



THE WYSIWYG



\$3.00

December 1997

Volume 9, Issue 10

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

TUESDAY DEC 2

**Main Meeting.
7:30PM**

Back by popular demand, "What's Hot for the Holidays" will be presented by Phil Strait of CompUSA.

From the President's "Square" Office

by Rick Schummer

It is time for one of my "Miscellaneous Thoughts" columns. This month I will be discussing three topics: Cool New Computer Features, Upgrades, and the SHCC Elections.

Cool New Computer Features

I was recently over a friend's house working and discussing computer topics. He showed me a cool demonstration of his new Multimedia PC. Just a couple of years ago, the term Multimedia PC meant that the computer had a CD-ROM, sound board, and speakers. The hardware today is similar, but the quality has improved, and with the addition of Multimedia Extensions built into the CPU (MMX technology), and Digital Video technology (DVD) we are seeing Multimedia in a whole new light. What my friend demonstrated was different movie trailers played off the hard drive. The quality was outstanding. The video was crisp and the sound was incredible. Not a single moment of pause as it read it off the drive, which was very typical just a couple of years ago.

Another feature I have been impressed with is "computer phones". The concept is simple. Click on an entry in your online phonebook and the computer dials the phone via the modem. This is not new and has been

available for years. In the past you picked up the handset and talked to the person you called. Today you can speak into the microphone that is connected to the PC and listen to the person via the computer speakers. With the Internet and an inexpensive (\$200) video camera connected to the PC, one can not only talk to someone, but one can also see them as well, all for the cost of a local call. The world is getting smaller each day.

What we are seeing, and will continue to see, is that the computer and technology like television, radio, phones, and the stereo will blend. The ViaVoice technology we saw demonstrated a couple of months ago is also improving rapidly and will become an everyday feature of our computers. These Multimedia PCs are coming pre-configured with all this technology built into them. I can't wait until I can be like Captain Picard on Star Trek and walk up to my computer and say things like, "Computer, did anyone call while I was out? Start the dishwasher, let me know when the dryer is finished, and cut off the water sprinklers when the ground is saturated as if it rained a quarter of an inch." I doubt if it will respond to "Run to the fridge and get me a cold Coke", but that is a good job

(Continued on page 7)

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Guests and visitors are welcome. People may attend any of two consecutive club meetings before deciding to become a member or not. Membership includes admission to all SHCC functions and the newsletter. Membership is open to anyone. It is not limited to residents of Sterling Heights. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month, except for July and August. There is a monthly drawing for door prizes at the end of the meeting.

DUES: \$25/YEAR

CLUB ADDRESS: PO Box 385, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385
CLUB E-MAIL ADDRESS: SHCC@aol.com

Special Interest Groups:

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

MS-DOS (Main)	IBM compatibles
Communications	Computers communicating with other computers
Power user	Advance users discuss various topics
Novice	Those starting out
Business	Various topics related to business

Resource People:

DOS	Jerry Carson	248-548-0331
Excel	Mike Greenen	819-979-8717
Family Tree	Rick Schummer	810-997-1451
FoxPro	Rick Schummer	810-997-1451
Hardware	Jerry Carson	248-548-0331
Microsoft products	Mike Greenen	810-979-8717
MS Publisher	Rick Kucejko	248-879-6180
PCFile	Don VanSyckel	810-731-9232
Professional Write	Mike Greenen	810-979-8717
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer	810-997-1451
Word for Windows	Rick Schummer	810-997-1451
WordPerfect	Jim McNeil	810-978-3953

SHCC Coordinators:

Ask the Expert	Jerry Carson	248-548-0331
BBS info	Jerry Carson	248-548-0331
Business SIG	Jennifer O'Brien	248-540-4552
Com. SIG	Betty MacKenzie	810-254-0677
Door prize	Paul Anderson	810-979-2280
Greeting table	Lindell Beck	810-939-4278
Newsletter editor	?	
Newsletter publ.	Rick Kucejko	248-879-6180
	ricktim@rust.net	
Novice SIG	Ellen Geering	810-468-3528
Power Users SIG	Ed LeBioda	810-264-1632
Resource person	?	
Vendor Press Rel.	Jim Waldrop	810-731-6481

SHCC Officers:

President	Rick Schummer	810-997-1451
	rschummer@compuserve.com	
Vice President	Rick Kucejko	248-879-6180
	ricktim@rust.net	
Treasurer	Dick Morawski	810-573-9648
	RMorawski@aol.com	
Secretary	Don VanSyckel	810-731-9232
	vansyckel@voyager.net	

DECEMBER 1997
2 - SHCC - Phil Strait of CompUSA will present "What's Hot for the Holidays"

- 7 - SEMCO meeting
- 8 - Communications SIG
- 9 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 16 - Novice SIG
- 18 - MCUG meeting

JANUARY 1998
6 - SHCC - Member Rick Schummer to present FAMILY TREE MAKER

- 11 - SEMCO meeting
- 12 - Communications SIG
- 13 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 15 - MCUG meeting
- 20 - Novice SIG
- 27 - Power Users' SIG
- 29 - Business SIG

FEBRUARY 1998

3 - SHCC - Topic to be Determined

- 8 - SEMCO meeting
- 9 - Communications SIG
- 10 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 17 - Novice SIG
- 19 - MCUG meeting
- 24 - Power Users' SIG
- 26 - Business SIG

MARCH 1998
3 - SHCC - Topic to be Determined

- 8 - SEMCO meeting
- 9 - Communications SIG
- 10 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 17 - Novice SIG
- 19 - MCUG meeting
- 24 - Power Users' SIG
- 26 - Business SIG

Other Computer Clubs:

As a member of SHCC, you can attend the meetings of other area clubs where we have reciprocating membership agreements, at no charge.

South Eastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO)
 Time: 2nd Sunday at 1:30PM
 Place: Dodge Hall; Oakland University; 810/398-7560
 Web page: HTTP://www.semco.org
 Reciprocating: Yes

MI Computer Users Group
 Time: 3rd Thursday, 7:00PM
 Place: South Lake HS, 21900 E. 9 Mile Road, St. Clair Shores, 585-2050
 Reciprocating: No

Newsletter submissions are due 10 days before the club meeting, but the earlier the better. They should be sent to:

WYSIWYG Publisher
 5069 Fedora
 Troy, MI 48098
 OR at the e-mail addresses: ricktim@rust.net

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Sig Meetings

Novice SIG



The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 1997. We will be meeting one last time at Oakbrook

Elementary School. **The January meeting will be at our new place, the Macomb County Library.**

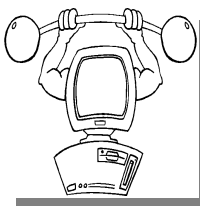
The November meeting was chaired by Gerald Hallman, who presented the MS Word database. He also talked about the clipboard, and answered questions for the group.

The Novice group is looking for a few good members to chair the Q&A session for the January and February meetings. Please see Ellen Geering if you are willing to help out.

For more information about the SIG, please call Ellen Geering (her number is on page 2).



Power User Sig



There will be no SIG meeting in December, because of the Christmas holiday. The next meeting for the Power

Users SIG is January 27, at 7:30PM. **The new meeting place is the Macomb County Library starting in January.**

Each month the members of the Power User SIG help each other out with some tough questions and topics.

For more information about the SIG, call Ed LeBioda (his number is on page 2).



Net/Com SIG



The next meeting of the Internet / Communications (Net/Com) SIG is December 8, 1997.

Are you interested in starting a home page? Don't know where to start? Our December speaker, Tim Kucejko, is someone who is maintaining a 110+ page web site created from scratch. Come and hear how it was done. Also, see the new SHCC web page, done by Tim, which may or may not be up on the WWW at the time of the meeting.

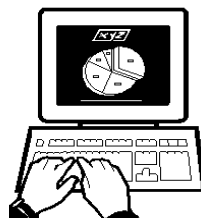
Each month the members of the Net/Com SIG visit the Internet to help members of the SHCC learn more about this powerful communications media.

For more information about the SIG, please call Betty MacKenzie (her number is on page 2).

Directions to the SIG location are available at the check-in table.



Business SIG



The next meeting of the Business SIG is Thursday, January 29, 1998 at 7:00PM. There will be a presentation by The

Internet Ramp.

At the November meeting there was a lot of discussion on hardware and configurations. The new SIG has

started!

The SIG meetings will be on the last Thursday of the month at the Knowledge Development Centers of Detroit at 2000 Town Center, Suite 200 in Southfield.

The Knowledge center is in the Southfield Town Center Complex, which is made up of 4 copper colored mirrored tower buildings. It is located off the Northwestern Highway, which is also the service drive of the John Lodge Freeway going North. 2000 Town Center is the second tower as you proceed north on the service road, just past the Radisson Hotel. (248) 352-6730.

Parking – Complimentary parking is available behind all buildings at Town Center. Enter the parking structure at the 2000/Restaurant entrance. The entrance to the 2000 building is on the third parking level.

Each month the members of the Business SIG will discuss software and hardware issues in the business environment. For more information about the SIG, please call Jennifer O'Brien (her number is on page 2), or e-mail her at 72242,3713@Compuserve.com



Attend A SIG

If you do not attend the SIG meetings, you are missing out on important club benefits available to you. These small groups get into more detail and question and answer sessions than is possible at the main



SHCC Business

"Ask The Experts"

by Jerry Carson

Please send questions to "Ask the Experts" at the club's PO address, or e-mail your question directly to Jerry Carson at: jcarson@ic.net

Q: Dear Expert,
What's an internet Cookie? Do I need them?

Puzzled

A: Dear Puzzled,
An internet cookie is a file that is created on your hard disk. It contains some information about you and is a convenient way for Web sites to "remember" information about you. For example, if you were visiting a software page and showed an interest in games, then the next time you visit that page it might read your cookie and show you the latest games.

Another example, let's say you purchase products through the web. A web site might place your credit card information in a cookie so you wouldn't have to type it in again.

The largest problem with cookies is that they can be read by any website. That means that some other web-site might get your credit card number or your boss might find out you were downloading game SW at work.

The way I handle this is to never send anything over the internet that I wouldn't want the world to see. There are some web browsers that support encrypted (or secure) transmission. These are OK, but I assume that everything else can be seen by everyone. The only real privacy that you have is that there is so much traffic

that nobody can monitor it all so odds are good that no one sees your messages. But that doesn't mean they can't.

Back to your question, No you don't need cookies and most browsers allow you to turn them off. They can make your life a little easier however and if you never send sensitive information over the Net, you can safely leave them turned on.



Door Prizes

The SHCC offers door prizes at regularly scheduled club meetings. This month's door prizes were not known at the time of publication.

Last month's winners circle included:

Jack Knirk won 10 HD diskettes

Betty MacKenzie won Virtual World Atlas

Bob Laurence won Microsoft Money

Dick Morawski won a Disk Storage Box

George Goetz won Microsoft Win95

Demo & Sampler

Robert Shellabarger won a mouse pad

Nina Jarboe won a Win95 Interactive Demo

Tony Fuoco won a mouse pad

Ray Fortier won a mouse pad

George Beben won a Win95 Demo

Ed LeBioda won Duke Nukem

John Monge won a CD Sampler

Donna Dembsey won the book "Upgrading to WP6"



A Computer Book

Ellen Geering is taking orders for the book "Secret Guide To Computers. If more than 4 order, Ellen can get a discount, and the cost would then be \$9.00.



Copiers Needed

If you have access to a copy machine and can volunteer to duplicate some *WYSIWYG Gazette Special Editions*, please contact Rick Schummer. We are looking for several members to ease the burden of one individual who has been duplicating our only source of printed advertisement. The more copiers, the merrier. We are looking for approximately 500 to 1000 copies a month to be handed out by our staff of volunteers to locations like the Sterling Heights and Macomb Libraries, computer stores and various retail



SHCC Emergency Shutdown

The Sterling Heights Computer Club will utilize radio station WWJ - 950 on the AM dial to notify members that a meeting is canceled because of bad weather or for other reasons. The announcement will happen along with the school closings and other events.



Presenters Wanted

The officers are looking for a person to come forward and make a presentation.

If there is some software you have been using and think others may be interested as well, or there is a computer topic you would like to present to other members, please call or e-mail Rick Schummer. Making presentations is not that difficult. The hour goes by before you know it and there is always enough material to cover in a software package that the hour is easy to fill.

As always, if there is a topic you are

interested in or a package you would like demonstrated, please see any of the officers. They are always interested in what the members would like to see. And don't worry about being volunteered to make the presentation (Rick might try, but never forces anyone to make presentations, although he has been persuasive in the past).



Symantec Software Discount Forms

Symantec Software discount forms will be available at the main meeting. These forms are from our September speaker, and will allow club members to get user group discounts on Symantec software products.



FOR SALE

-MEMORY-

2 8MB x 72 PM

Robert Shellabarger

263-4311

Programmers

Joke submitted by Ralph Osinski

A programmer, a mechanical engineer, and a manager were on their way to a meeting. They were driving down a steep, winding, mountain road with many switchbacks, when suddenly the brakes failed. The car ran off the road, bounced down the mountain, rolled over a few times, bumped into some rocks, and finally stopped only a few feet from the road below. No one was hurt, but they had a problem. They were on a mountain with no brakes in the car.

"Let's have a meeting," the manager said. "Propose a Vision, formulate a Mission Statement, define some Goals, and by a process of Continuous Mission Improvement focusing on our Core Business, find a solution to this Critical Problem."

"No, no," said the mechanical engineer. "That's never solved anything. I've got two shirt hangars, half a roll of duct tape, and a Swiss army knife. Give me a few minutes, and the brakes will be good enough to get us to the nearest gas station."

"Wait," said the programmer. "Before we do anything, I think we should push the car back up the road and see if it happens again."



Vendor Press Releases

by Jim Waldrop



This monthly column lists new vendor announcements and specials available to club members. If you are a club member, this

feature alone can save you much more than the cost of your club dues.

NOTE: When contacting any of the companies listed in these press release summaries, always mention that you are a member of the Sterling Heights Computer Club and that the telephone number etc. was printed in our newsletter.

NOTE: See James Waldrop for the full text of press releases.

Adobe Systems Inc.

Phone: 1-800-888-6293,
<http://www.adobe.com>
 Hotline 1-408-536-9400,
 Fax 1-408-537-7177

User Group Relations & Professional Associations Rye Livingston, Manager-
rlivings@adobe.com,

Take advantage of great user group discounts on consumer products. Get the latest award-winning Adobe consumer products at a special savings of \$10 off each for user group and Association Members only.

Adobe consumer products let you quickly produce publications for home, business, or personal use. Call 1-800-888-6293 to order your packages today. Ask for Offer No. 35700.

Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 Windows/Macintosh – Customize your photos with special effects. On CD-ROM **\$39.00 user group price**

Adobe Art Explorer 1.1 Deluxe CD Macintosh – Lets kids learn about art on the computer while jazzing up homework, creating comic books, writing newsletters, designing fashions, and more. **\$19.99 user group price**

Adobe HomePublisher 2.1 Deluxe CD Macintosh – A complete publishing solution for home or office documents. Includes more than 2,000 clip-art images and the Extensis Fetch art catalog browser. **\$39.99 user group price.**

Adobe Type Twister 1.0 Windows/Macintosh – Gives you type-enhancing capabilities, so you can produce text for banners, flyers, signs, and more. **\$19.99 User Group price**

Adobe announces FrameMaker 5.5 for Windows, Macintosh and UNIX. Provides corporate solution for authoring and publishing to print, and for the World Wide Web.

Adobe press user group discount available via Macmillan Computer Publishing USA. 'Classroom in a Book: Adobe FrameMaker 5.5' is now available to User Group and Association Members only. **You can receive a 25% discount** on this cross-platform, self-paced training guide.

Addison-Wesley Publishing Company announces new 'FrameMaker to HTML' book. The book covers FrameMaker to HTML conversion techniques designed to effectively convert FrameMaker documents to HTML for use on the Web or CD-ROM. To order, call 1-800-822-6339. For more info, see <http://www.aw.com/devpress/>.

Adobe Plug-in Source Catalog – Summer 1997 available. Special User Group offers on Adobe Photoshop & Adobe Illustrator Plug-in tools. You can now get the full line of Xaos Tools'

Photoshop plug-ins for **one price of \$129.00**. TypeCaster lets you create 3D type that stands out with textures, bump maps and multiple lights, directly in Photoshop. With Terrazzo you can create unlimited, seamless kaleidoscopic tiles and backgrounds for Web pages. Paint Alchemy helps you transform any image into a masterpiece with one of the many preset styles. Available for Macintosh and Windows. Just call 1-800-BUY-XAOS, and mention offer code ADB1.

Hot Door extends a special offer to user group members. Hot Door CADtools for Macintosh and Windows adds a wealth of precision drawing functions to make drafting and dimensioning easy for casual or professional Illustrator 7.0 users. It includes 34 new tools that work within the toolbox to help users create floor plans, construction drawings, technical illustrations and measured graphics in any scale.

Hot Door offers CADtools to user group and Association members for a **special price of \$99**. To order, call 1-888-236-9540. Just mention your user group affiliation for a **special savings of \$50. Offer expires 12/ 31/ 97.**

Cassady & Greene

Sales 1-800-359-4920
 Fax 1-408-484-9218
 e-mail: c&g@casadyg.com
 Web: www.casadyg.com

Origami – The Secret Life of Paper. Learn the art of Origami paper folding. Create 12 Origami figures – Crane, gyroscope, frog, iris, pagoda, star, and more. Free Origami paper to get you started. Learn to make your own Origami paper from junk mail. Offer includes stories and interviews from over 30 countries, over 100 full motion videos, 300 color photos, gallery with over 150 beautiful Origami figures, Origami history,

reference, and bibliography. *Special user group Price \$29.95.*

Epson

Phone: 1-800-463-7766
http://www.epson.com.

Epson announces a high resolution digital camera. PhotoPC600 captures 1024 x 768 pixel resolution (XGA resolution) pictures for computers, printers and TV. With the PhotoPC600, users can frame their pictures using either the traditional optical viewfinder of the built-in, two inch active matrix color LCD monitor. Pictures taken can also be played back on the LCD monitor. **Estimated street price \$799**

For lower overall costs of ownership, the PhotoPC600 comes bundled with the PhotoPC NiMH Power Pak which consists of four rechargeable, high capacity AA sized NiMH batteries and a recharger. When fully charged, these batteries last approximately twice as long as single use alkaline batteries. Unlike rechargeable NiCd batteries, NiMH batteries do not have to be fully drained before charging and can be charged many more times before experiencing performance degradation. The camera also accepts standard AA sized batteries, so users can use alkaline, NiCd or lithium batteries with the PhotoPC600. There is also an AC adapter option for the PhotoPC600.

Direct Print Option – The Epson PhotoPC600 has the ability to print directly to the award-winning EPSON Stylus Photo, the color ink jet printer designed specifically for digital photography. **With an estimated street price of \$499**, the EPSON Stylus Photo is a six-color printer that delivers photo reproduction quality output with super smooth gradation and virtually continuous tone.

Vertigo Technology Inc.

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

From the President

(Continued from page 1)
for kids anyway <g>.

Upgrades

Recently I was talking with a couple of newcomers to computers. They wanted to get the latest version of a program they bought six months ago and were willing to hop over to Egghead and buy it for full price. I'm not sure how many others have done this in the past or are even aware of the issues around software upgrades, so I thought I'd take up some space in this newsletter to tell others what I told these newcomers.

Typically software manufacturers will notify registered users of new versions available. This is the biggest reason to send in those registration cards. This notification will be packed (hopefully) with bulleted points of all the new features included in the new version. They also should make this new version available at a reduced price to people who own the license to previous versions. This is done either in the form of a rebate or directly ordering the package from the manufacturer at a reduced price. I find that the price is anywhere between 35% to 75% of the full price. Personally I like to see the upgrade run about 50% of the full price.

One of the problems I have experienced in this situation (with a couple of manufacturers) is that the new version is made available to the public before it is offered to registered users. This stinks, in my opinion. I have called several times to more than one company and complained about this "marketing blunder" and encourage others to do so as well. It usually takes three to six weeks after the application is finished to send it to be manufactured and released to the stores. In this time they can get a mailing done to the registered users.

It is also important to note that not all upgrades are worth it. Check the features out closely and make sure that you are getting something you desire from the product. Also note that many manufacturers will send updates (called service packs, interim releases, or patches) to fix problems in the current version. These are typically sent to the user for the cost of the mailing or can be downloaded from the Internet. You will not be notified of these releases in most cases and need to inquire about them if you are experiencing a problem with the software.

Elections

Another SHCC "election" has come and passed. Once again the "volunteers" have been elected without opposition. As I stated at the meeting, I'm not sure if it is because you think we are doing a good job, or you don't want to become one of the "volunteers" leading the pack. I sincerely hope it is because we are doing a good job. Here are the winners:

President	Rick Schummer
Vice President	Rick Kucejko
Secretary	Don VanSyckel
Treasurer	Dick Morawski

Like I have said in the past, we have a fine set of officers and coordinators, but we cannot run this group ourselves. Please provide input and ideas that you feel will make the group better. Thanks for all the support in the past.

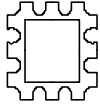
Conclusion

Rick Kucejko will be handling the meeting in December since I have a conflicting commitment. Have a good Holiday Season and a good New Year. See you in January.

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺



**STERLING HEIGHTS
COMPUTER CLUB**
PO Box 385
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385



DECEMBER AT SHCC:

TUESDAY DEC 2

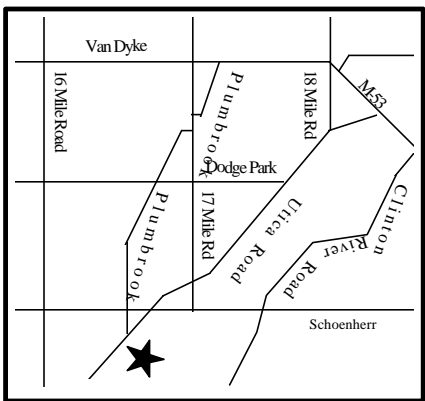
Main Meeting.

7:30PM at

Carpattia Club.

38000 Utica Road,
Sterling Heights

Back by popular demand, "What's Hot for the Holidays" will be presented by Phil Strait



SIGS

MONDAY DEC 7

Communications SIG. 7:30PM at the Macomb County Library.

TUESDAY DEC 16

Novice SIG. 7:30PM at Oakbrook Elementary School.

No Power User SIG in December

No Business SIG in December

FUTURE MEETINGS:

JANUARY

SHCC Member Rick Schummer will present Family Tree Maker.

FEBRUARY

Meeting Topic not finalized