

New Style

Newsletter of the LaCrosse PC Users' Group

volume 20 number 2

February 2000

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This month

At our meeting, February 23, Charter Communications (formerly Jones Intercable) will speak on their Internet services. Held in the Overholt Auditorium, Gunderson Lutheran, 7 PM.

APCUG Articles

Gary Stelzig

Our club is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG). To be a member our club pays a \$50 annual fee. APCUG provides helpful information through their quarterly reports to club officers plus they have a lot of interesting and helpful info on their web site.

APCUG is also active at computer conventions such as Comdex, that Don and Carol attended in November. Certain areas of their web site are restricted to club officers. The APCUG home web page is <http://www.apcug.org>. This address is under the APCUG logo on the back of our newsletter. If you have not been to the APCUG home page or it has been awhile, take the time to browse their site. At the bottom of the home page is a link to their January report that is sent to all club officers. Take look at some of the articles in this report.

One of the things that many clubs are doing is fixing up old computers for use by nonprofit organizations or other needy persons. This has been discussed at our meetings. In order to do this we would need another location to store computer parts and have additional time to do this activity. Finding people willing allocate some of their time for additional activities is probably the major challenge.

President's Message

By Marian Havlik

As most of you know, our VP Chuck Whalen, was in a car accident 22 January. He was unable to make either our January meeting, or our 2 February Board meeting. Fortunately his 2 year old daughter was not injured. Chuck thinks kid's car seats are wonderful.

For our January program Secretary Carol Frank gave us tips and common sense suggestions on how to make to make greeting cards, like making a mock-up first so you get it right before printing on good paper.

While greeting cards are easy to do at home with a computer and inkjet printer, they still require some thought to get it right.

Remember to hold the Shift key while sizing a picture in order to keep it in proportion. We looked at the same greeting card printed on a variety of papers; there was a considerable difference in quality.

Carol spends a lot of time picking out which fonts to use. She also showed us how to make a variety of business cards. She passed out a handout she prepared. And be sure to have extra ink jet refills on hand if you intend to do a lot of cards.

At least 1100 LCPC flyers were given out at a local Computer Show on 9 January. Chris Hornbach, one of the door prize winners, attended the meeting to claim his prize. He is also LCPC's newest member. Another winner was unable to be present for the January meeting. Chuck Whalen also distributed our flyer at CenturyTel.

A reminder for those who took software to review. Don and Carol are always looking for articles for our newsletter, so be sure to send Don your review.

If you have any problems reading the newsletter online, please let us know. A few hard copies are being printed to hand out to meeting visitors, and to send out for exchange newsletters, but to save costs we want to have as many members as possible receive the newsletter by email.

Future programs

Kathy (and Darrell) have been busy arranging programs for the year. Charter communications (formerly Jones Intercable) will speak on their Internet services, at our meeting 23 February. In March Chuck Whalen will take us through Windows 98 Bootcamp.

In April the DeSoto, WI, High School computer club students and advisors will tell us what these high school students are doing with computers. We plan to give them a complimentary membership which will enable them to read our newsletter online.

Other meetings include Office 2000 in May. Since this is such an extensive program, we plan several programs on Office. Alternately the Board has also been considering implementing a SIG (Special Interest Group) on Office, probably at 6:30, before our regular meetings. These mini-programs will be exclusively devoted to Office.

Modem speed

I changed my primary AOL number to Holmen 526-2658 (90 mhtz), and to my great surprise I'm now connecting to AOL at 42000 bps! Amazing.

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Visit our homepage at <http://www.wi.centuryinter.net/lcpc>

Quicken

When I opened Quicken the other day I nearly had a heart attack when I didn't see my business checking account. Started looking for my latest backup, but when I decided to do a Profit/Loss statement, my checking account was still there. I remembered that accounts can be hidden, and indeed, somehow I had accidentally hidden my checking account without realizing it. A tip to remember.

The next date to worry about

Don't forget to check your computer date on Leap Year, 29 February 2000. That's the next date to worry about (*some programs expect that there will be no Feb 29 this leap year, just as in 1900 -ed.*). But you can also give some thought to the fact that we're running out of Social Security and telephone numbers :-)).

Ford Motor Company Bargain

Ford plans to give each of its 350,000 employees, worldwide, an HP Pavilion with a 500 mhz Celeron chip, 4.3 HD, CD, modem, monitor, some software, printer, technical support, and UNLIMITED INTERNET ACCESS for ONLY \$5.00/mo. Ford is doing this to encourage computer literacy so their workers will be comfortable operating computers that control equipment. Families will be encouraged to use the new computers, even if they already have one in the home.

If employees are not satisfied with the basic PC they can upgrade, at a significant discount. People PC will manage the program. HP expects 300,000 orders, 4% of the computer shipments in 1999. Ford will evaluate the program after 3 years.

Coming Reviews!

These members got software at the Holiday meeting, we look forward to their reviews.

Arlene Weise ----- **Quicken 2000**
Ernesto Brauer & Marian Havlik -----

Microsoft Office 2000 book

Kathy Gallagher -- **Glider 4 & Star Office**

Bill Brockmiller ----- **Go Back**

Marian Havlik ----- **Inkjet refill**

----- **& On-track**

Darrell Garner ----- **Final Data**

Jack Storlie ----- **Via Page**

Chuck Whalen ----- **Adobe ImageStyler**

January Meeting

Carol Frank

We had almost all of our members attend at the last meeting, including someone we haven't seen for awhile—John Kuschel. Three new people came as the result of the flyers we handed out at the Super Computer Sale at the beginning of the month, John Korpela, Earl Hart and Chris Hornbeck. Chris was a prize winner of the large wallet from Microsoft.

Marian had us introduce ourselves and describe our relationships with computers.

Jack Storlie wants to know about anyone who is an expert in voice dictation programs to give a presentation to the Digital Duffers. He also has a friend with a DOS game that won't play under Windows98. Booting to DOS didn't work and he wants suggestions.

Earl Hart had a problem with printing more pages than he wanted of a website. One suggestion was that he copy and paste the desired text into Wordpad and print from there. Also he should check the help file, or just cancel printing when the desired page is printed out.

The presentation on desktop publishing was given by Carol Frank. The emphasis is on general principles that could be applied to most desktop publishing and draw programs. The creator doesn't have to be able to create original art but be able to judge the appropriateness of words, pictures and timesteps that work together.

Carol gave lots of practical advice about layout, paper, sources for pictures and text.

She talked about designing business cards and working with a commercial printer. At the end she brought up the *Newstyle* template and members helped her make changes to the newsletter like spelling and type size.

Her notes for this presentation are available. Please send an e-mail to deapublish@aol.com

Treasurers Report

Gary Stelzig

Thanks to those who paid their renewal dues last month: Ken Buckley, Marian Havlik, Jack Storlie, John Kuschel, and Gary Stelzig. Also welcome new member Chris Hornbeck who joined at the January meeting. February renewals include: Paul Havlik.

Our checking balance as of my 02/01/2000 deposit of \$120.00 is \$313.55. January expenses are \$13.30 for stamps and \$14.77 for photocopying of our newsletter.

Member E-mail addresses

Please check over your e-mail address carefully for accuracy. If it isn't right let us know!

The LCPC Home Page:

<http://www.wi.centuryinter.net/lcpc>

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Alicia is a member of the Fresno PC Users Group in California.

Printer Paper-Whats the Difference?

Alicia King Padgett

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You've finally got a great color printer with 600 to 1200 dpi (dots per inch) capability for text and graphics and you can't wait to start printing. According to the manufacturer it should be able to print photo quality graphics and crisp text files. However, when you actually print something, it seems the print quality is no better than with your old printer. Eventually, you look with envy at your friend's printouts and sigh "Someday I'll be able to afford a high quality printer like theirs." But wait, maybe the problem isn't the printer... perhaps it's the paper.

Let's take a look at the basics of different printers:

An **impact printer** uses a mechanical hammering device to produce each character by forcing a metal or plastic form against an inked ribbon to produce an image on paper. The characters may be on a moving bar, a rapidly rotating chain, a rotatable ball, or even a spoked wheel. A **dot matrix** printer uses a matrix of tiny pins that, when struck, impart a set of dots to form a wide variety of characters. Graphics may be created by using different dot combinations. **Bubble-jet printers (or ink-jet printers)** squirt heated ink through a matrix of holes to form characters. These small ink droplets are electrostatically sprayed from a nozzle onto the paper. **Laser printers** form an image of the output on a selenium-coated drum, using laser light according to data from the computer. The image is then transferred to the output from the drum using photocopying techniques. **Thermal-wax-transfer** printers and **dye-sublimation** printers use heat to transfer color pigment from a ribbon to a special paper to produce photographic-quality color images.

Inkjet (bubblejet) printers are very affordable for home use. In the store the printouts may look incredible but when you get home, somehow the printer just doesn't seem to have the same print quality. Most of the time the problem is not the printer, it's the paper. Most people try out several different kinds of photocopy, laser printer, or inexpensive inkjet papers. When an inkjet printer sprays onto these papers, the ink is wicked by the fibers causing an effect known as

bleeding. Some inks spread to the sides or the back of the paper making the image less sharp. When the ink bleeds, it isn't all on top of the paper, some has soaked in. This is easy to check by turning the sheet over. If the ink is starting to come through or the front appears lighter, grayed-out, or feathered, as though you were printing with diluted ink, you probably have the wrong paper.

To get good quality printouts with an inkjet printer you need to use coated paper stock. A single coated paper is not enough, as it is formulated to keep the ink from getting into the paper fiber but doesn't have the best ink adhesion or reflectivity. Quality printouts need a second coating on top of the ink barrier coating. The second coating optimizes viewing by reflecting light back to set off the colors. The second coat also provides a base to adhere the ink. To put it more simply you need a primer coat and a finish coat to generate a quality printout.

Two options controlled by most inkjet printers are configuration for the "*Media Type*" and "*Print Quality*". "*Media Type*" controls the amount of ink set down on the media. It **does not** control or affect the resolution. "*Print Quality*" controls the "Resolution" of the images printed.

Now you know what type of paper to use, lets see what some of the other manufacturing terms mean!

Terms

Basis Weight—the weight of a ream of paper in the Basic Size for that grade (e.g. 500 sheets of Sub. 20 Bond paper in its basic size, 17x22 in., would weigh 20 lb.)

Bond Paper—paper manufactured usually for stationery, letterheads or forms. Distinguishable in the more popular grades by a watermark and excellent writing surface.

Brightness—the measurement of a paper's light-reflective qualities that affect contrast and halftone reproduction.

Coated Paper—paper with a coated surface that gives the paper a smooth finish.

Finish—the special characteristics of a paper's surface, which differ from grade to grade. High, low and textured finishes, for example, exhibit varying degrees of smoothness, ink receptivity and printability.

Ink Holdout—the ability of the paper to keep ink on its surface rather than absorb it into the sheet (e.g., paper with good ink holdout would require less ink and exhibit less "feathering" than a highly absorbent paper).

Ink Receptivity—the degree to which a paper resists or accepts ink penetration based on variations in its size and coating.

Laser Papers—papers suited for optimum performance on heat fused, high-resolution, laser printers used in desktop publishing. (Not recommended for inkjets)

Ream—500 sheets of paper, regardless of size.

Specialty papers

What are some of the specialty papers available for inkjet printers?

High resolution—Coated 24lb paper provides distinct crisp details and colors for graphics, text and photographic images. This paper has a non-resin coating and provides exceptional results at an economical cost.

Ultra resolution—Coated 27lb paper provides a sturdier platform for intense graphics and color applications which would saturate lighter papers. It provides a thicker media while maintaining an economical cost.

Photo glossy—Photographic coated paper provides a heavy surface for "true" photo applications. Gives images a glossy photographic appearance. This paper may also be obtained with an extra coating that bonds with the ink to provide a water-proof image.

Opaque glossy film—Synthetic film providing a durable media for Photo applications. A thin polyester material provides stability for hostile environments and also provides for exceptional color and detail.

Clear transparency film—A clear polyester base coated with a specifically formulated quick dry emulsion for optimum performance. Produces bright colorful overlays and presentation foils.

T-shirt transfer—An iron on product that utilizes a "cool-release" process to maximize image detail and color transfer. Look for an easy to use product with easy peel backings and machine washability.

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Ultra-violet T-shirt transfer—This product provides a unique transfer. In addition to color transfers, the Ultra-Violet transfer actually changes color when exposed to sunlight! When sunlight is removed the image returns to the natural state.

Silver reflective film—A polyester based silver film. The metalized film is excellent for monochrome as well as color graphics

Canvas—An artist grade canvas that is pre-stretched and gives an elegant look to portraits and artist renderings. Provides excellent color reproduction.

Poly-silk fabric,(adhesive backed)—A woven polyester base that looks, feels and gives the appearance of real silk. An adhesive backing provides for transfer to fabric or textiles.

Watercolor paper—An artist grade paper that provides the feel and appearance of watercolor texture. Provides excellent format for reproduction of renderings and other artistic applications.

Backlit reverse printing film—A UV resistant polyester film designed for most light box applications. Produces bright vibrant colors with a superb light diffusion quality. Reverse printing or viewing through the base allows for single sided lamination.

Window decal film—Polyester based transparent film with self-adhesive backing to allow mounting directly to windows or other substrates.

Some of these specialty papers are difficult to locate and prices vary considerably. For economy, print your images on inexpensive 20-24 LB paper until you are satisfied with the composition, then switch to the more expensive media. Try printing the same image on several types of media, you'll be amazed at how different they look.

To acquire various types of specialty papers go to the web sites of paper manufacturers and distributors such as Hammermill, Mead, Hewlett-Packard, or Kodak and request sample packets.

Most of all, have fun and experiment with different paper media, you'll be amazed at what your inkjet printer can do for you!

In the Beginning

contributed by Bob Hansen

1. In the beginning GOD created the Bit and the Byte. And from those he created the Word.
2. And there were two Bytes in the Word; and nothing else existed. And God separated the One from the Zero; and he saw it was good.
3. And God said - Let the Data be; And so it happened. And God said - Let the Data go to their proper places. And he created floppy disks and hard disks and compact disks.
4. And God said - Let the computers be, so there would be a place to put floppy disks and hard disks and compact disks. Thus God created computers and called them hardware.
5. And there was no Software yet. But God created programs; small and big... And told them - Go and multiply yourselves and fill all the Memory.
6. And God said -I will create the Programmer; And the Programmer will make new programs and govern over the computers and programs and Data.
7. And God created the Programmer; and put him at Data Center; And God showed the Programmer the Catalog Tree and said You can use all the volumes and subvolumes but DO NOT USE Windows.
8. And God said - It is not Good for the programmer to be alone. He took a bone from the Programmer's body and created a creature that would look up at the Programmer; and admire the Programmer; and love the things the Programmer does; And God called the creature: the User.
9. And the Programmer and the User were left under the naked DOS and it was Good.
10. But Bill was smarter than all the other creatures of God. And Bill said to the User - Did God really tell you not to run any programs?
11. And the User answered - God told us that we can use every program and every piece of Data but told us not to run Windows or we will die.
12. And Bill said to the User - How can you talk about something you did not even try. The moment you run Windows you will become equal to God. You will be able to create anything you like by a simple click of your mouse.
13. And the User saw that the fruits of the Windows were nicer and easier to use. And the User saw that any knowledge was useless - since Windows could replace it.

14. So the User installed the Windows on his computer; and said to the Programmer that it was good.
15. And the Programmer immediately started to look for new drivers. And God asked him - What are you looking for? And the Programmer answered-I am looking for new drivers because I can not find them in the DOS. And God said - Who told you need drivers? Did you run Windows? And the Programmer said-It was Bill who told us to!
16. And God said to Bill—Because of what you did you will be hated by all the creatures. And the User will always be unhappy with you. And you will always sell Windows.
17. And God said to the User-Because of what you did, the Windows will disappoint you and eat up all your Resources; and you will have to use lousy programs; and you will always rely on the Programmers help.
18. And God said to the Programmer - Because you listened to the User you will never be happy. All your programs will have errors and you will have to fix them and fix them to the end of time.
19. And God threw them out of the Data Center and locked the door and secured it with a password.

20. GENERAL PROTECTION FAULT

The to-do list for Y2000 Survivalists:

from www.scoopy.net

- Find grocery store receipt for 10,000 packets of ramen noodles.
- Apologize to neighbors about the tripwire incident; offer to replace dog.
- Gather recipes for Spam and dehydrated potatoes.
- Return 753 videos to Blockbuster.
- Prepare for the dreaded but little-known "Arbor Day Bug."
- Make really nasty phone call to Art Bell program.
- Locate up-to-date map of mine field.
- Telephone Honduran Minister of War; discuss having him extend payments on equipment lease, try to get him to take some of it back.
- Laugh at all those losers out there fighting each other for scraps of food, and thank the Lord for the safety of the bunker, cut off from all connection with the outside world.
- Find the rat who sold me all that dehydrated water.
- Make sure the babes in the bunker still think we need to repopulate the earth.

Terry Currier is a Director and past President for both WINNERS - WINdows usERS and North Orange County Computer Club. He has been a member of computer clubs since 1984.

Is Comdex imploding?

Terry Currier, tcurrier@aol.com

The 1999 Comdex in Las Vegas was my 14th. Back in the beginning it was exciting because you would see things BEFORE anyone else would. This was the place companies would announce and show new products. Now it is very rare for that to happen. Products are released to the press and shown on the internet before Comdex even starts. Comdex stands for COMPUTER Dealer Expo, which meant companies fell over themselves to be there and show their products. This was THE show, and if a company did not come it meant that they were having financial problems. This was the show where buyers and vendors got together to show new things and place purchase orders for large quantities. Now everything is different for two reasons, internet and cost. With the internet, companies no longer have to come to Comdex to show the products, the people will come to them - or at least that seems to be the thought. After all, people only have to do a search on the internet for a product, and search engines will present to you all the different manufacturers and reviews.

It used to be you had to search to get a free pass into Comdex. In an effort to pump up the attendance numbers for Comdex the free passes flowed and the crowds came pouring in. So while Comdex was telling the vendors attendance is up each year, it turned out to be the wrong crowd they attracted. It was like having an open house in a multi-million dollar home and having 50% being only looky-loos. The exhibitors did not like that, and started dropping out. You take some of the biggest ones such as IBM, Intel, Lotus, Compaq, and Corel dropping out and you have a lot of empty space. Two years ago Comdex was all the Las Vegas Convention Center and the Sands Center. Last year in the back of the LV Center there was a job faire. This year the job faire was again there and Microsoft had a large area showing Windows 2000. This and the bottom of the Sands Center was empty.

The cost of showing at Comdex is huge, one vendor told me that for a 40'x40' space it cost them \$100,000 (*one I spoke to said 200k - ed.*). At that cost they could (and will) not come back, rent 2-3 rooms at an hotel and send limos to get the people they want

to come and see their products. Intel had the Rivera Hotel setup like a command post. People came, checked in with the desk, they radio or called the Intel person who came to get the person waiting. I thought it worked very well.

Other side events I enjoyed very much are the press parties for vendors to show the products to the press. Some of the best ones: Showstoppers, Silicon North West, ImageScape, DigiFocus. The PR companies do an excellent job on these with the vendors showing the products, and none of the convention center crowds or noise. While for APCUG members, not for the press, the Sunday Vendor night is always a good opportunity to meet vendors. While not a press party I have to also mention the Pat Meir Luncheon at Piero's, always good food and interesting exhibitors.

As the cost of exhibiting with Comdex increases more vendors will be dropping out of the conventions center and going with press parties or exclusive hotel rooms. Companies want maximum exposure for least amount of money. At the most within two years they will not need the Sands Center at all. So what can, will or should be done? Well it won't come from only one side. Yes, Ziff Davis Events charges a bundle of money for the exhibits, but I'll bet that the city charges a lot to rent the center. Both have an invested interest in getting exhibitors back. Simply put I think both have to cut back on the amount they charge to exhibit. Also the city has to work with the hotels not to gouge the conventioners so much. They added 25,000 new rooms since 1998 and yet still charged up to double the regular rates (*and more!*). Driving to LV they were actually advertising on the radio of rooms available at the Hotel San Remo for \$60 during Comdex. With attendance down and more rooms available companies will be able to demand reasonable rates. 1999 was the first year they ever admitted attendance was down. The TV news commented that Comdex brings in up to \$400 million in revenue to Las Vegas. Instead of trying to kill the goose to get all the golden eggs, ZD and Las Vegas are going to have to work together to make sure they keep getting some at all.

Wacky mergers

from www.scoopy.net

In the wake of the Exxon/Mobil deal and the AOL/Time Warner deal, here are the latest corporate mergers we can expect to see: Hale Business systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W.R. Grace Co. merge to become *Hale Mary Fuller Grace*.

Polygram Records, Warner Brothers, and Keebler Crackers merge to become *Polly-Warner-Cracker*.

3M and Goodyear merge to become *MMMGood*.

John Deere and Abitibi-Price merge to become *Deere Abi*.

Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining merge to become *Zip Audi Do Da*.

Honeywell, Imasco, and Home Oil merge to become *Honey Im Home*.

Denison Mines, and Alliance and Metal Mining merge to become *Mine All Mine*.

Federal Express and UPS merge to become *Fed Up*.

Xerox and Wurlitzer will merge and begin manufacturing reproductive organs.

Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will merge and become *Fairwell Honeychild*.

3M, J.C. Penney and the Canadian Opera Company will merge and become *3Penney Opera*.

Grey Poupon & Dockers Pants will merge and become *Poupon Pants*.

Knotts Berry Farm & National Organization of Women will merge and become *Knott NOW*.

Kroegers and Rand-McNally form *KroegerRand*

Mrs. Gore introduces her own designer line of sealable containers: *TipperTupper*

Julia Child launches a chat channel on a popular online service called *Child Prodigy*

Hunt/Wesson and Chicken of the Sea form *Sea Hunt*

Time/Warner/AOL and Hair Club for Men form *TWA Hairlines*

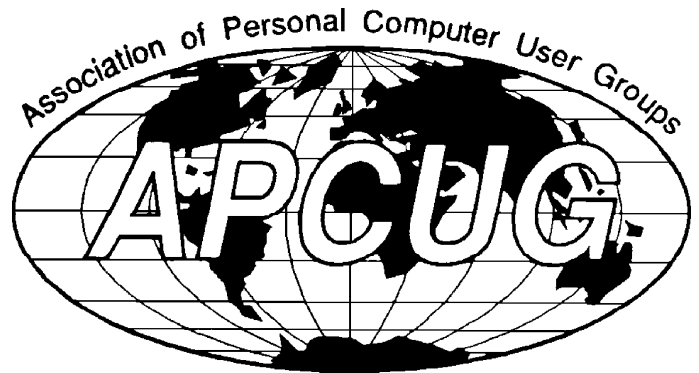
UPS and Radio Shack merge to form *Shack-up*

Bell Aerospace and Greenpeace -- Now whales are saved by the Bell

Hertz and FTD form *Hertz and Flowers*

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WWW.APCUG.ORG

LCPC is a member of APCUG

New Style is published eleven times a year, monthly Jan-Oct and a combined Nov-Dec issue

General meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month in the Lutheran Hospital, either in the Overholt Auditorium or conference room 1 in the basement, check page 1 for location. The combined November-December meeting is held the second Wednesday in December. Meetings begin around 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome, attend a meeting or two with no obligation to join.

Dues are \$20 for one year following payment. Membership entitles you to attend meetings, tap into the corporate wisdom, receive special user group discounts from publishers and others, receive (and contribute to) this newsletter. You may also obtain software provided by publishers for review of the product. Unsigned articles are by the editor.

Other user groups are welcome to reprint with proper credit.

The newsletter is printed the Wednesday before the meeting, submit articles by the 13th of the month. Upload to deapublish@aol.com or phone me at 784-0150 if you want to deliver the article. Submit in ASCII, AmiPro, or WP5.

Commercial advertising rates available upon request. Member's personal ads are free.

LCPC

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