



BGA-BYTES

Official Newsletter of the Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, Inc.

Volume 14 Issue 3

March 2004



President's Message

More of the Story . . . or the connection between BGAMUG and GOATS!

If you attended the BGAMUG Celebration on December 9, 2003 at the Warren County Cooperative Extension Center, you'll remember the family who "accidentally" ended up at our potluck when they thought they were attending a potluck for people who raise goats. Well that accident is now possibly opening a new and exciting service opportunity for BGAMUG.

Because BGAMUG always sends our newsletter to people who visit one of our events, this family received one our recent newsletters. After reading our newsletter, Pat, the wife and mother of this family and who is a teacher at a local elementary school, contacted us asking for our help. Pat would like BGAMUG to begin a service project at her school helping young students learn some basic computer skills.

The BGAMUG Executive Board discussed this possibility at our March meeting and appointed a committee that will begin exploring this possibility. This is an exciting service opportunity for BGAMUG and we want to do it right!

The Rest of the Story . . . Does it include you?

What about you? Would you be willing to volunteer an hour a week or a month to help a young child learn some basic computer skills? I can hear some of you saying, "But I'm still learning!" I have a fortune cookie message on my office bulletin board that says, "One learns most when teaching others." We all are learning and this service opportunity could just be another learning opportunity for all of us!

Constitution and Bylaws . . .

Please go to the BGAMUG Website (<http://www.bgamug.org>) and read over the Constitution and Bylaws. We will vote on this revised document at the March meeting.

SPAM again . . .

Jay Eatherly received the **SPAM Award** at our February BGAMUG meeting. Let's SPAM our friends again this month and send this newsletter email on to friends and family who might be interested in what BGAMUG has to offer. March will be another exciting program . . . so don't miss it and try to encourage your friends and family to not miss it!

See you at the meeting on March 23 . . .

Linda



NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Celebration Corner

By Lou Travelstead

Hi folks!

I have received several compliments on the *Celebration Corner*. The thanks should go to Peggy - not to me. She's the one that made it look so nice. I only supplied the information. THANKS PEGGY !!!

Those celebrating in March are:

Elbert (Chief) and Carolyn Young March 22 Anniversary

Jean Burton (and Harold) March 10 Anniversary

Joanne Dunklau March 25 Birthday

Ray Eddy March Birthday

Irene Erskine March 18 Birthday

Robert Hunt March 21 Birthday

Raymond Hunton March 12 Birthday

Leon and Pat Vincent March 3 Anniversary

Get well wishes to Peggy Beasley, Newsletter Editor and Linda Todd, President. Both have had surgery recently and I'm told both are doing well. Get well wishes are extended to Raymond Hunton's brother-in-law E. B. Oliver. Mary Ruth (Raymond's sister) has attended some of our meetings in the past. Ramona Bobbitt has had tests done. Hope everything is ok Ramona. Oh, by the way, for those of you that don't know, Ramona has a special man in her life now-a-days! Congratulations on your engagement.

I want to get ahead, so these are April's celebrants:

Caroline Atkerson April 5 Birthday

Debbie Miller April 8 Birthday

Lucille Hilsmeier April 14 Birthday

Jay Eatherly April 18 Birthday

Congratulations to all.

Spyware & Adware The Saga Continues

I enjoyed sharing some of the online security information about SPYWARE & ADWARE with attendees of January's meeting. Not because I have special interest in the subject, but because it is going to be one of the biggest threats novice computer users are being exposed to.

For weeks since that meeting, three groups of trojan worms have been waging a cyberwar with different versions of the MyDoom, Bagle and Netsky e-mail viruses. These worms are a completely different kind of infection that actually builds an army of individual computers around the world to launch orchestrated *Denial Of Service* attacks against specific targets. They do not necessarily cause or result in damage to the infected computers, but will continue to make the big news and headlines as they target big companies.

Spyware and Adware, on the other hand, are so widespread and nothing really new, they are overlooked and not mentioned on the six and ten news. They are, and will continue to be, targeted at the uninformed and unprepared end user consumers, like us.

We are just now feeling the effects of what this unaddressed plague that surfaced during the past two years can do. Users computers are becoming so infected over time they are unusable.

Chad Brook of Bowling Green's Apollo Computers confirmed last month the national report that 75% of computers requiring recent service is a direct result of Spyware and Adware infection.

All BGA-Byte readers should help spread the word and urge all users to seek advice before downloading things from the Internet they are not sure of.

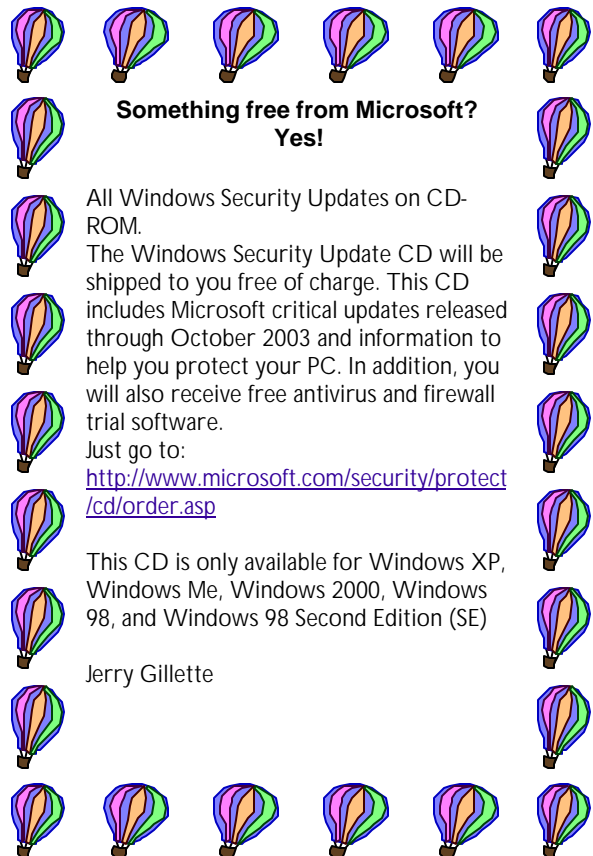
Jerry Gillette
jagky@insightbb.com

Tip

The proper way to uninstall a program

The recommended way is go to your Control Panel, Add or Remove Programs, and find the program you want to uninstall. Click "Remove" when you find the program.

You should NEVER try to remove a program by simply deleting the folder that it is in. If you do that, you may cause problems with your computer and you'll leave many unneeded files in your Windows registry.



**Something free from Microsoft?
Yes!**

All Windows Security Updates on CD-ROM.
The Windows Security Update CD will be shipped to you free of charge. This CD includes Microsoft critical updates released through October 2003 and information to help you protect your PC. In addition, you will also receive free antivirus and firewall trial software.
Just go to:
<http://www.microsoft.com/security/protect/cd/order.asp>

This CD is only available for Windows XP, Windows Me, Windows 2000, Windows 98, and Windows 98 Second Edition (SE)

Jerry Gillette

To Visit

By Jerry Gillette

Morphases

Morphases is an online next generation software in face manipulation. It allows users to modify and create human faces from different elements in real time with almost unlimited power.

Have you ever wondered what you would look like different nose, chin, or color hair? Upload a picture of yourself and instantly change the way you look. Make your eyes bigger, chins smaller and ears wider. You can add glasses, mustaches or a hat.

If you want to save yourself from embarrassment, there are plenty of pictures on the site for you to practice with.

Go to: <http://www.morphases.com/>

Molecular Expressions Photo Gallery

A MUST See

The Molecular Expressions Photo Gallery is a collection of pictures taken through microscopes. View photographs of pesticides, soap bubbles, meteorites, feathers, fatty acids—even beer.

The results are amazing. Even the most horrific disease can appear as a striking array of intense colors and shapes.

Some of the pictures are very pretty. If you like them enough, you can even purchase a poster for your wall.

Go to:

<http://molecularexpressions.com/micro/gallery.html>

All about Product Recalls

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has jurisdiction over more than 15,000 kinds of consumer products used in and around the home, in sports, recreation and schools. Find out about what ALL is being recalled and why.

You can even report unsafe products to CPSC

Go to: <http://www.recalls.gov/>

Write to your congressperson

Don't just complain to friend's, family, and co-workers, do something about it.. Our elected officials need to know how we feel on issues. This site let's you select your state or territory and enter your ZIP code. You'll fill out a form that will be sent directly to your representatives.

If you want to contact your senator, go here:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

And to contact members of the House, go here:

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

More Learning Opportunities . . .

This semester it has been my privilege to have these BGAMUGers in my Thursday evening Desktop Publishing class: Vivian Hand, Joanne Dunklau, and Howard Margolis

If you are younger than 65, then the cost for a three-hour class would be about \$500. But, if you are 65 years or older, a three-hour class will only cost you a one-time \$30 registration fee and the cost of your book.

Here are some upcoming Bowling Green Community College classes that I'm teaching that I'd recommend for BGAMUGers:

Word Processing: May 31 – July 2 on MTWRF from 10:00 – 11:40 am

Desktop Publishing: August 23 – December 10 – Mondays afternoons from 12:00 – 2:45 pm at the Glasgow Campus **or** Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 8:15 pm at South Campus

Here are some other upcoming classes that I'd recommend you consider taking (I know you will also enjoy learning from any of these instructors.):

Basic Business Communications: May 10 – 27 on MTWR from 8:00 am – 12:45 pm. My colleague, Freda Mays, will teach this class.

Introduction to Computers: August 24 – December 14 on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 8:15 pm. Jan Duvall will teach this class.

Database Management: August 23 – December 17 on MWF from 11:00 – 11:50 am. Trish Steelman will teach this class.

Create Restore Points in Windows XP!

Use this tip to get back to work quickly if something goes wrong in XP.

XP has a feature called System Restore that hasn't been offered in any other version of Windows. If

Michael Moore



General Meeting
March 23, 2004
6:30 pm

Bowling Green Technical College
1845 Loop Drive
Building F

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Tech Corner , by Chuck Thomas

Well I hope you have been keeping your antivirus files up to date lately. Lately, new updates have been coming more often than hungry relatives looking for a meal!

Last week alone there were three updates with one showing 132 new virus signatures! It shows that the virus-writing hackers have been nicratuc candidates! You've got to stay ahead of them— the virus writers, not the candidates— if you want to protect your system. Download the update regularly.

Along with that bad news comes news that a really welcome update to Windows XP is in the works. If you run XP, you should have already downloaded and installed Service Pack 1 (SP1); soon, SP2 will be available for download. Microsoft is now conducting "Beta Tests" on it—the last step before releasing the final edition.

Here are some of the changes:

?? Windows Messenger service will be OFF by default—this service has opened the door to pop-up spam.

?? An improved firewall will be provided.

?? Internet Explorer will be much improved, including features to block popups & spyware, and to keep third-party programs from integrating with your browser without your permission.

?? Simpler, convenient wi-fi access.

?? Local context zone lockouts will provide greater Web security.

Plus all kinds of internal changes to the OS that fix bugs, increase reliability, and speed things up.

Look for it in your regular Windows Updates in a few months.

It's a frustrating paradox. Back in the "DOS days," users complained that computers were much too complicated to learn. Windows promised to make it so easy that a novice could do everything with just a "click of a mouse button." But each version of Windows has added more layers of complexity leaving users still complaining "Computers are too complicated!"

When will utopia arrive? Probably never, but things would be much better if software writers tested their design on ordinary folks throughout development, instead of looking to other 'geeks' for ideas & feedback!

This especially applies to the "Help" files which promise much but deliver little. I'm tired of failing to get answers with the "Index" or "Find" tabs of the product's Help (F1 key) file--simply because I didn't use the **exact name** for a feature.

Then there are those cases where the Help program says, "Click on the xxxx button," but the button is not visible on the screen, and you are not told where to find it!

My most recent experience involved trying to figure out how to change a brush size for the clone brush in Paint Shop Pro 8. It was simple in ver. 7 because the control was on a toolbar. Help in the new version said to "Choose a brush type from the Tools Tool palette." But "Tools" isn't even on the main menu, and no palette is visible.

Instead of trying to figure out where "Tools" went or looking for some palettes, I simply loaded ver. 7 to complete the job.

Next month: *How to get **Real Help!***

Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group

BGAMUG General Meeting Minutes February 24, 2004

Preamble

President Linda Todd called the BGAMUG General Meeting to order on February 24, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at Bowling Green Technical College - Room F.

The following officers were present: Linda Todd, Jerry Gillette, Elisa Davison, Howard Margolis, Michael Moore, James Gegner, Raymond Hunton, Lou Travelsted, Chuck Thomas, Ginny Molloy and Elbert Young. Absent were Peggy Beasley and Gene Iglehart. Minutes of the January General Meeting were approved.

New Members: - Peggy McKinllip, Richard Poteet, Maureen McCarthy, and Chris Smith

Guests: - Ronnie Clark, Paula Short, Marty Elmes, and John Carmon

Highlights of February Executive Board Meeting

?? Website update and newer pictures ... www.bgamug.org

Constitution and Bylaws reviewed – to be voted on at March Meeting

Officer Reports

Jerry Gillette

? Community education classes start in March

Smart Computing has a new magazine available

Elisa Davison

Treasurer's report – Balance of \$1841.24 as of February 24, 2004 with \$469.00 included for reserve

Mike Moore

? Program Director Report – Saturday, March 6th March madness workshop from 10 – 12 noon at BBCC.

The presentation for the March general meeting will be “Disaster Recovery”

Historian Report – Showed old newsletter. Will be burning CD's with information from the old BBS system. These will be for sale as a money raiser for the organization.

James Gegner

Microsoft software available for review and door prizes

Lou Travelsted

Had members fill out birthday/ anniversary form for month and day information. Sent one get-well card.

Elbert Young

Introduced John Carmon

Raymond Hunton

Discussed the Fern Terrace Project

Future Dates to Remember

?? March 2nd – Executive Board Meeting

?? Shoney's Restaurant – 5:30 pm dinner and 6:30 pm meeting

?? March 6th – March Madness Hands-On workshops at BGCC from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

?? Hard Drive Installation

?? Computer Shortcuts

?? Buying on eBay

?? March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th – Fern Terrace Service Project

?? March 9th – BGA-Bytes Deadline

?? March 23rd – BGAMUG General Meeting – BGTC Campus Bldg. F at 6:30 pm

?? April 6th – Executive Board Meeting

??? – 5:30 dinner and 6:30 pm meeting

Presentation - Instant Messaging Microsoft ver. 6.1 Importing and Exporting Emails from Outlook Express

Presenter – Jerry Gillette and Chuck Thomas

Adjourn

8:10 pm