



THE WYSIWYG



\$3.00

March 1998

Volume 10, Issue

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

TUESDAY MAR 3 Main Meeting.

SHCC Member Rick Schummer (and hopefully others) will present Slick Windows 95 tricks.

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From the President's "Square" Office

by Rick Schummer

A rambling mind often cannot be focused to accomplish the task at hand. Trying to figure out a difficult problem with your computer can be frustrating these days. Getting good advice is sometimes hard to find. I was listening to a local talk radio program on computers recently and found it very frustrating listening to bad and sometimes completely wrong advice being given. I never claim to "know all" when it comes to PCs and with all the different software that can possibly be run on them. Maybe this is why I don't have a talk radio show <g>. One thing I am smart enough to do though is admit I don't know the answer and then research this problem out, and more importantly find someone who is more knowledgeable on the subject and listen to what they have experienced.

Many moons ago I worked on a technical support line for an application my group supported at work. The job was not fun, in fact it was dreaded duty. By today's standards it was a cake walk. We had to deal with CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT. The operating system, MS-DOS (also comes in different flavors as PC-DOS and DR-DOS) could only support running one application at a time. We had archaic limitations like 640K of RAM and a simple file system that has a few simple attributes. The bulk of

the support calls were directly related to "How do I accomplish this?". An occasional memory problem or number of files open limit would pop up. We even had to support 3 modes of video, Monochrome (equivalent of black and white), CGA (low resolution color) and EGA (hi-resolution color). The nightmare grew! We were told that things would get better...

Along came networks which added another layer to the support nightmare. Add another configuration file, the addition of the Network Operating System, and the possibility of applications competing for file resources. The headache grew as more hardware became non-standard. Memory managers tried to handle the different specifications for handling memory over the 640K barrier built into the bowels of the operating system. Printers existed by the thousands, all with their own commands. Each application needed to understand all these standards, and frankly, they usually fell short. More hardware manufactures appeared for PCs, monitors, and modems. Then someone came up with the idea to incorporate multimedia sound and graphics. The nightmare grew! We were told that things would get better...

(Continued on page 7)

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:

MS-DOS (Main)	IBM compatibles
Net/Com	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 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	Mike Greenen	810-979-8717
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	

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

MARCH 1998

- 3 - SHCC - Stupid Windows 95 Tricks
- 8 - SEMCO meeting
- 9 - Net/Com SIG
- 10 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 17 - Novice SIG
- 19 - MCUG meeting
- 23 - Power Users' SIG
- 26 - Business SIG

APRIL 1998

- 7 - SHCC - Stupid Office/Suite Tricks
- 12 - SEMCO meeting
- 13 - Net/Com SIG
- 14 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 16 - MCUG meeting
- 21 - Novice SIG
- 28 - Power Users' SIG
- 30 - Business SIG

MAY 1998

- 5 - SHCC - Greetings WorkShop & Picture it!, presented by Jackie Goldspeak from Microsoft
- 10 - SEMCO meeting
- 11 - Net/Com SIG
- 12 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 14 - MCUG meeting
- 19 - Novice SIG
- 26 - Power Users' SIG
- 28 - Business SIG

JUNE 1998

- 2 - SHCC - Topic not Finalized
- 7 - SEMCO meeting
- 8 - Net/Com SIG
- 9 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 16 - Novice SIG
- 18 - MCUG meeting
- 23 - Power Users' SIG
- 25 - 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.

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

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

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 March 17 1998, starting at 7:00PM, at the Macomb County Library.

At the next meeting, we are hoping to have MS Excel spreadsheet on the computer. Mike Greenen will do a demonstration of that software.

The Novice SIG met on February 17 at the Christ United Methodist Church. Mike Greenen and Cliff Miller both answered questions. We had a good turnout considering the rain. Fifteen people came.

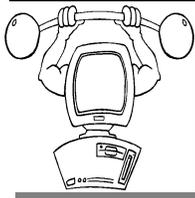
We still need volunteers for presenters for the Novice Sig. If there are any club members who could help with this very important activity, please see Ellen Geering.

For more information about the SIG, call Ellen Geering (number is on page 2), or e-mail her at elgeer@tir.com.

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



Power User SIG



The next meeting of the Power User SIG is Tuesday, March 23, 1998, starting at 7:00PM, at the Macomb County Library.

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 (number is on page 2).

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



Net/Com SIG



The next meeting of the Internet / Communications (Net/Com) SIG is Monday, March 9, 1998, starting at 7:00PM, at the Macomb County Library.

The speaker for the next meeting was not confirmed at the time of the newsletter. It will be announced at the main 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, call Betty MacKenzie (number is on page 2), or e-mail her at bmackenz@tir.com

Directions to the SIG location are



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



Business SIG



The next meeting of the Business SIG is Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 7:00PM. There will

be a presentation on Microsoft Office 97.

The SIG meetings are 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 discuss software and hardware issues in the business environment. For more information about the SIG, call Jennifer O'Brien (number is on page 2), or e-mail her at 72242,3713@Compuserve.com

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



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

None this month.



Ideas Needed

The officers are looking for any good tips/tricks/traps that you have come across for any of the popular Office/Suite packages. We are planning to present these nuggets of help for club members at the April meeting. It should be noted that you will **not** have to present the tips you come up with, unless you want to! The tips will be compiled and presented to benefit all. Please send the tips either electronically to Rick Schummer’s email, through snail mail to the PO Box, or drop them off at the regular meeting.



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. There is always enough material to cover in a software package, so 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



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. Please remember to listen to the radio when there is bad weather.



Door Prizes

The SHCC offers door prizes at regularly scheduled club meetings. This month’s door prizes were unknown at publication.

Last month’s winners circle included:

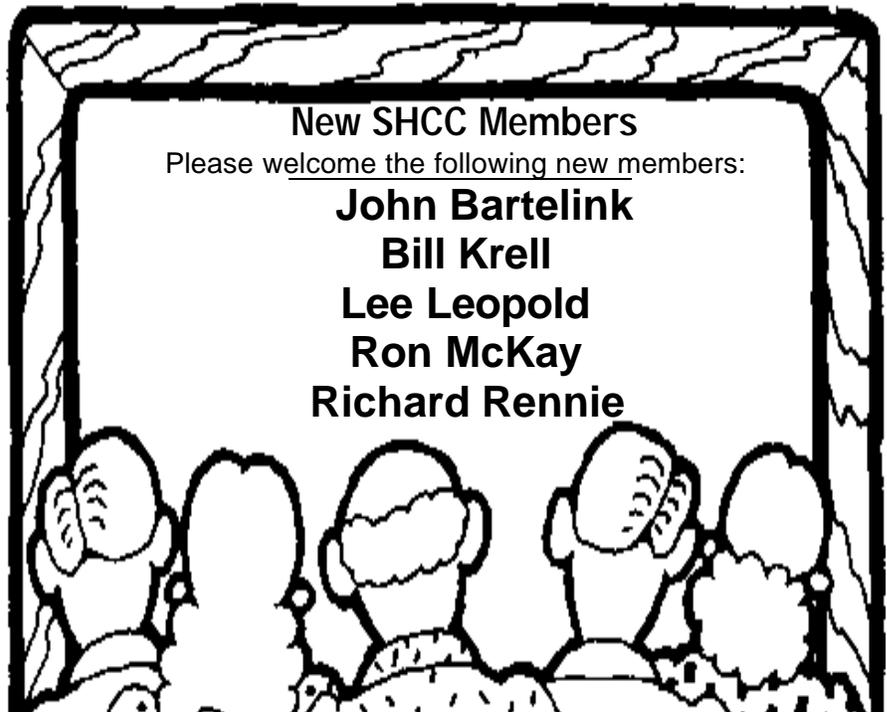
Dick Morawski won **MS OFFICE97**, donated by Microsoft Corp.

Fred Plamondon won **MS Money97**



More Door Prizes

Have software you no longer use? It could make a good door prize for a fellow member. It would also give that member another good reason for being glad to have been at the club



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

None this month.



Speaking the Lingo

You can't be cool if you're using outdated lingo. Here's the latest from the corporate and Silicon Valley jungles.

"Elvis year": the peak year of popularity; as in "1993 was Barney the dinosaur's Elvis year"

"generica": fast food joints, strip malls, sub-divisions; as in "we were so lost in generica that I couldn't remember what city it was"

"going postal": totally stressed out and losing it like postal employees who went on shooting rampages

"high dome": egghead, scientist, PhD

"irritainment": annoying but you can't stop watching e.g. the O.J. trial

"meatspace": the physical world (as opposed to the virtual); also, "carbon community" "facetime" "F2F" "RL"

"percussive maintenance": the fine art of whacking a device to get it working

"prairie dogging": in companies where everyone has a cubicle something happens and everyone pops up to look

"ribs 'n' dick": a budget with no fat as in "we've got ribs 'n' dick and we're supposed to find 20K for memory upgrades"

"salmon day": swimming upstream all day to get screwed in the end

"siliwood": the coming convergence of movies, interactive TV and computers; also "hollywired"

"square headed girlfriend" (boyfriend): computer

"treeware": manuals and documentation

"umfriend": sexual relationship as in "this is Dale, my...um...friend"

"world wide wait": WWW

"yuppie food coupons": twenty dollar bills from an ATM



TOP COMPUTER T-SHIRT SLOGANS

1. Cannot find REALITY.SYS. Universe halted.
2. COFFEE.EXE Missing - Insert Cup and Press Any Key
3. Buy a Pentium 586/90 so you can reboot faster.
4. 2 + 2 = 5 for extremely large values of 2.

5. Computers make very fast, very accurate mistakes.

6. Computers are not intelligent. They only think they are.

7. My software never has bugs. It just develops random features.

8. C:\WINDOWS C:
\WINDOWS\GO C:\PC
\CRAWL

9. C:\DOS
C:\DOS\RUN
RUN\DOS\RUN

10. — The information went data way —

11. Best file compression around: "DEL *.*" = 100% compression

12. The Definition of an Upgrade: Take old bugs out, put new ones in.

13. BREAKFAST.COM Halted...
Cereal Port Not Responding

14. The name is Baud....., James Baud.

15. BUFFERS=20 FILES=15 2nd down, 4th quarter, 5 yards to go!

16. Access denied-nah nah na nah nah!



A JOKE

Q: How many computer geeks does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Three. One to blame Sales for the darkness, one to blame Engineering for not changing it before it blew, and one to call in a consultant to actually change it.



Scanners Sizzle as Prices Plummet!

by Ken Fermoyle

This article was reprinted, with permission, from **APCUG Reports**.

I can't believe the prices of scanners! This new affordability makes a scanner an attractive option for any computer owner. You won't believe how helpful a scanner can be until you've used one for several months.

Do you often have to retype copy (mailing lists, reports to be updated, articles for newsletters) to get it into your computer? Or maybe you don't bother, but you sure would like to have the material available by stroking a few keys. With a scanner and the optical character recognition (OCR) software supplied with most models, it's a snap! Just scan the printed material into a file, which your word processor can read and you can edit or format as you like.

But it's in the handling of graphics and photos where a scanner really shines. Do you have photos or printed art you would like to incorporate into letters, greeting or business cards, or a Web page? (Just remember to respect copyright laws.) Wouldn't you like to produce flyers that show pictures of products you make or sell? Wouldn't it be nice to be able to move patterns for craft projects into your computer so you could easily resize or alter them, then print them on your color printer? These are just a few of the many capabilities of even the most budget-friendly scanners.

Maybe you would like to sketch your own designs in pencil, then complete them with a graphics program in your computer. Professional artists and illustrators do it all the time.

If the above comments have tweaked your interest enough that you go to a computer store to look at scanners,

here are some tips that will help scanner novices.

Don't let the jargon intimidate you: DPI, optical resolution, single pass, 24 bits or 30, scanning speed, maximum image size. Remember a few basics and you'll do fine.

Zero in on flatbed models. They are more versatile and accurate than sheet-fed scanners

Optical resolution is a critical measure of a scanner's capability and it is measured in dots per inch (dpi). You want at least 300x300 dpi or 300x600 dpi, the norm for scanners priced under \$300. Models in the \$300 to \$500 range may show 400x800 or 600x1000 dpi, but 300 dpi will suffice for many of us. As for interpolated or enhanced resolution, generally the higher the number the better, but don't worry too much about it. Optical resolution is the important specification.

You will probably be printing your scanned images on laser or inkjet printers with resolutions of 300 or 600 dpi, which work best with images scanned at 100 to 0 dpi. (Images scanned for on-screen or Web use need even less resolution, since most monitors display 72-80 dpi and the Web limit is 72 dpi) If you enlarge scanned images, you increase the resolution required. If you double the size of an image when printing it and want it to have 0 dpi resolution, you must scan it at 400 dpi. Conversely, if you reduce the image to half-size for printing, you need only scan it at 100 dpi. If you expect you will seldom increase the size of your scans for printing, a 300 dpi scanner likely will do just fine.

Most scanners offered now are single-pass models. As the name implies, they

complete a scan in one pass. Some older three-pass models might still be available at really low prices, but a single-pass unit is worth the extra money because it is faster and more accurate.

A 30-bit scanner is generally more desirable, and expensive, than a 24-bit. A good 24-bit model, like the Hewlett-Packard 5Pse, may be preferable to a cheaper 30-bit unit. You may also see some 36-bit models, but save your money. They're overkill for our purposes.

Scanning speed is of less importance to buyers who will be using the scanner only a few times per day, than it is for graphics professionals working against deadlines. I wouldn't worry too much about scan speeds, since manufacturer's specs don't mean much in the real world anyway.

Maximum image size for flatbed scanners usually ranges from letter-size (8.5x11 inches) to legal-size (8.5x14 inches). Having the larger scanning bed is nice, but it may be a luxury many of you will never need

This article is meant to be only the most basic of primers. If you dig deeply into the subject of scanners, it can seem hopelessly complex. Take it one step at a time, learn as you go, and I'm sure your reaction in a short time will be like that of almost everyone I talked to in preparing this article. "I don't know how I managed before I got my scanner; and now I couldn't imagine how I could get along without it!"

— *This article was scanned using a Mustek flatbed scanner. OCR software was used to convert the image to text for use in the WYSIWYG. — editor's note*



From the President

(Continued from page 1)

Along came Microsoft with Windows 3.x to remove the nightmare. As software developers we saw opportunity. The support lines also saw this opportunity. A common memory manager, a common set of printer drivers, common user interface, a common mouse driver, etc. etc. There was a feeling that we were going to see the complication of support go down. Not! There were more files that supported configuration like WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI. Those long time PC users (old timers, and I mean this in the most flattering way possible) who dared to mess around with this file can tell you that it is easy to disable Windows in a blink of an eye. One accidental delete of a byte on the wrong line and Windows would not start. The memory managers conflicted with older DOS applications and not all software vendors complied with the standards set up to run under Windows. This was nothing more than a pretty interface that sat on top of MS-DOS. The nightmare grew! We were told that things would get better...

Along comes Windows 95 to remove the nightmare. Finally a real Operating System to get rid of the old MS-DOS limitations, promising better system management and stronger support for DOS applications under

Windows. All these program executables and Dynamic Linked Libraries (seen everywhere with the DLL extension) that were common among all Windows applications would be centrally located and monitored by the operating system. Resources would be better managed and the interface would be more intuitive. All these annoying INI files would be better managed in a new database called the System Registry. Some of these promises came true. What nightmares were born out of this progress? Have you ever corrupted your System Registry? It is not fun to replace. If you thought tinkering with a WIN.INI was fun, tinkering in the Registry can easily cripple your PC if you are not careful. The common DLLs from one company are being upgraded and overwritten by another company. These changes are not always compatible with the other applications that use them. The nightmare grew! We have been told that things would get better...

Windows 98 is within sight, Windows NT 5 is just past it, over the horizon. The big promise is better performance, a stable environment, more integration with the Internet, and a lower cost of support. Will it be easier or more complicated? Only time will tell. Will the nightmare grow? Will we be told that things will get better?

Moral of this story...Be careful when listening to "real gurus" and "self proclaimed gurus" when they give

advice, whether on radio, TV, in a newsletter or magazine, or at a computer club meeting. It may be good, it may be dead wrong. Seek the advice of people you trust and try to get the opinion of several people. The old saying that two heads are better than one is very applicable with computers. It is always best to learn from others' experience. And remember to be nice to you friendly technical support person, they can save you time, money, and many a headaches when resolving PC problems.

See you at the meeting in March, and keep sending in those tips for Windows 95 and the different Office/



Member Classified Ads

None this month. Please send any classifieds to the WYSIWYG Publisher at the club's PO Box, or to his e-mail address posted on page 2 of the newsletter.

There is no charge for members classified ads for selling things to other members.

Ads are available to SHCC members and are limited to computer related items for non-commercial purposes.



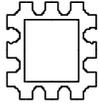
GUINDON





STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385



MARCH AT SHCC:

TUESDAY MAR 3

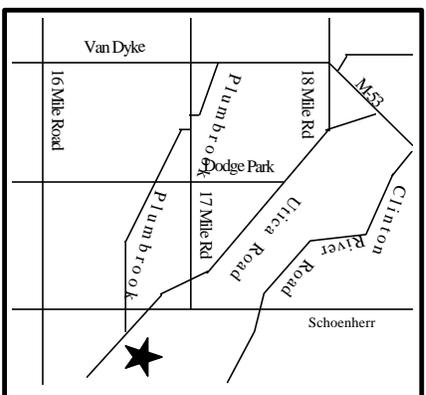
Main Meeting.

7:30PM at

Carpattia Club.

38000 Utica

SHCC Member Rick Schummer (and hopefully others) will present Slick Windows 95 tricks.



Road,
Sterling Heights

SIGS

MONDAY MARCH 9

NetCom SIG. 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

TUESDAY MARCH 17

Novice SIG. 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library

TUESDAY MARCH 23

Power User SIG. 7:00PM at the Macomb

FUTURE MEETINGS:

APRIL

Slick Office Suite Tricks

MAY

Greetings Workshop and Picture It,
presented by Jackie