

# ACPCUG Newsletter

**Akron Main  
Public Library**

**October 2, 2006**

**Oct. Program:**

*Starts at 6:00 PM*

***Photo Digitalization &  
CD-DVD Duplication by  
our own Dick Lash ! +  
Q&A + (if time) Solid  
State Hard Drives by  
Art McRowe***

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**October 2006**

**Akron-Canton PC Users Group**

**ATTENTION Members of the Ak-  
ron Canton PC Users Group**

January 2007 will be upon us in a couple of months, and those of you that will owe for your 2007 ACPCUG Membership fees will be getting a notice from me (Your Treasurer) in December.

I hope that you noticed that I said those of you that will owe for dues January 2007.

Not everyone will owe, as some have paid more than one year in advance. Only those that owe will get a notice.

**IF YOU DO NOT GET A NO-  
TICE THEN YOU DO NOT OWE  
DUES IN 2007.**

Our dues are \$12.00 a year. Our year is from January 1, to December 31. We would like for them to be paid in January. You can pay them by cash or check and they may be paid at the club meeting, by U.S. Mail or if you prefer, they can be paid by PayPal. If you pay your dues by PayPal you need to E-Mail your dues to Frank Ramsey at: [af Ramsey@yahoo.com](mailto:af Ramsey@yahoo.com). If you prefer to pay by U.S. Mail send your checks to: **ACPCUG Treasurer**

P.O.Box 2151

Akron, Ohio 44309-2151

Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

*Jim Albright, Treasurer*

## **From The DealsGuy For November 2006**

**by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group**

I read about a Florida company (CellAntenna) that makes some interesting products. One of them is called the CJAM 100 Portable Personal Cellular Jammer that is capable of blocking cellular communications in a relatively small area. I understand it's against the law to jam cellular signals, but this product is only sold to government agencies. Wouldn't it be nice to have such a device activated when you are sitting in a restaurant with people around you talking on their cell phones as though the other party can't hear well? You've probably been there, but maybe I am more unlucky than most in that regard. I can think of a few other situations where that product might be handy. Embedded in the highways might be nice so drivers could concentrate more on their driving than talking with their friends. On the other hand, it wouldn't keep drivers from all the other bad habits we've all seen, such as eating, drinking, applying makeup, reading (I've seen that) and many other things while driving down the road. Check the article in Information Week magazine. <<http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=RL5XSD3YKDHTKQSNDLRSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=191901845&queryText=IT+Confidential>>

Something else I read about is "LifeShirt" which was created by VivoMetrics a few years ago and has been tested and researched by various companies for different purposes. It is capable of measuring some 30 biometric readings for people who might be severely ill. It keeps the data on a flash card for whatever use is needed so that vital data for a patient can be tracked. However, I didn't see anything about measuring hormones, but I guess if you were critically ill, that might not register. I think my wife should get me one for our anniversary so she will know my moods. However, at this point in my life, it is doubtful much of anything will affect my heart rate unless the doctor says I will probably stick around for another three months. (until my next appointment) <<http://www.vivometrics.com/>>

### **\*Out With The Old, In With The New (And Better)**

You all know Dave Whittle. He has presented products at your meetings and entertained you in the process. He has a new and different deal for us and is offering me the first opportunity to spread the word about the special offer on new laptops. I have noticed a trend for some people to even use them for their desktop so perhaps that way you only have to invest in one computer, but a versatile one. Since you all know him, I asked him to tell it

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in his own words below:

"Good news for those of you in the market for laptops. I've arranged for DealsGuy readers and user group members everywhere to get a 6% discount on genuine Thinkpads! Most of us remember them as IBM Thinkpads but IBM sold that division to Lenova so now they're called Lenovo Thinkpads, but the engineering, quality and service are still the same. People prefer Thinkpads because they have great human factors (such as elegant design, lightweight, battery life, and durability) and offer such nice features as spill-resistant keyboards, a built-in keyboard light, choice of a Trackpoint or Touchpad for controlling a mouse, the Active Protection System (which prevents hard disk damage from shock or dropping), dual antenna for better wireless reception, and a variety of great system software to make life easier, which IBM calls 'ThinkVantage Technologies.'

"Also, be sure to get the integrated fingerprint reader as well if you care about keeping your laptop data secure. Thinkpads are more reasonable than you might think for the quality you get (prices start at under \$680), especially considering you can get 6% off the web site prices (see below). What's more, the Gartner Group estimates that Thinkpads save you 20% to 30% compared to other brands on the total cost of ownership over the life of the laptop, due to factors such as better testing and easier maintenance, durability, and usability. Here's how to get this special 6% discount on the Thinkpad configuration of your choice. Simply call Lenovo's user group inside sales rep, Isaac Williams, directly for help in configuring your system, or to get answers to your questions. Call 1-877-338-4465, Option 1, Extension 6322. Just tell him the name of your user group and give him the discount code for user groups, which is 42390. Alternatively, for fastest response, you can just go to <[www.lenovo.com/products/us/en](http://www.lenovo.com/products/us/en)> and click on 'Thinkpad notebooks', and then on the Series you'd like to configure. After you choose all of the options you want, click Add to Cart, and then click on E-mail this Page. E-mail it to <[dave.whittle@usa.net](mailto:dave.whittle@usa.net)> and he will quickly forward it on to Isaac, who will contact you to confirm the order, answer questions, and get your payment information. That's all you need to do to save between \$40 and \$210 on your new laptop while ensuring that you get the very best laptop available, customized just for you, and as quickly as possible."

I asked Dave about them being Vista compatible and they are. He gave no deadline for the deal, but I wouldn't wait too long for this great saving.

**\*Are You Into Mapping?**

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ArmCode has released Arm Map Explorer, which recreates all the functionalities of Google Maps while adding new ones like viewing a map with a coordinate grid on it, getting precise coordinates of any location on a map, moving to a needed location based on specified coordinates, and more. This software brings Google Maps to your desktop and lets you find any location on the planet like cities, borders, roads and other cartographic objects and view them as dynamic interactive maps. You can drag such maps so you won't have to click and wait for graphics to reload each time you want to view adjacent parts of a map. Basically, Arm Map Explorer 1.0 allows you to work with interactive maps in much the same way as you would with a regular street map.

However, Arm Map Explorer 1.0 goes beyond the feature set offered by Google Maps. You can move to a needed location on a map based on the coordinates you specify. Using the object tree, you can easily locate and view capitals of states, large cities, world's landmarks, monuments, international airports and other interesting buildings and locations. You can also save a map as a file or print a map to take it with you on a trip, and use it as a regular paper map. It can, for example, help you study geography, both physical and economic. The program will display a satellite view for any locations such as hydroelectric stations, cities and other large objects. You can zoom the view in and out and pan in any direction.

Arm Map Explorer 1.0 runs under Windows 98/NT/XP/2000/2003 and is available without requiring any payment or registration. Additional information on Map Explorer, as well as its installation distributive is available from <<http://www.armcode.com>>. ArmCode is a software developer that specializes in cartographic software. Along with XMAP, the company is the author of Alien IP and ZIP Pointer. Alien IP locates a computer on a map based on a specified IP address. ZIP Pointer locates a city in North America on a map based on a specified ZIP or postal code. For more information, visit the ArmCode Web site.

Product page: <<http://www.armcode.com/map-explorer/index.htm>>

Direct download link: <<http://www.armcode.com/downloads/map-explorer.exe>>

Postal address:

Pacific Business Centre,  
Att: ArmCode, #101 - 1001 W. Broadway,  
Suite 381, Vancouver, BC V6H 4E4,

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Canada Tel: +1 (206) 338-6423

That's it for this month. Be aware that I have recently posted some new announcements, recently received, on the New Product Announcements Page on my Web site. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any 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>>

## **Distinguishing Forests from Trees in Search Engine Results**

**By Gabe Goldberg**, APCUG Advisor and HCIL Media Fellow  
gabe(at)gabegold.com

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Some people cherish details without grasping the big picture. They can't see the forest for the trees, always miss the landscape's glory. Searching the Web can feel like this. Search engines cheerfully deliver millions of search result hits without revealing patterns or gaps in the data. Even worse, hardly anyone looks beyond the first screen of search results. Researchers are investigating how organizing search results provides contextual and visual cues that make searches more powerful.

We all know people who cherish tiny details but never quite grasp the big picture. They're figuratively unable to see the forest for the trees, missing the landscape's glory while obsessing over whatever grows in front of their nose.

Sometimes searching the Web feels like this. Google or any favorite search engine can cheerfully deliver a thousand -- or two million -- search result hits yet not reveal patterns, groupings, or gaps in what it quickly but mindlessly displays. Making things worse, hardly anyone looks at search results beyond the first screen or two; we either settle for one of the first few links, or add search words to prune our results. But this runs two risks.

First, we may miss a key Web site that for some reason isn't highly ranked by our search engine. Not everyone knows that search engines rank results using proprietary criteria; even worse, ranking methods often change without notice, so identical searches days or weeks apart may yield very different results. Second, there's no clue or cue about search result patterns. And the human mind can't grasp a thousand -- let alone two million -- links to see what they might collectively reveal.

Enter Bill Kules and Ben Shneiderman, respectively Graduate Research Assistant and Computer Science Professor at the University of Maryland. They're investigating how organizing the display of search results provides contextual and visual cues that make searches more powerful.

Their technology, partially supported by an AOL Fellowship in Human-Computer Interaction, is ideal when searchers are unsure of the target or goal. This is a variation on the famous Supreme Court quote: searchers

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may not know what they're looking for, but they recognize it when they see it.

Results, arranged in meaningful and stable categories using structures created by Kules' SERVICE program (as opposed to the ad hoc clustering used by some commercial search engines), are shown in a compact listing in the left side navigation bar. Important text (title, snippet, URL) is arranged for efficient scanning and skimming. SERVICE retains benefits of the traditional ranked results list, while adding an overview.

The list allows efficiently scanning and skimming title/snippet/URL -- which remains a critical task. The categorized overview adds another perspective on results, showing their distribution across categories. The overview also lets users explore results, narrowing them to a single category or subcategory.

Categorizing results is proving to change peoples' search style. For some searchers, the categorized overview simplified formulating queries. They issued a somewhat broad query and then browsed the appropriate category. Others used the overview to organize exploration of results, first perusing results in the Business category, then Science, Health, etc. Other users only used categories when frustrated by normal searching.

An interesting surprise is that empty categories -- which might have been expected to include results -- are in fact meaningful in some searches. For more information visit <http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/categorizedsearch>.

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## **Should Your System Be RAIDed?**

**by Vinny La Bash**, Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida  
<http://www.spcug.org>  
[vlabash\(at\)Comcast.net](mailto:vlabash(at)Comcast.net)

You may have heard fellow computer enthusiasts brag about their new fast RAID system as if it were a high performance sports car. If you wondered what they were talking about, you are not alone.

Just what does RAID stand for? The source of the RAID acronym can be credited to three University of California Berkeley professors named Patterson, Gibson, and Katz. In 1987 they published a paper named "A Case for Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Disks (RAID)". The fundamental concept of RAID was to combine multiple small disks into an arrangement yielding greater performance than a Single Large Expensive Drive (SLED). If you can see the potential to combine the acronyms to make bad jokes, again you are not alone.

The main objection to RAID was that two or more disk drives are inherently less reliable than a single disk drive. The professors overcame the objection by showing that disk arrays can be made more reliable by storing data redundantly in various ways across multiple disk drives.

The paper defined five types of RAID arrangements, each offering different trade-offs in features and performance. Over time, more RAID configurations were added to the mix. The corporate world gradually adopted RAID, but it never took the PC world by storm because until relatively recently, disk drives were not "inexpensive".

At the core of RAID is a process called "striping". With several hard drives connected to a controller card installed in a motherboard slot, you can juice up read and write speeds by breaking the data into blocks (stripes) and storing these blocks across multiple disk drives. This allows data to be either recorded or accessed in multiple blocks simultaneously across multiple drives in parallel. Without going into technical detail, the parallel operation provides the increase in performance. Of the many RAID configurations developed since 1987 only two are likely to be incorporated into a PC, and one of those isn't really RAID at all because it has no redundancy. The other is true RAID, but does not use striping.

We'll start out with RAID 1, also known as Disk Mirroring. The title gives it

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away. In a two disk array you mirror the contents of one disk onto the other. With 100% redundancy, there is no need to do any kind of data restoration if one of the disks should fail for any reason. A few simple instructions allow you to use the mirrored disk until you can install a replacement for the failed drive. Reactivate your array, and you're back in business with no down time. The trade-off is that a second disk doesn't give you any additional disk space, nor does it appreciably affect performance one way or the other. If reliability and preservation of data are all important to you, then a RAID 1 array can make good sense. RAID 1 is relatively cheap, easy to use, and costs about the same as most conventional backup solutions. Turn to RAID 1 when data integrity is more important than performance. To set up a RAID for your internal drives, you will need support on your motherboard or add-in card. Finally, you must still keep current drive backups to protect against user errors, viruses, and other problems that affect both drives.

Hard core gamers and other performance obsessed nut cases are almost always referring to RAID 0 when they brag about their PC speed demons. Most of them either don't know or care that RAID 0 is not true RAID as it has no redundancy. Data is spread out among all the drives in the array, which means that if any one of your drives fail, all your data is lost. This is not important if you use your system solely for game playing, but how many of us do that? If you have important data stored on your system, RAID 0 can be a dangerous implementation that may ultimately trash every byte of information on your system.

A better way than RAID 0 is to install a hard drive with a disk cache of at least 8 Megabytes of RAM. Because computers can access data from RAM much faster than directly from a disk, caching can significantly increase performance though it won't match RAID 0. Many cache systems also attempt to predict what data will be requested next so they can place that data in the cache ahead of time. This will never stop performance crazy freaks from using RAID 0. They all backup their systems regularly, don't they?

RAID 0 is for those enamored of performance where loss of data is of little concern. As an alternative, you can approach RAID 0 performance by installing drives with at least 8 megabytes of disk cache.

While it does not obviate the need for backup, a RAID 1 array can provide additional protection for those whose main consideration is preservation of data.

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There are many different types of RAID configurations which we have not discussed. We have confined our dialog to RAID 0 and 1 because they are the most common arrangements on home computers. Most technical details have been left out for simplification.

For a complete description of RAID, including animated diagrams of how data is actually stored, go to [http://www.acnc.com/04\\_01\\_00.html](http://www.acnc.com/04_01_00.html)

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## BlueCoat's K9 Web Protection

by **Mike Mitchell**, Board Member and Newsletter Editor

Topeka (Kansas) PC Users Club

<http://www.topekapcusersclub.org>

[mike.mitchell\(at\)cox.net](mailto:mike.mitchell(at)cox.net)

Lately, I have been approached by several parents asking if there is a reliable Internet filtering solution they can install on the computer for their kids. I have also thought even some adults might be interested in content filtering software to possibly help decrease the risk of spyware, malware and viruses being installed on their PCs. (Most of that comes from inappropriate sites anyway.) The statistics are staggering: 5,000 pornography sites registered daily; nine of ten kids ages 8-16 have viewed pornography on the Internet, often in the process of doing homework; one in five children ages 10-17 have received a sexual solicitation over the Internet – and those are stats for just one category! Furthermore, the FBI lists on their website the following as some of the reasons your child might be at risk online:

- Your child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night.
- You find pornography on your child's computer.
- Your child receives phone calls from people you don't know or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don't recognize.
- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.

Since so many sites these days have inappropriate content, I checked the filtering software possibilities out there. Most of them charge a fixed or a monthly fee (some quite expensive) but, lo and behold, I think I've found one! My buddy Gizmo from Tech Support Alert (<http://www.techsupportalert.com>) recommends BlueCoat's K9 Web Protection (<http://www.getk9.com>) as his top **free** parental filter. Gizmo's description is as follows:

"K9 Web Protection is a web based service that uses a special driver installed on your PC to redirect all your browsing through K9's servers where it is filtered for content. This means that the filtering works for any browser installed on your PC (Internet Explorer, Firefox, AOL, etc.). The actual filtering itself is highly customizable from a password protected control panel at K9's web site with over 55 selectable categories plus the ability to restrict or permit individual sites. Full reports on sites visited are also available from the control panel. The filtering seems quite accurate; I only found one site in an hour of browsing which I felt should not have been blocked. I also liked the optional blocking of Spyware and Adware sites. I tried a few obvious ways of crippling the filter such as uninstalling the product or disabling the driver, with no success, which is comforting to parents. (You have to know the password to uninstall it.) I suspect though, that a determined tech-savvy teenager might eventually find a solution.

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The only real downside was the slight slowing down of my browsing as a result of it being re-routed through the K9 servers. This will mainly be of concern to dial-up users.”

Installation is quite simple. When you go to the download page, you register your name and e-mail address. They will send you an e-mail with the download link and a password to use during installation. I believe you can use the same password on more than one PC but they would like you to register a different name/e-mail address/password for each family. During the first use, the software asks you for an administrator password (don't tell your kids!!!) so you can manage the settings in the control panel. The program works regardless of how many user accounts are set up on the PC. (The program icon doesn't need to be copied/created on the other user accounts' desktops, which would be a good thing anyway.)



**Figure 1** shows the sign-on screen for the control panel. Both options (View Internet Activity and Setup Options) require administrator password privileges.

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[HOME](#)[VIEW INTERNET ACTIVITY](#)[SETUP](#)[GET HELP](#)

## VIEW INTERNET ACTIVITY

[View Activity Summary](#)[View Activity Detail](#)

## View Activity Summary

This page is an overview of your internet activity. [\[ More help ... \]](#)

### Category Summary

	<a href="#">Computers/Internet</a>	56
	<a href="#">Web Advertisements</a>	17
	<a href="#">Business/Economy</a>	12
	<a href="#">News/Media</a>	9
	<a href="#">Streaming Media/MP3</a>	6
	<a href="#">Rings/Newsgroups</a>	2
	<a href="#">Adult/Mature Content</a>	2
	<a href="#">Search Engines/Portals</a>	2
	<a href="#">Arts/Entertainment</a>	2
	<a href="#">Shopping</a>	2
	<a href="#">Peer-to-Peer (P2P)</a>	1

### General Overview

(since Sun 08/20/06 04:50PM)

<a href="#">URL requests</a>	184
<a href="#">Blocked by category</a>	20
Blocked by keyword	0
Blocked by URL override	0
Allowed by URL override	0
Local requests	0
Unrated	0
System overrides	0
Support files	70

[\[ Reset All Counters \]](#)

### Most Recent Admin Events

Fri 08/25 01:48PM	Allow "Humor/Jokes" from now on
Fri 08/25 01:48PM	Allow "Software Downloads" from now on
Fri 08/25 03:47PM	Modified time restrictions
Fri 08/25 03:48PM	Modified time restrictions
Fri 08/25 03:56PM	Modified time restrictions

[\[ View full log \]](#)

**Figure 2** shows the Internet Activity Screen. It gives you the category summary and general overview of the websites that have been visited from all users on that PC. In Activity Detail, it will actually list the individual sites that were accessed. You can reset the counters after each time you look at the stats or every month, etc., so the log file won't become too large.



## SETUP

- [Web Categories to Block](#)
- [Web Site Exceptions](#)
- [Web Search Options](#)
- [Time Restrictions](#)
- [Blocking Effects](#)
- [URL Keywords](#)
- [Change Password](#)



## Web Categories to Block

Set the categories you wish to block. [[More help...](#)]

### Protection Level

- High** Blocks the most [commonly blocked](#) categories, plus [Abortion](#), [Gay/Lesbian](#), and [Unrated](#) sites.
- Default** Blocks the most [commonly blocked](#) categories, but allows [Unrated](#) sites.
- Moderate** Blocks [Adult/Mature Content](#), [Pornography](#), [Nudity](#), and [Spyware](#) categories only.
- Minimal** Blocks [Pornography](#) and [Spyware](#) categories only.
- Monitor** Allows all categories - only logs traffic.
- Custom** Select your own set of categories to block.

Commonly Blocked Categories		[ <a href="#">Block All</a> ]   [ <a href="#">Unblock All</a> ]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Adult/Mature Content</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Legal/Questionable</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Proxy Avoidance</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Alcohol/Tobacco</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Intimate Apparel/Swimsuit</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Sex Education</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Cult/Ocult</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Nudity</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Spyware/Effects/Privacy Concerns</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Gambling</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Open Images/Media Search</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Spyware/Malware Sources</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Hacking</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Phishing</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Violence/Hate/Racism</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Illegal Drugs</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Pornography</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Weapons</a>
Other Categories		[ <a href="#">Block All</a> ]   [ <a href="#">Unblock All</a> ]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Abortion</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Government/Legal</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Restaurants/Dining/Food</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Arts/Entertainment</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Health</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Search Engines/Portals</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Auctions</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Homer/Justice</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Shopping</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Blogs/Newsgroups</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Job Search/Careers</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Society/Lifestyle</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Brokerage/Trading</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Military</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Software Downloads</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Business/Economy</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">News/Media</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Sports/Recreation/Hobbies</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Chat/Instant Messaging</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Online Games</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Streaming Media/MP3</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Computers/Internet</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Pay to Surf</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Travel</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Cultural Institutions</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Peer-to-Peer (P2P)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Vehicles</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Education</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Personals/Dating</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Web Advertisements</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Email</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Political/Activist Groups</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Web Communications</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Financial Services</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Real Estate</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Web Hosting</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">For Kids</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Reference</a>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Gay/Lesbian</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Religion</a>	
<b>Unrated Web Pages</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Enable Dynamic Real-Time Rating™ (DRTR)</a>		<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Block Unrated Web Pages</a>

**Figure 3** is the Setup Options area. The options in this area are:

- Web Categories to Block – Sets the categories to block. It offers several protection levels of filtering, or you can make a custom filtering level if you wish.
- Website Exceptions – Sets websites you always want to block or allow. (Those are bypassed from being filtered.)
- Web Search Options – Using Google SafeSearch™ will filter search results you get from Google. This will reduce the amount of adult material that is returned when you search with Google.
- Time Restrictions – Allows you to “turn on” or “turn off” the internet at half-hour intervals throughout the whole week. You can drag/select more than one block at a time to make setting it go a lot faster.
- Blocking Effects – Set other default options. If speakers are turned on, you can enable the program to “bark out loud” to let a nearby parent know their kids are trying to go to inappropriate sites. Also, there is a setting where if users go to too many blocked sites within a set time frame, it will deny internet access for a set period of time. (All are adjustable by the administrator.)
- URL Keywords – You can place words in a list so if that word shows up on a website, the page can be blocked, or the words on the site just won’t be shown when the page is displayed. (That will probably not work for words embedded in a graphic on a web page.)
- Change Password – Ditto...

There are two things you will want to keep in mind. First, any block or notification from the program on the user’s display can be overridden by an administrator’s password. (See **Figure 4.**)



## Category Blocked

The site you tried to visit belongs to a category that this computer is set to block.

<http://www.whitehouse.com/> is blocked because it is currently categorized as [Adult/Mature Content](#), [News/Media](#) and [Blogs/Newsgroups](#).

If you feel the categorization is INCORRECT, please report it via the [Incorrect Rating Form](#).

If you would like to change the categories that K9 blocks, you can do so [here](#).

**Administrator Override Options**

Action:

Next 15 minutes     Permanently

Administrator Password:

[\[ K9 Web Protection Administration \]](#)

If it is a questionable site, you can override it for 15 minutes and then it will go back to “blocked” status, or you can permanently permit it to be displayed. If you try to access the internet during a time of the day when time restrictions deny it, you can enable a temporary override for 15 minutes with the administrator’s password. Second, if you make any changes to any page in the Options area, *make sure* you click the “Save Changes” button on each menu or the changes won’t be saved. (It will remind you of that if you go to a different screen without saving.)

Overall, the parents’ computers that I’ve installed this program on have been very pleased with the results. They have broadband connections and could not tell any noticeable difference in their download speed. If you like this program, please spread the word about K9 Web Protection to all of your friends, parents, etc. who would benefit from content filtering software.

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## Are You "Compuliterate?"

by **Berry F. Phillips**, member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City and a regular writer for the CCOKC website and the eMonitor  
bfpdata(at)1access.net  
<http://www.ccokc.org>

"Compuliteracy" Test (unknown author)

1. Who invented the computer? Mr. Chips, E.T., Marquis de Sade.
2. What are microchips? What a herd of micros leave on the prairie, What you eat with a microdip, The reason you had to take all those computer literacy courses.
3. What is a floppy disk? A painful lower-back condition, An album that didn't sell, A great Frisbee.
4. What is the first thing you associate with computers? Bill Cosby commercials, Eyestrain & headaches, Annoying beeps, Three tons of printout where once there was a 3-page report, All of the above.
5. What is FORTRAN? Between 3 and 5 tran, How to get computers excited before interface, Ridiculous.
6. What is Pascal? A leafy vegetable, A foot fungus, A city in southern France, None of the above.
7. When you need consulting help in deciding what to do with your computer, which organization do you think of? IBM, FBI, PLO?
8. What is the most important computer peripheral? Bill Gates, Someone to operate the computer for you, Aspirin.

Some years ago, I was staring at a demo game computer with that blank stare of a computer illiterate in a large computer store. I felt a tug on my sleeve and there was a small lad who asked me rather impatiently, "Why don't you do something?" I confessed with great difficulty being an adult that I did not know what to do. This mini computer user said, "I will show you because I have this game at home." He began killing monsters right and left as I slunk out of the store in humiliation. I vowed from that day forward I would become computer literate because no eight year old was going to be more computer literate than I was!

I suspect you have some hands on computer experience since you are reading my column. Computer literacy is today a necessity when entering the job market. I remember when Time Magazine awarded the computer, their coveted Man of the Year which dramatically illustrated the incredible impact the personal computer has had on our contemporary society. Computer literacy does not mean you need to know everything about a com-

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puter but you should master the basics and understand how a computer works. I remember thinking that just because a person used a computer in a business that they must be computer literate. I discovered that many computer users only knew how to do limited applications necessary for them to do their specific work. Further, I noticed that many computer users due to lack of computer literacy were very limited in their use of their computers. Limited computer literacy usually translates into limited use of the computer never experiencing the full potential of the computer and maximizing their return on their computer investment.

What alternatives are available to accelerate one's level of computer literacy? Basic computer courses are offered by most continuing education programs. They are usually reasonably priced and conveniently scheduled. They can be found in your local school district, or community college on evenings and weekends. There are career retraining programs that often offer computer courses through your local Labor Department Office. There are also online courses and tutorials available and the public libraries have computers available to their patrons with Internet access.

I have found that computer clubs are an excellent choice for developing computer literacy since they are economical, and less theoretical and are more focused on how to operate the computer using various applications. Computer users helping other computer users move to the next level of computer literacy is an incredible learning and motivating experience. All of those who obtain computer literacy were once computer illiterates. As they were helped to reach computer literacy, they enjoy helping others as they were helped. You are never alone in your journey to reach computer literacy in a computer club; there is always another member to ask a question or to get hands on help. Many computer clubs have computer labs as does the Computer Club of Oklahoma City, [www.ccokc.org](http://www.ccokc.org) (405-843-4300) which is also affiliated with the national Senior Net Users Group and the Association of PC Users Groups. If you are not in the Oklahoma City area, please contact the Association of PC Users Groups, [www.apcug.org](http://www.apcug.org) (800-558-6867) to check on an affiliated computer club in your area .

The sole objective of computer clubs is to help each other to reach computer literacy. We often hear from our members who have achieved computer literacy how when they started they wondered how they would ever use a computer and now how they will ever get along without a computer! The transition from computer illiteracy to literacy is truly amazing. Our mission is to help each other reach computer literacy with a variety of proven classes that will get you up too speed as soon as possible. The Computer

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Club of Oklahoma City believes the only unintelligent question is the un-asked question! Obtaining computer literacy is not a luxury but an absolute necessity in our rapidly evolving technological society.

I hope that I remain "compuliterate" because those eight year olds are getting more and more "compuliterate" especially the older I get!

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## First Impressions – Office 2007 (Beta)


by **Ann Moore**, Member of the Topeka (Kansas) PC Users Club

<http://www.topekapcusersclub.org>

com\_muter1(at)cox.net


The deadline for submission of my monthly article is looming and I am still struggling to complete it. As the time draws nearer, our editor will bombard me with e-mails. I have a legitimate excuse but will he believe me when I tell him that I am tangled up in a Ribbon. Yes, the Microsoft Word 2007 Ribbon.

I had decided to compose this month's article using Microsoft Word 2007 Beta. When I

opened the program I was stunned.  What I was viewing did not in any way resemble the Microsoft Word that I had used for many years. Where to begin? My first thought was to seek Help. I pressed the blue button located IN THE RIGHT UPPER SCREEN AND IN MY TASK BAR APPEARED "Microsoft Help". It produced a drop down menu giving me four choices: Move, Size, Minimize, Maximize or Close. Where is that pesky paper clip when you need it?

I decided to start at the top left and work my way to my right. I clicked on the Office icon to open a new document. I went to Page Layout and I clicked on Margins. I selected the first which gave me a half inch around the page.

1. The font was set at Garamond 12 which was what I preferred. I clicked on something that gave me a request for borders which I did not want or need. nOW I have hit something that is causing this. (Placeholder1) Now what have I

done to get this?  I didn't want to number my paragraphs!

How did I get this Strike Through? All I want to do is get out of this dilemma.

I checked the Home box and find my font has been changed to Calibri (body) 12. I enter the font box to confirm the Garamond 12 setting. I would like to enter some SmartArt right about here here. Where did all those arrows come from? I am at the end of my patience and have accomplished nothing.

.. д€Ж £\$≠ Oh, Oh, no, I really didn't say that!!! I clicked on the F1 again –received the same four choices in color. I am **exhausted**. Microsoft, what have you done to me?



Why do I have these dots between every word? Will this torture never end?

**okay, now I will continue, but wait a minute.** What happened to my font? It was set at garamond 12. **Go back, stupid. Tuesday, August 08, 2006. Now what? I went back TO change the font. I think I hit the Increase Font size. I want to return to normal, whatever that is.**

**SOMETHING HAPPENED CHANGED MY FONT, AGAIN.** Under Home, there is a category marked Fonts. I clicked on it and was told that this command was temporarily disabled and I should click on F1 which brings up the Help menu giving the same four

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choices. I feel like I am in a Catch 22. I guess I should sign off for now.



X

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Ann Moore

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## **Microsoft Windows Vista**

**By Mike Moore**, President, Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, KY  
Webstar(at)hughes.net  
<http://www.bgamug.org/>

In many respects, Microsoft's dominance in the areas of Internet Browsers, Office Suites and of course Operating Systems is puzzling, at least in the past few years. Open Source software such as the free OpenOffice.org suite has come into its own and the latest Apple MacIntosh™ computers are brought to market with an operating system featuring iron-clad Unix underpinnings and a cheeky marketing campaign designed to turn PC users away from Windows.

And yet, due to the sheer number of PCs out there with Microsoft branding, Windows still commands a staggering market share, in spite of no major upgrades to either Internet Explorer or WindowsXP in 3 and 5 years, respectively.

Microsoft's answer to the rapidly changing personal computing scene has been a complete rethinking of Windows from the ground up.

Vista, a new operating system due out around January of 2007 and now in beta testing around the world, seeks to redesign the way we use computers, particularly internet and media-enabled computers. Previously code named "Longhorn," this release is about as far removed from XP as XP was from the old text-based DOS operating systems.

Although Microsoft is still hard at work finalizing the features of this blockbuster operating system, you can look forward to these new features, which will in most cases require a pretty beefy computer for support:

### **Aero**

Aero is the name given to a new and visually stunning 3-D like graphical interface, which is currently known as the Desktop and Windows Explorer. In Vista, Microsoft introduces the Desktop Window Manager that will feature new technologies for application developers, transparent window effects, animations and file previews that all told will knock your socks off. See some of the previews of this interface at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/> .

The full set of Aero features will be available on computers that support DirectX 9.0 and beefy video cards, so prepare to upgrade (and prepare to

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donate your existing computer to Gene Iglehart!)

## Security

Microsoft has completely turned internet security on its head in the new Vista vision, choosing to de-default a normal windows user to a limited access, virus-armored profile, as opposed to the current de-default of a normal user having unlimited rights to the file system. Users that require more permissions on their accounts will have to make conscious and hopefully well-informed efforts to undo the protection Vista has built in to each account.

## Quick Search

Windows 2000 and XP relied on indexed search techniques that were effective to a point, at a cost of much hard drive overhead and a key-word based search methodology. Vista takes this a quantum step farther and looks for both file content and something called meta-data, which will increase the relevancy of our searches for information on our machines, and will also help integrate local hard drive searches with internet searching.

For example, file name searches are often useless when looking in a directory of photographic image files where the digital camera has named them with non-descriptive serial-number like file names. Imagine describing a photograph to your computer and having it go out and look for, say, a photo with a white church steeple, or a recorded song file that sounds like a tune you hum into a microphone. With Vista and other search engine companies like Google, we are poised at the brink of an explosion in searchability – a good thing considering all of the information that is out there!

## WinFX

WinFX is an applications interface that supersedes the Win32 standard introduced in 1993. An Applications Programming Interface (API) is a set of standards and library routines that serve to control Windows – everything from the way applications are installed to all of the various standard ways in which a program can manipulate a window. The API is the way that many thousands of programs, hardware drivers and video games are able to communicate with Windows without Microsoft having to license the Windows operating secrets to each vendor. If you think of each way in which a particular windows feature can be controlled as being closed black box, the API standards are the knobs, buttons and dials on that box. WinFX means that developers with designs for software that is to run under Vista ought to be ready to study hard, because WinFX changes everything. The new API also means that we are bidding goodbye to our beloved DOS command line

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pretty much for good, running Vista.

As different as WinFX is, it should be thought of as a superset of Win32, which means that we won't necessarily have to buy all new software, at least not right away.

WindowsXP is my favorite operating system to date, and I predict that Microsoft will have to float some pretty good deals, and computer vendors will need to price sharply to get mainstream users to up-grade. Computer experimenters, those individuals that get really steamed when their cousin gets a faster computer than they have, will likely upgrade immediately, and hopefully BGAMUG will be able to refurbish what equipment they cast off in the quest for Vista!

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# Digital Resolution Made Confusing

By Dave Chrestenson,

Member of the Fox Valley PC Association, Illinois  
Digital Photographer/Hobbyist

There seems to be a plethora of articles on the number of pixels required to create your photos to their full glory. Many of the articles disagree with each other and some are mystifying (to say the least); occasionally a few are wrong. So here I will approach it from a different point of view, I'll give you the knowledge and let you decide what you need. Ready? Here we go!

Let's start with some facts. (I'll reconsider these later, but we have to start somewhere.) First, the average eye, relaxed, focuses at a distance of about fifteen inches. So that's about the distance people view their prints.

Second, the angle of comfortable vision (not acute) is generally agreed to be about fifty to fifty-five degrees. Beyond that is peripheral vision. Now, fifty degrees at fifteen inches subtends a distance of about thirteen inches, just covering the diagonal of an 8x10. Is it any wonder that size is so popular?

And third, the typical eye has a resolution of about one minute of angle. This works out, at fifteen inches, to about .004 inches, or approximately 229 dots in an inch. (For purposes of clarity I will use the term pixels when referring to the camera sensor and dots when referring to the print. But in this discussion they can be considered equivalent. (Don't compare this with the resolution (normally also referred to as dots) of printers. They are completely different animals. (Subject for another article?))

For convenience and to assure a tolerance, for now let's round that up to 300 dpi. This means that we need 300 dpi (at 15 inches) on the paper to assure that we won't see individual dots. Now, it's easy enough to work backwards from there. Assume that we wish to print an 8x10. Ten inches across at 300 dpi is 3000 dots. Eight inches down at 300 dpi is 2400 dots. So we need a camera of 3000 x 2400 pixels, or 7.2 meg. (This is assuming a camera with square pixels, not all have that, the Fuji S3 for example has hexagonal pixels, two sizes, no less. (Subject for still another article?)) Simple huh? Maybe.

But let's try another example first. Assume you just want to print a picture half that size, 4 x 5 is more common. Then 4 times 300 equals 1200 and 5 times 300 equals 1500, so our camera need only be 1.8 meg. That's not so bad, is it? But before you dash right out to buy a 2 meg camera on sale,

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let's take a look at some of those original figures.

I said that the average eye views an image at 15 inches. That's an "average" eye. It can vary from that... a lot. Depending on age, it can go from 3 inches (a youngster) to more than 6 feet. (An old timer.) And that's for an eye that's working well. Near-sighted? You'll hold the picture closer. (Assuming you don't wear correction lenses, of course.) Far-sighted? Further away. Have astigmatism? A mess! So, if you hold your picture at 7.5 inches, you will need twice the number of pixels, or 600, per inch. An 8x10 would require a 28.8 meg camera. Good grief! Thirty inches viewing distance is a lot easier, a 1.8 meg one will do the job. Also, some eyes can see significantly better than one minute of angle, some can reach ½ minute. That's even worse, you need 600 dpi at 15 inches, which means we're back to a 28.8 meg camera for an 8x10, and a 7.2 meg one for a 4x5. But you can do the math. And do you really need to have the dots as small as theory suggests? Well, to make it more confusing, there are other considerations that affect that. Bright lighting needs higher resolution, dim lighting needs less. Glossy paper? Higher resolution. Matt paper, less. High contrast image, more, low contrast, less. Ad infinitum.

Finally, what if you have taken the definitive photo of Yosemite, the one to equal Ansel Adams, and you want to have it printed at, say, 16x20 and frame it. Do you still need 300 dpi? Probably not. After all, people don't normally hold a 16x20 in their hands and look at it from 15 inches. Remember the 50 degree vision. So, you'll probably be hanging it on the wall, where they will view it from a distance. Experience shows that people will move backward or forward when viewing a picture until it subtends that 50 degree angle. So you might well get away with 150 dpi.

But, getting back to the more normal usage, handheld prints, do you need 300 dpi there? Again, maybe. In many cases you may get away with less. But if you go below 150 dpi you are almost certain to get obvious visual pixilation at that distance. Of course, Photoshop to the rescue, you can re-sample upwards and increase the number of pixels to what works. You're not adding detail, but at least you're getting rid of those annoying "jaggies."

Clear? I didn't think so. Remember, I said "Made Confusing." But at least you are now confused on a much higher plane! Good luck.

*Editor's comments: Dave has presented several programs over the years*

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*that have gone into great detail on various aspects of digital photography. From cameras and lenses and from basic photo software to the flagship of the genre: Adobe Photoshop. His knowledge has always impressed me and we always enjoy his point of view on this topic. He presented a program last month: "Pursuing the Path From Pixels to Pictures, " which could have easily gone late into the afternoon. All present enjoyed his program. Thanks Dave!*

*Jon Jackman*

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## **My Spyware**

**By Sandy Berger**, Compu-KISS

[www.compukiss.com](http://www.compukiss.com)

[sandy\(at\)compukiss.com](mailto:sandy(at)compukiss.com)

Everyone has computer woes...even me. Last week my office computer slowed to a crawl when accessing anything on the office network or on the Internet. It was so slow that I was anxious to begin troubleshooting.

Since we had recently moved to a new office, the first suspect was the network cabling. I replaced cables on both ends and used my laptop to confirm that the network was fine. It was obvious that something in my computer was the problem. So the first order of business was to scan for viruses. Since I always use an up-to-date antivirus program, keep my operating system patched, and don't open uninvited attachments, I felt my computer was probably virus-free. The virus scan confirmed that my problem was caused by something other than a virus.

My next thought was that I probably had some spyware in my computer. These unwanted programs infiltrate computers without the user's knowledge. They can wreck havoc with a computer. So I ran a spyware detection program named *Ad-Aware* ([www.adaware.com](http://www.adaware.com)). This is a free program that I have used for years with good results. This time, it didn't find anything. So I turned to another favorite...*Spybot Search and Destroy* ([www.spybot.com](http://www.spybot.com)). Another free program, *Spybot* has turned up much spyware in the past. Yet, even though I updated both of these programs before I scanned my computer, neither found any spyware.

Now I had a dilemma. Since I could not find the problem, my next step might have to be reformatting my hard drive and reinstalling all the programs. In trying to avoid that time-consuming hassle, I decided to try one more spyware program. On my desktop I had two additional free spyware tools that I downloaded for review but had never used before: AOL's *Automatic Spyware Protection* (<http://daol.aol.com/safetycenter/spyware>) and Microsoft's *Window's Defender* ([www.windowsdefender.com](http://www.windowsdefender.com)).

I decided to start with the AOL program. The scan was faster than either *Ad-Aware* or *Spybot*, and it unearthed several pieces of spyware that were not detected by the previous programs. I clicked the button that said "Eliminate Spyware" and my work was done. My computer was immediately back to normal.

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It's unbelievable that I would have to use three programs to find the nasty spyware that was causing my problem, but this is the situation in today's spyware-infested computer world. The bad guys are always trying to stay one step ahead of the good guys and in some cases, they are obviously succeeding.

If you want to add the AOL software to your arsenal of anti-spyware tools, it is a simple download at the AOL Safety and Security Center at <http://daol.aol.com/safetycenter/spyware>. You will need to get a free AOL screen name before you download the software by entering your name, address, telephone, email, and date of birth. Be careful to download only what you need. AOL will offer you virus protection, a firewall, and an email program in addition to the spyware software. These may or may not be valuable to you. I checked out the free AOL *Active Virus Shield* software which you can download at [www.activevirusshield.com](http://www.activevirusshield.com). This program is powered by Kaspersky Lab, one of the largest anti-virus providers, and has garnered good reviews. It is an excellent choice if you are looking for a free anti-virus program. AOL's free email program, however, is probably not as good as the email program you are already using.

Since my spyware detection encounter, I have also tried the Microsoft *Window's Defender* anti-spyware program and I liked it as well. A year ago I would have scoffed at anyone using more than one or two anti-spyware programs, but perhaps in today's computer environment, it's not overkill to have four anti-spyware programs!

Sandy Berger, The Compu-KISS® Lady...nationally respected computer authority, journalist, media guest, speaker, and author is a seasoned 30-year computer expert. Sandy is a consumer advocate promoting simplicity, ease-of-use, and stability in consumer technology products. She works with hardware and software developers to help them make their products more user-friendly.

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## ACPCUG Club News

*AKRON MAIN Library*

*Maps & Description on ACPCUG Website, [www.acpcug.org](http://www.acpcug.org)*

**NOTE TIME is back to 6:00PM!** This is because while free parking starts after 6:00 PM, you get your parking ticket stamped by security and the first hour is free anytime. **This is a policy change**, and for the better! So meetings again start at 6:00 PM. Just don't forget to have your ticket punched (.err stamped).

FROM North or South on Rt. 8 freeway: Exit *West* on Perkins Street going down the hill to a third light on **High Street (one-way going South, left)**. Cross E. Market and *immediately* look for parking building entrance on your right. Go down to lower level for indoor connection to library.

**NOTE:** October is the month to nominate officers! Two board members' terms are expiring. Only one, Walt Ruthenburg is willing to serve. Please have a nomination for someone (or yourself) who agrees to serve.

Club Officers area code 330, unless noted otherwise			
<b>President</b>	Frank Ramsey (2007)	699-4711	<a href="mailto:af Ramsey@yahoo.com">af Ramsey@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Special Projects</b>	Stu Barnes (2008)	864-9338	<a href="mailto:picture_professor@hotmail.com">picture_professor@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Walt Ruthenburg (2006)	283-7867	<a href="mailto:wruthenburg@usa.net">wruthenburg@usa.net</a>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Rick Beech (2006)	620-3461	<a href="mailto:rpbeech@hotmail.com">rpbeech@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jim Albright (2008)	923-8686	<a href="mailto:jra823a@usa.com">jra823a@usa.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Art McRowe	666-3189	<a href="mailto:acpcugnews@yahoo.com">acpcugnews@yahoo.com</a>
<b>VP</b>	Dave Bohm (2007)	762-6745	<a href="mailto:bohm320@aol.com">bohm320@aol.com</a>