

NEXT MEETING

The June meeting will be on Saturday, June 15, at the Hunterdon Medical Center, starting at 8:30 AM. The 10:00 AM program will be a panel discussion opening with the topic of "Upgrade or buy new?" and moving on to other questions as interest dictates. The search committee hopes to find a panel assorted in experience and interests. At the close of the May meeting, panelists listed were Jac Carroll, Steve Steinberg and Joe Burger. It is hoped that one or two less experienced people will volunteer, to present the joys, fears, and confusion of the newer user (The one who purchased the top of the line last week and hears that it is now obsolete.) Call anybody on the Officers panel to volunteer.

The May Meeting

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon Computer Club was held on May 18, 1996, at the Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington, NJ. President Maureen Barron called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Our solitary guest was Carol Myers from Lambertville, a new user with a new machine, who found a Users Group in New Mexico and came to the Senior Center to ask if there were any such thing around here. (Note the Newsletter banner above that says volume 9.)

Treasurer Jac Carroll reported a balance of \$792.57. Jake Fisher asked what accounts for the decline noted since he joined. Jac explained that our only expenses are the newsletter and refreshments, and that the rising costs, particularly of postage, will require raising the dues soon.

Jac again urged people to use the club bulletin board, which he maintains at his own expense, as a stepping stone to using the Internet.

Secretary Stewart reminded people to pick up copies of *The Secret Guide to Computers*. She remarked that Senior beginner classes are graduating in May and June - the fourth contingent, and that at least sixty people have asked for spaces in the September classes. The Level II class has met only a few times, exploring options, and will settle down to a definite curriculum in September. Teachers are always needed. There are another sixty people asking for advanced courses. Members are invited to design and offer any course that interests them, for these people, all of whom have computers at home. Call Activities Director Dottie Hartsell at 788 1359 and talk it over. Course content is limited to 386's with Windows 3.1, and small hard drives.

Librarian Art Gerke was absent.



Computer Volunteers

In addition to club activity at the Office on Aging, noted above, Pat Frusco was pleased to announce that all of the ARC obsolete software has found homes. Maureen reminded recipients that a donation to ARC is hoped for. (ARC = Association for Retarded Citizens.) Pat also repeated the request for teachers for evening hours at the Medical Center. Call her for more specifics.

[The Secretary forgot to mention that in the weekly training sessions at NorWesCap Family Outreach (GED classes) assistance was provided in using **MSPUBLISHER** for the Director to produce last summer's graduation program and a current three fold brochure. There is a new scanner waiting there for installation and training. If you could help call Diana Kelly at 782-5161.]

Program Chairman Bill Woodall outlined coming programs. In June we will hear a panel discuss Update vs. Replace. In July The topic is scanning, video grabbing and related graphics activities. August brings us Managing Your System - what to do with all those gigs of hard drive space. In September it's networking for the home, - connecting all your computers.

Rick Williams announced that HMC is offering two week summer sessions for children through grade 5, which will include computer lab use.

Alan Nass sold for best offers a large collection of unopened hardware and software. He is leaving us to build a cabin in Vermont, as soon as his house sells. The downside of having a small, friendly club is that we miss each member badly when one insists on moving away.

Harvey Schraam managed the raffles. Ed Ulrich and Eugenia Simberg were among the winners.

Preliminary to the program, members were asked how many had Internet access. About two thirds of the 45 people present raised their hands. The long wait for Hunterdon local access has ended.

The Program

Presented by Bill Woodall

Before dialing into the Internet, Bill showed one of his new treasures, a removable storage disk that holds 1 gig of information. It costs \$100. The device that makes it work costs \$500. Bill believes that tape backup devices will soon disappear.

The next mind-boggler was the news that with a program called **System Commander** (\$65.) Bill can and does run **Windows 95, Windows NT** and **DOS 6.22** on the same system. He noted that a virus cannot get to the boot sector, because **System Commander** controls this area. **NT** is Bill's choice for almost all his work. The full version of **NT** costs around \$300.

Then we came to accessing the Internet. Bill pointed out that those who are using AOL and CompuServe for access are paying far more than they need to. With a service provider such as Eclipse or Prolog, you can access your AOL or CompuServe account, using the local phone number of your provider. Local providers cost \$20 - \$25.00. Someone suggested Blastnet as a provider. Bill said he had had long waits trying to reach them. AT&T still has not acknowledged the existence of Hunterdon County, and you have to pay phone bills to New

Brunswick, to use their Internet server. United Telephone's current promise is a local number by the end of this summer, Joe Burger reported.

Before he called the Internet Bill opened Notepad, explaining that this enables him to print out, or cut and paste, anything he finds of interest. His machine has 56 MB of RAM. Before he finished, Notepad was open, a file was being downloaded, and we were seeing other Net sites open one after another, all going on at the same time. Alt. + TAB moved us back and forth among the open projects. Bill said an 8MB machine can run with 3 or 4 windows open at once.

Getting into the Internet, Bill listed club members who have put up Web sites besides his own: Brad Oswald, John Gbur, David Nowotnik, and Gene Martinez. He cited AT&T's site (<http://www.att.com>) as an example of good design, because the text comes up right away, in contrast to the sites which make you wait while a graphic slowly covers the screen before you can see what's offered. Godzilla, for instance, takes 18 minutes to load, and one picture is all you get for your time. The black boxes on the screen are spaces saved for graphics that are on their way.



Yahoo is a popular search tool. (<http://www.yahoo.com/>)

AltaVista is another popular one.

You can read news or newsgroups with NetScape. Directory, Go to Newsgroups, but Bill says **Agent** (\$40.) handles them much better. You can download **FreeAgent** free. **Agent** has current lists, whereas AltaVista may be 48 hours behind in listing new titles. **Agent** also handles email.

A LIST or mail list, is a sort of party line for subscribers to a given newsgroup.

Anyone can put up a topic that starts with alt. For example: alt.dinosaurs.barney.die. These are unregulated postings. A regulated posting goes through several weeks of supervision before it is listed as a full fledged Newsgroup. A monitored newsgroup has a sort of censor paying attention to what is posted.

For an interactive way to pass the time, dial devilbunnies vs. the army of fud. (Sec. failed on exact address for this - try search engines above.)

For more graphics than you need, get alt.binaries.clipart

Eudora is the most common email program. It can be complex to set up. It can give up on very large messages. Another one is Pegasus, which you can download free, and which is supported by a man in New Zealand.

Currently the New York Times is free, but you have to subscribe. The front page goes on the Net at 7:30 the night before the paper comes out. Movie reviews are up at about 3:30 the day before. Bill subscribes to Island Telecom, a service that scans several papers and posts to him all articles on topics he selects, at a cost of 15 cents a day.

We saw a screen of ads in Yahoo. When Bill clicked on one of these we saw the Web site advertising of that company. The company pays Yahoo 2 or 3 cents for each time a user clicks on its ad.

Bill was using NetScape throughout the presentation. He explained that Microsoft puts commands into microsoft.com that will crash NetScape. NetScape Gold allows you to edit Web sites. He suggested you can download NetScape upgrades. A registered copy costs about \$40. Disks

arrive after many weeks. Mozilla is the internal working name for NetScape.

Some sites have a deny.aol.com statement so that people trying to access from AOL can't see that site.

Asked about ISDN Bill said Bell Atlantic will install this service for \$175.00, plus \$36. a month.

Asked about security. Bill said PGP Pretty Good Privacy works, and the US government would like to know how. He stressed that any encryption which is easy to use is easy to break. On credit card safety he said that out of many millions of dollars in Visa business in a year. losses amounted to \$11,500. He said it is much easier for a retail clerk to steal your card number than for anyone to get it from the Internet.

Asked if he thinks the Internet is a fad that will pass like CB radios. Bill hesitated and said he wasn't sure. (Ed. - a year or so ago on our BBS. Bill said he was sure the excitement would pass and leave the serious users going on as they were before.)

Try <http://www.shareware.com> or [nj general](http://www.njgeneral.com) or [news.annou](http://www.news.annou.com) or [news.newus](http://www.news.newus.com)

Once again we staggered out into the light overwhelmed by Bill's knowledge and by the expanse of new experiences he opened up. from devilbunnies to serious research. from world wide webs to email with neighbors.



NO MORE FREE LETTERS

Facing the fact that our treasury is declining we will no longer send the newsletter after your renewal date has passed. Some ex-members have received several free issues, on the assumption that they would probably pay soon. Your renewal date is shown on every label, with a red dot added if the date is current or a past month. Individual notices are going with this issue, which is the last that will go to people who are not paid up tp date.



FROM THE NETSCAPE HANDBOOK

After noting that there are thousands of newsgroups on the Internet, and that you read a thread of replies back and forth on a topic. the handbook comments." A strictly chronological organization of every newsgroup contribution would create a discombobulated trail of articles less pleasant than reading Joyce in his later years."

JUNO FREE INTERNET E-MAIL SERVICE

Long, long ago I sent a card expressing curiosity about JUNO. Months passed and I received a card saying I would get the software as soon as they had it ready. More months passed. Now a new card says " Our in-depth beta testing took somewhat longer than we had scheduled, and our release date has slipped into the second quarter" (of 1996)....."we will begin our controlled national roll-out by

shipping copies of the software to the tens of thousands of people who have requested it, starting with those who have been waiting longest.".....Keep your dues up to date and some day you will find out right here what and who is JUNO, anyway?

COMPUTER REPAIR

personal comment from Evelyn Stewart

I am adding to my list of repair and sales sources : CSR Computer Service Resources, Inc. P O Box 5322. Clinton 08809 Phone /FAX 908-735-2405. Prop.: Donald Hufnagel. Don makes house calls, even weekends and evenings. He also offers "on site preventive maintenance." I doubt that he could predict and prevent the dumb things I do, but he convinced my machine that it has a CD ROM drive, which it was denying, and he made it talk again. He did not figure out which dumb thing I did to cause the troubles..

FREE WORKSHOP

Microsoft is running workshops on Networking for Small Business. Edison dates and event numbers: June 13 AM # 8221; June 18 PM # 8219; June 25 AM # 8220 . These are all at the Microsoft NJ Office, 379 Thornall St., Edison. To reserve a place call 800-550-4300. Products featured will be Win 95, NT Server, MS Exchange Server. MS Internet Tools, and MS Office for Win95. AM sessions run 9 to 12; PM 1 to 4.

SCRABBLE UPDATE

Cygnus Cybernetics Corporation has issued THE Scrabble program, only you must ask for CrossWise. It's a Windows version, with all the new words (ab, ed,

yo and 1269 others) that are accepted for tournament play. It comes with 3 saved configurations, and you can configure for almost any word game. You can drag and drop the tiles, or type them. The whole thing is big and bright and clear. You can set the computer to play at 12 different levels. You can print out the board and a recap of the moves. It will find all the anagrams of a given set of tiles. It will keep a record of all your wins (and losses.) You can play against another human and not have to pick up the tiles. \$45.00 . 2013 Weathertop, Fort Collins, CO 80526. Highly recommended by an addict.



Joe Burger has again made a selection for you. It's called **WINDOWS POWER TOYS**, things to try in **Windows 95**. The Trader can't try it out for you, but we trust Joe.

So as not to leave the common user out in the cold, I am adding **Double Blocks**, a **Tetris** variant for DOS (!) that allows two players on one keyboard, and even on modem, written when that was pretty exciting.

Trade a blank as usual.

'95 FEATURE

Do you know how to get a window that says "WHAT'S THIS?"

Answer on page 5.

You can get there from anywhere if you know where there is."

Netscape Handbook

Family Origins

A Review by Joe Burger

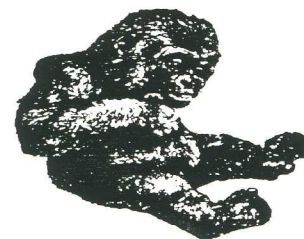
The Windows program by Parsons Technology is based on a flat file type data base to make it easier to start a family tree by having the structure and questions all ready setup. It's basically fill in the blanks. The notion of having to trace your roots depends on if the roots are worth tracing.

The main screen is sparse with a small tool bar and icons, an opening branching tree and not much else. The form is tabbed between a Pedigree (hierarchical) and a Family group view. Tool bar options along with the standard file and edit include; add, view, reports, tools, and options. Adding individuals, parents, spouses and children is straight forward. The whole program is based on the information given as there isn't any sample data base or on line tutorial. Having as much of the family's information available when entering is a great help as the program supports an editable source and events list. This is great for all the events that might go unreported. These tabled areas, similar to a spread sheet, allow you to enter the facts, such as home address, birth, marriage, occupation, etc. Connected with this is the sources/general notes section where you can substantiate the date of Sara Sues bake-off blue ribbon. Important changes with the family can be easily updated. Other noteworthy features include the Relationship calculator, (mostly used south of the Mason-Dixon line) and the Reports and charts.

The reports section is utilitarian in its formatting and not very "glitzy." There is a selection by query or search to mark or unmark people by matching criteria and a custom form setup to include selected details. The forms are; Pedigree, Family group, Descendant, Ancestor, Individual summary, miscellaneous (unlinked individuals), along with notes and sources and a problem analyzer. The problems are potential data entry ones, not how long the marriage will last. These

action by query or search to mark or unmark people by matching criteria and a custom form setup to include selected details. The forms are; Pedigree, Family group, Descendant, Ancestor, Individual summary, miscellaneous (unlinked individuals), along with notes and sources and a problem analyzer. The problems are potential data entry ones, not how long the marriage will last. These reports can be customized to a degree but don't expect video cuts or sound bytes. The picture types that are supported are .tga, .jpg, .bmp, .cmp, and .pcd. The photo charts go to 3rd generation and are only printed with no view option.

The major limitation of this program is the lack of scanner support, sound and video handling and the limited import and export of databases. Although there is mention of on line genealogical resources, there isn't a way to reach them from the program, unlike the personal finance Quicken, where it has Internet access. The Intuit company has bought Parsons and as with the absorption of software companies into larger ones so goes support. The help support is a toll call and I'm not sure if the CompuServe or AOL forums still exist. Family Origins comes on one HD floppy so it isn't loaded (or encumbered) with multimedia fluff. If you want to send a family chart to aunt Polly, or load it on your notebook and take it to the next family picnic its a good choice. Exploring one's heritage can be fun or dangerous but Family Origins is enjoyable and better than an old shoe box and a dusty album.



A DUNBAR DOWNLOAD

Proposed shows for a new cable channel targeting information systems professionals.

-From the Internet

This Old Mainframe - Host Bob Vila revamps a Univac and shows you how you can turn an old PC into a functional doorstop or other decorative object.

Name That Software - Contestants attempt to identify well-known business programs by looking at the least number of lines of code.

My Three Suns - Neighbors wonder why

Steve Douglas keeps three UNIX based work-stations in a suburban neighborhood.

Wang Can Cook - Chef Charles Wang blends together software in an incomprehensible manner from companies he's purchased. Studio guests grudgingly pay ever higher prices for his creations.

(TFTD's personal favorite)

Leave it to Spindler - The Spindler tries to earn money by selling apples but finds he can't sell them for as much as he paid for them. tries to make it up in volume. Ward, June and the Board of Directors sigh.

WordPerfect Strangers - Larry decides that using groupware would be a good way to meet women. but Balki's laser printer explodes ruining any chances of connectivity.

Mayberry CPU - Andy discovers that his digital clock has more intelligence than Goober. Aunt Bee debugs Floyd's electronic cash register.

The Honeymooners - Ralph dreams up a way to hit it rich with a 3-D word processor. but it turns out to be vaporware. Ed makes millions creating "Norton's

Utilities".

Mr. Rom's Neighborhood - Mr. Rom puts young ones to sleep by reading selections from various IBM documentation.

Says Me Street - Muppet like forms of Bill Gates, Larry Ellison and Scott McNealy show children how to work and play together on the information highway. Large character known as Big BlueBird is a favorite of the kids although no one really knows why.

Richard Lee Holbert

G_HOLBERTL@TITAN.SFASU.EDU

Downloaded by Liz Dunbar

**Answer to HCC
Windows 95 QUIZ:**

**Press left and
right mouse
buttons at the
same time**

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Eudora e-mail from Baltimore

Elizabeth S. Dunbar, 12:41 AM 3/27/96 , Oh, the Places You'll Go! (fwd)

Date: Wed, 27 Mar 1996 00:41:23 -0500 (EST)
 From: "Elizabeth S. Dunbar" <edunbar@umd5.umd.edu>
 X-Sender: edunbar@marple.umd.edu
 To: estewart@postoffice.ptd.net
 Subject: Oh, the Places You'll Go! (fwd)

----- Forwarded message -----
 Date: Tue, 26 Mar 1996 00:53:29 EST
 From: Steve O'Keefe <ips@olympus.net>
 To: Multiple recipients of list EDTECH <EDTECH@msu.edu>
 Newgroups: bit.listserv.edtech
 Subject: Oh, the Places You'll Go!

The digital home of Dr. Seuss
 is a great place for learning or just hanging loose.
 It's got stories and contests and fun things like that.
 You can even chat with The Cat in the Hat!

You'll find books and tapes and videos,
 a list of events such as Dr. Seuss shows,
 CD-ROMs that help people read --
 anything Seuss you could possibly need.

The Random House people are putting it on,
 just point your web browser to Seussville Dot Com
 <<http://www.seussville.com>>

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT
 GIRLS ARE NO GOOD
 ON COMPUTERS ?!



PRINT ARTIST

Print Artist is what you want when **Print Shop** gets frustrating. **Print Artist** imports graphics of almost any kind (including **Print Shop**) It has more fonts than you need. It prints text in endless crazy shapes, colored or multicolored. It changes the size of pictures or text just by moving the mouse. One warning: text always appears in the center of your work, and has to be moved to where you want it. **Print Artist** makes all the Trading Post signs.

I have bought every version of **PA** since it was **Instant Artist** for DOS. Before that I bought all the graphics issued by the Print Shop Users Group, for the Apple IIe The PSUG was a part time pursuit for Jeff Bianco while he was in college. He announced that he was graduating and moving on to bigger things, but he never made it, and now he's president of the Print Artist Users Club, and publishing endless graphics and enhancements. Sierra bought **PA** from Maxis.

Below is a coupon I think you will enjoy using. Here are the conditions:

- “ This version of **Print Artist** only makes signs, greeting cards, letterheads, and envelopes. It also comes with a sampling of the graphics and layouts that come with the full version. Do not install this version over an existing version of **Print Artist 3.0**.
- “ Feel free to make copies of the coupon (but not the software) and give them to all your friends.
- “ Sorry, we can't accept phone orders. You must mail in the coupon along with a check.
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 Address _____
 City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip _____
 Country _____
 Phone _____

FLASH: KEN GORDON SHOW EDISON

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Next Meeting - Saturday, June 15, 1996
Coffee 8:30 AM Meeting 9:30 Program 10:00

Raffles, Q AND A SESSION, 11:00 - 12:00

Hunterdon Medical Center Main Entrance
Rt 31 North of Flemington
Presenters: A Panel of Members
Joe Burger, Jac Carroll, Steve Steinberg, and
-Upgrade or Buy New?

Guests Welcome - all ages all interests

DO NOT WET

HCC NEWSLETTER

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Renewal date 6/96
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