

Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 10

October 2003



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(by Lon Hosford)

Great meeting last week as Don Colombo provided us with the ins and outs of ProDesktop 3D Design.

Actually Don was scheduled to present his topic this month and in preparation had brought his computer to flesh out the details of connecting to the projection system. When he learned we did not have a topic he bravely did the topic to fill the gap and it went great.

Thanks much Don for your dedication to continuing the quality of our meetings.

The annual election period has arrived for officers. The bylaws call for nominations at the September and October meetings. Last meeting the nominations included myself for President again, Peter Czerwinski for Vice President, Jim Aller for Secretary and Susan MacQueen for Treasurer.

You get to make nominations next meeting one more time and then if needed a vote occurs first order of business for the November meeting.

Our long term treasurer Jac Carrol has decided to retire from the Treasurer's spot. Perhaps the rigors of running a campaign for the spot every year has gotten too much for him. :-)

Jac reliably handled the flow of transactions for the club. This included the paying of bills such as the coffee service to getting all your membership fees into the

accounts to pay those bills.

Jac held this position long before I joined the officer ranks of the club. His professionalism and attention to the details for our budget and finances was exceptional. We look forward to his continued membership and contributions during the Q&A. When you have a chance, remember to thank Jac for all those years of continuous service in this capacity.

It appears that Don Colombo will be presenting at the next meeting and the topic is Cosmopolitan Virtual Makeover.

Hope to see you at the next meeting: be there or bew-a-r-e.



PRINCETON PC USERS GROUP MEETING

Monday, October 20, 2003 7:00PM

Topic: The Pocket PC Operating System

An introduction to the Microsoft Pocket PC Operating system used on PDAs.

Speaker: Rich Catena, Personal Systems Group Hewlett-Packard ... Rich is an expert in personal computers and wired and wireless networks. Rich is a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology. He has had the same job for over 25 years as the company changed from Digital Equipment Corporation to Compaq Computer Corporation and now to the Hewlett-Packard Company.

Location: Mercer County Library, Lawrenceville NJ

Guests and the general public are welcome to attend all meetings. Only members are eligible for drawings.

WHAT I REALLY SAID

"Q& A ... Evelyn Stewart reported that after setting up a new machine the MS Blaster worm hit it in 13 minutes."

Bill was talking about the need for Fire-Walls, and the frequency of attacks. I said, " I just read that when you set up a brand new, entirely clean machine, someone will try to break into it within 13 minutes." Bill said, "That's right."

Note that I have not set up a new machine for at least a year. Three is enough. Also note that I have Norton on all three, and the Sony VAI0 has Norton and PcCillin both. Also note that all three machines are virus and worm free and their protection is updated regularly with an extra round when a new worm or virus is predicted. I might add that I do not open any message or forward that comes with a strange name, so if you want me to read a message, please give it a clear subject line.

Lastly, note that I have had Zone Alarm firewall for several years, since the day Guru Liz Dunbar wrote succinctly, "Zone Alarm is wonderful. You need this. Get it." Never mind that poor old mother had no idea why. It is possible to set Zone Alarm so it works without reporting, but it's pretty fascinating to read that message that you are protected from another assault, sometimes at closer than 13 minute intervals.

Guru Liz has just cleaned off 150 notebooks issued to teachers in her school, one of whom did not follow her rule about updating protection, so all 150 had the new worm.

One reason people break into your machine is to use it as a sort of way station for sending junk on to other machines. This does NOT mean that every attack brings a worm or a virus. Whatever the reason for breaking in, it means trouble, and you want a fire wall.

THREATS ON THE INTERNET

(John Warsinski)

There are both real and imagined threats to your computer which are floating around out there on the internet. A friend may try to "help" you by forwarding a virus alert. Is it a real threat, or an imaginary one, a hoax. The best way to find out is to go to the people who make their living by finding the truth and selling you a fix if you need it. I am referring to Symantec, among others, which is more commonly known as "Norton's".

They maintain a web site with more information than you would care to know. Some of it may even frighten you. However, keep in mind that though they are nice guys, they do have a product to sell. They even have some products which sound really good, but for which virtually no one will ever have a genuine need.

This great site is located at www.sarc.com. When you go there, you will see a list of the latest threats, possibly only hours old. Don't be frightened, this list includes world wide research, and you may (probably) never see most of them. Browse around and see what you can learn about viruses, trojan horses, and the like.

The part which I really want you to try, is located under "Virus Definitions". About the third item is a link to a "FREE Online Virus and Security Check". You can run these checks to see if your system is "clean" and also to see if you are vulnerable to attack by hackers.

Way down at the bottom of the page under "reference area" you will see the link to check on the truth of that virus warning someone sent you. There are about one hundred fifty known hoaxes which are described and explained. There are also links to FAQ's, a Virus Encyclopedia, and a calendar which lists viruses triggered by dates.

Spend some time here, and you will be able to assure yourself that all is not lost, but you had better keep your guard up. A good firewall like the free "Zone Alarm" will make you pretty safe from intruders. Remember, YOU are your best defense against viruses. Don't open e-mail attach-

ments from anyone you don't know and trust, and even then you could be getting a message from an infected machine. If you deal only with legitimate sites, your risk is small. If you want to run a virus protection program, update the definitions often and regularly. If you do get a virus, or a trojan horse, go directly to www.sarc.com and get yourself cleaned up.



Submitted by Eleanor Mistler

SPEAK IN TONGUES

Before purchasing that foreign language software, here are some buying tips from October's *Smart Computing*:

Not all foreign-language programs are created equal. Some help a user learn a foreign language and assume that the user knows nothing at the beginning. Other programs spend relatively little time explaining the basics and instead focus on improving aural comprehension and vocal pronunciation. Find a program with exercises that address the areas in which you want to improve.

Consider whether you are learning a language as a spare-time hobby or as a quick crash-course before traveling abroad. If you need to learn a language quickly, look for a program that offers lessons in the very basics, such as asking for directions, explaining medical conditions, and paying for items. Some programs also have lessons devoted to specific activities in which you might participate, such as going to an opera, attending a soccer match, or visiting famous landmarks.

If you have a firm grip on reading and writing in a foreign language, but you

struggle to follow spoken conversation, buy a program that includes movie clips. Such programs improve your comprehension of a spoken language by teaching you to listen and watch for visual clues for words you couldn't make out.

Most people who learn a new language need practice speaking and learning to properly pronounce words and phrases. Many foreign-language programs have voice-analysis tools that can help you perfect your pronunciations. Unless your computer has a built-in microphone, you will need to buy a PC microphone to take advantage of such features.

ARCHIVE—To write data to long-term storage.

SAFE ONLINE SHOPPING TIPS

(National Consumer League)

Use a secure browser. Secure browsers, such as the latest versions of Internet Explorer and Netscape, support encryption of your orders, making it more difficult to steal credit card numbers.

Know the seller. If you're at an auction, research the feedback other buyers have provided on the seller. Otherwise, shop at sites you know and trust.

Pay with a credit card. A credit card provides an element of safety that cash and money orders do not. Federal law says you're liable only for up to \$50 on orders you dispute with your credit card company; some card companies offer increased protection. Visa has a "Zero Liability" policy, meaning you're not responsible for any amount of disputed purchases, for example.

Keep passwords private. This is fairly straightforward: Don't tape your passwords to your monitor. Use unique passwords at each site. And never give out your password in response to an e-mail or instant message from someone claiming to be a representative of the auction site.

Keep a record of your transactions. Don't rely on the site to e-mail you a copy of your receipt. Print one or make a snapshot of it and save it on your computer.

WEB SHOPPERS WORRY ABOUT ONLINE SECURITY

(submitted by Don Colombo)

GROWTH IN ONLINE penetration has leveled off since the late 1990s when audiences skyrocketed each year, but Internet users report greater satisfaction with such activities as e-mail, buying products and playing games than in the past, according to the "Consumer Internet Barometer," the first quarterly study of online behavior conducted jointly by Forrester Research, NFO WorldGroup and The Conference Board, the private business group which tracks consumer sentiment.

In a survey of 5,000 Internet users, the researchers found that number of people logging on daily is about 35 percent of the online population, edging up from 33.7 percent in the fourth quarter last year. Of total users, 41.1 percent reported satisfaction with their Internet activities in the third quarter 2002, up from 40.1 percent at the end of last year.

Not surprisingly, 90 percent of Net-connected Americans send e-mail or use the Web for personal research. And a fairly large number of Web surfers, 68.6 percent, bought something online in the third quarter, up from 67.4 percent in the holiday quarter 2001. However, the majority of people don't trust that their personal information is secure when they make an online purchase. High-profile publicity about online credit card fraud, identity theft and concerns about Web merchants who don't protect personal information has made consumers wary of e-commerce, the survey found. Barely one-fifth, or 21.2 percent, of wired Americans in the third quarter believed that their personal information was secure when they shopped online, a decline from 24 percent at the end of last year.

"There are barriers to online purchasing," said Conference Board director Lynn Franco. "People don't trust that their personal information will be safe during online activities." Compared to online shopping, people who did online banking or other financial transactions were a bit more confident about their security, with 31.5 percent trusting that their personal



Contributed by Don Colombo

information was safe.

Although consumers are expected to spend more than \$19.6 billion online in the fourth quarter holiday season of 2002, a 23 percent increase from the fourth quarter 2002, according to research from ACNielsen and Yahoo!, long-term consumer worry over Web shopping security could take its toll on Internet merchants. E-commerce sites should take more care in storing consumers' credit card information, said Franco.

"It's not enough to have a little lock in the corner," said Franco, referring to the security lock graphic that appears on most Web retailing sites. "It's how the information is protected where it resides."

While the Internet has undoubtedly reached the mainstream, about one-third of the U.S. population has never been online, the survey found, and it's possible that group will remain **u n w i r e d**. Comparatively, the penetration of households in the U.S. who have television is about 98 percent. The penetration of people who subscribe to cable TV is an estimated 70 percent.

If you missed the last recycling program, Hunterdon County will have another computer recycling program March 13, 2004.

LINUX SITES

Linux.org
Linux.com
Linux World News
Slashdot
Freshmeat
Kernel.org

LINUX MAGAZINES

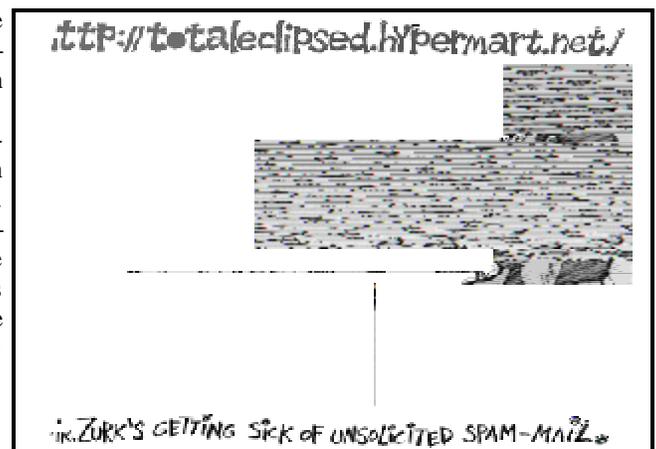
Linux Journal
Linux Magazine
Linux Gazette
Newsforge
Linux Format

LINUX VENDORS

CheapBytes
Linux System Labs
Linux Mall
Linux Central

LINUX DISTRIBUTORS

Debian
Mandrake
Red Hat
Slackware
SuSE
Turbo Linux
Knoppix
DistroWatch



Contributed by Paul Glattstein

SHOCKING EVENTS THAT LET YOU KNOW YOU'RE OLD

*(Providence Journal, 9/17/03)
(submitted by Don Colombo)*

Old doesn't just apply to those who can remember life before airplanes or television. You qualify if things you once considered cutting-edge technology are now antiques. Or when the latest trends you swear you embraced just yesterday are things the MTV generation never heard of.

You know you're getting up there if you remember when:

- * Your computer's ready-mode was a black screen with a single cursor.
- * Apple was bigger than Windows.
- * Or should I say PCs, since for a while, there was no such thing as Windows.
- * There was just "DOS."
- * And they were called microcomputers instead of PCs.
- * Contrary to free-market theory, your phone choices and bills were much easier because AT&T was a good old-fashioned monopoly.
- * There was this amazing new video game called "Pong."
- * And you thought it had the most advanced graphics imaginable.
- * AOL was just another start-up online service that could easily have lost out to rivals called Compuserve and Prodigy.
- * A 20-something guy named Dell came up with the nutty idea of selling computers by mail.
- * The first true laptop computer was a Radio Shack TRS-80.
- * And if you were hip, you referred to it affectionately as a TRASH-80.
- * Burning a CD was the act of a pyromaniac.

- * The new walkaround phone that gave you astonishing mobility was a cordless one you could take around the house.
 - * And it got better reception than the one you can now take all over the country.
 - * Steve Jobs ran Apple. I mean, the first time.
 - * Mail was something you wrote on a piece of paper and put into a stamped envelope.
 - * And you didn't get 110 unsolicited pieces of it every morning promising to enhance your anatomical assets.
 - * No normal person had speakers on their computer.
 - * A 1-gig hard drive seemed as big as a warehouse. (Today, most are 40-times that.)
 - * An 8-track tape the size of a paperback book was an advanced concept in compact music recording.
 - * Everyone knew what an LP was.
- And now the final test of whether you're getting up there:
- * Even though there are plenty of LPs in antiques stores, you still have 400 in your attic, because deep down, you still think the format will come back.



Contributed by Paul Glatstein

YAHOO NEWS

LONDON (Reuters) - Music giants Warner Music (NYSE:AOL - news) and Bertelsmann's (BERT.UL) BMG introduced on Monday a new anti-piracy technology enabling music fans to download songs onto a mobile phone and share the music with friends. The new digital rights management (DRM) technology, called the OMA DRM server, was developed by Oslo-based Beep Science AS. It is based on a standard developed by industry trade group the Open Mobile Alliance.

The new technology works on the concept of a restricted peer-to-peer network in which owners of mobile phones equipped with multimedia messaging, or MMS, can send and receive pictures and sound clips to and from other mobile phone users. With OMA DRM, the music labels can collect revenues for each song downloaded off a central computer server and for those that are swapped between mobile phone users.

The emergence of MMS phones enables media companies to sell a variety of short media clips from songs to condensed sports highlight reels. Jupiter Research in London predicts the money-making potential is fraught with uncertainty, and music executives are desperate to keep tight controls on the exchange of songs between mobile phones. Unsanctioned peer-to-peer networks on the Internet, including Kazaa and Grokster, have created a booming black market for free music, which the industry blames for contributing to a three-year decline in recorded music sales. Jupiter Research analyst Mark Mulligan expressed some skepticism the new technology would stamp out mobile piracy.

Rune Hetle said BMG and Warner Music are the first two major music labels to try the technology, which is being deployed in conjunction with mobile technology outfit Netsize Group. Netsize offers the technology to 50 mobile phone operators across Europe, including Vodafone (VOD.L) and Swisscom (SCMZn.VX). The technology works with Nokia's (NOK1V.HE) 6220 handset. All the big handset makers are expected to follow suit, including Siemens and Samsung.

SENIOR COMPUTER CLASSES

Here are the latest computer class offerings. Space is limited & registration is required. If you would like to register please email me at: gmarcus@co.hunterdon.nj.us

The lab is now equipped with CD Burners & new printers. We will update you with new classes as they are scheduled. Please join us for this month's Computer Social on Friday October 24th at 12:30. Bring a brown bag lunch & computer tips to share. There is always a door prize. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate & cookies are provided.

Just a reminder that we have moved to 1 Raritan Avenue, Building C in Flemington site of the old Raritan Township municipal building. Call if you need directions call (908) 788-1359.

Sincerely,
Grace Marcus

WINDOWS Review
(BASICS pre-requisite)
Thursdays 12:30 & 2:00

October 2nd

Review of Start Menu & Windows functions open, close, minimize, maximize, restore, resize, move, scroll

October 9th

Review Menus, Task Bars, Dialogue Boxes

October 16th

Review Disks, Folders, Files

October 23rd

Email Review, Setting Up Email, Preferences, Attachments

October 30th

Internet Review, Browsers, Preferences, Favorites

Single sessions with Evelyn Stewart***Mondays 9:30 - 11:30***

10/6 - Right Click/ Upper Left Corner
10/20 - Using Art Chalk Backgrounds for Printing

10/27 - Halloween jointed scarecrow
11/3 & #8211; Stenciling made Painless
11/10 & #8211; Crystal Magic

11/17 - Rubber Stamping made Painless
11/24 - Party! Review last 18 months of Monday Masterpieces

File Management - Suketu Shah

Thursdays 9:30:00
November 13th -Part 1
November 20th -Part 2

CD Burner Basics - Suketu Shah

Thursdays 9:30 to 11:00
Part 1– December 4th
Part 2 - December 11th

On-going at Senior Multi-Purpose Center:

BASICS classes (waiting list)
OPEN LABS every Monday from 1:00-2:30 (All Welcome)

Senior Citizens Computer Lab at Hunterdon Central Regional H.S. - Room, Room 704 A

DIRECTIONS to Hunterdon HS computer lab: Use Rte. 523 entrance. Park in lot D. Room 704 A is in the same building as the Little Theater.

2003-2004 Schedule
(Every other Tuesday 3:00 to 4:15)

October 7th -Regular Open Lab
October 21st- Regular Open Lab

November 11th - Class (Create Your Own Greeting Cards)
November 25th - Regular Open Lab

December 16th - Regular Open Lab

January 13th Class
(Introduction to the Internet)

January 27th - Regular Open Lab

February 10th - Class (Tracking Your Stocks)
February 24th- Regular Open Lab

March 9th- Class (Free E-mail Set Up)
March 23rd - Regular Open Lab

April 6th - Regular Open Lab
April 20th - Regular Open Lab

May 4th & #8211; Class (Word Processing using Microsoft Word)
May 18th - - Regular Open Lab

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS*

Tuesdays (11:00 to 12:30)

October 14th - Digital terminology (pixels, megabytes, jpegs, etc.)

October 21st – Camera menu basics, select settings, change settings

October 28th – Taking pictures (basics), viewing pictures

November 7th - Storing photos, printing digital photos

NOTE: (last class on a Friday due to successive holidays on Tuesdays in November)

* Students bring your camera & instruction booklet to class

Please call to register 788-1359. Space is limited to 6 students.



RESTORE—To recover information that had been lost or erased due to operator, disaster, or program error. It's also used to describe the process of returning files from a backup copy to the hard drive where they originally resided.

PARENTING

Some interesting sites for parents and grandparents:

<http://www.storks-store.com/MomToBe>

<http://www.babyace.com>

<http://www.cyberparent.com>

<http://www.aarp.org/grandparents>

<http://www.grandparenting.org>

<http://www.grandparentworld.com>

<http://www.grandparentsonline.net>

<http://www.parentsplace.com>

M.D. ON A CHIP*(Science Central News)*

Next time you feel sick, your doctor might use your blood sample, plus one tiny computer chip, to rule out up to 10,000 diseases—all while you're still there in the office.

As this ScienCentral News video reports, scientists have designed a new chip that could help you and your doctor find out what's wrong much sooner. Medical handwriting that's easy to read.

Chad Mirkin, a chemist at Northwestern University, says a major problem with today's medical care is "we don't have technology that's powerful enough or simple enough" to allow your doctor to diagnose an illness during your office visit. Mirkin set out to change diagnostics with a new, inexpensive gene chip. This chip carries the DNA, or the genetic material, of specific disease agents. Once exposed to a blood, urine, or saliva specimen from a patient, the genetic material recognizes any infection, and signals a diagnosis through the chip to a computer monitor in a doctor's office.

Mirkin is a nanotechnologist, which means he seeks scientific solutions at the scale of just a few atoms. So he turned first to a technique developed by the computer industry to make tiny silicon chips.

Computer chip manufacturers call this technique photolithography. The process involves making a photographic mask of the pattern of circuits you want to put on a wafer-sized chip, and then using light to trigger a chemical reaction that will trace your pattern on the chip. But photolithography cannot work very well at the incredibly small nanoscale that Mirkin wanted. He needed to write directly on a chip. Mirkin developed his own writing technique, using the atomic force microscope, an instrument that has made possible many key advances in nanotechnology.

An atomic force microscope has a sharp tip made of silicon or ceramic and is only a few atoms wide. The tip can bounce over the surface of atoms, the way a steel phonograph needle bounces over a vinyl record, providing scientists with three-

dimensional photographs on the atomic scale. The tip also can move atoms around. Working from a computer, a scientist types in directions on the keyboard, and watches the tip's movements on the monitor.

Mirkin uses the tip like a calligraphy pen, dipping it first in an "ink" made up of water and DNA strands of disease agents. Then he "writes" with the ink-coated tip on a chip, transporting DNA molecules onto the surface. The result is a gene chip that he foresees will be useful to genetics laboratories, as well as in medical diagnosis. In fact, he says it will be possible to put an entire genome on one chip.

Mirkin's goal is to write on a chip with as many "pens" as possible, in order to make chips that could recognize the DNA of any possible disease. By collaborating with Chang Liu, an electrical and computer engineer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, his team has developed a pen writing systems that allows one to make chips that, in a matter of minutes, could recognize as many as 10,000 diseases – while you sit in your doctor's waiting room.

Dr. Mirkin's work appeared in the February 7, 2002 and June 7, 2002 issues of Science, and is funded by the National Science Foundation, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

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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Computer Volunteers
ALL MEMBERS

H.C.C. HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

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MEMBERSHIP FORM **RENEW** **NEW** **LAPS**
ANNUAL DUES **\$25 Single** **\$30 Family** **\$190 Life**

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

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**

CAN YOU READ THIS?

(Paul Glattstein)

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it de-
osn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a word are, the
olny iprmoentn tihg is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at
the rghit pclae.

The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it
wouthit porbelm.

Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey
lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Submissions for articles, cartoons, pictures, or other infor-
mation 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

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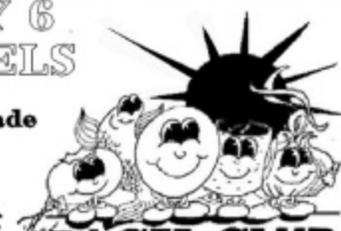
2100 Wescott Dr.
Hunterdon
Medical Center
908 237 5410

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908 806 6000

&

2100 Wescott Dr.
Hunterdon
Medical Center
908 237 5410

HCC

Hunterdon Computer Club

Next Meeting Saturday, October 18, 2003
Hunterdon Medical Center
Rt. 31 Flemington NJ

8:30 A.M. To Noon

PROGRAM: Cosmopolitan Virtual Make-Over
Presenter - Don Colombo

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
