view the details of used storage. On the Server Data tab you can see how much space is left on the server. The space shown will be cumulative if folders contain subfolders.

. . .   that in Outlook 2007 you could maximize your screen area by hiding the Navigation Pane? Press the << button on the title bar in the Navigation Pane. When you need access to another mail folder from the list, click the Navigation Pane area; the folder list will appear temporarily, and then disappear after you've chosen your folder or selected another feature.   ❖

Byting Remarks   — Jerry Finkelstein

   People who like to drink their coffee at our local Panera's have found a home away from home. At any time of day you are likely to find some ladies gabbing with one another, knitting, sipping their cups of java. Some men are playing backgammon. Others read. Inside and outside both old and young are on their cell phones. As might be expected, most people are there for their coffee, maybe a bite to eat and, of course, to have a good talk. The noise level is not too high, the lighting is pleasant, the convivial atmosphere is tangible. To top it all off, access to the internet is free.

   Lots of laptops are all over the place and the people working them, with their coffee and Danish or sandwich at their side, come in all ages. They're young, middle-aged, and older and they are sitting one, two, even three at a table. Their laptops, all makes are present, are plugged in and turned on. Some people are playing games, some look like they're updating their blogs, some are catching up on their email. A few older young ones are writing reports, other young older ones are putting finishing touches on their resumes. Honest, one older lady told me she was planning a wedding, was meeting some people here to help her format the invitations. These other people did show up and guess what, they came in with their own laptops.

   Some work their laptops in earnest. Others seem to look forward to a distraction, someone they know coming over to talk. After all, the Wi-Fi is free, not like nearby Barnes & Noble where AT&T charges for the service. For the serious surfers of the Net it's fun to be a decider of what is news and what is not, even at Panera's. It's meaningful that on-line consumers have no issue with time-shifting [newsworthy] content. For instance, online reports of world events are almost instantaneous; you don't have to read about it in the papers the next day or see it on TV on the evening news. You didn't have to wait 12 hours to see the taped prime time broadcast of the fabulous opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. It seems there were leaks and on-line consumers saw the wonderful event before the watchers of TV did. And then there's stuff on-line that never does get into print.

   Maybe I take my work with the computer too seriously. It's just too much "work" to haul my laptop and all its paraphernalia to a coffee spot. I look around and it does look easy. But there are too many people walking around, they might easily bump into my table and tip the coffee cup. The small table is already overcrowded with stuff. Just when I want to look over some blogger's memoir of his life on the silk road here come a few distractions. But they look too young. Lighten up. Forget about issues of time-shifting content. Put the laptop away. Nothing wrong with a game of backgammon.   ❖

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Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc.
PO Box 586 • Marcy NY 13403-0586

"Ask the Guru" night
Thursday ♦ September 4, 2008 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ Whitesboro High School

what's.com/ing					September 2008	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY	2	3	4 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM Whitesboro HS	5	6
7	8	9 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Gold Star Mothers Day	29	30	V-J Day September 2, 1945 Patriot Day September 11 "Star Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key September 14, 1814 US Constitution approved September 17, 1787 US Air Force established September 18, 1947			