



Lake Computing

Newsletter of the Lake Monticello Computer User Group

September 2006
Issue 3

Volume 12

Yes, it's time for us to get back to our schedules for our activities after our summer vacations. Many of our meetings and/or classes resume or begin. In addition many of us will be involved in volunteering.

In the meantime, technology continues to evolve at a maddening pace. It's almost impossible to keep up with all of the new innovations. We hope that we, in our small way, can showcase some of these new products. Do you have something that you wish you knew more about? Just tell us! E-mail those requests and send back those surveys. Do you know someone that you think would be a good speaker? Again, just tell us! We have a newly formed Program Committee comprised of Grant Fleming, Arlene Bandy, Lynn Forsyth and, Alan Steward. We are in the planning stage and the input now would be helpful.

Microsoft alone has many new products. The jury is still out about the usefulness and quality of these products but we will demonstrate them soon.

Here's a few:

Window's Live OneCare- a software package that is touted as a comprehensive, integrated, automatic computer health service. It has capabilities for virus scanning, firewalls, tune-ups and file back ups. The cost is around \$40.

Windows Defender-will protect your computer against pop-ups, slow performance and security threats. The beta version is free right now.

Windows Vista- the next generation desktop (if you are going to buy a new computer with XP installed make sure it says Vista capable). It will be available in 2007.

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Visit <http://lmcug.apcug.org> for the expanded edition.

General Public is invited to attend.
Meetings are on the first Wednesday of
the month
At 7PM in the Terrace Room
At the Clubhouse
Dinner at 5:30





Lake Monticello Computer User Group

LMCUG Executive Board

President	Doris Ashley dorisashley@adelphia.net
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APCUG Rep.	Doris Ashley dorisashley@adelphia.net
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Fund Raising	George Hardy
Librarian	Doris Ashley
Parliamentary Advisor	Florence Nordone
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Photographer	Don Raab
Program Committee	Arlene Bandy, Lynn Forsyth, Alan Steward & Grant Fleming

Lake Computing Newsletter

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LMCUG Web Site (<http://lmcug.apcug.org>)

Webmaster	Grant Fleming
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LMCUG Information

Our computer user group, established in December 1994, is a nonprofit organization composed of computer users who are members of Lake Monticello Owners Association. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Terrace Room of the Lake Monticello Clubhouse. A meeting usually consists of an informative and educational program, followed by a business meeting and Q&A. Special interest groups (SIGs) also meet monthly. Dues are \$12 annually or \$20 per family, prorated quarterly for new members. You may join the group at the regular meeting or by mailing a check (written to LMCUG) to George Hardy at 6 Deer Path Road.

Newsletter Information

Lake Computing is published quarterly. LMCUG, its officers, and its members make no express or implied warranty with regard to any information disseminated, including, but not limited to, merchantability and/or fitness for any use whatever. Opinions provided by newsletter articles are individual opinions only and do not represent opinions of the group, its officers, or its members. When we receive permission to reprint an article, we give attribution to its source; please do the same if you reprint anything from this newsletter. All articles are subject to editing and the author agrees that his article may be published on the LMCUG Internet site and used for promotions by the company whose product was reviewed. *Lake Computing* accepts advertising for computer-related products and services. For rates, please contact Doris Ashley at 589-6105

Membership Report

Our membership rolls have had a decrease. Let's do some recruiting for new members and raise the total to our previous levels.

Advantages of Membership in LMCUG

- **Support from fellow members**
- **Monthly meetings**
- **Help Squad**
A volunteer will give you assistance with your computing problem – call Bob Miller (589-2691).
- **Special Interest Groups**
Genealogy SIG: For all levels of researchers. Call Doris Ashley (589-6105) for information.
- **Up-to-date Information**
The LMCUG newsletter and web site keep members aware of the latest trends in hardware and software.
- **Small-group Instruction**
Occasionally we offer classes in specific skills, such as word processing.
- **Lending Library**
We have a good selection of interactive CD-ROMs, videos, and books. Books available at meetings
- **Discounts from local businesses:**
(Your membership card is your identification.)
Fluvanna Office/Computer Services (286-3300): reduced rates for at-home repairs and instruction
PC Pro in Rio Hill Shopping Center (817-9797): reduced rates for in-shop repairs.
. **ATR Computers** in Seminole Commons, Route 29 North (978-4287): 15% reduction in rates for repairs.
Gravitys Edge: Discounts on small group classes.
- **Special Offers**
Our members often receive special offers from computer-related companies. (See our web site.)

Gravitys Edge Computers

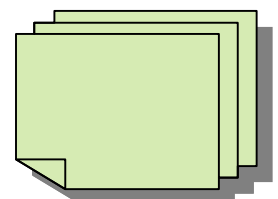
Shop – Learn – Play – Repair
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Computer Classes Offered
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WORD TIPS

Fun with Copy and Paste

By Dave Gerber, Sarasota SPCUG

Before you can cut or copy text, you need to be able to highlight it. There are several ways to do this.

1. Move your mouse to the beginning of your text. Hold down the left mouse button and slowly move the mouse to the end of the text. When the text you want moved is highlighted, release the mouse button.

2. With your mouse click once at the beginning of the text. Hold down the "Shift" key on your keyboard, and click once at the end of the text. Everything between the first click and the second will be highlighted.

3. Using the arrow keys move the cursor to the beginning of your text hold down the "shift" key while using the arrow keys to move to the end of your text. This method works well with web pages where the text you want to copy is larger than the screen.

4. Now we will copy what we have highlighted. When you copy something, you put it in a part of Windows memory called the clipboard.

5. To do this, you first highlight your text, and then click on "Edit" and "Copy". Even though you can't see any changes, you will now have your next text on the clipboard.

6. To paste you simply click where you want the text to go and click "Edit" and "Paste".

Let's say that you want to send just this article in an e-mail to your mother. First, you would highlight the article, then click on "Edit" and "Copy". Next you open a new e-mail and address it to your mom. Now click in the body of the e-mail where you want the article to go, and click "Edit" and "Paste". Your article is now in the e-mail

An even easier way to do this, is to first highlight your text, and then using your keyboard, press Ctrl and + C. This is the same as "Edit" and "Copy" and you will now have your text on the clipboard. To paste, you simply click where you want the text to go and press Ctrl + V.

Not only is it faster and easier to use the keyboard shortcuts, but it works in places where there is no "Edit" menu available. If you can highlight the text, you can usually copy it.

Paste Special *by Dave Gerber*

You can tell word how to paste your text before you paste it, by using the Edit, Paste Special command. If you don't see this command. If you don't see this command on the Edit menu, click the down arrow at the bottom of the Edit menu. The full menu appears, including the Paste Special option.

Choose the Paste Special command. The Paste Special dialog box appears which lists special options for pasting in the text: Document Option, Formatted Text, Unformatted Text, Picture, and so on. Each of these items tells Word how to paste in the information. To discover what each option does, select it from the list and read the description in the Result area of the dialog box.

For example, if you want to paste from a Web page but don't want all that HTML-blah-blah-formatting, choose the Unformatted Text Option. Click OK, and the text is pasted into Word as plain text and not as some Web object.

Deleting Words (applies to Word versions 6, 97, 2000, 2002, 20030) *By Karen Tangeman, Big Bear Computer Club, CA*

While editing documents, it is not uncommon to delete words, phrases, and the like. Different people take different approaches to the task. For instance, some people just select the text and press DELETE while others may simply hold down the DELETE or BACKSPACE keys until the unwanted characters disappear.

If you are in the latter group, and you spend a lot of time pressing DELETE or BACKSPACE, you may be interested in a handy shortcut provided by Word. All you need to do hold down the CTRL key to speed up your deletions. Using CTRL + DELETE deletes text from the insertion point to the end of the next word. For instance, if you wanted to delete four words to the right, simply press CTRL + DELETE 4 times. Likewise, CTRL + DELETE delete words to the left of the insertion point.

(cont. on page 4)

Word Tips (con't.)

An interesting use of these shortcut keys is to speed up editing tasks, not just mass deletions. For instance, let's say you wanted to change the word "sidestep" to "sideways". Normally you would find some way to simply delete "step" and type "ways". This could involve pressing DELETE or BACKSPACE four times to get rid of the unwanted portion of the word. You can make your edit faster if you just position the insertion point at the beginning of "step", press CTRL & DELETE once, and then type "ways".

Lake Monticello	
Computer User Group	
Treasurer's Report	
End: May 2006	
Cash on hand	
Bank Account	\$2,120*
Cash & checks not yet deposited	13
Petty cash (for change only)	<u>20</u>
Total	\$2,153

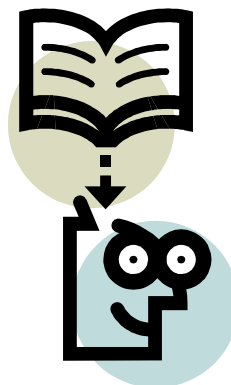
*Note: The \$1,357 of the Fund Drive are in the bank account

Receipts:	
Dues(06)	0
Fund Raising	13
Maps	<u>40</u>
Total	\$53

Expenses:	
Dinner for speaker	\$20
Newsletter & President expenses	48
Internet	<u>10</u>
Total	\$78

www.oreilly.com

O'Reilly offers a 30% discount to user group members (a few exceptions) Write a review and get a free book. Please contact Doris for the discount code and information.



Write A Review for Our Newsletter!

Have you recently...

Read a computer book that was especially well written?

Played a computer game that you think is actually challenging?

Found a computer show or program that's quite informative?

Got a new piece of equipment that you feel comfortable recommending to others?

Tired a new or unique software program that solves a problem?

We frequently get offers from vendors to review their products too.

Why not take some time and share your thoughts with fellow LMCUG members.

Don't worry about your writing skill or grammar, or length of review. We have guidelines that we can give you to help you.

Just see Doris.

(Excerpts from Bytes in Las Vegas)

VISTA DISSCUSSIONS

We have all heard about this new Windows product which will be released in 2007. Grant Fleming will talk about this in a future program.



Basic DVD Recording

By Bob Elgines, Editor, Colorado River Computer Club, Arizona

DVDs are like CDs, but with greater capacity; you can record sound, video, or data. The latest CDs allow 700MB of data, or 80 minutes of sound or video (mpeg1 format) whereas the DVDs allow 4.7 GB or 120 minutes of sound or video (mpeg2 format). Then you have Double Layer DVDs which allow 9.6 GB or approximately 3.7 hours of video. As we probe into the basics you will find approximately 10% of the room on your disk is used by Titles, Menus, and Directories.

First, what do we need to accomplish the recording of data, and sound: A computer with a minimum of 1 GHz, 512 MB of RAM, 40 GB hard drive, CDR optical drive, video with 32 MB RAM for 1024 x 768 screen mode, and recording software such as “NERO” by Ahead Software.

Second, we need all the above plus the items below for Video:

A DVDR optical drive, an input device such as ADS’ Instant DVD (USB input) or equivalent for recording from VHS tape, and a VCR. A fire wire input card can be used if you are recording from a digital camcorder (DV).

To record data and sound on DVDs is very similar to CDs, but video is different only because we use a different format. A CD may be used with this format and would hold approximately 30 minutes of mpeg2 (MP2) video. This CD would be called a “VCD” (Video CD) and would be played on a DVD Player.

There are several different video formats such as WMV, MPE, MPG, MP1, MP2, MP4, etc. MP1 (352x480) is fine for B&W video, but size and quality is too low for color. MP2 (720x480) is the most common format used at

this time for doing video DVDs. MP2 can be recorded in low (3382Kbits per sec), medium (5073Kbits per sec), and high (9716Kbits per sec) quality.

Before you start recording video, you may want to shut down all the programs running in the background to gain the maximum amount of System Resources in order to acquire the greatest performance when recording video. You will use 4 to 20 GB of your hard drive for recording a two hour video depending on the format you use.

“NERO” (Version 6 or 7) is the cheapest way to go for software. This program will do just about everything for you (two hours plus on DVD, some editing, excellent recording). I also have used “My DVD v4 or5” by Sonic (easy to use, some editing, up to 1.9 hours on a DVD), “My DVD v6” by Sonic (up to 3.5 hours on a DVD, but SONY players do not like the recording format), “Premiere Elements” by Adobe (easy editing is great, but recording is only good for one hour, jumps around with movement and going more than one hour really destroys it by also getting choppy), “Movie Factory2” by Ulead (not bad, but very time consuming and hard to use, 1.9 hours on DVD) and “Studio Plus 10” by Pinnacle (very demanding, needs more memory and high quality video card; very hard to use!).

I am using an INTEL P4, 3.06 GHz, 512 MB RAM @ 800 MHz, GeForce FX5200 128 MB RAM video card, and a Digital Research model DDVD116DL (DVD Recorder with NERO software), an ADS Instant DVD VHS input device, which converts the analog video to digital Mpeg2 format via a USB port, and an IEEE firewire port for my DV Digital Camcorder.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you

Google Talk Update *by Yogesh Bakshi*

One of the most favored and new IM clients available today has just become even cooler. Yes, I am talking about Google Talk. Plain and simple, Google listens to its users. Since many, many people all over the world were requesting some new features, Google has complied. A new version of Google Talk has just been released, which includes more value added features that most of you will simply love.

The first feature they added is the much needed file transfer option. Now you can transfer files from the chat window itself. If you are sending an image over the chatline, the recipient can preview how it looks in the chat window right away. If you send other file types, they can be opened by clicking on the link in the chat window. This will open them up in their default application (such as a Word document). There's absolutely no restriction on file sizes or file types. Also, by using **Ctrl + a click**, you can send more than one file at a time.

Sometimes you want to talk to a friend, only to find that they are not online or that they are busy. You simply must inform them of something right away, so what do you do? Usually, you would e-mail them, but now you have the option of leaving them a voicemail. Once they log onto Google Talk, they can listen to your message. The voicemail lets you ramble up to 10 minutes. How cool is that?!

Just click on the "Send Voicemail" option and start recording your voicemail. If they are online and busy, you can just call them and Google Talk will activate the voicemail after four rings. The recipient can retrieve the voicemail at any time from the Google servers. The third new option Google has added is the ability to change your Google Talk status according to the music you are listening to. Everyone gets bored with the available or busy default status messages that Google provides and this is certainly a relief from that monotony. Google currently supports Winamp, Windows Media Player, iTunes and the Yahoo! Music Engine. Using any of these players will change your status to the song that you are listening to.

For those who don't know, Google also lets you change the theme of the chat window. Google Talk has a few very simple, yet appealing chat themes built in, which you can access by clicking **Settings, Appearance, Chat Theme**

Similarly, you can also put a picture on your Google Talk profile. You can either use one of your own pictures from your hard drive or use a default one provided by Google. With this subtle way of expanding itself, Google Talk is fast becoming a bigger player in the market. Also, with its VoIP capabilities beating even the best paid service online, it will take a huge leap from the other IM players to beat this one. So, if you aren't a Google Talk convert yet, I urge you to go give this a spin and see. Behold everyone! The dark ages are over!



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SENIOR WEBSITES

Q:Are there any Web sites out there today that are aimed directly toward senior citizens? I sometimes get bored with some of the other sites and I would like to try something new.

A: This is a very interesting question and it's not something we've really touched on before, but I think it will be good material to cover. I know a lot of WorldStart's readers spend a lot of time on their computers and it's always good to have new and exciting Web sites to look at throughout the day. Whether it's while you work or in your leisure time, there are several Web sites designed just for senior citizens.

Okay, before I list some sites for you, I'll let you know that these are all good for networking with other seniors, making new friends, learning more about computers, obtaining information about retirement, etc. If that sounds interesting to you, go along with me as I explain some of them!

- 1.) **Senior Citizens Resources** - This Web site is run by FirstGov and it provides several tips for senior citizens. It gives information on consumer protection, places senior citizens can volunteer, seniors and adult education, advice on estate planning and federal and state agencies for seniors. This site also has links to the government sites that may be beneficial to senior citizens, such as the Administration on Aging, the Social Security Administration and the Veteran's Health Administration. Check it all out [here](#).
- 2.) **SeniorNet** - This Web site's mission is to provide access to computer technology for older adults. As a result, senior citizens will be able to gain more knowledge and wisdom and eventually share it with others. This site is basically set up as a discussion board. Everyone is welcome to participate in the SeniorNet RoundTable discussion groups. You just have to sign up for the boards and then you will be able to learn and teach others about computers and using the Internet. If you feel like you could share your wisdom with others or if you want to learn more, this site is perfect for you. Check out SeniorNet at <http://www.seniornet.org>
- 3.) **Web Pointers for Seniors** - If you're looking for even more sites to try out, this is the place you'll want to go. It is managed by a retired couple from Oregon and they have set up a whole Web site full of links they feel would be of special interest to senior citizens. There are links to such topics as senior issues, grandkids, senior guides, caregiving, health, nutrition, legal issues, financial planning, travel and others. Do keep in mind that this site hasn't been updated in awhile and some of the links no longer work, but it is worth taking a look at. There are still working links to a lot of helpful information that is all useful for seniors. Check it out -<http://web.pdx.edu/~psy01435startup.html>
- 4.) **SeniorLink** - This site is mainly helpful for senior citizens in maintaining independence in their own homes. The developers of this site want seniors to be able to do this safely and with dignity. This site even offers some help for children who have aging parents. It gives advice on making the difficult choices that come with the elderly care of their parents. This site does have some parts that require a paid subscription, but you can access free information in the Caregiver FAQ and Top Elder Risks sections. Take a look at it.-<http://www.seniorslinkonline.com>
- 5.) **Write a Senior Citizen** - Here is one more site I thought some of you might be interested in. This is more on the fun side of things! This Web site was actually created by two teenagers who wanted to bring senior citizens together. You can use it to write other seniors by e-mail or even by snail mail as a pen pal. If you're wanting to get connected with other seniors, this is the best place for it. Check it out <http://www.writeseniors.com>. Printed with Permission of World Start



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Lake Monticello, VA 22963

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Next Meeting October 4

Next program to be announced

**LMCUG general meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month
7:00pm in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse.
Meetings are free and guests are always welcome**