HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 12

December 1996

CONTESTED ELECTION PEACEFULLY RESOLVED

In the most exciting election in the club's entire history, not one but two excellent candidates, Lon Hosford and Rick Williams, vied for the position of President. The campaign was carried on with the greatest calm and courtesy, not to say silence. The new president, Rick Williams, immediately upon taking office, magnanimously offered Lon the chair of any committee he wanted to create. The officers now are Rick Williams, President, Joe Burger, V.P., Jac Carroll, Treasurer, Evelyn Stewart, Secretary, Art Gerke, Librarian and Bill Woodall, Program chair. President Rick made history by sitting down with his new Vice president immediately following the meeting, to decide who should be in charge of bagel delivery., one of the club's more important functions. The club, up until now, has been notable for the absence of executive committee meetings of any size or duration. A note now and then on the Bulletin Board has become a decision, if no one posted any objection.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Something new has been added. Besides bringing party food , please bring a can or a box or two as a gift for the NorWesCap Food Bank, one of our first successes with the Computer Volunteer Program. Note that any donated food is distributed completely free. The only food they charge for is the food they pay for at the Hillside warehouse. They pay 7 cents and charge 14 cents a pound.

The party-meeting is on Saturday, December 21, at 8:30 A.M. Don Slepian, our traditional Christmas presenter, will once more please your ears and boggle your mind as he presses computer keys and draws out a symphony orchestra from his five (more this year?) computers. He sets up in the meeting room where you can watch closely and see how he does it, ask questions, and even try it yourself. He builds his own equipment and loves to tell you how it's done. He generally gets into full swing after the business meeting.

Think of request titles, from any century, and not just Christmas music.

The November Meeting

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon Computer Club was held on November 16, 1996, at the Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington, NJ. Doris Moore helped with sign-in, Jim Russ handled tickets. President Maureen Barron called the meeting to order at 9:30. Guests welcomed included Jerry Rotella, Wes Frueh, Frances Smolak, T.G.Blend, and Maxine Volger. fifty people attended.

Treasurer Jac Carroll reported a balance of $773.30. As Sysop, he commented that traffic on the BBS is much reduced, between Internet use and school being open so younger callers are using the HCHS board.

Secretary Stewart listed items received from Microsoft User Group and The User connection, including a club rate for the Connectrix camera line. The second order of The Secret Guide to Computers sold out at this meeting. The next order will be on sale at the December meeting. Books were reserved for Karl Nielsen, John Schaeffer and Cliff Rossignol. We pay $9. instead of the $15.00 cover price.

The Secretary also called attention to brocures describing DM for Windows, the successor to a very old file manager program, originally freeware written by Michael Mefford for PC Magazine. Mefford now has his own software firm. company. She showed a gift tag made using business card stock.

Librarian Gerke was absent.

Computer Volunteers chair Pat Frusco reported no new requests for help.

In unfinished business, ballots were distributed and collected. Maureen announced that the results would be announced after the program.

Q and A and miscellaneous discussion session:... **Local Internet access**: Joe Burger and Nick Wowchuck said Sprint is really working now, with a Clinton

number. The have both received goodie boxes with T-shirts and other treasures, from Sprint.

Voice Mail: Jim Russ explained that this is much like a message recorder except that you can set up a box for each frequent caller. **Corel's Word Perfect Suite** 7 was highly praised. Bill Woodall noted that Microsoft **Internet Explorer** will not run on 95. **Navigator 1.1** and **Chameleon** are good for beginners.... There was a lengthy discussion of printer compatability with Navigator v.3.... Jim Russ discussed problems with **DeLorme's Map & Go....** Maureen asked for help in finding a 386 for her son to take to college. Bob Springer offered to give her one.

Phil Stonesifer asked for support of Spina Bifida's wheel chair basketball game to be held at North Hunterdon HS November 23.

Maureen drew attention to newspaper articles about local school projects to enroll enough families in an Internet service to make free service possible for the schools.

Jim Russ took care of the tickets and Phil Stonesifer had the right one.

Maureen had to leave before we had time to thank her for two terms of service as president, and faithful delivery of the bagels.

THE PROGRAM - Windows NT

Bill Woodall, presenter

Describing NT 4 (New Technology) as "what Windows 95 was meant to be", Bill demonstrated NT and pointed out differences between NT and Windows 95. One difference is that NT doesn't freeze, or crash. When it gets a GPF the system does not freeze and you can go on working.

NT has two versions. The Workstation, for $300. is for the end user. The Server, for $1000. is for service providers. Both are for power users. NT needs 16 Mb of RAM. Beyond 32 Mb there is no performance gain because NT can't use more than 32.

You have to log on to start NT, but you do not have to be connected to a Network. NT starts very fast because all the machine's memory is in use to cache the hard drive.

There is a feature called the Event Viewer which tracks steps leading up to an error. Another feature called Disk Administration lets you give a drive a new letter name almost any time, not just when you set up your machine. NT canbe on any drive. It has a Stripe Set which allows storage of a volume (disk) over multiple drives. NT supports any SCSi drive and almost any backup system.

Unlike Windows 3 and 95, NT is not using DOS "underneath". You can run DOS programs. Win 95 programs run 50 to 200% faster with NT, Win 31. and DOS programs run about the same as you are used to. Snappy video capture is one of the few things that has not worked for Bill with NT, but an upgrade is due soon, that will make it compatible.

When you install NT on your old system, it upgrades all your software, except for Win95, which must be reinstalled. NT comes with real books for manuals, not on line things to be printed out.

Asked about future prices, Bill said the days of under-$100 software are ending, and that $300. for NT is a bargain.

Peter Barone noted that it is possible to set up a machine with multiple operating systems.

Bill characterized Win95 as "the great compromise" for old machines and "the first commercial application of a virus." His advice is to skip 95, wait until you can afford a 16MB machine, then use NT.

Instead of uproarious and well earned applause, Bills' talk ended with amazed silence from the basic users, Including your note taker, and an immediate gathering of power users or would-be p.u's, asking questions as fast as Bill could answer them.

As always, the club is indebted to Bill for pushing us steadily into the future, and meanwhile answering all our questions from the simplest to the the obscure, and helping us to keep our old machines staggering along.

New Members - New Addresses.

Jerry Rotella and family, 67 Old Croton Road, Flemington 08822
908-782-8180

Wes Frueh, 27 F Snelling Way (???) Bridgewater NJ 08807
908-526 (?) 0812 (Please translate on December sign in - thanks.)

Alan Nass, P O Box 188, Reading, VT 802-484-05062
asnass@cyberportal.net

Footnote on Picture Printing from the November Meeting

To trace the steps: Jim Russ set his Connectrix camera, walked around in front of it, the picture data went into one of his 22 computers, he copied three picture files onto a floppy, and mailed the floppy to me. I inserted the files into Word 6 and learned

that they did not travel to Publisher, so I inserted them directly into Publisher. They looked fine on the screen. They looked fine printed on the HP500 on good white paper. At Staples I asked for beige paper. The copy person was not happy with the printing, and said they have trouble each year at major weather changes, with certain colors. So we quickly chose blue. Bad choice. The pictures have so much black that on blue there is little contrast. Also the pictures take so much copier toner that the paper wrinkles a little. At home I can set the copier to less toner for that one page.

Connectrix has sent us brochures of all their products, and a club discount order sheet, including the camera Jim showed us, for $70. If you didn't see this at the November meeting, call 995 4042 or email estewart@ptdprolog.net and I'll send a copy.

CARD FILE? SHAME!

Card files are not cool - but..... I got very tired of scraps of paper as well as long, unorganized lists with web sites or newsgroups that caught my eye as I was reading. I moved them all to small cards alphabetized, set in an open top box, so I can find them before Netscape freezes or the time out bells ring. Most addresses start out in Miscellany at the front of the box . After I find out what one is, I cross it off or copy it to a category card. This is easbackier than using Windows cardfile, or WinPost , since you want to read the cards while you are connected. I've been making notes as I try each address -not found, dumb, blackout, too slow, good, etc. Making bookmarks comes after you have found something worth marking.

Computer Shows Footnote

I asked why the HP500 printer cartridge and one other were kept at the Staples' front desk while all the rest were on the peg board hanger display. "Because those get stolen and these don't." Further chat with "a reliable source" led to the news that these 2 items account for the biggest loss through theft over all the Staples stores, totaling a million dollar loss. "They steal fifty at a time. Those are the ones you see cheap at flea markets." Yuk.

Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.
Sent by Liz Dunbar

: Performance Reviews Paul Glattstein forwarded this download, forwarded to him by his daughter

The British Military writes OFR's (officer fitness reports). The formused for Royal Navy and Marines fitness reports is the S206. Thefollowing are actual excerpts taken from people's "206's"....

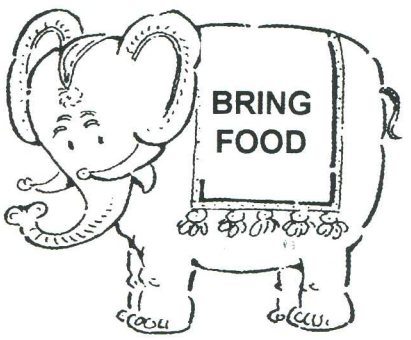
- - His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.
- - I would not breed from this Officer.
- - This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, but more of adefinitely won't-be.
- - When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
- - He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
- - He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
- - Technically sound, but socially impossible.
- - This Officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope - always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.
- - This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- - When he joined my ship, this Officer was something of a granny; since then he has aged considerably.
- - This Medical Officer has used my ship to carry his genitals from port toport, and my officers to carry him from bar to bar.
- - Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
- - She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- - He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.
- - This Officer should go far - and the sooner he starts, the better.
- - In my opinion this pilot should not be authorized to fly below 250 feet.
- - The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.
- - Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap
- - This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

If either word games or Christmas offend you hit the d key now.

Christmas Synonyms This quiz is for all you sophisticated and educated folk! Just translate each of the 22 statements listed into recognizable English. Each one is a common Christmas saying or song.

1. Move hitherward the entire assembly of those who are loyal in their belief.
2. Listen, the celestial messenger produced harmonious sounds.
3. Nocturnal timespan of unbroken quietness.

4. An emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good given to the terrestrial sphere.
5. Embellish the interior passageways.
6. Exalted heavenly beings to who harkened.
7. Twelve o'clock on a clement night witnessed its arrival.
8. The Christmas proceeding all others.
9. Small municipality in Judea southeast of Jerusalem.
10. Diminutive masculine master of skin-covered percussionistic cylinders.
11. Omnipotent supreme being who elicits respire to ecstatic distinguished males.
12. Tranquillity upon the terrestrial sphere.
13. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.
14. Expectation of arrival to populated area by mythical, masculine perennial gift giver.
15. Natal celebration devoid of color, rather albino, as ahallucinatory phenomenon for me.
16. In awe of the nocturnal time span characterized by religiosity.
17. Geographic state of fantasy during the season of mother nature's dormancy.
18. The first person nominative plural of triumvirate of far eastern heads of state.
19. Tintinnabulation of vacillating pendulums in inverted, resonant cups.
20. In a distant location the existence of an impoverished unit of newborn children's slumber furniture.
21. Proceed forth declaring upon a specific geological alpineformation.
22. Jovial Yuletide desired for the second person singular or plural by us.



Lumina Fax Machine

by Paul Glattstein

Several years ago I bought a new fax/modem card for my PC. I bought it mostly for the faster modem speed, 14,400 baud versus my old 2400 baud one, but also for the fax capability. Although my wife and I used the fax feature on a regular basis it was always a bit awkward and never as convenient as I would have liked. On the incoming fax side we always had to be sure to tell people to telephone first so that the computer could be turned on and the fax software loaded. In addition, there were a number of instances where "real" fax machines refused to connect with the fax/modem card or did so only with great difficulty. On the outgoing side, my wife always had trouble with the fax/modem software and never got comfortable with sending faxes. She wanted a real hardware fax machine.

I started checking fax machine specs and looking at machines and concluded that I really didn't like the thermal paper type. I wanted a plain paper one, but after looking at the plain paper ink jet ones and the multi-function laser printers machines I still hadn't found a suitable machine at a reasonable price.

After some further searching I came across the Lumina a stand alone fax unit that prints through your laser printer. It works nicely with the printer on or off, storing about 60 pages in memory if the printer is off. It also copies with a zoom feature to reduce or enlarge the copy and can be used as a monochrome scanner. The Lumina comes with some OCR software to scan text into your PC and fax software to send faxes from your PC in addition to the stand alone hard copy mode. It will also make copies to your printer in addition to using it to print faxes. It works with the computer on or off and with 1 meg of memory will store about 60 fax pages if the printer is off.

The unit is about 1/3 the size of a laser printer and only draws 8 watts so it can be left on all the time just waiting for a fax to arrive. It has a variety of programmable features such as speed dialing frequently called numbers and sending faxes to a group on a distribution list. The 9600 baud model stores about 4 fax pages in memory and sells for about $299, add another $100 for the 14,400 model with 1 meg of memory and 60 page storage.

Operation is very easy. Put your fax in the input tray, dial the number and press start. The machine will auto re-dial up to 5 times if the number is busy. It keeps a log of the faxes sent (with time, date and number called) which can be printed on request. In addition to the ease of use I think one of the best feature is that it doesn't need to be stocked with paper or toner cartridges since it uses the your current printer for output.

For more information check out the Lumina web page at http://www.lumina2000.com/

A DUNBAR DOWNLOAD

Subject: **TEN MEGS OF RAM**
"Sounds like: Green Eggs and Ham, which stars Sam I Am"
With apologies (and abundant thanks) to Dr. Seuss.

I cram RAM.
I cram RAM.
RAM-I-Cram.

I'm RAM-I-Cram
and I sell RAM.
Do you have
ten megs of RAM?
I do not have
ten megs of RAM;

I do not need them.
RAM-I-Cram./

Do you code
in C++?
Simulate
a railroad truss?

I never code
in C++,
nor simulate
a railroad truss.

I do not have ten megs of RAM;
I do not want them.
RAM-I-Cram

Play a game
of Network Quake?
Or VR Vampire!
Here's your stake!

That is not
my idea of fun;
I only like
my steaks well-done.
I do not need
ten megs of RAM;
I will not buy them.
RAM-I-Cram!

Build a swapfile
like NT's!
Multitask
your EXEs!

RAM, you can nag
till hell might freeze;
up in the air or
on your knees.

I do not want
ten megs of RAM;
I will not use them.
RAM-I-Cram

Fill your laptop
to the brim!
Take them! Take them!
Here's the SIMMs!

Not in my lap!

Not COD!
RAM, let me be!
I do not want
ten megs of RAM;
I can't afford them,
RAM-I-Cram!

Hmmmm...
have you /tried
ten megs of RAM?

(Long pause, mouse clicks,
disk noises...)

You've won again,
you nasty man;
I must have those
ten megs of RAM.
My spreadsheets load
in half a flash
(Although you've drained
my bank of cash....)

Well, sure,
the payoff's
worth that risk.
Now--do you have
four gigs of disk?

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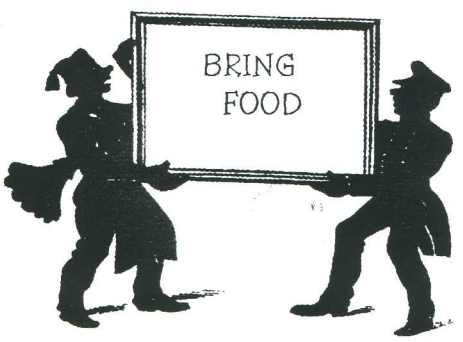
Hunterdon Central Senior Computer Lab

Seniors packed Room 150, on November 5, to hear students tell them how to get on the Internet. In two hours everybody had connected, conducted a search in Yahoo, learned how to use bookmarks, and lots more. The following week, with standing room only, general exploration on the Net was encouraged. Then came a session on e-mail, and almost everyone looged on to the high school bulletin board. The hope was that by the following session all these new accounts would have been processed and people would see the board and send messges.

Room 150 is open to all Seniors every Tuesday when school is in session, from 2:45 to 4:30. Now that the lure of the Internet has drawn a full house for 4 weeks the teacher-students have hopes of good attendance and continued interest for future Tuesdays. The student hosts are quite disappointed if only a few people show up.

HCC members are urged to spread the word to any seniors they know. They do not need to be members of the classes at the Office on Aging. They do not need to be experienced computer users. They do need to be patient about finding a parking space. Room 150 is immediately inside the doors of the building down hill to your right as you face the main entrance.



The New Scrabble© CD

A review by Evelyn Stewart

Much heralded in the Scrabble© News and long awaited, the Hasbro version of the only game I am addicted to is a serious disappointment. The basic problem is that parts are unreadable and all of it hurts my eyes, a problem I haven't met in any of the hundreds of programs I have looked at. It starts with a long spell of graphics and noise. Then a very beautiful board appears little by little, intended to look as it does when you are seated at a table, so that the further squares are smaller than the near ones. In fact, when you look at a board on a table all of the squares look the same. No tournament players would put up with lighting like this. The upper left quarter is dim. The player's tile rack has black letters on dark wood color, really hard to read. The only way to tell the Q from the O is to drag the tile into a brighter area for a good look. The score board has very small black figures on dark red, impossible to read. The pull down menus have a good color choice but the font is very small.

Besides the offense to the eyes, the ears are attacked. I don't know what thunder and lightning and fireworks have to do with a game of concentration and strategy. Perhaps Hasbro's regular customers think these are essential to every game. .Bad quality renditions of ten familiar pieces of music, and ten original pieces, rattle along during play. When you enter a play, thunder crashes. When tiles are selected, more loud noise. When a bingo (all 7 tiles) is played, you get fireworks as well as noise. With all the sound options turned off it's quiet but the flashes of lightning remain. In tournament play, and in club play, silence is a serious rule. There is no background music. Even in kitchen table play, silence is pretty popular Hasbro should have noticed that Scrabble© and shoot-em-up games have nothing in common.

"TELEVISION IS CALLED A MEDIUM. IT ISN'T RARE, AND IT ISN'T WELL DONE"
from Liz Dunbar

That brings us to minor irritations. You can't just drag and drop a tile to place it. You have to click again to drop it. You can see each player's score just for a flash when it takes its turn. Knowing the number of remaining tiles is an important part of the game, but here you must press Alt+T to ask, and then you see the actual tiles remaining but have to count for yourself to know the number. This is not all bad, as it is the equivalent of "tracking", the custom many players have of recording each letter played.

The program is not all bad. You can choose levels of play from beginner to your choice of expert levels, from a national rating of 1600 or so on up. (I can't read the exact number). Each level of course uses a larger percentage of the entire 3rd edition of the Official Scrabble© Players Dictionary. In about ten trials, it seemed that the random distribution of tiles was working and the computer did not get all of the high score tiles. You can move letters on your rack just as in real life. The program runs without freezing, and I found no bugs.

The fine print on the box says the game runs with Win3.1 or Win95 or Mac. The larger print says you can play it on the Internet. When you install it, you learn that it expects a 486, although it runs OK on a 386 with 8Mb of RAM. You also learn that play on the Internet is only for Win95.

. Fortunately, all my old word game programs work just fine and I can put this one on the shelf. Do you suppose it will run on NT some day? I can't see suffering with Win95 just to play Scrabble© on the Net.

($39.95 at Toys R Us and Office Max)

TRADING POST

The December disk comes from Ed Ulrich. with two programms: ClipN Print and a Windows Spell Checker. Clip n Print llets you print directly from the clipboard. This is not a thing Ihave been yearning todo. but I can see some uses for it. It would be a quick way to print a small section of textselected and copied from a long document. for instance. Here's how to use Clip n Print. Ed sent zipped files. If PKware is on your path. you can unzip from wherever you are. If not . type CD PKWARE. Enter. Then type PKUNZIP A:\clipnp10 C:\temp or wherever you want the unzipped files to end up. Don't type the zip extension on the file name. You should get 3 files.

Next open Windows. use File Run Browse and choose CNPSETUP.exe. Choose a group for it to join or let it stand alone.

To try it. I opened the Publisher file for this newsletter. copied the snow man onto the clipboard. minimized Publishser. opened ClipNPrint. ClipNPrint showed what was on the clipboard., and printed it. To print it here I used the paste command. showing that the clip board works normally alongside of ClipNPrint. If Clip N Print shows up unwanted. just hit escape. and

finally. the program has its own uninstall file.

By the by. this snowman is a fairly good copy of one of the set of 12 Troyer Christmas ornaments I bought from the American Type Foundry long ago. They are all included on 3 CD's of 30.000 images. for about the price of the set of 12.

The second program from Ed is **Spell232**. zip. Unzip it as above. You might want to move the ClipnPrint files to a floppy so you don't mix them with the next batch.

Spell232 is a stand alone checker to use with Write. NotePad. Netscape e mail and more. As a harbinger of things to come. it also works with Win95 WritePad. Therefore it has 16 bit files and 32 bit files. It loaded the 32 bit files into my old machine and then complained because other files it needed were missing. It ran anyway. To check a sentence in Write. I had to copy it to the clipboard.exit Write. open Spell232. and then it said there were no errors. In my typiing?! Ha!.... If you learn more about how this works. please share.

HOW TO TELL IF YOU MIGHT BE A "HIGH TECH REDNECK"

If your e-mail address ends in ".over.yonder.com"

If you connect to the World Wide Web via a "Down Home Page"

If the bumper sticker on your truck says "My other computer is a laptop"

If your laptop has a sticker that says "Protected by Smith and Wesson"

If you've ever douibled the value of your truck by installing a cellular phone

If your baseball cap reads "DEC" instead of "CAT"

If your computer is worth more than all your cars combined

If your wife said either she or the computer had to go and you still don't miss
her

If yoiu've ever used a CD-ROM as a coaster to set your beer on

If you ever refer to your computer as "Ole Bessy"

If your screen saver is a bitmap image of your favorite truck. or farm animal

If you start all your e-mails with the words "Howdy .y'all"

Dunbar Download Translations
Mazel Ton -Tons of luck:
Rigor Morris —the cat is dead.
Cogito Eggo Sum — I think. therefore I am a waffle.
Que Sera Serf - Life is feudal.
Felix Navidad — Our cat has a boat.
Porte-Kochere — Sacramental wine
Pro Bozo Publico— support your local clown

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Next Meeting - Saturday, December 21
Coffee 8:30 AM Meeting 9:30

Music by Don Slepian

Refreshments by Everybody
NorWesCap Food Bank gift table to fill

Hunterdon Medical Center Main Entrance
Rt 31 North of Flemington

Guests Welcome - all ages all interests

HCC NEWSLETTER

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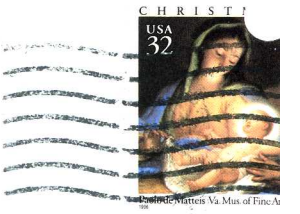

Renewal date 6/97
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