

# ACPCUG

May 2001

## Computer Lab Up-Dated By Richard G. Lubinski , ACPCUG Outreach Director

ACPCUG's Computer Lab at AMHA was recently up-dated with the help of the Community Support Dept. of FirstEnergy Corp. Old antique 486 ( 8 MB Ram and 100-300 MB HDs running DOS and Win3.1) were retired and given to some of the residents of AMHA. The new PCs are Dell 266 with 64 MB Ram, 2- 4 GB HDs, 10-100 Ethernet cards and running Win95. ACPCUG purchased a network HUB and ROUTER and added anti-virus software to each PC. We added print-server and connected an HP II laser printer and an new Epson Inkjet printer. Meeting have been held with AMHA - Saferstein Bldgs., AMHA HQ and FE Corp about additional improvements and expanded use of the facility. In the next month we hope to add RoadRunner high speed ISP service and get the students free e-mail accounts at YA-HOO. The Computer Lab will be used by ACPCUG, OASIS and other groups to teach free or low

*(Continued on page 3)*

## From The DealsGuy, by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

I often write about things I don't like, but I also don't hesitate to write about something I do like. When looking for a CD-RW drive for a new computer a friend just assembled for me, I chose the Iomega CD-RW drive because it was the best deal I saw at the time and I respected the brand, but I am VERY impressed with Iomega's tech support.

I had minor questions and a slip included in the package with tech support information urged me to call if I had any problems. It was a free call, and in spite of heavy traffic, I only waited 10 minutes to have three questions answered quickly by a very friendly and knowledgeable person. What a nice experience. They'll get my business the next time, even if the product is a bit more money.

On the other hand, I bought a Linksys Router with a four-port hub to use for networking my computers, and for the DSL I've just subscribed to. After getting the DSL up and running on it, I had problems uploading my e-mail and any new files to my Web page. I've ended up using the old dialup connection for that. Earthlink's tech support first asked if I had a Linksys router (yes) and suggested that I should get help updating my router's BIOS from Linksys. He said it is a known problem with Linksys routers. I called Linksys tech support and was eventually asked to leave my name and number after waiting 20 minutes. My return call came from Linksys four days later when I was out. Great! Maybe I'm lucky they even took my call, but on the other hand, it was a free call to them. But, my router still isn't working properly and a second call is fruitless so far. Am I expecting too much these days?

### **Still Good**

The Pockey drive should still be good this month so call 1-877-7POCKEY (1-877-776-2539) and mention "Bob Click." Also, the Laplink

*(Continued on page 2)*

May 7, 2001

Stark Technical College,  
North Canton, Ohio

6 pm - Web Resources,  
7:00PM Q&A,

7:30 pm - Genealogy 101

Email Gerry Schaefer with names to search!

---

## Deals Guy, Bob Click

*(Continued from page 1)*

PCsync deal should still be good this month. Call LapLink at 1-800-343-8080 and tell them you are an APCUG member.

Last month, a few people wished I had included short descriptions of the MGI products, so I'll do that: PhotoSuite 4.0 certainly makes it easy to edit, organize, enhance and share all of your photos. When I say enhance, I really mean it. Dave's enhancements had us rolling in the isles at his presentation. UG price - \$30.00. VideoWave 4.0, the complete PC and Web video experience. Capture, edit, produce and share your video. All you need to create professional-quality videos with powerful editing and "special effects" tools that are easy to use. UG price - \$50.00. (Bundle of PhotoSuite 4 + VideoWave 4 - \$60.00) PhotoVista 2.0 creates the most impressive 360-degree Web Panoramas, something a viewer will "experience" rather than just look at. I was impressed when I saw it. UG price - \$25.00. SoftDVD Max 4.0, a DVD player software delivering maximum performance, total Web integration and superior audio, all with an easy-to-use interface. UG price - \$20.00. (Bundle of all four titles - \$90.00).

Order by US mail if paying by check, or by fax or mail if you pay with VISA or MasterCard. Please provide your name, complete mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. Then list the product(s) ordered and the prices. Total it and include your check, or credit card number with expiration date and signature. Send order to: Web-working Services, 653 North 600 East, Springville, UT, 84663 Or fax your order (only credit card orders) to 1-801-489-0609. Don't miss this golden opportunity, and now for the deals:

### **Aladdin Closeout Sale** (Both Mac & Windows)

I've had this posted on my Web site's Announcement page because of the timeframe, but I'm repeating it here because that page hasn't had much traffic. Aladdin is having a closeout sale until April 30, which means it'll be over when you read this. However, I talked to them at the FACUG Conference and they said if an order was not very late, they would probably honor it, so don't delay. Here are the items:

The following Aladdin products are on clearance: IntelliNews 2.0 (Mac) only \$4.95, MacTicker 1.6.1 (Mac) only \$4.95 Sundial California 2.0 AND

Sundial Hawaii 2.0 (Mac). Both only \$9.95 - dazzling desktop scenery that moves with the time of day. DragStrip 3.7 (Win) only \$9.95 - One click launches applications, files, Web sites and more. Aladdin FlashBack 1.1 (Win or Mac) only \$9.95 - Add unlimited undos to all your favorite software. Private File 2.0 (Win) only \$9.95, ShrinkWrap 3.5.1 (Mac) only \$19.95 Visit their Web site [<http://www.aladdinsys.com>] for complete descriptions.

How do you take advantage of these great deals? Go to: [<http://www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/>] and look for the "UG Clearance Sale Order Form" link. Please download the PDF order form and make as many copies as you need to distribute to your members. Or, you can direct your members straight to this site to download their own order form. All orders MUST be mailed in using this order form.

Fund-raisers!! User group officers should be aware of Aladdin's 5% rebate program to an "affiliate" user group which gets user groups a 5% rebate for all of your member's purchases. I doubt this applies to the closeout items though. Get more information on the Announcements page on my Web site, or check the Aladdin Web site.

### **Help Yourself To A Little Extra Discount**

O'Reilly Publishing is offering us a little bit extra off the price of certain books until May 13, 2001. Here is what Denise says: "In celebration of the 1-year anniversary of the O'Reilly/Pogue Press collaboration on the best selling 'Missing Manual Series,' O'Reilly would like to extend a special discount to user group members: Order direct from O'Reilly and receive 25% off all books in the 'Missing Manual Series.' In particular, your members might be interested in: Windows Me: The Missing Manual Windows 2000 Pro: The Missing Manual This is an extra 5% saving above the regular UG discount of 20%! Offer expires May 13th, 2001. To order, call: 800-998-9938 -- ask for Customer Service. When ordering, be sure to give the customer service representative this discount code 'UGMM.'

For product info, go to [[www.oreilly.com](http://www.oreilly.com)] (this discount not offered on orders placed online). Please send this message to your UG members. Thanks, Denise."

### **An Old Buddy (Software) Captures Your Screen**

*(Continued on page 4)*

---

## ACPCUG Computer Lab Update by Rick Lubinski

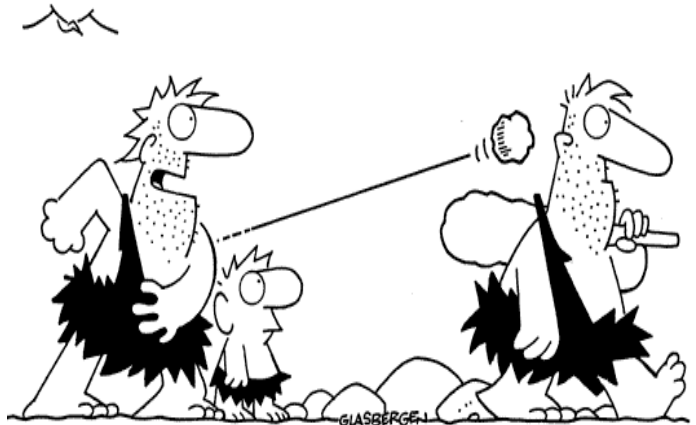
(Continued from page 1)

cost computer classes to AMHA residents and others. The by other SIGs needing a room with modern PCs. Contact Murray Davis (440-248-0021) for additional information on the next beginners SIG meeting.

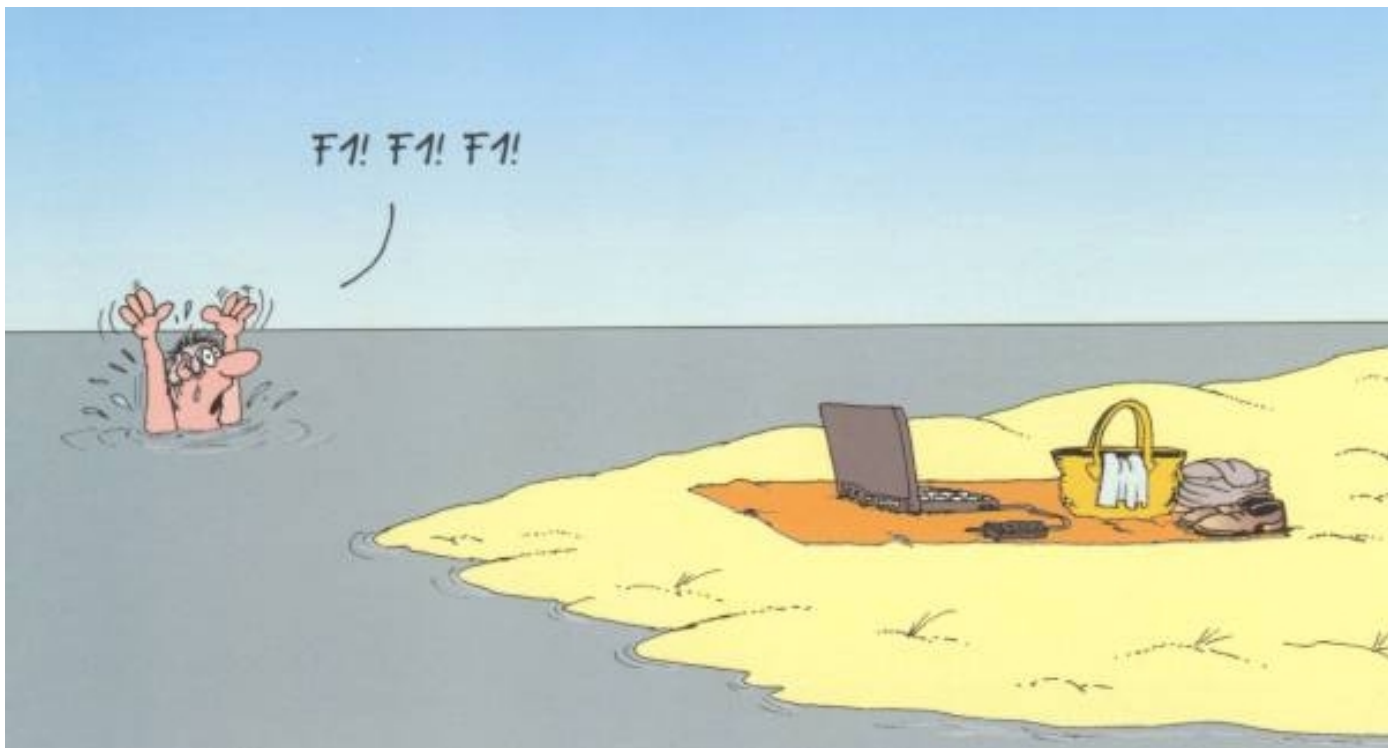
The members of your Board of Directors assisted with setting up the Computer Lab's new computers and the new Network. They also assisted along with other ACPCUG members in doing some computer recycling in the room at AMHA. Anyone interested in helping with teaching some INTRO LEVComputer Lab will also be used by ACPCUG for its Beginners SIG meeting and EL classes or assisting with the periodic recycling of PCs should contact one of the Board members.

## Art McRowe's Latest Modem Card!

© 2000 Randy Glasbergen. [www.glasbergen.com](http://www.glasbergen.com)



"WHEN YOU WANT TO GET SOMEBODY'S ATTENTION,  
THROW A ROCK AT HIS HEAD. IT'S THE LATEST  
THING IN WIRELESS COMMUNICATION!"



## Deals Guy, Bob Click

(Continued from page 2)

Many have used "SnagIt" in the past and liked what it does. I talked to the "TechSmith" user group coordinator recently who offered this discount for my column. There are many uses for capturing all or parts of a computer screen, such as an instructive review of a product, or detailed instructions. SnagIt does all this with ease and outputs it as a graphic, text or video file, and will send the information to the printer, the Clipboard, a file, or as an e-mail attachment from any MAPI enabled e-mail client. A wizard will help if necessary. MSRP is \$39.95, but our user group price is \$35.95

TechSmith's "Camtasia" is harder to describe since it does many tasks. Camtasia's suite of tools produces a video of anything you see on your screen and makes it easy to record, edit and publish high fidelity videos. Use them for computer-based training, product demonstrations, presentations, online help, tech support solutions, sales demonstrations, Web site content and much more.

You can move in closer with zoom and pan the capture frame across the screen for more detail. Use ScreenPad to easily annotate your video with text, arrows and callout boxes. Even "brand" your video with a watermark if you like. Yes, you create standard AVI files or broadcast your screen live over the Internet.

I'm enjoying my review copy and may be a bit over exuberant, so check the TechSmith Web site for better descriptions. [<http://www.techsmith.com>] "Camtasia's" user group price is \$134.95 (MSRP \$145.95). Order these fine programs by calling the sales department at 1-800-517-3001, or fax to 1-517-333-1888. Mention your user group's name. For a better discount, order the "SnagIt/Camtasia Bundle" for just \$152.95.

### Hey Folks, How's The OI Ticker?

If you're into stocks, this program puts a stock ticker across the top of your monitor with only the stocks you want on the ticker. Joe Issac wrote about this one in "The Computer File," newsletter of Central Kentucky Computer Society.

WinStock is a powerful stock ticker, client-designed with the serious online investor in mind. US stocks, Canadian stocks, mutual funds, bonds, market index quotes, options, commodities, foreign exchanges and money-market mutual funds can all be tracked and monitored by WinStock. Use it free for 30 days. If you like it, send the guy \$20. No special offer here, I'm just passing it on. See [<http://cws.internet.com/coolapp.html>] to check fur-

ther and look in "Previous Coolapps" for it. Full time DSL or Cable would make this work best. Lots of great items on that site.

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)



## CD Cleanings by Art McRowe, ACPCUG

I am far from a CD-RW expert. But I have been following the Adaptec (well, actually the ROXIO) e-mail newsletters for the last six plus months. Many people are having problems with recording on 80 minute (700 MB) CD's. The Adaptec standard answer is that these are NOT standard disks!

Users have written in with three trains of advice.

1. Don't use 80-minute disks.
2. If you do, use good name brand media.
3. Try lower speed recording settings. (IE, if you can record at 16X, don't! Set your speed to 4X or 8X.

Personally, I have had very good luck copying very old public library (out of print) CD's on 80-minute formats at 4X on an (now) old Yamaha CD-RW. My only problem has been an occasional problem reading old, abused disks in the 80-minute formats. But, in truth, that's been no worse than abused disks in the regular 74-minute format. **GOOD LUCK!**

(Continued on page 5)

## Zippping Programs, Revisited, by Art McRowe, ACPCUG

Oh Heavens, you ask, why more about file compression, you ask? Well, for some of us, we use it every day. It makes backup and file exchange much more practical in many different scenarios.

Some time ago, I wrote that I loved WinZip. I do, even more so that recently it has a new version 8.0. WinZip is a shareware program, costing \$29 to register. But you download an uncrippled program with only an initial compliance screen which you can use until you feel you will gladly pay for this true Windows gem!

I wrote maybe 15-18 months ago how much I liked WinZip because it worked so well with a DOS extension to zip up files with their long file names. Well, in truth, those DOS batch extensions have gotten a little long in the tooth. Yes, they still work OK. But I did not extol the really great values of WinZip as a Windows program working within Windows Explorer, available at the right click for examining files with actually opening them up. Then if you want to manipulate them, everything works so very instinctively! You can easily make a new directory to install the newly unzipped files, etc. Yes, it really works well!

But ol' Phil Katz of PKZip, the originator of the zip file format, has updated his old trusty command line program to PKZIP version 2.50 for DOS. Just go to the WEB site for your own copy available for shareware use at [www.pkware.com](http://www.pkware.com). The ZIP algorithm, invented (or copyrighted) by P. Katz is in the public domain. And many different programs can utilize files compressed with this technique. So you can feel comfortable using the zip compression from both these program sources and many others.

PKZIP 2.50 works very well with scripting programs like VBSCRIPT (free, from Microsoft). This may well be an article later on how to use scripting to run a command line program, but I say now it works well and FAST. PKZIP 2.50 can use text files to list files (and subdirectories) to be compressed. And now it actually compresses and decompresses those Windows 95+up file with long file names along with the shorter DOS names. Therefore, it only works in a DOS window opened in Windows 95 or later (like WinZip command line extensions). WinZip's DOS extensions also need to be working in a DOS window under Win95+. I guess there are no files with long file names under DOS alone.

What to do with programs you want to trans-

fer under DOS (alone) in emergency conditions? I use the old favorite, PKZIP version 2.04. It fits on my emergency floppy and can easily unzip a lot of files onto a wiped out hard drive and even make simple folders and putting files into them. You just can't use long file names.

Therefore, I need both PKZIP 2.5 and 2.04! And I also prefer using WinZip (now v. 8.) under normal Windows situations, especially within Windows Explorer. I understand that Microsoft under Windows XP will be able to handle ZIP compressed files. But that won't be under emergencies with the aplomb these programs do. They are mature, useful and cheap. If you don't need to handle compressed files, Never Mind!

### The Deals Guy, Bob Click

*(Continued from page 4)*

Click [[dealsguy@mindspring.com](mailto:dealsguy@mindspring.com)]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. Also, I keep adding to my "articles of interest" page.



Akron-Canton PC Users Group  
 PO Box 2151  
 Akron Oh 44309-2151

**Next Meeting - March 5th**  
 Stark State Technical  
 College  
 Main Auditorium

**First Class Mail**

**In This Issue...**

Page 1 – **The Deals Guy**, by Bob Click & ACPCUG Computer Lab  
 Update by Rick Lubinski  
 Page 5—**Shareware Shelf**, by Art McRowe

Mailing Label Address Goes Here

*Published by: Akron-Canton PC Users Group*  
 Box 2151, Akron, Oh 44309-2151  
[www.acpcug.org](http://www.acpcug.org)

\* Membership - 1st year \$25, renewals \$20 per year  
 \* User groups are granted permission to reproduce articles with source credit.  
<http://www.acpcug.org>

**MICROSOFT IS COMING  
 JUNE 4, 2001 !**

***Make sure you do not miss the June 4, 2001 ACPCUG meeting with Microsoft Corp speakers. Please 'bring a friend' to learn about the newest Operating System improvements and other new software products. Due to a scheduling conflict ACPCUG's June meeting will be held at the STOW LIBRARY on Darrow Road (Rt #91) between Kent Road and Graham Road***

***Special Notice!***

**June 4, 2001 Meeting,  
 Stow Library on Darrow Road (Rt. 91)  
 between Kent Road and Graham Road**

Club Officers			
<b>President</b>	Frank Ramsey (2001)	699-4711	aframsey@yahoo.com
<b>Club Outreach</b>	Rick Lubinski (2002)	928-7179	lubinski@bright.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Walt Ruthenburg (2003)	330-283-7867	wruthenburg@usa.net
<b>Program Director</b>	Murray Davis (2003)	440-248-0021	murray5050@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joe Krause (2002)		joek46@aol.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Art McRowe	330-666-3189	amcrowe@bright.net
<b>Software Evalua-</b>	Gerry Schaefer (2001)	330-499-5623	schaefer@bright.net

Future Events	
Sat. May. 5th, 2001	Market Pro Computer Show at Summit County Fairgrounds. Tallmadge, Ohio Rt. 91 at Howe Road. Enter off Rt91 just north of Howe
May 18-20th,	Dayton (OH) Hamvention, Hara Arena, see <a href="http://www.hamvention.org">www.hamvention.org</a> for complete info
Sun. June 17, 2001	Peter Trapp Computer Show Tadmore Temple, Akron, Ohio  Not here in MAY!