

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello again and welcome to another spectacular issue of **The Printer**. The days are starting to warm up, but I hope you can continue to make it to the last couple of meetings before we break for the summer. The meetings will be very interesting and helpful as we will be addressing several topics at each meeting.

We also have some club business that needs to be addressed, which should hopefully make for a better organization and put us into a better position, financially going forward.

May 11, General Meeting

At our May General Topic meeting, the primary topic will be a demonstration by Len Lindenmeyer on the uses of online financial planning tools. These tools are useful for analyzing your investments and hopefully helping you make wise investment decisions. I will be taking notes on the subject and hope to learn a lot.

As mentioned in our last newsletter and at the meeting, we are now associate members of the NASA Federal Credit Union (NFCU). The services of NFCU are now fully available to all members and their families. We will have a representative of NFCU at the meeting to explain the services that are available. This is just one more advantage of your club membership.

By Law Changes

With the successful affiliation with the NASA Federal Credit Union, we would like to expand our relationship and hopefully grow the membership of our users group. One way to do this is to provide an

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Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Emoticons (Smilies)

by
Fran Damratowski

As I said in previous issues of **The Printer**, because there are thousands of abbreviations used, only selected abbreviations and symbols will be presented here. For those who haven't seen earlier issues, an emoticon is a way of expressing emotions when sending email - an emotional icon (look at them sideways). If I missed an important or favorite abbreviation, acronym, or emoticon between A and Z, email me at fdamratowski@comcast.net. I will include it in the final list. We will continue with the letter:

Y

Y2K: Year 2000
YACC: Yet Another Compiler Compiler
YAHOO: Yet Another Hierarchically Official Oracle
YAHU: Yet Another Header Utility
YAI: Yet Another Isp
YAM: Yet Another Modem
YAST: Yet Another Setup Tool
YATE: Yet Another Terminal Emulator
YB: YottaByte
: -) Your basic smiley
YDT: Yukon Daylight Time
YIM: Yahoo! Instant Messenger
YST: Yukon Standard Time

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associate, introductory membership, to introduce more people to our organization through the NFCU. Currently our By Laws do not provide for multiple classes of membership. At the May meeting there will be a By Law change that will allow this type of membership.

If all goes as planned, this will increase our membership roles and we will be in a much better financial shape. With better finances, we can have better meetings, demonstrating technologies that currently prove unfeasible with our current financial picture. We may even be able to provide for monthly door prizes for fully paid members at the monthly meetings. Overall, I hope to see our meetings improve, bolster our membership roster, and increase attendance.

June 8, General Meeting

This meeting will also have multiple demonstrations. We will have a guest speaker, Dmitry Usov, who will demonstrate his program, Allway Sync. This program is used to synchronize data between computers using a USB thumb drive type of device. There have been a few members that have asked for information on the type of software so I think this will be very useful to many members.

We will also have a brief demonstration and discussion by one of our members, Ed DeMeter, on his experience using a Voice Over IP (VoIP) service. Ed has had this service since March. I am sure many of us want to know his experience with VoIP as there are many advertisements from companies promising big savings over your usual telephone service.

There will be one final demonstration and this will be from Fran Damratowski. She will show the Microsoft product, Photo Story v3. This is an excellent product for presenting a story using digital photos.

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from the Secretary's Desk

Minutes of CHPCUG Board meeting on March 16, 2005

Attendees: Mike Young, David Cunningham, Karl Richmond, Jim Quinn, Mike Regimenti, Craig Barlow, Fran Damratowski, Len Lindenmeyer, and Mike DeLucia

Our general meeting topics were discussed in detail and it looks like we have firm agendas through Sept.

May 11th - Financial Research by Len Lindenmeyer

June 8th - AllwaySync 2.0 by D.Usov & Co

PhotoStory v.3 by Fran Damratowski

VOIP-by Ed DeMeter

Sept 14th - Comcast Phone Service by Justin Green from Comcast

Oct 12th - Adobe ????????

GENERAL TOPICS

We have received a letter from NASA FCU, indicating that we have been approved for membership.

The next step in the process is to change our By-Laws to accommodate Associate Members. There was considerable discussion on the wording in the By-Laws to accomplish that. The proposed changes will be available to the membership at our May 11th general meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Young made a presentation about the Epson Powerlite 81p projector, and a motion was made and seconded to purchase it based on Mike's recommendation. The cost is \$1800.

There was discussion about whether it is the right time to purchase a new Laptop. Early next year there will be significant technology improvements in this

market and if we wait until then we will have state of the art equipment.

A motion was made and passed to have Mike Regimenti purchase and install additional memory in our existing laptop.

Treasurer's Report

Karl gave his monthly report and indicated that we are still solvent

The SIGS

Technology SIG

Next Technology SIG meeting will discuss RSS and Sauce Report software.

CRSIG

In the absence of Jerry Moskowitz, Fran Damratowski told us that we have gone over the 1000 mark for refurbished PCs. She also indicated that 100 PCs will be going to the Congo in the next few weeks.

Investment SIG

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday night April 27th.

Jim Quinn
Secretary

Y - cont'd

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YTD: Year To Date

Z

ZB: ZetaByte

ZBR: Zero Bug Release

ZBR: Zone-Bit Recording

ZDL: Zero Delay Lockout

ZDS: Zenith Data Systems

ZIF: Zero Insertion Force

ZLR: Zoom Lens Reflex

ZNA: Zero Network Administration

ZPV: Zoomed Port Video

ZV: Zoomed Video

Farewell to the Abbreviations Acronyms and Smilies

Many of you may wonder where all of the abbreviations acronyms and smilies came from. It all started at the January 2003 ChPCUG board meeting when someone* suggested we publish a list of commonly used abbreviations. This was to be a single list published in the February 2003 issue of *The Printer*. Little did I know, when I volunteered to write the list, that it would go on for 2 ½ years.

Some of the abbreviations came from my reading, sometimes I would remember to write them down, but most of them came from the sources listed below. Some of the sources are old, but then again, I've been using a computer for about 20 years. I had to learn somewhere.

There are literally thousands of abbreviations the lists that we published were just a small sample. Adieu, adieu, adieu.

American National Standards Committee. (1984). American dictionary for information processing systems. Homewood, Illinois: Dow Jones-Inwin.

Darcy, L. & Boston, L. (1983). Webster's Newworld Dictionary of Computer Terms. New York: Prentice Hall.

Gowin, S. (1993). The smiley dictionary. Berkeley: Peachpit Press.

Pfafferberger, B. (1995). Que's computer & internet dictionary. (6th ed.). Indianapolis: Que.

Black Box. (2000) Pocket glossary of computer terms [includes technical reference material]. (3rd ed). Black Box Network Service: Lawrence PA.

Sipl, C. J. & Sippl, R. J. (1980). Computer dictionary (3rd ed.) New York: Sams.

<http://www.acronyms.ch/>

http://www.steves-digicams.com/digi_dictionary.html

***- That would be me, the Editor.**

A TEASER:

The number one reason for this project was to create a QUIET and POWERFUL rig that is based on the BEST REVIEWED hardware at reasonable prices. To me, there is nothing more annoying than the sound of a case full of fans at [high speed](#). Besides the obvious fact that even poor [water cooling](#) is better than air cooling, 99% of the time.

The System:

- ABIT NF7-S v2.0
- [AMD](#) XP2500 [Mobile](#) (1.86 Ghz, stock speed @ 1.45V)
- Corsair 2 x256 MB PC3200LL (2-3-2-11)
- OCZ DDR Booster @ 3.4V
- PNY 6800GT 256 DDR3
- 2 x 120 GB Maxtor SATA DiamondMAX 10 (RAID 0)
- 815 Watt Dual PSU
- Hercules Game Theater XP 7.1
- 21" CRT monitor
- 7" TFT LCD screen
- Pioneer DVD-RW 16X

For the complete article go to: <http://overclockers.com/tips1198/>

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER - cont'd

Member Survey

You will notice in the newsletter, on pages 10 and 11, that our annual member survey is available. The Board of Directors uses this to help plan future meetings and improve on the types of demonstrations that are given. Please fill this out and return it, in any means feasible, to Fran.

I hope to see you at an upcoming meeting. Bring a Friend!

Michael Young

Allway Sync 2.0

Contact: Dmitry Usov
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Title: Chief Executive Officer
E-mail: usov@syncapp.com
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Allway Sync Performs Reliable Both-Way Data Synchronization in One Click

Version 2.0 is released

Fairfax, Virginia. - March 11, 2005: D Usov & Co. today announced the release of Allway Sync, the latest version of a smart and simple tool for automating data exchange routines across multiple computers.

Compatible with all Windows OS, the application enables the user to synchronize multiple files/folders stored in one or several computers and keep them regularly updated. Synchronization can be performed in both directions, via a network connection or any removable drive, including USB keys, flash drives, CDRW disks, ZIP devices.

Allway Sync features a intuitive and instructive interface with two data selection fields for building a sync association between two folders.

Once the association is set, the user can get the program to analyze what files has recently been modified and update the their counterpart in the folder. The user can easily view all existing sync associations, their current status, and synchronize them all in one click. Thanks to the unique sync algorithm which doesn't depend on the system clock accuracy, data synchronization with Allway Sync has reached the top level in reliability, accuracy, and speed.

Allway Sync 2.0 builds on the success of the previous version which saw a high user adoption and received a large amount of enthusiastic feedback. "What's amazing is how you made it so simple!", says Jim Corter, Executive Coach . "Been trying to figure out Microsoft Briefcase for months and finally gave up. Then I found Allway Sync. Easy to use and it works!"

Always Sync features at a glance:

- 1 Free for personal use synchronization software;
- 2 True bi-directional file and folder sync;
- 3 Proprietary algorithm with file database;
- 4 Synchronization via USB keys, flash drives, CDRW disks, Zip-devices, etc;
- 5 Multilingual user interface.

Availability

Allway Sync 2.0 runs under Windows 98/Me/XP/NT/2000/2003 and distributed as a freeware product (with limitations). The program can be downloaded for free at the company's website:
<http://www.AllwaySync.com/download/allwaysync-2-0-6.exe>.

About D Usov & Co.

Founded in 2004, D Usov & Co. is a Fairfax, Virginia based software development company. The team is dedicated to providing quality software for small and medium-sized businesses, yet simple enough to be suitable for novice PC users. For more information, please, visit

<http://www.AllwaySync.com> .

High-Capacity Hard Drive Roundup

The good old magnetic hard drive, with its rotating platters and flying heads, is still the mainstay for mass storage, even as other technologies seem to emerge. Refinements in platter materials, head technologies, and magnetic substrates allow hard drive companies to stay ahead of the cost and performance curve. With Hitachi and Seagate announcing plans for perpendicular recording technology, capacity and performance should continue to increase.

Hard drive technology is advancing rapidly, as digital media proliferates. Most of us will have multiple hard drives in our homes, including tiny drives less than an inch in diameter in handheld devices, compact drives in notebook PCs, high capacity drives in our PCs, and even bigger drives in DVRs. Rotating magnetic media is the storage medium of choice for our digital stuff.

Today, we'll be taking a look at three high capacity desktop drives: the 250GB Western Digital WD2500SD, 300GB Maxtor DiamondMax 10, and a 400GB Seagate 7200.8. Drives from Maxtor and Seagate use its latest platter technology, while Western Digital's drive uses its 80GB per platter technology built on a more rugged platform suitable for reliable RAID 0 operation.

Final Thoughts: What to Buy?

The Maxtor and Seagate drives both offer better performance than their earlier-generation models. Western Digital's RAID Edition drive continues the company's tradition of shipping high-performance drives, even if the data densities aren't up to that of the competition today.

If you really plan on running RAID 0, then you might consider the WD2500SD. It's built to more robust standards than normal desktop drives—an important factor when running RAID 0. After all, if you have two drives holding all your data, you'd prefer neither to fail.

The Maxtor seems to offer the best balance across a wide range of environments, and 300GB is

generally enough capacity for everyone. It's also a great deal, currently, with prices well under \$200 on the net.

If you need that extra bit of capacity, though, the Seagate 7200.8 is well worth considering. It's pricey, though, at around \$325 online. On the other hand, you also get the best warranty in the business today, at five years, so that's worth a bit extra.

In the end, all three of these drives offer differing blends of performance, features, and capacities. Depending on your needs, you're not likely to go wrong with any of them.

Western Digital Caviar RAID Edition (WD2500SD)

Pro: Rugged build, very good performance

Cons: Lowest capacity of all the drives; last year's technology.

Summary: If you're looking to build a SATA RAID 0 array, then this drive is worth considering.

Price: \$150 Score 8 out of 10

Maxtor DiamondMax 10

Pro: Lots of capacity, great performance, low cost/GB

Cons: Seems to run a little hot.

Summary: Balanced performance makes this a good choice for the mainstream desktop PC user.

Price: \$180 Score 8 out of 10

Seagate 7200.8 400 GB Hard Drive

Pro: Massive capacity in only 3 platters; low CPU utilization, good access time.

Cons: Expensive

Summary: Great drive if you want lots of capacity coupled with high areal density-but it's not cheap.

Price: \$325 Score 7 out of 10



1783 Forest Drive, #285
Annapolis, MD 21401

Membership Application

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____ @ _____

Membership type:

Full membership (\$40 per year)

Associate membership (\$10 per year)

Check here if you do **NOT** want to receive promotional material from our mailing list

Please remit payment for membership.

Checks should be made payable to: **Chesapeake PC Users Group.**

To better plan meetings and topics, please answer the following questions:

Computer experience Beginner Intermediate Advanced Expert

Please describe your computer hardware and software: _____

The Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization chartered to educate all members of the public interested in the use of personal computers. Membership dues are necessary to pay for expenses incurred to operate the group.

Value Line Model Portfolios

by
Len Lindenmeyer

One way to develop a portfolio of stocks to own, is to use a model or a Portfolio that has been developed and tracked by someone else. Value Line Investment Service has 3 Portfolios that could be used as a guide or starting point. The advantages are:

- 1) They are easily accessible through the Library or even online if you wish to subscribe.
- 2) They are updated quarterly so the information is current.
- 3) Each portfolio is of reasonable size - 20 stocks.
- 4) Each portfolio has a well defined objective.

Below is a summary of the 3 Value Line Portfolios named Portfolio #1, Portfolio #2, and Portfolio #3. The objectives and selection criteria of these portfolios are:

Portfolio #1	Above average Price Appreciation Timeliness Rank of #1 for each stock Financial Strength of B+ or better for each stock
Portfolio #2	Above average Yield Timeliness Rank of #3 or better for each stock Safety rank of #3 or better for each stock
Portfolio #3	Above Average Price Appreciation Excellent 3 - 5 Year Appreciation Potential

Portfolio #1 is a Growth portfolio, but with a look ahead of only one year. Portfolio #2 is an Income and Growth portfolio that is looking for above average yield. Portfolio #3 is a Growth portfolio with a 3 to 5 year or much longer term focus.

Below is some data that gives some insights into the stocks selected for each portfolio and some measure of the volatility that you might expect (Beta) with stocks in the portfolio.

	<u>P/E Ratio</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Beta</u>
Portfolio #1	26.53	0.3	1.11
Portfolio #2	15.82	2.7	0.94
Portfolio #3	18.33	1.7	0.91

ChPCUG 2005 Annual Member Survey

This survey is available in two forms, a hard copy in *The Printer* and a form that can be filled out and sent with a single click on the club web page <http://www.chesapeakepcusersgroup.org>. Please complete the online survey no later than June 16, 2005 or bring the hard copy to the June 15th club meeting.

Name (include middle initial):

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Web site:

My favorite software is

Because

What I like best about the ChPCUG is

I think we could improve the club by

Currently we have 3 SIGs, New Technology, Investment, & Computer Refurbishing.

Do we need other SIG? If so, what SIG is needed?

Would you be willing to chair the SIG?

Currently we have 4 committees, Program, Education, Newsletter, & Public Relations.

I would be willing to work on the _____ committee.

Check the programs you have attended since September 2004 then rate the programs on a scale of 5-1 (5 = Great, 4 = Good, 3 = OK, 2 = Not so good, 1 = Poor)

___ Open Office vs. MS Office (9/08 Fran Damratowski) Rating # ___

___ Smart Computing Magazine (10/13 Jen Clausen) Rating # ___

___ Apple iPod (11//10 John & Connie Hays) Rating # ___

___ Trips & Travel Using the Internet (12/08 Len Lindenmeyer) Rating # ___

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___ Wireless Networking (1/12 Mike Young) Rating # ___

___ Selling on eBay (2/9 Heather Hook) Rating # ___

___ Learning with Lynda (3/09 Mike DeLucia) Rating # ___

___ Registry Cleaning (3/09 Mike Regimenti) Rating # ___

___ Blogs & Blogging (4/13 Mike Young) Rating # ___

___ Financial Research (5/11 Len Lindenmeyer) Rating # ___

___ Allway Sync 2.0 (6/08 D. Usov & Co.) Rating # ___

___ VoIP (6/08 Ed Demeter) Rating # ___

___ Photo Story 3 (3/04 Fran Damratowski) Rating # ___

I would like to see a program demonstrating (list hardware, software, whatever):

I would be willing to demonstrate (list hardware, software, whatever):

I would like to see an article in *The Printer* about (list hardware, software, whatever):

I would be willing to write an article for *The Printer* about:
(list hardware, software, whatever; suggested outline below):

Name of product (software, hardware, whatever):

It can be obtained from:

List price:

Purpose of product:

Main features:

The most helpful feature(s) is/are:

The most difficult, confusing, or useless part of the product:

Other:

Email your article as a file attachment in RTF or MS Word format to the newsletter editor, Mike Regimenti
editor@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org.

**The Next Regular Meeting will be at
The Severn River Middle School**

**Wednesday,
May 11th, 2005**

**Meeting will be held in the large meeting
room.**

**It starts at 7:00 PM with club business
and a short discussion period.**

There will be a Presentation on

Financial Research

**Members and their friends are welcome to
come, ask questions and become enlightened.**

How to Find: Severn River Middle School

SRMS is close to the Arnold, MD campus of the Anne Arundel Community College. From Annapolis and parts south, take Rte 2 (Ritchie Highway) north about 3 miles from the intersection of Rt. 50, **turn right on College Parkway**. At the first light, turn left on Peninsula Farm Road. (Of course, if you are coming from points North, you would turn left on to College Parkway) about a half-mile down the road the large SRMS school building, set back off a large two level parking lot, will be visible on your right. Park here and go to the main entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the **Large Group Room** where we will be meeting.

How to find: The Technology SIG, A ChPCUG Special Interest Group**

Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM

The meetings are held at the SRMS in the Library.



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FIRST CLASS

INSIDE THIS VERY ISSUE!

**Annual Member Survey
President's Corner
The End is Here!!!
Membership Application
Internal HD Review
... and a little more!**

Note: *The date above your name on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership. Contact the Membership Chairman (page 2, column 2) to update.*