

Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 1

January 2005

A Letter from the President

Lon Hosford

The December meeting was the usual holiday party or was it?

The meeting had the best holiday entertainment I can remember for years if ever.

Evelyn Stewart on piano and **George Knoedl, Jr.** on bass and guitar teamed up to pull off a great holiday party under the coordination of our program committee chair **Don Colombo**.

Evelyn "tamed" an electronic keyboard that upon my personal inspection was more intelligent than most of us. George chimed in with strings, adding electronics only for the bass. Don saw that we all had music sheets in our hands and before you knew it, the entire club membership was engrossed in a sing-a-long that went on for about 90 minutes.

It ended with a finely played acoustic solo by George. Super job team!

I need to welcome in **Peter Bickford** as our new Vice President for 2005. Along with Peter, **Sara Oderwald** is continuing as Treasurer, Membership



Evelyn Stewart (right) and George Knoedl, Jr. prepare to delight the members with holiday music

Chair and Newsletter Editor, **Jim Aller** continuing as Secretary and myself as

President.

We also need to mention thanks to **Peter Czerwinski** for his role as Vice President for the last couple of years. Peter has effectively filled in to run meetings in my absence and in one case without any prior notice. Peter is also our SIG contact for digital video.

Many, many thanks go to **Marlyn Reuter** who served as the newsletter editor when Evelyn Stewart relinquished the task several years ago. Marlyn's efforts resulted in an informative newsletter month by month that we are still proud to distribute to visitors today. The club could count on Marlyn for a top notch, professionally formatted publication filled

(President continued on page 2)

Hunterdon Computer Club

Next Meeting: **Saturday, January 15, 2005**

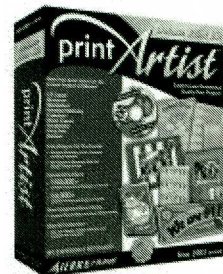
Hunterdon Medical Center

Rt. 31 Flemington NJ

8:30 A.M. To Noon

PROGRAM — *Creative Publishing* — **Evelyn Stewart** will be presenting an overview and history of various card, sign, and label making utility programs

Learn how you, too, can create banners, cards, newsletters, stationery, calendars, scrapbooks, party sets, menus, real estate brochures and much, much more.



Guests Welcome — All Ages — All Skill Levels

(President continued from page 1) with relevant information. As well, we counted on Marlyn to uphold the standards for all contributions and to meet tight deadlines for timely distribution.

Sara, who has taken over the task began by helping Marlyn and essentially has added her own great touches, including arranging for outside funding for printing when we use white paper, and an envelope that helps eliminate postal machine shredding. So we need to support Sara by providing content for inclusion.

I must highlight the masterful job Don Colombo and the various presenters are doing to keep great topics alive at meetings.

Special thanks go to **Barbara Middleton** for always ensuring that our refreshments are attractively set out. We appreciated the holiday tablecloths and decorations she used for the party. Her goodwill and sense of humor are huge assets to our Club.

Ken Jones gave a great update on Linux Fedora operating system at the November meeting. From what I see, it is not too long where a choice of a desktop could be all Linux.

I missed **Bill Woodall's** presentation on alternative Web browsers in October, but I picked up on some of the details and have since begun using Foxfire.

Take a look at the web site and you can see the year was rich with unusual and useful topics.

The club got a nice article in the Hunterdon Democrat December 9th 2004 issue on page E2. Missed it, well you probably need to hurry on down to the library.

Finally this month's meeting features Evelyn Stewart who is presenting on making greeting cards, signs, and labels using Print Artist. So turn down the thermostat that day, save about 5 to 10 bucks on heat and saunter on down to the warmth of the hospital.

Linux Fedora Core Demo

By Ken Jones

As a follow up to the Fedora Core demonstration at the November HCC meeting, Paul Glaststein has posted a list of web sites that offer information and software for Fedora Core and Linux on the HCC web site. Also, if you are interested there is a web site (<http://shots.osdir.com/slideshow/s/slideshow.php?release=173&slide=1>) that has over 100 screen shots of the installation of Fedora Core 3, which is the latest release. If anyone would like to install Fedora Core 3, I have downloaded and burned four installation CDs and will loan or copy them for you. Is anyone interested in starting a Linux or Fedora Core SIG? If you are, please contact me: kjones17@earthlink.net.



RICK WILLIAMS

MEMORIAL FUND

As a follow-up on the Rick Williams memorial fund, the club collected \$255.00 which was sent to the Hunterdon Medical Center. Rick was a previous club President and our inside contact with the Hunterdon Medical Center. The club is no longer accepting contributions, but if you still want to contribute, you may do so on your own directly to John P. Demoleas, EVP, Hunterdon Medical Center, 2100 Westcott Drive, Flemington, New Jersey 08822. We will remember Rick every meeting as we follow his procedures for the proper use of the auditorium.

President

Lon Hosford

908-996-7941

lon@hosfordusa.com

*

Vice-President

Peter Bickford

pb111@lycos.com

*

Treasurer & Membership

Sara Oderwald

treasurer2004@hunterdoncomputerclub.org

*

Secretary

Jim Aller

jimaller@att.net

*

Refreshments Coordinator

Barbara Middleton

mail4barb@blast.net

*

Program Coordinator

Don Colombo

dc1944@fast.net

*

Public Relations

John Gbur

johngbur@earthlink.net

*

WebMaster

Paul Glatstein

pglatt@ptd.net

*

Computer Volunteers

ALL HCC MEMBERS

*

Visit us at:

www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org

HCC NEWSLETTER is published monthly at 202 Jacobs Creek Road, Titusville, NJ 08560 shortly after the regular meeting, which is held on the third Saturday. Subscription is included in the annual dues of \$25 for an individual, and \$30 for family (i.e., same mailing address). Non-member subscription, out-of-state only, is \$8.00 a year. Submissions are eagerly sought and should be e-mailed to the editor by the first Friday of every month to:

Editor@hunterdoncomputerclub.org

S.M. Oderwald, Editor

Banner Design by Joe Burger

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

By Ilene Shope

(Editor's Note: The following *unedited* notes reflect meeting and program observations from November 20 as recorded by Ilene Shope)

2005 CLUB OFFICERS

At the November 2004 HCC Meeting, President Lon Hosford announced the Officers of the Club for the new term. Welcome!

HCC- New Team of Club Officers:
President- **Lon Hosford**
Vice President- **Peter Bickford**
Secretary- **Jim Aller**
Treasurer- **Sara Oderwald**

Lon advised that he made arrangements with Hunterdon Medical Center (HMC) for location facility support of our monthly program meetings and he secured four additional Saturdays for use by our SIGs. Lon briefly described the events for our next meeting in December. The Holiday Festivities include Evelyn Stewart at the keyboard. Sing-along sheet music comes with the tunes. All together now!

Don Colombo, our Program Coordinator reiterated Evelyn Stewart would be the musician at the HCC Holiday Meeting on December 18, 2004. The previous mention of another music player is void, and he said, anyone needing copies of our Club "Join Us" flyers as hand-outs, should see him. Lon said Bob Inglis, who provided us with last year's Holiday music is living in Florida now.

Paul Glattstein, Webmaster- mentioned that all the Club's records are available from him. Some files have been taken off the website. Our guest, Lillie Dorchak came in to gather information for the Hunterdon Democrat. She is writing about the Club and after the program, "LINUX Fedora Core 2" by Ken Jones, she took photographs of **Ken Jones** and **Lon Hosford**.

The raffle winners? **Alex Farniga** and **John Warsinski**. PRESENTATION

At the end of Ken's program, and when asked, **Alex** said he has two computers and on one he has already gone ahead and done a dual operating system set up, the same as what **Ken Jones** has, Windows and Linux systems (Dual boot)

Ken Jones explained that his 120 GB Hard Drive is partitioned for dual boot with Windows 2000 in 40 GB and in the 80 GB section he installed the LINUX operating system. The learning curve for Linux OS is steep. It is not easy. But the software can be downloaded free or bought on CDs at a much cheaper price than for Microsoft Windows software package. He recommends the book "Linux- for Non Geeks" and held the book for Lillie Dorchak's photographing afterwards. Ken stated that he would write up about his presentation and put it on the Club's website for all who are interested to be engaged.

Q&A

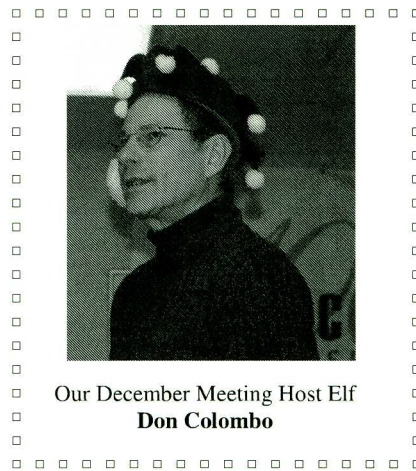
In Q&A, **Lon Hosford** told of the new requirement for Street address rather than Post Office Box for formal identification such as that required on a new driver's license application form.

Philip Pensak asked about 'what's wrong with the mouse?' and Lon showed Philip how the underside 'the belly of the mouse' has a roller ball. Take the ball out. Gently wipe the cavity to free it of debris. When the ball is reset in the cavity, the mouse action will roll again. **Don Franklin** said he has an optical mouse. He has a new computer. He asked about transferring email Outlook Express folders to his new computer that uses Netscape. Suggestions included export and import of emails. **Bob Hepburn** said it is difficult to get to speak to a 'live' person in customer service, for instance at Juno.com. **Seymour Fishkin** said he goes to the top of the ladder, the Sales department to get attention. Seymour's

next Q & A question baffled the members, "...and what is a Time Series Control Chart?" Oh, **Lon** and **Don Franklin** took a shot at answering. Words of explanation cropped up, such as 'algorithm', such as 'Google, such as 'search engine criteria.'

What? ... Then, merits and demerits of credit card systems! Concerns about phone calls or emails questioning card accounts, of credit reports and ratings, and of tracking credit tracing! Obtain free credit reports from TRW and Experion. **John Warsinski** limits his card company, to obey 'not over \$200' on any transaction. **Evelyn** changed to a new account after a few cents disputed in her account. Lon started this conversation with his Radio Shack cell phone in-store argument. Never shout your secure Social Security Number out aloud in a store! If you keep quiet you get no help (customer service!) from the store's technical support for that cell phone. No win here!

Peter Czerwinski told about the newest innovation for digital cameras. Watch for inclusion of satellite tracking – global positioning details – captured at shutter speed, in time, place and direction.



Our December Meeting Host Elf
Don Colombo

Oops... from the Editor
Due to technical difficulties beyond our control, we were unable to publish the December 2004 Newsletter.

HUNTERDON SENIOR MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

COMPUTER LESSONS AVAILABLE FOR HUNTERDON COUNTY RESIDENTS 60 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

Scrapbooking

Evelyn Stewart
2nd & 4th Thursdays
1:00—3:00

Jan 13 Stamping

(Gift for each scrapper—new 12x12 Scrabble tiles paper)

Jan 27 Special Request Tools

(Please let Evelyn know which tools you'd like her to bring)

These are informal sessions – drop by to learn and share scrapbooking techniques

Print Artist

Evelyn Stewart
Mondays
9:30—11:30

Jan 10 Get Well Cards—Intro to Quilling

Jan 17 Friendship Cards—Layering

Jan 24 Note Cards—Adobe PhotoShop Elements

Jan 31 Another step in Adobe PhotoShop Elements

Registration Required—Donations Welcomed

Beyond Computer Basics

Suketu Shah

Thursdays 9:30—11:00

Jan 20 System Tools/Disk Cleanup & Disk Defrag

Jan 27 Security Center—Anti Spyware & Anti Virus Software

Feb 3 File and Folder Management

Feb 10 Saving Documents, Pictures and Audio on CD

Feb 17 Internet Browser Tips

Registration Required— \$10 Suggested Donation

**Interested in becoming
a volunteer teacher or
tutor?**

Don't be shy

Contact Grace Marcus to discuss possibilities. *Flexible schedules, nice folks.* Feel good about contributing to your community.



Computer Basics

12 Weeks—\$15.00 Donation Suggested

Registration Required—Class size limited.

Please contact Grace Marcus 788-1359 for more information

Various classes taught by Bill Woodall—to be announced.
Please contact Grace Marcus 788-1359 for more information.

If you've already taken classes at our lab and would like individual help please call 788-1359 to discuss your needs and our ability to meet them.

Donations Gratefully Accepted



File Management

Evelyn Stewart

Wednesday

January 19

10:00-11:30

Registration Required—Limit 4 Students

Donations Welcomed

For more information please contact Grace Marcus at 908-788-1359

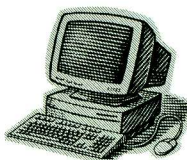
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/smpc/computerclasses.htm>

OPEN COMPUTER LAB

The Hunterdon County Senior Center's Computer Lab is open every Monday (except holidays) from 1:00 - 2:30. All Seniors over the age of 60 are welcome.

Bring your computer questions.

The instructor on duty will do his/her best to assist you. Donations gratefully accepted.

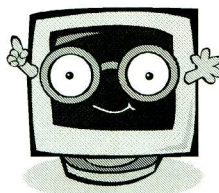


EXCITING NEWS!

Take a look at some of our upcoming presentations on Web Development.

February—Behold, the Web Page. A bit of history, and the nuts and bolts behind the magic

March—Creating a Web Page using DreamWeaver software



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2005



From the members of the Hunterdon Computer Club



SELF-GUIDED TUTORIALS AVAILABLE

Seniors over the age of 60 may reserve the SMPC lab to use the following interactive CDs:

- Typing Tutor
- MS Word XP
- MS Word 2000
- Excel XP
- Excel 2000
- Outlook XP
- Outlook 2000
- PowerPoint XP
- PowerPoint 2000
- Access XP
- Access 2000

Call Grace Marcus: 908-788-1359

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sara Oderwald

- Coffee Service.....\$47.10/month
- Cream Cheese.....\$10.00/month
- Postage.....\$28.00/month

As a community service, Staples prints our Newsletter for free.

Account Balance: **\$721.21**



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Susie Rosenborg



REMEMBER THE TRADING POST?



Many club members have asked about sharing copies of freeware, public domain, non-copyrighted programs that have been mentioned during our meetings. Under the direction of **Don**

Colombo the Trading Post will be resurrected. Look for the Trading Post sign at the next meeting. We will use the honor system, so if you pick up a CD, please leave a blank CD, or return the one you're borrowing. Speak with a Club officer if you have a special request. The officers will take care of the copying. See you at the sign of the Trading Post.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USB 1.1 & USB 2.0?

Speed is the main issues between a USB 1.1 and a USB 2.0 connection. The standard USB 1.1 provides a data transfer rate of 12 MB/sec. The USB 2.0 standard specifies a data transfer rate 480 MB/sec (nearly 40x faster than USB 1.1). For the casual user, this difference in speed may not be noticeable, but it will be noticeable when moving large amounts of data.

A computer with USB 1.1 ports can be used with USB 2.0 devices, however they will transfer data at the slower rate. A computer with USB 2.0 ports can also use USB 1.1 devices, but again will transfer data at the lower rate. USB 1.1 will take 8.5 minutes to transfer 512MB of data. With USB 2.0 it will take 70 seconds to transfer 512MB. That's over 7 minutes saved!

A Computer Is a Terrible Thing to Waste

Don't let your obsolete tech gear sit in the attic--or worse, end up in a landfill--

By Anne Kandra

From the January 2005 issue of **PC World magazine**

I'm not proud of this, but here's what I recently discovered stashed in a corner of my basement, right next to the high school yearbooks and stacks of vinyl LPs: two old tower PCs, two CRT monitors, a nonfunctioning multifunction fax/copier/scanner, a cell phone the size of a Kleenex box, a single-disc CD player, an elderly but willing inkjet printer, and a PDA that long ago lost its will to hot-sync.

Naturally, I never intended to create a refuge camp for discarded digital devices. It just sort of evolved, primarily because I wasn't sure what to do with the old stuff. Nobody I knew wanted it, and the local charities I usually donate to generally don't take technology equipment.

I'm clearly not the only one harboring a gadget graveyard. In addition to the electronic clutter in garages across the land, plenty of businesses have storerooms stocked with ancient equipment.

Throwing the stuff out, though, can be worse than stockpiling it. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average CRT monitor or TV contains about 4 pounds of lead, and most electronic devices contain mercury, cadmium, and other hazardous materials. Currently, according to the EPA, electronics account for about 1 percent of all solid waste, but most research suggests that the percentage is increasing every year.

Manufacturers Help

The good news? Hardware makers and other companies are finally starting to help stem the flow of electronic waste. Many have established programs that make recycling easier for consumers and that offer incentives such as discounts on new purchases for customers who recycle.

Last summer, Office Depot worked with HP to offer free electronics recycling to the public for a limited time--all you had to do was drop off your device at a local store. Companies such as Dell, Gateway, and IBM provide recycling services, too.

HP, which historically has been proactive in

electronics recycling, will recycle just about any PC, monitor, printer, scanner, fax machine, or handheld device--including equipment made by companies other than HP. You simply fill out [an online form](#) and pack the hardware up. At \$13 to \$34 per item, the service isn't the cheapest solution around, but the convenience is hard to beat: Just leave the box on your doorstep, and rest assured that your hardware will be reused or recycled for parts.

If you have your own collection of outgrown tech gear languishing in a hall closet, start the new year right and clean house. Chances are that you have something someone can use. Even if you don't, it's worth spending a few minutes--and maybe a few bucks--to dispose of those dormant devices responsibly.

First take inventory of what you have in storage. Separate the things that work from those that don't, and gather all the documentation and components you can find. Don't worry if the devices have minor problems; in some cases, facilities will do minor repairs or upgrades.

Obviously you shouldn't even think of handing over a computer--or anything else that might store private information about you--without wiping the entire hard drive clean. (And remember, simply deleting the sensitive data doesn't make it unrecoverable from the hard drive.)

Some refurbishers or recycling services might offer to wipe the hard drive for you, but unless the company is run by your mom, my advice is to do it yourself. Look for some utilities that will eliminate all traces of you.

There is a downside to wiping the drive completely: Most charities and nonprofits don't have the resources to replace deleted operating systems and other software. If you have either a restore disc for the computer or your original copy of the OS, you can help by reinstalling the software or by including the disc with the PC.

Free to a Good Home

Once you've collected and cleaned your hardware has-beens, you can focus on getting rid of them. The easiest approach is to find a company that specializes in placing or recycling used equipment and let that group handle the details, even if it ends up costing you a few dollars.

A helpful place to start your search is the [National Recycling Coalition](#), which offers

an extensive database of recyclers and refurbishers, listed by state. Another useful site is [TechSoup](#), which lists recyclers, refurbishers, charities, and other resources by region.

Check with your community's waste management department, as well. Many cities and towns schedule times when you can drop off electronics and other unwanted equipment; some even provide occasional curbside pickup service.

Got an old cell phone, PDA, or other small electronic device whose service is no longer required? ReCellular, a Michigan-based company, collects and refurbishes or recycles unwanted devices, donating most of the proceeds to charities. Return any retired cell phone to a local pickup spot, and it'll be refurbished, reused, or recycled, according to marketing director Mike Newman.

And don't forget that disposing of some recent tech products could yield you a little cash. Auction giant EBay is doing its part to encourage consumers to sell their outgrown computers for reuse. The company's [PC Selling Center](#) service lets you obtain a detailed description of your computer (using an online tool provided by *PC World*) and a quote of its value, print prepaid shipping labels, order shipping materials, post a listing, and arrange for pickup, all with just a few clicks. David Stern, senior category manager of systems at EBay, says, "When we surveyed our customers, we found a tremendous demand for systems that are between one and three years old. So it made sense to help sellers reach out to that community."

As for my own collection of idle tech tools, I discovered a nearby recycling center and cleared out my electronic castoffs within a few hours. Some of the devices--like the CD player and the printer--even got a new lease on life, finding a home at a nonprofit after-school program.

It's a win-win solution: You get rid of stuff you don't need, help a good cause, and do the environment a favor. But remember, the longer your computer sits idle, the less useful it becomes. So Happy New Year--and happy recycling.

Anne Kandra is a contributing editor for PC World. You can send her e-mail at consumerwatch@pcworld.com.



HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 18, 2004



Make Check Payable To: HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Send To: Sara Oderwald, HCC Treasurer, 202 Jacobs Creek Road, Titusville, NJ 08560-1429

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please indicate if this membership is: New Renewal Newsletter Only
ANNUAL DUES (please circle one): \$25 Single / \$30 Family (same-address household) /
\$8 Newsletter Only (outside of New Jersey)

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ e-mail _____

Information that will help us help you:

1. HOW WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP THE CLUB ? (check one or more)

- Club officer
 - Technical advisor
 - Setting up for the meeting
 - Taking club minutes
 - Newsletter
 - Programs
- Other _____

2. PLEASE TELL US IF YOU HAVE AN AREA OF COMPUTER EXPERTISE?____ IF SO, WHAT IS IT?

3. PLEASE COMMENT ON YOUR INTEREST IN JOINING THE HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Many thanks to the following Club members for their contributions to this month's Newsletter:

**Don Colombo * Lon Hosford * Ilene Shope
Party Photos by Sara MacQueen Oderwald**

Special thanks to the **BAGEL CLUB** (coupons below) for generously donating good eats. And continued thanks to **Barbara and Mike Middleton** for ensuring that we always have refreshments available during HCC meetings.

Submissions for articles, cartoons, pictures, or other information pertinent to the club are due to the editor by the **first Friday of each month**. When you e-mail your submission, please be sure to include **HCC Newsletter** in the subject line. Send to:

editor@hunterdoncomputerclub.org

BUY 6 BAGELS

• Home made soups & Salads

• Catering Platters

• Full line of smoked fish



BAGEL CLUB

Unique Bagel Cuisine!

GET 3 FREE!!

20 Commerce St. Flemington, NJ 908 806 6000

&

2100 Wescott Dr. Hunterdon Medical Center 908 237 5410

HCC

BUY 6 BAGELS

• Home made soups & Salads

• Catering Platters

• Full line of smoked fish



BAGEL CLUB

Unique Bagel Cuisine!

GET 3 FREE!!

20 Commerce St. Flemington, NJ 908 806 6000

&

2100 Wescott Dr. Hunterdon Medical Center 908 237 5410

HCC