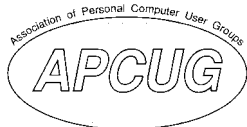




# THE WYSIWYG



\$3.00

September 2008

Volume 20, Issue 7

**STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB**

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

**TUESDAY Sept 2**

**Main Meeting**

**7:30 PM**

**“Microsoft Equipt” presented by Jeffrey Bates of Microsoft Corporation**

## The President's Pen

*by Don VanSyckel*



**W**elcome back! I hope each of you had a good summer. It passed way too quick for me. I'm OK with heading into Fall but it's what follows that I'd like to avoid. Anyway summer is fun but each year that goes by it's a little more work to have fun.

There's several things I'd like to mention this month. First, Wayne State University is (or possibly by has) taking control of the Macomb County Library where we have SIG meetings. I haven't really seen much about this but several people have filled me in. We don't know what this will mean as far as our usage of the meeting room in either the short term or long term. The only thing I know for sure is that the club has not been contacted as of writing this with any information about the room reservations we have for the last four months of this year. At this point it's all a guess but we're hoping to at least be able to finish out our current reservations. We'll keep you posted about what's happening when we know something definite.

Well in case you haven't out grown "forgetting everything over the summer" remember "Backup, Backup, Backup". Well enough said about that except that hard drive prices continue to fall. The rate of decline has slowed. My current rule of thumb is 20¢ per

Gigabyte of disk and if its a USB external drive, an extra \$20 for the case. If you're putting the drive in a PC one of the things to watch is if the drive is ATA or SATA. ATA is the more mature (I didn't want to say older) of the two interfaces. and is parallel. SATA uses a smaller cable because it's serial and the cable has fewer wires in it.

If you've been traveling with your laptop this summer hopefully you either have no personal information on it or you've taken some precautions to protect any data on the laptop hard disk. Remember any operation system log in only protects you from someone using the laptop. The laptop hard drive is easily remove and place in a USB external drive case available for \$20. Once the laptop hard drive is plugged into someone else's PC, they have full access to all your files. The only defense is no personal info on the hard drive or to have either the hard drive or the sensitive files encrypted. I'd go with encrypting the hard drive because you enter the password once and then the drive works normally for everything. As with all passwords, don't write it down on a sticky note and fasten it to the laptop. I'd write down the password, put it in an envelope, seal the

*(Continued on page 4)*

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Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before deciding to become a member or not. Meetings include the main meeting and SIGs. July and August don't count since there is no main meeting. Membership includes admission to all SHCC functions and the newsletter. Membership is open to anyone. It is not limited to the residents of Sterling Heights.

**DUES: \$25/YEAR**

**CLUB ADDRESS:** PO Box 385, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385  
**CLUB E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Info@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org  
**CLUB WEB PAGE:** http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

### Resource People:

Family Tree	Rick Schummer
Firefox	Don VanSyckel
FoxPro	Rick Schummer
Internet Explorer	-
MS Publisher	Rick Kucejko
MS Word	Rick Schummer
WordPerfect	Jim McNeil
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer

### SHCC Coordinators:

Associate Editor	Rick Schummer
Net/Comm. SIG	Betty MacKenzie
Door prizes	Sharon Patrick
Greeter	Lindell Beck
Newsletter publisher	Rick Kucejko
PC SIG	Jack Vander-Schrier
Program Coordinator	Jerry Hess
Publicity	Patrick Little
Resource People	open
Vendor Press Rel.	Jim Waldrop
Web Page	Don VanSyckel

### 2008 SHCC Officers

V. President: Ron Frederick  
Treasurer: Ed Trombley

President: Don VanSyckel  
Secretary: Pat Little

### Four Month Meeting Schedule:

#### SEPTEMBER 2008

- 2 - SHCC - "Microsoft Equipt" presented by Jeffrey Bates of Microsoft Corporation  
 3 - COMP meeting  
 14 - SEMCO meeting  
 24 - PC SIG  
 29 - Net/Comm SIG

#### NOVEMBER 2008

- 4 - SHCC - "What's Hot for the Holidays" presented by Richard Tapaninen from Micro Center  
 5 - COMP meeting  
 9 - SEMCO meeting  
 19 - PC SIG  
 24 - Net/Comm SIG

#### OCTOBER 2008

- 7 - SHCC - "Explore TV and Video Online" presented by Jan Lauder from Troy Public Library  
 1 - COMP meeting  
 12 - SEMCO meeting  
 20 - Net/Comm SIG  
 29 - PC SIG

#### DECEMBER 2008

- 2 - SHCC - "iPhone, iPod, ITouch, and Mobile Me" presented by Eric Blomberg from Apple Inc  
 3 - COMP meeting  
 8 - Net/Comm SIG  
 14 - SEMCO meeting  
 17 - PC SIG

### Special Interest Groups:

MS-DOS (Main)	IBM compatibles
Net/Com	Computers communicating with other computers
PC	Intermediate users discuss various topics

### Contact Information:

Lindell Beck	586-939-4278	ljaybeck48312@yahoo.com
Ron Frederick	586-294-5687	frederic@gdls.com
Jerry Hess	586-566-6166	jhess@comcast.net
Rick Kucejko	248-879-6180	rick@kucejko.com
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Betty MacKenzie	586-254-0677	mackenzie79@comcast.net
Sharon Patrick	586-268-3626	espee@wowway.com
Rick Schummer	586-997-1451	rick@rickschummer.com
Ed Trombley	586-254-1172	ejtrombley@comcast.net
Don VanSyckel	586-731-9232	don@vansyckel.net
Jack Vander-Schrier	586-739-7720	jvanders@myself.com

### Other Computer Clubs:

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

#### Computer Club of Marysville and Port Huron (COMP)

Time: 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM  
 Place: Mackenzie Bldg, Room 201, St Clair Community College, Clara E McKenzie Library-Science Building, 323 Erie St.  
 Port Huron, (810) 982-1187  
 Web Page: http://www.bwcomp.org  
 Reciprocating: Yes

#### South Eastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO)

Time: 2nd Sunday at 1:30PM  
 Place: ArvinMeritor Complex, 2135 W. Maple Road in Troy, across from Troy Motor Mall; 248-398-7560  
 Web page: http://www.semco.org  
 Reciprocating: Yes

#### The OPC (Older Persons Commission) Computer Club

Time: Every Tuesday at 10:00  
 Place: OPC in Rochester  
 248-656-1403.

Web page: http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/1904/  
 No cost for residents to join or attend meetings. \$150 fee for non-residents  
 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: newsletter@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

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## SIG Meetings

### Net/Comm SIG



The next meeting of the Internet/Communications (Net/Comm.) SIG will be Monday, September 29, 2008, starting at 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

Each month the members of the Net/Comm SIG discusses topics to help members of the SHCC learn more about the Internet.

For more information about the SIG, call or e-mail Betty MacKenzie (phone number is on page 2), or check the club web site.



### Novice SIG



This SIG has been discontinued for now. All the Novice users have graduated to the Intermediate PC level!

This SIG may be restarted in the future, when there is a need and sufficient interest in the SIG.



### Attend A SIG

If you do not attend 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 meeting.



### PC SIG



The next meeting of the PC SIG will be on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, starting at 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library. The SIG meeting is generally the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Intermediate level topics are discussed, aimed at users with some knowledge of computers. Questions and answers regarding your computer will be discussed as always.

For more information about the SIG, call or e-mail Jack Vander-Shrier (phone number is on page 2), or check the club web site.



### Club Record Changes

To update your e-mail address, phone number, etc., please e-mail the club secretary at: Secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org. Using this address will provide the smoothest and quickest venue for any changes.



### 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 red sign says "Macomb County Library". The phone number is (586) 286-6660.



### 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 meeting. Contact one of the officers, or just bring it.



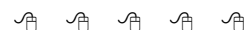
### Selling Your Used Computer Equipment or Software

If you have some computer equipment or software to sell, you can either place a free ad in the WYSIWYG, or bring the article to the club meeting. You can set up at the back of the room before the meeting, and sell your items to people at the meeting interested in buying them. Members are responsible for any damage, so bring a pad to prevent damage.



### SHCC Emergency Shutdown

If a club meeting is canceled an email will be sent to members by an officer or the coordinator if a SIG meeting at least an hour before the scheduled start of the meeting. If you have an issue with your email call one of the officers of the coordinator of the SIG. Don't call too early, the decision might not be finalized yet. All members are encouraged to keep the club up to date with their email address.



# SHCC Business

## “Ask The Experts”

by Jack Vander-Schrier



Please send questions to “Ask the Experts” at the club’s PO address, or e-mail your question directly to the Expert at the club e-mail address: AskTheExpert@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org.

**Q**: Dear Expert,

Every time I open up my Internet explorer it appears in a small box on my screen, I then have to resize it each time so that I can use it. Is there any way to change the size of the opening screen.

Small Window

**A**: Dear Small,

Your browser remembers the size it was last used at. To set the correct size – start your browser and hold your mouse over the corner of the window until you see the resize arrows, then click and drag to change the size. Then click on File – and then on Exit, this will close your browser. Now when you start it up it should be that same size.

Sincerely  
Expert

**Q**: Dear Expert,

I want to buy some things on the Internet using my credit card. How do I know that I am secure before I send out my credit card information?

Worried

: Dear Worried’

**A**To know whether a site is secure before you give your credit card information, look at the address bar and make sure that the web address starts with https:// There should also be a padlock symbol on the address bar or at the bottom of your screen. If these aren’t there that means the website is not secure and your information can be compromised.

Sincerely  
Expert



## Door Prizes

**T**he SHCC offers door prizes at most regularly scheduled club meetings. In June the names for the coveted winner’s circle were:

- 1) Rick Kucejko ~ T.B.D.
- 2) Ralph Osinski ~ T.B.D.
- 3) Pat Little ~ T.B.D.
- 4) Lindell Beck ~ T.B.D.

Door prizes will be supplied to these people in September.



## World Wide Web Column on the Club Web Site

**C**heck out the improved section on the web site. You can see past web sites reviewed in the column on our club web page. They are arranged into various topics to help locate a specific site.



## The President’s Pen

*(Continued from page 1)*

envelope and hide it at home or give it to a trusted friend. OBTW if you have an alternate method or a good encryption program, I'd like to hear from you.

The other thing you should consider if traveling with a laptop is putting an address label on the bottom. Include your phone number. If you loose the laptop and an honest person finds it, an address with phone number allows them to contact you to make arrangements to get the laptop back. Of course if the person isn't honest they'll probably find your name and address on the hard drive anyway so the label isn't giving away much.

I know you might have hear some of these tips before but are you doing them? No, well that's why you needed to hear them again.

This month we are please to welcome back Mr. Jeffrey Bates from Microsoft Corporation. Mr. Bates will present "Microsoft Equipt". Come get the scoop on this interesting new product. Come get the straight scoop for Microsoft. Hope to see you Tuesday.



## Last Month's Meeting

**T**he June meeting didn't go exactly as planned. We moved the meeting date to accommodate having Lifelock present. Not only did they not show up but they never contacted us with any explanation or apology for standing us us. So I'm assuming they run the rest of their business with the same eye to detail, scary. Thanks to Ron Frederick, our VP, for leading a great question and answer session.



## From The DealsGuy

by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group.

*(Editor's Note: Bob Click used to be a member of the SHCC.)*

We worked the Cisco show <<http://www.cisco-live.com/>> and they had over 700 computers setup. Classrooms were everywhere and, in spite of tight security, it was said that 26 laptops disappeared one night. Security certainly got tighter after that. There were attendees from many countries.

"For those with gaming consoles, either the X-Box 360 or PS3, 3-D avatar based interaction is being offered in the next several months. X-Box Live is Microsoft's system <<http://tinyurl.com/5awgix>> and Playstation Home is Sony's offering <<http://tinyurl.com/6xckoc>>"

### \*How's Your Registry?

WiseCleaner has released Wise Registry Cleaner v. 3.6.2 and Wise Disk Cleaner V. 3.5.1, a pair of affordable Windows applications that stabilize your computer, and make it run more quickly. Wise Registry Cleaner speeds up the user's computer by cleaning the Windows Registry. The Registry is at the heart of every Windows computer. Each time users install new software, information is added to the Registry. Few uninstall programs remove this information properly or completely. Therefore, over time, as users install and uninstall software, the Registry accumulates junk lines and pointers, and the computer's performance suffers.

Wise Registry Cleaner identifies and safely removes the useless information that has accumulated. In addition to scanning and cleaning the Windows Registry, the program optimizes the PC. If the user accidentally makes a mistake during a tune-up, they can undo all changes with a single click. The latest version of Wise Registry

Cleaner includes a useful feature: "System Optimization Tool." Using this tool, users can easily tune up their PC in minutes without being a PC expert! [DealsGuy note: Optimize Your PC appears to only be in the Pro version.]

Wise Disk Cleaner is an intuitive, fast, and easy-to-use application that frees up disk space by deleting files no longer used by any software. In addition to the temporary files, log files, and backup files that accumulate over time, the program can identify more than 50 additional types of unnecessary files that users can safely remove. Instead of sending deleted files to the recycle bin, the program can compress these files and save them to a special directory, allowing users to restore files in the future if they find that they really need them. The latest version of Wise Disk Cleaner contains additional advanced customization options that let users fine-tune cleanup operations. [DealsGuy Note: Move To Location and Advanced Options appear to only be in the Pro version.]

Both applications are designed to be used in tandem, allowing users to streamline their Windows Registry and optimize their hard drive. Whether you are a business user who values a stable and brisk computer, a parent who needs to clean up after the software that their children install and uninstall on the family computer, or a computer consultant who needs applications that will keep their customers' PCs running optimally, Wise Registry Cleaner and Wise Disk Cleaner have the tools that you need.

Wise Registry Cleaner and Wise Disk Cleaner also offer support for more than twenty languages. It's easy to add additional language support into Wise Registry Cleaner and Wise Disk

Cleaner. The User Interface messages are loaded from resource files for all supported languages. This means that you can add a resource file that contains messages in your own language.

Please note that there are FREE versions of both Wise Registry Cleaner and Wise Disk Cleaner. You can choose to pay for the PRO version, or only use the free version if preferred. Wise Registry Cleaner V. 3.6.2 and Wise Disk Cleaner V. 3.5.1 run under Windows 98/Me/NT/2000/XP/XP-x64/2003/Vista/Vista-x64/2008 Server, and cost \$19.95 (US) each. As a bundle, users can buy both programs for \$32.95. Everybody can visit <<http://www.wiscleaner.com/>> to purchase the software securely online, or to download free trial versions. Users can also download free versions of each program without the advanced options and system optimization tool.

**\*If You Don't Understand, Try This** LingvoSoft <<http://www.lingvosoft.com>> announced the release of an all-new language learning system for Pocket PC that makes speaking any language simple, fast and enjoyable. Putting everything you need in the palm of your hand, LingvoSoft Language Teacher 2008 makes communicating in a new language easier than ever before. Providing every beginner with the tools necessary to start speaking another language immediately, your success is virtually guaranteed.

With intuitive and efficiently arranged sections that teach the alphabet, words, phrases, and dialogs you will soon have the skills you need to start speaking accurately and comprehensibly. With the advanced voice output and speech recognition built-into the Language Teacher you will always get the pronunciation right the first time, something new learners absolutely depend on. Loads of practice tests and evaluations provide the help new students need to start mastering any language

immediately. The price is \$149.95, but a 25% discount is available on any LingvoSoft software title. Simply enter your personal gift certificate code "MY8UZPF7M4" in the 'Add Gift' field of the shopping cart and click the "Add Gift" button <<http://www.lingvosoft.com/info/software/Language-Teacher/>>.

#### \*This Should Help You Copy

[DealsGuy Note: Be sure to thoroughly read the FAQs on their Web site so you more fully understand the capability of the product.]

DVD neXt COPY released version V2.9.9.1 of DVD neXt COPY, a new and improved version that has the best quality of any DVD Copy software available. DVD neXt COPY triggers the quality king and jumps over the magical quality hurdle of the legendary DVDSHrink. Until now the "old" DVDSHrink possessed the best quality of any DVD copy program available. It was impossible for any competitors to reach this high level of quality and speed. As of now, DVD neXt COPY has broken through this barrier, and provides better quality and faster burns than DVDSHrink (High Quality Mode).

DVD neXt COPY now provides the highest quality of any DVD copy software available. Our extensive quality check was performed on the majority of the latest DVD movies with excellent results. We have compiled test report on two special movies that are often used as quality reference movies, because they are very complicated to recompress. You can see our results in this test report: <[http://www.dvdnextcopy.com/quality\\_measurement.pdf](http://www.dvdnextcopy.com/quality_measurement.pdf)>.

During this special promotional period, everyone can receive 20% off DVD next COPY Xpress, Standard and Pro. Just enter the word "SAVE20" in the coupon field during purchase, to receive your 20% discount. Prices are

as follows: Xpress \$49.99, Standard \$69.99, Pro \$89.99. The license is good for two computers but does require activation. Read more information about the new DVD neXt COPY at <<http://www.dvdnextcopy.com>> Watch the online DVD neXt COPY flash tutorials at <<http://www.dvdnextcopy.com/tutorials.aspx>>.

Release Date 6/24/08

V2.9.9.1

Improved Quality Engine

Improved Software Compatibility Mode

Added Pre-scan Preview Function

Updated Resources to V2.9.9.1

Product page link: <<http://www.dvdnextcopy.com/overview.aspx>>

#### \*What's That Key?

Everybody knows Windows has a product key used to install it. If you needed it for some reason, do you remember where you put it? It also ends up embedded in your registry so maybe you could edit your registry if necessary to retrieve it, but that's living dangerously. The Magical Jelly Bean Keyfinder V2.0.1 is a freeware utility that will go in and get it for you. It has op-

tions to copy the key to your clipboard, save it to a text file or print it for your records. It works on a wide family of Windows operating systems.

It also has support for multiple installations of Office, and the ability to change the Windows XP, 98 and ME installation key. It's at <<http://magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder/>>.

Also offered is a neat popup dictionary that is freeware. I read about these long ago in Tim Hoke's freeware column in PC Alamode, newsletter for Alamo PC Organization <<http://www.alamopc.org/index.shtml>>.

That's it for this month. I'll have some other new product announcements on my Web site. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click <[bobclick at bellsouth dot net](mailto:bobclick@bellsouth.net)>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>>.



## E-mail Etiquette

by John Roy, President, The PC Users Group of Connecticut  
[www.tpcug-ct.org/](http://www.tpcug-ct.org/) [johnroy1\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:johnroy1(at)comcast.net)

**D**o you really know how to forward an e-mail? It is estimated that over fifty percent of e-mail users do not know how to do it properly. Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail? E-mail messages get forwarded countless times without concern for the security of the previous sender's addresses.

Every time you forward an e-mail there is information left over from the people who got the message before you, namely their e-mail addresses and names. As the messages get forwarded along the list of addresses builds and

builds creating a huge resource for spammers. All it takes is for someone to get a virus and the infected computer can send that virus to every e-mail address that has come across that computer. Even if the address collection doesn't result in a virus it surely will be harvested by spammers or someone looking to make a couple of cents for a listing of good e-mail addresses. How do you stop or at least minimize the propagation of e-mail addresses? There are several easy steps that we should all practice.

(1) Before you send out a forwarded e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, DELETE them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second You MUST click the 'Forward' button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click on 'Forward' first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

(2) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. This is the way the people you send to will only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say 'Undisclosed Recipients' in the 'TO:' field of the people who receive it.

(3) Remove any 'FW:' in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(4) ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you are reading. Ever get those e-mails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many e-mails just to see what you sent.

(5) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The e-mail can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and e-mail addresses. A FACT: The completed

petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and e-mail address on a petition. (Actually, if you think about it, who's supposed to send the petition in to whatever cause it supports? And don't believe the ones that say that the e-mail is being traced. It just isn't so!)

(6) One of the main e-mails I hate is the one that say that something like, 'Send this e-mail to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen.' Or, sometimes they'll just tease you by saying something really cute will happen IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN! (Trust me; I'm still seeing some of the same ones that I waited on 10 years ago!) I don't let the bad luck

ones scare me either. They get trashed. (Could that be why I haven't won the lottery?)

(7) Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that have been circling the net for years. Just about everything you receive in an e-mail that is in question can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to <http://www.snopes.com/>. It's really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, don't pass it on.

So please, in the future, let's stop or at least minimize the junk mail and the viruses by taking the steps outlined above.

*This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups.*



## E-Mailing Photographs

by Richard Kennon, Editor, Amador Computer Users Group, CA  
[www.acug.net](http://www.acug.net) [Drtrdguy\(at\)volcano.net](mailto:Drtrdguy(at)volcano.net)

*Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.*

First, we **must** understand that photograph (image) size in the camera and in the computer is measured in **pixels**. These are the basic dots of color that make the picture. **Do not** pay any attention to anything that says "inches" or "pixels per inch." These terms are meaningless when we are considering a picture either in the camera or in the computer. They may come into play later if we want to print the photo on paper. But, that is another subject for another time. For now, we think only of pixels. Most cameras record too many pixels to e-mail. For instance a 6 megapixel camera will make a picture about 3000 pixels wide by 2000 pixels tall and the

file size may be several megabytes. Our screens are usually only about 1000 pixels wide (some are larger and some smaller). So, if we e-mail the native picture, it will be wider than the screen for the recipient and the file will be so large, it may take "forever" to download to the recipient's computer. It is possible the service provider will not even accept it.

There are two things we must do to make a photo e-mailable. The first is to **resize** or **resample** the picture. We want to change the picture width from 3000 pixels to 800 pixels, for instance. This process is called resizing or resampling. We have to pick the best 800 pixels out of the 3000 to represent our photo. Well, no, that is not exactly correct but it simplifies things to think of it that way. We don't have to worry

about it because a lot of very smart programmers have developed ways (algorithms) to help us. Just remember, you want to resize or resample to get the photo down to a size convenient for e-mailing. I usually use 800 pixels or 900 pixels width for pictures I attach to e-mails.

The second thing to do to make a photo e-mailable is to save it in **JPEG format (.jpg)**. That is a format that reduces file size a lot and picture quality a little so the picture can be downloaded more quickly and still be nice to look at. Some software programs give you choices of compression amount with numbers ranging from 1 to 10. One will result in a very small file but the picture quality will not be good at all. A 10 will give the very best quality but with a very large file size. A reasonable compromise is to use 5 or 6. I usually use 6.

How do you do this? First, I will describe how to do it with a free Microsoft program. Then I will try to look at some other programs.

Microsoft Power Toys for XP has a Resize Pictures toy that is slick and easy but feedback says it only works on XP. It can be downloaded at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.mspx>. Right click on an image name or thumbnail in Explorer or My Computer and choose **Resize Pictures**. You are limited to four specific sizes but they are good choices. They don't tell us what compression they are using but the results look OK. Unless you tell them under **Advanced** to replace the image in the file, it will make a copy. That's good. They will add the word, "Large", "Medium" or "Small" to the end of the name you have chosen.

If you are happy with this solution, then read no further. But, if you want to use a picture editing program, maybe this will help.

In Photoshop Elements 5, click on **Image>Resize>Image Size** and this window will pop up. Note that there is some garbage at the bottom about "inches" but we will ignore that. First we will click the **Resample Image** box. That puts the Pixel Dimensions in play and that is what we want. I selected the Width box and changed the width to 800 pixels. Since the **Constrain Proportions** box is selected, that is all I have to do.

Note, down at the bottom, that we have several choices of sampling algorithms. This is frosting on the cake. I read somewhere that I should use **Bicubic Sharper** when downsizing so that is what I do. Most programs don't give us all these choices. Then we should click on **File>Save As** and give the photo a new name. I often just use the same name and add "\_800px" so the next time I will know it is ready to e-mail. Here we can choose the JPEG format and the compression amount. Photoshop Elements 6 is out now and sells for about \$100. If you are able to spend that much and want one of the best editing programs, I highly recommend it.

Let's look at Picasa2. It is a free program from Google and looks really good but I do not have much experience with it. By all means, try it first because the price is right. When it comes to e-mailing photographs, it is a little more automated but not any easier to use than Elements. First, click on **Tools>Options>E-Mail**. Then select the width you want in pixels. There are six choices. Then click on **Apply** and **OK**.

The next step is to click on **File>E-Mail** and you will get three choices of how you want to e-mail your photos. Fortunately, I use Outlook Express so my choice is listed.

When I clicked on Outlook Express, an e-mail page popped up with the photo attached. At this point we can

write something else on the e-mail and send it. I recommend this so the recipient will know it is really from you and not something sent out by a virus. When I receive e-mails that only say "Attached", I **Delete** them without looking at the attachment. This saved me one time when I received a virus from my sister-in-law that she did not know she sent. She spent weeks and dollars getting her computer back up. Oh, I digress. If you want to send more than one picture (and, who doesn't?), you must select the picture and click on the Hold button near the bottom of the screen. Do this for each photo you want to send and they will all be attached to the e-mail. The program automatically chooses JPEG format and a compression ratio but does not tell you. That is OK as the pictures I tried looked good. Picasa2 has considerable capability for editing photos in many respects. Try it!

There are many other editing programs that I haven't mentioned and have no experience with. In all cases you want to change the picture's size in pixels by resizing or resampling. Pay no attention to anything that says "inches" as that will have no meaning for this process.

*This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups.*



## Member Classified Ads

**S**end 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.

Ads are available to SHCC members and are limited to computer related items for non-commercial purposes. There is no charge for members classified ads.





## WYSIWYG WEB WATCH (www)

*By Paul Baecker*

webwatch@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org



This column attempts to locate sites containing valuable, amusing and free content, with no overbearing pressure to purchase anything.

Send your favorite entertaining, helpful or just plain useless sites (a description is optional) to the e-address noted above, for inclusion in a future WYSIWYG issue. Also check the SHCC web site ("Web Page Reviews") for previous gems.

Convert boring units to real objects as you type.  
<http://www.sensibleunits.com>

Basic & scientific calculator with unit converter. Watch the demo.  
<http://www.ecalc.com>

Collection of maps & grids representing political polls for prez, house, senate races.  
<http://www.electoral-vote.com>

Tutorials, tricks, tools, and shortcuts for new Vista users.  
<http://www.vista4beginners.com>

Make a paper rose.  
<http://hotcompare.com/2008/07/08/prison-breakuse-paper-make-a-roses.html>

Once loaded, this online alarm clock will work even if Internet connection goes down.  
<http://kukuklok.com>

Virtual absinthe museum ~ history, literature, art and antiques.  
<http://www.oxygenee.com/absinthe-museum.html>

Tourist destination guide to the Niagara Falls area.  
<http://www.infoniagara.com/index.html>

Search engine for free photos from many sources and license-specific.  
<http://www.everystockphoto.com>

Find out what it is that you fear.  
<http://www.phobiaguide.com>

Six hundred videos and 1 million photos of commercial and military aircraft and airports.  
<http://www.jetvideos.net>

Browse airlines, airports, meals, seats, lounges, and aircraft news.  
<http://www.flyerguide.net>

Australian scenery, flora, fauna, the outback, architecture, more.  
<http://www.photographsofaustralia.com>

A large gallery of very strange things.  
<http://www.slightlywarped.com/crapfactory/curiosities/index.htm>

Guide to installing, dual-booting, using Ubuntu 8.04.  
<http://ubuntuguide.org/wiki/Ubuntu:Hardy>

Throw the people in the bucket. No, it's not that easy.  
<http://www.pplbucket.com>

1950s pics around Altoona, PA ~ railroads, autos, downtown, storefronts, ads, more.  
<http://pages.prodigy.com/altoonaarchives/>

Michigan's Copper Country history and beauty. Start with the 1100-photo image gallery.  
<http://www.copperrange.org>

U.S. & World events, sports, economics, science, entertainment events since 1900.  
<http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html>

Over 18,000 NASA images ~ universe, solar system, earth, aeronautics, astronauts.  
<http://nasaimages.org>

Dramatic photos from above.  
[http://www.submitarchive.com/upload/pictures\\_from\\_the\\_sky.php](http://www.submitarchive.com/upload/pictures_from_the_sky.php)

Assortment of unusual air, sea and land vehicles pics and poses.  
<http://www.strangevehicles.com>

Hold down mouse button to create colorful shapes using the available templates.  
<http://bomomo.com>

Web search tool which flips full screens with search results.  
<http://www.searchme.com>

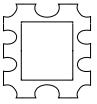
Large colorful collection of agates, plus scenery of Britain, Scotland, Cambodia, Turkey.  
<http://www.lithos-graphics.com>

Test your knowledge of popular music with this audible challenge.  
<http://www.jamsbio.com/games/songBlitzSolo>

Click on the ball to change its color.  
<http://mazzanet.id.au:80/ball.php>

Learn how to express yourself in German ~ grammar, pronunciation, verb conjugation, vocabulary, more.  
<http://www.germanlanguageguide.com>

Digital camera and lens reviews with video tours of equipment.  
<http://www.cameralabs.com>



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

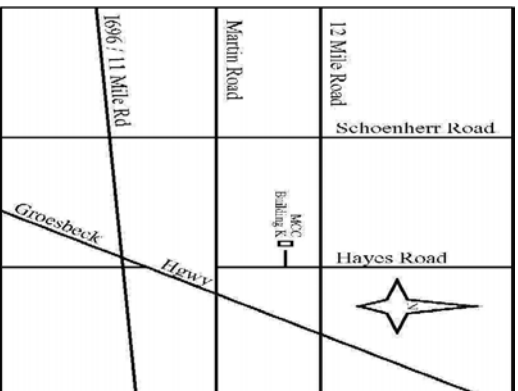


# SEPTEMBER AT SHCC:

**TUESDAY JUNE 2**  
**Main Meeting. 7:30PM**

Macomb Community College  
South Campus  
14500 E 12 Mile Road, Warren  
John Lewis Community Center  
(Building K)  
(Enter from Hayes Road)

“Microsoft Equipt” pre-  
sented by Jeffrey Bates of  
Microsoft Corporation



## SIGs

**MONDAY** **September 29**  
Net/Com SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

**WEDNESDAY** **September 24**  
PC SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

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**OCTOBER MEETING: “Explore TV and Video Online”**  
presented by Jan Lauder from Troy Public Library

**NOVEMBER MEETING: “What’s Hot for the Holidays”**  
presented by Richard Tapaninen from Micro Center