



The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 10 Issue #3
March 2010

SWAP SHOP

(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 February meeting 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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Windows 7 Presentation

HAPPY IDES OF MARCH!

No, it doesn't have the IRS mandate, "give us your money" as it used to, but we are going to have a fun time together a week before that (used to be) ominous date.



On March 8th there will be a presentation of Windows 7 by MCUG Past President Jim Bell.

Jim will present his experiences and observations of installing and using Windows 7.

As usual we will have a great raffle prize, lots of door prizes, and lots of good computer information.

Come on out, bring your technical questions for the Question and Answer session. See if you can stump the "experts".

We welcome all so, bring a guest!!

President Rea Williams

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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".

Microsoft Scanner & Camera Wizard

By Bob Elgines, CRCC Editor, Colorado River Computer Club, Arizona

www.crcgaz.org

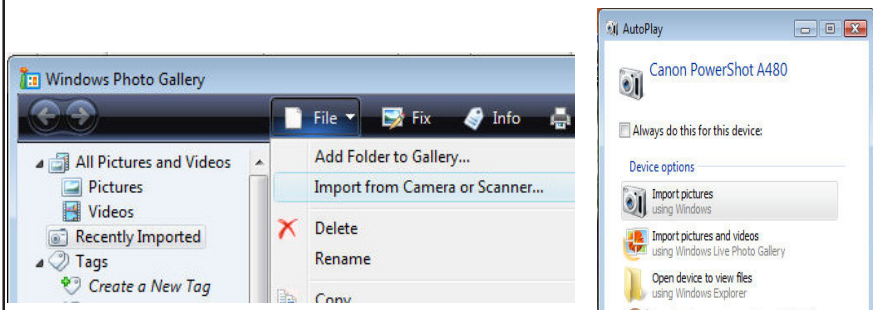
elginesz@rraz.net

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above). Most of us have multiple digital cameras

nowadays, and really don't need to install all of their programs anymore since Windows XP.



You can use the "Scanner & Camera Wizard". It is located under "Programs/Accessories" and if the computer does not have any third party camera programs in stalled, it will come up automatically after you plug your camera in to a USB port. It will list your camera, then guide to through a procedure to download your pictures or videos to your selected folder and if you wish to delete them from your



camera or not. In Windows Vista, it is not under the "Accessories" folder, but under "Programs" labeled "Windows Photo Gallery". Run this program, then go to "File" choose "Import from Scanner or Camera".

If the computer does not have any third party camera programs installed, a selection "Import pictures; Using Windows" will come up automatically after you plug your camera in to a USB port (see picture on the left).

Now you can download your pictures on any computer using the built-in software.

Deep Thoughts about How Computers Work

"Where Deleted Characters Go"

By Joel Garreau, as reported in his Cybersurfing column in the Washington Post.

QUESTION: Where do the characters go when I use my backspace or delete them on my PC?

ANSWER: The characters go to different places, depending on whom you ask:

·The Catholic Church's approach to characters: The nice characters go to Heaven, where they are bathed in the light of happiness. The naughty characters are punished for their sins. Naughty characters are those involved in the creation of naughty words, such as "breast," "sex" and "contraception."



·The Buddhist explanation: If a character has lived rightly, and its karma is good, then after it has been deleted it will be reincarnated as a different, higher character. Those funny characters above the numbers on your keyboard will become numbers, numbers will become letters, and lower-case letters will become upper-case.

·The 20th-century bitter cynical nihilist explanation: Who cares? It doesn't really matter if they're on the page, deleted, undeleted, underlined, etc. It's all the same.

·The Mac user's explanation: All the characters written on a PC and then deleted go to straight to PC hell. If you're using a PC, you can probably see the deleted characters, because you're in PC hell also.

·Stephen King's explanation: Every time you hit the (Del) key you unleash a tiny monster inside the cursor, who tears the poor unsuspecting characters to shreds, drinks their blood, then

eats them, bones and all. Hah, hah, hah!

·Dave Barry's explanation: The deleted characters are shipped to Battle Creek, Michigan, where they're made into Pop-Tart filling; this explains why Pop-Tarts are so flammable, while cheap imitations are not flammable. I'm not making this up.

·IBM's explanation: The characters are not real. They exist only on the screen when they are needed, as concepts, so to delete them is merely to de-conceptualize them. Get a life.

·PETA's (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) explanation: You've been DELETING them???. Can't you hear them SCREAMING???. Why don't you go CLUB some BABY SEALS while wearing a MINK, you pig!!!!



* * * * *

Computers vs. Auto Industry

Bill Gates wanted to look good and impress everyone with his success.

He decided to measure the accomplishments of Microsoft against General Motors.

The comparison went like this:

If automotive technology had kept pace with computer technology over the past few decades, you would now be driving a V-32 instead of a V-8, and it would have a top speed of 10,000 miles per hour. Or you could have an economy car that weighs 30 pounds and gets a thousand miles to a gallon of gas. In either case the sticker price of a new car would be less than \$50.

In response to all this goading, GM responds:

"Yes, but would you really want to drive a car that crashes twice a day?"

Tom's Tip of the Month

Let's all give a big **THANK YOU** to Randy Gehring for rebuilding our website. He has worked relentlessly and tirelessly on his own time to correct, update and simplify our website. He has graciously volunteered to be our webmaster, too. He has scheduled a HTML training class on March 10th at the Young Harris Public Library to train any of us who would like to help keep our website current. If any of you are interested in this training, please see any of the officers at the March 8th meeting or email Rea Williams at mcug@dnet.net.

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

Hints for the Wannabe Blogger

By Joan McIlmoyl Cleghorn, a member of Big Blue and Cousins, Canada

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Do I Need Or Want to Have a Blog? Now, for many, the first question is "what on

earth is a blog?" and, "why would I want one?" The origin of the actual word 'blog' comes from the definition of what it really is – a **web log** – which then became shortened to 'blog'.

People are using blogs for many varied purposes. Some use them like a personal diary, as though the world is truly fascinated by the minutiae of their daily lives (though in the case of celebs, that may be the case). Others, for sharing their knowledge of a particular subject which doesn't necessarily lend itself to publishing a book; and still reporting on the constantly changing happenings in a specific area of interest. In many instances now, professional reporters, whether radio, TV or in print, are writing blogs as well as their regular reporting functions. Others, for reporting on the constantly changing happenings in a specific area of interest.

There are two advantages of using blogs over publishing in the more traditional ways – first, they can be interactive, allowing the readers to make comments, add to the information or contradict the writer; and, second, as mentioned, the ability to update immediately with new or additional information.

My purpose in starting a blog at the end of June was prompted by an article in the Family Chronicle which pointed out how, by publishing a family history book, relations that you'd never known or connected with would suddenly contact you.

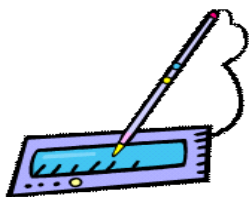
This struck a chord with me as I was in the midst of planning a family history book and wanted to connect with others researching this same family. Obviously, publishing a book wasn't the answer for my particular situation.

After some thought on this, I decided to investigate what was involved in creating a blog, thinking this might accomplish my purpose. Of course, one can use any of the social media sites such as MySpace, Facebook, etc. as a type of blog. However, I was looking for specific 'blog' sites. Well, typing 'free blog sites' into Google gave me far more results than I could have dreamed of! Fortunately, there were two with which I was somewhat familiar so I opted to check them out first.

I wanted simple and easy to use.....nothing fancy, just the ability to type whatever I wanted to post and have it work.

Obviously I was asking a lot for anything connected with technology right?

Actually, wrong. I was able to set up the blog, type out my first posting and have it online within an hour!



You want a site that gives clear, easy to understand directions and allows you to have some choices on the appearance or theme of your blog. Also, if you want some interaction with your readers, make it easy for them to add their comments. The site I chose definitely qualified under these points; much more so than the second site I checked out. I also checked out a few that I wasn't as familiar with and found that my first choice was still the best for my purpose. The two choices I initially checked out were Google's Blogspot and Wordpress. They can be found at www.blogspot.com and www.wordpress.com; however, be sure to check out some of the others as well.

Should you decide to start a blog, there is one caveat I'd both read about as well as heard about from others – don't start posting, and collecting followers of the site, only to lose interest, and just stop posting, or become very erratic in your postings. When first starting my blog, I hoped to

post about three times a week, with no less than once a week. In the nine weeks since I started, I've made 18 posts so have averaged two per week, even though I had a couple of weeks when I didn't make any posts due to the death of my mother.

Now, was posting my blog successful in my original purpose? So far, yes. I've heard from a couple of researchers with whom I'd lost contact a number of years ago, plus another couple of whom I'd never heard, so I certainly accomplished that part of my goal. Another bonus is the information I'm gaining from those connections that I might not have otherwise found. Should you wish to take a look at my blog, here's the address: www.mcilmoylfamna.blogspot.com. If you decide that having a blog is something you'd like to do, I wish you well, and have fun with it! For tips on 'how to blog' just type 'blog tutorial' into a search engine and you'll find lots of choices.

Useful Computer Acronyms

PCMCIA: People Can't Memorize Computer Industry Acronyms

ISDN: It Still Does Nothing

APPLE: Arrogance Produces Profit-Losing Entity

SCSI: System Can't See It

DOS: Defunct Operating System

BASIC: Bill's Attempt to Seize Industry Control

IBM: I Blame Microsoft

DEC: Do Expect Cuts

CD-ROM: Consumer Device, Rendered Obsolete in Months

OS/2: Obsolete Soon, Too.

WWW: World Wide Wait

MACINTOSH: Most Applications Crash; If Not, The Operating System Hangs

Moving From XP to Windows 7

By Vinny La Bash, Contributing Columnist, Sarasota PCUG, Florida

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Installing Windows 7 from XP is more complex than a straightforward upgrade from Vista. You need to perform a custom install, and you can do this with an Upgrade package of Windows 7. A normal upgrade won't work, but Microsoft describes the installation process as the option to "either completely replace your current operating system or install Windows on a specific drive or partition". Microsoft also allows a multi-boot system to be installed. In other words, you have the option of running both your current version of XP and Windows 7 if you want. Switching back and forth may not be the best choice as the interfaces are very different.

Completely replacing XP will not eliminate it from your system. The setup program creates a folder on your primary hard disk which it names Windows.old .

The process then places all the major XP folders such as Windows, Documents and Settings, and Program file folders in the Windows.old folder. Nothing happens to your data files. You can still access them, but your applications will have to be reinstalled.

No matter which option your settle on, back up everything on your system first, especially your data files. Back up your data files at least twice and keep a copy in a separate physical location. Backing up more than one copy may seem like paranoia, but if anything goes wrong you'll be glad you did.

There are lots of ways to back up programs and data. If you use a third party program go to the manufacturer's web site and make sure the program will be modified to work with Windows 7. If you can't verify compatibility with Windows 7 or you don't use a third party backup utility, you will probably turn to XP's backup utility which Microsoft calls the Windows NT

Backup-Restore Utility. Microsoft developed and released it specifically for restoring backups created in XP to restore in Windows Vista. It's pretty safe to believe that Microsoft will adapt it to work in Windows 7. If you can't verify that your third party backup utility will work in Windows 7 or you don't trust Microsoft that it will modify its special XP utility, make copies of all your important data files to CD or DVD.

Read the article called Step-by-Step: Windows 7 Upgrade and Migration on the Microsoft TechNet site. It provides some great information about a utility called Windows 7 Easy Transfer. This program lets you transfer all your data and settings from XP to Windows 7. The Windows 7 installation disks contain a copy of the program and during installation a copy will be installed on your computer. You can then use the program to copy all your data files and settings to Windows 7.



Microsoft has recognized the popularity of low cost net-books, and Windows 7 was designed to operate on systems that many people consider underpowered. You won't need terabyte sized hard disks or 6 gigabytes of RAM to run Windows 7. If your XP system was manufactured in the last four years there is a high probability that Windows 7 will run just fine. To be safe, run Microsoft's Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor on your old system before rushing out and buying Windows 7.

The Advisor does a complete check of your internal hardware, installed programs, and any externally connected devices. If there are any compatibility issues the Advisor will report it, and even make suggestions on how best to eliminate incompatibilities, and select upgrade options. Go to the Microsoft Download Center to download and install a copy of this utility to your system. It will make you much better prepared for the upgrade to Windows 7.

You won't be the only one changing to Windows 7. Don't be shy about asking questions, and please share any good information you get with other members of the PC community. A good place to start is the Getting Ready for Windows 7 section of the Microsoft Answers web site. Don't forget your local PC User Group. There is no better source for good, accurate information. Even Microsoft will acknowledge that.



Verbatim Color Nano Wireless Notebook Mouse

www.verbatim.com

Reviewed by Patricia Hill, Review Editor,
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OK, I admit it. I'm not the most coordinated person on the planet. I tried downhill skiing and screamed all the way down the hill. There are days my golf game sucks. More days than I admit. And I cannot master the touch pad on laptops or my new netbook. It's awkward and I never have my fingers in the right position.

Along comes the Verbatim Nano Wireless Notebook Mouse – in your choice of 6 colors. Now your mouse can match your notebook color. Cool!

The package comes with a 2.4 GHz mouse, receiver, two AAA batteries, software CD and Quick Start Guide. While the package is the usual hard plastic, cut along the back and the contents fall into your hand. Simple!

The 3-button mouse will feel comfortable in your hand and glide smoothly over your mouse pad. It's designed for either the right or left hand and works right out of the box or you can install the accompanying software to program the mouse.

The receiver is about the size of a dime. Put it in your laptop or netbook USB port and leave it there. No more schlepping a mouse *and* receiver. No more large receiver sticking out of your computer getting in the way. The receiver slips into the bottom of the mouse for storage which also turns off the batteries. Or leave in the USB port if it's a computer that you use all the time.

The Verbatim web site gives you a choice of dealers. Click on the mouse you want and you're shown a listing of various dealers, prices and in stock information. The lowest price I could find was as www.amazon.com. Pricing is \$22.95 to \$26.85 depending on color and qualifies for free shipping. It's a great price for a well made, easy to use mouse.

Patricia Hill, Review Editor

The Computer Booter

The Egg & You: These “eggs” are subversive and fun!

Written by Charles W. Evans, Reviews Editor, HAL-PC Magazine, July 2009

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Crack one open.

Did you ever marvel at the engineering of an egg? What else makes an egg so fascinating, you ask? Enjoy these web sites, from real eggs to man-made eggs, including the “care and feeding” of eggs!

1. I hope you don't think computer programmers are dry as bones and boring as cactus. The fact is, sometimes they will just outright surprise you. Buried within many software applications are delightful, little, hidden, amusing tidbits called “Easter Eggs”. Some are ordinary and others will amaze you. Several seasons of “Lost” have eggs. Learn where to find them at: www.eeggs.com.

2. Next time you crack a farm fresh egg, think about the road it traveled from the hen pen to your plate and all the stuff along the way, plus egg safety. Surf to: www.aeb.org.

3. OK, before you read #5 and for those who are chronically egg-chef challenged, the eternal question is now answered here, plus egg selection, separating, poaching (eggs, not deer), etc. Yah, yah, I know, real men don't “separate” eggs, but this site will show you how, for those times when you are alone! Surf to: www.fabulousfoods.com/school/csingred/eggs.html or www.joyofbaking.com/eggs.html.

4. And now for something completely different. Magnificent manmade eggs, courtesy of Mr. Faberge of Russia. Surf to: www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/faberge/fmain.html.

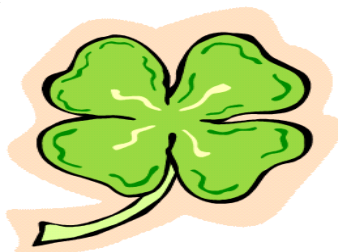
5. The flames of your passion, or whimsy, will explode because there is an egg recipe for all occasions, all tastes and all people. Surf to: www.recipelink.com/rcpeggs.html

I know, I know, enough is enough, but I thought this brief foray would be eggsactly perfect to break the doldrums of working at your computer...and the tedium of thinking about your CY2009 taxes.

Mountain Computer User Group March 2010 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Matthew Senecal	2	3 Board Mtg Y H Library 10:00 am	4	5	6 Arthur Mott
7 Randy Gehring	8 March Mtg Q&A 6:00 Windows 7 7:00 Suzanne Wagner	9 Cindy Foster	10 John Yandell Bill Kautz	11	12 Jack Gottlieb	13
14	15	16			19	20 Ed Dannemann
21 Bert Boutwell Betty Lang	22	23 Jack Chinnia Rosalind Gaskill		24 Bob Davis	26 Lorraine Boutwell	27 Tim Cassidy Ron Manus
28	29	30	31 Bob Vaughn			

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY !



March 17th



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Don and Sally Miller 3/26/1954 56 yrs

John and Kay Yandell 3/09/1979 31 yrs

