



# Bytes & Bits

Official Newsletter of The Personal Computer Club of Charlotte, Inc.

[www.pc3.org](http://www.pc3.org)

Issue 01-05

May 2001

## Do you "know the code"?

*Bill Barnes, PCCC*

- Soon after we switched to 10-digit telephone dialing, a user caught me with a confession. The telephone numbers for most of his frequent contacts were programmed in the speed dial on his phone. Worse, he had lost the instructions for creating new speed dials and couldn't reprogram the numbers if he wanted to.
- A colleague was installing Windows 2000 and had locked himself out with a system password before he realized he was creating one.

Do these situations sound familiar? I know I've been there myself.

In the first case, I can only offer sympathy. When someone gives you instructions for a feature you'll only use occasionally, file them faithfully. Assume that any electronic storage will fail if you don't have a backup. Ideally, you should save critical, long-term data in a generic format. This means, if you keep your contacts list in ACT!, be sure you will always be able to reinstall the program to read your backup data file. Even better, keep your backups in human-readable format (a printout!).

As for passwords, I can't wait for universal biometrics. Every website that gives you information wants you to log on with a user ID and password. If I'm not sharing valuable information with them, I'd rather use the same ID and password for everyone: billbarnes and \*\*\*\*. Except that they've already got a million

*continued on page 7*

## Views from the Top

by Eric Katowitz, president; email: [president@pc3.org](mailto:president@pc3.org)



Springtime is here once more, and summer is right around the bend. Gone are the stinging winds of winter and in comes the bright shining light and a rainbow of colors for the season. As this time arrives most people move their thoughts to more outdoor recreational activities. I am the same way, but being the avid computer geek that I am, I like to take my little digital world with me.

Now, you may be asking yourself, am I a big enough nerd to lug a laptop around with me? Heck no! My compu-weapon of choice is a little computer that fits in my pocket. This computer is a music player, a video center, a whole library of novels, and a pretty nifty day-planner all in one. Coincidentally, this type of miniature dynamo is the focus of our May General Meeting.

### Attack of the Mini-Computers

You may have noticed a growing trend among our membership lately. More and more people are walking around with computers in their pockets. Even our own president, Eric J. Katowitz, comes to the meetings with a miniature computer in tow. These handheld computers, or PDAs as they are commonly known, allow their lucky owners to take their data with them. They act as organizers and entertainment devices.

Since this is the Personal Computer Club of Charlotte, and pocketable computers are about as personal as one can get, our General Meeting on May 10 will focus on these mini-marvels. We will be showcasing the two most popular systems, Palm Inc.'s Palm OS and Microsoft's PocketPC.

Instead of our usual guest speakers spouting techno-babble we will be hearing from two actual users of these machines, who will tell us the pros and cons of each. In the Palm corner will be club newcomer **Marc Shimabukuro** and in the PocketPC corner will be club-vet **Eric J. Katowitz**.

This meeting will be an informal general introduction for these portable powerhouses, hopefully leading into a **Handheld Special Interest Group** starting this July.

As usual directions to this meeting can be found on-line at our website at <http://www.pc3.org/meetings.html>

### PCCC to Go

So, what if you already have a handheld computer? What is the club doing for you? You can now take our calendar and news with you wherever you go. If you have a handheld computer with

## Inside This Issue

Do you "know the code"?	1
Views from the Top	1
Don Talk 2001	3
Productivity Programs	3
E-Commerce SIG	4
Graphics Users Group	4
Special Interest Groups	4
The Internet SIG	4
Access SIG	4
PCCC Networking	5
Executive Meeting Minutes	6
General Meeting Minutes	6
Spring cleaning for your PC:	6
PCCC Calendar Online	8
General Meeting Notice	8

**BytesPLUS!** is now password protected  
[www.pc3.org/news/bytesplus/](http://www.pc3.org/news/bytesplus/)  
User name: **pc3**; password: **taxday**

*Continued on page 7*



# Bytes & Bits

© 2001 PCCC

The official newsletter of The Personal Computer Club of Charlotte, Inc. is published eleven times a year. Opinions are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the PCCC, its officers or *Bytes & Bits*. All rights are retained by the original authors. For reprint permission, contact the writer or [editor@pc3.org](mailto:editor@pc3.org).

All trademarks referenced in *Bytes and Bits* are the property of their respective owners.

Submissions *only* should be made to articles@pc3.org or by mail to the editor at the address below. All other correspondence should be directed to [editor@pc3.org](mailto:editor@pc3.org).

If you publish a computer-oriented newsletter, we invite you to exchange articles with us. *Bytes & Bits* archives are available to registered members and other authorized users at [www.pc3.org/](http://www.pc3.org/).

## Editor:

**Electronic Publishing Editors:**

**Digital Photography:** Don King  
**Sales Manager:**

**Correspondents:** Bill Barnes, Thomas Wayne Bidy, Eric Katowitz, Mitch Katowitz, Don King, Jack LaPointe  
**Contributors:** Paul Reiss

## Annual Membership Dues

Individuals	\$30.00
Family	
First member	\$30.00
Each additional member	\$10.00
Full-Time Students	\$20.00

All membership correspondence should be sent by postal mail to PCCC Membership, 15214 Millview Trace Lane, Mint Hill, NC 28227 or by email to [membership@pc3.org](mailto:membership@pc3.org). Change of address should be received two weeks before the meeting for the next mailing of *Bytes & Bits*.

To advertise in *Bytes & Bits*, contact [editor@pc3.org](mailto:editor@pc3.org). Member classifieds (one per month is free) and networking ads may be sent to [articles@pc3.org](mailto:articles@pc3.org). Display advertising rates are at [www.pc3.org/news/](http://www.pc3.org/news/)

## Treasurer's Report

April, 2001

	Money	Members
Beginning	\$4,121.11	100
Income	\$ 361.58	Total at April
Expenses	\$ 92.00	Gen. Mtg.
Ending	\$4,370.69	28

## The PCCC OnLine

[Main Page](#)  
[www.pc3.org](http://www.pc3.org)

Join our bulletin boards by following the link to **Message Forum** from the main web page.

Subscribe to our email distribution list by filling out the form on the front page of the web site.

## Meeting Information

For the latest, up-to-date meeting information, check the **Message Forum** or Calendar of Events on the club web page frequently. Some events may be announced or cancelled at the last moment.

**Meeting sites:** (*Maps to most meeting sites are on the web page.*)

**PNG** – Piedmont Natural Gas. Rexford Rd. in the SouthPark area.

**Time Warner / Road Runner** – 316 E. Morehead between S. Tryon and S. Blvd.

**JN Pease** – 2925 E. Independence Blvd., directly across from Ovens Auditorium.

**UNCC** – Physical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 239. Map at <http://pc3.org/unccpsbmap.html>.

**General Meeting:** 7:00 pm second Thursday of each month at Piedmont Natural Gas. Free and open to the public.

**Executive Committee:** meets approximately 10 days after the general meeting. Location and times subject to change – please double-check the official announcement on the WebBoard. All members are invited to attend.

## Special Interest Groups

*Special Interest Groups are open to all members*

**Internet SIG:** 7:00 pm third Thursday of the month at Time Warner / Road Runner.

**Graphics SIG includes Core!DRAW!:** 7:00 pm fourth Thursday of the month at JN Pease.

**E-Commerce SIG:** 7:00 pm third Tuesday of the month at Time Warner / Road Runner.

**Access SIG:** is on indefinite hiatus. Please contact [Access@pc3.org](mailto:Access@pc3.org) if you're interested in hosting the SIG.

## Upcoming Meetings

PCCC wants to organize programs which interest and help the club members. If you have an idea for a program or there is a subject you particularly wish to see covered, please contact the program director, or any other officer of the club.

Current meeting schedules are at <http://pc3.org/calendar.html>. Maps are available at: <http://pc3.org/meetings.htm>.

## Personal Computer Club of Charlotte Officers

### Elected Officers

#### President

[president@pc3.org](mailto:president@pc3.org)  
Eric Katowitz  
10330 Fairway Ridge Rd. 28277  
(704) 846-2038

#### Vice President

[vp@pc3.org](mailto:vp@pc3.org)  
Dr. Paul Reiss  
Charlotte, NC

#### Treasurer

[treasurer@pc3.org](mailto:treasurer@pc3.org)  
Pam Wales  
15214 Millview Trace Lane  
Mint Hill, NC 28227  
(704) 545-8931

#### Secretary (Recording Secy)

[secretary@pc3.org](mailto:secretary@pc3.org)  
Thomas Wayne Bidy  
P.O. Box 114  
Paw Creek, NC 28130-0114  
(704) 392-9444

### Editor (Corresponding Secy)

[editor@pc3.org](mailto:editor@pc3.org)  
[articles@pc3.org](mailto:articles@pc3.org)

### Standing Committee Chairmen

#### President Emeritus

**Nominating Com**  
[pastpresident@pc3.org](mailto:pastpresident@pc3.org)  
Mitch Katowitz

#### Program

[program@pc3.org](mailto:program@pc3.org)  
Paul Reiss

#### Membership

[membership@pc3.org](mailto:membership@pc3.org)  
Keith Wales  
15214 Millview Trace Lane  
Mint Hill, NC 28227  
(704) 545-8931

### Assistant Treasurer

[asstreas@pc3.org](mailto:asstreas@pc3.org)  
Donald R. King  
5125 Waxwind Ln., 28226  
(704) 541-8848

### Web Page

[webmaster@pc3.org](mailto:webmaster@pc3.org)  
Dewey Williams  
5900 Cress Road  
Concord, NC 28025  
(704) 436-2627 (evenings)

### Publicity

[publicity@pc3.org](mailto:publicity@pc3.org)  
Richard Shaw

### SIG Coordinators

**Director of SIGs**  
**Internet Resource Counselor**  
[sigdirector@pc3.org](mailto:sigdirector@pc3.org)  
Thomas Wayne Bidy

### Graphics

[graphics@pc3.org](mailto:graphics@pc3.org)  
Galen Bolen

### Internet

[internet@pc3.org](mailto:internet@pc3.org)  
Eric Katowitz  
10330 Fairway Ridge Rd. 28277  
(704) 844-6752

### E-Commerce

[ecommerce@pc3.org](mailto:ecommerce@pc3.org)  
convened by Jack LaPointe

### Access / Visual Basic

[access@pc3.org](mailto:access@pc3.org)  
convened by Dewey Williams  
and Bill Barnes

### Food, Fun & Facilities

[party@pc3.org](mailto:party@pc3.org)

### Inactive SIGs

#### Novice Users

[newuser@pc3.org](mailto:newuser@pc3.org)  
Paul Reiss

#### Games

[games@pc3.org](mailto:games@pc3.org)  
*POSITION OPEN*

#### All officers (this entire list)

[pc3board@pc3.org](mailto:pc3board@pc3.org)



**Don, Joe here from South Park, how was Hawaii?**

I was hoping someone would ask. Hawaii is a very interesting state. It's no longer a bunch of little islands out in the middle of the Pacific. It's one of our fortresses (Pearl Harbor), and the volcanoes have provided a beauty befitting the Polynesian culture. I was through there a couple of times during War II and Pearl Harbor has changed drastically, with some bridges and roads I hadn't seen before. The Memorial was very emotional for me, as well as others who were there for the first time. A curious thing is the hordes of Japanese who flock to the memorial. During all of the demands for apologies over the Ihime Maru, I was curious if the Japanese ever apologized for the bombing of Pearl. Guess I better get off of the soapbox.

**Hi Don, this is Alice from Atlantic Beach. We met you on the big Island and you told me what to do to fix my mouse. It did have a bent prong, and we're back in business. Did you have any Email worth reading when you got home?**

Nope.

I did pick up a neat Computer Magazine in Long's drug store in the Ala Moana shopping center. The name of it is *PC Fixes*. It had some good information about data rescue. Most of the information was old stuff, and it was a good reminder on the importance of backing up your system and data files. It made good reading on the 767 flight from Honolulu to Dallas. Wow, that next day after we returned was awesome. I crashed, not the computer.

**Don, this is Bill from Weddington, did your Internet vacation arrangements all work out ok?**

Another good question. The hotel arrangements were great, and I need to tell you that it was a good thing we had a picture of the hotel beforehand. As we drove through Honolulu that first night, we had covered about 15 miles, and I said to Florence that we must have been getting close. Guess what, we had just stopped in traffic. I was in the center lane, I looked to my right, and we were in front of the hotel. I recognized the building from the picture I had seen on the Internet. The drivers behind us recognized our predicament and

## Don Talk 2001

by Don King

let us turn in. That would not happen in Charlotte.

The Polynesian Adventure tours that I arranged on the Internet were all better than I had hoped for. The groups we were with were small, and the tours were very professional. The rental car was expensive. I knew this before we left, the car was ready, and everything went smooth turning it in. I now have even more confidence using the Internet for travel. We obtained maps and directions for things we wanted to do before we left Charlotte. These were all invaluable, especially the first few days on Oahu.

### What do you think?

#### "Computer, Male or Female?"

A language instructor was explaining to her class that French nouns, unlike their English counterparts, are grammatically designated as masculine or feminine. Things like "chalk" or "pencil," she described, would have a gender association although in English these words were neutral. Puzzled, one student raised his hand and asked, "What gender is a computer?" The teacher wasn't certain which it was, and so she divided the class into two groups and asked them to decide if a computer should be masculine or feminine. One group composed of the women in the class, and the other, of men. Both groups were asked to give four reasons for their recommendation.

#### "Women's Decision"

The group of women concluded that computers should be referred to in the masculine gender because: 1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on. 2. They have a lot of data, but are still clueless. 3. They are supposed to help you solve your problems, but half the time they ARE the problem. 4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that, if you had waited a little longer, you could have had a better model.

#### "Men's Decision"

The men, on the other hand, decided that computers should definitely be referred to in the feminine gender because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

## Productivity Programs

by Thomas Wayne Bidy

Microsoft Bookshelf 2000 gives you fast, easy access to the reference resources you need to create better letters, papers, presentations, Web sites, e-mail, and more. And it works effectively with Microsoft Office to help you communicate better everywhere. You are provided with instant and integrated access to nine top reference resources:

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition; The Original Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases; The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations; Encarta Manual of Style and Usage; Microsoft Press Computer and Internet; Encarta Desk Encyclopedia

Encarta Desk World Atlas; The Encarta 2000 New World Almanac; The Encarta 2000 New World Timeline.

For greater detail see:

<http://www.microsoft.com/catalog/display.asp?subid=22&site=694&x=45&y=11>

Your local portal to internet shopping



**NC-MALL.COM**

Created and managed by  
Eric and Mitch Katowitz, PCCC

## E-Commerce SIG

### Meeting Notice for 3-20-2001 & Notes for 2-20-2001

The E-Commerce Special Interest Group (E-SIG) is an association of like-minded individuals who meet once a month to discuss, examine and promote a broad range of topics associated with doing business on the Internet. This includes creating and promoting both business and personal websites, using the Internet as a business resource, and networking. The E-SIG is open to all members of the Personal Computer Club of Charlotte. We generally meet at 7:00PM, on the third Tuesday of each month at the Road Runner Div. of Time-Warner Communications, 316 E. Morehead St. Guests and visitors including the general public are always welcome. Next Month's meeting falls on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

## Graphics Users Group

The **Graphics SIG** is all about computer graphics programs and the related technology of the graphics field. This SIG started out many years ago as the Associated Corel Artists and Designers (ACAD). In those early years we were an independent group of computer graphics users who were trying to master the program CorelDRAW!. As the years went by we realized that the graphics world did not revolve around Corel Corporation. We started to use and discuss use of many "other" graphic programs. Several years ago we became a Special Interest Group of the PCCC.

We now include topics and discussion on vector graphics programs (CorelDRAW!), bitmap editing programs (Photoshop), Web design (FrontPage), digital cameras, CAD programs (Microstation), and many others as well. We hope to have some programs on digital video production programs in the future.

If you have an interest in this field of computing, please come to our meetings. We meet every fourth Thursday of the month (check the PCCC calendar online to be sure) at the office of JN Pease Associates – Architects & Engineers 2925 E Independence Blvd. Charlotte, NC.

If you send an e-mail to [graphics@pc3.org](mailto:graphics@pc3.org), you will receive a monthly update as to what is going on at the **Graphics SIG**.

Galen Bolin  
Director of the Graphics SIG

# Special Interest Groups

## SIGNificant Sayings

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are collections of like-minded people who share a more specific interest than just computers in general. The club currently has groups for New Users, Computer Graphics, and the Internet. We will soon be adding a Gaming group. These meetings take place on different nights and different locations than the general meeting. These groups are free with your membership, there is no extra cost to attend these groups. Please check the calendar on the back page or listing of meeting times and

places on page 2 of this newsletter for more information.

We can easily start new SIGs, but to make them successful they need dedicated faithful participants. Everyone in a group has things to share ... facts, fun, and fellowship. Your attendance is always helpful; we value your participation.

If there is a topic you are knowledgeable about and interested in starting your own SIG, please contact Thomas Bidy at [sigdirector@pc3.org](mailto:sigdirector@pc3.org).



## The Internet SIG

By Mitch. Katowitz

The next meeting of the Internet Special Interest Group will be on the Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The meeting will start promptly at 7PM. For directions, see <http://www.pc3.org/meetings.html>.

The topic for the meeting will be Internet Phone. Learn how to use the internet to call anyone on the phone and not incur long distance charges. There will be a guest speaker, Eric J. Katowitz. Unfortunately, I will be in New York and unable to attend.

### How You Can Help:

The Internet SIG is always looking for new programs and speakers for our meetings. If there is a topic you or interested or if you, or someone you know, would be interested in given a presentation at our meetings, please drop a line at [internet@pc3.org](mailto:internet@pc3.org)

### Reminder:

Like every special interest group, the ISIG is open to all members of the Personal Computer Club and is free with your membership in the club. You do not need to know anything about the Internet to attend. (You do need a good sense of humor.)

## Access SIG

The Database and Access SIG will meet at 7:00 Monday, May 7, 2001 at Graphic Packaging in Arrowood. If you would like to meet and talk about Access or databases, please send your email to [access@pc3.org](mailto:access@pc3.org) so we can start a new mailing list.

Graphic Packaging is located at 800 Westinghouse Blvd. Take the Westinghouse Blvd. west (towards NC49) exit off I-77. You will cross some railroad tracks at the bottom of the ramp and immediately turn right into the parking lot. Please try to arrive between 6:45 and 7:00 so we can open the door for you. If you miss us, call 704-607-6461 for assistance. Eatin' before the meetin' will be at Shoney's at I-77 and Carowinds Blvd. at 5:30.

## A Note of Thanks

Bytes & Bits is back up for May, but not without a team effort from Don King, Thomas Bidy and especially Bill Barnes. Bill ventured out into the woods of Mint Hill to hold my hand through the layout of this issue and even endured my Trackman!

Needless to say, the fact that this looks like a newsletter and has actually "made it to press" is thanks to Bill. The typos and goofs are all mine! Thanks.

Pam Wales

Check out the **Bytes & Bits** archives from [www.pc3.org/news](http://www.pc3.org/news).



# PCCC

How do we earn our living? *Bytes & Bits* presents the **PCCC Networking** page. Here members who work independently or manage small businesses can advertise their services for free. If

---

## B2B LOANS

---

**Need money for startup? Working Capital? Venture? Equipment? Any size loan. Any size business. Competitive rates and terms. 704-341-3413**  
National Loan Consultants – Harvey & Laurie Smith:

---

## COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITAL IMAGING

---

**Over 20 years in business. Photography, prints, high res scans, and retouching.**  
Richard L. Kinkel  
527-4168 or richard.kinkel@gte.net

---

## COMPUTER CONSULTING

---

**Specializing in offices of 3-20 computers. Support of office applications, networks, groupware, graphics.**  
Bill Barnes, independent consultant  
Bill@Barnes.net or 332-1031

---

## ENTERTAINMENT FOR PARTIES, BANQUETS, ETC.

---

**Sings, Accordion, Keyboards. Performed at Christmas Party. American, Irish, Jewish, Slavic, Latino. 1890s to Rock'nRoll. Live Music Without Busting Your Budget.**  
Gerard "Gerry" Rohde 365-3616 — Gerohde@aol.com

---

## FREE NEWSLETTER

---

**FREE! Success Secrets Revealed after \$100 million in sales. Entrepreneur shares his best ideas.**  
Subscribe FREE  
<http://www.actiontips.com>, Don Monteith

---

## INDUSTRIAL PERSONAL COMPUTERS (IPC)

---

**Designed for harsh environments with steel or stainless steel enclosures suitable for hazardous classified areas. Desk or 19" rack panel mounting.**  
Cliff Johnson at Cliff@CTJohnson.com or 704-568-9598

---

## INTERNET BACKUP SERVICE

---

**The perfect backup: automatic, reliable, accessible, offsite**  
Contact Jack LaPointe at CompuSure  
lapointe@compusure.net or 338-9725

---

## INTERNET SERVERS

---

**Let Web-Go Take Your Business to the Millennium**  
Eric Katowitz  
<http://web-go.com> or 844-6752

# Networking

you need the skills these members are offering, please contact them before picking up the Yellow Pages. These members are advertising their *business*. The services listed here are independent of whatever suggestions they may give at club meetings.

These listings are *free* to members. You may change your listing once during your membership year or delete it if your situation changes. Two inch display ads are also available on this page for members; contact editor@pc3.org for specifications.

Larger businesses are invited to show their affiliation with the PCCC on this page. Contact president@pc3.org for details.

---

## HOME INSPECTION

---

**Licensed Home Inspector NC, SC. Licensed contractor. ASHI certified.**  
Town & Country Home Inspections - Steve Marcus  
web1525@charweb.org or 846-8100

---

## OFFICE SERVICES

---

**Bookkeeping For Small Business**  
**Taylor Office Services**  
Carol Taylor  
ecarolt@mindspring.com or 392-4575

---

## PODIATRIC MEDICAL CARE

---

**Dr. Paul I. Reiss, Podiatrist**  
**Conservative & Surgical Foot Care**  
Feet Are Not Supposed to Hurt. We Can Help!  
Call for an appointment: 704 568-5444

---

## WEB SERVICES

---

**Extremely Clean/Fast Loading WEB DESIGN and SEARCH ENGINE POSITIONING**  
Samples at <http://totaldesignz.com/links.htm>  
Call George Penev at 704-624-3424

**Bus. Website Creation+Hosting, E-Commerce+Security**  
Mitch Katowitz  
<http://www.cire.com> or 844-6735

---

## WORD PROCESSING & GRAPHIC DESIGN

---

**Theses, Articles, Powerpoint Slideshows in Science, Math, Engineering – Custom Flags, DTP, Graphics**  
Joan Wilson, JBW Designs  
JBWGraphic@aol.com or 896-7771

---

## WRITER

---

**A Personal Legacy: The Two-Week Biography**  
Richard Shaw, Biographer, at Win Win Services  
web2868@charweb.org or 568-0463



## Executive Meeting Minutes

by Thomas Wayne Bidy

On 4/23/01 President **Eric Katowitz** brought the Executive meeting to order at 6:00 PM at Tryon House. Also present were **Mitch Katowitz** (Internet SIG Director & President Emeritus), **Pam & Keith Wales** (Treasurer and Membership), **Galen Bolin** (Graphics SIG), **Bill Barnes** (Club Counselor), **Don King** (Finance), **Jack LaPointe** (Director of Ideas), **Ted Hessberg** (Club Councilor), and myself

Eric proposed the acquisition of some shirts having the club's logo. We agreed. SIG directors were urged to update the calendar on the club's web site ([www.pc3.org](http://www.pc3.org)). Plans were made for future meetings such as a hand held computer presentation. The treasure reported that we are in good financial shape.

Board members should e-mail excuses to Eric if they cannot attend the Executive Meeting. The excuses need not be reasonable or relative to reality.

### Quick Tip

Does your computer not shut down when you click Shut down? The screen still says "Windows is shutting down" if you wait all night. So, you just hit the switch and have to wait for SCANDISK the next time you turn the computer on.

Try this: Don't choose **Shut down** from the dialog box that comes up after you click Shut down at the start menu. Instead, try **Restart**. Then, hit the power switch between the time the computer starts counting memory again and the Windows logo.

Bill Barnes

#### CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** Accel-A-Writer 11x17" laser printer. If you're thinking of buying a LaserJet 2100 at \$799 and have 18-30" space, consider this one. \$599 OBO. Bill Barnes, [Bill@Barnes.net](mailto:Bill@Barnes.net), 704-332-1031.

## General Meeting Minutes

By Thomas Wayne Bidy

On 3/08/01 the Personal Computer Club of Charlotte held its General meeting at the Piedmont Natural Gas Building at 1915 Rexford Road. President **Mitch Katowitz** called the meeting together and to order. A short Q&A took its place in the natural order of things. We discussed possible locations for the SIGs. **Ted Hessberg** (President Emeritus and chairman of the nominating committee), asked for additional nominations for board offices. **Mitch** proposed **Bill Barnes** for newsletter editor but **Bill** declined. **Frank Stiller** made a motion that the nominations be closed and it was seconded by **Bob Harm**. Ted announced the slate of candidates and **Ron King** (seconded by **Dewey Williams**) made the motion that the club elects the nominees unanimously. There were with no opposing votes.

President Eric Katowitz  
Vice President Dr. Paul Reiss  
Treasurer Pam Wales  
Secretary Thomas Bidy

**Eric** took control and directed our gratitude to departing board officers. We had a round table sharing of news and views. **Linda** suggested we contact channel 18. Perhaps we could have a television presence in Charlotte. **Virginia** suggested reduced dues for young people and members expressed agreement. **Dewey** thought we should try to have some of our business cards displayed at local computer stores. Club expansion is one of Eric's main interests.

**Mrs. Wambaugh** reminded us of some past highlights such as **Kevin Pierce's** hardware presentations where we opened machines and delved therein and **Dewey's** UNCC classes that were very helpful and a lot of fun.

**Ronald Major** told us about a local opportunity to help the "Boys and Girls Club." The children could use some after school attention and if you would like to learn more - please contact us.

Members demonstrated some very helpful tips. Special Interest Groups

The winner of "Secret Guide to Computer" was **Nick Partee**.

## Spring cleaning for your PC:

### Five ways to get it in order

Wendy Dittamore, Senior Editor, ZDNet Help & How-To

Today's the first day of spring. So, what does that mean to you and me? Glad you asked, because it is time to clean up our PCs! Yup, get ready to do a little PC "housecleaning" by uninstalling old software, throwing out unused files, and more. Here are some great tips, how-to's, and downloads to make these chores a lot easier for you.

### Go heavy-duty

Do you have old, unused software hanging around your PC? Even I had to face reality: I really don't need that application I downloaded from the Net about two years ago, nor Version 2.0 of a software program that's now on Version 5.0. So, it's time to take a few simple steps to improve my system's performance and regain hard disk space by [uninstalling software the right way](#).

### Windows your way

Just like you wash your windows at home, cleaning your Windows operating system is a must. There are several places you can tackle, such as [the system tray](#), [the Registry](#), [temporary folders](#), and [more](#). Don't let a dirty operating system ruin your day!

### Don't do the job alone

If your system is hopelessly out of order, don't despair. These tools can make the task of cleaning your PC more enjoyable! Get help with cleaning your hard disk, optimizing your computer's memory, reclaiming wasted disk space, and more with these [5-star downloads](#).

### Let's talk appearance

I'll admit it: I'm a total klutz! There are coffee stains and cookie crumbs all over my desk and keyboard. Never mind the dust that's attacking my office and making this place filthy. Well, if you want to tackle the dirt, here is a great tip for [cleaning your PC inside and out](#).

### Perform automatic tune-ups

Now that you've got your PC looking brand-new, wouldn't it be nice to keep it that way? Take advantage of the [Windows 98 Maintenance Wizard](#), and let your system do the work for you.

www.pc3.org/news/bytesplus

**Bytes PLUS!**

Gives you more from your PC3 membership

## Do you know the code

*continued from page 1*

users and a couple hundred of them happen to be named Bill Barnes. Every time I input my preferred ID, it comes back and says, "Wouldn't you like to be billbarnes9786?" No, I wouldn't, so I try again. Finally, after four tries, we can agree on an identity.

Except, by now I've forgotten which of my more-or-less standard identities I've registered as. In addition, a shopping site may require yet another identity confirming datum. I really don't want to give everyone on the internet my correct birthdate or mother's name, so I may make up some fiction here too. Hopefully, this site was important enough to me that I entered my correct email address for them send a confirmation to.

While I'm creating an online identity, I keep a slip of paper to write down and cross out each try at an ID before I hit "Submit." When I'm logging onto a computer, I do the same thing, especially for systems that require me to change my password periodically.

But I don't have a (many) Post-It with my password(s) stuck to my monitor. All my IDs and passwords are in a password-protected spreadsheet on my computer at home where no one can get to them without breaking into my house. The backup on my laptop is covered by three different passwords – but these are passwords I use often enough to remember.

My password list is currently over 120 items long. Even if I use the same 3 passwords everywhere, I need a reminder of which sites I'm registered at and which identity I used there. How many passwords can you remember?

## Don't Forget!!!

The MarketPro Computer Show & Sale will be at the Metrolina Expo Center on Saturday and Sunday, May 19th and 20th. Regular One-Day Admission is \$6.00. Hours are 9:30 am to 4 pm. More information at [www.marketproshows.com](http://www.marketproshows.com).

Contact [Webmaster@pc3.org](mailto:Webmaster@pc3.org) if you can help person our booth.



## You Can Help the Club

*By Eric J. Katowitz*

Perhaps you can help out the computer club. The club is currently looking for new locations for upcoming meetings starting in June. We are looking for a facility that can hold 1-4 meeting with up to 30 people at each meeting. High-speed internet access is preferred but not required.

The following meetings need future homes:

- Internet SIG
- E-Commerce SIG
- Handheld SIG (Starting Soon)

If you can help out in anyway, please email me at [president@pc3.org](mailto:president@pc3.org) with the subject "Possible Meeting Location".

Thank you for your help and for making the Personal Computer Club of Charlotte one of the best computer clubs in the Carolinas.

## From the Top

*Continued from page 1*

access to **AvantGo**, just visit our website at <http://www.pc3.org>. Down the left hand side of the screen there will be a button labeled "Subscribe to AvantGo Channel". Just click your mouse pointer on it and bingo, instant access to our on-line calendar and selected articles from our Bytes and Bits Newsletter. Best of all, it's **100% free**.



### Directions

If you need directions to our general meeting or to any of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) you can find driving directions at the club's website:

<http://www.pc3.org/meetings.html>

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next general meeting, on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## QUESTION & ANSWER

**Q:** Since the Love Bug Virus, I've been more diligent about backing up my files, but I need more capacity that I can get with a floppy. Which of the many storage options now available should I choose?

**A:** Remember the adage: every crisis is an opportunity? You can now justify buying one of those nifty recordable CD decks that can hold 650-MB of data. Currently, CD-Rewritable (CD-RW) decks cost from \$200 to around \$400. The faster recording units are the costlier ones. So if you plan to "burn" music CD's, you'll need one of the speedier, more expensive units. For about \$5 per, you can repeatedly erase and record on CD-RW disks just like floppies. Less than \$2 will buy a CD-R that, once used cannot be erased. [Prices are probably significantly lower online.]

Omega, the maker of the popular zip drive – which speedily records data on 100-MB disks – now offers a more expensive (\$180) 250-MB drive. Then there's Imation's SuperDisk technology, which will accept your old 1.44-MB floppies as well as its own (SLOW) 120-MB disks.

*Paul Reiss*

**NICK'S  
CAFE**  
*at SouthPark*

Host of the  
*Bytes & Bits*

Monday-Friday 6:30 am – 3:00 pm  
Saturday 7:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Open for Breakfast and Lunch**  
**Serving Breakfast all day on Saturday.**

**A Casual Dining Experience**  
**With Distinction!**

Located in One Fairview Center Building

## PCCC Calendar Online

Please bookmark [www.pc3.org](http://www.pc3.org) and visit it frequently.

The printed *Bytes & Bits* is back. We will continue to also have the e-version.

There are plans for an enhanced calendar and weekly mailing; so keep your eyes out for any announcements online.

### ***Bytes & Bits***

**The Personal Computer Club of Charlotte**

*Membership*

**15214 Millview Trace Ln.**

**Charlotte, NC 28227**

Address Correction Requested

### **General Meeting Notice**

This month's program is a general introduction into the world of Handheld Computing. Club members who are users of these little powerhouses will compare both the Palm and PocketPC platforms. Thursday, May 10th at 7:00 pm at Piedmont Natural Gas. See pg 2 for locations.

#### **All SIGs Have Changed Their Locations**

See *The SIG Page*, page 4, or <http://www.pc3.org>.