

Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 8

August, 2000

The Next Meeting

HCC regathers on Saturday, August 19 at 8:30 AM for bagels and coffee in the HMC auditorium lobby. Jim Russ will discuss Photographic Software. Please bring videos of any phase of computer instruction, to give or to lend to our Florida branch club. Carl Heitzman has invited President John Ausman of the Leisure Acres club in Florida to join us at the meeting.



Don Colombo in Africa. Letters on page 3

If you have questions as you look at this issue, check pages 6 and 7 for notes. If your question is not answered there, please share it and let us find an answer.

The July Meeting

The regular meeting of HCC was held at HMC on Saturday July 15, 2000. President Lon Hosford called the meeting to order at 9:30. Bill Moore handled the bagels single handedly. Doris was home on sick leave and we sent sympathy. Ilene Shope managed the sign in department and displayed club posters.

Bill Woodall's lighthouse photos were on display. The question of grand old lighthouses being surrounded by modern structures (Absecon e.g.) arose,

Bill Woodall's lighthouse photos were on display. The question of grand old lighthouses being surrounded by modern structures (Absecon e.g.) arose, and Bill remarked that he had eliminated some wires that spoiled one of the pictures.

Guests welcomed included Herb Hart of Annandale, and Carol Thompson of Flemington. Carol works in medical records entry and hopes to use her new computer to enable working at home, with a new baby.

In the Q&A and comment session, Gaye Lowe gave cheers to **MS Streets and Trips** which she found at Sam's Club for \$7.00. It produces maps on demand, strip maps of your route, choices of routes, gas costs, and can be updated on the Net.

Lon reported problems with a payroll program called **Easy Payroll**.

Henry asked for comments on the Palm Pilot. He might as well have asked who likes his dog. Steve said he keeps 200 phone numbers on his, plus a big data base and memo list. Someone else has movie theater programs and times. People are downloading directly from the Web to the Palm. You can connect the Palm to your desktop machine and move files back and forth. General consensus of owners: Couldn't live without it.

Perry Snyder recommended **Get Right**, a program that resumes downloads after interruptions, and does other good stuff. Download it at www.getright.com for a 30 day trial. You can have **GetRight Lite** free. You can have a GetRight T-shirt for \$25.

Lon asked about curing a corrupted Win 95 system. Bill Woodall said to

remove Dial Up Networking then reboot the system.

We were advised against using a product from Artisoft. See www.artisoft.com to learn about software based telephone systems. A screen full of 10 point type makes hard going on this website.

Peter Czerwinski asked for content suggestions for the Kingwood Township web site. Bill Powell urged a developing a good search facility. Someone suggested posting school snow day information.

Perry Snyder had more news of phone networks. Jim Russ is trying yet another version of Linux. Bill Woodall suggested freeware called OptOut for email privacy. Go to www.GRC.com to download OptOut free, and read about other fine programs. GRC stands for Gibson Research Corp. This is the company that made sense of the great Click of Death uproar.

Treasurer Jac Carroll reported a balance of \$958.12

Webmaster Paul Glattstein reported that the newsletter file now arrives in a PDF file and shows up on the club page in color. (Hunterdondomputerclub.org) Bill Woodall explained that he installed version 3.0 of Adobe Acrobat on the club newsletter machine because it runs with all versions of Windows, whereas later Acrobat versions require later Windows versions.

The Secretary reported that John Warsinski and Ted Scharenberg have been working to set up 6 Pentium machines that arrived at the Center just as we were adjusting to the 5 brand new Gateways. The Pentiums are used but in good shape. Some have NT. The Gateways have been networked to share Internet access so that each student can look at or download a different web page at the same time. They are also networked to

share one printer for which print orders can be queued so students can go on with some other work instead of waiting for a turn at the printer.

She urged members to study flyers distributed describing OmniUpdate, a new Internet service which does not require any software to use. Look at www.Omniupdate.com "Nothing to buy, download or install!" "OmniUpdate puts you just one click away from directly updating your web pages, right in your browser! View any page of your site and, with one click, you can update it right there, with WYSIWYG ease! Use OmniUpdate often to keep your web site fresh and your visitors coming back."

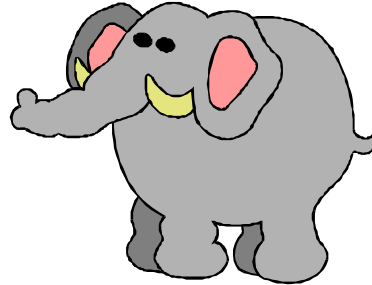
This company specializes in programs that let people create or edit web pages without learning HTML. They sent us 2 versions of **Page Charmer** and **Page Charmer Pro**, to use in our raffle. Page Charmer sells for \$149. "Enhance your Web Pages with Java Applets in Minutes! Improve the navigation, display, interaction and animation on your Web site with PageCharmer and PageCharmer Pro customizable Java applets. Set up their design right in your browser with WYSIWYG point and click ease. Get amazing results with no hassle, scripting or programming." You can see more about Page Charmer at www.pagecharmer.com

Tom Garin won the raffle.

Vice President Joe Burger opened his technical report with the fact that AOL is trying to expand into South America. AOL is trying to develop AOL TV or AOL Anywhere, so you can see AOL on household appliances. A set top box will be available for \$250, using a wireless keyboard, integrating TV and the Internet. You will be able to chat (type comments) while watching, but the box will have no memory. Membership will be \$25 a

month, or \$15. more if you own a PC.

Joe commented that he had bought Speechworks to try out voice recognition, and Mapquest, which hears oral questions and gives directions back orally. And there is a note here about your server talking to your coffee pot.



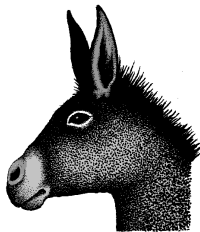
Corel is buying Medicreation, an image effect and 3D modeling program. Yahoo is buying birthday notices for \$120,000 million. Sports cards collectors can now start on Digital Collectables. IBM has made a computer 3 times faster than its last one. Our government is paying \$110 million toward this. It handles 2.3 trillion characters per second.

THE PROGRAM

EXCEL by Jim Russ

Using Office 2000, Premium Edition, Jim shared what he had found out about Excel in the week since he purchased this..He reviewed the history of spreadsheet software, starting with VisiCalc, MultiMate and Lotus 123. Excel provides special help for Lotus 123 users.

Jim displayed a blank spreadsheet noting that each cell is identified by its row and column location, (Row A column 3 for A3) . He noted that all the information you type in is there ready to use even if it doesn't show. To see it, put the mouse pointer on the line between columns , hold the left mouse button and slide the mouse sideways., to widen the entire column. Don't use the space bar to delete, as the program may not accept the delete and may continue to use deleted data in calculations. Use File\delete or the delete key. To cause calculations you type = then the command for any of 50 or 60 math functions.



Continued next page

An Assist from John Warsinski

John, who has been using Excel for a long time, by good fortune had brought a 3.5 disk which contained the spread sheet he developed for the Youth Center in Glen Gardner. It maintains class lists, prints dates, allows user to enter new student name directly into the right class list, shows the user if there is space in that class. This involves sending the user back and forth through 3 notebooks, or levels, of Excel, all related, all changing as new information is entered in any part. John will happily share formulas and programming, but your note taker didn't catch them.

Gaye Lowe said she has her library listed in an Excel program. (Excel excels at alphabetizing in a flash, whenever you add new data.) Gaye's comments showed that a spread sheet program has many uses in addition to math calculations and business financial reports.

The message I got from this presentation is that not even a very experienced computer user can learn Excel quickly, that Excel can do marvelous things far beyond just tracking your car loan, and that Excel is one more of those computer components in which there is always something more to learn.

Once again, we learned more from members who are using the program than we would have from a commercial presenter breezily showing us all that the program can do, faster than we could digest it.

Many thanks to Jim and John .

Email changes

Howard Asplen
Asplenh@att.net

Bob Trotter
ichybon@earthlink.net

OUR ROVING MEMBERS

Don Colombo went half way around the world, eastward. Ken Jones did likewise, northward. **Ken sent two sets of pictures from Alaska.**

Hi Folks,

We have put some pictures on a web site for everyone to see. The web site is: <http://www.cartogra.com> After the web site is displayed in your browser click on "View a friend's photo album" in the "Getting started" box. The next screen will present a search box, type "krjones" without the quotation marks in the text box, and click on the Submit button. The search results will display krjones, click on krjones. On the next screen click on "Alaska Pictures". The pictures will be presented as a group of thumbnails pictures, click on a thumbnail picture to view a larger picture. We would like to hear your comments - good, bad or otherwise. Betty and Ken

Don wrote home:

Subject: Hello from South Africa and Namibia

Date: Fri, 14 Jul 2000 18:15:58 +0200

Hello from Namibia and South Africa. I had all ready taken the journey to the game preserve to go horseback riding four 6 days among the wild game in the South African bush camp. Right now, I am in the comfort of BuellSPORT guest ranch in Namibia and will be heading out soon to do the 10 days on horse back across the Namibian outback. So, I am sending out e-mails just now - I find it much less expensive than those foolish post cards that only get thrown away.

By the way, Ernst & Johanna Sauber, the owners of this little outpost in the middle of the Namibian out back, are about three and a half hours from the nearest town. They also do not have a computer club to cry the blues to when they have a computer question. So in the true Hunterdon Computer Club spirit, I told them that you

might give them a hand now and then. They have a nice system even though they must operate their computer on a battery charged by solar cells (no joke the place is in the middle of nowhere). Also, I thought you might enjoy a computer pal in the Southern Africa country of Namibia. Who knows, he might set up another computer club thanks to our club in Hunterdon County!!!! Their e-mail address is: buellSPORT@nation.net
Ernst & Johanna Sauber
BuellSPORT
Your Hiking paradise in the Naukluft Mountains

Don wrote again on July 29:

Well, I made it through the desert and all. I had many personal wins and a lament, but all to the good. There is no getting around it that a 10 hour day of horse back riding with much cantering is a bit of a work out, but I held up very well for the exception of a tooth that decided to bust up in the middle of the ride. As for the experience, I am putting it all together just now. Namibia was what our American West was about 50 years ago.

The Namibian people have a work ethic and sense of personal responsibility that is far beyond most Westerners. I found it refreshing. South Africa, on the other hand, is a package of worlds so very different from each other. Johannesburg is a cesspool. As for Cape Town, it is San Francisco. Both have a similar sunny climate and are loaded with gays, but Cape Town's people and influence come from India instead of Mexico.



BAD NEWS DEPARTMENT

Part 1: CDW

Judi Weinstein shared this experience:

Last June I ordered a Mobile Pro hand held computer from CDW.com at their advertised price of \$782.73. My son, Max, researched the unit and checked out the ad before I bought it and agreed that it was a good price. When the unit came in it had obviously been re-packaged, and I called to find out why. I was told it was "B-Stock" ????. Upon questioning I learned that meant it was a returned item that had been refurbished and re-packed. I was furious because it was NOT advertised that way. Max went back AGAIN to check their ad, and nowhere did it say it was used or re-packaged! I complained to the company, and they (thinking they were doing me a BIG favor) agreed to accept the return of the (unopened) package, but flatly refused to send me a new unit at the advertised price. They also had the nerve to deduct the cost of shipping and insurance from the credit they issued, and told me I had to pay for the shipping and insurance for the return. It took multiple letters to the BBB Online and the State of Illinois Attorney General's Office to get them to refund the double insurance and shipping charges. I just thought I should warn others about this kind of shoddy business practice .

CDW is an online company (Computer Discount Warehouse). When I informed them that the ad did NOT specify that it was used, they immediately went in and took that ad off the internet! Max checked it the day I received the packlage, and when he checked a day or two later the ad was gone!

Part 2: PAYPAL

July 18 — In the past three weeks,

dozens of Yahoo! auction customers were cheated of at least \$100 each by a scam artist selling computer hard drives. Most had used a third-party payment company named PayPal, which advertises itself as the safe and secure way to make payments in online auctions. So the victims were shocked to learn that PayPal — the largest auction payments system, with 2.6 million users — offered them none of the built-in consumer protection familiar to credit card users."

Complete Story at:
<http://www.msnbc.com/news/434192.asp?cp1=1>

JIM RUSS'S BIG FREEBIE DOWNLOAD

Want a great free program to make slide shows, multimedia presentations, and interactive demos? It's a freebie biggee! Corel wants you to forget about Microsoft **Powerpoint** so badly that you can download Corel's **Presentations** program free. **Careful: It's huge at 71-MB.**

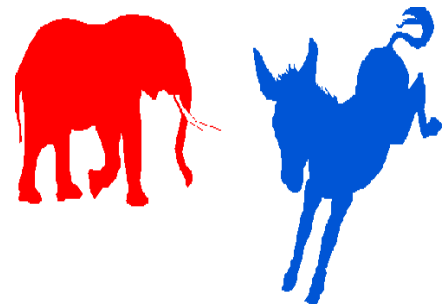
<http://www.corel.com/freebies/cwppfreebies.htm>

[Ed.'s note: It took about 7 hours to download here. My older machines and OS's would never have finished it. One user reported that AOL would not allow so long a connection. Your newer machine can probably go on with other chores while it downloads in the background, but seven hours without e-mail!!!!] Friends who have cable can put it on a CD for you.

Here is a further comment by a pleased user:

"This is an absolutely terrific program. I've had iT for over a year and

never paid much attention to it. Just rediscovered it about a week ago and it's great! You can use it to make slide shows with transitions, effects and animations. I'm using it to make photo albums to record on CD. You can do this and it can be viewed by anyone even if they don't have **Presentations**-- not the case with **PowerPoint**. It gets saved as an .exe file. Can be sent via email also as it seems to keep the file size down. I'm very impressed at all it can do.



From Paul Glattstein

SENIOR THESIS

A group of senior citizens were exchanging complaints about their ailments.

"My arm is so weak that I can hardly hold this coffee cup."

"Yes, I know. My cataracts are so bad that I can't see to pour my coffee."

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck."

"My blood pressure pills make my dizzy."

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old."

"Well, it's not all bad. We should be thankful that we can still drive."

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN??

From: Lon Hosford <
Subject: MODERNIZED EMPLOYEE
SEPARATION POLICIES
Date: Wed, 09 Aug 2000

EMPLOYEE SEPARATION

To All Employees:

As a result of the reduction of money budgeted for department areas, we are forced to cut down on our number of personnel.

Under this plan, older employees will be asked to go on early retirement, thus permitting the retention of the younger people who represent our future.

therefore, a program to phase out older personnel by the end of the current fiscal year, via retirement, will be placed into effect immediately. This program will be known as SLAP (Sever Late Aged Personnel).

Employees who are SLAPPED will be given the opportunity to look for jobs outside the company. Provided they are SLAPPED, they can request a review of their employment records before actual retirement takes place. This phase of the operation is called SCREW (Survey of Capabilities of Retired Early Workers).

All employees who have been SLAPPED or SCREWED may file an appeal with the upper management. This is called SHAFT (Study by Higher Authority Following Termination).

Under the terms of the new policy, an employee may be SLAPPED once, SCREWED twice, but may be SHAFTEd as many times as the company deems appropriate. If an employee follows the above procedures, he/she will be entitled to get HERPES (Half Earnings for Retired Personnel's Early Severance) or CLAP (Combined Lump-sum Assistance Payment) unless he/she already has AIDS (Additional Income From Depend-

ents or Spouse). As HERPES or CLAP are considered benefit plans, any employee who has received HERPES or CLAP will no longer be SLAPPED or SCREWED by the company. Management wishes to assure the younger employees who remain on board that the company will continue its policy to train employees through our Special High Intensity Training (SHIT).

This company takes pride in the amount of SHIT our employees receive. We have given our employees more SHIT than any company in this area. If any employee feels they do not receive enough SHIT on the job, see your immediate supervisor.

Watch those acronyms!
Lon,

May many happy
bits flow your
way!



HCC NEWSLETTER is published monthly at 2 Millview Road, Milford, NJ 08848, shortly after the regular meeting, which is normally on the third Saturday. Subscription is included in the annual dues of \$25. for an individual, \$30. for family. Non-member subscriptions, out of state only, are \$8.00 a year. Contributions are eagerly sought, and may be on paper, by phone, on disk, or file or email to estewart@ptd.net .

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Computer Volunteers
ALL MEMBERS

From an Anonymous Donor

When Bill Gates died, he went up to Heaven, where Saint Peter showed him to his house; a beautiful 20 room house, with grounds and a tennis court. Bill Gates was pleased, and spent many months enjoying the amenities of Heaven.

One day, he was enjoying one of Heaven's many fine parks, when he ran into a man dressed in a fine tailored suit.

"That is a nice suit, my friend," said Gates. "Where did you get it?"

"Actually," the man replied, "I was given a hundred of these when I got here. I've been treated really well. I got a mansion on a hill overlooking a beautiful hill, with a huge five-hundred acre estate, a golf course, and three Rolls Royces."

"Were you a Pope, or a doctor healing the sick?" asked Gates.

"No," said his new friend, "Actually, I was the captain of the Titanic."

Hearing this made Gates so angry that he immediately stalked off to find St. Peter.

Cornering Peter, he told him about the man he had just met, saying, "How could you give me a paltry new house, while you're showering new cars, a mansion, and fine suits on the Captain of the Titanic? I invented the Windows operating system! Why does he deserve better?!!!!!"

"Yes, but we use Windows," replied Peter, "and the Titanic only crashed once."

DSL IN HUNTERDON

From Joe Burger

I saw an ad in the Del Val news, called, and guess what..." You too can get highspeed DSL about a year before it becomes locally available (at least in Frenchtown) through NEWLTEL" www.newltel.com I called and sure enough the startup can deliver in about 3-5 weeks! There seem to be 3-4 other independent carriers coming in all using wireless tech to get to the telco switches. The bottom line - 128kbs connection symmetrical (both up and download) \$40/month. Increments 256k up to 2Megs in \$10 steps \$100 install charge w/modem, with competition \$ could go down.

[Joe wrote in moments between major install of Windows Millennium and Windows 2000, dual booting between the two! "Right now I'm using *FROG* the 266 Pentium box. (yes I name my machines)"]

FOR THE REST OF US Our new section for non-gurus .

Business Card CD's correction

By diligent study of the CompCity ads, I learned that the new CD is the width of a business card, more or less, but the ends are rounded to fit the arc of a smaller circle molded into your regular CD drawer. Its proper name is IQROM Card. See more at www.iqrom.com/pages/iq_card2.htm

EASY NET ACCESS?

I have always followed my provider's (Prolog) instructions for getting connected. This involves about 6 windows or steps, and frequently produces them in the wrong order. I clicked on the e mail software icon (Outlook Express or Eudora) and was pleased to find that this caused the connection process to start up and bypassed the first 5 steps. Sometimes clicking on the email icon on the task bar (bottom line) works.

NEW FOLDER

In My Documents you can find an icon sort of like a firecracker which stands for naming a new folder. In Windows Explorer you have to click File\New\ Folder.

Then you get an entry that says New Folder, tucked away alphabetically amongst your other folder names. Immediately highlight the words New Folder and type the name you want. Then click on the new name until it appears in the box for Save In. If you don't do this, your work will be saved in My Documents but no special folder, and you can search for it at the end of the folder list. You will also end up with lots of New Folder entries which have no contents. The cure for this is to use Windows Explorer and delete all the empty New Folders. Click on each one to make sure it's empty. If it's not you can use Rename.

**when flashing banner ads
are driving you nuts while
trying to read a Web page,
just push the ESC key to
stop the action**

RULERS

Last month we wrote about moving rulers to help with lining up elements. A reader asked "What rulers? Where?" We were referring to Print Artist, but other programs have rulers. Look in View\toolbars\ruler. In Word97 this brings you a ruler across the top. If you put the mouse on the ruler, hold the left mouse button, and slide the mouse, you will have a non-printing line that helps line things up. There is no vertical ruler, but as it is you get help vertically and horizontally.

INK

Member Geneva Scerbo discovered that after she installed a new ink = cartridge the printer message window still said the ink was half gone. Thinking the new cartridge was defective, she asked Staples for a second one. Same result. In casual conversation, she was told to "take out the cartridge and hold it up to the light. If it looks solid black it's full. If it's partly empty you'll see light through it. If it seems to be full, uninstall and reinstall the printer." This worked, and the printer screen admitted the ink was ok. [Uninstall and install printer in Control Panel, Printers].

Taking a cartridge out for inspection, in some printers, can render the cartridge useless for replacing. In new printers the print head itself is sometimes in the cartridge.

Before you buy a new cartridge, or take out the old one, check the printer manual for help in cleaning the print head. If the printing has white stripes the print head needs cleaning but there is still ink to use. If you choose blue and get orange,

for example, you need ink, but you can print several pages after that if you don't care what color you get, as the cartridge empties out whatever colors are left. You might want to note dates of cartridge insertion, for budgeting plans, but the best plan is just to have one cartridge in reserve all the time.

NAME TAGS

From **Ilene Shope's** point of view:

Rainy day Sat.Jul.15,2000.
Late getting up. Put the coffee pot on. Took a hot shower. Had a cup of coffee, then off to the HCC Meeting, knowing I could count on a bagel and cream cheese. Herb Hart looking for his name sticker label. Not found. He worried about whether he had paid up the dues. OK, I made a handmade label and put it on him. Carol Thomas, a first timer (guest), inquired at the sign in table. Showed her she could sign in, and write up a handmade name label for herself. She got the application form, with the envelope to send money to Evelyn, if she wished to join up. Handed her the current July 2000 HCC Newsletter, and also the March edition, which I personally liked a lot. After the program, the gurus were still chatting, I wanted to listen more, but duty calls. Had to go food shopping. To me food shopping is a genuine pleasure. Each aisle must be visited. Hard decisions on choice of breads,cakes, veggies, fruit, coffee. (Cannot click on the item and then click on basket).

You must smell, feel, anticipate and want the item. This takes a lot of time. 2 hours minimum. Today, I felt really special. It seemed that everyone who passed by me looked at me. Both species- man- woman (no pets allowed in store). I was near the end of my leisurely jaunt thru food delights and calorie sensitive trip, when I realized that the people were really looking at my name plaque.

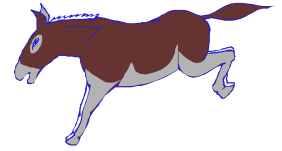
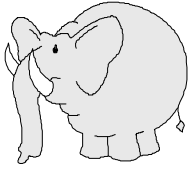
From **Evelyn Stewart's** point of view;

Ten years ago I printed labels on the AppleIIe and printed them on the Imagewriter, one by one, advancing the strip of labels manually.. We had colored labels, labels with graphics, pin fed and usually accurate. Then I moved to the PC and used a grand DOS program that did nothing but data base and labels. No pain. For a few years Rick Williams took over and we had MAC tags, but lots of trouble getting the data list correct between 3 officers. Then came Windows 95, 98, Word 97, Access, Excel, and completely incomprehensible help screens. The kind that tell you it is possible to sort by any field, but never say how. I have tried at least 6 programs and settled this month on Word Mail Merge. Meanwhile we have had unalphabetized tags, tags misprinted, missing names, mangled messes.

If anyone feels an uncontrollable urge to print labels or use Word 97 Mail Merge for other purposes, I now have 2 pages of closely written notes, covering about 30 steps or clicks in addition to typing the names, which I will share on demand. I did not find a Wizard in Access or the Avery Wizard attached to Word that agreed with me about desired fields. Print Artist makes nice labels but doesn't provide for additions or alphabetizing. A Name Tag is not a simple thing.

WYSIWYG =What You See Is What You Get – meaning that the screen shows what you will really get when you print.

PDF = Portable Document Format
A special file format that allows you to send a document from your computer to the Internet without typing it into some other software program, or converting it to **HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)**



Hunterdon Computer Club

Next Meeting Saturday, August 19, 2000
Hunterdon Medical Center
Rt 31 Flemington NJ

8:30 A.M. To Noon
Program: Photographic Software- Jim Russ

Guests Welcome - all ages, all interests

HCC NEWSLETTER

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB
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FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested
