President’s Note
Michael P. Redlich
June 2015
Happy 40th Anniversary, ACGNJ!

The Early Years
“The first meeting of the ACSNJ was held on Friday night, June 13 at UCTI (Union County Technical Institute) in Scotch Plains NJ. There were 32 in attendance.”

These were the first words written in the very first ACSNJ Newsletter dated June 1975.

I hope you noticed something different in the quote and in my last sentence. I’m sure you are all wondering, “What is this ACSNJ? Is this a typo, Mike?” On the contrary, ACGNJ originally started out as the Amateur Computer Society of New Jersey. However, Steven P. Grey, who published a quarterly periodical known as the Amateur Computer Society (ACS) Newsletter from May 1966 into early 1975, sent a letter to Sol Libes stating that the ACSNJ infringed on his “organization.” What is interesting to note is that the ACS never held any formal

(Continued On Page Three)

ACGNJ

http://www.acgnj.org

Founded 1975

This newsletter was made by 100% pure Linux!
Operating System: Ubuntu 12.04 LTS
Desktop Publisher: Scribus 1.3.3.13
Word Processor: LibreOffice Writer 3.3.4

ACGNJ Meetings
For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

For news from OTHER clubs, please go to:
http://www.acgnj.org/joomla/

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, June 1, 8:00 PM
Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Board of Directors Meeting: Friday June 5, 7 PM
(Immediately before the Main Meeting below)
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, June 5, 8:00 PM
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Layman’s Forum: Monday, June 8, 8:00 PM
Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)

Java: Tuesday, June 9, 7:30 PM
Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Mobile Devices: Wednesday, June 10, 7:30 PM
CANCELED due to Brenda's bicycle injuries.

Investing: Thursday, June 11, 8:00 PM
Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, June 12, 6:00 PM
Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Computer Workshop: Saturday, June 13, 1:00 PM
Bob Hawes (cmp.wrkshp (at) acgnj.org).

Web Browser: Monday, June 15, 7:30 PM
David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, June 16, 7:30 PM
Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Window Pains: Friday, June 19, 7:00 PM
(Our Annual Planning Meeting).
John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on last page. ☝

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. Always confirm. Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, $5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) $150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) $115, half-page $85, one-third $57, quarter $50, eighth $30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publications Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes all family members who reside at the same address): 1 year $25, 2 years $40, 3 years $55. Student: 1 year $20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year $20, 3 years $45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.
President's Note, continued from page 1

meetings and that Sol was a subscriber to this periodical. Despite the fact that the newsletter had already ended, Sol ultimately changed the club name to what we have known for the past 40 years as the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey. Here is a picture from that first meeting…

SPRING 1975

(Continued From Above Right)

That first newsletter summarized what was presented at that first, now very historic, meeting and even included a Directory of Members. This is something we don't practice today with our current newsletter.

As stated in the quote above, there were 32 attendees at that first meeting. The November 1975 ACGNJ Newsletter (Issue No. 4) stated:

"90 people attended the October meeting (Oct. 17, 1975) held at the Union County Technical Institute. Moreover, 27 new people joined the ACG-NJ bringing the total membership to 102. Which proves that Amateur computing is becoming a big hobby."

In just four short months after ACGNJ held its first meeting, attendance increased by a factor of three (3) and membership grew rapidly as well. The December 1975 ACGNJ Newsletter (Issue no. 5) provided a distribution of where members resided. I was intrigued by this and thought I’d share it with you…

(Continued From Above Right)

Update on Membership

The membership has increased from 102 to 129 (NJ=108, NY=19, other=2). The breakdown is as follows:

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<th>NJ</th>
<th>Middlesex 34</th>
<th>Union 19</th>
<th>Morris 9</th>
<th>Essex 9</th>
<th>Bergen 9</th>
<th>Somerset 7</th>
<th>Passaic 7</th>
<th>Mercer 7</th>
<th>Monmouth 5</th>
<th>Burlington 2</th>
<th>Hudson 1</th>
<th>Hunterdon 1</th>
<th>Total 108</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Manhattan 7</td>
<td>Staten I. 6</td>
<td>Brooklyn 3</td>
<td>Queens 1</td>
<td>Monroe 1</td>
<td>Jamestown 1</td>
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President’s Note, continued

It’s amazing to see that there were club members as far away as California! With no Internet as we know it today, I believe that these remote members most-likely joined the club for the newsletter.

First Board of Directors

As you already know, Sol Libes was the founder and first President of ACGNJ. But you may be wondering who else served on the original Board of Directors.

Well, thanks to Al Katz’s talk entitled, “TCF@50” which he presented at TCF earlier this year, we are fortunate to have this original list:

President: Sol Libes
Vice President: Martin Nichols
Recording Secretary: Pierce Capell
Corresponding Secretary: Edward Eibling
Treasurer: Kevin Redden
Director: Tom Kirk
Director: William Klotz
Director: Allen Katz
Director: Arthur Fowler
Director: Roger Amidon

Served as a consultant on microcomputer hardware and software design.

Author of many articles in magazines and journals spanning 30 years (including a monthly column in Byte magazine from 1975-1981).

Author of 16 books, the first one entitled, “Repairing Transistor Radios” published in 1960.

You can read the full details of Sol’s biography at: http://libes.com/sol/bio/

Sol, his wife, Lennie, and Al remain the heart and soul of TCF. Despite the many contributions by the usual cast of characters, there is no doubt in my mind that they carry most of the burden organizing TCF year-after-year. You generally don’t see that kind of long-term dedication to an effort such as this. Sol, Lennie, and Al have been doing this for 40 years!

About three (3) weeks before TCF 1998, I was given the opportunity to present an introductory C++ talk. The person originally slated to make this presentation was suddenly unavailable. This is where I first met Sol. I didn’t realize back then the

Director: Douglas Moser

I’m sure that most of you recognize some notable names who are still contributing to TCF, namely Al Katz and Roger Amidon.

Over the past 40 years, the positions on the Board of Directors has evolved to what we have today. The most significant changes are:

The reduction to only one (1) Secretary position.
The addition of an Immediate Past President position.

A total of eight (8) two-year Director positions (four (4) expiring this year and four (4) expiring at the end of 2016).

Sol Libes

Sol served as the ACGNJ President for six (6) years. He is still a member of the Board of Directors as lifetime Director Emeritus.

Sol has a very rich and successful career. I thought that I’d share some highlights:

Founded ACGNJ in 1975.

Co-founded the Trenton Computer Festival (TCF) in 1976 with Al Katz.

Member of the IEEE Standards Committee.

(Continued Below Left)
significance of Sol’s contributions. I was just relieved that I was able to put together a talk in three (3) weeks time for my first presentation at a computer show. I remember receiving my speaker packet in the mail for TCF 1998. I thought it was cool how Sol and Lennie used portrait stamps of themselves as authorization for the parking permit. This is something they still practice today as shown in my parking permit for this year’s TCF.

My History with ACGNJ

On June 13, 1975, I was only 13 years old (turning 14 that November). I first heard of ACGNJ in 1996 as I came across a listing for Bruce Arnold’s C++ Users Group in a local computer rag. I attended the very next C++ Users Group meeting and was very impressed. I became a regular attendee at Bruce’s meetings and even made a few presentations of my own.

With Java having established itself in application development in the late 1990’s, I thought it would be beneficial to the club to have a Special Interest Group dedicated to this relatively new language. In January 2001, I approached the ACGNJ Board of Directors to make my case to start a Java Users Group. I kicked off my first meeting in February 2001 and I have been running the group ever since.

I served as the club Secretary in 2006, President for three (3) years from 2007-2009, Past President from 2010-2012, and President again from 2013-present.

It’s been an absolute joy for me to be part of ACGNJ for almost 20 years. It’s hard to believe that it’s been that long. Despite that length of time, I feel that I’m still a “Johnny Come Lately.” After all, computing in 1996 was already well established with the Internet and plug-and-play computing. It’s true that computing has evolved quite a bit since then, but we didn’t have to build our own computers like Sol, Roger, Claude Kagan, and other PC pioneers had to do.

Acknowledgements

This edition of President’s Note wouldn’t have been possible without the help of the following people:

Bob Hawes provided me PDF copies of the three (3) club Newsletters from 1975.

Al Katz provided me a copy of his “TCF@50” presentation.

And finally, Sol Libes provided me with detailed information on how the club changed names from ACSNJ to ACGNJ.

Many thanks to Bob, Al, and Sol!

And, in closing, here is to a very Happy 40th Anniversary to ACGNJ!

ACGNJ Announcements

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, June 5, 2015, 7:00 PM to ???.
Scheduled Topics: Everything.
Scheduled Speakers: Everyone.

Computer Workshop
Saturday, June 13, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
(The Actual day of our 40th Anniversary).
Continuing our month-long celebration.
(Maybe we’ll serve some cake).

Main Meeting
Friday, June 5, 2015, 8:00(?) PM to 10:00 PM.
(Starts whenever the Board Meeting ends).
Scheduled: Bob Hawes will show videos.

Window Pains (Our Annual Planning Meeting)
Friday, June 19, 2015, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.
Details: http://www.acgnj.org/pm/pma.html
As usual, Dinner will be served. (So this year, it also counts as our 40th Anniversary Dinner).
ACGNJ Reports

ACGNJ Investment Meeting Summary (May 14, 2015)

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

For May's meeting, 5/14/2015, we had 14 attendees. After some preliminary discussions, Larry Yu started with a presentation and discussion of Tina Logan's trading style and which aspect of her style appeal to his style of trading too. Obviously, most people have heard of Tina Logan ("Google" her name) and Larry was able to relay some of the benefits he has learned from watching her webinars. There were a lot of questions during and after a very nice presentation by Larry.

We then had a short break for cookies and then Jim Cooper did a recap of the TREND indicator that was discussed last month. This was combined with his "Check your Ticker" segment, where anybody can just ask for Jim's thoughts and technical insights, as well as the rest of the group's insights, on *any* ticker that is asked about.

Thanks to everybody who attended, I hope that you all can make very good use of what Larry and Jim provided to us.

Please attend the meetings, everybody learns from them, and, if there are any "giveaways", you will be sure to get your own copy.

We hope to see you at June's meeting, 6/11/2015. Also, please send an email to Jim if you would like *any* trading topic to be discussed. Or, if you would like to discuss any trading preferences that you have, others would like to hear *your* trading ideas, too. Thank you.

Philip Lees

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Main Meeting Report

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

We had 11 attendees at our May 1st Main Meeting, where Brenda Bell presented an overview of Mobile Wallets. Quoting from her abstract: “Mediums of commercial exchange have changed and evolved with civilization and technology. We have progressed from in-kind barter to precious substances, from gold coins to paper currency, to credit and debit cards, and cyber wallets. Now that we’re migrating from desktops and notebooks to tablets and smartphones, the methods of buying and selling are adapting to match”.

Brenda discussed porting traditional payment methods to the mobile paradigm, including cyber wallets, mobile wallets, payment presentation methods, and issues and concerns which can affect the adoption of mobile payment technologies. She surveyed both major and minor players, covering Pros, Cons, and those areas that are just Not Ready For Prime Time.

As she was putting up tonight's slide deck, Brenda noted that she hadn’t updated her ACGNJ presentations page since last August. (http://n2kve.webwarren.com/ACGNJ/)

Now, it's up-to-date with slide decks from previous Mobile Devices meetings as well as this meeting. Unless stated otherwise, her slide decks are in Power Point format.

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Mobile Devices Meeting Report

(February 11, 2015)

Brenda Bell, ACGNJ

Our topic was "Windows 8.1 Mobile". We discussed how the "full" (as opposed to "RT") version of Windows behaved on an Atom-processor-based tablet, how it differed from both RT and Core (i3, i5, i7) versions, and why one might need a Windows tablet in addition to other mobile devices. We had 6 members present.

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Mobile Devices Meeting Report

(April 8, 2015)

Brenda Bell, ACGNJ

Wendy Bell discussed Barnes & Noble's Nook eReader: its evolution, hardware and software versions, and how it differs from the Amazon Kindle eReader and the Kobo eReader. We had 5 people present.

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Java Users Group Report

Mike Redlich, ACGNJ

This month’s meeting (May 12) was entitled “Technical Overview of Coding Ground”, an on-line IDE for a variety of languages offered by Tutorials Point, the largest tutorials library on the web. Coding Ground allows you to edit, compile, execute, and share your projects, all within the cloud. There were a total of seven (7) attendees.
Computer Workshop Report
Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

We had a total of two attendees at our May 9th, 2015 meeting. First, we started out by following our usual random-access format. Later, we continued working together on our project from last month, trying to get some old (but not too old) computers running properly.

Windows Pains Meeting Report
Brenda Bell, ACGNJ

On May 15, Ron Winter discussed BitCoin, a crypto currency based on the value of information. Bitcoins can be mined (created), traded for currencies, and traded for goods. Ron discussed a number of places where one can participate in all of those activities. We had 9 attendees.

Still Too Big?? (Part 4)
Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

When I started this series of articles (in Still Too Big?? (Part 1), in our December 2014 issue), there were twelve newsletter PDF files that were considered to be “Too Big”; but three of them were “practice” newsletters that I made for the club before I became full-time Editor. They were End-of-Year 2008 Supplement (4.3 MB), July 2010 (6.2 MB) and July 2011 (3.5 MB). At least for now, those issues have all been declared untouchable. (See Still Too Big?? (Part 2) in our April 2015 issue for details). For those of you who may be keeping score, the initial size of our October 2014 issue was actually 6.1 MB, but that version was never published. I reduced it to its former 4.7 MB size using some early size reduction experiments; but due to looming newsletter deadline pressures, I didn’t write down exactly what I’d done at that time. (So, unfortunately, I can't give you any details about what I actually did). Shame on me.

Note that there were additional errors in our April and May 2014 issues. I did fix them as I was processing those issues, but I just flat out forgot to mention them in both Let's Get Small and Still Too Big?? (Part 2). Double shame on me. In addition, those errors were also present in our February 2014 issue. This time, when I process that issue, I will remember to describe how I fixed those errors. Sorted in descending size order, here are the remaining six “Too Big” issues:
February 2014 (4.2 MB).
October 2012 (4.1 MB).
August 2012 (3.3 MB).
November 2012 (3.2 MB).
September 2014 (3.2 MB).

short answer to our title is still “Maybe”.

Of the remaining nine issues, three have already been processed: April 2014 (originally 5.4 MB) was reduced to 2.8 MB in Let's Get Small in our March 2015 issue. May 2014 (originally 5.0 MB) was reduced to 2.9 MB in Still Too Big?? (Part 2) in our April 2015 issue; and October 2014 (originally 4.7 MB) was reduced to 2.91 MB in Still Too Big?? (Part 3) in our May 2015 issue. (Those last two reductions are just barely under the limit, but they're still wins, so I'm keeping them). By the way, the July 2013 (3.047 MB, right at “the outer limit”).

But first, we need one more bit of recap. Here, expanded a bit from Let's Get Small, are my size reduction instructions: Launch the GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program), then click on the Tools drop-down menu, then click on the Transform Tools sub-menu, and then click on the Scale tool. Inside the window that pops up, there are Width and Height boxes. Just to their right is a graphical indicator that controls whether the Width and Height boxes are ganged together or not. Click on it. Then go to the drop-arrow box that controls unit selection, and change it from “pixels” to “percent”.

Because I'm decreasing my images in two dimensions, not just one, I had to make a further refinement. So to reduce an image to about three quarters of its size, I'll reduce it to 87%. (0.87 x 0.87 = 0.757).To reduce an image to about half of its size, I'll use 71%. (0.71 x 0.71 = 0.504). Likewise, to get about a third of its size, I'll use 57% (0.57 x 0.57 = 0.325). For a quarter of its size, I'll use 50% (0.5 x 0.5 = 0.25). For about one tenth of its size, I'll use 31% (0.31 x 0.31 = 0.096, close enough to 0.1). For
about one twentieth of its size, I'll use 23% (0.23 x 0.23 = 0.053); and for one hundredth of its size, I'll use 10% (0.1 x 0.1 = 0.01).

Now, after only 600 or so words, we can get down to business at last. So we'll process our February 2014 issue; and right away, as promised, I'll describe how I fixed those additional errors mentioned above. (This way, there's absolutely no chance that I'll forget to mention them again). On page 4, under ACGNJ Mini-Reports, the words Java, Users, Group, Window and Pains in the headings for the Java Users Group Report and the Window Pains Report have a very slight reddish cast to them. It's not easy to spot. (After all, I'd originally missed it myself); but when I was specifically looking for it, I could see it.

To fix those aberrant words, I opened the source files for those two reports (1402JavR1.odt and 1402WPR1.odt). In each file, I highlighted those words, and found that their color was identified as “User”. That's what LibreOffice (my word processor) calls a color that doesn't match any of its built-in set of premixed colors. So it assumes that something like this is a custom color purposefully mixed that way by the user. Now, frankly, I don't have the knowledge (and maybe not the artistic talent, either) to mix my own colors this way. So obviously I didn't do this on purpose; but maybe my fingers twitched by accident at exactly the wrong moment (or something like that). Anyway, using the Format > Character function, I changed the color of those words to “Black”. (I could probably have changed the color to “Automatic” instead, but I wanted to be absolutely sure that I got it right this time). For further information, see Haunted Files in our October 2014 issue. There, if you're curious, Figure 9 (right at the top of page 9) contains screen shots of the printed versions of just those two headers. (Unlike in the PDF versions, those altered colors are incredibly obvious in printed versions). Also in Haunted Files, I explained why I purposely didn't fix these errors in our March and June 2014 newsletters. So if you want to see the PDF versions of those errors, you can look at the Java and Window Pains Reports in those two issues. (Unless, someday, I decide to fix them, too).

OK. That took another 300 words; but now we're finally ready to get started. So first, I made a test PDF of the February 2014 issue with no images. It came in at 1.0 MB (1,043,483 bytes). Next, I took a guess at the ten images most likely to cause “bigness”, removed only those files, and then I made another test PDF. It came in at 1.1 MB (1,150,752 bytes). That's a difference of only 104.8 KB. So I'd guessed right. Any and all remaining images were “small fish” that didn't affect the output PDF all that much. Then I made yet another test PDF containing only those ten images. It came in at 4.03 MB (4,232,745 bytes). That's a difference of 3.04 MB. Obviously, the “bigness” were, in fact, contained among that group of ten images.

Fortunately, I'd already shrunk four of those images last month in Part 3. Three of them (NL_CD_12.jpg, TShirtF4.JPG, and TShirtR4.JPG) were quite large, and I'd managed to reduce them to one twentieth of their original sizes. The fourth (ACGNJ4R.JPG) was smaller, but I'd managed to reduce it to one hundredth of its original size. So I added the shrunk versions of those four images to the “small fish” images, made another test PDF, and it came in as 1.9 MB (1,995,599 bytes). This meant that, if the final output PDF is to be less than 3.0 MB, the last remaining six images can't add up to more than 1.1 MB. Unfortunately, they actually add up to 1.7 MB. When I made a PDF containing only those six images, it came in as 2.7 MB (2,824,195 bytes). Luckily, subtracting the size of the PDF with no images (1.0 MB, or 1,043,483 bytes) also yielded 1.7 MB (1,780,712 bytes). That result, when compared with the equal result from the previous paragraph, strongly suggests that none of those six images are anomalous. However, at least some of them are relatively huge, and will have to be successfully shrunk if we are to achieve our goal. The best candidates for shrinkage are MS_STORE.JPG (1.27 MB, or 1,333,011 bytes), MomTerry.jpg (227.2 KB, or 232,654 bytes) and FiveAces.jpg (93.0 KB, or 95,188 bytes). The other three only add up to a total of 22.5 KB, and are probably negligible.

Starting at the top, I tried MS_STORE.JPG first. Reducing it to one half of its original size, I got a
result that was still legible. When I tried one quarter size, that result was still legible, too. How about one tenth size? Still legible. So I went with one tenth size. Having reduced that one file by that much, the last five remaining images now only added up to 496 KB. That seemed more than enough. So I didn't even bother trying to reduce the rest. I just made a final replacement PDF. It came in as 2.5 MB (2,641,993 bytes). As I'd thought: More than good enough.

Now, I'm going to cheat a bit. Skipping down almost to the bottom of the list, I'm going to process our September 2014 issue (3.2 MB). It contains three images that I've mentioned before (NL_CD_12.jpg, TShirtF4.JPG, and TShirtR4.JPG). As noted above, I've already successfully reduced them to one twentieth of their original sizes. Since they're very large, it's quite possible that just replacing those three images with their shrunked versions would allow us to reach our goal. That's what I did, and my resultant PDF came in as 2.7 MB (2,901,603 bytes). So, indeed, good enough.

At the very bottom of our list, July 2013 (3.047 MB)

(Continued Above Right)

is right at our “outer limit”. Although it doesn't contain those two TShirt images, it does contain NL_CD_12.jpg; and surely, just changing that one image would be enough. (Don't call me Shirley). So that's what I did. My resultant PDF came in as 2.8 MB (2,954,530 bytes). Right again!

I did August 2012 (3.3 MB) next. There I ran into a different problem, which suggested a different solution. The thing is, I adopted my current JPEG only image policy starting with our May 2013 issue. Thus, our August 2012 issue contained PNG files; and as we now know, using PNG files with Scribus (my fun, fabulous and free desktop publisher) always results in larger output PDF files. So before doing anything else, I converted all of that issue's PNG images into JPEG files first (as enumerated below), to see what effect making only that switch would produce.

The club logo on page 1 was ACGNJ3WC.PNG. I found an existing and already shrunken JPEG equivalent for it. There were two images on page 3. One was already JPEG, and I found an existing JPEG equivalent for the other one. There were three PNG images on page 6. I converted them to JPEG. There was one PNG image on page 7. I converted it to JPEG, too. There was one image on page 8. It was already JPEG.

There was one PNG image on page 9. I converted it to JPEG. There was one PNG image on page 10. I converted it to JPEG, too. There was one PNG image on page 11. I converted it to JPEG as well. NL_CD_12.png was on page 14. I replaced it with NL_CD_12r.jpg, our already shrunken JPEG equivalent. Pages 15 and 16 each consisted of one giant PNG file. I replaced them both with our existing giant JPEG equivalents. (Those two files are old, but so is the newsletter being fixed. So, as far as this particular issue is concerned, those two giant JPEG files are not out of date).

Then I produced a test PDF. It came in as 3.05 MB (3,207,599 bytes). As I'd expected, significantly smaller than 3.3 MB, but not quite good enough; and none of my newly converted JPEG images were very promising candidates for shrinkage. However, four of them (the images from pages 6 and 7) were about twice as big as the others. So I reduced them to half size, and produced another test PDF. It came in as 2.8 MB (2,888,110 bytes). Acceptable. So I accepted it.

The two newsletters remaining on our list (October and November 2012) are “special cases”. They were produced on a borrowed Vista laptop when I spent several months in a convalescent facility, recovering from major foot surgery. While I was able to install a Windows version of Scribus on that laptop, it would only accept version 1.4.1. Unfortunately, I didn't learn until later that the three issues I produced on that laptop all contained serious technical flaws. Plus, they were also way too big.

As soon as I was discharged, I copied the work files for those three issues into my main Linux computer at home, and I re-exported them as PDFs using Scribus 1.4.0. Suddenly, all of their flaws had gone away, and they were smaller. (Though two were not quite small enough, so they each earned a spot on our list). Of course, I blame both the extra bigness and the flaws on Microsoft. (For further details
about those flaws, see *Purloined Letters* in our March 2013 issue).

Unhappily for me, when I went to the OCTDEC12 directory and looked at the existing files, I discovered a mystery. According to those existing file dates, I did *nothing* between November 30, 2012 (when I would have finished the flawed December issue) and April 8, 2013. After that, I worked on all *three* issues until April 22. (I generated 61 files during those 15 days). I took May off, and then I worked on the November 2012 issue from June 14 through June 17. (I generated 46 files during those 4 days). I worked on the December 2012 issue on July 11, generating only 2 files; and I worked on the October 2012 issue on August 17 (still in 2013), generating only 3 files.

(Math fans among you already know this; but for the rest: Those two intervals that I cited above were both correct. There are 15 days from April 8 until April 22, not 14; and there are 4 days from June 14 through June 17, not 3. That’s because, when calculating inclusive intervals, both the first day and the last day are included. Go ahead. Count it out on your fingers. You’ll see. As I’ve said many times before; “Beware of quick mental math”).

Maybe fixing those three newsletters proved to be such a difficult task that I got a case of traumatic amnesia, and I simply don’t remember how hard it was. Or maybe all of those files were created as I was doing research for my *Why So Big?* series (which ran from December 2012 to November 2013), and thus had *nothing at all* to do with fixing those flaws. Also, notice that my May 2013 “time off” coincides with my adoption of my current *JPG only* image policy. So maybe what I did in June, July and August involved getting rid of PNG images, and any other non-JPG types that I may have previously used. (Possibly in conjunction with my aforementioned *Why So Big?* series). If so, we'll soon find out.

(Out of Chronological Sequence Update: On May 10, 2015, just five days before my deadline for this article, I remembered that I'd added a red colored note to the front pages of the replacements for the October, November and December 2012 newsletters, directing readers to “see *Purloined Letters* in our March 2013 issue for further details”. Obviously, I *couldn’t* have redone those three newsletters until *after* the March 2013 issue was published. So that probably explains why I generated the 61 files mentioned above from April 8 through April 22 in 2013. However, I can’t be completely sure, and I *still* don’t remember if it took me almost four months to fix those flawed issues; but what else could it be? After all, as I said above, I *didn’t* adopt my current *JPG image only policy until May of 2013).

Whatever the case, the flawed October 2012 issue measured 6.3 MB, and its replacement (created in 2013) measured 4.1 MB. Still too big. The flawed November 2012 issue measured 5.9 MB, and its replacement (also created in 2013) measured 3.2 MB. Also still too big. On the other hand, the flawed December 2012 issue measured 4.8 MB, and its replacement measured 2.8 MB. *NOT* too big any more. (So at least we don’t have to bother with that issue now). However, the work files for those October and November issues were created by Scribus 1.4.1. So I *can’t* do my size reduction work under Scribus 1.3.3.13, my preferred version. (Because Scribus 1.4.x files are *not* backwards compatible with Scribus 1.3.x files). So I have to do this work with the Linux version of Scribus 1.4.0.

Doing a quick image count (and *not* counting the really teeny, tiny ones), there were 19 images in the October 2012 issue, and 25 images in the November 2012 issue; and they’re all *JPG*. (So my guess above about those June, July and August files was probably right). Since I try to avoid work whenever possible, I started with the November 2012 issue. (It had more images to work with, and at 3.2 MB, less “bigness” to get rid of). First, I replaced NL_CD_12.jpg with NL_CD_12r.jpg, the already shrunken substitute that I used above. Then I made a test PDF. It came in as 2.99 MB (3,140,267 bytes). Not quite good enough.

So I checked out the club logo on page 1. At 137.6 KB, it looked like a good candidate for shrinkage. So using the GIMP, I shrunk it to 10% of its previous size. Then I made another test PDF. It came
in as 2.9 MB (3,042,200 bytes). Shirley, with 24 more images to choose from, we can do better. (Don't call me Surely). The fifth logo on page 4 was identified as ACGNJ3WC.PNG in the newsletter's text, but (in accordance with our aforementioned **JPG image only** policy), it had previously been replaced by ACGNJ3WC.JPG. (As noted above, this would have been done at some point between June 14 and June 17, 2013). Now, I replaced it again with ACGNJ3WCr.JPG, the already shrunk version that I used on the August 2012 issue above. Then I made another PDF. It came in as 2.8 MB (2,962,303 bytes). Acceptable. Thus: Work successfully avoided!

That brought me to our October 2012 issue. At 4.1 MB, it's 1.1 MB too big. First, as before, I replaced NL_CD_12.jpg with its shrunk equivalent, and I made a test PDF. It came in as 3.86 MB (4,051,392 bytes). A good beginning, but we've still got a long way to go. Dismissing the 3 files on page 1, I looked at the single file on page 3. At 8.3 KB, it didn't seem worth shrinking, either. So I went to page 4. There, 3 of the 4 logos in the top half looked possibly shrinkable, and the passport photo in the bottom looked very shrinkable. On page 5, the QR Code at the top didn't look promising, but the 2 photos at the bottom looked very shrinkable.

The 2 photos on page 6 also looked very shrinkable, but the 2 cartoons on page 8 only looked possibly shrinkable; and that was it! There were **no** more images in the October 2012 issue that hadn't already been processed. On pages 4 through 8, 5 files looked very shrinkable, 5 looked possibly shrinkable, and 2 didn't even look possible. Not all that much to work with. So I shrunk those first 5 photos to one quarter of their original sizes. (Since they all seemed to be high resolution). Then I made another test PDF. It came in as 2.88 MB (3,021,835 bytes). Those 5 newly shrunk photos were still legible; but apparently, that was as good as it was going to get. Further shrinkage for those 5 photos, or any shrinkage **at all** for the other images, always produced blurry results.

Now, in Part 2, I also got a PDF measuring 2.88 MB. There, I rounded it up to 2.9 MB, called it a

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(Continued Above Right)

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(Continued Below Left)

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win, and kept it. So that's what I did here, too. Thus, I **did**, in fact, reduce all nine of those “too big” files to less than 3 MB; but some just barely. Three were in the vicinity of 2.9 MB. They were: October 2012 (2.88 MB), May 2014 (2.88 MB), and October 2014 (2.91 MB). From now on, they will **all** be rounded off to 2.9 MB. Here's an updated list of our results:

April 2014 (5.4 MB → 2.8 MB). *

May 2014 (5.0 MB → 2.9 MB). **

October 2014 (4.7 MB → 2.9 MB). ***

February 2014 (4.2 MB → 2.5 MB).

October 2012 (4.1 MB → 2.9 MB).

August 2012 (3.3 MB → 2.8 MB).

November 2012 (3.2 MB → 2.8 MB).

September 2014 (3.2 MB → 2.7 MB).

July 2013 (3.047 MB → 2.8 MB).

*See Let's Get Small in our March 2015 issue. **

See Still Too Big ??? (Part 2) in our April 2015 issue.

*** See Still Too Big ??? (Part 3) in our May 2015 issue. The other six were all reduced in this article. Note that three came in as 2.9 MB, four came in as 2.8 MB; but only one came in as 2.7 MB, and only one came in as 2.5 MB. So I only managed to get a result significantly lower than 3 MB **twice**. At least while using Scribus as my desktop publisher, this seems to be the best that I can do.

**Appendix 1: One more to go**

As I was writing this article, I discovered another culprit that I’d somehow overlooked. Our January 2015 issue had come in as 3.4 MB. This was totally **my** fault, because it still contained the **old** versions of NL_CD_12.jpg, TShirtF4.jpg, and TShirtR4.jpg. When I replaced them with the newer shrunk versions that we used above, my test PDF came in as 2.92 MB. That’s a little bit **larger** than the ones that I accepted above. So I decided to see if I could do better. Therefore, I reduced the club logo on page 1 to **one twentieth** of its original size, and I replaced the original logo with my newly created shrunk version. Then I made another test PDF, which came in as 2.8 MB. Good enough. This means that there’s a new tenth entry on our list:

January 2015 (3.4 MB → 2.8 MB).

See you next month. ☑
At one time or another we all will be a victim of some form of Cybercrime and Phishing. The use of any preventive product is of little help if you don't practice safe computing. Help protect yourself:

1 Watch out for "phishy" emails. The most common form of phishing is emails pretending to be from a legitimate retailer, bank, organization, or government agency. Delete them. Do not open them.
2 Don't click on links within emails that ask for your personal information.
3 Beware of "pharming." This was also known as redirect. In this version of online ID theft, a virus or malicious program is secretly planted in your computer and hijacks your Web browser. When you type in the address of a legitimate Web site, you're taken to a fake site without realizing it. Malicious programs can be either spyware, adware or malware. Run your spyware scanning programs. Malwarebytes is a recommended program.

8 Report phishing, whether you're a victim or not. Tell the company or agency that the phisher was impersonating.
9 Don't be embarrassed, take action immediately if you've been hooked by a phisher. If you provided account numbers, PINS, or passwords to a phisher, notify the companies with whom you have the accounts right away. For information about how to put a "fraud alert" on your files at the credit reporting bureaus, contact the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft Clearinghouse: www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

Some Recent Scam Alerts from the Federal Trade Commission:
March 6, 2015 Cleaning up without getting cleaned out: http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/cleaning-without-getting-cleaned-out
March 12, 2015 It's the IRS calling or is it? http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/irs-calling
March 19, 2015 Don't pay for a vacation to nowhere: http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/dont-pay-vacation-nowhere
March 25, 2015 Reluctant to be rude? http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/reluctant-be-rude
4 Never enter your personal information in a pop-up screen.
5 Only open email attachments if you're expecting them and know what they contain.
6 Phishing also happens by phone. You may get a call from someone pretending to be from a company or government agency, making various kinds of false claims and asking for your personal information. Quite often it is about some problem with your computer. There is no way they can possibly know if you even own a computer. If you have caller ID, screen your calls, and do not answer calls from phone numbers you do not recognize.
7 If someone contacts you and says you've been a victim of fraud, verify the person's identity before you provide any personal information. Get a phone number and call them back. Or call who they are supposed to represent and ask if that business is making those kinds of calls.

March 26, 2015 An invoice today gets the doctor to pay: http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/invoice-today-gets-doctor-pay
March 27, 2015 Scammers play name game and get caught: http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/scammers-play-name-game-and-get-caught
April 2, 2015 The FTC didn't send that sweepstakes letter: http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/ftc-didnt-send-sweepstakes-letter
April 3, 2015 - Unlocking the code: http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/unlocking-code
April 10, 2015 - Stand up to fake debt collectors: http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/stand-fake-debt-collectors
10 When shopping online be careful and look for boxes that are pre-checked for you to receive offers from them or their partners. Be sure to uncheck the boxes and opt-out if you don't want to receive any communications. Even legitimate retailers count on you not unchecking the boxes to opt-out. This article was obtained with permission to reprint by non-profit or other user groups, with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group.
SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)
Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. No meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum
Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). No meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop
Mike Reagan (hardware (at) acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in he back room, most of our time was spent in talking about ast experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java
Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)
http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices
Brenda Bell (mobdevsig (at) acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today’s modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

Computer Workshop
Bob Hawes (bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org)

ACGNJ has not held a daytime meeting in quite a while, so we've decided to try again. Our inspiration: The Philadelphia Area Computer Society holds only one meeting a month, but it's a biggie. On the third Saturday, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, they hold seventeen different meetings, four at a time in four different rooms. Apparently, there is an audience for Saturday daytime meetings. We're starting smaller, though. Just one room (our usual) from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. We're calling it Computer Workshop, after the meetings that Burke Mawby held in Aberdeen,
NJ from 1989 to 2007. Our format (to start, anyway) will be random access. We meet on the Saturday immediately following the second Friday of the month. Most times, this is the second Saturday, but it can occasionally be the third Saturday. Please check the schedule on Page 1 to be sure.

**Investment Software**

Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM).

**NJ Gamers**

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

http://www.NJGamers.com

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair!

**Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)**

David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM).

**C/C++ Programming**

Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) iee.org)

http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). No meetings in July or August.

**Window Pains**

John Raff (jraff (at) comcast.net)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). No meetings in July or August.

**40th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale**

Beta .15 Release.

$8.00, including postage.

($7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

**Back Issues Still Needed**

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).
1976: January.
1984: August.
1985: June, July, August, September.
Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

**Software**

- **HTML**
  - Mike Redlich 908-246-0410
  - Jo-Anne Head 908-769-7385
- **ColdFusion**
  - Jo-Anne Head 908-769-7385
- **CSS**
  - Frank Warren 908-756-1681
  - Jo-Anne Head 908-769-7385
- **Java**
  - Mike Redlich 908-246-0410
- **C++**
  - Bruce Arnold 908-735-7898
  - Mike Redlich 908-246-0410
- **ASP**
  - Mike Redlich 908-246-0410
- **Perl**
  - John Raff 973-560-9070
  - Frank Warren 908-756-1681
- **XML**
  - Mike Redlich 908-246-0410
- **Genealogy**
  - Frank Warren 908-756-1681
- **Home Automation**
  - Frank Warren 908-756-1681

**Operating Systems**

- **Windows 3.1**
  - Ted Martin 732-636-1942

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**ACGNJ T-Shirts For Sale**

(Front)

L, XL: $15.00
M: 2 for $15.00
bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org

(Back)

**ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Sign up online at [http://www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html](http://www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html) and pay dues with PayPal.
### Other Local Computer Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linux Users Group in Princeton</td>
<td>7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt/1 &amp; Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ <a href="http://www.lugip.org">http://www.lugip.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York PC</td>
<td>3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, <a href="http://www.nypc.org">http://www.nypc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Education Society of Philadelphia</td>
<td>Meetings &amp; Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. &lt;www.cesop.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookdale Computer Users Group</td>
<td>7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS RM 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. &lt;www.bccom.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Macintosh User Group</td>
<td>8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (2011) 893-5274 <a href="http://www.njmuug.org">http://www.njmuug.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC User Group of So. Jersey</td>
<td>2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Amateur Computer Group</td>
<td>2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. <a href="http://www.nuyacc.org">http://www.nuyacc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Jersey Computer Club</td>
<td>8 pm, 4th Fri, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Area Computer Society</td>
<td>3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. &lt;www.pacsnet.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Computer Club</td>
<td>6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul &amp; Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. <a href="http://www.njcc.org">http://www.njcc.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Radio and TV Programs

- **Computer Radio Show**, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.
- **Software Review**, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.
- **On Computers**, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.
- **PC Talk**, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1800-876-WPEN

### Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

#### From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route I&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

#### From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building. You’ll be towed.

#### From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

#### From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue to south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building - you’ll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

#### From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.