

Mountain Bits & Bytes

The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 10 Issue #6
June 2010

MCUG DUES ARE NOW DUE - THANKS

by George Donegan, Sec/Treasurer

The dues for the Mountain Computer User Group are now due and payable. My thanks to those of you that heeded my request and came with check in hand at our May meeting. Again my thanks to you and to those who have not paid we look forward to seeing you in June and if you have not paid your dues please come with check in hand, please Dues are \$20 a year for two members of the same household. If you don't plan on attending the meeting please mail your dues to MCUG, PO Box 474 Young Harris, Ga. 30582. Thanks very much for your help .It would be nice to get all of our dues collected and not have to be concerned with them the rest of the summer.

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GREETINGS, ALL

Now that you have all learned how to get rid of your old computers, it's time to find the skeletons in your closets.



Larry Van Horn, Navy Retiree, Master Genealogist, and several other things, will be at our June meeting telling us how to find them. Even if you have been doing genealogy for many years, Larry will likely have new insights for you.



We will, also have details of our Annual Club Picnic being held in lieu of our July meeting. The picnic will be held in the pavilion at the top of the parking lots for the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. A RSVP will be sent to all members at a later date.

Come on out and have some FUN, get good technical information, and win some door prizes.

Rea Williams, President

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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".

SMART COMPUTING CHANGES THE RULES

1 Free Support Call a Year

by: George Donegan, MCUG Member

The tight economy has finally gotten to Smart Computing Magazine. In the past as long as you were a paid subscriber you were entitled to as many support calls as you needed to the Smart Computing Toll Free support line. Well things have changed and as of today you will get one free support call to their toll free number each year. After that each call will cost you \$29, the same price as a years subscription to their magazine. One good thing is if they can't help you they won't charge you. While this is a sudden abrupt change it may not be so bad when you compare it to others that charge for their services. A flat rate of \$29 is probably a good buy if you have a real problem. If it's just a minor problem you might want to try and figure it out for yourself.

* * * * *

Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia.

— Charles Schultz

"Los Angeles County officials have asked that manufacturers, suppliers and contractors stop using the terms 'master' and 'slave' regarding computer hard drives, saying such terms are unacceptable and offensive. Additionally, the term 'e-mail' will now be called 'e-person letter', 'dumb terminals' will now be called 'CPU-challenged monitors' and 'Unix' will be referred to as 'sexually dysfunctional operating system'. Obviously, 'fingering' is now banned entirely."

— Kevin Fizz.

"The only business that is ever threatened by improved technologies are those that need to be left behind."

"I went to a gentleman's cybercafe — and they offered me a 'laptop dance'."

Software Review

ZoomText Express An Affordable Screen Magnifier

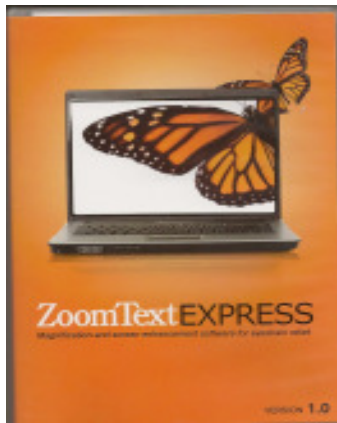
by George Donegan, MCUG member

ZoomText Express is a simple affordable screen magnifier designed for individuals who suffer from early vision loss and those of us squint at the computer screen and lean in to read the fine print. It provides a gentler boost of magnification up to 2 times, so that hard to read text is larger, clearer and easier to see. Over 55% of the American workforce spend at least 3 hours a day at the computer and most suffer from some degree of Computer Vision Syndrome.

ZoomText Express is easy to learn and use, all the features are just a click away. Installation was quick and easy and only took a matter of minutes to complete installation and registration. With ZoomText Express, it's product features and screen enhancements relieve eye strain and fatigue from constant viewing of the computer screen. It does not matter whether you use it at home or at the office doing reports or e-mail. This product allows you to get a much clearer view of everything on your computer screen.

The On/Off button is just that, it allows you to turn ZoomText Express off without exiting the program. You can also use the hot keys to turn it on and off and they are Alt Delete. You can also use the hot keys to increase or decrease the magnification, Alt Page Up to increase magnification or Alt Page Down to decrease it.

The view tab gives you the option of selecting the degree of magnification you wish. You can select full screen magnification or large lens or



small lens. These last two work like a magnifying glass and can be moved around where you desire. The color tab displays controls for selecting the color mode: Normal, Reverse Video or Tint. Use reverse video to dramatically improve contrast. You can also tint white areas of the screen to eliminate glare. The Pointer Tab displays the controls for choosing the appearance of the mouse pointer: Normal, Small Colored Pointer or Large Colored Pointer. In selecting colored pointer assures you of never losing it. The Cursor Tab displays controls for choosing appearance of text cursor: Normal Cursor or Enhanced Cursor. In selecting the enhanced cursor you will never have a problem locating the cursor on the page.

Using ZoomText Express is a snap. I am running Windows 7 and I leave it pinned to the task bar. From there I can do what ever I please. Toggle it on or off or use the hot keys (Alt Delete) which is what I prefer. Click on one of the icons for full screen, large view or small view and you are in business. From there you can move in any direction you please or should I say any direction you need to go. You can increase or decrease the magnification by clicking on the zoom in button or zoom out button or by using the hot keys as explained earlier.

System Requirements are Windows XP (32 bit only) with service pak 2 (SP2), Vista. Processor Speed: For Windows XP 1 GHz Pentium®4 processor or equivalent. 1.5 GHz for Vista and Windows 7. Memory Requirements: 512 MB RAM for Windows XP (1 GB recommended) and 1 GB of RAM for Vista and Windows 7. ZoomText Express cost \$49.99 downloaded or \$59.99 shipped boxed and downloaded. There is a trail version available for down loading, but last only 10 minutes. I have a vision problem and I found ZoomText Express to be a very valuable and easy to use program.

Prayer is the best wireless connection

Tom's Tip of the Month

For those of you who have digital cameras with high pixel/resolution and like to send images with email but have to de-resolute these images in order for them to transmit in a reasonable amount of time, you may like this method. You will need to have a gmail account and Picasa3. When you open the Picasa account, load the image(s) into a Picasa album. You can then double click on the image you wish to email and it will enlarge on your monitor. At the bottom of the page you will see an Email icon. Click on it to bring up an email menu. Click on Googlemail(Gmail), enter your password, address to your recipient and send. It will be automatically downsized.

BITS & PCs

For Sale used HP1410 all in one printer, scanner, copier. All cables, extra ink.

Contact Jack Lang at:

soldier@wildblue.net or (828) 644-9243

For Sale, Dell DRAM 512 Mb

\$20.00

Dell DRAM 256 MB, \$10.00

bunkerhilltom@brmemc.net

or (706) 400-9124

For Sale, Kodak Carousel Slide Projector w/ 12 carousel slide holders & large screen.
\$75.00

Call George @ (706)379-0663

For Sale, GAF 1680 Carousel Slide Projector w/12 round carousels (100 slides each)
\$50.00

Call Art @ (706) 970-0397 or
art.diane.frenz@gmail.com

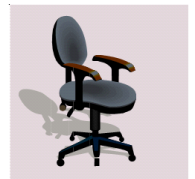
Computers & Arthritis

Arthritis and computer work are painfully incompatible. Joint pain from using a mouse or stiffness from being in only one position can give some computer workers with arthritis certain challenges. But there is help out there. You may want to try some of these:

Adjustable monitors - Get an adjustable monitor that will place the top of it at eye level.

Telephone headsets - You will get a reduction of strain on your neck and shoulder muscles and give your hands a break.

Adjustable chairs - Chairs are now versatile with adjustable lumbar supports and armrests to avoid injury and increase comfort.



Ergonomic mice - Use a verticle grip designed mouse or a touch pad to reduce hand, wrist and arm pain.

Footrests - Use a footrest if your feet do not reach the floor.

Adapted keyboards - Office equipment vendors have keyboards specifically reconfigured for persons with arthritis; try different configurations to maximize your comfort.



Book holders - These stands hold your papers or books so you will not strain your neck to read.

Page turners - When worn on your finger, page turners grip pages to turn them without stressing your joints.

Useful Tips To Use When Designing A Website

Compliments of Indus Webi,
www.1888articles.com

Before the start of the promotion of services or products online, an organization or business need a user friendly and attractively designed website and website development with strong vibration. Here are some tips which will be helpful for the website designing purpose.

- Design should be Clean: Website always looks very clean, nice with white and light color as background that enhances the site looks good.

- Do designing of the page in 800x600 pixel space, and all the links should be quickly download and use of other graphic elements such as color, pictures, code, quotes, size, border, animation should be perfect to and easy to upload on website.

- Make an assurance that your website design and code should be scalable. As the new technology and new configuration in the systems today, so make sure your site will run on all the sizes and platforms.



- Make your site search engine friendly and browser compatible so that your site will run on Internet Explorer, Safari, Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera and others.

- Design your site with full of resolution so that your site always encourage new visitors to come, stay and read your content. If the site has too much long content there and there is a need to scroll again and again, the user will not read the full content. Design your site content to fit to any screen resolution, so the visitor can easily read that content.

- Always design your website to take less time to upload and preview. To do this decrease the amount of Flash, Scripts, Animation, and Graphics etc. and every graphic should have the Alt-Tag. Have Graphics and background use browser safe colors.

- Text should be big enough to understand and read by the user, and in easy language to understand, and text and background color should be different and clearly show the text.

- Navigation of internal links should be easy to reach every page of your website. Your website should be able to send the user to their wanted page from the home page. All the links should be placed on the home page or make your site navigation reach any page in just 2-3 steps.



- Do not ever use tiny fonts as some browsers do not have the zooming feature, so it will quite difficult for user to read the content.

- Do not play music on the side that will slow the opening of the website on the browser.

- A designer should keep in mind that he does not clutter website with badges: somewhere badges of networks and communities make a site look very unprofessional.

So these are some tips an owner of a website should follow when designing and developing a website that will give the best for you or your business. There are lots of companies which provide design and development services all over world. One of the most famous companies is indusWebi. So it is important is the select the best company that will serves the best for you and provide you the best website designing solution.

* * * * *

"If it's there and you can see it — it's real.

If it's not there and you can see it — it's virtual.

If it's there and you can't see it — it's transparent.

If it's not there and you can't see it — you erased it!"

From The DealsGuy For June 2010 by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

We've been working a few trade shows and I always find them interesting. I work an assigned post these days, usually on a loading dock, and can't look things over unless we go in early, which I rarely do. However, occasionally during the show setup days, I get to visit with a few exhibitors, whose booth is located near my dock, as they go outside for a smoke. Other times, I only get to see the setup contractors who are assembling booths.

The PGA (Pro Golfer Association) show in January was smaller this year, yet well attended. Attendance was about 30,000. There was a booth near my post that sells a unique device that calculates data to improve a golfer's swing. They call it the *Game Changer*, or the *GC2*. It doesn't look like much because it's a small electronic device. It's a bit large for your jacket pocket, but fits easily in your golf bag. The device opens up and you place it on the turf off to the side of your golf tee so it can photograph your swing. It has two cameras in it a few inches apart and when you make your drive, both cameras snap a picture, and then almost instantly, the device calculates all kinds of data pertaining to your drive, consisting of your launch angles, speed, spin and much more.

When I watched the guy in the booth drive the ball up against a curtain, I saw the flash of the cameras, and in a few seconds, an entire screen of data was quickly displayed including a heavy line designating exactly where the drive would travel and land. They had it connected to a 42" plasma TV in the booth to display the data, but it could be hooked up to a variety of handheld smart-devices via Bluetooth. It has a USB output enabling the data to be used by various customized applications. The *GC2* also has speakers to announce the data if you prefer.

If this gadget fascinates you, check their Web site at <http://www.foresightsports.com> for more information and a picture of the *GC2*. If you are an enthusiastic golfer and feel this item might help you, why not pop for the six grand and buy it for yourself for Christmas, birthday, Father's Day, or any other occasion that you can think of. After all, don't you deserve it? Some guys might buy their wife one for Christmas, and then borrow it.

I saw another interesting item, although much less expensive, for improving your swing. It's a specially designed club that helps to find out what's wrong with your swing, and can be used either inside or outside. I watched guys take a nice swing and the ball simply flipped up in the air and dropped behind them because they didn't swing right. Others did better. I didn't understand what was going on, but you can visit <http://www.slingergolf.com>. Priced at \$89.95, this must be for the blue-collar gophers.

I also saw a guy walking along with a three-wheeled electric golf caddy trailing behind him and when he stopped, the caddy stopped, then when he went on, it followed. He said it was a prototype. I loved that one, but show management showed up and told him to please keep the machine in his booth, so I didn't see him again. I'm sorry I didn't get any information from the guy. There were many booths with electrically operated golf-bag carts so it was easy to miss.

Bat-Caddy had an electric golf caddy selling for \$590 and was manually controlled. They also had a model you could run with a remote for \$995. Their Web site is <http://www.batcaddy.com>. When finishing this column, I noticed they had special deals on their Web site that ended April 30, 2010, but why not check for deals when you read this just in case they have another deal. Would an electric caddy mean "going green?"

***Ready For A Different Way For To Hold A Conference?**

The FACUG 2011 Spring Conference Cruise is shaping up gradually, but surely. The deadline has been extended to June 30, 2010 so it's not too late to sign up. People are slow to register, but the last I heard, 180 were signed on. There are no special restrictions for who can sign up, but one person from each cabin must register for the conference and be a user group member. You can check it out on the FACUG Web site <http://www.facug.org>. Looking at the 2011 FACUG cruise, you can't go wrong with such great people leading the sessions. Looks like all fees and taxes are included in the prices, but look it over for other incentives. I believe no cruise will be planned for 2012 because not everybody wants it done on a cruise ship and it is a problem for an individual attendee.

***I Tried To Refurbish My Computer With A Software Product**

My computer is not acting very normal so I decided to try Reimage Repair to see what it could do. I read Ira Wilsker's favorable review of Reimage, and it's also listed on the Windows Secrets Newsletter, which I respect, so I downloaded it when they offered a discount to see if it would improve my computer's performance. My experience hasn't worked well as yet. I had to try four times before it would finish, and it never did actually finish as it should have. Only one of my problems was helped so far. I sent them a message asking for suggestions via e-mail and they responded that I should try the repair with the machine in "Safe Mode." I tried to do that, but while in safe mode I am unable to connect to the Internet and it won't work that way. I sent another message stating my problem and they are suggesting a remote control session. I need to set up a time to do that so I am in the process of arranging it.

*Reminder

The special offers for Diskeeper products are probably still good so keep that in mind. Their new technology for preventing fragmentation before it happens is unique and I read a favorable review about it in a user group newsletter. Here are the URLs for the deals:

Diskeeper 2010 Home 2-pack \$49.95 (Save \$30)
<https://www.diskeeper.com/store/checkout/addtocart.aspx?item=49115&qty=1&srchash=ioxswm_p>

Diskeeper 2010 Professional 2-pack \$99.95 (Save \$20)

<https://www.diskeeper.com/store/checkout/addtocart.aspx?item=49365&qty=1&srchash=ioxswm_p>

Diskeeper 2010 Pro Premier 2-pack \$169.95 (Save \$30)

<https://www.diskeeper.com/store/checkout/addtocart.aspx?item=49366&qty=1&srchash=ioxswm_p>

Undelete 2009 Home and Diskeeper 2010 Home bundle \$49.95 (Save \$20)

<http://www.diskeeper.com/store/checkout/addtocart.aspx?item=50519&qty=1&srchash=ioxswm_p>

*Take A Look At Specials From Your Favorite Vendor

I sometimes get an announcement from Corel, but the discount usually expires before you editors

could get it published for your members since I write this column two months in advance. However, here is an announcement for some full products and upgrades that I just received, and I have no idea what the deadline is. Hopefully you can beat it if there's something you need.

For CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X5: The full version price seems is \$49.90, but the upgrade price is \$19.90 less than the regular price.

For Corel DESIGNER Technical Suite X4: The full version price is \$100 below the regular price and the upgrade price is the same as the regular price.

For WordPerfect Office X5 Standard: The full version and upgrade prices are \$25 below the regular price.


For WordPerfect Office X5 Professional: The full version price is \$25 less than the regular price and the upgrade version is \$21 below the regular price.

For Photo & Video Bundle: The price is \$6.50 below the regular price, but there seems to be differences in the bundle contents e.g. X2 in yours vs. X3 in the regular version.

Corel has always been a favorite with user groups. Here are some URLs to check for better information and additional products. Hopefully you can find all the information you need to make a decision: <<http://store1.corel.com/corel/category.jsp?cat=cat3450073&trkid=31Mar10NACDGSX5LicenseUGeDMeDM>>, <http://www.corel.com/content/pdf/cdgsx5/CDGSX5_version_comparison_matrix_en.pdf> and <<http://www.corel.com>>. Check for additional information and comparisons. There are differences in the pages so do your homework. To order by phone call 1-877-502-6735 and use promo code 4212 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 7pm EST)

That's it for this month. I'll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn't offer discounts. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click <bobclick at bellsouth dot net>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>>

Mountain Computer User Group June 2010 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 George Donegan	7	8	9 Board Mtg Y H Library 10:00 am	10	11	12
13 FATHER'S DAY	14 May Mtg 6:00 Q&A 7:00 Computer Recycling	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Summer Soltice 	22	23	24 Larry Jones Deadline for Newsletter articles	25	26
27	28	29	30 Bill Pearce			

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 13**



"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken." — James Dent



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- John & Virginia Scherer 6/14/1958 52 yrs
- Bob & Betty Greenhaw 6/12/1971 39 yrs
- Carol & _____ Miller 6/08/1973 37 yrs
- Judi & Thomas Boutwell 6/10/1977 33 yrs
- Elaine & Gene Vickers 6/26/2009 1 yr