



THE WYSIWYG



\$3.00

September 1999

Volume 11, Issue 7

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

TUESDAY SEPT 3
Main Meeting.
7:30PM

PowerDesk Utilities by Mijenix will be presented by member Rick Schummer. This is a product for Win95/98/NT, and is an Explorer

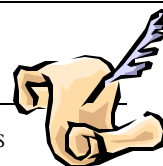
The Meeting days of the SIGS vary, due to room availability.

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

IN THIS ISSUE:	
The President's Pen	1
"Free" Computers	1
About SHCC	2
Resource People	2
SIG Meetings	3
A Phone Scam	3
Volunteers Needed	4
Door Prizes	4
Vendor Press Releases	5
WYSIWYG Web Watch	6
SHCC June Schedule	8

The President's Pen

by Don VanSyckel



When I wrote the original article in June, I used a reference for leap year definition. It has been pointed out to me that the reference I used is incorrect. The following paragraph replaces the corresponding paragraph in the original article. The rest of the article is correct and stands as published.

A note about leap years: Years divisible evenly by 4 are leap years, unless it is a

century, then it is not a leap year, unless it is divisible evenly by 400, then it is a leap year like normal. This odd correction is because the solar year is slightly less than 365.25 days so we skip 3 leap years every 400 years. This gives us 365.2425 days per year average. This averaging accounts for why the first day of Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter is usually the 21st of its respective month but does move to the



'Free' Computers May Not Really Be Free In The Long Run

by Ken Fermoye

Which adage do you believe? "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth" or "There is no such thing as a free lunch." When it comes to taking advantage of many of those "free" computer offers being hyped recently, you'd best consider the latter one.

First came the giveaway offers from Free-PC and clones. They promise a free computer to people who are will to watch continuous ads. The deals include all sort of restrictions on your Internet activity and require that you agree to answer questionnaires and otherwise give up aspects of your personal privacy.

So, in a sense, you do pay a price for the "free" computer. You lose a great deal of privacy and have restricted Internet access. Anyone with the slightest trace of paranoia won't be comfortable with these deals.

Then came free computers from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) like Gobi and InterSquid. They give you a "free" computer in return for a long term (30 to 36 months) contract for Internet access service at higher-than-normal rates of \$26 to \$30 per month. These rates will really seem excessive in a few years for reasons explained below.

(Continued on page 7)

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
Net/Comm. SIG	Betty MacKenzie
Door prize	Paul Anderson
Greeting table	Lindell Beck
Newsletter pub.	Rick Kucejko
Novice SIG	Debby Wiza
Power Users SIG	Ed LeBioda
Publicity	Patrick Little
Resource People	Mike Greenen
Vendor Press Rel.	Jim Waldrop

1999 SHCC Officers

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

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	rmk2@home.com
Ed LeBioda	810-264-1632	-
Patrick Little	810-264-1497	-
Betty MacKenzie	810-254-0677	BMacKenz@tir.com
Jim McNeil	810-978-3953	-
Dick Mora wski	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	-
Debby Wiza	810-468-2324	wiza@home.com

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

SEPTEMBER 1999
7 - SHCC - PowerDesk Utilities by Mijenix, presented by member Rick Schummer.
 12 - SEMCO meeting
 13 - Net/Comm SIG
 16 - MCUG meeting
 20 - Novice SIG
 22 - Power Users' SIG

2 - SHCC - Create Greeting Cards by Member Rick Kucejko
 8 - Net/Comm SIG
 14 - SEMCO meeting
 15 - Novice SIG
 18 - MCUG meeting
 23 - Power Users' SIG

OCTOBER 1999
5 - SHCC - Data Recovery or Adobe
 10 - SEMCO meeting
 11 - Net/Comm SIG
 18 - Novice SIG
 20 - Power Users' SIG
 21 - MCUG meeting

DECEMBER 1999
7 - SHCC - What's Hot for the Holidays
 12 - SEMCO meeting
 13 - Net/Comm SIG
 16 - MCUG meeting
 20 - Novice SIG
 28 - Power Users' SIG

NOVEMBER 1999

Other Computer Clubs:

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

Time: 2nd Sunday at 1:30PM
 Place: Science Building; Oakland University; 248/398-7560
 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

The OPC (Older Persons Commission) Computer Club
 Time: Every Tuesday at 10:00 - 12:00
 Place: OPC in Rochester 248-656-1403.
 Web page: <http://www.geocities.com/>

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: rmk2@home.com

Unless stated otherwise, all materials contained in this newsletter are copyrighted by the Sterling Heights Computer Club. License is hereby granted to other clubs (non-profit) to reprint with credit.

The WYSIWYG was printed by STERLING PRINTING AND GRAPHICS, located at 37880 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights, MI

SIG Meetings

Novice SIG



The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 20, 1999, starting at 7:00PM, at the Macomb

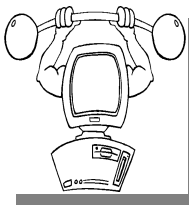
County Library.

All new and not so new members are invited to come and learn the DOS and Windows basics at our meetings. There is always a question and answer period at these meetings.

For more information about the SIG, call Debby Wiza (number on page 2),



Power User SIG



The next meeting of the Power User SIG is Wednesday, September 22, 1999.

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

For more information about the SIG,



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.



Net/Com SIG

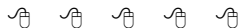


The next meeting of the Internet/Communications (Net/Comm.) SIG is Monday, September 13, 1999, starting at 7:00PM, at the

Macomb County Library.

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 bmackenz@tir.com.



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.



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



A Phone Scam

The following was seen by one of our officers. It was considered important enough to share with the members, by the officers. - editor

I want to share this e-mail with all of you.....I received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service technician who was conducting a test on telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch nine (9), zero(0), the pound sign (#), and then hang up. Luckily, I was suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which enables them to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number. I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many local jails/prisons. I have also verified this information with UCB telecom, Pacific Bell, MCI, Bell Atlantic, GTE, and NYNEX. Please beware:

DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE. The GTE Security Department requested that I share this information with EVERYONE I KNOW. Pass this on to everyone YOU know. If you have mailing lists and/or newsletters from organizations you are connected with I encourage you to pass on this



Your Article

If you have had some experiences choosing a program to do a particular thing, have solved a hardware problem, or have experience comparing software programs, consider sharing it with fellow club members. Write about it in the WYSIWYG. E-mail the editor at the address on page



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.



New Publicity Coordinator

We have a new Publicity Coordinator **Patrick Little** has volunteered to do this important function for the club. We are still looking for people to distribute flyers, and hang up our tear off publicity notices in store bulletin boards. If you can help in this, see Patrick Little, or talk to one of the officers.



Door Prizes

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



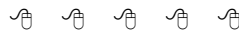
New Door Prize Coordinator Needed

The club is looking for a new Door Prize coordinator. This person will be responsible for obtaining and delivering the door prizes we give out at the meetings. If you have an interest in this position, or want more information about this important position, please contact Don VanSyckel.



Copiers Needed

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, computer stores and various retail outlets.



Advertising Sign Hangers Wanted

The SHCC has been advertising to make people in the area aware of the club and what we are all about in hopes of building club membership. One way to get people to find out about us is to hang a flyer with tear-off phone numbers at the local retail stores like Meijers, Farmer Jacks and anywhere where a bulletin board is available.

If you are interested in helping out in this very important service please contact any of the officers.



Friends of the Sterling Heights Public Library Book Sale

Where: Sterling Heights Community Center in Dodge Park

When:

- 1) Thursday Sept. 9, from 9 AM to 9 PM. Friends free, and all others \$5 admission.
- 2) Friday Sept 10, from 9 AM to 9 PM. No admission
- 3) Saturday Sept 11, from 9 AM to 9 PM. No admission.
- 4) Sunday Sept 12, from noon to 5



For Sale - Laptop Computer

Toshiba Satellite 1910CS
 486SX33, 200 MB HD, 12 MB RAM
 14.4 PCMCIA Faxmodem
 AC power supply or battery
 Ballpoint mouse
 DOS 6.22/Windows 3.11
 Carrying case included
 Excellent condition
 Netscape Navigator software installed
 Lotus organizer software installed
 ClarisWorks installed

\$350

Contact Jamie at 810-716-0131 evenings or email at jamielyn@mich.



Free Virus Protection Software

There is a free virus protection program available for downloading from the Internet. It is InoculateIT Personal Edition (IPE), an easy to use, powerful antivirus program. Computer Associates is offering this as a service for PC users in order to significantly limit the damage caused by viruses to PCs.

The increasing prevalence of viruses and the growing numbers of desktop computers has led to this initiative. Virus protection is an integral part of the PC and should not have to be purchased separately. It is as key to computers as brakes are to cars. Computer Associates is pleased to bring its considerable expertise in the corporate antivirus area. InoculateIT Personal Edition will protect Windows 98/95 desktops and Windows NT Workstation from all forms of viruses, including macro viruses.

CA's commitment to this initiative is complete as illustrated by the fact that in addition to FREE virus protection, CA also will provide free signature updates. This will ensure that your PC will be virus free.

You can download this program from the Internet, at:
<http://www.cai.com/antivirus/personal/overview.htm>.

The Sterling Heights Computer Club is passing this information along to its members, but this is not an



"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." : (Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless

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.



OTEX Corp.

Phone: 1-775-333-1195

Fax: 1-775-329-0852

support@otex.com

The worlds smallest network operating system, OTEX LAN, is a complete network operating system with all the features found in networks ranging from WFW 3x, Windows 95/98, Netware, LANtastic and others, for file and printer sharing.

The network is easy to install and maintain and runs on any computer that runs Win98/95/Win3X or DOS. This product is ideal for Small Office/Home Office networking.

The entire package can be configured to run in 22k of high/low memory, and uses as little as 45k disk/flash RAM space. OTEX has also built in a special RF mode, which optimizes the network for Radio Frequency communications. The entire network fits on one disk and takes minutes to install and configure.

All network functions and features can be used across the built-in Wide Area Network. This allows you to use your standard modem as a network card to link your office network to your home network or PC.

OTEX LAN includes full support for dual networking, allowing you to run it on top of Netware, LANtastic or

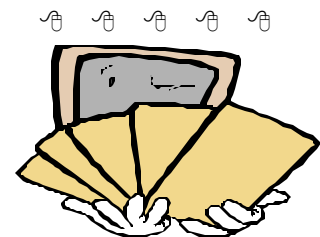
under Win98/95/3x and others as a secondary network. This allows any OTEX client to connect to third party network drives e.g. LINUX (Samba), NT, Netware or other servers.

One User add-on Kit \$129, Special discounts available for PC SIG User Groups (pricing available on request), includes software on 3.5" diskette, User's Guide and Reference, Net setup User's Guide and Quick Reference Card.

OTEX has made available a complete 30 day trial 12 user shareware version which can be downloaded (400k) in about 3 minutes from:
<http://www.otex.org/>

OTEX also provides the complete User's Manuals on-line in searchable HTML format as well as in five downloadable forms.

Network Setup User's Guide
<http://www.otex.net/nsg/>
 User's Guide and Reference
<http://www.otex.net/manual/>
 Frequently Asked Questions
<http://www.otex.net/faq.htm>
 Technical Support Form
<http://www.otex.net/support.htm>
 Links to Network Drivers
<http://www.otex.net/drivers.htm>
 Latest Shareware Version
<http://www.otex.net/download.htm>
 Driver Development Kits
<http://www.otex.net/ddk.htm>



Get the latest and the best new Software specials for computer club members

WYSIWYG WEB WATCH (www)

by Paul Baecker and John Beauchamp

And yet another issue of the WYSIWYG WEB WATCH. Send in your favorites. We enjoy the variety., and it beats mowing the lawn. Here's our picks for this month.



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.net-com.com, or JBeauc2017@aol.com Then send in

The WYSIWYG WEB WATCH kicks off another club year. Many of you haven't yet offered your very favorite hangout spot on the web. Ok, how about your second-favorite? Until we get yours, here's some of our suggestions on cooler-season travel, jobs, cooking, 'puter jargon and poetry (!), and our USotM, among other topics.

Have you taken that well deserved vacation yet? Are you planning to go at Christmas or maybe even tomorrow? Before you go any further in your planning, check out some of these web sites. They can be quicker than calling a travel agent, they may help you save money, and you will find more information than you can possible want. If you are going by planes, trains, or automobile, these sites can be extremely helpful.

If you are traveling by car you can plot your route and book your hotel: www.aaa.com

Let's make a deal, everyone wants one, right? Try these sites: www.biztravel.com

www.expedia.msn.com, www.previewtravel.com, www.thetrip.com, and www.travelocity.com.

How about dealing directly with the airlines? Virgin Atlantic will offer cut rate fares for trips such as \$228 round trip to London from selected cities. www.fly.virgin.com.

Delta Air
www.delta-air.com/specprom
American Airlines
www.aa.com
Continental www.fly.continental.com
Southwest www.southwest.com
United
www.ual.com

Looking for a hotel? Check out www.quickbook.com and www.hoteldiscounts.com

Some top travel bargain sites are:
www.1travel.com - for airfares, hotels, and car rental
www.air saver.com - discount airfares
www.cheapfarefinder.com - super prices on air, car rental and hotels
www.bestfares.com - airfares, car rental, hotels, cruises and a lot more
www.cheaptickets.com - check for the best air deals anytime you wish to travel day or night
www.lowestfare.com - hot deals which change daily

Do you like auctions? At these sites you set your itinerary and name your price. If you are the high bid you are on your way to that paradise away from home.
www.onsale.com/departments/vacations.htm
www.tickets.priceline.com
www.travelbids.com
www.bid4travel.com
www.goinggoinggone.com

Have you missed any of Heather Newman's computer columns in the Free Press? Here's where you'll find the past year's worth of her valuable articles. (Can we get her back here for another inspiring tech talk?)
<http://www.freep.com/tech/pathome/>

Tired of that same ol' job? Need some help preparing to seek out a better one? This site boasts as listing 'the most jobs on the web'. Well, maybe, but it does offer help with resumes, cover letters, interviewing, negotiations, and such:
<http://www.careerbuilder.com/>

Waiting for your email to download? Bide your time with "Computer Songs and Poems". Something here for everyone. (Overwhelmed? Start with "A is for Apple"):
<http://www.poppyfields.net/filks/>

"Everything E-Mail -- Teaching readers that e-mail is much more than just sending a message." Tips, glossary, software, services, discussion groups, newsletters, address look-ups, more:
<http://everythingemail.net/index.html>

Recipes "for young cooks or old hands, accomplished chefs or urban grillers", complete with nutritional info. Enter number of servings you want, and the ingredient quantities are adjusted. Hit this site, and click on the Recipe tab (skips past the salesman). Peanut Soup's on!
<http://www.tavolo.com/>

Why do Web sites use something called cookies? The 'Free Online Dictionary of Computing' spits out more than 12,000 computer terms, from operating systems lingo to hacker jargon:
<http://foldoc.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/index.html>

Another Health site? Yup, but you can research your most awkward questions with complete privacy. Answers are frank, comprehensive, and scrupulously researched. Go ask Alice: <http://www.goaskalice.columbia.edu/>

Bonanza! We hit paydirt! Here's a sizeable list of kid-friendly web sites. From preschoolers to interest in science & math, sports & outdoor fun. This webpage is from the Detroit News 8/21/99 issue. Since the News has a history of occasionally charging to see back issues online, check the second site (the News mentions it as their source). That site lists 100 kid- and parent-friendly sites. Turn of the TV and log in:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/1999/features/9908/21/08210062.htm>
<http://www.netmom.com/>

Want to invest your hard earned pay, but don't know a bank CD from an audio CD? Well, none of us are that ill informed. But if you know nothing about mutual funds, this site leads you through the investment thicket with several good investment tools. Why not start with "What is a Mutual Fund?"

<http://www.vanguard.com/educ/inveduc.html>

WWW's Useless Site of the Month: Like alcoholic artistry and some really hip music? This is your site: "HR's Three Rivers City Beer Dancers" (takes a bit to load everything, but you'll only do it once):

<http://www.hrpr.com/beerdancers.html>



'Free' Computers

(Continued from page 1)

Next we got a spate of partnerships between companies like eMachines, Compaq, large electronic retailers and various ISPs or online services such as CompuServe and Prodigy (which are not true ISPs).

Most of the latter offers don't give you a free computer after all. Many are like the one Circuit City and Fry's chains have been promoting in partnership with CompuServe. Staples has a similar tie-in with MSN, Microsoft Network. Mac fans also are being wooed with offers of "free" iMacs. They offer rebates, usually \$400.

The Fry's deal is typical. It includes a \$400 rebate on a \$499 "eMachines/Compaq" computer with 366 Cyrix MII MMX-enhanced processor, 64MB of SD RAM, 4.3GB Ultra DMA hard drive, 56Kbps modem, but no monitor. It's a decent, low-end, entry level home computer. You pay \$499 up front and wait for the \$400 rebate "within 45 days of credit approval... from eMachines/Compaq/CompuServe Internet Service."

Ah, but the cost doesn't stop there. Part of the deal is that you must sign a "contract commitment to a 3-year/36-month subscription for CompuServe 2000 Internet Service at a monthly rate of \$21.95." And therein lies the rub. (You didn't really think that Steve Case, honcho of AOL, which owns CompuServe, would really play Santa Claus, did you? Not blooming likely!)

That monthly cost is 10-20% over the going rates (currently running from \$17.95 to \$19.95) The kicker is that \$21.95 may be double, even quadruple, what industry analysts and other experts project Internet access to cost in the not-too-distant future! Some predict monthly access fees may go as low as \$5 within a few years, as reported in the Los Angeles Times

during July. Why? Several reasons.

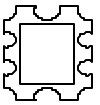
1. Telephone and Internet gurus report that competitive effects of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 are finally beginning to appear. We have already seen long-distance rates drop substantially, to as low as 8 cents per minute in some cases. This ultimately means lower costs for Internet Service Providers.

2. Broadband technologies that offer fast Internet access are beginning to show significant growth. More users will turn to DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and cable access, as they become available. DSL and cable not only offer fast access, the "always-connected" benefit and simultaneous multi-user capability, but they can be very competitive in cost compared with current dial-up access rates. This is especially true for users who have a second phone line, dedicated to modem use. So if you sign a 3year contract for Internet access at \$20 or \$22 per month and access rates drop to \$10 or \$12 in 12 or 14 months, your "free" computer won't be so free after all. And don't think you can terminate your service contract early to take advantage of lower rates. Read the fine print. The CompuServe contract "requires repayment of \$400 rebate plus a \$50 cancellation fee" for early termination.

As Bank of America Securities analyst Kurtis King commented in a L.A. Times Business Section article (July 3), "These contracts are pretty onerous. There's nothing free about the offers."

(Author's Note: Just as I was finishing this article I received an offer of Internet access through MSN, the Microsoft Network, at \$11.99 per month. The deal is available through Costco, a large membership retailer, and requires a 3month prepayment (\$35.97) but no long-term contract. Take this as an omen of things to come!)





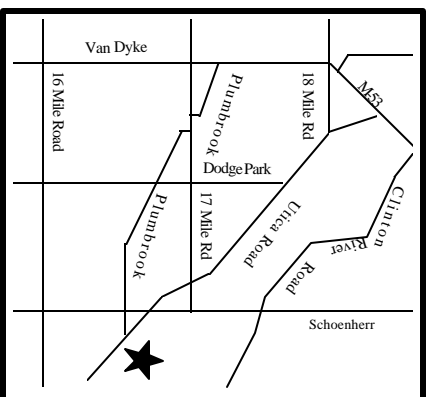
**STERLING HEIGHTS
COMPUTER CLUB**
PO Box 385
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385



SEPTEMBER AT SHCC:

TUESDAY Sept 7
Main Meeting.
7:30PM at
Carpauthia Club.
38000 Utica Road,
Sterling Heights

Power Desk Utilities
by Mijenix will be
presented by
member Rick
Schummer.



SIGS

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13
Net/Com SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20
Novice SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22
Power User SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

October
Data Recovery or Adobe

November
Create Greeting Cards - by Member Rick Kucejko