

The Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts
NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 19, Number 07

August 2002

"Members Helping Members"

This Months Demonstration
For Linux



Presented By

Mr. Lester Larkin

Open Office

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Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

Board of Directors
2002-2003

LINDA BUSCH President
president@lcace.org
847.546.6728

MIKE McENERY Vice President
vicepresident@lcace.org
847.571.7258

TERRI HANLON.....Secretary
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847.623.3815

LESTER LARKIN.....Programs
programs@lcace.org

Jim Rutledge.....Membership
membership@lcace.org

Robin Seidenberg.....Public Relations
pr@lcace.org

The L.C.A.C.E. News Journal is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions and will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

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Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts
L.C.A.C.E
c/o Group Ambassador
409 S. Elmwood Ave.
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-5219

Membership

Membership for L.C.A.C.E is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Associate membership is only \$10.00 (out of state, unable to attend meetings). Membership includes a one year subscription to the L.C.A.C.E. News Journal and access to all club libraries and functions. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club Hotline and are now available on our WEB site at - http://www.lcace.org

Meetings

L.C.A.C.E. meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at the Grayslake Area Public Library 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting location opens at 12:00 a.m., the formal meeting begins at 12:30p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page - \$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card - \$5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 21st of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are FREE to all paid members.

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Presidents Ram



A VISIT TO THE COMPETITION (?)

by President Busch

July was a dry month for those of us who love our computers – no Computer Country Expo and no Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts meeting either. To make up that huge gap and to

keep the computer withdrawals away, J.J., Mike and I decided to attend the meeting of The Northwest of Us (a suburban Chicago Macintosh computer user group) at the Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL on Saturday, July 13, 2002.

The Northwest of Us meets the same day as we do – the second Saturday of the month. That makes it difficult for us to accept the numerous invitations we have received to attend their meeting. How did we get invited, you ask? The Mac group persons the table next to us at CCXPO.

The three of us opted not to attend the SIG or the new Mac user class that started at 8:30 a.m. and went for the main meeting at 10:00 a.m. We arrived a little early to make sure we could check in and talk to Barry (Crenshaw) and Debbie (Abbott), our invitees.

We checked in as guests and were very warmly greeted by Barry and Debbie. This was the first time Mike and I had attended one of their meetings. Yes, Mike and I were virgins. J.J. had attended a meeting before.

I was impressed with the number of attendees – members and guests. Barry says there are usually about 100 people in attendance. This meeting was no exception. There are tables set up all around the perimeter of the big meeting room. These tables are set up for:

- Public Domain Library
- Membership Renewal(s)/Guest(s) Sign-in
- Member's Only Raffle
- Video Rental Library
- Boot Camp Registration
- Swap Fest
- CD of the Month Sale
- Newsletter Display

The meeting started right on time. The Vice-President Jeff Scheithe made a few announcements before the actual presentations began.

One of the members had attended the Mac Hack convention (for lack of a better word to call this group). Jonathan “Wolf” Rentzsch gave a power point presentation that was excellent. The theme of the convention was Dogcow – the icon. Each of the attendees could submit some kind of hack program that had to be done right there at the convention. They would literally spend three days and three nights working on the submissions. Out of 63 that were seen, Jonathan came back with 43. Of those 43 he presented the 19 that he got to work.

The submissions were excellent considering they had to be of absolutely no value to anyone whatsoever. If they were too good and made sense, they were thrown out of the competition.

One of the hacks that I remember was a Space Invaders Atari-like game. The dogcow was shooting bones at the alien ships. Another one had the dogcow turn into a straight line when you turned him sideways. If you'd like to know more about the hack, ask J.J. and/or Mike.

Webmaster Barry did a walk through The Northwest of Us' website. It is award winning and very well done – not that ours isn't, mind you.

One of the members gave a little slide show of the info she had included on the CD of the Month and another member talked about the videos available for rent.

At 12:15 there was a 20 minute break. This was when guests are asked to step over to the corner of the room for a little spiel on the advantages of joining the group. No we did not go to the corner of the room.

After the intermission there was a formal question and answer period. It seemed to be a good session. I couldn't really relate to a lot of the questions, but J.J. seemed to know more than he should(☺☺).

The member's only raffle was conducted, but, again, didn't interest us. We couldn't win.

There were final announcements and the meeting adjourned around 1:15.

Just like our meetings, arrangements were made to meet some of the people at the meeting for lunch at a local restaurant. That's when the techy talk took over. The husband and wife J.J. and I were sitting with talked way over my head. Again, J.J. held his own.

I was impressed by the organization of the organization. The meeting was conducted much the same as ours, but lasted longer. The group does have some aspects that we could do with our group, especially when we have more members. One of the aspects was the CD of the Month. We could do that. Right now we are limited by the number of members we have and the size of our meeting room as to what we can do.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable day. What do you think, J.J. and Mike?

Smile

A computer was something on TV
From a science fiction show of note.
A window was something you hated to clean,
And ram was the father of a goat.
Meg was the name of my girlfriend,
And gig was a job for the nights.
Now they all mean different things,
And that really mega bytes.
An application was for employment;
A program was a TV show;
A cursor used profanity;
A keyboard was a piano.
Memory was something that you lost with age.
A CD was a bank account.
Compress was something you did to the garbage,
Not something you did to a file.
And if you unzipped anything in public,
You'd be in jail for a while.
Log on was adding wood to the fire.
Hard drive was a long trip on the road.
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived,
And a backup happened to your commode.
Cut you did with a pocket knife;
Paste you did with glue.
A web was a spider's home,
And a virus was the flu.
I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper,
And the memory in my head.
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash,
But when it happens they wish they were dead.

-Author unknown

Bits & Bytes

How Many Songs Fit On a 100GB CD?

A 100-gigabyte disk has been developed by researchers in Taiwan. It is compatible with both CD and DVD technology. The disk is read with the traditional red laser. Other advanced DVD technologies use a blue laser.

The disk allows red lasers to make smaller recording marks than usual on the disk. Because the marks are so small, they can be packed close together.

Current types of CD and DVD drives can read the disks. They just require changes in their chipsets. The disks are expected to be on the market in 2004.

Microsoft Picture It!

Publishing Platinum 5th Anniversary Edition

Customize cards from commercial artists, use rich photo-editing tools, and discover many new ways to make outstanding print and web projects. <http://shop.microsoft.com/Referral/Productinfo.asp?siteID=11379>

PowerToys XP

The popular Windows XP Powertoys are a collections of tools and additional programs that developers worked on after Windows XP was released. They add fun and functionality to the Windows experience. The tools are: Open Command Window Here, Alt-Tab Replacement, Tweak UI, Power Calculator, Image Resizer, CD Slide Show Generator, Virtual Desktop Manager, Taskbar Magnifier, HTML Slide Show Wizard and Webcam Timershot. For more information, visit: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp>

[powertoys.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp)

FOR SALE

HyperData Notebook Computer

Features include Pentium 120MHz, CPU, 24MB RAM, a 2GB hard drive, 12.1" TFT display, 4X Max CD-ROM, Windows 98 installed. Case shows some bruises, computer in good working order. Asking \$125.00 Additional CardBus Modem \$25.

Contact J.J. Johnson at 847.623.3815 or jj1450xl@megsinet.net

Software Review



3D-Album

By Sammy D. Katz

If you are looking for a quick and easy way to put together a slideshow presentation or a screensaver but don't have time to learn a confusing program then *3D-Album* is perfect for you. It takes just a few minutes from start to finish if you just follow three simple steps.

1. **Select A Photo Folder** – Select the folder that contains all the photos that you would like to include in the photo album.

2. **Select A Presentation Style** – *3D-Album* comes with numerous preset presentation styles. If you see nothing that you like you can always log onto their website to download the latest styles.

3. **Build the Presentation** – Press the “build” button to instantly create a stand-alone program or a screensaver that will play your slideshow.

3D Album has an astounding collection of over 60 realistic 3D presentation styles, and growing number of new styles available free for downloading each week at www.3d-album.com. The slideshows can use an unlimited number of photos. You can retrieve photos from subfolders on your hard drive, and there is no pauses or breaks in the animation when new photos are loaded. If you wish to add background music or other sound files to play with the photos. *3D-Album* not only supports MP3s, but several other formats (i.e. wma, midi, wav, and aif) Many of the styles allow you to add a personal touch with voiceover and text narration for each photo.

Once you have selected from the 20 stylish application skins and styles for your slideshow, you can build a stand-alone executable slideshows, screensavers, HTML pages, ZIP files, or self-expandable EXE files. I did have some problems creating a screensaver, but the stand-alone applications work very well.

Like many of these presentation programs, you should take into consideration what computer configuration the end user has. Although the minimum requirements suggest a 200MHz system, I've encountered problems on systems with less than 500MHz. On some computers, the 3D animation may be slow whereby you may need to update your video card or drivers. Also make sure your video card supports Open GL. In some cases, you may just need to reduce the quality of the picture within the program.

The Album Mixer allows you to display several presentations with different styles and play them in a sequential or random order for a selected amount of time. The downloads are small files and easy to install on your computer.

Personally, I could only see myself using this program to make a screensaver for my personal computer and maybe a few birthday presentations for friends or family. The styles simply aren't professional enough for me to use them in a slideshow presentation such as at a wedding or an anniversary.

System Requirements

Windows 95, 98, ME, NT 4.0, 2000, or XP; PC with 200 MHz or higher clock speed, 64 MB RAM with Windows 95, 98, ME, or NT 4.0, 128 MB RAM with Windows 2000 or XP, 3D graphics accelerator with 16 MB RAM, compatible with OpenGL, 100 MB free hard-disk space.

Price: \$39.95, Visviva Software: www.3dalbum.com.

September's Demo
Snag-It
Presented by
Marshia Hobson

August
Happy Birthday!

Mr. G
 Leslie Salsburg
 Steve Yeaton

Bob Carpenter for the articles they have contributed. If it wasn't for these characters they wouldn't be a News Journal. I would also like to thank my proof readers, Linda Busch, Corrine McEnery & Vic Falkner for without their help with spelling and punctuation I would have been totally lost.

As you can see, it takes some doing to get this News Journal out each month, I could use your help also. Submission of articles, software/hardware reviews, anything computer related would sure be appreciated. (Remember I need them by the 20th of each month).

In place of our regular meeting (since there wasn't one this month) Linda Busch, J.J. Johnson and I took a field trip to visit our friends at "The Northwest of Us". This is a Chicago-land area Macintosh users group. We had a good time. It's interesting seeing how other groups do business. Maybe we can invade the Milwaukee group next.

Well that's about all for this month, again THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR VALUABLE HELP and I hope I can count on you in the future.

Happy Computing ☺

M.j.

From the editor



Hi all,
 I trust everyone is having a good summer. Well it's hard to believe but I have been The News Journal editor for a year now and I

want to thank some people for their help.

First I would like to thank J.J., Sammy, Gypsy, and

Extra Note: I am going on vacation from August 16th till September 3rd. So any articles for the Sept. News Journal please have to me by the 10th. Thanks for your understanding. Mike

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 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
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 Gurnee, Illinois 60031

www.ccxpo.com

All L.C.A.C.E. Members who present their membership card will receive a \$1 discount.

Digital Corner

By J.J. Johnson

Rechargeable Batteries & Chargers

Batteries are the lifeblood of your digicam. Many digicams use the AA-battery format. Sadly some digicams manufacturers do not include the rechargeable type. You'll spend a huge amount of money on disposable batteries—it's the razor/razor blade syndrome.

This is probably a bad marketing ploy to save money. So, make it a high priority to go out and purchase TWO sets of rechargeable batteries—and not just any rechargeable. The current standard is Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH). They last longer than the Nickel Cadmium (NiCad) variety.

A couple of years ago, you had to look hard to find the NiMH type. Now, they are commonly found in most electronics stores, and even Eveready (www.eveready.com) now offers a variety of NiMH battery packs with charger. Sam's Club carries the Eveready charger and 4-batteries for \$20. Oh, in case you're wondering, the reason for TWO complete sets of batteries should be obvious – one for shooting and the second one for WHEN the primary set gives up! In other words, opt for uninterrupted shooting!

Of course, if your digital camera uses a lithium-ion or other proprietary type battery, you've got no choice but to purchase a second one from the camera manufacturer, usually at a steep price. But again, consider it an investment to guarantee long-lived shooting.

Web Watch

GOING DIGITAL – PRINTING AT HOME

This month, learn all about the best techniques for printing your images without wasting time or money. <http://www.acdsystems.com/English/Community/ColumnsArticles/GoingDigital/digital-2002-06-26.htm>

A FRIEND OF A FRIEND OF A FRIEND...

There's a theory that all of us are linked by just a few people. This is called, variously, the Small World Phenomenon and the Six Degrees of Separation.

Now, thanks to the Internet, the Sociology Department at Columbia University is testing the theory. It has selected target people. Now, it is recruiting people to test the theory.

It works this way: A participant sends an e-mail to an acquaintance, who forwards it to another person. This continues until it reaches someone who knows the target person. The profs want to see how many acquaintances it will take to link the first person to the target. This sounds like a fun experiment. And you can participate. Check it out and sign up at: <http://smallworld.sociology.columbia.edu/>

SHARING DIGITAL PHOTOS

Sharing digital photos has never been easier with Windows XP Professional. <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone/default.asp>

From the "My Pictures" folder you can now, order copies of your photos, print a variety of sizes directly on your printer, easily post your photos to a web site and easily burn your photos onto a CD. So upgrade to Windows XP Professional for the easiest way to share digital memories. Get Windows XP Professional at a retailer near you. Learn more at: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone/default.asp>

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER

The world's smallest Web site is the size of an icon. But it contains games, a keyboard, a search engine and a Web cam. <http://www.guimp.com>



Members Helping Members

Places to Go Things to see

ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS
OF COLUMBUS OHIO
ANNUAL SALE AND SWAP

September 14, 2002
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
Oakland Park Community Center
980 Lenore St.
(Use E.N. Broadway or Cooke Rd. Exits East)

All used Atari computers, game platforms, and electronics, etc.

**Vendor and Flea Marketers donations: \$6 per table (this includes admission for one person).
Shoppers and onlookers: \$4 per person/families \$8 maximum.**

Further info:

chwbrown@ee.net, rarenz@columbus.it.com

<http://www.angelfire.com/oh4/acec/acec.html>

The Chicago FM Club presents

RADIO EXPO 2002

September 21st & 22nd

Lake County Fairground

(Rts. 45 & 120)

Grayslake, IL

Flea Market open both days at 6 AM. Exhibit Buildings open Sat 8 AM to 4 PM, Sun 8 AM to 3 PM

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Advance tickets \$8 - At the Gate, \$10 - Good both days

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Members



The following is a listing of available LCACE members' E-Mail addresses:

Ruth Donahue-Allison	allison98@juno.com
Jim Ashworth	Blue_uni.com@netzero.com
William & Diane	Brumbachbbrumbach@cs.com
Linda Busch	lindashrub@juno.com
Bob Carpenter	cubs14@ripon.alumlink.com
Tom Fitzsimmons	tomfitzsimmons@juno.com
Jack Frost	jfrost@megsinet.net
Richard Graling	mtndew@mc.net
Mr. G	mrG3165@aol.com
Phil Grimm	pgrimm4@attbi.com
Arnie Gudyka	arngood1@juno.com
Terri Hanlon	Terhanlon@aol.com
Henry Henriksen	buisarandziggy@aol.com
Marshia Hobson	marsgraphics@netscape.net
Dwight (J.J.) Johnson	jj1450xl@ix.netcom.com
Donna Kalinoski	donnaleek@juno.com
Steve Kostelnik	steve_kostelnik@usa.net
Lester Larkin	LesLarkin@NetZero.net
John Lawless	jay@iwc.net
Mark McDonald	markym36@aol.com
Mike McEnery	mmœenery@core.com
John Nabors	jog@nomad.net
Lee Nordstrom	LeeNord@mw.sisna.com
Marcia Rose	Mrose74801@aol.com
James Rutledge	jrutnet1@home.com
Leslie Salsburg	leslie164@juno.com
Paul Schintgen	paulj@theramp.net
Walter Sheets	eddoc85@netzero.net
Gerald Straw	ilotgks@concentric.net
Grace Vogt	gracemvogt@msn.com
Steve Yeaton	hiflyer9@bigfoot.com

As much as we try, we do make errors. Please advise us if there is a mistake in your E-Mail address or if it is not included in this listing. Send E-Mail to editor@lcace.org with the additions and/or corrections. Thank you. **This listing last updated – April 1, 2002**

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Call: 847-623-3815

or

fax: 877-349-4080

Web Site: <http://www.lcace.org>

Member's Web Sites

If you have a
Web Site
And would like to
Advertise it here
E-mail Me
editor@lcace.org

TIME TO RENEW

If it is time for you to renew your membership, please fill out a new Application and a Member's Profile Sheet. These forms can be obtained at the meetings or downloaded from our WEB site.

If you do not want your name published in the *News Journal* for any reason, please e-mail me and I will respect your wishes.

Your Advertisement could
have been placed here.

L.C.A.C.E.

c/o Group Ambassador

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Take a look,
you just might
see yourself.

www.picturetrail.com/lcace

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- ◆ LCACE E-mail addresses
- ◆ LCACE information
- ◆ LCACE history and pictures
- ◆ LCACE meeting, location and map
- ◆ LCACE members e-mail addresses
- ◆ LCACE online membership application

NEXT MEETING

August 10, 2002

Grayslake Public Library
1200—3:00pm

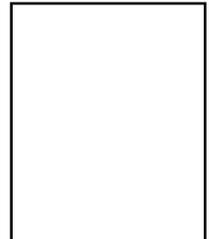
Meeting Room Opens 1200
General Meeting Starts 12:30

This month:

Open Office
&
Beginners SIG.

L.C.A.C.E

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts
409 Elmwood S. Ave.
Waukegan, IL 60085-5215



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