

Published by The ROCKLAND PC USERS GROUP, July 2008

JULY MEETING: Please join us for the joint General Meeting of the Rockland & Westchester PC Users Groups on Tuesday, July 8th, 2008, at 7:15 PM, in the RASO Community Room, fourth floor, Palisades Center Mall, West Nyack, NY. Introductory remarks and audience question and answer session will be followed by a presentation at 8 PM. Expand your computer knowledge by attending the Rockland PC Users Group meeting.

Heather Little has been with PINNACLE SYSTEMS for seven years and has over 11 years experience in the professional non-linear editing sales field. She is currently managing Pinnacle's largest retail customers; Best Buy and Circuit City among others, and manages the Canadian retail channel. In her role as a Senior Sales Manager for Pinnacle Systems, Heather interacts with her customers at the highest levels and manages the variety of Pinnacle products found at retail. In her spare time, Heather is one of the many Pinnacle employees who use Pinnacle Studio for personal video projects. Between traveling for work and play, Heather can be found in her backyard, skipping stones on her private creek with her two toddlers.

GET INSPIRED! Creating Hollywood-like movies is easy with Pinnacle Studio v11. We will take a closer look at this award-winning software, explore some of the advanced features and create a short movie project together. We will also take an introductory look at other great products from Pinnacle that let you view and share digital content in more ways than ever before. You have the content and the tools; now get inspired. The only limit is your imagination!

Just a few of their innovative products: Pinnacle Studio[™] v12, PCTV HD Ultimate Stick, Pinnacle Video Transfer.

AUGUST MEETING: Joint meeting with the Westchester PC Users Group. Virtual PC 2007, Tuesday, August 12, 7:15 PM, Raso Room, Palisades Mall, West Nyack, NY.

Richard Nayman, WPCUG's new president, will educate and entertain you at the joint August 2008 General Meeting. If you want to get started on Virtualization, Virtual PC 2007, now available free from Microsoft, will get you going with this hot new technology.

Come see this presentation for yourself! Richard is a self-employed computer consultant, who loves to tackle the most difficult computer problems. He has been a member of WPCUG since 1991.

THE AUGUST MEETING INCLUDES OUR ANNUAL SWAP MEET SETUP IS AT 7 PM. BRING YOUR STUFF, WE HAVE TABLES!



MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC *with newcomers especially welcome. For directions and up-to-date meeting information, visit RPCUG's Website at* www.rpcug.org

Web sites EDITOR'S PICKS:

SAY NO TO 72 DPI interesting info about image resolution www.scantips.com/no72dpi.html

SCARED SAFE: Life's Little Identity Theft Prevention Handbook www.identityfinder.com/scaredsafe

NEWER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER: 6 upgrades that are downgrades; http://tinyurl.com/3xfbnh

WORLD STATISTICS IN REAL TIME www.poodwaddle.com/clocks2.htm

WI-FI DETECTING T-SHIRT - REALLY! http://tinyurl.com/2ua3gc

COUNT THE MILES How far have you walked? www.gmap-pedometer.com

GOT A FAVORITE? email the editor! ed@rpcug.org



THE ROCKLAND PC USERS GROUP

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Marian Baade / ed@rpcug.org

The Purpose of the Group:

To exchange computer-related ideas and information among its members; to engage in computer-related activities for the benefit of the membership and the community at large; to increase understanding and utilization of the personal computer; to provide an opportunity for the formation of special interest groups (SIGs), to provide a medium for the exchange and propagation of public domain software, freeware, and shareware. -(From the RPCUG Constitution & Bylaws)

MEETING SCHEDULE

GENERAL MEETING 7:15 PM **MULTIMEDIA WORKSHOP** 6:00 PM Tuesday, July 8th, 2008 The Palisades Center Community Room Palisades Center Mall, West Nyack, NY

Multi-Media Workshop meets on the second Tuesday of the month, prior to the general meeting at 6:00 PM in the Raso Room in the Palisades Mall, West Nyack

Windows XP Workshop

meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Pearl River Room at the Pearl River Library, 7-8:45 PM.

The Executive Board meets last Thursday of the month West Nyack Library, 7:00 PM

The Rockland PC Users Group, a tax-exempt educational organization, meets monthly, usually on the second Tuesday. Meetings begin at 7:15 PM. The latest information about meeting programs and dates is available on the Internet at http://www.rpcug.org



The 2008 APCUG Regional Conference:

Some Personal Impressions

By Ray Polivka

As a member of the MHCUG group to the two day APCUG regional conference, I would like to add my impressions.

The first day was largely devoted to providing material and information to enhance local user groups.

One of the interesting early events was a real time video conversation with a former APCUG president now house bound in Oklahoma. The connection used Verizon, Skype Wimax and other current technology. This is an illustration of the nature of future vendor presentations to clubs like ours.

Dick Kranz, our club president, spoke about how to promote a group. The term group was apropos in that the list of things he mentioned really could apply to many nonprofit organizations. Following along in that vein, a lawyer addressed in detail how to setup and maintain a nonprofit organization. He was quite specific even down to the proper way to sign documents and letters. His presentation dovetailed nicely into the following talk by a young lady from the IRS. Her opening summary slides defined what she covered. The topics were

- The major distinctions between Tax exempt and Non profit
- The major types of exempt organizations
- The benefit of being tax-exempt
- The major types of public charities
- The actions which will jeopardize a taxexempt status

I especially found it interesting in that she said that organizations should keep their documents forever especially the original determination letter. You will never get another one. With respect to the club doing any political activity – don't. (Lobbying was acceptable – Now who was I telling you to vote for?)

Russ Limbaugh, the president of the Danbury Area Computer Group, described the results of a Focus Group exercise that they did. Again he was quite specific. Some of the points he made were:

- Make joining and staying easy
- Create and manage membership online
- Their group valued "networking" over "socializing"
- People were looking for "professional," "networking," and "technical" fulfillment
- The newsletter should feature articles over promoting the next meeting
- Offer new SIGs, workshops, and seminars Dick Kranz concluded the first day by having us jointly summarize the events of the day to determine what we retained and learned. Since time ran out on the first day, at the conclusion of the second day a fine presentation on fund-raising was presented.

To me one of the highlights of the whole weekend was the presentation given under the somewhat misleading general title, "Community Service Projects build Membership." This talk gave us an in depth view of the very successful project, PC Renew. PC Renew is a project done by the Rockland PC Users Group. What do they do? They

- Collect donated computer equipment,
- Do technical refurbishing of the donated equipment
- Dispose of stripped down parts,
- Deliver and setup refurbished computers, and
- Provide computer skills training.

They do all this in a very professional and detailed manner. They rebuild, quality test, serial number, distribute, and track the computers and then train persons when necessary. To date, they have distributed over 2,500 computers. The range of people and organizations who have received them include.

- Disabled or handicapped persons
- Low income families
- Other nonprofits (501 C 3)
- Schools
- Libraries
- Day Care Centers
- Veterans and their families
- Homeless shelters and soup kitchens.



I was very impressed. One lady who came just to personally thank the director of this effort, Hank Feinberg for the 21 PCs they contributed to an Indian reservation in North Dakota. He warned anyone who considered doing such an effort; think tonnage. While user groups such as MHCUG probably could not undertake such an operation, perhaps we could funnel equipment to them...Hank opened his presentation with the quote by Mohammed Ali, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room on Earth."

You had to be impressed by the operation. I certainly was.

Yes, there were other interesting presentations. Al squared, Pinnacle, Microsoft and others made presentations or were at the small vendor fair. There were the standard raffles and giveaways. (My wife asked – "Do you really need another T-shirt?")

I must conclude with one personal note. The Microsoft presenter really caught my attention with something he just showed in passing. He illustrated a small application just written by a fellow Microsoft person. With it he was able to enlarge the screen, draw on it creating straight lines and pointers. This twitched the educator in me. Since it was a freebie I asked him to send me a copy. He said he would that night and he did. Now this is a very new package having been created in March. So it was not surprising that I had some trouble starting it. I asked him for some help I received a very prompt reply to my inquiry in the next day e-mail. His instructions were very detailed. I am now exploring and yes debugging this package too. I was very pleased by his prompt and knowledgeable response.

Overall, the conference was quite worth attending even with the early morning risings. I was very grateful for being able to car pool with David Dunlap!

Good information from "Dear Abby"

PROGRAM GIVES RETURNING VETS FREE COMPUTER SKILLS TRAINING

ABBY: Please help me alert your readers about an important program launched by companies in the information technology (IT) industry to educate, train, certify and provide job placement assistance for returning veterans. Military who successfully complete the Creating Futures program will have the knowledge and skill level they need to start a rewarding career in IT.

Creating Futures is free for all participants. The cost is covered by organizational sponsors such as HP, Xerox and Ricoh. The Creating Futures program is tailored to help individuals with various levels of skill. Individuals who have honed their computer skills in the military will be taught how to transfer those skills to civilian life, and those who are new to IT will be taught the basic skills they need to pursue a career in information technology. Returning veterans, people with disabilities, youth-at- risk and dislocated workers interested in participating in the program should visit

http://www.creatingfutures.us for information on how to participate.

-John Venator, Computer Technology Industry Assoc.

JOHN: Thank you for bringing this to the attention of my readers. I'm sure many individuals in each of the categories you mentioned will be interested in learning more about the Creating Futures program.

Readers, as workers in the baby boom generation begin retiring, they will leave a significant gap in the talent pool of the technology industry. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that there will be 600,000 more jobs than available employees in the IT industry by 2012. This could be opportunity knocking, so please spread the word.

We'd like to produce this newsletter on a regular basis, but HELP is needed. THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER. Do a software review, send a cartoon or an article you've read, or write one yourself. Don't worry about grammar or spelling - that's what editors are for. Let us know what you can contribute! We are also going to accept ads from those of our members who own small businesses or supply consulting services. Please email your information to the editor: ed@rpcug.org. We hope to hear from you!

Message From The President

COME OUT AND "JOIN THE FUN!"

hen I took over as President of RPCUG in 2000, I never thought that 8 years later I would still be writing this "Message from the President."

I would like to thank my fellow officers and the Board of Directors, without them I would not still be here writing this letter. We have made many decisions over the years that affect the operation and function of the Group. The one thing that I can truly say is that they were always made with the best interest of the Group in mind.

At the General Meeting in June we held our annual elections and I am proud to announce the results.

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Board of Directors:
Membership
Webmaster

Tom Humeston Thea Zendell Mike Saccardo

Ken Herbig

Frank Palmeri Steve Weinberg

PC Renew Newsletter Editor Public Relations Member at Large Data Base Windows Workshop Reviews Librarian Intergroup Liaison

Hank Feinberg Marian Baade Sy Berber & Ella Hill Aaron Distler Gary Fitzgerald Steve Dombrowsky Roberta Mikkelsen Alain Lajoux Jack Marsella

I would like to welcome Aaron Distler and Ella Hill as new members of the Board. It takes the work of many people to keep our club going. We have 12 monthly meetings, workshops, PC Renew, classes at various libraries throughout Rockland and Orange Counties and liaison work with several national organizations. We have been regionally awarded by government and non profits and nationally recognized by other member groups for our project PC Renew as a "model program" to be cloned in other communities.

We are always trying to find ways to improve the programs we present and need the participation of everyone. When I became President I created the slogan "Join the Fun!" that is what the RPCUG is about: an organization that people come to share with their friends, build friendships, learn and give back to our community in many ways. Join the fun in the coming year and get involved. Tell your neighbors and friends about us.

The upcoming year should be a great one.

"Join the Fun!"

Ken Herbig, President



ASP.Net "How Do I" Video Center

Aspiring or experienced web developers who utilize the Microsoft Visual Studio/Express ASP.Net development tools now have another learning tool at their disposal. Microsoft has launched their new How Do I Video Center for ASP.Net developers

(http://msdn2.microsoft.Com/ en-us/asp.net/bb498194.aspx).

This site is targeted at beginners, but experienced developers may be able to pick up a trick or two. These video range from brief ~5 minutes to in depth ~30 minutes, so if you are looking for a how to, this is an excellent resource.

> by Jason Faulkner, reprinted from http://www.pcdailytips

Drive-by Downloads:

Viruses, malware, spyware, trojan horses and worms and all free of charge!

There has been a rise in the number of infections in the last few months. Now you don't even have to open an email attachment. Just go to a website and it's yours—*free.*

From Wikipedia, "the free encyclopedia:"

The expression drive-by download is used in three increasingly strict meanings:

- 1. Any download that happens without knowledge of the user.
- 2. Download of spyware, a computer virus or any kind of malware that happens without knowledge of the user. Drive-by downloads may happen by visiting a website, viewing an e-mail message or by clicking on a deceptive popup window: the user clicks on the window in the mistaken belief that, for instance, it is an error report from his own PC or that it is an innocuous advertisement popup; in such cases, the "supplier" may claim that the user "consented" to the download though he was completely unaware of having initiated a malicious software download.
- 3. Download of malware through exploitation of a web browser, e-mail client or operating system bug, without any user intervention whatsoever. Websites that exploit the Windows Metafile vulnerability may provide examples of "drive-by downloads" of this sort.

To help protect against these unwanted problems, keep your computer up-to-date. Install all Windows upgrades as they become available. Microsoft usually broadcasts its major updates on the second Tuesday of every month. Of course, Windows isn't perfect, so you may receive others at any time. The main thing is to run the updates and stay current.

There are many others, such as virus and spyware programs, that issue periodic upgrade alerts, so be aware of the alerts as they pop up on your screen and take the time to upgrade your programs. It may be the difference between safe surfing or reformatting. Remember, your best defense is a good offense! Don't procrastinate! Make the time and run those updates immediately.

For more info, go to:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drive-by_download

SAFE SURFING!



You don't need a computer, an Internet connection, or even the keypad on your phone or mobile device. GOOG-411 is voice-activated, so you can access it from any phone (mobile or land line), in any location, at any time. For free.

Dial (1-800) GOOG-411. Say where. Say what you're looking for. GOOG-411 will connect you with the business you choose. If you are calling from a mobile device, GOOG-411 can even send you a text message with more details and a map. Simply say "Text message" or "Map it." Google Health puts you in charge of your health information. It's safe, secure, and free.

- Organize your health information all in one place
- Gather your medical records from doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies
- Keep your doctors up-to-date about your health
- Be more informed about important health issues

Google stores your information securely and privately. We will never sell your data. You are in control. You choose what you want to share and what you want to keep private. View our privacy policy to learn more.

https://www.google.com/health

PC Re-News

Sometimes in life we do things that do make a difference.

PC Renew has made a difference in many lives. When it all started no one knew what course it would take or what it would evolve into. Now we know for a fact that it has made a difference and hopefully it will continue to become a force of its own. I have not been involved in the rebuilding of computers in the lab in New City, but I have been working at home reconditioning and upgrading laptops that have been donated to us.

A few months ago I had the fortune of being able to make a difference in an Indian reservation in South Dakota. The following article is a written account of what happens when people communicate and work toward a common goal.

Article printed with permission from Changing Winds Advocacy Center:

On March 20, Randolph SanMillan was listening to WBAI's First Nations Indigenous Radio show in New York City and heard about some of the problems Native American children were facing in South Dakota. Christine Rose of Changing Winds Advocacy Center spoke also about the cultural revitalization going on with some of the tribes on the country's most remote reservations in South Dakota. In particular, The Boys and Girls Clubs of Rosebud had been given an old bowling alley to refurbish. With a minimum of funds, many of their plans simply included getting new sheetrock, floors and decent plumbing. But in Indian Country, the moccasin telegraph is still pretty good technology and when Christine heard about the efforts, she called them and asked if they would like a library. They were thrilled and added, "We are also hoping to get some computers. Can you help with that too?"

The radio show helped Changing Winds promote the need for books and culturally appropriate teaching materials. While Randolph was listening to the show, he perused Changing Winds website and saw the request for computers. He spoke with his friend and co-worker Ken Herbig. Ken, president of the Rockland PC

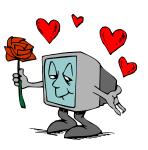


Jacinda Begay Hacker, Lakota, from the Rosebud Reservation, said that the computers will be split between three locations of Boys and Girls Clubs, and that they will be used at first for teaching culture and language classes, enabling the children to practice their original language which is in jeopardy of being lost. Beyond the culture classes, Changing Winds is organizing for teachers of various trades and crafts to journey to the reservation this summer to teach the children various ways in which they can earn a living without leaving their land, family and traditions. Economic development is very slim on the reservations in SD, and learning trades such as building websites, graphic design, even accounting, will empower all of the youth to earn a living, and connect them to the world beyond their distant borders.

I hope that we will be able to help these children more in the near future. I am sure that you have heard the term "Paying Forward"...This is what PC Renew is all about.

Thank you all for allowing me to be part of this! (See picture on back page) —Ken

We have just been told that an article about our work with the Indians in South Dakota has been written by Rob Zopf, VP National Cristina Foundation, and will be sent to over 5,000 people on their partners list in the next month. It is the collective work of all the people involved with PC ReNew that makes this project so worthwhile. We can all make a difference in some way. —Hank



BILL GATES AND WINDOWS XP: Good Night and Good Luck

Microsoft marks the end of an era as Bill Gates and Windows XP — two icons of the company at its zenith — head for the sunset. Can Redmond survive this transitional moment, or will June 30 be the day Microsoft died?

That Gates and XP are exiting simultaneously is fitting. Both are poster children for a style of computing that is fading, literally, into the clouds. Both also represent a late '90s to mid-oughts Camelot period that Microsoft may never recapture.

In his various roles at Microsoft — as CEO, chief software architect, and, lastly, chairman — Gates championed a PC-centric view of computing in which the desktop was king and the operating system was the brains of the whole operation. And under Gates, Microsoft utterly dominated personal computing with its DOS and Windows systems.

Windows XP was the best of the bunch. Reliable, relatively secure, and easy to use, XP may go down in history as the last, best OS for the client-server world. XP does everything an OS needs to do to facilitate traditional, networked computing. Indeed, its utilitarian excellence left Microsoft with nowhere to go. As a result, the failure of the widely maligned Vista OS was almost preordained. All of Vistas bells and whistles — like the silly, Flip 3D interface — are merely subtraction by addition to a Windows environment that didn't need any more tinkering. As long as client-server was the dominant computing model, that is.

But its days are numbered. Moving forward, computing will be all about the Web as a platform for tapping applications and services. It's a scenario that's been dubbed cloud computing. Fat OSs, like Vista, and even XP, are overkill when it comes to the cloud. Cloud computing is all about fat pipes and distributed processing power. Thin operating systems that quietly, and modestly, direct traffic while running in the background will be all that's required locally.

Read my blog to understand why future operating systems will be judged like NBA refs, and let me know what you think.

Paul McDougall www.informationweek.com

CAMPAIGN SEEKS TO SAVE WINDOWS XP

A San Francisco editor for a popular tech site says he is leading a campaign to stop Microsoft from discontinuing sales of Windows XP this week. Galen Gruman, an executive editor of Web site InfoWorld, said his online petition urging Microsoft not to discontinue sales of XP to retailers and major PC manufacturers, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported Monday.

Microsoft released Windows Vista as a successor to XP last year, but Gruman said he and others have resisted the upgrade. "I think the issue is that it's not meaningfully better than XP," Gruman said. He said Vista's improvements in security and other areas are not significant enough to justify the inconveniences involved in switching to Vista, including several technical glitches found in early versions and the system's steep hardware requirements. Microsoft has said there will be some exceptions to its ban on XP sales, including deals made with manufacturers of computers that do not meet the system requirements for Vista. Security updates and other software for the operating system will continue to be produced through 2014, the company said.

Gruman said he plans to mail a printed version of the online petition to the home of Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer.

"Maybe the big stack of paper will drive it home," Gruman said.

One more opinion...

"Windows Could Use a Rush of Fresh Air" http://tinyurl.com/67j5ef

SOFTWARE available for REVIEW

Email Roberta at Reviews@rpcug.org or Ken at President@rpcug.org

- Flashpaste Professional is a clever little utility that lets you make a boilerplate text you would normally type manually, save it to a mini-database and paste it automatically into any document. Softvoile: http://softvoile.com
- ✓ Axialis IconWorkshop[™] 6.10 is the newest version of its award-winning tool for authoring icons for Windows and Macintosh platforms.
 Axialis Software www.axialis.com
- Easy Photo Recovery 1.5, the latest version of a highly acclaimed software tool for restoring lost data from various multimedia devices
 ObjectRescue: www.easyphotorecovery.com
- ✓ ForexTester 1.11 An easy-to-use application lets you prepare yourself for Forex market conditions by playing various market scenarios, either in real time or at a modified speed level, giving you a chance to practice an unlimited number of "buy & sell" strategies and view their results. *Forex Tester Software:* www.forextester.com

- ClipMate 7.2 a Windows productivity tool that turns the under-powered Windows clipboard into a graphics and text powerhouse. Users can organize, view, manage, search and edit their clips using a familiar interface that is similar to Windows Explorer. And now they can take ClipMate with them, on any removable drive equipped with the U3 Smart Launchpad or the PortableApps.com menu. *Thornsoft*: www.thornsoft.com
- Titan Backup v. 1.2 a powerful Windows application that makes it easy for businesses to create backups of their critical files and folders. Unlike backup programs that are too complicated or too cumbersome to use, Titan Backup's Wizard makes it easy to create and schedule backups of important data

Neobyte Solution: www.titanbackup.com

✓ FreewareWise Registry Cleaner 2.8 This is a freeware tool that enables users to clean the Windows Registry safely and quickly.

Wise Cleaner: www.wisecleaner.com Direct download link: www.wisecleaner.com/WRCSetup.exe

WANT TO JOIN THE GROUP? HERE'S HOW!

Bring your completed application and a check payable to RPCUG to a meeting or mail your application and check to: RPCUG at PO Box 802, New City, NY 10956. (PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION)

Name	E-mail Address
Address	Spouse's Name (if joint membership)
Day Phone:	Spouse's E-mail address
Evening Phone:	Children's Names (for Family Membership)
COUNTY-WE	



Kids on the South Dakota reservation use computers supplied by PC ReNew

