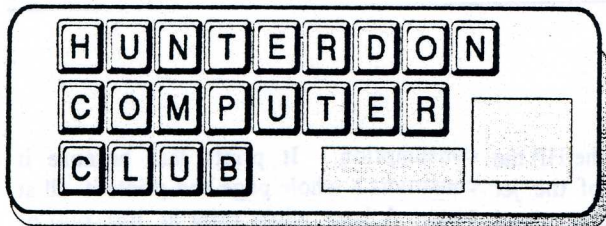


Newsletter



Volume 10 Issue 11

November 1997

had better have a backup computer to put them in.

THE OCTOBER MEETING

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon Computer Club was held on Saturday, October 18, 1997, at the Hunterdon Medical Center. President Rick Williams called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. About 40 people attended. Guests welcomed included Judy O'Keefe, Janet Sierzega, Barbara Kenyon and Brian Hamm.

Joe Burger's monthly report on computer news included word that there is a robot wandering on the Web looking for copyright violations. He also noted that AOL is now offering 720 free hours. He reported a problem with Western Digital AC 31600 units sold before August, '96.

Treasurer Jac Carroll reported "a balance of \$582 and holding".

Secretary Stewart pointed out there are a few copies of the 23rd edition of *The Secret Guide to Computers* for sale at the club price of \$9.00. Also, it is time to work on a new membership booklet and she urged members to record correct email addresses. The Trading Post selection GetRight was not available, but Don Colombo had provided one for credit report repair. She remarked that the Trading Post sign was printed with a fading Canon color cartridge. Yellow is the first color to go.

She urged people to help get Seniors to go to the Hunterdon Central Tuesday free computer lab sessions, at which Student council members offer endless instruction. The program is excellent, but in danger of

being discontinued if attendance does not increase.

COMPUTER VOLUNTEERS

The Sec. went on to say that the teaching staff of the Senior Computer Classes has voted to continue offering help beyond the beginner level, but instead of offering to teach a certain program they will offer to explore it with students. Even in very small groups the disparity in abilities made it difficult to use set lessons. There are currently 40 beginners waiting to enroll. The Crafts Club, using Print Artist, has been very successful, but sorely needs 486 machines to be able to duplicate the tempting samples shown.

Following the formal reports, there was a discussion of the Amazon book store on the Web. It not only lists thousands of books, but prints reviews volunteered by ordinary readers.

Ed Matko gave away an 18 pin Okidata 242 color printer. Maureen Barron took it home to try out.

Mosaic turned up on the raffle list, having been returned unopened by several winners. We tried to give it to Lon Hosford for the RVCC museum, but he said the museum is closed, that is to say, full. Mosaic was officially discarded.

President Rick opened the floor for further nominations. Hearing none, he declared the nominations closed. A motion to dispense with paper ballots, since there are no contested positions, was made and seconded, and passed unanimously. The slate to be voted upon in November is: President, Lon Hosford; Vice-President, Joe Burger;

MUDDY CRYSTAL BALL DEPARTMENT

HCC will meet again on Saturday, November 15, at the Hunterdon Medical Center, 8:30 AM. Lon Hosford will take office as President. Joe Burger will start another term as Vice-President, with Denise Burger starting another term as super bagel provider.

Jac Carroll and Ed. will continue as Treasurer and Secretary. The moral of that is to tell both of us when you pay dues, to insure being on the mailing list. Jim Russ will continue as Program Chairman and will present a comparison of five mapping programs. This presentation was announced in error for the October meeting, when the presenter was Bill Woodall on printers. As usual, the review we print can't possibly tell it all. The moral of this is: come to every meeting - you never know what you may be missing.

The December newsletter will contain all the treasures missing from this issue. And the moral of that is: Floppies are still a useful way to backup essential files. I saved everything on Zip Drive disks, anticipating trouble switching to Win95, but not anticipating that the person who carried away the machine to set up 95 would also carry away the Zip Drive. And of course being over-optimistic about the return time of the machine. I had a template file on a floppy, but you will have to wait for Paul's ice cream and beer diet, the Diehard Dos Lovers Creed and other gems.

Another note about backup disks is you

Treasurer, Jac Carroll
Secretary, Evelyn Stewart

Jim Russ, program manager, announced the topic scheduled for next month, but by general acclaim the December meeting will again be a party with music from Don Slepian's computers and food by all members. Denise gets a bagel break.

President Rick acknowledged a gift of a mouse pad with a quote from Groucho Marx: "Outside of a dog a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

THE PROGRAM

a presentation by Bill Woodall on
PRINTERS

The most frequent question is "What printer should I buy?" A good color laser printer can cost up to \$3000, but Bill talked about printers we might actually buy. He passed around copies of the same picture on a variety of papers. You can turn up the resolution in the software, but then for really good results you need to use photographic paper at \$1.10 a sheet. There is one standard weight. Hewlet Packard paper is good. Kodak paper is the slowest drying.

For color printers in general the printer costs have come 'way down, because the manufacturers have realized that the profit is in the ink cartridges. The Canon BJ-620C is a semi-pro graphics printer. It has separate cartridges for different colors. Over the same period it might use 5 yellow, 3 black, 2 blue, and 1 cyan. The cheaper printers, up to \$300., had single cartridges that cost from \$25 to \$50, and can't print correctly as soon as they run out of one color.

HP coined the name InkJet, so Canon had to choose another name, Bubble Jet,

for the same type of printer. On the HP the ink is boiled and comes out of the jet nozzles at 195 degrees. In Epson and Canon you get steamed ink at 300 degrees.

On the subject of refills, you can use plastic containers that squeeze to eject ink, or a syringe. Canon has a foam filter which the syringe must penetrate to get the ink into the right place. Canon redesigned the 620 to be harder to refill. If you get ink on your hands, use cold water and Clorox bleach.

To test for true color, download the Print Color Selection Chart from Bill's web page (Woodall@Woodall.com). The center column shows the pure color, with variants on either side.

Bill recommended purchase of software called SuperPrint., which gives you printer drivers much better than those that come with the printer or other software. A picture which took 25 minutes to print on a Canon printer took 6 minutes using SuperPrint.t It works with Post Script type, which is mainly for professionals, and is the common standard for professional type setting.

Bill explained that a laser printer costs more to buy but is cheaper to operate and much faster. Its drawback is power

consumption. It prints fast because it constructs a whole page and prints it all at once. A laser might print at 300, 600 or 1200 dpi (dots per inch). 1200 is the low end for professional graphics and needs 17 1/2 Mb of ram for one page. That's printer memory, not the CPU.

On costs of printing, Bill cited laser printers a 1.5 cents a page, and inkjets at 10 cents to a dollar and up to \$9.00 on top photo paper. You need two printers for the best of both worlds. An Okidata 393 dot matrix 14" wide costs 3/10 of a cent for a page, and new ribbons are a few dollars.

Don't leave ink cartridges in the printer, for moving, and don't leave them in a hot car. The ink can boil in the cartridge.

Bill described a Canon 620 as "disposable". After printing 25,000 pages in 18 months its printhead was dead. The new part had a price of \$325. A new printer cost \$350.

Question: What does bubble mean?

Answer: Bubble refers to the liquid droplets that HP and Epson printers shoot out onto the paper. Lexmark uses boiling ink. Canon uses steam, which gives more control.

General discussion led to agreement that



"When we heard about your hard disk drive we took up a collection."

tech service and repairs were good at all the major printer companies.

Bi-directional printer cables - Bill said they don't work reliably, and the printer runs faster without one. He gave as an example the printer sending a message back to your screen saying you are low on yellow ink, or the page is 50% done, facts that you can easily see for yourself as the paper emerges. Lon Hosford added that there are two varieties of bi-directional setups - ecp and epp (enhanced parallel port), and called the bi-directional idea a tech toy.

Bill cited many examples of printer initial cost, cost of ink or toner cartridges, cost, per page, pages printed per minute, durability in terms of thousands of pages printed without breakdown, with numbers flowing faster than your reporter could handle. The final answer to the original question of what to buy came down to an inkjet for color, paying attention to cartridge costs, a laser for black and white, and speed, and keep a dot matrix around to print cheap labels, banners, and wide documents.

To run your several printers, Bill said a reliable switch box should cost 25 or 30 dollars. General discussion indicated a wide variety of results with these boxes, not particularly related to cost.

To clarify any of the above, look for Bill in the smoking section, after any meeting. We are indebted to him once again for a masterful presentation (without notes) of a complex topic. Thanks.

NEW MEMBER, NEW ADDRESSES

Welcome to Judy O'Keefe, 209 Musconetcong River Road, Washington, NJ 07882 908-689-4249.
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COMPUTER SHOWS

Market Pro, Allentown Fairgrounds November 22 and 23. "I-78 east to Rt. 22, east to 15th St. exit south, right on Liberty to Gate #6". For those of us who are already east, go west on 78 or 22. The Fairgrounds is/are between the two highways, on the road to Dorney Park. The tricky part is recognizing fairgrounds in the midst of city buildings.

Ken Gordon - November 8, 9 NJ Convention Center In the Raritan Center Edison
200 dealers +, 3 acres, \$10 for both days
Open 10 to 4.

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HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Next Meeting - Saturday, November 15
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

Program: Jim Russ compares 5 Mapping Programs
Guests Welcome - all ages all interests

HCC NEWSLETTER

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