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**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

Volume 1, No 4

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

June, 1999

Second ComputerSheaux This Year

More To Come!
Glenda Conradi



Glenda Conradi presents Jay Graff with a Grand Prize certificate

The May 22, 1999 Ark-La-Tex ComputerSheaux was the 2nd Sheaux for 1999. We are looking forward to two more this year, one on August 28th and another on November 13th. Mark your calendar now. As always there were plenty of good buys and a lot of raffle prizes. Jay Graff was the lucky winner of a free computer class donated by IMS which was one of two grand prizes. The other grand prize, a pool cue, cue case and officials rules book, donated by Specialized Sports was won by Eddie Recio. Both grand prizes had values in excess of \$100.00 making them very generous gifts from area businesses.

Even though attendance was down, partly due to the fact that the Bossier Civic Center's marquee was not working and also the absence of our big Computer-Sheaux banner, we still feel the Sheaux was a success. Thank you so much to those of you who came out to volunteer your time.

We took in \$1547.50 for table rentals, \$1899.00 for door attendance, \$262.00 for raffle ticket sales, \$40.00 for sales from items donated by AA Gilbert Pipe & Supply, and \$67.00 for shirt sales.

The highlight of the Sheaux was the presentation of an award from Shriner's Hospital for Children to the Ark-La-Tex ComputerFest Inc. for surpassing \$35,000.00 in donations to the hospital. Tom Schneider, administrator for Shriner's Hospital for Children in Shreveport presented the award to the Ark-La-Tex ComputerFest, Inc. and the Board of Directors.



Tom Schneider presenting the Schriner's Four-Star donors award to Mark Reeves

OUR NEXT MEETING

7 p.m.

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Minogue, Marshall, and Associates

819 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy

Shreveport, Louisiana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Bugs, Bugs, Bugs

*Mary Ransbottom
 maryr@mnss.com*

Everywhere you hear about bugs (the computer type). They infest the InterNet, shared files, e-mails, hard drive and occasionally your hard drive. Reliable information is often hard to find. Bug proofing is a constant chore because new bugs are created everyday.

Where do you go? Computer User Groups are a good start and often will e-mail members about bugs and fixes.

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THE WINDOW

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 Group is a tax exempt, non-profit club.

ALL THE TIPS YOU COULD EVER WANT

Wayne Ebert

The author, Ben Jos Walbeehm, main-
 tains a site for Problems, Tips, and
 Patches for Windows.

Windows 95:
<http://www.walbeehm.com/win95upd.html>

Windows 98:
<http://www.walbeehm.com/win98upd.html>

The site includes notes on various
 patches, tells which ones apply to
 various Windows 95 releases, and
 which ones are redundant.

Best of all, at the bottom of the page,
 the author lists (by release) suggested
 updates and the order in which they
 should be applied.

President's Page

Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group Meeting



May 13, 1999

At the start of the meeting this evening, two new members joined our group. We welcomed Carole White and Peter Guglielmo. We had a treasurers report and an announcement about the upcoming ComputerSheaux on May 22, 1999. Darryl Strange made an announcement about the recall of some of the Jazz drives. Mark Reeves told us that the new Windows 98 2nd Edition would be out in the next 30 days or so. There will be an update disk for current owners of Windows 98 and there will be an upgrade version for those who want to go to Windows 98 from either Windows 3.1 or Windows 95. Mark reminded us that when you do an upgrade of Windows or the install of a program, be sure and exit your virus programs and any other programs running in the back ground. This would be a good time to review the article in our previous newsletter written by Jack Burke. He explained the problems he encountered by not disabling the virus programs in the background. The remainder of the evening was taken up with a question and answer session. Mark explained the SWP (swap file) and the differences in the various Pentium computers CPU's. Mark recommended that if you have Internet Explorer 5.0 that you be sure you have all the updates for it to Build 1413. He says this is a most stable version. Jim Wertz ask a question about editing the bookmarks in Netscape Navigator and the suggestion was made to be sure and set up all your folders first then you can file the bookmarks in the folders you set up. Julious Windham won the door prize of a joystick.

Bernie Conradi,
 President, Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group

Club Officers

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Vice-President Wayne Ebert
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Program Director Mark Reeves
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~Thank You~

We want to express our gratitude to:

Bill Marshall – Marshall & Assoc. Tax Services for letting our group hold our monthly meetings in his conference room and for assisting us in obtaining our Non-Profit status.

Gary Galloway – ARK-LA-TEX Network Services for generously providing internet access for C-B WUG

IDT for the donation of a computer for the clubs' use.

ShreveNet, Inc. – For providing web space for our club.

Minden Bank & Trust on Youre Drive for providing us with a checking account at no charge.

Bryan Rawls of Whirlwind Computers for donating the C-B WUG banner.

JUST THE FAX MA'AM

Jay Graff
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I do not own a pickup truck, but every once in a while, I have the real need for one. Same with a digital camera. But in both cases, I can hardly justify the cost of purchasing one. The same is true, with a good screen dump program, you only need it once or twice a year, but when you need it, it's great to have one handy that you can use.

My point in this seemingly pointless dialog is that every once in awhile, someone, somewhere needs to send you a fax. If you are lucky (and rich or have a business), you have a fax machine with a dedicated fax line, in which case, this whole article is moot. But for the majority of us that don't have a fax machine, with a separate line, there is a neat new service called EFAX.

I discovered this quite by accident, in an unrelated email that was sent to me. I went to their web site and discovered that this is a totally free service. You have to register and you need a viewer (that they provide for free) to view your faxes. That's all there is to it. They email you a receipt for registration that includes the fax number. This is the one you tell people to use, and a pin number. The viewer is sent in a separate email. Two possible disadvantages that I can see right now The first in that the fax number they supply is not a local number. In fact, the number assigned to me was for the area code of New Hampshire. They claim that these numbers are assigned randomly, so yours may be different. This may not pose a problem for most businesses that send faxes, but if you are trying to send a fax from a local number to someone here in town, it could conceivably involve a long distance call.

I'm not sure how much of a problem this would pose, since with today's competitive rates, you might be looking at a 25 cent phone call. The other disadvantage is that you have yet another number to keep track of. Actually, two since they supply a fax telephone number and a pin number that you must use to access your account at eFax.com. This can be a problem to those with lots of passwords that they need to remember, but can be easily taken care of by using a password tracking program, like Password Tracker Deluxe (Note, I wrote an article about PWT Deluxe that was in the July 1998 Newsletter.)

It should be noted here that I have an excellent program that sends AND receives faxes. I send WAAAY more faxes than I receive and my program works great. The only problem on the rare occasions that I GET a fax, is that I have to put the program on auto-answer, then wait till the person on the other end decides to send me the fax. Sometimes this can take an hour or two or even longer. I am fortunate in that I have two lines, but those that have one line can appreciate the value of not tying up their one and only line for hours on end. With this new method, I can get offline, even turn my computer off and the next time I check my mail, the fax should be there.

The viewer you get is very basic. It reminds me a lot of Acrobat Reader in that it is a simple program that allows you few options. You can of course print your fax. You can also rotate it or zoom in. You can send it via email to someone else, but they won't be able to read it unless they also have the viewer.

If you're like me, you may only receive one or two faxes a year. Maybe even less. But isn't it nice

to know that if and when you need it, you can get a fax that someone sent you with so little effort without tying up your telephone.

Best and perhaps most important is the fact that they claim this service to be absolutely free (not counting that 603 area code). On the web site, there is an option to get a 1-800 number, but it is something you have to sign up and pay for. I tried the program and it works like a charm. The fax you send to is connected at 14400, so the actual send time is somewhat reduced. If you're interested in this service, you can find out more by going to www.efax.com. There you can find the answer to all your questions, as well as sign up for the service.

Now, if someone only came up with a way I could download a digital camera, or better yet that pickup truck I mentioned.

Continued from page 1

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs

Mary Ransbottom

If you have a question regarding bugs and your computer check the Following links: the Computer Incident Advisory Capability page (<http://www.ciac.llnl.gov>), the Computer Virus Myths page (<http://www.kumite.com/myths>) and MSNBC Bug of the Day page (<http://www.msnbc.com/news/171560.asp>).

Vigilance is your best defense. The best bug proofing software only works if you use it often and upgrade frequently. Many of the software manufacturers offer free updates for a period of time. Currently Matrix (<http://www.mnss.com>) is offering a web-based virus scan of your computer the virus scan is conducted by Trend Software the makers of computer virus software. The scan is FREE.

HOMEOWNER'S NIGHTMARE

Wayne Ebert

Accidents don't happen to me! The other side is the warnings that your computer's operating system will fail, but the when is not defined. Yet you are repeatedly reminded to make backups and here it is time to renew your automobile insurance. But, let's go beyond them to where your computer and your automobile are stored, in your home. To better prepare you for an unwelcome scenario, use your computer and the Internet to obtain information and suggestions on how to react to them.

Start with <http://www.todayshomeowner.com>. Today's Homemaker has a variety of subjects available that range from nightmares, to maintenance, to repair, and even remodeling tips. Each area has How To directions. Should the task be beyond your immediate capabilities, see <http://www.inprovenet.com> for a list of over 6,000 contractors with a message board to show what your ideas are. If you are shopping for replacements, see <http://www.homeportfolio.com> where you can shop, not purchase yet, for just about everything in the home without leaving your computer. The above sites are worth a visit, even if it is only to read the information to see what is available.

Another site that homeowners should not overlook that has a number of energy saving tips is <http://homeenergysaver.lbl.gov> [note there is no www]. If you have a problem, search for homeenergysaver. You may obtain a comparison and estimated operating costs within your Zip code area. For more detailed information have a rough drawing of your house with dimensions of the rooms, windows, and doors. To make the drawing a handy emergency data document, add sewer line access, water, gas, electrical shutoffs, and a diagram of your circuit breaker/fuse box. Keep it in your telephone book.

On-Line Shopping Tips!!!Wayne Ebert
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More and more people are using their computer and the Internet to shop and purchase a wider variety of products. Many do not as a

number of "fears" restrict them. Many of those "fears" are justified. The first obstacle is what questions to ask. If you would like to investigate On-line shopping, see <http://www.zdnet.com/computershopper/edit/cshopper/tentip.html>. Tami D. Peterson's 10 Tips For Direct Success has links to over 50 subjects that provide answers to the questions you want to ask. Her 10 tips and their links to more detailed information are as follows:

1. Always use a credit card: For more details see; Debit Cards: Not Savvy, Get SET for Safer Shopping, Pick a Card-Not Just Any Card, Take Charge of Your Credit Card, Supercharge Your Credit Clout, Be a Credit Card Shark, and Credit Cards to the
2. Get a no-questions-asked, money-back guarantee: See; No Research, No Return, Get Costs in Shipshape, Non-Site Service, Ask Before You Send, No Returns Accepted, and Get Your PC For Free?

MISTEAKS

Some Of you may have found some mistakes in this Newsletter. There is a reason for this; Some people are always looking for them and in an effort to please every one, we included some.

3. Steer clear of restocking fees: See; No Returns Accepted, and Reject Vendors' Restocking Fees.

4. Avoid credit card surcharges: See; Get'em While They're Used, and Be a Credit Card Shark.

5. Know the details of your service policy: See; Play the Field for Tech Support, Non-Site Service, Ask Before You Send, Get Your PC forFree?, PC Warranties Buried in Gold, In for Repair-Forever, and The Low Cost of Longer Terms.

6. Clarify Delivery terms: See; Get Costs in Shipshape, Pick a Card-Not Just Any Card, Take Charge of Your Credit Card, and Credit Cards to the Rescue.

7. Accept no substitutes: See; 'Tis the Season for Swapping, and Don't Sell Yourself Short.

8. Pay no more than advertised: See; Brand New or Not Quite New?, Get'em While They're Used, Rebate Realities, The Price Can Be Beat, The Games Vendors Play, and Bargain For the Best Deal.

9. Get all sale terms in writing: See; Non-Site Service, How to Agree When You Disagree, Pick a Card-Not Just Any Card, Sure, My PC's Insured, and Don't Overtax Yourself.

10. When things go wrong, get going: See; Seeking a Sale You Can Trust, Hot to Agree When You Disagree, The ABCs of BBBs, Ask Before You Send, Credit Cards to the Rescue, In for Repair-Forever, and Don't Rely on Name Alone.