



Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 1

January 2000



Jan 2000 Pres column:

Today is 12/29/99. Having missed the December editorial deadline of this eminent publication I am covering two months and I am getting it submitted before Y2K just in case.

Also you will be reading this after the Y2K predictions are proven or disproven. Perhaps Pres Clinton is now world emperor as Web rumors predict.

First the follow up from our November meeting.

Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego, er I meant Jim Russ? Little does Jim know that he stepped on a small piece of gum in the HMC auditorium and it has a microchip transmitting his

exact global position over the Internet - www.whereisjruss.com.

Jim, thanks for your relentless work in providing programs to the club and oh I noticed you are now in a trash dump near Easton PA. Did you throw out that shoe?

The December meeting was honored by a large crowd of dedicated club goers. Don Slepian also honored the event with music and lots of great help in the Q&A.

Next meeting is 1/15/00 and auditorium only, which looks much the case for many meetings next year. If folks want an alternative to HCC for Dec 2000, I suggest some decision making by mid year as finding a no-charge place would require work and a volunteer.

Flash Hosford will take a rest for while but here are some Y2K thoughts.

1900 - 2000 is the greatest century of recorded history. More people are healthier, live longer, get smarter, have potential for more fun and so on and so on. Plus there are computers to play with.

It is largely due to the freedoms provided by the United States Constitution. These freedoms foster individual achievement, competition and greatness.

Without such freedoms and the willingness to tolerate for a period of time the monopolies resulting from them our club could be quite different.

Perhaps it would be the HMTEC or Hoboken Mechanical Tabulation Equipment Club and the next meeting would be "Innovations in Home Typesetting Equipment for your Tabulator", really, I wonder what type of connectors are used.

Some believe human life spans are going to be extended indefinitely during the next century. If this comes to pass, then its time to work on the Y10K problem. In the year 10,000 we add one more digit and by then our digital technology is likely to be embedded in us!

Yikes! In this case folks born in the 1900's living that long would encounter internal Y10K problems before the year 10,000 - think about it.

If I live to 10,048, I plan to take the solar plunge for the Y10K celebration. This is a future amusement ride like bungee jumping which I would have finally done at the age of 7,000.

The solar plunge involves many months traveling to a nudist resort satellite near Mercury. The ride lasts 3 weeks and boy it promises to be a bun burner. (Buns became replaceable and interchangeable in 2048).

I hope all your chips hold out. See you next meeting.



Year 2000 / Topics for Monthly Meetings

Our intrepid Program Director, Jim Russ, comes through again!

Room reservations thanks to Rick Williams and Hunterdon Medical Center

1. JANUARY 15 MS Word
AUDITORIUM ONLY
2. FEBRUARY 19 MS Outlook & Outlook Express
MEETING ROOM
AND AUDITORIUM

3. MARCH 18 Open (TBA)
AUDITORIUM ONLY
4. **FOURTH SATURDAY!** APRIL 22
LanguageConversion
Software
AUDITORIUM ONLY
5. MAY 20 Family Tree
Maker
MEETING ROOM
AND AUDITORIUM
6. JUNE 17 Open (TBA)
AUDITORIUM ONLY
7. JULY 15 MS Excel
AUDITORIUM ONLY
8. AUGUST 19 Photographic
Software
AUDITORIUM ONLY
9. SEPTEMBER 19 Open (TBA)
AUDITORIUM ONLY
10. OCTOBER 21 Windows
95/98 Systems Tools
MEETING ROOM
AND AUDITORIUM
11. NOVEMBER 18 Copier/
Scanner Software
AUDITORIUM ONLY
12. DECEMBER 16 Christmas
Program
AUDITORIUM ONLY



DECEMBER 1999 MEETING

HCC held its regular meeting on December 19, 1999, at Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington. Thanks to the bagel-meisters Moore and members who brought holiday sustenance we ate well. Members donated 37 pounds of food to the NORWESCAP food bank.

President Lon called the meeting to or-

der at 9:30. Guests welcomed included Joe Gross, Barbara Himber, our newest member, Paul Dackow, and Mike and Gary Zhou, website builders, Carol Juhasz, Joe Tuttle, Josephine and Albert Brickey, Stuart Waugh from Vermont.

The main Q&A topic was spam, or unwanted e-mail. No one had any sure cure. Lon suggested learning about filters would make a good program.

Don Slepian explained the choices for better net connections. "Broad Band" is either cable, DSL, or ISDN. Cable comes through Cable TV, not your phone. DSL stands for Digital Subscriber Line, and costs \$80 a month. ISDN stands for Integrated Services Digital Network. The dictionary says this is a "worldwide digital communications network evolving from existing telephone service. The goal of the ISDN is to replace current phone lines with ...facilities capable of carrying data ranging from voice to computer transmissions, music, and video." Don says ISDN is too expensive to consider for home use now. He recommends cable.

Raffle winners included Gaye Lowe, Sally Miller, Akiko Lauron, Pat Frusco and others. Ray Vanden Berghe helped with the tickets in the absence of the regular presidential assistant.

Vice President Joe Burger took over the meeting as Lon left to meet a class at RVCC.

Treasurer Jac Carroll reported a balance of about \$500.

Secretary Evelyn described the graduation dinner party held by one of the Senior Basics classes. After the teachers had received their corsages, the ceremony began. Dressed in borrowed choir robes and cardboard mortarboards with gold tassels, the four proud graduates of Basics 101 marched to their places as pianist Gerry Moninghoff played Pomp and Circumstance. Taking turns at the podium (music stand) which held a sign: READ THE SCREEN, the salutarian greeted guests and their teachers

(Evelyn, Jeanette Zink, and Linda Canulette) . The Valedictorian noted details of their new learning and their emergence into the information age. The third student presented gifts to teachers, and the class gift to their alma mater, a box of 10 floppies. The class jester added jokes. One gift to Evelyn was a T shirt with READ the SCREEN on the front and DID YOU SAVE ? on the back, with 2 eyes on the back. (It is a myth that teachers have eyes in the back of their heads. They listen well, they have good peripheral vision, and they learn to look at reflections in their glasses bows, as well as in windows.)

Jeanette presented yearbooks of photos she took during classes, and report cards with brutally honest grades. Linda presented the award for greatest improvement. Evelyn presented diplomas with the proper crossover hand shake, as the cardboard hats slid off.

In more serious business the secretary reported that we have almost sold out the second order of the 26th edition of the *Secret Guide to Computers*. This edition costs members \$7.00, giving the club 40¢ profit on each copy. The cover price is now \$16.50.



Membership chairman Don Colombo reported his usual calls to members about renewals, with his usual success. Webmaster Paul Glattstein has updated the list of members' websites, eliminating listings by ex-members. Watch for Sallymiller.com coming soon!. Vice-President Joe Burger reviewed technology news of the past month, ranging from Microsoft's law suit to the unreal rise in Linux Red Hat stock from \$40.00 to \$218.00., from the contest between AMD and Intel chips to the

cost of DVD dropping from \$6000.00 to \$600, or was it \$16,000 to \$6000.?. He noted that flat screen monitors are now down to \$800, but warned us to be sure your old machine and your new monitor are compatible. He said new machines will have MS2000 as an operating system, intended for business use. An OS called Millennium will be available for home use. Jim Russ added that NJCC has a Microsoft presentation on MS2000. Jim's message was don't buy it.



THE PROGRAM

This year Don was into miniature equipment, in contrast to the 5 big computers we first saw. He played the same great music on a sawed off keyboard, which expanded to the full 88 if he pushed the right button. Instead of a bank of cassette tape slots for his wave file collection, he chose from 30,000 sound files in a box about 10x10x3. Inches not feet. He had no foot pedals, but each key changed in volume with different touch. Someone who was hearing Don for the first time watched and listened, and at length asked if he had been a pianist before he got this keyboard. What a disappointment it would be to buy that setup hoping to sound like Don just because the hardware is magical. With Don playing, the music is magical, year after year. Thanks.



NEW MEMBERS AND CHANGES

New e-mail for **Walter Bordens**
wbordens@home.com

Geneva Scerbo improved zip code
08801-3356

New Member **Barbara Himer**
23 Briar Lane
Flemington NJ 08822
908 284 0702
e-mail bhimer@earthlink.net

Welcome back to **Henry Berleth**
37 Starlight Drive, Morristown, NJ
07960-2538
201-267-4330

Tom Grandell has moved to Burlington County.

Carl Heitzman writes from Florida that he is working on starting a computer club there, and welcomes any advice. E-mail heitzman@strato.net Florida snail mail 3651 Hwy 27 So. # 2 Sebring FL 33870

Don Slepian
117 College Drive
Edison NJ 08817
732 248 1748

REMEMBER FREE PC'S?

Reply-To: Free-PC Support
<support@free-pc.com>
To: evelyn stewart <estewart@ptd.net>
From: Monica Gilmore at Free-PC
<mgilmore@free-pc.com>
Subject: Free-PC and eMachines have Merged!

In November of this year, Free-PC merged with eMachines, the fastest growing PC company in history. We wanted to let you know how the merger will affect you as a Free-PC applicant.

As part of the new eMachines, we will be focused on providing high-quality, low-cost PCs to consumers via popular retail stores such as Best Buy and Circuit City. As a result, we will not be selecting any additional Free-PC recipients for the foreseeable future. However, you should be assured that the information you have provided to us is locked away in a secure database, should we decide to resume the program in the future.



MILLENNIUM PROVERBS

1. Home is where you hang your @.
2. The e-mail of the species is more deadly than the mail.
3. A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
4. You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
5. Great groups from little icons grow.
6. Speak softly and carry a cell phone
7. C:\ is the root of all directories.
8. Oh, what a tangled website we weave when first we practice.
9. Pentium wise, pen and paper foolish.
10. The modem is the message.
11. Too many clicks spoil the browse.
12. The geek shall inherit the earth.
13. There's no place like home(page).
14. Don't byte off more than you can view.
15. Fax is stranger than fiction.
16. What boots up must come down.
17. Windows will never cease.
18. Virtual reality is its own reward.
19. Modulation in all things.
20. Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to use the Net and he won't bother you for weeks.



HCC MEMBER FEATURED IN ONLINE MAGAZINE

EDUCATION WORLD HIGH- LIGHTS LIZ DUNBAR'S STUDENT WEBSITE PROJ- ECT

Curriculum Article

Service Learning in Action Across the Grades

*No matter what grade level or
subject you teach, service-*

learning projects can add a new dimension to your curriculum. This week, Education World offers examples of three excellent service-learning projects -- one each at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Each project is an example of true service learning. Included: Individual projects that involve students in creating Web pages for non-profits, link the generations, and introduce students to the inner workings of community government.

"My Brother's Keeper has made me realize how fortunate my family is, and it has taught me to appreciate them more, and because I have been blessed, I must pass on the blessing to someone else." -- Ashley A. (Class of '01)

"Most students have fears and repulsions toward elderly people, because of the misconception of society's attitude towards them. Magic Me clears up those misconceptions by instilling different thoughts into the hearts of our youth!" -- Kerra T. (Class of '01)

"Sometimes getting what you want means going that extra mile." -- Shannon B. (Class of '00)

Those are just a few of the comments you'll find at Web pages created and maintained by tenth graders at Maryland's Baltimore City College. The Web pages not only fulfill the requirements for the school's introduction to technology course, they also help students meet the service learning graduation requirements mandated for all Maryland high school students.

According to Liz Dunbar, teacher, Webmaster, and academic coordinator of technology at the humanities magnet high school, "At Baltimore City College, as at every other [Maryland] high

school, students must earn service-learning hours to graduate. To support this, at every level we infuse a few hours worth of service-learning projects into our courses. In my intro to technology course, required for tenth graders, [students] learn to make basic Web pages using straight HTML. Since Web pages have to have content, we require the students to create a small site for either a community non-profit organization or for a school organization.

"The students choose their own organizations and get information from the organizations for their pages," Dunbar told Education World. "They are usually organizations the student is involved with in his or her neighborhood. We then publish the pages on our school's server. Students continue to maintain their pages until they graduate."

At present, Dunbar reports, the school's Web site is approaching 800 pages -- more than half of them student-created. The pages represent a variety of organizations and a range of interests. Some reflect a student's experience with a specific organization, such as My Brother's Keeper, an organization that provides food and clothing for homeless people; Magic Me, a volunteer group in which teenagers work with elderly neighbors; and the Canton Police Athletic League, a system of youth recreation centers. Some of the students' pages are informational, such as Dealing With Depression, Helping the Homeless, and Teens and Work. Some, such as STD Clinic and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, are a little of both!

At Baltimore City College, a Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, the Web page requirement has had a number of positive outcomes -- personal, societal, and academic.

"This is a popular project with the students because they see that it's real and that it does provide a significant service to the community," said Dunbar. "Besides, making Web pages is just plain fun! There are

lots of those wonderful ooh!'s when some new little piece of code works the first time -- again when they check out their site from outside the school for the first time and realize that it really is out there on the real Internet.

"The project also lets them look in depth at something outside their own adolescent world, which broadens their horizons," added Dunbar. "And, if you remember your first ventures into straight HTML, you recognize that it makes them pay attention to detail and get very good at figuring out what's wrong and then figuring out a way to fix it. In this project, students practice putting critical-thinking and problem-solving skills to work on something real."

Baltimore City College, the second oldest public high school in the nation, draws its students from 50 Baltimore area communities. About 94 percent of the students -- 95 percent of whom are African Americans -- continue their

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Computer Volunteers
ALL MEMBERS

education after high school. The service-learning projects they participate in at City College benefit the community and give students the opportunity to practice their research and writing skills, add to their career or college resumes, and learn technology skills that will serve them well in the years after high school.

As Eric P. (class of '01) points out on his school page, which features some City College teachers, "The Webmaster ... [is] ... Ms. E. Dunbar, to whom we owe much appreciation for her efforts in inclining students (very patiently) to this increasing computer age."

In response to an editorial Wow! Liz added the following:

This is the first time through my Advanced Tech course (the article is about my Intro Tech course) and Adv Tech is making "CourseWebs" for teachers, since I despaired of getting teachers to make their own. They're not finished yet, but there are draft opening pages -

AP English at
<http://knight.city.ba.k12.md.us/~tempweb/white/>
 Trig/Analyt at
<http://knight.city.ba.k12.md.us/~tempweb/henderson/>

The kids are working on about twenty of these and should be finished by the end of the semester.

Already up are CourseWebs (by teachers, not kids) for Adv Tech at
<http://knight.city.ba.k12.md.us/~edunbar/atlinks.htm> ;
 for Physics at
<http://knight.city.ba.k12.md.us/~mcameron/> ;
 for American Govt at
<http://knight.city.ba.k12.md.us/~jiciccone/>

- go to <http://knight.city.ba.k12.md.us/~tempweb/> and anything that has a "new" is at least the first page of a kid-made teacher website.



JAC CARROLL FINDS THE FIRST BUG

Tonight, Sunday 01/02/00, I received my first call from a SOHO business with the incorrect date being displayed on their computer. They're now having difficulty surfing the internet.

I received a similar error while trying to load some web pages at a particular site I came across. The web pages would refuse to load.

JAC GOT THIS MESSAGE

>Internal Server Error
 >The date specified (01-01-1900) is impossible.

>If you have forced this error condition, you may be in violation of state, federal, and/or civil laws. Those outside the United States should check with their respective governments concerning their country's extradition treaty. Dissemination of this error is also strictly prohibited. If you believe you have received this message in error, please reload the page and try again. In my case, I wonder where the origin of the "1900" date is? I'm working with a relatively new computer, an AMD 300, so I don't believe it's mine. Be-

sides, I would think I'd be seeing this problem all over the internet if my computer had a problem. I only ran across this at the one site.

IBM'S NEW SUPERCOMPUTER

This project is bound to succeed because it has a wonderful name: Blue Gene. At a projected cost of \$100 million, Blue Gene is designed to run 500 times faster than the fastest supercomputer now existing. Its purpose is to "simulate ...the process by which amino acids intricately fold themselves into full-fledged proteins, the body's molecular work force whose chores range from metabolizing food to fighting disease."

Reference NY Times 12/6/99 page C1

ACRONYMS

We read recently that CE, an OS for a Microsoft Palm type device, does not stand for anything. In contrast and in response to continued requests for help, we offer the following enlightened expansions of familiar expressions, thanks to Rick Williams.

PCMCIA – People Can't Memorize Computer Industry Acronyms

ISDN – It Still Does Nothing

SCSI – System Can't See It

DOS - Defective Operating System

BASIC - Bill's Attempt to Seize Industry Control

IBM – I Blame Microsoft

DEC – Do Expect Cuts

CD-ROM – Consumer Device, Rendered Obsolete in Months

OS/2 Obsolete Soon, Too

WWW- World Wide Wait

MACINTOSH – Most Applications Crash; If Not, The Operating System Hangs

PENTIUM – Produces Erroneous Numbers Thru Incorrect Understanding of Mathematics

COBOL – Completely Obsolete Business Oriented Language

AMIGA – A Merely Insignificant Game Addiction

LISP Lots of Infuriating and Silly Parentheses

MIPS Meaningless Indication of Processor Speed

WINDOWS- Will Install Needless Data On Whole System

MICROSOFT - Most Intelligent Customers Realize Our Software Only Fools Teenagers

RISC - Reduced Into Silly Code



IMAGE MANIPULATION

Asked how she applied what she called the oil paint effect and blurred edges to a picture., a graphics expert answered, in part: “I used either 20/20 or Image Web for the oil paint effect. They are both freeware programs downloaded from the Net. 20/20 does more than Image Web. I softened the edges with Print Shop 6.”

20/20 is at <http://www.hotfreeware.com/2020/2020.htm>

In case you wonder what there is to do to a picture, here’s a partial list of effects: Canvas, bleed, blur, engrave, extrude, jiggle, motion blur, mosaic, noisify, Oil Paint, Pinch Hole, Polar, Page Curl, Spray, Whirlpool, Wave, Warp. Brighten, Darken, Despeckle, Enhance, Haltone, Saturation, Sharpen, Soften, Border Fade, Invert, Tile. 20/20 is also a graphics viewer.

She went on to say, “I found a website that is a lot of fun. You give it the URL of any graphic on the web and it will apply any of 4 dozen special effects. You can then download the altered graphic to your hard drive.”

<http://www.main.nc.us/~maries/bkgds/imgmanipulator.html>

HCC TOUR GUIDE

Roads into Yellowstone close around Labor Day. Across Wyoming and Montana you see 15 or 20 foot poles which the snow plow drivers hope will stick up out of the snow to mark the edge of the road. In spite of all that, you can sit in your warm room and watch Old Faithful bubble and smoke and erupt as promised. The National Park Service has set up the Old Faithful WebCam, offering a still image updated every 35 seconds.

Open www.nps.gov.yell/oldfaithfulcam.htm

HCC 'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT SECTION

From Joseph Wu’s Origami Page at www.origami.vancouver.bc.ca you can link to about 300 other origami pages. At the Museum of Natural History in NYC you can go to Folding Sunday from 1 to 4 on 4th Sundays, learn or watch folding, buy the right paper, books, even paper that glows in the dark. www.origami-usa.org

At another site you can buy foot long dollar bills, 50 for \$6.95. Www.fascinatingfolds.com

Be warned that your staid editor was once thrown out of cafeteria study hall for silently folding origami cranes that could wag their tails. “I suppose your homework is all done,?” said the icy voice ten feet above me. Yes. “I suppose you had all A’s last month?” “Yes. “Get out!.



HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Next Meeting - Saturday, January 15, 2000
8:30 A.M. to Noon

Hunterdon Medical Center Main Entrance
Rt 31 North of Flemington

Program: Jim Russ: Using M S Word

Guests Welcome - all ages all interests

HCC NEWSLETTER

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FIRST CLASS MAIL
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