

Palm Pilots for Schools

Thursday, March 13, 2003, 7 P.M.
Lecture Hall of the Carr-Gottstein Academic Center
Main Campus, Alaska Pacific University

John Andrews, Principal at Baxter Elementary, is a trainer in the Palm Pilots for Schools project. John will show us tips and tricks of Palm Pilot use, including the many ways he uses his Palm Pilot to lead and manage at his school.

The Alaska Computer Society is a nonprofit educational organization. Our meetings are always free and open to the public. We meet the second Thursday of each month, usually at the Carr-Gottstein building at APU.

For further details about our group and a map to the meeting location, visit our web site at www.acs-pcug.org.

Serving Alaskans since 1983.

Door Prizes for Members:

MS Office XP Pro, Windows XP Pro, and Links 2003 will be door prizes at each meeting!

Mark Your Calendars

Electronics Recycling May 9-10, details at:

www.GreenStarInc.org

Contents

1 README.1ST	2
2 February 2003 Meeting Report	3
3 Presentation: 3D Studio Max	4
4 December 2002 Meeting Report	7
5 December Presentation: Digital Photography	8
6 The DealsGuy	13
7 Friends of ACS	18
8 What's Next?	19
9 The Editor's Keyboard	19
10 The Back Pages	20

1 README.1ST

Members may join in the computer re-cycling effort:

Volunteers:

Green Star is seeking volunteers to help for approximately 4-hour shifts on the recycling days. Many different duties are available. Reply to:

jeanne@greenstarinc.org

Promotions:

If you have ideas about how to promote the program, please contact Sean Skaling. He is seeking email lists, mailing lists, places to distribute flyers, newsletter articles, etc.

sean@greenstarinc.org

2 February 2003 Meeting Report

by Howard L. Bonar
Secretary, Alaska Computer Society

Call to Order:

The Thursday, February 13, 2003 meeting was held in the Carr-Gottstein Lecture Hall at Alaska Pacific University. Vice President Mike Jacquot called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM and introduced the board members present.

Questions & Answers

A member asked for a recommendation for a program to control E-mail spam. Several suggestions were made.

Email Inspector was mentioned but their web site is not presently available.

Spam Assassin appears to be the best choice at the moment. It works with Outlook, Outlook Express, Netscape and Eudora.

Spamnet Fighter This is a free service that collects all the spam from its subscribers and builds a data base. This may not be a good idea as one person's spam may be another's research project. It works now with Windows 2000 and later MS outlook and eventually will work with MS Outlook Express. There is no mention of Netscape. Check it out at:

www.cloudmark.com

Spammunition is also a free spam filter for MS Windows 2000 and up Outlook. It uses Bayesian filtering technique. You train it to what you think is valid E-mail or spam. According the maker it will never be available for Outlook Express. Check it out at:

www.upserve.com

GCI and most other ISPs offer a spam filter service to their customers. Cost is usually around \$1.00 per month. One suggestion that works really well for awhile anyway is to change your account name and email address.

The April presentation is scheduled to be on reducing Internet spamming. Be sure and come if you are interested.

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

Announcements

Howard reported that the planning for the computer recycling program is going forward very well. The meeting scheduled for February has been cancelled because they don't have any issues to discuss. There will be a training session at the BP building on March 19th for commercial firms who will have to dispose of a large number of units. The schedule for the days is May 9th for commercial firms and May 10th for the private citizens. For more information and to keep up with new developments, check the Green Star web page at:

www.greenstarinc.org

Dawn reported that there will be an Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) conference on February 15 through the 18th on the paperless office. It will explore the latest in palm-held technology in education. Infrared and Blue Fish access will be widely available and demonstrated so bring your own palms. For complete details, check their web site at:

www.aste.org

The ACS March presentation will be on the use of the Palm Pilot technology in the real world of education.

Door Prize Drawing

Lucky winner Robert Pole won a copy of Money 2003 donated courtesy of Microsoft.

Three posters created by Eterra using the 3d software was also given out to lucky winners Dawn Scot, Paul Hilbert and another member. The most impressive was a black and white rendering in 3D of the Anchorage bowl and the mountains to the East.

3 Presentation: 3D Studio Max

The program for the evening was presented by Eterra, a local Graphics firm specializing in GIS data bases (Geographical Information Systems) and CAD (Computer Aided Design) Jeremy Halle, marketing director for the local office of Eterra began the presentation giving us a brief outline of the companies activities and specialties. Mark Busby, graphics designer, worked the computer to demonstrate

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

the tremendous capabilities of the software. Larry Lamsberg from their Las Vegas office provided logistical support (he helped carry the stuff in)

The computer used for the demonstration was very impressive indeed. It had dual 2 gig processors with 1.5 gig of RAM and an unknown amount of hard drive space. It's local area network connection was up in the gigahertz. The programs will run on much less than that but for efficient production work and flawless displays the extra speed and power is worthwhile.

The program demonstrated was 3D Studio Max version 5. The basic program sells for \$3,495. There are a number of add-ons costing from \$200 to \$800 and more which add additional features and functions. It is not something the casual user will want to add to his inventory.

According to Jeremy, 3D Studio Max is the world's most widely used professional 3D software. It is a highly productive animation, modeling, and Rendering program with all the tools needed to create animation, games, and distinctive web designs.

Major users of the product are the movies, military training departments, and advertisers.

The product is used extensively by the movie industry for adding special effects to their live action movies. The Military uses it for generating war game scenarios so their combatants can practice all the skills they will need in a real war situation. Advertisers can make their candy bars dance, their pain relievers give you a massage, and entice you to go right out and buy their product.

Architectural companies use it for creating models of structure designs. Business uses includes procedural models which imitate all the functions of an operation so that new users can be trained easily and cheaply. It is very effective for modeling office and plant procedures to help find better ways to do things and to train new employees on the overall operations of a department or office.

The program is far too complex to discuss in depth in such a short time but a quick demonstration of some of its strengths was intriguing. With a few clicks of the mouse, Mark created a brick floor, resized, relocated, and reoriented it for best view. Another click created a ball, a few more and it was bouncing gaily across the floor. The final clicks made it flatten out when it hit the floor and then expand once again as it flew back into the air.

The prerecorded alien woman with one eye in the middle of her forehead singing a beautiful love song while giving an animated imitation of a torch singer was impressive - right up until she got squashed like a bug by a falling wrecking ball. The creator obviously had a perverse sense of humor but it was definitely attention grabbing. And it gave a powerful demonstration of the program's capa-

bilities. It also demonstrated that the user has to have a lot of artistic talent and tons on imagination to make it work.

Training Programs

The rate of air traffic fatalities is very high in Alaska because of the extreme weather factors and the mountainous terrain. Anything that can be done to reduce the accident rate is money well spent. One service that has been very useful is the remote Alaska weather cams showing weather conditions in the passes which are giving aviators forewarning of what to expect.

Another great advance is by using a realistic animated training program pilots can gain a lot of practice flying the route without leaving the ground. By combining several technologies together in a process called compositing, (a new term coined by the industry that seems to mean melding together the products of two or more applications into one output) a training film has been created to help reduce the small aircraft accident rate.

The first example created is an animated trip by small plane through Merrill Pass showing the proper altitude and course to follow to safely traverse the route. It is a very dangerous journey because of the many narrow dead end valleys encountered along the way. Many of these have precipitous slopes with no way to turn around once you are inside. There are quite a number of wrecked airplanes still on the ground in the pass area. There is not enough left of many of them to warrant recovery.

Watching the film one gets a strong feel of the excitement of being down in this awesome landscape and know that one mistake can be disastrous. The feeling of movement in the three dimensional world as seen from inside a small airplane was almost as much fun as actually being there.

Once the other dangerous routes are recorded, we may see a substantial reduction in the accident rates, especially if combined with the FAA's Capstone project which combines 3D mapping and GPS route tracking. It gives them their exact location, altitude, surrounding terrain, and other aircraft in the vicinity.

Eterra is located at 3330 Arctic Blvd., Suite 101, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 phone 907-562-1500. For more information about 3D Studio Max and other services available, check their web site at:

www.myEterra.com

To view samples of their work on-line you must first download the free "Whip" viewer. Then you may log in to see their map demos.

Other websites to check if you are interested in 3d Graphics are:

- www.discreet.com
- www.comet.com
- www.dct.com
- www.akweathercams.faa.com

4 December 2002 Meeting Report

by Howard L. Bonar
Secretary, Alaska Computer Society

N.B. Time constraints and his life precluded Howard from preparing the December 2002 report in time for the January newsletter.

Call to Order:

The Thursday, December 12, 2002 meeting was held in the Carr-Gotstein Lecture Hall at Alaska Pacific University. President Gene White called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Questions & Answers

Howard reported on a stand alone office printer which started having problems. The user swapped a different printer and found the drivers wouldn't load properly. We downloaded new printer drivers - still no luck. Tried yet another printer, different symptoms but still not working. Finally tried a new cable. That was it. An almost new printer cable with an intermittent connection in it. When the connection opened because of vibration, it would lose two way communications between the pc and the printer - intermittently. It would start to print then stop as soon as the first buffer download was printed out as there was no signal to the pc to send more data.

A new user asked what operating system we would recommend on a new purchase. There was a spirited discussion of the merits of the simpler world of the Windows 9x versions including ME versus Windows 2000 and XP. There was no consensus but the answer seems to be "It Depends." If you are buying a complete

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

new system with all new peripheral equipment already installed, then XP should be ok. If you are going to be using older peripherals, then you may have some difficulty making it all work together. Expert users can probably fight through the processes needed to make things work but a beginner may well be overwhelmed.

Announcements

Howard reported on the computer recycling kick-off meeting scheduled for January 6th at the Green Star Offices here in Anchorage. Green Star is scheduled to receive a grant from the Anchorage Solid Waste Services' Recycling Challenge Grant program for the computer recycling project. The planned date will be May 9th and 10th during the spring cleanup days. Dawn and Howard will be representing ACS at the meeting.

Charles Maas, president elect of the Alaska Society For Outdoor Nature Photography, invited us to join them at their meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of every month. Check their web site at www.asonp.org for details.

Door Prize Drawing

Microsoft's Picture It Digital Image Pro Version 7.0 courtesy of the Mindshare program was the big prize of the evening. Kathy Parmateer was the lucky winner. Warren Enyeart and Fielder Dowding won copies of the 2003 Alaska calendar provided by the Anchorage Daily News.

5 December Presentation: Digital Photography

Jim Lavrakas has been an Anchorage Daily News (ADN) staff photographer for the past twenty two years. He gave us an overview of how digital photography was introduced into the ADN processes and how it has developed over the past eight years.

Jim fell into digital photography by default. He was the first in his department to have a home computer (Apple) and had been on-line to the bulletin boards then available. He was assigned to be lead man to try out the new technology because he already knew a little bit about computer stuff.

Jim recently won a prize for news photography. The subject was a small fish looking out from inside the mouth of a larger one. A lot of pathos in that shot but such is the law of nature. The shot was the result of an experiment where small

fish were added to a glass tank holding the pike. The pike exploded into a feeding frenzy and the little ones soon disappeared.

The Drive to Digital

On one of the first trips Alaska Airlines made to Magadan, Russia, the television news crews were able to send their reports back to the office the same day they were taken. The ADN reporters could dictate their stories over the telephone but the pictures had to wait until they returned home. This was not acceptable so the newspaper administrators decided to see what could be done.

The first step in the process was to check the market to see what was available and what kind of picture quality could be expected. If the pictures were of acceptable quality, how could they be applied in the newspaper business?

When ADN decided to give digital a try, the industry standard digital news camera cost about \$12,000. As a first step they purchased several of the Kodak model DCS-40 point and shoot cameras. It took 2 X 4 pictures and the file size was 1/2 meg. They soon realized that these were not suitable for publication work but were useful in learning what the bottlenecks were and how to deal with the digital information.

While they were still thinking about getting one of the good cameras, Nikon came out with the professional model D1 for about \$5,000, half the original amount. At that price they purchased two of them. Jim got one of the pair. They acquired a lap-top computer to go with it so the photographers could go online and send in pictures from wherever they was located.

Camera requirements

In news photography, you must be able to grab pictures quickly. You must be able to control focus, exposure, and depth of field. You want to be able to grab the feeling and information in the picture.

For best publication results, digital cameras must match the 35mm film camera it replaces. For ease in operation in the pressure of an on-going news event, all controls should be in the same location as their film cameras. This allows the users to switch cameras without fumbling.

In most cameras, there is a lag time using the auto focus. It may take several seconds for the drive motors to stabilize. To achieve the one second recycle time needed for action photography adds about \$1,000 to the price of the camera. If you are not taking action pictures, there is no need for the auto focus.

The Nikon model D1-H is a high speed camera, that is, a new shot can be taken a rate of about one per second. (Until the buffer is full). It creates a 2.74 million pixel file. The studio version, Model DH-X creates a 5.4 million pixel file and is slower writing to disk because of its larger file size. There is a noticeable delay between shots. Both accept various lenses such as Zoom etc.

News photographers normally use the electronic view finder most of the time. Pictures can be framed and snapped without the subject being aware that you are getting ready to take them.

When preparing photos with lots of black in them for publication, the production people reduce the black levels by about 15% to compensate for a condition called dot gain where the ink spreads after depositing on the paper. Histogram in Photoshop displays the range of darks, lights, color intensity etc. in the picture. All of these and the sharpness can be adjusted for publication. The only changes the photographers make is to crop the picture before sending them in.

Filing the Pictures

There are two ways to get your pictures into the computer. Using the USB cable that came with the camera works. Once the files are all downloaded you can then look at them and sort them according to design. The PC card interface works the best. Plug the memory module (smart disk) into the interface. The software recognizes it then downloads and displays a thumbnail display of the pictures on the disk. It is fast and makes identifying and selecting pictures much easier.

Each picture is a 5 megapixel file. With this high level of definition, a photo can be enlarged up to 300 times by the use of resampling technology available in Photoshop. They can produce a picture spread across two pages with this technique that will still look pretty good. Resizing a picture increases file sizes by X^n times.

The camera now used can hold 40 frames (shots) before the internal buffer is full. Then the pictures must be either downloaded to a computer or transferred to removable media such as a smart disk. The one they now use has a 190 meg cartridge which can store more than 600 picture files.

Photo Catalog

Because of the large number of photos taken every month it is necessary to keep their catalog up to date monthly or they would be lost.

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

Each picture is captioned and the captions are archived in a data base which refers to the picture number and its location. They are kept in chronological order and filed monthly so that they don't get lost. The photos are retrievable with the caption imbedded in it.

The old way was to put a month's worth of pictures in three ring binders. It was necessary to physically go through the books to find the desired pictures. The new method using the search capability is almost instantaneous.

Photoshop has an excellent file information system. Filling in all the fields adds considerable power to the search capabilities when looking for a particular picture.

It gives the date, location, activity, subject matter, people names, categories, sub-categories, bylines; and etc. Without this level of information it would be very difficult to locate specific photos or kinds of photos months and years later.

Iditarod Slide Show: Scenes from along the trail

Photo coverage of the Iditarod race over past two years has been all digital. The village telephone lines cannot stay connected long enough to upload the large photo files using a dial-up modem. They made arrangement to use the GCI data ports at the schools which provide high speed upload capability.

At the end of each day's photo shoot they would go to the local school, log on to the high speed Internet access and upload the days work to the office for immediate use. No longer were they constrained by the need to catch the last airplane of the day out. Now Press time is the only final cutoff time.

Anchorage Daily News Network

The ADN photography department has been a Mac shop until recently. They are in the process of migrating a lot of their work to PC based machines. ADN is upgrading their computer systems to a new Windows 2000 based network. The staff is still divided between those in the Mac world and those using the standard PC. This does present some problems as you have to know which group you are sending to so the correct file formats and protocols will be used. There is some confusion about file translation and transfers but they are getting better at it.

They are getting a new main frame file server system and will have a new way to gather and dispense news photos. They are now backing up the photos onto CD ROM using about 8 CDs per month. Going to DVD will cut that to 5 disks or less.

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

The ADN website is located at the McClatchy Newspapers headquarters in North Carolina. ADN allows downloading of pictures from their web site for personal use such as wallpaper, screen savers, etc. Publishing for profit would be illegal.

Environmentals

The UV haze filter is the only one used by ADN staff photographers. Any corrections to the pictures will be done by the production people using Adobe Photoshop.

Cold can slow down the motor driving the SLR mirror and shutter.

In really cold weather the LCD display freezes up and is not useable. The Camera is ok and pictures are framed using the optical view finder is used instead.

Battery life is substantially reduced in the cold. The photographers carries at least six on a shoot then recharges them at night.. Most of the batteries are metal hydrides.

When coming in from the cold, condensation forms rapidly all over the camera. It's mostly on the outside but there may be some long-term effects from moisture inside the mechanism.

In wet weather they use a raincoat made especially for the camera.

Bright light on the LCD will overwhelm it, making picture framing difficult. In those cases the regular through the lens view finder is used.

Bits and Pieces

In 35 mm film work it is possible to be off up to four F stops and still get a usable picture after running through Adobe Photoshop. For slides and digital work, you are limited to no more than one F stop off and still be able to correct it adequately.

For the home user, Adobe Photo elements gives excellent results, is fairly inexpensive, and easy to use.

ADN has their own strobe lights mounted in the ceiling grid at the Sullivan arena. These lights are remotely controlled by the camera. There is a four second wait between flashes. Some fans get irritated by the flashing lights but most of them don't know who is causing it.

Kelly's photo in Spenard has a new \$50,000 machine that allows them to receive pictures on zip disk or CD and print them out on paper in almost any size.

The standard resolution for publishing pictures on the web is 640/480. The JPG format is preferred to transfer the files from camera to web pages

Kai's Power Show by Scansoft is \$20.00 slide creation and presentation software that works very well for the price. Check at www.scansoft.com/powershow
For more information on digital photography, check out these web sites:

www.adn.com

For digital camera reviews, techniques and styles:

www.steves-digicams.com

www.vpreview.com

www.ritzcamera.com

6 The DealsGuy for March 2003

by Bob Click,
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Dr. - Dr., Where Art Thou

I know this is not computer related, but this month I'd like to talk about what I feel is serious and plays on our complacency. Is your doctor really a doctor? Are the initials after his name MD or DO, or are they PA or NP? Most people know what MD means, and even DO, but how about all the rest! When my wife and I relocated to Orlando, we looked for a new family doctor. We selected a doctor from our "approved provider" directory and were seeing another doctor in that office for two years before we discovered he was not really a doctor. Since he was in that doctor's office, we thought he was a doctor. Finally, a nurse working in a lab told us he was not a doctor when we spoke about the "nice doctor." We were shocked and asked why. She explained the difference saying he was actually a Physician's Assistant, and that does not even come close to having the qualifications to be a doctor, but sees you in lieu of the doctor. She said a PA is more or less a nurse with certain experience. I had noticed the letters after his name on the door were PA, but thought nothing about asking what it meant. In other words, I made an assumption I shouldn't have. After being enlightened, we started asking for the Doctor. I was told that the PA clears everything through the doctor when making his evaluations, but afterward, I remembered that sometimes the other guy (the actual doctor) differed with the PAs prognosis, 'when asked.'

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

Recently, I saw a cardiologist three times and when they were making the next follow-up appointment, I was told this one would be with a nurse (Nurse Practitioner). At least they didn't hide anything. When I asked if the office call would be cheaper, they said no. I said not to bother. If the doctor didn't have time to see me, I'd find one that did. I realize these people are under a doctor's supervision, but I don't agree with the concept that is designed to make more money for the doctor through our ignorance. When I'm paying for a doctor, that's who I expect to see for the price my insurance, or I, is paying. What are your thoughts, and has this happened to you? I am a volunteer in a retiree walk-in center who helps retirees with insurance problems. Insurance contracts do not pay for a PA or NP (don't know about HMOs), but that is rarely the way it is billed. I could write a book!!

bobclick@mindspring.com

And Now For The Deals

The Jaws PDF creator products deal ended Feb. 15.

www.insight.com/jaws

Also, you'll find three new groups listed on my Web site's distribution page that now read the DealsGuy column.

You Could Take This Keyboard Scuba Diving

Maybe I'm going a bit too far with that statement, but this one is designed for bad environments. I know most of you won't need this kind of keyboard at home unless you spill your coffee a lot. It's designed for the worst conditions. The following is their description:

The 'CoolOne' is a water-resistant and contaminant proof keyboard. It's sealed and rigid surface is ideal for industrial and medical use, as well as other outdoor environments. It's a rigid keyboard with tactile feedback keys. It comes with a USB connector and an available PS/2 adapter. It's perfect for environments where there's a lot of dust (warehouses, outdoor use), where water or moisture is a problem (food processing plants, marine use), and where disinfecting is needed (hospital/medical and school use). It's also great for anyone

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

who eats and drinks near his/her keyboard and has ever accidentally spilled something inside it. Check the specs further at:

www.man-machine.com

They offered me a sample product, and what a coincidence that the box was mutilated when it arrived. The box had been squashed and punched through, then repaired with plastic tape. The keyboard could also rattle around in the box. When I tried it, it worked just fine and I was impressed (I tried every character multiple times). On close examination, I don't see how anything, dust or liquid, could penetrate it's skin, it certainly is sealed. I plugged it into the USB port and Windows immediately installed drivers for it. It needs a slightly heavier touch, but I quickly got used to that. I do miss having legs on the back though.

The normal price is \$179.00 (US funds) and my readers will get \$20.00 discounted from that price when ordering from their Web site

store.yahoo.com/man-machine-store/

An alternative method is by calling 301-341-4900. Also by e-mailing them at

sales@man-machine.com

Shipping is approximately \$8.00 in the USA. Use the coupon code "click" when ordering for your \$20.00 discount. This offer expires April 30, 2003.

If you have a swimming pool you might consider putting one of these keyboards in the pool. That way people could send an e-mail for help if they are drowning. It is supposed to work in water, right?

You'll Come Clean With This One

I saw this at Comdex and liked it. Mine works great. The LENS PEN is a very efficient and easy-to-use optical lens cleaning system. It's designed for all optics including cameras, camcorders, telescopes, binoculars, riflescopes and spotting scopes. Containing a non-liquid compound that will not spill or dry out, the LensPen system is safe, user-friendly and its compact size fits into almost any pocket.

Then there is the MiniPro for smaller lenses. MiniPro is specially designed for digital and advanced photo system cameras, microscopes, pocket binoculars, and small eyepieces. The same LensPen cleaning system is employed in this great

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

new product: a soft, natural brush to wipe away excess dirt, and a flexible cleaning tip with special cleaning compound.

These products are said to be safe to use on all lenses. Offers flexible cleaning tip, non-liquid cleaning compound that will not spill or dry out, reduces static built-up, prevents corrosion and fits easily into any pocket or bag. Check the product further at

www.lenspen.com

The DealsGuy price on either the LensPen or MiniPro is \$9.95 in US funds plus S&H, which will be about \$6.00 in the USA. To order at that price, contact Leona Borsa at 1-877-608-0868 and mention the DealsGuy column, or use the magic words 'Bob Click' when ordering. This deal is good until April 30, 2003.

Do You Need A Fix?

Don Singleton, APCUG Vice-president, alerted me to this one. It is called BigFix and is actually a free download. It analyzes your computer to see what fixes it might need, then guides you through them. It also alerts you of updates you need and does that for you. Here is their description:

The BigFix solution leverages the reach of the Internet and the power of modern computers to create a mass preventive maintenance system that enables mass identification and elimination of computer problems before they cause failures. The BigFix solution can automatically monitor and detect a problem, proactively alert users or administrators to the problem before a failure occurs, and fix it on one or more machines at once with the click of a mouse. Because the BigFix solution can find and cure thousands, even millions of computers at once, it changes the nature and economics of technical support as well as desktop management. Unlike other available approaches, the BigFix solution simplifies maintenance, reduces support costs, and increases user satisfaction by finding problems before, not after, users experience a failure.

To download this product, go to

www.bigfix.com

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

Don gave me the URL for an in-depth write-up by Richard J. deJongh of Tulsa Computer Society.

tcs.org/ioport/nov02/bigfix.htm

I have not tried it so I have no experience using it.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click

Bobclick@mindspring.com

Visit my Web site at

www.dealsguy.com

for past columns. Also, I keep adding interesting articles (taken from user group newsletters) to my "Articles of Interest" page for viewing or downloading.

Alaska Computer Society - PC Users Group

PC NEWS

March 2003

Vol. 20, No. 5

7 Friends of ACS

We thank those businesses and individuals listed below and the many others who have donated all or a portion of some of the services, materials, and time required to help make the Alaska Computer Society succeed.

AARP – resource center, classroom space, and meeting space in the Northway Mall.¹

Alaska Pacific University – General meeting room, special pricing.

Michael Ardaiz of Mad Dog Graphx – ACS PCUG logo.

Brown Bear Software – iCal program used to create the monthly event calendars.

Lewis & Lewis Computer Store – door prizes for the annual technology show and monthly meetings.

Microsoft Corporation – software for user group support functions and door prizes for monthly meetings.

Application for Membership Alaska Computer Society — PC Users Group

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Dues are \$25.00 per year. Please make your check payable to, the Alaska Computer Society. Thank you.

¹Ed.:The initials used to stand for “American Association of Retired Persons”. However, one does not need to be retired to join.

8 What's Next?

Looking Ahead:

April 10

Internet spam² Protection

Scott Armstrong of Mercury Data Group will discuss how network administrators as well as standalone PC users can manage Internet spamming.

May 8

Hard Drive Forensics

Charles Preston, a local computer security expert, will demonstrate how corporations and law enforcement agencies are able to retrieve data from hard drives.

What Do You Want?

Members are always invited to suggest presentation topics. We on the board know you have your own special interests. Hence the question, "What do you want?"

What Is Your Presentation?

Well, what is your delight? Get your request in for a slot in the presentation calendar. You can contact Dawn or any board member. ed.

9 The Editor's Keyboard

Time and space preclude an editorial this month.

Fielder George Dowding
Editor and Publisher
PC NEWS

²To distinguish the meat product from this problem peculiar to e-mail, lower case is used. (ed.)

10 The Back Pages

The Alaska Computer Society – PC Users Group (ACS–PCUG) publishes *PC News* monthly via the Internet. This newsletter is copyright © ACS-PCUG 2003. The current edition and the archive of the newsletter may be found at the ACS-PCUG web site:

<http://www.acs-pcug.org>

ACS Board of Directors

President *President{at}ACS-PCUG.org*³

Gene White

Vice-President *Vice-Pres{at}ACS-PCUG.org*

and **Web Editor** *WebMaster{at}ACS-PCUG.org*

Mike Jacquot

Secretary *Secretary{at}ACS-PCUG.org*

and **Evaluation Coordinator** *Evals{at}ACS-PCUG.org*

Howard Bonar

Treasurer *Treasurer{at}ACS-PCUG.org*

and **Membership Coordinator** *Membership{at}ACS-PCUG.org*

Fred Erickson

Program and Community Services Chair *Programs{at}ACS-PCUG.org*

Dawn Scott

Newsletter Editor and Publisher *Newsletter{at}ACS-PCUG.org*

Fielder George Dowding

ACS Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the AARP meeting room. Great effort is expended to start the meeting at 7:00 P.M. and to end the meeting before 9:00 P.M. The board meetings are open, and the board encourages members to attend.

³Replace the “{at}” in the address with the “at-sign” to contact one of the volunteers. I have mangled the address to thwart harvesting by spam-bots.

ACS PCUG Volunteers

The ACS-PCUG is a volunteer organization. The members of the board are volunteers. Nothing happens without our volunteers who make it happen. Here is the current list of volunteers, who, in addition to the board members, make things happen:

Publicity Coordinator *Publicity1{at}ACS-PCUG.org*
Holly Hawkings

Public Service Announcements *PSA1{at}ACS-PCUG.org*
Marjorie Feldberg

Publications Coordinator (Position Open)

SIG Coordinator (Position Open)

E-Mail Addresses:

1. The policy of *PC NEWS* is to make e-mail addresses accessible to human beings but inaccessible to robots.
2. Members who volunteer are assigned an e-mail address from the pool available within the *ACS-PCUG.org* domain. This is the address that will be published unless a volunteer requests a personal address be published.

The Final Word:

DISCLAIMER: Neither the Alaska Computer Society nor the “PC NEWS” endorse any of the products or services that appear herein. Opinions of authors whose work appears in “PC NEWS” are not the opinions of the Alaska Computer Society, its officers, members of its board of directors, or volunteer workers unless so stated.