Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

ACGNJ HAS SUMMER ACTIVITIES!

While most of our club shuts down for the summer, five of our Special Interest Groups have meetings scheduled. (We'll list further details below). When you're not "catching some rays" or "riding the wild surf", maybe you might consider attending a few of them. Then, there's our annual Planning Meeting on August 21. In many ways, this can be considered our most important public meeting of the year. You want to affect the direction the club is taking? That's where it happens. Finally, to give this special issue some "meat", we've included two short reports about our speakers at the June Main and Window Pains meetings.

This isn't a summer newsletter issue. Really, it's not. As it says, it's an "End-of-June Supplement". It's also an experiment to "push" the newsletter to our members. That's why it's being sent as e-mail. (Though eventually, for the archives, there'll be a PDF version). Even if you don't read the whole thing, please go to the end and take the Member Survey. It's very short – just pick one of the three choices. ~~Then hit your e-mail client's Reply button, type in "1", "2" or "3", and throw the whole thing back to us.~~ We'll really appreciate your participation.

1985 was the last year that we published a complete set of twelve monthly newsletters. (Except for two exceptions that I'll get to in a minute, we haven't published anything in the summer since). In 1987, however, we mailed out three mid-month supplements to the regular newsletters. Four additional pages each for May and June, and eight pages for September. They weren't given Volume or Issue numbers; just identified by month, 1987, and the word "Supplement". Currently, for file tracking, we are referring to them as Volume 12, Numbers 05S, 06S and 07S. Since 06S went out in mid-June, it doesn't count as a summer publication.

In 1993, an eight page "Special Summer Issue" was published for July-August, identified as "Volume 18 Issue 6.5". In 1997, a twenty page "Summer Extra" was published, identified as "Volume 22, Number 7". (That pushed September up to Number 8). Nothing since. Interestingly, in each of those summer issues (four years apart), a relatively small announcement (around two paragraphs) stated that our newsletter had won an award at the current Intergalactic User Group Conference. That was an annual international (English-speaking world, anyway) convention of user group officers and editors. ACGNJ was one of the sponsors.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

July 7 (Monday) Lunics (Linux/UNIX) 8:00 PM.
July 8 (Tuesday) Java 7:30 PM.
July 10 (Thursday) Computerized Investing 8:00 PM.
July 11 (Friday) NJ Gamers 6:00 PM.
July 21 (Monday) Firefox 8:00 PM.

August 4 (Monday) Lunics 8:00 PM.
August 8 (Friday) NJ Gamers 6:00 PM.
August 12 (Tuesday) Java 7:30 PM.
August 14 (Thursday) Computerized Investing 8:00 PM.
August 18 (Monday) Firefox 8:00 PM.
August 21 (Thursday) ! ! ! Planning Meeting ! ! ! 7:00 PM.

September 1 (Monday) Lunics - CANCELLED because it's Labor Day.
September 2 (Tuesday) Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM.
September 5 (Friday) Next regularly scheduled Main Meeting 8:00 PM.

By its nature, a summer schedule is even shakier than usual. So, before you leave, please check the club web site (www.acgnj.org) for last-minute cancellations.

BRIEF MEETING INFO (see www.acgnj.org for additional details):

Computerized Investing features presentations and instructions on learning, selecting and using various charting and technical analysis software. The object, of course, being profitable investment.

FireFox is an open forum for all FireFox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage the study and development of web sites of all kinds.

Java covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications.

Lunics is a group for those who share an interest in Linux or other Unix-like operating systems (such as BSD and Solaris). Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format.

NJ Gamers sessions go for EIGHTEEN hours, with a $5.00 admission charge. Bring-Your-Own-Computer, Bring-Your-Own-Food, and (if you want to be comfortable) Bring-Your-Own-Chair.

Planning Meeting: This year is especially important. The club's future, indeed its very survival, could be in the balance. Plus, it's a dinner meeting, so there'll be Free Food! But there's a catch. If you attend, you have to bring two possible meeting topics with you. For further information, and instructions on how to RSVP, see:

http://www.acgnj.org/pm/pma.html

MAIN MEETING REPORT:

David M. Marra gave his "Introducing Mac OS X v.10.5 Leopard!" presentation at our June 6, 2008 Main Meeting. As a Senior Systems Engineer for Apple, Mr. Marra has conducted more than 500 technology presentations, keynote addresses and workshops for schools, Mac and PC user groups, businesses and other professional organizations across the United States and Canada. His specialty areas include digital multimedia, Internet technologies and Mac/PC integration. (For more information about Dave, please visit his web site at www.marrathon.com).

Packed with over 300 amazing new innovations, Mac OS X v10.5 "Leopard" features a completely new desktop and Finder environment, making it even easier

to quickly browse and locate your files; Quick Look, to view the contents of your documents without opening them; Time Machine, a revolutionary automated file backup and recovery utility; Spaces, an exciting new way to keep your Mac clutter-free and organized; Dashboard with Web Clip, to create your very own Dashboard widgets; iChat, for high-quality video and audio conferencing, remote screen sharing, slide show and presentation delivery; along with significantly updated versions of Spotlight, Safari, iCal, Automator, Mail and much, much more! Discover Leopard today! (As if you hadn't guessed, the preceding paragraph was written by Apple).

At TCF in April, Dave ran out of time about three quarters of the way through his presentation. For us, he said he'd try to get everything in. He gave it a good shot, too; but he didn't quite make it. Some of our members actually asked questions that he didn't have ready answers for, and had to stop and think about. After three hours, he had to call it quits. What with last minute conversation, clean-up and equipment packing (he brought two laptops, plus his own projector, speakers, and cables) we didn't get out of the building until about a quarter to midnight. If (not counting Gamers) that wasn't a record, it sure must have come close.

WINDOW PAINS REPORT:

Phil Frigm, Special Agent with the FBI, made a presentation entitled; "Computer Security and Computer Crimes" at the June 20, 2008 Window Pains Meeting. He spoke about current trends in Internet Crime and what the top threats are to you and your company. Mr. Frigm has been assigned to the Newark division of the FBI since August of 2005. He has spent the last year and half investigating Computer Intrusions, primarily focused on National Security issues.

Every day, countless homes and offices across the nation are invaded - not by breaking down windows and doors, but by breaking into laptops, personal computers, and wireless devices via hacks and bits of malicious code. To combat this, the FBI has created an entire division at FBI HQ and made high-tech crime a top priority in the field. The FBI's cyber mission is four-fold: first and foremost, to stop those behind the most serious computer intrusions and the spread of malicious code; second, to identify and thwart online sexual predators who use the Internet to meet and exploit children and to produce, possess, or share child pornography; third, to counteract operations that target U.S. intellectual property, endangering our national security and competitiveness; and fourth, to dismantle national and transnational organized criminal enterprises engaging in Internet fraud. Pursuant to the National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace signed by the President, the Department of Justice and the FBI lead the national effort to investigate and prosecute cybercrime.

Prior to entering the FBI, Frigm worked for five years as the Information Technology manager for WXXI Public Broadcasting in Rochester NY where he implemented network technologies and modern computing environments to coincide with WXXI's switch to a digital broadcast realm. Concurrent with employment at WXXI, he obtained his Master's of Science in Information Technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) focusing in telecomm and Internet policy. Specific areas of interest for him, as well as his thesis project, included the development of network and computer security policies in a corporate environment. Prior to working at WXXI, he worked in system administration and client support for two and a half years at RIT. In what he will often call his "other lifetime", he obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the Pennsylvania State University with a dual major in History and Medieval Studies in 1995.

Special Agent Frigm gave an interesting, informative and sobering presentation, for almost three hours. While the USA PATRIOT Act was a part of his talk, this bit of trivia was just a quick side remark. It's really quite unfair that it's the only thing in my notes that was short enough to include here; but it's something I didn't know. Maybe you didn't know it either. Calling it the USA PATRIOT Act wasn't just a knee-jerk

expression of gung-ho jingoism. Somebody with way too much time on their hands actually reverse-engineered the initials to make it into an acronym. It stands for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism".

WHY A SUPPLEMENT?

This June, we had two last-minute speaker changes. While it's unlikely that such a coincidence will happen again, it revealed a flaw in our organization. We don't have a way to quickly get information to our members, and to know for sure that they all got it. Up until six and a half years ago, our newsletter filled that function; but now it's just a side-section of our web site. In this particular case, even the newsletter in its glory days wouldn't have done the job. When the June issue was "put to bed" on May 25, two very different events were scheduled. Then, we had two extremely last-minute lucky breaks. John Raff quickly put up detailed notices about both meetings on the ACGNJ web site. However, there wasn't any way to insure that our members read them.

Fortunately, we had enough attendance for each meeting that we didn't embarrass ourselves; but both these guys were really, really good! They deserved a larger audience. Furthermore, our full membership deserved the chance to see and hear them. This newsletter supplement is an experiment to solicit member reaction to an All-Member e-mail system.

MEMBER SURVEY:

The question is: Do you want to receive e-mail notices from the club? And if so, in what form? We sent this supplement out as e-mail because that's a format that can be directly sent to everybody. Whereas our regular newsletter is (and will continue to be) published as a PDF file, which would have to be sent as an attachment to an e-mail. So:

Choice 1:

A short, more-or less monthly e-mail from the club, containing just one or two announcements, but with the latest newsletter PDF file attached. The down side: Recent newsletters have been 300 to 500 KB long, and two 2007 issues reached 800 KB. While this is nothing to a cable or DSL Internet connection, it could seriously bog down an older dial-up telephone modem setup.

Choice 2:

A short, more-or less monthly e-mail from the club, containing just one or two announcements, a link to the latest newsletter on our club web site, and maybe instructions on how to download your own copy to your local hard drive. The down side: The newsletter is not actually delivered to the members; but at least they're reminded that it's available.

Choice 3:

Don't send me anything! The down side: You have to find out stuff by yourself.

We've set up a special e-mail account just for this supplement: survey@acgnj.org. You can ~~use your Reply function or~~ send us a separate message. Plus, if you have a better suggestion, we'd be happy to hear it. Please, let us know what you think.