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Minolta Presents DIGITAL IMAGING

Please join us for the next GENERAL MEETING of the Rockland PC Users Group on Tuesday, November 13th, 2001, at 7:15 PM, in the RASO Community Room, fourth floor, Palisades Center Mall, West Nyack, NY.

Minolta has created a new generation of products with technological innovations that computer enthusiasts fully expect. The new DiMAGE family of digital products feature Minolta's new technological developments designed to provide high-quality images as well as a wide array of digital functions for creative photography. Minolta will be presenting their DiMAGE family of digital products including the crown jewel of digital cameras, the DiMAGE 7, with super high image quality, born of a 5.24 mega-pixel 2/3 CCD, and Minolta's proprietary CxProcess for Clear and Excellent image processing. Additionally, the DiMAGE 5 and the DiMAGE S304, which both produce 3.34 mega-pixels, but satisfy users with different levels of photographic expertise. From Minolta's line of digital film scanners, will be presenting the DiMAGE Scan Dual II. With the ability to scan 35mm negatives, positives, and APS film, a maximum resolution of 2820 dpi, and the ease of USB connectivity, this affordable scanner produces detailed digital images that are out of this world!



MINOLTA

Join The Fun!

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

Message from the President

The Holiday season is almost here. With all that has taken place in past couple of months, it is important for us to begin the rebuilding process.

I am not speaking of steel and mortar, but rather of our thoughts and feelings. We have all been affected by the events of September 11th, some of us more than others. At our last general meeting, I spoke to many that lost friends or neighbors in the attack. While speaking to them, I realized that there was nothing I could say that would help. I knew that listening was the best thing I could do. I know that it is difficult to talk about, but we must. I have always found that verbalizing anger and fear helps the healing process. I am not saying that we should try to forget it, on the contrary. Together we can move on to the next process...Living!

For those of you that were not able to join us for the October general meeting, I am sorry to say - you missed a good one!. PC-Renew began the healing process in their own way. They made a formal presentation of their first "refurbished" PC's to recipients from Project Next Steps and Cassandra Edwards, from the Spring Valley Commons. Also present was New York State Assemblyman Alex Gromack, who took time out of his busy schedule to acknowledge the efforts of our Group. I personally want to thank everyone for their hard work and devotion to this great project.

Keeping with the Holiday spirit, we will be giving away some really great stuff again this month. The featured product in our door prize drawing will be the **USB Ezonics EZCam II**. If you have always wanted one of those little view cameras on top of your monitor, now is your chance. We will also have many other great prizes, so come out and **"Join the Fun!"**

Windows 98/ME SIG will be held on Tuesday, November 20th, in the Pearl River Library, from 7:00pm – 8:45pm. We will be looking into Windows secrets and undocumented features.



Multi-Media SIG will be canceled for this month.

This month's General Meeting will feature **Minolta Corporation**. Cheryl Bucko will be demonstrating their latest digital camera, the DiIMAGE 7 and their latest digital film scanner, the DiIMAGE Scan Dual II. I am looking forward to this presentation. I have always felt that their products are second to none.

Hope to see you all at the General Meeting.

Remember...A Group is only as good as its members!



Ken

FAREWELL TO STAN SMITH

A short time after I became president of RPCUG, we held an award ceremony for a Past President of the Group, Stan Smith. I had heard a lot about Stan, but I had never met him or his wife Maria until that night. I am sure that everyone will remember the members coming up and telling their personal stories about his impact on their lives. What a great night it was.

I am sorry to inform you that Stan Smith passed away on October 21. A memorial service was held at the Higgins Funeral Home in New City on Saturday November 3rd.

Stan's wife Maria asked that contributions to be made in his memory to:
The American Diabetes Association.
149 Madison Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY, 10016

The Lapdog

Shaun Jackson Design, Inc.

reviewed by Roberta Mikkelsen

Well I have to admit it. I am a bag junkie. I like all kinds of bags. I don't like cheap bags yet I don't want to pay a lot. I do want a high quality bag.

The name **Lapdog** intrigued me, so I went to their clean and user-friendly site: LapTopOffice.com. They present the **Lapdog** as a simple and elegant solution to the problem of using a computer on your lap.

There are many views of the **Lapdog**. It is a padded case with two good-sized pockets that fold over your computer. You put your laptop in the center of the bag, fold the bottom flap over the computer then the top flap. This is the inner wrap, made of a rubber gripdeck that is used to keep things from sliding, not the thin RV rubber shelving stuff but the good heavy-duty quality made for machinery. It is kept in place by two Velcro strips (not the cheap dots) that are about one and a half inches by four inches each.

Now bring the side pockets over the top of the laptop, and Velcro that holds them in place along with a nylon strap that seals the whole unit together. As if that isn't enough- they sewed two nylon straps onto the bottom of the bag that wrap around to the top and snap into four quick-release buckles.

The leather handle is integrated into the nylon straps that wrap around the bag so it cannot break. The shoulder strap uses the black anodized swivel clasps that are also heavy-duty. The swivel clasp is a detail that is a pleasure to have; it untwists the strap that is wrapped around your shoulder like a snake. The hardware quality; the comfortable ergonomic shoulder pad spreads the weight out (and never slips or bores a hole in your shoulder. The bag itself is made of ballistics nylon, black of course.

To use the **Lapdog** you set it on your lap, release the buckles, undo the straps, unfold the



pockets and you're good to go in seconds.

The inner wrap can even be rolled up to form a wrist pad.

I applaud the designer of this bag for it screams quality. From something as simple as a zipper to the hinge of the suede pocket, this item was not designed by their cost accountant. The number accessories you can pack into the pockets is amazing. This is truly a product to last a lifetime and they guarantee that with the original owner. It is made in America

If you keep the computer in the bag on your desk you may prefer **The LapTrap**, a padded sleeve that unfolds in seconds and is compact enough to fit in your current briefcase or backpack (\$59.95.) For the backpacker there is the **Back Office** that combines a carrying case, backpack and portable office all in one (39.95.)

There are also **Doggie Bags** that you can add to the Lapdog, enabling you to add additional storage space for files, portable printers etc. This is the best bag I have ever used. Design, functionality and quality are all well thought-out. My brother was into cheap bags until last week, when his brand new iBook rolled into the gutter. Now he wants a **Lapdog!**

The company is user group-friendly and will give you a very generous discount. The **Lapdog's** street price is \$139.95 but you can get it for \$79.95. Just enter the code "ugspecial" on their web site when ordering.

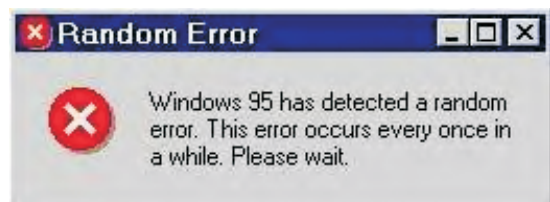
The Lapdog

Shaun Jackson Design Inc.

PO Box 130500

Ann Arbor MI 48113

www.sjdesign.com/lapdog.html



I was born into a family of Mom and Pop businesses; throughout my life I have tried to support the little guy. In a society where most go to massive malls, buy expensive items from unknown and uncaring people in chain stores, I say GO BACK TO MAIN STREET!!

Right here in Rockland County, in Pearl River, lies Eagletech Computers. There is parking right in front of the store. Inside there are humans with names. They smile and mean it. It's a rare find but one I wanted to share with all of you.

Eagletech has tables at computer shows. I use to pay \$7.00 door admission then end up buying computer accessories at the Eagletech table because I knew if it didn't work I could return it. Well now I save \$7.00 and buy directly from their store. The prices at the store are the SAME as at the shows. I purchased printer covers for \$4.00 and a few had to be special ordered. They carry those cute mini CD-R's so if you need to burn only 80MB you can for 59 cents. They have many items that would make great stocking stuffers.

Everything from mice, speakers, keyboards, anti-static wipes it's endless because if they don't stock it, they can order it. And if you can't pick it up, they'll ship it.

Their web site states: "Eagletech Computers was established in 1993, specializing in high quality, custom designed personal and small business computers; we pride ourselves on using only top grade components assuring the highest overall quality in our systems. We carry an extensive line of computers and home/office accessories, everything from replacement mouse balls to professional printers. Eagletech also performs professional repairs on all purchases."

And if that isn't enough, they are offering members of RPCUG in good standing a 10% discount on all accessories. This does not include computers, labor or any hardware items.

Check them out at www.EagletechComputers.com.

—thanks to Roberta Mikkelsen

Gator Software Leaves Toilet Seat Up

Technology News, Wednesday August 8 11:30 AM EDT—**Gator Software Leaves Toilet Seat Up.** Gator, an insidious, ubiquitous software program that helps users surf the Internet by storing passwords and popping up banner ads has come under fire for its annoying and allegedly deceptive features. Beyond the pop-up ads and difficult uninstalls, there have been reports of even more annoying features of the software.

Amis of Oakley, Kansas said, "My boyfriend assured me he didn't leave the toilet seat up, he said it was probably that Gator software that I installed on the computer. I told him I was sorry about that."

Dan Fernando inadvertently installed the software when he installed Snood, "I didn't even want this thing on my system and now it's leaving the lights on in the bathroom. I bet Gator is in cahoots with the electric company on that."

Gator marketing representative Dustin Quillin said, "We don't disclose any of the marketing relationships we have, but our license agreement clearly states in a long forgotten Turkish dialect that we can do just about anything we want once the software is installed without your knowledge."

Mr. Quillin continued, "We also take exception to the reports that Gator is difficult to uninstall. We list in our readme.txt file the simple steps required to remove the program. The first step requires a program called fdisk which every user has on their computer system."

There have also been reports of Gator putting empty jugs of milk back into the refrigerator, and empty ice trays back into the freezer. Previous reports that Gator caused the downing of the US spy plane in China have since been disproved and attributed to Microsoft.



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Jigsaws Galore by Design Associates

reviewed by Angelo Parra

CAUTION: This software can be addictive and hazardous to your schedule.

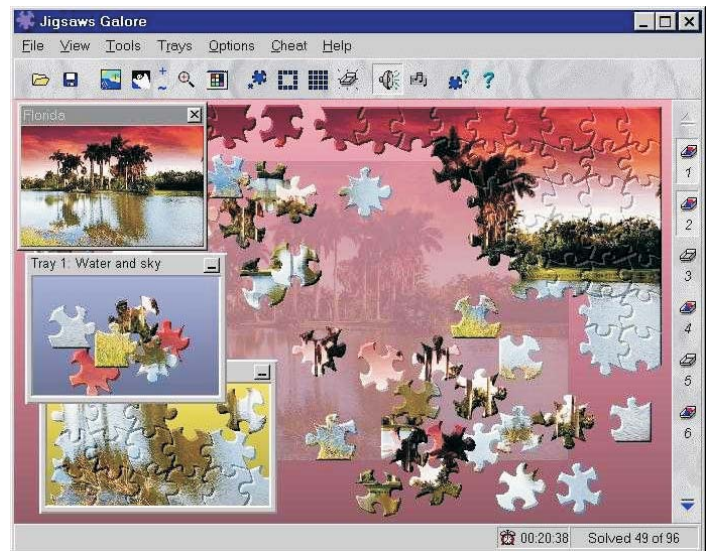
JIGSAWS GALORE 4.0, award-winning software that lets you do (and create) jigsaw puzzles on your computer monitor, is, in a word, **FUN**.

Using images provided or using images you can easily import, you can create and solve jigsaw puzzles with from four to 4,000 fully rotatable 3D pieces on your desktop. It's a hoot putting together puzzles of your favorite images and family photos! And, on top of that, you can please and vex your friends by e-mailing them puzzles.

If you don't make your own puzzles, you can create puzzles using a selection of images provided, like a photo of a chimpanzee. And it's educational! The image of the chimp, for example, is accompanied by the following information: Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), commonly called chimps, inhabit tropical central African rain forests, and are the most intelligent and easily educated of the apes. Their DNA is largely identical to that of man, and has caused much debate on whether various human rights should be extended to them. (I say give them the vote; they can't do much worse than we do.)

Jigsaws Galore lets you: choose one of the scores of images provided or easily import your own images onto the puzzle screen; choose the number of pieces you want and the degree of "oddness" of the pieces; solve and save the puzzle.

Once you've made the basic choices, the puzzle screen opens with pieces laid out at random (some overlapping) over a faint image of the photo. The faintness of the image can be controlled, or, to make things harder, hit the "ghost picture" button on the top toolbar and the image disappears, leaving you on your own with the pieces. The pieces are laid out right side up, but can be rotated to make the puzzle more challenging. The software offers a tray into which you can drag and drop pieces to get them out of your way. Multiple trays can be



opened to sort pieces as you wish. The screen is reasonably intuitive for folks with experience navigating Windows programs. (The review CD had no manual, but the program has full-featured help.)

To work on the puzzle, you simply drag and drop a piece into position. When a piece is put in correctly, you get a satisfying *plop* sound; when a piece is put in the wrong position, silence. (The plop can be turned off to make the solving more realistic.) As you work, music, which can be turned off, plays in the background. One downside for puzzle lovers: you can only work on a space as big as your screen, obviously, and so the clarity of the puzzle depends on both your eyesight and the sharpness of your screen image.

Completing the puzzle earns you a round of applause. The program tells you how long it took you to solve it (which can be very humbling), and tells you how many times you "cheated." I was informed I cheated 3 times. Somewhat insulted, I turned to the help menu, which told me that shifting the pieces from random to right way up, clicking on the "hint" button on the toolbar, and using other aids qualified as cheating.

After you complete the puzzle, the program fills the screen with the image. Right click on the image to clear it, and you're given the option of saving the puzzle.

One really cool feature of the software is that you can e-mail a puzzle you create. This "gift jigsaw" is a self-contained, mini-Jigsaws Galore puzzle.exe program that allows the recipient to do and save the puzzle you created.

Jigsaws Galore comes as a download with 10 puzzles for \$25 or in CD version with 192 puzzles for \$39. From the CD, you can install the program only (requiring the CD to work) or you can install the program and the puzzles both, for use without the CD. Installation automatically puts a Jigsaws Galore icon on your desktop and provides an uninstall option.

Since my disk space is dwindling, I had intended to uninstall Jigsaws Galore immediately after I reviewed it. Not gonna happen.

Jigsaws Galore 4.0
www.dgray.com

Full Version \$39

System Requirements:

- Pentium processor
- Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000
- 32 MB of RAM
- 4 MB of free hard disk space
- High Color or True Color Windows Setting
- Mouse, sound Card



"Someone's been programming my computer, too!"



FREWARE

Office Suite:

602 Suite

The suite is composed of four full-featured applications: a word processor, spreadsheet, graphics editor and digital photo organizer.
www.software602.com/products/pcs

Virus Protection:

AVG 6.0

A high-end software solution for reliable protection against the threat of computer viruses. With the Free Edition, you can use the Free Edition for an unlimited period of time.
www.grisoft.com/html/us_down1.html

Utilities:

Ad-Aware

Get rid of spyware now!
www.lavasoftusa.com/index.html

All the following can be found at
www.pcmag.com (click on "Downloads.")

WinTidy 2

Keeps your Desktop icon configuration organized and easy to use. If display settings change or if anyone messes with your machine, this utility quickly restores order and sanity.

FaveLock

There's a lot of personal information to be gleaned from the sites and addresses in your Favorites folder. Keep the folder, and your privacy, secure with our free utility.

EndItAll 2

When you have to close down all the tasks running on your system, how do you know what they are and which are safe to close? EndItAll 2 eliminates the guesswork and does the job for you.

I AM A NEW YORKER

I am a New Yorker
I do not live in the five boroughs or on the
Island or Upstate
I may live hundreds or thousands of miles
away or I may live just over the GW Bridge
But I am a New Yorker

I am a New Yorker
Whatever took me out of New York:
Business, family or hating the cold did not take
New York out of me.
My accent may have faded and my pace may
have slowed
But I am a New Yorker

I am a New Yorker
I was raised on Macy's Thanksgiving Day
Parade and Rockefeller Plaza,
The Yankees or the Mets (Giants or Dodgers)
Jones Beach or Rye Beach or one of the
beaches on the sound (Orchard Beach)
I know that "THE END" means Montauk.
Because I am a New Yorker

I am a New Yorker
When I go on vacation, I never look up
Skyscrapers are something I take for granted
The Empire State Building and the Statue of
Liberty are part of me
Taxis and noise and subways and "get outa
heah" don't rattle me
Because I am a New Yorker

I am a New Yorker
I was raised on cultural diversity before it was
politically correct
I eat Greek food and Italian food, Jewish and
Middle Eastern food and Chinese food
Because they are all American food to me.
don't get mad when people speak other
languages in my presence
Because my relatives got to this country via Ellis
Island and chose to stay
They were New Yorkers

I am a New Yorker
People who have never been to New York have
misunderstood me
My friends and family work in the industries,
professions and businesses that benefit all
Americans
My firefighters died trying to save New Yorkers



and non-New Yorkers
They died trying to save Americans and
non-Americans
Because they were New Yorkers.

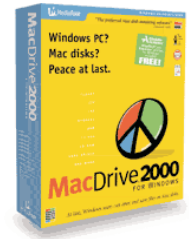
I am a New Yorker
I feel the pain of my fellow New Yorkers
I mourn the loss of my beautiful city
I feel and dread that New York will never be
the same
But then I remember:
I am a New Yorker

And New Yorkers have:
Tenacity, strength and courage way above the
norm
Compassion and caring for our fellow citizens
Love and pride in our city, in our state, in our
country
Intelligence, experience and education par
excellence
Ability, dedication and energy above and
beyond
Faith—no matter what religion we practice
Terrorists hit America in its heart
But America's heart still beats strong
Demolished the steel in our buildings, but it
doesn't touch the steel in our souls
Hit us in the pocketbook; but we'll parlay what
we have left into a fortune
End innocent lives leaving widows and
orphans, but we'll take care of them
Because they are New Yorkers

Wherever we live, whatever we do, whoever
we are
There are New Yorkers in every state and every
city of this nation
We will not abandon our city
We will not abandon our brothers and sisters
We will not abandon the beauty, creativity and
diversity that New York represents
Because we are New Yorkers
And we are proud to be New Yorkers !!

MacDrive 2000

Mediafour Corporation



No brains needed - it just works

reviewed by Roberta Mikkelsen

I was given a Zip and was told the images were created on a Mac. No problem I said. I have a conversion program! I went home, popped in the Zip and read "This disk cannot be read. Do you want to format the disk?" Murphy's law at work. Why can't I read the Mac disk? Because there are difference in the file architecture of PC and Mac systems.

I had **MacDrive 2000** for a review, so...I knew it was time. I was glad to find a thin twenty-eight page user guide which stated: "This User Guide is intentionally brief. **MacDrive** does what it does without requiring much attention from you. For many users, this Guide will be entirely unnecessary." COOL!

Installation was a breeze. When I restarted my computer the only change I saw was a **MacDrive 2000** icon on my desktop.

Mac Drive 2000 enables a PC running Windows to read Mac floppies, CDs, Zip disks, external drives and just about any removable media device as if it were Windows media.

I put in the Zip and I was able to read it! It was that easy. The claims that **MacDrive 2000** uses a new innovative and revolutionary way of integration with Windows that allows you to setup and forget it are true. Mac Drive integrates itself into Windows Explorer; you can thenavigate into a Mac disk as if it were a PC disk. It also adds the correct icon to the transferred file. Another nice feature is that you can access in the file properties box of a Mac file and get useful information on the file such as the original Mac format, its size and the creator's name. (It is not, however, a file translator or an emulator. You must have the software on your Windows system that is capable of understanding the Mac files that you open.)

I tested **MacDrive**

with various Mac media such as Zip, CD-ROM and Jaz, and they all opened flawlessly. I was able to make corrections and save the files back to disk. When I transferred the data back to the Mac platform, I found the corrections there just as I made them.

I'm glad to see this type of software is available for the PC; the Mac has had these cross-platform capabilities for years. This is truly a no-brainer. If you need a great file sharing program to use between the testy PC and a Mac then MacDrive 2000 is the way to go.

MacDrive 2000

by MediaFour

www.mediafour.com

If purchased after Oct 1 for \$49.95 you'll get a free downloadable upgrade of MacDrive 5 for Win XP, release date sometime in November.

System requirements:

Windows 95/98/NT 4/2000

2MB free hard disk space

3MB additional hard disk space

(if MS Windows Installer not already installed)

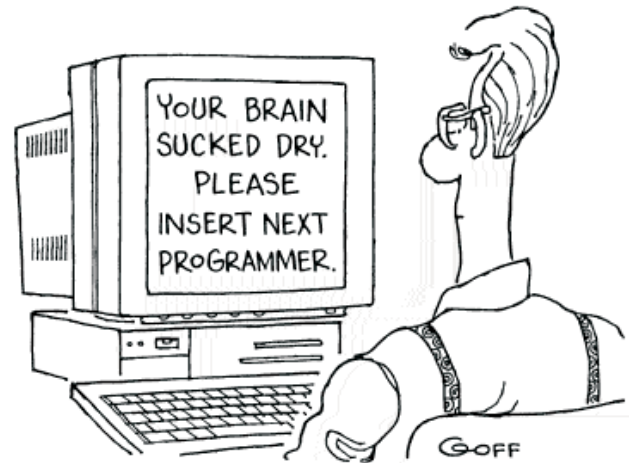
CD-ROM Drive 



<http://politicalhumor.about.com/library/images/blunclesamlaugh.htm>

SOFTWARE available for REVIEW

YOU KNOW you like free stuff! **PICK ONE**, write down what you think about it, and it's **YOURS TO KEEP!** Email **Roberta** at Roberta316@yahoo.com or **Ken** at hobbikat@hobbikats.com



- ✓ **ArtIcons Pro 3.0** (\$19.95)
It is the best tool for creating buttons, tiny icons or editing smaller graphics; works with Windows XP.
www.aha-soft.com/articons
- ✓ **Camtasia** (\$149.95)
An ingenious Windows application that's like no screen capturing utility you've ever seen.
www.techsmith.com
- ✓ **CDH Media Wizard** (\$50)
A powerful, all-in-one multimedia application supporting playback of all popular formats.
www.cdhnow.com
- ✓ **Cleandrive** (\$69.95)
Wipes your harddrive clean of all logs that your computer records while you surf the web.
www.cleandrive.net
- ✓ **Cookie Pal 1.7a** (\$15)
is a complete, easy to use, Internet cookie manager that helps protect your privacy on the Internet.
www.kburra.com/cpal.html
- ✓ **Dubit** (\$19.95)
A multimedia tool which lets you easily add audio to movie clips and images.
www.techsmith.com
- ✓ **Express Thumbnail Creator 1.4** (\$39.95)
A powerful yet easy-to- use tool which lets you create HTML image galleries ready to be published on the Web.
www.express-soft.com/etc
- ✓ **Fitznik 1.00** (\$19.95)
An unusually clever puzzle game that doesn't require arcade reflexes to play
www.dexterity.com/fitznik

- ✓ **Heartwood Hearts 2.2** (\$24.95)
An addicting game with gorgeous graphics and an alluring mystique that makes every other card game hard to look at.
www.silvercrk.com
- ✓ **HTML Guard 2.0** (\$15)
Protects your web site from unauthorized copying.
www.aw-soft.com/htmlguard.html
- ✓ **HyperText Studio 4.0** (\$99.00)
WYSIWYG Web Authoring Tool Enables More Efficient Web Site Development
www.olsonsoft.com
- ✓ **Oligo 2.0** (\$29.95)
Change the way your Browser looks!
www.inklineglobal.com/
- ✓ **Typing Master 2002** (\$29.90)
Learn and practice the professional ten-finger technique with this effective self-paced typing tutor
www.typingmaster.com
- ✓ **Web Media Publisher** (\$50)
Introduced as the first 32 bit professional HTML editor
www.wbmedia.com/publisher/



YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE

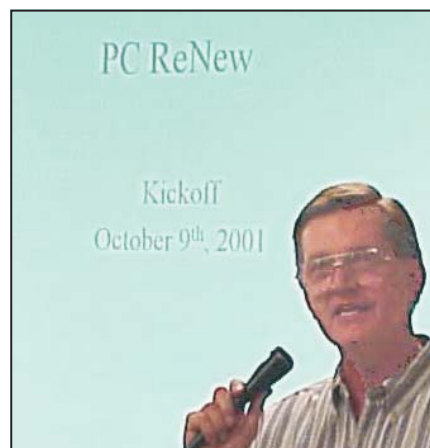


The volunteers of PC ReNew

The song says: "You've got to have heart. Miles and Miles and Miles of heart!" That's what all the volunteers who have made PC ReNew the great success it is have: *Miles and Miles and Miles of Heart.*

On Tuesday, October 9th we presented our first computers to four recipients from Project Next Steps, run by the Rockland County Department of Social Services, and Cassandra Edwards, Community Coordinator for the families at the Spring Valley Commons. In the next few months we will donate more than 90 computers to these two groups.

We also presented the RPCUG PC ReNew "Big Heart" award to all the volunteers who have contributed to this program. In our over 15 year history never have so many club members been involved in a group sponsored project of this size and undertaking. It is this pool of talent and manpower that makes this all possible. Almost one third of our membership is actively involved in this program.



Ken Herbig, RPCUG President

Project PC ReNew is attracting new volunteers and club members. It has made our community aware of who we are and what we are capable of contributing. We are now working with The United Way, The Rockland County Department of Social Services, The Rockland County Department of Hazardous Waste, CATI and several of our County Government officials and representatives.

Through them we are expanding our reach into the community and will be working to get much needed grant money to help finance Project PC ReNew. Our New York State Assemblyman Alex Gromack was at our last meeting and has offered his support

The following partial list of volunteers have received the RPCUG PC ReNew BIG HEART Award. They are the heart and soul of PC ReNew, for with out their contribution of time and talent this project would not be possible.

Alain Lajoux, Bob Jenks, Carey Waxman, Elliot Redalieu, George Brucks, Gloria Sherma, Kim Mornati, Marc Weiner, Marv Yourman, Mary Ann DeCurtis, Henry Eck, Pat Lynch, Roberta Mikkelsen, Stan Mack, Steve Weinberg, Sy Berber, Thea Zendell, Winifred Rudden, Hugh Burns, John Lemp, Jim Mulrane, Tim Murnane, and Steve Dombrowsky.

I hope I haven't missed anyone. Thanks to all for making this possible!

—Hank Feinberg



ROCKLAND PC USERS GROUP

169 South Main Street
PMB 384
New City, NY 10956-3358

F I R S T C L A S S

UNITED WE STAND

**Make no Mistake-
The Giant is Awake!**

God Bless America!

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 169 South Main Street, Suite 384, New City, NY 10956-3358. (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)

INDIVIDUAL \$ 35	JOINT \$ 40	FAMILY \$ 45	STUDENT \$ 15	CORPORATE SPONSOR \$ 100	RENEWAL: Member # _____
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