

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 39, Number 10

October 2014

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting

Friday, October 3, 2014, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Scheduled Topic: Computer Security: I Think We Can Win

Scheduled Speaker: Bill Cheswick

(For details, please see the President's Note on page 3
and the Biographical Information on page 4).



Happy Halloween



Welcome to our annual "Halloween Episode". We've got some silliness, some spookiness, and we've even got some genuine mysteries. Unfortunately, we *don't* have a sinister Transylvanian castle; but we *do* have a visit to The Microsoft Store. *Beware!* And *Enjoy!*

(Announcements Continued On Page 3)



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

This newsletter was made by 100% pure Linux!

Operating System: Ubuntu 12.04 LTS

Desktop Publisher: Scribus 1.3.3.13

Word Processor: LibreOffice Writer 3.3.4

ACGNJ Meetings

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

For news from OTHER clubs, please go to:
<http://www.acgnj.org/joomla/>

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Sep 30, 7 PM

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, October 3, 8:00 PM

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, October 6, 8 PM

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Mobile Devices: Wednesday, October 8, 7:30 PM

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig (at) acgnj.org)

Investing: Thursday, October 9, 8:00 PM

Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, October 10, 6:00 PM

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Computer Workshop: Saturday, Oct. 11, 1:00 PM

(Please see the announcement on [page 3](#) for further details).

Layman's Forum: Monday, October 13, 8:00 PM

Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)

Java: Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 PM

Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Window Pains: Friday, October 17, 7:00 PM

!!!WARNING!!! This meeting will NOT be held in our usual location. Please see the Window Pains announcement on [page 3](#) for further details.

John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

Web Browser: Monday, October 20, 7:30 PM

David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 PM

Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

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

In This Issue

ACGNJ Announcements	1,3	New SIG Being Formed	3
President's Note, Michael P. Redlich	3	Biographical Information for Bill Cheswick	4
ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Sept 11, 2014), Philip Lees	5	ACGNJ Mini-Reports	5
Filler Images	5	An Evil Update II, Bob Hawes	6
Haunted Files, Bob Hawes	6	Image Processing Software, Dick Maybach	12
Multitasking: the Big Myth, Diane Fahibusch	14	SIG News	17
		Guru Corner	19

Officers, Directors and Leaders

President	Mike Redlich	(908) 246-0410	Director Emeritus	Sol Libes	(609) 520-9024
Vice President	Wendy Bell		Through 2015	Gregg McCarthy	
Treasurer	Malthi Masurekar	(732) 560-1534		John Raff	(973) 533-0664
Secretary	Brenda Bell			Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
Past President	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070	Through 2014	(Open)	
Special Interest Groups					
C Languages	Bruce Arnold	(908) 735-7898		Bob Hawes	
Genealogy	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681		David McRitchie	
Hardware	Mike Reagan			Michael Reagan	
Investing	Jim Cooper			(Open)	
Java	Michael Redlich	(908) 246-0410			
Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842			
LUNICS	Andreas Meyer				
Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell				
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy				
Web Browser	David McRitchie				
WebDev	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070			
Window Pains	John Raff	(973) 533-0664			
Standing Committees					
			APCUG Rep.	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
			Facilities	John Raff	(973) 533-0664
			Financial	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070
			Historian	Lenny Thomas	
			Membership	Bob Hawes	
			Newsletter	Bob Hawes	
			Publicity	Gregg McCarthy	
			Trenton Computer Fest	Mike Redlich	(908) 246-0410
			Vendor Liaison	Arnold Milstein	(908) 753-8036
			Webmaster	John Raff	(973) 533-0664

ACGNJ News

Editor

Robert D. Hawes
bob.hawes@acgnj.org

ACGNJ News is published by the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey, Incorporated (ACGNJ), PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076. ACGNJ, a non-profit educational corporation, is an independent computer user group. Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the individual author or editor. This publication is **Copyright © 2014 by the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey, Inc. All rights reserved. Permission to reprint with appropriate credit is hereby given to non-profit organizations.**

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?

Editor Emeritus
(and Emergency Backup Publisher)
 Barbara DeGroot
 145 Gun Club Road
 Palmerton PA 18071
 Tel: (570) 606-3596
bdegroot@ptd.net

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>).

Bruce Arnold	barnold@ieee.org
Brenda Bell	mobdevsig@acgnj.org
Wendy Bell	ariellechaya@hotmail.com
Jim Cooper	jim@thecoopers.org
Barbara DeGroot	bdegroot@ptd.net
Mark Douches	pcproblems@pobox.com
David Eisen	ultradave@gmail.com
Manuel Goyenechea	goya@acgnjdotnetsig.org
Bob Hawes	bob.hawes@acgnj.org
Sol Libes	sol@libes.com
Malthi Masurekar	masureka@umdnj.edu
Don McBride	don@mcbride.name
Gregg McCarthy	greggmc@optonline.net
David McRitchie	dmcritchie@hotmail.com
Andreas Meyer	lunics@acgnj.org
Arnold Milstein	mrflark@yahoo.com
John Raff	john@jraff.com
Mike Reagan	hardware@acgnj.org
Mike Redlich	mike@redlich.net
Matt Skoda	som359@aol.com
Paul Syers	paul.syers@acgnj.org
Lenny Thomas	lennythomas@technologist.com
Scott Vincent	scottvin@optonline.net
Frank Warren	kb4cyc@webwarren.com
Evan Williams	tech@evanwilliamsconsulting.com

New SIG Being Formed

ACGNJ has not held a daytime meeting in quite a while, so we've decided to try again. Our inspiration: The Philadelphia Area Computer Society holds only **one** meeting a month, but it's a biggie. On the third Saturday, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, they hold **seventeen** different meetings, four at a time in four different rooms. Apparently, there **is** an audience for Saturday daytime meetings. We're starting smaller, though. Just one room (our usual) from **1:00 PM** to

4:00 PM. We're calling it Computer Workshop, after the meetings that Burke Mawby held in Aberdeen, NJ from 1989 to 2007. Bob Hawes will be its Chairman, and its format (to start, anyway) will be random access.

Our first meeting is scheduled for Saturday, **October 11th**, and we hope to see you there. (As always, please check the club website (www.acgnj.org) for last minute news). ☐

Window Pains Meeting

Friday, October 17, 2014, **7:00 PM** to **9:00 PM**.

Topic: Windows Phone.

Speaker: The Microsoft Store.

Our October 17 Window Pains Meeting will **NOT** be held in our usual location at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. Instead, it will be held at the **Microsoft Store in the Bridgewater Commons Mall** (400 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807).

Note that the meeting starts *EARLY*, at **7:00 PM, because The Microsoft Store *CLOSES* at **9:00 PM**.**

They will only be serving bottled water there, but if anyone wishes to bring in a preferred beverage of their own, as well as food, that is permitted.

The Microsoft Store is on the second (middle) level of the Macy's wing of the main mall. Here's a link:

<http://content.microsoftstore.com/detail/Bridgewatercommons>

(Continued Above Right)

Directions to Bridgewater Commons:

From North of Somerville (Morristown, I-80 E or W, I-78 E or W):

Take Route I-287 South.

Take exit 17 on the left to merge onto US-202 S/US-206 S toward US-22 W/Somerville/Flemington.

After 0.7 mi, take the Commons Way exit toward Garretson Rd.

After 0.2 mi, turn left onto Commons Way.

After 0.3 mi: Bridgewater Commons Mall.

From South of Somerville (New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, Trenton):

Take Route I-287 North.

Take exit 14B on the left to merge onto US-22 W toward US-202/US-206/Clinton.

After 2.6 mi, take the US-202 N/US-206 N ramp to I-287 N/Morristown/Netcong.

After 436 **feet**: Bridgewater Commons Mall.

From East or West of Somerville:

Make your way to Route I-287.

If you are North of Somerville, head South.

If you are South of Somerville, head North.

Follow the appropriate directions above. ☐

President's Note

Michael P. Redlich

October 2014

is working spectacularly well. A large part of the world's economy uses it to great advantage. But there is crime and espionage as well, and the attackers are highly capable and motivated. Meanwhile, experienced security people despair. The same bugs seem to persist, the lessons of the past ignored or forgotten. This has been going on for decades.

But I am an optimist. Despite the steady drumbeat of repeated problems, we are still very

We had a great start to our 2014-2015 season with the September Main and Window Pains meetings. For those of you who attended these meetings, we appreciate your continued support!

Now we are in October and as you may already know, we look forward to welcoming Bill Cheswick and hearing his talk entitled, "**Computer Security: I Think We Can Win**" on October 3. Here is his abstract:

By a number of important measures, the Internet

October 2014

ACGNJ

Page 3

President's Note, continued

early in the game, making widespread rookie mistakes. Despite the incredible progress of Moore's Law, our software isn't much better than thirty years ago.

This is going to get better over the coming decades. We have tools and techniques we haven't explored or deployed very far. We can get the upper hand---yes, it is possible to write a secure program. They are our computers, on our networks, running software we choose: we have the home-field advantage. We ought to be able to win.

I hope your schedule will allow for you to attend this special event. Also, since our meetings are always open to the public, please tell all your family and friends that may be interested.

In other news, I am happy to announce that the ACGNJ Board of Directors recently filled one of the

two vacant Director positions. Our newest member, and now newest Board of Directors member, Scot Jenkins, accepted the role at the September Board of Directors meeting on September 5. In his short time with us, Scot has already been a very active member of the club with his contributions and his enthusiasm is contagious.

With the appointment of Scot to a Director position that expires in December 2015, there remains only one vacant Director position. Since this particular two-year Director position expires at the end of this year, it is my hope that this one can be filled during our Annual Elections. Please consider serving on the Board of Directors. The time commitment is 10 meetings per year (one per month except for July and August). We have dinner at all the meetings and you will have the satisfaction of contributing in the future direction of the club! ☐

Biographical Information for William R. "Bill" Cheswick (our Main Meeting speaker)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Education: Cheswick was graduated from Lawrenceville School in 1970 and received a B.S. in Fundamental Science in 1975 from Lehigh University. While at Lehigh, working with Doug Price and Steve Lidie, he co-authored the Senator line-oriented text editor.

Career: Cheswick's early career included contracting in Bethlehem, PA between 1975 and 1977. He was a Programmer for American Newspaper Publishers Association / Research Institute in Easton, PA between 1976 and 1977 and a Systems Programmer for Computer Sciences Corporation in Warminster, PA between 1977 and 1978. Following this, Cheswick joined Systems and Computer Technology Corporation where he served as a Systems Programmer and Consultant between 1978 and 1987. Much of Cheswick's early career was related to his expertise with Control Data Corporation (CDC) mainframes, their operating systems such as SCOPE and NOS, and the related COMPASS assembly language. Cheswick initially worked with CDC systems as a student at Lehigh University.

Cheswick joined Bell Labs in 1987. Shortly thereafter, he and Steven M. Bellovin created one of the world's first network firewalls. The resulting research and papers lead to their publication of the

seminal book Firewalls and Internet Security, one of the first to describe the architecture of a firewall in detail. Cheswick and Bellovin also created one of the world's first honeypots in the course of detecting and trapping an attempted intruder into their network. In 1998, Cheswick, still at Bell Labs (by then controlled by Lucent) started the Internet Mapping Project, assisted by Hal Burch. The research allowed large scale mapping of the Internet for the first time, using tracerouting techniques to learn the connectivity graph of global networks. The work ultimately led to the founding in 2000 of a spinoff company, Lumeta, where Cheswick was a co-founder and held the title of Chief Scientist. He joined AT&T Shannon Lab in 2007, where he remained until 2012.

Hobbies, Interests, and Personal Projects: Cheswick currently lives in New Jersey with his wife. He has two children. His home is a smart house, equipped with a voice synthesizer that reports relevant information, from mailbox status to evening stock news. Cheswick has developed a few interactive exhibits for science museums, including the Liberty Science Center in New Jersey. Cheswick also enjoys model rocketry, and lock picking (both electronic and physical). ☐

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (September 11, 2014)

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

We had a very interactive September meeting on Thursday, 9/11/2014 and we had **12** attendees in total. Jim Cooper opened with a very good "STOCKS-n-CHARTS" presentation as we had not had one of these for quite a while. The platform used was TeleChart. The questions, answers and feedback were all excellent. Great job, Jim!

Jim then did a second presentation and discussion of order-types, which again generated a lot of questions and a lot of fun discussion. Nice job, Jim!

At the end of the meeting, I asked a few members if they, too, would like to do a presentation of what they look for with trade setups etc. As I told them, anybody is welcome to do a presentation, as everyone at the group is always supportive and respectful of each other's methodologies.

Thanks to everybody who attended. Please attend the meetings, everybody learns from them. We hope to see you at October's meeting, **10/9/2014**. Thank you.

Philip Lees ☐

ACGNJ Mini-Reports

Main Meeting Report

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

At our September 5, 2014 Main Meeting, club members Brenda Bell and David McRitchie presented "**Evernote**". There were 11 people in attendance.

Evernote is a cross-platform application running on desktops, laptops, tablets and smart phones to help you create anything from quick notes (with or without formatting) to extensive research notes, including clippings, pictures, tables, lists, voice recordings, web links, and note links.

A built-in search function and the use of tags can help you locate your notes. A handy feature allows you to create a note by sending an email to your Evernote email address. Notes can be organized into notebooks and stacks.

Brenda and David gave an interesting and educational program. (ACGNJ has WiFi on-site, so attendees could install Evernote on their own devices and follow along). ☐

Java Users Group Report

"Technical Overview of Spring Shell"

Mike Redlich, ACGNJ

Our September 9, 2014 meeting was a technical overview of the Spring Shell, one of the many projects offered by SpringSource. We reviewed the source code and experimented with changes to better understand the application. There were a total of five (5) attendees. ☐

Window Pains Meeting Report

"**/usr/bin a to z: A survey of UNIX commands**"

Scot Jenkins, ACGNJ

We had a better than expected turnout at our meeting on September 19, 2014, with 13 people attending. A brief history of how the /usr/bin directory came to exist was given. Manual pages for online help were discussed. The talk then reviewed UNIX commands in the a-j range. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to discuss commands for the rest of the alphabet. A future talk will most likely be held at a later date to discuss UNIX commands in the k-z range. ☐

Filler Images



On the left is a traditional Halloween Jack-O-Lantern. **Boo!** On the right is a "blast from the past". I got this frightening and all too realistic cartoon from the bottom of page four in our December 1975 newsletter. So it will soon be celebrating its 39th birthday. (Just like our club is doing this year, and just like the late, great Jack Benny did *every* year). Happy Halloween! ☐



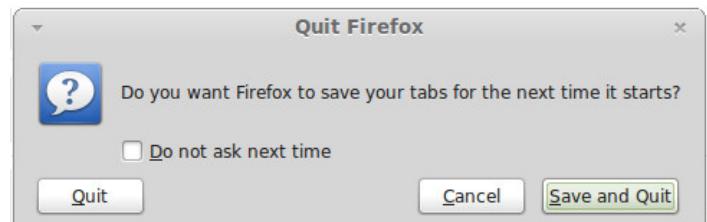
"According to this, the guarantee becomes null and void upon application of electrical power."

An Evil Update II

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Near the end of April 2012, I was testing the Internet links in our May 2012 newsletter, and I got a very unpleasant surprise. **Every** link gave me an “Unable to open external link” error message. It looked like somebody, somewhere, for some reason or other, had released an update, and I had automatically installed it; but apparently its author (or authors) somehow **hadn’t** tested its interactions with other processes thoroughly enough first. That error message also said: “Failed to execute child process ‘firefox’ (Permission denied)”, which seemed to indicate an access rights problem. So I deduced that the culprit was Ubuntu rather than Firefox; but I never found out for sure. (For further details, see *An Evil Update* in our October 2012 issue).

Well, evil has struck again (or maybe it's just incompetence); and this time it seems to definitely be Firefox's fault. For various reasons, I **don't** use tabs all that often, and I **certainly** don't want to save them for the next time that Firefox starts. Recently, on one of those rare occasions when I had more than one tab open, I tried to shut down Firefox all at once,



and I got this “Quit Firefox” pop-up message. Since I'd never seen this message before, I concluded that I got it now because of somebody's software update.

Now, wouldn't you think that if I checked the box in front of “Do not ask next time” and then pressed the “Quit” button, I'd never see this message again? **Not** so. Apparently, whoever wrote the code controlling this pop-up just couldn't imagine that anybody **wouldn't** want to save their tabs; and furthermore, wouldn't want to see this annoying message ever again, either. So he or she didn't connect that check box to that “Quit” button. Thus, no matter how many times I check that box, I **still** get this message if I try to exit with multiple tabs open.

So, what do you think? Was it just a careless programmer? Or could it have been **gremlins**? ☺

Haunted Files

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Weird things happen. All the time. They're a part of life. The best you can do is to shrug your shoulders and move on. So why should computers be exempt from such phenomena? Usually, when I hit a glitch, I just fix it as best I can and continue; but earlier this year, in our the March 2014 newsletter, I ran into **two** strange situations in that same issue, involving **three** different files. Then, while working on the April 2014 issue, I came across another one. Now, I don't need to have a giant boulder (or maybe an “Acme“ safe or an “Acme” anvil) dropped on my head to get the message. The universe was telling me to use those files as the basis for our next “Halloween Episode”. So, as you can see here, I did.

We'll examine those glitches in the order that I found them. The first is near the middle of page 3 in our March 2014 newsletter. It's at the end of the first line in the header of the monthly Investment SIG report sent to us by Philip Lees. **Figure 1** is a screen shot of that line as it appeared in LibreOffice Writer (my

word processor). Note that there's absolutely no sign of any mysterious addition. **Figure 2** is that same line as it appeared in the PDF file produced by Scribus (my fun, fabulous and *free* desktop publisher). Note that now there *is* something visible at the end. **Figure 3** is a close-up of the end of that line. **Figure 4** is an even-closer-up of the very end of that line, and **Figure 5** is what I got when I managed to insert a space after the parenthesis. At last, I could see our intruder clearly. Now, all I had to do was

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Feb. 20, 2014)

Figure 1

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Feb. 20, 2014)

Figure 2

(Feb. 20, 2014) 14) 4)

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

identify it.

After **a whole lot** of searching (I won't go into any

Haunted Files, continued

details here, so you **REALLY** should thank me), I found **Figure 6** under *Symbols and Punctuation > Mathematical Symbols > Arrows* in the Unicode 7.0 Character Code Charts. (That 21B0 is a Hexadecimal

Arrows with bent tips

Other arrows with bent tips to complete this set can be found in the Miscellaneous Symbols and Arrows block.

21B0	↑	UPWARDS ARROW WITH TIP LEFTWARDS
21B1	↑	UPWARDS ARROW WITH TIP RIGHTWARDS
21B2	↓	DOWNTWARDS ARROW WITH TIP LEFTWARDS
21B3	↓	DOWNTWARDS ARROW WITH TIP RIGHTWARDS

Figure 6

number, **not** some kind of alphanumeric label). I've excerpted the following from Wikipedia (the free encyclopedia): "Unicode is a computing industry standard for the consistent encoding, representation and handling of text expressed in most of the world's writing systems. The latest version of Unicode contains a repertoire of more than 110,000 characters covering 100 scripts and various symbols". (The Unicode Standard 7.0 is Copyright © 1991-2014 by Unicode, Inc. All rights reserved). Compare that to ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), which defines 128 characters in its basic

(Continued Above Right)

I've been doing so ever since. Now, I use a web-based e-mail client, which has its advantages and disadvantages. (I **won't** go into them now. So you should thank me again. Repeatedly). The important thing to realize is that it's displayed on the screen in HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). This means that there are **a lot** of hidden control codes scattered throughout the readable text; and I definitely **don't** want to copy any of those codes into my word processor. (Who knows what chaos they might cause?) Therefore, I utilize a two-stage transfer process.

First, I highlight only the words that I want to save. Then, I copy them into an empty text file produced by a plain text editor. From there, I copy them again into an empty ODT (Open Document Text) file produced by LibreOffice. In this process (hopefully), any unwanted codes will be rejected by that text editor, and thus not carried over into my ODT document. Unfortunately, this process **also** eliminates all bold, italics, underlining and coloring effects. (Oh well, you can't have everything). So I

set, or 256 characters in several different extended sets.

So now I've got an official Unicode number for this symbol, and an official description; but I **still don't** know what it means. All I can tell you is it's **not** a Carriage Return, Line Feed or New Line symbol. Furthermore, just because I found a match for it in the Unicode tables **doesn't** mean all that much. It could be an accidental combination of **two** ASCII symbols. In basic ASCII, 21 is an exclamation point, while B0 is the Euro sign in the ISO 8859-1 extended ASCII set (also called ISO Latin-1), and it's the Degree symbol in Microsoft's Windows-1252 extended set (also called CP-1252). In point of fact, it might not mean anything at all. It could actually be digital garbage that just happened to add up to that particular symbol. To explain this possibility, I'll have to describe how I get Philip's reports into our newsletter each month.

This report is actually a monthly e-mail that Philip sends out to Investment SIG members and other interested parties. Last July, to my great joy, he sent me a copy. So I put it in our August 2013 issue, and

(Continued Below Left)

have to manually replace those effects one at a time; but it's worth that extra work to insure against accidental corruption. Except, apparently, that it **didn't**.

Here's how my e-mails are displayed by Firefox (my usual web browser). On the left side of the screen are features provided by my e-mail client that I occasionally find useful. On the right side are advertisements that I **always** ignore. In the middle is the actual message. At the top of that message, its subject is displayed in large print. Beneath that is a graphic block designed to hold a cutesy picture. (Which I, myself, **never** use). Below that is the main body of the message. Now, I **can't** use the Ctrl + a keyboard shortcut to select all of the message, because that would also pick up those features on the left and the advertisements on the right. Previously, I used my mouse to highlight the center section from top to bottom, then copied it into the aforementioned empty text file. I think this practice might have caused my problem.

Well, actually my first suspects were gremlins.

(Continued On Next Page)

Haunted Files, continued

However, this glitch happened at the end of February, so gremlins were “out of season”. My newer and less spooky theory is focused on the large print subject line and that image block. I think that something from one or both of those areas didn’t get completely erased, and thus got transferred into my word processor document. **If** this is what happened, there’s an easy fix, because that header eventually winds up in a **different** LibreOffice file than the body of the message. (It just works better when text that spans the entire page is imported into Scribus separately from text that only spans half of the page. Again, I **won’t** explain why here. You can thank me later).

If I **don’t** copy that subject line when I copy the rest of the message, I should avoid contaminating the body of the text. As for the header: it’s only two lines long, so I can just as easily manually type it directly into its own ODT file. Not an elegant solution, but it should work. (**Before** I adopted this strategy, another of these interlopers got by me in June; but nothing since then).

Unfortunately, I didn’t notice that mysterious additional character in our March issue until **after**

(Continued Above Right)

we’d printed out copies of it in real ink on real live paper. (As we do once each year, for handouts at TCF). Previously, I would have fixed that error and posted a replacement PDF issue to be downloaded from our web site; but since that error was now preserved forever on those printed copies, I decided to leave it in the PDF version as well. A week or so after I made that decision, I copied the top of page 5 and the bottom of page 3 into a new, single page PDF. I planned to print it for use as an illustration of various SIG reports, to be shown as examples to uncooperative SIG leaders; but when I looked at my first printout, I discovered that five of my words (Java, Users, Group, Window and Pains) had somehow turned red. (See **Figure 7**).

I figured that this was some kind of printer glitch. However, before printing another copy, I decided to edit that page a bit. I wound up removing the two meeting announcements, re-writing the page header, and adding two new sub-headers. Then I made another copy. To my surprise, I found that those exact same words had turned red again. (See **Figure 8**). So it wasn’t a printer glitch. Instead, there was actually something wrong with my file; but what?

(Text Continued On Next Page)

Figure 7

SIG Reports From The March 2014 Newsletter

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting

Friday, March 7, 2014, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Scheduled Topic: Mobile Medical Devices.
Scheduled Speaker: Brenda Bell. ☐

Window Pains Meeting

Friday, March 21, 2014, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM.
Scheduled Topic: Vintage Computing Devices.
Scheduled Speaker: Don McBride. ☐

ACGNJ Mini-Reports

Main Meeting Report

Brenda Bell, ACGNJ

On Friday, February 7, 2014., we held our monthly Main Meeting, with 9 persons attending. Our topic was “There’s An App for That”, presented by Brenda Bell. (It was re-scheduled from last month’s Main Meeting (on January 3), which had to be canceled due to inclement weather). ☐

Java Users Group Report

Mike Redlich, ACGNJ

The February Java Users Group meeting was supposed to be a review of Spring Data for MongoDB, but it was necessary to have a better understanding of the utilities, Gradle and Maven that are used by Spring Data for MongoDB. There were seven attendees at the meeting. ☐

Window Pains Report

Wendy Bell, ACGNJ

As in January, our February 21 Window Pains Meeting was held in the Microsoft Store at Bridgewater Commons, where they spoke about the Xbox 360, Xbox One and Kinect. The talk took

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Feb. 20, 2014)

(Note: This meeting had to be postponed from Feb. 13 due to inclement weather).

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

Thanks to everyone who attended the rescheduled meeting and to all of those who attempted to get to the meeting, despite the traffic and numerous pot-hole delays. We had 12 members at the meeting.

I started the meeting with a presentation of “Seasonal” stock movements (specifically for MARCH), displaying and discussing a list of stocks (initially 31) that have had a consistent (80% or more) of an UP move in the stock market during MARCH (next month, of course). Additionally, the stocks had at least 15 years of trading where the consistent moves could be identified. After discussing a few of the items’ “Seasonality” using Seasonal Trade Charts (see below), we then performed filtering in FINVIZ to trim down the list from 31 candidates to 8. From there, we examined technical levels in anticipation of a setup for an UP move. There was a lot of

interaction, a lot of questions and a number of requests for adding functionality to the website too. www.SeasonalTradeCharts.com

We then had a short pizza break, some active, fun and interesting trading-chat conversations.

Larry Yu finished the meeting with an overview presentation of an Opening-Range system that he encountered at the Trader’s Expo. The rules for setup, entry (long or short), exits (profit-targets and/or stop-losses) were all discussed. Larry did a very nice job at presenting and discussing the system, which I think warrants a follow-up discussion, too, because we ran out of time.

The attendees will receive the candidate list this weekend. Please attend the next meeting on 3/13/2014. Hope to see you there. Thanks. Philip ☐

Figure 8

ACGNJ SIG Report Samples

Three Small But Perfectly Acceptable Reports:

ACGNJ Mini-Reports

Main Meeting Report

Brenda Bell, ACGNJ

On Friday, February 7, 2014., we held our monthly Main Meeting, with 9 persons attending. Our topic was “There’s An App for That”, presented by Brenda Bell. (It was re-scheduled from last month’s Main Meeting (on January 3), which had to be canceled due to inclement weather). ☐

Java Users Group Report

Mike Redlich, ACGNJ

The February Java Users Group meeting was supposed to be a review of Spring Data for MongoDB, but it was necessary to have a better understanding of the utilities, Gradle and Maven that are used by Spring Data for MongoDB. There were seven attendees at the meeting. ☐

Window Pains Report

Wendy Bell, ACGNJ

As in January, our February 21 Window Pains Meeting was held in the Microsoft Store at Bridgewater Commons, where they spoke about the Xbox 360, Xbox One and Kinect. The talk took

about an hour, and then we had about an hour of game play on the systems. We had 6 people in attendance, and we learned a lot about the aforementioned items. ☐

A Larger And Nicer Report:

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Feb. 20, 2014)

(Note: This meeting had to be postponed from Feb. 13 due to inclement weather).

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

Thanks to everyone who attended the rescheduled meeting and to all of those who attempted to get to the meeting, despite the traffic and numerous pot-hole delays. We had 12 members at the meeting.

I started the meeting with a presentation of “Seasonal” stock movements (specifically for MARCH), displaying and discussing a list of stocks (initially 31) that have had a consistent (80% or more) of an UP move in the stock market during MARCH (next month, of course). Additionally, the stocks had at least 15 years of trading where the consistent moves could be identified. After discussing a few of the items’ “Seasonality” using Seasonal Trade Charts (see below), we then performed filtering in FINVIZ to trim down the list from 31 candidates to 8. From there, we examined technical levels in anticipation of a setup for an UP move. There was a lot of

interaction, a lot of questions and a number of requests for adding functionality to the website too. www.SeasonalTradeCharts.com

We then had a short pizza break, some active, fun and interesting trading-chat conversations.

Larry Yu finished the meeting with an overview presentation of an Opening-Range system that he encountered at the Trader’s Expo. The rules for setup, entry (long or short), exits (profit-targets and/or stop-losses) were all discussed. Larry did a very nice job at presenting and discussing the system, which I think warrants a follow-up discussion, too, because we ran out of time.

The attendees will receive the candidate list this weekend. Please attend the next meeting on 3/13/2014. Hope to see you there. Thanks. Philip ☐

Haunted Files, continued

(For clarity, **Figure 9** contains close-up views of only the two relevant lines from the two headers involved).

Java Users Group Report Window Pains Report

Figure 9

It's hardly noticeable, but if you look closely at the PDF version of our March 2014 issue, those five words **do** have a slightly reddish cast to them. When I looked closely at my original LibreOffice source files, I saw it there, too. So somehow, when I created those files, I picked up a color that shows up as almost black on screen, but as red when printed. As a fix, I deleted each of those top lines in their respective LibreOffice source files, re-typed them in again manually, and then re-imported those files into Scribus. You can see in **Figure 10** that it worked. Maybe **not** coincidentally, both of those reports were copied from e-mails. Who knows? I'll just have to look a lot harder at **all** of my headers from now on.

Incidentally, if you look closely at the Investment

(Continued Above Right)

Meeting report in Figure 7, you **won't** see the interloping character from above; but if you look closely at Figure 8, you **will** see it. Don't suspect a supernatural explanation. It's actually there in both figures; but in Figure 7, it's completely covered up by three **tiny** white rectangles that are staggered to follow the curve of the parenthesis. Somehow, when I re-edited the Scribus work file for Figure 7 to produce the Scribus work file for Figure 8, I lost those rectangles. Now, as you can see (or more accurately, **not** see) in Figure 10, I've put them back again.

Wait a minute!!! What did I write near the end of the fifth paragraph above? "...another of these interlopers got by me in June". If a glitch repeats in a predictably similar way, it's not really a glitch. Because it **ISN'T** random. So I went back and re-checked our June 2014 issue, and it **is** exactly the same symbol. This pretty much invalidates my "digital garbage" theory from above, and it also casts serious doubt on my "accidental combination of **two** ASCII symbols" theory (also from above). Whatever it is, the code for this symbol exists

ACGNJ SIG Report Samples

Three Small But Perfectly Acceptable Reports:

ACGNJ Mini-Reports

Main Meeting Report *Brenda Bell, ACGNJ*

On Friday, February 7, 2014, we held our monthly Main Meeting, with 9 persons attending. Our topic was "There's An App for That", presented by Brenda Bell. (It was re-scheduled from last month's Main Meeting (on January 3), which had to be canceled due to inclement weather). ☐

Java Users Group Report *Mike Redlich, ACGNJ*

The February Java Users Group meeting was supposed to be a review of Spring Data for MongoDB, but it was necessary to have a better understanding of the utilities, Gradle and Maven that are used by Spring Data for MongoDB. There were seven attendees at the meeting. ☐

Window Pains Report *Wendy Bell, ACGNJ*

As in January, our February 21 Window Pains Meeting was held in the Microsoft Store at Bridgewater Commons, where they spoke about the Xbox 360, Xbox One and Kinect. The talk took

about an hour, and then we had about an hour of game play on the systems. We had 6 people in attendance, and we learned a lot about the aforementioned items. ☐

A Larger And Nicer Report:

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Feb. 20, 2014) (Note: This meeting had to be postponed from Feb. 13 due to inclement weather).

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

Thanks to everyone who attended the rescheduled meeting and to all of those who attempted to get to the meeting, despite the traffic and numerous pot-hole delays. We had 12 members at the meeting.

I started the meeting with a presentation of "Seasonal" stock movements (specifically for MARCH), displaying and discussing a list of stocks (initially 31) that have had a consistent (80% or more) of an UP move in the stock market during MARCH (next month, of course). Additionally, the stocks had at least 15 years of trading where the consistent moves could be identified. After discussing a few of the items' "Seasonality" using Seasonal Trade Charts (see below), we then performed filtering in FINVIZ to trim down the list from 31 candidates to 8. From there, we examined technical levels in anticipation of a setup for an UP move. There was a lot of

interaction, a lot of questions and a number of requests for adding functionality to the website too.
www.SeasonalTradeCharts.com

We then had a short pizza break, some active, fun and interesting trading-chat conversations.

Larry Yu finished the meeting with an overview presentation of an Opening-Range system that he encountered at the Trader's Expo. The rules for setup, entry (long or short), exits (profit-targets and/or stop-losses) were all discussed. Larry did a very nice job at presenting and discussing the system, which I think warrants a follow-up discussion, too, because we ran out of time.

The attendees will receive the candidate list this weekend. Please attend the next meeting on 3/13/2014. Hope to see you there. Thanks. Philip ☐

Figure 10

(Continued Below Left)

somewhat in at least two different e-mail messages; and if I do things **exactly wrong** in the future, I'm likely to pick it up all over again. Whether that code came from Philip or was inserted by my e-mail client doesn't really matter, because there's nothing I can do about it either way. I'll just have to do things **right** from now on.

Unfortunately for me, when I re-looked at our June 2014 issue, I saw something else that I'd missed earlier. Those same five words in those same two headers also have that same slightly reddish cast to them. In a panic, I quickly checked our April and May issues. Same thing! Frankly, I was afraid to check any more of our recent issues. **Who knows** how many more instances of these errors I might find? (To me, that prospect is scarier than any screaming horde of ghosts, goblins, vampires, werewolves, and/or zombies that I might run into). Obviously, I'll have to be a **whole lot** more observant from now on.

OK. That covers our March 2014 issue (and then some). Now, what was wrong with April? Well, except for those newly discovered incorrect colors

Haunted Files, continued

noted above, nothing in the final version; but as it was being created, another wacky thing happened. Some unexpected and unwanted blank lines appeared at the beginning of *Clouded Judgment*. (One of two “foreign import” articles in that issue). We got this particular article from Greg Skalka (its author) by way of APCUG (The Association of Personal Computer User Groups). **Figure 11** shows the top part of the original DOC file that we received. Looks OK, doesn't it? But somewhere on that page there lurks a hideous monster. (Ah!

(Approx. 1,642 words)

Figure 11

Clouded Judgment
By Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood UG, California
December 2013 issue, DriveLight
www.uchug.org
president (at) uchug.org

Clouded Judgment

The latest trend in computer operation and data storage is “in the cloud”. This refers to storage of files not on your local computer hardware, but on remote servers which are accessed through the Internet. The cloud can be used to store your files so they can be accessed from anywhere, not just from your own computer. Applications can be stored and run through the cloud, requiring less sophisticated local hardware.

Almost all computer users today presently use the cloud, and many probably don't realize it. There are of course the online file storage sites which many use for storing and sharing photos. Any photos you view that are not in your computer, tablet or smartphone's local memory or hard drive are coming from the cloud. Videos you watch from YouTube, Netflix or other web sites originate in the cloud. All the information you

(Continued Above Right)

find some). However, I won't be going into details about those stages, either. (Boy! You guys really owe me for all the stuff that I *didn't* include in this article). In this particular case, however, my third stage “stabbed me in the back”. Because, when I duplicated that ODT file, I also duplicated the monster.

Figure 12 shows the beginning of *Clouded Judgment*, as it first appeared in my Scribus work file. (This specific article just happened to start near the bottom of page 9). Note how half-height blank

Clouded Judgment
Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood UG, California

The latest trend in computer operation and data storage is “in the cloud”. This refers to storage of files not on your local computer hardware, but on remote servers which are accessed through the Internet. The cloud can be used to store your files so they can be accessed from anywhere, not just from your own computer. Applications can be stored and run through the cloud, requiring less sophisticated local hardware.

April 2014 ACGNJ Page 9

Figure 12

lines, which were *not* visible in my two ODT source files, have appeared above the first line in the header and the first line in the left text column. (Gasp! A *pair* of short but *invisible* monsters). It's not so obvious, but the third line in the header has also disappeared, because there just wasn't enough room

Melodrama).

Here are the first four steps of my process for importing a DOC file into our newsletter: First, I open the file in Abiword (my backup word processor). Then, I immediately save the file in the RTF format and exit Abiword. (So basically, I'm just using Abiword as a format translator). Next, I open that new RTF file in LibreOffice, immediately save it as an ODT file, and then exit LibreOffice. After that, in my file browser, I make a duplicate of my new ODT file. Finally, using LibreOffice again, I edit the first copy of that ODT file so it contains only the header information, and I edit the second copy so it contains the body of the article. (Everything **but** the header information).

There are several *very* good reasons why I follow that sequence, but they'd take way too long to explain here, so I *won't* be going into them now. There are, in fact, *six* additional steps that I follow for each article from outside the club, to insure that no mistakes previously missed by “foreign” editors will get past me as well (and yes, occasionally, I *do*

(Continued Below Left)

left to display it. (By the way, the colored lines are text frame borders. They're visible in the work file because you need them to accurately position your text on the page. Unless you specifically instruct Scribus otherwise, they *won't* be visible in your output PDF file).

Figure 13 and **Figure 14** show the header and the

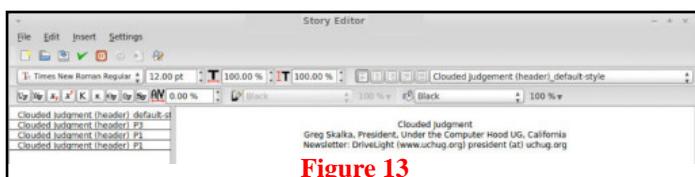


Figure 13

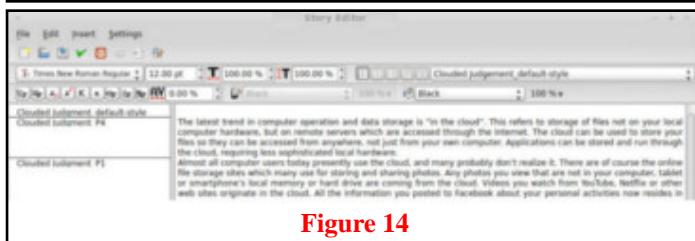


Figure 14

body when opened with the built-in Scribus Story Editor. Note that it *has* detected both extra blank lines. In the past, Story Editor has occasionally been, shall we say, *less* than cooperative; but this time it

Haunted Files, continued

allowed me to delete both lines with no problems. (Boo! What an anticlimax. We want our money back). **Figure 15** shows the finished result. Other than the extremely strong suspicion that the invisible line came in at the top of the DOC file that we

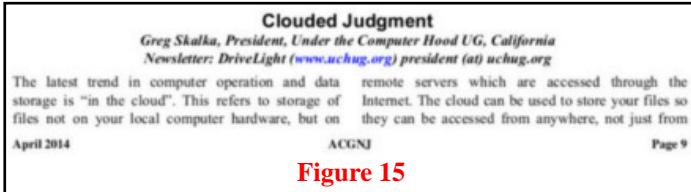


Figure 15

received from APCUG, I've got no clue what happened here.

We'll finish up with ACGNJ President Mike Redlich. Most months, Mike sends me a *President's Note* for the newsletter. Mike does his writing in Pages for Mac. (Apple describes Pages as "The last word in word processing"). He then exports his articles from Pages in PDF format. Now, Scribus *can* import PDF files, but only as images. *Not* as workable text. So to get the text out of a PDF file in an editable form, I use the text selection tools available in either of my two Linux PDF viewers. (Usually, I use Okular. It

(Continued Above Right)

has more features). Then, as I do with e-mails, I transfer that text into an empty text file, and then

President's Note

Michael P. Redlich

September 2014

The Summer of 2014 has come and gone, I hope y'all had an opportunity to enjoy this past Summer to get away with family and friends. Now it's time to kick off our new season of ACGNJ Main and Window Pains meetings along with the usual cast of SIGs returning from their respective summer hiatuses.

As I mentioned in last month's installment of President's Note, our September meetings have been confirmed. For completeness, I will list them again here:

Main Meeting

- Friday, September 5
- *"Evernote (and other note-taking apps)"*
- presented by David McRitchie and Brenda Bell

Window Pains

- Friday, September 19
- *"UNIX Commands A-Z"*
- presented by Scot Jenkins

As you may already know, we invited Bill Cheswick to speak about computer security for our October Main Meeting. I am happy to announce that Bill Cheswick has accepted our invitation and will present, "*Computer Security: I Think We Can Win*" on Friday, October 3. Many thanks to Scot Jenkins, a relatively new and very active ACGNJ member, for taking the lead to formally invite Bill.

Figure 16

into an empty ODT file.

Figure 16 shows the beginning of a recent PDF submission from Mike. I don't see anything unusual. Do you? However, in **Figure 17** (the transitional text file), we see some odd results. First, at any point

(Continued Below Left)

exclamation point has been added at the end. So lines that ended with a punctuation mark now have *two* punctuation marks; and any blank line now contains an exclamation point. I've *never* seen this kind of behavior before. Maybe it's an Apple thing.

In any case, before I transfer Mike's text to an empty ODT file, I re-wrap the text and I delete those extra exclamation points. *After* Mike's text is safely in its new ODT file, I look at the original PDF file, and I manually replace all the bold, italics, underlining and coloring effects, just like I do for e-mail submissions. I also check that I didn't accidentally erase an exclamation point that was *supposed* to be there.

Needless to say, the four examples given in this article are by no means the *only* wacky things that have happened to me; but they show that, within the last six months, I've had at least one phantom stowaway in each of the ways that we regularly import articles into this newsletter. (E-mail, DOC files, PDF files). Furthermore, they're all mysteries. I don't have a solid explanation for *any* of them. Evil

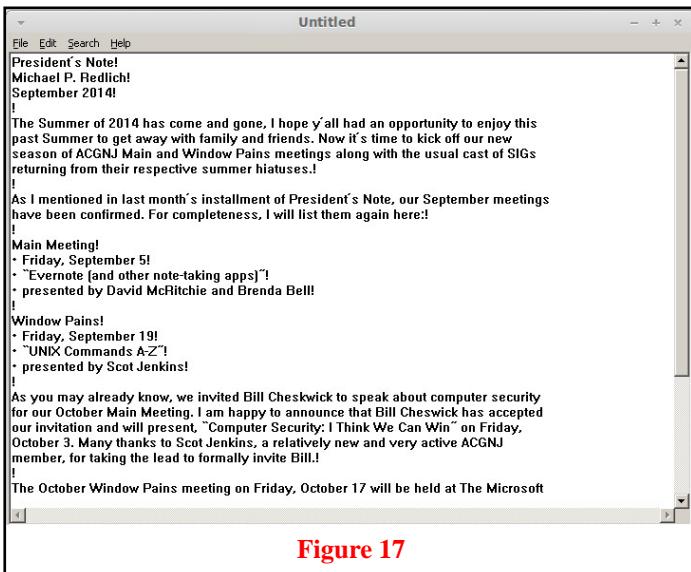


Figure 17

where the text used to wrap to the next line, the "soft" return has been replaced with a "hard" return. (In other words, we've lost our wrapping). This is, in fact, what *usually* happens when you lift text from PDF files. Next, though, as Monty Python used to say, is "something completely different". On any line where the text was terminated by a "hard" return, an

Haunted Files, continued

forces seem to be out to get us, and apparently there's **NO** method that's immune. We'll just have to be eternally vigilant. I'd like to say more, but we've run on **way** too long already. So, we're done.

Appendix I: The Extent of the Damage

Much further above, when I was reporting on those five words that printed out in red, I said that I was afraid to check any more of our recent issues for those same errors. Of course, I **didn't** mean it; but saying that gave me the opportunity to make a lame "Halloween Joke", and I just couldn't resist it. Furthermore (or should I say furtherless?), when I checked, I **did** find those errors in our February 2014 issue, but not earlier; and I **didn't** find them in anything we put out after our June issue (up until now, anyway). So the damage is limited to our February through June 2014 newsletters. Sorry about

that. Happily, those February, April and May issues are all **bigger** than 4 MB, so they'll be part of my PDF size reduction project. (To be described in a future article). When I change them to make them smaller, I'll also fix those "red letter" errors. As for the March and June issues: Since those errors are embarrassing but do **not** involve any misstatement of facts, I've decided to grit my teeth and leave them **uncorrected**. (At least for now).

Please note that in addition to the actions described throughout this article, I made quite a few experiments that either didn't work at all, or didn't help. Plus, I tried some other stuff that actually made things **worse**. As I implied several times further above, this article could have been about twice as long if I didn't leave a lot of irrelevant details **out**.

See you next month. ☺

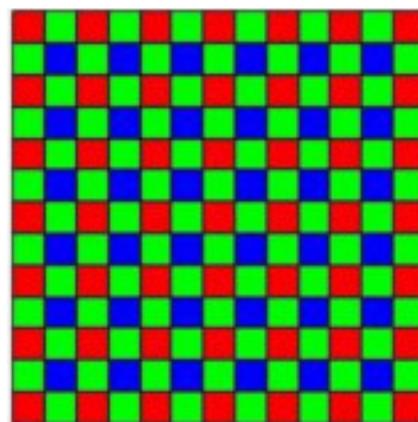
Image Processing Software

Dick Maybach, Member, Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ
Newsletter: BUG Bytes (www.bcug.com) n2nd (@) att.net

Adobe's decision to charge a subscription fee for Photoshop has inspired some photographers to look for alternate solutions, in particular those available for free. Before you jump down this particular rabbit hole though, make a rational assessment of your needs. Photoshop is a highly refined program with a large user base and shelves of well-written books, and this one program does almost every photo processing task. If you are a professional or a serious photographer, its new subscription fee may not be a large item in your photo budget. By comparison, its free replacements are more limited, and you will probably need several different ones to cover all the tasks that Photoshop does. Each will have its own different, and possibly idiosyncratic, user interface, and probably the only documentation will be help files (or maybe not) and Internet papers of varying quality. If you enjoy exploring new territory without a GPS, and have some time to learn, this can be a fascinating adventure; if not, just pay the Photoshop fee or switch to another commercial application with acceptable pricing.

This is a three-part article: this month I'll discuss software to retouch images, part 2 will cover

developing raw image files, and part 3 the more specialized areas of panoramas and high-dynamic-range photography. Before diving into the programs, let's look at the overall process. Your digital camera captures an image as an array of blue, green, and red dots called pixels, where typically each pixel is captured as a 12- or 14-bit word. We call this unprocessed form a raw image, and high-end cameras can store images in this form. If you were to look at most digital camera sensors under a microscope, you would see something like the figure below, although with many more colored squares (typically well over a million), one for each pixel.



(Continued On Next Page)

Image Processing Software, continued

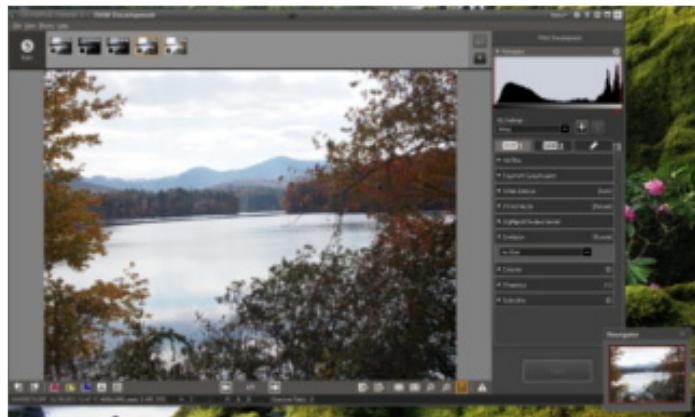
This array of filters is called a *Bayer filter array*, after the Kodak engineer who invented it. The array covers the sensor, with the result that about half the pixels are sensitive only to light in the green portion of the spectrum, a quarter are sensitive to red, and a quarter to blue.

Usually, the camera converts the raw image into one where each pixel contains three colors, each stored as an 8-bit byte, and performs compression to reduce the number of stored bytes. The result is a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) file, and all cameras make this form available. Although convenient, JPEG images have lower quality than do raw ones. For snapshots, taken with good lighting and presented on a computer display or as a small print, the lower quality of JPEG is imperceptible to most people. For pictures taken in poor light, those needing a lot of retouching, those presented in large formats, or those viewed by critical audiences, you must be quite careful about how you transform a raw image to the final product. The process of converting a raw image to JPEG or its equivalent is called

(Continued Above Right)

(Windows) are also available. These are all worthwhile programs, with features beyond image processing, such as organizing your collection and publishing on-line albums, but the program bundled with and tuned to your camera probably can do a better job of image processing.

The screen-shot shows a raw image being processed by Olympus Viewer 3, which is bundled with their enthusiast cameras. Your software is most likely not the same, so I won't discuss the details, except to say that it is sufficiently capable to satisfy all but the most rabid amateur photographer. Because Olympus



developing, as opposed to later work, such as removing red eye, which is called retouching. When most people use "Photoshop" as a verb they mean "retouch."

As your first step in looking for a Photoshop alternative, look at what you already have, in particular, the photo-processing software that most likely came on a DVD included in the box with your camera. If you are a casual photographer, it probably does more than you need, usually including color correction, cropping, special effects, and possibly panorama creation and raw development, and because it has been tuned to your particular camera, it will probably automatically correct for lens distortion and other defects. (However, if your camera has a removable lens, it may not correct the distortion of all lenses from other manufacturers.) Even if you've been using Photoshop, try this software and see if it doesn't meet all of your important needs. Windows and OS X also have photo software, and such programs as Picassa (Windows), PhotoScape (Windows, Mac), Paint.net

(Continued Below Left)

knows their cameras' limitations well, their software does an excellent job of correcting for lens distortion and vignetting. It also has features for images with high dynamic range and for creating panoramas.

The GNU Image Manipulation Program or GIMP (<http://www.gimp.org/> for Linux, OS X, and Windows) is the closest free program to Photoshop, with a comparable range of features. Like Photoshop, GIMP is designed both for photographic image processing and also creating computer art. Also like Photoshop, it has a bewildering number of add-ons, ranging from invaluable to useless. GIMP's main use for photographers is retouching (replacing an overcast sky with one having scattered clouds, removing red-eyes, patching in heads from several group shots to get one where everybody has their eyes open, and the like). However, it does have a serious flaw; it uses 8-bit arithmetic for all its processing. (The developers promise to incorporate 16-bit arithmetic in the next version, but its release is not yet scheduled.) This means that you should do as much processing as possible before handing off an image to GIMP. For example, if you begin with a

Image Processing Software, continued

raw file, make your exposure adjustments, color corrections, dynamic range adjustments, distortion corrections, sharpening, and noise reduction in a raw processing program with at least 16-bit fixed, or preferably 32-bit floating point, arithmetic.

The screen-shot shows the default GIMP display with three separate windows, two containing tools and the center one the image. The menu in the image



(Continued Above Right)

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/> – contains many very valuable tutorials on photography and image processing. If you check only one photo Web site, this should be the one.

Lecarme and Delvare: The Book of GIMP – is a reference for the current version of GIMP.

window resulted from a right mouse click; it provides access to all the tools, as only the most-used ones appear in the tool windows. If you prefer, you can configure GIMP to use a single window. Unlike most other free image-processing programs, there are several good GIMP books available, and using the program effectively requires that you study at least one of these.

There are many other free digital photo applications besides GIMP, and an Internet search using “image processing software” will reveal dozens of alternatives, both free and commercial. Finally, while Photoshop can develop raw files, GIMP cannot, and next month we’ll look at programs that handle this important step, in particular, RawTherapee and LightZone.

References:

Montabone: Beginning Digital Image processing Using Free Tools for Photographers – provides a good overview several photo tools, although the book is less helpful than it could be as all the example images are in black and white.

(Continued Below Left)

Goelker: GIMP 2.8 for Photographers – concentrates on using GIMP as an image processor.

This article has been obtained with permission to reprint by non-profit or other user groups, with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group.

Multitasking: the Big Myth

**Diane Fahlbusch, President, ICON PC User Group (ICONPCUG), Long Island, NY
Newsletter: ICONPCUG Graphic (www.iconpcug.org) editor (at) iconpcug.org**

Multitasking became the highly touted skill to possess back at the start of the millennium. The business world thought that more work could be accomplished with the same amount of people with this method. However, do we really all mean the same thing when we say it? Can one learn how to multitask? And, the most important question, does multitasking make one more productive? Well these questions have been the focus of numerous studies worldwide spanning over a decade. They have yielded some interesting results.

Multitasking is actually defined as performing more



Multitasking: the Big Myth, *continued*

than one task simultaneously. An example of this is holding on a conversation while typing an email to a business associate. According to Earl Miller, a professor of neuroscience at MIT, we just cannot focus on more than one thing at a time. However, many people use the same expression to describe performing one task at a time, and then switching to another one quickly. Working in one program on your computer, and then switching to a different program in another open window is a common example. This is actually called “task switching”, but it is often lumped under the category of multitasking. Another statement is that one must “learn to multitask”. This is true to a certain extent – all activities are learned. But “learning to multitask” is the wrong expression. What it really means is learning tasks so well that you do not need to concentrate to perform them properly. Think back to when you were four or five years old and just learning how to tie your shoelaces. You needed to concentrate and could not focus on anything else. But now you probably could NOT tie your shoelaces

(Continued Above Right)

supertasker brain looks different than those of 98 percent of us. ‘These brain regions that differentiate supertaskers from the rest of the population are the same regions that are most different between humans and nonhuman primates,’ says Strayer. In other words, the brains of supertaskers are just that much further away from those of apes, ‘the leading edge of evolution,’ says Strayer. Specifically: ‘Certain parts of the frontal cortex are recruited in an interesting way,’ says Strayer. In fact, these areas show less activity when multitasking than do the same areas in normal, human, mammalian, non-alien-overlord brains like mine. And it’s distinct—you either efficiently recruit this region or you don’t. You’re either a supertasker or you’re not.”¹

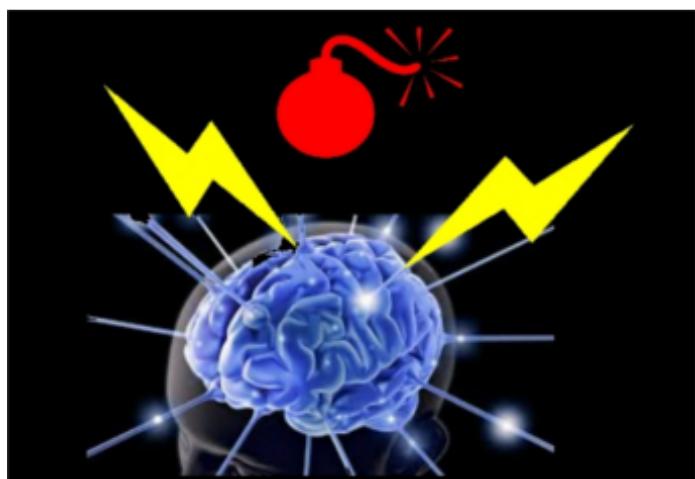
So much for learning to multitask! So what about giving task switching a try? Here are some fascinating facts.

“In the brain, multitasking is managed by what are known as mental executive functions. These executive functions control and manage other cognitive processes and determine how, when and in

if you ACTULLY concentrated on doing it. However, when at least one task requires you to concentrate to accomplish it, multitasking is not necessarily happening. One is typically not doing either task well. As an example, most people listen to the radio while driving. But can you actually name the songs that were played, or remember the words? (Even when not attempting to multitask, most people do not pay attention to the lyrics. Think back to when the President Ronald Reagan quoted “Born in the USA” in a patriotic speech, and missed that it was NOT a patriotic song.) The more prevalent example is driving and talking on the cell phone. In spite of the laws that have been passed, people still do it.

But can one improve one’s multitasking ability? “According to David Strayer, director of the applied cognition lab at the University of Utah, who studies multitasking in the fertile realm of distracted driving, ‘ninety-eight percent of people can’t multitask—they don’t do either task as well.’ ... And he found that, sure enough, the very structure of the

(Continued Below Left)



what order certain tasks are performed. According to researchers Meyer, Evans and Rubinstein, there are two stages to the executive control process. The first stage is known as ‘goal shifting’ (deciding to do one thing instead of another) and the second is known as ‘role activation’ (changing from the rules for the previous task to rules for the new task).

Switching between these may only add a time cost of just a few tenths of a second, but this can start to

Multitasking: the Big Myth, *continued*

add up when people begin switching back and forth repeatedly. This might not be that big of a deal in some cases, such as when you are folding laundry and watching television at the same time. However, if you are in a situation where safety or productivity are important, such as when you are driving a car in heavy traffic, even small amounts of time can prove critical.”³

This gives a greater perspective about what one is actually doing. But what about enhancing the ability to task switch? Switching between rote tasks is relatively simple, but when the tasks become more complicated, the results are quite interesting. This finding is pretty much a no-brainer: “Recent research also proves that as we get older the brain is less able to focus on more than one task at a time, and takes longer to switch between tasks.”² According to the Harvard Business Review from a study conducted by the Institute of Psychiatry, trying to focus on more than one task DECREASES your productivity by 40%, and lowers your IQ 10 points. The study also found that excessive use of technology also reduced

(Continued Above Right)

his colleagues expected that frequent multitaskers would outperform nonmultitaskers on at least some of these activities. They found the opposite: Chronic multitaskers were abysmal at all three tasks. The scariest part: Only one of the experiments actually involved multitasking, signaling to Nass that even when they focus on a single activity, frequent multitaskers use their brains less effectively.”⁴

My mother always said, “Do one thing at a time. ...Turn the television/radio off and do your homework.” She was so right, and ahead of her time. So this adds up to some very harsh realities. Multitasking is a “hardwired” ability for 2% of the population, but a giant myth for 98% of the population. Additionally, tasks requiring the same cognitive ability can NOT be performed simultaneously, such as watching a movie and responding to emails. (Both require visual and linguistic cognition.) Most people are actually task switching. This is fine when the activities are simple tasks that are well learned and do NOT require the same cognitive ability. The more one attempts to task

workers’ intelligence. Other studies have shown that multitasking/taskswitching reduces one’s mental abilities TWO TIMES the effect of smoking marijuana, or the equivalent of losing a full night’s sleep. It also increases one’s stress. And of course the all famous talking on the cellphone while driving, even with a hands free device, decreases reaction time the equivalent of a blood alcohol level of .08%. As a side note, having a conversation with a passenger is only slightly less distracting, as per insurance industry statistics.



But this finding is actually shocking. “In a 2009 study, Stanford researcher Clifford Nass challenged 262 college students to complete experiments that involved switching among tasks, filtering irrelevant information, and using working memory. Nass and

(Continued Below Left)

shift, the worse one gets, not to mention damaging to overall mental functioning, perhaps permanently. One final conclusion from multiple studies is that the people who insist that they can multitask are the WORST at it. Does this sound like anyone you know?

¹ “This is Your Brain on Multitasking” by Garth Sundem, February 24, 2012,

www.psychologytoday.com

² “Think You’re Multitasking? Think Again”, by Jon Hamilton, October 2, 2008, www.npr.org

³ “The Cognitive Costs of Multitasking”, by Kendra Cherry, March 4, 2014,

<http://psychology.about.com/od/cognitivepsychology/a/costs-of-multitasking.htm>

⁴ “Don’t Multitask: Your Brain Will Thank You”, by Issie Lapowsky, April 17, 2013,

<http://business.time.com/2013/04/17/dont-multitask-your-brain-will-thank-you/>

This article was obtained with permission to reprint by non-profit or other user groups, with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group. ☐

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 ast 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

SIG News, continued

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. ☐

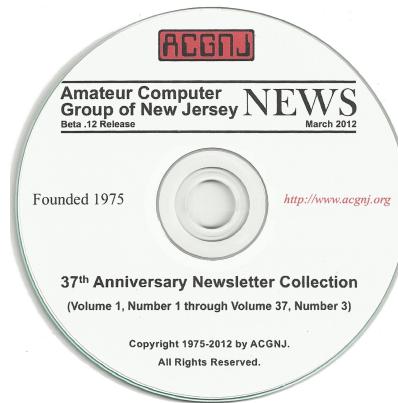
Window Pains

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

ACGNJ T-Shirts For Sale



(Front)



(Back)

L, XL: \$15.00
M: 2 for \$15.00
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 Jcm 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.bcuug.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 http://www.morrismicro.com	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, Monroe 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, bdegroef@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.



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups
<http://www.apcug.net>

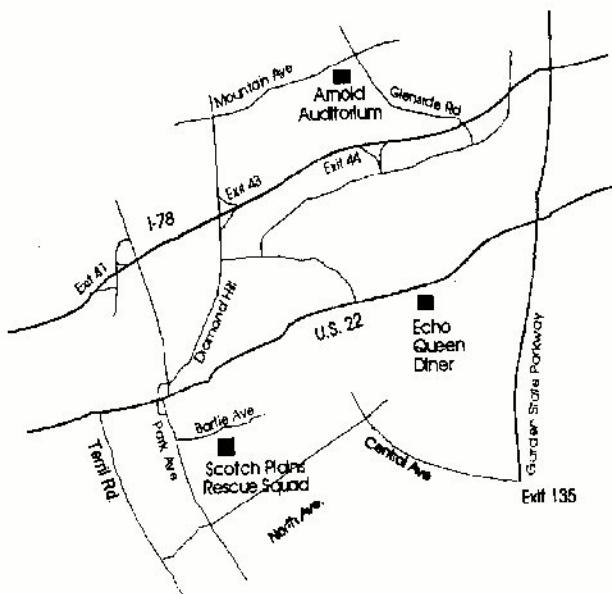
Radio and TV Programs

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. ☺