



The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 10 Issue #5
May 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!

Computer Recycling

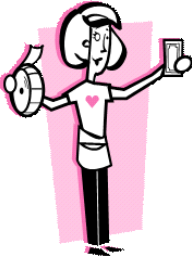
Now that "Tax Season" is over (at least for most of us), we can get on with something useful in our lives. Like cleaning the garage, or figuring out what to do with that old computer that we haven't used for years, laying in the back corner of the basement.

Our meeting this month will give you some ideas for disposal, recycling or whatever, for the old machine. Our program is by our Webmaster and Board Member, Randy Gehring, who will help us with the problem.



What's Inside

Microsoft Scanner and Camera Wizard	Page 2
Controlling System Restore	Page 3
Tom's Tips	Page 4
Bits & PCs Swap Shop	Page 4
Broadsides	Page 4
From The Deals Guy for May	Page 6
Birthday's, Anniversaries & Calendar.	Page 8



Of course, we will have more door prizes and an opportunity to buy the winning ticket for our raffle item.

Come on out for the early session (6 PM), with your computer technical questions.

See you there.

Rea Williams, President MCUG

Mountain Computer User Group
P.O. Box 474
Young Harris, GA. 30582

Officers for 2010



President

Rea Williams reaw@brmemc.net

Vice President

John Yandell jyandell@brmemc.net

Past President

Jim Bell jimbell7@verizon.net

Secretary/Treasurer

George Donegan
gd0negan29@windstream.net

Publisher/Editor

Tom Allen bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Randy Gehring gehring@visi.com

Board of Directors for 2010

Bob Greenhaw bbgreenhaw@brmemc.net
Art Frenz art.diane.frenz@gmail.com
Randy Gehring gehring@visi.com
Paul Filer pinkfink@windstream.net

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".

SCANNER & CAMERA WIZARD

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

www.crccaz.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 installed, it will come up automatically after you plug your camera in to a USB port. It will list your camera, then guide you 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.

* * * * *

Computer programmers don't byte, they nibble a bit.

Computers are like air-conditioners: both stop working, if you open windows.

Hardware: The parts of a computer system that can be kicked.

Controlling System Restore

By Vinny La Bash, Member and Regular Columnist,
Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida

www.spcug.org vlabash (at) comcast.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).

Did a shareware application you were enamored of turn out to be an unmitigated disaster? Perhaps a device driver installation, system update or modification to a registry key went bad, and your system wandered into an alternate universe. Windows has a utility called System Restore that takes a picture, called a Restore Point, of your system before certain types of operations are started. System Restore is a very handy feature that allows you to go back in time to erase actions you have come to regret. If a problem occurs you can revert back to the way things were, and all is well again.

System Restore, for all its utility and convenience, has its drawbacks. Some argue that if there is not enough free disk space, System Restore will fail to create a restore point, so an unsuspecting person may discover that there is no restore point available when trying to put things back to normal. There is also no way to make a permanent restore point that will not get deleted after a time when automatic restore points need the disk space. This could be a predicament if a problem is intermittent.

It is possible that System Restore may be responsible for your disk drive running out of room. While today's super-sized drives make that less likely than a few years ago running out of disk space could still happen, especially if you load up your system with videos. You can reduce that likelihood even further by configuring System Restore properly.

The snapshots we talked about in the first paragraph are taken by a built-in program called the Volume Snapshot Service (VSS). There is no way to access this utility in the standard Windows Graphical Utility Interface (GUI). This means you can't get to it with a menu option. You need to open a Command Prompt window with elevated administrator privileges.

Click on the Start orb located down at the bottom left corner of your screen, select All Programs, and open the Accessories folder. Right click on the Command Prompt icon, and then select Run as Administrator from the menu. That will open up a Command Prompt window with enough authority to configure System Restore.

Before doing any configuration, let's take some time to understand how System Restore works. You can do this

with the vssadmin tool. At the Command Prompt type vssadmin /? (Press Enter after typing a command.)

You see a list of all the commands supported by the utility. (Note: Shadow copy = Restore Point)

Enter the command vssadmin list shadows.

This displays a list of all the restore points currently on the system.

The list shadowstorage command displays the amount of disk drive space currently being used to store restore points, how much space is set aside to accommodate restore points, and the maximum permitted size for restore points.

To see what's available on your own system, at the Command Prompt type:

Vssadmin list shadowstorage

Take a few minutes to understand the way the information is displayed. If there is enough free disk space you can store up to 64 restore points before Windows automatically starts deleting old restore points to accommodate new ones.

Making backups is an essential task, but there is no reason why Windows should be allowed to consume every available byte of storage with System Restore points. The default settings allow Windows to run amok but you can reset the maximum value with the resize shadowstorage command.

Here is an example:

```
Vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=c: /on=c: /maxsize = 12GB
```

The /for= switch specifies the disk drive where the storage space is to be resized.

The /on= switch tells Windows where to save the Restore Point.

The /maxsize= switch tells Windows how much space it can use for Restore Points.

If you don't specify a maximum size you are giving Windows permission to do anything it wants. The minimum size is 1GB. I have seen references stating that the minimum size can be as low as 300MB, but I could not verify that information.

After entering the resize command the system needs to be restarted to take effect. Configuring System Restore points won't solve every problem you may have with Windows, but it will give you more control of how Windows allocates resources.

Tom's Tip of the Month

There are many ways to prints a document, but you can print a document quickly in XP if you put a shortcut to the printer on your desktop and drag a document icon to it, no need to open file for printing just drag a file to printer icon and get your print.

To do this, first click Start button, Printers and Faxes, and when the Printers window opens (first make sure you installed your printer driver), hold down Ctrl and drag the printer icon to your system desktop.

Now you can drag a document icon and drop it in printer icon on your desktop. Here you will get a print quickly and without opening a file.

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**

35MM Slide Scanner w/software. Convert slides to JPG or other images \$50.00

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

BROADSIDES

February 2010, The Space Coast PC Journal

By Ron Broadhurst, Member of the Space Coast PC Users Group, Inc., Florida

www.scpcug.com shiron (at) cfl.rr.com

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).

Dear friends,

These ideas are compiled from years of accumulations from various magazines, books, on-line sites and my own personal experience. I claim neither originality nor ownership to any of its contents. My only intent is to share the various "tips," "tricks" & "hints" in hopes of helping & maybe enhancing your computing experiences. They are all intended for anyone who uses a PC. It is for beginners as well as advanced users.

Enjoy and use as you will.

DEFRAGMENTATION EXPLAINED

Fragmentation is caused by creating and deleting files and folders, installing new software, and downloading files from the Internet. Computers do not necessarily save an entire file or folder in a single space on a disk; they're saved in the first available space. After a large portion of a disk has been used, most of the subsequent files and folders are saved in pieces across the volume.

When you delete files or folders, the empty spaces left behind are filled in randomly as you store new ones. This is how fragmentation occurs. The more fragmented the volume is, the slower the computer's file input and output performance will be, and there will be a significant degradation in performance.

Defragmentation is the process of rewriting non-contiguous parts of a file to contiguous sectors on a disk for the purpose of increasing data access and retrieval speeds. Because FAT and NTFS disks can deteriorate and become badly fragmented over

time, defragmentation is vital for optimal system performance.

In June 1999 the ABR Corporation of Irvine, California, performed a fragmentation analysis and found that, out of 100 corporate offices that were not using a defragmenter, 50 percent of the respondents had server files with 2,000 to 10,000 fragments. In all cases the results were the same: Servers and workstations experienced a significant degradation in performance.

CAN'T USE THE XP THEME

The most probable reason for this is that the Themes service isn't running. If it's not running, XP reverts to the classic style. Do this:

1. -----Click Start | Run and type services.msc to open the Services console.
2. -----In the right pane, find the Themes service and Click the Start Service button.

If that doesn't work, try this: right click My Computer | Properties. In the System Properties dialog box, click the Advanced tab. Under Performance, click Settings.

Click the Visual Effects tab. Select "Use Visual Styles on Windows and Buttons" in the Custom box.

HOW TO SET XP TO DISPLAY THE SHUTDOWN MENU WHEN YOU PRESS THE POWER BUTTON

By default, when you press your computer's power button, the system shuts down. That can be a problem if it sometimes gets pressed accidentally. You can configure XP to instead display the shutdown menu, giving you the option to choose whether to shut down, restart, etc. Here's how:

1. -----Right click an empty spot on the desktop
2. -----Select Properties
3. -----In the display properties dialog box, click the Screen Saver tab
4. -----Near the bottom of the dialog box, click the Power button
5. -----In the Power Options Properties dialog box, click the Advanced tab
6. -----At the bottom of the page, under "When I press the power button on my computer," select "Ask me what to do."

FIX VIRTUAL MEMORY

You receive the following error message.....Your system is low on virtual memory. To ensure that Windows runs properly, increase the size of your virtual memory paging file.

1. -----Click Start, right-click My Computer, and then click Properties.
2. -----In the System Properties dialog box, click the Advanced tab.
3. -----In the Performance pane, click Settings.

4. -----In the Performance Options dialog box, click the Advanced tab.
5. -----In the Virtual memory pane, click Change.
6. -----Change the Initial size value and the Maximum size value to a higher value, click Set, and then click OK.

Click OK to close the Performance Options dialog box, and then click OK to close the System Properties dialog box

HOW TO REMOVE SP3

There are a couple of ways to do it. The easiest is to use the Add/Remove Programs item in Control Panel, but if that doesn't work, try this:

1. -----Click Start | Run
2. -----Type :
c:\windows\\$\NtServicePackUninstall\$\spuninst.exe
3. -----Click OK
4. -----This should start the Service Pack 3 Removal Wizard, which walks you through the steps of uninstalling the SP

If these methods don't work, first restart the computer and then use System Restore to roll back to a restore point that was prior to the time you installed the service pack (this will also undo any other changes that you've made since that time).

The Ten Commandments of E-mail

Thou shalt include a clear and specific subject line.

Thou shalt edit any quoted text down to the minimum thou needest.

Thou shalt read thine own message thrice before thou sendest it.

Thou shalt ponder how thy recipient might react to thy message.

Thou shalt check thy spelling and thy grammar.

Thou shalt not curse, flame, spam or USE ALL CAPS.

Thou shalt not forward any chain letter (Am I guilty?).

Thou shalt not use e-mail for any illegal or unethical purpose.

Thou shalt not rely on the privacy of e-mail, especially from work.

When in doubt, save thy message overnight and reread it in the light of the dawn.

And, here's the "Golden Rule" of e-mail: That which thou findest hateful to receive, sendest thou not unto others.

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

We attended the 2010 FACUG Spring Conference cruise and it was well attended with about 250 registrants and a total of 350 attendees (considering the non-member spouses). I was not enthused about the ship and its food, but most liked it. This conference had the most sessions I've ever seen, and with very talented presenters. There were also some APCUG people doing breakout sessions. You made a tough decision almost every hour with four great sessions to choose from, especially when we wanted to spend time shopping at Nassau, Bahamas. There was a photo-shoot session done ashore by Bill Campbell, a professional photographer who has traveled worldwide and written books. Bill did other photo-related sessions. We didn't stop at Great Stirrup Cay (Norwegian's private island) because of windy conditions; they just made a very slow trip continuing on back to Miami.

Shopping in Nassau I found a polo shirt with a pocket (hard to find these days) that had "Nassau" on it, and we bought a few other souvenir items. We also visited the Gucci store for the experience. A beautiful women's purse was on sale for "only" \$3,500, marked down from \$5,000, but darn, I had accidentally left my plastic in our cabin safe. <G> I was disappointed not to get it for her! Maybe it will still be on sale if we visit Nassau again (and we win the lottery).

I was surprised that Microsoft was not a sponsor. Only Corel joined us on the cruise, but Smart Computing sent lots of magazines. There were 33 breakout sessions during the Saturday and Sunday conference hours. The presentation "Technology of the Space Program" by Jeff Fishkin (works for NASA) was extremely interesting and informative. Carey Holzman's keynote talk about computer security was outstanding and informative. Carey hosts a radio show about computers.

The ship's navigator gave a great talk and we learned about an unexpected weather problem the night before that most were not aware of. It seems a sudden storm came up and the ship quickly listed about six degrees before they could correct it, which is not a serious danger, but some bottles slid off the shelves in the liquor store. Good thing we were unaware or some of us might have been there with straws helping clean up the liquor store floor. He said they quickly used pumps to move water or fuel to the proper ballast tanks to correct the listing situation. Ten

lucky people got a tour of the navigation room. Everyone enjoyed a Welcome Cocktail Party on Friday evening and a Farewell Cocktail Party Sunday evening, with door prizes. I had great conversations with people that I only see at that event. Some pictures are posted at <<http://www.facug.org>>.

I heard varying opinions about this event, but most sounded positive, even when they were originally against it. The pluses were no traveling from a hotel for events, vendors didn't need to buy attendees meals, and everything that went on was only a few steps away from your room. No sessions after 7PM meant you could take in shows, live music in the lounges, late night buffet parties, or other ship events. I saw the best musical show I have ever seen on any ship we've been on. I enjoyed the comedian the next night. The Cruise Director announced at the musical show that 51 different countries were represented on that cruise, the most that ship ever had. Whenever my wife and I went to the buffet for a snack, we saw a few people with FACUG badges having snacks together and often meeting for the first time. All of us wearing badges were often asked what it was about, so we got a chance to promote user groups.

Next year's conference is already planned, but is in jeopardy because of very slow registrations, in spite of a positive survey taken after our return. I think it's too early in the year to start the registration, but maybe the cruise line will relent and give us more time to get the 100 registrations needed. It's a day longer and on a better ship. There will be no sessions next year during certain hours in Cozumel, Mexico.

*Another users group gives up

I received a message from Dick Hiatt recently telling me that their San Diego Personal Computer User Group was disbanding. They have published the DealsGuy column for years and Dick has been the editor for years. Their membership was at an all time low and so was their meeting attendance. I didn't ask when I called him, but I assume that, like most groups, the officers have all held their jobs for years. Their final meeting will be sort of a party without smiles, but most of the active members are likely to affiliate with other computer related groups in the area. In their good times, they had about 200 members. With all of the help for computer users, and the great camaraderie, it's hard to think that user groups are becoming an endangered species.

**CONGRESS.SYS Corrupted:
Re-boot Washington D.C (Y/n)?**

*Diskeeper Introduces An Update

Most of you are familiar with the Diskeeper and Undelete products <<http://www.diskeeper.com>> and their great performance capability. Diskeeper Corporation has introduced an update. Diskeeper features a breakthrough technology called IntelliWrite that prevents the vast majority (up to 95%) of fragmentation from ever occurring. InvisiTasking technology is an important breakthrough that allows processes running in the background to run invisibly with zero conflicts. They say the Titan Defragging technology is about the strongest ever built, and the Terabyte Volume Engine technology rapidly defrags multi-terabyte volumes. (DealsGuy comment; check <<http://www.diskeeper.com/diskeeper/home/comparison-chart.aspx>> to better understand that statement.)

They say that Boot-Time defragmentation defrags and consolidates directories to improve application speed, eliminating slows, hangs, and crashes. Defragmentation during boot-time handles those files that cannot be moved while the system is active. All Diskeeper 2010 editions are fully compatible with Windows 7 (Home Edition is not compatible with Windows 7 Enterprise). Registered users receive full 90-day telephone tech support and special upgrade pricing. I found that Diskeeper works fast and efficiently. There's more, but I don't have room for every feature here.

Undelete 2009 is not updated, but is a fascinating product. It protects files that the Windows recycle bin and backup systems miss: The following is from their Web site, but I'm not sure if it all pertains to the Home version as well.

“Undelete 2009 with InvisiTasking to the Rescue

Undelete replaces the Windows recycle bin with a catch-all Recovery Bin™ that intercepts all deleted files, no matter how they were deleted. Lost file? No problem! Use the Recovery Bin's Windows Explorer-like interface to navigate to the file, or take advantage of Undelete's powerful search capabilities. Right-click the file, select Recover, and the file is back. The Microsoft Office Version Protection functionality can even restore your earlier, saved over versions of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) files.

Undelete includes Emergency Undelete, which can recover files deleted before Undelete was installed; provided they haven't been overwritten on your hard

drive, and SecureDelete 2.0, an electronic shredder to completely erase confidential files.

Innovative Set It and Forget It™ features and technology (InvisiTasking) guarantee that new Undelete 2009 will safeguard your computer silently and automatically.” There's more, but I don't have room. Here are some special offers for a limited time:

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>

*How About A Smart Uninstaller!

A guy was telling me about his favorite uninstall software called Zsoft Uninstaller. I don't think it's an exclusive feature, but it has a way to keep track of any changes on your hard drive when you install a new program. If you don't like the new program, Zsoft can completely remove it even if there is no uninstall tool included. Prior to installing a new program, Zsoft will make some type of hard drive image to use as a reference if it has to uninstall that software. I have not tried Zsoft, but it sounds like it has a good concept and it's free; however, as with most freeware, they accept donations if you like it. Check it out at <<http://www.zsoft.dk/index/software>>.

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 May 2010 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 Board Mtg Y H Library 10:00 am	6	7	8
9 MOTHER'S DAY Nancy Donegan	10 May Mtg 6:00 Q&A 7:00 Computer Recycling	11	12	13	14 Walt Scott	15 Betty Greenhaw
16	17	18	19	20 Deadline for Newsletter articles	21	22
23/30	24/31 Memorial Day	25	26	27 John Gaskins	28	29

HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 9th



MAY
ANNIVERSARIES



HAPPY
MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 31th

- Hatch & Tot Hatchell 5/04/1945 65 yrs
- Michael & Casey Lazarz 5/02/1949 61 yrs
- George & Nancy Donegan 5/29/1964 46 yrs
- June & Jack Gottlieb 5/01/1976 34 yrs
- Rosalind & James 5/02/1998 12 yrs