

**From The DealsGuy  
by Bob Click Greater Orlando  
Computer Users Group.**

**What a Loss To User Groups**

I was distressed to hear that Adobe may dismiss Louise Miller from the user group program. Louise has worked very hard for both Adobe and we user group people. The decision was not final at this writing, but in the user group community, Louise has made Adobe a household name, and dismissal certainly doesn't seem like a just reward for her hard work. Not only will Adobe be the loser, but user groups will also lose. I hope they find a spot for her without dismissal. I understand it's a consolidation of Adobe's user group activities, but I hope it doesn't mean closing us out completely as Ambassadors for Adobe's fine products.

A few other hard-working friends have also gotten the ax for all their hard work during these slow economic times. Ever wonder why anybody should worry about doing a good job when they could be history at any given time, in spite of their best efforts? I guess conscientious employees will always give their best automatically.

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**Digital Photography**

**Purchasing a Digital Camera by  
Larry Horn, cont. from Sept. newsletter**

Up to now, I tried to cover the more important considerations in purchasing and using a digital camera. I will repeat here that you should first decide how you will use the camera before drawing up your spec sheet. It is very easy to be seduced by features that sound great but you may never use. Also, be aware that just like computers, technology advances daily (or is that hourly?) and the prices generally are headed downward. The maker of my brand camera just last week came out with the new model number that has a 10X Optical zoom for less than I paid with a 3X Optical zoom. Don't overbuy! Start out with a starter camera, see how you like it and keep track of the features you love or wished you had. Then move up to a camera with those features, which will probably cost less at that time than you paid for the starter camera.

My starter camera for general use would be 1MegaPixel, removable media (not floppy), and flash. A 3X zoom, TV out, USB and a LCD and Optical viewfinder are next on the list. Eliminate the zoom and the Olympus Brio 100 or Hp215 are good choices for \$200-250. If you are really unsure and just want to test the waters, try a JamCam or one of the \$50 to \$100 cameras as a starting point and then give it to the kids as you move up.

It is also important to remember that despite whether the camera uses film or digital media, you are still taking pictures, so a good photography book or magazine, I like PC Photo, will be helpful.

Now that we have the basics, what are the other features you will want to consider? The technical term for most of these are the bells and whistles.

**Exposure Control:**

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**October 1, 2001**

**Taylor Memorial Library**

**Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio**

**6 pm - TBA 7:30 Q&A and**

**8:00 PM TBA**

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# The Deals Guy

(Continued from page 1)

## A Moment of Carelessness

I thought I had become pretty good at recognizing e-mail with a virus attachment, and I had, but I still found a way to get careless. At the time of my carelessness, I didn't realize I had triggered a virus, but in the middle of the night I woke up realizing what I had done, and that was to click on a file that I actually should have remembered was virus infected. I'll handle them in a different way and will try not to get in a hurry from now on. I'm sure it didn't use my Eudora address book, but the SirCam virus finds other places to get addresses to send a familiar-looking, but infected, file out to friends.

I sent a message of warning to my address book people, but almost nobody in it had received an infected file. There were a few and I'm not sure where it found those addresses, but I thought perhaps in my trash bin, because I had about 40 returned messages with infected attachments that had addresses looking like the spam type I always delete. That would have been a perfect place to send those infected files, but alas, they all bounced back. The few friends who received an infected file were people I had communicated with recently so that may be a clue.

I receive several newsletters in PDF format and a couple in ZIP format. I decided simply to catch up printing the files by clicking on them right from my "Attachments" folder. In the process, I accidentally clicked the wrong zip file (left there for further AV checking) and had failed to notice the double extensions this time. After this, I'll move suspected files to a safe place and not depend on my 'superior' intelligence.

An interesting sidelight to this disaster is that some of the bounced e-mail containing contaminated attachments were bounced by network administrators who detected the infected file and returned it telling me that. I hope that network administrators trend continues to grow for everybody's sake. My computer is now a mess and I'm ready to reformat and start over.

## Still Good

The LapDog is still good so visit [<http://www.laptopoffice.com>].

inKline's Stay Connected is also still good. [<http://www.inklineglobal.com/register>].

Don't forget the Mouse Bungee Pro deal is still

good. [<http://www.mousebungee.com>].

## inkline Global is Back With Another Special Offer

If you are still using a dialup connection to surf the Net, how about something to improve the performance of your modem. "Modem Booster" from inKline Global is designed for getting the downloading done, but faster and more dependably. Here is their offer: "We are pleased to offer your column readers 15% off 'Modem Booster' (normally \$19.95) in your October column. For the Modem Booster promotion in October, 2001, simply mention "MB-DEALSGUY-1001" in the COMMENTS field of the order form [<http://www.inklineglobal.com/register>] when purchasing Modem Booster. The offer is valid till 30th Nov. 2001."

Again, ordering must be done on their Web site URL above.

## Get Better Organized, Not Unionized, But Yourself

I am not a fan of PIMs (Personal Information Managers), but I must admit that they are popular. It so happens that inKline Global has a very good Personal Information Manager called RedBox Organizer 4.1 and they have offered you a deal on it. I have not had the time to review this product, although they offered it to me. Below is their description:

Now you can manage your daily activities more efficiently, and have the flexibility and ease to plan, organize and schedule virtually whatever you want. Use the Calendar, Planner, Reminder, To-do, Sticky Notes and Globe to manage daily occurrences like Expenses, Reports, Appointments, Contacts, Addresses and Travel information all within an enjoyable 3D interface. Save loads of time, send e-mails, quick-dial your contacts, keep conversation logs and even publish your activities on the Web. Extraordinary features like Multi-User capabilities, password protected program sharing, Time Converter and Global Distance Calculation abilities. All these features in one compact program make it an ideal planner for all home and small businesses. Free CD with online purchase!"

My readers get the program for just \$29.95, regular \$39.95. Use the special code "RBODEALSGUY" (enter in the "comments" field) when ordering. Below are more URLs and info for the product.

Company URL: [<http://www.inklineglobal.com>]

Program URL: [<http://www.inklineglobal.com/products/mb/>]

Download Site 1: [<ftp://inklineglobal.net/win32/mb25.zip>]

Download Site 2: [<http://inklineglobal.net/win32/mb25.zip>]

Filesize: 1.75 MB / 1803 KB / 1,845,295 Bytes

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Filename: mb25.zip Version 2.5 Install/Uninstall Included

### **Security Just For Your Pocket??**

Yes, but I meant for your "Pocket PC." I received an announcement recently for Cresotech PocketSafe 1.16 for Windows CE, a Pocket PC security tool for protection of personal data. It's a convenient PDA-based tool for safe storage of confidential information. PocketSafe provides easy management and secure storage of passwords, contact names, credit card numbers, bank account and document data, as well as other confidential information. The records in the database are encrypted and password-protected. All popular models of PocketPC are supported: Compaq IPaq, Casio Cassiopeia, HP Jornada, Symbol, etc.

System Requirements: Pocket PC running Windows CE 3.0 or higher. 400Kb free on Pocket PC and 1Mb free on desktop PC. Supported Processors include ARM, SH3, MIPS. I was unable to test this product because I do not own a Pocket PC, but it looks very interesting. The price is only \$19.00 and my readers are even offered a 10% discount by going to [<http://www.regsoft.net/purchase.php3?productid=36402&pc=M6M64>] and using the password "dealsguy." If you simply want a trial version, use [<http://www.cresotech.com/ftp/pocketsafe.exe>]. The company URL is [<http://www.cresotech.com>] should you just want information on the product.

### **Classes For Office**

Keystone Learning Systems is offering all users group members a special. Their offer follows: "Purchase any, that's right any, OFFICE related course at Full Price and get a 2nd set within the OFFICE selections at 40% off! You may get as many additional sets as you want at 40% off. Call now to start enhancing your User Group Library, and help individuals learn skills they can use. Check these courses: Excel, Access, Word, Power Point, PhotoDraw, Publisher, Outlook, Project, or Windows 95, 98, and 2000. This Special Offer will expire Friday, October 26, 2001. Reference Code UGem2.

"If you haven't requested any yet and would like to receive a free demo of our training materials or information please contact Evan Jones at 888-299-3647, EXT. 7002, e-mail:

[[evanj@keystonelearning.com](mailto:evanj@keystonelearning.com)]. Or fill out the application at:

[<http://www.keystonelearning.com/>

[about keystone/user\\_group/index.html](http://www.keystonelearning.com/about_keystone/user_group/index.html)] and indicate in the field provided what products you are interested in."

Also listed are 32 other courses newly introduced or coming soon, and 1000 other topics and titles to choose from. Be aware that these courses are not classes, but come to you on CD, or VHS video format. The offer was signed by Evan Jones, Sales Representative KeyStone Learning Systems, a GlobalLearning-Systems Company (888) 299-3647 ext. 7002, (801) 418-7002. Fax: (801) 373-6872

**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](mailto:Bobclick@mindspring.com)]. Visit my Web site at [<http://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.

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## **CD Overburning**

### **By Art McRowe, ACPCUG**

Getting 80, 90 or 99 minutes of music on a CD sounds mighty enticing! Why not try to get more on a CD? Indeed, you probably can!

It's not magic, you can do it easily on a CD-R (that's not a CD-RW, only on a CD-R).

I am not the expert. I am a simple user of Adaptec Easy CD 4.0 that came with my old burner. The latest and greatest is now Roxio EZ CD Creator Platinum 5.02.

I had a lot of old family recordings from old 78's and tape to put on tape to get out to many family members. It took more than the 70 min. or 650 mb. CD. My good ol' EZ CD creator did it just fine with those 80 min. (70 mb.) CD's available at CompUSA at virtually the same price as the 70 min. versions. And they worked, everywhere!

I was pretty proud of myself. And burned maybe 20 copies for the family. Yeah!!!

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# Digital Photography

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This touches on several different features. The first one is White Balance. White balance is equivalent to adding a filter to make the whites look white, not blue or yellow as you get under fluorescent or incandescent lighting, respectively.

Another related feature is exposure compensation. When you take a picture in a high contrast situation, like a person in a dark room with a bright light or window behind them or outside with the sun behind the person, the camera's exposure automatic controls may be fooled resulting in a dark/under-exposed subject with a properly exposed background. When shooting in this type of situation, a look at the picture on your LCD will tell you if it is OK or needs to be deleted and retaken with fill-in flash or an adjustment to the exposure. An Exposure Lock feature is useful here.

Remember, if you are using a flash, an on camera flash has a very limited range, usually 8-10 feet. To increase the range you will probably need a "hot shoe" on the camera to add a second more powerful one or a sync outlet. (These are found only on high end - expensive Prosumer cameras. If you've never used one with your film camera, you're unlikely to need one on a digital model.) Also, red eye reduction flash or slow sync features are desirable as you get more experienced in creative photography.

## **Speed of taking pictures:**

Many digital cameras take several seconds to one minute to get ready for the first shot. This seems like an eternity when you are trying to get that quick spontaneous shot. Next be aware that there is usually a delay between pressing the shutter release and actually capturing the picture. Waiting for that perfect moment in the action or expression will result in disappointing missed shots. Anticipation is critical. Lastly, the camera may need time to record the picture on the media so rapid fire sequence shots may be difficult. Some new cameras overcome this by having internal memory that captures the pictures quickly and then writes it to the slower removable media.

## **Power - Batteries:**

First - digital cameras eat batteries. Most cameras use standard AA batteries. These are preferable to proprietary ones which may cost more, be harder to find, or not be removable so

you have to tie up the camera to recharge them. . When it comes to AA batteries you have a choice of several kinds. Single-use alkaline batteries tend to die quickly, especially if you must use that LCD screen to shoot the picture. However, the upside of them is they can be found anywhere and are a good back-up. Rechargeable batteries can be nickel-cadmium (NiCad) or nickel metal hydride (NiMH). I recommend the NiMH as they last longer without the memory effect of NiCads and despite their higher initial cost, will save you money in the long run. To recharge them, just put them in a charger and plug it in. I recommend two sets if you plan a full day of shooting, like on vacation, as they do take time (hours) to recharge. Some cameras will also work off AC wall outlets which is good for showing the pictures on your TV without depleting the batteries.

## **In-Camera Special Effects:**

As competition gets going, many camera companies are starting to add in-camera features. These include Close-up/Macro capabilities, Slide Show display of the pictures on the camera's LCD or a connected TV, Multiple Images at once on the LCD - good for quickly finding a specific picture, and Magnification of the image on the LCD - the small size of a LCD screen makes this valuable to get a better look.

I have even seen in-camera effects like sepia toning and special borders for some cameras. I would not personally use them as I prefer a straight original that I can modify on the computer.

## **Software:**

Almost every camera comes with software. While the TWAIN drivers are necessary to have the camera communicate with the computer, the photo editing software is generally underpowered. You will quickly want to upgrade to a full-featured program like Adobe Photo Elements, MGI Photo Suite, Microsoft Picture It! or Ulead PhotoImpact. These programs are generally easier to use and give you better control than the free software in the box. It is nice to get started with, but don't judge the camera by the software.

## **Other Features:**

Some cameras are adding features that do not make much sense to me. These include MP3 playback, Video and Audio recording. MP3 steals memory so you can't take as many pictures and Video recording is very brief and of poor quality. Audio makes some sense to add short notes on the picture but also occupies memory so it cuts down on the number of pictures.

## **Education:**

I mentioned it before, but it is worth repeating. No camera will make you a great photographer. Get some photography training. Even the major film

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companies like Kodak are into digital today. They even have the Kodak Digital Learning Center at <http://www.kodak.com/US/en/digital/dlc/index.jhtml>. You can also try [www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com) and [www.techtv.com](http://www.techtv.com) for their guides.

### My Camera:

OK, I promised to tell you what I purchased. Remember, that was last year, and while I am still very satisfied with the camera, newer models might change my purchase decision. I have an Olympus D-490. It is a 2.1MP camera with both 3X Optical Zoom plus 2X Digital Zoom, an Optical view finder and a LCD, Removable media (Smart Media), Preview/review with Multiple & Magnify as well as a slide show feature, small (pocketable) size, exposure compensation, focus lock, macro (close-up) capability, self timer, tripod mount, uses AA batteries (std alkaline or NiMH rechargeable), and has a TV out. (Current street price about \$400.) This has been superseded with the model D-510 which added a longer digital zoom and USB as well as a burst mode to take 2 frames per second - all for less than I paid. They have also come out with a C-700UZ which added a 10X optical zoom that looks very attractive (around \$500). My son uses an Olympus D-460 which is almost identical to my D-490 but is only a 1.3MP camera and he is very satisfied with it. I purchased mine, in part, because I had used and liked his.

Don't be overly influenced by what I purchased. Go out and try them and see what you like within your budget.



## COMPUTER CLASSES OFFERED

(Richard G. Lubinski)

ACPCUG is offering a series beginners computer classes based at our Computer Lab at AMHA - Saferstein Bldg. # 1 in west Akron (map and photo on our web site). ACPCUG members are welcome, but you must register!

Classes being offered in this first series are:

- Introduction to Computers
- Introduction to Windows98

- Microsoft Word - Word Processing
- Advanced MS Word
- Internet for Seniors
- Advanced Internet
- Beginning Internet Genealogy

Computer classes will be held during normal business hours, week days, by paid ACPCUG instructors. The classes are being offered to residents in three AMHA buildings and ACPCUG members. Each class will consist of four (4) 2 hour sessions. The cost of these eight (8) hours courses is only \$15 each after 75% subsidy by ACPCUG. ACPCUG is using funds from a grant by the Kenneth Calhoun Trust to pay for these classes. Future classes may not be offered with this level of subsidy. Classes will occur in October, November and December 2001.

Call Sandy or Murray Davis at (440) 248-0021 for class dates, times and to register for these ACPCUG classes. Mailing can be made to ACPCUG c/o Murray Davis, 34306 Southside Park Drive, Solon, Ohio 44139. You can also send a e-mail to [murray5050@yahoo.com](mailto:murray5050@yahoo.com).

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Now I find out you can get up to 99 minutes of recording onto a CD! OK, there are caveats! But you CAN!

I must now refer you to the web site of [www.tomshardware.com](http://www.tomshardware.com). This has been repeatedly visited at our meetings for a great hardware review site. Please look for their review article about Overburning CD-ROMS. This is a copyrighted article, so I can not completely reproduce it here.

I will summarize: You need good disks and CD-R machine to burn long disks. You need the right software. The good news is that once properly burned, almost any ol' CD player, even vintage automobile players can read and use the full capacity written!

[tomshardware.com](http://tomshardware.com) says that Nero v5.5 (while burning, get it?) is the preferred software for controlled overburning. This software is easily used and can overwrite the headers on ordinary 650 mb. disks. Sometimes you have to slow down your recording speed to only 2X.

Do you need to get the most capacity out of your disks? How about convenience? Check out this web site! For data backup, I really don't want to mess around. But I bet you can find a situation where you want more capacity! Try it!

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

**Next Meeting - Oct. 1st,**  
**Taylor Memorial Library**  
**Cuyahoga Falls, OH**

**First Class Mail**

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Mailing Label Address Goes Here

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**ACPCUG Program Prizes to be Auctioned at October Meeting!**

**By Gerry Schaefer**

- "Streets & Trips 2001" Microsoft
- "PhotoDraw 2000 Version 2" Microsoft
- "Partitian Magic 6.0" PowerQuest
- "Drive Image 4.0" PowerQuest
- "Beige Hanes Comfort-T shirt" MINDSHARE User Group Program
- "Beige Hanes Comfort-T shirt" MINDSHARE User Group Program
- "Beige Hanes Comfort-T shirt" MINDSHARE User Group Program
- "White Gildan heavy weight cotton T Shirt" MSDN User Group Program

<b>Club Officers</b> area code 330, unless noted otherwise			
<b>President</b>	Frank Ramsey (2001)	699-4711	af Ramsey@yahoo.com
<b>Club Outreach</b>	Rick Lubinski (2002)	928-7179	lubinski@bright.net
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<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Art McRowe	666-3189	amcrowe@bright.net
<b>Software Evaluation</b>	Gerry Schaefer (2001)	499-5623	schaefer@bright.net

<b>Future Events</b>	
Sun., Oct. 14th, 2001	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Tadmor Temple off I-77 to Arlington Road, Akron, OH (Exit 120)