

# New Style

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Newsletter of the LaCrosse PC Users' Group

volume 20 number 10

October 2000

## President's Message

*Marian Havlik*

### This Month: October 25, 7 PM in the Overholt

Bill Brockmiller presents "What You Need In Your Next Computer".

The special shareware and freeware CD from APCUG will be distributed. When they're gone, they're gone. You need to show up to get one.

### About this newsletter

Shane Lambert was scheduled to produce this month's newsletter but is currently AWOL. We've slapped it together in one afternoon which is why it looks even worse than August's newsletter did.

Anyone interested in being a substitute or replacement newsletter editor is encouraged to apply.

We had a good crowd for the September meeting to hear Shane Lambert talk about the Internet and ISPs (Internet Service Providers). There were many questions and comments. Shane provided a very nice handout.

We have several new members. We welcome you all, and hope to see you at our meeting October 25 when member Bill Brockmeyer will tell us What You Need In Your Next Computer.

In October we will start taking nominations for the December elections. Four persons will be elected to the Board. The Board then decides who will serve in which office. You must be a paid member to vote.

We'll be sending copies of the LCPC newsletter to both WWTC and UW-L computer departments, and hope that our members and visitors will spread the word of how LCPC can help all PC computer users.

### LCPC BOARD MEETING

We had a Board Meeting, October 11. Shane Lambert will sign LCPC up for a domain name, and inform the group when this is completed. A domain name will cost \$25.00 per year.

Carol Frank handed out the new Freeware/Shareware CDs from APCUG. This CD has over 200 utilities, and is one of the benefits of LCPC membership. Some groups have been using the CD as a fundraiser (\$10 each). At the October meeting we will hand them out to members until they are gone. We may have to have a drawing to determine recipients.

We need to conserve space in the newsletter, so in the future there will only be one email name per member. Please email me and let us know which name you'd like to have listed if you currently have more than one name. If we add a formal family membership category (as discussed by the Board, with probable dues of \$25.00), then there can be 2 email names in the newsletter.

We also discussed the Program needs of the group. We accept program requests any time, but particularly at the December meeting. So think about what you'd like to have for a program in 2001. We'll probably do another Windows Bootcamp, Part 2. Dr. Ernesto Brauer has agreed to give a program on Palm technology in early 2001.

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*Shane Lambert*



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

## 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:

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## Membership Info and Treasurers Report

*Gary Stelzig - Treasurer*

The club checking balance as of 10/12/2000 is \$505.72. September transactions include: \$40 deposit for 2 new members, \$16.88 for photocopies, \$13.20 for postage, \$4.20 for Hello stickers.

At our August meeting two new members joined the club. They are Betty Mullenbach and David Donskey.

Welcome new members.

Renewals due in October include: Paul Pfaff. Past due include: George Frisch, Darrell Garner, May Borgedahl, John Kuschel, and Arlene Wiese.

Some info about new members that joined in August or September:

**Ralph Dupae:** I retired about 8 years ago from Northern Engraving Co as Chief Industrial Engineer mainly to avoid getting interested in computers. However, my hobby of the last 30 years of building the inland rivers collection of steamboat photos at the Univ. of Wis. Murphy Library to the largest in the world forced me to get involved with computers. For a computer, I have a H. P. Printer 870Cse, H P Scanner 5300C, ViewSonic Monitor PF790, and Compaq Presario Computer. Software includes: Word, Excel, E-Mail, WS FTP and E-Bay.

Since I consider myself computer illiterate and require step by step procedures to accomplish various tasks I hope to learn how certain things are done. I would like to do this without learning a mountain of things not related to the computer work I'm working on. Currently, I'm trying to find the most simplest, cheapest and fastest way to scan a photograph into a JPG format, and get and

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transfer it into a web space with large capacity that E-bay can locate it for use in a E-bay auction

**Dennis Graves:** I'm 53 years old and have lived in the area most of my life except for short stays in Lincoln and Grand Island Nebraska, Minneapolis and Janesville. I graduated from Aquinas in 1964 (no college). I work for Fleming here in La Crosse. They are a big national grocery wholesaler headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I am a buyer of seasonal goods (Christmas, Halloween, Easter, spring & summer goods, etc). My wife, Ann, has worked almost twenty years at St. Francis Medical Center.

We have 2 sons, Alex 27, who is a chemist for a drug company in Boulder CO. and Todd, 31, who works for Kwik Trip here in La Crosse. My wife and I like to travel (cruises and tropical primarily) and we usually go to Door County once each fall for a get-away. I like golf and play pool. I have played in a pool league each fall/winter for about 12 years.

I use a computer at work primarily. Main uses are Groupwise E-mail, Excel (fairly strong in this area), Word and Powerpoint. I have a Dell at work and a Compaq at home. I use the home computer for Internet access mainly, would like to make more use of it, particularly in the record keeping area. My biggest frustration with computers is running into situations that I don't know how to fix and not knowing how to get help. I joined the club to make friends with people that have a common interest in computer. I hope to learn from them and pass on what I learn to other frustrated people.

**Betty Mullenbach:** I am retired now, but have done different jobs in my life. I was a Welcome Wagon Rep. for 12 years; was a craft vendor for 15 years in the area; I worked for Pepsi Cola for 5 years; I also was a mail room/print shop attendant for the Diocese of La Crosse for 5 years; I have been a secretary for Libby's Canning Co. & a journalist for local newspapers, back home in MN. I have a H-P Notebook, "Pavilion" PC, a Cannon "Bubble Jet" printer, & a Visioneer "1 touch 8100" Scanner. I use Outlook Express for our e-mail almost everyday, keeping in touch with family & friends, which is very enjoyable! (especially when we are traveling around with our RV) One winter in

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Mesa. AZ. I got into a PC club at the RV park there, so I keep in touch with everyone via our website. I am a new Internet user, so I am interested in learning anything about that & probably get some answers to any problems that come with normal use of my system. I did take an Internet class at WWTC which was very informative. Someday I would like to get a digital camera & make my own photos. I will have to invest in a better printer though. Which one is best on the market now? *(ot all depends on how much you're willing to spend -ed.)*

I have been having fun making labels, flyers, and business cards for marketing of our fresh honey.

Does anyone in the club like honey?

I have been having an irritating problem lately. When I am looking at my e-mail messages & printing some, it will dial-up again and again, making the printer stop copying in the middle of the job. So I have to start copying the same item again and sure enough it might do the same thing again. (But maybe it won't..) What causes that? And sometimes the printer will run out a blank sheet after copying the job that I wanted.

The software I like to use for fun is: Cosmi (a free CD) for a variety of games; also I like to golf with Tiger Woods (a Free CD from the Wheaties pkg.) *(ah-ha! a pattern develops! -ed.)*

Our neighbor girl had a baby & she has her own website on [babysonline.com](http://babysonline.com)

You can pull up photos & read the story of the birth, also register in the guest book & write some comments for Mom & Dad too. What a neat idea, for people out of the area. Well, thats enough for now, Betty Mullenbach.

## September Meeting

*Carol Frank, Secretary*

The meeting started out with slips of paper handed out for prize drawings and a reminder that board nominations will begin in October. Problems started out with a couple of members that took advice from August's meeting and downloaded HP upgrades for their printers.

One member had tried to download an upgrade for an HP 612C printer. It won't download, instead there is a message that the file already exists. Chuck Whalen replied that it seems like some files are read-only. He also asked if the desired driver is newer than the current one. Chuck suggest go into Control Panel-System-Device manager-delete Printer, reboot the computer and install the new printer driver. Shane Lambert added that some HP updates do require

removing the old driver first and try using Add/remove programs.

The second member with an HP problem had updated his HP driver and now can't print the screen in Internet Explorer. He can save and print it from a graphics program. Chuck suggest rather than clicking on the Print icon, go to File-Print and select All Frames. The questioner had already this and Print Review show black pages. This had both Chuck and Shane stumped.

Then guest Gwynn Anderson suggested that Internet Explorer should be uninstalled, shut down and start up the computer, reinstall Internet Explorer and then try printing from it again.

If that doesn't work Hewlett Packard has a free web printing program called HP Print Web Smart. It is meant to print web pages completely and works great.

Another question was that a member's son had just loaded a new ISP on a new computer. Then he loaded a second one and wants to get rid one of them. Chuck sug-

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Gwynn Anderson



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gest Add/Remove Programs but it is possible to remove both or the wrong one accidentally. Gwynn recommends first checking to see if the ISP in question had an internet dialer, if not, don't uninstall it.

There was a question, does it compromise longevity of a computer to turn it off and on frequently? Chuck recommends that don't turn it off and on more than two or three times a day. The power surge when starting up and the spin of the harddrive can be wearing.

The presentation was given by Shane Lambert on "Smart Surfing the Internet" This is an extremely informative presentation with ways to make your internet experience better. Only the highlights and general overview of topics will be covered here. A videotape of the meeting is available, contact Carol Frank or Don Atkinson.

First though Marian showed a "backdoor" way of signing on to AOL without a password and change the local dialup number using Jack Storlie's laptop. Then Shane told about AOL Plus which has streaming video capabilities. He recommends don't bother to download it. It can take ninety minutes and crash AOL. He also recommends to never download a Beta AOL or Netscape.

He then demonstrated several ways to make AOL and Netscape work and look better by adjusting graphics, removing Java objects, changing web graphics compression, setting Color Modes, and resizing e-mail picture attachments.

Security on the internet isn't perfect but actually more secure than a telephone or an ATM. The Marketing setting in AOL is set the default "yes" and tell AOL to share information about you.

Cookies don't access your computer and are more a nuisance than a risk. Gwynn added that Java scripts are more capable of getting information about you.

Shane explained that site speed doesn't always depend on your modem connection. AOL and other browser and search engines can be slow because of the huge number of subscribers on at once and the size of their servers.

He also explained the difference between browsers and search engines. Browsers like AOL, Netscape, Internet Explorer and JUNO are needed to connect to the internet. Search engines like Alta Vista, Yahoo, and Ask Jeeves are services to help find sites.

Some other topics covered are Spiders, banner advertising, domain names, newsgroups, listserves, netiquette, bookmarks, history and firewalls. (Shane recommends the free version of Zone Alarm.)

The problem of e-mail in HTML format was discussed. It is considered poor netiquette to send e-mail in HTML unless asked for by the receiver. It can take longer for this kind of e-mail to download. Besides when it is viewed as plain text it can be pretty messy with all the HTML coding in it. Arlene Weise recommends "Cleaner" a free download that can remove HTML formatting from e-mail.

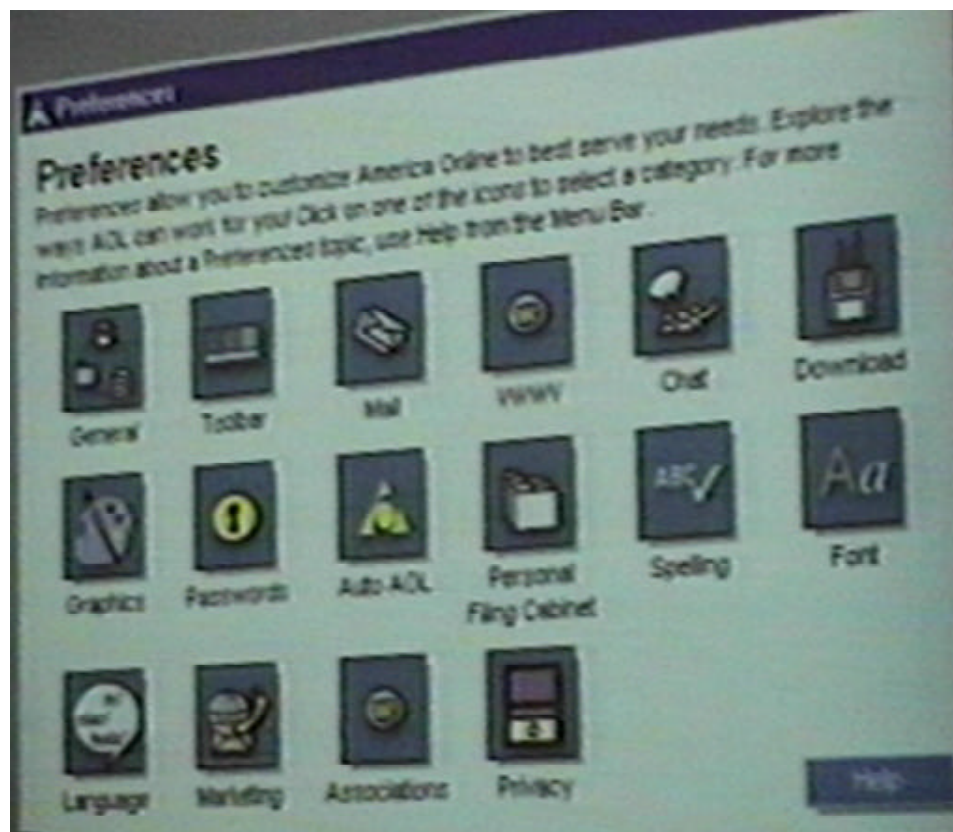
There were more questions after the presentation, most of them internet related. Someone asked how to increase the computer learning curve for her mother. Chuck recommends the "Windows for Dummies" series. Other members recommended the "Simplified" series or tech school classes.

Another question was about a digital camera that takes pictures too big for the screen. Shane recommends to set the digital camera to e-mail setting to get a smaller picture. The

picture could also be resized in a paint program.

The prize drawing was for the Radio Shack Qcat barcode reader.

It reads barcodes on products, in catalogs and magazines. It then sends your browser to that product's website. Some TV commercials emit a tone which also activates the Qcat to find a product's website. So turn off the Qcat sound activation if you want to browse and watch TV at the same time! Shane said Qcat won't work with a Compaq Presario computer. Gwynn explained that Qcat is in phase 1. By phase 2 viable barcodes should be everywhere.



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## LISTSERVER

We will start a LCPC listserv that Shane Lambert will host on his computers. The Listserv will be open to members only. Members can sign up for the Listserv. Then any member can email a question or comment to the Listserv which will go out to all members who have signed up for the Listserv. Any member is free to respond to any question/or ignore and delete it.

Generally any response will go out to the entire group, unless the responder sends it only to the person who asked the question. We have done this informally the past few months, but now questions and answers will be archived, and members can search the archives to look up information they may have deleted.

Without going into details, Common Sense and Good Taste govern Listservs. Just remember to never put anything out in an email that you might regret. Look your emails over before you send them out. If rules of Good Taste are violated, the offender will be prohibited from posting emails to the group. The Listserv rules will be listed on the Listserv.

## DOWNLOADING EMAIL FILES

Those who have been around LCPC for awhile know I've had a terrible time downloading certain files in AOL3.0. Print (.prn), .txt, and .gif files are OK. But generally speaking I've had real problems with .pdf, .doc, .ppt, etc files.

I think I've finally solved the downloading problem. The problem IS with AOL3.0 (my apologies to Chuck, apparently it's not my phone line). I have both AOL3.0 and AOL5.0 on my laptop (my main computer), but I never used 5.0 because I don't like how it handles emails (that's another story), and I have no intention of changing from 3.0 for emails (unless AOL offers more options in the manner in which emails can be received).

But I solved the problem of downloading files by creating another screen name, and just using that name with AOL5.0. When I get an email in 3.0, with an attached file, I forward it to my other screen name in 5.0, and retrieve the email in 5.0, and then download the file. Bingo! It works -- at least with .doc, .ppt, and .pdf files (.pdf files need Adobe Reader to open them). Thanks to Jack Storlie for helping try out this solution.

Oh, happy day. Extra steps, but fortunately I only need this a few times a week

## LINKING AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET TO A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

In early September I finally figured out how to paste part of an active Excel spreadsheet into a PowerPoint presentation. Now the PP file automatically updates each time the PP file's opened. Thanks to Robin Alexander for a tip he gave LCPC on this some time ago.

## EDITING A POWERPOINT PICTURE IN MS PHOTO EDITOR

Most of the functions I need in the various portions of the Office Suite are fairly complex. Over the past month I've also figured out how to edit a photo scanned in from a 35 mm slide in a PowerPoint presentation by linking it to a .jpg file and manipulating it in MS Photo Editor. This is can be an active link between the files, but it really slows the computer. I have 64 megs RAM, but I imagine I'd be better off with 128 megs, and/or a faster chip. When I get everything edited to my liking, I'll take out the link.

Now, I just have to figure out how to unzip files. Even after 15 years of computer experience, you can always learn something new.

What did you learn new about your computer today?

## MANAGING DIRECTORIES IN MS OFFICE

I've only been using Office seriously for about 1 year. My Office files and directories were a mess. I had folders I never made, and I could never find what I wanted. So I went into DOS to see where everything was (I know there are other ways to do this in Windows, but this was easier for me). I made new directories: DOC00 (for 2000), PP00, Excel00, and Pic00 (for individual pictures) folders, and moved everything into their proper folders. I usually keep 2 copies of every file, but I found that I often had more than that, so I carefully deleted a lot of files. In some instances I made an extra directory

in the root directory (C:\), and copied files to that directory, just to be sure I didn't delete anything that I'd regret.

I also realized that I just don't like long file names. I've used 8-letter file names for 15 years, so I changed all of the file names with ~1 in the name back to 8-letter file names, essentially using the system I had found to work well for me in DOS programs. With long file names you actually lose 2 characters (in some views). Some of this may seem like a step backwards to confirmed Windows users, but perhaps I'll find it easier to use Windows now that Office files cleaned up a bit.

## LCPC Board

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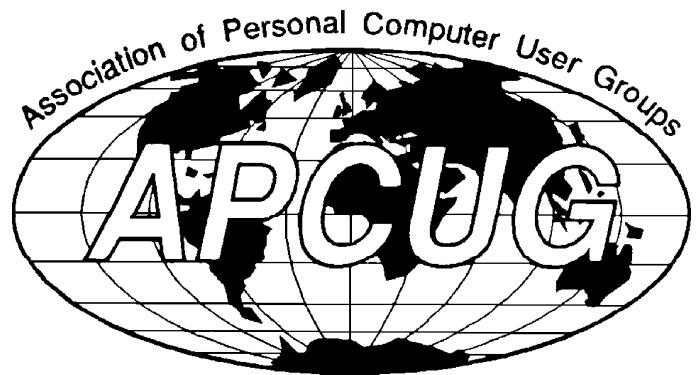
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[WWW.APCUG.ORG](http://WWW.APCUG.ORG)

LCPC is a member of APCUG

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General meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month in the Lutheran Hospital, in the Overholt Auditorium. 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.

New Style is published eleven times a year, monthly Jan-Oct and a combined Nov-Dec issue. It is printed the Wednesday before the meeting, submit articles by the 13th of the month. Upload to [deapublish@aol.com](mailto:deapublish@aol.com)

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

## LCPC

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