

BGA-Bytes

The official newsletter of the
Bowling **G**reen **A**rea **M**icrocomputer **U**ser **G**roup



Volume 12 Issue 10 October 2002

President's Message

from Linda Todd

BGAMUG members never cease to amaze me! I was afraid we'd have a very small number at our September meeting. Several very faithful members emailed me saying they could not attend. But, my fears were unfounded! There were 39 members and guest present and we had a wonderful time. Members voted to approve the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws. Our presentation, which was presented by Chris Wiseman and Eric Wolfe, about the Internet was very informative. We may need to ask these young men to return soon to continue . . . I'd especially like to hear more about their concerns about AOL.

If you miss the October meeting, you will miss a treat. You might be surprised to learn the musical talent we have among our members. This month Mike Moore will share some of his many talents. Several years ago I heard him play his electric piano. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience music is a new way.

November will be a special month as we elect officers to serve for the next year or two. We still need someone to volunteer to serve as our Secretary for the next two years. This is a very important position, but one which does not require special computer skills.

Are you willing to volunteer to serve in this important position?

Please put the evening of December 10th on your calendar. That is the date of our annual Holiday BGAMUG Party. This year it will be a potluck dinner and will be held at the new Warren County Extension . . . (Betty or Jerry . . . What is the official name? My notes are at my office . . .) As always it will be a fun evening of food, fellowship, and recognition of some of the accomplishments for the year.

Hope to see you at our October meeting . . .

Linda

Number of Printed Newsletters May Soon Diminish

By Jerry Gillette, Editor

You can expect several things to change regarding the BGAMUG BGA-Bytes Newsletter during the next few months.

First of all, you can expect a new editor for the next term. It's not that I no longer enjoy the job and work that goes along with the position, but I feel BGAMUG is on course for a great new future and I would like to focus on the issues to build the strength and

numbers of our membership.

Second, we will soon discontinue mailing the newsletter to non-members. As the cost of mailing is not as much the issue as is the quality of bulk-mail service and the number of copies and labor required, The fact remains that the newsletter is a benefit of membership. That said, we encourage any of our readers that are not members to please join.

On the other hand, we will continue to publish the newsletter online for all to read at WWW.BGAMUG.ORG

Plus, the online version will be in color.

As for the new format this month, it is from one of the many templates included with MS Publisher 2002. Please see my review on page 5

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This month's presentation

will be all about MIDI - the Musical Instrument Digital Interface.

Specific demonstrations:

MIDI sounds using an "old" 16 bit sound card contrasted with.

MIDI sounds using a newer "wave table" synthesizer equipped sound card.

MIDI control of an external MIDI instrument.\

Using an external MIDI keyboard to write music using a sequencer.

Understanding how MIDI can be output to printed music.

A demo on how printed music can be scanned and turned into MIDI playable files.

ANYONE WITH A SOUND CARD can benefit from MIDI.

Mike Moore

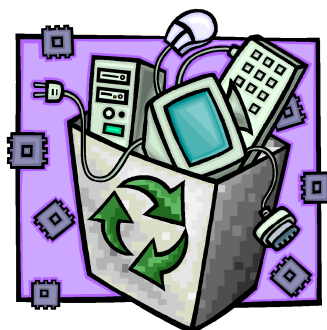
BGAMUG in AFGHANISTAN ?

From Gene Iglehart PC Placement Program



Gene Iglehart tells another story about some of the mysteries related to the PC Placement Program.

"we did once, send a computer to Africa; and we have sent them to many places in the US but this was kind of far out."



I always knew BGAMUG members advertised the club far and wide. But this is either a joke or someone is carrying things to the extreme.

Here's the story.

Two weeks ago I received an e-mail from a Mr. Mansoor Ahmad requesting a computer from us. He said he lived in Afghanistan; and when I did a source trace, sure enough it had come in to the US on a satellite.

Now, we did once, send a computer to Africa; and we have sent them to many places in the US but this was kind of far out.

At the club meeting I asked if anyone was playing a joke, but no one responded. Maybe they really do know about us in Afghanistan.

I wrote Mr. Ahmad back and replied that we could not help and asked how he learned about the club. So far, no response.

I have a feeling someone has been reading my e-mail. Don't know why they would, but this has happened before.

About 2 years ago Florence was IM ing our daughter in Memphis and told her she was sending her some pictures in an e-mail.

Next day our daughter called and said her computer was down. The pictures she tried to receive the night before had messed up her computer.

Also, there were no pictures when she opened the e-mail, and now AOL had canceled her account. Florence told her that she had not sent any pictures to her yet. "Well, the e-mail was from you, and it was marked pictures so I

tried to open them."

Obviously someone had intercepted our e-mail and sent a Trojan horse with our name on it. They do this to take control of your computer and use it as a sending source to solicit anything from pornography to business offers. When your ISP sees mass mailings coming from you, they cancel the account to stop the transmission. Someone took our computer over once, and in 20 minutes they sent out thousands of solicitations before AOL stopped them.

When this happens, you get a message to call AOL when you try to sign on. They then will reinstate your account after you set up new passwords.

They then give you instructions about securing any information you may have

had on your computer; and then, the hardest part is to remove the Trojan horse.

Usually the Trojan horse is a brand new one, and deleting it is a real chore.

I spent about 4 hours when this happened to us. AOL finally sent me to a site on McAfee to

cure things. I had been running Norton but signatures were about 2 weeks old.

I don't know how other ISP's handle this but the hand holding and personal attention AOL gave us has made me a customer for life.

So, e-mail can be hacked, as was presented in the last meeting.

Usually I am flattered when anyone is interested in what I have to say.

However it is not necessarily you they want. It may be just your computer.

I always understood dial-up connection did not need a fire wall, but anytime you are on line and the computer is unattended, it can be hacked. So much for the "ping" programs that keep you from being signed off.

Just a quick summary of the placement program. We are averaging about 10 placements a month. Much more than we have ever done before. The Jefferson Award publicity has increased donations and requests far more than anything we have ever had before. Yesterday I received a call from Sam Small, a business man in Glasgow, with a nice donation. "Saw ya on TV," he said. He even delivered them to me. Again, my thanks to all who have contributed in any way.

Gene

The Computer Curmudgeon

Horsefeathers! No mail this week. I think, grouchy readers, that your system operator – oh excuse me – system *Administrator*, has done me a grave injustice! I had asked him to set me up with an auto-responder, where e-mail to curmudgeon@bgamug.org would be automatically responded to by a cute little paragraph penned by me, however it seems that as is so often the case when we ask too much of technology, it lets us down. In auto-responding to your mail, it also failed to get the mail to me. I know this because I tried to send some test mail to the above address. Got the clever autoresponse, but not the e-mail. So, please send your gripes *again* and I'll get the technology dude to ditch the cutesy autoresponse for now.

Before we get started with this month's manifesto, let's clear up one wild rumor that seems to be making the rounds about your oveable curmudgeon, me. I am most definitely *not* Clark Carley. Thank you

Aside from people driving slow in the left lane and who type e-mail in all capital letters, what's bothering me this month?

At the risk of coming out in favor of Apple Computers, I'll tell you. It's PC error messages. It's a sad state of affairs when our computers can solve really complicated problems, but they can't display error messages that mean anything to anyone. For my two cents, they do nothing but display the lack of humor that seems to pervade all programmers. Er, well, at least programmers with corporate portfolios and a Land Cruiser payment. Error messages are often invasive and rude, they halt the current activity, and they demand that you acknowledge them before you are allowed to continue. If your friends acted this way, they wouldn't remain your friends for long.

Here are some really pitiful examples. I'm really not making this up – these are actual clips from error messages sent to our screens by programs that people paid good money for.

We are unfortunately all too familiar with the use of terms

such as "Fatal Error", "Critical Error", and "Severe Error", but here an entirely new type of error was discovered in *FreeJava*, a programming interface for Sun Microsystems's Java language.

We are unfortunately all too familiar with the use of terms such as "Fatal Error", "Critical Error", and "Severe Error", but here an entirely new type of error was discovered in *FreeJava*, a programming interface for Sun Microsystems's Java language.



The message resulted when a certain command was invoked after editing a project.

Apparently, *FreeJava's* developers consider the fact that an error occurred as being far more important than identifying the source of the error. This was probably a feeble attempt at humor, but it certainly doesn't help any.

Here's an example of circular logic in *RealPlayer for Windows*, (v. 6.0.0.128):

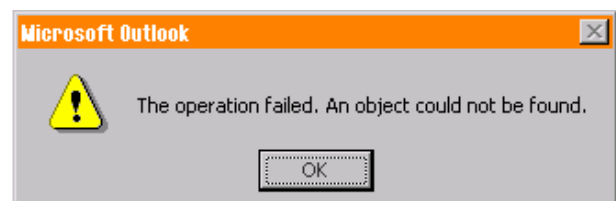


How about these abominations?

In this image from Microsoft's *Outlook Express*, we wonder how many errors occurred?



This image is from Microsoft's *Outlook 98*.



One wonders if the object could have been found, if we'd then find out what it looked like? However, if we don't know what it looks like, then it's no wonder we can't find it!

(Continued on page 8)



September Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Howard Margolis, Secretary

BGAMUG MINUTES

September 24, 2002 GENERAL MEETING

BGAMUG general meeting was called to order by President Linda Todd on September 24, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. at KTCTS KATI Campus. All officers were present with the exception of Mike Moore. President Todd welcomed us to the Campus and outlined the agenda for the evening.

A motion was made by Ginny Molloy and seconded by Jay Eatherly to accept the August General Meeting minutes. The motion passed.

President Linda Todd gave a summary of the September Executive Board meeting:

- 1) Constitution and Bylaws – will be voted on at September General meeting
- 2) New Member and Guest Packets – are ready and are presently being handed out at the General Meetings
- 3) Nominating Committee – Howard Margolis, Linda Todd, Ramona Bobbitt, Pat Vincent, Edwin Phelps, and Kathy Stinson have been appointed and are presently putting together a new slate of officers for review and voting by the General Membership.
- 4) Standing Rules are under consideration and review.
- 5) Bulk Mail Advertising Issue – is being researched by Jerry Gillette
- 6) Picnic – will be on October 12th at Mike Moore's home in Alvaton. There will be food (pot luck), contests and games with prizes awarded.
- 7) December Event – will be on December 10th at the Warren County Extension Service Educational Center on Nashville Road (across from Hillview Church)

Constitution and Bylaws Vote

Voting was held on the revised Constitution and By-Laws. Jay Eatherly proposed the motion that the revised Constitution and By-Laws be accepted by the General Membership. James Gegner seconded. Motion passed.

Report from the Nominating Committee – Howard Margolis presented a chart showing that the only office not yet filled with a proposed officer candidate is the office of Secretary.

Officer/Coordinator's Reports:

Jerry Gillette – Gave an updated report on participation at Fern Terrace

Gene Iglehart – reported on the computer to community program. He is giving away, on average, 10 rebuilt computers a month to needy families in the community. He has had a recent request for a computer from a person in Pakistan.

Ramona Bobbitt – Presented a treasurer's report showing a balance in the account as of September 24th of \$ 1889.39

Future Dates to Remember:

September 28th - BGAMUG New Member's Orientation – at Apollo Computers 10:30 am

October 1st – Executive Board Meeting The Alamo Room at Lone Star Steakhouse 5:30 pm dinner and 6:30 pm meeting Continue to discuss Standing Rules and Mission Statement

October 10th – BGA-Bytes Newsletter Deadline.

October 12th – Picnic at Mike Moore's home 11:30 am – until???

October 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th – Fern Terrace Mentoring – 1:00 to 3:00 pm

October 22nd – General Meeting at KATI Campus – 6:30 pm

October 26nd – BGAMUG New Member's Orientation – at Apollo Computers – 10:30 am

November 5th – Executive Board Meeting The Alamo Room at Lone Star Steakhouse 5:30 pm dinner and 6:30 pm meeting

Guests:

Kenneth Young, Debbie Young, Jack Stoess, Vivian Hand, Joanne Dunklau, Ray Eddy, and Tutie Stanley

Business Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Presentation: - Chris Wiseman and Eric Wolfe made a presentation to the General Membership – "A Brief Guide to the Internet".

Q and A – Betty Lyne

Door Prize – Jerry Gillette presented several door prizes.

After the meeting the organization met at the Dairy Queen on Russellville Road for fellowship.

SOFTWARE FOR REVIEW

From the Librarian, Pat Vincent

SAMMY SURICATE 1.45

System Requirements:

- Windows 95/98/ME/2000/XP/NT4,PII 300,
- 32 MB RAM,
- 3D accelerated graphic card,
- 15 MB HD.

Suricate Software has just announced the release of Sammy Suricate 1.45-Adventures in Lion Land, a 3D action/puzzle game designed for the whole family. The players help Sammy run, jump and think his way through a beautifully rendered 3D world in his quest to stay alive long enough to unlock the secrets of Lion Land. This game features addictive gameplay where a

sharp mind is just as important as fast reflexes. This is a fast-paced action game with exhilarating music and sound effects.

If you are interested in reviewing this software, please e-mail Pat Vincent at

pat.vincent@wku.edu
before the October meeting and you will be considered as a reviewer.



If you are interested in reviewing any particular type of software, please e-mail Pat Vincent at

pat.vincent@wku.edu

Microsoft Publisher Deluxe 2002

Reviewed by Jerry Gillette

Having been the editor of the BGAMUG Newsletter for at least ten years, I have always depended on software applications to make the job as easy as possible. Not being a technical person, my first requisite is that of simplicity.

Starting out with MS Word 4.0 for DOS as my first word processor, I came to feel and admire the way it worked. My attempt to switch to the, at that time more popular, Word Perfect in the early to mid-nineties was a waste of time as I repeatedly reverted back to my favorite, MS Word.

It wasn't until 1995-96 that I started using MS Publisher to produce the newsletter, but I continued to use Word for the majority of my actual text editing chores. With each new release of MS Publisher it became more

and more a stand-alone application.

With the new features packed into the current version, MS Publisher 2002, I find I can do all my newsletter work without switching back and forth between it and Word. Publisher finally meets all my needs.

I particularly enjoy the new simple additions and improvements, such as, the new included thesaurus, the ability to add a variety of diagrams from the Draw toolbar, and, of course, the task panes I've found so useful in other Office XP Applications.

With Publisher 2002 we will soon be able to send more simply the newsletter via e-mail as either an attachment or as HTML file. This will fit well into our plans to reduce the number of printed copies we send by

regular mail.

As we are not directly in need of these new features at present, Publisher 2002 has much more support for commercial printing jobs.

Publisher 2002 also has support for speech and handwriting recognition. I used the speech recognition just enough to see how much it can do, but I need to practice with it much more before it will be one of my favorite features.

There are many new design templates with task pane assistance to help create new publications from scratch; and with the included font and color schemes, it makes even your rush jobs look professional.

Publisher 2002 Deluxe has Picture It! Photo included for manipulating and enhancing digital

images. A real plus if you include photos in your publication.

The mail merge with Publisher 2002 is now much more in parallel with that of Word, which I use every month and appreciate very much.

I will recommend Publisher 2002 to anyone that needs to create great professional looking publications for almost any purpose; and the bottom line for me, remember, simplicity.

MS Publisher Deluxe 2002 retails for \$149 or you can upgrade for \$99. Now through December 31, you can take advantage of a rebate and save \$50 when you upgrade to Publisher 2002 or Publisher 2002 Deluxe. Publisher 2002 Deluxe requires at least a Pentium 166 or higher CPU, Windows 98 or higher OS, 64-

128 MB of RAM, 405 MB hd space



Mike demonstrates how one of the Moore cat's is comfortable in most any position while being held.

BGAMUG Fall Picnic

All we can say about the Fall Picnic is, GREAT DAY.

The food, company, games, and even the weather was great.

Where Were You ?

We were all concerned as to the light turn-out.

Everyone kept commenting as to why more members did not attend.

- Did you not know about it?
- Did you miss the map in last months newsletter and not know where it was or how to get there?
- Did you not receive last month's newsletter?

Whatever the reason, you were missed. We can only try to get the word out better next time and hope for a better turn-out.

If you have ever attended an activity at Moorehouse, you will want to return.

Thanks Mike and Sheryl Moore for opening your home to us.



Linda (above) did not fare as well in the disc toss as did Elbert (below) who won an MS Optical Wheel Mouse .

Ed Hurt, below, takes swing at a walnut with a tennis racket to compete in the new game & to help get the nuts out of the Moore's yard.



Then we all settled down for Bingo as Marge Hurt, pictured below, was the top winner of several certificates from Staples.

Now this is an idea whose time has come!

From C. G. Haley

You read about all these terrorists-most of them came here legally,

But they hung around on these expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years.

Now, compare that to Blockbuster; you are two days late with a video and those people are all over you. Let's put Blockbuster in charge of immigration.



A Recent Customer Service Call

Contributed by Michael Moore

A call comes through on the line.

Customer Service Rep: Yes,
Ma'am, how can I help you
today?

Customer: Well, after much
consideration, I've decided
to install love. Can you guide
me through the process?

CS Rep: Yes, I can help you. Are
you ready to proceed?

Customer: Well, I'm not very
technical, but I think I'm
ready to install now. What
do I do first?

CS Rep: The first step is to open
your HEART. Have you
located your HEART ma'am?

Customer: Yes I have, but there
are several other programs
running right now. Is it okay
to install while they are run-
ning?

CS Rep: What programs are
running ma'am?

Customer: Let's see, I have
PAST-HURT.EXE, LOW-
ESTEEM.EXE,
GRUDGE.EXE, and RE-
SENTMENT.COM running
right now.

CS Rep: No problem. LOVE will
gradually erase PAST-
HURT.EXE from your cur-
rent operating system. It may
remain in your permanent
memory, but it will no longer
disrupt other programs.
LOVE will eventually over-
write LOW-ESTEEM.EXE
with a module of its own
called HIGH-ESTEEM.EXE.
However, you have to com-

pletely turn off
GRUDGE.EXE and RESENT-
MENT.COM. Those pro-
grams prevent LOVE from
being properly installed. Can
you turn those off ma'am?

Customer: I don't know how to
turn them off. Can you tell
me how?

CS Rep: My pleasure. Go to
your Start menu and invoke
FORGIVENESS.EXE. Do this
as many times as necessary
until GRUDGE.EXE and
RESENTMENT.COM have
been completely erased.

Customer: Okay, done. LOVE
has started installing itself
automatically. Is that normal?

CS Rep: Yes. You should receive
a message that says it will
reinstall for the life of your
HEART. Do you see that
message?

Customer: Yes I do. Is it com-
pletely installed?

CS Rep: Yes, but remember that
you have only the base pro-
gram. You need to begin
connecting to other Heart's
in order to get the upgrades.

Customer: Oops. I have an error
message already. What
should I do?

CS Rep: What does the message
say?

Customer: It says "ERROR 412 -
PROGRAM NOT RUN ON
INTERNAL COMPO-
NENTS." What does that
mean?

CS Rep: Don't worry ma'am,

that's a common problem. It
means that the LOVE pro-
gram is set up to run on
external HEARTS but has
not yet been run on your
HEART. It is one of those
complicated programming
things, but in non-technical
terms it means you have to
"LOVE" your own machine
before it can "LOVE" others.

Customer: So what should I do?

CS Rep: Can you pull down the
directory called "SELF-
ACCEPTANCE"?

Customer: Yes, I have it.

CS Rep: Excellent. You're getting
good at this.

Customer: Thank you.

CS Rep: You're welcome. Click
on the following files and
then copy them to the "MY
HEART" directory: FOR-
GIVE-SELF.DOC, REALIZE-
WORTH.TXT, and AC-
KNOWLEDGE-
LIMITATIONS.DOC. The
system will overwrite any
conflicting files and begin
patching any programming.
Also, you need to delete
SELF-CRITIC.EXE from all
directories, and to make
sure it is completely gone
and never comes back, you
will need to empty your
recycle bin.

Customer: Got it. Hey! My
HEART is filling up with new
files. SMILE.MPG is playing
on my monitor right now
and it shows that
PEACE.EXE, and CON-

TENTMENT.COM are copy-
ing themselves all over my
HEART. Is this normal?

CS Rep: Sometimes. For others it
takes a while, but eventually
Everything gets downloaded
at the proper time. So, LOVE
is installed and running. You
should be able to handle it
from here. One more thing
before I go.

Customer: Yes?

CS Rep: LOVE is freeware. Be
sure to give it and its various
modules to everybody you
meet. They will in turn share
it with other people and they
will return some similarly
cool modules back to you.

Customer: I will. Thanks for your
help. By the way, what's your
name?

CS Rep: You can call me the
Divine Cardiologist, also
known as The Great Physi-
cian. Most people feel all they
need is an annual checkup to
stay heart-healthy, but the
manufacturer suggests a
schedule of daily maintenance
for maximum efficiency.

**Give a little love away ...
keep in touch.**

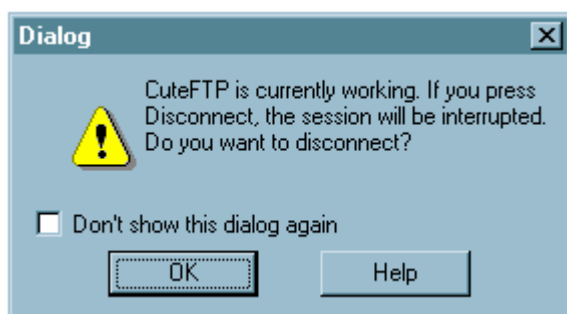


Curmudgeon.....(Continued from page 3)

Why do programmers, in trying to communicate to users, insist upon using their own jargon-filled high-tech mumbo jumbo?

This is *not* communication is it? **Knock it off guy and gal pro-peller-heads! Users are not computer geeks, but if you** inform us of what happened in non-insulting lay terms, we *might* be able to help you diagnose why *your program failed to perform* as advertised.

The screen below was discovered at a most inopportune time. More than halfway through the download of a 400MB file, the Windows close button was accidentally depressed in *CuteFTP*. Fortunately, the application displayed a confirmation message. Unfortunately, none of the developers had ever looked at how ambiguously the message could be perceived:



The most insidious aspect of the dialog is that it does not provide a clear way out – other than closing the window via the upper right-hand X-box. A clearer confirmation message would have been far better:

You've been downloading this file for more than 2 hours. Are you really sure you want to throw all that time away?
 [Yes] [No, it was a mistake!]

Note: the "dialog" in the title bar should really raise your hackles!

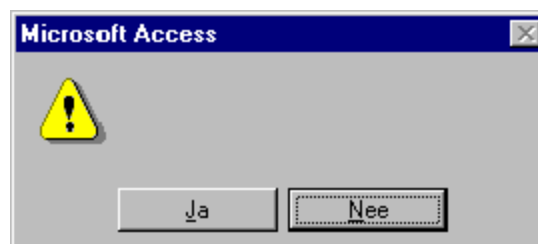
"Dialog"? This is supposed to be meaningful ... how?

Here's a non-error error:



But when you click "OK," the mail program shuts down. Guess it was an error after all.

Here's a particularly meaningful message from Microsoft's *Access*. *Hmmm.what* would you do?



THE MORAL:

Software authors: if you can't give us any real information, at least give us a way to turn off these bugaboos! I would rather have the program just shut down than to get a poorly formed, information-less message.

Until next month, I remain, *Grouchily Yours*

Nominations Are Still Open

Nominate a member for office

Who would you like to be our next;

- Vice President of Protocol
- Vice President of Membership
- Vice President of Technology
- Secretary
- Editor
- Treasurer
- Historian
- Sergeant-at-Arms
- Officer at Large

Contact a member of the Nominating Committee

Howard Margolis = Howard_Margolis@msn.com

Ramona Bobbitt = RamonaHewitt@aol.com

Edwin Phelps = Edolph@msn.com

Kathy Stinson = kathylstinson@nctc.com

Linda Todd = Linda.Todd@wku.edu

Pat Vincent = Pat.Vincent@wku.edu

PremierNET Inc. 270-746-9535



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Officers for Year 2002

BGAMUG BBS 781-4875

 or <http://smtp.bgamug.org/>

BGAMUG Website: www.bgamug.org

PC Placement Program—Gene Iglehart

842-4570 - IGLEHART@AOL.COM

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1-(800) 292-5574-ext 4957

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Don't forget, our next meeting will be
at KATI, Tues. Oct 22nd 6:30 PM

BGA-bytes is the monthly publication of the Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, Inc. (BGAMUG). BGAMUG is a nonprofit, charitable educational society recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations to BGAMUG may be tax-deductible.

The views expressed in BGA-bytes are those of the author(s), and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of BGAMUG.

BGAMUG is a member of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG).

BGAMUG holds regular presentation / membership meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Kentucky Advanced Technology Institute, 1227 Morgantown Road, Bowling Green.

The public is invited to attend our regular presentation meetings. To join, our annual membership dues are \$25 for an individual, and \$35 for a family membership.

ADVERTISING RATES

BGA-bytes COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES are based on black & white camera ready copy, 8 1/2" x 11" standard paper.

SIZE	1X	12X
Full Page	\$50.00	\$550.00
Half Page	\$30.00	\$330.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00	\$165.00
Business Card	\$10.00	\$110.00

The deadline for advertising is the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact Betty Lyne, Editor Assistant (270) 843-9452 ,

e-mail = bbl6728@aol.com or by mail to:

BGAMUG EDITOR

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