

# Monitor

<http://www.cpcug.org/>  
<http://www.cpcug.net/>

November 2003

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Number 4

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The magazine of the **Capital PC User Group, Inc.**, a nonprofit organization of “Users Helping Users”

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## CPCUG TV is on the Air!

by Dennis Courtney

A few months ago in my President's Notes, I hinted that there were going to be a couple of major announcements from CPCUG in the coming months. Well, I'm happy to say that we can make one of those major announcements right now. CPCUG TV is on the air!

That's right. CPCUG now has a television show on Montgomery Community Television (MCT). It will be available to any Comcast subscriber in Montgomery County on Channel 21 and to people outside Montgomery County via the Internet on the CPCUG website.

lighting technology issues. The name of the show is “Observing Technology.”



Left to right: Guests Tammy Arnold, Toshiba America; Nayib Aljure, The Computer Place; Geoffrey Snowman, Microsoft; and host Dennis Courtney, CPCUG President



Tammy Arnold shows off Toshiba America's tablet PC and Media Center PC with the equivalent capability of a TiVo to show and store videos.

Our first episode was taped October 15 and should be available after mid-November for viewing on our web site. Sometime after that we'll be scheduled by MCT for an air date. Our goal is to produce a monthly half-hour show spot-

Special thanks go to our producer, Merrill Hessel, and the entire crew who helped put the show together. Merrill is the chair of our new Digital Video SIG and one of the hosts of his own MCT show, “Computers for Intelligent Adults.” Some months ago I appeared on Merrill's show to talk about how CPCUG was involved with seniors using computers and started talking with Merrill about a CPCUG show.

When we are given firm air dates by MCT we will publish them in the *Monitor* along with the web address where you can watch the show online. In the meantime, if you have any ideas for show segments, send them to [president@cpcug.org](mailto:president@cpcug.org).

### Interested in teaching a class for CPCUG?

Please complete the form on the inside cover and send it to Training Director Heidi Lamont.

Do you want to share your knowledge ... but can't make a regular commitment?

## YOU CAN CHANGE LIVES BY TEACHING FOR CPCUG!

**We are now recruiting teachers in many topic areas—complete and send in this form to learn more.**

I would consider teaching in *(check all that apply)*

Maryland  Virginia  DC  this site: \_\_\_\_\_

I would consider teaching *(check all that apply)*

M-F daytime  M-F evenings  Saturdays  Sundays

I have these special requirements:

My preference is teaching *(rank from 1-3, 1 being your first choice)*

- Career professionals who are familiar with computers and who want to advance their knowledge of software/hardware
- Senior citizens who may not be familiar with computers and who want to find good web resources and email friends
- Community members who speak English as a second language, work in blue-collar environments, and would like to move into office professional work

Besides English, I speak *(check all that apply)*

Spanish  fluently  a bit  \_\_\_\_\_  fluently  a bit  
 Vietnamese  fluently  a bit  I can sign to the hearing-impaired  fluently  a bit

I would feel comfortable teaching *(check all that apply)*

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Norton Anti-Virus <input type="checkbox"/> beginner <input type="checkbox"/> advanced   |   |

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please (1) mail this form to Heidi Lamont, Training Director, Capital PC User Group, 19209 Mt. Airey Road, Brookeville, MD 20833. (2) email a brief summary (100-200 words or less, in paragraph format) of your qualifications—including any professional teaching experience (use your name as the filename!) — to [training@cpcug.org](mailto:training@cpcug.org). Be sure to include your full name in your email. We will contact you to discuss details and upcoming classes that you may be interested in teaching.

# Register to Take a CPCUG Training Class

Most classes cost:  
\$29-\$35 member fee  
\$39-\$45 non-member fee

Classes Listed at

[WWW.CPCUG.NET/TRAINING.ASP](http://WWW.CPCUG.NET/TRAINING.ASP)

Click *SEARCH CLASSES* to search by location

Two Training Centers: Annandale, VA, and Fort Washington, MD

Register for Annandale classes online  
or by calling the CPCUG Office at 301-762-9372

Register for Harmony Hall (Fort Washington) classes  
by calling 301-203-6040

# CPCUG Office

## Capital PC User Group, Inc.

19209 Mt. Airey Road,  
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## CPCUG Home Page

[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/)

Get more  
out of your  
membership  
in the  
Capital PC  
User Group—  
Become a  
**VOLUNTEER!**

Contact a member of  
CPCUG's Board of  
Directors — all are  
listed on this page,  
most offer a choice  
of e-mail or phone  
contact information.

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Greg Smith, 1996  
Rich Schinnell, 1993-95  
Eydie DeVincenzi, 1993  
Stan Doore, 1992  
Henry Noble, 1991  
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Tom Enrico, 1988  
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## Future SIGs

If you're interested in starting a SIG, please contact CPCUG President Dennis Courtney at [president@cpug.org](mailto:president@cpug.org).

The Internet SIG is inactive. If you're interested in helping reactivate this important SIG, please contact Gabe Goldberg at [gabe@gabegold.com](mailto:gabe@gabegold.com).

CPCUG is looking for a few good men — and women. Can you donate a few hours each week to help improve our group? Call 301-762-9372!

November 2003

**Monitor** is your publication. If you would like to discuss an idea for an article or column, please contact the editor at [editor@cpcug.org](mailto:editor@cpcug.org).

Our style guide is at:  
[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/MONITOR/MONSTYLE.HTML](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/MONITOR/MONSTYLE.HTML).

## Publication Submissions

**Guidelines.** Be sure to put each graphic (200-dpi TIF format preferred) and table in a separate file—do not include text, graphics, and tables together in one file. If you prefer to include everything in one file, please send each table and graphic separately in addition. Include your name, e-mail address, and day and evening telephone numbers at the top of your article so we can contact you if we have questions.

**Submittal.** Send articles as zipped file attachments to [editor@cpcug.org](mailto:editor@cpcug.org), with copy to [admin@cpcug.org](mailto:admin@cpcug.org). In the body of your message, include the names of files attached and the software formats of each. Or you may send articles in ASCII text format directly in the body of an e-mail message.

**Conditions.** Articles must be received at least 30 days before publication. All articles are subject to editing. Articles accepted for publication in the print version of the *Monitor* will also appear in the Internet Web pages of the *Monitor*.

## Subscription Problems ?

Please call (301) 762-9372 or send an e-mail message to [admin@cpcug.org](mailto:admin@cpcug.org).

**Address Changes.** Please send change of address notices with current phone numbers to the Capital PC User Group, Attn.: Membership Director, 19209 Mt. Airey Road, Brookeville, MD 20833, or via e-mail to [admin@cpcug.org](mailto:admin@cpcug.org). *Monitor* is not forwarded unless you have made special arrangements with your Post Office.

**Renewals.** One renewal notice is sent. You may renew your membership by sending your check for \$42 (\$78 for 2 years; \$110 for 3 years) along with your mailing label to the address above. Be sure to correct your mailing label if any of the information has changed, and always include your current phone numbers and membership number.

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**The Fine Print.** Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent an official position of, or endorsement by, the Capital PC User Group. CPCUG is an independent, nonprofit user group and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor or equipment manufacturer.

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 Barbara Conn

# CPCUG News & Events

## Two Training Locations!

### Annandale, VA

#### UHU (Users Helping Users)

*The classroom has 12 PCs on a LAN*

Classes are held in room 305  
Annandale United Methodist  
Church

6935 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, VA 22003

**To register for classes, call  
(301) 762-9372**

### Fort Washington, MD

#### (HH) Harmony Hall

*The classroom has 10 PCs on a LAN*

Classes are held in the  
Computer Room (2nd floor)  
Harmony Hall Regional  
Center

10701 Livingston Road  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

**To register for classes, call  
(301) 203-6040**

Directions to both sites:

[WWW.CPCUG.NET/DIRECTIONS.ASP](http://WWW.CPCUG.NET/DIRECTIONS.ASP)

## General Meeting/ TechTalk Locations

CPCUG General Meeting/Tech Talks are held in Bethesda at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center (BCCSC), in Northern Virginia at Interstate Van Lines in Springfield, or in Washington, DC, at the Martin Luther King Library. See the listing at the right for each meeting's location. See page 34 for directions to the current month's meeting location.

## Upcoming General Meeting/ 2nd Monday TechTalks

Meeting location varies; please check below

### Monday, November 10 (7:00 pm)

#### A Mini-Tutorial on Using Microsoft Access Data Base Application

*Speaker: Robert Clemenzi*

Databases – What are they and why should you care? They're everywhere – dictionaries, cookbooks, address books, eBay. Most users build databases in MS Word or MS Excel, but they aren't always the best choice – they are basically single user applications and the data is hard to analyze. This presentation will discuss the differences between documents, spreadsheets, and databases and include a demonstration on how to build a simple database with MS Access. The demonstration will include tables, forms and reports.

Location: Interstate Van Lines, 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA

Directions: See page 34 of this issue.

Also at [WWW.INVAN.COM/CONTACT/DIRECTIONS.HTM](http://WWW.INVAN.COM/CONTACT/DIRECTIONS.HTM)

The entrance to the meeting room can be found to the left of the dark exterior Customer Service building, up the stairwell located under a huge "60 Years" of service sign. Limited parking can be found across from the meeting room entrance with overflow parking spaces at the bottom of the hill.

### Monday, December 8 (7:00 pm)

#### Our annual *Tech Gifts for the Holidays* extravaganza

Just in time for the holidays, Toshiba will be demonstrating the latest developments in laptop and notebook computers. They will also be demonstrating other items from their product line such as PocketPCs, digital cameras, and LCD projectors. There will be giveaways and every attendee will receive discounts on Toshiba products.

Location: Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center (BCCSC)  
4805 Edgemoor Lane  
(entrance at Plaza Level; Rooms A&B on the 2nd level)  
Bethesda, Maryland

Note: Parking (small fee) in building; Bethesda Metro  
Station across the street

Directions: [WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/BCCSC-DIR.HTML](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/BCCSC-DIR.HTML) FOR  
detailed directions and parking information

### Monday, January 12 (7:00 pm)

#### Program and location to be announced

# President's Notes

For the past few issues of my President's Notes I've been thanking those people within CPCUG who contribute in a positive way towards our overall success. I've mentioned many of them by name but there are many more who contribute whose names I haven't mentioned. It is not that they are not appreciated for their efforts, just that there really are too many to mention.

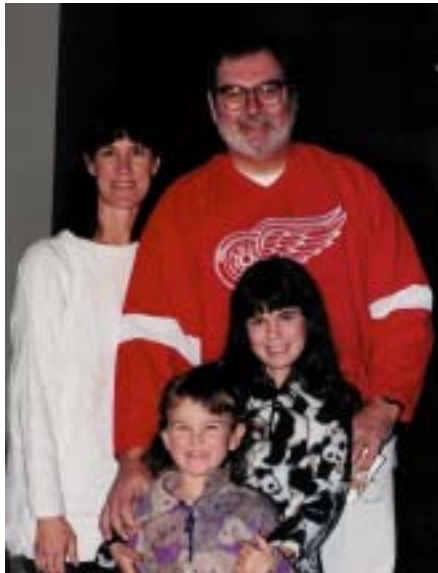
However, before I move on to other topics for my next edition I want to thank the most important person in my life – my partner in CPCUG as well as life – my wife, Karen.

In addition to being my wife and the mother of our two daughters, Karen runs the CPCUG office. Many of you have talked with her on the phone when you call the CPCUG office. Having her there has been a blessing, both for CPCUG and for me as President. I know her presence has been important to CPCUG from the comments and emails I receive from members about their experiences calling the office. CPCUG members can sometimes be a cantankerous lot, but Karen handles things with a patience and professionalism that has garnered her a number of kudos within the organization.

Karen keeps CPCUG (and me) organized. She does the book-keeping, answers the phones and e-mails, maintains the membership, handles correspondence and makes sure that someone (usually me) is informed and handling the crises of the moment. How she does this while maintaining her other roles as a wife and mother is

something I continue to marvel at.

Back in our hometown of Detroit, Karen worked for a number of years as a receptionist for the Detroit Tigers team physician. The practice also had a VIP Clinic that catered to the likes of the Ford family and various Detroit celebrities like Aretha Franklin and Gladys Knight. Much of her telephone professionalism comes from that experience. She treats CPCUG members with the same VIP attitude.



*Karen and Dennis Courtney with daughters Kelsey and Candice*

Perhaps the most important function that Karen serves within CPCUG is keeping communication flowing. When people call the office, Karen will try to help resolve their problem by directing them to the proper resource within CPCUG. Getting to the right resource helps get problems solved quickly and with less frustration. For a few years prior to Karen's handling of the administrative functions, CPCUG

hired an outside firm to perform these tasks. While the outside firm did a good job, Karen adds a personal touch (and a direct line to the President) that no other hired service can match.

As you can no doubt tell, I am very proud of Karen and the job she does for CPCUG. Every aspect of her work has improved the services and reduced the costs for CPCUG. Without her involvement, CPCUG would not be where we are today. While I am admittedly and unabashedly biased, I don't think CPCUG (or I) could have a better partner.

*CPCUG President Dennis Courtney can be reached at [president@cpug.org](mailto:president@cpug.org).*

## Keep Up to Date With CPCUG Activities

Subscribe to the free weekly e-mailing of the 9-day Calendar of Activities ("This Week at CPCUG"). It's easy to do:

Send an e-mail message to:  
[LISTSERV@CPCUG.ORG](mailto:LISTSERV@CPCUG.ORG)  
containing the line  
SUBSCRIBE CPCUGCAL-L  
<yourfirstname> <yourlastname>

(Do not include the angle brackets.) No entry in the subject line is required. You will receive a request to confirm your subscription by return e-mail. After confirmation, the calendar arrives Friday or Saturday and contains CPCUG meetings, classes, seminars, and special events for 9 days – from Saturday through the following Sunday. You will receive about eight e-mail messages a month.



# Rich's Ramblings

by Rich Schinnell

I have a lot of friends who still swear by (sometimes at!) MS Windows 98SE (that's Second Edition) which still works fine for what they do and runs fairly reliably on their present hardware. They keep asking me if they should buy the upgrade to Windows XP. I say NO!, unless they have one of the more up-to-date computers – at a minimum a Pentium III with 256MB of memory and at least a 40GB hard disk.

XP is great, but I know from experience that it does require more processor, memory and hard disk space than Windows 98/SE. There is an old saying "If it works, don't mess with it." This is true for computers, unless there are bells and whistles you really need and which the upgrade can provide (and not just because they are there – unless, of course, you own Microsoft stock).

With the price of computer hardware getting lower all the time, if you want to use Windows XP it's best to get a new computer. Some people who are a bit techie can buy just a new computer case, motherboard, CPU, memory and hard disk. Your monitor, keyboard, mouse, CD-ROM and floppy drive probably will work with the new case.

Otherwise, just spring for a cheap Dell, CompUSA, Gateway or even better yet, one from The Computer Place in Gaithersburg. They build "boxes" that are pretty good computers (and very reasonable) for home use. Two locations: in the shopping center across from NIST in Gaithersburg, and in Fairfax, VA. Visit their site at [WWW.TCPONLINE.COM](http://WWW.TCPONLINE.COM) to see what

they have. P.S. – they give a discount on most everything to CPCUG members. Ask for it. (*I have no financial interest in their business; they give me the same discount that you can receive.*)

## Trials and Tribulations

After I set up a new Windows 2000 computer for a friend with an accounting business, she wanted to give her old computer to a friend's son who is a college student. She of course had lots of personal data on her hard disk so I had to clean the system up. I added a 128MB memory chip and reformatted the hard disk. It was an 8GB hard disk so it was big enough. It had a sound card and good video graphics card but it was a slower Pentium II 300.

I decided to reinstall the Windows 98SE that she legally could give away with the redone computer, so away I went. It sure is a good thing that I have a cable modem for my home network as the Windows update files required to get it up to speed would have worn out a dial-up modem. The first update was 18MB, the next 14MB and finally a 1.1MB update for a total of over 33MB of updates to the Windows 98SE files. Of course this is necessary to make sure the computer has the latest security and operating system enhancements.

Next I went to The Computer Place and bought a copy of Symantec's AntiVirus 2003. (\$20 OEM version 1 year) This required over 3MB of updates to the virus definitions and such. She wanted to make sure that the student had a word processing program, so while I was at The Computer Place, I picked up Corel's Word-Perfect Office 2002 for \$20. It's a

pretty powerful word processor and the price is right. Well, another 35MB of service release updates. It sure is nice to have the cable modem access.

## My new toys

I sprung for a new motherboard from Intel with the Serial ATA hard disk controller on the motherboard. I moved my Pentium 4 to this board and installed 1GB of RAM on the board. Western Digital has 120GB Serial ATA drives for around \$150, so I went for a pair. Serial ATA 150 is faster than the parallel ATA 100 or ATA 133. The serial ATA, when the controller is on the motherboard, runs at 150, so it is an improvement. There aren't any jumpers to worry about as the drives are connected to the motherboard controller by a real thin cable, no more wide flat connector cables and primary/secondary jumpers to worry about. The slowest parts of most computers are the hard disk, the video adapter, and the monitor. This serial ATA or SATA is in competition with Adaptec's SCSI hard disks which are up to 320. Serial ATA is supposed to be up to 600 in the next year or so.

You ask what (P)ATA 33, (P)ATA 100, (P)ATA 133, SATA 150 and SCSI 320 really mean?

The number is the optimum speed of data transfer between the hard disk and the computer via the hard disk controller chips, such as 33MB/s up to 320MB/s (that's Megabytes Per Second).

All in all, the (S)ATA (150) drives give you about a 5-8% data throughput improvement over (P)ATA 133. And the prices are pretty comparable. At present having the SATA controller built into the motherboard will give

you the 150 throughput. The Add-In SATA controller boards only give you about the same as the (P)ATA 100. Check out the SATA information web pages at [WWW.SERIALATA.ORG](http://WWW.SERIALATA.ORG), [WWW.SEAGATE.COM](http://WWW.SEAGATE.COM), or [WWW.WESTERNDIGITAL.COM](http://WWW.WESTERNDIGITAL.COM).

The SATA standard interface will start showing up in CD-ROM drives and other devices in the next few months. One driving force is the simpleness of the interface and the ease of installation such as no jumpers to change and quieter hard disks. Many of the newer motherboard manufacturers are including SATA controllers on the motherboards.

Quotes from Western Digital's web page:

*"Users benefit from a data transfer rate performance roadmap that begins with 150 MB/s and extends to 600 MB/s, as well as improved cabling that enables greater system design flexibility. Designers of enterprise storage systems and servers are increasingly using desktop-class, large-capacity SATA hard drives because of the advantages that the SATA interface provides."*

Gee, now that wasn't that bad, was it? And by the time you read this, it will probably all change.

### Warning #201:

If you have a cable modem or DSL high-speed internet access directly connected to your computer, you could be wide open to problems. Please purchase one of the reasonably priced routers that are on the market. One big advantage is that if you buy one with a 4-port switch or a wireless router, you can share the broadband connection with other PCs in your home or business. It acts as an IP (Internet Protocol) translation device to keep other people from directly taking over your PC. That combined with good up-to-date antivirus software and a copy of the free

ZoneAlarm software should keep most people out of trouble. Ad-aware is another free program that will search out and remove Trojans and other nefarious software that some web site installed on your system. I recommend:

Symantec AntiVirus – [WWW.SYMANTEC.COM](http://WWW.SYMANTEC.COM)

ZoneAlarm– [WWW.ZONELABS.COM](http://WWW.ZONELABS.COM)

Ad-aware – [WWW.LAVASOFTUSA.COM](http://WWW.LAVASOFTUSA.COM)

I own all three programs in the Pro version and recommend them. Of course your mileage may vary and if you don't keep them constantly updated, they are not the warm fuzzy helpers you think they should be.

Just like the update feature in Windows, each has an update on-line option. USE it.

Don't forget my three favorite words: BACKUP BACKUP BACKUP

*Rich Schinnell is retired from the USN, Vitro Corporation and CPCUG. He consults to a few small businesses to keep his fingers in the pie, so to speak. He is a past president of CPCUG and has been a habitual volunteer for the past 20 or so years. He has a cable modem attached to his home network where he runs the seti@home software when he is not working on his computers. He also volunteers at the Centers for the Handicapped in White Oak ([WWW.CHICENTERS.ORG](http://WWW.CHICENTERS.ORG)). He can be reached at [schinnel@cpcug.org](mailto:schinnel@cpcug.org) or his web page at [WWW.SCHINNELL.ORG](http://WWW.SCHINNELL.ORG). As a last resort his phone number is 301-949-9292.*

Subscribers to [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org):

If you are having technical problems accessing the Internet, call the Millkern System Status Line 301-738-9753 for a recording of the current system status.

## Reach Out and Touch CPCUG

by Gabe Goldberg

If you're reading this, you're likely a CPCUG member. Perhaps you've belonged to the organization for decades, with a three-digit member number. Or perhaps you joined at the recent NBC4 Digital Edge Expo.

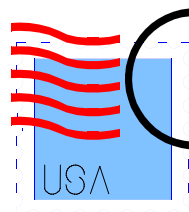
For many years, it's been clear that most members hardly partake of all that CPCUG has to offer. While that's true of most membership organizations, CPCUG's volunteers would like more people – and the general community – to benefit from CPCUG's activities.

While the *Monitor* magazine is a key tool for CPCUG to communicate with members, and is many members' only link to the organization, Internet technologies offer many more immediate and interactive ways for members to communicate with CPCUG and each other. Every *Monitor* issue lists nearly three dozen CPCUG mailing lists. Some provide announcements-only, others allow interactive discussions. Lists are organized topically, so it's easy to find and subscribe to lists addressing individual interests. List traffic varies; postings (notes sent to lists) can be received individually or in daily digests containing all of a day's messages.

If you subscribe to only one list, you might make it CPCUGCALL, CPCUG's event calendar distribution list. This list's weekly mailings provide centralized one-stop shopping for all CPCUG activities, making it easy to learn about events, and avoiding frustration of only reading about meetings after they've happened. As a bonus, everyone subscribed to any CPCUG-hosted list receives one copy of very

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# Feedback



## Feedback



**Susan Kousek**  
Editor  
[editor@cpcug.org](mailto:editor@cpcug.org)

I'd like to reprint an e-mail message sent by CPCUG Outreach Director Gabe Goldberg because many other members may have the same question.

Gabe's message was in response to a member who wrote, "It seems that scheduled meetings in Annandale, VA (convenient to Fairfax) all come with a price tag for members. Why have no VA SIG or regular meetings been held at the church where the classes are held? I recently received my bill for renewal of my annual membership and plan to resign ... I'm sounding off but I thought I should communicate this."

Gabe's response:

"We'd much rather have members sound off than vanish quietly.

"The only events held so far at the church have been classes, not meetings, held in a room filled with \$30,000 worth of equipment purchased by CPCUG. Hence charges for classes – modest charges, \$29 for members – to recover the investment.

"In the past two years CPCUG lost two of its primary – and most member-friendly – meeting sites, NIH and Washington Gas. CPCUG volunteers have spent a lot of time discussing meeting sites and researching prospects. We have an attractive site in Springfield we'll likely start using.

"It's worth remembering that most things CPCUG does is done by volunteers. If every member simply paid dues and waited for results we'd have money, but no meetings, classes, magazine, HelpLine, ISP service, mailing lists, or anything else. That's true of the hundreds of other groups in the DC area ...

"You likely know that CPCUG's motto is 'users helping users.' What have you done to 'help users,' to help CPCUG be what you think it should be, to help serve the community? Other than someone paid to handle office chores such as membership and class registration, most work done in CPCUG is done by a volunteer. What you call a 'bill for renewal' is in fact a reminder to pay membership dues in an organization from which you've benefited, in which you're as welcome to help as all the people who already do. There are many opportunities to pitch in – have you ever asked what was needed, how you can help? 'Sounding off' that volunteers aren't doing enough, aren't working hard enough, to do what you want them to do, isn't the best way to help CPCUG. Let us know how you'd like to help, what you might be available to do, and there will be many ways for you to contribute. For what it's worth, my experience is that the more I invest in an organization – and I don't mean dues – the more I get out of it."

*Editor's notes:*

*1. We lost access to NIH and Washington Gas meeting space because of security restrictions following 9/11 and subsequent alerts.*

*2. The November 10 CPCUG General Meeting/2nd Monday TechTalk will be held in Springfield, VA, at Interstate Van Lines (see page 34 for directions.)*

*3. Nominal fees are paid to those who provide their time to teach computer classes, as well as to the Training Director and the Monitor Editor.*

*4. Outreach Director Gabe Goldberg devotes many hours to CPCUG without receiving a cent, but receives deep thanks from all of us, especially this Monitor editor!*

*Susan Kousek, owner of Balanced Spaces™, LLC, is a professional organizer who helps people get their "stuff" under control. She offers motivational and educational seminars and workshops on many organizing topics. If you missed her presentation at the October General Meeting/TechTalk on "Getting Control of Your E-mail," you can request the PDF handout with tips for getting control of your e-mail by contacting her at [skousek@cpcug.org](mailto:skousek@cpcug.org).*

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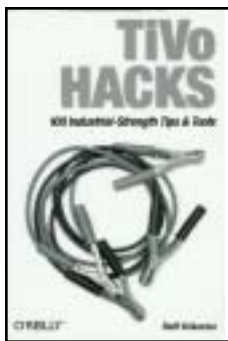
or any other software program or computer topic!

Please send your comments to:  
[editor@cpcug.org](mailto:editor@cpcug.org)

# Book Review – TiVo Hacks

reviewed by Dennis Courtney

After picking up my new TiVo just in time for the NFL season I couldn't wait to review O'Reilly's latest offering in their 'Hacks' series – *TiVo Hacks* by Raffi Krikorian.



After picking up the book from the CPCUG product review editor, I wasted no time devouring it. By the next evening I had read the entire

book from cover to cover (and this on a work day). However, after finishing the book I have to say that I was sadly disappointed – not with the book – but with how hard it is to really hack a TiVo and what little reason there might be to bother with it.

Mr. Krikorian does a fine job in both documenting the step-by-step process of the hacks and in laying out the book. TiVo hacks fall into four basic categories: hacks you can perform with the TiVo remote control, hardware hacks, Linux shell hacks, and TiVo code hacks. Unless you're very familiar with Linux, you're pretty much confined to the remote control hacks, which for the most part are uninteresting. For the other types of hacks (hardware, shell and code) you need to be able to back up your TiVo system and application software, which is no small chore.

Still, for the willing, Mr. Krikorian lays out the methodology flawlessly in an easy reading step-by-step manner. Some of the more interesting hacks include connecting your TiVo to

your computer and the Internet, receiving (but not sending) e-mail on your TiVo, controlling your TiVo across the Internet, using your TiVo to broadcast streaming media across the Internet and moving recorded events from your TiVo to your computer and finally to DVD.

But none of this is as easy as Mr. Krikorian makes it look. You need to be already very comfortable with the Linux shell, serial cable file transfer protocols, various computer command scripts and languages (perl, tcl, c++, etc.) and how they work together before you open up a \$350 TiVo box and start changing things. It wouldn't hurt to have an extra hard drive around for your backups either.

I might actually try one of the hacks, connecting my TiVo to my in-home network. Some events I record I would like to save to DVD for later viewing. My Type 2 TiVo has a USB port that could be connected to a USB Wireless Network Card. Being a Linux client, the TiVo supports DHCP to automatically pick up an assigned IP address from my network. After doing that, it appears from Mr. Krikorian's narrative to be somewhat trivial to FTP files to and from the TiVo (although some Linux shell commands are still necessary). Other than this one hack, none of the other hacks seemed to justify the amount of effort necessary.

As with any book, it boils down to whether you would recommend buying it. While the book is well written, superbly organized, and complete in every detail, in this case I think I would recommend spending the money

on a girlfriend. My theory being that if you can pull off all the hacks in this book and they seem like a worthwhile use of your time – you seriously need a girlfriend (a lot more than you need this book)!

*TiVo Hacks*, By Raffi Krikorian  
Copyright 2003 O'Reilly & Associates, Inc. - Sebastopol, CA  
ISBN: 0-596-0553-9, \$24.95  
20% discount for CPCUG members ordering direct. Discount code available at [www.cpcug.net](http://www.cpcug.net) in the members section. Log in with your Member ID and password as shown on the mail label of this issue of the Monitor.

## Reach Out and Touch CPCUG

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occasional "superlist" news, providing time-sensitive and summary CPCUG material.

To supplement communication via mailing lists, CPCUG is gathering member e-mail addresses to enable reliable members-only communication. For example, we're discussing various discount opportunities as a membership bonus. The easiest way to provide your e-mail address to CPCUG – or to update your membership information – is to visit CPCUG's "other" Web domain, [www.cpcug.net](http://www.cpcug.net).

Click Member Login and enter your member number and password, both of which appear on the mailing label of this issue of the *Monitor* (the password follows the member number). Then click Update Member Info, fill in your e-mail address, and add/change any other information that's missing or wrong.

CPCUG will never reveal your e-mail address; it will be used only to support member activities and benefits.

# Microletter #138

by Paul Shapiro

... dedicated to the dissemination and exchange of information mostly for users of IBM PC-compatible personal computers.



## Renewed Interest in Photography

After reading CPCUG member Randy Steer's wonderful *Monitor* article on digital photography some time back, I began thinking of "the good old days" – before I had a personal computer and my hobby was amateur photography.

Reflecting on why I had lost interest in photography over twenty years ago, the best I could come up with was

1. I was accumulating color slides like mad and lack of slide file organization was making it hard to find slides.
2. Relatives and friends who I used to please with slide shows are now gone.
3. My darkroom wasn't conducive to color film processing which I considered too much work for the kind of hobbyist I wanted to be.

That all changed in late 2001 when for perhaps sentimental reasons I walked into a photography store and asked to look at a digital camera. What the salesman showed me figuratively knocked my socks off. Photography had changed. Now:

1. I can make photos, look at them, change them around, print them on plain paper if I want to experiment (glossy paper is best), and give them to anyone who wants them. I have been snapping pictures all over the place and

sending the results by e-mail or I send paper prints.

2. A darkroom and chemicals are now replaced by an inkjet printer, computer, and software.

3. Digital cameras have an LCD (liquid crystal display) window about the size of a matchbook cover, which permits instant pre- and post-views.

So what moved me to go digital? All of the above, plus the fact that the current batch of relatives and friends, all younger, are producing offspring prolifically and offer more photographic opportunities.

The first camera I looked at was a Canon A20 and had most of what I wanted:

1. It had the LCD viewer.
2. It was lightweight.
3. It was small and I could carry it my pocket.
4. It had zoom (optical, the old-fashioned way in which pictures were magnified, and digital, in which the number of pixels do not change as image size increases).
5. It had macro zoom capability.
6. It produced at least two megapixels, acceptable to me at the time.
7. The price wasn't extra-unreasonably large for me (just unreasonably large).
8. It had automatic focus capability – no messing with f. stops (lens aperture) and shutter speed, though it had equivalent options if I wanted to work at it.

9. It had built-in flash.

The only thing the Canon lacked was a rechargeable battery and charger.

So overwhelmed was I by all this that I was set to buy the Canon camera on the spot. For an

item of this cost I figured I better look around, perhaps on the Internet. As you might expect, the Internet options were staggering. I considered Olympus, Kodak, and Fujitsu. They all had enough of the features I wanted, in about the same price range. After a month of that with many printouts, I got tired of looking. Nothing had discouraged me from the Canon, so I decided to go back to the original store and buy it. The original salesman told me that I really should get the Nikon Coolpix 775, as it was selling like wildfire. He showed me the features, with which I was familiar by now. It didn't take me long to decide, once I had my hands on the Nikon, that **for me**, this was it. So I bought it. And (photographic) life has not been the same since.

I never even asked how pictures are transferred to the computer. From the instruction manual I learned to connect the supplied cable from the camera to a USB port. Included with the camera was an 8MB memory card that also does the trick via a Card Reader, something I had never heard of. I have now acquired a larger 64MB capacity card.

And, even without a computer, I could take the memory card into a photography store and select pictures to be altered and printed.

Then I began taking photos like they were going out of style, giving out prints, diskettes, or e-mail copies along the way. Not like the "good old days" when I thought 36 pictures on a roll of film was a lot. Then came a glitch, which really was quite upsetting.

In my emotion at installation, I had inadvertently failed to see that the camera had a bundled *demo* data base program. Automatically photos uploaded to the computer

by a cable connection were put into catalogues. Then one unhappy day I got a message saying I had used up all (two!) of my data base catalogues, or space, and if I just clicked (“here”), I could go to the web site of the Cumulus program vendor and purchase the full copy. How much? Ninety-nine bucks plus shipping.

You mean that after paying so much for the camera, I still had to shell out more money to use more pictures than had already been transferred to my computer? I was mad at Cumulus, madder at Nikon for locking me in (I thought) to another expense. In the meantime I deleted (after backup elsewhere) all of the files/pictures I had saved on my hard disk. Next I uninstalled the Nikon 4 Viewer and Cumulus 5 data base files; and finally, reinstalled them from the CD. So I was back in business, and went happily along for another month or so.

When it happened again, off I went to the closest photo store, where I complained that although I could get a screen full of photos, I couldn't work with any single one. The clerk said I should double-click on a thumbnail photo that I wanted to work with!!!

I thanked him with astonishment and vowed to take a look at the nice .pdf documentation file that was too difficult for me to absorb in my haste to start taking pictures. The double-clicking worked great and I could always reinstall Cumulus for a short while when I want its features, which by now I have forgotten!

While there, I asked about the attachment, called a Card Reader, that you could use to transfer photo files to the computer without using the camera (saving battery power), which was also much quicker.

The idea was that the memory

card could be taken out of the camera and inserted into this device, connected to a USB port, for transfer of files. The Reader is then treated as a floppy drive and the memory card as a floppy disk.

Clicking on the Reader Card drive icon in My Computer revealed a folder containing all the pictures on the card. I could work with that folder directly, or drag it to a place on my hard disk for future use. And unlike the hard wire USB connection, which could take a relatively long time, all of the pictures are readily accessible and viewable. They become available as soon as the memory card was plugged into the Reader. I already had C, D, and E partitions: The Reader was called the F: drive.

Should I want to selectively add pictures to the memory card before ordering prints, if that was my choice, all I had to do was copy them from the hard disk to the F: drive. This completely obviated the need for a data base program until I had many pictures that I wanted to efficiently organize.

I discovered there are Card Readers and then there are Card Readers. I learned what I needed was a Compact Flash Card Reader, Type 1. So I decided to comparison shop, knowing they were about thirty bucks.

The first place only had a Type 2. By the time I got to the third place, my senility caught up with me. I forgot what I was shopping for (really), and was focusing only on *price*. After seeing Card Readers for \$23 and \$26, I found one at CompUSA for \$19. Fine! That's good enough for me.

Well, the memory card would not fit into the Reader insertion slot. Remember I said “There are Card Readers...”? Well the *other* kind is called Smart Media, which a not-so-smart person had just brought home.

The story finished with a happy

ending: I went back to CompUSA where the only readers on display were Smart Media. A clerk went into the back room and brought out a Lexar Compact Flash Card Reader Type I, which I purchased with a slight additional outlay after the instant exchange.

Installation of this card could have been a catastrophe, since I almost violated a cardinal principle of computer hardware installation and use: *never force anything*. The installation amounted to plugging the USB cord into a matching socket. Using the Reader required inserting the Memory Card into the Reader slot.

This time the card fit but wouldn't go all the way in the Reader. Better than before, but not good enough. Fortunately the Reader casing was translucent and I could see the pins inside: when I realized that the card had sockets I knew that the card had already been properly inserted, although sticking out about a half-inch.

There were some other minor downsides to my camera other than the Cumulus thing, which is now history. The thumbwheel to turn the camera on and off is rather small and a good fingernail helps. The wonderful LCD pre/post viewer cannot be seen at all in bright sunlight, in which case an included conventional viewer topside permits snapping: get in the shade or shade the LCD with your hand for the post-view.

Furthermore using the nifty built in flash may not provide enough light when using the telescopic lens feature.

But the best thing about the camera can turn out to be the worst, considering my poor organizational experience with 35 mm slides:

It's so easy to accumulate so many cost-free pictures that unless you develop a system you

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# Letters to “Late Nite”

## Hosted by Marty Shinko

Q03X1.0: Can a PC “wear out”, even when it’s not turned on? Are there batteries in a (desktop) PC?

AO: Actually, a PC contains an internal battery that provides power to its CMOS memory, the very low power memory used for saving data about the PC itself, its hardware and configuration. The type of battery used is a special, long-lived battery that provides just a tiny amount of power, but can last for years, the better part of a decade.

Like all batteries, though, this battery slowly discharges, even when the PC is turned off – or rather, especially when the PC is turned off. That’s why it’s there, to keep that CMOS memory activated between the times when the PC is turned on. Eventually that battery goes dead. With no power, the CMOS memory loses all its data. The PC isn’t really “worn out” though, only the contents of the CMOS memory are gone. When you turn on the PC, it acts like it doesn’t know the date or time or what sort of disk drives it has, etc.

When that happens, you just need to get into its SETUP program and reset the pertinent values in the CMOS memory, and the PC should work fine (as well as before). It will lose all those values as soon as you turn the PC off, though, and you’ll have to reset them every time you turn it on, unless you replace the battery.

It’s a good idea to get into the SETUP program before the battery fails, and write down all the hardware settings and configurations saved in the CMOS memory (and save those notes where you can find them after you replace that internal battery). Incidentally, CMOS stands for Complimentary

Metal Oxide Silicon, a technology for making transistors and integrated circuit chips.

Q03X1.1: I’d like to learn about computers – would you suggest buying a new computer or picking up an old one at a yard sale, just to learn on?

AO: Actually, I’d suggest learning a bit about computers before buying one. In any case, it is possible to learn lots about computers using an old PC – but when buying a new computer, it’s like you’re walking right into the fire before you’re ready, making all sorts of decisions that commit you or constrain your future options before you know the consequences. I suggest attending one of the free seminars that the CPCUG Computer Build Team offers several times a year. It’s called “Before You Buy (or Build) a Computer: Choosing PC Components for Your Small-Business and Home Computers,” and it’s described at [www.cpcug.org/user/comm/free-sem.html](http://www.cpcug.org/user/comm/free-sem.html) (Chip Dodge is the contact person).

The CPCUG Build Team also has archives of Q&A sessions from recent Build Team seminars, which can be accessed at the Build Team Web pages at [www.fox-engineering.com/Build/](http://www.fox-engineering.com/Build/). You don’t need a brand new PC to learn about computers. A computer that has only moderate “mileage” on it could be ideal – say 6 months to 3 years old – a computer like that should be running smoothly, with all the initial problems and glitches resolved by then. It should be pretty stable, that is, as long as somebody hasn’t installed some crummy software on it that messed everything up, and if it doesn’t have a virus running on it, or someone didn’t try upgrading

or reinstalling the operating system software and botched it, or some other such defect. Trying to fix a computer while learning about computers is a real challenge.

If you want to learn office applications, go with a new computer – that’s probably the only thing that will run the latest versions of Microsoft Office software at all reasonably. Most businesses would probably be using those latest Microsoft Office applications, so why not learn on them? However, purchasing your own copy of Microsoft Office isn’t cheap – that software can cost around \$400.

Alternatively, you don’t need the latest versions of that software to learn office skills; office software evolves slowly, retaining many features from preceding versions. You can learn the first 90% using an older version.

The problem with mixing really old computers and novice users is that beginners don’t know what to expect, so they can’t tell when something’s broken; i.e. you don’t know if you’re doing something wrong, or if the computer is malfunctioning. That’s why I’d suggest that beginners avoid buying an old computer. You can get frustrated and waste a lot of time discovering that a problem is due to the computer sort of working, but not working as it should (but if you get one for free, well, why not?).

Q03X1.2: Are there any drawbacks to the CPCUG Build Team’s free seminar?

AO: The seminar covers lots of information at a very fast pace; there’s so much to cover that they don’t define all the terms that are used. Fortunately, the CPCUG has

a class on “the Vocabulary of Computing” scheduled on 12/4/03 in Annandale, VA. There’s a charge for this class, \$29 for CPCUG members. I should also mention that although the “Before You Buy or Build” seminar is free, there’s a small charge for a printed copy of the slides, about \$10.

Q03X1.3: What does it mean, to “DWELL” the mouse?

A0: That means to position the mouse pointer over an icon or other screen element and let it rest there, completely still, for a while. Don’t click any buttons, just let the pointer sit there for a few seconds. This action is used to get software to display a “bubble” containing explanatory text about what the icon or item does, or what it represents. It’s very helpful with tiny symbols or very stylized icons – your printer may not look anything like the image of a typical printer depicted in the usual “print” icon, for example.

Q03X1.4: I’ve watched someone use what I’d describe as “cascading menus,” but when I try to use them myself, they seem to disappear before I can select something from them. Am I doing something wrong?

A0: By “cascading menus” you mean the type of sub-menu that appears when you dwell the mouse pointer on a menu item that has additional selections. Dwelling the mouse pointer highlights that item and a sub-menu appears, but when you move the mouse pointer off that particular highlighted menu item, its sub-menu disappears. The trick is to slide the mouse pointer, keeping it on the highlighted menu item, until the pointer lands on the sub-menu. This may place the pointer on a different sub-menu item than you want to select (and temporarily highlights that wrong item), but at least it keeps the sub-menu being displayed, and allows you to slide

the pointer (now within the sub-menu section) onto the item you want to select.

Think of this as though your pointer is stepping on lily pads in a pond; as soon as you step it off a pad, it sinks out of sight. Of course, if you jump it fast enough, it could land on the target pad.

That’s why, if you move the mouse pointer quickly enough, you don’t have this problem, and might not even be aware of it.

Q03X1.5: My adult child got a new computer and I got their old one – what do I do now?

A0: It’s a pity that many older generation, first-time computer users get hand-me-down computers from their adult children, because they don’t get to participate in the trade-offs involved in going through the exercise, “what are you going to use it for?” You can be sure that what you’ll want to use it for isn’t the same as what your adult child got it for in the first place.

Something else I’ve seen on occasion is that the donor (child) gets a new computer because their old one gets messed up somehow, and that makes a good excuse for them to get a new one, and pass the old one on to someone responsible (their parents) who might be able to get it working again, at least for them. You can do a lot with an old computer, especially one with only moderate “mileage” on it, and with many office applications already installed on it.

Where do you start? I’d suggest taking a class or a seminar, like the CPCUG’s “Before You Buy or Build a Computer” or the “Basics of PCs for Beginners.” Then ask your donor to go over the PC and tell you what’s all in it and on it. In the meantime, ask your donor to get you started with some basic software applications. Don’t let them get away with showing you how to play the Solitaire game

then bugging out. Get them (or someone) to show you how to use WordPad or Word software to write a short letter, and how to send e-mail or access the Internet.

Ask your donor for all the manuals and disks and CDs that they got with the computer, and with all the software they installed (it may take them a while to find and gather it all). Come to CPCUG meetings, including SIG meetings, to find people who might want to help you out. Ask questions. Get some ideas and decide what you want to use your computer for. Now you should be ready to get started making use of your computer.

Q03X1.6: I got a new computer and gave my old one to my parents – do you have any suggestions?

A0: Before giving them the computer, I’d suggest that you clean it up – that is, delete software that will likely cause them problems (resource grabbing games, for example).

- Make sure the basic hardware works, check that the modem works, or at least let them know which components have problems (give them a list, not just a verbal report).

- It would be good to upgrade the operating system software with the latest fixes (without installing the next release, though – e.g., if it’s running Windows 98, don’t bother with Windows ME).

- Upgrade the anti-virus software with the latest virus definition file for them.

- Be available to set it up for them and get them started on it.

- Be sure to give them the original disks or CDs, and manuals that came with the computer and the software you’re giving them.

- Recommend some classes for them (it’s flattering to have them

*Continued on page 20*

# CD Labeler Review: Click 'N Design 3d

by Don Woodard, DMA® member, Software Reviewer for The DataBus

Most folks have a CD-R or CD-RW drive installed in their computer system these days, since the prices came down a few years ago. Lots of computer users make numerous CDs full of music, movie trailers, graphics, backups, and just about anything else you can think of. However, most of these people, myself included, are still relying on using a permanent marker to label these CDs, even while wishing there was an easier way to make something look professional, especially for gift purposes or presentations. This is where Stomp Inc.'s "Click 'N Burn 3d" CD labeling software comes in, with the flexibility to create labels for CDs, DVDs, jewel case inserts, mini CDs, floppy disks, and even video tapes.

One of the first tests I put to any piece of software is to fire it up without reading one bit of the manual, then see how easy it is to accomplish what I want to do. Click 'N Design 3d passed this with flying colors. In less than 5 minutes, I had printed out a colorful design that would work great with a family gift idea I'm working on. The menu driven "Quick Designer" selection made the program so easy to use and to customize, just about anyone could succeed on the first try. Over 5,000 photos and clipart images were included with the program, so it was easier than ever to customize the label to get a creative result. There are also dozens of different manufacturers represented in the selection of label stock styles, including a half dozen Avery choices alone.

You may also be wondering what the "3d" in the title stands for. Instead of having to put up with flat text and titles on your CD or DVD label, you can easily create 3D text. You have control over texture mapping (such as placing photo images on the text), Bevel and Extrusion, material color and lighting, and lots more. Since the program lets you import your own photos, this also means that you can take a picture of just about anything, then use it as the "material" for your text, or even as the background image for your CD label. This is the ultimate way to customize a label, since you can place images on it that friends and family will instantly recognize. I had a lot of fun adjusting the settings for the 3D text, mostly because I had never played around with anything that was so intuitive, gave real-time feedback on your choices, and offered so many choices to begin with. I watched the text change as I moved the light source around the page, selected different textures, materials and fonts. Rotating the text was the most interesting, since it allows you to do this in all directions, making it feel as though you are interacting with a virtual reality simulation.

Click 'N Design 3d is an excellent CD labeling software choice, with the flexibility you would expect in a professional product, but the ease of use that we all hope to find when installing a new computer program. The intuitive layout of the Quick Designer feature allowed me to create and print professional looking CD labels in less than 5 minutes. I was also

happy to see that the company not only offers a trial version for download from their website, but also offers a full version download, available for about \$10 less than most retail establishments charged, including shipping. I was hard pressed to find even a single negative aspect of the program that I disliked, but if I had to choose something, it would probably be the fact that a complete install of the program was almost 200 Megabytes in size. However, with the size of most hard drives these days, that is rather trivial, and besides, even this was customizable during the program's install setup. I would recommend this program for anyone with a CDRW drive.

Rating: 9 out of 10

Requirements: 200MHz CPU, 32MB RAM, Win '95+, 25-190 MB HD, printer.

Reviewed: Athlon 700, 128 MB RAM, 32MB Video, 50x CD, Win '98, DirectX-8.

Best Price: \$15 for full version download from [www.stompinc.com](http://www.stompinc.com)

Demo & manual: (demo 19.4MB)

[WWW.STOMPINC.COM/TRIAL/INDEX.PHTML?STP](http://WWW.STOMPINC.COM/TRIAL/INDEX.PHTML?STP)

*Dan Woodard is a regular software reviewer in The DataBus and can be reached at [dgw@dmmapub.dma.org](mailto:dgw@dmmapub.dma.org).*

*This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization.*

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# What People are Saying About CPCUG Training Classes

by Heidi Lamont, Training Director



If you haven't taken a class recently at one of our hands-on computer training centers in Annandale, VA, and Fort Washington, MD, you're missing out on a great opportunity.

First and foremost, all of our instructors are professionals and/or experienced in the software program they are teaching. When you take a class from CPCUG, not only will you benefit from the instructor's expertise, but you'll have a chance to ask questions in a non-intimidating setting.

The goal of our instructors is to meet the needs of the individual members of the class. Each instructor has materials to go through when teaching a class, but is free to tailor the lesson to the level of the learners. During a class you are encouraged to ask questions related to your specific interests and problems.

Please be guided though by the prerequisites listed for each class, especially those at the intermediate or advanced levels.

Even if you have experience with computers or with specific applications, training classes can be beneficial to you. Technology is changing rapidly and staying current with computers requires a commitment to continuous personal growth. Interacting with instructors and other members of the class is a great

way to share knowledge and learn new skills.

Further, taking classes can send an important message to your children. Being a lifelong learner involves acknowledging that we do not know everything and demonstrates that we have the desire to continue developing our passion or skills. Recognizing that we are all (even adults!) just "works in progress" is a key element in personal growth.

The most convincing evidence that taking classes from CPCUG can benefit a wide variety of learners comes from veterans of the classes. Below are some testimonials taken from class evaluations:

"Just learning and doing job searches online increased my confidence."

"I would recommend this class to others."

"The class was low key and not intimidating."

"All the information was extremely relevant and useful."

"The instructor demonstrated many useful tools - moving files, shortcuts."

"The instructor was well prepared and the handouts listed many good web sites and were well done."

*Heidi Lamont, Training Director for Capital PC User Group, strongly believes in the organization's motto "Users Helping Users." She enjoys teaching, fitness, building and repairing old computers, photography (mainly digital), and spending time with her family. Heidi can be reached at [training@cpcug.org](mailto:training@cpcug.org).*

## Entertainment Book 2004 by Gabe Goldberg

There's about two months remaining to sell Entertainment discount coupon books 2004 edition (good from now through Nov. 1, 2004). I've got supplies of the two local books (MD/DC and VA/DC). With more people selling CPCUG would make a **lot** more money.

It's easy to buy Entertainment Books as gifts, no matter where people live - and still credit CPCUG for the sale. We can sell out-of-town books for major cities throughout the U.S. by ordering and paying online, and the books are delivered in a few days. Just visit [WWW.ENTERTAINMENT.COM/SUPPORT](http://WWW.ENTERTAINMENT.COM/SUPPORT) and enter CPCUG's group number, 534389 (very important: if that's not entered, we don't get credit for the sale).

This isn't rocket science, it's just free money for CPCUG *and* easy savings for people using discounts. I've used the books for more than ten years and save a bundle every year. This year one night's savings on a hotel room (I paid \$75 instead of \$125) more than recovered my book's cost. Last year I saved on a car muffler at Midas.

I can't think of another \$35 "expense" that pays back so quickly and so much. If you haven't bought a book, check them out. If you haven't sold any yet, you can help CPCUG *and* do people a favor by selling them a book. It doesn't take much work at all - the books just about sell themselves. Some people say they've been wondering where to buy them and are glad to have the offer extended.

Contact Gabe at [gabe@gabegold.com](mailto:gabe@gabegold.com).

# The Whole World in My Hand

## Confessions of a Reformed Day-Timer<sup>®</sup> Junkie

by Tom Gutnick

© 2003 Tom Gutnick

I admit it: I was hooked. In my days as a computer-industry road warrior, I was addicted to my Day-Timer. It's not that I got any enjoyment from it (unlike my addiction to good ice cream), but I simply couldn't function without it.

It had my calendar, my address book, all the notes I took at meetings, and all kinds of lists (frequent flyer card numbers, interesting restaurants and radio stations on the road, etc.). I averaged a business trip a week, and some weeks were so hectic, I needed the Day-Timer to tell me what city I was in! If I lost it, I would have really been up the proverbial creek.

Meanwhile, many of my colleagues kept trying to wean me from my Day-Timer. "You're a techie, working for a high-tech company," they'd complain. "You really should be using an electronic organizer." I agreed – in theory. But the electronic organizers weren't good enough – nothing beats pieces of paper for ease of use and especially ease of retrieval, I retorted.

In 1996, the first Palm Pilot hit the market. A few of our sales guys got them, and they were enthusiastic, even passionate, about its virtues. Then my wife got a Palm III at work. Mary is no Luddite, but neither is she an early adopter of technology. With each passing month, she became more hooked and spent more time trying to convince me to get one too.

In 1999, I finally succumbed and got a Palm IIIx. Having been a computer operations manager, I'm

paranoid, so I figured I'd "operate in parallel mode" for several weeks. But as it turned out, within one week I had ditched the Day-Timer completely. Four years later, my Palm has my entire life (both professional and personal) on it, while the Day-Timer's just gathering dust.

So what's so great about a Palm anyway? I'll try to give a relatively brief answer in this column, and then in the months ahead flesh out the details.

But before we go any further, let's talk about the name. In the beginning it was the Palm Pilot. The Pilot Pen Company objected to the name, so it became known as simply the Palm – but the name Palm Pilot has become almost generic. Today, Palm Source does the Palm Operating System (PalmOS) and licenses it to various hardware manufacturers. PalmOne makes genuine Palm handhelds. Other companies also make "Palm Powered" organizers and phones, including Handspring (noted for their Visor and now the Treo organizer/phone), Sony (with their CLIE line of organizer/entertainment devices), Fossil (with the ultimate geek's wristwatch), Garmin (organizer integrated with GPS receiver and mapping system), Samsung (cell phones), and more. However, Pocket PCs aren't the same thing – they're the competition, running a stripped down version of Windows from Microsoft.

My Palm (these days, actually, my Sony CLIE) is in many ways like a Day-Timer or Franklin Planner. It has several built-in functions, including a Date Book,

an Address Book, a To Do List, and a Memo Pad. If it did nothing else, it does those things extremely well and would be well worth its cost. But it does more! Although they're usually referred to as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), they're really handheld computers. In fact, even that first Palm Pilot has far, far more computing power than the total power available on my college campus when I was first learning to program computers.

The original PalmPilot had just those built-in functions I already mentioned. But some astute users quickly figured out that the thing was a computer, complete with an operating system and an application programming interface (API); new programs followed quickly. So my CLIE has been extended: I have several different calculators (for restaurant tips, monthly loan payments, network IP addresses), the ability to view and edit Microsoft Word and Excel documents, a database management system, Metro subway navigator, my local bus schedule, and lots of e-books. More about all this in the months to come.

Before I wrap up, let me mention how the Palm really is better than the Day-Timer:

- Backups: If I lost my Day-Timer, I would have been in really big trouble, because so much information would have been irretrievably lost. But every time I "hot-sync" my Palm – a daily ritual – all of my data is backed up to my desktop system. If I lose my Palm or it dies, I'll buy a new one, resynchronize, and in a matter of minutes, I'll be back in business.

- Alarms: Yes, I can record all my appointments in my Day-Timer's calendar. But I never did figure out a way of getting it to actually beep to remind me that it's time now to head to my next meeting. The Palm manages multiple alarms effortlessly.

- Security: Anybody who picked up my Day-Timer would have had full access to all the information inside. Multiple levels of password-controlled security allow me to protect the information on my Palm. Yes, it does have all my passwords, credit card numbers, and PIN codes – but they're uncrackably encrypted, so I don't lose any sleep over it.

- Searching ability: Yeah, I could thumb through the pages of my calendar. But if I do a search on "Wendy" on my Palm, it will show me the address and phone number for my friend Wendy, plus the calendar entries for every time we've had lunch together – and also the job interview I had where the driving directions included a Wendy's burger joint as a landmark.

There was definitely a sensuous pleasure handling my Day-Timer, bound in supple leather. But these days, when I say that I don't leave home without it, I'm talking about my Palm.

*Tom Gutnick is the president of Sunny Banana Information Technology Consulting, and a Palm Powered Software Champion. He teaches classes on the use of Palm handhelds, and provides consultation for their effective implementation and use. He can be reached at tag@sunny-banana.com or 703.786.5541.*

For a list of meeting site location codes and addresses, please see the inside back cover of the *Monitor*.

## Microletter 138, continued from page 11

will be hard put to find those you have. Using long descriptive filenames helps considerably (for example, "First picture at FOSE 2002.jpg") since the camera automatically names files as DSCN0001.jpg, DSCN0002.jpg, etc. Until a better idea comes along, I will group files into folders according to year; year and month; or year, month, and day. Ultimately I will have enough pictures to categorize them into folders by broad subject name. The View/Thumbnails feature of Windows ME and XP really helps with identification.

Seems like every time I turn around I learn something new about my camera, not all covered in the otherwise excellent reference book. Its covers have long since become frayed at the edges. It is an indispensable tool if I want to do more than just snap a picture.

My camera software came with an excellent .pdf reference file on CD, even better than the hard copy user guide (many figures are in color). Also included was a browser of sorts (Nikon View 4), which was slightly cumbersome. On the Nikon web site I found a free downloadable Nikon 5 browser, which is nifty because you can group how many pictures you want on a printed page and whether to include photographic information (filename, pixel dimensions, time/date stamp, camera make and model, shutter speed, aperture) which the camera records along with the picture.

The nice thing about digital photography is that the term "processing" takes on a whole new meaning: no chemicals involved!

If I wanted, I could even plug my camera into a TV with supplied cables – the digital computer successor to the old days of using a slide projector.

To reap more photographic benefits from my computer, I am tackling the hundreds of color slides I have tucked away. Using a Rube Goldberg device I rigged and the camera's macro lens (good to 1.6 inches) with auto-focusing capability, I take pictures of each slide! I set the camera on a small piece of 2" x 4" lumber, about a foot long, and use a cardboard reflector. An overhead lamp provides the light and backlight into a cardboard cutout the size of a 35 millimeter slide.



The lumber with a molding strip edge for camera support replaces the need for a tripod. No need for flash. A paper clip holds the slide in place! As soon as the picture is in focus, as seen through the LCD, I snap and verify the picture. Voila!!

Now I can sit back and continue to enjoy the new world of Photography 2003 and become amazed at the things I learn as I go along.

*Paul Shapiro can most quickly be reached at pauls@cpcug.org or paul\_shapiro@alumni.gwu.edu. He is proud to have recently been declared an Alumnus Emeritus of the George Washington University, at a special luncheon which included his wife Irene. He thinks it hardly seems like fifty years since he graduated, nor will it seem like fifty years come April 2004 when they will observe their Golden Anniversary.*

# November 2003

All meeting and class times are tentative. Check your e-mail and CPCUG website at <http://www.cpcug.org> before attending. Please see CPCUG Meeting Sites on the inside back cover for location codes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">16</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">17</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">7:00 PM Virginia SIG (IVL)</p> </div>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">18</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px; background-color: #00FFFF;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">6:00 PM Integrating MS Office Applications (HH) \$</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px; background-color: #00FFFF;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">6:00 PM Shopping, Traveling &amp; Auctioning on the Internet (UHU) \$</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">6:30 PM PalmOS SIG (Teasm)</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">7:30 PM Digital Video SIG (BSS)</p> </div>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">19</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">5:50 PM Pocket PC SIG (HPTI)</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">7:00 PM Access SIG (VAMC)</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">7:30 PM Investment SIG (BCCSC)</p> </div>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">20</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">11:30 AM Delphi SIG (PC)</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px; background-color: #00FFFF;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">6:00 PM Advanced MS Access (HH) \$</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px; background-color: #00FFFF;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">6:00 PM Intermediate MS Excel (UHU) \$</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">7:00 PM Clipper SIG (email Naseem Saab for location)</p> </div>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">21</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">22</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px; background-color: #00FFFF;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">9:00 AM Under the Hood (UHU) \$</p> </div>																																																																																				
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">23</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">24</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">25</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">26</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">7:00 PM MS Office SIG (ASHA) (Date subject to change)</p> </div>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">27</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 0; color: red;">Thanksgiving</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">28</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">29</p>																																																																																				
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">30</p>																																																																																										

Verify date and time of event at <http://www.cpcug.org/user/comm/cal-6mon.html>

# December 2003

All meeting and class times are tentative. Check your e-mail and CPCUG website at <http://www.cpcug.org> before attending. Please see CPCUG Meeting Sites on the inside back cover for location codes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																	
	<i>1</i> 7:30 PM Board of Directors (UHU Annandale)	<i>2</i> 6:00 PM Baltimore SIG (EPFL-RR) Date subject to change  6:00 PM Burning CDs with Roxio EZ CD Creator, Ver 6 (UHU) \$	<i>3</i> 7:00 PM Delphi SIG (IADB)	<i>4</i> 6:00 PM Vocabulary of Computing (UHU) \$	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 10:00 AM Seniors SIG (Bedford)																																																																																																																	
<i>7</i> 3:00 PM ACTI SIG (HSCL)	<i>8</i> 7:00 PM General Meeting/2nd Monday TechTalk (BCCSC)	<i>9</i> 6:00 PM Desktop Publishing with MS Publisher 2002 (UHU) \$  6:00 PM Searching the Internet (HH) \$	<i>10</i> 12:30 PM Statistics SIG (1800 M)	<i>11</i> 6:00 PM Introduction to E-Mail (UHU) \$  6:00 PM Shopping, Traveling and Auctioning on the Internet (HH) \$	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 1:00 PM E&c SIG (CPL) (note new date)																																																																																																																	
<i>14</i> 11:00 AM GLITCH DC SIG (DIK)	<i>15</i> 7:00 PM Virginia SIG (IVL)	<i>16</i> 6:00 PM Adobe Acrobat – Creating PDF Files (HH) \$  6:00 PM Adobe Acrobat – Creating PDF Files (UHU) \$  7:30 PM Digital Video SIG (BSS)	<i>17</i> 5:50 PM Pocket PC SIG (HPTI)  7:00 PM Access SIG (VAMC)  7:30 PM Investment SIG (BCCSC)	<i>18</i> 6:00 PM Creating and Posting a Resume Online (HH) \$  6:00 PM Working with MP3s (UHU) \$	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>																																																																																																																	
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Hanukkah Winter begins	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 7:00 PM MS Office SIG (ASHA) (Date subject to change)	<i>25</i> 8:14 PM Clipper SIG (date subject to change) E-mail Naseem Saab for location.  Christmas	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>																																																																																																																	
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> New Year's Eve	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 2003</th> <th colspan="7">Jan 2004</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Nov 2003							Jan 2004							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1						1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	30													
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# Glitch DC SIG

by Wally Dickson

**G**LITCH DC, Inc. is the CPCUG DC SIG (DC Special Interest Group) organized and operated entirely through the volunteer efforts of its members, and serving the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of Washington, DC. Our name – GLITCH DC – is an acronym for Gay and Lesbian Information Technologists of Washington DC, Inc.

GLITCH DC membership is open to anyone. The demographics of our membership “run the gamut.” We are men and women of all ages and talents – experienced technicians to novice users, computer scientists and main-frame programmers to web designers and graphic artists, security analysts and data base managers to consultants and small business owners.

GLITCH DC organized as a DC corporation in July 1999 and affiliated with CPCUG as a SIG (GLITCH DC SIG) in October 2003. Members gather on the second Sunday morning of each month at 11 am for brunch and a technical presentation at the Dupont Italian Kitchen, 17th and R Streets NW, in the upstairs dining room. Meetings generally feature a guest speaker, product demo, or tutorial, and often have door prizes of software, books, and/or computer accessories.

GLITCH DC attracts many people from around the Washington metro area – from as far away as Winchester, VA, and Columbia, MD – who gather for learning opportunities, technical assistance, employment networking, job referrals, and pleasant social interaction with other gay and lesbian computer enthusiasts. GLITCH DC frequently organizes special events, dinner gatherings at local restaurants, and other

social events for its members. GLITCH DC operates a computer-user information booth at Washington's Gay Pride Festival each year and is always seeking ways to be of useful service to the Washington DC community at large.

There are no special requirements for joining GLITCH DC. If you are interested in becoming a member just subscribe to our mailing list at glitchdc-announce@yahoogroups.com or drop by any of our brunch meetings the second Sunday of any month at 11 am. Your cost will be the price of what you order from the menu, and you'll never meet a more interesting or friendlier group of guys and gals.

If you're inclined to want to engage in more than just an occasional meeting, we always welcome new folks who are willing to help organize our programs and arrange for guest speakers, mount technical demos, and find choice giveaways for future door prizes. We welcome your help on an ongoing basis or for a single event. Visit our web site [WWW.GLITCHDC.ORG](http://WWW.GLITCHDC.ORG) or drop by for brunch, introduce yourself, and enjoy the food and camaraderie.

*Wally Dickson can be reached at (202) 265-0591 or [wdickson@wdn.com](mailto:wdickson@wdn.com).*

## Security Tips

Microsoft's *Insider Update for September 24, 2003*, has a link to an excellent article by Kim Komando: “Danger, danger: 5 tips for using a public PC.” Kim suggests checking for spy programs, erasing your tracks, protecting your passwords, not relying on encryption, and using common sense.

Check it out at [BCENTRAL.COM/ARTICLES/KOMANDO/140.ASP](http://BCENTRAL.COM/ARTICLES/KOMANDO/140.ASP).

“Late Nite”  
continued from page 13

always coming to you for help, but you won't always be available, so try to prepare them to find and talk to other gurus). Remember, it's not yours anymore, and there's more than one way to do it.

Q03X1.7: Can you use some help with this column?

A0: Yes, I've got a list of questions about Windows XP software, home networking, setting Windows options, and troubleshooting PCs that I'm researching. I could use some help or some leads from people with background in these and other areas. As always, the channels for offering to help, or for asking a question include:

- by e-mail to [editor@cpcug.org](mailto:editor@cpcug.org)
  - by e-mail to [mshinko.cpcug@juno.com](mailto:mshinko.cpcug@juno.com) (please use plain text, and please don't send \*.doc files or attachments)
  - come to Late Nite after any CPCUG General Meeting and ask your question or offer your suggestions in person
  - call Marty Shinko at (301)-253-1743 (at reasonable hours, please)
- TTFN, - Marty Shinko

*Marty Shinko has been involved with the CPCUG since the early 1990s, as a volunteer instructor and advocate for beginners. He's used computers for over three decades, from PCs to supercomputers. His interests include sub-atomic physics, astronomy, epistemology, mathematics, engineering simulation and computer modeling, brain psychology, sailboating and amateur radio.*

*He can be reached via e-mail at [mshinko.cpcug@juno.com](mailto:mshinko.cpcug@juno.com) or via phone at (301) 253-1743, or come to the CPCUG General Meetings and meet in person at the "Late Nite" sessions after the meetings.*

# Digital Video SIG

by Merrill Hessel

The Digital Video User Group (DVUG), formed in October 2002, has now joined the Capital PC User Group as a Special Interest Group (SIG). DVUG members include both Mac and PC users.

With inexpensive 1 GHz and above computers, there is a huge interest in producing and editing home and broadcast videos. Many of the core members are from the Montgomery Community Television community. Almost all are new to setting up and using computers for editing videos.

This year, the group will focus on all aspects of the digital video revolution for production of videos: setting up and using digital non-linear editing systems, discussion of digital cameras, use of digital color correction, streaming video on the web, digital video authoring of DVDs, and special effects. We'll also look at the use of software packages such as After Effects and the software required for digital sound editing, sweetening audio, filtering hum and extraneous noises, digital lighting, 3D effects, etc.

A typical meeting has short talks on subjects of interest and a section where attendees show short film clips ( 2- 3 minutes) and the audience makes suggestions to each producer.

The agenda for the October 21st meeting was:

7:30 - 7:40 SIG Business

7:40 - 8:10 Demo: Capturing and Editing Digital Video, by SIG leader Merrill Hessel. A demo with actual equipment (Firewire drive, computer, Firewire DVD burner) and two PC software packages to capture digital video from your camera and set it up for editing the video on the computer. The demo showed how you can

set up your own system with a PC or Mac (desktop or portable) and the cheapest, most effective way to do this.

8:10 - 8:25 Presentation by award-winning video producer Paul Silverman on video editing software for Macintosh. What is available, what it costs, and what the software features are.

8:25 - 9:00 Video clip Show & Tell. This is a general aspect of the meeting. Attendees can bring in short clips (3 to 5 minutes) to show the audience, who provide comments to the video producer and ask questions about how it was produced and edited.

All meetings are free and open to the public. They are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:30 to 9pm, usually in the Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane.

The next meeting of the Digital Video SIG is on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Please check the DVUG website at [www.dvug.org](http://www.dvug.org) for meeting location verification.

If you'd like to be added to the DVUG SIG mailing list, send an e-mail to [dvug@meral.com](mailto:dvug@meral.com).

*Merrill Hessel produces a show "Computers for Intelligent Adults" shown weekly on Montgomery Cable Channel 21 (the program schedule can be found at [WWW.MCT-TV.ORG](http://WWW.MCT-TV.ORG) ). Merrill can be reached at 301-840-1258 or [dvug@meral.com](mailto:dvug@meral.com).*

## Free Adobe Seminar

Nov. 12 (9 am - 1 pm),  
Greenbelt MD

Featuring Adobe products Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Audition, Adobe Encore DVD, and Adobe Photoshop along with Dell Precision (TM) Workstations, this free seminar sponsored by Adobe and Dell will show you how to bring your cinematic vision to life. Learn how to:

- Leverage the power of the desktop to create compelling productions.

- Add transitions and effects in real time, work with powerful color correction tools, mix 5.1 surround sound audio, and manage all the assets of your production right on your desktop before outputting content to virtually any medium.

- Enhance video soundtracks or create and record your own original music.

- Add compelling motion graphics and visual effects.

- Build and deliver professional DVDs to any recordable format.

- Import and convert source files automatically to MPEG-2 video and Dolby(R) Digital audio while working seamlessly with native Adobe Photoshop files to create menus, including motion menus.

Register at [WWW.ADOBE.COM/EVENTS/SPLASH.JSP?EVENTID=1232](http://WWW.ADOBE.COM/EVENTS/SPLASH.JSP?EVENTID=1232).

If you are having problems with your computer hardware or software, why not give the **CPCUG Helpline** a call?

See page 26.

**MEMBERS ONLY**





# Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

## Access (Microsoft)

- Monthly, third Wednesday, 7:00
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center (adjacent to the Washington Hospital Center), 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC (use Emergency Room Entrance), 4th floor, IRM Room, 4C106a
- URL—[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/ACCESS/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/ACCESS/)
- E-mail announcement list: [accesssig-l](mailto:accesssig-l@cpcug.org) hosted at [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org)
- E-mail discussion list: [accesssigd-l](mailto:accesssigd-l@cpcug.org) hosted at [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org)
- Contact—David Kiasi, d: (301) 350-4752, [David.Kiasi@appalt.com](mailto:David.Kiasi@appalt.com)

Sign up for our meeting announcement and vibrant discussion lists where you can get insight and suggestions for solving your Access problems.

## Act!

- 1st Sunday of every month 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Harbour Square Cooperative Library, 500 N Street, SW (1 block south of Waterfront Metro) Washington, DC 20024, 202-829-4444
- Contact—Rick Shaddock <[Rick@CICorp.com](mailto:Rick@CICorp.com)>

ACT! SIG meetings are a place for users to discuss and share their use of ACT! and to ask and answer questions of other ACT! users at all levels of expertise.

Our meetings are designed to give ACT! users the opportunity to learn more about using specific features of ACT! and the many products that seamlessly integrate with ACT!, and to meet other ACT! users in the Washington, DC, area. We will be performing demos of new versions of ACT!, offering solutions to technical support issues, and suggesting tips to increase user productivity.

Our SIG creates a forum to learn from other ACT! users and industry specialists, encourages the exchange of ideas about ACT!, and creates an opportunity to keep abreast of the latest business solution developments.

## Baltimore

- Monthly (except June through September) from 6pm - 8pm check to confirm by visiting the website.
- Meeting site currently Enoch-Pratt Free Library 6310 Reisterstown Road Baltimore, MD
- URL—[WWW.RLPYSTEMS.COM/BALTSIG](http://WWW.RLPYSTEMS.COM/BALTSIG)
- E-mail meeting announcements, monthly: To subscribe, send an e-mail request to [RLPSystems@aol.com](mailto:RLPSystems@aol.com)
- Contact—Robert Pettigrew, d/e/w: (410) 358-5840, [RLPSystems@aol.com](mailto:RLPSystems@aol.com)

*We are seeking a new, more regular meeting space. If you know of a suitable meeting place in the Baltimore area, please contact SIG Leader Bob Pettigrew.*

## Beginners (and Beyond)

- Usually monthly, at "Late Nite" following General Meetings, usually second Monday, 9:00
- Same location or meeting room as the General Meeting
- URL—[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/BEGINNER/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/BEGINNER/)
- E-mail announcement list: [beginsig-l](mailto:beginsig-l@cpcug.org) hosted at [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org)
- E-mail discussion list: [beginsigd-l](mailto:beginsigd-l@cpcug.org) hosted at [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org)
- Contact—Marty Shinko, d/e/w: (301) 253-1743 or [mshinko.cpcug@juno.com](mailto:mshinko.cpcug@juno.com)

Marty Shinko is coordinating the Beginners (and Beyond) SIG for computer beginners and intermediates. He'd also be interested in hearing from those who work with beginners.

Not exactly a beginner, but also not an expert? This SIG may be just what you've been looking for, a place for those no longer beginners to continue to learn how to get more out of their computers. And as computers evolve, the issues facing beginning computer users change.

Join us for fun, lively discussion, and computer talk. Experts are welcome to share their insights as well, of course.

## How You Can Help

- Primary contact person
- Alternate contact persons
- Representative to attend CPCUG

- Board of Directors meetings
- Contact person at General Meetings
- Reporter to write SIG update reports for *Monitor*
- Moderator for e-mail discussion lists

To help in any of these or other capacities, contact Marty by calling (301) 253-1743, sending him a message via e-mail at [mshinko.cpcug@juno.com](mailto:mshinko.cpcug@juno.com), or meeting him during Late Nite following most General Meetings.

## Clipper

- Monthly, last Thursday, 7:00
- Meets at different local restaurants—subscribe to the Clipper e-mail announcement list to learn current month's location
- E-mail meeting announcements, monthly: To subscribe, send an e-mail request to SIG Chair Naseem Saab at [Naseem\\_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com](mailto:Naseem_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com)
- Contacts—Naseem Saab, (703) 713-6900, [Naseem\\_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com](mailto:Naseem_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com); Jim Fauntleroy, [JimF@us.net](mailto:JimF@us.net)

The Washington Area Clipper Users Group (WACUG) became the Clipper SIG of the Capital PC User Group. The mission of the Clipper SIG is (1) to form a presence for Clipper programmers/consultants in the Washington, DC, area, (2) to help newcomers to the Clipper world appreciate and learn about the power of the language. If you need a Clipper programmer/consultant, we maintain a list of Clipper SIG members specializing in Clipper and Clipper-to-Windows conversions. Send an e-mail with the job description and requirements to Naseem Saab at [Naseem\\_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com](mailto:Naseem_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com) for distribution to the mailing list.

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## Delphi

- Monthly, first Wednesday, 7:00 (except no meeting in January and July)
- Inter-American Development Bank, 1350 New York Avenue, Washington, DC
- Luncheon meeting—usually third Thursday, 11:30AM (Pentagon City Mall near movie theatres)
- URL—[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/DELPHI/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/DELPHI/)
- E-mail announcement list: delphisig-l hosted at [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org)
- E-mail discussion list: delphisig-d hosted at [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org)
- Contact—Thomas Miller (703) 503-5600, [tmiller@bss-software.com](mailto:tmiller@bss-software.com)

## Meeting Notes

If you know of other Delphi developers, please let them know about our meetings. We have presentations, technical discussions, contests, door prizes, leads, and fun.

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## Digital Video (Provisional SIG)

- Monthly free meetings, third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm
- usually Bethesda Senior Source (BSS) (same floor and building as BCCSC, but different room) Check the web site for verification.
- URL—[WWW.DVUG.ORG](http://WWW.DVUG.ORG)
- Contact—Merrill M. Hessel, 301-840-1258, [dvug@meral.com](mailto:dvug@meral.com)

### Typical Agenda

7:30 pm SIG Business  
7:40 Demo  
8:00 Presentation  
8:25 Video clips  
9:00 Adjourn

Digital Camcorders are selling like hotcakes. But what do you do once you have taken the video? Put it into your computer and massage it, add titles, add music, and then improve your technique!

The Digital Video SIG of the Capital PC User Group (also known as the Digital Video User Group, DVUG) has an exciting new program and opportunities for those interested in video. The group focuses on all aspects of the revolution in the production of digital videos, including:

- Digital nonlinear editing system set-up and use
- Digital cameras
- Digital color correction
- Digital video authoring of DVDs
- Special effects and use of such software packages as Adobe After Effects
- Digital sound editing, sweetening, filtering of hum and extraneous noises,

and other effects

- Digital lighting
- 3D effects

## Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Digital Video SIG is on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, probably at the Bethesda Senior Source in the Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center Building, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD. Check the web site, [www.dvdug.org](http://www.dvdug.org), for verification.

To be added to the email list, send a message to Merrill Hessel at [dvug@meral.com](mailto:dvug@meral.com).

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## Entrepreneurs and Consultants

- Monthly free meetings, usually third Saturday, 1:00PM
- Occasional workshop "extras" (varying fees)
- usually *Cleveland Park Library*, 3310 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC
- URL—[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/ENTREPRENEUR/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/ENTREPRENEUR/)
- E-mail discussion list: conent-l hosted at [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org)
- Contacts—Barbara Conn, d: (202) 508-1494, e/w: (202) 452-7428, [bconn@cpcug.org](mailto:bconn@cpcug.org); Marie Pinho, d/e/w: (703) 569-6080, [mpinho@erols.com](mailto:mpinho@erols.com)

### Typical Agenda

1:00 Welcome  
1:05 Accounting Tips/Tax Updates, Jina Etienne, CPA  
1:15 **Main Presentation**  
2:40 Q&A  
  
2:55 Closing announcements  
3:00 Door Prize Drawing (when available)  
  
3:00 Informal queries, conversation, networking

## Upcoming Events

### Special 3-hour seminar

**Saturday, Nov. 15, 2003, 1:00-4:15 PM**

Cost Effective Content Management

Steve Drucker, CEO, Fig Leaf Software

Audience: IT Managers, Developers, Communicators, Designers, Information Architects, Business Owners

Prerequisite: An interest in understanding how Web-based content management systems (CMS) can benefit your organization

After reviewing basic CMS concepts, principles, capabilities, and features, the functionality and price points of six industry-leading products from different vendors will be compared and contrasted:

- Macromedia Contribute

- Ektron CMS
- Paperthin CommonSpot
- Microsoft Content Management Server
- LayerIT CMS
- SiteExecutive CMS

The seminar concludes with pitfalls that can occur during CMS implementations and deployments.

"I thoroughly enjoyed this seminar. [It was] conducted in a to-the-point yet captivating manner. [The speaker] was interesting to listen to, enthusiastic about the subject, and conveyed his opinion without appearing biased. His personable, friendly manner enhanced the atmosphere of the event. I gained new knowledge about CMS packages, which is helping me in my decision making. Thank you."

Speaker: Steve Drucker, CEO of Fig Leaf Software, founded the company with Dave Watts in 1992. Steve is a co-author of the best-selling book *The ColdFusion Web Application Construction Kit* and is a Macromedia Certified Training Instructor (originally an "Allaire Agent"). He has served as project leader on several high-profile ColdFusion-based applications for Bell Atlantic, GlobalOne, MCI, and other Fortune 500 organizations. Steve founded the first ColdFusion User Group (CFUG) and has authored numerous articles focusing on scalability and advanced Web development technologies for the *ColdFusion Developer's Journal*. In addition, Steve has been a featured speaker at trade shows including the Allaire (Macromedia) Developers Conference, Flash Forward, Web '97, and FedWeb.

Before creating Fig Leaf Software, Steve was a C programmer and ventured into database programming with Microsoft FoxPro, developing the first nationally distributed commercial real-estate listings database and the first Windows-based client-server interface to the Virginia Multiple Listings Service (MLS). Steve holds a B.S. in Computer Science from the University of Maryland.

Fig Leaf Software was founded in 1992 as a custom-software development firm specializing in database application development using Microsoft FoxPro. Staying ahead of the industry wave, Fig Leaf shifted company resources in 1995 to focus on the development of Web applications and data-driven Internet sites. Clients include Bell Atlantic, Alltel Communications, Estee Lauder Corporation, Fannie Mae, T. Rowe Price, Verizon Communications, American Chemical Society, Defense Research Institute, World Resource Institute, Federal Aviation Administration, Bureau of Justice, the Architect of the Capitol, and the U.S. Mint.

2nd Saturday!

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, 1:00-3:15 PM**

Panel Discussion: Topic to be announced

**Saturday, January 17, 2004, 1:00-3:15 PM**

Solving Project Communications Problems

Michael Smith, President, TeraTech, Inc.

**Saturday, February 21, 2004, 1:00-3:15 PM**

Taxes: What Every Entrepreneur and Consultant Needs To Know

Jina Etienne, CPA

### Meeting Notes

The Entrepreneurs and Consultants SIG is for computer consultants and entrepreneurs using computers. Our monthly meeting presentation topics are varied, and we welcome everyone. Attendees include business owners, independent computer consultants, managers of entrepreneurial entities within larger companies, new graduates, career changers, and those transitioning from a one-person consultancy to a business with full-time employees.

For the most up-to-date information about the activities of our SIG, including any meeting date, time, location, and topic changes, please subscribe to our content-LISTSERV list at

[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/LIST/LWGATE.CGI/CONTENT-L/SUBSCRIBE.HTML](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/LIST/LWGATE.CGI/CONTENT-L/SUBSCRIBE.HTML)

At many meetings there are handouts. To ensure we have handouts for all attendees, please register for each meeting via our Web form:

[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/ENTREPRENEUR/MEET-REG.HTML](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/ENTREPRENEUR/MEET-REG.HTML)

### Future Meetings

If you have an idea for a topic or speaker, please send an e-mail message about it to [bconn@cpug.org](mailto:bconn@cpug.org).

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## GLITCH DC SIG (Provisional SIG)

GLITCH DC SIG (Gay and Lesbian Information Technologists of Washington DC, Inc.). Diverse group of men and women of all ages, all fields, from main frame programmers to novice users.

- Meets second Sunday of each month for brunch and technical presentation, 11 am
- Dupont Italian Kitchen, upstairs dining room, 17th and R Streets NW Washington, DC.
- URL—[WWW.GLITCHDC.ORG](http://WWW.GLITCHDC.ORG)
- Contact: Wallace Dickson, (202) 265-0591, [wdickson@wdn.com](mailto:wdickson@wdn.com), or Cliff Bailey, (703) 237-7486,

[cbaily@myexcel.com](mailto:cbaily@myexcel.com)

- Special events announced via mailing list at [glitchdc-announce@yahoo.com](mailto:glitchdc-announce@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming meetings:

**Sunday, November 9**, 11 am. Program to be announced.

**Sunday, December 14**, 11 am. Workshop presentation on MS Office System 2003. Several copies of MS Office System 2003 Professional will be available for door prizes at that meeting.

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## Investment

- Monthly (except August), third Wednesday, 7:30
- Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, 2nd Floor, Rooms A&B, Bethesda, MD (directions at [WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/BCCSC-DIR.HTML](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/BCCSC-DIR.HTML))
- URL—[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/INVEST/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/INVEST/)
- E-mail meeting notices, monthly: To receive, send your e-mail request to [skatz@highstream.net](mailto:skatz@highstream.net) with your name and e-mail address.
- Contacts—Andy Thompson, [Thompson01@erols.com](mailto:Thompson01@erols.com) or e/w at (301) 270-6790. For information on Investor's FastTrack mutual fund and stock data base and software sessions, contact Ferd Hassler (301) 718-6253 or Carl Berninger at [cberninger@mindspring.com](mailto:cberninger@mindspring.com).

General meeting program schedule:

7:30 pm FastTrack session

8:15 pm Q & A session; Investment SIG business

8:30 pm Main presenter

9:30 pm 'Market Watch' (if no outside speaker)

Our meetings have two components. Each meeting begins with a 45 minute discussion related to FastTrack software which is widely used for analyzing and tracking mutual funds and individual stocks. At 8:15 pm the Investment SIG formally begins and our typical agenda consists of an initial 10 or 15 minutes of questions, answers, SIG business, and CPCUG concerns. We then have a main presentation(s) which lasts 60 to 90 minutes and can address issues related to fundamental or technical analysis of stocks, mutual funds, bonds, or trading methods such as options and market timing. The topic of technical analysis indicators is frequently visited.

After the main presentation, if the speaker is from outside the group, there is a 'Market Watch' discussion by our members. The meetings are free and open to the public.

We also have a library for our members. If you have any suggestions for future Investment SIG meeting topics, or if you have something ('non-commercial') you would like to present at a meeting, please e-mail Andy Thompson (above).

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## Microsoft Office

- Usually monthly, fourth Wednesday (except November), 7:00
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) at 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD
- URL—[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/SIG-SUPP.HTML#OFFICE](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/SIG-SUPP.HTML#OFFICE)
- Contact—Marie Parker, d: (301) 897-5700 X4220, [Mparker@ASHA.org](mailto:Mparker@ASHA.org)

If you are interested in joining a group where you can exchange ideas, get answers to your questions and concerns, and increase your knowledge of Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, and the integration of these three applications, then this SIG is for you.

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## PalmOS

- Monthly, day varies, 6:30PM
- Usually at American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE, 6th floor, Executive Office Suite, Washington, DC
- URL—[WWW.INTERPUG.COM/DCPUG/](http://WWW.INTERPUG.COM/DCPUG/)
- Contacts—Shawn Googins, d: (301) 496-5774, [theoophile@yahoo.com](mailto:theoophile@yahoo.com); Craig Simpson, d/e/w: (301) 942-3921, [macshimidh@earthlink.net](mailto:macshimidh@earthlink.net), [icq#58070639](mailto:icq#58070639); Frank Sokolove, [frank.sokolove@verizon.net](mailto:frank.sokolove@verizon.net).

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## PocketPC

- Monthly, third Wednesday, 5:50pm.
- High Performance Technologies, Inc Stafford Place II 4121 Wilson Blvd, Suite 200 Arlington, VA
- URL—[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/POCKETPC](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/POCKETPC)
- E-mail announcement list: [pocketpc-l](mailto:pocketpc-l@cpug.org) hosted at [cpug.org](http://cpug.org)
- E-mail discussion list: [pocketpcd-l](mailto:pocketpcd-l@cpug.org) hosted at [cpug.org](http://cpug.org)
- Contact—Ray Wiley, d: (703) 682-5325 or [rwiley@hpti.com](mailto:rwiley@hpti.com)

**Special Event: Thursday, November 6**, 5:00 pm, Microsoft Windows Mobile 2003 User Group Tour, Key Bridge Marriott. Registration required: [WWW.MICROSOFT.COM/WINDOWSMOBILE/RESOURCES/COMMUNITIES/EVENTS.MSPX](http://WWW.MICROSOFT.COM/WINDOWSMOBILE/RESOURCES/COMMUNITIES/EVENTS.MSPX)

The Washington Area Pocket PC Users Group, a Special Interest Group of the

Capital PC User Group, meets monthly to discuss topics relating to the Pocket PC platform. If you're interested in learning how a Pocket PC can help you at work and play, please join us at our next meeting. Current Palm users are highly encouraged to attend!

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## Seniors

- Monthly, first Saturday, 10:00AM-NOON
- Bedford Court - 3701 International Drive Silver Spring, MD [Directions: Take Georgia Avenue north from Beltway to third traffic light past intersection with Connecticut Ave, and turn right on International Dr to the tall building two blocks east. We meet in the Activities Room on the ground floor.]
- E-mail discussion list: seniorsigd-l hosted at [cpcug.org](mailto:cpcug.org)
- Contact—Paul Shapiro, [pauls@cpcug.org](mailto:pauls@cpcug.org). When not online, he can be reached at (301) 770-9512.

The Seniors Special Interest Group meetings are open to all. They help attendees get more from their personal computers. We'd like member participation in arranging SIG programs, and need you to help get the word out about the Seniors SIG. The Seniors SIG is for everyone, from beginner to expert. CPCUG members and visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings whenever possible.

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## Statistics

- Monthly (except June through August), usually second Wednesday, 12:30
- 1800 M Street, NW, South Tower, Third Floor, Room S3031, Washington, DC—first-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan at [hallahan@ers.usda.gov](mailto:hallahan@ers.usda.gov) or (202) 694-5051 to have their names put on the admittance list
- URL—[WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/SIGSTAT/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/SIGSTAT/)
- E-mail meeting announcements, monthly: To subscribe, send e-mail to Charles Hallahan, [hallahan@ers.usda.gov](mailto:hallahan@ers.usda.gov)
- Contact—Charles Hallahan, e/w: (703) 532-2930, [hallahan@ers.usda.gov](mailto:hallahan@ers.usda.gov)

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

### November 12, 2003: Code Portability: SAS Data step in DBMS/Copy - using it as a SAS Work-Alike

Many SAS users own Conceptual Software's DBMS/COPY, a widely used

utility for transferring data between software packages. Conceptual's software product lines have been acquired by DataFlux [a subsidiary of SAS Institute].in October of 2002.

DBMS/Copy includes database manipulation and programming system, loosely referred to as DBMS/Analyst or Program. The module Program provides functionality resembling that of base SAS software DATA step. Equivalents of summarization and other procedures MEANS / SUMMARY, TABULATE and SORT are also explained. This talk is a 'Primer' on running SAS DATA step code with minimal change in the DBMS environment. A win-win solution for SAS users & SAS Institute. Users do not have to translate their SAS code to some database {e.g., Access}, or, to a 3G language like Fortran or C, when/where SAS is not available, just port it to DBMS/Copy.

Yesvy Gustasp gives the presentation.

### December 10: PROC MIXED - Part 2: The General Linear Mixed Model & Evaluating Covariance Structures (WWW.SAS.COM)

Continuing the topic from October, we'll discuss the general linear mixed model and how it is specified in PROC MIXED. In particular, the options specifying the covariance structures appropriate for longitudinal models will be covered. The sample variogram is defined and used as a diagnostic tool for selecting a covariance structure. Finally, goodness-of-fit statistics for the selected covariance structure will be calculated and plotted.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the CPCUG, the Capital PC User Group, and WINFORMS, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

*All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from 12:30 to 1:30. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk.*

*First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, [hallahan@ers.usda.gov](mailto:hallahan@ers.usda.gov), and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the SIGSTAT website, [WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/SIGSTAT/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/SIGSTAT/).*

## Our Web Pages

The SIGSTAT pages, at [WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/SIGSTAT/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/SIGSTAT/), contain an extensive set of links to Web pages of interest to statisticians. Each month we'll look at some sites relevant to that month's demo.

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## Virginia SIG

- Monthly, third Monday, 7:00 pm
- Interstate Van Lines, 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA
- Jurisdiction for inclement weather cancellation: Fairfax County
- URL — [WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/VASIG/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/VASIG/)
- E-mail announcement list: virginiasig-l hosted at [cpcug.org](mailto:cpcug.org)
- Contacts—Luis Garcia, d: (202) 606-9848, e/w: (703) 425-6902, [lgarcia51@yahoo.com](mailto:lgarcia51@yahoo.com)

7:00 Open Forum and General Information  
7:45 Presentation  
8:45 Q&A

## Meeting Notes

The main presentation can be on any general computer utilization issue: hardware, software, Internet, training, and so forth.

### November 17: PC Hardware Troubleshooting

Come learn from us a few tips you can use to troubleshoot and repair your own PC. We will also look at common repair issues, problem areas, and how to resolve them. Bring in your own problems for us to tackle.

### December 15: Holiday Event -- PC Best Buy Shopping Presentation

Join us for our annual holiday presentation of the "best buys" on PCs and related electronics, components, and software in the Washington Metro area and on the Web. We will also discuss current market trends, and "how to" shop via the Web and at the local computer shows.

## Inactive SIGS

The following SIGs are not active at this time. If you are interested in helping start up of any of these SIGs, please contact [president@cpcug.org](mailto:president@cpcug.org):

- Internet
- OS/2
- Project Management
- Visual Basic
- Windows
- WordPerfect

# HELPLINE

compiled by Elliott Fein  
elliott.fein@erols.com

**T**his helpline listing is for  
CPCUG MEMBERS ONLY.  
The volunteers will provide  
assistance on their listed subjects  
during the times and days outlined.

Membership has its privileges.  
Please be prepared to give the

Helpline Volunteer your member-  
ship number. Please do not ask for  
assistance outside the stated times.  
If you reach a telephone answering  
machine, leave a message as many  
people screen calls or otherwise  
prioritize their time. Some volun-  
teers have provided e-mail addresses  
so that you can contact them if you  
have trouble getting in touch by  
telephone.

If you would like to volunteer  
your services in any area, please  
contact Elliott Fein on the Internet  
at elliott.fein@erols.com or via snail  
mail at 5 Carter Court, Rockville,  
MD 20852-1005, providing your  
membership number, subject(s),  
phone number and/or e-mail  
address, days and times.

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
<b>ACCESS</b>				
ACCESS SIG Discussion List			<a href="http://www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/ACCESSSIGD-L/subscribe.html">www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/ACCESSSIGD-L/subscribe.html</a>	
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M - F	9:00a-4:00p	mohnkern@cpcug.org
<b>ACT!</b>				
Rick Shaddock	202-829-4444	All	9:00a-9:00p	Rick@CICorp.com
<b>ADOBE PAGEMAKER</b>				
Lisa Conners	301-527-0650	Tue - Thur.	7:00p-9:00p	lamc8@comcast.net
<b>ADOBE PHOTOSHOP</b>				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
<b>ALPHA FOUR</b>				
Guy Durant	202 529-6744	All	8:00a-11:00a	
	202 529-6744		9:00p-11:59p	
<b>APL LANGUAGE</b>				
Frank Ditto	304-725-3283	All	12:01p-11:59p	fditto@shentel.net
<b>APPLE MacIntosh (Hardware, Networks, OS, Software)</b>				
Phil Marchetti	301-404-2210	Mon-Sat	11:00a-9:00p	philm@erols.com
<b>ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>ASTRONOMY</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>BASIC LANGUAGE</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>BROTHER'S KEEPER</b>				
Alta Oben	703-938-5831	Mon-Fri	6:00p-10:00p	alta@cpcug.org
	703-938-5831	Sat-Sun	9:00a-10:00p	

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
<b>BUILD YOUR OWN</b>				
Chip Dodge	703-425-7038	All	Reasonable	
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
<b>BUYING DECISIONS</b>				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Randy Steer	202-548-3288	Mon-Fri	8:00p- 11:59p	
	202-548-3288	Sat-Sun	11:00a- 10:00p	
<b>C LANGUAGE</b>				
Wayne Démoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
Scott Graham	301-437-2745	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 6:00p	sgraham@scobar.com
	301-593-2744	Mon-Fri	6:00p-9:00p	
	301-593-2744	Sat-Sun	Reasonable	
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
	Near Cleveland			
<b>C++ LANGUAGE</b>				
Keith Bennett	301-840-1161	All	8:00a -9:00p	kbennett@cpcug.org
Scott Graham	301-437-2745	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 6:00p	sgraham@scobar.com
	301-593-2744	Mon-Fri	6:00p-9:00p	
	301-593-2744	Sat-Sun	Reasonable	
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
	Near Cleveland			
<b>COMMUNICATIONS - DATA</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
	Near Cleveland			
<b>COMMUNICATIONS - MODEMS</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
	Near Cleveland			
<b>COMPUTING - GENERAL</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
	Near Cleveland			
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
<b>DBASE</b>				
Guy Durant	202-529-6744	All	8:00a-11:00a	
	202-529-6744	All	9:00p-11:59p	
<b>DELPHI/PASCAL</b>				
Richard Maley	301-840-1554	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 5:00p	75127.17@compuserve.com
Dennis Courtney	202-623-2884	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 5:00p	dennisc@iadb.org
<b>DOS</b>				
Arnie Kuzmack	301-949-3268	Mon-Fri	7:30p-10:30p	Arnie@kuzmack.com
	301-949-3268	Sat-Sun	12:01p-10:30p	
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980r	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
	Near Cleveland			
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
<b>DOS Communications Packages</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>Eudora (3 and 4)</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>EXCEL</b>				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M - F	9:00a-4:00p	mohnkern@cpcug.org
Arquilla Ridgell	301-946-3041	Mon-Wed-Fri	7:00p-9:00p	clockone@aol.com
		Sat-Sun	6:00p -9:00p	clockone@aol.com
<b>FoxBase, any version</b>				
Rick Shaddock	202-829-4444	All	9:00a-9:00p	Rick@CICorp.com
<b>FOXPRO</b>				
Guy Durant	202-529-6744	All	8:00a-11:00a	
	202-529-6744	All	9:00p-11:59p	
<b>FOXPRO Visual</b>				
Rick Shaddock	202-829-4444	All	9:00a-9:00p	Rick@CICorp.com
<b>GGEOWORKS</b>				
Herb Fredricksen	301-840-2056	All	2:00p-11:00p	
<b>HARDWARE - GENERAL</b>				
Wayne Dernoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
Arnie Kuzmack	301 949-3268	Mon-Fri	7:30p-10:30p	Arnie@kuzmack.com
	301 949-3268	Sat-Sun	12:01p-10:30p	
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
<b>HD TV/Home Theatre</b>				
Rodolfo La Maestra	703-690-6336	Mon-Sat	Reasonable	rodolfo.lamaestra@verizon.net
<b>HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)</b>				
HTML SIG Discussion List				<a href="http://www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/HTMLSIGD-L/subscribe.htm">www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/HTMLSIGD-L/subscribe.htm</a>
Harold Goldstein	202-966-9091	All	Reasonable	dcbiker@goldray.com
Walt Houser	301-299-0593	All	7:00p-10:00p	houser@cpcug.org
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	mohnkern@cpcug.org
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
<b>InterACT</b>				
Rick Shaddock	202- 829-4444	All	9:00a-9:00p	Rick@CICorp.com
<b>INTERNET - NOT CPCUG.ORG</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>Internet Basics</b>				
Arnie Kuzmack	301-949-3268	Mon-Fri	7:30p-10:30p	Arnie@kuzmack.com
	301-949-3268	Sat-Sun	12:01p-10:30p	
Paul Shapiro	301-770-9512	All	9:00a-9:00p	pauls@cpcug.org

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
<b>INTERNET - CPCUG.ORG (cpcug.org subscribers only)</b>				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	mohnkern@cpcug.org
<b>INTERNET E-MAIL</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>INTERNET EXPLORER</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 NearCleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>ISO-9000</b>				
Edward H. Jentsch	301-279-0134	All	Reasonable	ejentsch@cpcug.org
<b>JAVA (SUN)</b>				
Keith Bennett	301- 840-1161	All	8:00a -9:00p	kbennett@cpcug.org
<b>LAN (See also Networking)</b>				
Wayne Démoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
<b>LOTUS APPROACH</b>				
David Littlefield	202-723-9527	Mon-Fri	8:00a-10:00p	
<b>MATHCAD</b>				
Roland deWit	301-299-4697	Mo,Tu,We,Fr	7:00p-9:00p	
<b>MATHEMATICA</b>				
Roland deWit	301-299-4697	Mo,Tu,We,Fr	7:00p-9:00p	
<b>MEMORY MANAGEMENT</b>				
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org
<b>MICROSOFT OFFICE</b>				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	mohnkern@cpcug.org
<b>NETSCAPE (3 and 4)</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>NETSCAPE COMPOSER, Ver 4.01</b>				
David Littlefield	202-723-9527	Mon-Fri	6:00p-10:00p	
<b>NETWORKING/LAN</b>				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
<b>NORTON UTILITIES</b>				
Randy Steer	202-548-3288	Mon-Fri	8:00p- 11:59p	
	202-548-3288	Sat-Sun	11:00a- 11:59p	
<b>NOVICE (Beginner)</b>				
Arnie Kuzmack	301-949-3268	Mon-Fri	7:30p-10:30p	Arnie@kuzmack.com
	301-949-3268	Sat-Sun	12:01p-10:30p	
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
<b>NUMBER THEORY</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>OLX and other Off-line Readers</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>ORACLE</b>				
Michael Shunfenthal	703-866-9729	Mon-Fri	7:30p- 9:30p	
<b>OS/2</b>				
Keith Bennett	301-840-1161	All	8:00a -9:00p	kbennett@cpcug.org
C. Patrick Zilliacus	301-384-0972	Sat-Sun	12:01p-9:00p	
<b>OUTLOOK</b>				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	mohnkern@cpcug.org
<b>PARADOX AND PAL FOR DOS</b>				
Ron Hicks	703-528-1009	All	Reasonable	ronhicks@cpcug.org
<b>PERSONAL EDITOR II</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
C. Patrick Zilliacus	301-384-0972	Sat-Sun	12:01p-9:00p	
<b>PKZIP</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>PRINTERS - GENERAL</b>				
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org
<b>PVCS VERSION MANAGER 5.2</b>				
Edward H. Jentsch	301-279-0134	All	Reasonable	ejentsch@cpcug.org
<b>QBASIC (IN MS-DOS)</b>				
Paul Shapiro	301-770-9512	All	9:00a- 9:00p	pauls@cpcug.org
<b>QUICK BASIC 4.5</b>				
Paul Shapiro	301-770-9512	All	9:00a- 9:00p	pauls@cpcug.org
<b>QUICKBOOKS</b>				
Dennis Courtney	301-570-9334 202-623-2884	Mon-Fri Mon-Fri	6:30p-9:00p 9:30a-5:30p	dennisc@cpcug.net
<b>SATELLITES, EARTH</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>SQL</b>				
Dennis Courtney	301-570-9334 202-623-2884	Mon-Fri Mon-Fri	7:00p-10:00p 9:30a-5:30p	
<b>STUFFIT</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
<b>Timeslips (DOS and Windows)</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>TROUBLESHOOTING - GENERAL</b>				
Wayne Démoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org
<b>UBASIC LANGUAGE</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>UNIX</b>				
Scott Graham	301-437-2745	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 6:00p	sgraham@scobar.com
	301-593-2744	Mon-Fri	6:00p-9:00p	
	301-593-2744	Sat-Sun	Reasonable	
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	mohnkern@cpcug.org
<b>UTILITIES</b>				
Walter Nissen	440-243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
<b>VIDEO CONFERENCING</b>				
Paul Shapiro	301-770-9512	All	9:00a- 9:00p	pauls@cpcug.org
<b>WINDOWS 2000 PROFESSIONAL</b>				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
<b>WINDOWS 3.1</b>				
Guy Durant	202-529-6744	All	8:00a-11:00a	
	202-529-6744	All	9:00p-11:59p	
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
<b>WINDOWS 95</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
Arnie Kuzmack	301 949-3268	Mon-Fri	7:30p-10:30p	Arnie@kuzmack.com
	301 949-3268	Sat-Sun	12:01p-10:30p	
Henry Winokur	301 320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org
<b>WINDOWS 98</b>				
Arnie Kuzmack	301 949-3268	Mon-Fri	7:30p-10:30p	Arnie@kuzmack.com
	301 949-3268	Sat-Sun	12:01p-10:30p	
Walter Nissen	440 243-4980 Near Cleveland	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Henry Winokur	301 320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org
<b>WINDOWS ME</b>				
Arnie Kuzmack	301 949-3268	Mon-Fri	7:30p-10:30p	Arnie@kuzmack.com
	301 949-3268	Sat-Sun	12:01p-10:30p	
Henry Winokur	301 320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
<b>WINDOWS NT - SYSTEM POLICY EDITOR</b>				
Ron Hicks	(703) 528-1009	All	Reasonable	ronhicks@cpcug.org
<b>WINDOWS XP</b>				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
<b>WINFAX PRO</b>				
Howard Weeks	301 924-0400	Mon-Fri	2:00p- 6:00p	
<b>WORD 6.0/7.0 FOR WINDOWS</b>				
Edward H. Jentsch	301 279-0134	All	Reasonable	ejentsch@cpcug.org
Henry Winokur	301 320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org
<b>WORD FOR WINDOWS</b>				
Arquilla Ridgell	301-946-3041	Mo,We,Fr	7:00p-9:00p	Clockone@aol.com
	301-946-3041	Sat-Sun	6:00p-9:00p	Clockone@aol.com
<b>WORD FOR WINDOWS 97</b>				
Henry Winokur	301 320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@cpcug.org
<b>WORDPERFECT</b>				
WordPerfect SIG Discussion List				<a href="http://www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/WPSIGD-L/subscribe.html">www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/WPSIGD-L/subscribe.html</a>
Arnie Kuzmack	301 949-3268	Mon-Fri	7:30p-10:30p	Arnie@kuzmack.com
	301 949-3268	Sat-Sun	12:01p-10:30p	
Arquilla Ridgell	301 946-3041	Mo, We, Fr	7:00p-9:00p	clockone@aol.com
	301 946-3041	Sat-Sun	6:00p -9:00p	clockone@aol.com
<b>WORDPERFECT (5.1 &amp; 6.0 DOS)</b>				
Wayne Démoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
<b>WORDPERFECT (DOS &amp; WINDOWS)</b>				
Howard Weeks	301 924-0400	Mon-Fri	2:00p- 6:00p	
<b>WORDPERFECT (DOS-ALL)</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>WORDPERFECT (WINDOWS 7-9)</b>				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
<b>WORLD WIDE WEB</b>				
Harold Goldstein	202 966-9091	All	Reasonable	dcbiker@goldray.com
Walt Houser	301 299-0593	All	7:00p - 10:00p	houser@cpcug.org
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	mohnkern@cpcug.org
<b>WORLD WIDE WEB CONTENT DEVELOPMENT</b>				
Harold Goldstein	202 966-9091	All	Reasonable	dcbiker@goldray.com

# Volunteers Needed!

## **Booth Staffers for Computer-Related Trade Shows and Other Special Events**

Enthusiastic CPCUG members are needed several times a year to staff CPCUG booths at various computer-related trade shows and other special events including NBC4 Digital Edge Expo, FOSE, FedWeb, and eXtreme. It's fun! And all you have to do is hand out CPCUG literature and giveaways, and tell attendees about CPCUG and membership benefits. At trade shows you get a free pass to visit the booths of exhibiting vendors.  
**Contact:** [volunteer@cpug.org](mailto:volunteer@cpug.org)

## **Capital Area Vice President and 1st Vice President**

We have two VP openings. For detailed information about these VP responsibilities, please contact CPCUG President Dennis Courtney.  
**Contact:** [president@cpug.org](mailto:president@cpug.org)

## **General Meetings and Saturday Seminars**

1. Seminar panelists
2. Greeters

**Contact:** [president@cpug.org](mailto:president@cpug.org)

## **Education and Training**

1. Course Developers
2. Instructors for the following: PCs for Beginners, Using Windows, Microsoft Office XP, Internet Explorer, Netscape Communicator, JavaScript, Java, PERL, C++, and more!
3. Teacher Assistants
4. Technical Editors
5. Copywriters
6. Designers and Desktop Publishers

Please see the form on the inside front cover of this issue.

**Contact:** [training@cpug.org](mailto:training@cpug.org)

## **Helpline**

The Helpline is always in need of more helpers. The Capital PC User Group motto is "Users helping

Users," and one of the best places to do that is through the Helpline. You don't have to be a real expert to be of help. Most users requesting help have very basic questions. By volunteering, you can not only help others, but you can learn from the experience and also get a good feeling doing it. Take a look at the "Helpline Directory" in the *Monitor* to see the subjects currently covered. If there is a subject that you are interested in that is not listed, we can add it. A particular need is for volunteers who can answer the phone during the day. Windows and Microsoft Office specifically are in need of more volunteers.

**Contact:** Elliott Fein at [elliott.fein@erols.com](mailto:elliott.fein@erols.com), or by snail mail at 5 Carter Court, Rockville, MD 20852-1005.

## Reboot

**CPCUG's Active  
Computer Recycling Program**

10 Volunteers  
Working 1 or 2 or more  
afternoons a month

Have hardware to donate?  
Have a few hours a month  
and want to help?

*Contacts:*  
Gerry Rosenkrantz  
[g.rosenkrantz@worldnet.att.net](mailto:g.rosenkrantz@worldnet.att.net)  
or Dave Barry  
[dbarry@netkonnnect.net](mailto:dbarry@netkonnnect.net)

## **Science Fair Judges**

*CPCUG's Program of Recognition of Young Student Scientists*  
In 1996 CPCUG presented awards to students in two Maryland counties. In 1997, due to excellent CPCUG member response, we expanded the program to include

students participating in science fairs in 12 areas of Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia. Help us cover at least as many science fairs this year and beyond.

**Contact:** Walt Houser at [houser@cpug.org](mailto:houser@cpug.org)

## **Writers & Reporters for the Monitor, CPCUG's magazine**

The *Monitor* is always looking for good articles! If you are interested in writing an article, reporting on an event, taking photos at an event, or reviewing a book or software program, please let us know.

**Contact:** [editor@cpug.org](mailto:editor@cpug.org)

## **Monitor Advertising**

Do you know a corporation or entrepreneurial business that might benefit from an ad in CPCUG's magazine, the *Monitor*? Help make it happen by showing its decision makers the *Monitor*. Increased advertising revenue means a larger magazine and more money for CPCUG's member benefit programs. And you can earn a commission on ads you place!

**Contact:** [editor@cpug.org](mailto:editor@cpug.org)

## **Monitor Photographer**

CPCUG has more than a dozen events every month. If you have a digital camera and a little time on your hands where you could attend a couple of CPCUG events each month, why not volunteer to be the official photographer for the *Monitor*.

**Contact:** [editor@cpug.org](mailto:editor@cpug.org)

## **SIGs**

If you are interested in starting (or reactivating) a Special Interest Group (SIG), **Contact:** [president@cpug.org](mailto:president@cpug.org)



## Tired of your ISP increasing your rates?

Why not get [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org) national Internet access at half the price some of our competitors charge?

Quality Internet Service, Discounted Rates

See our web site at [WWW.MILLKERN.COM/](http://WWW.MILLKERN.COM/)  
Or e-mail us at [sales@millkern.com](mailto:sales@millkern.com)

Tel: 301-738-0097

## Directions to Interstate Van Lines, Springfield, VA (November General Meeting)

**The November CPCUG General Meeting/  
2nd Monday TechTalk will be held at:**

**Interstate Van Lines  
5801 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22152**

**Note:** The entrance to the meeting room can be found to the left of the dark exterior Customer Service building, up the stairwell located under a huge "60 Years" of service sign. Limited parking can be found across from the meeting room entrance with overflow parking spaces at the bottom of the hill.

Nearest Metro stop is Franconia/Springfield on the Blue Line (Franconia-Springfield Parkway at Frontier Dr.), about 5 miles away.

**Directions by car:**

***From Capital Beltway Route 495:***

Exit at Braddock Road - West

Continue on Braddock Road to Rolling Road

Turn left at Rolling Road

Continue on Rolling Road approximately 1 ½ miles to Morrisette Drive and Interstate Van Lines on left hand side of Rolling Road

***From Route 95:***

Exit at Route 644/Old Keene Mill Road - West

Continue on Old Keene Mill Road to Rolling Road

Right turn on Rolling Road

Continue on Rolling Road approximately 1 mile to Morrisette Drive and Interstate Van Lines on right hand side of Rolling Road.

The December General Meeting/2nd Monday TechTalk will be held in Maryland at:

**Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center  
(BCCSC), Rooms A&B, 2nd Floor  
4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD**

Located on the southwest corner of Old Georgetown Road and Edgemoor Lane) in downtown Bethesda, BCCSC is in the two-story Montgomery County office building of the Metropolitan complex, above a county parking garage.

Directions can be found at [WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/BCCSC-DIR.HTML](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/BCCSC-DIR.HTML)

Please see page 4 for details  
on the upcoming  
General Meeting/2nd Monday  
TechTalk topics.

# CPCUG Mailing Lists



The Capital PC User Group maintains many mailing lists for distributing and sharing information. A mailing list is a list of people's names and e-mail addresses used to send certain messages or announcements to a group of people simulta-

neously who have a common interest in the message contents. You can join and leave the list as your needs dictate. Electronic mailing lists are a logical extension of bulletin board systems like the late CPCUG Membership Information eXchange (MIX). They provide very much the same functionality as the MIX did without requiring dialing into a separate message server. If you have access to the Internet and e-mail you can get started exploring mailing lists right away!

To make using LISERV (the trade name for the most popular mailing list management software in the world) easy for even the the newest user we have installed a web-based gateway to these lists. From this gateway, users can get information about the various lists that are available. They can subscribe to, unsubscribe from, and set personal preferences (subscription options) for any of the lists that are open to the public. To reach this gateway go to our website at [www.cpcug.org](http://www.cpcug.org) and select the "Mailing List" option from the main menu. Some of the lists are for information distribution only (no individual posting allowed), and others are open for posting (discussion lists). Most of the list owners maintain archives of messages, and those archives that are available can be read via the gateway at CPCUG's website.

You can retrieve a manual and other information about the workings of LISERV from:

[WWW.LSOFT.COM/INFO/DEFAULT.ASP?ITEM=MANUALS](http://WWW.LSOFT.COM/INFO/DEFAULT.ASP?ITEM=MANUALS)

Below is a compilation of some of the most popular of CPCUG's current e-mail lists.

- ACCESSSIG-L** (CPCUG Access SIG Announcement List)
- ACCESSSIGD-L** (CPCUG Access SIG Discussion List)
- BEGINSIG-L** (CPCUG Beginners SIG Announcement List)
- BEGINSIGD-L** (CPCUG Beginners SIG Discussion List)
- CONENT-L** (CPCUG Entrepreneurs and Consultants SIG Discussion List)
- CPCUGCAL-L** (CPCUG Event Calendar Distribution List)
- CPCUGGEN-L** (CPCUG General Discussion List)
- DCPUG-L** (CPCUG PalmOS SIG Discussion List)
- DELPHISIG-L** (CPCUG Delphi SIG Announcement List)


- HTMLSIG-L** (CPCUG HTML SIG Announcement List)
- HTMLSIGD-L** (CPCUG HTML SIG Discussion List)
- JAVASIG-L** (CPCUG Java SIG Announcement List)
- JAVASIGD-L** (CPCUG JAVA SIG Discussion List)
- MIX-L** (CPCUG Member Info. eXchange Discussion List)\*
- MMSIG-L** (CPCUG Multimedia SIG Announcement List)
- MMSIGD-L** (CPCUG Multimedia SIG Discussion List)
- MONITOR-L** (CPCUG *Monitor* Announcement List)
- NETSIG-L** (CPCUG Internet SIG News List)\*\*
- OFCSIG-L** (CPCUG MS-Office SIG Announcement List)
- PMSIG-L** (CPCUG Project Mgm't SIG Announcement List)
- POCKETPC-L** (CPCUG Pocket PC SIG Announcement List)
- POCKETPCD-L** (CPCUG Pocket PC SIG Discussion List)
- SCIFAIRD-L** (CPCUG Science Fair Announcement List)
- SENIORSIG-L** (CPCUG Seniors SIG Announcement List)
- SENIORSIGD-L** (CPCUG Seniors SIG Discussion List)
- TRAIN-L** (CPCUG Training Program Announcement List)
- TRAIND-L** (CPCUG Training Program Discussion List)
- VBSIG-L** (CPCUG Visual Basic SIG Announcement List)
- VBSIGD-L** (CPCUG Visual Basic SIG Discussion List)
- VIRGINIASIG-L** (CPCUG VA SIG Announcement List)
- WPSIG-L** (CPCUG WordPerfect SIG Announcement List)
- WPSIGD-L** (CPCUG WordPerfect SIG Discussion List)

\* MIX-L – CPCUG members only. Send e-mail to David Chessler <[chessler@cpcug.org](mailto:chessler@cpcug.org)> to subscribe.

\*\* NETSIG-L cannot be subscribed to or signed off from [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org) as it is hosted on AOL. To subscribe to NETSIG-L mailings, send e-mail to: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.AOL.COM](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.AOL.COM) containing the line:

SUBSCRIBE NETSIG-L <firstname> <lastname>

To subscribe to any list, send an e-mail message to [LISTSERV@CPCUG.ORG](mailto:LISTSERV@CPCUG.ORG). Include in the message the line **SUBSCRIBE** <listname> <yourfirstname> <yourlastname>. Do not include the angle brackets. No entry in the subject line is necessary.

 The software for maintaining the mailing lists, LISERV®, has been made available through a generous donation from L-Soft International, Inc. The web-based gateway, LWGate, is a perl script written by © 1995 David W. Baker, [dwb@netspace.org](mailto:dwb@netspace.org). This program is free software under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation. LISERV® is maintained and administered for the CPCUG by CPCUG's LISERV Administrator Karl Signell <[signell@cpcug.org](mailto:signell@cpcug.org)>.

## 10 Reasons To Join CPCUG

Capital PC User Group (CPCUG) membership entitles each member of your family living in your household to all CPCUG membership benefits—

1. Helpline—a great way to get help from experts for your hardware, software, and Internet questions and problems at no additional cost. The Helpline Directory is updated and published in the *Monitor*, the magazine of the Capital PC User Group.

2. Mail delivery of a print copy of our award-winning magazine, the *Monitor*, with its practical tips for computer users; technical articles; regular columns; CPCUG-member-authored reviews of software, hardware, and computer-related books; CPCUG event calendar; and special interest group (SIG) and Training Program information.

3. Computer education and training classes, seminars, workshops, discussions, and labs at low member rates—some are even free to members while others are for members only.

4. Assistance from CPCUG Build Team mentors in specifying and building your own computer. CPCUG's popular "Build" Workshop gives participants the knowledge and confidence to select appropriate components to build and later upgrade their own computers without additional paid assistance. This workshop is only \$75 and is only available to CPCUG members.

5. Discounts on software, hardware, and training are periodically made available to members of our user group. [If you take advantage of several discounts available only to CPCUG members, your membership pays for itself.]

6. Internet service options available only to CPCUG members at competitive rates through our Internet domain [cpcug.org](http://cpcug.org).

7. Access to new member-only e-mail distribution lists being created to supplement our more than 30 public discussion and announcement lists. List subscribers can ask and get answers to computer hardware and software questions, and stay informed about CPCUG activities and Training.

8. New software and/or computer reference books—available without charge to members who review them for our magazine, the *Monitor*. You'll also get a byline in the *Monitor* and become a member of our product review coordinator's team.

9. Member-only door prizes—available at some General Meetings, some special interest group (SIG) meetings, and at occasional seminars. [This benefit has more than paid for the annual membership fee of many active CPCUG members. Software prizes have included Lotus Domino Go Webserver, MS Office Professional, and Adobe Photoshop. Hardware prizes have included Hewlett Packard Pocket PCs and Palm handhelds.]

10. Opportunities to develop and/or enhance leadership and management skills, while building your professional network, by volunteering with CPCUG.

The biggest benefit of all may be that by becoming active in the Capital PC User Group you become part of a very helpful community of computer users and IT professionals who are truly "Users Helping Users."

Before you know it you will also become a "User Helping Users."

The Capital PC User Group, Inc. (CPCUG), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization established in 1982, provides a forum for sharing information, experience, and resources among computer users, from novice to advanced. Although the group serves primarily the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, members are found around the world.

## Membership Form

**Mail to:** Capital PC User Group, Inc.  
19209 Mt. Airey Road  
Brookeville, MD 20833

**Call to** (if paying by credit card): (301) 762-9372

**Fax to** (if paying by credit card): (301) 762-9375

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Evening/Weekend) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership     1 year—\$42     Outside the  
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Name and address information from this Membership Directory may be very occasionally made available to computer-related businesses, most often on a one-time basis to vendors desiring to announce their General Meeting presentations. If you do not wish to be included in the directory, mark the "No" box above.

Please check this box if you would *not* wish to receive a monthly e-mail message with current CPCUG training and meeting topics. We are considering using this means of keeping the membership informed of scheduled events and changes more rapidly than is possible via the *Monitor* magazine.

Your membership starts with the first *Monitor* magazine mailed to you. It may take 4–6 weeks before you are included on the mailing list or receive your membership card. Please be patient.

Five dollars of the membership fee is for a subscription to the *Monitor*.  
902w

### Capital PC User Group, Inc. *A Resource for Technology Users and IT Professionals*

**Phone:** (301) 762-9372

**Fax:** (301) 762-9375

**E-Mail:** [admin@cpcug.org](mailto:admin@cpcug.org)

**Snail Mail:** 19209 Mt. Airey Road  
Brookeville, MD 20833

**URL:** <http://www.cpcug.org/>

**President:** Dennis Courtney  
[president@cpcug.org](mailto:president@cpcug.org)

**Events Calendar:**

<http://www.cpcug.org/user/comm/cal-6mon.html>

# Business Card Advertising

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Are you willing to contact companies (large or small) who may be interested in advertising in the *Monitor*?

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# CPCUG MEETING SITES

**1800 M** = 1800 M St., NW, South Tower, 3rd Floor, Room S3031, Wash., DC

**APA** = American Psychological Assn, 750 1st St., NE, 6th Floor, Executive Office Suite, Wash., DC

**ASHA** = American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

**AUMC** = Annandale United Methodist Church (see UHU Annandale, VA)

**BCCSC** = Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, 2nd Floor, Rooms A & B, Bethesda, MD

**BSS** = Bethesda Senior Source, located on 2nd floor of the Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD

**Bedford** = Bedford Court, Activity Center, Senior Living Community, 3701 International Dr, Silver Spring, MD

**CESC** = Carver Educational Services Center, Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, MD

**CPL** = Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Ave. NW, Large Mtg Rm, Washington, DC

**DIK** = Dupont Italian Kitchen, upstairs dining room, 17th and R Streets NW Washington, DC.

**EPFL-RR** = Enoch Pratt Free Library, 6310 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD

**HH** = Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Rd., Ft. Wash., MD

**HPTI** = High Performance Technologies, Inc., 4121 Wilson Blvd., Suite 200, Arlington, VA

**HSCL** = Harbour Square Cooperative Library, 500 N St, SW (1 block south of Waterfront Metro), Washington, DC

**IADB** = Room B-300, Inter-American Development Bank, 1350 New York Ave., NW, Wash, DC

**IVL** = Interstate Van Lines, 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA

**KL** = Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 901 G St., NW, basement auditorium, Room A-5, Washington, DC

**MS** = Microsoft Corporation, 5335 Wisconsin Ave, NW, 5th floor, Washington, DC

**PC** = Pentagon City Mall Eatery

**Reboot** (computer recycling) = 101 Fleet St, Rockville, MD

**Teaism** = Teaism Restaurant, 400 8th St, NW, Wash., DC

**UHU** = Annandale United Methodist Church, Room 305, 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA

**VAMC** = Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 50 Irving St., NW, 4th Floor, IRM Room, 4C106a, Wash., DC

**WCC** = Washington, DC Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW, Washington, DC

**WELib** = West End Library, 2nd Floor, Large Meeting Room, 1101 24th Str, NW, Washington, DC

## Keep Updated!

Capital PC User Group meeting plans may change after the *Monitor* has gone to press. To get the latest information about meetings and special events (including topics, when available, and date, time, and location changes), bookmark and check [WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/](http://WWW.CPCUG.ORG/USER/COMM/).

# CPCUG Training

UHU Annandale  
Annandale United Methodist Church (AUMC),  
Room 305  
6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

***\$29 CPCUG & AUMC members: \$39 non-members. All classes 6:00-9:00 pm, except where noted. Register online at [www.CPCUG.NET/TRAINING.ASP](http://www.CPCUG.NET/TRAINING.ASP) or by calling the CPCUG office 301-762-9372***

## **November**

- 4 – Basic Computer Keyboarding and Mouse Skills
- 6 – Introduction to the Unix OS and Shell
- 11 – Introduction to Programming the OO (Object Oriented) Way
- 13 – Introduction to MS Excel
- 18 – Shopping, Traveling and Auctioning on the Internet
- 20 – Intermediate MS Excel
- 22 – Under the Hood (9 am-12 noon)

## **December**

- 2 – Burning CDs with Roxio EZ CD Creator, Ver 6
- 4 – Vocabulary of Computing
- 9 – Desktop Publishing with MS Publisher 2002
- 11 – Introduction to E-mail
- 16 – Adobe Acrobat – Creating PDF Files
- 18 – Working with MP3s

Harmony Hall Regional Center  
Computer Room, 2nd Floor  
10701 Livingston Road  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

***\$35 Residents & CPCUG members; \$45 non-residents  
Register by calling Harmony Hall 301-203-6040***

All classes are 6:00-9:00 pm

## **November**

- 6 – MS Word – Form Letters, Mail Merge & Labels
- 13 – Intermediate MS Access
- 18 – Integrating MS Office Applications
- 20 – Advanced MS Access

## **December**

- 9 – Searching the Internet
- 11 – Shopping, Traveling and Auctioning on the Internet
- 16 – Adobe Acrobat – Creating PDF Files
- 18 – Creating and Posting a Resume Online

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**Capital PC User Group, Inc.**  
19209 Mt. Airey Road,  
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## **Membership Benefits**

1. Helpline for PC and Internet questions
2. Award-winning *Monitor* magazine
3. Economical classes at member rates
4. Mentors for computer specification/building
5. Discounts on software, hardware and training
6. Internet service options through CPCUG.ORG
7. Access to members-only e-mail lists
8. Free software and books for review writers
9. Valuable door prizes at some events
10. Opportunities to enhance leadership skills