

NEWSbits

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SEPTEMBER : STUMP THE EXPERTS!

Stump the "Experts"? At last month's September 11th meeting, a panel (Sue Wessing, Margaret Wynn, Harry Cancienne and Jerry Montalbano) of advanced users were interrogated.. With a combined computing experience of 130 years, four CCUG-PC users met to field tough, complex questions from the CCUG- PC attendees.

Hosted by Membership Secretary, Bob Faucheux, 40 tough questions were aimed by the group's very qualified and knowledgeable panelists. Bob's easy approach to hosting our annual Stump the Experts presentation helped members better understand the answers they were seeking.

Questions included "Should I upgrade to Windows XP's Service Pack 2 (SP2)?" The answer from a couple of the panelists was mixed. (Yes and No). Another question



concerned a security question: "I'm using Norton Antivirus and a virus was placed in the quarantined area. Am I OK as far as a virus is concerned since the anti-virus program claimed it couldn't repair the virus?" The answer? "delete the copy in the quarantine area, rescan for viri again.

Finally, a closing question was: "Should a 'free' downloaded antivirus program such as AVG be effective and dependable enough to use as my antivirus program?" The answer by one of the panelists was: "I use AVG and it worked the majority of the time, excepting a trojan that got through and I needed to use Symantec's Norton Antivirus to remove it!"

Many questions were asked during the the 70 minute meeting with the enthusiasm of members
(Stumped, continues on page 9)

Olympus D-580 Digital Camera



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This portable, 4 megapixel digital camera (11x14" prints), lets you choose between 7 different shooting modes or capture a mini movie with audio using QuickTime®. Download files to a computer with Auto-Connect USB or connect to a TV. Has a 3X Optical, built in flash, 1.8 LCD, single click.

Get your tickets today. Now—7 for \$10.00!

Tips & Techiques for your Digital Camera

with **Al Miester**

November 6



At our next meeting, join local photographer (and Videographer), Al Meister as he helps us understand digital photography in a clear, concise layman's language. Al has his own studio here in Chalmette and has been in the business for many years, so experience is his forte. You won't want to miss this informative meeting, and also bring a friend or family.

Rich's Ramblings by Rich Schinnell

Cleaning Your System Unit

As I write this, we are in the throes of hot weather and maybe it's about time we all take a look at our computer ventilation fans. If you've had your computer for a while, like a year or two, you might want to open it up to clean out the dust bunnies and cat/dog hair that have accumulated inside. Even with the cleanest of houses or offices, your computer can draw in a lot of dirt, rug fibers, and dust. This will eventually build up on your ventilation grates and fan blades — not good for proper cooling of your system. Open it up at least twice a year to check the air flow paths for blockage. Similar to looking under your bed once in a while to see the dust.

Reduced air flow over critical components, i.e., CPU and hard disks, can shorten their life. Make sure fan blades are not blocked or covered with dust. After Shutting your system off and removing the power cord, open

the case and inspect the system for dust. A vacuum cleaner can be used but very carefully. Some are so powerful they can damage your wiring or vacuum up components. Using a high volume vacuum cleaner on small fans can damage them. A small clean artist's paint brush is handy and, used with care, will take care of most of the fan dirt buildup. Don't use Windex or an alcohol- or ammonia-based liquid cleaner as they could damage components or wiring in your system. Some vendors tout compressed air cans that just move the dirt around. Used properly, these will work but I would not do it in the computer room because you're just moving it around and when you turn

your system back on, back it will come. Preventative maintenance of your system should make it more reliable and give it a longer life.



Garbage In Garbage Out

I read on Bulletin Boards where a user complains their computer locks up or has to be re-booted quite often. Then I read further and find they have many installed programs for pop-up blocking, advertising banner removal, etc.— it's no

wonder they have trouble. Having these programs installed is not a bad thing, but many free programs are not as well-written as they should be. Interference with other programs happens often. If your computer runs too slow or you have lock-ups, check for programs running in the background.

Back to **BASICS**

"Have you tried "Back to Basics?" "Back to Basics" is a very popular member benefit.



Long time board member & Member Representative Margaret Wynn as well as other members have devoted themselves to helping members & new guests with their questions and problems in a

semiprivate environment that is a quickly growing segment of our membership! *Meets from 9:30-10:20 A.M. monthly before the general meeting.*

Try it once, you'll instantly want to join the group at a low price membership of only \$25.00 per year...(Where else can you get so much information at about 2 bucks a month?) We're the "best kept secret in the whole Metro area" according to *WWL-TV's Jerry Serigni of Digital Gumbo!* Don't wait—join today and enjoy *all the member benefits!*

By default the hard disk indexing program is running on Windows XP (Home & Pro) and keeps a database index of all the files on your computer. Each time you search for a file or program, it kicks in and gets it to you real fast — but at a price I believe is not good. Anything that takes CPU time away from what you're doing that does not improve the security of your PC is not a good idea. I know there are some who don't agree with me and are running all kinds of utilities they just have to have. Well, go for it! My record on the lack of BSD (Blue Screen of Death) and freeze-ups is pretty clean. I don't remember the last time I had to pull the plug on a PC that locked up.

Back in the olden days, there was a program by Borland called Sidekick which was probably one of the most famous TSR (Terminate & Stay Resident) programs around. It was also the most prevalent reason for computers going off into Never Never Land. SideKick was a real neat program, when it worked and did not freeze up your computer. In fact, many help desk staffers' first words to anyone who called for help was "You aren't using SideKick, are you?" Nuff said. The closer to a "virgin" system you can operate, the less aggravation you will endure. I recommend an anti-virus program like Norton AntiVirus and a firewall like Zone-Alarm. I keep my system running pretty much without all the add-ons.

(Richard's Ramblings on page 8)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi CCUG-PC Members:

Now for the continued saga of “Days of Our Past Lives!”...

OK, so you were one of the fortunate ones to leave town during the IVAN crisis recently. The lines were long and as fast as 3 ft. per second—if you at least went westward toward Baton Rouge. No Joke—Six to eight hours to get to a one hour destination. Only thing, for me...it was not a stretch of the imagination or a place of destination! My troubles overextended beyond this useless, unorganized evacuation.

I admit my planning and organization is awful when planning an evacuation. Where I should have plywood on windows (at least in my computer room!), I didn't. I also waiting until the day after evacuation was ordered, thinking I could escape the awful bumper to bumper truth that Bob Breck of WVUE/Fox was blasted when his opinion was helpful—but didn't seem to work in my case.

Besides boarding up, I needed supplies—you know, the usual: chips, cokes, chewies, and crap (the sugar-laden tasty kind)! I needed a destination, and I had a good plan—to go north instead of the usual overburdened westward travel to Lake Charles/Texas. But, being a storm would pass a plethora of heavy rain towards my Chattanooga destination, I was overruled and we left at 2:00 a.m. thinking that we'd outthink the lame, the unplanned, the early risers and the blessed.

I even thought I was in the clear as it only took me 20 minutes to get from Paris Road to Kenner! I was so confident my plan was brilliant. Not a car barely in sight between St. Bernard Parish and Kenner!! Then came St. Charles Parish and a more brilliant idea: Crossovers!! &*% ^\$@*%&%%!

A horror story began. Grasshoppers flew on my hood without retaliation. Moths outraced me. People were getting out of their cars to “tinkle”, discuss the weather, or admire the still view before the mightiest of storms approached, knowing they'd go back to their domiciles in ruins (as Mobile to Florida has faced). I was the lucky one. it only took me 12 Hrs. to get to the Texas line (usually 5 hrs). Some took 24 hrs. to their place in Texas.

While traveling, using the “slow-boat to China” (if you can call this *traveling*), I had plenty time to think about my equipment that I duly abandoned to face a torture, almost worse than death itself. If turning around and facing God's vengeance, I would have. With a saw and hammer, i thought, I could face the world from the attic. My computer, etc. was helpless. No one to watch her, tons of things on her, abandoned to the ultimate—wind, rain, storm and tornadoes. Yes, I had abandoned her to sit in a human parking lot for 12 hrs. —then I had to turn around and do it again...

Jerry Montalbano

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NOTICE MEETING DATES!!

Upcoming in 2004

Nov. 6 *All dates are subject to change with room availability permitted*

MAKE NOTE:

**** Dec. 4**

*(**Meets at Nunez CommunityCollege)*

1996 Lotus Intergalactic Newsletter



CCUG-PC

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

NEWSBITS Newsletter is published monthly by CCUG-PC. Articles for publication *must* be submitted, typewritten and on disk to our newsletter staff by the **15th** of the month for publication. We welcome all articles of computing interest and we reserve the right to edit when appropriate. **SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH US.** If you have a tip or technique with a software program (or hardware), please enlighten us. All computer related articles are welcomed. Please submit your contributions to us in a file of any disk format or upload to jerryccug@cox.net for our **Newsbits Newsletter** Staff. CCUG-PC would love to hear from you! Submissions from our members, or reprints from other publications are welcomed, but do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Board of Directors nor the membership. Reprints are granted when credit is given to the author. Submissions of any content, articles or materials become property of CCUG-PC for sole use and publication.

FROM THE DEALS GUY



by *Bob Click*, Greater
Orlando Computer User Group



When we were trying to find a restaurant (very scarce here for several days), it was an experience because with the power out in much of the eastern Orlando area, most traffic lights were inoperative and few people were courteous at intersections. Gas was scarce, but we had filled up before the storm. A station with gas and power to pump it usually had very, very long lines. It was impossible to find ice in stores, although a few places were set up, not near us, where volunteers passed out free ice, drinking water and Deet insect repellent. Grocery stores open for business were scarce, and if you found one, it was without milk and other necessities. Also, no lamp oil, wicks, batteries or plain telephones. I needed a new wick.

Our street had many downed tree branches, but many streets were even impassible for a few days until people and crews cleared them out. Some areas had no water, and where sewer lift stations had no power, there were problems with sewer backups, although not in our area. Our subdivision has underground utilities, but our wellbeing depends on the feeder lines coming in on poles. I saw pictures of streets where an entire line of wires and poles were broken off laying on the street. Progress Energy said that much of the grid had to be rebuilt.

There were several sad stories about people who died more or less as a result of the storm. I was unaware that a storm could affect people's pacemakers, which was the problem for one as well as his lack of oxygen. Trimming trees is also a dangerous job, which resulted in a couple of deaths. It was an experience I hope not to have again for a while. However, many neighborhoods certainly helped each other out with food when somebody had power and others didn't. Some also shared generators. The paper and TV were full of stories both sad and good for days. I'm glad we didn't live on the gulf side of the state where the storm came ashore with much more power and devastation.



Costly Celebration!

My wife and I worked the 25th anniversary of the Home Depot stores [<http://www.homedepot.com>]. It was held at five different elegant hotels and the Orange County Convention Center. We worked at the Gaylord Palms [<http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordpalms/>]. The name of the game was party and that is what nearly 6,000 attendees did. A large well-decorated hall with pool tables, other games and a bar was set up, and Universal Studios Park was rented for one day. Attendees were flown in from all over, even from China, and all at Home Depot's expense. I'm told

the cost for this celebration was over 25 million. One manager told me they would make that back in a short time. Perhaps, but I wonder if the shareholders would approve of that expense!

We also worked two days at the same hotel for the Sybase [<http://www.sybase.com>] (TechWave 2004) show that took place only a couple days after hurricane Charlie. In spite of Charlie, the attendance was about 1,300, including 300 employees, which surprised management under the circumstances. They promoted PowerBuilder 10 as well as their other products, and put on a great production.

While working that show, we certainly noticed that many Progress Energy workers, along with many utility workers that came in from out of state, were headquartered at the Gaylord Palms Resort. Their parking lot had many utility trucks and there was an inventory of poles, power transformers, wire and other important parts. The hotel prepared some great meals for those hard working folks, however I'm not sure who paid for that and the rooms. Power line damage was very severe in that area.



Correction

Last month one of my items was PopFile, a product to filter spam. I misunderstood Paul Witheridge's comments and said it was also an antivirus, which was incorrect. What he had meant was that with training, it could filter out spam with a virus in it, which means it might substitute for an antivirus. Sorry for that misconception on my part.



Fundraiser

This vendor might help raise funds for your treasury. They call themselves "The \$2.95 Guys" and can offer you T-shirts at good prices. They can package or compress them in all sorts of unique shapes. Quantity for that \$2.95 price is rather high and I'm not sure how competitive their prices are with the lower quantities. However, it won't hurt to take a look if you are looking for shirts. For the compressed shirt packaging, the price is more. The sample they sent me was a Hanes, which I consider a quality name. They are at [<http://www.295guys.com>], or call them at 1-800-536-5959. The person I originally talked to was Tom Hardy, but to my surprise, he has not returned my calls for a confirmation after three days of trying, so good luck if you order. I can't change this item because the column has already been sent to my "early editors." No special deal for the column, but I thought of it as a possible fundraiser.

(Deals, continued from page 8)

It's the heartbeat of CCUG-PC!



Volunteer!

Tech-Lovers Corner—TLC SIG



CCUG-PC has just established a new special interest group (SIG). As we may not have a permanent name but can develop one upon the success of the group Let's just say that the intermediates and advanced users have sought such an ensemble for them—and we have listened.

Beginning today from 9:30-10:15 a.m., TLC attendees have a special spot to meet (a designated area of the general meeting room) where intermediate/advanced members can hold roundtable discussions each general meeting.

Roundtable discussions are informal group meetings where more advanced topics are discussed, such as computer hardware, technologies, and software fixes, patches—you name it, there's no limitations, but to the knowledge of those in attendance.

The TLC group has been organized to address many issues that might be too complex for less experienced users. Users who might feel topics too complex can attend the *Back to Basics SIG* group hosted by Margaret Wynn in the Complex Conference Room behind the meeting room staging area. Please join us as we wish to *kick your computer habit up a notch!!!*



A Computer Conversation with Moses



"Excuse me, Sir."

"Is that you again, Moses?"

"I'm afraid it is, Sir."

"What is it this time, Moses; more computer problems?"

"How did you guess?"

"I don't have to guess, Moses. Remember?"

"Oh, yes; I forgot."

"Tell me what you want, Moses."

"But you already know, Sir. Remember?"

"Moses!"

"Sorry, Sir."

"Well, go ahead, Moses; spit it out."

"Well, I have a question, Sir. You know those ten 'things' you sent me via e-mail?"

"You mean the Ten Commandments, Moses?"

"That's it. I was wondering if they are important."

"What do you mean 'if they are important,' Moses?"

Of course, they are important.

(Computer Conversation, continues on page 9)



Cheap Software via Spam is probably a Scam

by *Kim Komando*

S pam advertisements hawking popular software at bargain basement prices are flooding the Internet. More often than not, it's literally a steal of a deal. Most of these deals are hawking counterfeit software.



In the early days, counterfeit software was created by a few hackers. Today, global organized crime gangs have taken over the business. The Italian Mafia, Russian mob, Middle Eastern terrorists and Columbian drug cartels are all taking part, according to executives from Microsoft and security experts. Using sophisticated methods, they create software nearly identical to the real thing.

Financially, they're reaping the rewards. The Business Software Alliance, which battles counterfeiting, says piracy cost software makers over \$13 billion in 2002, the latest year available. The U.S software industry alone lost over \$6 billion.

How does it work?

Counterfeiters buy legitimate software and copy the box design, plastic wrapping and certificate of authenticity. Or, they break into software distributing houses and steal the goods. Using expensive copiers, thousands of CDs are created in a day.

Web sites are set up, offering incredible deals. Most sites are established overseas, far from U.S. law. You'll find traditionally expensive titles such as Microsoft Office 2003 or Adobe Photoshop at 60 to 70 percent under retail.

To direct potential customers to the Web site, millions of inboxes are spammed. Even a small response rate equals a big profit.

In some cases, the spam looks like it comes from such legitimate sources as Amazon.com. But that is not the case. The criminals design the e-mails to make them look legitimate, down to return addresses.

A customer who buys such a program could get working software.

But the industry says customers are more likely to receive non-working products, or perhaps nothing at all.

(Komando, continues on page 7)

October, 2004

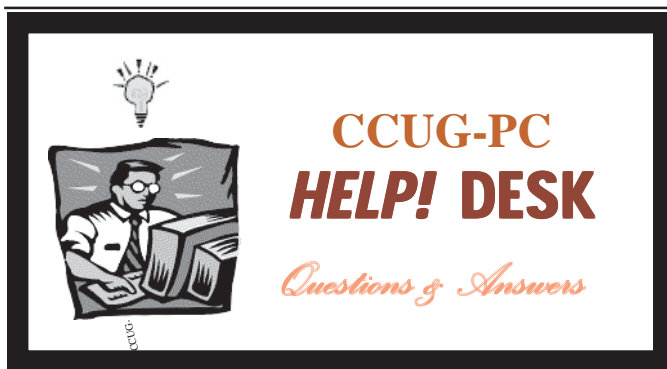
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 26 On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	Sep 27 TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri The Screen Savers 6 PM Cox Ch.355	Sep 28	Sep 29 <i>Can you write an article about a product you've tried?</i>	Sep 30 <i>We can use your help! Just submit it to us. We'll do the rest!!</i>	Oct 1	Oct 2 CCUG-PC Meets: 10AM <i>How to Get Effective Tech Support</i>
Oct 3 On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	Oct 4 TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri The Screen Savers 6 PM Cox Ch.355	Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 7	Oct 8	Oct 9 Living with Electronics 10.am Radio 690 am
Oct 10 On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	Oct 11 Columbus Day	Oct 12	Oct 13	Oct 14	Oct 15 Newsbits Deadline	Oct 16 Living with Electronics 10.am Radio 690 am Yom Kipper
Oct 17 On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	Oct 18 TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri The Screen Savers 6PM Cox Ch.355	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23 Living with Electronics 10.am Radio 690 am
Oct 24 On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	Oct 25 TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri The Screen Savers 6PM Cox Ch.355	Oct 26 BOD Meeting 	Oct 27	Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30 Living with Electronics 10.am Radio 690 am
Oct 31 Halloween Daylight Savings	Nov 1 All Saints Day	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5 ⇨ NOTE:	Nov 6 CCUG-PC Meets: 10AM <i>Tips on Digital Photography</i>

CCUG-PC General Meeting

8201 W. Judge Perez (Gov't Complex Bldg.), Chalmette, LA.

Board of Directors Meeting

Nunez Community College Library Conference Room 1-102



**CCUG-PC
HELP! DESK**
Questions & Answers

with Jerry Montalbano

Q *My Cox Toshiba PCX1100U modem won't connect from time to time. This morning it wouldn't work for heck and this afternoon it's working fine. I talked to tech support and they thought it was bad too. Could it be a glitch in Windows XP that it doesn't always work? This morning I rebooted several times and unplugged and replugged..the cable light just kept blinking. I bought a new one this afternnon at Office Depot, but when I started computer old one runs fine. This has been hap-pening about every 2 weeks. Just wanted to know if you ran across similar...*

A From time to time service is disconnected or being worked on. The 3 top lights should always be lit with the data 4th light, blinking exchanging info. If the 1st Power and Network (1st/3rd light), its a problem getting the "feed" from Cox. (Cable light). If the Power and Cable light is on and the Network light is off, it's your computer/network card problem).

Cycling the modem hardware is important to "refreshing" (like rebooting the computer). Even sometimes you have to use the modem's RESET button.

1. Turn off computer
2. Wait 3 minutes (not 1 minute).
3. Restart any Router/Switch if applicable, waiting for all lights normally lit on the router is lit.
4. Then the modem. Wait until all lights are lit (or perhaps only 2 or 3 might light until the system starts)
5. Finally, start the sytem. Check the Internet.

If you had a router, switch, etc. device, it's best to check things directly from the wall to the modem, beforehand to eliminate any other hardware device than the modem (basics).

The modem being bad is always possible, but the last choice after the "power cycle" is completed.

Beyond that, I found that one just has to "wait" a while until service is restored (sometimes, it's a few hours). I've found this to be the case on occasions even though Cox

(HelpDesk, continued on page 9)

(Komando continued from page 5)



There is little recourse for customers who are cheated. If a Web site is maintained overseas, the money is probably lost forever. Complaints can be filed with the Better Business Bureau (<http://www.bbb.org>) and the Business Software Alliance (<http://www.bsa.org>), but customers shouldn't hold their breath.

Pirated software can do more damage than just taking your money. According to Jenny Blank, director of enforcement for the Business Software Alliance, you don't know what you are getting when you buy pirated software. The programs sometimes have bugs or viruses. You could ruin your computer by trying to save a few bucks.

Pirated software has a detrimental effect on the economy as well. More than 100,000 U.S. jobs and over \$5 billion in lost wages can be attributed to counterfeiters, according to researchers.

You can avoid falling prey to counterfeiters through four easy steps:

1. Read the advertisement carefully. Most counterfeiters operate overseas. Grammar and spelling are often substandard. If you notice spelling mistakes or awkward English, step carefully.
2. Too-good-to-be-true prices are usually just that. If you see \$300 software selling for \$20, chances are it's not legitimate.
3. Be leery of groups of products on one CD. For example, Adobe Photoshop and Microsoft Word would never be sold together as a package.
4. Investigate the company selling the software. The Better Business Bureau keeps reliability reports on most companies. Avoid a company that has many unresolved complaints. Also, companies that don't list contact information on the Web site aren't worth your business.

Learning how to avoid counterfeit software is important. It stops putting money into the pockets of criminals, and keeps it in yours.

A little about Kim Komando

(You can read my weekly syndicated column in over 100 Gannett newspapers across the country. I also host the three-hour weekend Kim Komando Show. Every week-day you can hear my "Daily Computer Minute." I write a weekly column for USA Today, too. And I write for MSN's bCentral site).



Rich's Ramblings - continued from page 2)



With the new update Service Pack 2 to Windows XP, I think many will appreciate the improvements. Once you get it configured the way you want, it might be a good idea to create a restore point. **START | PROGRAMS | ACCESSORIES | SYSTEM TOOLS | SYSTEM RESTORE** is the location of the system restore program.

Periodically, if your system is set up just the way you want it and everything is working fine, go in and turn off system restore via the properties of "My Computer" **SYSTEM RESTORE** tab. Then you might want to consider cleaning out your temporary Internet files in **OPTIONS** for Internet Explorer. Make sure to clean out the offline files also. This will remove many temporary files so that IE will run faster. Then empty your Recycle Bin and run a disk defragmenter. I recommend the program **VOPT**. They have a 30-day evaluation version which does everything that the paid registered version has. Almost the best \$40 I have spent. I have been using their program for quite a few years and never had problems using it. After you have defragmented your drive, make sure that you turn the system restore back on and create a restore point.

External Hard Disk

I bought an external USB/Firewire 160 gigabyte hard disk. It works via the USB 2.0 port and via the 1394a Firewire port. USB 2.0 is a bit faster than the existing Firewire ports. The Western Digital external device is pretty small, not much bigger than a regular hard disk, but includes all the cables and external power supply that you need to set it up.

The USB 2.0 passes data at a maximum speed of 480 megabits (notice it's bits, not bytes) per second. The Firewire is a bit slower at 400 megabits. This is pretty slow when you consider it takes 8 bits to make a byte (or better described as one character) and therefore the transfer speed for us humans is 50 megabytes per second for the Firewire and 60 megabytes per second for USB 2.0. Remember this is the maximum speed, not the average speed, so it is really slower than a regular hard disk to another regular hard disk file transfer.

If you're looking for a big hard disk to be portable, they're sold in sizes from 120 to 250 gigabytes, which should be big enough for most people. Available at CompUSA and other computer retail stores. They even have versions with multiple memory card readers as part of the external package.

(Rich Schinnell is retired from CPCUG, USN, and Vitro Corporation and is enjoying his retirement by continuing to support some local small business's computer networks and systems.) ❀



Another Fundraiser

This might be something a bit unique, but when I heard about it I thought it would help make money for an individual, or a group. The name is CafePress and their URL is [<http://www.cafepress.com>]. You can make money with absolutely no investment. All you have to do is come up with your own individual design of some sort, or a logo that you like. They offer a number of products to carry your design or logo, which can even be a statement or question. I counted at least 70 products offered on their Web site to carry your creation. A friend designed a shirt with 'Ask me where I bought this!' that he is selling.

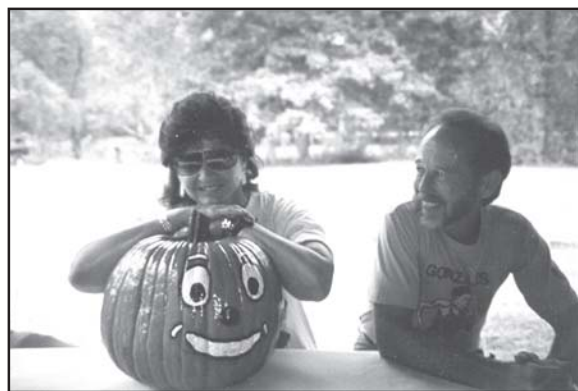
After making your choice, set your price, which should be over their base price in order to make money for you. They handle all the ordering, sales and shipping, then send you a check when you have accumulated enough. Hopefully, their accounting is accurate. Not a bad deal considering you have nothing invested except your time and creation. Be careful you don't infringe on something copyrighted, especially phrases and sayings.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. More will be forthcoming when I get the ambition.

Bob (The Cheapskate) Click !!!



Remembering — This month in 1996!



Buster Matthews and wife, Carole, share a private victory smile after winning the pumpkin contest. The event took place at the group's Annual Fall Picnic in mid-October, 1996. Buster probably has the huge grin—knowing the day was over by this time, and he can return to his computer!

About Your Dues!

—*Bob Fauxcheux, Membership Secretary*

Uh oh. Here we go! We're going to talk about the dues. The alarm just went off--Houston we have a problem; *this is not going to be good.*

Well, maybe not, let's take a look. The board in its wisdom has decided to shake things up a bit. Firstly, in the past, for every new member you brought in you would get a \$5.00 credit when you renewed your dues. Now, for every new member you bring in, you will get a \$25.00 credit toward your dues. Yep, bring in one new member you have a \$25.00 credit; bring in a second new member and you will have a \$50.00 credit you can use to renew your dues. *That's the same as a two-year membership at no cost to you.* For now, we are going to give this idea a test run for one year; beginning April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005.

Now, for the married folks in the group and any families that want to join. You can now be a member under the family plan. Here is how it works: For the cost of one membership you can have your whole family as a member of CCUG-PC. Everything is the same as if your family were a single member; one newsletter, one white ticket, one red ticket and one place to sign on the sign-in sheet. *But your whole family gets the benefit of being a member of the group.*

Hey!! So what about the married couples in the group that just renewed their dues? Well, any couples that have renewed their dues *since the first of this year will receive a credit for any amount above the cost of one membership.*

It's a good deal folks, take advantage of it and bring some friends to the meeting. They may like what they see and join, **and then everybody wins! BF**



(*HelpDesk, continued from page 7*)

says there's no report about any outage in the New Orleans area. It's the case of "bureaucracy" where the "right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing". I've complained about this because it's important to users to have their local ISP notify Cox (who might be in Tennessee or Florida, etc) about what's happening so that they can pass info to us to relieve "computer stress" we don't need. ❖

(*Stumped, continued from page 1*)

who earnestly placed their index cards into Bob's hands. Although a few questions were not addressed, the toughness of the questions that were asked were thoroughly answered to the acceptance of the audience. Thanks to our "experts" who were remarkable as they met up to our motto of "users helping users!" ❖

Didya Notice??!! At the September Meeting?



- ☹ At this year's Stump the Experts, 4 advanced panelists graced the forum stage instead of 5.
- ☹ There was but 32 members and guests in the audience. Much smaller than usual. Please attend regularly!
- ☹ There was an auction for the first time in 4 months. Hopefully, members will bless us on a steady basis with their kindful donations for fund raising
- ☹ For the 1st time at the general membership meeting, TWO SIG Meetings took place: A Back to Basics and a newly organized, *Tech-Lover's Corner* roundtable discussion group.

(*Conversation with Moses, continued from page 5*)



Otherwise, I would not have sent them to you."

"Well, sorry, Sir, but I lost them. I could say the dog ate them; but, of course, you would see right through that."
"What do you mean you 'lost them'? Are you trying to tell e you didn't save them, Moses?"

"No, Sir; I forgot."
"You should always save, Moses."

"Yes, I know. You told me that before. I was going to save them, but I forgot. I did forward them to some people before I lost them though."

"And did you hear back from any of them?"

"You already know I did. There was the one guy who said he never uses 'shalt not.' May he change the words a little bit?"
"Yes, Moses, as long as he does not change the meaning."

"And what about the guy who thought your stance was a little harsh, and recommended calling them the 'Ten Suggestions,' or letting people pick one or two to try for a while?"

"Moses, I will act as if I did not hear that."

"I think that means 'no.' Well, what about the guy who said I was scamming him?"

"I think the term is 'spamming,' Moses."

"Oh, yes. I E-mailed him back and told him I don't even eat that stuff, and I have no idea how you can send it to someone through a computer."

"And what did he say?"

"You know what he said. He used *Your name in vain.*

You don't think he might have sent me one of those -- err -- plagues, and that's the reason I lost those ten 'things', do you?" ❖



CCUG-PC
Chuckles



**October:
Site of the Month**

www.ripoffreport.com



Don't let them get away with it! Make sure they make the Rip-Off Report!

Victim of a consumer Rip-off? Want justice? Rip-off Report™ is a world-wide consumer reporting Website & Publication, by consumers, for consumers, to file & document complaints about Companies or Individuals who ripoff consumers.

Upcoming . .



Digital Cameras - A Tutorial.

Smart Computing Magazine



Judy Favalora is the winner at our Fall Fiesta Raffle held on September 11th. Although 9/11 brought so much grief to the U.S/world on this day, Judy's luck made her a happy camper. Shown with Judy is her newly won/adopted HP 7960 Photo Printer with which she so proudly poses.

Nominations Taken in November

At the November 6th meeting, nominations will be slated for the following Board of Directors positions: President, Vice President, Membership Secretary, Programs Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member Representative. You can nominate someone of your choice in addition to the current officers offering to run for another term. The election and a final nomination prior to the election, will be held in December.

Printer Contest in December

The Annual Printer Contest expected to be held at our December 4th meeting will be held instead in the Nunez Community College Auditorium on January 8th. More details in November Newsbits.

SHAREWARE PICK OF THE WEEK:

(Try before you buy--smart software of all sorts...)



Windows: Image Browser Arctic

Automatically search your computer for any image file. Convert multiple files into BMP, JPG, JP2, ICO, TIF,



Mac: ZeboPhoto - View images, and also edit them with contrast, sharpening, cropping and rotation features. Create a slide show with captions, or make a movie.

Many shareware are available at download.com, cnet.com and shareware.com or a net search can assist your success.



Any of you who haven't joined the CCUG-PC Yahoo On-line Group are doing yourself and your PC a disservice. With all the things that are packed into a limited time frame for the monthly meetings we can't possibly answer

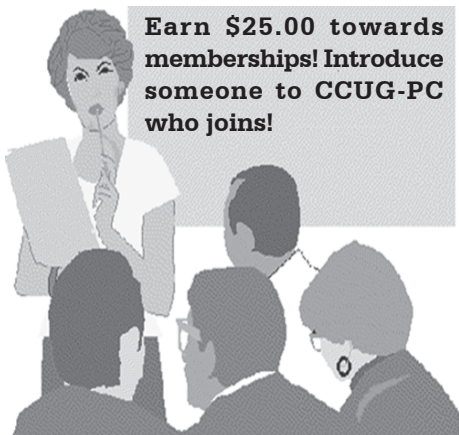
all your questions fully or tell you: the latest news and virus alerts, software bugs and patches, scams, Trojans, spywares, new technology, workarounds, new software, great sites for pc resources, hardware and software bargains, the many MS bulletins that come out each month and more.

There's no time limit on our CCUG-PC Yahoo On-line Group We have over 500 members from all around the world who will take all the time needed to get your questions answered and your problems solved. You can post anything pc related and if it needs a reply check back at your convenience and see if anyone has one for you.

It also takes some of the stress off of Jerry and other techs as they can respond when time is available and not have to rush to something else to keep on schedule.

This is the best Free Support you'll find anywhere and you can do it from work or home! Try it, you'll like it.

Buster Matthews, Yahoo Group CCUG-PC On-line Moderator



Volunteer!

It's a ridiculously simple word — yet it means all the love in the world to organizations!

Member Classifieds

Selling?



Jerry Montalbano, Editor at 279-2761

Advertising Policy—Members are welcomed to place an advertisement for personal computer-related items in *Newsbits* at no cost. There could be limit-spacing on a first-come basis. Commercial ads from members and nonmembers are welcomed. **Please notify us when sold or cancelled!**

CLASSIFIEDS



Your Member Ad here!

Linksys EtherFast Cable/DSL Router with 4-Port Switch, wired. \$30. Call Elaine at **271-0931 or EMPitre@hotmail.com.**



Have you a tip for a great utility, a cool website, a cure for a PC problem a lot of people have, or any local technology new? Please have them send it to Jerry Seregni (jerry@wwltv.com). If Jerry uses it for a 'Digital Gumbo' segment, he will send them a token of his gratitude and give you credit on-air!

Disclaimer

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Membership Dues:

CCUG-PC's *annual membership dues* are **\$25.00**. Please keep abreast of your membership dues date. You can determine your expiration date by doing the following:

1. Check your *Newsbits* mailing address label.
2. Inquire at the membership table.
3. Remember your dues date from the time you joined.

AD SPOTLIGHT

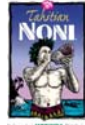
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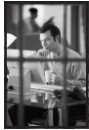
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