



# NEWSLETTER

## SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

MARCH 2009

VOLUME NINETEEN NUMBER THREE

### MINUTES: SCUG CLUB MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2009

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The meeting for February 14, 2009 began with a short presentation by Terry MacLennan on Express Notes. John Miller filled in for Art for the question and answer session. There were 28 members present, with two guests, Pete and Kate Akers.

After a short recess, the business meeting was called to order by President Shipley, who thanked the absent Art for last month's CD presentation and mentioned that he possibly would have a DVD burner for next month's raffle.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published and Marion Braun presented the treasurer's report of income and expenses for the month of January.

Bible CDs were available for a \$2 fee.

There was a discussion on whether or not to keep members' e-mail addresses and phone numbers in the newsletter. Joe Fornero suggested that he could do a separate listing of the phone numbers and e-mail addresses which could be published along with the newsletter and members could then keep that page for when and if they need to contact anyone on the list. It would not be included with every month's newsletter, only when there are several changes in member information.

A discussion was held on whether to have a booth at the Mall, including a brochure on the club.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ken Hughes and seconded by George Schneider.

After the raffle was held, Bill Griswold did his presentation of the Tax Cut program, using a \$1 CD from one of the dollar stores. This CD does not include a program for filing the state taxes.

Respectfully submitted by Angela V. Rester, club secretary.

#### Club Information

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Joe Fornero

### MINUTES: CLUB BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2009

The board meeting was held at the home of Don Haag. Members present were Neal Shipley, Dane Neiderman, Marion Braun, Don Haag, Joe Fornero, Joe Schmitt, Tom Cartwright and Angela Rester.

Joe had a sample of the double page with member's names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses that will be in this newsletter and that members need to keep.

There was discussion on having a booth at the Mall and how to go about it.

Terry will give a presentation on spreadsheets and Excel for the March program with Neal assisting. The April program will be by Gary Campbell of Toner-Tech Plus.

Ideas for future programs were also discussed, in-

cluding a possible program by Terry's wife on how to go about making travel arrangements. Joe moved to close, seconded by Angela.

Respectfully submitted, Angela V. Rester, club secretary.

The included green sheet with member e-mails and Executive Committee/club information will not be posted on free side of website or be sent to non-members so be sure to save that page.

Those that have a digital camera bring it to the next meeting and take some candid pictures a couple will be chosen to be used in our new brochure.

Joe Fornero - Asst. newsletter editor & publisher

## TECHNICALLY CORRECT

A helicopter was flying around above Seattle yesterday when an electrical malfunction disabled all of its electronic navigation and communication equipment. Due to the clouds and haze the pilot could not determine his position or course to steer to the airport. The pilot saw a tall building, flew toward it, circled, drew a handwritten sign and held it in the helicopter's window. The sign said "WHERE AM I?" in large letters.

People in the tall building quickly responded to the aircraft, drew a large sign and held it in a building window. Their sign said,

"YOU ARE IN A HELICOPTER." The pilot smiled, waved, looked at his map and determined the course to steer to SEATAC (Seattle/Tacoma) airport and landed safely.

After they were on the ground, the co-pilot asked the pilot how the "YOU ARE IN A HELICOPTER" sign had helped to determine their position. The pilot responded, "I knew that had to be the MICROSOFT building because they gave me a technically correct but completely useless answer."

There will be a Question & Answer Session starting at 1PM. Bring any questions you have about your computer or problems you may be having. It will be conducted by:  
Neal Shipley & Art Bendick

HAPPY  
**ST PATRICK'S**  
DAY



## FREE CD'S

For those that might be interested in **buying or selling that 'stuff' in your storage that's just taking up space or even the treasure you've been holding on to for so very long**, this might be the answer.

The club still has a few of **those instructional CD's** the US Postal service along with the eBAY company has constructed for that very purpose to explain to you comprehensively but still easily how to do just that.

Should the club run out, I still have a few in my possession and should I run out, one still may get them at your local post office.

*Don Haag*



by Terry MacLennan

Some people still think of Java as a hot cup of coffee but when viewing an internet web site you may be looking at a Java produced graphic. Java is a programming language that is hardware independent. In other words, it **doesn't need a specific piece** of equipment such as your desktop computer to operate.

Java was originally created in **the early 90's by Sun Microsystems** (creators of Open Office) to be used with networks revolving around digital cable TVs. However cable **TV wasn't ready for this new** technology and instead Java found many new uses, including the internet. It enabled webmasters to bring animated objects and dynamic content to life within browser windows for the first time. So if you wish to enjoy the content available on many web sites, it is necessary to install and keep your Java language platform updated. Due to disagreements with Microsoft (imagine that happening?), Java is not bundled with Windows so must be downloaded separately. I am not going to go into the technical details of Java programming itself, but rather list some of the places where Java is used especially those beyond the internet itself.

There are thousands of Java developers worldwide and they have created a myriad of applications for just about every conceivable piece of electronic equipment.

The National Hockey League was innovative in the use of Java by producing NHL Powershot Hockey ©, a Java technology based game which brought the thrills of the game to mobile phones and PDAs—all in full color. Additional mobile content available included NHL.com Mobile, which contains instantly updated scores, recaps from

previous days, schedules, standings, and a customizable news ticker.

Another application is the Medic Touch Pulse Meter © which enable users such as runners and heart patients to **monitor their heart's pulse rate**. The sensor is connected to the **user's hand, and within seconds** pulse activity is displayed in full color on the device screen. Information can be viewed graphically in real time and can also be stored and sent to a Web interface for additional analysis.

A very important application since post 9-11 is the ChemBio Emergency Management Information System (CB-EMIS) © that provides early warning of chemical and biological attacks in underground subway tunnels.

Applications for online banking, online stock trading, and loan processing were brought together by various Java developments. AIR Media © even delivered a Java system that lets mobile phone users utilize their desktop computers to create personalized ringtones for their mobile phones.

**Orbitz' online services are** driven by a Java platform-based Jini™ technology engine. In fact, every Orbitz customer transaction relies on Jini technology, a networking software that enables systems to keep running while automatically adapting to change. This same system also runs the American Airlines and Northwest Airlines booking engines, making Jini technology **one of the world's highest-volume** processors of airline tickets.

iPronto is a universal remote control panel designed to manage household technology systems. From its LCD touch screen, the device can program and control everything from a

home security system to lights and temperature to the home entertainment system.

**Sun's Java technology was** used to create a collaborative desktop visualization and planning environment that simulated the actual movements of Spirit and Opportunity on the surface of Mars based on information radioed back.

Arturia created Storm Music Studio © software that brings music composition to the digital age. Users can tap the tunes of 14 different instruments and ten distinct music styles to create, mix and arrange their musical creations. A digital composition assistant offers help with song writing and arrangement. Users can swap ideas, tips, and finished works via an online community dubbed **the "Hall."**

Transclick has developed a system to integrate real-time language translation into applications such as e-mail, instant messaging, and Web servers for use on computers, PDAs, and mobile phones.

The Encyclopedia Britannica created the Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite ©. With this software, readers can analyze multiple articles simultaneously. They can use the note-taking functions to jot down thoughts and facts in virtual format. They can copy, paste, and take images from articles, and even use **the program's own tools for HTML** to create rich and detailed research documents.

I could go on and on listing the technologies using Java but hopefully this short article will give you an idea of the versatility of Java.

Java enabled webmasters to bring animated objects and dynamic content to life within browser windows for the first time.

One minute you're cruising around the Internet. YouTube, Wonkette, eBay—everything's flying along. Then you step out of the room for a while, maybe even overnight, and by the time you come back the connection is dead. The browser presents a pitifully empty error page for every site you try to visit. No email is coming in, and that little connection icon



in Vista's Notification Area is in alert mode. We can help.

First, make sure the problem is what you think it is. Plenty of things can go wrong with Internet-enabled programs and their online materials, and not all involve an Internet connection directly. Try restarting the program in question to make sure the **problem isn't isolated** to one application. The aforementioned connection icon in Windows can be a good clue that something is wrong system wide. Testing several different kinds of applications (not just different Web sites) is also a good step. If your browser, your email client, and your online music service are all unable to connect, you can be certain that the issue is bigger than any single application. Ruling out security software, Windows itself, and your own hardware can be a little trickier,

however. Check your anti-virus, firewall, and any other monitoring utilities **to make sure they aren't** blocking your connection. If you have other machines on your network, now would be a good time to check them, as well. Now look at the lights on your router and modem. Are they blinking (or not blinking) in their normal ways, with both WAN (wide-area network) and LAN (local-area network) indicators functioning normally? You may need to consult the **manufacturer's documentation** to figure out the blink codes, but they may be telling you something very important. If the modem appears to be normal but the router **doesn't, your problem may** be with your LAN rather than your connection to the Internet. Next, you should commit this phrase to memory: When in doubt, reboot. **Once you're confident you** are dealing with a connectivity issue, the first best step (as in nearly every situation) is to restart the components in question. Start with your PC. Shut it down. Then power down your network router. It may have a power switch on the back, or you may need to simply pull the plug. Keep the router off and reboot the modem. To reboot the modem, first reset, turn off, or unplug the modem. Keep it off for 10 seconds and then turn it back on. Let it power up and see if it connects successfully to your ISP (Internet service provider). **Your ISP's documentation** can help you discern meaning from the flashing

lights, but a solid green from the WAN indicator is usually a good sign. Then bring up the router. Let it connect to the modem. Finally, power on your PC. Rebooting may not always solve the problem, but it eliminates most temporary glitches and removes another easily solved possibility.

Take a few moments to look for obvious physical problems. Start with your connection. Check each cable, beginning with the network cable running from the back of your PC to the router. Check the cables between the router and DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) or cable modem. Then check your phone or cable lines. Make sure each sits firmly in its port and that there **aren't obvious cuts or** frays. It may sound silly, but take 10 seconds to **make sure everything's** powered on. You never know when a curious cat or mischievous toddler knocked something loose. Finally, check to make sure that the other services from your ISP are **working. If you're a DSL** customer and your phone is working properly, the problem is not with your phone line. On the other hand, if, for instance, cable customers see snow on the TV, they know the **issue isn't limited to just** broadband. Contact your service provider to learn about outages in your

area or problems with your overall account.

Now that the easy stuff is out of the way, it's time to delve into more serious troubleshooting. First, connect to your network **router's admin console using** Internet Explorer, if possible. The URL is normally an IP (Internet Protocol) address. 192.168.0.1 is common, **though you'll have to check the** **router's documentation for** model-specific details. If you **can't get to the router, the** status of your Internet connection is moot. In that case, follow **the manufacturer's trouble-** shooting tips or find a way to access *Smart Computing's* Tech Support Center. If you can log in to the router successfully, check its WAN status and other settings from the **administrative screens. Again, you'll have** to check the documentation for both the router and your ISP in order to learn the precise location of each setting and its proper value, but often, restoring a corrupted setting or releasing and reacquiring the connection from the modem will restore lost connectivity.

***Use the reset button or power switch to restart your broadband modem and router during the trouble-shooting process.***

## AND PASSWORD?

By Terry MacLennan

If you can't find a solution in the router or modem's utilities, contact your ISP's support hotline. Make a list of all the steps you've taken so far, as well as all the relevant settings from your router and PC. Have your account information ready, as well. They'll be able to let you know about any broader network outages that may be affecting your connection as well as anything specific to your account. Some Internet outages are account-configuration issues rather than technical glitches. The help desk can also delve deeper into modem and network settings than you can. You may need to exercise patience as they walk through their scripts, but you'll get nearer and nearer a solution as you work with them to work through the possibilities.

by Gregory Anderson

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## Be Prepared

Losing Internet connectivity can really put a crimp in normal troubleshooting. It's hard to find answers on Google or chat with your ISP's support reps when you can't get online. Take a few minutes now to gather the following information in one place so that you have it handy if you can't get online.

- Users manual for network router or wireless access point and cable/ DSL modem
- Setup instructions from your Internet Service Provider
- Any installation discs or software provided by your ISP or modem manufacturer
- Your machine's standard IP settings; retrieve them in Vista by entering `cmd` in the Start Search box and then entering `ipconfig` into Windows' command prompt
- Telephone contact information

I saw a short item in a Readers Digest awhile back that got me thinking and I decided to expand on it considerably and share with you. If you are like me, you probably have trouble remembering your ATM PIN number. Here are a couple of suggestions to help enable you to recall them from memory.

For numbers, the easiest way to recall them is to give them a shape as to what it looks like: 0 = ball or ring, 1 = pen, 2 = swan, 3 = handcuffs, 4 = sailboat, 5 = pregnant woman, 6 = pipe, 7 = boomerang, 8 = snowman, 9 = tennis racket. Now you might use a different shape name for the numbers which is quite OK as long as you stay consistent. Let's say your ATM PIN number happens to be 4298 - you could recall it by remembering this phrase. "I am on a sailboat (4) when a swan (2) attacked me so I hit it with a tennis racket (9) and it turned into a snowman (8)." After repeating that rather vivid phrase a few times to yourself, you should never forget your PIN number.

A second method is to rhyme the numbers with a familiar word. For example: 1 = won or nun, 2 = blue, 3 = knee, 4 = door, 5 = alive, 6 = picks, 7 = heaven, 8 = late, 9 = wine. So for the above example of 4298, the memory recall phrase might be "I went through the door (4) which was blue (2) and had a glass of wine (9) even though I was late (8)." It doesn't hurt to

have two words for each number as it might be easier to come up with a phrase or to use in the event of a duplicate number.

You could use a similar method to remember a website password such as "I exclaimed (!) my first name (terry) when I won (1) a game of tic-tac-toe (#) on the sailboat (4) because I usually only won (1) a low percent (%) of my games. The password in this example was, of course, !terry1#41%" which would be a fairly strong password, as it contains a mix of eleven characters including numbers, letters and symbols.



## MICROSOFT WORD 2007

Blogging has become an important way for people to share experiences with friends or the world at large. Web sites that host blogs provide word processing capabilities, but they are often simplistic. **That's where Word 2007 can come in.**

It may seem like a strange idea to use Word to write your blog posts, but there are a few reasons to consider it. If you are new to blogging and familiar with Word, you can stay with the application you know. Also, Word offers many more formatting features than are normally available in an online editor. Finally, Word lets you focus on what you want to say with a minimum of coding concerns.

### Create A Post

Click the Office button, click New, and double-click New Blog Post. A blank document **appears. If you haven't already** registered Word with a blog account, then the Register A Blog Account dialog box will open. You can choose Register Now or Register Later, but for now, click the Office Online link to see how the supported blog providers work with Word 2007.

Word 2007 explicitly supports: WordPress (free; [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com)), Blogger (free; [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)), Windows Live Spaces (free; [spaces.live.com](http://spaces.live.com)), Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services (for businesses), Community Server (prices vary;

[www.communityserver.com](http://www.communityserver.com)), and TypePad (prices vary; [www.typepad.com](http://www.typepad.com)).

**If your blog provider isn't** listed, it still may work with Word 2007. Word supports most sites that use either the Atom or MetaWeblog API (application programming interface). We will look at setting up the provider later. Return to Word and click Register Later.

### Blog Tabs

A blank page appears with the field Enter Post Title Here at the top. Notice that the Ribbon contains Blog Post and Insert tabs. The Blog area of the Blog Post tab contains the functions needed to publish a blog post created in Word and to create and manage your blog provider accounts.

The Insert tab contains a few areas, the largest of which is Illustrations. Of the functions on this tab, **you'll probably most often** use Picture, to insert images, and Hyperlink, to create links.

Click in the Enter Post Title Here area and type a title for the blog post. Now click below the horizontal line and compose your blog. Use any of the formatting tools available on the Ribbon.

### Post Your Blog

Now that you have something to post, you will need to upload it to your blog host. If you **don't have an account, we** recommend WordPress or Blogger to get started, because both are free and easy to set up. We will use WordPress as an example, but the process is similar for all the services. You will need to **know your blog's username** and password and, in some cases, the URL of your blog.

Click the Blog Post tab on the Ribbon and then click the arrow under the Publish button and select Publish As Draft. Publishing as a draft lets you preview the blog entry before it goes live. You can use Publish to turn the blog post live right away.

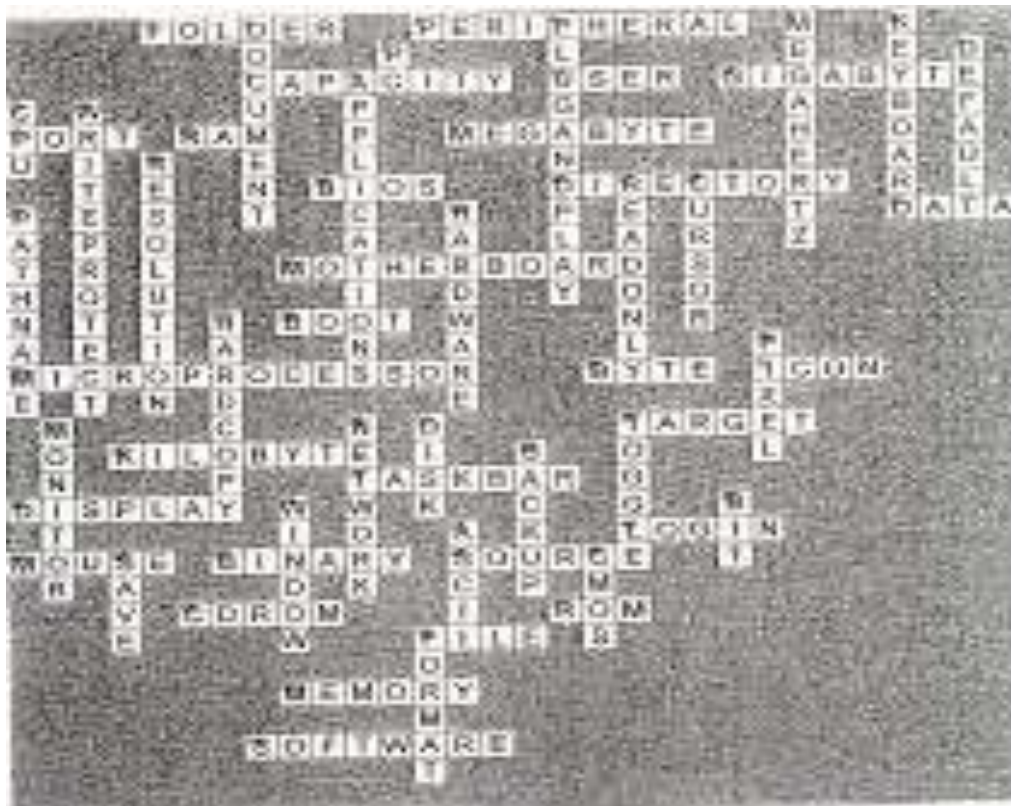
Click Register An Account in the Registering A Blog Account dialog box. Click the drop-down list and choose WordPress (or another provider you already have set up) and then click Next. The New WordPress Account dialog box opens. In the top box, type or paste the URL of the blog between the brackets and then delete the brackets. For example, if your blog address is <http://betterblogss.wordpress.com>, the entry should look like this: **http://betterblogss.wordpress.com/xmlrpc.php**.

Type in your username and password and click the Picture Options button. Choose My Blog Provider from the drop-down list and click OK. Click OK again. Click Yes to confirm **that you'd like to post the** entry, and you should see a message at the top of your entry saying it has been posted.

Now log on to your blog site and preview the post. It may look slightly different than it did in Word. This is because the templates that blog providers use have some rules of presentation that override **Word's. Make any necessary** adjustments and then publish your post for the world to see.

*by Tom Hancock*

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ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

## TIME ON MY HANDS

Boy! This is great! Doing a newsletter every month is actually a chore. At least it was for me, even though it is healthy, keeping one away from the big tube (Television) and putting one staring at a little tube (monitor) for sometimes long enough to make it seem like work. Now that task seems to have 'fallen' on Joe.

Actually, in my case at least, I have been busier since retiring from my last job (The paying kind) than I ever was 'working' (staring at a drafting board for hours) taking coffee breaks almost every hour. I still remember

God giving me the best of ideas at the oddest times in the weirdest of places. He sure helped our family to survive because of that.

Now, I have time on my hands. Well, not that the time will be filled. For instance I have a small plumbing job awaiting me under our second 'bathroom' under the sink. I just noticed yesterday the drain piping demands attention. Other things, a violin kit approximately halfway done, getting rid of surplus collected 'treasure' in my computer room area etc, but most desired right now is get back to

'messaging with' the **Xubuntu** (version 6.06) that Neal supplied me with several months ago along with a short course, also acquired from him some time before.

I am especially torn between accomplishing something in the last two of these areas. Beyond that there seems to be a never ending list of other to do items but, I guess, one should be thankful that is so.

*Don Haag*



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User Helping User  
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Sterling, IL 61081

The Sauk Computer User Group is now accepting advertisements in it's newsletter. The Club Newsletter has a circulation around sixty people.

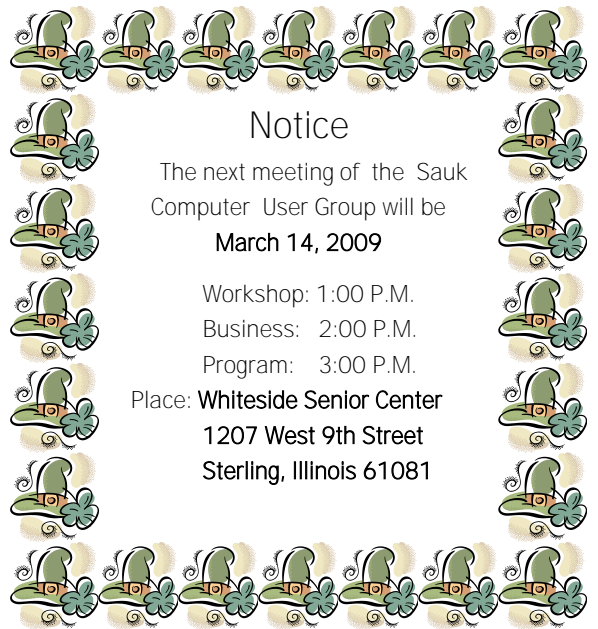
Ads cost:

3 month ads: 15 dollars for quarter page  
9 dollars for eighth page  
1 month ads: 6 dollars for quarter page  
4 dollars for eighth page

**This Space Could Be Yours**

Graphics can be scanned for use in ads.

For this service contact: Don Haag, editor, at following location: 1302 E. 18th. St., Sterling, IL 61081  
or 1-815-626-1664



## Notice

The next meeting of the Sauk  
Computer User Group will be  
**March 14, 2009**

Workshop: 1:00 P.M.

Business: 2:00 P.M.

Program: 3:00 P.M.

Place: **Whiteside Senior Center**  
1207 West 9th Street  
Sterling, Illinois 61081

**MARCH'S MEETING THEME:** INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL  
BY TERRY MCLENNAN ASSISTED BY NEAL SHIPLEY