

Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 7

NEW BANNER BY JOE BURGER

July 1996

NEXT MEETING

HCC meets next on Saturday, July 20, at Hunterdon Medical Center, from 8:30 to noon. Bill Woodall and Anthony Versarge will present graphics: - scanners, video digitizers, video capture, drawing/editing programs, etc.

THE JUNE MEETING

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon Computer Club was held on Saturday, June 15, at Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington, NJ. Carol Myers managed the Ways and Means department. About 40 people attended. President Maureen Barron called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

Guests welcomed included Ed Nicholas, Bogdan Camerman, with Bob Springer, and Julia Waugh, one of the Senior graduate new teachers, and our newest member. Julia has a 486 and is about to switch from AOL to a provider with a local phone number.

Jac Carroll, treasurer reported a balance of \$941.

Librarian Art Gerke and program chair Bill Woodall were absent.

Secretary Stewart urged members who took review copies to send in their reviews so we can ask for more titles to review. She reported that there will be a faculty meeting of Senior computer class teachers on Monday, June 17.

Maureen introduced Christine Elan, State Director for Resource Development, speaking on behalf of Spina Bifida patients. Spina Bifida is the most common birth defect, an opening in the spinal

column. For the first time, there is a generation of Spina Bifida patients living into adulthood, thanks to new medical discoveries. It has been determined that the defect can be prevented simply by making sure mothers take folic acid during pregnancy. Christine was speaking to us hoping we could help find computers for 12 patients in their twenties who are anxious to find ways to support themselves working at home. She hopes to find a Program Project Manager, and someone who could put up a web page. Bob Springer said he has a nephew who needs a project like this for Scouting.

Christine said AT&T has offered the use of a learning center for several days, where patients could get their initial training, but Spina Bifida Association has to find a teacher.

Contact: Spina Bifida Association of New Jersey, 84 Park Avenue, Flemington 08822. Christine Marie Elan, 908 782 7475 Fax 908 782 6102

THE PROGRAM

Panel members Joe Burger, Jac Carroll, Bob Springer and Steven Steinberg addressed the merits of upgrading versus buying a new machine. The conclusion was in favor of buying new, after detailed and technical discussions in which the word compatibility came up at every turn. Many members joined in with answers as well as questions. Beyond buying additional RAM (SIMS) and larger hard drives, upgrading seemed to lead to a great many problems.

As to upgrading a 286, the advice was to use it as a Fax server, or to run DOS programs, or to control patio lights, besides the usual suggestion of door stop or

A discussion arose about collecting the spare parts people have lying around. Someone suggested bringing the parts to a meeting. Jac Carroll pointed out that it would be much more efficient to list all the parts on the club bulletin board, actually just adding them to the list already in the flea market area of the board. Alternately, the board could list parts on a data base separate from the flea market. The board number is 782-8026.

One book was recommended: *Upgrading and Repairing your Personal Computer.*

THIS ONE'S FOR RIPLEY

downloaded by Liz Dunbar

> True story from a Novell NetWare SysOp:
>
> Caller:
> "Hello, is this Tech Support?"
>
> Tech Rep:
> "Yes, it is. How may I help you?"
>
> Caller:
> "The cup holder on my PC is broken and I am within my warranty period.
> How do I go about getting that fixed?"
>
> Tech Rep:
> "I'm sorry, but did you say a cup holder?"
>
> Caller:
> "Yes, it's attached to the front of my computer."
>
> Tech Rep:
> "Please excuse me if I seem a bit stumped, it's because I am. Did you



>receive this as part of a promotional, at a trade show? How did you
>get this cup holder? Does it have any trademark on it?"

>

>Caller:

>"It came with my computer, I don't know anything about a promotional.

>It just has '4X' on it."

>

>At this point the Tech Rep had to mute the caller, because he couldn't

>stand it. The caller had been using the load drawer of the CD-ROM

>drive as a cup holder, and snapped it off the drive.

>

>

>

listed me, but without a phone number. You can list just your name and email address.

Then I typed

<http://users.aol.com/jimgamble/> an address published in the latest *Puppeteers of America Journal*. Jim is one of the few people in the world who makes a good living as a full time puppeteer. I tried to print his graphic of a circus puppet show poster (*File menu - print*) and all went well, but slowly, until the print window said 75% stalled, and the bottom line said document done. Actually it started saying "stalled" around 45%, but went on to 75. 75% of the picture printed fine. On screen 75% showed, 25% was a black rectangle. I was caller 1051 on this site.

Then I typed <http://www.eat.com>.

Internet World magazine called this one of the most popular pages. It's by Ragu. It offers hundreds of recipes, but I couldn't print one. It offers coupons, but when you sign up for them you get email (very soon) that offers to let you know when to look for coupons in your local paper. I don't need help with that so I sent a reply following their directions for unsubscribing, but NetScape said the address was no good. Another sign up was a T-shirt offer for \$3.00 and 2 POP labels. The website lets you print the order form. This printed perfectly. In a few minutes I had 9 emails from Ragu. They also offer Italian lessons, with the words in English and Italian. If you click on an underlined word, the Professor is supposed to say the word for you. However, before he does this you need to download RealAudio. So I started that, but then it said I had to download an external viewer. So I tried to do that, and it appeared to finish but then said it was unable to launch the viewer. Both of these items suggested that I needed a higher version of NetScape and at least a 386 machine. At least there were no complaints about memory. So I had to do my Italian lesson by myself, which is OK

if you have already studied the pronunciation at the New School. Anyway, the Ragu site was fun and I would look at it again.

I typed <http://www.toyota.com> to learn more about my new RAV4. It offered me a CD ROM and mostly said Toyota cars are wonderful. Under "Affordability" it listed a price for each RAV model. The one I bought had a sticker price \$6000. higher than the web page listing - not a great marketing idea. I didn't see an update notice here, as I did on some site.

I typed

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/stacks/alexindex.html> This was supposed to give me an index of books available on line, but the message was that this index has been withdrawn because it was out of date.

As an alternate to that, I typed <http://www.cs.smu.edu/web/books.html> and got a choice of listing by author, title, whatever. All the titles are underlined which means any title you click on is supposed to appear. I read *The Call of the Yukon* on screen, and tried to print it as an experiment, not as a keepsake, but failed. Next time I will try saving to file and then printing.

After three hours on the Net, and 2 games of ritual Scabble, I went to bed with a comfortable paper back, *The Liars Club*, recommended. Of course, I had to check for email before I quit,

WEDDING MORPH INC

A Vancouver entrepreneur makes money taking ex-partners out of old wedding pictures. He also excises unwanted in-laws, or adds those who were unable to be present. Besides that he fixes hair-dos and trims waistlines, as needed.

Ref. *NY Times* 3/3/96.

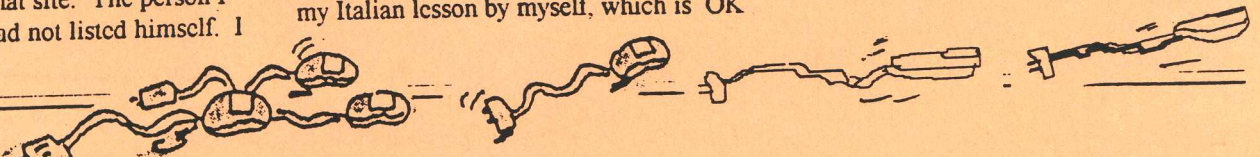
A NIGHT ON THENET

by Evelyn Stewart

I clicked on NetScape and waited, and my reward was a new message: Application Error Abnormal Program Termination. The cure for this was to turn on the modem and try again.

PC Computing Magazine listed 1000 free downloads from the Web so I typed <http://www.pccomputing.com> and nothing happened. The cure for this was to press Enter. I found the download site, but learned I need Navigator 2.x. The message said to read Help in the NetScape menu to find out what version I have. This involved leaving NetScape so I did it later and learned that I have version 1.1. Now I have to learn where to download a new version and what to do with it after I get it.

So I typed a new address <http://www.whowhere.com>, which promises to tell me email addresses of anyone anywhere, but depends entirely on voluntary listings from people who happen to call that site. The person I wanted to find had not listed himself. I



The following was downloaded by Gene Martinez from his email, then uploaded to the club board for you all to share. It is printed here just as Gene posted it. It may take a little effort to read but it's worth it.

MACHWORK - 05/30/96 20:35

From: GENE MARTINEZ **To: ALL**
Subj: SMALL SMALL WORLD **Area:**
DOS_HUG

It's a Small World after all..

Below is a message I received by email...

 From: mcomlan@vol.cz
 Date: Sat, 25 May 1996 20:37:56 +0200
 To: njkat@eclipse.net
 Subject: help

Att: Gene Martinez

Prague May 25, 1996

Dear Gene:
 I am sitting at the computer in Prague. There is a very special need, that I want to accomplish by Internet, namely to find telephone number. I have tried many words in search including the place - Glen Gardner. Will you help me? Will you send me telephone number including area code of

Mr. John Rimmele
 2 Rimmele Road
 Glenn Gardner
 New Jersey 088 26

Many, many thanks for your help!!!!

Best Regards,

Milos Puchta
 Prague E-Mail: mcomlan@mbox.vol.cz

 I found Mr Rinumele's phone number and gave him a call before I would send the number half ways across the world.... Mr Rimmele has a woman that is taking care of his mother, and guess that country and town she's from..... Mr Rimmele "OKed" me to send Milos his phone

number...So
 here's Milos reply....

 From: mcomlan@vol.cz
 Date: Thu, 30 May 1996 16:40:00 +0200
 To: njkat@lunar.eclipse.net
 Subject: THANKS

Dear Gene,
 many thanks for your help in your kind sending the phone number. I was afraid about my friend residing in this beautiful but distant spot. I have contacted my friend by phone and found OK. If you feel like to have any information or help or anything else from Prague (+-200km, we are a small country..) write an e-mail or a letter.

Best Regards,

Milos Puchta
 Branicka 36
 147 00 Prague 4
 Czech Republic
 Tel +42-2-7822884 (work), -755579

(messages)

E-mail mcomlan@mbox.vol.cz (this is new and cheap provider from Italy.. There are more Internet providers than birds in Prague parks today)

 -So you see it's a small small world today.....

Regards, Co-Sysop Data-Base On: 05/30/96 AT:
 20:41

Gene Internet: gene.martinez@data-base.com
 njkat@eclipse.net
 http://eclipse.net/~njkat
 http://www.woodall.com/doshug.html

**?pu gnikcab yb naem
 noy tahw siht sl**

wpw tagline



Top 10 Annoying Calls...

Downloaded by John Carroll

From InfoWorld, 6/3/96, Ed Foster's "The Gripe Line"

The Top 10 Annoying Things Users Say When Calling the Help Desk

10. Can you get me a faster computer?

09. It wasn't doing this yesterday. What did you do to me?

08. I need you to fix this RIGHT NOW, it's been busted for three weeks. No, this is the first time I've called...

07. This computer is jinxed. I want another one.

06. I hate dealing with computer geeks - oops, um, of course I don't mean you.

05. You're saying it's a user error? Well let's just see what your manager thinks about this.

04. What took you so long? This is the 15th time I've called you. No, I didn't leave any messages.

03. I want a new hard drive. This one's out of focus.

02. Oh, by the way, yesterday I swapped out the motherboard and the hard disk, installed Windows 95, and dropped the computer down the stairs. Do you think that has anything to do with my problem?

01. I didn't change anything - I swear!

Additionally...

Well, the last guy told me to do it this way, and I'd rather believe him than you.

My computer is broken, and if you don't replace it right away, I'm calling your boss and his boss and his boss.

My blinky is stuck.

Don't talk to me - JUST FIX IT! JUST FIX IT!

It was working fine yesterday, and I didn't drop it!

I'm getting an error message that says "Network error, unable to connect to socket." Does that mean my computer is unplugged?

Should I hit enter or return?

I need to know what bulb my monitor uses. It has burned out and my monitor no longer works.

And the one I thought was best of all...

I've learned this command that keeps me from running out of disk space. When the disk is full, I just delete some files. If I ever need them again, I can always UNDELETE them.

I'd want to stay far, far away from that individual...

A Summer Song

: To the tune of Sweet Alice from Pike

A Dunbar Download

Oh, do you know how to put Windows back on? I had it this morning, and now it is gone! The programs, the graphics, they all are a loss. The only thing left there, now, seems to be DOS.

Oh, can you interpret Novell errors, dear? It says there's a problem with binding

right here.

And something to do with a filter and queue. Just what it all means, well, I haven't a clue.

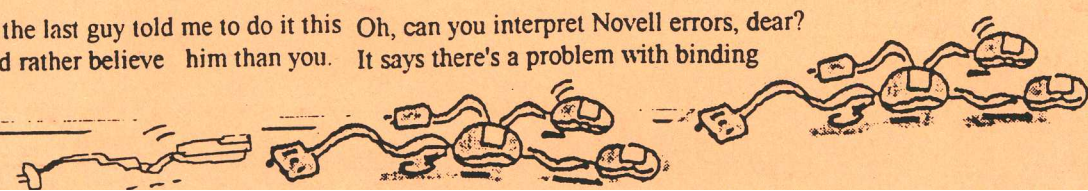
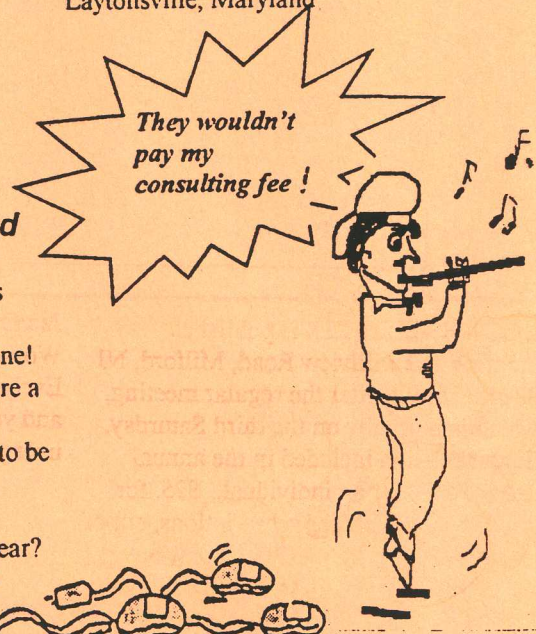
My body is wanted in cyberspace, now. The message appeared on my screen, here, just now. That's better than Satan's own email from Hell, Broadcasting that he wants my whole soul, as well.

Oh why do the printers make so much distress? The graphics can cause such a terrible mess, And Pascal and BASIC print only with gaps. Do you think it's something about Novell maps?

The faster I run, the behinder I get. The programs I know I must quickly forget.

[Respgrade my skills and debug all my faults, I wish I had my own Control, Delete, Alt.

AnnC Moeller
Laytonsville, Maryland



HELP WANTED

School people talk a lot about preparing students for an unpredictable future. Here is a bona fide sample of what lies ahead. Some of the high school students who call the club board asked about summer work as programmers. Here is the whole answer, unedited, unmorphed.

From: Bill Woodall
To: Justin, Jason, Kristen, J
Subj: Job openings

Wm P Woodall - Software (that's the official version of me) has need of subcontract specialists in the following disciplines:

Website maintenance - good knowledge of HTML required. Knowledge of CGI and/or Javascript programming would be very (VERY) helpful.

Visual Basic Programmer - good working knowledge of VB 3.0 (or 4.0). Needs to

knowledge of VB 3.0 (or 4.0). Needs to understand random and sequential file access, arrays, user-defined types, basic MCI multimedia usage, control arrays. Knowledge of QuickBasic 4.x and/or Basic PDS 6+ very helpful. You will be assisting in porting of CourseMaster(tm) language compiler to Windows.

Documentation writer - good language skills required. You will be writing end-user documentation for several projects.

Pay commensurate with experience and/or talent. Generally I look for people who have their own equipment and software and can work at home (or someplace other than here). Good working knowledge of modem required (shouldn't be a problem if you're reading this). Typical pay ranges from \$8 - \$35 per hour.

Resumes, queries, etc. can be left here or e-mailed to woodall@woodall.com

ABC COMPUTER SERVICES
Flemington, New Jersey

Steven Steinberg, M.A.
Director
(908) 782-4793

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Jac Carroll's BBS, Midnight Machine Works, 908-782-8026, directed to Evelyn Stewart. Or just chat on MMW and your comments may end up in print, unless you object.

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HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

**Next Meeting - Saturday, July 22
Coffee 8:30 AM Meeting 9:30 Prog 10:00**

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

**Hunterdon Medical Center Main Entrance
Rt 31 North of Flemington
Presenters: Anthony Versarge and Bill Woodall
Graphics: Scanners, video digitizers, video capture,
drawing and editing programs**

Guests Welcome - all ages all interests

HCC NEWSLETTER

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