

Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 12

December 2000



HCC meets again on December 16, to hear Don Slepian's Christmas music, played on whatever keyboard device he is using this year.

Please bring the annual Food Bank gifts. They will be delivered to the Norwescap headquarters in Phillipsburg, thence to the whole county. Reminder: Norwescap was our first big success as Computer Volunteers, with a Lotus spread sheet.

Please bring the usual feast of home made treasures. We can manage a party in the lounge now that the Early-Bird crew, thank you, has found out where to get extra tables. Yes, there will still be bagels, thank you Bill and Doris.

The November Meeting

The regular meeting of HCC was held at the Hunterdon Medical Center on Saturday, November 18, 2000. The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM by President Lon Hosford. For the first time in memory, no guests were present.

The Secretary was instructed to cast a ballot for the slate nominated in September., as provided in the By-

Laws. There were no additional nominations in October. Lon then announced that the Secretary, Evelyn Stewart, had declined to serve another term. Reading from the By-Laws, Lon explained that a vacancy is to be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee. He stated that decisions about filling the vacancy would be made at the January meeting. He ruled that no recounts would be allowed.

The President officially accepted the resignation of Evelyn Stewart as Secretary.

Evelyn explained that, aside from health problems, one of the main reasons for resigning as Secretary, Newsletter Editor and whatnot, was a previous experience of being solely responsible for data entry for a Federal Credit Union, and disrupting the operation with a very sudden departure, due to having a major car accident. She urged members to volunteer for various jobs to ensure a good transition, and to avoid having one person responsible for too many jobs..

Lon outlined proposed changes in program structure for the new year. He wants to offer topics geared to specific interest groups, either as part of the customary meeting, or in place of it, or in addition, depending on interest. Topics suggested included photography, web page design, help for people who are past basics but not up to guru level, and genealogy.

Lon shared an article about the problems of disposing of thousands of comput-

ers discarded by industry. These contain toxic materials. Members expressed interest in the idea of getting these machines into the hands of people who need them. Many people however want only new machines. Jim Russ has told us that the IRS did not allow tax credit for any machine less than a 486 as of a year ago. Local recycle areas do not accept computers.

Jim Russ was welcomed back, and thanked members for cards and messages during his hospital stay.

Evelyn received a floral arrangement and cards of sympathy on the death of her husband October 4.



The Q & A session opened with Gaye Lowe's question about merging Access Data with Word. Answer: Yes, it works.

There was a long discussion on viruses. Bill Woodall said Outlook Express is famous for transferring viruses. Look in menu options to see extensions on all incoming attachments and DO NOT open any with an .EXE extension. He said in OE highlighting a message name opens it, and thus opens the virus. Lon said a virus is an addition to a file so that your program does not stop where it should. Someone said picture attach-

ments do not carry viruses. Conclusion as always: Update your virus protection software often, and keep it running all the time.

The next topic was sound files. Peter Czerwinski advised sending Midi files as they are much smaller than Wave files. Midi files cannot be used in Power Point. Lon suggested sending out a midi file, then bringing it back and recording it as a Wave.

Jac Carroll, Treasurer reported a balance of \$631.71

Don Colombo, Membership Chairman reported 6 calls. One person is leaving the club.

Paul Glattstein, WebMaster, reported business as usual.

Joe Burger's tech report covered butterfly ballots and the withdrawal of the latest very fast chip because it was shutting down Windows so fast that Windows could not cache files or otherwise clean up, generating the usual message that Windows was not properly shut down. He also described a new OS for the MAC, based on Unix, which can run on various platforms, but for which few applications have been written. He added to the virus discussion saying that the newest viruses can now spawn others. KAK and Bubble Boy are a worm and virus combination which once copied permeate the whole system. New viruses may be triggered just by mouseovers. (Moving a mouse over hypertext without clicking.)

Joe and Jim talked about new tracking software which allows a manager in an office to pinpoint the location of each salesman. It costs \$600.



The Program

Windows Millennium

Or WIN ME

By Evelyn Stewart

Evelyn shared the contents of a box from Microsoft's User Group division, called MindShare. First out of the box was headware for the President, and Lon was summoned to model. Reading from the enclosed official Microsoft script, Evelyn assured the members "This is supposed to be taken humorously."



The Grand Poobah

Photo by Ilene Shope

Next came raffling of **Streets and Trips**, then **Photo Shop**, then a CD of Millennium, an MS TechCD, a promotion video. Lon received a video about web site design, and 4 lucky people received screen cleaners – a 3" wide squeegee so to speak.

With Rick Williams in the control booth, Evelyn presented the video of the Millennium operating system. The gen-

eral impression left was that everyone is supposed to be deep into digital photography and using photos at every turn. WIN ME has a great many features related to this, but there was almost no mention of any changes in or improvement of the more common uses of an operating system. The video was well done and many members stayed for the whole film.

Here are two URL's for further information. www.microsoft.com/products and www.microsoft.com/mindshare

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wanted to clarify the election procedures for 2000-2001 officer positions.

Nominations are done at September and October meetings. The election is the first item of business in November meeting.

further the Bylaws provide if there is an uncontested officer position, there is no need for issuing ballots to each member. We simply direct the Secretary to record the nominees as elected.

Since the same folks elected last year were the only nominees, they became the new officers for 2000-2001 without a paper vote. In a sense they were the new officers at the end of the October meeting.

After the election vote was recorded, I announced Evelyn Stewart's resignation from the Secretary position effective year end and Newsletter Editor, not an officer position, as of December issue.

When an officer resigns the bylaws provide for the Executive Committee, which consists of the officers, (President, Vice President, immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer) to fill the post. In

other words there is no election held for the position until next November.

As I write today, December 2, there is active discussion what we need to do to fill the Secretary spot or at least the critical functions Evelyn has performed.

Also be aware that the Secretary position in the club does not include all the jobs Evelyn does. Many of these are jobs Evelyn has taken on for a variety of reasons.

In lieu of someone qualified and having the inclination to absorb the whole of any job Evelyn has done, I would like to see some of these jobs unbundled so that more folks are doing them as a team.

Some only require an hour or two a month. Even the Newsletter job could be divided into smaller 1 or 2 hours tasks for a few folks.

The hardest part then is perhaps coordination between more than one person and doing things before a date preceding the next meeting.

How we handle these changes is very critical to the future of the club, which I think has lots of potential and which I think is valuable to all the members whether you know it or not.

As I always said, I learn something new every meeting.

Next meeting is December 16th. It is traditionally our holiday party meeting and Don Slepian has promised to entertain us again this year. This is also is the "bring some holiday snacks" meeting, so grab a few cookies or candies, and a can for the Food Bank, for the meeting if you are coming.

Be there!

The first meetings (as DOS HUG) were



held at the county Library, with Dr. Rudy Ress as president. Joyce Tigner as V.P. and newsletter producer.

The more things change –
April 15, 1989

“At future meetings we will devote one hour to Special Interest Groups... Members have expressed interest in Lotus, dBase III, CAD and MS Windows. There has been a great deal of interest expressed in learning more about Windows but WE NEED A WINDOWS EXPERT!.....”

Art Gerke carried in a computer each month and offered members a growing library of shareware and freeware.

In **September '89** the letter grew to two pages, and listed 21 members. Of these your outgoing editor is the only one still a member, but Woody joined soon, and Cliff Rossignol, Howard Asplen, Mike Howell, Eileen Mullen. In November, Bulletin Board numbers began appearing. Articles were all copied from magazines. By December there were 11 BBS's listed, including RAT CITY, running on a PCjr.. An article on Building a Bare Bones Computer (286 or 386) ran through several issues.

Word Perfect 5.1 was the big news for

Feb.'90.. By July Bill Powell was the SysOp for Hunterdon Hangout, a new BBS, which he later closed down when teen agers used language he didn't want on his living room computer screen. Dean Pennington worked on a club BBS which never went well. John O'Brien wrote a long article on batch files. It is not recorded but I remember complaining that everyone talked about batch files but no one defined one. Year later I deduced that a batch file is a single command that executes a batch of other commands.

“...it was suggested that when the DOS HUG BBS becomes operational, the newsletter appear on the BBS rather than being printed and mailed.....after discussion it was decided that DOS HUG will continue to mail a newsletter monthly.”

September.'90: “No hard disk is ever big enough.” ...”I was disappointed when my new 42MG Hard drive jammed almost immediately” - John O'Brien. There were long discussions of Fdisk, partitions, Stacker,

October '90, the new editor (Evelyn) took over, the paper grew to 6 pages, and dashing graphics of computers were added. Bill Powell, owner, and Bill Woodall co-Sysop, explained details of Bulletin Board operation and use. “Hunterdon Hangout uses a program called VVBS written in Turbo Pascal... HH runs at 2400 baud, but slower modems will work.” The library offered Directory Magic, VDE, and Wordstar Challenge, to be copied to disks members brought to meetings.

In Ultimo Loco, Lege Praeceptum was the first contribution from Baltimore member Liz Dunbar.
(As a last resort, read the directions)

January '90 I started the Trading Post, bringing a stack of copies of some shareware program, to trade for blank disks. One of the first choices was FRAC, on beyond Tetris. John O'Brien served as

president and treasurer. Jenny Hunsinger presented Corel Draw.

In **March of '91**, John O'Brien resigned and Joye Tigner served as president.. Woody demonstrated the ZeroSurge surge protector.

In **July**, Woody discoursed on operating systems ; MS DOS, OS2 and Unix/Xenix. We were upgrading from DOS 4 to 5.

In **August** Chris Coley described his work with Univyx designing laptops. We observed the 10th anniversary of the IBM PC/

In **September '91** Eileen Mullen became president and meetings moved to the Park System building on Rt 31. Art Gerke brought in a clipping about CompuMentor , which led to our decision to form our own community service plan, now known as Computer Volunteers.

In **February' 92**, Bill Powell was still discussing DOS 5 for our program. The newsletter was colored and sported clip art here and there and cartoons inserted with low tech scissors and scotch tape.

It was produced with Word and Express Publisher, upgraded one version. The meeting moved to Pelican on Rt 22. We had a collection of Demo disks to borrow Eileen taught us about Macros in Lotus. Michelangelo became famous. Smeone advertised Harvard Graphics 2.3 for \$200. Microsoft offered a free seminar on Word and Excel for Windows with a chance to buy Word for \$129 compared to Egghead's price of \$309.

In **May '92** we moved to the Circle Diner, where we had free use of the meeting room if we ate \$50 worth of breakfast. Rick Williams joined us there and began negotiations to get our marvelous meeting space at HMC.

July '92, Art Gerke brought his friend

Don Slepian and we heard our first Slepian concert on "five computers and a synthesizer".

Jac Carroll listed a page of shelfware to give away, "Quicken 3, PopDrop Plus, PcTool v 5, First Publisher 2.1, Managing your Money 4 and 6 and thus began the Take or Trash table.

October '92 - Bill Powell taught us networking , moving us into a circle and doing something with creamers.

February'93 - MS Pub replaced Express Publisher and your editor went wild with 10 point type, WordArt, inserted calendars....

Jac Carroll presented CompuServe.



Progress Report: The cartoon was scanned from the 2/'94 paper copy and printed from file - no more scissors and tape.

In **September '93** we moved jubilantly to the hospital. Mike Howell, John Warsinski and Evelyn were working many hours at Norwescap Food Bank setting up spread sheets and data bases. Jac's Bulletin Board, Midnight Machine Works, was working, and we all spent a lot of time learning to use it. September '93 balance reported \$785.36. Woody presented "Uses for Windows" and introduced us to the great projection facility in the hospital auditorium.

February '94 - Woody sent the first high tech newsletter picture on e-mail, the famous cartoon - ON THE INTERNET NO ONE KNOWS YOU'RE A DOG.

David Nowotnik wrote a long article about Bulletin Board use, modems, and off line readers.

5 ¼ floppies died a quiet death. Hundred of them could be copied to one CD, later.

May '94 Woody and Jac try to coerce John Williams into more active membership:

Jac:"I thought you had just volunteered to head up a training committee

John: I read the bylaws and found no such committee

Woody: Obviously an old, out of date version,, We revise it constantly...

Jac: We are rapidly revising by laws just for you

Woody: Haven't you realized by now that management of the club works very much like the Naval recruiting of the early nineteenth century? Just wait."

John moved away and escaped serving.

By summer of '94 Midnight Machine Works began losing ground and the program for May was Starting on the Internet.

From '95 on the presidency moved from Eileen Mullen to Howard Asplen, Maureen Barron, Rick Williams, and Lon Hosford. Woody showed us how to morph, taught us about network conferences for business. We moved to Windows, some of us reluctantly. Woody at first put it only on a notebook machine, saying he wasn't about to install a Microsoft virus on his main sytem. Art Gerke built his library collection to 30 CD's, only to have the library made obsolete by the internet.

We had a joint meeting with the Ewing Seniors PCUG to get a large enough audience for a Broderbund presentation. Most members decided once again that we learn more from members' unbiased presentations.

In '96 a cartoon opined that an elephant has 2 gigs of memory, and we were off into bigger and bigger hard drives, more and more speed, more sarcasm about Windows and Microsoft, faster and faster modems, constant complaints about providers and access. Evelyn reviewed a new CD by watching a 2 ½ year old use it. An endless line of Seniors came for classes taught by Computer Volunteers, concerned to learn enough to understand what their grandchildren were doing.

Jac shut down the BBS, Woody gave us a club section on his web site, and we moved on to our own web page with Paul Glattstein as our own webmeister. More and more members opened web pages. The newsletter appeared on the web, in full color.

Jim Russ, Peter Czerwinski, and Woody led us into the digital photography age.

Efforts to use old files indicate that we would do well to preserve a set of paper copies, if we ever care to look back. I unzipped 6 floppies that held 2 years of newsletters, but they are in Express Publisher, v 1 and 3, MS Pub 1, 2, 6.

Thank you all for your encouragement and patience as I learned. Special thanks to Bill Woodall and Liz Dunbar who answered endless questions.



COMPUTER VOLUNTEERS

Teachers are badly needed. New teachers Fred Lathrop, a retired MD, and Jeannette Zink, a former Seniors coach have joined us but the waiting list for beginners continues to grow. Call the Office on Aging at 788 1359 if you are even vaguely interested in helping. Good machines, lessons ready to use, opportunity to teach with someone else at first, if you want, your choice of topics, course length, class size (small.) No lesson plans to write, no report cards to do, no state paper work., students who want to learn, and who come early.

The current faculty is to be feted at a luncheon at Beaver Brook on December 15, as guests of the Office on Aging.



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Computer Volunteers
ALL MEMBERS

Forwarded by PAUL

ADDRESS CHANGES and Invitations

Carl Heitzman is off to Florida and is now using his winter e-mail : heitzman@strato.net

Jim Talbot

Dear Friends: We have completed our move from Holland Township, New Jersey (Milford) to Heathsville, Virginia. Our new vitals are: Jim & Margret Talbot, 153 Laurel Ridge Rd., Heathsville, VA 22473. Phone: 804-580-6692. e-mail: jftmmt@rivnet.net. We look forward to hearing from you while we "Take the time to smell the roses".

Cliff Rossignol, almost a charter member, wrote inviting us to drop in at his correct address:

... "would welcome any of the old faces who happen up this way. While we're a bit short of "shrimp on the barbie", "lobster in the pot" is not out of the question. Meanwhile, stay well all of you, and I did enjoy my association with you all. Not incidentally I have found a group here in Portland but it is not HCC."

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GLATTSTEIN

To the citizens of the United States of America.

In the light of your failure to elect a President and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective today.

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths and other territories. Except Utah, which she does not fancy. Your new Prime Minister (The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP for the 97.85% of you who have until now been unaware that there is a world outside your borders) will appoint a Minister for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire will be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. You should look up "revocation" in the Oxford English Dictionary. Then look up "aluminium". Check the pronunciation guide. You will be amazed at just how wrongly you have been pronouncing it. Generally, you should raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. Look up "vocabulary". Using the same twenty seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and "you know" is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. Look up interspersed".

2. There is no such thing as "US English". We will let Microsoft know on your behalf.

3. You should learn to distinguish the English and Australian accents. It really isn't that hard.

4. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as the good guys.

5. You should relearn your original national anthem, "God Save The Queen", but only after fully carrying out task 1. We would not want you to get confused and give up half way through.

6. You should stop playing American "football". There is only one kind of football. What you refer to as American "football" is not a very good game. The 2.15% of you who are aware that there is a world outside your borders may have noticed that no one else plays "American" football. You will no longer be allowed to play it, and should instead play proper football. Initially, it would be best if you played with the girls. It is a difficult game. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which is similar to American "football", but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like nancies). We are hoping to get together at least a US rugby sevens side by 2005.

8. July 4th is no longer a public holiday. November 8th will be a new national holiday, but only in England. It will be called "Indecisive Day".

10. Please tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us crazy.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Regards,
M.

A cheery Christmas thought ...

Forwarded by Liz

Dunbar

Do you know what would have happened if it had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men?

They would have ...

Asked for directions,
Arrived on time,
Helped deliver the baby,
Fed the animals,
Cleaned the stable,
Made a casserole,
Brought practical gifts
...and There would be Peace On Earth.

A Christmas Quiz

Why is Christmas just like a day at the office ?
You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.



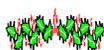
How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive" ?
Olive? HUH?
Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"



James Fenimore Cooper wrote about the life of Santa Claus in his novel, "The Deer Sleigher."



What's the difference between a one-winged angel and a two-winged angel?
Well, it's a matter of a pinion!



In each sentence below, fill in the blank or blanks with an expression commonly used at Christmastide. Answers repose at the end of this column.

1. On December 24, Adam's wife was known as _____.
2. In Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol, Scrooge was visited by the ghost of _____.
3. An opinion survey in Alaska is called a _____.
4. What does Santa Claus do with his three gardens?
_____, _____, _____
5. What Christmas message is conveyed by these letters?:
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNQRSTU-VWXYZ
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNQRSTU-VWXYZ. _____, _____
6. When the salt and the pepper say "Hi!" to each other, they are passing on _____.
7. A holy man bereft of change could be called _____.
8. When you cross a sheep with a cicada, you get a _____.
9. A quiet medieval armor-wearer is a _____.
10. A cat walking on the desert is bound to get _____.
11. People who tell jokes on December 25 might be called _____.
12. An airplane disaster in Israel is a _____.
13. Actor O'Connor and actress Chan-ning are known on December 25 as _____.

14. What do Spanish sheep says when they wish each other a Merry Christmas? _____.

And remember, There's No Plate Like Chrome for the Hollandaise!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Answers

1. Christmas Eve
2. Christmas Present
3. North Poll
4. Hoe, hoe, hoe.
5. Noel, Noel (no l, no l)
6. Seasons' Greetings.
7. St. Nickleless.
8. Bah! (or Baa!) Humbug!
9. Silent Knight
10. Sandy Claws
11. Christmas Cards
12. Cresh
13. Christmas Carols
14. Fleece Navidad!

DOMAIN NAMES FOR YOUR WEB SITE

Until recently, Network Solutions had a monopoly on domain name registration. Now, however, the process has been opened up to competition. The new registrars vary widely on price, customer service and, most importantly, on the legal rights your registration gives you. The Domain Name Buyer's Guide <http://domainnamebuyersguide.com/> allows you to quickly compare registrars to determine which registrar is right for you. Domain Name Registration is now under this organization.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is the non-profit corporation that was formed to assume responsibility for the IP address space allocation, protocol parameter assignment, domain name system management, and root server system management functions previously performed under U.S. Government contract by IANA and other entities. See a list of the accredited registrars here. <http://www.icann.org/registrars/accredited-list.html>



Hunterdon Computer Club

Next Meeting Saturday, December 16, 2000
Hunterdon Medical Center
Rt 31 Flemington NJ

8:30 A.M. To Noon
Program: Music by DON Slepian

HCC NEWSLETTER

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB
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