

New Style



Newsletter of the LaCrosse PC Users' Group

volume 22 number 1

January 2002

Inside

- ▣ Treasurer's report
- ▣ Meeting report
- ▣ Archiving files
- ▣ The Tattoo of History

This month's meeting

January 30

7:00 PM

Gundersen Lutheran, Overhold Auditorium

Presentation by Marsha Kurth, WWTC.
"Wireless—Friend or Foe?"

What's in your wallet?

"Your papers are not in order! Come with me!"

We've seen that scene played out innumerable times in movies about WWII and life under communism or other repressive regimes. If certain people have their way that scene could become part of life in this country. Jerry Maizell looks at this possibility starting on page 3.

One problem is the ridiculous ease with which any document can be forged. Just think of the various security features that have been incorporated over the years in credit cards. Each feature was claimed to make the card too difficult or expensive to fake. But even small time criminals have found faking holograms and magnetic strips possible and well worth their time and the cost of the equipment to do the work. Do you believe that the government can create something so complex that a foreign government could not duplicate it if they wished to?

A handy little tool

Gary Stelzig

I heard about this listening to Minnesota Public Radio. Some free PC software to PC Users (not business) that will give you a nice print out of your PC hardware.

The web address is www.belarc.com—see the free download icon.

For users using browsers IE or Netscape 3.0 or higher.

The Way it Was

Guest editorial by Robin Alexander

At the LCPC Board meeting (meetings open to all - come and share your ideas and opinions!) we decided to split up the task of the monthly "President's Column" to ease the burden on the President. In a rash move I volunteered to do the January column, which, being for January was due right away. Actually, as the oldest (or rather, longest standing) member of the club, it made some sense to reminisce as we begin a new year.

I joined the club as soon as I arrived in LaCrosse in 1983 to teach Accounting at UW-L. Now, 19 years later, I have resigned my position at UW-L effective this coming May to do different things, but I will con-

tinue to be a member of LCPC at least as long as we remain in the area. The transition to La Crosse was also a transition from the Apple II (the computer we had at the University of Minnesota) to a "real" 16 bit computer, the IBM PC.

Actually I was very fond of the Apple II, but a string of what I considered to be disastrous decisions by Apple following the Apple II made me not the least bit sorry to switch to the PC. Of course we all know that road is not without its many potholes, also.

concludes on next page

Your editor points out some features of the remarkably small JVC digital camcorder



Visit our homepage at <http://www.lcpconline.com>

In those days, DOS ruled, and we all learned arcane command line strings to start and use programs.

The good: programs mostly confined themselves to their own directory, and “uninstalling” a program often just involved deleting its directory and subdirectories. Not like now when installing a program spews files all over the hard drive and changes settings all over the place. Back then, programs were often stable and actually ran without crashing all the time. I spent a sabbatical working at an organization with a Novel network, *Lotus 1-2-3*, *WordPerfect 5.1*, and *FoxPro +*, a database. The system ran for a whole semester without ever crashing or needing a reboot. The software worked as advertised. Now we live with something like quantum computing where there are just probabilities that operating systems and software will do what is expected. Then, operating systems and software came with manuals - gasp! These manuals even explained completely what the program would do and how to do it. Compared to, for instance, Microsoft’s abominable help system with Access, it was heaven. Granted, the programs didn’t do as much.

The bad: Every program developer had his/her own idea of what the menu system (if any) should look like and what keys should be used to do what. Thus every piece of software required learning a new interface. Rarely could you sit down and use a piece of software without some guidance. The Windows standard interface, while not perfect, has been a tremendous boon to consistency of program behavior. One could only run one program at a time, usually in full screen. It’s hard to remember the inconvenience of not being able to multitask and being restricted to one window open. Now we take multitasking and multi-window displays for granted. The slow computers and slow hard drives added to the inconvenience of switching between applications. Cut and paste did not work like it does now. Getting data from one program to another required major skill.

There are many more horrors that I only dimly remember (probably a mental defense mechanism against trauma) such as all the workarounds we used to overcome DOS’ limitations. For instance, *Sidekick*, and

DesqView provided a crude form of “multitasking” and program switching.

It has been an interesting ride. One major complaint is that it has used up more life time than it should, and it continues to do so. Computers are still much too difficult and require too much fiddling with. For whatever reason, the emphasis has been on increasing functionality rather than on increasing stability and ease of use. And as we enter an ever increasingly connected computing environment, various low-lives keep nipping at our heels with viruses, worms, identity theft and other malicious behavior. Too bad Dante didn’t know about these people - he could have created a special place in the Inferno for them.

The LCPC club itself has remained fairly stable over the years, providing a place where PC users can go for company, comfort, and some useful information. Sometimes we forget what it’s like to be new to computers and leave new users in the dust, but we keep trying to rein ourselves in. One thing is sure: the computer industry ensures that there will always be a place for the LCPC.

Treasurer and Membership Report, December 2001

Dick Dahlby, Treasurer

The LCPC checking account balance as of 12/31/2001 was \$893.88. We had income of \$100.00 from five renewals - Paul Pfaff, Lita Bower, Arlene Wiese, Dennis Graves, and Ed Lietzow. Thank you for your continued support.

Expenses paid in November were \$13.60 for postage stamps, and \$11.30 for photocopies of the Newsletter. There was one expense of \$2.22 for photocopies paid in December.

We presently have 54 “enrolled” members in LCPC.

Members whose annual renewal fees (dues) are presently past due (Dec.) are: Bill Brockmiller, Mike Henderson, and Ted Latham.

Members whose renewal fees are due in January are: Robin Alexander, Don Atkinson, Ken Buckley, Carol Frank, Marian Havlik, Brian Hopkins, Paul Shie, Gary Stelzig, Marlene Stolpa, Jack Storlie, and Kathryn Urban.

Annual dues are \$20, and checks should be made payable to La Crosse PC Users Group. Dues may be paid at the next meeting, which is Wednesday, January 30th, or mailed to either of the following addresses:

La Crosse PC
Users Group
P.O. Box 2991
LaCrosse, WI
54601-2991
or
Dick Dahlby
501 Olivet
LaCrosse, WI
54603-1318

New Treasurer, Dick Dahlby



Secretary's Report

Carol M. Frank

December 2001 meeting

The presentation that didn't happen

Business for the December meeting was completing the board membership. After much discussion the board consists of Marian Havlik, Ernesto Brauer, Dick Dahlby and Carol Frank.

There was also discussion about distributing the electronic version of the newsletter. Because of problems of sending it out over AOL, it was decided to hand deliver a floppy to Shane and he will post it on the LCPC web page, where it can be downloaded.

There was more talk about the W32/Badrans-B virus. The one with Hi! in the subject line. The best way to get rid of it was to boot up with the Norton Utilities disc in the drive.

Darrell Garner mentioned a virus that made his icons move about. According to Shane that was an old virus from the days when viruses were merely a nuisance, not destructive. It is so old, virus checkers probably don't have it listed anylonger.

The presentation by Don Atkinson and Carol Frank didn't come off because the 15 pin cord used to connect the computer to the display screen had a bent pin. To prevent a reoccurrence, it was resolved to buy and keep our own connection cords.

Don talked about how we used some of our electronic toys on vacation. The laptop with a mapping program came in handy in finding our way around St. George, UT after dark. The Sprint cell phone was very useful also. Unlike most cell phones, Sprint home territory is in metropolitan areas and along the interstate. Very useful for traveling.

We also talked about some of the features of the JVC Digital video camera. It also has a 8 megabyte memory card that can record stills, either directly or from the video tape; and record up to one hundred seconds of video that can be downloaded onto the computer.

For users without a computer, there is the option of printing out the stills on a special printer directly connected to the camera.

Battery life in actual practice is only twenty to thirty minutes, and even shorter when cold. Don carried the battery separately inside his coat to keep it warm.

The tattoo of history

*excerpted from Maizell's I/O from **Hard-Copy**, Journal of the Chicago Computer Society, Nov/Dec. 2001*

Because those I call the misguided, unguided and damned fools not to mention those with nefarious agendas, have seized on recent events to promote various schemes to safeguard America by turning it into a high-tech version of Ceausescu's Communist Romania.

There's so much exaggeration and panic-peddling going on that I will forgive the alert and/or sensitive reader for his skepticism about that statement. And I invite him to check my work.

The computer world contributes a great deal of good to the world. It behooves the tech community, however, to be aware of the potential dangers presented by computerization. The more so when some of its most celebrated leaders leap into a deeper end of

the political pool than their mental waterwings can support.

Larry Ellison & Scott

McNealy should take a cold shower-together

I have always enjoyed watching Larry Ellison (CEO of Oracle) and Scott McNealy (CEO of Sun Microsystems) as they jab away at Microsoft's monopoly. These are clever, maybe brilliant, businessmen who have become billionaires, which gives their spoofing of their fellow billionaire in Redmond a special and delightful twist.

I wouldn't like to think that they have evil designs, so until I have reason to believe otherwise, I will assume that these otherwise

Continued on page 6

This digital video camera was purchased off the internet for \$600.

This coming year, we are planning more trips and will get more practice using these toys. The next presentation will be more complete (promise!)

The rest of the meeting Shane gave a preview of his presentation for February and talked about Windows XP.

Board meeting

The first board meeting of the year was held January 12 at our home. It was attended by Gary Stelzig, Dick Dahlby, Darlene Stolpa, Ernesto Brauer, Robin Alexander, Marian Havlik, Shane Lambert and of course Carol Frank and Don Atkinson. We went through some old papers and found out that the LCPC is a non-profit corporation according to the State of Wisconsin.

The arrangement of officers is: Carol Frank, secretary & programs; Dick Dahlby, treasurer; Ernesto Brauer, Vice President and Marian Havlik, president. This year Marian will be limited in her duties as president because of demands of work and caring for her husband, Joe, who has heart trouble.

One of the duties that will be delegated from her is the monthly writing of an article. It was decided to have a guest editorial every month.

Current volunteers for writers are: January, Robin Alexander (in this issue); March, Ernest Brauer; October, Darlene and Marlene Stolpa; and September, Shane. That still leaves February, April, May, June, July, August, September and December open for volunteer writers.

We also made up a tentative schedule for programs.

January-Marsha Kurth, WWTC
February-Shane, Windows XP
March-Chuck (?) utilities, anti-virus programs

April-Shane, upgrading & maintenance
May-Roger Grant, UWL (?) -digital cameras

June-Robin Alexander, Excel

July-MS Works

August-Open

September-Ernesto, Palm

October-Geneology (?)

December-Ernesto, medical information on the Web or Toys.

Of course, any of this is subject to change. If anyone has a suggestion for an program (or would like to volunteer as presenter) please contact Carol Frank and/or Jack Storlie (assistant program chairperson)

The next board meeting will be Saturday, March 2, 10:30 at Carol and Don's house again (1228 Avon St. LaCrosse). Anyone is welcome to attend.

My Floppy died and I dont feel so good myself

Susan Ives; reprinted from the Sept, 2001 issue of the PC Alamode

John has a picture of his great-great grandmother. When she died in 1929 she was one of the oldest residents of Fredericksburg, Texas, so we know the photo is at least 72 years old.

When John's mother turned 80 this past July I took dozens of snapshots with my digital camera. What will her great-great grandchildren have in the year 2074 to remember this occasion by? In an ideal world, they will be able to print fresh digital photos of breathtaking clarity. In reality, they may inherit a pitted and scarred CD that contains mystery files that no contemporary computer is capable of reading.

Take the example of my friend Phil. He wanted to look at the file containing his master's thesis. It was on a 5 1/4" DOS-formatted floppy disk. Oops. He doesn't have that computer any more. And what was it typed in? WordStar? Ami Pro? After a few weeks spent finding a compatible machine, he discovered that the disk was damaged. His experience is unfortunately typical: Damaged disk. Extinct operating system. Defunct software. Obsolete medium. And all that happened to him in the space of about five years.

Archival librarians have long been wrestling with the implications of storing important historical documents on digital media. As genealogists, you face the same problem on a more intimate scale. Will your electronic family histories stand the test of time? The truth is, we don't know.

Electronic archivists face two hurdles. First is the stability of the media themselves.

How long will a floppy disk last? A CD-R? A zip disk? Hard drive? Tests by the National Media Lab show that the best quality CD-ROMs stored under ideal conditions are expected to last from between 50 and 100 years. Most zip drive owners have experienced the "click of death," signaling last throes of a damaged disk or drive.

Floppy disks are not certified for long-term archival storage, which is defined as more than three years. If your records are stored on floppies:

Never allow anything to touch the magnetic surfaces of a disk. A fingerprint will leave an oil residue and tiny scratches that cause permanent damage. Always store

5.25" floppy disks in their disk jacket, and avoid squishing them together in overloaded diskette boxes. Avoid high humidity environments and choose a location at room temperature, which is free from fumes, dust and vibration. Avoid leaving disks in high heat, such as parked cars or mail boxes. With 5.25" floppy disks, fill out the label before attaching it to the disk. If the label is attached, use a felt tipped pen. Avoid using liquid paper on disk labels, as loose particles can cause surface scratches. Paper clips can cause magnetic corruption, or come loose and wiggle their way into the disk jacket. Floppy disks are rated for temperatures within the range 10 to 45C. Continual temperature fluctuations should also be avoided. Magnets can destroy data. Sources of magnetic fields include battery chargers and power packs, electric clocks, computer monitors, modems, printers, computer speakers, telephones, radios, electric typewriters, magnetized hand tools and keys. Disk drives collect dust and foreign matter, which can cause surface scratches on disks. Clean them.

These tips will serve you well for almost any medium. Keep your digital archives at a stable temperature and humidity, handle them at a minimum, keep them clean, don't shove them into dirty drives, don't moosh them together and keep them away from magnets.

To add another level of insurance, keep all of your important records in duplicate in case a disk or tape fails. Even better, keep them stored in two different media, for example, on a zip drive and on a CD-ROM.

Archivists sometimes "refresh" their media. Every year or two, pull out all your archived material and copy them onto fresh disks. And, even though it might not be apparent to the naked eye, technology does improve. Modem floppies have better anti-static shielding. Newer CD-Rs are less vulnerable to corrosion.

After archiving your data, check out the new disk to make sure it works. Quickly check to make sure the old and new disk contain the same number of bytes, but also open a few files to make sure they are not corrupted.

Although these aren't physical problems, make sure that your disks are clearly labeled so that you do not accidentally overwrite

them. Label them for future generations so that your descendants will know that they contain important genealogical documents and don't sell them off in a yard sale. And make sure you virus-check your material!

Another solution is to print your material. Be wary. Ink jet printed materials can deteriorate, too. I have had the ink lift right off documents that were stored in non-archival quality plastic document protectors. At best, ink jet printed photographs are predicted to last one generation, 20-26 years, if printed using highest quality photo inks on best quality matte photo paper. Worst case is less than one year before deterioration sets in. Consider sending a sampler of your best digital images to a professional photo lab like PC Alamode advertiser River City Silver. They use a different printing process that can make your digital prints last as long as those made from 35mm film.

Finally, consider storing a complete digital archive in another location, such as a safe deposit box or a

distant family member's house. If you do suffer a catastrophe, such as fire or flood, your family history will be protected.

You've done your best to physically safeguard your disks, but that's just half the problem. The other challenge you face is technological obsolescence. Think back on Phil's master's thesis. It was stored on a 5 1/4" floppy. Do you have one on your current computer? Probably not. Some new computers that come bundled with CD-ROM burners do not include floppy drives at all. There are many new storage technologies hitting the market, such as flash memory, smart cards, Orbs, Jaz, LS-120, Read-Write DVD, magneto-optical drives and pocket hard drives that plug into a USB port. Will these technologies still exist 50 or 100 years from now? Probably not.

One solution is to "migrate" your archives to new media every time you upgrade or replace your computer. If you're like most people, that's every 18 months to 3 years.

Pause for a moment and pay attention to the newest computers and how they are configured. If you notice a trend, such as new systems shipping without floppy drives, it's probably time to consider a different archival medium. Your floppies, zip disks, or

whatever could be ready for the great computer museum in the sky. This is also the time to inventory every archival disk you own to make sure it survives the migration.

Also consider remote file storage. World Wide Web sites such as FreeDrive and Yahoo Communities allow you to store files, for free, on a remote server. This is not a long-term solution. Will these sites still exist 50 or 100 years from now? Probably not. But they can get you over a hump. You probably have some free Web space thrown in with your Internet account - in some cases, as much as 100MB of storage. Your ISP can tell you how to upload, or FTP, your files to this space for remote storage. Storing files on the Internet bypasses the entire issue of selecting viable storage media.

As insurance, consider having an old-style drive installed on your new system, just in case an errant disk didn't make the conversion. A local PC builder can even transfer your old drive to a new computer. I kept putting 5 1/4' drives on my new systems long after I stopped using those disks for storage, on the off chance I might stumble across a critical document that didn't migrate to the new medium.

If your descendants can put your disk into their computer's drive (assuming there are computers, disks and drives in the next century) the next hurdle they have to face is the operating system. Remember, Phil's disk was formatted for DOS. My old grad school papers were typed using a KayPro 4, which used the CP/M operating system. Will Windows 98, ME or XP be running 50 years from now? Probably not. Microsoft introduced Windows 3.1 in 1992, the same year IBM debuted OS/2. 'Nuf said. Try reading an OS/2 disk today.

The easiest time to migrate your storage media to a new operating system is when both the old and the new system are alive and kicking. Translating floppies from DOS to Windows was fairly easy in 1994. Today, it's a major project. You can figure that software companies upgrade their operating systems on an average of every 18 months, and kill off support to the OS introduced two changes ago. That means, at a minimum, you need to take a close look at your operating system every four years or so to make sure you don't get stuck with an orphaned OS. The longer you wait, the harder it gets. Archivists sometimes "pickle," or preserve, old computers. This is a last resort, usually re-

served for unique and rare operating systems. It's not just a matter of stuffing an old computer in a closet. Batteries can corrode or die, which could involve reconfiguring a system or having to boot from a disk. Other mechanical things can go blooey when you're not looking. If there is a way to migrate your files to a current operating system, do it.

I've save the best for last. You may be using genealogy software, such as Family Tree Maker. You are probably using a word processing program. Maybe a database and spreadsheet. Graphics and photo-enhancement software? Page layout software, such as Microsoft Publisher. Presentation software such as Powerpoint. Face it. None of this will be for sale at CompUSA 100 years from now.

To get around this hurdle, keep a copy of your software in the same place you keep your archived files. Include the disks, manual, passwords, and everything else you need to crank up the program.

And I mean all of your software! John has a copy of Sierra Generations Family Tree Grand Suite. In addition to the basic genealogy software, the configuration process asks you to point to your word processing program, your Internet browser, and makes use of Zip compression to create archives across multiple floppies. Save the font files that you might have used in word processing documents. Times New Roman may not survive into the next century! Save your graphics program. If you gather genealogical information from e-mail and news groups, save your mail and news reader programs.

Continue to migrate your data to new software. Your old DOS program may work just fine for you today but you won't be able to run the program if you can't get a DOS machine. Ten years from now Windows 98 users will be in the same boat. Although it's troublesome, in the long run it pays to keep your software current. Don't fall more than a version or two behind.

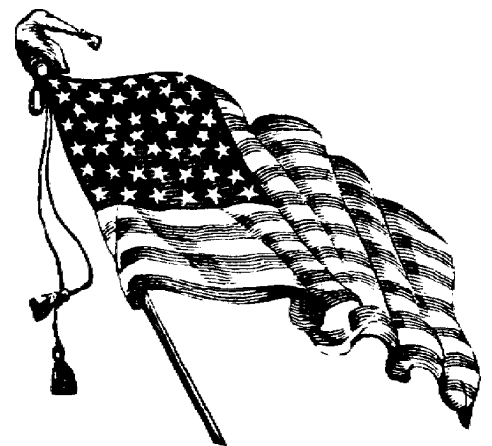
Make sure that the disks are well marked, to include the program needed to access them. You could do this on each disk but it would also be a kindness to make a master list of all the file formats you use and the programs needed to open them. Your great-great granddaughter might not realize that .wpd is a WordPerfect document or that she needs WinZip to decompress a zip file.

Experts recommend saving a copy of your files in the least-processed file format. Each

program has its own native format. For example, Family Tree Maker for Windows has a file extension of .FTW. These files can only be opened in that program. Most genealogy programs also allow you to save as a GEDCOM file and as ASCII comma delimited text. GEDCOM files often lose some of their integrity when imported into other programs. ASCII text can be opened in any word processor, database or spreadsheet. Save your files in both of these formats. Odds are both will survive into the next century. Text files can be saved as ASCII text. Cut and paste important e-mails, newsgroup postings and Web-based data into Wordpad and save them in ASCII format. Save photographs in the uncompressed TIFF file format. At the very least, save stand-alone copies of your photos rather than integrating them into another program such as your genealogy, word processing or presentation software. Integrating photos with another program will force your descendants to grapple with two file formats instead of one, decreasing their chances of success.

Overwhelmed? You're not the only one. The U.S. government almost lost the 1960 census data when they couldn't find a computer to run custom-built software. The resulting kerfuffle sparked the current interest in digital archiving. You can benefit from the mistakes others have made. Refresh your media. Migrate your software. Think ahead 100 years. Children yet unborn will thank you.

Susan Ives, a past president of Alamo PC, leaves the genealogy in her family to her brother. He posts the family data at www.konschak.org.



Continued from page 3

bright men are political waifs who have been swept up in a whirlwind beyond their powers to comprehend. Maybe they've just overreached their level of incompetence.

I wouldn't like to think that the fact that Oracle's 1st customer was the CIA, or that the name "Oracle" itself was derived from a CIA database project, has anything to do with Ellison's views. As far as I know, the CIA has never expressed itself on domestic policy.

Let me steal a technique from Hard Copy colleague C.C. deLan:

Q. "Ellison's *views*?! What the heck are you talking about? Who cares what Larry's views are? And what does Scott McNealy have to do with Ellison?!"

A. I was hoping someone would ask.

Oracle, as you may know, is a major developer of database stuff, the kind of things that store and retrieve enormous amounts of data and information. In the wake of the September 11 events Ellison has offered to provide his company's software free to the Federal government for the purpose of building and deploying a national identity card system for America. (See details at www.siliconvalley.com/docs/news/svfront/ellsn092301.htm.)

Scot McNealy, by an odd coincidence, came up with a similar idea:

"Absolute anonymity breeds absolute irresponsibility," he said. "We need a thumbprint Java card in the hand of everybody in the country." (See <http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,2817399,00.html>.)

It doesnt work

The idea seems to be that if we know, as McNealy puts it, who is on the plane with us, we'll all be a lot safer. The fact that several of the hijackers were in the U.S. legally and had legal documentation with them does not seem to have penetrated the consciousness of these tycoons.

They also don't explain how an ID card would stop suicide truck bombers or bioterrorists. They don't address the ease with which ID cards, no matter how carefully crafted, could be forged; nor how the databases could be secured.

Forget about high-tech security in such cases: all it takes is one bureaucrat to be bribed. High school kids make acceptable phony IDs just to get a glass of beer. Terrorists have no difficulty obtaining or creating stolen or forged birth certificates and passports, and have foreign governments willing to oblige them.

Maybe being a billionaire skews one's reasoning faculties in ways not yet studied by psychologists.

Volunteer or else?

Ellison retreated slightly when he appeared on Chris Matthews' Hardball show (MSNBC, Oct. 11): "I'm not suggesting a mandatory new ID card for Americans; only

**It's a lot cheaper. It
can't be counterfeited.
It's very lightweight, and
impossible to lose. It's
even waterproof.**

that existing ID cards use smart technology, including fingerprint, Social Security number, photo linked to a national database. All aliens would be required to carry and show them. Airports would have two lines: a quick line for those who voluntarily have ID cards, another line for the rest of us."

In other words, we'd have a choice between types of fascism—quick or slow.

I especially like Ellison's idea of what "voluntary" means: submit or else. Others have carried it even further: Get a national ID card "voluntarily" or... don't fly. Right. As a polite concentration camp guard might put it: "You don't like the food? No problem. We're not forcing you to eat!"

It is easy to forget that cries for a national ID card are not new. The model for them, of course, is the old Soviet internal passport, as well as the infamous scene in so many WWII movies where Nazi officials demand, "Your papers, please!"

A brief history lesson

There have been forces in America calling for such things since at least 1935, when the Social Security card was introduced. Critics insisted that the number not be used for identification purposes, and all Social Security cards used to be so marked.

Making the Social Security number the basis for a national identifier was rejected by the Social Security Administration in 1971; by the Department of Health, Education & Welfare in 1973. The Federal Advisory Commission on false identification rejected it in 1976; the Carter administration rejected it in 1977 and the Reagan administration in 1981. Even the Clinton team rejected it, and the Bush people say they're not even considering it.

With computer industry luminaries pushing it, however, it is likely that we've not heard the end of it. But if we're really going to go down that route, there's no need to bother with such complicated technology.

Raymond J. Keating, chief economist of the Small Business Survival Committee (www.sbsc.org), relates an anecdote from Ronald Reagan's chief domestic and economic policy adviser, Martin Anderson, in his book *Revolution*, from a cabinet meeting

in 1981:

"At the cabinet meeting, Anderson tells how then-Attorney General William French Smith made the case for an ID card system, and when Reagan looked around for questions and comments, none were forthcoming."

So Anderson broke protocol by asking to be heard in a Cabinet meeting, and made his point by dramatically ridiculing the ID card idea:

"I would like to suggest another way that I think is a lot better. It's a lot cheaper. It can't be counterfeited. It's very lightweight, and impossible to lose. It's even waterproof. All we have to do is tattoo an identification number on the inside of everybody's arm.' Several gasps were heard, and Reagan then offered a joke that made it clear that a national ID card was not an option."

Maybe Mr. Ellison and Mr. McNealy are blind to the dangers of a society that tracks its citizens. They are certainly deaf to the tattoo of history.

For your convenience, Please tear this off or print out and post in a prominent location.

2002 schedule for programs.

Subject to change

January 30-Marsha Kurth, WWTC

February 27-Shane, Windows XP

March 27-Chuck (?) utilities, anti-virus programs

April 24-Shane, upgrading & maintenance

May 29-Roger Grant, UWL (?) -digital cameras

June 26-Robin Alexander, Excel

July 31-MS Works

August 28-Open

September 25-Ernesto, Palm

October 30-Geneology (?)

December 11-Ernesto, medical information on the Web or Toys.

guest columnists wanted

Current volunteers for writers are:

January, Robin Alexander

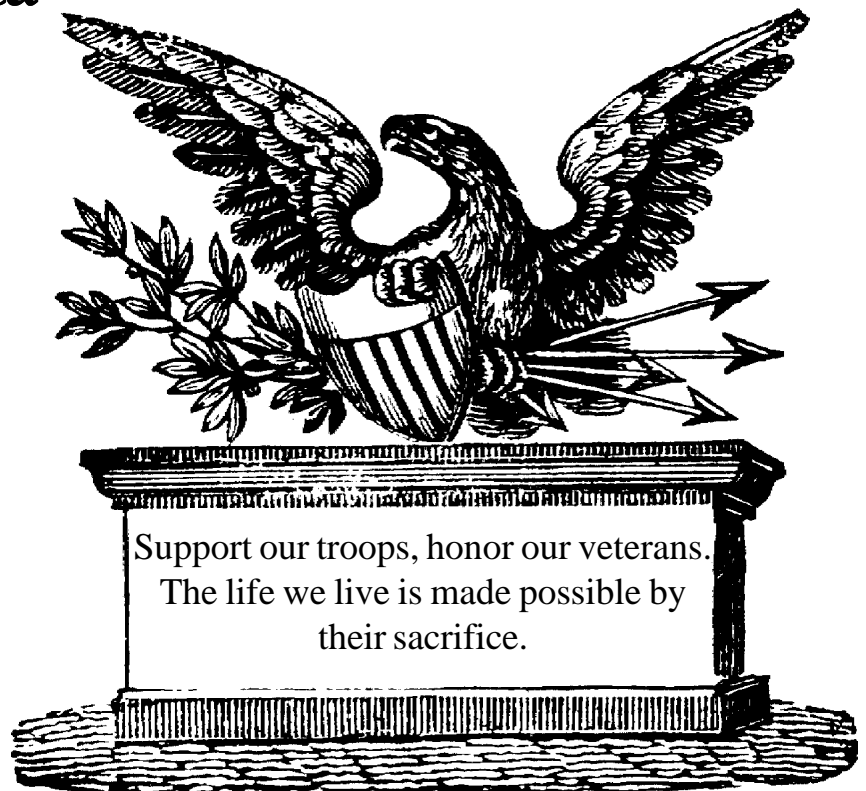
March, Ernest Brauer;

October, Darlene and Marlene Stolpa

September, Shane.

That leaves February, April, May, June, July, August, September and December open for volunteer writers.

You don't have to be technical. Rambling is encouraged, as long it has some computer relevancy.



LCPC Board

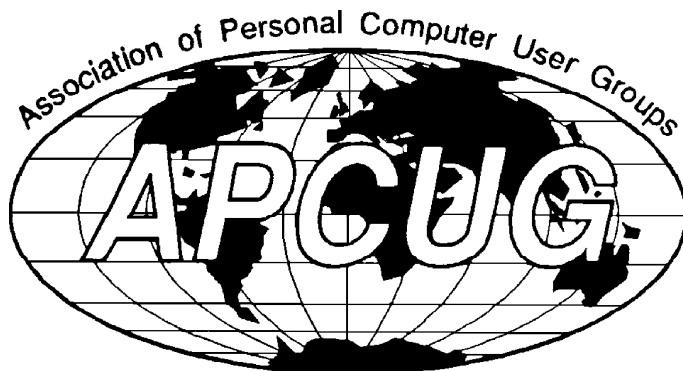
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LCPC is a member of APCUG

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 Jan-Oct in the Overholt Auditorium at the Lutheran Hospital. The combined November-December meeting is held the second Wednesday in December.

Thank you, Gundersen-Lutheran, for making this wonderful facility available.

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, please submit articles by the 13th of the month. Upload to:

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