



THE WYSIWYG



\$3.00

April 1999

Volume 11, Issue 4

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

TUESDAY APRIL 6
Main

**Data Recovery, by
Brian Ahern of Data
Recovery Group**

**The Meeting days of the SIGS
have changed. Check the
WYSIWYG for this month's
meeting days.**

**VISIT THE SHCC WEB PAGE
AT:
<http://member.apcug.org/shcc/>**

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From the Secretary's Notebook
by Rick Schummer

Am I the only person who has seen a media blitz on the Y2K issue since our country's top leader was not found guilty during the Impeachment Trail? I thought I would write a few thoughts down on my perspective of this situation and speak from a personal perspective on why the world will **not** end on January 1, 2000.

My Disclaimer

Please note that I'm not a lawyer and I can't control all the problems that can result because of the inaction of others. Basically these are my personal opinions and feelings. Each of us has this right and should look at this situation with an independent eye. That's my disclaimer and I'm sticking to it! Settlement happens during shipping and your mileage may vary.

So What is the Big Deal?

People have been listening to doomsayers for centuries that the world will come to an end when we roll over into the next millennium (which really starts in 2001 <g>). This is not new; it has happened each and every time the century changes. This time it just happens that we also are changing a millennium as well and to compound it we are throwing in new technology this time around!

Lets first discuss exactly what the Y2K

problem really is and why we face it. It all started many years ago when hardware and software developers saved space in memory and on disk drives by not including the "19" in the year. They only used the last two digits of the year. The real issue of Y2K is two pronged. First is entering a date into the computer. If the older software only allows 2 digits for the year it will likely default to the 1900s. Therefore, the entering in "00" for the year will default to 1900 instead of 2000. This causes problems for date math calculations. Many issues arise like newborns being a hundred years old the moment they are first entered into a hospital's computer. The second issue is sorting. The "00" will sort before the "01" and the "99". This will cause reports or screens to display information out of order. This problem will cause trouble for people evaluating the information in date order.

In the early years of computing it did not matter. Back in the 1970's and 1980's we saw software last a dozen years or more. In many cases, 20 years or more was not unusual. This was not planned, it just happened. Business did not change at the pace we see today. The average life span of computers and software is shorter and shorter as time goes on. Currently,

(Continued on page 6)

Guests and visitors are welcome. People may attend any of two consecutive months of 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
CLUB WEB PAGE: <http://member.apcug.org/shcc/>

Resource People:

DOS	Jerry Carson
Excel	Mike Greenen
Family Tree	Rick Schummer
FoxPro	Rick Schummer
Hardware	Jerry Carson
Microsoft products	Mike Greenen
MS Publisher	Rick Kucejko
Professional Write	Mike Greenen
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer
Word	Rick Schummer
WordPerfect	Jim McNeil

SHCC Coordinators:

Ask the Expert	Jerry Carson
Business SIG	Jennifer O'Brien
Net/Comm. SIG	Betty MacKenzie
Door prize	Paul Anderson
Greeting table	Lindell Beck
Newsletter pub.	Rick Kucejko ricktim@tir.com
Novice SIG	OPEN
Power Users SIG	Ed LeBioda
Resource People	Mike Greenen
Vendor Press Rel.	Jim Waldrop

1999 SHCC Officers

President: Don VanSyckel
 Secretary: Rick Schummer
 V. President: Mike Greenen
 Treasurer: Dick Morawski

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

APRIL 1999

- 6 - Data Recovery, by Brian Ahern of Data Recovery Group**
- 8 - Net/Comm SIG
- 11 - SEMCO meeting
- 13 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 15 - MCUG meeting
- 20 - Novice SIG
- 21 - Power Users' SIG

JUNE 1999

- 1 - SHCC - Computer Training - by American System Technology**
- 3 - Net/Comm SIG
- 8 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 13 - SEMCO meeting
- 16 - Novice SIG
- 17 - MCUG meeting
- 23 - Power Users' SIG

MAY 1999

- 4 - SHCC - Home Automation, by Rick Schummer and Don VanSyckel**
- 6 - Power Users' SIG
- 9 - SEMCO meeting
- 11 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 13 - Net/Comm SIG
- 18 - Novice SIG
- 20 - MCUG meeting

JULY 1999

- 6 - SHCC - No main meeting in July**
- 11 - SEMCO meeting
- 13 - SHCC officer's meeting
- 15 - MCUG meeting
- 19 - Net/Comm SIG
- 20 - Novice SIG
- 27 - Power Users' SIG

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

Contact Information:

Paul Anderson	810-979-2280	TPaul07@aol.com
Lindell Beck	810-939-4278	LJayBeck@home.com
Jerry Carson	248-548-0331	jcarson@ic.net
Mike Greenen	810-979-8717	MGreenen@gatecom.com
Rick Kucejko	248-879-6180	ricktim@tir.com
Ed LeBioda	810-264-1632	-
Betty MacKenzie	810-254-0677	BMacKenz@tir.com
Jim McNeil	810-978-3953	-
Dick Morawski	810-573-9648	RMorawski@aol.com
Rick Schummer	810-997-1451	RSchummer@compu-serve.com
Don VanSyckel	810-731-9232	vansyckel@voyager.net
Jim Waldrop	810-731-6481	-

Other Computer Clubs:

As a member of SHCC, you can attend meetings of other 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)

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@tir.com

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SIG Meetings

Novice SIG



The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 1999, starting at 7:00PM, at the Macomb County

Library.

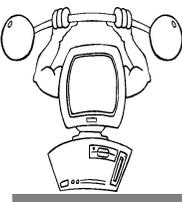
We are presently looking for a volunteer to be the SIG leader. If you are interested, please contact one of the officers.

All new and not so new members are invited to come and learn the DOS and Windows basics at our meetings. It would be great if we could get more volunteers to help out with the basic scheduling and running of this SIG. Every computer club needs a Novice SIG and we need some new "blood" to help pump more ideas and spring into every meeting.

For more information about the SIG, call Mike Greenen (number on page 2), or e-mail him at:



Power User SIG



The next meeting of the Power User SIG is Wednesday, April 21, 1999. For the first half of 1999, most of the meetings will be on

Wednesday, due to the library room availability.

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).



Net/Com SIG



The next meeting of the Internet / Communications (Net/Comm.) SIG is Thursday, April 8,

1999, starting at 7:00PM, at the Macomb County Library. For the first half of 1999, most of the meetings will be on Thursday, due to the library room availability.

On April 8, Jack Vander-Schrier, retired programmer and software designer, will lead the Internet/Communication SIG meeting. Jack teaches computer and Internet classes at the Shelby Twp. Senior Center.

Each month the members of the Net/Comm SIG discuss the Internet to help members of the SHCC learn more about this communications media.

For more information about the SIG, call Betty MacKenzie (number is on page 2), or e-mail her at



Copiers Needed

Special thanks to all our members who are helping with the duplication needs of the club!

If you have access to a copy machine and can volunteer to duplicate some *WYSIWYG Gazette Special Editions*, please contact Don VanSyckel. We are looking for several members to ease the burden of one individual who has been duplicating our 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,



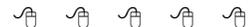
Directions To The Macomb Library

The Macomb County Library is located at 16480 Hall Road, in Clinton Township, between Hayes and Garfield, close to the light at Garfield, on the south side of Hall Road. A large blue sign says "Macomb County Library". The phone number is (810) 286-6660.



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



Member Home Pages

Now that the SHCC website is up and running, we are planning some additions and enhancements to our site. We have added a page for links to members' home pages. If you are interested in having a link to your home page please send the URL to



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



SHCC Business

“Ask The Experts”

Please send questions to “Ask the Experts” at the club’s PO address, or e-mail your question directly to Jerry Carson at: jerrycarson@ameritech.net

None this month.



SHCC Future Meeting Topics

For those that participated in our meeting topic survey at the March meeting, thank you. This survey has allowed us to plan some meetings based on our member input and interest.

The top choices for future meeting topics were:

1. Hard Drive clean up
2. Search Engines and their use
3. Web browsers and their use
4. Image and photo editing
5. File compression / extraction
6. Virus protection
7. Trip planners / Street Atlas
8. Personal Finance
9. Family Tree
10. Label Making
11. Create Greeting Cards
12. Paint Shop
13. Landscaping

A tentative schedule of future meetings was discussed at the March officer’s meeting and is listed below:

1999

May: Home Automation, by Rick Schummer and Don VanSyckel

June: Computer Training - by American System Technology

No meeting in July and August

September: Microsoft - Imaging and

Photo Editing

October: Hard Drive Cleanup and Backup

November: Greetings Workshop - by member Rick Kucejko

December: What’s Hot for the Holidays

2000

January: Personal Finances - by member Dick Morawski

February: Trip Planners and Street Atlas

March: Landscaping software

April: Web Browsers and Search Engines



Door Prizes

The SHCC offers door prizes at most regularly scheduled club meetings. The door prizes for the April meeting were not known at the time of publication

In March, the winner’s circle included:

Publisher 2 - won by **Angela Dittmar**

Olympic Summer Games - won by **John Monge**

Disk holder - won by **Rick Kucejko**

Windows Resource book - won by **Bob Shellabarger**
Visual Basic for Dummies book,

won by **Ellen Geering**



Windows 95 Is Not Y2K Compliant

Windows 95 is NOT year-2000 compliant, but Microsoft has a software patch to make it compliant. The patch is available at:

<http://support.microsoft.com/download/support/mslfiles/Win95y2k.exe>.

When you go there, Microsoft might automatically ask for information about who you are, so they can start sending you a bunch of ads, but you can check some boxes to prevent this from happening. Then you get the patch. Be sure to take note of where on your hard drive the patch “Win95y2k.exe” is being stored, as it downloads.

The patch comes as an executable file. Close all Windows programs and execute (i.e., run) the file on your Windows 95 machine.



A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
Too many clicks spoil the browse.



WYSIWYG WEB WATCH

by Paul Baecker and John Beauchamp

A new column in the WYSIWYG features favorite web sites of SHCC members. We entertain input from our members.



If you have a particularly enjoyable or helpful (or just plain useless) site which you would like to

share with the membership, e-mail the site address and a short description/review of the site for inclusion in the next WYSIWYG issue, to either beck038@ix.netcom.com, or JBeauc2017@aol.com. Then send in another one, or two. We have lots of room, so pound those keys!

Communicate with Uncle Sam before April 15; tax forms, publications, info, and help from the horse's mouth:
<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/>

Receive a free daily "clean" joke via e-mail, or browse the archives and send one to a buddy:
<http://Laugh-A-Lot.com/>

A jump-off point for a wide range of internet site categories (news, newspapers, weather, sports, business, finance, law/politics, science, entertainment, columnists, comics, markets, mutual funds, bookshelf references, calculators, clocks, encyclopedias, almanacs, medical, auto maintenance, government, tv/radio schedules, travel, computer hardware/software/tech. support, etc., etc., etc.....):
<http://www.el.com/>

Who needs Hallmark anymore? Free digital postcards and animations. Over 30 categories of greetings, in

addition to holidays. (You might want to keep this a secret from the youngest children.):

<http://www.egreetings.com>

Thinking of upgrading your computer, or building a new one yourself? Peruse the articles at Tom's Hardware Guide and make a more educated decision on your next purchase. (Sorry, no Mac info here):

<http://sysdoc.pair.com/>

A fine collection of Windows drivers, bugs/fixes, tips/tricks. If you can walk through your Control Panel, you can easily traverse this site:

<http://www.winfiles.com/>

Are you tired of the MS Office 97 Office Assistant, sometimes referred to as Clippy, the animated paperclip? Here's how to kill it... or at least put it to sleep:

http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/howto_help/killclippy/clippy_1.html

You look at that meatloaf in the back of the refrigerator, and although it has no fur growing on it, it looks mighty tasty. But, should you eat it, or skip to the day-old fish sandwich in front? This food safety site (by ABC's 20/20 tv program) includes RealPlayer video sequences on food storage, info on

bacteria in left-overs, and links to other food safety sites, including the FDA. Now, about that meatloaf...

http://www.abcnews.go.com/onair2020/2020_990319_foodsafety_feature.html

Writing your thesis, and misplaced your dictionary? Let Merriam-Webster (the ORIGINAL Webster) help out. Dictionary and thesaurus at:

<http://www.m-w.com/>

LinkSys offers user-friendly info on peer-to-peer and client-server networking (including procedures and hardware requirements), without pushing their products too hard. This link leads to their FAQ page.

<http://www.linksys.com/support/faqs/default.htm>

Looking to save a buck? There's something free for everyone here:

<http://www.thefreesite.com/>

Useless Site of the Month. The site address says it all...

<http://mats.gmd.de/~steffi/madcow/madcow.htm>

Inspirational Site of the Month. Snow scenes and thought-provoking dialogue:



A Y2K Joke

President Yeltsin, President Clinton, and Bill Gates are invited to have dinner with God. During dinner He tells them: "I need three important people to send my message out to all people. Tomorrow I will destroy the Earth."

Yeltsin immediately calls together his

cabinet and announces: "I have two really bad news items. God really exists, and tomorrow He will destroy the Earth."

Clinton calls an emergency meeting of Congress and announces: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is God really does exist. The bad news is tomorrow He's destroying the Earth. Bill Gates goes back to Microsoft and

tells his employer: "I have two pieces of great news. First, I am one of the three most important people on Earth, and second, we don't have to fix the Y2K problem."



From the Secretary

(Continued from page 1)

software changes are hitting us in annual installments. Hardware is moving at the same pace.

Y2K "Bug", Not!

I have heard the Y2K problem referred to as the "millennium bug" on both radio and TV. It is not a bug since the term "bug" refers to software that does not work as it is designed. It should be noted that the software was designed intentionally to save space in files and in memory. I will say that software that was written in the 1990's should not have this problem and I am appalled when I run into issues that frankly should not exist. I write software for a living and can say that I have not written or designed code with the Y2K problem. I have however fixed numerous problems written by other developers.

It is my personal opinion that there are a number of people out there hyping the fear of the computer world ending when the Year 2000 hits. I have listened to a number of so called "experts" who claim that cars won't start, electrical grids will shut down, banks will close, stores will not sell food without cash, PCs will stop working, etc. I personally think this is like an insurance salesperson saying "you could die tomorrow and leave nothing for your family, buy this policy". If the insurance guy really believed you would die tomorrow, he surely would not sell you a policy that would protect your family.

Many people are saying that the banks will shut down. This is bunk; they will

still collect the mortgage payment and will still keep your money safe. They are charged with this and there would be riots if they did not protect this. Frankly there is not a car loan or home mortgage cut today that does not expire in the year 2000 and beyond. They claim that credit cards will stop working. I have several that expire in August of 2000 and they work. There is fear that the Edison power-grid will shut down. I think that there are bigger problems in the world and I think this is more fear than reality (but the closest thing to a mass problem that could happen). I have it a good source that indicates that Edison is well ahead of testing and are well on their way to protecting us from a mass blackout. The IRS will not stop collecting taxes, Social Security will continue to struggle in Congress and the planet will continue to rotate. Doctors will care for patients even if they have to write things down and look things up in a book.

I am not going to sit here and say that nothing will happen, I'm just skeptical on the fear mongers and the end of the world scenarios. I probably would not fly the night of December 31, 1999 since the radar system is all software driven these days. We may have to wait for some things to catch up, but there is still three-quarter of a year to get the important things fixed.

Make a To-Do List:

Here is what I am doing to protect my family and recommending to friends. It should be noted that most of these items are things I practice in life and would be doing even if the Y2K issue was not being faced:

- 1) Have some cash handy in case the ATM machine at your bank does not work. Remember the days when you worked through a teller, this is the worst case that I see on this.
- 2) Keep track of bank balances and investments (good practice anyway). Ask them what their stand is on Year

2000 issues. The banking and finance industry is probably the best prepared for all of this since they have been affected for years with long-term investments and loans. Wall Street just tested the Y2K readiness and is doing well from the reports. This testing is going on everywhere.

3) Fill up your gas tank the week before (good practice in the winter anyway) just in case their computer based pumps are not working

4) Buy batteries for the flashlights and some candles. Be ready as if you prepared for a storm outage with supplies like food and blankets and some firewood (again good practice with Michigan winters).

5) Back up your data on the PC (this should be regular anyway) and fortunately the SHCC will be having some future meetings to discuss this topic.

6) If there are software packages you use regularly, check out the companies web site for Y2K statements. For instance Microsoft has a huge amount of information at www.microsoft.com/y2k. There are issues with software like databases, spreadsheets, and checkbook packages. Check into them if you are worried. Quicken has some problems with older versions, you may need to upgrade.

7) Test it out. Move your computer's clock to December 31, 1999 at 11:55PM and shut it off. Turn it on in 10 minutes and see if it works with the year 2000. There are problems with older PCs (286s and 386s, even some newer ones). Check out the manufacturer's website to see what they say. <http://www.gateway.com> for instance has a statement on their website.

8) Ask anyone else who you feel is important with date related products what you can expect.

Vendor Press Releases

by Jim Waldrop

Don't fear the worse, mass perception could become reality or cause the breakdown of society in my opinion. Be prepared for your own sake.

I have little control over this Y2K problem and I'm in the computer business. I can only help a small segment of the population and I do my best to ease people's fear. Frankly, I'll be enjoying the rollover to the Year 2000 with friends and family. If the lights go out, I'll light a few candles and enjoy their company via candlelight. Worse case is that the Rose Bowl will not be watched the next day, I'll survive.

There is a pretty good (long) article in a recent past issue of PC Magazine (last fall). Frankly, most computer magazines are running stories and it is in the mass media hourly. Just try to discard the fear mongers and understand that some may be true, but much is urban legend or people hyping it to make a profit off of it.

Once again, the world has bigger issues facing it than the Y2K.



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.



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

Adobe Systems Inc.

1-800-888-6293

<http://www.adobe.com>

Fax 1-408-537-7177

User Group Relations & Professional Associations - Rye Livingston,
1-408-536-3286

Complete product and download information at: <http://ezgate.com/w/t?4>

Check out the Adobe Press Web site <http://www.adobepress.com> for the latest on Adobe Press books.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GREAT USER GROUP DISCOUNTS ON BUSINESS AND IMAGING SOLUTIONS - a special savings on each for User Group and Association Members only. Call 1-800-888-6293 to order your packages today. Ask for Offer# 35701.

ADOBE PHOTODELUXE

BUSINESS EDITION WINDOWS - A solution for creating sales and marketing materials such as business cards, letterhead, flyers and direct mail pieces. Designed to help small businesses use photos to stand out in print and on the Web. Now only \$69.00.

ADOBE PHOTODELUXE HOME EDITION 3.0 WINDOWS - Enhance your photos and then share them with family and friends. Step-by-step activities lead you through getting and fixing photos and then dropping them into high quality templates for everything from greeting cards to T-shirts, even multimedia presentations. When you're ready to share your artwork, just follow simple guidelines for printing, posting on the Web, or e-mailing. Just \$39.00.

ADOBE PAGEMILL 3.0 WINDOWS/MACINTOSH-Adobe PageMill is as easy to use as your favorite word processor, so you can quickly design a compelling site, post it to the Web and then get back to business. With Adobe PageMill 3.0, you don't have to know a thing about HTML, tags, URLs or any other

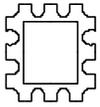


Member Classified Ads

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 ads for selling things to other members.





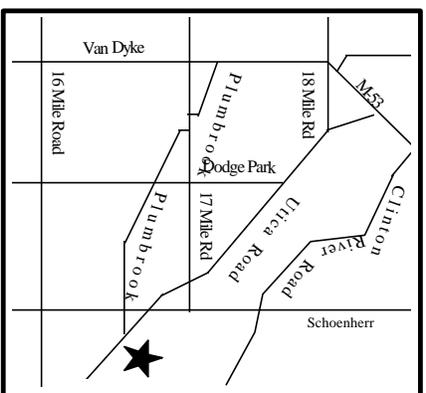
STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385



APRIL AT SHCC:

TUESDAY APRIL 6
Main Meeting.
7:30PM at
Carpattia Club.
38000 Utica
Road,
Data Recovery, by
Brian Ahern of Data
Recovery Group



Heights

SIGS

THURSDAY APRIL 8
NetCom SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb
County Library.

TUESDAY APRIL 20
Novice SIG 7:00PM at the
Macomb County Library

FUTURE MEETINGS:

MAY

Home Automation, by Rick Schummer and Don Vansyckel

JUNE

Computer Training - by American System Technology