



Mountain Bits & Bytes

The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 10 Issue #1
January 2010

SWAP SHOP

(Bits and PCs)

In this issue you will see a brand new column in your newsletter - Bits and PCs (See page 4). You will be able to buy, sell, swap, or give away computer related items that you list here. Forms will be available at our November meeting and our Christmas party as well as all regularly scheduled meetings. Forms can be turned in to Tom Allen or emailed to bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com. Information will be limited to 15 words plus your name and contact information. Forms received by the fifteenth of the month will be published in the following month's newsletter. Happy Shopping!

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Another year gone, but not, as the newscaster have been prone to saying, another decade.

The Christmas Party was a great success, and our thanks to all contributors

and party goers, especially to those who bought some of the good stuff

offered at the auction. The proceeds from the auction were \$1,024.00.

George said he counted it twice just to be sure he had it right. George said,

"Not bad for an off year."

The Board of Directors wishes to thank all the members for their

contributions to the repast, and especially the ladies for their help in

setting up and cleaning up. Great job!

Our 11 January meeting will have a demonstration on Amazon's Kindle 2

by MCUG member Karen Seagert.

Looking forward to another great MCUG year.

Rea Williams



(See pages 2 & 3 for pictures)

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MCUG Monthly Meeting Schedule

The regular monthly meeting of the Mountain Computer User Group (MCUG) is held on the second Monday of every month, at 7 p.m., in the Wilson Lecture Hall (Room 201) of the Goolsby Building on the campus of Young Harris College in Young Harris, GA.

All regular monthly meetings and SIGs are open to everyone regardless of membership status.

MCUG Membership

Annual dues are \$20 and extend membership privileges to two (2) members of a household. Membership privileges include: special discounts on vendor products, access to products for evaluation and review, and association with a great bunch of people.

Affiliation

The Mountain Computer User Group is a member of APCUG, a nonprofit international organization dedicated to promoting communications between PC user groups and the computer industry.

Group Purpose

The Mountain Computer User Group is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational organization without corporate or vendor affiliation. Its purpose is the encouragement and advancement of computer information and knowledge through "users helping users".

**Pictures from MCUG's
CHRISTMAS PARTY 2009
(Raised over \$1000.00 for charity)**



Right - Relief Auctioneer, President Jim Bell



A wonderful time was had by all!!



Right, above & below - Everyone enjoying dinner & the charity auction



Opposite page upper - At the serving line
Opposite page center- Auctioneer , George Donegan
Opposite page lower- Sharing an enjoyable dinner



Tom's Tip of the Month

You should always lock your computer when you leave it. A password will protect your computer from others. There are three or four methods to lock your computer manually, but you can lock your computer automatically using screen saver option. You can turn on automatically lock dialog box after specified time.

Follow the giving steps to set screen saver to lock computer automatically:

First right click on your computer desktop then select the properties option.

In the Display Properties click on Screen saver tab.

Now select any screen saver file then in Wait field set any suitable time to turn on screen saver.

At the end check the Password Protected option and press OK.

Now after specified time, when your screen saver will turn on, your computer will be automatically locked.

My friend was on duty in the main lab on a quiet afternoon. He noticed a young woman sitting in front of one of the workstations with her arms crossed across her chest and staring at the screen. After about 15 minutes he noticed that she was still in the same position only now she was impatiently tapping her foot. He asked if she needed help and she replied, "It's about time! I pushed the F1 button over twenty minutes ago!"

Password Protect Your Account

By Kathy Frey, Webmaster, Computer Club of Green Valley, AZ

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If you password protect your account for your Windows operating system, then you should create a password reset disk. It takes very little time and is easy to do. In Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7, these first steps are the same.

1. Click Start
2. Click Control Panel
3. Click User Accounts

After you have the User Accounts window open, select the account for which you want to make the password reset disk. (Make a reset disk for each account.)

..... In Windows XP, on the left under Related Tasks, click on Prevent a forgotten password to start the Forgotten Password Wizard, and then click Next. Follow the wizard. You can use either a floppy disk or a USB drive for the reset disk.

..... In Windows Vista, on the left click on Create a Password reset disk, then follow the wizard.

XP Utilities

Written by Warner Mach, Editor of the SEMCO DATA BUS, newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Computer Organization <http://www.semco.org>

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I have discovered that Windows XP is chock full of various utilities to solve various kinds of problems. Some of the utilities that I have occasion to use in recent months:

(1) Windows Task Manager

You bring up the Windows Task Manager by holding down `ctrl-alt-delete`. Some of the useful features are: (a) Go to the applications tab. This shows the running tasks and is useful for ending a task that refuses to go away. (b) Go to process tab. This shows all the miscellaneous tasks in the system and shows the CPU time that each is using. This can frequently be useful when you are not sure what the system is doing. (c) Go to performance tab. This shows the use of resources. Especially useful is the dynamic graph of CPU usage.

(2) Event Viewer The Event Viewer has a log of recent events, including events at power up and power down. This was of value to me when I was

attempting to learn about certain messages that were appearing at power down time. Under the 'application' and 'system' tabs the logs are listed. To get more detailed information on a particular problem, double-click on the 'type' portion of a particular entry. This will give some keyword search hints that can be typed into Google. You bring up the Event Viewer by going to `start=>run` and typing

'Eventvwr.msc' into the box => OK.

(3) System Configuration Utility

The tab that was useful to me was the 'startup' tab. These are tasks that automatically come up at startup. By unchecking groups of entries (and saying 'apply' and then rebooting) I was able to zero in on one particular entry that was causing a problem. You bring up the System Configuration Utility by going to `start=>run` and typing 'msconfig' into the box => OK.

(4) Check Disk

This utility checks the space usage on the disk. It also checks the control block chains to be sure that they are correct. Go to `start=>all programs=>accessories=>command prompt` and type in 'chkdsk.' If the program detects bad command chains and you want to correct the situation then type in 'chkdsk /F'. This command may require a reboot during which it runs stand-alone.

Useful Resources

There is a useful list of utilities, with examples and explanations at:

<<http://tinyurl.com/9um8or>>.

There is also information about the Microsoft '906569' update at:

<<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/906569>>.

This update "... adds the tools tab to the System Configuration Utilities in Windows XP Service pack 2." But even if you don't want to do this, there is a list of useful utilities with an explanation of their function.

BITS & PCs

**For Sale or Trade
Used Dell keyboard with
USB-2 connections
Works well
bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com
or (706-400-9124)**

What are RSS Feeds?

By Constance Brown, President, Canton Alliance Massillon Users Group, OH

The Memory Map, September 2009

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What are RSS Feeds? According to the Wikipedia, "RSS (most commonly translated as 'Really Simple Syndication' but sometimes 'Rich Site Summary') is a family of web feed formats used to publish frequently updated works such as blog entries, news headlines, audio, and video in a standardized format."

Let's see whether we can translate that into everyday language. Most of us have favorite sites or blogs we visit regularly - perhaps news, genealogy, weather, or other types of sites that are updated regularly. Instead of having to click on bookmarks to navigate between sites, or typing the URL of each site, it is much faster to have one location that posts links to the latest updated information. That is done by subscribing

to an RSS Reader. Both Yahoo & Google offer readers, and there are other choices as well.

I subscribed to the Google Reader by visiting www.google.com/reader. Because I already had a Gmail account, I was able to login immediately and add subscriptions. That is done in one of two ways: clicking on an icon or copying code by clicking on the URL of the feed and pasting it in Add Subscription on your Google Reader home page.

Let's walk through two examples. We'll start by clicking on Add Subscription. A search bar opens that allows us to search for an RSS Feed. I will type The Repository and click Add. Links pop up on the right side of the screen, one of them titled The Repository. Next I will click the + sign by Subscribe.

I am then given the option of adding the link to a folder. I want to create a new folder titled News, so I will click Add to a Folder and select New Folder. A screen pops up that allows me to name the folder. Super simple!

Let's look at a different example. In this case we want to add a link to The Christian Law Association at <http://www.christianlaw.org/cla/>. While browsing their web site, we find an

orange broadcast symbol that stands for link to an RSS Feed. When we click on it, a page of code pops up! No need to panic! We will click on the URL and copy it (I use Ctl + C), open the Google Reader, click on Add Subscription, paste the URL in the search box, and click Add.

Some sites let us add a subscription by simply checking an icon that says Google Reader. We click the link and a window pops up that allows us to login to our account and add the link.

In the future it is simple to go to www.google.com/reader, login, and view updates. We can indicate that we want all messages older than one day to be marked as Read. Now only today's unread links are bold. We can organize links into folders. Yes, we can

unsubscribe and we can add new subscriptions, change the folders in which they are stored, view the links as lists, share, search within links, and more.

Why not try it using this technology. You will get the latest information in one easily accessible place, thus maximizing precious time.

* * * * *

A computer company I work for placed an order for computer mice from Japan. After the normal delivery period had elapsed, we contacted the airport to enquire what had happened to the consignment. The official in charge said that it was nowhere to be found and should be reported as missing. Some time later the official contacted us to say that the package had been found. When we asked where it had been, he replied sheepishly, "In quarantine."

Computer Tips for Seniors

by Pamela Tabak

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www.computertutorinc.net/order.htm

Reviewed by Gregory West, PC and Mac Instructor & Tech Columnist, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada; member of C.O.M.P. (Computer Operators of Marysville and Port Huron), MI

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All too often we find ourselves sinking in the mystery sea called Windows. We know what we would like to do but just can't figure out the "how". The further we click through our computers the worse our adventure becomes. We end up at a DEAD END, completely frustrated to the point of never wanting to turn the computer on ever again.

Several years ago Pamela Tabak, better known as "The Computer Tutor" started helping seniors with their computer issues. Pamela began offering a free 24/7 help desk. She would have people email her their computer problem and guaranteed to return an answer within 24 hours at no charge. Of course this took off quickly and became a huge success.

Born from this concept of an email help desk, Pamela developed a book comprising some of the most popular, nagging, questions that were asked. In Pamela's words she explains the book's conviction as "easy answers to frequently asked questions."

This book comes with easy to read and view coloured graphics depicting each step in the solutions process. There are three main sections: Knowledge Base, How To, and of course Answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

The "Knowledge Base" section deals with topics such as ergonomics, the health of both you and your computer. There is an interesting section on whether to "Recycle or Reuse Your Old Computer;" a section we all should read up on. The book does an excellent job of covering most other areas of computing topics including computer maintenance, Internet security, Flash Drives, Web Browsers, eBay and Emailing.

As I went through this book finding things I already knew, I found myself wondering what type of answer would go with the question, and then finding out various things I had either forgotten or didn't know existed. Going the extra mile, as Pamela does in this book, she has include several little "Tip" bits where you find yourself gathering even more quick and helpful information.

Whether you are a senior who is just starting out in the world of computing, or you have been around the block a few times with your hard drive; this book is a great read and a good reference book to keep nearby the desktop.

* * * * *

Every Little Bits Counts

I had a call from a customer who was complaining that when she typed, the wrong letters came up on the screen. After some investigation, I learned she had pried off all the letter key caps off her keyboard and rearranged them in alphabetical order. You'd think she'd have figured out the problem herself when her computer stopped working afterward.

In my next life I'm going to have more memory installed

Two bytes walk into a bar. The first byte turns to the second and says "I think I may have a parity error." The second byte turns to the first and says "yeah, you look a bit off."

Mountain Computer User Group January 2010 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2
3 Stephen Foster	4	5	6 Carole Kasa Gary Mashburn	7	8	9
10	11 Shirley Trendel	12 Nina Webb Carroll Miller	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Tom Allen Doris Mott	23
24/31	25 Sally Darnemann	26 Jane Petty	27	28	29 Betty Greenhaw	30

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

Walt & Sharon Scott

1/29/1958

51 yrs