NACC
NEW AGE COMPUTER CLUB

Bits and Bytes

Newsletter

Online

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NACC

New Age Computer Club

Bits-and-Bytes Newsletter

February 2002

Chartres France

NACC 2002

Allentown, Pa., USA
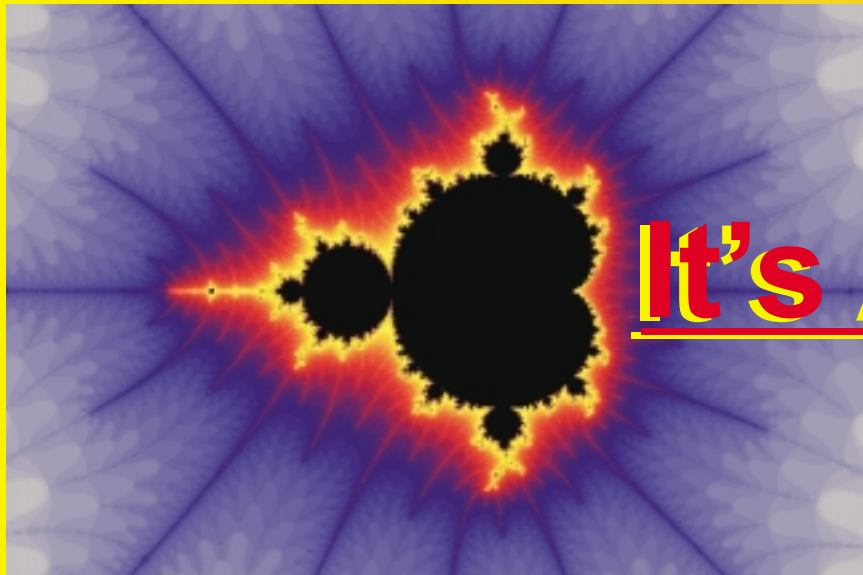
Volume 2, Number 2, NACC 2002

Why The New Age Computer Club (NACC) Is Free
by Val Scarcia, Editor
mrval@rcn.com

I have been editor of many newsletters, and I am glad to be affiliated with the NACC and its openness. Since we can offer everyone a FREE newsletter, we do not require dues. Dues originated with most clubs to pay for the costs of newsletters. However, with the advent of the Internet, this has all changed. We offer our members a FREE color newsletter monthly that is easily downloaded from our website in standard PDF (Portable Document Format). Many senior citizens on fixed incomes who are retired today are not looking for additional annual expenses such as dues. We have not created appointed officers and treasurers to collect and justify dues. We do not try to remind our members how much we are doing for them, since we are all equal.

The NACC has FREE access to many professional meeting places which include libraries, churches, schools, etc. All our members have individual talents. Many are professional college graduates who are certified in scientific areas and teaching. Many have taken post graduate college courses and hold advanced degrees as well. Some are hobbyists, many are successful businessmen, many are past successful officers of other clubs and groups. We do not believe the meeting place is the most important thing for our club. The most important ingredient is the content of the material, and how it is approached and explained. We are not trying to build grandiose temples or shrines around us. Good meetings begin anywhere.

In addition to our successful diner meetings, I have obtained the Whitehall Library for us starting on September 19, 2001, which also includes the first Wednesday of the month for the rest of this year. This area lends itself to demonstrations and input. Please send us articles of interest of your choice for publication in our color electronic NACC newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

It's A New Age

The New Age Computer Club has been a natural formation for those who have given many thousands of hours of their time to o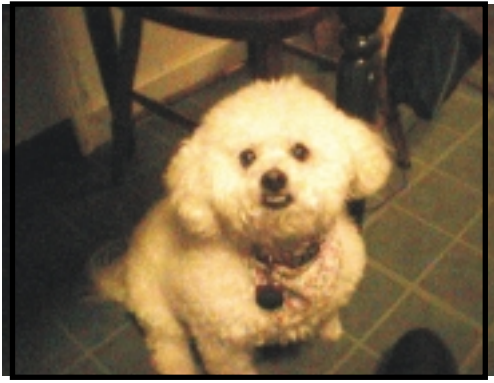ther nonprofit groups and clubs in the area, and find themselves without a place to be. Some of these people were founders of groups they are not part of today. The changing technologies and constant change in our society is producing people who believe "newer" is always better, and change for the sake of change is always the answer. It is becoming a world without history, a country without tradition, and limited insight. As computer hardware and software change by the minute, as new cars roll-off the assembly lines with new models annually, a subconscious vision is created that everything should change. The people changing everything don't even understand why they are doing it. It has become a national mantra. People keep changing everything just for the sake of change. Constant change will eventually bring a collapse, and scattering of efforts. Never forget, a nuclear bomb also works on the principle of a high rate of change!

The New Age Computer Club is a small group of friends getting together socially to have fun, and share ideas. We are not in competition with anyone else or any of the other fine clubs in the area. We do not require any dues or membership fees. We do not have any officers in our club, and hope we never will. We are not going out of our way to solicit members, and everyone is welcome. Growing to any specific number of members is not our purpose. All of us are equal, and we look to run the group as democratically as possible. This club will create the individual free-space needed for creative expression. We want different members to chair our monthly informal meetings creating an equanimity among all of us. We feel in this Information Age we can easily supply our group's needs without any monetary charges. We have our webpage up at http//www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit which is FREE.

We look forward to listening to everyone's views and interests. We will float in "free-space" for awhile before we get a full grasp of each other. We will have on-the-fly monthly meetings, and every member will get notified via e-mail. If you have interest, make sure you are on our e-mail list. We will strive to keep our outlooks high and provide the intellectual stimulation that is necessary in understanding science and computing today. But most of all, we need to understand and be respectful of each other, and realize we are all the result of all the past efforts of many others, better known as tradition and history.

Bill Pryor,
bill@sos-prod.com
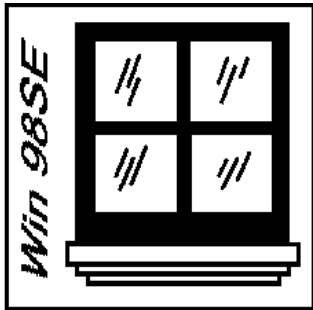
BREAKING NEWS

John Scott is currently heading up the LVCG Executive Committee as interim Vice-President until the coming elections in the Fall. Congratulations John from all of us. We know you will do a good job!

WUG is back. At the December Internet Sig meeting I was asked to reactivate the Windows Sig that I called the Windows Users Group. (WUG). With the availability of a stable meeting site (the former one wasn't) and the use of the LVCG's projector we can have some fun learning the ins-and-outs of Windows and Windows software. Despite my dislike of Microsoft, there are still more indispensable applications for Windows than for any other platform. We will start with the version that I am currently using Windows 98SE, and see what others in the group can demonstrate for the newer versions.

The first WUG meeting will be at the Whitehall Township Library on Mechanichsburg Road, Tuesday, February 14, 2002 at 7 PM. We will decide if this is a good time (Second Tuesday) and place. You will receive an official notice by email if you are on the LVCG or NAAC email lists or call me at 610-682-2809 after February 1.

Thru the Window Pain !!
by John Scott

johndscott@mindspring.com

WUG is back!

This month's column will be devoted to the Windows SIG of the LVCG. Next month I'll return the usual fair.

WUG is back! Reactivation of the Windows SIG (Windows Users Group aka WUG) was approved at the LVCG January Business Meeting at the Brass Rail. The first WUG meeting will be at the Whitehall Township Library on Mechanichsville Road, Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at 7 PM. We will decide if this is a good time (Second Tuesday) and place.

Why not **WindowXP?**

1. WindowsXP is a new operating system with Microsoft's usual problems and bugs. Additionally, I don't have XP and don't intend to upgrade to it in the near future. If I get a new machine I'll probably have to pay for it. Even then, I will probably not use it unless I can load it on *all* my machines. Microsoft wants ninety bucks for use on each machine. Forget it!
2. There will probably be another SIG devoted to XP.
3. Many of WUG's users have older machines without the power to use XP.
4. Windows 98SE is what I currently use. This is midway between Win95 and WinMe. Most, if not all of what we do, will be applicable to these versions of Windows.
5. The main purpose of this SIG is to improve computing by member sharing as we did with the original WUG. We will cover basics that will work on with most flavors of Windows. We will have demonstrations of Windows applications.
6. We will not dissect the Windows registry or other arcane innards of Windows.
7. We will have fun!

Finally, I've been to two computer super stores, Bestbuy, Circuit City, and all the local office supply stores. It may be an inventory problem, but most had copies of 98, Me, and XP on the shelves!

Hope to see you on February 12.

jds

WINMX, File Sharing Program
by Tom Burke, President of CESOP
Computer Educational Society of Philadelphia
tom@tjburke.com

What is WinMX?
WinMX is a FREE file-sharing program like no other. It allows you to simultaneously connect through the decentralized WinMX Peer Networking Protocol AND to many networks based on the OpenNap and Napster protocols. This means MORE USERS and MORE SEARCH RESULTS than other sharing programs. WinMX also supports ANY FILE TYPE, allowing you access to a diverse assortment of shared VIDEO and PICTURE files as well as the usual MP3 AUDIO files.

Features
High performance peer-to-peer protocol
Connect to multiple OpenNap networks simultaneously
Share and DOWNLOAD ANY FILE TYPE
Tracks and RESUMES broken transfers
Ability to throttle upload and download bandwidth
Upload and download bandwidth graphs
Per-user and over-all upload AND download queuing
Full chat capabilities including op commands
Multiple docking window interface great for hi-res and multi-monitor systems
Close program or shutdown computer (Win9x only) when transfers finish
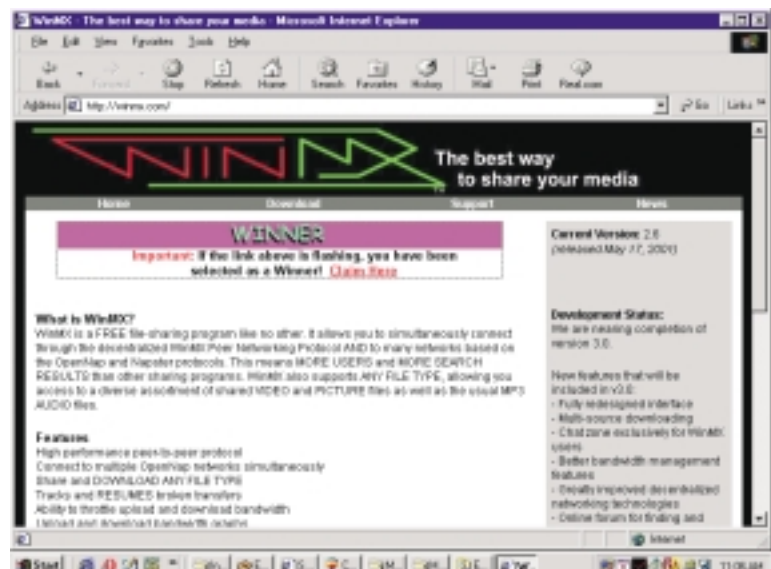Compatible with most LAN configurations
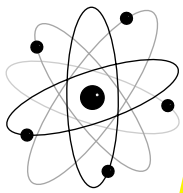**WinMX respects your privacy and doesn't contain** *spyware*

Requirements
Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000
Internet Explorer 4.0 or above if running Win95/NT
Pentium 166 w/ 64MB ram or better recommended

http://www.winmx.com

Better than Napster and it is FREE!

ATOMIC TIME

by Bill Pryor

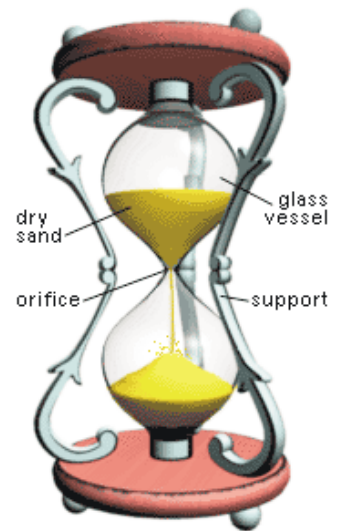Atomic Time   January 27, 2002
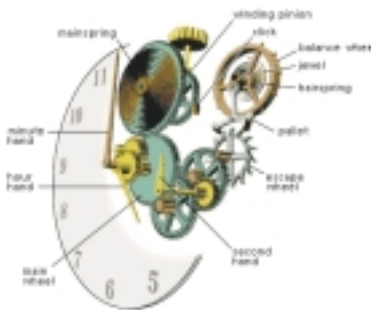by Bill Pryor

It is interesting to trace the history of time and its measurement. The shadow of the sundial, the water clock, the sand clock, the burning of candles in increments. Clocks with gears and weights, clocks with spring movement, clocks with the periodicity of the pendulum, the quartz movement, all lead to the more accurate time keeping of the atomic clock. Time keeping, historically, always had to do with the rotation of the earth, and the dividing of daylight and nighttime hours into smaller increments of hours, minutes and seconds. Today, this is not accurate enough for many purposes, since the tides and other alterations do not give the accuracy needed for very precise measurements.

All of us who are on the Internet are able to use available timeservers which can update our windows operating systems automatically within fractions of a second. For everyday users, like myself, this is great accuracy. If you go to the following governmental public domain website of the NIST: http://www.bldrdoc.gov/timefreq/service/its.htm, you can download the available FREE programs for different operating systems over the Internet, that will automatically set your system clock in your PC and MACs to fractions of a second.

The theory of time accuracy is to subdivide time into continually smaller and smaller measurable increments. This is what has happened with the atomic clock, using an oscillating microwave signal synchronized to the resonance of cesium 133 atoms. The atomic clock has redefined the second by subdividing the second into increments of 9,192,631,770 energy changes per second within a cesium 133 atom. To me this means that the atomic second is defined as having nine billion, one hundred and ninety-two million, six hundred and thirty-one thousand, seven hundred and seventy units per second! The energy changes per second within the cesium 133 atomic clock atoms are related to quantum mechanics, with the outer electrons going from ground state to an excited state, back and forth, in over 9 billion energy transitions per second!

These energy transitions have basically replaced the concept of the pendulum of earlier clocks and timepieces, giving very high accuracy.

In closing, I would like to point out that time is not very well understood by anyone, and is not something we should take for granted. As St. Augustine said, "Ask me about time, I'll tell you all about it. Ask me what it is, I know nothing." Most people know little about time, as it is impossible to get at its origins!

Smiles
by Joanna Broder <bcjoanna@qwest.net>

 Sign at a radiator shop
(A-1 Radiator) "Best Place in Town to take a Leak"

* Sign over a gynecologist's office
"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

* On a Plumbers truck
"We repair what your husband fixed."
!
* On the trucks of a local plumbing company in NE Pennsylvania
"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

* Pizza shop slogan
"7 days without pizza makes one weak."

* At a tire shop in Milwaukee
"Invite us to your next blowout."

* Door of a plastic surgeon's office
"Hello. Can we pick your nose?"

* At a laundry shop
"How about we refund your money, send you a new one at no charge,
close
the store and have the manager shot. Would that be satisfactory?"

* At a towing company
"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

* On an electrician's truck
"Let us remove your shorts."

* In a non-smoking area
"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate
action."

* On a maternity room door
"Push. Push. Push."

* At an optometrist's office
"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

* On a taxidermist's window
"We really know our stuff."

* In a podiatrist's office
"Time wounds all heels."

* On a fence
"Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive."

* At a car dealership
"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

* Outside a muffler shop
"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."
* In a veterinarian's waiting room
"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

* At the electric company
"We would be de-lighted if you send in your bill. However, if you
don't,
you will be."

* In a restaurant window
"Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

* In the front yard of a funeral home
"Drive carefully. We'll wait.

Valentine's Day

DIFFERENT VIEWS
Val Scarcia, mrval@rcn.com

Can you spot the dog in this picture?

Young Lady or Old Woman?

(Hint: the young lady's ear is the old woman's eye.)

A woman's face or a saxophone player?

Woman sitting at her vanity or giant skull?

Children at the window. Which way does the window face?

Can you see the word "Liar" written on this face?

Young Lady or Old Woman?

Giant fish and man in a canoe... or giant bird with woman in its mouth?

Below is a warning from Fred Langa, former writer for the Windows Magazine. Another XP gotcha! *JDS*

The LangaList
Standard Edition

2002-01-21

A Free Email Newsletter from [Fred Langa](#)
That Helps You Get More From Your Hardware,
Software, and Time Online

1) January's XP Surprise: Your PC As A Paperweight

Bill Gates says that some 17 million copies of XP have shipped since the operating system was launched late in October. It's a safe bet that a high percentage of these sales and shipments were bunched at the very end of last year, and the very beginning of this one. Between end-of-year budget purchases, holiday promotions, and Christmas gift PCs preloaded with Windows XP, millions of people--- and thousands of LangaList readers--- are right now experiencing their first few weeks with the new operating system.

That means many users are heading for a surprise as the internal counter inside every copy of Windows XP gets ready to enforce the mandatory "Windows Product Activation" (WPA) after one month of use.

The surprise isn't WPA itself--- we've covered that in depth. The surprise is the way it's implemented in Windows XP: You see, unlike the WPA in the Office XP/2002 products, one misstep with the version of WPA inside Windows XP (the operating system) may leave you unable to boot your PC; unable to access or back up your files; and in fact, unable to do *anything useful at all* with your PC. Your shiny new XP system will be nothing but a giant paperweight!

If you're in your first month of use of XP, you need to know what's coming. If you don't, that one WPA misstep could leave you with no way to access or salvage your data!

For the full scoop, please see the new Information.Com article at http://www.informationweek.com/story/IWK20020117S0002 ; it contains full details on the various WPA scenarios and what the consequences of each are; plus info on how to ensure that you don't lose access to your data.

Please come check it out, and then share your thoughts on WPA in the ListeningPost: http://www.informationweek.com/forum/fredlanga

MICROSOFT GETS DESPERATE.
By Don Terp, <dmterp@enter.net>

Two weeks ago I received a slick folded 8-1/2 X 5-3/4, mailer with what appeared to be an advertisement. It was addressed to Don Terp, President,Read Mountain Communications at my current address. The return address was Microsoft in Redmond Washington.

I thought it was another promotion for Windows XP and almost tossed it into the trash. I glanced at the bottom of the front of the folded ad and read, "Inadvertently using unlicenced software could hurt in more ways than one." I had to open this one. I quickly undid the gobs of adhesive and unfolded the glossy sheet to it's full 8-1/2 X 11-1/2 size. It now said, "But the publicity for running unlicenced software could hurt more than a $150,000 penalty," the title at the top of the page really hit me.

I quickly turned it over to see if it was miss-addressed and/or mailed. Nope, it was addresses to me.

One of the most important points of communications is credibility. To say that "using unlicenced software could hurt more than a $150,000 penalty," is a threat. It's against the law to threaten anyone while trying to collect money.

Now, I haven't used Read Mountain Communications as a business name for years. Someone was scanning old (very old) mailing lists and comparing them with Microsoft's records, kicking out all mismatches.

They were making several assumptions

1. That if you had a business name, you had to have Microsoft Software, more than likely an operating system.

2.   You may be a large business with many computers all with copied operating systems, (unlicenced)

3.   You are a candidate to make Microsoft richer and toss a few crumbs to the poor guys who they talked into taking the heat by taking the phone calls.

They were bottom fishing for unlicenced Microsoft software users to get them to sign up at a hefty fee. It appeared to me immediately that Microsoft was not doing well with Windows XP and was looking for extra revenue.

This all stems from a group called BSA for Business Software Association, which the flier assures me is hunting down offenders, like a Wild West Bounty Hunter, and getting them fined. They haven't reached the mass media with this one. I have seen nothing on CNN or Fox News.

I called the 800 number at the bottom of the sheet and a rather hesitantmale voice answered. My first question was, "What is this all about?"

I had turned on the phonograph record. He spieled out a minute and a half of rapid speech which was totally unintelligible. After I calmed him down I found out that what he was saying, up front, was that he wanted to assure me that he didn't work for Microsoft, but rather for a contractor who sold software licenses and was checking up on listed businesses who didn't match Microsoft's records. Hopefully they would land a big fish and collect a substantial fee for selling a big license.

 Rather than get defensive and quickly tell him that all my software is duly licensed, it is, I chose to get as much information as I could I used the good cop, bad cop technique, with the bad cop being a phantom. Ilistened to his story and believe me he was really earning his money. He disliked the people who swore at him and those who wouldn't let him get a word of explanation in to the conversation. It wasn't a very satisfying job, that's for sure.

Finally I read my registration off of the computer screen and he wanted a few more answers, which I gave him. He then warned me that I might get more mailings and that I should ignore them. HE would take care of it.

Whoever came up with this hair brained scheme should be shot at sunrise. All of these members of the BSA, talk to each other. Some how they have figured that 14% of their software users are stealing. They pull this out of thin air (there is no way that they can tell how much copying goes on).

Interestingly, I also talk to Adobe occasionally and they too come up with the same 14% copied software. Considering the difference in the volume of programs sold, that is impossible.

For sometime, Adobe has had a protection program that prevents anyone from installing upgrade software on a computer with no previous version of that program. I went through five different programs with them, installing each on a new computer, with no previous versions of the software. It was not easy.

Microsoft now prevents you from using XP beyond a certain date after installation without registering it. I know of one poor soul (I'm sure there must be hundreds) who forgot to register his copy and had to reformat his drive. XP had locked it up and he lost everything.

This turned out to be very expensive, since he had a lot of customer proprietary material on that drive and he lost it all. His customers weren't happy, to say the least.   I haven't found out yet how he made out.

WELCOME TO THE WORKPLACE, 2002! YEAR OF THE WIRELESS-NETWORKING POCKET PC WITH 206 MHz PROCESSOR...

YEAR OF THE VOICE-ACTIVATED-DIALING, WEB-NAVIGATING, INSTANT-MESSAGE-SENDING CELLULAR PAGER/PHONE.

YEAR OF THE DIGITAL WATCH WITH INTEGRATED SATELLITE NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM... YEAR OF THE USB-BASED MP3, WAV AND WMA PLAYER...

YEAR OF THE 512 MB PLUG-IN MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION DISK THE SIZE OF A KEY... YEAR OF THE COLOR SCANNER WITH AUTO 4-BUTTON INTERFACE

YEAR OF THE 32-FUNCTION STAPLER... THE CYBER-CONFERENCING ESPRESSO MACHINE... THE WINDOWS-COMPATIBLE DESKTOP PLAQUE REMOVAL SYSTEM.

IN SHORT, YEAR OF THE INSTRUCTION BOOK.

ANYONE KNOW HOW TO GET A DIAL TONE?

ANYONE KNOW HOW THE NEW COFFEEMAKER MAKES COFFEE?

WHERE'S THE HELP HOTLINE FOR TYPING AN ENVELOPE?

MY DELI ORDER DIDN'T SCAN!

I CAN'T GET THE PAPER CLIP DISPENSER TO BOOT!!

Newspaper Headlines in the Year 2035
Clarence Snyder, W3PYF@aol.com

Castro finally dies at age 112; Cuban cigars can now be imported legally but President Chelsea Clinton has banned all smoking.

Spotted Owl plague threatens
Western North America crops & livestock.

Last remaining Fundamentalist Muslim
dies in the American Territory of the Middle East
(formerly known as Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon)

Afghanistan still closed off; physicists estimate it will take at least ten more years before radioactivity decreases to safe levels.

George Z. Bush says he will run for President in 2036.

35 year study...diet and exercise is the key to weight loss.

Nursing home event... Bill Clinton
denies allegations of affair with candy striper.

Texas executes last remaining citizen.

Upcoming NFL draft likely to focus on use of mutants.

Baby conceived naturally.....scientists stumped.

Authentic year 2000 "chad" sells at Sotheby's for $4.6 million.

Ozone created by electric cars now
killing thousands in Los Angeles.

Average height of NBA players now nine foot seven inches.

Microsoft announces it has perfected its
newest version of Windows
so it crashes BEFORE installation is completed.

New California law requires that all nail clippers, screwdrivers,

and baseball bats be registered by January 2036.

Internet SIG Meeting February 11, 2002
by Bill Pryor

1) Joe Secondo will demonstrate how to use cameras (cams) on the Internet. He will demonstrate the current popular software and hardware that gets the job done. Don't miss this one, Joe knows a lot about cams, and how to use them effectively!

2) I will show everyone how to create webpages using Homestead. You can view my demo page at: http://billpryor.homestead.com If you are just starting out, you will find this type of webpage very easy to create.

3) With the hundreds of articles I have written over the years for the club, I am going to start running meetings on many varied topics derived from my past articles and newsletters. Programs can range from Quantum Computers to Cutting and Pasting In Windows.

4) By numerous requests, I am going to start a **CorelDraw Festival.** Each Internet Meeting will have time allocated for CorelDraw basics. The main theme will be: **Layout and Design.** In the end, you will see how CorelDraw can do most anything from designing and creating newsletters and flyers, to making roadside billboards!

5) The importance of *Computing by Instinct*. At the meeting, I will go into details on this topic.

Bill Pryor, Internet SIG Coordinator, K2ROH
http//www.enter.net/~lvcgi, Internet Homepage
http//come.to/lvcg Internet Homepage
http//billpryor.homestead.com Demo Homepage
http//www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit NACC Homepage

A message from a sponsor:

NAPSTER CASE COULD GET FINAL SETTLEMENT

Napster returned quietly to business earlier this year, but its legal situation remained in doubt. Now it appears that the file-swapping site is working hard to settle the copyright infringement suit that the recording industry filed three years ago in its effort to end the unauthorized trading of music. Federal Judge Marilyn Hall Patel has allowed a 1-month delay in the case so the two sites can continue negotiations. The site shut down in February 2001 after Patel ruled that it should filter unauthorized songs from its system. The Recording Industry Association of America also showed signs Wednesday that it is prepared to wrap up its case against Napster. "Since re- launching a few weeks ago, we understand they have limited their repertoire to licensed music. Resolving the lawsuit may now be feasible," RIAA President Hilary Rosen said in a statement........

IDENTITY THEFT TOPS FRAUD LIST

Identity theft was the most frequent consumer fraud complaint in 2001, according to the Federal Trade Commission, which released its top ten list Wednesday. About 42 percent of consumer complaints to the FTC in 2001 were about stolen identities, followed Internet auctions at 10 percent and Internet services and computer complaints at 7 percent. The FTC has started a fraud complaint database called Consumer Sentinel that takes information from law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada, as well private sector sources....................

E-Mails

Sometimes we just need to remember what the Rules of Life really are....

1. Never give yourself a haircut after three margaritas.

2. You need only two tools. WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40. If it moves and shouldn't, use the tape.

3. The five most essential words for a healthy, vital relationship "I apologize" and "You are right."

4. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

5. When you make a mistake, make amends immediately. It's easier to eat crow while it's still warm.

6. The only really good advice that your mother ever gave you was, "Go! You might meet somebody!"

7. If he/she says that you are too good for him/her-believe them.

8. Learn to pick your battles; ask yourself, 'Will this matter one year from now? How about one month? One week? One day?'

9. Never pass up an opportunity to *.*.

10. If you woke up breathing, congratulations! You have another chance!

11. Living well really is the best revenge. Being miserable because of a bad or former relationship just might mean that the other person was right about you.

12. Work is good, but it's not that important.

13. And finally... Be really nice to your friends. You never know when you are going to need them to empty your bedpan

May 1989

The Addition of Unlike Quantities Creates Reality

(Fundamental No, No of Mathematics)

by Bill Pryor
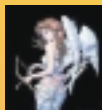
Three Wishes
Two Dreams
One Angel
Two Moonbeams

Are these unaddable things?

Can't I add wishes and dreams
To angels and moonbeams?

Why no they are unaddable things!

Can't I add sky and sea
To heaven and eternity,
And come up with unbelievable things!

The IQ Chip

July 7, 1996

Bill Pryor, Unplugged

Could the IQ Chip be on its way? It's only been 18 years since Intel released the 8086; look how far computer technology has advanced with condensed integrated circuitry.   Could chips soon have an IQ rating along with MIPS? Will IQ's of 500 or a 1000 just be entry level?   Will whole rooms of IQ chips be scoring perfect 800 scores on current SAT tests ? Will Intel be cranking out personalized IQ Chips for all the universities and colleges in precise fashion?   Will Harvard, Princeton ,Yale, Smith, Dartmouth, University of Pennsylvania, all be issuing personalized IQ chips?   At the price of $30,000 per year for current Ivy League students, this chip should be a bargain.   You could transplant four years of education into each student using the Harvard IQ Chip by Intel. Of course, Master and Doctoral IQ Chips will be a premium.

We hope you have enjoyed our Newsletter

NACC
New Age Computer Club

Allentown, Pa.

Website: http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit

Newsletter Archive:
http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit/Newsletters.htm