

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

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President's Note

*Michael P. Redlich, ACGNJ
September 2013*

Remembering Neil Sanford



Neil M. Sanford

I recently had a chance to peruse through some old ACGNJ documents where I found a September 1998 issue of the ACGNJ Newsletter. In this issue, Sol Libes, ACGNJ founder, first President, and Director Emeritus, wrote an article entitled, "In Memory," where he reflected on the life of Neil M. Sanford, who only had a five-month tenure as ACGNJ President. Neil was involved in a head-on motor vehicle accident on Sunday, May 10, 1998. He suffered severe spinal cord injuries, was in a coma, and breathing from a respirator until he passed away on May 26, 1998.

In this month's edition of my President's Note, I thought that I would share with you what I learned

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ACGNJ Meetings

For the *very latest* news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Sept. 3, 7:00 PM
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, September 6, 8:00 PM
(See Page 4 for additional information)
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Layman's Forum: Monday, September 9, 8:00 PM
Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)

Java: Tuesday, September 10, 7:30 PM
Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Investing: Thursday, September 12, 8:00 PM
Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, September 13, 6:00 PM
Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Web Browser: Monday, September 16, 7:30 PM
David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, September 17, 7:30 PM
Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Window Pains: Friday, September 20, 8:00 PM
(See Page 4 for additional information)
John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on back page. 📍



<http://www.acgnj.org>

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				David McRitchie	
				Michael Reagan	
				(Open)	
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Java	Michael Redlich	(908) 246-0410	Facilities	John Raff	(973) 533-0664
Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842	Financial	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070
LUNICS	Andreas Meyer		Historian	Lenny Thomas	
Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell		Membership	Bob Hawes	
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy		Newsletter	Bob Hawes	
Web Browser	David McRitchie		Publicity	Gregg McCarthy	
WebDev	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070	Trenton Computer Fest	Mike Redlich	(908) 246-0410
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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at <http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>.

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about Neil through Sol's September 1998 article. He writes:

"Neil was 56 years old. He leaves behind his mother, three sons, Neil Jr., 32, Christopher, 30, Darren, 27, a brother Wayne, seven grandchildren, and a devoted girl friend, Elaine Tweedus."

Sol recalled Neil's contributions to ACGNJ and TCF:

"Neil was always there to help others struggling with personal computer problems and gave willingly of his time. He was there to help in the running and organization of the club. He ran the club telephone hot line for many years. He helped out in the editing and publishing of the club newsletter. He helped publicize club activities. He was a member of the Trenton Computer Festival Steering Committee, working on publicity. And, last November, Neil was elected President of ACGNJ...In the brief time he was President of ACGNJ he put forth great effort, and devoted a substantial amount of time...Neil motivated more club members to be involved in club activities."

Sol also recalled how much Neil helped him:

"I am personally indebted to Neil. Way back in 1979, when my wife Lennie and I decided to publish a personal computer magazine, Neil assisted us in the

production. He spent many hours bent over a light table pasting up articles."

I never had the pleasure of meeting Neil. At the time of his death, I was still a relatively new member of ACGNJ, having only attended Bruce Arnold's C++ meetings for about two years. I remember reading about Neil's death in the June 1998 edition of the ACGNJ Newsletter. I was saddened to learn about my new computer club's President having tragically passed away. Little did I realize how much my involvement with the club would evolve in the coming years.

Serving ACGNJ as President is very-much an honor for me. ACGNJ has such a rich history and is one of the the longest-running computer clubs in the United States. It's also an honor to know ACGNJ's founder, Sol Libes, as we have worked together at TCF since 1998. Having learned about Neil Sanford, the person and ACGNJ President, has inspired me to be a better leader especially in these never-ending changing times for computer clubs.

It's been just over 15 years since Neil left us. Life is indeed way too short. We should never forget the kind of person he was and the contributions he made to ACGNJ and TCF. ☹

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (August 8th, 2013)

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

We had another very good meeting on Thursday, with 13 attendees, and a lot of participation in the meeting, which is excellent. We started a little later than planned due to weather and traffic conditions.

We started with Dr. Jeff, a new member, who did a very nice presentation of a methodology he refers to as "Top-Down Investing" (re: High-Growth Stocks). There were many different technical indicators discussed that he uses in his trading style and the presentation had many favorable, well-deserved comments.

In the very short "social" break, unfortunately, there were not many refreshments this month. However, a constructive suggestion by Brenda is that we could have pizza delivered for the meeting, which I think we can easily do next month.

To wrap-up, I did a short presentation on "seasonal"

trading, or "seasonality" in trading. The URL of the website that I created is

www.SeasonalTradeCharts.com

("Seasonal Trade Charts"). In the Header-Menu, we used the CHARTS menu link to view the seasonal patterns. Only a Ticker-Symbol or Company-Name needs to be entered, and then left-click or press <ENTER> in the drop down list to see the stock's "seasonal" pattern. Due to what was discussed in Dr. Jeff's presentation, we checked copper (actually, Freeport McMoran, FCX), Gold and Silver. Also, there was some positive feedback and many questions, which was very nice.

We hope to see you at September's meeting, 9/12/2013.

Thank you.

Philip Lees ☹

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting

Friday, September 6th, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Topic: The New ACGNJ Web Site

Panel Discussion looking for input from ACGNJ members on content for the new ACGNJ web site.

Window Pains Meeting

Friday, September 20th, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Topic: Computer & Internet Security

Speaker: Carles Prince (from Avast Software)

Cousin of “Why So Big?”

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

This is the eighth (and possibly last) chapter of my humongous “bigness” saga. The first seven installments were *Why So Big?* (December 2012), *Son of “Why So Big?”* (January 2013), *Daughter of “Why So Big?”* (February 2013), *Niece of “Why So Big?”* (May 2013), *Nephew of “Why So Big?”* (June 2013), *Aunt of “Why So Big?”* (July 2013), and *Uncle of “Why So Big?”* (August 2013). The initial impetus for this whole series came from the undeniable fact that three newsletters I made while I was in the hospital (using a borrowed Vista laptop, yet. Horrors!) came out **SO** much bigger than anything I'd made under Linux.

Those newsletters were our original October, November and December 2012 issues, measuring 6.3

MB, 5.9 MB and 4.8 MB, respectively. Also, please don't forget that all three of those newsletters contained **serious** technical flaws. (For further information about those flaws, see *Purloined Letters* in our March 2013 issue). Up until that point, only **four** issues that I'd edited for this club had ever exceeded even 3 MB in size: *End-of-Year 2008 Supplement* (4.5 MB), *July 2010* (6.2 MB), *July 2011* (3.5 MB), and *August 2012* (3.3 MB). Now, in this article, I'm going to try to answer the initial question; “Why So Big?” At the same time, I'll attempt to repair and replace **all three** of those flawed issues; but first, I'll repeat two “recap” paragraphs that I've used before.

Scribus is my fun, fabulous, and **free** desktop

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publisher. Its newer 1.4.x releases are **!!!NOT!!!** backwards compatible with its earlier 1.3.x releases. **GIF** (Graphics Interchange Format) files were introduced by CompuServe in the mid eighties. They're **compact**, and they use lossless data compression; but they support only 256 colors. Unfortunately, some transcendent genius at Scribus has decreed that you'll get useless, intrusive and distracting “Image is GIF” error messages any time that you use them. **JPG** (or JPEG, for Joint Photographic Experts Group) files were introduced by the ISO (International Standards Organization), also in the mid eighties. They're **very** popular for digital photography, even though (or maybe **because**) they use lossy compression.

TIF (or TIFF, for Tagged Image File Format) files were introduced in the mid eighties as well, by the Aldus Corporation. Originally created for desktop scanners, they were quickly adopted by the publishing industry in general. They support lossless **or** lossy compression, as desired. **PNG** (Portable Network Graphics) files employ lossless data

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compression. Their specification was originally authored via e-mail in the mid **nineties**, by a group of computer graphics users who were dissatisfied with GIF files for various reasons.

Now, here's a short recap of my own personal Operating System and Desktop Publishing adventures: I got my first PC about twenty-five years ago now, and I did desktop publishing under DOS almost immediately; but after 1996, I stopped cold for **eleven** long years. Meanwhile, I “upgraded” to Windows 3.1, 95 SR2, 98 SE, and then to XP, kicking and screaming along the way each and every time; and I finally got back into desktop publishing by installing the Windows version of Scribus under XP in 2007. I bought the boxed set of Red Hat Linux 6.0 in 1999, and I toyed with free downloads of various Linux distributions for the next **ten** years; but I didn't switch permanently to Linux until 2009.

Still recapping: In *Niece of “Why So Big?”* (in our May 2013 issue), I completely replaced all of the images in our December 2012 issue with JPG versions, and I also edited the masthead area on page

1 to reflect that change. After that, I got a new PDF size of **3.0** MB. How about that! Our December newsletter decreased in size from 4.8 to 3.0 MB. It's true! JPG files *are* the way to go. What about October and November? Well, here we hit some snags. (More about this later).

At that time, I got “quick and dirty”, and only replaced the three largest PNG images with their JPG counterparts. Those were the Newsletter CD image on October's page 10 (November's page 14), the large image on October's page 11 (November's page 15), and the large image on October's page 12 (November's page 16). With that, I got an October PDF size of 4.55 MB, and a November PDF size of 4.25 MB. So, just like that, October decreased from 6.3 to 4.55 MB and November decreased from 5.9 to 4.25 MB. As I said before: How about that!

Back then, I remarked that I could probably have done even better if I'd converted the rest of their files to JPG. Now, we're about to find out if that's true; but first, we have to address the snags that I mentioned earlier. In October, I had trouble with a

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stored inside that work file.

However, when you use the “Get Image...” function to select an image, Scribus only copies that image file's *name* into its work file. The contents of that file *remain* stored on the hard disk in that original source file. (Indeed, if you were to delete, move or rename that source file, Scribus would give you a “Missing Image” error message, because it couldn't find that file any more). Thus, when you “delete” an image from your Scribus work file, you've merely erased that image's name. The source image, which *wasn't* copied into the work file to begin with, remains untouched.

Although Scribus has a work file, it *doesn't* have a PDF work file. So each time you use the “Export > Save as PDF...” function, Scribus really creates a *new* PDF completely from scratch. Whenever it encounters an image file name in its work file, it copies that image directly from its original location on the hard disk into your new PDF file. (If it hits an image name that has already been processed once, it *doesn't* copy it again. It simply makes a link to the

recalcitrant image frame; and in November, there were areas of excessive white space following two of the articles. In *Niece of “Why So Big?”* (May 2013), I described what I did about that frame (in short, I replaced it). Now, we'll tackle those offending white spaces. To fix them, I moved the separator lines following those two articles *up* a little, and “tweaked” the text a bit where necessary, until everything lined up nicely. In effect, this moved each area of extra white space *down* into the header space for the next article, where it blended in very well.

Just one more digression before we get down to business. A bit further below, I'm going to say; “I deleted all of those PNG images”. Actually, that's *not* really true. To explain why, here's my best understanding of the way Scribus works: When you use the “Get Text...” function to select a document, Scribus *does* copy the contents of that document into its work file. After that, you *don't* actually need to keep the source document any more; and if you later delete some or all of that text from your Scribus work file, you really *are*, in fact, erasing the text

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previously copied image that already exists in its output PDF file). Thus, you will *never* delete an image from a Scribus PDF file. You delete that image's *name* from your work file, and then you just *don't add* that image to an *entirely new* version of your PDF file.

OK. Now for some files. In our October newsletter, there were 21 files which hadn't yet been replaced (18 GIF, 3 PNG), while in our November issue, there were **35** files which hadn't yet been replaced (19 GIF, 16 PNG). So they were what I worked on next. However, although there were a *lot* of those GIF files, they're *small*; but those 16 PNG files in November intrigued me, so I decided to do them first, by themselves. They were spread across nine pages of November as follows: One on page 1, three on page 3, five on page 4, one on page 5, two on page 6, one on page 7, one on page 8, one on page 10, and one on page 12.

First, though, four of those files did *not* have existing JPG counterparts. So I had to use the GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) to convert

them. Then, starting with page 1, I deleted all of those PNG images. After that, I exported an “interim” PDF which measured 2.6 MB. Subtracting that value from my previous “final” value gave me a change of **1.65** MB, just from those PNG files. Next, starting at the end and working my way forward, I added all of the replacement JPG images.

Then, I exported another “final” PDF, which measured 3.4 MB. Subtracting my “interim” value from that new “final” value gave me a change of **0.8** MB from adding those JPG files (nearly *half* of the difference for the PNG files; and remember, *smaller* is our goal). Subtracting my new “final” value from my previous “final” value gave me a change of **0.85** MB; and subtracting my new “final” value from the original 5.9 MB gave me a total decrease of **2.5** MB. Wow! That extra work *was* certainly worth the trouble.

This left me with a total of *forty* as yet unreplaced files (37 GIF, 3 PNG). Unfortunately, seven of those files did *not* have existing JPG counterparts. So I had to use the GIMP again, to convert them before I

could continue. After that, I finished up the November issue by deleting its 19 remaining GIF files. When I was done, I exported an “interim” PDF, which measured 3.3 MB. Subtracting that value from my previous “final” value gave me a change of **0.1** MB. Next, I added the 19 replacement JPG images and exported another “final” PDF, which measured 3.4 MB again.

Subtracting my “interim” value from that new “final” value gave me a change of **0.1** MB from adding those replacement JPG files. Subtracting my new “final” value from my previous “final” value gave me a total change of **0.0** MB; and subtracting my new “final” value from the original 5.9 MB gave me an *unchanged* total decrease of **2.5** MB. When I did a byte for byte comparison of those two “3.4 MB” figures, I found that my new “final” size was actually 43 **KB** smaller. (Truthfully, I wasn’t expecting much of a change. but this was ridiculous). Well, anyway, we may not have gotten a significantly smaller output, but we learned something.

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Last (but, as you’ll see, *definitely* not least), I processed October all at once. Starting with page 1, I deleted all 21 of its previously unreplaced images (18 GIF, 3 PNG). After that, I exported an “interim” PDF, which measured 4.0 MB. Subtracting that value from my previous “final” value gave me a change of **0.55** MB from deleting those remaining GIF and PNG files. Next, I added the 21 replacement JPG images. Then, I exported another “final” PDF, which measured 4.3 MB. Subtracting my “interim” value from that new “final” value gave me a change of **0.3** MB.

Subtracting my new “final” value from my previous “final” value gave me a change of **0.25** MB; and subtracting my new “final” size of 4.3 from the original “final” size of 6.3 MB gave me a total decrease of **2.0** MB. It’s true that 1.75 MB of that total came from my first “quick-and-dirty” replacement of only the three largest PNG files; but as they say: Every little bit helps. While, at 4.3 MB, *October 2012* has the *dishonor* of being our *third* largest newsletter *ever*, at least it’s no longer *HUGE*.

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(At 6.3 MB, it *was* the largest ever. Now, at 4.5 MB, *End-of-Year 2008 Supplement* comes in second, and at 6.2 MB, *July 2010* comes in first).

As my final step for both October and November, I edited their masthead areas on page 1, just as I’d done last month for December. I inserted “R” after the number, and “(Replacement)” after the date. Then, I moved the existing text frames down a little bit, to make room for a new text frame directly under the masthead, containing (in small red letters) the following message; “(The original version of this newsletter contained *serious* technical flaws. Please see *Purloined Letters* in our March 2013 issue for further details)”. Finally, I was done.

Our results so far: October shrank from 6.3 MB to 4.3 MB, November shrank from 5.9 MB to 3.4 MB, and December shrank from 4.8 MB to 3.0 MB. Downward changes of 2.0, 2.5 and 1.8 MB, respectively. Nice! Furthermore, I have a confession to make: Last month, I just flat out *forgot* to mention that my replacement December newsletter now *wasn’t* flawed any more, almost certainly because I

hadn't used Vista for *any* of last month's procedures. Now, I'm happy to report that my October and November issues are *also* no longer flawed.

Here's another confession: *Never* in all of my previous articles did I even once mention a phenomenon that I first noticed in 2009, when I finally made the move from Windows to Linux. Under Linux, when I accessed a Scribus work file that I'd previously created using the Windows version of Scribus, sometimes the paragraphs inside my text frames “wrapped” *differently*. Several times, I had to re-edit my text to get things to line up properly once again.

However, I never again had this problem after I began creating *all* of my files exclusively under Linux. So I blamed it on Windows, and more-or-less forgot about it. Until I tried to use Linux/Scribus 1.4.0 to access those three work files created under Vista/Scribus 1.4.1. *That's* where the extra white space at the ends of two of November's articles came from. Due to unexpected changes in wrapping, some of my text had *moved up* inside some of my text

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Scribus 1.3.3.13 and one for Scribus 1.4.0. (By the way, a “skeleton” file is a mostly empty work file that can be used as the starting point for the creation of a fresh work file. In this case, for a new newsletter each month; and pages 2, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are “boilerplate” pages. Those are pages on which the text hardly ever changes. So they *don't* have to be updated often; and thus can be included in a “skeleton” file).

The “Text overflow” message from page 2 came up when *two* of the e-mail addresses in the lower right hand text frame mysteriously changed their “Styles”, which pushed the bottom line in that text frame down *past* the lower limit of that frame, thus causing the error. The “Text overflow” message from page 14 came up because the text in the text frame to the right of the CD image had wrapped incorrectly, thus pushing the text in that frame down beyond its lower limit, and causing the error. I fixed the error on page 2 by changing those two errant Styles back to their proper values; and I fixed the error on page 14 by widening that text frame a little bit, so its text could

frames. That time, fortunately for me, it was a relatively easy fix (as explained above).

Earlier this year, I also experienced this behavior when I began using Linux/Scribus 1.4.0 to access work files created under Linux/Scribus 1.3.3.13. Fortunately for me, I was only doing temporary tests that involved images, so I *didn't care* about any text problems; but in my opinion, that last case proves that this phenomenon is *definitely* a conflict between different versions of Scribus. In this one case, much as I'd like to blame Vista, I can't.

Now, though, I've encountered this trouble again, and *this* time, it matters. When I used Linux/Scribus 1.4.0 to access a second copy of my new “skeleton” work file (created under Linux/Scribus 1.3.3.13), I got two “Text overflow” error messages (on pages 2 and 14); and I got *five* areas of extra white space after five of the paragraphs on pages 13 and 14. (Could these be described as “Text *underflow*” errors?)

This time, these errors *all* have to be fixed, because my plan is to have *two* skeleton files. One for

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wrap correctly again.

Those five white space errors were easy fixes, too. All had been caused by the unexpected movement of the text contained inside a text frame, each of which had caused the *last* line in the *final* paragraph inside that text frame to grow *shorter*. Since the small image frames containing the teeny tiny computer picture that we've traditionally used to mark the ends of various closing paragraphs had *not* moved, an unwanted area of white space had appeared to the left of each image.

All I had to do was use my mouse cursor to grab each of those image frames in turn, and drag each over to a spot just *one* space to the right of the last word of the final paragraph of its text frame. Thus, in effect, closing up each area of extra white space. After that, I could safely save that file using Scribus 1.4.0. So now I've got the *two* “skeleton” files that I wanted. One for 1.3.3.13 and one for 1.4.0. For now, we're done.

In conclusion, I'm going to recycle about half of my closing paragraph from *Niece of “Why So Big?”*: It

now seems pretty obvious that the question “Why So Big?” has two answers: “I was so foolish as to do my work on a Vista computer”, and “I used some of the wrong image file formats”. For the future, I plan to convert all of my PNG images to JPG (to save space); and all of my GIF images, as well. (Not so much to save space as to get rid of those misbegotten

“Image is GIF” error messages). One last thought: Hopefully, I'll never have to go anywhere near Vista again.

Is the multi-part “bigness” saga *finally* over? If so, whatever will I write about now? As they used to say on old serial broadcasts; “Tune in next time, kids, and find out”. In other words: See you next month. ☞

The Tip Corner

Bill Sheff, Novice SIG Coordinator, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, PA

Newsletter: The LVCG Journal (www.lvcm.org) [nsheff \(at\) aol.com](mailto:nsheff@aol.com)

Fixing USB hard drives

Regardless of what kind of repair work you do, a good idea is start with the easiest and cheapest. So if you run into trouble with devices plugged into your computer via a USB cable... let's start with the cable.

Make sure there is a good connection. Remove and reinsert the cable into a different USB slot on the computer. Swap the cable for another USB cable.

Still not working? Double click My Computer in Windows XP or Computer in Windows Vista. The plugged USB hard drive is the removable disk on the

list. Right click Properties and see if there is something wrong. If the drive is not listed turn the computer off. If the USB device is not recognized a message appears and unplug all other USB devices on the PC. These may not be compatible with the USB hard drive. Reboot the computer once all the other USB devices are disconnected.

Finally, if you are utilizing a USB hub, unplug the device and connect it directly to the USB port. If still not recognized or working the device unfortunately is that the hard drive is very likely defective.

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Burning DVD discs in Windows 7

First let's review the two different DVD formats there are. They are DVD- and DVD+. DVD- (dash) was developed by Pioneer in the late 1990's, while DVD+ was developed by the DVD+RW alliance which includes Sony, HP, Ricoh, Yamaha, and others. Just note that all DVD burners now produced support both formats, which makes it easy for the consumer.

However, it should be noted that all things being equal the DVD dash burns slightly faster.

Whenever I mention a CD or DVD below it means either a dash or plus format. DVD-R formats are for a one time burn, while DVD-RW discs are used for both reading and writing data and can be formatted over and over again.

Today there are many types of multi-media files, including data, audio, and video, and each could require different ways to burn it to a DVD disc correctly.

We will discuss common file types, the disc format they should be created in, and the type of blank disc

to use for best results.

For Home Videos (from a camcorder or downloaded video) they should be created with an Authoring software such as Windows DVD Maker in a DVD-Video project and it's recommended to use DVD-R media.

Digital Photo files can either be backed up using a standard DVD burning software as a data project or be created as a digital photo slideshow by using a compatible software using DVD-R media.

Most Recorded TV shows from Windows Media Center should be Authored with windows DVD Maker in a DVD-Video project and burned to DVD-R media.

Music or audio files can be burned to blank CD-R discs using Windows Media Player. However there are two ways to go about this: First you can create a standard Audio CD which usually holds 74 minutes of music by creating an audio project or you can burn mp3 files as a data project to get more music on a disc. (Just make sure you have a mp3 disc player for proper playback).

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A recent burn I did holds 182 music files on one CD+ disc, and it plays in my car.

Disc Image Files or ISO files require Windows, Roxio or Nero Disc Image Burner to burn the format correctly on either a blank CD-R or DVD-R disc (it just depends on the file size).

Recording Home Videos to DVD

By utilizing the free Windows DVD Maker already included in Windows 7 installs you can simply and easily create home movie discs from your videos. The software will not make a Hollywood type film but will get you creating a DVD movie that you and your family can enjoy on your TV sets in the living room.

You simply start the software, load in some video that you captured off of your camcorder, create a custom DVD menu and burn away. You now have a DVD movie disc that you can watch on any standard DVD player.

Recording TV Shows to DVD Disc

In the old days, if your Windows PC came with a TV

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DVD and on the AutoPlay box choose the "Burn files to disc using Windows Explorer" option. When the burn a disc dialog box opens choose a Disc Title and tick the With a CD/DVD player and click Next. Then simply browse to the digital photo folder you want to backup/burn and drag it into the empty disc folder. When ready to burn click the Burn to Disc box and you are good to go.

Burn a DVD From an Image File

If you come across an image file such as .iso you can watch it using Magic ISO or burn that image to a CD or DVD to see the contents in the file. Since .iso is a container for a file structure you need to extract it and by burning it to a disc will accomplish this. In Windows 7 you can use Windows Disc Image Burner. This is as easy as right clicking on the .iso file and choosing Burn Disc Image...yes it's that easy now in Windows 7. For some additional data take a look at BurnWorld (www.burnworld.com).

One Column Excel Tip

If you ever prepared a spreadsheet that consisted of hundreds of lines and only one or two columns and then decided to print it out, can you do it without

capture card you can hook up your cable line or satellite TV box and watch TV on your computer screen, but today with digital signals being encrypted you now need at least a separate cable box or DVR. If you use Windows Media Center you also have a built in DVR where you can record the shows you want. The best part is that you can also now burn them to a DVD disc and watch them on your TV set just like it was intended. To do this in Media Center all you do is insert a blank DVD, then click Burn CD/DVD and choose the Video DVD option. Then select a title name for the project and select the video clips or TV shows you want to burn from your media library and click the burn button. Media Center will handle the rest and give you a DVD disc that is properly formatted.

Sharing Digital Photos the Easy Way

One of the easiest ways to preserve, backup, and share your digital photos is to back them up to a blank CD-R or DVD. You can easily accomplish this by using Windows Explorer and choosing the Mastered format. All you do is insert a blank CD or

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running through a ream of paper for just the one or two columns? Well, yeah! But don't look for a simple solution.

Actually, the simplest way is to copy your entire data table (all 100s of rows) to the Clipboard and paste it into Word. You can then format the information in Word to use columns and print as desired. (You can also place headers and footers on your data easier within Word than you can in Excel.)

But if you are a purest and want to do it in Excel here are a couple of ways to print the data in columns on a single sheet of paper.

Let's assume you have data that is only one column wide by 100 rows deep.)

1. In cell B2, enter the formula "A26".
2. In cell C2, enter the formula "A51".
3. In cell D2, enter the formula "A76".
4. Copy cells B2:D2 down to row 25.

Your data is now in four columns, without the original data being disturbed. Format your columns to the necessary width, place a page break just before row 26, and print just the first page of your data. You can also save the file as a template for

future single column files.

Another approach is to copy the row and column(s) to a different worksheet. This is quick and easy to do using the keyboard (Ctrl+C to copy and Ctrl+V to paste), but there is a drawback. If the row or column you are copying contains formulas that rely on other areas of the worksheet, the copied data may not

show the proper results. Thus, the best "cut and paste" approach would be to use the Paste Values command rather than just Paste.

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PowerPoint Isn't Just for the Business World

Nancy DeMarte, Columnist, Office Talk, Sarasota PCUG, Inc., Florida

Newsletter: Sarasota PC Monitor (www.spcug.org) ndemarte (at) Verizon.net

In recent years, people who purchased PC's often bought the Home and Student version of the Microsoft Office suite as a way to get the powerful Word program. Besides Word, this suite contains Excel, a sophisticated spreadsheet program; OneNote, a fancy organizational program; and PowerPoint, a presentation program. If you find that you have never moved beyond Word, perhaps it's time to explore a program which has many uses for the home user: PowerPoint.

PowerPoint has been around for many years. Originally called Presenter, this program was created

for the Apple Macintosh computer by a company called Foresight. In 1987 Microsoft purchased Foresight, added features to Presenter, and renamed it PowerPoint. Traditionally, it was designed to enhance corporate meetings or training sessions. Over the years, special effects and other improvements have been made to PowerPoint. As a home computer user, you will find this program easy to use in a variety of special and everyday situations.

Personal Uses of PowerPoint:

The most common personal use is slide show creation related to an event. Let's say you have a

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family wedding approaching. PowerPoint can help you put together a slide show of still photos and videos of the bride and groom from babyhood to the present, complete with captions, narration, a musical background, and transition effects like fade-ins. You can copy photos to each slide from anywhere on your computer or the web. Although PowerPoint is not as sophisticated as some expensive presentation software, it can produce a professional-looking slide show.

Other home uses for PowerPoint include a personal résumé or visual memoir, which can list biographical history interspersed with photos of the subject in all aspects of life. Cooks might use PowerPoint to create an electronic cookbook of recipes, including photos of preparation techniques and finished creations. Artists often use PowerPoint to create portfolios of their work as a lure for potential buyers. Members of book discussion groups might create an overview of a book's plot or author's life using a few PowerPoint slides. PowerPoint can also design electronic family photo albums, considered superior

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by some since they can be stored and shared more readily than the old hard bound albums. Finally, any type of training program can be enhanced by a well-designed presentation.

Creating and Editing a Presentation:

One easy way to create a professional-looking presentation is by using a template. PowerPoint has built-in "themes" which give each slide a similar background color, font color and design. As part of its Office website, Microsoft has many free, downloadable PowerPoint templates for occasions, holidays, and other purposes; many more are available at third party websites. For example, wedding templates exist for invitations, programs, thematic backgrounds for slides, borders, and clip art. All you have to do is fill in the information and add the photos. Other template types which might interest a home user include family tree charts, special occasions, seasons, religious, travel, and holidays. Go to www.office.microsoft.com or search the web for 'PowerPoint templates'.

One powerful feature of PowerPoint is that almost

anything visual can be put onto a slide. Slides can include text, photos, charts, spreadsheets, tables, and drawings. For example, you can create a short spreadsheet in Excel, display it as a graph or chart, and copy it onto a PowerPoint slide. By using a theme from the PowerPoint gallery or a template, various types of slide content can blend smoothly.

Editing slides is easy. The new versions of PowerPoint use a spell checker much like that in Word, which corrects not only spelling, but grammar and, in the 2007 and 2010 versions, contextual confusions, like "two" and "too." It also provides access to a global dictionary. Slides can be rearranged simply by dragging them to a new location in the list or the slide sorter, which resembles a storyboard. Transitions between slides can be added or removed easily.

Sharing the Presentation:

Besides showing the finished presentation on a screen with a projector or on a laptop at a table, PowerPoint 2007 allows you to send the show as an attachment to an email. It can be saved in .pdf or

.xps format, which are universal file types. The 2007/10 version compresses the file size for sending. If you prefer, you can upload your presentation to your website and send the link to friends and family. A slide show can also be printed. Besides the slides themselves, PowerPoint allows printing of handouts, which contain slide thumbnails; note pages, which display each slide with room for notes; and a text outline of the presentation.

Tips on Creating a Good Presentation:

PowerPoint has developed a bad reputation among some people, not because it's a poor program, but because of the many boring presentations the people were forced to view in their corporate workplaces. When designing any kind of presentation, you must think carefully when selecting the content -- ideas, facts or opinions -- and how you want it to appear. Taking time to develop an outline of your presentation before creating any slides will result in a much stronger final product.

When you actually do begin to create slides, here are some tips for success:

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1. Use a theme or style to tie the visuals together, and then add a few surprise visuals or quotes.
2. Minimize the use of clip art, especially that which is built into PowerPoint. Everyone has seen it. Instead, search Google images for something fresh.
3. Consider alternating text slides with photos or video to add interest.
4. Studies have shown that dark text on a light background is easier to read, as is sans serif text and words aligned left, rather than in the center.
5. Too many different types of transitions from one slide to the next look unprofessional and distracting. Select no more than two or three for a moderate length presentation.
6. Put very few words on each slide. Keep it simple.
7. If doing a training presentation, don't read to the

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audience. Instead, explain more about what's on the screen. But don't bring in other topics which will cause audience confusion.

8. Find a way to engage the audience. For example, put a question on a slide and take a few minutes for the audience to discuss it.
9. Keep the presentation moving. (1 - 3 slides per minute)
10. Make the presentation only as long as it needs to be to get your ideas across.

You paid a lot of money for your Office Home and Student suite. It's time to benefit by learning to use PowerPoint.

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Review: Digital Photography Composition for Dummies

Donna Kamper, Member, Tucson Computer Society, AZ

Newsletter: TCS eJournal (www.aztcs.org) donna (at) kamper.com

What's the difference between an amateurish snapshot and a gallery-quality photograph? There are lots of variables, but the right "composition" makes

the viewer's eye snap to the essential element that tells the story.

If there were only one way to tell a story

Digital Photography Composition for Dummies, *continued*

photographically, it'd be easy. It used to be. Plop the subject in the middle and click. But does that really "tell the story?"

This book, by a professional photographer, breaks down and explains the subject of composition element by element. Contrast, distance and patterns as well as lines, shapes and forms are introduced and their relevance to your photography is pointed out

A minimal amount of space is spent on the equipment (camera, lenses, tripod, etc.) and the basics (aperture, focal point, ISO, etc.). I felt it was enough space/time for the subject, and the author states it's expected that the reader has a basic understanding of their equipment.

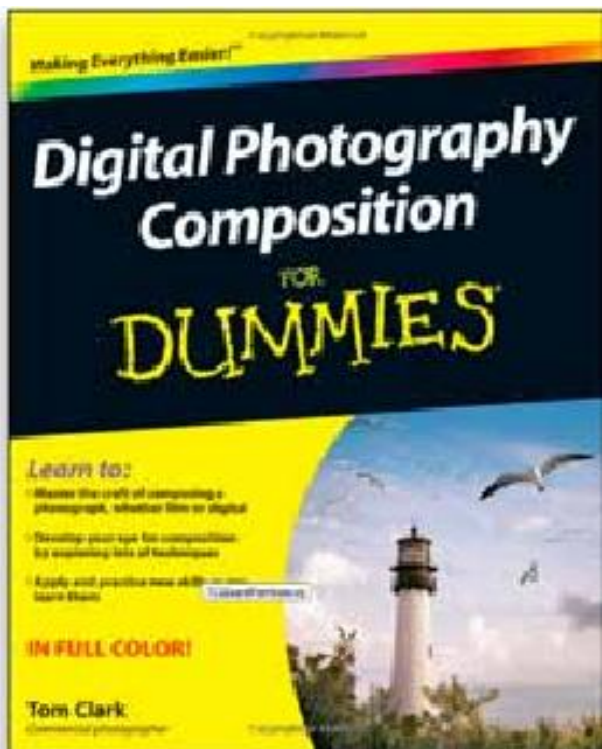
The subject of composition itself is then addressed, which covers how to use points of interest, framing and even color as an essential element.

The concept of "leading the eye" or "drawing the eye" is referenced frequently. Multiple techniques are demonstrated and illustrated.

This became particularly helpful when the subject was lighting.

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knows his subject in a way only someone doing the work does, but he's also one of the *avis rara* who can also explain it well.



The names and descriptions of lighting methods (Paramount, Rembrandt, Broad lighting) are all very well, but actually showing how the light falls on a subject allows the novice (reader) to actually understand (and remember) its effect.

This is a copiously illustrated book, as one about photography should be. The best part is not simply that there are a lot of photos, mostly in color, but that they're relevant and helped me to understand certain points.

A broad range of subject matter is covered, which I also found particularly helpful. There are a lot of large, intimidating (expensive) books out there focused solely on "landscape" or "portrait" or "still life" photography. This small and inexpensive volume covers all those subjects and more quite nicely. Each subject does differ, and there are concise descriptions not only of those differences but the methods for adapting to them.

Because Dummies books are written by different authors, I feel like it's a bit of a gamble delving into one. This one is a big winner. It's obvious the author

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About: Digital Photography Composition for Dummies

Author: Tom Clark

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Price: \$29.99, \$21.89 @ Amazon

SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@gmail.com)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about past experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)
<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☞

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☞

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☞

Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☞

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

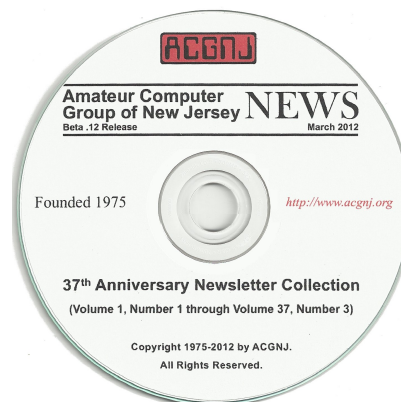
Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .12 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☞

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
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**THIS SPACE
FOR RENT**

Address Inquiries To:
bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html and pay dues with PayPal.

US/CANADA		Dues	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25		\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40			
3 Years	\$55			\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups		
Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmug-nj.org	Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org	New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcug.com	NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org , (908) 995-4042.	NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroë Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org	NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



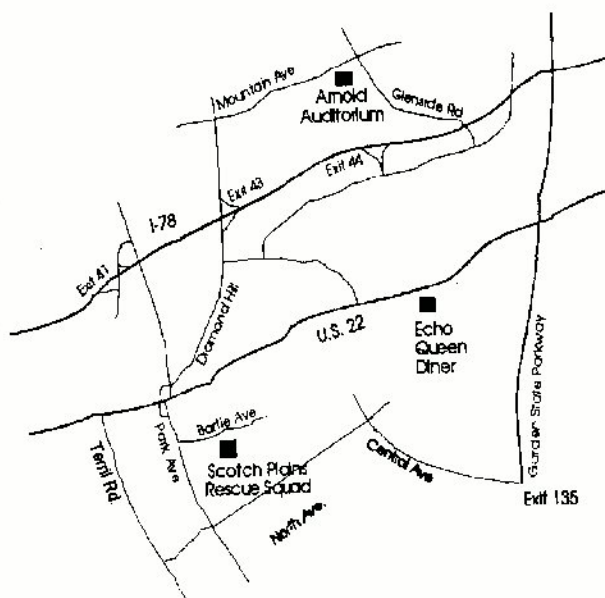
Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐