

# McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



MARCH 2010  
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The March 2010 meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is [March 13](#), at the Salvation Army Building, 290 W. Crystal Lake Ave., in Crystal Lake. Enter the building at the parking level double door under the awning. The treasurer will be there by 8:30 AM for Club financial transactions.

#### Membership

Our membership is \$26.00 a year. NOTE: This fee offsets the running of the club; membership benefits include help with computer problems. Please pay Lyle Giese, our treasurer, or the designated Board Member in his absence.

Meetings : 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.

#### Meeting Agenda

- Introductions & Reports
- Demo - Kindle - Cindi Carrigan
- Extended Q&A
- Spring Party

*Bring your questions; if you can't attend a meeting, submit questions to our website address.*

The Newsletter is published monthly by McHenry County Computer Club, online.

Editor-in-Chief: Lucë York ; Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan

Direct inquiries, comments, articles to the Editor to Lucë at [info@Mc3ComputerClub.org](mailto:info@Mc3ComputerClub.org)

*Please indicate that your email is for the editor.*

Direct technical questions to MC3 at: [info@Mc3ComputerClub.org](mailto:info@Mc3ComputerClub.org)

MC3 website: <http://www.mc3computerclub.org/>

#### UPCOMING DEMOS

- *March*                      Extended Q&A; Kindle demo by Cindi Carrigan; Spring Party
- *April*                        Office 2007 - Jack Luff
- *May*                         Clonezilla - Lyle Giese
- *June*                         Flying 'Copter - John Katkus ; possible laser printer demo by Dick Hoppe

**Editor's Note:** Frank McGurn sent an email to me with information about cleaning up emails forwarded from others that contain all the names and addresses of all the others in the chain of Forwards. Since we are online, we can't put the articles in our newsletter because of copyright laws. So I suggested to Frank that he would be doing many of us a favor by saying a few words about this at our upcoming meeting. Though some of you may not have the problem of excess material in your forwarded emails, others may have less knowledgeable email correspondents. Thank you, Frank, for your useful suggestion.

## MC<sup>3</sup> OFFICIALS

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Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan  
Board Members : Jack Luff ; Dave Lutes ; Jim Bierle ; Bruce Eckersberg



### In Memoriam

One of our long-time members, Nick Paradiso, passed away on February 15. He was born in 1922, in Chicago. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a sergeant. Nick was instrumental in designing the transformer that helped bring Pac-Man to homes. He also was the Illinois state representative for the Cosmetology Association.

Many of us remember Nick fondly for the many questions he often brought to the meetings and his pleasant and courteous manner. We will miss him.

### Questions & Answers

**Q.** I received an e-mail with an attachment with a .VCF format/extension. My computer does not recognize the format. How can I view this attachment?

**A.** VCF is probably a vCard file, which is only useful if you are using Microsoft Outlook (not express). It's their electronic business card in MS Outlook format, intended to be imported into Outlook's contacts.

**Q.** I upgraded memory in my Dell E-1405 laptop. Is there a market for used memory?

**A.** Ebay or take it to Echelon for recycling. But most likely there is not a market for smaller memory chips.

**Q.** What is the best way to remove mal-ware & best way to prevent the computer from being infected?

**A.** Everybody has their favorite here. But Adam and I have found that removing the hard drive and cleaning it up loaded as a second drive on a different system is the best first step. Another point: there is NO single best tool. No one single tool removes everything. We have not found any AV or Anti-anything program stopping everything. It just does not appear to be one. However, we do find that most of these attacks are specific to Internet Explorer, and using a different browser as much as possible helps.

**Q.** How do you delete the AVG/yahoo toolbar?

A. The best option is to not install it. It's an option during install. Otherwise, turn it off after you turn off the advanced option to make it re-appear once a week.

**Q. Can you get rid of spam?**

A. Changing your email address frequently is the only sure-fire way of eliminating spam. There is big money involved in getting this stuff into your inbox. The tools to block it will never eliminate all of it and will block legit email from time to time. It's the price we pay for convenience and the lack of verifiable standards in Internet email land.

You can add filtering to your email client and you can usually turn on and off filtering at your provider's control panel.

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


**Freeware**

*by Al Schrader*

I have received a request from a certain unnamed president who recently bought a "NEW COMPUTER" and wanted to know whether Windows 7 CD- and DVD-burning software was good to use. Well, yes, the software built into Windows 7 does work. But I have been using 3<sup>rd</sup>-party software for years, and I am a more comfortable using them, especially when the Windows software refuses to work for one reason or another. There are many free burning utilities, so I did a quick search and found at least 40 current ones that are available. The one that I use is Ashampoo Burning Studio Free 6.77 ( [http://download.cnet.com/Ashampoo-Burning-Studio-Free/3000-2646\\_4-10776287.html?tag=mncol](http://download.cnet.com/Ashampoo-Burning-Studio-Free/3000-2646_4-10776287.html?tag=mncol)), which is a free version. It is quick and easy (easy is good) with all the bells and whistles, and I have yet to make any coasters (knock on wood). I have since upgraded to a 2010 version I received for free in an online add, so I can tell you that not much changes from the free vs. pay versions - or I just don't use all the features to compare.

For disk imaging software I like a program call Imgburn (<http://www.imgburn.com/>), which is a program to burn or create disk images (not backup images) and might be a little to geeky for some people, but it does a great job and, of course, it is free.

I am giving Thumbs-up for both.  But if you use a different one that you like, please let our unnamed president know and then he can choose.

I received another request for a software that can normalize MP3 volume (Look and see if your program already contains Normalize) and not have to keep reaching for that volume knob. The program at [http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/mp3gain/mp3gain-win-1\\_2\\_5.exe?Download](http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/mp3gain/mp3gain-win-1_2_5.exe?Download) can normalize a list of MP3 titles at a predetermined level. If this one does not work for you, then just Google "normalize" and find another.



## My Computer Usage Journey: Introduction

by Lucë York

*I intend this to be a series of articles about my life with computers - things that I have learned and experienced, choices that I made because I had to or because I wanted to or was able to. Not all of those choices were wise, but they all brought me to where I am today.*

I first heard about such a thing called a computer in the early 1950s. In 1952 Univac predicted a landslide victory for Eisenhower, but CBS execs refused to believe it and held back the computer's results until it could no longer do so the evening of the election. I don't remember that part, but I do remember this incredibly huge machine that was doing some very astounding - to me, at any rate - calculations. But it was huge, and it didn't have any bearing on my life at that time. And no one in my adult circle of acquaintances - even teachers - ever discussed its meaning.

The closest I came to any kind of "computer" before I left for college was a slide rule. My teenaged brain did not spend much time trying to figure that out, but that didn't stop me from acing my math classes. When I was a freshman in college, I became aware of a giant computer in one building at the U of I, in Urbana, because one of my calculus class friends was taking a machine language programming class. I didn't understand any of it and didn't really care that much either. I was too busy discovering this other world that wasn't anything like any school life I had yet experienced. It was also difficult being a small fish in an ocean instead of a big one in a small aquarium. From a class of 162 to a class of more than 4,000 was overwhelming.

I managed to finish most of my college education without ever moving beyond a manual typewriter. But I experienced an incredible interlude between my BS from the UI and my master's studies at U/Colorado. I got a part-time job as an undergraduate in the High Energy Physics Lab scanning and measuring bubble-chamber film events. After I graduated, I became full-time there. Without trying to brag, I became the best measurer they ever had and also was very good at understanding the machinery that was used in this process.

The machine with which I worked most of the time was referred to as an SMP - Scanning and Measuring Projector. This consisted of a flat screen approximately 3' x 3'; a huge roll of film (the spool was about 12" to 16" in diameter, and the film was about 3"-4" wide; its length I never did know) was threaded into the projector (by the person doing the measuring). The film was advanced mechanically to the frame that had been indicated as having an "event" in it. This "event" was the result of certain subatomic particles colliding in a bubble chamber, such as they have/had at Fermi Labs and Brookhaven.

On the screen was a mechanism that was moved by hand by the person who measured the event by first pinpointing the center and then dragging the measuring instrument down the arms of the event. After pinpointing and measure of each arm, the end of the routine was indicated by pressing on a button on the instrument or on a floor pedal. This would send the results to the computer. Also attached to the machine was a typewriter, which was used to record the progress of the measuring and to indicate when each routine was finished.

The room in which this took place was quite large, for each machine took up a space about 5' X 5'. There was a long bank of other machinery along one wall that controlled all the SMPs in the room; there were about 6 or 7 SMP units. In the room just behind this one was where the banks of magnetic tape units were located. It was fascinating to watch those units as the spools whizzed and paused, whizzed and paused their way through the night. That was also the room in which periodically I got to reboot the computer using the master paper tape. If you've never had that experience, all you've

missed is a sense of history. Pressing buttons and clicking a mouse to reboot is a modern wonder, but it requires no special skill. Rebooting with a paper tape takes a bit of mastery, especially when the tape has been used many times. First you had to enter some coding, then you carefully fed the tape into the opening; next, you prayed it would work and you wouldn't have to do it again or, worse yet, call in the engineer or programmer at 3:00 in the morning. They tended to be a little grumpy at that hour.

Among my other tasks was to run jobs for the programmers and physics students on the printer. That involved feeding punched cards into the printer then waiting for the printer to respond. Carting around 75-lb. boxes of that old-fashioned continuous printer paper and loading it into the printer was another challenging task, but this task required strength and the ability to set the paper in straight. I worked the midnight shift, so I had a lot of responsibility.

One of the physics students decided to teach me some FORTRAN and had me write some subroutines for his main program. It was thrilling and rewarding when I was told that my routines worked very well. I fell in love with the computer, the programming, and high energy physics events. Yet I had another goal that I wanted to accomplish, so instead of staying in Urbana and re-enrolling at the U of I for a degree in programming, I drove to Boulder, Colorado for a masters in Russian Literature. That turned out to be a mistake, but it took me 1½ years to realize it.

Yet I felt that I would come back to a computer some day, some way. But I had something else to accomplish in the meantime. More than I expected happened before computers entered my life again. And the machinery and programming of computers changed dramatically between 1967 and 1979.

**Next month: Part 2**