



WINDOWS USERS

# WINNERS

## Vote pad

DECEMBER 2004

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## Saving the Economy

*By Terry Currier*

Well, I've done my bit for saving the American economy. I went to the after-Thanksgiving sales. Yeah I got up early and stood in the long line to get what I wanted. Well, okay, I got up at 4:40 a.m. for the 6:00 a.m. open. I was second in line at the office supply store. I've done the Best Buy sales. Getting there hours ahead of time so I can stand in line for an hour to get one third of the things I wanted. I fast came to the realization it was not for me.

At the office supply store (other stores had the same thing) they had an emachines 2.66Ghz computer with an 80Gb drive and 256Mb of RAM. It was bundled with a 17-inch monitor and Lexmark printer. I did not need the monitor or printer but I did want that computer. My secondary computer that I review

*Continued on page 3*

## Beware of SCUMWARE Pretending to be Anti-Spyware

*By Ira Wilsker,  
APCUG Board of Directors*

One of the most frequent topics in this column in the past has been about the spyware which threatens our computers and the safety and security of our personal information. We should all be aware that spyware is rampant, existing on as many as 80% of our computers, according to media reports. While it has been written here in the past that there are several excellent, reliable, and sometimes free, anti-spyware products on the market, there are also some less reputable products pretending to be anti-spyware software. More than coincidentally, many of these same disreputable products are marketed using methods that users may consider unethical.

On my office computer, which lacks the popup blocker on my home computer, I recently received a popup which gave the dire statement, "WARNING! This computer is infected with dangerous SPYWARE which is stealing your personal information. CLICK HERE to run a free spyware scan." I am not so naïve as to believe a popup ad, but I

was intrigued, as minutes earlier I had scanned my computer with two just updated major anti-spyware products, and my machine was free of spyware. Checking to make sure that my antivirus software was updated and running properly, and violating my own premise that I would never click on a popup, I decided to see what this popup would do, so I clicked on it. A rapidly advancing progress meter, too fast to be really scanning my computer, appeared. Moments later, another popup window appeared. "WARNING! This computer is infected with SPYWARE! See the attached list of SPYWARE on this computer." Below, in a small font, was a lengthy list of spyware titles, allegedly on my computer. "CLICK HERE TO REMOVE THIS SPYWARE" appeared in large bold print below the disturbing list of threats. Clicking on the link opened a webpage advertising an anti-spyware product that I knew from experience had a terrible reputation that was also the subject of complaints of legitimate spyware publishers who alleged that this product was a knock-off using pirated code from the legitimate products.

*Continued on page 5*

## Telephone Help Line

PROGRAM/SOFTWARE	NAME	PHONE	TIME
CorelDraw & Ventura & PhotoPaint	Sunny Lockie	949-644-0103	6-10 p.m. weekdays 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends
Hardware	Jonathan Means	714-542-1653	6-9 p.m.
Internet	Cathy Grammer-Margolin	949-645-5950	6-10 p.m. & weekends
Novell, NT & Networking	Jonathan Means	714-542-1653	6-9 p.m.
Quicken & Quickbooks	Max Lockie	949-720-8170	6-10 p.m. & weekends
Windows 95,98,Me,Xp	Siles Bazerman	714-897-2868	9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Word for Windows	Cathy Grammar-Margolin	949-645-5950	6-10 p.m. & weekends
WordPerfect Windows	Sunny Lockie	949-644-0103	6-10 p.m. weekdays 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends

## General Meeting December 11 Orange Coast College 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in Science Room #169

## Hate on the Internet

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### PURPOSE

WINNERS, a computer association, is a volunteer organization providing a forum for sharing information and experiences related to Windows-based software, encouraging ethical use of computers and software, and offering service to our communities.

### MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership is \$20.00 for individuals; \$5.00 each additional family member.

### MEETINGS

WINNERS generally meets the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Orange Coast College in the Science Building, Room #149, 2701 Fairview, Costa Mesa.

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## FUTURE MEETING DATES

- ★ December 11
- ★ January 8
- ★ February 12
- ★ March 12

# APCUG: Special CompUSA Event on December 16 for PC Users

We are delighted to let you know that CompUSA is now an Annual Sponsor of APCUG. As part of this partnership, CompUSA is inviting the members of APCUG member groups to some very special holiday events.

## Tis the season.....

Get into the holiday spirit and join the festivities at CompUSA nationwide for a PC Users exclusive holiday celebration. The event will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 16, so get there early!

Eat, drink and be merry, the coffee and donuts are free and the deals are worth celebrating. Do your shopping early and take advantage of special pricing on almost every product in store, and exclusive offers from CompUSA just for you.

Get 10% off your purchase of upgrade parts including Mother Boards, memory, video cards, etc during this special sale for you only at CompUSA! Check out the selection of home entertainment products - one may be on someone's wish list for the holidays!

When: Thursday, December 16th

Time: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Where: all stores, check store locator:

<http://www.compusa.com/locations/>

Call 1-866 4 COMP BZ to speak to a CompUSA team near you!



## *SAVING THE ECONOMY*

*Continued from page 1*

software on was crashing more and more. For the price of the motherboard, CPU, and RAM to replace it, I got a new computer and an extra monitor and printer.

Before they opened the doors I had a chance to talk to the manager and pointed out the HP notebook was on sale at two other stores for \$100 less. He said it was a different model number but he would match the price. I am really am feeling good and bad about this. I need the desktop, and kinda need the notebook. It is a 1.3 Celeron M—not a barn burner but still good. What the heck. I buy both. At last I will be able link to my network without a PC card.

From there I drove to one of the computer stores for their sales. They had a Mad Dog 16x double layer format DVD drive for \$60. Just getting a DVD burner could have cost me more. I figured they would be all gone, but it turns out they were locked up and people were standing around trying to get one. I went around to find someone to open the case and got one of the last units. I also brought more memory for the new desktop. While there, I also picked up a good Logitech keyboard for \$10 after rebate, Nero for \$40, and a SD memory card.

After all that I came home, unloaded and went to a third store and got some DVDs for a good price. Actually I was going to see if they still had some hard drives for a great price.

If you see someone standing on the corner with a sign saying, "Will work to pay my credit card bill," that will be me. If you are feeling bad for my non-computer-using wife, the deal is that she gets to spend the same amount I did (after the rebates, I'm not stupid). So you see, I really am supporting the economy.

# Bikini Classroom

By Terry Currier

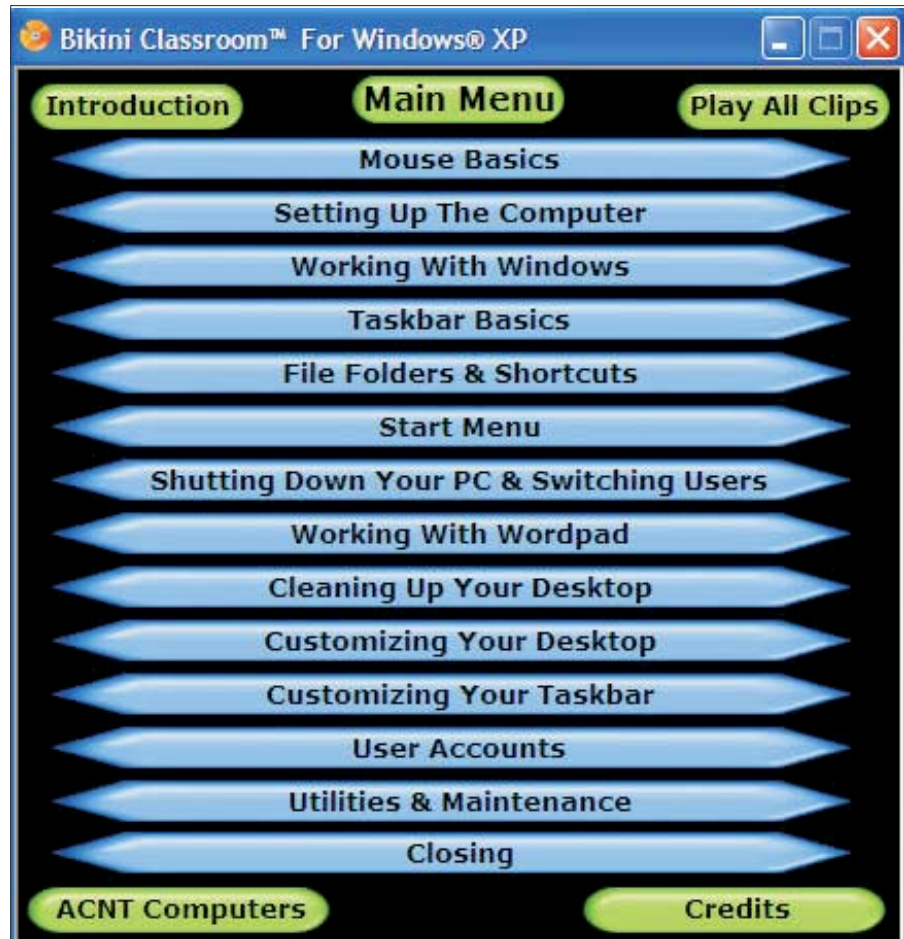
It's a tough job but somebody has to do it. This was sent to our PO Box asking for a review. What it consists of is a set of instructional courses for Windows XP. We were sent the Beginner set. The courses consist of:

- Mouse Basics
- Customizing Your Desktop
- The Taskbar
- Working With Windows
- The Start Menu
- Setting Up User Accounts
- Saving Files
- File Folders
- Setting Up Screensavers
- Adding Programs To Your Quick Launch Toolbar
- Shortcuts
- Adding Passwords To User Accounts
- Using WordPad
- Windows Utility Programs
- Changing The Background
- Moving The Taskbar To Other Parts Of The Desktop

There actually are women that introduce the user to the material. Only one is actually in a bikini. All of the introduction lines are terrible, with the acting being worse. On the other hand, the course information is actually pretty good and could be helpful to beginners.

During December, the price of the CD is \$10. Normally the price is \$17. They also have a Intermediate CD course and are working on an Advanced version.

<http://www.bikiniclassroom.com>



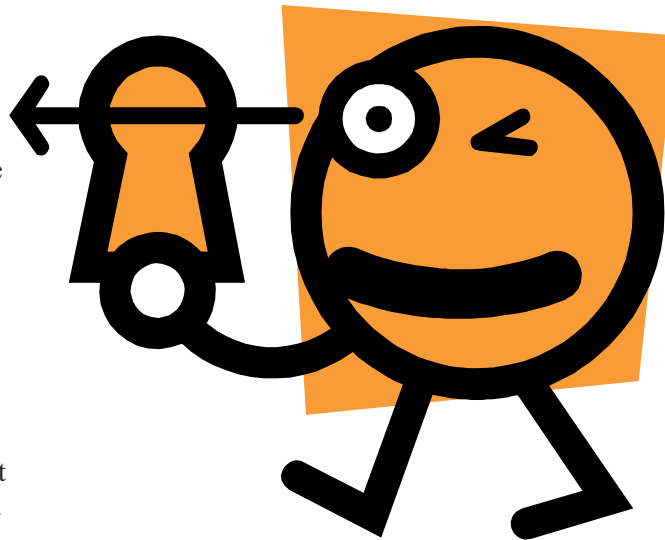


The large headline on the page said that I must purchase this product for \$39.95, download it, and run it, or I would likely be the victim of identity theft, and my bank accounts would be vanquished by predators. To the uninformed, this frightening scenario may result in enough uncertainty to encourage them to become still another victim of near useless software, and imposing a false sense of security, further opening the victim to attack.

In order to detect and prove that their legitimate software is being pirated or otherwise stolen by purveyors of scumware, most of the legitimate companies include some inert dummy entries in their program code and database of spyware signatures. If these unique but inert dummy entries are found in other programs, then there is good evidence of piracy. Regrettably, this is more common than many users realize, and sometimes these users end up paying top dollar for inferior pirated anti-spyware software, that may provide little or no protection. One of the many documented cases involves the very popular Spybot Search and Destroy (published in Germany), and the New York based "1ClickSpyClean". Spybot included some inert dummy entries in its database, and these dummy entries showed up in the 1ClickSpyClean database, according to a news article posted on the Spybot website. Some legal demands and threats crossed the Atlantic, and Spybot recently reported that it appears that 1ClickSpyClean has complied, and purged its database of the allegedly purloined content, reducing its

detection capacity by about 60%. Spybot is free software, and 1ClickSpyClean sells on its own website for \$29.95.

Unfortunately, there are many such questionable anti-spyware products being marketed, often by dubious means such as the popup mentioned



above, spam mail, multi-level network marketing, and other such means. A comprehensive list of these questionable products is online at "Rogue/Suspect Anti-Spyware Products & Web Sites", [www.spywarewarrior.com/rogue\\_anti-spyware.htm](http://www.spywarewarrior.com/rogue_anti-spyware.htm). According to this site, there are nearly 150 such rogue products being marketed and promoted, as well as several dozen websites containing allegedly helpful anti-spyware information, but are instead promoting rogue products. Several of the rogue products are in reality the same software, but marketed under different titles. If you are using an anti-spyware program, check this list to see if it is legitimate or not.

The rogue anti-spyware software may be worse than useless, because some titles install their own spyware, or pretend to clean the machine but in reality do a poor job or nothing. This could be dangerous because the user may get a false sense of security, and believe that he is protected, when in reality he is quite vulnerable and likely being victimized.

Anti-spyware programs that were once considered reliable, such as the Aluria Spyware Eliminator previously reviewed here, may possibly lose some reliability as they start to deal with companies considered by many to be purveyors of spyware. According to such media sources as Ziff Davis, the Boston Globe, eWeek, and others, it has been reported that Aluria has recently reached a deal with and ad-ware vendor (ad-ware is generally considered as a type of spyware). Aluria will not to block its ad-ware, but will also be included in the ad-ware vendor's web page tool bar that is supposed to remove unwanted spyware, but may itself be a type of spyware.

For safety sake, as well as peace of mind, be absolutely sure of the spyware solutions utilized, and never purchase such software from popups, spam mail, or other questionable means.

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*The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.*

# **GENERAL MEETING DECEMBER 11**

**Plan to be at the December 11, 2004, general meeting as we have a special guest speaker from the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Museum of Tolerance.**

**He will be talking about hate on the Internet.**



## **Hate on the Internet**

**Information, dis-information, fear, uncertainty and doubt are all tools of terrorists and hate-mongers. The Internet is an easy, convenient and low-cost tool for their work. Our speaker, Mr. Rick Eaton, has a long history of dealing with these things. His work has included many undercover operations with federal and local law-enforcement agencies, testifying in numerous investigations and before Congress.**

**Over the past 16 years, Rick has closely monitored the continued exploitation of the Internet by extremist groups and their supporters. During that time he has led the Simon Wiesenthal Center's research efforts and since 1997 has produced six volumes of Digital Terrorism and Hate—Research and Analysis of the Internet.**

**By showing many web sites devoted to bigotry and hate, not to mention a lack of truth, we all realized what little awareness we have of what is there for those looking for it. Mr. Eaton points out statements that seemed innocent enough, but behind them was something else entirely. It would surely be easy to get caught up in their colorful graphics and misleading statements.**

**Rick Eaton was educated at Chapman College. For the past 18 ½ years he has been a researcher for the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Museum of Tolerance, specializing in contemporary hate groups.**

<http://www.wiesenthal.com>

**The meeting will be in the Fine Arts Building Room #119. Orange Coast College is located at 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa. Check out**

<http://www.windowsusers.org>

**for a map and more information.**

# Computer Essentials

*By Pim Borman,  
Web Editor & APCUG Representative  
SW Indiana PC Users Group*

**W**hat can be done to make computers true household appliances, intuitive and simple to use even by technophobes? Computers capable of email and word processing, Internet browsing, audio and video editing and storage, simple data processing such as checkbook and genealogy tree maintenance, and entertainment in the form of games and puzzles. After all, modern cars have highly complex, powerful engines under the hood, but turn on with a simple ignition switch and only need a steering wheel, accelerator and brakes for operation. Computers should be just as simple to use. Here are some suggestions.

## **A simple on/off switch for instant-on computing, with a reset button for the rare occasions the system goes haywire and needs to reboot.**

The hibernate feature in Windows XP is the nearest thing to it, but for shutting your system down you must first click on Start (!), then hold the shift key down to change the Standby option to Hibernate, and click on Hibernate. Stupidly unobvious, and it should be easy to replace the whole rigmarole by reprogramming the current on/off switch.

## **Security**

Security and privacy, built-in virus and spyware protection, automatically updated. Upgraded Internet/email protocols to thwart

sender address spoofing. Fortunately, the need for improved security is now widely recognized, and the search for solutions is on.

## **Application programs.**

As my former boss used to say, "Be reasonable, do it my way." That should go double for computer applications that satisfy the users' needs without extraneous bells and whistles and with simple menus to access special features and built-in security provisions. Most common menu items should be available by using clearly labeled, standard, special purpose keyboard keys; read on.

## **Special purpose keys on the keyboard to perform common operations in most programs.**

There already are Insert, Delete, Backspace, Home, End, Page Up and Down, and Arrow keys; why not have more of that kind? To start with, the function keys (F1 – F12) could be reassigned, standardized, and clearly labeled to make them more useful. F1 might always provide context-sensitive help and be relabeled as such. F2 could Save current work while shift-F2 would Save as... F3 might do Find and Find / Replace operations, and so on. Many current programs, such as Microsoft Office, already make extensive use of the F-keys, but usage is non-standard and few users are familiar with them for lack of

labeling. The same holds for the Windows and Menu keys on most keyboards; they provide handy shortcuts but are mostly underused.

## **Wireless Connections.**

Wireless Connections, high-speed, self-configuring, to peripherals such as a mouse, printer, scanner, sound system, and router for connections to Internet and a local computer network. That rat's nest of wires under and behind our computers has to go!

## **Broadband**

Broadband connection to the Internet, essential for regular updates of security programs and desirable for other Internet activities.

You may be able to think of more simplifications. Let me know about them.

---

Pim Borman (swipcug@sigecom.net) is Web Editor and APCUG representative for the SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc (<http://swipcug.apcug.org>). This article appeared in the November 2004 issue of the P-SEE URGENT, newsletter of SWIPCUG

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

# Computer Hysteria: Compurescue!

by Berry F. Phillips,  
member of the Computer Club of  
Oklahoma City

**O**n a cold winter morn in  
December, I realized that I was  
missing the Christmas Spirit. Alas  
what must I do? I have it; I will turn  
once again to my trusty computer for  
a "Compurescue!" Join me as I sing:

## ***Happily Addicted to the Web***

*(to the tune of  
"Winter Wonderland")*

"Doorbell rings, I'm not list'nin,  
From my mouth, drool is glist'nin,  
I'm happy—although  
My boss let me go—  
Happily addicted to the Web.

All night long, I sit clicking,  
Unaware time is ticking,  
There's beard on my cheek,  
Same clothes for a week,  
Happily addicted to the Web.

I don't phone, don't send faxes,  
Don't go out, don't pay taxes  
Who cares if someday  
They drag me away?  
I'm happily addicted to the web!

.....

## ***The Bill Gates Song***

*(to the tune of  
"The Christmas Song")*

Netscape roasting on an open fire,  
Apple begging on its knees,  
Photo popping up on Time magazine,  
Yes, Bill Gates dreams of days like  
these!

Everybody know he's never fully sat-  
isfied,

Throws himself behind each task,  
World dominion is his company's  
goal.

Well, hey, is that so much to ask?  
He knows the world is in his sway,  
We'll buy whatever software he  
might toss our way,  
We'll surf his Internet, watch his TV,  
He'll take us anywhere we ask  
him—for a fee.

And so we're offering this simple  
prayer,  
To Bill and all his MS grunts:  
Since we all follow any standard you  
write,

Make it good, please,  
Make it good, please,  
Make it good, please, just once!"

.....

## ***Violent Night***

*(to the tune of  
"Silent Night")*

"Silent Mac, broken Mac!  
System bombed, screen went black.  
Books suggested things; I tried 'em  
all:  
Shift key, desktop file, clean reinstall.  
Now my deadline is tight,  
This Mac's been silent all night.

Violent night, horrible night!  
Lost my cool, filled with spite,  
Threw my Mac through the balcony  
door  
Watched it fall from the 20th floor,  
Now I'm sleeping in peace;  
Thank God I had it on lease."

.....

## ***Have yourself a Microsoft Christmas***

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, except  
Papa's mouse.  
The computer was humming, the  
icons were hopping,  
As Papa did last-minute Internet  
shopping.

The stockings were hung by the mo-  
dem with care  
In hope that St. Nicholas would bring  
new software,  
The children were nestled all snug in  
their beds,  
While visions of computer games  
danced in their heads.



The letters to Santa had been sent  
out by Mom,  
To [santaclaus@toy-shop.northpole.com](mailto:santaclaus@toy-shop.northpole.com) -  
Which has now been re-routed to  
Washington State  
Because Santa's workshop has  
been bought by Bill Gates.  
All the elves and reindeer have had  
to skedaddle  
To flashy new quarters in suburban  
Seattle.

After centuries of a life that was  
simple and spare,  
St. Nicholas is suddenly a new bil-  
lionaire,  
With a shiny red Porsche in the  
place of his sleigh,  
And a house on Lake Washington  
that's just down the way

From where Bill has his mansion.  
The old fellow preens  
In black Gucci boots and red Cal-  
vin Klein jeans.  
The elves have stock options and  
desks with a view,  
Where they write computer code  
for Johnny and Sue.

No more dolls or toy soldiers or lit-  
tle toy drums  
Will be under the tree, only com-  
pact disk ROMs  
With the Microsoft label. So spin  
up your drive,  
From now on Christmas runs only  
on windows live.

More rapid than eagles the compet-  
itors came,  
And Bill whistled, and shouted, and  
called them by name.  
"Now, ADOBE! now, CLARIS!  
now, INTUIT! too,  
Now, APPLE! and NETSCAPE  
you are all of you through,

It is Microsoft's SANTA that the  
kids can't resist,  
It's the ultimate software with a tra-  
ditional twist -  
Recommended by no less than the  
jolly old elf,  
And on the package, a picture of  
Santa himself.  
Get 'em young, keep 'em long, is  
Microsoft's scheme  
And a merger with Santa is a mar-  
keter's dream.  
To the top of the NASDAQ! to the  
top of the Dow!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash  
away - wow!

And Mama in her 'Kerchief and I  
in my cap,  
Had just settled down for a long  
winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose  
such a clatter,  
The whir and the hum of our satel-  
lite platter,

As it turned toward that new  
Christmas star in the sky,  
The "SANTALITE" owned by the  
Microsoft guy.  
As I sprang from my bed and was  
turning around,  
My computer turned on with a Jin-  
gle-Bells sound,

And there on the screen was a smil-  
ing Bill Gates  
Next to jolly old Santa, two  
arm-in-arm mates.  
And I heard them exclaim in voice  
so bright,  
Have a MICROSOFT CHRIST-  
MAS, and TO ALL A GOOD  
NIGHT."

My thanks to the previous  
unknown authors who  
"compurescued" my Christmas Spirit.  
The Computer Hysteria Column and  
the Computer Club of Oklahoma City  
wish you and yours the Happiest of  
Holidays! May the Christmas Spirit  
be with you! Live long and prosper!



**December 11 9 a.m. to 12 noon**  
**Orange Coast College**  
**Fine Arts Building Room #119**

**“Hate on the Internet”**  
**with speaker Rick Eaton**  
**Simon Wiesenthal Center and**  
**the Museum of Tolerance**



See page 6 for details

*Piq Sig at Soup Plantation on Adams, near the school*