

Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 11

November 2002



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This month we saw the withdrawal of Don Columbo from the election for club Secretary. The other candidate, Jim Aller, formally takes the job at the next meeting and I understand Jim is already "in-training".

Don has made substantial contributions to the club. He is known for his vigilance in contacting members as their memberships expired. "Just a friendly reminder," he would say. Best membership chairperson I have seen and may be a thread that has held this club together.

Don also helped fill the void when Evelyn Stewart retired from the Secretary position. In that role Don took on the club database maintenance so crucial to many club operations. He made the database maintenance into a centerpiece at each club meeting. Members often surrounded him updating and correcting information on his laptop computer.

He further was instrumental in saving the club many dollars this year with advertising and cost cutting suggestions. Combined with his membership renewal reminders, I do not think the club ever had a single member contribute so substantially to the financial health of the club! We look forward to Don's continued contributions and we need to thank him for his industry and good will. Outstanding job Don. You are leaving large shoes to fill.

I have finally started to receive small pieces of spam email from the club's web site listing. I created a unique email address for the web site HCC@hosfordusa.com about 1 year ago. In the last two months, I received three spam pieces under that address. I receive no other email for that address.

The club will go forward next month with "Windows XP, A year in Review." As a diehard using Windows 98 SE and Windows NT, I am very curious about the outcome promised at this meeting.

I recently heard some wall street pundits claim that Microsoft has officially declared Windows a dead product and is working on a revolutionary product line that would change how we would use computers.

However how we watch TV (NTSC) was so successful that the effort to change it is large and having only minor incremental impact. So we will see about Windows.

The next meeting will include an election for the Vice President position. Two distinguished and valued members have offered to take the job by accepting nominations: Peter Czerwinski and Don Franklin. Their interest and Jim Aller's interest in officer roles goes a long way in stating how members see the importance of the club.

As Don Columbo stated, new blood into the leadership is a good thing and there is a lot of room for the next VP to make a lasting mark.

So the state of the club is that it is alive and kicking. Come on out and then you can do some advanced holiday shopping in Flemington afterwards and get a head start this year.

WINDOWS XP A YEAR IN REVIEW

(by Jim Russ)

Well my new notebook came in last week and it is a real speed demon. 2.84 GHz, 15" LCD display, 40 Gig hard drive and Windows XP Professional! So I'm only about a year late on using Windows newest operating system, but just in time for our meeting. While I will only have been using XP for about three weeks, I'll do my best to give you my impressions of it. I must admit that up to now I have found little reason to change from Windows ME to another system. It's taken me the better part of a year to get to know ME fairly well and XP looks like it has a steep learning curve at this point. I'll have to seek out a good starter book on it and maybe a learning CD. Do my best to find these in time for the meeting. I'll be looking for IDG Books' best selling 3-D Visual Series which I found great for learning Windows 98 and Windows ME. These books have plenty of actual screen shots and a straight forward approach on how to accomplish tasks.

Having heard about XP's special installation problems, I was not surprised to have it try to connect to Microsoft and register XP even before completing its boot process. I was not connected to the web at this time, did not even have a phone line connected to the notebook yet, so it gave me the option of registering later and then booted up much faster than ME has been doing. Of course this is a clean system with no other programs installed at that time so we'll see what happens by the meeting when I'll have installed quite an array of programs by that time. In the four or five days I have been using XP it has not yet prompted me to register again, but I'm sure it will soon.

Come see and hear what I have learned at this month's meeting.

CUSTOM DIGITAL PRINTS WITHOUT A COMPUTER

(*NY Times, 10/31/02*)

The increasing popularity of digital cameras is creating something of a problem, says Fabia Ochoa, the product manager for photo printers at Epson. Camera owners may become more keen about taking pictures than they are about using computers. "A lot of those people have computers that were purchased just to get on the Internet," she said. "Then there are quite a few people who are computer-illiterate enough that printing photos is difficult for them."

One answer has been printers that bypass computers by connecting directly to cameras or accepting memory cards. They have generally been limited to producing basic kinds of prints. Epson's new Stylus Photo 925 connects to many cameras and accepts SmartMedia, Memory Stick, CompactFlash and Microdrive storage devices. But it can also perform several image-adjustment tricks without ever meeting a computer.

The printer, which has a suggested price of \$299, can produce layouts of multiple prints or mass-produce snapshots with an attachment that cuts them from a roll of four-inch-wide paper. With an optional \$79 snap-on L.C.D., users can also crop or resize pictures using just the printer.

When the printing is done, an outlet on the back of the printer can send the image to a Zip drive for archiving. The printer may share another trait with computers that won't appeal to technophobes. "We have so many features in there, many people will probably not utilize them all," Ms. Ochoa said.

LUNAR ALLURES

(*by Ilene Shope*)

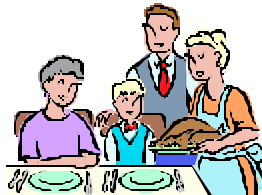
"Techie" Gift Sets

2003 NASA WALL CALENDAR....
Space images. Dates in NASA history.
Measures 14" x 21-1/2". (\$9.50).

APOLLO 11 -DVD SET-'Men on the Moon'- over 12 hours of astronaut training of Lunar historic landing, ascent, and back to Earth. Digital transfers of film and television coverage - \$54.95.

"SPACE WALK" POSTER (16" x 20" poster).... Depicts: 'Astronaut Bruce McCandless, a few meters away from the Space Shuttle.' (\$6.95).

ULTIMATE SATURN V ROCKET PLAYSET-Rocket is about 3 feet tall. Sound chip reflects launch countdown, liftoff, and vibrations (Playset has astronaut training manual, lunar module, launch pad, and moon landing base). \$44.95.



ITS TIME FOR SPAM SUBJECT LINES

(*by Lon Hosford*)

Here are few spam subject lines that beg the question "what is my name?"

1. *"amazon Let your computer READ aloud from more than 3000 titles wypy"*
I know I am a bit "rough around the edges" but calling me an amazon is a bit much.

2. *"Warning:, you may be outdated."*
Darn, I blinked again.

3. *"alonzo, I must be NUTS!"*
Maybe so maybe not, but you certainly do not know how to capitalize names.

4. *"Money for lhosford"*
I know I have achieved the highest level in geekdom when I am addressed by my email handles.

5. *"Hello lhorton"*
Close but no cigar. Try again.

6. *"Hello lhorita"*
Close but no cigar. Try again.

7. *"bruno, please read this"*
Not even close, but do you know Mr/Ms NUTS.

Now for a few subject lines that are head scratchers?

1. *"subjectline1"*
Someone's spam software goofed.

2. *"TRUSTEE"*
And...

3. *"It tastes like a penny"*
So we are saying a copper like taste?

4. *"»ŒÓ-¼ÓÃËÖé°
ÉÍ`ÈiERP¼¼ÊöÖ§³ÖÖÐÄ¼¼E»®"*
Cipher that.

5. *"èİPÅÛØ ÂÛÔØ ÎÅ İÄÉÍ..."*
Much much clearer.

6. *"Can it fit?"*
Even Jay Leno would not touch that line.

7. *"C:\Bulk Adz\Mtg\new mortgage
Subjects.txt"*
More trouble with the old spammer software.

8. *"Lungs and Bronchial Tissue."*
I really hope there are no attachments to this email.

9. *"</html>"*
Someone's spam software goofed.

10. *"Server transmission error : 554 dis-
regard"*
Sorry to hear about it.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

(*Smart Computing (11/02)*)

You may have noticed that digital camera specification sheets often list two values for the sensor pixels. For instance, the Casio QV-4000 has 4.13 megapixals (3.76 megapixels effective). Which of those numbers is important to you? In this case, the first number means that the camera's sensor contains 4,130,000 pixels. The number you're interested in, though, is the effective megapixels, 3.74 (or 3, 760,000 pixels). This number refers to those pixels that contain a light-sensitive diode that detects light and produces a corresponding charge. The QV-4000's remaining 370,000 pixels perform other functions, such as carrying the charge across the sensor.

GET A SUPERCHARGED PC**"Nature Sounds"***(by Ilene Shope)*

Digital Sounds- recordings and videos (BIRDS)... Sound library to release contents of ornithology files next year-2003.

Oct.21, 2002 news: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY said it will soon release contents of Cornell Lab's Macaulay Library sound recordings and videos. This is made possible through the gift of computer equipment by EMC Corp. The Macaulay Library is the world's largest collection of nature sounds and videos of birds in their natural habitats. Scientists, researchers, conservationists, students and individuals with interest in science ornithology projects, will have internet access.

The new computer system goes online in 2003 and will be available to the general public via the Internet.

Visitors to Cornell Lab's Macaulay Library website, will be able to hear the numerous sound recordings, view birds as they are in nature and order custom-recorded DVDs of their favorite birds online.



"Technology has been a driving force of change in the field of education ... We are delighted to help the Cornell Lab of Ornithology enable greater access to their data library "EMC Corp-Executive Chairman Mike Ruettgers, said.

John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, said: "... We're looking forward to implementing our vital conservation and education mission in ways far beyond what we could have imagined without this gift from EMC."

Cornell Lab of Ornithology (NEWS)___
http://www.news.cornell.edu/releases/Oct02/EMC_gift.hrs.html ___
 Related link: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/aboutclo/>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a non-profit membership institution, an independent administered unit of Cornell University.

**INEXPENSIVE
ADOBE PROGRAMS***(by Jim Russ)*

This is the link for the Adobe programs I spoke about at the October club meeting. At \$75 a pop, these are some great deals ... Jim Russ.

The Warehouse — The offer is simple: For \$75 (plus small shipping fee) you can order any of the following Adobe programs:

Acrobat 5.0
 Photoshop 6.0
 Illustrator 9.0
 InDesign 2.0
 GoLive 5.0
 LiveMotion 1.0
 Premiere 6.0
 PageMaker 7.0

They also have for a limited time MS Project 2000 & Visio 2000, both for \$75 a piece. You will not beat this offer.

All software is guaranteed to install and operate correctly, or your money back! They are all FULL VERSIONS for PC and product keys are included.

**CATALOG & ORGANIZE
REMOVABLE MEDIA***(by Ken Jones)*

This is an update on 1Disk a program to catalog and organize removable media, CDs, Zip disks, floppy disks, and etc.

On arriving home after the Saturday meeting, I received an e-mail from the 1Disk support team asking what CD software I had on my computer, when 1Disk wouldn't read CD-RWs. I didn't have any CD-RW software on my computer, so I installed Adaptec DirectCD, and 1Disk cataloged all CD-RWs as well as CD-Rs.

1Disk is a great program that allows for cataloging of all types of CDs as well as other types of removable media. Below is a description of 1Disk written by the software developers:

"1Disk creates a disk device, complete with drive letter, that looks and acts ex-

actly like a hard drive within Windows. When you run Windows Explorer or any other Windows application, you can look at and access the contents of 1Disk just as you would any other disk drive installed on your computer.

The difference is, of course, that the 1Disk drive is not a physical hard drive, but a database that contains information on all files and folders copied to all monitored media devices, such as Zip and Jaz drives, removable hard drives, tape drives, etc.

Each disk or tape appears in the 1Disk drive as a media icon that you can open just as you would any other folder. But 1Disk is far more than just a database – it connects all your removable disks and other media to your regular file system.

You can run programs, open files, add and delete files and folders, or move items from one disk or other media to another just as you would if 1Disk were a physical hard drive.

If the item you want to run, open, move, or delete is on a disk that is not currently inserted in its drive, 1Disk prompts you to insert the proper one into the appropriate drive and performs the operation as usual."



More information and a 15 day free trial version are available at <http://www.1vision.com/> It is a great way to kept track of removable files and folders on removable media.

At the 1Vision web site you can download a manual for 1Disk PDF format which is very useful for getting started.

Visit the HCC website at
hunterdoncomputerclub.org.
 Read an interesting history of
 the club and access other
 information.

Q & A

Don Columbo asked about compressing photos as sent via email. PKZip was suggested by Lon. Ken Jones suggested reducing the number of pixels if they are to be only viewed and not printed by recipient. Bill Woodall recommended looking at Spinwave's product at jpeg-cruncher.com. He also recommended sending as a TIFF format.

Marlyn reported that her monitor shadowing problem was resolved with a new video card.

Peter Czerwinski suggested digital photography enthusiasts to visit edigitalphoto.com for its serious content.

Ken Jones inquired about a CD cataloging program. No one had a suggestion.

Ken Jones has a problem of one cd not working on Windows 2000 pro but the same disk works on Windows 98. Something about lvision.com or lvision.com.

Don Columbo inquired whether Ctrl Alt Del kills memory on hard drive. George Knoedl pointed out that the data is already lost before the Ctrl Alt Del.

Someone asked about merging email in Outlook Express from the laptop to the desktop. Many ideas were suggested assuming the email was still available on the server such as Ken Jones suggesting to see if there is an option to leave the email on the server and use this option until you are ready to download. Dennis claims Earth mail has this feature. Bill Emery provided the suggestion to simply forward the email from the laptop to yourself and then use the desktop the next time the email account is checked.

Someone asked about Outlook Express displaying the message "This email is unsafe". This occurs after installing a new security patch. NOT SURE OF THE ANSWERS

POLITICAL COMPUTER VIRUSES

Pat Buchanan Virus: Your system works fine, but it complains loudly about foreign software.

Colin Powell Virus: Makes its presence known, but doesn't do anything. Secretly, you wish it would.

Hillary Clinton Virus: Files disappear, only to reappear mysteriously a year later, in another directory.

O.J. Simpson Virus: You know it's guilty of trashing your system, but you just can't prove it.

Bob Dole Virus: Could be virulent, but it's been around too long to be much of a threat.

Steve Forbes Virus: All files are reported as the same size.

Paul Revere Virus: This revolutionary virus does not horse around. It warns you of impending hard-disk attack: Once, if by LAN; twice if by C.

Politically Correct Virus: Never identifies itself as a "virus" but instead refers to itself as an "electronic micro-organism."

Ross Perot Virus: Activates every component in your system, just before the whole thing quits.

Ted Turner Virus: Colorizes your monochrome monitor.

Dan Quayle Virus: Their is sumthing rong with your computer, but ewe cant figyour outt watt!

Government Economist Virus: Nothing works, but your diagnostic software says everything is fine.

New World Order Virus: Probably harmless, but it makes a lot of people really mad just thinking about it.

Federal Bureaucrat Virus: Divides your hard disk into hundreds of little units, each of which does practically nothing, but all of which claim to be the most important part of your computer.

Gallup Virus: Sixty percent of the PCs infected will lose 30 percent of their data 14 percent of the time (plus or minus a

3.4 percent margin of error).

Texas Virus: Makes sure that it's bigger than any other file.

Adam and Eve Virus: Takes a couple of bytes out of your Apple.

Congressional Virus: The computer locks up, and the screen splits in half with the same message appearing on each side of the screen. The message says that the blame for the gridlock is caused by the other side.

Airline Luggage Virus: You're in Dallas, but your data is in Singapore.

Freudian Virus: Your computer becomes obsessed with marrying its own motherboard.

PBS Virus: Your programs stop every few minutes to ask for money.

Elvis Virus: Your computer gets fat, slow, and lazy, then self-destructs only to resurface at shopping malls and service stations across rural America.

Ollie North Virus: Causes your printer to become a paper shredder.

Nike Virus: Just does it.

Sears Virus: Your data won't appear unless you buy new cables, power supply and a set of shocks.

Jimmy Hoffa Virus: Your programs never can be found again.

Star Trek Virus: Invades your system in places where no virus has gone before.

Health-Care Virus: Tests your system for a day, finds nothing wrong, and sends you a bill for \$4,500.

George Bush Virus: It starts by boldly stating, "Read my docs . . . no new files!" on the screen. It proceeds to fill up all the free space on your hard drive with new files, then blames it on the Congressional Virus.



Kevorkian Virus: Helps your computer shut down as an act of mercy.

DVD BACKUP BASICS*(Computer Shopper 11/02)*

With its 4.7 GB capacity and relatively durable media, writable DVD can seem almost as compelling for desktop removable storage as it is for video. As with writable CD, however, your DVD drive typically needs a little help from software.

To write files to a DVD disc that can be read by most other DVD-capable systems, you can copy files to DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD+R, or DVD+RW using disc-burning software such as Ahead Software's Nero Burning ROM5.5 (\$69 boxed/\$49 download, www.nero.com), Roxio's Easy CD Creator 5 Platinum (\$99.95 boxed/\$89.95 download, www.roxio.com) or Stomp's RecordNow Max (\$49 boxed/\$39 download, www.stompinc.com) Chances are good your DVD writer will come with backup software that lets you perform selective or full backups to DVD media.

You can write to DVD media other than DVD-RAM just as you would a floppy drive or hard drive by using the Save or Save As commands in applications or by dragging and dropping in Windows. You'll need packet-writing software, which also comes with some drives. After initially formatting the disc for packet writing, you'll be able to save and edit files on a DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD+R, or DVD+RW disc just as you would any other storage device. But there's a catch. The discs won't be readable on other PCs until you close them for writing, and even then the other PCs may need to be running the same packet-writing software.

Much has been made recently of DVD+RW's ability to get around the need for packet-writing software, thanks to a development called the Mount Rainier DVD+MRW Defect Management and Physical Formatting System. The dream is that we'll be able to treat DVD+RWs much like high-capacity floppy disks, writing and rewriting them at will and passing them around with no thought of incompatibilities. Unfortunately, the dream will remain just that for some time. DVD+RW Alliance drive manufacturers should be adding DVD+MRW

support to their drives in the coming months, but the solution also depends on operating-system support, and Microsoft isn't expected to add support to Windows until 2004, with the version of Windows code-named Longhorn. For the time being, at least, that leaves DVD+RW looking a lot like DVD-RW for desktop storage. It also gives DVD-RAM proponents time to push for more DVD-ROM drives to read DVD-RAM media.



Below is a sample of tech news that arrives daily in my e-mail box from ZD Net's Online Technology Update.

Switch may send Wi-Fi four miles

From the too-good-to-be-true department: Start-up Vivato claims its new switch can extend Wi-Fi range anywhere from two to seven kilometers. David Berlind is thrilled, given that he recently installed a Wi-Fi access point in his attic because he was getting barely 30 feet of coverage from the one in his basement. Is this the sort of breakthrough you've been waiting for before deploying Wi-Fi?

Braid worm spreads a modified Funlove virus

The Funlove virus has received a second life, thanks to a new Internet worm. Braid is written in Visual Basic and uses its own SMTP engine to e-mail itself to others. Because Braid spreads via e-mail and could damage system files, this worm rates a 6 on the CNET/ZDNet Virus Meter.

IBM puts on its thinking cap

In its latest marketing scheme, IBM is putting an emphasis on PCs that are easier and cheaper to manage. Software and services, not faster processors, are at the heart of IBM's "Think" campaign. IBM does need a way to distinguish its PC offerings from Dell and HP boxes. Is this one of Big Blue's baby steps toward autonomic computing?

Web services: Look before you leap

Today's "snooze, you lose" climate has companies embarking on Web services and integration projects without a firm grip on what they already have in place and where they plan to go.

LOCK DATA AWAY ON YOUR KEY CHAIN*(Computer Shopper 11/02)*

Good things come in small packages especially when you're talking about secure removable storage. The ThumbDrive Secure from Trekstor U.S.A. is one of the smallest USB flash drives, yet it offers strong data-protection features and big, affordable capacities (8MB-128MB).

The 2.5x0.6x0.3 inch ThumbDrive is doubly secure. A write-protect switch prevents accidental overwrites, and the whole drive is password-protected. Unlike other USB flash drives, the ThumbDrive doesn't allow for assignable public or private data zones on the drive. Everything on it is private, and you need to have its desktop software installed locally to unlock its contents, which can make sharing data tricky. Because the whole reasoning behind this product is security, however, most users won't find this limitation a problem. The required software is easily accessible from the company's Web site, so you don't have to carry the software CD with the drive.

Setting up the ThumbDrive Secure isn't quite as effortless as other USB flash drives. The drive supports Windows 98, MD, 2000, and XP, plus Mac OS 8.6 and later. No matter which operating system you run, you have to install software the first time you use the drive. During installation, you establish the password that limits access to the drive.

Trekstor covers the ThumbDrive with a one-year warranty and toll-free tech support. The company's Web site offers well-organized support. For most users, less-expensive, nonsecure USB flash drives will do the job. If you regularly transport sensitive data, however, the Trekstor ThumbDrive Secure could be your ideal data depository.



MICROSOFT LAUNCHES XBOX ONLINE GAMING NETWORK

(Computer Shopper, 11/02)

Microsoft (www.microsoft.com) is set to launch its Xbox Live online game-playing service on November 15, a year after the Xbox video-game console entered the market. The company is selling a \$50 Xbox Live starter kit that includes a headset microphone, a one-year subscription to the service, and software that allows the Xbox to tap into an existing broadband internet connection.

Microsoft is betting heavily on online play as one of the features that will distinguish the Xbox from Sony Electronics' PlayStation 2 and Nintendo's GameCube. The software giant has said it will spend \$2 billion over the next few years to build out the Xbox Live network and develop the next generation of its game console.

The November launch date for Xbox Live has given a two-month head start to Sony, which began selling a network adapter that will let the PlayStation 2 tap into a broadband or dial-up Internet connection for online play in late August.

The main difference between the two companies' approaches is that Xbox Live will be a closed network, with Xbox gamers able to connect to each other only through the Microsoft-maintained Xbox Live system.

Sony will leave it to game publishers to do the back-end work of maintaining servers and other infrastructure, with the PlayStation 2 maker providing the software to make it work.

Xbox Live will play six games at launch, including Infogrames' Unreal Tournament and Microsoft's own NFL Fever football title.

Analysts and game publishers have modest expectations for online console gaming, with few expecting significant audiences until a new generation of Internet-ready game boxes enters the market in a few years.

TRILLIAN

(Computer Shopper, 11/02)

If you feel like a casualty in the instant-messaging wars, think of Trillian as the Red Cross. Not only does this flexible IM client let you connect with buddies using AOL, ICQ, MSN, or Yahoo IM services, but it also supports proprietary features such as MSN multiparty chat and AOL Instant Messenger's photo-transfer functions. Not bad for a free download that consumes almost no resources.

WIN MX

(Computer Shopper, 11/02)

Free File-sharing services may be an endangered species, but WinMX is proof that natural selection works. This robust OpenNap client delivers an unbeatable combination of speed, stability, and content. It's also one of the few survivors that isn't mired in litigation or busy slipping spyware onto users' desktops.

HCC NEWSLETTER is published monthly at 267 Federal Twist Rd., 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 mreuter@ptdprolog.net.

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Fax (_____) _____

Information that will help us help you:

1. **WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP THE CLUB ? (circle one or more)**
Club officer Technical advisor Setting up for the meeting Taking club minutes Newsletter Programs
Other _____

2. **DO YOU HAVE AN AREA OF COMPUTER EXPERTISE? _____ IF SO, WHAT IS IT?**

3. **PLEASE LIST ANY COMMENT AND/OR LIST WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN OUR COMPUTER CLUB**

SHARE A URL?

(Smart Computing 11/02)

Read the fine print of a Web site’s privacy policy and marvel at how little it actually promises. “We will never reveal our private details with any third parties, except our affiliates, business partners, and anybody else who buys them from us.” Now remember that whenever you feel like sharing online content, such as news articles, with your friends by email. Never type your friend’s email address into any fields labeled “Send To A Friend!” because the site may sell your friend’s address to spammers. Instead, select and copy the article’s URL (uniform resource locator) and paste it into an email message to your friend.

Submissions for articles, cartoons, pictures, or other information pertinent to the club are due to the editor by the 3rd of each month. If you plan to email your submission, please be sure to include HCC in your subject line. Send to:

mreuter@ptdprolog.net
or
marlynreuter@hotmail.com

or use snailmail to return address on next page.

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Hunterdon Computer Club

Next Meeting Saturday, November 16, 2002

Hunterdon Medical Center

Rt. 31 Flemington NJ

8:30 A.M. To Noon

Program: Windows XP – A Year in Review by Jim Russ

Guests Welcome – all ages all levels

HCC NEWSLETTER

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Marlyn Reuter
267 Federal Twist Road
Stockton, New Jersey 08559

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested
