

Mother Board

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This Month at NOPC Genealogy

by

**Bob
Gordon**

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NOPCC President's Report For February

Greetings to everyone and Happy Mardi Gras! Here's to everyone having a safe and happy parade season, whether you're going to a bunch of parades or taking a vacation out of town.

As Ashton mentions in his column elsewhere in this newsletter, he has had to take a teaching job which unfortunately conflicts with the club events for the next few months. This means that the Office Suites SIG will take what we hope is a temporary hiatus and that I will take back over the New User's SIG for the foreseeable future.

This past month, we conducted a Hardware SIG on both the New User and Internet SIG meeting nights. I completely stripped down both the club's PC and my own Dell Optiplex Pentium computer, explained all the parts, and put them both back together. Amazingly, they both worked perfectly upon power up! ☺ These are the kinds of presentations that we try to put together for both SIG meeting nights and for our monthly meetings.

For the February meeting, it just so happens that we are meeting right in the middle of parade week. Rather than adjust the meeting night, the

Board elected to move up the time by ½ hour so as to allow all attendees to not only be able to catch most of the parade afterwards, but to also be able to get to the school before Vets at Cleary is closed. Our Q+A session will start at 6:15, and our presentation on Genealogy by Bob Gordon will start at 6:30PM. West Esplanade will remain open during the parades, so that artery is available for those coming from either direction.

That's all for me for this month, see ya'll at the meeting and/or SIGs.

YES!!!

The NOPC Board has decided to hold our usual meeting in spite of the Mardi Gras Parades. You should be able to get to J.D. Meisler with little difficulty before the parade, and by the time the meeting ends, the parade should be past. Try to avoid Clearview as the parades form up there and numerous streets are blocked off. See You at the Meeting.... Q&A starts at 6:15PM

Suites 2000 SIG is temporarily canceled

Hello, and for a while good-bye for a short time. I can no longer attend meetings or run any SIG for the NOPCC. Please accept my very humble apologies for any problems, or inconvenience that have been caused by an unfortunate set of circumstances.

A friend took sick and at the last minute asked that I take over his college classes this semester at night. He is unable to teach at night. I was contacted on 15 January during the afternoon with this request. I wanted to teach night classes and this was a perfect opportunity for me start. I said I would help out.

I went to Delgado that night to meet with the department head. I was given some papers to fill out and left almost as soon as I arrived (they were doing late registration). On the 16th of January, I took off from work at noon, went back to school, handed in the official paper work, was given three books and a syllabus, meet two teachers, and was told I will teach starting that night three classes.

The department head asked me to teach on Monday and Wednesday three one hour and a half, back-to-back, *Computer Literacy* courses. I was also asked to teach the same course on Thursday for three consecutive hours. Yes, teach four courses, three days a week, for a whole semester, starting that night!

I barely had time to go home, type up a short note, put the note up at McCann's Electronics, and go back to school with my computer to figure out how to teach my very first college class. Thanks to the NOPCC presentation Mr. Paternostro and I did on the second of January, I was able to make it through this first day.

I arrived home at 10:25 that night and went straight to bed. Got up for 4:00 am and got some CD's I had on computer literacy (the one's that were going to be used for the New Users SIG on the Third Thursday of the month). Went to work and after

work went to school to meet with the night school dean. I got my Thursday's night class roster and some information about what was expected of me for teaching this class.

Class started at 6:00 pm and was finished at 9:00 pm that night. I did three hours of teaching using the NOPCC presentation, how to use a mouse CD, and started on about *Windows Desktop*. After just two days I was whipped.

It is fun but exhausting teaching new students about computers and what computers can do for humanity. I hope this short explanation for the last minute canceling out of my commitment to run two SIGs this year is acceptable. I again asked for your forgiveness and hope to see you all this summer the second week in May. I am telling my students about the NOPCC and how it can help them with operating their computers. Maybe something good for the club can come out of this eventually.

by Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.



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Subject: Stolen Wallet, Credit Cards, Personal. Info.

A corporate attorney sent this out to the employees in his company. I pass it along, for your information...

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed us in your name, address, SS#, credit, etc. Unfortunately I (the author of this piece who happens to be an attorney) have firsthand knowledge.

My wallet was stolen last month and within a week the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know. As everyone always advises, cancel your credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never ever thought to do this)

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS#.

I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost 2 weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271.

Submitted by Jeanne Okamoto

Cheers = Cajun in the New Orleans metro area

"A single conversation across the table with a wise man is worth a month's study of books." - Chinese Proverb

"It's not enough to know how to ride -- you must also know how to fall." - Mexican Proverbs

Speed Test your Connection

If you want to know the actual speed of your Internet connection, you need a way to measure download times. The easiest way to do this is to visit one or more sites that calculate the speed for you. We suggest that you try several sites and that you never base too much on single measurement. Your speed will vary somewhat from test to test, and will certainly vary from one site to another. Below this tip are a couple of speed measuring sites that we've tried recently. Check them out and see what you think:

<http://promos.mcafee.com/speedometer/>

or

<http://box54.org/SpeedTest.htm>

e-mazing internet tips

*EMAZING is sponsored by the Sony Group
submitted by Virginia Kieran*

Who say's Rednecks aren't real bright?

"Hello, is this the FBI?"

"Yes. What do you want? "

"I'm calling to report about my neighbor Billy Bob Smith! He is hiding marijuana inside his firewood.

"Thank you very much for the call, sir. "

The next day, the FBI agents descend on Billy Bob's house. They search the shed where the firewood is kept. Using axes, they bust open every piece of wood, but find no marijuana. They swore at Billy Bob and left..

The phone rings at Billy Bob's house.

"Hey, Billy Bob! Did the FBI come?"

"Yeah!

"Did they chop your firewood?"

"Yep."

"Merry Christmas Buddy

submitted by Tom Watkins

Windows XP Auto-Update

For those of you who have opted to try Bill Gates' latest attempt at a working operating system, the "Auto Update" option can cause problems. I have read several articles in which this feature may cause your system to become erratic and you won't know why. As it operates in the background, you won't know when it updates, or what it updates.

PC philanthropy

PC philanthropy is sharing some of the unused resources (mainly processor cycles) of your personal computer to benefit a social cause. For example, during the time that your computer is not working on applications that you're using, it can be working on some small part of a large-scale problem in medical research or the search for signals from outer space. Effectively, you and thousands of other PC users engaged in PC philanthropy become part of a kind of distributed supercomputer that is doing parallel processing.

Taking part in PC philanthropy requires that you download a small program from a Web site that is administering a project. In one example, this program comes with a screensaver included, so that when your computer is booted up and the screensaver automatically activated, the work program starts, too. It then uses your computers processor cycles only when no other program in your computer is busy.

PC philanthropy is sometimes described as a form of peer-to-peer computing, in the sense that many Internet users are joined as peers in a common effort. One of the first PC philanthropy projects was the collective analysis of signals from outer space as part of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

*from The WhatIs.Com Word-Of-The Day
submitted by Tom Watkins*

Network Surge Protectors

Radio Shack now has Surge Protectors for both Cable (Cox) and DSL Network lines. A must item!

The articles further state that the documentation on the updates is limited or non-existent. To have some semblance of control over your system is to turn OFF the Auto-Update option. You can still update manually as required. This way you will know when you make changes to your system (though you may not know what the changes were), and know why your system is acting up.

Editor

Treasurers Report for 2001

I am happy to report that the Club is in a sound financial position. The Club did have expenditures of \$160 more than income. However, during the year the Club built a new computer, purchased a printer and a scanner. This along with the other minor computer related items cost the Club \$1178. The Computer along with the loss of 36 members is the main reasons we were \$160 in the red for the year. The Board along with Langston was able to cut the Bulletin Board cost by \$237. Cash on hand as of December 31, 2001 is \$4602.

Following is a list of the major Income and Expense items.

Income for the year follows:

Member Dues	\$ 5510
Other Income	\$ 400
Advertisement	\$ 150
Auctions	\$ 180
Miscellaneous	\$ 62

The largest expense items for the year are as follows:

General Meeting	\$1,820
Motherboard	\$1,603
Computer Expense	\$1,178
Bulletin Board	\$ 438
Insurance	\$ 866
Subscriptions	\$145
Forms & Flyers	\$121
Hot line	\$ 144
All other expenses are under \$100	

All numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Don Herrmann
Treasurer

Saga of an E-Mail

1st e-mail:

If you have MS Excel on your computer, try this site for a FREE template of the 1040 and other IRS forms.

<http://www.members.home.et/1040calculator/download.htm>

If you need tax forms get them online at:

http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/forms_pubs/findfiles.html

2nd e-mail (reply):

You don't need Excel. You can go directly to www.irs.org and find your forms.

3rd e-mail (2nd reply):

You can fill your forms in and then print them at: http://www.irs.gov/forms_pubs/fillin.html.

"That should clear up this matter - Editor"

Cooking is Hazardous to Health

Study Says Cooking Could Be Hazardous To Your Health

Basking in the aroma of a home-cooked meal is one of life's simple yet sublime pleasures. But like all of life's little pleasures in the Age of Anxiety, efforts are under way to cast a cloud of suspicion over something as benign as stopping to smell the pot roast.

A three-year, \$300,000 study commissioned by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) –and paid for by taxpayers warned that sitting down to a home-cooked meal is an action fraught with danger beyond those presented by your step-mother's tuna casserole. Home cooking often entails exposure to potentially harmful air pollutants, according to the study, and frequently results in violations of the state's indoor air standards.

Using a "test home" near Humboldt State University, researchers found that cooking up a storm exposed cooks and innocent bystanders alike to carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, formaldehyde and other air pollutants, often in

(Continued on page 6)

Tech Net Briefings—Microsoft

Tech Net Briefings-Microsoft Friday Jan. 25, 2002

The New Year is here. Take this opportunity to get your company's systems in shape for 2002 by attending a TechNet event near you! This quarter we will be discussing how to secure your company's systems using Windows Server and IIS and Collaboration solutions for your desktop and server using Exchange Conferencing Server, Instant Messaging, SharePoint Portal Server and SharePoint Team Services.

Session I - Securing your Systems with IIS and Windows 2000 Server

In this session, we will review many of the common security challenges enterprises face during the design and development of software solutions, and outline how Windows 2000 Server and IIS (Internet Information Server) provide a reasonable solution to these security issues. This session is geared for anyone who designs, builds, deploys and operates solutions on the Microsoft platform. We will examine the steps required to secure IIS 4.0 and IIS 5.0 and will consider what you can do to ensure the protection of your Windows 2000 environment. We will look at the various tools that you can use to enforce security policies as well as the free programs that Microsoft offers to help you keep up to date.

Session II - Collaboration Solutions to reduce travel and increase communication

In this session we'll see how Microsoft's collaboration platform can increase worker productivity and reduce

travel by leveraging technology. We will look at how using Exchange Conferencing Server you can hold virtual conferences as easily as scheduling a typical calendar request within Microsoft Outlook. We'll also look at how Windows Messenger can help your employees collaborate, get quick answers and support from their co-workers, and communicate with their customers in a real-time environment. And finally we'll pull all of these collaboration tools together with SharePoint Portal Server and SharePoint Team services which provide your knowledge workers with the right tools to find, create, and share content that's authored in Microsoft Office XP or any desktop productivity application.

All attendees will receive a 120-day trial copy of Windows XP, Office XP, Windows 2000 Advanced Server and Internet Security and Acceleration Server! And, everyone will be entered to win a Microsoft Xbox Gaming Package (one per event!) and lots of other great prizes.

Austin, March 7th, Marriott at the Capitol, Event # 106046065
New Orleans, March 19th, Pontchartrain Center, Event # 106046069

San Antonio, March 21st, Omni San Antonio, Event # 106046073
Houston, March 26th, Marriott West Loop, Event # 106046084
Register today at: <http://www.microsoft.com/events> or via phone at 1-877-MSEVENT

Microsoft Communities is your launching pad for communicating online with peers and experts about Microsoft products, technologies, and services: <http://communities.microsoft.com/home/default.asp>

submitted by Virginia Kieran

(Continued from page 5)

quantities exceeding the state's indoor-air-quality guidelines. (And we thought those sleepy Thanksgiving afternoons were the result of a second helping of pumpkin pie!) Broiling, baking and frying on a gas stove sometimes produced particulates in concentrations 28 times higher than the state allows and of a microscopic size that can lodge deep in a person's lungs, the study concluded.

The ARB debated whether to release the study before the holidays, but decided that the public had a right to know of the dangers it confronted from baking, broiling, roasting and sautéing. "We don't want to rain on anyone's Christmas feast," an ARB spokesman told the *Sacramento Bee*. "But we want people to understand they can be exposed to some dangerous compounds while cooking and [to] take appropriate measures."

Whether more direct action by the state will be required to force California's killer kitchens into compliance remains to be seen. It's probably only a matter of time before houses are raided by state eco-enforcers yelling, "Hold it right there, lady! Put down that chimi-

Interesting Web Sites

newenglandancestors.org Consider this your first stop for mapping th family tree, even if you're not from New England. The site points you to more than 200,000 books and some 2 million family histories and documents, plus columns by historians and genealogists.

BUSINESS	PERSONAL	TECHNICAL
		
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<h3>ASHTON C. MOUTON, JR., M.S.</h3> <h4>CONSULTANT</h4>		

NOPCC Directory

Elected Officers

President	Ray Paternostro	president@nopcc.org	737-9099
Vice President	Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.	vp@nopcc.org	246-7759
Secretary	Curtis Duhe'	secretary@nopcc.org	
Treasurer	Don Herrmann	treasurer@nopcc.org	831-1284
Director At Large	Bob Gordon	director1@nopcc.org	469-4686
Director At Large	Carl Henderson	director2@nopcc.org	466-3954
Director At Large	Albert Fox	director3@nopcc.org	269-5786

Standing Committees

BBS SysOp	Lanny Goldfinch	sysop@nopcc.org	482-5066
Newsletter Editor	Edw Jahncke	editor@nopcc.org	897-1205
Public Relations	Jeannie Okamoto	pr@nopcc.org	455-0977
Publicity	Jackie Elliott	publicity@nopcc.org	455-6203
Webmaster	Manuel Dennis III	webmaster@nopcc.org	835-7656

Special Interest Groups

Genealogy	Bob Gordon	gene-m@nopcc.org	469-4686
Internet	Ray Paternostro	internet-m@nopcc.org	737-9099
N O C K	Albert Fox	albertnm@bellsouth.net	269-5786
New Users	Zeke Zimmerman	new-user-m@nopcc.org	456-2991
Suites 2000	Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.	suites2000@nopcc.org	246-7759
VBLG	Manuel Dennis III	vblg-owner@listbot.com	835-7656
WADSIG	Manuel Dennis III	wadsig-owner@listbot.com	835-7656

Other Important Numbers / Addresses

Club Hotline	Recorded messages. Meeting Information. Open 24 Hours	454-6166
NOPCC BBS	Bulletin Board System for members. The original way to PC communicate.	486-7249
NOPCC Web Site	On the World Wide Web. Our own home page and club information.	www.nopcc.org



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February 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Living with Home Electronics</i> 690 AM Radio 10:00—11:00 AM
3	4 <i>Visual Basics Learner's Group</i> No Meeting	5	6 NOPC General Meeting J.D. Meisler 6:30 PM	7	8	9 <i>Living with Home Electronics</i> 690 AM Radio 10:00—11:00 AM
10	11 <i>Visual Basics Learner's Group</i> No Meeting	12 Genealogy SIG McCann's 7:00 PM Mardi Gras	13 Board of Directors Meeting McCann's 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday	14 New Users SIG McCann's 7:00 PM Valentine's Day	15	16 <i>Living with Home Electronics</i> 690 AM Radio 10:00—11:00 AM
17	18 <i>Visual Basics Learner's Group</i> McCann's 6:30 PM	19	20	21	22	23 <i>Living with Home Electronics</i> 690 AM Radio 10:00—11:00 AM
24	25 <i>Visual Basics Learner's Group</i> McCann's 6:30 PM	26	27 Digital Imaging SIG McCann's 7:00 PM	28 Internet SIG McCann's 7:00 PM		

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club (NOPCC) is a private non-profit organization chartered under the State of Louisiana. Its purpose is to provide an open forum for discussion and education of the membership in the use and application of PCs, peripheral equipment and software. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the NOPCC, its members or its officers. The club does not verify for accuracy the articles in this newsletter and leaves verification of accuracy to its readers.

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